



Marathi Mandal
Rochester, NY, USA

'Holi' newsletter

April 2009

<http://sites.google.com/site/rocmarathimandal/>

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The 'spring' of a new tradition..

On behalf of our committee, we would like to wish everyone a happy new year on the occasion of Gudi Padwa! This is a good time to begin something new - as announced in a prior email, we are starting a newsletter for the Marathi community in Rochester, with about two 'issues' distributed every year. The intent is to have a vehicle to summarize past events and announce future ones. More importantly, we would like to provide a medium to share news and celebrate accomplishments of people from our community – awards, promotions, birth announcements, high school and college graduations, cultural events, contributions to social work – or anything else you think is worth sharing! We hope to capture the significant milestones achieved by people in our community that otherwise might go unrecognized. Have a short story or poem you'd like to share? Let us know.

We have a few examples of news that the committee was aware of for this issue, but for future issues (and graduations are coming right up!), please send your news in to mvphadke@hotmail.com. And if you know someone who's too modest to toot their own horn, take it upon yourselves to let us know!

Future events



Please mark your calendars for:

Ganpati – August 29th, 2009. Hindu Temple of Rochester.

Diwali – October 25th, 2009. India Community Center.

Planning is underway for the entertainment programs for these events and both local and external artists are currently being contacted.

If you would like to contribute or participate in any way,

let us know at marathimandal@gmail.com. You may also call Seema Dahake or Milind Phadke.

We also encourage those attending this year's BMM convention to be our "eyes and ears" and let us know if any artists they like might be visiting Western New York.

Hindu Temple Ganpati function

For the last couple of years, the Marathi mandal committee has helped sponsor certain functions at the Hindu temple. Committees have provided full meals as 'prasad' to devotees on Ganesh Chaturthi. In March, the current committee contributed to the prasad distributed at Gudi Padwa function.

Ganesh Chaturthi falls on a Sunday this year and the temple anticipates up to 500 attendees for their function. The Marathi Mandal Ganpati function falls in the week after the temple function. With our resources, the current committee has decided that, with community help, we can offer to cater and serve a token 'prasad' (such as sheera) to devotees. Further, some committee members believe that the resources spent providing a full meal to the community here would be better spent in a charitable cause in Maharashtra. For example, other Marathi mandals have donated to organizations such as Ekal Vidyalaya (www.ekalindia.org), the Maharashtra foundation (www.indiancharity.org) and the Sreevatsa orphanage in Pune.

At the same time, we recognize that this is an issue of personal faith. If community members wish to sponsor the Ganpati function at the Hindu temple, please email us at marathimandal@gmail.com and we will put interested members in touch with each other for further coordination. We will attempt to lessen the cooking burden on such individuals for the Mandal Ganpati function, but ultimately we remain a small community and will likely still need to request help from those cooking for the temple function.

Further details about charitable contributions will be announced before the Ganpati festival.

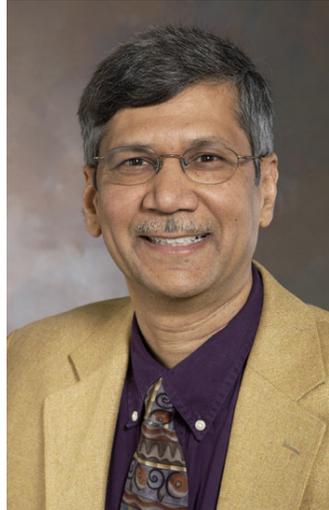
Holi-Chaat Funfair, 2009

After a successful and well attended Makar Sankrant function in January, the community celebrated Holi on March 14th at the Surrey Hill condominiums clubhouse (booking courtesy Madhavi and Sameer Dixit). An 'Anand Mela' format was recreated and the event was kicked off with Paani Puri and Bhel, followed by Pav Bhaji and Dahi Butti, prepared by the committee. The enthusiasm of several ladies from the community meant that we enjoyed home-made puris, which added a special flavor to the function. After memories of street vendors were relived (without the accompanying gastric distress!), everyone got down to playing their favorite games – the carrom tournament was a big hit, while others participated in card games. Children and adults alike were entertained through games of 'lemon spoon' races and musical chairs. The event was concluded with mango ice-cream, 'bomb marne', distribution of puran 'modaks' and bingo, which, Rekha Bobde from our committee won. Rekha was responsible for some beautiful decorations, posters and a recreation of the ceremonial Holi fire.

Thanks to all the attendees for making the event a great success and congratulations to the winners of the various competitions!

Prof. Satish Kandlikar Receives Rochester Engineer of the Year Award

Professor among elite engineers recognized by local Engineering Society



Dr. Satish Kandlikar, professor at the Kate Gleason College of Engineering at Rochester Institute of Technology was named this year's Leo H. East Engineer of the Year. The prestigious award is given annually by the Rochester Engineering Society to recognize an individual's contributions to the engineering profession.

Dr. Kandlikar has been a member of the RIT mechanical engineering department since 1980. He was recognized for his research activities, teaching excellence and contributions to the engineering discipline.

His research areas include fuel cells, flow boiling, critical heat flux, contact line heat transfer and advanced cooling techniques. He is a Fellow of

the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, editor of the journal *Heat Transfer Engineering* and founder of the E-Cubed Fair, a science and engineering fair held annually at RIT for area middle school students.

In 1997, he was presented with RIT's Eisenhart Outstanding Teaching Award. Outside of the classroom, he manages the Thermal Analysis Lab and advises graduate and Ph.D. students.

The award was presented at the 107th Rochester Engineering Society Annual Gala at on **March 14** at the Riverside Convention Center.

YouTube video

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eSoH90p4wCs&feature=channel_page.

Satish and Meera Kandlikar have been active and enthusiastic members of our Marathi community for several years and on behalf of the community, we'd like to extend our heartiest congratulations to Dr. Kandlikar for this award.

Source – RIT University news.

Rochester at the BMM convention 2009

Asawari Maggirwar, teamed with **Ajit Kulkarni** of Rochester, will be presenting a concert of Indian classical music at the BMM Convention 2009 in Philadelphia. The life and music of Pandit Vishnu Digambar Paluskar will be presented in this concert by Asawari, who is a disciple of Mrs. Veena Sahasrabuddhe and thus part of the Paluskar 'parampara'. The focus of this program will be on the approaches adapted by Pt. Paluskar to popularize classical music under difficult times and how it continually appeals to the broader audience of today. Following candid narration by Ajit Kulkarni, Asawari will sing 5-6 'bandishi' demonstrating the musical auspices of Panditji. She will be accompanied by Raya Bidaye on harmonium and Yashodhan Nawathe on tabla. Asawari would like to acknowledge Shashi Gholkar and Dr. Balwant Karlekar, who encouraged her to participate in the convention.

The convention will be held from July 2-5th, 2009. Details available at www.bmm2009philadelphia.org.

Source - Asawari Maggirwar.

'Kalidas' of Rochester

Maharashtrians are known for their love of theater. Keeping up this tradition, several members of our Marathi community actively participated in the inception and performances of a local theater group named after legendary poet Kalidas under the umbrella of India Community Center of Rochester (ICC).

The inaugural play, 'Rumors' was directed by Sanjay Maggirwar, with a cast that included Samir Bhagwat, Balwant and Lata Karlekar ; Baal Bhagat has directed three plays for Kalidas, including 'What's in a Name' in which Milind Phadke acted and "Oh! My Giddy Aunt..." which had Samir in the cast; and Baal and Sumedha Bhagat were part of the cast of 'Light of Asia' directed by Sanjay. Others have participated in the backstage efforts needed to make any play a success. Several members of our community, including Shashi and Rekha Gholkar, Arvind and Saroj Joshi, Prakash and Nandini Joshi, and Satish and Meera Kandlikar have actively supported Kalidas and as a result, this group has continually produced outstanding plays over the past three years. Sanjay, Baal and Samir serve on the executive committee.

Currently, the group is poised to perform another play; a romantic comedy entitled "**The Cemetery Club**" directed by Sanjay Maggirwar (author, Ivan Menchell) at ICC on **May 29, 30 and 31st, 2009**.

with input from Sanjay Maggirwar.

Dr. Hemachandra M. Pandit 1924-2008

A remembrance, contributed by his daughter, Sumedha and son-in-law Baal Bhagat.



Professor Hemachandra Pandit was also known as 'Babasaheb' in the Indian community. Except for his mother, the whole family called him Baba. He was born in Chinchani, a small village in Maharashtra near the Gujrat border. Later the family moved to Mumbai and lived in the suburb of Dadar. The family comprised of himself, his parents, four brothers and 3 sisters. Baba was the third child

after an eldest sister and an older brother, who also lived in this country for a while before passing away in Texas in 2002.

Baba was educated in Mumbai. As a small boy he would plead with his mother that he would do all her household chores for her if only she would allow him to stay home from his school. Needless to say this did not happen. He got his Bachelor's degree from Ruia College and a Master's degree from the Institute of Science College. In 1950 he joined Indian Cancer Research Center at Hopkins Institute as a research scientist. Baba was known for his compassion and so at this time he volunteered to do research in leprosy requiring him to go to the Lepers colony in Wadala. While working in various research institutions in India, he realized that he really wanted to come to America and get a higher degree. His colleagues also encouraged him. More importantly his wife agreed and allowed him to follow his dreams. So, in 1962 he came to State University of New York at Buffalo with a fellowship to pursue a Ph. D in Applied Biology. In 1967 after securing a teaching position at Villa Maria College in Buffalo, NY, he brought his wife and three daughters to this country. In 1968 he became a faculty member of D'Youville College and remained there until he retired in 1989. Teaching was his dharma. He was voted 'Best professor of the year' twice by his students. He was a professor of physiology. In 1980 the Vietnam War veterans filed a lawsuit against the government for using Agent Orange. Baba was called to testify as an expert on behalf of the veterans. Along with teaching physiology, he also had started to teach meditation and some yoga at the college. At the time of his retirement he was honored and given the title of Professor Emeritus.

He and his wife were very social and active members in the Indian community in Buffalo. The very first Ganesh utsav in Buffalo took place in their house. Since they both loved music, their house was quite often offered as the place to hold music programs in Buffalo. Reading was Baba's passion and so was quite well read. He enjoyed discussions on various subject matters.

He came to Rochester in 2001 to live with us. He was quite independent and active. He was teaching yoga to the senior citizens at the Perinton Recreation center until his fall in 2006. Until then he used to drive himself to the center as well as to the Fairport library every day. In 2007 he was diagnosed with Progressive Supranuclear Palsy. After his second fall in spring 2008, he needed assistance round the clock and was admitted to the Fairport Baptist Home. Even there he was known as one of the most active people. As evident in the name, the palsy progressed to a point where no medication could counter its effects. Baba passed on to his next journey on Saturday December 6, 2008. Until his last, he remained a teacher. Teaching us about life by example.