

# RIACC (Regional Indian American Community Center)

Hall of Worship & Amy Community Center. Non Profit Tax Exempt 501 c(3) {Tax ID: 62-1497843}  
 PO Box 411, Kingsport, TN 37662 Tel No.: (423) 349 6515  
 Email: how@riacc.us Website : http://www.riacc.us

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## HOW Committee

Dr. Jayant Mehta  
 (President)  
 Dr. Puneet Goenka  
 Mrs. Nila Patel  
 Dr. Sunny Bhat

## NEWSLETTER Quarter I 2009

Date	Time	JAN-MAR : Program Details
Thu, Jan 1	6:00 PM	Ganesh Pooja
Sun, Jan 4	11:00 AM	Bhagwad Gita Discussion
Sun, Jan 11	11:00 AM	SNK
Sat, Jan 17	6:30 PM	<b>Pongal &amp; Tamil New Year Celebration</b>
Sun, Jan 18	6:00 PM	Satyanarayan Katha / Poornima
Sun, Jan 25	11:00 AM	Vishnu Sahastranam
Sun, Feb 1	11:00 AM	Bhagwad Gita Discussion
Sun, Feb 8	11:00 AM	SNK
Sun, Feb 15	11:00 AM	Vishnu Sahastranam
Sun, Feb 22	11:00 AM	<b>General Body Election</b>
Mon, Feb 23	6:00 PM	<b>Maha Shivratri</b>
Sun, Mar 1	11:00 AM	Bhagwad Gita Discussion
Sun, Mar 8	11:00 AM	Bhajans
Fri, Mar 13	6:00 PM	<b>Holi</b>
Sun, Mar 15	11:00 AM	Satyanarayan Katha/Holi
Sun, Mar 22	11:00 AM	Vishnu Sahastranam
Fri, Mar 27	TBD	Ugadi
Sun, Mar 29	11:00 AM	Bhajans

**HOW HOURS: Sun-Fri: 10:30am-1:00pm; 6:00-8:00pm; ~  
 On Saturdays Call Before Visiting- Aarti at 12:30pm and 7:30pm.  
 Special Note: HOW will not be opened on week days and Saturdays in February 2009.**

## *The Story of India by G. S . Kumar*

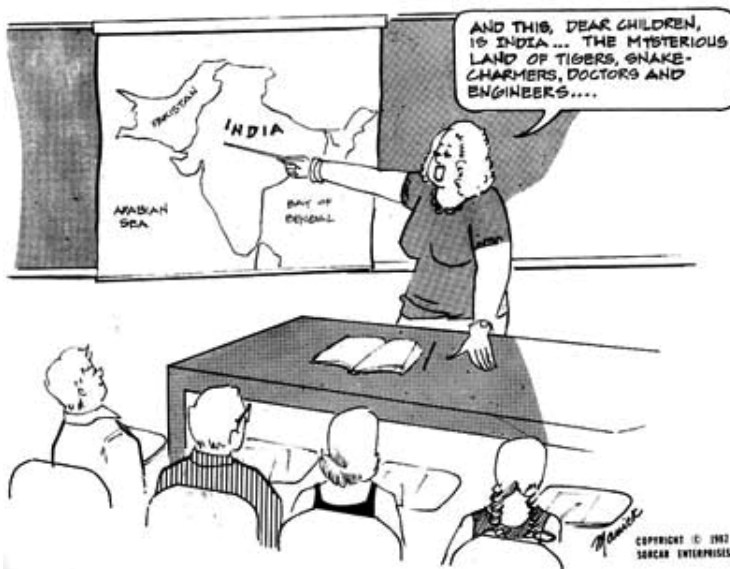
Rajesh Mehta, one of our oldest and most illustrious members, was far-sighted when he suggested we watch an outstanding series on PBS "The Story of India". The first two of this six part extravaganza by Michael Wood was aired on Monday January 5, 2009 at 09:00 PM. You can access this remarkable account at [www.pbs.org](http://www.pbs.org).

India, as a nation has perhaps one of the longest, spanning over 5,000 years. Almost all of it can be backed with evidence obtained from fossils and other archaeological means. And even more remarkable is the fact that aspects of life today have resemblance to what was observed 5,000 years ago.

The first humans lived in Ethiopia and some of them migrated to Kerala around 70,000 BC. The priests of Kerala to this day recite slokas in a language vastly different from Sanskrit. No one knows its origin & it has been passed orally down the ages. From Kerala there was migration to the rest of the world. So India truly is the mother of all civilizations. Two of the oldest religions – Jainism & Buddhism (600 BC to 500 BC) as well as one of the youngest religions – Sikhism (1400 to 1500 AD) originated in India.

Mahabharat (500 BC to 200 BC), our beloved epic, contains 100,000 verses, is not just mythology; the cities mentioned in it like Brindavan, Hastinapur, Sonapat and Bernava are still there today. Recent discoveries in Hastinapur show that the war between Kauravas and Pandavas did take place. The relics prove this fact, and that the city was wiped out by a massive flood of the Ganges river. Two of the oldest religions – Jainism and Buddhism (600 BC to 500 BC) as well as one of the youngest religions – Sikhism (1400 to 1500 AD) all originated in India.

What surprises me more than anything else is that over all these millennia, life hasn't changed all that much. For e.g. house construction in erstwhile Hastinapur resembles that found today. Even in what once was Mohenjo-Daro & Harappa of the Indus Valley Civilization, archaeologists have found a small terracotta elephant painted red and white colors. Indian mahouts to this day use those colors on elephants. Humped Zebu bulls depicted in some of the seals are still used in farming in that area.



**My assignment for you ....We follow many rituals that have been passed down the ages without any change. They may have had significance a long, long ago. We no longer know, why they are done. Can we justify why they are done? Dr. Surendra Kumar Mishra, our esteemed priest, can help us out and throw some light.**

**Thank You to all members who have paid their 2009 Annual RIACC dues \$100. For those who have not yet paid please pay it at the earliest.**



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## ***Message Board***

### **From the Desk of the President, RIACC Brinda Gala**

**Wish you all a very Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2009.** I will be ending my term as President, RIACC Executive Committee and wanted to take the opportunity to Thank many of you who have helped me serve this organization and also to extend a warm welcome to the incoming Committee. I would also like to recognize the contributions of a few of my team members without whose support none of this would have been possible.

To name only a few : Dr. Jay Mehta who stood by me like a pillar providing strength and guidance. Anil Agrawal for his leadership role during the Anniversary Celebration and the Fund raising events. Megha Narang who made sure that all the members, got their weekly and monthly programs on regular basis via e-mail. Supria Bhalla who made sure our newsletters were sent out in a timely manner. RC Ramaswamy and Rajesh Patel who took care of all the banking needs and made sure the accounting books were in order. Dr. Puneet Goenka, Chairman of the board - was also very supportive throughout my term. Last but not the least I would also like to thank Ranjan Chakraborty, the Board members and Members of the RIACC general body for their support and encouragement during my tenure and the numerous contributions they make to RIACC on an ongoing basis.

RIACC is in the process of developing plans for 2009 and is also looking for volunteers. If you have any ideas or interests please do step-up. RIACC Annual Elections for the Executive Committee will be held on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. I wish you all the best. Sincerely Brinda Gala

### **Need Volunteers....by Dr. Jay Mehta**

RIACC is generally perceived as a religious organization. The by-laws state that RIACC will promote Religious, Cultural, Educational & Community related activities based on our Indian tradition of peace and harmony. In last few years we have focused on the RIACC Hall of Worship.

While Rituals and religious aspects are important to evolve spiritually, the growth of the community also requires Fun activities, Cultural programs etc.. We hope that the new Hall will give us the space to do that. We need people with variety of expertise and COMMITMENT to support such activities at RIACC. If you have any ideas or interest please contact the HOW Committee.

### **Directions to the Hall of Worship:**

From Johnson City - Take I-26 towards Kingsport. Take Exit 6 (Rock Springs Exit). Take a left on the RAMP and see below

From Kingsport: Take I-26 towards Johnson City. Take exit 6 (Rock Springs Exit). Take a Right on the RAMP and see below

Drive about quarter of a mile and make a left turn on to Westfield Road, immediately after the Power building. Drive about half a mile and keep right on the fork onto Westfield place, the third building on the left is Hall of Worship.