

THE LOTUS

A Monthly Publication of the Federation of India Community Associations



November 2017

1967 - 2017 | 50 Years

Planning for a community center that we can all call "home"

DR. SATISH MAHNA, MONA ALAG, DR. SHUBHA SEN PAKRASHI

Dear FICA Members and other community members,

In early 1970s, a group of early arrivals from India felt the need to create an overarching cultural organization for people of Indian origin. This was later named the Federation of India Community Associations (FICA). The next step in the process was to have a place for the nascent Indian community to gather, to celebrate and to organize. Thus was born the India Community Center (ICC) located in Cleveland Heights at the intersection of Fairmount Blvd and Cedar Road. It served our community very well for a few decades and provided a place where we could meet to socialize and celebrate our festivals and National Holidays. It witnessed birthdays, graduations and wedding events of our community, as well as provided a place for seminars and workshops.

Then things began to change. Change is the only constant! With time, as our community grew, and spread out geographically, the existing building was not able to serve the community's needs very well. In addition, it required substantial and continuous resources for its upkeep. For that reason, the Executive Committee (EC) and the Board of Trustees (BOT), after anguished deliberations, decided to sell it. Since then, the FICA Executive Committee (EC) and Board of Trustees (BOT) have been considering having a newer, more suitable place of our own for the community.

There were many schools of thought regarding the need for a new community center. But the BOT did come together with an overwhelming vote of support. They greenlighted the feasibility study for such a building and FICA BOT established a Building Committee, chaired by Dr. Satish Mahna.

Mindful of the composition of our community, which happens to be a good mix of aging population and young professionals with growing children, the Building Committee considered the need to

allocate space in the future home of FICA for elders to congregate to play Bridge, meet for book club discussions, and have coffee in the company of their friends. To welcome our younger community members, provision would be made for them to attend cultural classes, enjoy Yoga and participate in celebrations like Holi, Diwali and several other activities.

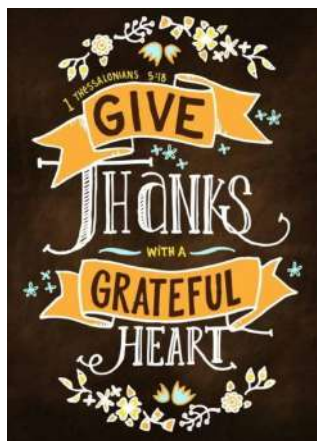
The EC and BOT met on several occasions to discuss this issue and set the criteria that need to be considered for our future home, such as it being befitting the status and elan of our community; its location; visibility; accessibility; security; serving the community from children to the elderly; attractive to Indian and Non-Indians (which would attract other communities and help make it self-sustaining); availability of hotel space in the vicinity (for out of towners to stay during weddings, etc.); be a hybrid between community place and performance hall (have a nice size stage with good lighting and sound system); be able to accommodate the needs of growing community for years to come; be eventually self-sustaining.

But without corresponding funds availability, the grand vision will remain just that, a vision. So in the coming days and weeks, the Building Committee will begin to solicit pledges of financial and other support and expects that the community will respond generously. Let us have a home the Indian Community of the North-East Ohio can be proud of.

FICA OF NEO PRESENTS
HAPPY REPUBLIC DAY
 SAVE THE DATE
January 20th 2018, Saturday
 INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL,
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 MORE DETAILS COMING SOON!

INDIA

<http://www.ficacleveland.org/>



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Lotus Team

Editor
 Cheryl D'Mello

Editorial Team
 Bal Karamchandani
 Jyoti Malik
 Raghav Sharma
 Swati Desai
 Parul Jain

Please email us your feedback and suggestions:
lotus.ficacleveland@gmail.com

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 12412 CEDAR ROAD
 CLEVELAND HEIGHTS, OH 44106
 Or Current Resident



FICA STAFF

Administration

Board of Trustees

Sudarshan Sathe (Chairman B.O.T.)
chairman.ficacleland@gmail.com

Mona Alag (Vice Chair Person B.O.T.)

vicechairperson.ficacleland@gmail.com

Rajan Gautam (Secretary B.O.T.)

botsecretary.ficacleland@gmail.com

Executive Board

Mrs. Ritu Mahna

president.ficacleland@gmail.com

Mr. Samir Gautam

vicepresident.ficacleland@gmail.com

Mr. Gaurav Kapur

secretary.ficacleland@gmail.com

Mr. Hemant Kanodia

treasurer.ficacleland@gmail.com

Ms. Sujata Lakhe Barnard

pastpresident.ficacleland@gmail.com

Dr. Rajesh Sharma

Mr. Yatish Desai

Mr. Ameet Bathiya

Mrs. Smita Samant

Mrs. Shaifali Bathiya

Mr. Utkarsh Hazarnis

Dr. Vandana Singh

Member At Large

Dr. Priyanka Sharma

Lotus Editor & Publisher

Cheryl D'Mello

lotus.ficacleland@gmail.com

India Cultural Garden

Raj Pillai - Chair

pillairp@yahoo.com

440/724-4398

Shiksha Daan

Sanjay Garg - Chair

sangarg@aol.com

440/590-1261

Project Seva

Harsha Rane, Chairperson

440/567-0972

Sister Organizations

Association of Indian physicians of

Noth Ohio (AIPNO)

www.aipno.org

Dr. Umesh Yalavarthy, President

216-513-4964

ckhcuy@gmail.com

Bengali Cultural Society of

Cleveland

www.bcscl.org

Sujit Ghosh, President

440-542-0363

sujitghosh@hotmail.com

Marathi Mandal

www.neomm.org

Dr. Sharad Wankhade

330-321-7677

sharadw@hotmail.com

Odisha Society

Birendra Jena, President

330 544-1725

birendrajena@hotmail.com

Jain Society of

Greater Cleveland

(330) 659-0832

Editor's Note

Give Thanks!

November is the month of giving thanks for all that we have received. It's a time for families to get together and celebrate in their own way, with baked turkeys or tofu turkeys or tandoori turkeys, or their regular party fare of spicy chicken curry and mutter paneer and other Indian dishes.

As we enjoy the meal, let us remember that this is more than about food, it is the togetherness we share and celebrate as a family, and our gratefulness for all that we have received through the years in this country. For many, it has been a struggle, a long journey, to reach the American Dream: the McMansion in the upscale neighborhood, the luxury car in the driveway, the children in private schools and Ivy League colleges, the dream vacations and cruises.

As we celebrate another Thanksgiving, let us remember those who gave us a helping hand, and the support when we needed it. Let this be a reminder that it is our turn to give back and help someone else. Instead of just ruminating on the hardships we faced, let's try and make it easier for those who come after us.

On another note, we are filled with a sense of pride to see another Indian beauty crowned as Miss World.

Give thanks!
Cheryl D'Mello
Editor
Lotus.ficacleland@gmail.com

The Lotus

This year marks the 50th anniversary of "The Lotus," which prides itself on being the first Asian Indian newspaper in the U.S. First printed 50 years ago by Case Western Reserve University students and some local residents, today "The Lotus" continues to deliver local, relevant and useful community news about events, achievements, area resources and service activities.

"The Lotus" is one of the many arms of FICA, a non-profit, 501(c) (3) organization dedicated to serving the needs of the Asian Indian Community in Northeast Ohio.

The Lotus" is read by over 10,000 Asian Indian families in N.E. Ohio. Mostly volunteers devote their time and energy to publish it. The e-version reaches around 2,000 inboxes, and 2,000 copies are printed and mailed to community residents and delivered to Cuyahoga County Library branches, Indian grocery stores, religious centers, and restaurants.

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The Lotus. Email us at
Lotus.ficaclelandcleveland@gmail.com*

*Subscribe to receive "The Lotus"
for free in your inbox at: ficacleland.org*

FICA App Launched



The board is excited to introduce our brand new FICA app. created by our executive committee member Shaifali Bathiya this app is going to revolutionize the way our community accesses FICA events, memberships and news. The FICA Cleveland app is available on the App Store for both Android and Apple devices. Download the App and take the first step to stay connected to your community.

Please call the Association of Asian Indian Women of Ohio (AAIWO) hotline phone no. (440) 218-6959 for free, confidential professional counseling for women and children in the Asian Indian community

Volunteer with Shiksha Daan/Give the Gift of Education

1 out of 3 low-income teenagers in Ohio do not graduate from High School, one of the lowest rates in the country. Join us in changing this statistic. Give the gift of education. shikshadaan.fica@gmail.com, www.shikshadaanusa.org

- You can tutor refugee children
- Mentor a student through Refugee Response
- Mentor high school students through Youth Opportunities Unlimited (Y.O.U.)
- Mentor a college student through College Now
- Tutor high school students through Minds Matter

Donating Funds

• Shiksha Daan expenses include rental/education supplies/snacks for the tutoring program in Cleveland Heights, and a scholarship for a college student through College Now. Your contributions will help us sustain and grow our programs.

• To contribute funds to Shiksha Daan, please send a check made out to "FICA – Shiksha Daan" to Shiksha Daan, C/O Vinod Nagpal, 18195 Brickmill Run, Strongsville OH 44136. Shiksha Daan is a project of FICA which is a 501(c)(3) registered organization. So contributions to Shiksha Daan are tax deductible.

Contact Sanjay Garg, shikshadaan.fica@gmail.com (440) 590-1261 to learn more.



FICA forges friendships with the Jewish Federation of Cleveland

SAMIR GAUTAM

The Jewish Federation of Cleveland was generous enough to host some members of the FICA Board of Trustees and Executive Board at their offices in Beachwood on November 14th, 2017.

Alan Gross, Jessica Cohen and Debbie Klein from the Federation were in attendance and FICA was represented by Sudarshan Sathe, Rajan Gautam, Ritu Mahna and Samir Gautam. Gross was kind enough to share some of the history of the Jewish migration to N.E. Ohio and the establishment of the Federation. Debbie and Jessica shared with us some highlights of their annual campaign and programs they offer to various Jewish organizations. We were also told that the Federation has a donor advised fund which is used to help N.E. Ohio non-profits, including non-Jewish organizations.

It was an educational visit for all and we learnt a great deal about the Jewish Community in N.E. Ohio and how the community, despite their differences, stands united to give them one voice. Many thanks to our new found friends and we look forward to forging stronger friendships with them in the months and years to come.



Left to right: Debbie Kline, Ritu Mahna, Sudarshan Sathe, Alan Gross, Rajan Gautam & Samir Gautam

FICA representation at the Ohio Asian American Economic Summit



The Ohio Asian American Economic Summit, an all-day event at the Ariel International Center, was presented by the Ohio Asian American Pacific Islander Advisory Council and Ariel International Center on Tuesday, November 14, 2017. FICA was one of the table sponsors. Several panels presented and discussed about doing business in various Asian country, legal and tax issues involved, export and import trade and finance with Asian countries and Asian businesses in Ohio. There was a reception and opportunities for networking. The reception keynote speaker was Honorable Sandeep Chakravorty, Consul General of India.

Photo (left to right) Neil Patel, Mona Alag, Consul General of India Sandeep Chakravorty, Ritu Mahna, Padma Jambunath and Nirmal Sinha

Community Partner



As you may already know that FICA of NEO, ([@FICAcleveland](http://www.ficacleveland.org)) has been recognized by the United Way as a Designated Charitable Organization and is eligible non-partner agency with United Way of Cleveland. I would greatly appreciate if you can reach out to your place of work and friends and request them to consider designating Federation of India communities association of North East Ohio (FICA of NEO, @FICAcleveland) to receive part of their annual donation. United Way will then channel their donations to FICA after deducting some service fee. This will create a revenue stream for FICA



to support our mission of promoting the rich cultural heritage of India in greater Cleveland; to facilitate ongoing dialog with civic leaders regarding issues of importance to Asian Indian families in the region; to facilitate the mainstreaming of Asian Indian families by creating a platform for the community's active participation in the civic life; to collaborate with local organizations to promote goodwill and understanding between diverse communities; to partner with business groups that promote ties between Indian and US firms and foster economic development.

Upcoming Board Of Trustee Meetings

January 28, 2018

April 29, 2018

All meetings will be held from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m

At 12412, Cedar Road, Cleveland Heights, OH- 44106

FICA MEMBERSHIP

The Board Members of FICA invite you all to join FICA and become active members. Together, we can make a difference in North East Ohio.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the FICA President Ritu Mahna at: President.ficacleveland@gmail.com





Hindi Diwas Celebration

DR. SHAIL JAIN, PRESIDENT NE OHIO CHAPTER OF IHA, OHIO

Northeast Ohio Chapter of International Hindi Association and Greater Cleveland Shiva Vishnu Temple jointly celebrated Hindi Diwas at Shiva Vishnu Temple, Parma, Ohio on October 15, 2017 starting at 5 p.m. More than 180 people attended the event. The program lasted for about two and a half hours and kept the audience engaged with laughter and applause.

The celebration opened with the traditional ' Deep Prajjwalan' by Mrs. Sushila Mohanka, the former President of IHA; Mr. Manhar Shah, President of the Temple and others.

Dr. Jain highlighted chapter efforts toward Hindi language and Indian culture, such as Akron Sunday School for the last 35 years and Star Talk approved "Hindi Summer Camp." The Star Talk program is approved and funded by the U.S. government, security division. It provides a learning experience about the Hindi language and Indian culture for more than 50 students from age 8 to 16 for three weeks. She mentioned that they are also trying to introduce Hindi language and Indian culture in the U.S. school system. After great efforts in 2016, the Chapter was able to start an after-school Hindi class at Old Trail School in Bath,



Committee Members & Artists -
 Standing First Row - Madan Bhan, Dr. Aashirvanji, Ajay Chadda, Dr. Tej Pareek, Dr. Anand Khandelwal, Dr. Anant Chak, Ashok Khandelwal
 Second Row - Anja Kapoor, Dr. Vinod Khandelwal, Vidurwanth Narayan, Dr. Manu L. Agrawal, Dr. Richa Mathur, Remi Chadda, Veena Bhan, Aika Khandelwal, Kirti Ahuja, Sathya Karambi, Chandrika Dalal, Dr. Neelima Pareek, Anjali Chak, Narendra Singh
 Seating on Chair - Dr. Anoop Kapoor, Dr. T.M. Jain, Dr. Shail Jain, Bimal Saran, Sushila Mohanka, Dr. Subha Sivashankaran, Dr. Suchi Raj, Pawan Khatan
 Seating - Ahana Kataria, Devang Pareek, Radha Pareek, Radha Komarwar, Tarini Gansh,

Ohio from January 2017. The IHA is working to bring Hindi as a foreign language class into the U.S. school system.

Hindi Diwas was celebrated with poems, skit, dances, songs and short speeches. People of all ages participated. All participants did a great job despite many being from different non-Hindi speaking states in India. Mrs. Sushila Mohanka talked about the history and achievements of IHA and their chapters in

USA and in India. She gave tribute to two poets from Ohio we lost this year: Mahakavi Gulab Khandelwal and Dr. Leelawati Bansal.

A group song from kids was directed by Mrs. Richa Mathur. The theme and first line of the song was ' Hum hain hindustani Hindi bhasha humko pyari hai'. The program concluded with the national anthem of India and America.



Deep Prajjwalan - Ajay Chadda, Manhar Shah, Lal Jagita, Sushila Mohanka & Dr. Shail Jain

Greater Cleveland Sikh's celebrate Shri Guru Nanak Devji's birth anniversary at the Gurudwara in Richfield, Ohio on Nov. 5, 2017



Cleveland Sikh's at the Guru Nanak celebration



Mr. and Mrs. Harbans Singh Sandhu of North Royalton

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- Asian Imports, N. Olmsted: (440)777-8101
- Everest Grocery Store, Lakewood: (216)226-3715
- India Grocers, Parma Heights: (440)885-0215
- Indian Grocery, Cuyahoga Falls: (330)928-7060
- Indo American Foods, North Randall: (216)662-0072
- Indo American Convenient, Mayfield Heights: (440)446-8200
- Laxmi Groceries & Spices, Parma Heights: (440-842-2402
- Lakshmi Plaza, Mayfield Heights: (440)460-4601
- Park to Shop, E30th Cleveland: (216)781-3388
- Patel Brothers, Parma Heights: (440)885-4440
- Rimi's Indian Bakers, Grocers & Gifts, Westlake: (440)777-0116
- Rumis Market & Deli, Carnegie Ave: (216)229-7864
- Sunny's Asian Food & Spices, Solon: (440)248-0801

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- Bamboo Garden
North Olmsted (440)734-0500
University Circle (216)505-5470
- Bombay Grill, Fairlawn, Akron: (330)664-0689
- Café Tandoor
Cleveland Hts. (216)371-8500
Westlake (440)835-7999 &
Aurora (330)562-5334

- Crown of India, Strongsville: (440)638-4977
- Chapati at Chester Ave.,
Cleveland (216)303-9780
University Circle (216)505-5470
- Chennai Delicacy, Parma Heights: (440)481-3737
- Choolah, Indian BBQ, Orange Village: (800)459-8860
- Cleveland Tiffin Punjabi Dhaba, North Randall: (216)220-7002
- Cuisine of India, Parma Heights: (440)842-5907
- Greedy Girl, Cleveland Heights: (216)465-9877
- Hot or Mild, Mayfield Heights: (440)446-8200
- Indian Delight, Cleveland: (216)651-4007
- India Garden, Lakewood: (216)221-0676
- Indies Indian Food, Colonial Arcade, Cleveland: (216)357-3266
- Indian Flame, University Circle: (216)791-5555
- Jaipur Junction, North Royalton, (440)842-3555
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- Namaste India Garden, Lakewood: (216) 221-4800
- Ruchi Indian Cuisine, Aurora: (330)562-6446
- Saffron Patch
Shaker Heights (216) 295-0400
Akron (330)836-7777
- 6 Flavors, Parma: (440)345-5599
- South India Cuisine, Mayfield Road: (440)720-0393
- Taj India Palace, Richmond Heights: (440)461-3737
- Tandul, Professor Ave., Tremont: (216)465-2442
- Taste of Kerala, Mayfield Heights: (440)461-9212

Community Religious Centers

- BAPS Swaminarayan Temple
2915 Laurel Rd., Brunswick
(330)220-4020
- Guru Nanak Foundation (Gurdwara)
4220 Broadview Road, Richfield
(330)659-3748
- Gurdwara Sahib Bedford
38 Tarbell Road, Bedford
(440)232-1702
- Greater Cleveland Shiva Vishnu Temple
7733 Ridge Rd., Parma
(440)888-9433
- Islamic Center of Cleveland
6055 W. 130th St., Parma
(216)362-0786
- ISSO Swaminarayan Temple
13354 Pearl Road, Strongsville
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- Jain Temple & Center
3226 Boston Mills Rd., Richfield
(330)659-0832
- Shri Venkataswara Temple
4406 Brecksville Road, Richfield
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- St. Gregorios Malankara Orthodox Church
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- Swaminarayan Shubh Sanskar Sanstha Cleveland
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Cinnamon isn't just Delicious, it's also Incredibly Helpful!



BAL KARAMCHANDANI

Cinnamon is one of the world's oldest spices that imparts a magnificent aroma to a wide variety of foods. But, besides its great taste and smell, cinnamon is also considered to have quite a variety of healing properties too. Many of its benefits derive from the spice's anti-fungal, antibacterial and antioxidant prowess. You can smell it, ingest it, or apply it. Some of the known health benefits of cinnamon are (1) May help treat Type 2 diabetes, (2) Can lower your bad cholesterol (or LDL), (3) Has antifungal, antibacterial, and even antiviral properties, (4) Can help treat the symptoms of Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, (5) May have anti-carcinogenic properties, (6) Has anti-inflammatory properties and more.

How to Identify Real Cinnamon?

It is sweeter, and the sticks look a bit tougher in texture, but they are actually soft. They can be chewed. Their color is lighter in comparison to the rest, unlike the fake ones which has a reddish-brown color. The curl of the **fake** ones is **neat** and one curl which closes in the **middle**.

Ceylon Cinnamon vs Cassia (Fake) - to identify the difference, please see the table below.

		
	Figure 1 Ceylon Cinnamon	Figure 2 Fake Cinnamon -Cassia
Type	Ceylon Cinnamon	Cassia
Color	Light Brown	Dark Brown
Outer appearance	Thin and soft	Thick and hard
Inner filling	Filled like a cigar	Hollow tube
Aroma	Delicate	Harsh
Taste	Sweet with a hint of citrus	Flat
Grown in	Ceylon (Sri Lanka)	China, Vietnam, Indonesia
Other Names	Real or Sweet Cinnamon	Saigon Cinnamon
Coumarin	0.004%	5%
Species	Cinnamomum Verum or Zeylanicum (Latin name for Ceylon)	Cinnamomum Cassia

Source: www.ceylon-cinnamon.com/Identify-Ceylon-Cinnamon.html

Recipe for Honey Roasted Cinnamon Walnuts



Ingredients

- 6 cups walnuts
- 1/2 cup honey
- 1/3 butter
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon salt

HOW TO COOK

Melt together honey and butter. Remove from heat and mix in cinnamon and salt.

Pour over nuts and mix well. Spread mixture on jelly roll pan and bake at 350 degrees for 15-20 minutes, stirring a few times during bake time. Spread mixture onto wax paper and cool completely. Break nuts apart and store in airtight container. Enjoy!

RECIPE CORNER

JYOTI MALIK



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Indian Spiced Turkey

Ingredients

- For the turkey
4.5kg (9lb) turkey
1/2 lemon
1 lime
1 garlic clove

- For the marinade
3 large garlic cloves,
1 inch ginger root
1 green chillies,
1 teaspoon tandoori tikka masala
1 1/2 tbsp garam masala
1 tbsp ground cumin
2 tsp turmeric

- 150g (5oz) plain yogurt
3 tbsp tomato purée
Juice and zest of 1 lime

HOW TO COOK

Make a ginger- garlic- and chilli paste and then mix all of the marinade ingredients together. Prick the turkey all over with a fork and place in a large dish. Spoon over the marinade and cover the whole turkey with the marinade. Set aside in the fridge overnight for the flavors to develop. Remove the turkey from the fridge 30 minutes before roasting to allow

it to come up to room temperate. Weigh and calculate the cooking time (20 minutes per kg, plus an extra 30 minutes)

Preheat the oven to gas 6, 200°C, 180°C. Season the turkey generously and place in a large roasting tray. Stuff the cavity with the lemon and lime halves and garlic. Roast for 30 minutes, then turn the oven down to gas 4, 180°C, fan160°C and cook for the rest of the calculated cooking time (see above), or until the juices run clear when you pierce the turkey with a sharp knife

where the thigh meets the body. Keep an eye on the skin, covering with foil once it has browned.

Once cooked, remove to a warm serving platter and rest, covered in foil, for at least 20 minutes before carving.



RELIGIOUS CORNER

Anugraha अनुग्रह Grace

DR. RAMASWAMY SHARMA – SHIVA VISHNU TEMPLE, PARMA, OHIO

Anugraha or Grace is defined in as follows:

ANISHTA VARANA PURVAKA ISHTA SADHANAM ANUGRAHA

ANISHTA VAARANA is removal of unfavorable effects. (guilt, misery, etc.) ISHTA SADHANAM is bestowal of favorable effects. (fortune, joy, etc.)

Another definition of Anugraha is:

VIJAPA UNMATTVA NISVAANAAM AKUTSAA PURVAKAM HI YAT PURANAM DANA MAANABHYAM ANUGRAHA UDAHRUTAH

As a devotee cries out with deep humility expressing regret for all sin and weakness, with reverential surrender in Iswara as the only true refuge, then the response of Iswara in the form of bestowal of daana favours and maana self-respect or removal of guilt is known as Anugraha.

Anugraha is Iswara's power of grace by which Jiva or Soul is rekindled to its real, spiritual nature known as Sat-chitananda (eternal, wisdom and bliss). Grace in the initial stages of devotion is experienced as receiving favors,

often sought, from Iswara. In the later stages the devotee finds herself surrounded by grace. She sees ALL as Iswara's grace, whether they are apparently pleasant or unpleasant and beneficial or not. It is grace that ignites the love of God within the devotee, appeases the intellect and initiates the pursuit for Self Enquiry. It descends when the soul has reached a certain level of maturity, and often comes in the form of a spiritual initiation or Diksha from a Guru.

ASMAAT VIJAAYATE VISHWAM ATRAIVA PRA VILEEYATE AMAAYEE MAAYAYAA BADDHAH KAROTI VIVIDHAAS TANUH

The various bodies in the Universe are conceived, sustained and annihilated by Iswara through Maya, the illusory power. Grace is just not only Divine favor but also encompasses Iswara's other four powers: Srushti Conception, Sthiti Preservation, Samhara Annihilation and Maya Masquerading. It is through the Maya Shakti that Iswara grants the Jiva the world of perception and limits its awareness and leads to a progressive unfoldment of the Soul's inherent Divinity. Comprehensively, अनुग्रह is Iswara's ever-pouring Karuna compassion, and Prasada graciousness.

BOOK OF THE MONTH

NIVI ENGINEER

Sandhya Menon's 'When Dimple Met Rishi' Is a Delight

Before I venture inside the book, I'd like to judge not the book but its cover. There is one particular aspect of Sandhya Menon's novel, "When Dimple Met Rishi." It's cute, but it's a bit flawed in unnecessary ways. I get that mehndi is Indian, but Dimple is heading to a web developing conference, not a wedding. And in the story, she doesn't. So it makes zero sense that she'd have it on the cover. Nor would her character have worn so many rings or even the thin chain around her neck. She wouldn't have worn a bright orange top or bangles on her wrists. And the hair! Good God, her unruly curly hair is such a part of her character that the covers (both front and back) annoy me. But mostly, the fact that these details weren't seen as important enough to get consistent with the book itself seems disrespectful. Okay, rant over.

So now let's explore the book itself. Dimple Shah is a recent high school graduate headed to Stanford. Her mother, though loving, has been pushing to arrange her marriage, something which Dimple is in no hurry to do. In fact, she wants to go to InsomniaCon, a six-week summer web developing program. Surprisingly, she's allowed to go. And then there's Rishi Patel, a dutiful elder son who agrees to meet Dimple in the hopes of finding his future wife before heading to MIT to study engineering and give up his artistic passion. So they meet, and unsurprisingly, things don't start off well.

After finishing the book I wandered to Goodreads and checked out the reviews. Some folks it seems, couldn't stand Dimple. They found her abrasive and mean, and didn't understand her anger. I had no such issues with her, and I wanted to understand why. Perhaps the writing falls short, perhaps by relying more on the reader's experiences than the text. Maybe Menon could have dwelled longer on her newfound sense of freedom, though I thought she captured it quite well. Possibly she could have delved deeper into the stifling relationship Dimple had with her parents, but that too resonated well. Perhaps it was, simply, an inability to relate to Dimple's choice to waste a perfectly good iced coffee. I get that (well, not in the literal sense; I'm not a coffee person so it didn't bother me in the least). The action (I'm trying to avoid spoilers here) perhaps just felt too...scripted. Up until then Dimple bit her tongue, shut down in conflict. But all of a sudden she's assertive in a way that conflicts with her character. But then again, we haven't seen her meet any other guys. We haven't been subjected as she has to the degree of meddling that would lead her to lash out at a strange Indian man that propositions her. The point is, throughout the novel, Dimple's character arc takes her from being defensive to feeling comfortable enough with someone else--and herself--to let down her guard.

And frankly, the requirement that girls have to be likable and behave impeccably all the time is a standard we don't hold male characters to. No, our heroes are allowed to be "flawed."

Rishi is an atypical hero, emerging as a kind, supportive role model for someone hoping to

actually "win the girl." Frankly, I love that the bristly girl doesn't get won over by some Fifty Shades of Grey whatshisname main character or other misguided model of stoic romanticism that's actually an ill-disguised model of toxic masculinity. That Rishi is romantic and traditional is fine, but the fact that it doesn't translate to his holding sexist views is wonderful. He's rich but not entitled, smart but not condescending (although yes, he does have a chip on his shoulder at the restaurant). Meanwhile, the other characters lack depth. They are stereotypical and shallow. Which is definitely a shame, and does a disservice to an otherwise great story.



Sandhya Menon

All in all, this read much like a Young Adult Bollywood film. There's a talent show stuck in the middle for no good reason, and I'll confess, I totally took it in stride because I grew up watching Bollywood movies. Sure, Dimple could have veered more toward assertive without being physically violent, and some of the writing could have been stronger and less cliché, but for a light, quick read, 'When Dimple Met Rishi' is just fine. Actually, if you look at some of the toxic masculinity coming out of Bollywood—where "boy meets girl" translates to entitled hero harassing girl until she relents (Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge, Dil, and many, many more; read this great article online: https://www.fairobserver.com/region/central_south_asia/bollywood-cinema-sexism-women-india-culture-news-61000/)—this is a refreshing change. And in this era of #metoo, for finally offering a positive male hero character that gets the girl—not despite his actions and attitudes but because of them—I applaud this novel and wholeheartedly recommend it.

Nivi Engineer is the author of 'The Indian Girl's Definitive Guide to Staying Single', The Story of a Story, The Saviors of Scarborough, Impatient, Redrafted, and Picklemas

Dear sisters,

Hello. How have you been so far? Is everything OK in your life? Do you feel safe when you are at home or in your neighborhood? Is there anything on your heart that is bothering you? Do you feel pain but don't know why? Do you feel comfortable with your spouse or significant other? Is there something you want to share with someone but don't know who?



Why do I ask such questions? Because people may be vulnerable and many things can make us feel powerless. We are concerned about you and believe that you can thrive, be empowered, and be resilient with the right kind of support.

So please do not try to suffer by yourself. Help is available. We have supported many people from all over the world, and they have seen their lives changed for the better. Our services are not only for people with Asian descent but for any immigrant or refugee in Ohio. Most of our services are free and confidential, so please contact us through our helpline number 216-369-7616, our office phone number (listed below).

Let us know what language you speak so that we can connect you with someone who can speak that language.

We understand your culture. We look forward to hearing from you.

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Children, Youth, and Family Services Department

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44114
(T)216-881-0030

Akron office
730 Carroll Street, Akron, OH 44304
(T)330-535-3369



Calendar of Community Events

PAST EVENTS

“Rhythms of India” first time event at NBA game

For the first time ever, the Telugu Association of North America (TANA) organized “The Rhythms of India” a half time NBA performance at the Cleveland Cavaliers vs Indiana Pacers game on November 1, 2017 at 7 p.m. at the Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland. Around 25,000 people attended the event.

The Indian community heritage night featured classical dances such as Kuchipudi and Bharatnatyam, Indian children welcomed the players to the court and stood with them. The Case Western Reserve University bhangra team performed at the Pre game event. This was the first time ever that any Indian organization has arranged an event like this.

The program was organized by Ashok V. Babu Kolla and supported by local city Cleveland coordinators Ravi Vadamudi and Rama Rao Pengulur. FICA was also one of the sponsors.

Indian restaurant provides free food for Aurora’s storm hit residents

After the storm that hit the Cleveland area on November 5, 2017, the Indian restaurant “Ruchi Indian Cuisine” in Aurora, served free food to residents of Aurora for two days.

The restaurant, which opened in August, is owned and operated by Ashok V Babu Kolla, the joint treasurer of the Telugu Association of North America (U.S. & Canada) and Dr. Murali Lakireddi in Aurora.

FUTURE EVENTS

The Indian Catholics of North East Ohio Christmas Potluck Party will be held on Sat. Dec. 2, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Peace Church Hall, 12406 Buckingham Hall. There will be carol singing, games, etc. For details and to RSVP by Nov. 30 contact Arlene at: (330) 963-7363 or email her at: arlfeds@gmail.com

The Kerala Association of Ohio presents Noel 2017, their Christmas & New Year Celebration on Sat. Dec 9, 2017, 3 – 9 p.m. at Strongsville Middle School, 13200 Pearl Road, Strongsville; call (216) 659-3995 or (440) 879-6261. Detroit Notes band will be performing. There will be a cake competition and photography competition and reception.

The Indian Christian Association welcomes you to their Christmas Celebration on Dec. 16, 2017 at 5 p.m. at Cedar Hill Baptist Church, Cleveland Heights. For details contact: Sreshtamichael@gmail.com





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