



# TRICIA NEWSLETTER

**TRI-CITY INDIA ASSOCIATION, INC.**

(A not-for-profit organization)

**P. O. BOX 12094**

**ALBANY, NEW YORK 12212-2094**

**WWW.TRICIANY.ORG**



**President**

**Haresh Bhatia**

Phone: 878 8384

**Vice President**

**Paul Uppal**

Phone: 453 6367

**Secretary**

**M. A. Waheed**

Phone: 894 0071

**Treasurer**

**Peter Thomas**

Phone: 489 3190

**Past-President**

**Renu Kallianpur**

Phone: 210-5865

**COMMITTEE**

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Nita Chicatelli

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Ayaz Malik

Jassu Mehta

Frank Poonawala

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Baswa Shaker

Guryam Singh

Nanoo Singh

Nitty Singh

Mathew Varghese

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Vikas Bapat

Sneh Chaudhry

Archana Goel

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Sheela Jain

Hari Kabra

Fariba Khosravi

Kajal Lahiri

Seema Langer

Jyoti Mehta

Angana Patel

Arjun Patel

Tony Rametra

Jayanthi Sankrith

Chandra Sekhar

Rajesh Taneja

**TYO COORDINATOR**

Sujata Chaudhry



**TRICITY INDIA ASSOCIATION, INC.**

WWW.TRICIANY.ORG



## Independence Day Picnic



*Indian Food, Hot Dogs, Hamburgers,  
Games, Bingo, Music, Ice Cream, Watermelon, Corn  
Food will be served from 1.00 pm to 4 .00 pm*

**Sunday, August 17th 2008**

**Noon to 6pm**

**Elm Avenue Park**

**261 Elm Avenue**

**Delmar, NY 12054**

(For directions visit our website: [www.triciany.org](http://www.triciany.org))

## JOIN US FOR A DAY FULL OF FUN

**NON MEMBERS: \$10 PER PERSON**

**MEMBERS & CHILDREN OVER 5 YEARS OLD: \$5 PER PERSON**

**CHILDREN UNDER 5 : FREE**

**Please RSVP to any of the following by August 12th**

**Picnic Coordinators:**

**Peter Thomas: 489 3190, Nanu Singh: 488 8098,**

**Haresh Bhatia : 878 8384, Paul Uppal: 453 6367, M.A. Waheed : 894 0071,**

**Renu Kallianpur: 210 5865, Manoj Ajmera: 371 3737**



## TRICIA Goes Green!

In an effort to more efficiently meet our members needs and to be more environmentally friendly, the TRICIA newsletter will be delivered to you via email starting with the next issue in November, 2008.

To ensure that you receive the new e-newsletter in November, please provide TRICIA with your current email address. The email information will only be used by TRICIA to send you the newsletter and any event/informational updates.

**\*\* Please visit the [www.triciany.org](http://www.triciany.org) homepage and sign-up to receive the newsletter via email.**

Thank you--

The TRICIA Committee

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## Festival of Nations-- October 26th

ATTENTION MEMBERS AGE 14-18 YEARS

The 37TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF NATIONS WILL BE ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26TH AT THE EMPIRE STATE PLAZA. ONE OF THE VERY POPULAR ITEMS OF THE FESTIVAL IS CROWNING OF THE MISS FESTIVAL OF NATIONS. LAST YEAR, THE HONOR WENT TO OUR OWN FARZEEN KHOSRAVI.

THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY AND EXPERIENCE FOR YOUNG, ENTHUSIASTIC AND SMART GIRLS OF OUR INDIAN COMMUNITY. WE SELECT A CANDIDATE USING IMPARTIAL JUDGES. **THE DEADLINE FOR THE APPLICATION IS SEPTEMBER 3RD.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL FESTIVAL CHAIRMAN MANOJ AJMERA AT 371-3737.

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### BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP? LET'S COUNT THE WAYS!

- Reduced admission to annual picnic and dinner
  - Receive newsletter and email updates of latest events
  - Provides opportunity to be involved in community, heritage and cultural activities
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## Spring Festival Event

Our big event – the Spring Festival – took place on June 8, 2008 at the Empire State Convention Center with grand success. The attendance, press & media coverage, food arrangements, the cultural program, the diversity of the booths, and the community involvement couldn't have been better. The huge convention center became the site for our yearly Indian *mela* that TRICIA SpringFest has become. If Christopher Columbus had landed at the convention center that afternoon, he would have thought he truly reached India.

With encouragement from TRICIA President Haresh Bhatia, the executive committee and all coordinators of the SpringFest acted with determination and grace facing occasionally difficult situations. The MCs Neerav Patel and Piyali Dutta were cool, yet very professional, throughout the program. They even managed to touch the nerve of some of the parents with their jokes!

The food arrangements led by Manoj Ajmera were perfect. Giving the job to two local vendors Karavalli and Royal India and to the representatives of two local temples turned out to be a good idea. Due to the effective planning, the food lines and the sitting arrangements were organized.

The organizing committee, like in other years, had a lot on its plate. Sneha Chaudhry and her team seamlessly managed the program details. This year the marketing committee, with the determined leadership of M.A. Waheed, worked very hard to raise funds to support the event. Identifying the sponsors and advertisers is possibly the hardest part of the ball game. They managed to reach out to our local Indian business community well. His so-called *padayatras* in Schenectady neighborhoods to raise sponsor money for TRICIA is now well known.

The thick, glossy and multi-colored brochure was the handy work of Peter Thomas, who with Paul Upal, also performed as professional treasurers by keeping track of the money during and after the show. The work of the cultural committee is always very demanding. Seema Langer, Sheela Jain and Baswa Shaker worked hard at it. At the end, the program turned out to be balanced in representing different parts of India, and ended at the right time when the auditorium was still packed.

Last, but not the least, we cannot thank Jassu Mehta enough – he quietly implemented the extensive stage design that was liked by all.

At the end of the show, we all felt a sense of elation and pride for accomplishing the success together. By observing the joyous faces of the children and their happy parents during their shows makes all the time and effort we spend in organizing the event worthwhile. TRICIA has now developed a good process to organize the spring festival which, I am sure, will even get better in the future. Let us all continue to work on it.

Thanking all of you–

Kajal Lahiri  
Chief Coordinator  
2008 TRICIA SpringFest



## Join Us- New TRICIA Committee Members Needed

Dear TRICIA Members,

Very soon as 2008 folds up we will unfold a new TRICIA committee to serve our community in the new year. No organization can function without the infusion, cohesion and confluence of new blood. We request you to volunteer your time and talent to take TRICIA to the next level. Please nominate fellow Indians to join our Committee. A Nomination form is presented for your convenience.

Thanks,

M.A. Waheed  
Secretary

### NOMINATION FORM TRICIA TEAM 2009

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby nominate, \_\_\_\_\_ to serve as a member of TRICIA team for 2009.

Nominator: Signature, Email and Phone #

\_\_\_\_\_.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby accept the nomination to serve as member of TRICIA team for 2009.

Nominee: Signature, Email and Phone #

\_\_\_\_\_.

Note: Nominator and Nominee should be Current Annual, or Life members of TRICIA.

Nominee should be available to attend TRICIA monthly meetings and actively participate in TRICIA events.

Please submit completed forms by Sept 30<sup>th</sup>,2008 to TRICIA Secretary, M.A.Waheed by Email [waheed48@yahoo.com](mailto:waheed48@yahoo.com) , Fax 518 688 2817 or by mail: P.O.Box 12094, Albany, NY 12212 .



Essay Contest Winners:

Meena Bansal – Grade 12

*As an Indian teenager living in America, what do you feel are the advantages/disadvantages of a bicultural upbringing? How do you feel it has shaped you as an individual and how will these lessons help you in the future? Provide specific examples and supporting detail.*

The greatest advantage of a bicultural background is the essence of questioning. My background and as most of my peers would agree has regularly given me the chance to question myself. The essence of being able to question who you are and where you stand in the world is the greatest gift because it keeps you thinking and wondering of how exactly I move forward. When living in a bicultural background our actions are based on what we see is right, and not what is innately intended of oneself. A bicultural upbringing also makes one unique from most others and that is a great characteristic to possess.

Decision making is the toughest and most important skill that we begin building from the time we are children and continue to perfect to the time we become parents ourselves. We must choose what is right in a world full of many wrong decisions to be made. With an Indian background one has more insight on what is the best decision to make in a tough situation.

The opportunity to have temple, for instance, in a world of such chaos gives us a moment to slow down and reflect why we are running so fast and far, and where we intend on going. A personal example is being a part of dance groups. I danced in Indian groups for the Spring Festival for about 6 years. Being a member of these dances with other Indians kids my age has truly brought me closer to my culture. I felt I could relate myself more to the other Indian kids.

As I move on to the next phase in my life (college), I am more prepared and mentally ready to quench the challenges that lie ahead of me. Whether I enter the world of medicine, law, or global affairs, I will always carry the support of my parents who worked so hard that I could have a world of opportunities. The work and determination of our parents reverberates through each of the dimensions that we witness growth.

Choosing a career, friends, and a new networking atmosphere will all be the direct results of the experiences I have grown up with and this will show the path of my future. Without the ability to question who we are, most of us take our lives for granted and move on. But constant reflection in the mirror has spurred my interest to get to really see how I have come to this stage of my life and how I will help others find their way.

Best of luck to the class of 2008 in all your hopes and dreams.

**Bhujias**

- Large onion chopped fine
- 2 fresh greens chilies chopped fine
- 1/4 c methi leaves
- 3 T. chopped coriander leaves
- 1/4 t. each of cumin seeds, red chilli powder, tumeric, salt, sugar
- 4 T. besan
- Oil for deep frying

Combine all ingredients except oil with enough water to make sticky dough.

In wok or heavy skillet heat oil to 375 degrees. Fry teaspoon size balls in hot oil turning w. spatula to make golden on all sides-- about 5 minutes.

Remove and drain on paper towel. Serve while hot.

(The Bombay Palace Cookbook, Stendhal 1985)



### How I keep in touch with my Indian Culture

Tarranum Koslik- Grade 6

My family is unique. My mother is from India. She was born there and left with her family when she was 19. My father is from America. He was born and raised here. It is hard for me to try to speak Hindi because my mother is the only one in my house who speaks it. My father and I understand but we do not speak it. I am learning though.

There are many ways I keep in touch with my Indian culture. I eat the food, I dress in the clothes, I try to speak the language, I pray, I celebrate the holidays; I also try to speak with my family in India.

My mother celebrates Christian holidays. However, we do not go to a church. My parents, brothers, and I go to the Mosque. It is so cool that my father celebrates two different cultures.

When I go to my grandparents' house, we do things so much differently than at my Nani and Nana's. At my grandparents' house, we always eat American food, we eat on the table, and we use forks and knives. However, when we are at my Nani and Nana's house we always eat Indian food, we eat on the floor, and we use our hands. It is really different.

I am the eldest child in the family. It is hard for me because I am expected to learn something in Hindi and then try to teach it to my two-year-old brother in English and Hindi. To have a balance of both cultures, Indian and American, I joined TYO,

I think it is terribly important to understand and know both cultures in my case. The history is something good to know for every Indian living in America. The wars in India and America, the Kings, Queens, and Presidents. All the history. My Great Grandmother Steph's parents are from Czech. My great Grandmother on my mother's side is from India. It is so cool that I have so many relatives from so many countries.

I enjoy many things from India. The food is excellent. I eat it almost every day for dinner. The music is excellent as well. The meaning and everything about it. Also movies. I love movies, both Indian and American. Indian movies are different from movies from America; I think they are better.

I use Indian language a lot. I attempt to speak it. I understand it. I am always listening to it. I am doing well in my speaking though. Sort of. I can understand a lot. It is so cool to know other languages. You can interact with so many other people. When you visit a place that speaks a language, you know it is

a very cool feeling. You know what people are saying and you know it was worth your time and effort.

It is beneficial to know and understand these two cultures. I can see that things are very different in every culture. You eat, dress, speak, and perform in very different ways. In Indian culture you eat on the floor, your clothes are more conservative and you speak many languages. In Western culture you eat on the table, you use forks and knives, the primary language is English, and you can wear almost anything.

Those are some ways I stay in touch with my Indian culture. I eat the food and many other cool things. I am proud to be part Indian.

### **Jai Hind**





Contributed by Juie Mahajan of Indicorps

**One**

By Rashida Merchant, Indicorps Fellow

My eyes were fixed on the gate of the community center, a beautiful, serene oasis in the midst of Ahmedabad's largest slum, Ramapir no Tekro. I thought assuredly, any second now, my usual four girls plus or minus a few will arrive for *Drashti*, an adolescent empowerment course I helped spearhead. In an otherwise unused space on Sundays, I imagined the center would become *the* hangout for a bunch of troubled, yet eager-to-learn, teens.

On that Sunday, however, only one girl arrived. Similar to previous Sundays, Nita showed up hoping she would enjoy her two hours spent at the community center. "Where are your friends?" I asked. She did not know.

Hesitantly, I asked her if we should move into the room and continue the planned session. She agreed. My reluctance combined with disappointment, in both my kids and myself, was incredibly difficult to hide. As we listened to songs describing change, I kept reminding myself that one is enough. If I can empower one girl, one person, then I've had made a real difference, a *change*; how-

ever, I could not help but feel defeated.

During our session, Nita shared examples of change from her own life: "I laugh less," she said. For Nita, this was a positive change. Soon I understood why. The shy, nervous Nita who used to hide behind her unending giggles, had developed into a more confident, unguarded Nita. Five weeks ago, during our first session, she could hardly speak. Her nervous laughter drowned out her voice, and on that Sunday, she herself noticed a *change* that came from within her. In her thoughtful and unexpected words, I could hear Nita loud and clear, and she was telling me: I am here because I want to learn, to grow, and to have control over my future.

Soon our session moved outside. On that winter Sunday, under the warm Indian sun, we painted two *matlos*. I asked her to recall last week's session about her dreams and to paint something related to her goal. Nita, a ninth standard student, dreams *BIG*. She hopes to pass her tenth and twelfth standard board exams, pursue a B.S, and then finally become a doctor.

"What can I paint about being a doctor?" she wondered for a moment.

Then, strokes in varying colors and

sizes began to cover the unusual canvas, and soon her *matlo* held her dreams: a picture of a stethoscope.

From the gentle-eyed, giggling, sweet Nita, I learned greatly that Sunday. I discovered that confidence is spending two hours with an unfamiliar non-residential Indian hoping to learn something new, that courage is staying without your friends' presence to give you strength, that initiative is wanting to change your own life, and that passion is not just voicing a dream, but etching it into reality.

Before Nita left, she both deliberately and sweetly said to me, "You must have the class next week, even if it is just me here." I wholeheartedly agreed.

**About Indicorps:**

Indicorps is a non-partisan, non-religious, non-profit organization that encourages Indians around the world to actively participate in India's progress. Indicorps' programs are designed to build principled leadership, empower visionaries, inspire collective action, and unite Indians towards a common vision for the nation by productively engaging the diaspora with the development of the country that defines their identity. Please visit [www.indicorps.org](http://www.indicorps.org) to learn more about the organization.

## Feedback....



We are continuing to add new features to the newsletter to bring TRICIA members information of interest to our community.

Article submissions from members on community topics for future issues are welcome!

Please contact TRICIA President Haresh Bhatia or the newsletter editor Nita Chicatelli with information for future newsletters which are issued quarterly. The next e-newsletter will be issued November, 2008.

## Upcoming Events 2008

ANNUAL PICNIC  
**Sunday August 17th**

Festival of Nations  
Empire State Plaza  
**Sunday October 26th**

ANNUAL DINNER  
**November, 2008**

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Tri-City India Association  
PO Box 12094  
Albany, NY 12212-2094