



Namaste!

We have had one successful event after another. In fall we had the most number of participants ever for the volleyball tournament. Early winter, Sursangam and Surbhi Karaoke singers treated us to Bollywood songs from various decades. Our sincere thanks to all members of Sursangam and Surbhi. Talented local enthusiasts participated in Open Mike Session and entertained us with their renditions to karaoke music. It was encouraging to see so many children participate in the open mike session.

In late winter, ICS Board is proud to present our next event: Sports day on January 24th at Haslet Middle School. This event has something for all ages and comprises of competitive games of table tennis and chess as well as noncompetitive games like carom, basketball, ring toss, jump rope, relays, and more. Please see page 2 for more details.

We are already preparing for our big community event in early spring: **Milap**. Milap our Annual cultural event – is an amalgamation of dance, music and drama from various regions of India. Milap is presented by community members and is a great way of offering our diverse culture and heritage to the audience from the Greater Lansing area. If you are interested in presenting an item at the Annual show, please follow the deadlines and rules for participation provided in this newsletter on page 3.

ICS family membership entitles you to two free tickets per family and single membership or student membership entitles you to one free ticket to the Annual show. Children under age five are free. Non member ticket costs \$10. Please contact any Board member to reserve and collect tickets. Ticket will be required to enter the auditorium, and for dinner. Further information regarding tickets will be emailed in February.

Just like any other major event Milap cannot be possible without your participation, support and volunteerism. We would appreciate money in the form of donations and advertisements. We also need volunteers to help in coordination of the event, decoration, registration, serving food, and set up and cleanup. Please call or email Anu Deshpande and volunteer your time, energy and efforts.

ICS Board wishes you and your family a happy holiday season and a bright new year.

Visit the ICS website at: <http://icyslansing.org>

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Karaoke

Karaoke and Open Mike Session was a refreshing addition to the many events ICS presents to the community. On a relaxed and nostalgic afternoon, over 100 people enjoyed the professional performances by avid singers from Sursangam and Surbhi who entertained us with vintage and new Bollywood songs. Many enjoyed this trip down memory lane and also tapped to the beat of new and upbeat songs.

This event also gave opportunity to many children and adults to sing to Karaoke music in a non competitive atmosphere. This was an enjoyable experience for those non-professional singers who wanted to try their hand at singing. Karaoke seemed to have something for everyone. The program was well liked and appreciated by all and many are looking forward to it next year.

ICS Board would like to thank all members of Sursangam and Surbhi for their efforts and collaboration with ICS. A special thank you to Deven Upadhye for coordinating this event, and to Dr. Rajan for graciously allowing ICS the use of his music system and bringing his singing group to the program.

To view more pictures of this fun filled event visit <http://icslansing.org>.



ICS Board is grateful to Girish Salpekar for committing to update the ICS website. Work is in progress, visit us at: <http://icslansing.org>



ICS Sports Day

Date: Saturday, January 24th 2009.

Venue: Haslett Middle School

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m

Free for current ICS members, \$10 charge for non members.

Join us for a morning of fun games like table tennis, basketball, chess, carom, relays, ring toss and more. There is something for all ages.

Preregistration required for competitive table tennis and chess tournament.

To register for competitive table tennis or chess send email to Sudarsan Vaithu: sudarsv@gmail.com or Pallavi Murthy: pjmurthy@yahoo.com by January 20th.

No registration required for non-competitive games.

All sports activities will be held in the gym. Shoes are required; please ensure that you are wearing shoes with non marking soles only, (street shoes or black sole shoes are not allowed by the school).

Vegetarian or Chicken Subway sandwich, bag of chips and a juice box or pop will be pre-packed and given to each participant as a carry out at the end of the event.

ICS Annual Show - Milap :

Saturday, March 14th, 2009

Okemos High School

Cultural show 5:00 p.m., followed by dinner

Based on feedback from the community after the last year's Annual Function, ICS Board plans to put-together a program comprising of:

National anthems

Dances (Bollywood and traditional) 6 minutes

Songs/instrumental 6 to 8 minutes (2 songs in a performance slot)

Skits 10 minutes

Some guidelines for participants:

- **All choreographers and participants are required to be current ICS members. Membership will be verified at the auditions. It is the responsibility of choreographer and manager to ensure all participants have paid membership dues.**
- **Items with four or more participants will be given priority.**
- **Each item should not be longer than six minutes.**
- **Skits could be up to ten minutes in length and should be humorous, engaging and entertaining.**
- **We are also requesting entries for the Indian and American National Anthems and Emcee(s).**

Due to the delay in mailing out this newsletter we have extended the deadline for applying to participate in the ICS Annual show from December 29th, 2008 to January 8th, 2009.

Please submit your entry via email only to: icsmilap@gmail.com



As Board members we strive to bring you quality performances. While encouraging community members to participate and in an attempt to be fair to participants, the Board has compiled a set of rules to guide us with....

RULES FOR ICS ANNUAL SHOW - MILAP

Registration of items:

Please **E-MAIL** your entry for MILAP 2009 participation to icsmilap@gmail.com between December 15th and January 8th, 2009.

Entries will not be accepted after January 8th.

Verbal and phone entries will not be accepted.

Note: This deadline does not apply to Board invited individuals/groups.

Please include the below information in your email when registering for your item:

- Name of the performance (Example: Dance / Song / Instrumental)
- Category of Performance: Indian Folk, Indian Classical, Bollywood, Ballet, etc.
- Name, email and phone number of the choreographer
- Number of participants
- Names and Ages of all participants
- India Cultural Society membership status of choreographer and all participants
- Duration of performance with time needed to set up stage
- Props if any and individuals volunteering to help with props or stage cleaning
- Please discuss via email should you have special requirements such as time needed, special sound setup, props, cleaning arrangements, setup arrangements, auditorium info, mikes, lighting, etc.

Participation Rules:

1. Choreographers and participants **must be current members of ICS**.
2. All memberships must be validated at the annual show auditions or earlier. The item will not be registered until all the performers and choreographers are valid members.
3. Invitee performers (invited by the ICS Board) are not mandated to be members or to audition.
4. Only two (2) performances per participant. This does not include singing the National Anthems.
5. Choreographers can register up to two items with different participants in each item.
6. Participants in 2 items must notify the Board at the auditions so that the items can be spaced out; based on quality & category of the items and the time required for changing. Participants must accommodate the requests of the Board regarding the sequence of the 2 items in the show.
7. Items with 4 or more participants will be given priority.
8. Please limit each dance performance time to 6 min or under and skits to 10 minutes or under, including any setup time. Depending on number of entries and quality of item, ICS Board may request a reduction or allow increase in the duration of your item. The time allotted **MUST** be followed. The item is subject to removal from the show if the allotted time limit is not maintained.
9. Auditions are mandatory for all except invitees.
10. Rehearsal is mandatory for all including the national anthems.



11. Final selection of the item will be decided by the Board, a few days after the auditions. Decision of the Board regarding acceptance of your item is final. All decisions will be emailed only. Please do not call Board Members regarding the decisions made.
12. Changes regarding registered item will not be entertained unless there is an emergency or valid and reasonable explanation.
13. The ICS Board will try to accommodate individual requests for your item in the show itinerary. However, the Board cannot guarantee a specific spot for your item.
14. After receiving email notification regarding the acceptance of your item (following auditions); you are required to email your mp3/drop off your CD (preferred)/ tape to the specific Board member in charge of creating the Master CD for the Show. The Board will notify the address/email of the specific Board member in advance.
15. CD or tape should be in a cover with **item title, time and choreographer's name + phone number** written with sharpie on CD / tape **and** cover. CD / tape should be set ready to play. The music of your item must be received no later than the SET deadline.
16. Failure to submit your CD / tape by the due date will result in elimination of the entry.
17. ICS retains the right to remove any program, which does not abide by the rules mentioned in this newsletter.
18. The photos and videos of the show will be shot/taken by ICS. By participating in the Annual Show, the participants automatically agree to being photographed and videotaped.

Participant Rules:

1. Please arrive 15 minutes early at the rehearsals and show day.
2. Please maintain silence in the auditorium when the rehearsals are on. For discussions please take your group outside the auditorium.
3. Please do not go in and out of the auditorium when a group is performing. Wait for the performance to be done.
4. Please make room for others in the dressing rooms as soon as you are done.
5. ICS is not responsible for any lost items/jewelry/clothing, etc. All participants/ parents / choreographers must carry their belongings with them at all times.
6. No food or drinks are allowed on stage, backstage area, auditorium and dressing rooms.
7. All participants and choreographers must maintain a code of good conduct. ICS has a "no-tolerance" policy for unwanted aggression or abusive language.
8. Collect your participant/ member tickets from the ICS Board members coordinating the participants before you leave the rehearsals.
9. Please keep your ticket stubs for the dinner.

Events Sponsorship ICS Board is looking for sponsorships for several events. We would appreciate individuals and organizations that would like to sponsor any event in any form.

Please contact one of the board members for further detail.....

Place your Ad in the newsletter & Annual Show Brochure. 1/4 page(not available for brochure), 1/2 Page, full page, front page, back page ads, and banner displays at events. Call us to get more info....



Stage and Performances:

1. Please be ready in the corridor that leads to the backstage door, 2 items before your item. One person from your group must go inside the backstage and report to the ICS Stage Coordinator (who is assigned backstage) upon arrival.
2. If you do not arrive for your performance in the sequence assigned to you, your item may be cancelled. Please do not talk, walk or laugh backstage when a show is on. Especially participants wearing jewelry that clink, **MUST** be seated backstage in assigned areas.
3. Please do not peep out of the stage wings when the show is on. Stay clear off the wings by at least 6 feet.
4. Please do not go across the main stage to go to the opposite side of the stage wings. Use the rear stage passage behind the backdrop curtain. Stay away from the back drop curtain at all times. During your show, if you have to re-enter the stage from the opposite stage wing, do not walk through the backdrop space such that the curtain shakes when a show is in progress.
5. Please stay clear of the stage decorations put up in the rear 3'-0" of the stage when performing your item.
6. Choreographers/group leaders must inspect the stage quickly before beginning their performance, to ensure that the stage is clear of any obstructing item that may cause hindrance during their performance.
7. Props used in your item must be kept safely in the backstage only and removed from the stage immediately when your item is done.
8. Please bring your own volunteers if your props are heavy or require special handling.
9. Please **prepare appropriate exiting for your item. The curtains in OHS close at mid stage area and performers need to be clear of this area when the item is done.**
10. When your item is done, please leave the backstage area immediately and allow other participants who are up next to enter.
11. Any props, pots, dandias, flowers, etc. used in the performances shall be brought on stage by volunteers chosen by the Item Choreographer. Upon completion of the performance, the choreographer and the item's designated volunteers are responsible for removing all props. Any confetti, flowers, petals, etc. shall be swept off the stage immediately. Note: Brooms shall be requested ahead of time or brought by the Choreographer. At least 2 volunteers assigned by the choreographer will help clean the stage.
12. Regular Duct Tape, chalk and markers shall NOT be used for marking positions on stage. Request special stage tape from Auditorium Techs or ICS Board members at the rehearsals. Markings will not be allowed on Show Day. Tapes must be removed by Choreographers at the end of the show and not when their item is done.
13. Damages to the stage will be charged to the choreographers unable to follow these rules.



Sponsorship Request:

ICS is holding its Annual Show, *Milap 2009*, on **March 14th, 2009** at the Okemos High School. This show is partially funded through sponsorships provided by local businesses and individuals. We expect over 450 attendees at this event. Our expected expense for the show is \$6000. The show consists of a cultural program followed by a dinner for attendees.

We would appreciate your generous support in the form of sponsorship of a part of the Annual show and or an advertisement in the show brochure. Show sponsors will be recognized by ICS during the show. Donors over \$200 could also provide a poster for display. Brochures will be distributed at the show.

Sponsorship Opportunities:

- Printing of the Brochure: \$350 (special acknowledgement in the brochure)
- Printing of Tickets: \$250 (special acknowledgement on the tickets)
- High School Auditorium Rent: \$1500 (a banner of the company could be displayed)
- Dinner: \$500 - \$3000 (a banner of the company could be displayed in the Cafeteria)

Advertisement Rates and guidelines for the Program Brochure:

Half Page:	\$50	
Full Page:	\$100	
2-Page facing each other:	\$200 includes banner display in cafeteria	
Inside covers:	\$200 includes banner display in cafeteria	
Back Cover:	\$250 includes banner display in cafeteria	(Taken)
Center 2 pages:	\$200 includes banner display in cafeteria	(Taken)

Any other amount is also welcome.

Please send in advertisement in high resolution color, as jpeg or tiff file.

Advertisement should not exceed 1MB file size.

Half page ad: 3.25 in. X 4.5 in.

Full page ad: 6.5 in. X 4.5 in.

The advertisement should be sent to icsmilap@gmail.com before February 15th, 2009.

The brochure is approx. half A4 size. We will try to print the brochure in color based on the funds raised.

Please share this newsletter with your family, friends and colleagues who will enjoy our Annual Cultural Show and delicious food.

Visit the ICS website at <http://wwwicslansing.org>

ICS INDIA CULTURAL SOCIETY



Newsletter ■ December 2008

Our goal is to Promote Indian Culture to the Community of Greater Lansing Area

Membership Reminder:

Annual membership is from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009

If you have not paid your membership dues for the Year 2008-2009, please fill out the form below and mail your payment at the address given below. If you become a member you can enjoy the benefits of free events hosted by ICS throughout the year. See our attached Calendar of Events Schedules. If you have paid your membership fees, we thank you for renewing your membership.

India Cultural Society Membership Form

Last Name: _____ First Name _____
Spouse's Name _____ Phone No. _____
Address: _____ City: _____ ZIP Code: _____
E Mail Address _____ Fax No. _____ Other: _____

Annual Single (\$15) Life Single (\$150) Annual Student * (\$10)
Annual Family (\$25) Life Family (\$250) Organization (\$150)
Annual Senior Citizen ** (\$10) Life Senior Citizen** (\$150)
Optional: Other Members in the Immediate Family (Family Membership)
Name: 1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____
5. _____ 6. _____

*For full-time students only, with non-voting rights ** Age 65 and above

Please make check payable to ICS and mail to:

India Cultural Society
P.O. Box 90
Okemos, MI 48805-0090



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*To Promote Indian
Culture to the
Community of
Greater Lansing*

***Become a
member today!***