

NOV 2024

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THE MESSAGE



IndUS of Fox Valley

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IndUS of Fox Valley

Editor-in-Chief Nilesh Butala

Thank you team

> Asha Kadam > Prasad Dengale > Swapnil Hampi
> Anagha Phadke > Shilpa Khot > Devendra Kachole
> Akshat Yadawad > Sahasra Alluru > Jotishkumar



Service and Charity by IndUS

The act of giving is key to IndUS's mission. IndUS provided charitable contributions to the Appleton Public Library and to the World Central Kitchen to help victims of Israel and Palestine conflict.

SEVA, a service program of IndUS continued serving and meal preparation on Saturdays at Appleton Salvation Army. Green Bay Seva also continued with donation, planning, meal preparation, and serving at the NEW community shelter in Green Bay



ACT - OF - GIVING

Education and Outreach

The Education and Outreach program team of volunteers helped with the following events: • IndUS News "Rock Around the World," the Fox Cities Kidz Expo 2024 event aimed to provide a combination of recreation and education while promoting family bonding and togetherness. Rock Around the World" gave the opportunity for IndUS families to bring children from all ages to perform folk dances from different regions of India. The hour-long colorful musical show was well appreciated by the audience at the Fox Cities Exhibition Center on April 20, 2024. Over thirty volunteers, both children and their parents, helped in bringing the cultural program together.



ROCK AROUND THE WORLD



Team Building for IndUS Board

The IndUS board, in its quest to improve its efficiency and effectiveness in achieving its mission as a cohesive and driven team engaged in an all-day Team Building session on May 5, 2024, at the Building for Kids. We are thankful to Oliver Zornow and David Weiss for facilitating the session and engaging us in meaningful activities.





Proclamation Ceremony

The Indo American goodwill efforts remained our focus this year too. IndUS of Fox Valley joined the proclamation ceremony in the city of Appleton, Office of the Mayor, Jacob A. Woodford, in declaring the month of May as Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

PARAMPARIK

Sufiyana

The Art and Culture program of IndUS collaborated with Fox Cities Performing Arts Center to bring a concert titled Sufiyana/Paramparik. The concert highlighted the vocalist Janab Arshad Ali Khan with Sitarist Suhana Banerjee and percussionist Pandit Subhen Chatterjee. Close to two hundred people enjoyed the concert on April 26, 2024. Musicians and dancers celebrated the annual Make Music Day at Kimberly Theater, Fox Cities Performing Art Center on June 21, 2024. Indian Flute, Sitar, Tabla and Violin demonstrations by local artists along with Kathak and Folk dances were presented at Kimberly Theater.



details on next page



Sufiyana

IndUS of Fox Valley in collaboration with The Fox Cities Performing Arts Center featured a concert titled Sufiyana/Paramparik highlighting sufi (mystical) genre music. Three very accomplished musicians, Pandit Subhen Chatterjee on the Tabla, Vidushi Sahana Banerjee on the Sitar, and Vocalist Janab Arshad Ali Khan performed at Kimberly theater, PAC on April 26, 2024. The Trio has toured extensively throughout the world and were gracious enough to come to Northeast Wisconsin to share their music in the Fox Cities area. The event was attended by a diverse group of Indian Classical music enthusiasts. We had over two hundred people attend the concert.

The vocal and instrumental performances fittingly expressed the mystical sufiyana style of music. The combination of renditions was pleasing and celebrated the philosophical and spiritual parampara of divine music. The evening started with a classical based rendition in Yaman, an evening raga. Raga Yaman is said to be crafted by Amir Khusro, who is credited with introducing Khayal, Tarana, Gazal and Qawwali. Khayal or a composition may be as short as just four lines of text, describing nature or praising God or any other theme, and gives the vocalist the freedom to add numerous improvisations. The emphasis is on musical technique. Tarana is a fast-tempo rhythmic piece with table beats. Qawwali is a devotional genre of the Sufis (Islamic mystics) of North India.



The audience was mesmerized by Arshad Ali Khan's vocals along with Sahana Banerjee's sitar playing combined with the explosive improvisation on the Tabla by Pandit Subhen Chatterjee. Those who are familiar with Hindustani classical music enjoyed the jugalbandi (entwined twins or duet of two solo musicians) between the Vocalist Khan and Banerjee on Sitar. The other highlight of the evening was "Aaoge jab tum o saajana" in raga Tilak Kamod by Arshad Ali Khan, a tribute to his uncle, Ustad Rashid Khan, who recently passed away in January 2024.



"Baaje muraliya baaje," a famous and most praised bhajan (a devotional song) by legendary singers Late Pandit Bhimsen Joshi and Bharat Ratan Late Lata Mangeshkar was presented by the trio, transcending the audience to a state of blissful delight. The concert concluded with a Sufi rendition of a Bandish from Kirana Gharana in raag Bhairavi, this Raag is considered to be the King of ragas and traditionally sung to conclude a performance.

Kids EXPO 2024

Led by Meghana Butala and Sandhya Sridhar on behalf of IndUS



Fabulous Kids Expo Event Showcases Indian Dance Diversity in Downtown Appleton

On Saturday, April 20th, 2024, Downtown Appleton, in collaboration with YMCA, Appleton organized an extraordinary event, Kidz Expo. IndUS showcased seven dazzling dances from various states of India with 30 children ranging in age from 6 to 16 years. They highlighted the diverse cultural tapestry of India.



Southern India, and two enchanting Bollywood performances. In addition, there were the Bhangra dance from the North, a Unity in Diversity dance, and an energetic Lavani from Maharashtra. They displayed the rich cultural heritage of India. The event received widespread appreciation from the attendees, acknowledging the hard work and dedication of the participating children and their parents.



The performances mesmerized the audience with various dance styles, representing different regions of India. From the vibrant Koli dance, portraying the fishermen's culture of Maharashtra, to the graceful Bharatnatyam representing

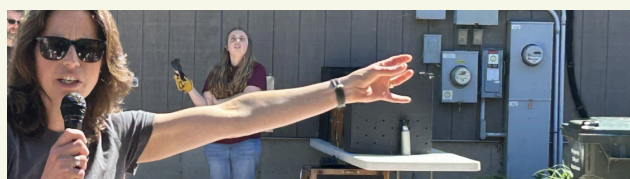
Special Thanks!

- Riya Butala
- Arya Darekar
- Asha Kadam
- Bhagyashree Hampi
- Deepak Kadam
- Gunjan Goyal
- Madhuri Murali
- Richa Aggarwal

This Kidz Expo event was not just about entertainment. It was a celebration of culture, diversity, and the spirit of young talent.



IndUS Community Picnic



The IndUS Community Picnic turned out to be a great event on June 8, 2024. Children and adults learned something new and unique from presenter Rebecca Weis. The talk discussed how the Aves Wildlife Alliance helps in rescuing birds like owls, hawks, and falcons. Children not only saw the rescued birds but enthusiastically learned, listened, and touched the display of wings, skulls, and claws of dead birds. The curiosity and fun did not end at this presentation.

The attendees danced to fun Bollywood tunes under the lead of Mahima Gover, a trained yoga instructor. With temperatures in the low 70's, many enjoyed the boardwalk on the Fox River. Delicious Latin cuisine served by Osorio's food truck and enticing baked goods from Apron & Easel nourished our bodies. It was truly an enjoyable day for all the five senses!



IndUS @Appleton Downtown

Friday, May 17th, 2024

Light the Night Market: Diwali in the Summer!



On this day, IndUs proudly joined the Appleton Downtown Community, to uniquely celebrate Diwali- under the summer night sky! The event, bursting with color and energy transformed “The Light the Night Market”, into a festival of lights, lanterns, and joy.

The evening was filled with vibrant activities. Around 25-30 enthusiastic kids crafted beautiful, sellable items. Their creations included tea coasters adorned with Warli art, small decorative trays, and dazzling sets of jewelry. Thanks to Gunjan, Tanvi, and Gayatri for all their hard work and dedication.

Lantern-making and henna stations were major highlights, drawing crowds and spreading smiles. Thanks to Babli, Chitra, Laxmi, Gunjan, and all the other wonderful volunteers who made these stations a success.

The photo booth, another crowd favorite, captured the festive spirit, with visitors posing with twinkling lights and colorful garlands that decorated the venue.

The event was a lively market scene, with each activity buzzing with excitement. The combination of creativity and community spirit made this summer Diwali celebration a tremendous success. It was a night to remember, filled with laughter, lights, and joyous spirit!!





'Rhythms of the World' is a free for all celebration that was organized by IndUS in partnership with the Community foundation of Fox Valley, Appleton Downtown Inc., Building for Kids, Appleton Farmers' Market, Appleton Public Library, City of Appleton, Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, Rotary Clubs of Appleton, Fox Valley Technical College, Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes, Lawrence University, Northeast Wisconsin Chinese Association, Casa Hispana Inc., and numerous local businesses on September 21, 2024 at the Houdini Plaza.

This year's event featured a variety of music and dance from Sub-Saharan Africa, African American, Caribbean, Chinese, European, Japanese, Indian, Indonesian, Irish, LatinX, Native American, Polynesian, and other global traditions.





In addition to the festivities at Houdini Plaza, the Building for Kids hosted a Discover Diversity Free Night for children and families from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM on the same day. This special event allowed families to continue their cultural exploration in a fun and educational setting.

The event was initiated by IndUS in 2018 and we are happy to see the organizers, performers, and participants growing every year!



IndUS of Fox Valley Presents

IndUS 24th Banquet *Festivals of India*

Saturday November 9, 2024 5:00 – 9:00 PM

Hyatt Regency, Green Bay

Theme
Festivals of India

Banquet



Each of the past IndUS annual celebrations has been a sold-out event! Purchase your tickets early to avoid disappointment!

Admission is limited to people 13 years and older.

New this year, tickets are now available for purchase online! To purchase tickets, scan the QR Code below



or visit www.indusfoxvalley.org.

Please note, when using the online platform, payment is accepted via credit card, check, or through Venmo (@IndUS-FoxValley).

For questions or assistance with your registration, please send an email to industickets@gmail.com.

IndUS members will be able to purchase tickets from Sept. 1, 2024 – Sept. 21, 2024. Tickets will be available to non-members from Sept. 22, 2024, until sold out.

IndUS of Fox Valley is a 501 [c] 3 non-profit organization.



IndUS 24th Banquet

Festivals of India

Festivals in India, bring communities together for various reasons throughout the year. Indian festivals celebrate the triumph of good over evil, the spirit of giving, and the path of knowledge and light.

In a secular country like India, festivals hold deep significance for different communities. January starts with the celebration of the winter solstice, where colorful kites soar joyfully towards the sky, and fertile soils yield bountiful harvests. Homes and store fronts are decorated with intricate and vibrant rangoli patterns, bonfires are lit, and there is celebratory dancing and music. Festival of Lights is a celebration that illuminates the earth and sky with rows of earthen lamps and fireworks, dispelling the darkness of a new moon night and heralding the return of a benevolent figure. The vibrant aesthetics of the festival of colors and a ten-day celebration of wisdom and prosperity are particularly striking.

The end of a month of fasting, prayer, and charity is also commemorated with grand festivities. During the winter season, special services and beautifully adorned venues mark the celebration of a significant birth. Experiencing the festivals of India is to immerse oneself in the grandeur and richness of Indian cultural heritage. Discover the cultural diversity, customs, traditions, and fascinating stories associated with these festivals at the upcoming IndUS banquet. We invite you to enjoy the beauty, music, performances, and culinary delights connected to India's most celebrated festivals.

Exhibition & Reception

(5:00 to 6:30 PM)

Our exhibition will showcase the liveliness, merriment, and significance of major festivals celebrated by the diverse communities in India. Exhibits will feature the elements of festive parades, music, dance, culinary treats and array of artifacts that demonstrate the ceremonial embellishments specific to the region.

Banquet

(6:30 to 8:00 PM)

Enjoy delicious Indian cuisine while you socialize with interesting and diverse guests. This year's scrumptious buffet dinner will include an assortment of cuisines unique to the different festivals celebrated by diverse communities across India.

Cultural Program

(8:00 to 9:00 PM)

The cultural program will include the exuberant and energetic festivities enveloping the cross-cultural celebrations through a medley of dances representing the various festivals and regions across India. The dance performances will bring the legendary and celebratory features that embody the spirit of these joyous and special times.

Ticket Information

Adult = \$100
Full-Time Student (13-21 yrs) = \$40
Table for 10 = \$1,000
Table for 10 (sponsor flag) = \$1,250

Membership Information

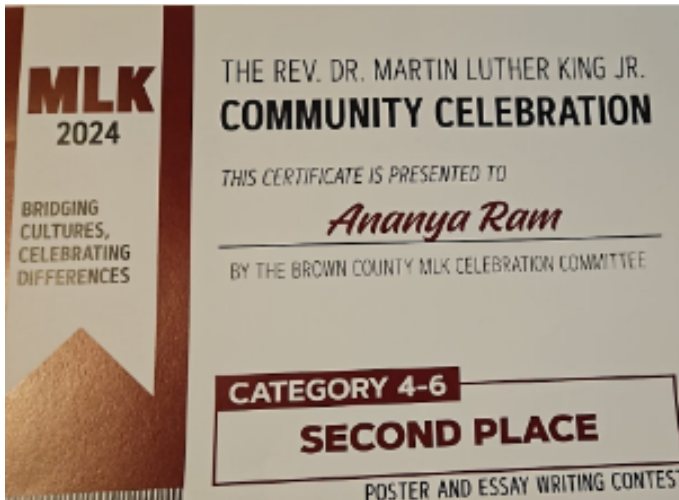
Individual = \$20
Family = \$25
Lifetime = \$500

Donation Information

Platinum = \$5,000 and above
Gold = \$2,000 and above
Silver = \$1,000 and above
Bronze = \$500 and above
Benefactor \$100 and above



Arts & Accomplishments



Tinku Ram is a fourth grader at Heritage Elementary School. She is a very bright and upbeat little girl who entered a contest to speak out about her culture and how it fits in our society today. She wrote about how she is able to share her Indian roots with her classmates and went on to explain how we are able to bridge cultures in our society today. Her piece was magnificently portrayed through her use of words and was used as a way to connect and bridge cultures! For writing this essay, she was awarded with a 2nd place trophy, and received a laptop along with her certificate!

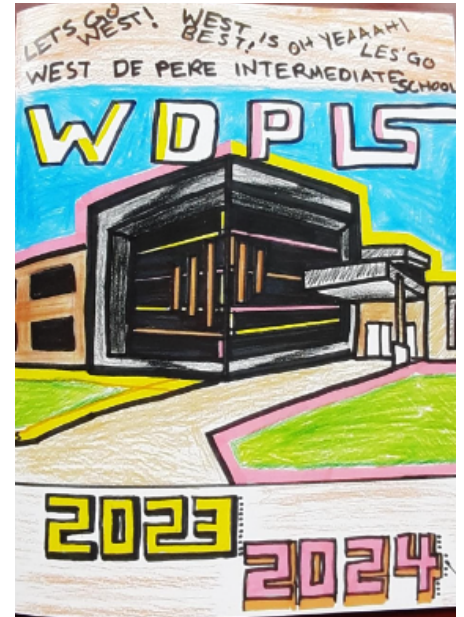
Avani is currently a 5th grader at West De Pere Intermediate school. Avani is a very friendly and kind-hearted person, who enjoys drawing and doing arts and crafts in her free time. Recently, she has drawn this piece of Lord Krishna. She beautifully demonstrates Lord Krishna as a guide for righteous living that exemplifies Lord Krishna's importance to our Hindu culture. He is a beloved supreme deity in Hinduism, and embodies various aspects of divinity, devotion, and serves as an inspiration to devotees worldwide as he has to Avani.



Nirvi Agrawal from West De Pere School District had the opportunity to attend the Elementary Writing Conference on the UWGB's campus. The School District selected students for this conference on the basis of their writing skills. Nirvi participated in multiple writing sessions which helped to generate ideas, overcome writer's block, writing stories from nature, and create her own wooden journal. Congratulations to Nirvi for honing amazing writing skills, she will do great things in future!



Vedant Sontakke is a 6th grader at the West De Pere Intermediate School. Recently, Vedant submitted a drawing of his for the year book front cover page at the Intermediate School. He has successfully gotten selected by the school to have his drawing be the front cover on the 2023-24 yearbook! His drawing shows the Schools Front Entrance, Colored, and Outlined in neon. All the hard work he put into this drawing really shows! Congratulations to Vedant for having excellent drawing skills and having his artwork prominently displayed on the cover page of the yearbook!



Joshua Karthick, an 8-year-old student at Leonardo Da Vinci School, is making a splash in the swimming world. A second-grader with a keen interest in swimming, Joshua has been honing his skills in the pool for the past four years. His dedication and passion for the sport have recently earned him a significant milestone. He was among the select group of swimmers who have achieved state cuts, and participated in the Wisconsin State Championship meets.

Swimming at the state level is no small feat, especially for someone as young as Joshua. The state cuts are stringent time standards that swimmers must meet to qualify for championship meets. Joshua's ability to reach these standards at such a young age highlights his exceptional talent and potential in competitive swimming.

Thank You!

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