

# North Brunswick Township INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY 2013 ART & LITERARY JOURNAL



## 100 YEARS OF INDIAN CINEMA

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# North Brunswick Township INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY 2013 ART & LITERARY JOURNAL



## 100 YEARS OF INDIAN CINEMA

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# **Message from Seema Moondra**

## **Chairperson, NBT India Independence Day Celebration Committee**

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**Dear Friends,**

I am honored to be given the opportunity to organize the celebration that marks the 66<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of India's Independence Day.

This year our celebration commemorates 100 years of Indian cinema, an important milestone in India's contribution to global art and media. The first Indian cinema release, Raja Harishchandra, directed by Dada Saheb Phalke, in 1913 went on to become an instant commercial success in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the first of many to follow.

Today, Indian cinema is a global powerhouse in entertainment producing over 1200 cinematic films annually in over 15 languages. As the Indian diaspora has grown, Indian cinema has become a robust medium of communication, connecting people to their roots. It is watched by Indians and non-Indians with equal enthusiasm in over 100 countries. That is a testimony to its universal appeal. The show "Jai Ho" pays tribute to Indian cinema and the vibrant cultural force that it has become over the years.

"Jai Ho" is an exploration of how Indian cinema has affected social change within the country and how it has helped us make cultural connections with the world. "Jai Ho" also pays homage to the freedom fighters who struggled hard to establish a free India, the largest democracy in the world today and to the many who continue to work hard in making it better every day. For those of us who have traveled across the world, "Jai Ho" is a way of connecting with our roots, understanding the contributions of India to the world, and the rich legacy we have inherited.

My special thanks to Mr. Pete Clark, Principal of North Brunswick High School who has inspired the community to come together and celebrate this important event in world history. I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation for the dedication of all the youth and adult participants and volunteers who have joined me in bringing this exciting show and exhibit on Indian cinema to the community.

**JAI HO!**

Seema Moondra

4-H Indian Langoor Club, Organizational Leader  
North Brunswick Township Board of Education Member  
Enjoy Explore India, Founder and Owner  
Design and Construction Coordinator, YAI Network, NY

# Message from Dr. Brian Zychowski



**Dear Community members,**

It is with respect that I congratulate you and thank you for your celebration of India's Independence. Much like the significance of July 4th, 1776, the Independence Day of India, August 15th, 1947, is a celebration of freedom and the birth of a NEW NATION.

India's independence in 1947 was the inspiration of nationalist movements and provided a model for freedom and independence all over the world. India's struggles for decolonization and its impact on the world must never be forgotten. It is why I am grateful to the India Independence Committee for their commitment and efforts hosting this community function.

Students from all cultures should be apprised of the timely and timeless contributions of Mohandas Gandhi. His vision and ideals influenced the work of Martin Luther King and lives today through the journey of Nelson Mandela.

The former United Nations under Secretary-General Shashi Tharoor highlighted the importance of Gandhi best by stating “while the world was disintegrating into fascism, violence and war in the 20th century, Gandhi taught the virtues of truth, nonviolence and peace”.

We, as a people of freedom with global connections, need more Gandhi's amongst us and more days of celebration representative of the ideals of India's Independence Day.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Brian Zychowski Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools  
North Brunswick Township Public Schools**

# Message from Joseph Peter Clark

## NORTH BRUNSWICK TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

"Equity and Excellence" – "We Are North Brunswick"



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August 2013



Welcome from Mr. Clark, Principal  
NBTHS

On behalf of the students, staff and parents of the NBTHS Community, I want to welcome you to our 6<sup>th</sup> India Independence Day Celebration in North Brunswick Township.

I want to thank our India Independence Day Celebration Committee for organizing this wonderful event on August 10, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. to reflect on India's freedom from Great Britain on August 15, 1947.

This special celebration provides an opportunity for the Township of North Brunswick to acknowledge and connect with the Indian-American Community. As Principal, I am also proud of our students who are participating in the India's Independence Day Celebration to reflect on their heritage and displaying their talents!

Congratulations to all and enjoy this wonderful day!

Respectfully,

*Joseph Pete Clark*

Pete Clark, Principal

# India's Independence Day Celebration

At

North Brunswick High School on Saturday August 10, 2013

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## PROGRAM

- ❖ **Welcome Address** Mr. Govinda Rajan and Mr. Clark
- ❖ **Prayer** by Mrs. Kuldeep Uppal
- ❖ **Danko Vagyo** – Song of the Freedom Fighters
- ❖ **Pledge of Allegiance**
- ❖ **Flag Hoisting Ceremony** led by Honored Senior Mrs. Padma Shah
- ❖ **National Anthem** led by Mrs. Kuldeep Uppal
- ❖ **Vande Mataram** – National Song of India
- ❖ **Hum Ko Man Ki Shakti Dena** – Prayer Song
- ❖ **Reflections by Guest Speaker** – Mr. R.K.Singh, Vice Consul
- ❖ **Woh Bharat Desh Hai Mera**
- ❖ **Nanhe Munne Bacche Teri Mutthi Mein Kya Hai**
- ❖ **“Recording History: Live”** – 4H Oral History Book Release
- ❖ **Lavani**
- ❖ **Lezim and Tipri**
- ❖ **“Celebrating 100 Years of Indian Cinema”** Competition Results
- ❖ **Tribute to Indian Cinema** – Classical Dance
- ❖ **Cine Star Galaxy**
- ❖ **Phir Bhi Dil Hai Hindustani**
- ❖ **Ekla Chalo Re**
- ❖ **Saare Jahan Se Accha Hindustan Hamaraa**
- ❖ **Jai Ho**

## EXHIBITIONS ORGANIZED BY YOUTH

- ❖ **“Recording History: Live!”** – Oral History Project by 4-H Indian Langoor Club
- ❖ **“Celebrating 100 Years of Indian Cinema”**
- ❖ **Art and Essay Competition Entry Display**
- ❖ **4-H Indian Langoor Club Display**

# PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

## ❖ Welcome Address by Mr. Clark and Mr. Govinda Rajan

Mr. Clark, Principal of the North Brunswick High School, motivated and encouraged the community to celebrate India's Independence Day to share the culture of India with the community. With his staunch support, North Brunswick Township is celebrating its 6<sup>th</sup> India Independence Day Celebration. Mr. Govinda Rajan, President of the Agraj Seva Kendra is an active volunteer conducting numerous cultural education programs, service projects and other activities in the community.

## ❖ Prayer

**Om sam gachhadwam, sam vada-dwam** - Go forth together

**Sam vo mannansi jaanataam** - Let your voices unite as one, let your minds unite as one

**Deva bhaagam yathaapoorve** - To perform your duties, as did many ancestors in times before you

**Sanjaanana upaasatee** - Let your determination unite you

**Samaani vah aakootih samanaa Hridayaani vah** - Your hearts and minds

**Samaanamastu vo mano yathaa vah susahaasati** - So that you may live together in peace and harmony

**Singer:** Mrs. Kuldeep Uppal

## ❖ Danko Vagyo

“Danko Vagyo” song written by Shri Phulchand Shah became popular during the Bardoli Satyagraha and the Quit India Movement. Freedom fighters arrested by the British sang this song while marching to the jails. Prabhat Pheri (Morning March) were held with this song as it encouraged people to stand up for their rights. The battle cry “Danko Vagyo” is a wakeup call asking people to fight against the oppressive British rule. Sung by Nitin Prajapati with youth members of the All India Democratic Students Organization this song has become popular again in the last ten years. The song was included in the Indian film “Sardar Patel” directed by Ketan Mehta.

## ❖ Pledge of Allegiance

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

**Pledge Led By:** Members of the 4-H Indian Langoor Club

## ❖ Flag Hoisting and National Anthem:

The freedom movement led by Gandhi based on the principles of “Ahimsa” and “Satyagraha” has inspired many people across the globe to bring about change in their own country. India became a free democratic nation on August 15, 1947. The flag of India represents India, the world’s largest democracy and is hoisted to honor the country. The National Anthem “Jana Gana Mana” was written and composed by the Noble Laureate Rabindranath Tagore.

**National Anthem Led By:** Mrs. Kuldeep Uppal

## ❖ **Vande Mataram**

“Vande Mataram” the National Song of India is a poem from the famed novel Anandamath written by the poet Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay in 1882. Mother India, is described in all her glory in this beautiful poem written in Sanskrit and Bengali. The beautiful rivers, plentiful fruit orchards, the cool breeze, the rich harvest, all inspire the poet to sing praises of his motherland. “I bow to you Mother,” says the poet humbly as he bursts into a melodious song, his heart filled with wonder, pride and joy as he describes his country.

**Song Led By:** Mrs. Kuldeep Uppal

## ❖ **Hum Ko Man Ki Shakti Dena**

This prayer song is from the Indian film “Guddi” directed by Hrishikesh Mukherjee and written by Gulzar. Since its release in 1971, this song has become so popular that it is sung in schools across the country even today. The poet asks for mental strength in order to achieve victory over the mind and to follow the path of love, forgiveness, respect, truth and justice.

**Song led by:** Mrs. Kuldeep Uppal

## ❖ **Reflections by Guest Speaker**

Ramesh K.Singh, Vice Cousul, Administration & Accouting, Consulate General of India

## ❖ **Woh Bharat Desh Hai Mera**

The song Woh Bharat Desh Hai Mera is a beautiful rendition by Mohammad Rafi from the film “Sikandar-e-Azam”. King Puru played by the famous actor Prithvi Raj Kapoor describes India as a fertile land, rich in natural resources and beautiful mountains and rivers. A land of diverse cultures, languages and customs the poet describes the people as those who have followed the path of truth and ahimsa, love and religious tolerance since ancient times. Freedom fighters like Rani of Jhansi, Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru Sarojini Naidu and many others continued to fight for their country’s independence, igniting the spirit of patriotism in the people that ultimately led to the freedom of India from British rule to make India a sovereign, democratic republic.

**Adult Mentor:** Blisse Vakkalagadda

**Youth Leaders:** Naini Bansal

**Participants:** Aruhi Vakkalagadda, Anusha Vakkalagadda, Pratim Patel, Saanvi Kunisetty, Gowri Bajagur, Nitish, Rathan, Nishi Bansal, Shriya Singaraju

## ❖ **Nanhe Munne Bacche Teri Mutthi Mein Kya Hai**

Empowering children to shape their own future is the essence of the song from the Hindi cinema “Boot Polish” (1954) directed by Prakash Arora and produced by Raj Kapoor. John Chacha in the movie gives the children the courage and hope to build a future that is free of hunger and poverty and a world that is just and in which people would respect each other. The song still resonates with us today because the message conveyed is timeless and universal. The participants dressed up as characters representing different professions show us how their contributions in the future can make the world a better place for all.

**Adult Mentor:** Sreeja Pedapudi

**Youth Leaders:** Swetcha Ananthu and Shrutiika Madda

**Participants:** Ayush Mandal, Neha Rathan, Sanjana Pundra, Ashwin Kumar, Anushka Pravin Kotilingam, Pannun Rain, Pranet Godavarty, Aarshi Goel, Satvik Singaraju

#### ❖ “Recording History: Live!” – 4-H Indian Langoor Club Oral History Project

4-H Indian Langoor Club Teen Members release their fourth oral history book “Recording History: Live!” which includes four interviews by Indian American Senior Citizens from Middlesex County. This project is important to the community because it records the experiences of Indian Americans and the story of their immigration and assimilation in the USA. As interviews are conducted by first generation Indian Americans it gives them firsthand knowledge of how their community is adapting and becoming an integral part of the Middlesex community. It also gives them an opportunity to learn about Indian culture by interacting directly with the pioneers of Indian immigration to the USA.

**4-H Leaders:** Nina Malagi and Seema Moondra

**Oral History Intern:** Sean Ferguson

**4-H Teen Members:** Rohini Choudhury, Manasi Parikh, Kriti Sinha, Tapesh Nagarwal, Thanmayee Maddipatti, Neha Komatreddy

#### ❖ Lavani

Lavani is a lively folk dance from the state of Maharashtra and is performed to the beats of a dhoki, a special Indian drum. There are two types of Lavani, the Nirguna (philosophical) Lavani and the Shringari (sensual) Lavani. The Peshwas patronized this folk dance and elevated its status from being just a simple folk dance. This dance form is also used in Marathi cinema and the style has influenced music and dance in Hindi cinema.

**Artistic Director:** Sunitha Bhaskar

**Participants:** Anushka Menon, Priya Panchariya, Khushi Sharma

#### ❖ Lezim and Tipri

The Tipri and Lezim dance combines beautifully physical exercise and dancing on drum beats. A large group of youth and adults performing this dance presents a beautiful sight as they strike their tipri or lezim rhythmically in perfect unison. The complex formations and patterns made by the movement of the dancers and their hands add a mesmerizing effect making this folk dance a very enjoyable experience for the spectator.

The Tipri dance is performed with small colored sticks, called the Tipris, held by each of the dancers. The dance is named after the musical instrument used in it called Tarapi, a bagpipe type of instrument. The Tipri dance reminds one of the Garba and Dandiya dances of Gujarat. The Lezim folk dance is performed with a musical instrument that has small jingling cymbals called Lezim. The dholki is played to provide the beats. Both the Tipri and Lezim are used as fitness drills by schools on Sports Day and militias and other organizations for training and building discipline in a group.

**Adult Mentors:** Members of the Dhol Tasha Paathak, USA

**Youth Leader:** Kasthuri Baranwal

**Participants:** Pranati Ambati, Sukeerthi Bitra, Teja Seelam. Kavya Seelam. Sneh Shah, Pratik Patel, Sai Ramesh, Ameya Deshpande, Pathik Oza, Anish Patel, Kasturi Baranwal, Pradham Nandyala, Sai Gundlapalli, Thomas Annam, Krithika Uthaman, Revanth Rangineni, Ashwin Yokhale, Samyuktha Dharmin

## ❖ “Celebrating 100 Years of Indian Cinema” Art and Writing Competition Winners

An art and writing competition was organized by Enjoy Explore India to encourage youth talented in visual arts and interested in writing to explore the topic “Celebrating Hundred Years of Indian Cinema”.

Here are the winners:

### **Art Competition:**

First Place: Kasturi Baranwal  
Second Place: Parth Garg  
Third Place: Vaibhav Garg

### **Essay Competition:**

First Place: Mahathi Gundlapalli  
Second Place: Aparna Ramani  
Third Place: Kasturi Baranwal

## ❖ Tribute to Indian Cinema – Classical Dance

The production ‘Tribute to Indian Cinema’ aims at honoring the Indian cinema industry from the point of view of a classical dancer. While we all know that classical music and dance was the trigger for the start of Indian cinema, we must also acknowledge Indian cinema's everlasting memories and its influence on classic dance. This dance performance has been choreographed to portray a cinematic story using classical dance but with many cinematic elements such as usage of props, cinema music, dramatic presentation and more to celebrate the lasting impressions of Indian cinema on classical art forms.

**Artistic Director:** Chitra Ramaswamy

**Youth Leader:** Mathuchena Karthikeyan,

**Participants:** Mathuchena Karthikeyan, Rithika kumar, Viya Manikandan, Mahathi Gundlapalli , Kirtana Krishnan, Ekaprana Ramesh, Adhvika Krishnan, Shivani Bala, Sahana Harikrishnan, Iniya Rajamani, Sarayu Manikandan, Shanmathee Satish, Anesha nadalla, Kiran Desai, Divya Nayar, Shivani Karthikeyan, Sanjana Krishnakumar, Aditi Balasubramanian, Shreya Vinjamuri

## ❖ Cinestar Galaxy

The actors and actresses in Indian cinema excite great admiration from their fans. Throughout the history of Indian cinema we witness the strong influence they can exert on people whether it is through the characters they portray on the screen or by the way they conduct themselves in the real world. Each star bright or dim has a place in the cinestar galaxy and together they are as large and complex as the Milky Way. Indeed, they are a force through which the Indian cinema has conveyed important messages and influenced the way we dress, behave and think as Indians.

**Adult Mentor:** Soumya Chirra

**Youth Leader:** Jeevana Chirra

**Participants:** Nimisha Nandankar , Jeevana Chirra, Sridevi Kodati, Aishwarya Mudambi, Sahil Shah, Ashwin Gokhale, Sachin Gokhale, Sreekanth Yasa, Sagar Vemuri, Aparna Ramani, Suraj Sanyal, Shivang Rastogi, Aarav Yadav, Shriya Bajagur, Amir Khan

## ❖ Phir Bhi Dil Hai Hindustani

The question of identity is not a new concept to the people of India. A land of diverse cultures, it has always been in the crossroads for thousands of years. So as the Indian diaspora spreads around the world the quest for identity has only been amplified. Indian cinema has explored this issue for the past hundred years , each generation facing a new challenge in trying to resolve the question of identity. The medley of songs chosen from Indian cinema captures the essence of India and her diversity through its various dance forms both the classical and the folk. And so even as settle down in America and begin a new kahani, we are happy to say “Phir bhi dil hai Hindustani”.

**Adult Mentor:** Sreeja Pedapudi

**Youth Leader:** Naini Bansal

**Participants:** Aabha Thakar, Naini Bansal, Rohini Choudhury, Sreeja Pedapudi, Shrutiika Madda, Swetsha Ananthu, Keertana Chirra

## ❖ Ekla Chalo Re

One of the favorite songs of Mahatama Gandhi, this Bengali patriotic poem was written by the Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore in 1905. The poet says, “Even if no one heeds your call, then you must continue your journey and walk alone.” Many obstacles may block your path but it is your determination that will find a solution, says the poet giving examples of psychological, physical and mental hardships that one must overcome to achieve success.

## ❖ Saare Jahaan Se Accha, Hindostan Hamaraa

The poem written by Muhammad Iqbal was first published in the weekly journal Ittehad on August 16, 1904. Recited by Iqbal in 1905 at the Government College in Lahore, this ode to Hindostan quickly became a nostalgic hymn reminding people of the beauty of their own country and her cultural values. In the times of opposition to the British rule and when the fight for freedom filled the atmosphere this song created a feeling of pride among the people of India.

## ❖ Jai Ho!

A.R. Rahman and Gulzar co-wrote the lyrics of the song “Jai Ho”. It was composed by A.R. Rahman for the movie “Slumdog Millionaire”, directed by Danny Boyle. The song won an Academy Award for Best Original Song and a Grammy Award for Best Song Written for a Motion Picture, Television and Other Visual Media. It was the official campaign song of the Indian National Congress in the 2009 election. The upbeat song captures the tenacity of the human spirit, the struggle for survival and the victory of true love and has gained popularity all over the world.

## EXHIBITS

### ❖ “Recording History: Live!” –Oral History Project

The oral history project is conducted by the members of the Teen Chapter of the 4-H Indian Langoor Club. The exhibit portrays the life of the twenty Indian American Seniors who were interviewed for this project and the contribution of the Indian American community as they assimilate in the various communities across United States.

**4-H Members:** Rohini Choudhary, Manasi Parikh, Kriti Singh, Tapesh Nagarwal, Thanmayee Maddipatti, Neha Komatreddy

#### ❖ “Celebrating 100 Years of Indian Cinema”

The 100 years of Cinema Exhibit seeks to explore aspects of Indian cinema, going beyond the boundaries of Bollywood to reveal the important contributions of regional cinema and the brave new world of women directors. The exhibit also asks you to question and acknowledge the influences of West over East, East over West. Looking at Audrey Hepburn and Asha Parekh, as they share a decade of style, we want to go beyond the hint of mere mimicry, but rather pin point the cross cultural influences. Does Hepburn’s black eyeliner owe its origin to the kohl lined eyes of Indian traditional dancers? Or does Parekh’s beehive make a cursory nod to the Chanel runway?

The exhibit also incorporates the history and re-defined role of Indian child actors as they explore themes and social issues previously unexplored in Indian cinema. Our team was surprised to discover a prominent actress; Sri Devi was a prolific child actor before embarking on her illustrious adult career. The Indian cinema timeline charts cinematic highlights over the past century in terms of achievement and excellence. No mention of Indian cinema can bypass the massive industry that is Bollywood; how many Kapoors and Khans are there, really? Finally, the exhibit shows how Indian cinema has affected social change within the country and how it has helped us make cultural connections with the world. During the Soviet era, ordinary Russians were well versed with tunes from Raj Kapoor’s hits and the art house films of Satyajit Ray; cinema perceived to be socially aware and socially constructive for a new Socialist era.

**Adult Mentor:** Nina Malagi

**Youth Leader:** Kasturi Baranwal

**Participants:** Khushi Patel, Ananya Malagi, Khushi Sarin, Mahathi Gundlapalli, Teja Seelam, Kavya Seelam, Kritika Uthaman, Rohini Malagi, Swati Vasudevam, Sukeerthi Bitra

#### ❖ Art and Essay Competition Entry Display

All the entries received for the Art and Essay competition organized by Enjoy Explore India are displayed in the exhibit area.

#### ❖ Exhibition by 4-H Indian Langoor Club

The 4-H Indian Langoor Club youth members work throughout the year on creating arts and crafts and informational posters to visualize and articulate their knowledge about India. Youth members then take their displays to various community events such as North Brunswick Heritage Day, Middlesex County Fair, schools and libraries to create awareness about the rich cultural heritage of India.

**Organizational Leader:** Seema Moondra

**Club Leader:** Nina Malagi

**Club President:** Neha Komatreddy

**4-H Members:** Thanmayee Maddipatti, Ananya Malagi, Rohini Malagi, Ashwin Gokhale, Sachin Gokhale, Shuchi Merai, Khushi Sarin, Rohini Choudhary, Manasi Parikh, Kriti Sinha, Tapesh Nagarwal, Aarav Yadav, Kirti Nagarwal

# PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS



Aabha Thakar



Aashay Sankhe



Aishwarya  
Mudambi



Ameya  
Deshpande



Ananya Malagi



Anushka Menon



Aparna Ramani



Ashwin Kokhale



Ashwin Kumar



Ayush Mandal



Jeevana Chirra



Kavya Seelam



Keertana Chirra



Khushi Sharma



Kushi Patel



Kushi Sarin



Mahathi  
Gundlapalli



Naini Bansal



Neha Rathan



Nilay Sharma



Nimisha  
Nandankar



Nishi Bansal



Nitish Rathan



Pannun Raina



Pradham  
Nanbyala



Pranati Ambati



Pratik Patel



Pravin  
Kotilingam



Pritim Patel



Priya Panchariya



Revanth  
Rangineni



Rohini Malagi



Saanvi Kunisetty



Sachin Gokhale



Sagar Vemuri



Sahil Shah



Sai Gundlapalli



Sai Ramesh



Samyuktha  
Dharman



Sanjana Pundru



Satvik Singaraju



Shivang Rastogi



Shriya Bajagur



Shriya Singaraju



Shrutiaka Madda



Sneh Shah



Sreeja Pedaudi



Sreekanth Yasa



Sridevi Kodati



Srikar Kodati



Swathi  
Vasudevan



Swetcha Ananthu



Teja Seelam



Thomas Annam



Vaibhav Garg

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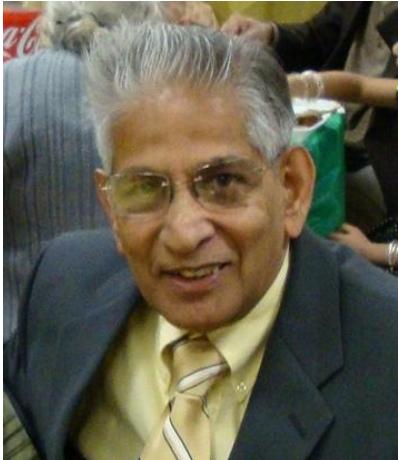
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# About Agraj Seva Kendra

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Agraj Seva Kendra is a 501© 3 national, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization. Our mission is to preserve and promote Asian Indian culture and traditions and to promote diversity among individuals. Through education, art and culture, we promote understanding and appreciation of Indian culture and traditions. Our goal is also to promote dignity, health, independence and economic security of senior citizens.

In 2008, we built a consortium comprising of India Association of Garden State, Indian Cultural Society of East Brunswick and the East Brunswick Public Library. Since 2008, we conduct India Day every year in January in East Brunswick Public Library to showcase the talents of youths and develop a sense of volunteerism, community service and leadership amongst them.

## **Indian Americans Shape the Nation:**

On Sunday, January 26, 2014 we propose to showcase at the East Brunswick Public Library how Indian immigrants and their descendants have progressed despite various odds and challenges and how their contribution continues to have a positive impact on the Nation's economy. This is co sponsored by Indian Cultural Society of East Brunswick and funded in part by Middlesex County history grant.

## **Indian Heritage Day:**

We conduct Indian Heritage Day in April/May by conducting Arts program. Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission thanked us for presenting the Arts to the people of the county and gave a generous grant in 2012 and 2013. We are bringing out the artistic talents of North Brunswick Township youths by conducting the Heritage Day on a grand scale on Saturday, April 27, 2014.

Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, is a leading national research university and the state's preeminent, comprehensive public institution of higher education.

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Founded in 1766, Rutgers teaches across the full educational spectrum: preschool to precollege; undergraduate to graduate; postdoctoral fellowships to residencies; and continuing education for professional and personal advancement.

Agraj Seva Kendra is partnering with fraternities and sororities in the Rutgers University New Brunswick campus to conduct an Oral History Workshop on Sunday, October 13, 2013. We propose to conduct life - course oral history of Rutgers Alumni, faculty and staff 50 years of age and older and post them in New Jersey Digital Highway.



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## 4-H Indian Langoor Club



4-H Indian Langoor Club a voluntary, non-profit club for youth aged 5-19, is part of the Middlesex County 4-H Youth Program. Established in 1996 the club is guided by adult volunteers and run by youth members. The club is celebrating its fourteenth year and has an outstanding reputation in the 4-H organization and the local community. Teen members have served as Ambassadors for the Middlesex County 4-H Youth Program and represented New Jersey at state and national 4-H conferences.

The club aims to provide an intellectual and creative space for youth to explore Indian heritage and culture through art, geography, history, literature, dance, music, arts and crafts. The members actively engage in creative projects, exciting field trips, and give informative public presentations. In 2003 the “Grandparents-kids Connect” initiative was undertaken to connect youth with Indian American seniors. Inspired by the stories of the seniors the club’s Teen Chapter started an oral history project “Recording History: Live!” in 2007. High School students interviewed Indian American seniors to write the history of the Indian community in Middlesex County. Students have so far interviewed twenty seniors and published four books.

The goal of sharing Indian culture has led the club to perform at community events, schools, libraries, and at 4 H events to promote cultural diversity and create a dialogue in the wider community. The club can be seen performing every year at the North Brunswick Heritage Day Celebration and has been instrumental in organizing India’s Independence Day celebration in North Brunswick since its inception in 2008. The club also sets up displays on India at schools and libraries in North Brunswick, Montgomery, South Brunswick, and East Brunswick.

Club members are involved in community service programs striving to contribute positively to the larger world around them. Club members have raised funds for the local food bank, Haiti earthquake victims, and even their own 4-H Youth Program through a variety of youth friendly fundraising initiatives.

Most importantly, however, 4-H Indian Langoor Club is a cultural family, in every sense of the word, with alumni members in every corner of the globe. As leaders, we strive to foster leadership and inspire youth to find ways to continue exploring their rich cultural legacy. As a club we seek to connect with ourselves and our identity, in order to better connect with the world.

Call 732-398-5261 to find out how you can join the club or become a 4-H volunteer.

Seema Moondra

Nina Malagi

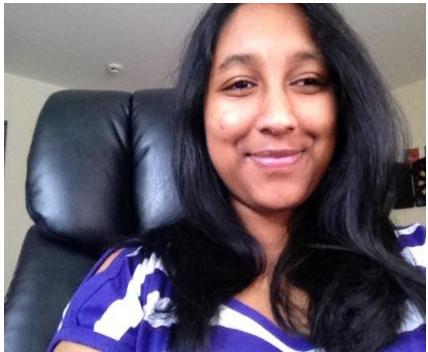
4-H Indian Langoor  
Club Organizational Leader

4-H Indian Langoor  
Club Leader

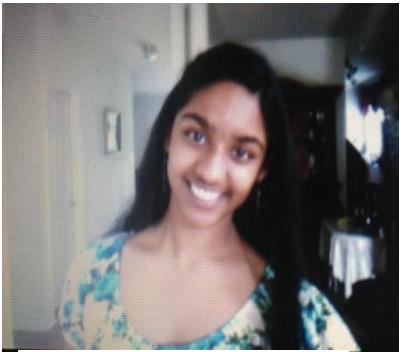
**Club Motto: “Burra Mat Dekho, Burra Mat Bolo, Burra Mat Suno”**

# “Recording History: Live!”

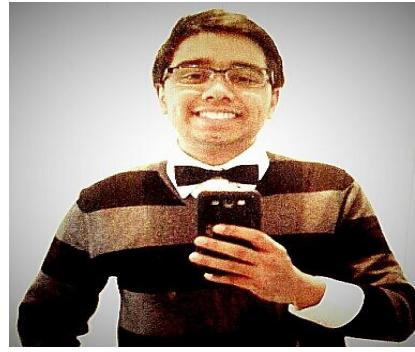
## Oral History Project Interviewers



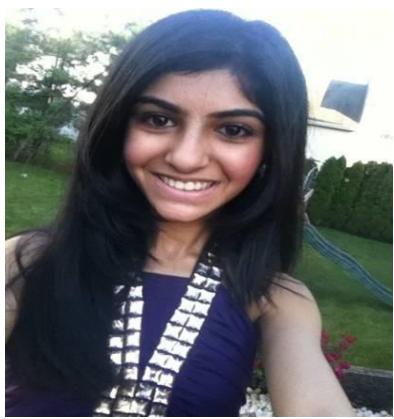
Neha Komatreddy



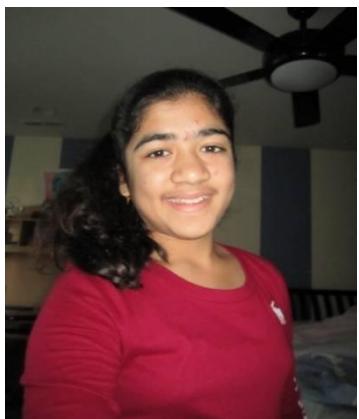
Thanmayee Maddipati



Tapesh Nagarwal



Manasi Parikh



Kriti Sinha



Rohini Choudhury

Being part of this prestigious 4H club, we, the interviewers have gained a great deal of insight into the lives of Indian American seniors who had migrated from India to the United States. Before beginning this project, we all had a modern perception that our lives were invariably hectic and somewhat stressful. After interviewing the seniors and learning about their lives, and their early struggles, we all have realized how easy our lives really are now, in comparison to the early days of Indo American immigration. The detailed stories from these brave immigrants revealed their struggles and views about the cultures of India and America. We say brave because the act of uprooting oneself from one culture and immersing yourself in an entirely new one is, in our view, courageous. We feel the most rewarding part of this project was gaining the experience of how life was in the past, and the everyday connections we were able to make with their lives, (i.e. their hobbies, sports or family size). The most challenging part of this project was coordinating the information in order to get all the seniors stories, pictures and transcriptions together to create this informative and historically significant book. The seniors inspiring experiences led us to analyze and question the cultural gap we all face today and how we connect with our ancestors, our culture and our history.

As our project progressed, we realized the importance of connecting the culture of our generation back to the culture of the first Indian pioneers in America. The rigorous training, the skills and knowledge we have gained from this year long project will help us personally and academically in the future. We hope the stories of these Indian Seniors will be preserved, and that the future generations will appreciate and relate to the cultures of the past. We hope by reading these stories, you will be able to think differently of the world you live in today, just as we did.

# Ruthamma M.Chacko

---



**Born in 1936**

**From Mavelikara, Alleppey District,Kerala, India**

Ruthamma Chacko was born in Kerala, a state in the south-west area of India, in 1936. Growing up in an average family, Mrs. Chacko was taught traditional values and developed strong beliefs. What is evident is that her childhood was full of fun and she came from a loving family. She made toys from mud and leaves and would dance outside with her friends. Though raised in a Christian household, Mrs. Chacko had close friendships with girls from different religions. She recalls often going to visit temples with her Hindu friends, which is just one of aspect of her open attitude. As she grew up, she realized that she wanted to become a stenographer, but later decided to become a nurse in 1960. She worked at various depending on her husband's job. Mrs. Chacko is a resident of East Brunswick, New Jersey and lives with her husband.

# Rev. Fr. Dr. Mathew C. Chacko

---



**Born in 1932**

**From Thalavady, Alappuzha District, Kerala**

Reverend Father Dr. Mathew C. Chacko was born in the southwest state of Kerala in India in 1932. He grew up amidst constant rain and flooding but grew to enjoy the environment in which he lived in. Father Mathew's family lived behind the school founded by his father and Father Mathew Chacko grew to consider the school as a second home. He would later live under a spiritual father after high school. Nevertheless, his thirst for knowledge led him to leave his spiritual guide and go back home. Father Chacko would go on to complete a BSc., a MSc., and a S.T.M.. By 1968, he joined the Union Theological Seminary on a Fulbright Scholarship. Father Chacko obtained a PhD in the Hartford Seminary in Connecticut. As well as being a highly educated man, Father Mathew Chacko is also a well-rounded individual who has learned life lessons about truth, loyalty, and religion.

# Channi Momi

---



**Born on September 3, 1946  
In Khudian, ( Now in Pakistan)**

Born in Khudian, Pakistan, Mrs. Momi always considered her father to be one of her best friends growing up. In many ways, it was the lessons he taught her that helped her the most when she moved to Cincinnati with her husband in 1971. Faced with a challenging job market despite her Masters in Physics from Kurukshetra University, it was the fiscal responsibility she remembered from her father that kept her family afloat. As her husband found a job at Bell Labs and their situation improved, Mrs. Momi managed to attain a second Masters in Environmental Engineering. After many years of switching jobs and relocating, Mrs. Momi stopped working to focus on raising her two sons in New Jersey where she still lives today. Her story serves as an inspiring example of balancing budgets, careers, relationships, and values in the often unpredictable life of an immigrant in America.

# Dhanesh Merchant

---



**Dhanesh Merchant with his wife Shashi Merchant**

**Born in 1946  
From Mumbai, India**

Dhanesh Merchant lives in East Brunswick, NJ and occupies his retire time with his hobbies. He enjoys playing chess and the computer game, Bridge. He grew up in Mumbai, Bombay and attended Kandivli Middle/High School. Growing up, his family was a large middle class family, which included his two brothers, and two sisters. Mr. Merchant married after coming to the US. He has worked for 40 years in the field of industrial coatings. He worked on the coating for Coca-Cola bottle crowns. Mr. Merchant has two sons; his older son graduated from Wharton and now lives in West Windsor. His younger son did his MBA from Florida and now he lives in Singapore.

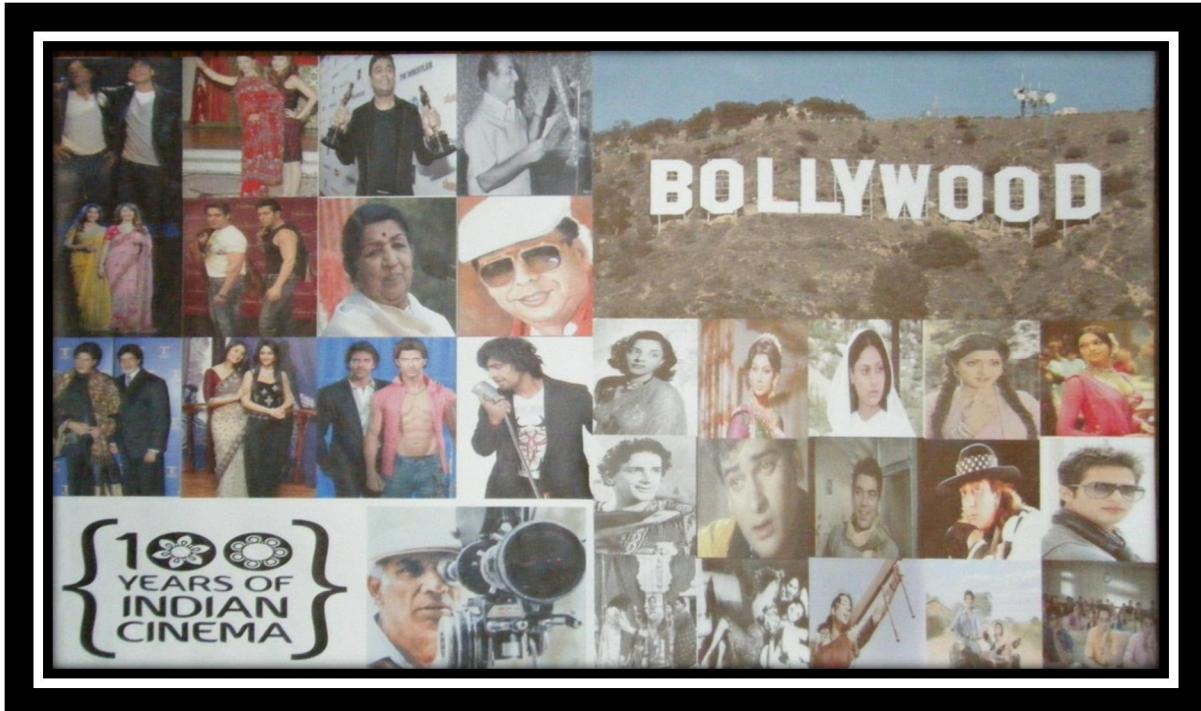
# Art and Literature Competition

## Theme: "Celebrating 100 Years of Indian Cinema"

### Organized By: Enjoy Explore India, North Brunswick, NJ



Kasturi Baranwal



Parth Garg



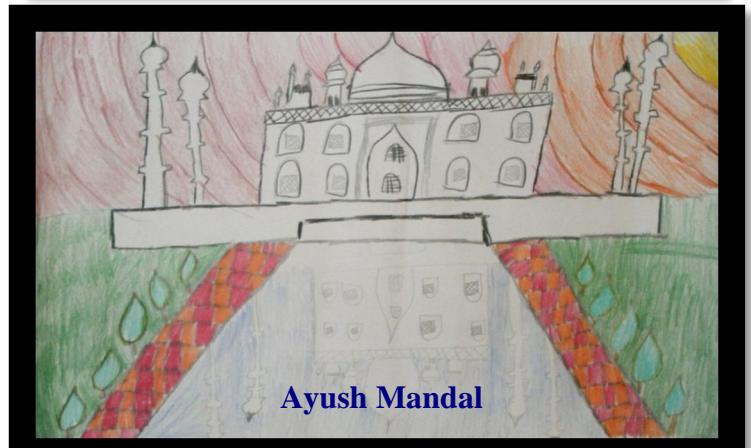
Vaibhav Garg



Khushi Patel



Aditva Baranwal



Ayush Mandal

# **Art and Literature Essay Competition**

## **Theme: "Celebrating 100 Years of Indian Cinema"**

### **Organized By: Enjoy Explore India, North Brunswick, NJ**

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#### **Why Indian Cinema Is Important To Me**

**By Mahathi Gundlapalli**

Indian Cinema has been a very important means of entertainment. Here cinema has seen a century of growth, and it has gone very far in the heights of progress. Here is my point of view of Indian Cinema.

Indian Cinema has changed this world by letting people be themselves and express their feelings. It has let people wear what they want. It has been an inspiration to people all over the world. Indian Cinema has helped people understand different languages and different personalities. Say somebody is really spoiled; they should watch a good personality changing movie like *Thaare Zameenpar*. Another example is somebody is scared of a certain animal they should watch a movie that will help them face their fear like "*The Life of Pi*". I myself know that Indian Cinema does just this in so many different ways.

To me, Indian Cinema is a very dynamic and memorable thing that goes on in this world stage. Indian Cinema in my eyes is something that we should always cherish. From my eyes Indian Cinema has changed this world in so many ways that I cannot even name them all in this two hundred fifty word essay.

A certain movie can help a person in so many ways. It can help a person learn to be themselves it can teach somebody to stand up for others like the Telugu movie "*Leader*" about a man who has to stand up for his rights in a small village and his parents pass away in the process. He has to overcome many obstacles while doing this and finds some good solutions.

Did you know that the first colored Telugu movie was directed by a Telugu actor's (Mahesh Babu) dad Krishna Gantamuni? One of the most important Indian actors is NT Rama Rao, he was so important because he was an actor, a politician, and a philanthropist. That is a lot of jobs for such a busy person but that is why he was so important. All those jobs plus his busy life equals a lot of appreciation.

Indian cinema has changed this world in a lot of ways and we should appreciate that in many different ways not just a party or bringing in a group of friends to do a project. We should do something special. This is no ordinary occasion this is what we should be honoring. So we should celebrate in such a way that there are not enough words in the dictionary to describe that celebration.

## Bollywood – Counting Hundred and Beyond

By Aparna Ramani

All Indians take pride of the Indian movie industry and celebration of hundred years of Indian cinemas is a special occasion. The fact that 1200 films are produced every year speaks about the growth of the movie industry over the century. Indian cinemas are unique, extraordinary and different. What makes them unique is the setting of the movies, the dialogue and the scenarios enacted and the style of clothes the actors wear on the screen. Today Bollywood is on par with Hollywood and has a global presence and appeal.

It started in 1913 when the “father” of the Indian cinemas, Dadasaheb Phalke made the first Indian cinema “Raja Harishchandra”. This sparked the beginning and was followed with many silent movies until 1931 when “Alam Ara”, the first talkie movie was made by Ardeshir Irani. Cinemas became one of the major gateways of entertainment and the Industry continued to progress undergoing many changes over the past hundred years. With the Oscar winning “Jai Ho” in 2009, it attained even greater appeal by global audience. With the subtitles, language barrier is also broken and many Indian actors have become globally well-known like Amitabh Bachchan, Ishwarya Rai and others.

Indian cinemas have their own uniqueness running for two to three hours, filled with songs, music dance, drama and emotion, unlike the Hollywood movies that show more of action and adventures. Many Indian movies are based on human values, relationships, culture, etc. rather than actions or adventures. They were able to bring social changes in India. Some movies spread patriotism and others played a role in bringing political changes.

Indian cinema industry is continuing to grow and let us hope it evolves even better and celebrates many more hundred years in future.

## Indian Cinema and Me

By Anushka Menon

School is closed and I’m allowed to watch 1 movie every 2 days. And my grandparents are here for my summer vacation. Most of the time, I like to watch Indian movies. The languages I mostly watch are Hindi, Marathi and Malayalam. I also like to watch mythology movies, because there are Kings, Queens and Gods in it.

My favorite god is Ganesha, so I see most of his movies. I also love to watch Krishna movies. I also get to learn a lot of Indian history from these movies. I watched the movie “Taj Mahal”, which made me, want to go there. Also in old movies, there used to be lots of classical dances like Bharatnatyam, Kathak and Mohiniattam. Nowadays it’s Jazz, Salsa and others.

I also get to learn my parents and my culture, from Indian movies. By watching Indian movies, I got to see and learn about different parts of India, I get to hear different kinds of Indian music. My favorite actress is Madhuri Dixit, because I love her smile, the costumes she wears, and of course her dances.

When I was talking to my grandparents, I came to know that Dadasaheb Phalke is the father of Indian Cinema. The first movie he made was “Raja Harishchandra”, on May 3rd, 1913. It was in black and white with no sound. We now watch our movies in color with surround sound and some even in 3D.

# Cinema Is Inspiring

By Kasturi Baranwal

Ever wonder, why the world is so changed in past 100 years? Inspiration is very best answer for this question. We change our lifestyle, our thoughts, our way of thinking but where does this all change come from? One of the ways is movies. Yes, movies are not just a "time pass" but much more. Movies inspire us from every different angle and when it comes to cinema it breaks the scale of inspiration. Cinema has taught us several very important lessons of life. A song from movie, 'Shree 420' shows our loyalty towards India, "Mere joota hai japani, mere patloom... phir hi dil hai hindustani". This song proves we are Indian from the heart despite our lifestyle. There are many more movies which have inspired us with positive attitudes such as 'Chak de India' (2007), 'Bahgban' (2003), '3 Idiots' (2009). These three movies have changed our view of seeing the world.

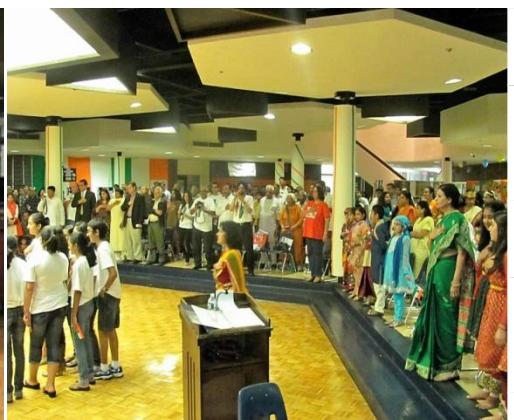
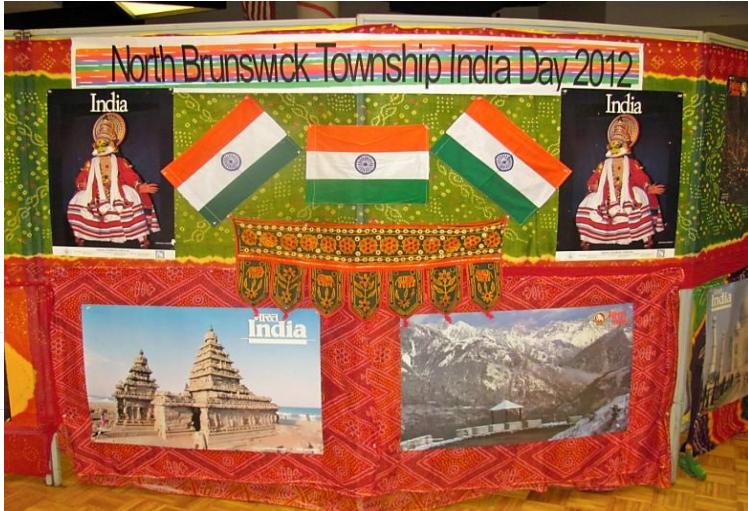
"Chak de India" (English: "Come on India") is a 2007 Hindi movie directed by Shimit Amin, produced by Yash Raj Films and acted by Shahrukh Khan. "Chak de India" inspired girls to come out of their homes and face the world's challenges in the sports field. Sixteen girls from different parts of the country come together to form a hockey team, ignoring their entire problem. This movie inspired millions of women all over India. Women's life in India is still challenging but movies like this are very motivational in terms of betterment for women in society.

"Bahgban" (English: "Gardener") is a 2003 Bollywood drama movie directed by Ravi Chopra and features Amitabh Bacchan and Hema Mailini as lead actors. We can count this movie to be one to pass on to humanity. The film portrayed the important message by teaching "Not everything is blood, but sometimes there are people who care for you more than our own blood". In the movie Amitabh Bacchan and Hema Mailini are ignored by their own kids. Their kids see them as a burden while their adopted kid comes to be their "real son" or can be called 'Budhape mein lathi ka sahara'. Humanity comes first, blood is genetic but love comes from heart.

"3 Idiots", is a 2009 Indian comedy-drama film directed by Rajkumar Hirani starring Amir Khan, Aamir Khan, Kareena Kapoor, R. Madhavan, Sharman Joshi, Omi Vaidya, Parikshit Sahni and Boman Irani. This movie is an epic motivational movie for all the youths to choose their career. The movie changed the thinking of all the Indian parents. India is only country where kids live with their parents until death but in return they also have to go with their parent's decision. Kids after studies join their parents business or choose their vocations. "3 Idiots" raised an important point by challenging society. The three main leads were called idiots but their decision at the end proved to be intelligent. Choose your career with your own choice so that you don't lose hope. Go with your heart.

"Chak de India", "Babban" and "3 Idiots" are inspiring films but the list goes on. Indian cinema has rocked the world with their movies. One of the very important highlights in Indian cinema is "Slumdog Millionaire." Even though it was a British film, it is directed by Indian director, Loveleen Tandan and the song in "Jai Ho" won an Oscar. Films can change the society if made with passion and sensitivity. Movies are big tribute to India and will always be, judging by the number of movie-goers .Changes such as "Love marriages" are very common nowadays in India, which is a result of Indian cinema love story movies. Movies have almost eliminated racism in India and in time it will reach a point where it can create history by changing issues in India. Cinema is spreading its love not just in Hindi but also in many different languages. Cinema in the long term turns the wheels in Indian society.

# India's Independence Day Celebration - 2012

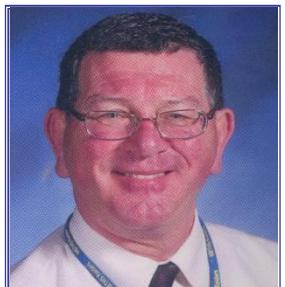


# India's Independence Day Celebration - 2012



# North Brunswick Township

## India's Independence Day Celebration Committee – 2013



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Event Coordinator



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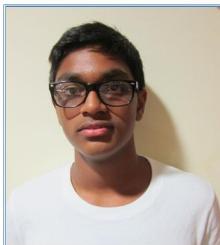


Khushi Patel



Jeevana Chirra

## Youth Volunteers



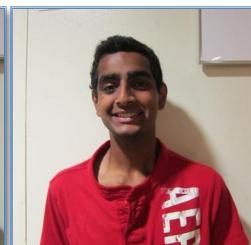
Sreekanth Yasa



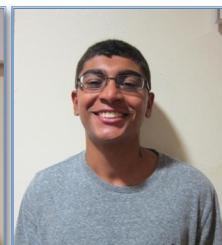
Andrew Lee



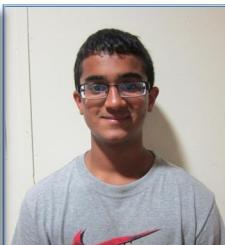
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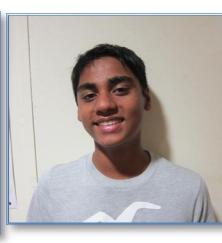
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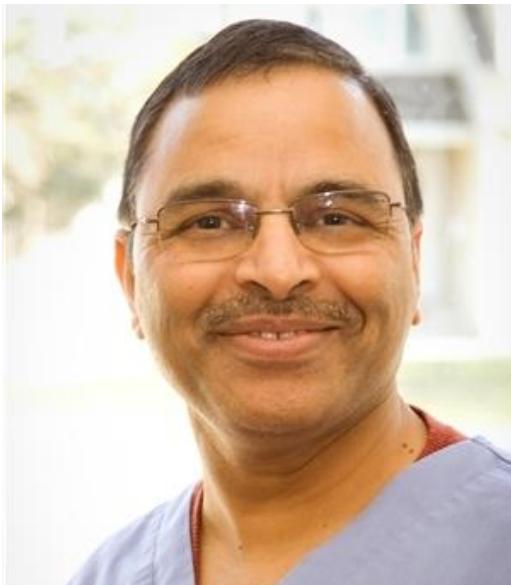
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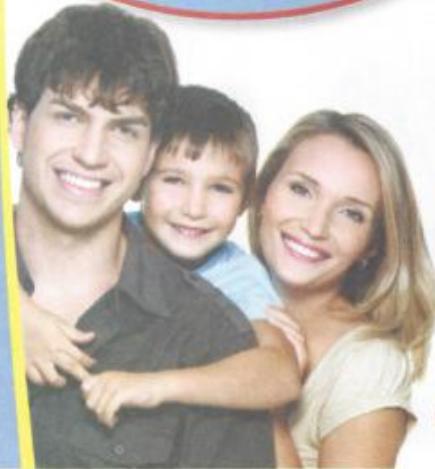
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