

North Brunswick Township
INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY 2012
ART & LITERARY JOURNAL



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Message from Seema Moondra

Chairperson, NBT India Independence Day Celebration Committee



Dear Friends,

As we celebrate the 65th Anniversary of India's Independence Day in North Brunswick Township I am grateful to be connected with two of the most inspiring countries in the world. The differences are many but the principles of democracy, liberty and justice for all that we share make us one.

We take the time to acknowledge Mahatma Gandhi, a great man who inspired and empowered the common man to take action guided by "Ahimsa" or non-violence with a determination powered by "Satyagraha" or Insistence on Truth. These simple principles inspired a nation to bring about colossal changes at all levels in society and governance creating an independent democratic nation, a free India, on August 15, 1947.

Photographer: Tasha O'Neill
tashaphotography.com

The simple but powerful truths which propelled the Indian freedom movement have inspired world leaders like Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King and continued to motivate and encourage people to fight for basic human rights, freedom and justice across the world. Today by recognizing this important event in world history we reaffirm its global significance and the tremendous impact it has had on civilization.

The pen is mightier than the sword was proven quite effectively by Gandhi again and again and I hope that celebrating this event will inspire future generations to ponder upon the powerful ideas of "Ahimsa" and "Satyagraha" to bring about effective change in their own communities.

I am thankful for the opportunity to share this vision with all of you.

Sincerely,
Seema Moondra

4-H Indian Langoor Club, Organizational Leader

Message from Joseph Peter Clark



Congratulations to the 4-H Langoor Club, Agra Seva Kendra and Mrs. Moondra for celebrating India Independence Day in North Brunswick.
Good luck.

Sincerely,

Joseph Peter Clark
Principal
North Brunswick Township High School

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

India's Independence Day Celebration

at

North Brunswick High School on Saturday August 11, 2012

PROGRAM

- ❖ **Welcome Address** Mr. Clark
- ❖ **Prayer** by Mrs. Kuldeep Uppal
- ❖ **Pledge of Allegiance** led by members of the 4H Indian Langoor Club
- ❖ **Leaders of the Freedom Movement Pageant** by Youth Volunteers
- ❖ **Flag Hoisting Ceremony** led by Mayor Francis Womack
- ❖ **National Anthem** led by Kuldeep Uppal
- ❖ **Remarks** by Mayor Francis "Mac" Womack III
- ❖ **Kathak – Classical Dance**
- ❖ **"Bharatvasi" – The people of India Pageant**
- ❖ **Remarks** by Guest Speaker – Dr. Meena Murthy
- ❖ **"Recording History: Live"** – 4-H Oral History Book Release by Ms. Anna Aschkenes, Director, MCCHC
- ❖ **Best Citizen Awards to Indian American Seniors** by Ms. Isha Vyas, History Services Coordinator, MCCHC
- ❖ **Raas – Garba – Folk Dance** from the State of Gujarat
- ❖ **Vande Mataram – National Song** of India
- ❖ **Bharatnatyam – Classical Dance**
- ❖ **"India – One Land, Many Cultures" Competition – Announcement of Winners**
- ❖ **Bhangra – Folk Dance** from the State of Punjab
- ❖ **Jai Ho – Modern Indian Dance**
- ❖ **Saare Jahan Se Accha Hindostan Hamaraa**

EXHIBITIONS ORGANIZED BY YOUTH

- ❖ **Indian History Timeline Exhibit**
- ❖ **Glimpses of India**
- ❖ **Display** by 4-H Indian Langoor Club, Middlesex County
- ❖ **"My Connection to India"** – Interactive Map Project
- ❖ **"Recording History: Live!"** – Oral History Project by 4-H Indian Langoor Club
- ❖ **"India – One Land, Many Cultures"** – Art/Essays/Poetries submitted by Youth

Performances by Youth

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—so that you may 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

Tabla: Mr. Harpreet Singh

Leaders of the Freedom Movement:

The struggle for Independence from foreign rule has been witnessed throughout the history of India. From brave women like Rani of Jhansi who fought the British to Mahatma Gandhi who won India her independence through the principles of Ahimsa and Satyagraha. As we celebrate and rejoice on August 15, 1947 we also honor the sacrifices made by generations of Indians and pledge that we will continue to protect this hard earned freedom.

Mahatma Gandhi - Rohan Chittela

Bhagat Singh - Sai Gundlapalli

Jawaharlal Nehru - Sriram Gidugu

Subhash Chandra Bose - Bharadwaj Ramchandran

Subramanya Bharati - Thomas Annam

Maulana Azad - Sai Ramesh

Gopal Krishna Gokhale - Ameya Deshpande

Lokmanya Tilak - Kunj Vyas

Sarojini Naidu - Keertana Reddy

Jhansi Ki Rani - Rohini Choudhary

Vijay Lakshmi Pandit - Sapna Sanyal

Kathak – Classical Dance from Uttar Pradesh

Kathak, one of the eight classical dance forms from India originated in Uttar Pradesh. Kathak traces its roots to the Sanskrit word “katthaka” meaning “one who tells a story”. The name simplified to “kathak” is a rich dance form influenced by the Bhakti movement and the Persian dances that came with the Mughals. Sapna Mehata, Chandni vazirani and Nimmi patel dance to the song “Des Rangila Rangila” in which the lyricist Prasoon Joshi describes India through the beautiful colours reflected in her landscape, people and her very spirit. Composed by Jatin-Lalit and sung by Mahalaxmi Iyer this song is from the Indian cinema “Fanaa”

Choreographer: Sapna Mehta

Dancers: Sapna Mehta, Chandni

Vazirani, Nimmi Patel.



Bharatvasi - People of India

The cultural diversity of India is represented by the youth in this pageant through the traditional clothing worn by the people of the state they represent. Bharatvasi in this pageant walk to the song "Mile sur mera tumhara, to sur bane hamara" - "When my tune and yours merge, it becomes our song". The song written by Piyush Pandey, composed by Ashok Patki, co-composed and arranged by Louis Banks was first telecast on India Independence Day Celebration in 1988 to promote national integration.

Choreographers: Shrutika Madda, Naini Bansal, Sreeja Pedapudi and Nikita Ragineni

Adult Volunteers: Shalini Bansal, Monica Madda and Gita Nadkarni

Regional Costumes of India Display Board By: Nikita Ragineni

Bharat Mata by Jeevena Chirra

Kashmir: Tania Ommer and Pannun Goel

Punjab: Shriya Yeldandi and Aditya Venkat

Rajasthan: Rhea Kriplani and Varin Dharia

Goa: Nishi Bansal and Samir Varma

Tamil Nadu: Keertana Krishnan and Revanth Rangineni

Andhra Pradesh: Mahathi Gundlapalli and Nideesh Madda

Bengal: Videsha Maharana and Sagar Varma

Gujarat: Diksha Kaur and Tarun Pattan

Maharashtra: Sia Chitnis and Hrishikesh Vasudevan



Raas Garba – Folk Dance from Gujarat

The Raas Garba folk dance from the state of Gujarat is performed during the nine day festival of Navratri and at weddings in Gujarat. Similar folk dances that use clapping and wooden sticks to keep beat are Kolatam from Tamilnadu and the Gair Dance from Rajasthan. "SaRaaF" is an upcoming Raas Garba dance group that has performed in many community events and dance competitions.

Choreographers: Pooja Patel & Risham Chokshi

Dancers: Pooja Patel, Risham Chokshi, Priyanka Patel, Krishna Bengali, Neel Patel, Deepesh Lad, Drumit Patel, Krutesh Chokshi and Anuj Desai



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.

Singers: Mrs. Kuldeep Uppal, Aashna Uppal, and Sapna Mehta

Ambassadors: Pranav Konkak and Shreya Konkak

Tabla: Mr. Harpreet Singh

Bharatanatyam – Classical Dance from Tamilnadu

Bharatanatyam is a classical dance form in which Bha - bhavam (expression), Ra - Ragam (music) and Ta – Talam (rhythm) and Natya (dance) come together to create a very graceful performing art tradition. Jatiswaram is a dance sequence which gives an opportunity for dancers to display their versatility in footwork and graceful movements of the body. It is performed exclusively to the beat of the drums creating an exciting audio-visual presentation of the dance.

Choreographer: Divya Jain

Dancers: Silvi Kabra and Meha Pandejee

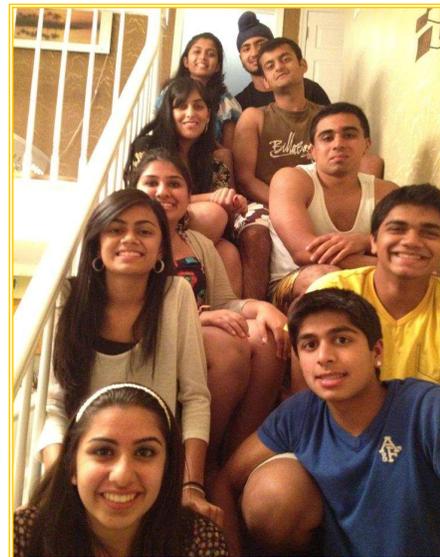


Bhangra – Folk Dance from Punjab

Bhangra Dance is a folk dance form from the state of Punjab was performed mainly at harvest festival celebrations. Today however Bhangra has become one of the most famous forms of dance at weddings and family events in Indian communities and even at clubs around the world. The group “NB Dee Shaan” is a youth bhangra group from North Brunswick and has performed at many community events and dance competitions.

Choreographer: Kaavya Mahajan and Sapna Jhangiani

Dancers: Kaavya Mahajan, Sapna Jhangiani, Chandni Vazirani, Aditi Shah, Payal Patani, Devangi Patel, Risham Chokshi, Harman Batra, Kartik Chopra, Deepesh Lad, Haris Farooqi, Karan Gill, Ashwin Baweja and Shafan Khan



Jai Ho! – Modern Indian Dance

A.R. Rahman and Gulzar co-wrote the lyrics of the song “Jai Ho”. It was composed by A.R. Rahman for the cinema “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 has gained popularity all over the world.

Performed by: Raas Garba Folk Dance Group and Bhangra Folk Dance Group

Saare Jahaan Se Accha, Hindostan Hamaraa

Performed by: All Participants and Volunteers

Exhibitions Organized By Youth

Indian History Timeline Exhibit

The Indian History Timeline Exhibit displays the three main milestones in the history of India's Independence Revolution. First there is the Pre- Gandhi period when the British had control over the nation. Next is the arrival of Gandhi into the revolution and his achievements in South Africa. The last period is the actual Independence Movement which finally led to success. Together, this exhibit marks the important occurrences through the Indian Independence Movement.

Group Leader: Sreeja Pedapudi

Volunteers: Thomas Annam, Sai Ramesh, Kunj Vyas, Rohini Choudhury, Tejasree Seelam and Kavyasree Seelam

Glimpses of India

The exhibition highlights noteworthy achievements in various fields of social, economic, and political development in India observed since 1947. The exhibit focuses on illustrious people and their contributions in the arts and sciences, business and technology, agriculture and manufacturing, sports and entertainment, education and economic development that have catapulted India into the 21st century with great force. The exhibit honors people of different eras in Indian history to appeal to every age group and presents fun facts about each person, contribution, and achievement.

Group Leader: Sapna Sanyal

Volunteers: Swapna Chakraverthy, Sukeerthi Bitra, Keertana Chirra and Suraj Sanyal

Exhibition by 4-H Indian Langoor Club

The 4-H Indian Langoor Club youth members work throughout the year on creating arts and crafts, informational posters, and more to visualize and articulate their knowledge about India. Youth members then take their displays to various community events like the 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, Sriram Gidugu, Rohini Choudhary, Puneet Ponakala and Mounika Ponakala

“My Connection to India”

Indians have migrated from various parts of the country to the United States. This exhibit encourages the guests attending the India Independence Day Celebration to mark the state to which they trace their roots. This interactive map also highlights the culture of the states through photo collages creating an exciting visual tool to help youth understand the diverse culture observed in the Indian community.

Group Leader: Sai Gudlapalli

Volunteers: Ameya Deshpande, Shrutika Madda and Rohan Chittella.

“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 sixteen 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 Teen Project Leader: Puneet Ponakala

4-H Teen Members: Mounika Ponakala, Rohini Choudhary and Sriram Gidugu

“India- One Land, Many Cultures” – Art and Literary Competition

This exhibit showcases artwork and writings submitted by youth illustrating the theme “India – One Land, Many Cultures”. The competition was organized by Enjoy Explore India located in North Brunswick to encourage youth to express their thoughts about India and to reflect upon their rich cultural legacy. The winning entries have been highlighted in the journal.

About Agraj Seva Kendra



Agraj Seva Kendra is a 501(c) (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 and the East Brunswick Public Library. Since 2008 we conduct India Day every year in January in East Brunswick to showcase the talents of youths in East Brunswick and develop a sense of volunteerism, community service and leadership.

This year we have taken on a new initiative and formed a consortium with the 4-H Indian Langoor Club, North Brunswick Board of Education and North Brunswick Township to celebrate India Independence Day at North Brunswick Township on a large scale.

Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission thanked us for presenting the Arts to the people of the county and gave a generous grant this year. We conducted a dance sequel by popular artist and Bharatanatyam dance exponent Kalaimamani Ramya Ramnarayan of Nrithyanjali Institute of Dance titled 'Marga Darshan' – "The passage to ancient teachings."

To bring out the artistic talents of North Brunswick Township youths we propose to conduct 'Heritage Day' on a grand scale in the near future.

During the next three months, we will be conducting lectures and demonstrations followed by panel discussion on the impact of art and media on building momentum around social justice issues impacting Indian American Community. This program was made possible by a grant from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities. This is sponsored by Enjoy Explore India and the East Brunswick Public Library.

"Be the change you wish to see in the world"

Be the Change is an annual national day of service coordinated by South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT) in order to inspire and foster civic engagement through volunteerism, community service and community building. Since 2008, every year we recruit scores of volunteers and collectively contribute numerous hours of community service in the spirit of Mahatma Gandhi's famous quote, "Be the change you see in the world."

This year, the event is on Saturday, October 6, 2012. This year's theme of Be the Change is "Stand Together, Serve Together" encouraging people of all background to establish a united front for change in their community.



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 sixteen seniors and published three 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 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
4-H Indian Langoor
Club Organizational Leader

Nina Malagi
4-H Indian Langoor
Club Leader

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

4-H Indian Langoor Club in Action!



“Recording History: Live!”

— an oral history project
conducted by the **4-H Indian Langoor Club**

4-H Indian Langoor Club has been part of the Middlesex County 4-H Youth Program for sixteen years since 1996. The club teaches youth about the Indian sub-continent by exploring all aspects of Indian culture through arts and crafts, literature, performing arts, social studies, and philosophy. Recently, the Club started its Teen Chapter and has begun to offer advanced cultural study programs through philosophy lectures and special projects for young adults over thirteen years of age. Our goal is not just to learn about Indian culture but also to share it with the community. So the Club performs at libraries, schools, Heritage Day Festivals, 4-H events and exhibits its work at libraries, schools and other community events.

4-H Indian Langoor Club started organizing the program “Grandparents-kids Connect” in year 2005 to make connections with Indian American senior citizens. The first program conducted by club members was a performance at the South Amboy Senior Center. The stories shared by the seniors at the Center were interesting and exciting for the youth and the idea of recording their experiences became important. They wanted to make a direct connection with this generation and learn from them about their cultural heritage, understand immigration and assimilation issues, and write the history of the Indian community as it integrated into the diverse cultural fabric of America.

The Oral History Program “Recording History: Live!” was started in 2006. The two grants received from the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission, Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders, and the New Jersey Historical Commission/Department of State helped us with our first compilation of seven interviews completed in 2008. The second book was published in 2009 and included five interviews. The third Oral History Collection being released at the India Independence Day Celebration is a compilation of the four interviews conducted by students from North Brunswick and Virginia.

The 16 interviews conducted so far are now available as e-books with the help of Agraj Seva Kendra. Our special thanks to Mr. Venu Manchukonda for creating the e-books for publishing. We hope that you will enjoy reading the books as much as we have enjoyed meeting our elders and recording their life experiences in their own words.

“Recording History: Live!”

Oral History Project Interviewers



Mohit Moondra



Shashwat Patel



Rachita Rai



Sonia Kaushal



Ami Patel



Priyasha Uppal



Karan Sarna



Avinash Moondra



Omer Shafi



Vaibhav Gupta



Aditi Shetty



Rishav Singh



Keenjal Shah



Mounika Ponakala



Sriram Gidugu



Rohini Choudhury



Puneet Ponakala

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Padma Shah



Padma Shah came to America in 1947 to study at Purdue University. She was the only female out of the twelve select students who came to study at Purdue. Padmaji loves to travel and has seen a large part of the world, traveling across Europe and the United States. Padmaji had two daughters, and currently resides with one of them in East Brunswick, NJ. She hopes to continue her traveling even in her old age and her story reflects her love for learning and sightseeing.

Born in August 1924; From Mumbai, Maharashtra

Better Citizen Award is presented to Padma Shah in recognition of her outstanding Achievement and commitment to the community

Jaswant Mody



Mr. Jaswant Mody was born as a middle child in the Bombay Number 4 area in 1938. Mr. Mody came to America in 1960 by boat. Here he attended Utah State University to earn a bachelor's degree in mathematics and later he attended the University of Toledo to earn a bachelor's degree in Engineering. He worked in Newark, NJ for the Western Electric Company and bought the Piscataway Township house in which he currently lives in 1974.

Born in August 1938; From Mumbai, Maharashtra

Better Citizen Award is presented to Jaswant Mody in recognition of his outstanding Achievement and commitment to the community

Radhakrishna Kasat

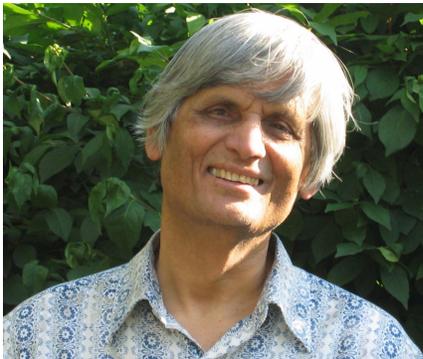


Mr. Radhakrishna Kasat was born and raised in a small village in Rajasthan, India. He first came to America in 1962 to further his education by majoring in the very specialized field of textile and polymer chemistry. He joined the University of Florida, which only had about fifteen or twenty other Indians attending at the time. He has worked for Mennen Company, now Colgate, and Revlon in the industry. He has one son Hawah and one daughter Madhuri. He is currently retired and resides in Hillsborough.

Born in 1939; From Rajasthan, India

Better Citizen Award is presented to Radhakrishna Kasat in recognition of his outstanding Achievement and commitment to the community

Narendra Bhandari



Narendra Bhandari is a professor at Pace University who came to the US in 1964 as a member of the Georgia Rotary Fellowship. Mr. Bhandari studied at SMK College and the University of Georgia, and now holds his MBA and PhD in Business Administration. He has taught at multiple universities over the years including University of Georgia, Virginia Commonwealth College, the University of Baltimore, and now Pace University. Currently, he is a resident of North Brunswick Township. Mr. Bhandari now spends his time teaching business administration and doing research on the recent phenomena of global outsourcing.

Born in 1938; From Jodhpur, Rajasthan

Better Citizen Award is presented to Narendra Bhandari in recognition of his outstanding Achievement and commitment to the community

Jagjit T. Lalvani



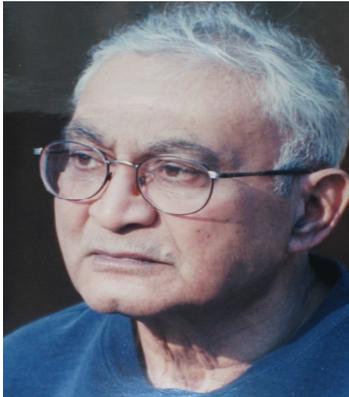
Jagjit Lalvani lives in Colonia, NJ and occupies his time with his many hobbies. His hobbies include palm reading, photography, analyzing handwriting, herbal gardening, poetry, yoga, and meditation. He grew up in Karachi, Pakistan during a turbulent time in the nation's history. He was from a wealthy family and became a journalist for the family newspaper, the Karachi Daily. As a journalist during the time of partition of India and Pakistan, Mr. Lalvani had several adventures and met many famous people.

He married and came to the United States in 1964, where he assimilated into the American culture superbly. Mr. Lalvani leads a fulfilling life in America that he would not give up to go back to his mother country.

Born in 1927; From Karachi, Sindh [originally part of India]

Better Citizen Award is presented to Jagjit T. Lalvani in recognition of his outstanding Achievement and commitment to the community

Rajendra Patel



Rajendra Patel, born in Kenya, came to further his education in Montreal, Canada in 1964. He studied geology in McGill University in Montreal, one of the finest at the time. His hard work and dedication to his work landed him with high post jobs such as working for the IMC. He traveled the world as a geologist until he settled in Middlesex County. Rajendra Patel has one daughter and currently resides in Piscataway, New Jersey. Rajendra Patel's words reflect the true struggle that many Indians had to face as they came to this new country.

Born in 1942; From Nairobi, Kenya

Better Citizen Award is presented to Rajendra Patel in recognition of his outstanding Achievement and commitment to the community

Ramesh Kasat



Ramesh Kasat is an engineer who came to America on January 12, 1968. Mr. Kasat left his family and his friends in India so he could come to America and study at Villanova University. He now spends his time with his wife and three daughters still working as an engineer.

Born in 1941; From Sangamner, Maharashtra

Better Citizen Award is presented to Ramesh Kasat in recognition of his outstanding Achievement and commitment to the community

Chumpa Kasat



Chumpa Kasat, the only daughter of a small prosperous Marwari family grew up in a rural village and her opportunities were limited due to her high social status and highly protective family. Her chances of receiving a formal education in that environment were practically nonexistent. With persistence and a thirst for knowledge she entered high school, in the larger city of Nasik. At age sixteen she was engaged to a young man from a wealthy and educated family. However, she was able to finish high school before joining her husband in the United States in 1970. Welcoming the exciting new move to America she saw the chance to see a world beyond the rural India of her childhood. After living in New York City, the family moved with their two daughters to East Brunswick in 1977. Dedicating her life to the care of her children and the well being of her family, Mrs. Kasat exemplifies a deep level of care and commitment to family values and is the primary care-giver to their third daughter Poonam born in 1980. She enjoys spending time with her daughters and her grandchildren. In her spare time she likes to tend to her garden and read, a hobby she acquired in her childhood. Mrs. Kasat's message is that of good will to all and faith that we all make the right choices and remember who we are.

Born on April 9, 1949; From Satpur, Maharashtra, India

Better Citizen Award is presented to Chumpa Kasat in recognition of her outstanding Achievement and commitment to the community

Kamla Gobind Gidwani



Kamla Gobind Gidwani came to the US from Karachi, India (now in Pakistan), after her husband chose to stay and pursue a career at Kraft Foods. For Mrs. Gidwani, she and her six siblings settled in Delhi, where she worked at a government post. Even after she came to America, she managed various part-time jobs with raising three children. She and her husband have traveled the world, ranging from places like London, Stockholm, and Sicily. She currently lives in Carteret, New Jersey with her husband. Kamla Gidwani's story is one that discusses growing up during the Indian Partition, as well as being a working woman at the time.

Born in 1928; From Karachi, India (now in Pakistan)

Better Citizen Award is presented to Ramesh Kasat in recognition of her outstanding Achievement and commitment to the community

Bhagavat Patel



Bhagavat Patel, originally a native of Gujarat, came from a well established family near Ahmedabad, India. Mr. Patel was a sports champion as a student in Ahmedabad while also managing to maintain a high level of educational excellence. He completed his college education in Ahmedabad, India and came to the United States on February 4th, 1968 to pursue his post-graduate studies with the support and guidance of his uncle. On his arrival, Bhagavat Patel joined a private university, Xavier's University in Cincinnati, Ohio. After graduating, he had to overcome many set-backs in a 1970's New York-hit recession to eventually find a good position. He worked as chief administrative officer, under the administration of Mayor Gibson of Newark City. Over the years, Mr. Patel has volunteered and offered his

skills to benefit around seventy different organizations, affecting almost seventy thousand senior citizens in Middlesex County, New Jersey. He has been married since 1971 to Hemlata Patel and raised their family in New Jersey. Mr. Patel has worked hard to accomplish not only an honored place in his community but has participated selflessly in voluntary organizations to educate and assist Indian immigrants.

From Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India

Better Citizen Award is presented to Gobind Gidwani in recognition of his outstanding Achievement and commitment to the community

Chandrakant Wagle



Chandrakant Wagle was born Karwar, near the border of Maharashtra and Karnataka, in 1940. His happy childhood reflects the security of growing up in a well-to-do family that could provide him with all the opportunities to excel. He played popular games such as cricket, badminton and also traditional Indian games, such as kabadi. The dynamic post-independent atmosphere and well-educated family members as role models was a source of inspiration for him. As the only son of a middle class Indian family, Chandrakant Wagle worked conscientiously toward his Bachelors degree in Chemistry from Parle College in Mumbai, then known as Bombay. It was around this time,

Mr.Wagle focused his goals towards attaining a further education in America. He arrived in 1965 and experienced a wholly new American campus life. As a result of his hard work, he earned a post-graduate degree in Chemical Engineering from Texas A&M University in 1968. He qualified as a chemical engineer and moved to New Jersey 1969. Mr.Wagle has been a resident of East Brunswick, New Jersey, with his wife and children, a poignant witness to the growth of a culturally dynamic Indian immigrant community in New Jersey.

Born in 1949; From Karwar, Karnataka, India

Better Citizen Award is presented to Chandrakant Wagle in recognition of his outstanding Achievement and commitment to the community

Gobind Gidwani



Gobind Gidwani was born in Karachi, 1924, in what was then pre-partition British India. During the 1947 partition, his family was evacuated to Bombay and settled there. His original purpose, as a visitor to the United States in 1968, was to bring his brothers back to their homeland. What began as an exciting world-wide tour transformed into a new opportunity for Mr. Gidwani as he decided to further his already well established engineering career in the United States. He had qualified as an engineer, graduating from the prestigious Benares Hindu University in India. In the United States, he was employed by Kraft Foods and was able to apply his considerable experience to a new modern working environment. Mr. Gidwani and his wife Kamla

have three sons; one son proudly served his country as a US Army General and the retired Gidwanis currently reside in Carteret, New Jersey. Gobind Gidwani's story reflects adversity faced in the experience of the Indian Partition and ensuing upheaval. Mr. Gidwani's voice resonates with the hope and security of seizing the vast opportunities available in the United States of America.

Born in 1924; From Karachi, India (now in Pakistan)

Better Citizen Award is presented to Gobind Gidwani in recognition of his outstanding Achievement and commitment to the community

Dr. Arvind Dhruv



Dr. Dhruv is the Founder President/CEO of Guardian Drug Company, which is a leading manufacturer of OTC drugs. He came to US in 1968 to study at Fargo University. He is the only member of his family to settle in US. Dr. Dhruv had his Bachelors and Masters degrees and Ph.D. in Pharmacy and now owns a 200,000 sq. ft. facility in Dayton, New Jersey. Dr. Dhruv and his wife Dr. Rohini Dhruv have one son and they frequently visit India to stay in touch with their culture. Dr. Dhruv's story reflects his passion for education and his love of challenges.

Born in 1946; From Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Better Citizen Award is presented to Dr. Arvind Dhruv in recognition of his outstanding Achievement and commitment to the community

Dr. Rohini Dhruv



Dr. Rohini Dhruv first came to America for a study abroad program. She came back later to get her Masters degree and Ph.D and eventually settled down in New Jersey. Rohini loves to learn about other cultures and attends many cultural shows on the East Coast. Dr. Rohini has one son and currently resides with him in North Brunswick, New Jersey.

Born in 1950; From Mumbai, Maharastra

Better Citizen Award is presented to Dr. Rohini Dhruv in recognition of her outstanding Achievement and commitment to the community

Dr. Shanti Tangri



Dr. Shanti Tangri was born in 1928 in Rawalpindi, located in the northernmost part of the undivided Punjab Province and moved to Lahore a year later. When the country was divided into Pakistan and India in 1947 he and his family relocated to India. As a refugee student in Delhi, India he completed an undergraduate degree in Physics and Chemistry and master's degree in Economics.

Dr. Tangri in his student days helped other refugee men and women with their medical needs, securing jobs and food. He then entered East Punjab University College as a lecturer. Upon the suggestion of a visiting Oxford economist he decided to pursue higher education in America. In 1953, Dr. Tangri ventured on a trip to America, visiting Italy, France and England along the way. Once in US, he studied in the University of Missouri, University of Kansas and University of Berkeley and attained a Ph.D. in Economics. Since 1969, Dr. Tangri has resided in New Brunswick becoming part of the dynamic Indian community.

Born in February 1928; From Rawalpindi, Punjab (Pakistan)

Better Citizen Award is presented to Dr. Shanti Tangri in recognition of his outstanding Achievement and commitment to the community

Dr. Sushil Sinha



Dr. Sushil Sinha was born in 1937, in Bihar, India. Since his father was a government official, he spent much of his childhood in different parts of Bihar. It was in his final year of engineering he began thinking of an academic career abroad. In 1967, he was awarded a fellowship in Ottawa, Canada. While studying for his Masters in Ottawa, he gained a Green Card to enter the United States. As a result, he finished his Masters at Drexel in Philadelphia. Dr. Sinha's story shows the value of personal drive, sacrifice for the sake of delayed gratification in educational attainment and the importance of family values in a multicultural family. He lives in Kendall Park, NJ.

Born in 1937; From Bihar, India

Better Citizen Award is presented to Dr. Sushil Sinha in recognition of his outstanding Achievement and commitment to the community

INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY

The **Independence Day of India**, celebrated on 15 August, is a holiday commemorating India's independence from the British rule and its birth as a sovereign nation on 15 August 1947. India achieved independence following the Indian independence movement noted for largely peaceful nonviolent resistance and civil disobedience led by the Indian National Congress. The independence coincided with the partition of India wherein the British Indian Empire was divided along religious lines into two new nations—Dominion of India (later Republic of India) and Dominion of Pakistan (later Islamic Republic of Pakistan); the partition was stricken with violent communal riots.

In 1946, the Labour government in Britain, its exchequer exhausted by the recently concluded World War II, and conscious that it had neither the mandate at home, the international support, nor the reliability of native forces for continuing to control an increasingly restless India, decided to end British rule of India. In February 1947, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Clement Attlee announced that the British government would grant full self-governance to British India by June 1948 at the latest. With the British army unprepared for the potential for increased violence, the new viceroy, Louis Mountbatten, advanced the date for the transfer of power, allowing less than seven months for a mutually agreed plan for independence.

The British government announced on 3 June 1947 that the principle of partition of India was accepted by the British government; the successor governments would be given dominion status and would have an implicit right to secede from the British Commonwealth. Viceroy Mountbatten chose 15 August as the date of power transfer; he chose this date as this was the second anniversary of Japan's surrender in the World War II. The Indian Independence Act 1947 (10 & 11 Geo 6 c. 30) was an Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom that partitioned British India into the two new independent dominions of India and Pakistan. The Act received the royal assent on 18 July 1947.

The Indian Independence Act's salient provisions were:

- the division of British India into the two new and fully sovereign dominions of India and Pakistan, with effect from 15 August 1947;
- the partition of the provinces of Bengal and Punjab between the two new countries;
- the establishment of the office of Governor-General in each of the two new countries, as representative of the Crown;
- the conferral of complete legislative authority upon the respective Constituent Assemblies of the two new countries;
- the termination of British suzerainty over the princely states, with effect from 15 August 1947, and the right of states to accede to either dominion;
- the dropping of the use of the title "Emperor of India" by the British monarch (this was subsequently done by King George VI by royal proclamation on 22 June 1948);
- the provision for the division of joint property between the two new countries, including in particular the division of the armed forces.

Source: <http://www.wikipedia.org>

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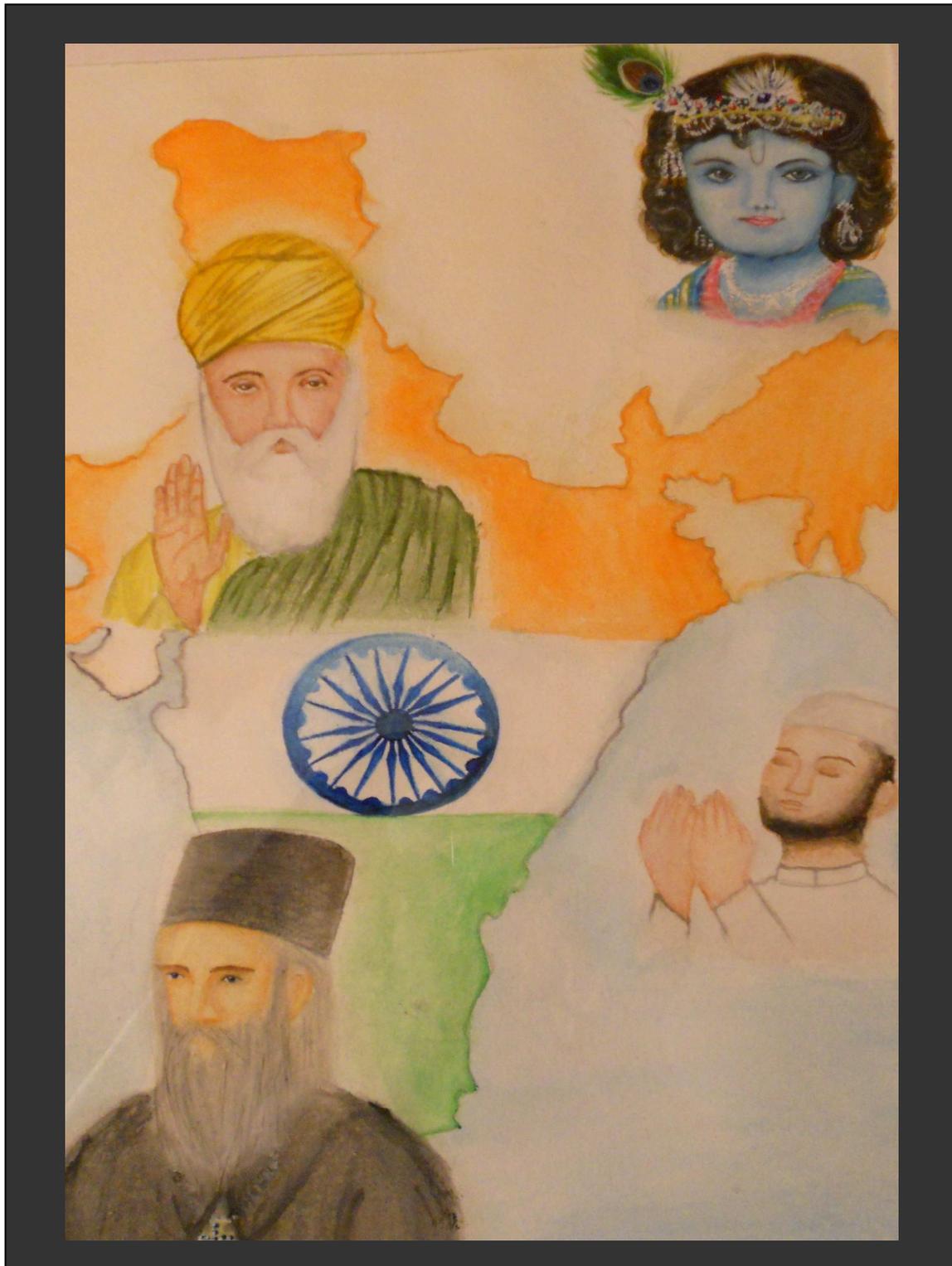
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Theme: "India - One Land, Many Cultures"
Organized By: Enjoy Explore India, North Brunswick, NJ



First Prize: Nimisha Nandankar, Grade 10

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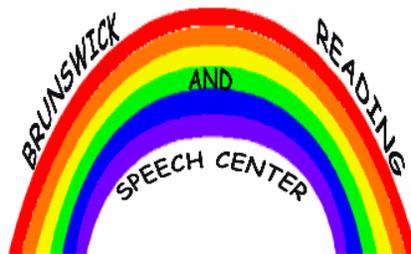
Sharon Dubinsky

*Licensed: Elementary education teacher with over thirty years experience

*Licensed: Teacher of the handicapped

*Certified: Dyslexia & Reading specialist

*Certified: Learning disabilities Teacher consultant



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Second Prize: Ishita Likhar, Grade 6



Third Prize: Pranav Manoj, Grade 2

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Maria & Govinda Rajan

Art and Literature Competition

Theme: "India - One Land, Many Cultures"

Organized By: Enjoy Explore India, North Brunswick, NJ

Indian Independence Day Poem

By Suraj Sanyal

Independent, free
We gained our liberty,
From the intolerable rule,
Of the British so cruel.

Both on the battlefield and in our home,
Was our dear Netaji,
Fighting and speaking for Independence,
In politics and the army.

Mohandas Gandhi also known as Bapuji,
Helped us peacefully,
With Satyagraha, non-violence,
The Dandi March for all to see.

Chacha Nehru, our first Prime Minister,
Raised the Tiranga on this glorious day,
Because on August 15th, 1947,
We would finally have our way.

Independent, free,
We gained our liberty,
But not without the help,
Of these special, important three.

First Prize: Nimisha Nandankar, Grade 10

India's Independence Day Celebrations T-Shirt design

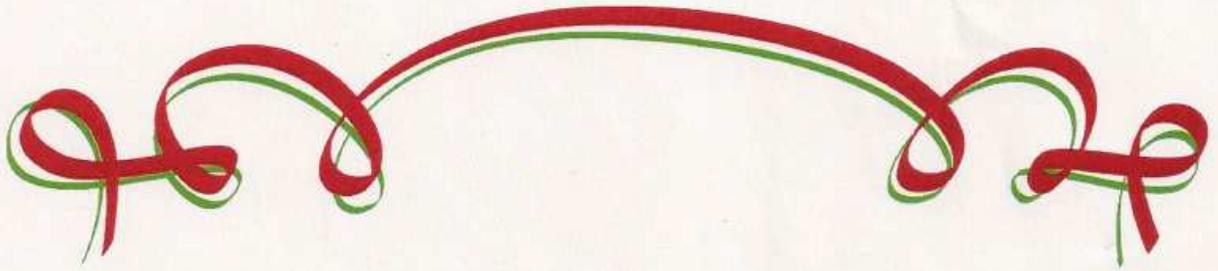
by Sahana Kumar

Carnegie Mellon class of '15
Communication Design Major



"I designed the shirt for NBT's India Independence Day Celebration because Indian Culture is important to me and our country's Independence Day is important to India's history. I love designing so this was a good opportunity for me to do something that reflects my culture."





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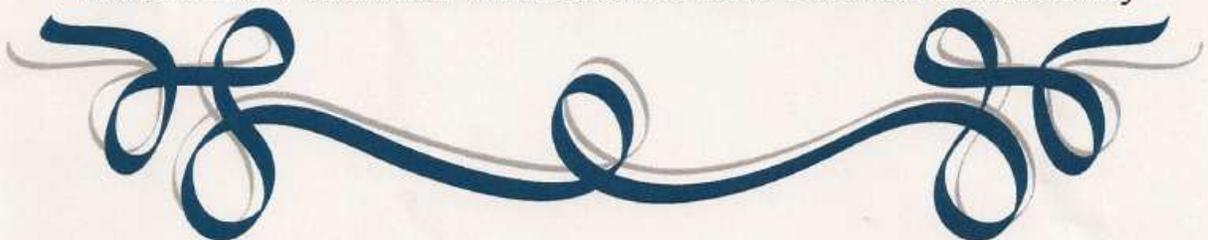
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Somerset, New Jersey 08873

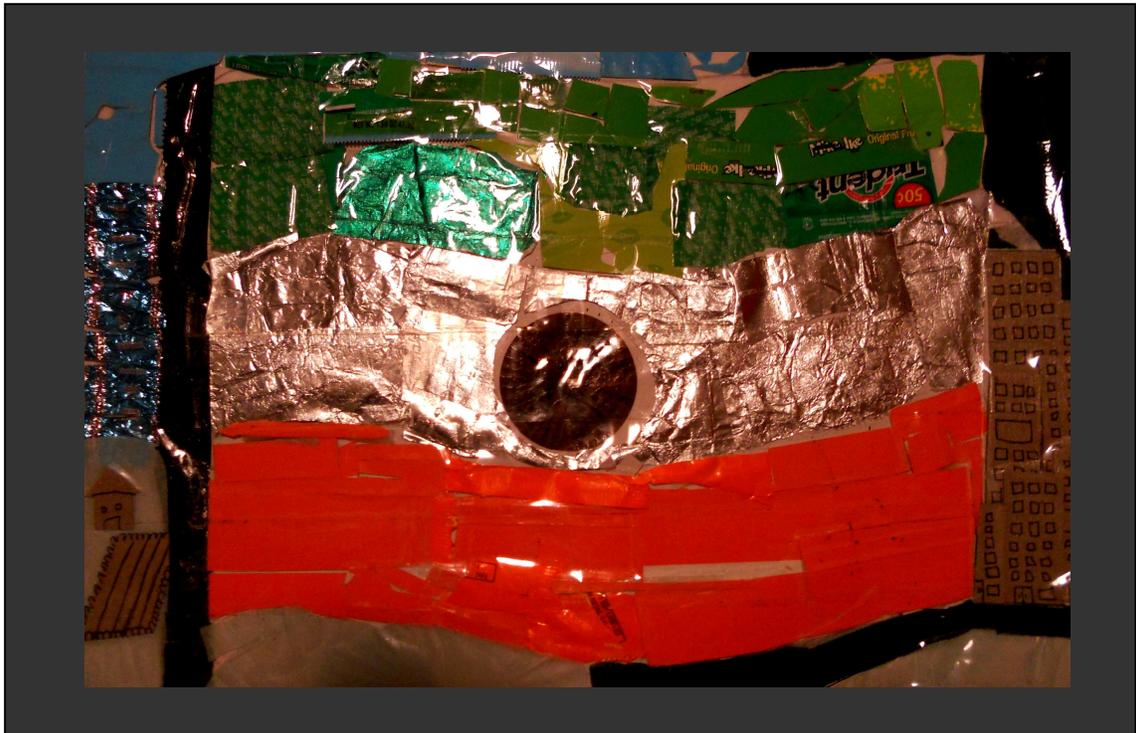
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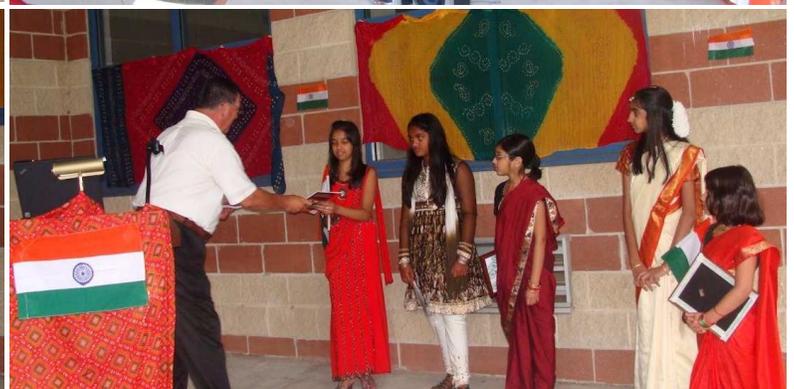


Khushi Sarin, Grade: 6th



Ami Patel, Age 13

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North Brunswick Township

India's Independence Day Celebration Committee – 2012



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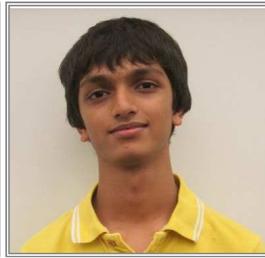
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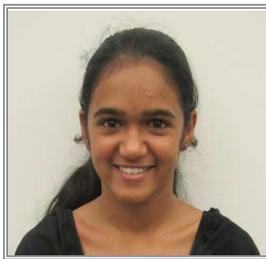
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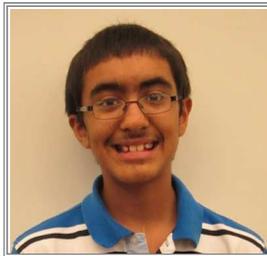
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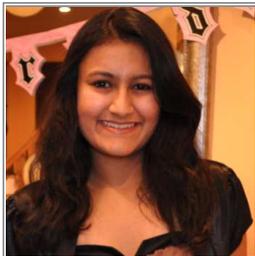
Swapna Chakraverthy



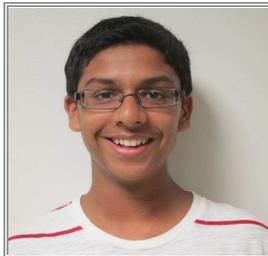
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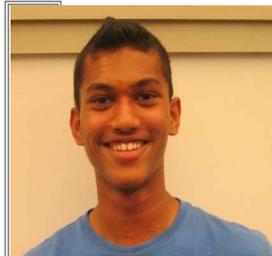
Sriram Gidugu



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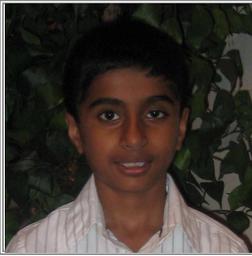
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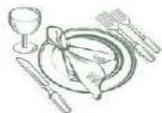
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