



What's been happening?

It has been quite sometime since our newsletter has been published. But we have been extremely busy as an organization and had several events that were well attended and supported by you.

As you all know the current Management Committee is coming to its end of term this year. We would like to collect nominations from you for participating in the new Committee. More details inside.

Next Big Event? – **Summer Bash – JUNE 19th**

We received good response to

our Summer Bash program last year and hope it will get similar response this year. We have planned this year's event to be on June 19th.

Would you or your child like to participate? Please contact Umesh Baliga immediately, as this helps us set the program schedule in advance and ensure that there is proper mix of various entertainment programs.



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2010 Membership

Have you forgotten to renew your membership?

Many of you have renewed your fees during past events. There are still some

that need to renew their membership. The fees are as follows:

- Single Person - \$15
- Family of two - \$25
- Additional member - \$5/each person.

Please note that membership are for named individuals.

Your membership helps us to achieve our mission (details on last page).



Sandwich Seva – Jan 23rd



Our first event for the year was our community event SANDWICH SEVA. The event was held on Jan 23rd and our gracious hosts were Ashwin and Kasturi Bhatt. The few families that gathered together worked very diligently to prepare over 180 lunch bags. These were then handed out at the homeless shelter near down-town.

We thank Ashwin and Kasturi for their kind

hospitality and our volunteer families. We have noticed that due to personal schedule conflicts, it is becoming difficult for many families to participate in our Sandwich Seva program. This has resulted in fewer families being able to make it to these events. This tends to make the personal contributions much more expensive.

The Management Committee has decided that we will suspend this event for the year.

If you feel strongly about this event and would like us to keep it going, we would like to get commitments from 4 hosts and 6-8 families who can make it to these events. This is to ensure that we can contain the costs of personal contribution. Please send in your comments to Gaurang Haldipur at gbhaldipur@aim.com

Satyanarayan Puja – Feb 6th



Our HAAS Satyanarayana Puja on Feb 6th at the Eldridge Park Community Hall was a great success. We had splendid participation, both from attendees, and from families who performed the puja. Sri Ganesh Sathyanarayan, the priest from Soumyakashi Sivlaya, performed the puja. As several persons have asked, his contact details are as follows:

Tel.No. (713)480-8927
Temple: 10353 Synott Road, Sugar Land, TX

SPONSORS:

Thanks to our sponsors:
- Raj & Hema Kamath sponsored the lunch
- Umesh & Didi Baliga sponsored the hall.
- Nandu & Neeta Balsaver donated \$95 for the event.

We also wish Raj and Hema the very best for their future as they have moved to Aberdeen. We will all miss them!

Special thanks to our numerous volunteers who helped serve food and clean up the hall quickly after the event.

Financials:

Collections: \$1,120

Expenses : - \$869

Nett : \$251

Picnic – Apr 17th

Our picnic on April 17th held at the Lost Creek Park Pavilion was an absolute blast. It rained on Friday and we were little apprehensive about how Saturday would turn out. It seems the weather Gods really listened to our prayers. We had a picture perfect day. We started around 9:30 am as people came trickling in. There was good hearty breakfast of

Upmav, cookies, and donuts to welcome everyone. We started the day with several sports events including balloon stomps, three legged races, sack races, doughnuts on a string, and potato races. The kids and adults enjoyed the various events. For lunch, we had Pizzas, Cholae, Salad, Tamarind Rice, and bread. There were also plenty of soft drinks and juices. These were wolfed down quickly

by everyone! The men then started playing cricket and the ladies went for a good hearty walk. After some time, we started the tug-o-war! Who knew this was going to be such a success. It seemed like no one (in all age groups) wanted to quit playing it. In order to change the pace, we started on anthakashari. We have identified few hidden talents.



We then had samosas and sandwiches for snacks. We surely can all attest that we were stuffed by the end of the day! The snacks were followed by Bingo which was played without money, and we

had \$5 gift cards as prizes! We wrapped the day with a game of musical arms. Thanks to our numerous volunteers who helped serve food and coordinate the events.

Photos available at: <http://tinyurl.com/y7cwlyl>

Financials:

Collections: \$ 1018.00
Expenses: \$ 965.46
Nett : \$ 52.54

A NEW NOVEL (2010)

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SIX GIRLS.
FIVE DECADES.
TWO COUNTRIES.
THEIR LIFE.

Read all about it!

A Tale of Two Worlds By Savitri K. Kamath

Find More Information At
www.ataleoftwoworlds.com

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Summer Bash: June 19th

Coming up in June is our Summer Bash program. This is a multi-entertainment & cultural event. We urge you and your kids to participate in this event through an entertainment item. Please contact Umesh Baliga immediately so that we can pen down the program schedule.

We will try to accommodate everyone,

but this is truly based on first come basis.

Last year we had a good mix of drama, dances and music, and had a true Summer Bash!

Even if you are not in event, we would like you to make some time and come to the Summer Bash and have a good time networking, watching & encouraging

the various participants. **The event will be held at the Austin Parkway Community Center on June 19th.**

More details to follow via an evite invitation. Please respond to the invitation and help us plan the event logistics.



Mark your Calendars! Upcoming Future Events in 2010

Janmastami on **September 4th** at the Austin Parkway Community Hall

Diwali on **November 6th** at the Sugar Land Community Hall

SAFETY ALERT: USB Chord Danger – contributed by our members



Trinity Anderson suffered third-degree burns but is expected to heal. Damage to her mental function is not yet known.

The family of a Longmont toddler seriously injured when she apparently put a USB cord dangling from a computer into her mouth, is encouraging other families to check their own homes for similar hazards.

"Take inventory of electrical cords in your house and unplug them when they aren't in use."

The USB cord for a music player was plugged into a laptop that was being charged on the floor next to the chair where her mother was seated. "Trinity crawled behind the chair her mom was in, and when her mom didn't see Trinity pop back out the other side,

she looked behind the chair and saw Trinity face down," Jeff Anderson said.

Trinity suffered third-degree burns on the right side of her tongue, her upper soft and hard palate and the right part of her lip.

Read more: http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_14145613#ixzz0cII79GPD

Cooldest Desi's 2009



#14 - VIVEK PAI:

HashCache, the technological brainchild of a team of Princeton computer science researchers led by Vivek Pai has drawn recognition as a revolutionary way to expand internet access around the world. The new efficient data storage system was featured as one of the top 10 emerging technologies of the year in Technology

Review, a scientific magazine published by Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Vivek's proud parents are Sadananda and Sharda Pai



#39 –SANJAY BHATT:

Bhatt is one of the two Indian American journalists among four winners of the prestigious 2009 Knowledge@Wharton Awards for Business Journalism, sponsored by the South Asian Journalists Association (SAJA), the Wharton School and the Knowledge@Wharton online business journal. Sanjay was also one among

a team of journalists at The Seattle Times who won the prestigious Pulitzer Prize for breaking news coverage.

Sanjay's proud parents are Ashwin and Kasturi Bhatt.



Love at first Bite – contributed by our members

When a Malayali marries into a Konkani family, it's not just the dhalitai that comes to boil, confesses Krishna Warriar

My initiation into Konkani food was calamitous. Blame it on cheppe kheer, Lord Ganesha and Mrs Sulochana Bhandarkar. The last mentioned lady, my mother-in-law, is probably rustling up some lip-smacking Konkani food for those Up Above, even as you read this. Bless her soul and bless her solkadi.

I remember that Ganesh Chaturthi 14 years ago as clearly as any young Konkani bride would remember her dhalitai recipe. Dhalitai is nothing but a dal, and if the consistency is right, it is also referred to as DDT. The DDT here translates into Dhaat (thick) Dhalitai, not dichloro diphenyl trichloro-ethane, the stuff sprayed on pest-ridden crops.

But let me start at the beginning. I am a Malayali married to a GSB. GSB, contrary to what you may think, stands for Gowd Saraswat Brahmin. This mostly fair-skinned, light-eyed, rapidly-balding (in the case of males) species hails largely from coastal Karnataka. Which is why others often refer to them as Konkani. Why they refer to themselves as Aamchis, however, is another story, for some other time and place. But, let us not digress. We were on to the tale of the elephant god and my m-i-l, remember. To cut a long story short, this was the first of many Ganesh Chaturthis I spent at my m-

i-l's. At the wife's heeding, I scrimped on breakfast and we headed across to their home quite early. The males were busy with the puja and entry into the kitchen was barred as my m-i-l busied herself with unpronounceable works of Aamchi culinary art like patradaw, gajbaje, saasam, madgane, patoli and cheppe kheer. Ah, how can I forget the cheppe kheer?

The puja went on and on, and then some more. As did the cooking. It was 4 pm by the time the bhatmaam (priest) called us for the aarti and 4.15 pm finally when we sat to eat after a hastily rendered 'Jaidev, Jaidev Jai Mangal Murti'. I had a splitting headache by then and was ready to chomp on the plantain leaf in front of me. My wife's uncle soon came along ladling out generous portions of cheppe kheer, the dish which marked the start of the feast.

Assuming that Aamchis started their meal with a sweet dish, I gave him a weak but encouraging smile when he tipped a generous portion onto my leaf. The meaning of cheppe, I learnt in retrospect, could range from bland to tasteless to salt-free depending on which Aamchi you ask. What they all reluctantly agree on, however, is that it does not define the properties of kheer as we know it. The aforementioned kheer was predictably cheppe and much to my horror, I had to polish off the whole lot with a hastily procured 'satisfied' grin as though I was

eating a combination of shahi tukda and ras malai with my favourite kesar topping.

Over the years and after many mouth-watering feasts that followed I discovered that Konkani cuisine is much more than cheppe or kheer. The community is largely peace-loving. Except when the topic veers towards whether the 2 kg necklace that Radhika wore to Shantala's neighbour's cousin's wedding contained as much gold as she claimed it did.

So don't let dishes with battle-scarred names like colmbaw, bagde koddal and binsa upkari or savouries like ghasmandaw, ubatti or chirmundaw frighten you. These are a people who have honed culinary nomenclature to an exalted art. No other south Indian community I know can twist a simple word like dosa to the menacing pawlaw.

Why, they even have an Italian version of the dosa which they proudly refer to as maida 'pitta' pawlaw. OK, I made up the Italian bit, but you get the drift, don't you?

In Hindu mythology, Annapurna is worshipped as the Goddess of Food. If she ever decides to incarnate on earth, you can bet your last mithai undaw she will choose an Aamchi home.

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/34550/>

Have you checked
out our website?
www.ourhass.com

IDEAS?

HAAS has been created to preserve and promote our culture so that we can pass it on to our future generation.

We would like to hear from you on how we can make our organization work for your benefit.

If you have any ideas for good events to drive youth involvement, member involvement at all age levels – we would love to hear from you.

Also if you have feedback on how we can improve, we would like to hear from you.

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Houston Area Amchigele Samaj

www.ourhass.com

HAAS has been formed to provide a common meeting ground for the Amchigele's residing in and around the Houston area.

Our mission is to

- Preserve and promote our culture, tradition and deep rooted heritage.
- Pass on the values and spirit of our culture to generations after us, and
- Provide an opportunity to network socially and professionally with other Amchigeles.

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