

Message from the Executive Committee

11th Annual Cultural Glimpses of India

November 2008

Welcome to everyone!

It has been a pleasure for us to serve you as the members of [Executive Committee](#) (EC) of the [India Association of Tallahassee](#) (IATLH). The previous EC handed us an Association that was in good financial standing with a stable membership. We have done our best to continue their hard work by expanding membership, increasing the diversity of programs, and reaching out to the community at large.

We decided first to strengthen the established programs like Holi, Utsav, and Glimpses and then introduce new programs that cater to the creative, athletic, and artistic interests of the community. To increase the communications we established and updated the Association's website at: www.iatlh.org. Our first event was Republic Day 2008 in which we felicitated two local Indian Americans and brought Mr. Robert Arnett who has written about India as a guest speaker. We also donated eighty copies his books to public libraries and local schools.

During Holi more than a dozen food coordinators and volunteers prepared and shared delicious Indian food with the community and general public. Young and old alike enjoyed coloring up their friends and family! In March, about ten Association members participated in the [Springtime Tallahassee](#) Parade increasing our visibility in Tallahassee and surrounding communities. The Asian contingent was awarded the First prize by the organizers.

In April, we organized the first ever IATLH Sports Day. The enthusiasm for this athletic event from children, parents, and volunteers was overwhelming. The impetus for such an event actually originated among members and we simply provided a venue and we will attempt to expand this event further in the coming year. In May, the Association participated in events that were part of Asian Awareness Month.

Our Treasurer and Vice President have been working diligently both to increase the number of paid members and the number of volunteers. Treasurer has also been working to obtain a 501 (c) (3) tax exempt status for our Association. The Joint Secretary and the President have been talking to members and non-members to find ways to increase the diversity of programs. They have also been listening to the concerns and compliments from our community to improve our Association's inclusion of every group.

Recognizing the importance of financial well-being of our members, IATLH President solicited the expertise our sponsor Mr. Dexter Baker to deliver a financial planning seminar. Several members attended the event and the local CBS affiliate, WCTV-TV6, provided coverage and spread the word about our involvement with the local community. In June we organized a classical music concert when we learned that a talented musician was visiting Tallahassee.

In August, our Independence Day/Utsav program provided a wider range items like, classic and contemporary music, solo and group dances, speeches and skits, eighteen in all. In addition to the stage

performances we announced the winners of the Art Contest. We plan to introduce drawing, photographic, and other visual art contests in the future. Our first India Association Newsletter was distributed during this event.

During the Experience Asia Festival 2008, India Association members put on a great entertainment extravaganza during prime-time. Our member's performances and Association's efforts in reaching out to the local community received broad support and praise from a crowd of about 13,000. We will continue our collaboration with [Asian Coalition of Tallahassee](#) of which we are a charter member.

Our final events of the year are Cultural Glimpses of 2008 with approximately 22 individual items and an Annual Dinner (more information will be available soon). We have been trying to increase our visibility by working with the [Tallahassee Democrat](#), [WCTV-TV6](#), [Khaasbaat](#), [Asia Trend Magazine](#), [Council on Culture and Arts](#), and other media outlets.

We would like to close with one request. As noted above your Association has organized or be part of about 12 individual events this year. Several members, performers, and volunteers have helped us to achieve this extraordinary feat. But no Association can bring quality programs without incurring costs. In order for us to be an effective organization, more people have to become paid members and we need to increase the membership from low one hundreds to at least two hundred or more. Assuming a four member family, the membership fee of \$30/year translates to \$7/person/year. Assuming that we bring only seven programs in a year, every one can appreciate the difficulty we face with \$1/program/ person/ year -a cup of coffee costs more these days!

We would like to appeal to you to become members and help us host a variety of programs that will appeal to a broad cross-section of our community. Please help us build a strong and stable Association!
Thank you.

IATLH Executive Committee

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