



# VISION

CCI

Volume 9

Spring Edition 2011

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Dear Friends and Supporters of CCI,

On behalf of the Board of trustees and Executive Committee of CCI I welcome all of you looking forward to the exciting year of 2011. It has been almost eight years gone by since the formation of CCI. The pioneers of GSP had planted the grass roots in early days when Richmond community was populated with small number of families. As community grew those pioneers and the Board of Trustees had envisioned the need of a community hall and with the support and donations of countless volunteers CCI Hall had become a reality. I want to take this opportunity to thank those pioneers, The Board of Trustees, all of the past presidents and their executive committees and many volunteers for their hard work, dedication and support which has allowed all the Indian communities to have a beautiful place of their own heritage to celebrate cultural, social, religious and other events. I want to acknowledge and thank my executive committee for accepting and committing their support for the success of upcoming events in 2011. I also appreciate many volunteers who have offered their services and I will call upon and look forward for their services as need arise.

Schedule of events for 2011 is listed at the back page of this publication. In addition to this, as done in the past, we will communicate with all of you the announcement of events via e-mail. In today's fast changing environment it is very essential that we have your current residence address and e-mail address.

Incorrect postal address results into non-delivery of "VISION" publication, a waste of money and time for us. Incorrect e-mail address does not allow you to be aware of the scheduled events. We will greatly appreciate if you will notify of any changes in your e-mail or postal address to Mr. Rakesh Gupta at [grmike\\_98@yahoo.com](mailto:grmike_98@yahoo.com)

We would like to encourage many of our readers and supporters to become a member of CCI. Members are privileged to free entrance to many events and discounted fee to some of the events. MEMBERSHIP IS FOR CALENDER YEAR (JAN TO DEC) AND IS DUE ON JAN 1<sup>ST</sup> OF EVERY YEAR. Please make checks payable to "Cultural Center of India" and mail to: Mr. Jitu Gandhi, c/o Shamin Hotels, 2000 Ware Bottom Spring Rd., Chester, VA 23836. Membership fee is \$ 125 for family, \$ 75 for single and retired parent living under same house hold can be added for a nominal fee of \$ 10 each.

"VISION" publication is another means of communication and services to our community. All of you are invited to take advantage to share your ideas, comments, suggestions, news worth sharing and any article of interest that can benefit to the community at large. Please send your comments to Smita Manek at [smitamanek@aol.com](mailto:smitamanek@aol.com) or Gemini Patel at [omdp5@aol.com](mailto:omdp5@aol.com) We are looking forward to have fun and joy for all community members while we celebrate many of our Indian as well as American events. This cannot be achieved without the support and active participation by all of you. Your ideas and suggestions will be very helpful and greatly appreciated to make CCI a better place for all to enjoy and to preserve, cherish and promote our Indian heritage and culture for this and next generation.

Thank you.  
Kamlesh Shah  
President,  
804-796-4838

**You Have an Occasion, We have the Location!**

**CCI**

**Please call Mrs. Nita Pansuria  
(804) 536-2524 or (804) 425-6650**

## Executive Committee: 2011 – 2012

### President:

Kamlesh Shah 796-4838

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Chetan Mehta 536-5093

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### Accountant:

Ketan Pathak 530-0828

### Facility Manager:

Nita Pansuria 536-2524

**Cultural Director:** Bina Shah, Vidya Patel, Chetan Mehta, Sharad Saraiya

**Religious Committee/ Senior Activities:** Bakoola Dave, Kokila Patel, Manisha Patel

**Publicity Committee:** Smita Manek, Gemini Patel

**Web Updates:** Rakesh Gupta

**Membership/Event Collection:** Ramesh Patel, Anil Patel, Ramesh Shial, Gunvant Patel, Chandrakant Patel, Amit Shah, Anup Manek, Jitu Gandhi, Amul Desai, Mahendra Patel, Chaitan Patel, Jayendra Shah, Govind Pansuria, Navin Tejani, Vrajesh Saraiya, Kirit Doshi

**Sound Room:** Chaitan Patel, Govind Pansuria, Pragnesh Patel,

**Decoration Committee:** Urvashi Patel, Sangeeta Desai, Manisha Gandhi, Nita Pansuria, Poonam Amin, Mayuri Shah, Mita Viratia, Vibha Desai, Bina Mehta, Sneha Patel, Nita Pathak

**Food Committee:** Bina Mehta, Nita Pansuria, Sneha Patel, Mayuri Shah, Sharad Saraiya, Manisha Gandhi, Bob Patel, Poonam Amin

**Dining Hall & Kitchen Organization:** Bhupendra Patel (Bhupi), Nitin Shah, Amul Desai, Gunvant Viratia, Anil Patel, Govind Pansuria, Chaitan Patel, Pragnesh Patel, Bob Patel

**Members at Large:** Devang Thakar, Amritbhai Patel, Anil Patel, Bob Patel, Mahendra Patel, Amit Shah, Geeta Shah, Navin Tejani, Bhavna Saraiya, Anup Gokli, Raj Dubey, Omi Narang, Mona Narang, Kokila Patel, Bakoola Dave, Rekha Shah

**Taste of India Event Committee:** Shirish Shah, Geeta Shah, Meera Gokli

**Taste of India Event Year Book:** Rashmi Amin, Jitu Gandhi,

### Past Presidents:

Vidya Patel  
Shirish Shah  
Chaitan Patel  
Dr. Sharad Saraiya



Dear Readers;

It is spring time. Everything is new and fresh, similar to our new Executive Committee. I would like to congratulate Mr. Kamlesh Shah and his Executive Committee. My Best Wishes to them in reaching their goals in next two years.

Mr. Kamlesh Shah, original from Ahmedabad, India, migrated to United States as a student and graduated as a Chemical Engineer from University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri in 1969. After four years of experience in Youngstown, Ohio, and then ten years of experience in Phillipsburg, NJ, he relocated in Richmond in 1982 along with his wife Mrs. Pratima Shah and daughter Ms. Mona Shah. He recently retired from Boehringer Ingelheim after 29yrs of service. He has served on the Landscaping Committee ever since founding of CCI, served as a Vice-president and on Taste of India Committee for the past two years. In addition to this he is also affiliated with IAVA and Hindu Center of VA since their inception. Mr. and Mrs. Shah are also very active members of other religious organizations and retired member's club. He enjoys music, sport, fishing, cooking, gardening, reading, photography, traveling and meeting people. .

We, here at CCI are very proud of him and very appreciative of his hard and dedicated work and unconditional support. My experience with him at CCI was a lot of fun and enjoyed working with him. It was fun and had good experience working with you all also. I appreciate you for your continued support for CCI and making my job very smooth. I am sure you will continue your support and help Mr. Shah achieve his goals for CCI.

I commend him for choosing a very powerful committee consisting of our outstanding community members of whom you will read in our next issue.

With Regards,  
Vidya Patel  
804-399-7277

If you have any contributions to make to our next newsletter, or have any feedback to give us on this newsletter please e-mail all relevant details/articles to:

Smita Manek at [smitamanek@aol.com](mailto:smitamanek@aol.com) or  
Gemini Patel at [Omdp5@aol.com](mailto:Omdp5@aol.com)

News items provided will be included if relevant with space permitting.

CCI welcomes everyone to 2011  
 Congratulations and good luck to the new committee of CCI. We also congratulate the former committee for their outstanding job at CCI in the past two years.  
 Let's go back to 2010's activities at the center:  
 All our festivals like Mother's day, Father's Day, Taste of India, Navratri, Atham, Diwali, Jalaram Jayanthi and New Year's Eve were well celebrated; all our members had lots of fun.

We were lucky to enjoy two very popular gujrati dramas "Chitkar" in March and Paresh Rawal's "KISHAN vs. KANHAIYA" in August.

Shree Giriraj Shastri, a renowned Scholar of Hinduism & Pushti Marg, blessed us with his presence and an educational and devotional lecture on GITA and Dainik Jivan Charya in June.  
 Taste of India was a big hit last year.

In July CCI, in association with IAVA & GRTA presented Ghulam Ali's Mehfil

Thanks to Dr. Kamlesh Dave, we had the pleasure and honor to have held a Town Hall Meeting at CCI by our Governor Bob McDonnell in August.

### India Speakers Bureau (ISB)

ISB is a virtual entity that provides One-Stop coordination for speakers and organizations looking for speakers on India related topics.

**Objective:** Create and enhance better understanding of India and its people.

**Where and when:** ISB makes presentations at India related festivals (Festival of India, Punjabi Mela, and Taste of India) in and around Richmond, Virginia area. It also can provide speakers by invitation at local schools, churches, clubs and such like entities.

**Sample of available Topics:** A Glimpse of India, Indian History, Festivals of India, Spices in Indian cuisine, Games Kids Play in India, Latest in Yoga from India, Indian Arts & Classical Dance, Women in India

**On-going Benefit:** From time to time, our community is approached by schools and churches to provide speakers. ISB attempts to fulfill that need.

It may be recalled that ISB made its debut at the Festival of India- 2010.

Please contact the coordinator if you are looking for a speaker or would like to participate as one.

Our speakers are volunteers and take on speaking engagements based on their availability.

Vishwa Bhargava, CC, CL\*  
 Coordinator-India Speakers Bureau  
 Cell: 804 868 5323  
[friend@asianamerican-va.com](mailto:friend@asianamerican-va.com)  
[www.asianamerican-va.com](http://www.asianamerican-va.com)

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# NAVRATRI 2010



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## LAXMI PALACE

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**3423 Old Parham Rd.  
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Hours: 10:00 am – 9:00 pm Everyday**

Cultural Center of India once again takes pride in hosting a hilarious Gujarati Drama "JAA TARI SATHE KITTA" on Thursday, 10 March 2011. This Drama has been very popular all over India and United States, starring popular stars of Indian Television.

## Manpasand presents

My wife wants to give me 3rd child. My GRIL FRIEND wants to give me daughter  
My father wants to give me new mom. All of a sudden number of persons are increasing in my family  
God..please anybody guide me what to do??

Kyuki Saas Bhi  
Kabhi Bahu Thi..  
Fame "Savita"  
Saat Fere Fame.."Kakisa"  
Sajan Re Jooth Mat Bolo  
Fame "Daminidevi"  
APARA MEHTA

Baliwala Theatres

જા...તારી  
સાથે  
કિટ્ટી!

writer:  
**Imtiaz Patel**  
director:  
**Feiroz Bhagat**  
starring:  
**Apara Mehta**  
**Feiroz Bhagat**

200 SHOW  
in 250 days  
& still counting

★ Pritesh Sodha, Khushali Jariwala,  
Kirti Swali, Ajay Parekh, Ashok Upadhyay,  
Karan Mehta, Mehul Joshi.

(Ja Tari Sathe Kitta)

# NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY 2010



## H O L I – The Festival of Colors



Holi - This festival of colors is celebrated on Phagun Purnima which comes in February end or early March - 19 March this year. Every year it is celebrated on the day after the full moon and glorifies good harvest and fertility of the land. It is also time for spring harvest. The new crop refills the stores in every household and perhaps such abundance accounts for the riotous merriment during Holi.

This festival has an ancient origin and celebrates the triumph of "good over bad". The colorful festival bridges the social gap and renews sweet relationships. On this day people hug and wish each other "HAPPY HOLI".

This festival of colors is undoubtedly one of the most fun-filled of Hindu festivals. Its occasions brings joy, fun, play music and dance, and of course lots of bright colors! Holi is also associated with the immortal love of Krishna and Radha, and hence, Holi is spread over 16 days in Vrindavan

as well as Mathura – the two cities with which Lord Krishna shared deep affiliation. Each major temple, housing and idols of Krishna & Radha, celebrates Holi on a different day. People gather at the temple, play and get wet with colored water; they consider it a blessing from the god. Apart from the usual fun with colored powder and water, Holi is marked by vibrant processions which are accompanied by folk songs, dances and general sense of abandoned vitality. Holi celebrations begin with lighting up of bonfire on the Holi eve. Numerous legends & stories associated with Holi celebrations make the festival more exuberant and vivid. People rub 'gulaal' and 'abeel' on each other's faces and cheer up saying, "***bura na maano Holi hai***".

Holi also gives a wonderful chance to send blessings and love to dear ones wrapped in a special Holi gift.

Prashant Patel



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Cultural Center of India  
 2000 Ware Bottom Spring Road  
 Chester, VA 23836



**CCI Hall**

Suitable for concerts, lectures, private parties, weddings, receptions,  
 Or any community festivity

**2011 CALENDAR**

<b>JANUARY</b>	<b>FEBRUARY</b>	<b>MARCH</b>	<b>APRIL</b>
22 January Republic Day IAVA	Thursday 17 February Natak – “Dikri number 1”	Thursday 10 March Gujrati Drama “Ja Tari Sathe Kitta”	Punjabi Mela on Saturday 23 April
<b>MAY</b>	<b>JUNE</b>	<b>JULY</b>	<b>AUGUST</b>
Mother’s Day Celebrations on Sunday 8 May	Taste of India on Saturday 25 June & Sunday 26 June	Picnic	Independence Day IAVA on Sunday 14 August
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<b>DECEMBER</b>
Navratri Celebrations starts from Wednesday 28 Sept. – Friday 30 Sept.	Navratri celebrations continues From Saturday 1 October thru Saturday 8 October Diwali Celebrations on Friday 28 October	Jalaram Jayanthi on Sunday 6 November	New Year’s Party on Saturday 31 December

