

# SANSKRITI



Indian Women's  
Association Newsletter

Visit us at [www.myiwa.org](http://www.myiwa.org)

Vol 23:1 Summer 2018

## From the Board

### Silver!

Grand and classy in all forms. This will be a recurring theme in IWA celebrations in this 25th anniversary year. We started with a bang at the welcome party where the 83 attendees arrived decked in fine silvery clothing or jewelry. The level of enthusiasm was high. Friends consulted with each other for silver-themed dress ideas. Some women bought silver jewelry just for this party. Board members prepared the food, organized games and created gifts. Everyone had fun admiring everyone else's creativity, playing party games, enjoying the camaraderie and homemade delicacies. The colorful Rang Barse spring event was next with Holi colors, Thandai, delectable food, and day-long fun, it was a joyful welcome to spring.

When IWA started 25 years ago, it had about 30 member-families and was organized informally. Everybody came together to celebrate Holi, Dandiya, Diwali, picnic, etc. We organized lectures on general



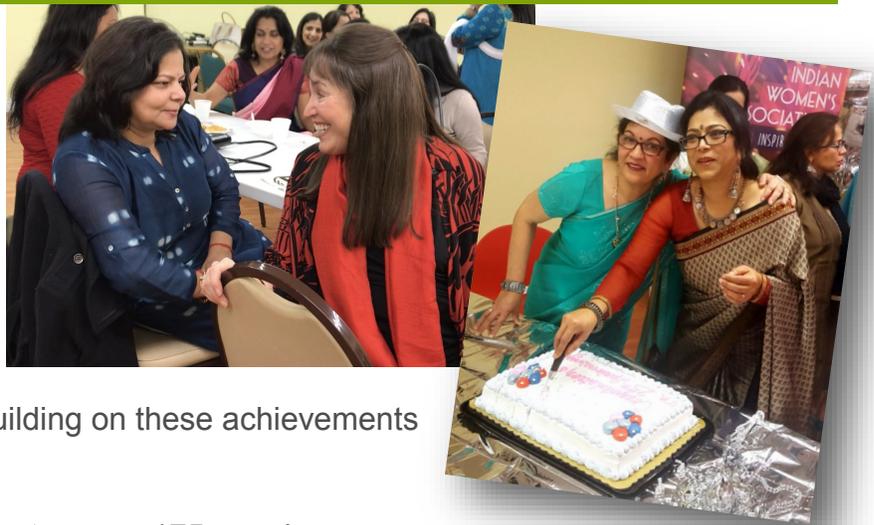
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## From the Board continued...

topics. We raised funds to aid victims of large natural disasters, mostly by offering dinners cooked by IWA members. Unused funds, if any, were donated at year end to a local charity. We have grown amazingly in all dimensions in 25 years and we will be celebrating and building on these achievements throughout this year.



We are proud to announce that we are 175 members strong this year. About 20 families have been with us continually since inception. We invite you to join us in recognizing their unwavering support. Do continue to invite your friends to join IWA. The more, the merrier.

Our community and fund-raising activities have grown impressively in the past 25 years. IWA members have worked collectively, learning unimagined skills along the way, to publish two elegant cookbooks. The last one, Dash of Desi, was published in 2017. Almost 375 copies have been sold. Our goal is to sell 1000 copies. On May 2nd and May 9th we had a booth at the West Lafayette Farmer's Market where we had snacks prepared from recipes in this cookbook for sampling and sold quite a few cookbooks. We will be at the Farmers' Market again on October 10th. Remember to visit us, along with your friends. Profit from cookbook sales will be donated to Heifer International's Women's Empowerment program and Lafayette Urban Ministry (LUM) After School Program.



Heifer International is an organization that works to empower farm families, and their women. The LUM After School Program provides enriching childcare for about 80 Tippecanoe County children, grades K-8.

Since 2013, we have donated money to Asha Purdue, an or-



ganization that provides education to underprivileged children in India. In 2017, IWA donated \$1000 to ASHA. A portion of this donation was raised by participation of IWA members in ASHA's 5K run. We encourage your family to participate in this fun activity. This year we have launched IWA Academy an Education and Learning focused wing to develop educational programs in the STEM and other areas for children, especially those who are underprivileged. Look out for more announcements. You are welcome to submit ideas for this project by email at [iwaacademy18@gmail.com](mailto:iwaacademy18@gmail.com).



One of the 2017 objectives was to support struggling immigrants. We donated \$1750 to the LUM Immigration Clinic and LUM Port of Hope program. IWA also collaborated in fundraising activities with Greater Lafayette Immigrant Allies, an organization that focuses on advocacy and support for immigrants. As we have done since inception, IWA members stepped forward to donate \$1000 for communities affected by hurricanes Harvey and Irma and \$1240 to Food Finders for fighting hunger in our community.

In these 25 years, our Diwali celebrations have morphed into the grand Celebration of India (COI). Every one of these COIs has been delightfully different. The 2017 COI was hugely successful. It was one of the best programs that IWA has hosted because of enthusiastic participation by large numbers of people. Between 290 and 300 persons at-

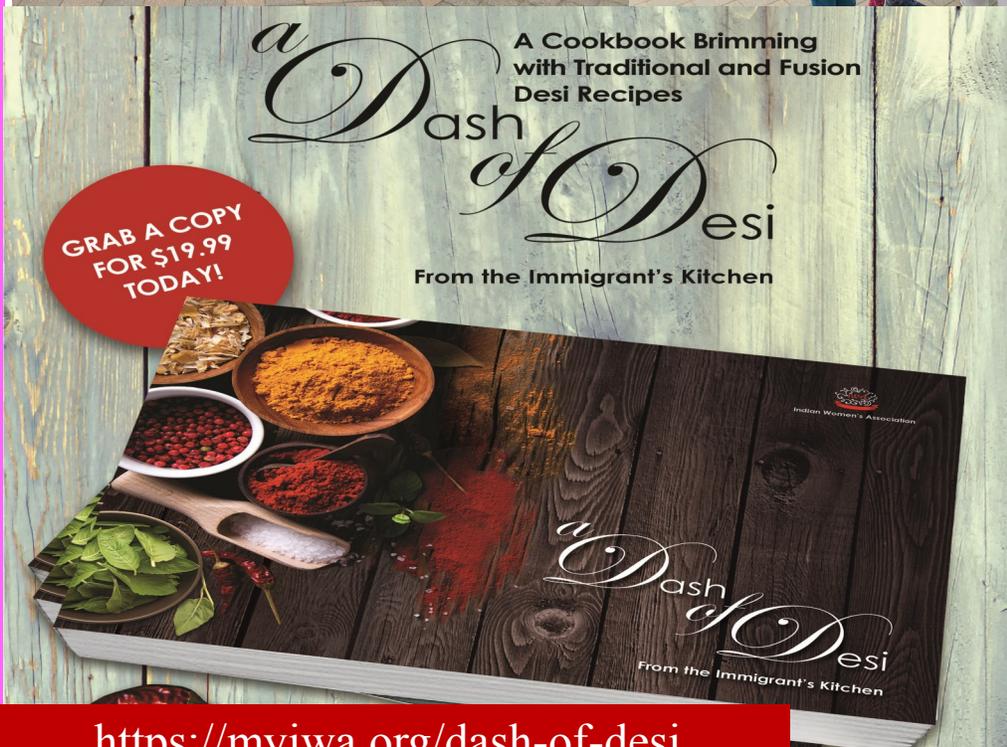




## From the Board continued...

tended the event. The singer, Soujanya, came to the US all the way from Hyderabad for two days, just for this performance. It was delightful to see the children join her on the stage when she started singing 'their song', Mera Naam Chin Chin Choo! Watch for spectacular surprises at the silver-themed 2018 COI! Our ever popular picnic cricket match will continue this year.

Sanskriti, our newsletter has also morphed over 25 years into a glossy publication. We have added an annual Sanskriti magazine since 2016. We need all the input that we can get for these endeavors. Again, please contact any board members if you wish to contribute in any way, be it advertising, fund-raising, writing, marketing or designing.



<https://myiwa.org/dash-of-desi>

## A Snapshot of 2017 Financials from 1-1-17 to 12-31-17 by Renu Bajaj and Anisha Singhal

Summary			Donations Details		
Total Revenue	<b>\$37,743.86</b>		Donation-Community	\$1,000.00	
Total Expenses	<b>(\$39,585.57)</b>		Purdue student Scholarship	\$1,000.00	
<b>Net Loss</b>	<b>(\$1,841.71)</b>		Donation to Food finder	\$1,240.00	
			Donation to GLIA for Dinner	\$3,000.00	
			Donation to ASHA	\$1,000.00	
			Donation to LUM (Immigration Clinic/ port of Hope)	\$1,750.00	
			<b>Total Donations</b>	<b>\$8,990.00</b>	
INCOME			EXPENSES		
Event	Income re- ceived	% of To- tal	Event	Expenses paid	% of Total
Amazon smile	\$49.20	0.13%	Welcome Party	(\$200.99)	0.51%
2016 Sanskriti magazine AD money received	\$1,600.00	4.24%	2016 COI and donation checks Cashed	(\$5,362.62)	13.55%
Sanskriti -Fall ADS.	\$798.00	2.11%	Sanskriti -Spring and Fall printing	(\$589.00)	1.49%
Celebration of India	\$12,623.00	33.44%	Celebration of India	(\$9,015.00)	22.77%
Directory Ads	\$350.00	0.93%	Directory Printing	(\$321.00)	0.81%
Holi	\$3,783.00	10.02%	Holi	(\$5,051.96)	12.76%
Membership and donation to IWA	\$4,295.00	11.38%	Service Award	(\$39.98)	0.10%
Picnic	\$563.70	1.49%	Picnic	(\$670.00)	1.69%
Dash of Desi Cookbook	\$5,601.02	14.84%	Dash of Desi printing, design and shipping	(\$8,427.00)	21.29%
1st cook book sale on line	\$11.17	0.03%	Vigil	(\$179.00)	0.45%
ASHA 5K Run Fund collected	\$550.00	1.46%	2016 Picnic payment to Dave Chriswell	(\$131.33)	0.33%
Community Personal fund collected	\$3,015.77	7.99%	Administrative and Miscellaneous	(\$595.00)	1.50%
Food finder Fund collected at holi	\$240.00	0.64%	Total Donations	(\$8,990.00)	22.71%
Donation to GLIA for Dinner	\$3,000.00	7.95%	End of the year Party	(\$12.69)	0.03%
Hurricane Fund	\$864.00	2.29%			0.00%
LUM Imm Clinic-port of Hope	\$400.00	1.06%			
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$37,743.86</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>(\$39,585.57)</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

**Note: Hurricane fund donated in Jan 2018**

# Congratulations 2018 Grads!

IWA Congratulates our Members' children for their academic accomplishments



**Name: Neal Mahajan**

**Graduating from: West Lafayette High School**

**Future plan: Computer Science at IU Bloomington**



**Name: Sanjana Badhya**

**Graduating from: West Lafayette High School**

**Future plan: Computer Science at Georgia Tech**



**Name: Jhananthi Janakiraman**

**Graduating from: West Lafayette High School**

**Future plan: Computer Graphics Technology at Purdue University**



**Name: Anuj Patel**

**Graduating from: Purdue University with Highest Distinction in BS**

**Future plan: Medical School at University of Michigan**



**Name: Neha Ramani**

**Graduating from: New York University**

**Future plan: Working as an associate with Maslansky + Partners in New York City**



**Name: Arthi Puri**

**Graduating from: IU Bloomington in Computer Science and Global Health**

**Future plan: IT Analyst at Baxter Healthcare**



**Name: Ana Carneiro**

**Graduating from: Purdue University In Chemical Engineering**

**Future plan: PhD at UC Berkeley**



**Name: Ayush Saraswat**

**Graduating from: University of Southern California with BS in Computer Science and Business Management**

**Future plan: Software Engineer at Squarespace Inc., New York**

## Congratulations 2018 Grads (contd.)

**Name: Alekhya Govindaraju**

**Graduating from: IU Bloomington with BS in  
Biotechnology and Microbiology**

**Future plan: Research Assistant at Columbia  
University Medical Center , New York**



**Name: Prasanna Advait Janakiraman**

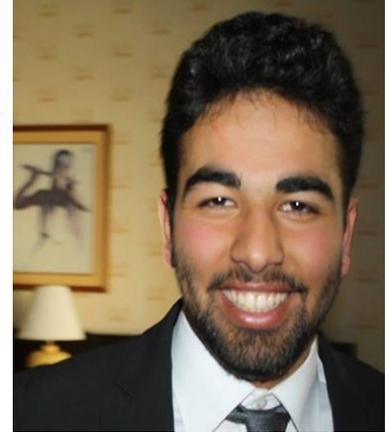
**Graduating from: Purdue University with B.S.in  
Cellular & Biomolecular Engineering**

**Future plan: PhD. in Biological Computing at  
Purdue University**

**Name: Roshn Marwah**

**Graduating from: Purdue University with BA.  
Political Science**

**Future plan: Explore the Role Indian Americans  
in Elections**



**Name: Anjela Arora**

**Graduating from: Purdue University**

**Future plan: Environmental Health & Safety Specialist under the Climate, Controls, and Security sector of United Technologies-Carrier**



**Name: Gaurav Mittal**

**Graduating from: UC Berkeley with MS in Civil and Environmental Engineering**

**Future plan: Internship at California Environmental Protection Agency**



**Name: Manik Vyom Singhal**

**Graduating from: Purdue University with MS in Electrical Engineering**

**Future plan: PhD in Computer Engineering at Purdue University**

**Name: Lakshmi Nemani**

**Graduating from: IU Medical School**

**Future plan: Residency in Anesthesia at Northwestern University Medical Center**



**Name: Shalini Mittal**

**Graduating from: IU Medical School as MD**

**Future plan: Residency in Pediatrics at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital of Oakland**



## Congratulations 2018 Grads (contd.)



**Name: Kanupriya Gulati**

**Graduating from: Marian University, Doctor of Osteopathy-DO**

**Future plan: Residency in internal medicine at St Vincent, Indianapolis**

## Celebrating our Children's Extracurricular Achievements

We at IWA are always excited about the achievements of our young ones. And that is why we are starting this new tradition of sharing some of their extracurricular achievements in our Newsletter. Please keep sharing with us so that we can share with the community. Wishing all the kids a great summer and lots of success ahead!

Hurshal Pol recently won a Bronze award at Wrestling State Championship at Indianapolis and ranked 6th nationally with 'All-American' status at US Marine Corps Women's wrestling Championship at Oklahoma.



Keya Poderycki's artwork was selected by the Tippecanoe Arts Federation (TAF) for display at their museum from February 16-March 9 this year. Keya is going to 6th grade. Keya won first prize from Happy Hollow Elementary school in the graffiti art section .



Mukund Rao qualified for and earned a podium finish (6th place) at the Central West Divisional Championships in the 10 and under 100 Breaststroke.

Siya Goel, is currently in eighth grade at Westside and this past year, she participated in Science Olympiad, Academic SuperBowl, and Spell Bowl teams and won various prizes at regional and state level.

## Those Who Serve -

## Meet Renu Bhatia

*By Smita Carneiro*

In today's world we have so many demands on our time and resources. And yet, there are some in our community who give generously of their talents. But like violets by mossy stones, they do their good works away from the public glare. This column aims to start shining a spotlight on them.

I don't remember when I first met Renu Bhatia. I'm sure it was at one of the many IWA functions I've attended over the years. Recently however we learned about a young lady in our community who had suffered domestic abuse. Some of us tried to help, but it was Renu who took her under her wing and took care of her. And then I was told that she was a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer. Knowing what a commitment that is I decided to talk to her about her work.



Renu graduated from Sapphire College in India with a degree in Social Work. After living here for many years she thought of going back to India to start a program to help children and decided the best way to learn how to do this was to join CASA as a volunteer. Many of the things she learned came as a rude shock. Brought up in India she believed that parents always do what is best for their kids. However poverty and addictions turn this maxim on its head. Renu learned that she needed to focus on the child and only what is good for the child.

Being a CASA volunteer is not a walk in the park. There is intensive training before you are given a case. You have to make quite a few visits to different places for one child, including the child's home, the school, the police station and the courthouse. Putting in all this work is not easy, but she kept her focus on empowering the child and very often others who wanted to but could not help the child. She had to make sure to always verify all the facts in the case as one mistake could lead to a devastating effect for the child. But the rewards are immense be-

cause it results in a child being safe.

Renu has also volunteered for many other organizations like the women's shelter, and being a LUM advocacy volunteer.

One of the things Renu mentioned was that our Indian community is rich in many resources. Many people need help bringing up their children and stopping the circle of abuse. Besides CASA (<http://www.casaforchildren.org>) there are many other organizations where you can volunteer some time to help children. Check out the Bauer Family Resource Center (<https://bauerfamilyresources.org/volunteer>) or do after school tutoring at the LUM after school tutoring program (<http://www.lumserve.org/programs/children-families/after-school-program/>).

Talking to Renu was the highlight of my day. Due to lack of space, I cannot put everything we discussed here in this column, so if you want to know more about CASA remember she is listed in our directory and would love to let you know more about this very important organization. Thank you Renu for all you do.



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# Sanskriti

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