

Samarpan



*Quarterly Newsletter by  
Indian Cultural Association of Minnesota (ICAM)*

**Vol. 01, No. 01, Quarter 1, 2021**



**WELCOME FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT  
MR. AJAY SINGH**

Dear Community Members,

Namaste! Welcome to 2021 and the First Edition of our Quarterly Newsletter. Greetings and warm wishes to all!

ICAM was founded in June 2020, based on a need that was supported by a survey conducted, to create a new non-profit organization promoting the multi-cultural heritage of the Indian diaspora of Rochester and its surrounding areas in Minnesota and providing a variety of services to people in the community. The purpose of the organization is to Connect, Communicate and Collaborate by creating a platform to serve and support the cultural and educational needs of Asian Indian community within this region. Amongst others, ICAM's efforts will include supporting new immigrants of Indian origin, helping families in distress, educating children in Indian languages, dance, and music, celebrating cultural festivals, coordinating recreational activities and yoga classes. The organization will provide opportunities for cross-cultural and intergenerational interaction through dialogue and service. We will collaborate and integrate with the greater Rochester community and provide leadership opportunities for our youth.

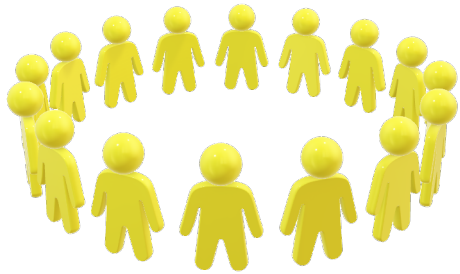
ICAM has successfully conducted activities in virtual settings since its inception despite the challenges that COVID-19 has imposed. It is to be hoped that 2021 will allow for more robust, in-person interactions. The Board is backed by a growing number of enthusiastic community volunteers for whose efforts ICAM is most grateful. Let's work together to take ICAM to next level.

Best wishes,  
Ajay Singh

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## ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATE



Since its inception in the summer of 2020, the ICAM Board has met on a monthly basis. Sub-committees have been formed to address key agenda items. We have developed a Cultural sub-committee, an Advisory committee with outreach efforts to Rochester civic organizations, helping families in need, building a strong web presence, and a Health committee. ICAM

collaborated with the Hindu Samaj Temple of Minnesota to organize a successful, virtual Diwali cultural program in December 2020, which had over 100 viewers and close to 50 participants. We have reached out to the Sikh Society of Rochester, Minnesota (SSRM), to partner with them as well. We received approval from the State of Minnesota to function as a non-profit organization. An application has been submitted to the Internal Revenue Service to get 501(C)(3) tax exempt status. ICAM partnered with the state of Minnesota in a free Covid-19 testing drive for the Asian community. Meetings have also been held jointly with the Diversity Council and the city of Rochester for increasing awareness on how to protect the community from COVID-19.

**Welcome to Virtual Diwali 2020**

**City of Rochester Proclamation**  
WHEREAS, Namaste! Welcome to Diwali, the Festival of Light, and  
WHEREAS, Diwali, the Festival of Light, is a prominent Indian festival celebrated by Indian communities across the world; and  
WHEREAS, the Festival of Light symbolizes the spiritual victory of light over darkness, good over evil, knowledge over ignorance; and  
WHEREAS, the Indian Cultural Association of Minnesota (ICAM) is a non-for-profit cultural organization whose purpose is to connect, communicate, collaborate, and create a platform to serve and support the educational needs of the Asian Indian community in Rochester, Minnesota; and

**TOWNHALL WITH THE ASIAN INDIAN COMMUNITY**  
Representatives from Olmsted County Public Health and Rochester Public Schools will join a virtual townhall with Diversity Council's Community Mobilization Resource Coalition, Rochester Vidhyalaya, and Indian Cultural Association of Minnesota.  
Information related to COVID-19, what to do if you test positive or come into contact with someone who tests positive, school and student support services, and access to food and other resources will be shared. You will have the opportunity to ask any questions you have.  
The event will be livestreamed onto Diversity Council's Facebook page.  
If you would like to send your questions in ahead of time, email [info@diversitycouncil.org](mailto:info@diversitycouncil.org). The first 20 people to send in a question will receive a \$5 gift card. Additionally, 40 people attending the event will be chosen at random to receive a \$10 gift card.  
When: December 13, 2020 2:00pm-3:30pm  
Join online: Diversity Council's Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/diversitycouncilrochester/>

**COMMUNITY CONVERSATION**  
We are also looking for 16-20 people to join a community conversation on December 20, 2020 to discuss:  
• Significant impacts of COVID-19 on different population groups for recovery planning  
• Equity in Rochester - how individuals are doing and what are they feeling/experiencing

**Free COVID 19 Testing**  
JAN. 23, 2021 (SAT.)  
1 PM - 4 PM AT THE ROCHESTER CIVIC CTR.  
SOUTH LOT (ENTRANCE OFF OF 4TH ST.), 201, 4TH ST. SE, ROCHESTER, MN  
FREE 16LB FOOD BOX GIVE-AWAY WITH REGISTRATION AFTER-TESTING  
PRE-REGISTER HERE  
Drive-through with Nasal Swab Walk-ins Welcomed 36-hour result notified  
ROCHESTER Diversity Council  
ICAM imao zepto



## PLANS FOR 2021

1. ICAM Membership drive - visit [icamn.org/membership](http://icamn.org/membership) to become member now
2. Community, civic engagement, and partnership with other organizations to serve the community
3. Workshops and seminars for managing your health - *Save the date for an upcoming Health Webinar on Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, at 3 p.m.*
4. Cultural events and film festivals. *Save the date for the ICAM annual cultural event on Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, presenting professional performers virtually from India.*
5. Hindi language classes and providing support for other Indian language classes
6. Sports tournaments
7. IT Infrastructure (Website & Communication) improvements to provide resources for new immigrants and educational content for the community
8. Chat & Chai sessions for seniors
9. Bone Marrow drive for the Asian community

If you have any suggestions or would like to volunteer, please contact any of our board members listed below or send an email to [contact@icamn.org](mailto:contact@icamn.org).

1. To Volunteer, please indicate your interest on where you can contribute to help grow the organization.
2. We are excited to revive “*Samarpan*” as the name for our quarterly newsletter, and we will have an editorial team overseeing the publication of the newsletter.
3. We invite the community to write about events, news items or articles that might be relevant to the greater Rochester community. To be considered for the next quarterly newsletter, please submit your articles to [contact@icamn.org](mailto:contact@icamn.org) by March 15, 2021.

### Board of Directors:

President: Ajay Singh  
Vice President: Suresh Kotagal  
Secretary: Alka Mehra  
Treasurer: Verna Simon

### Directors:

Ankit Sabharwal  
Nisha Kurup  
Santhi Subramaniam  
Savita Katarya  
Shounak Majumder

\*\*\*\*\* Thank you for reading our first issue! \*\*\*\*\*