

Saturday, January 28, 2012 was an eventful day for India Association members. A host of events were organized and a large number of our members participated in these events.

The day started off with our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Art contest organized in the Leroy Collins Library, with 80 participants. The contest saw children of various age groups, ranging from 5 to 15 as well as adults actively participate in the contest. Colorful pieces of art along with the laughter of excited children filled the auditorium and our panel of four judges had a difficult time in scoring the participants. Some of the age groups saw more than one participant sharing honors. Once again, we thank all the participants, our judges, Mrs. Karpagam Muthuswamy, Dr. (Mrs) Krishna Arora, Mrs Aurora Hansen and Mr. Sanjit Datta; and our event organizer, Mrs. Ratna Krishnan for their time and efforts which made this event a great success. And CONGRATS to the winners of the different categories

#### Age Group 5-7yrs

1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Shubam Dixit

Joint 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Danny Alex & Shakti Sridhar

#### 8-10Yrs

1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Mallika Misra

Joint 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Sanjitha Choudhary, Sukesh Nuthalapati and Shreya Sharma

#### 11-14yrs

1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Shrivani Babariya

Joint 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Rushi Babariya & Pallavi Gorijavolu

#### 15 & above

1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Pragati Haldiya

Joint 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Archana Mahajan & Sharda Shah

The Art contest was followed by India's 63<sup>rd</sup> Republic Day celebrations. After the singing of the Indian and American national anthems, the audience sat enthralled as our Chief Guest Mr. Sant Kumar, IPS, Retd spoke passionately about the contribution of India's great leaders. Mr. Kumar summed our journey over the last 60 years, from a nation emerging from the shadows of the British empire to its eminent position today – a global leader in almost all spheres, recognized for its strong value systems and steadfast policy of non violence. Mr. Kumar concluded by saying that India as a nation still faces enormous challenges of poverty, illiteracy and corruption but as we have done in the past, we would overcome these soon.

Here are some [pictures](#) of this event:

<https://plus.google.com/u/0/photos/107931474742469247118/albums/5703163475709435761>

It was then time for the existing EC team to hand over the reins of the Association to the new team in the Annual General Meeting. The outgoing President, Dr. T. Somasundaram highlighted the many achievements over the last two years and the active participation by members and sponsors to make our events successfully. Our Treasurer, Mr. Mettupalli Dastagiri presented the financial position of the Association and summed up by indicating that our membership fees

hardly covered our expenses and the important role our sponsors have played over the years in ensuring our financial health.

The incoming President, Mr. Somnath Chatterjee introduced his team – Vice President, Mr. Santosh Dixit; Secretary, Mrs. Priya Iyer; Joint Secretary, Mr. Deepak Haldiya and Treasurer, Mr. Dastagiri. In his welcome remarks, Mr. Chatterjee thanked members who were present for the AGM and spoke about the need of members to participate more actively in the Association's activities so that we could take IATLH over and beyond events such as Glimpses and Utsav. The audience was a lively mix of long standing IATLH members and several new members, who then engaged in a lively discussion about potential opportunities for the future. Time flew, and another IATLH event came to an end as the EC team promised to take up each of the recommended ideas for further discussion and potential implementation in the near future.

While many of us were engaged in the day's activities, another group with many IATLH members led by our former President, Mr. Srini Kishore was preparing for an evening performance. Srini's group swaravAhini , consisting of many IATLH members participated in the Seventh Annual Unity Day function at the Ruby Diamond auditorium. The group captivated a diverse audience with their excellent rendition of traditional Sanskrit verses set to contemporary music. We take this opportunity to congratulate all participants. Here are the links of the videos:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s\\_wiHYOc9A4&feature=g-upl&context=G21c7120AUAAAAAAAAAA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s_wiHYOc9A4&feature=g-upl&context=G21c7120AUAAAAAAAAAA)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RQQVynGJHbE&feature=youtu.be>

Thanks,

EC Team