

India Cultural Association of Central Iowa

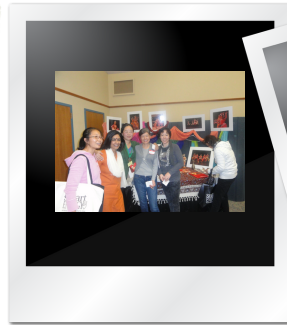
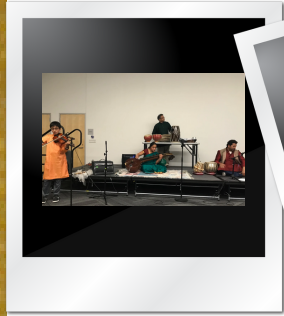


Celebrating Thirty Years

**Bridging Cultures - Building Community
(since 1992)**



Hosting Community Events since 1992



ICA Executive Committee 2022-23



ICA Executive Committee 22-23 is grateful for this one year of service! Together, we organized great events and contributed to the local community through volunteering and donating! Each of us will cherish the great memories we are taking away with us. A very Special Thanks to our families for their continuous support!



Pictures from ICA General Body Meeting on August 26, 2023

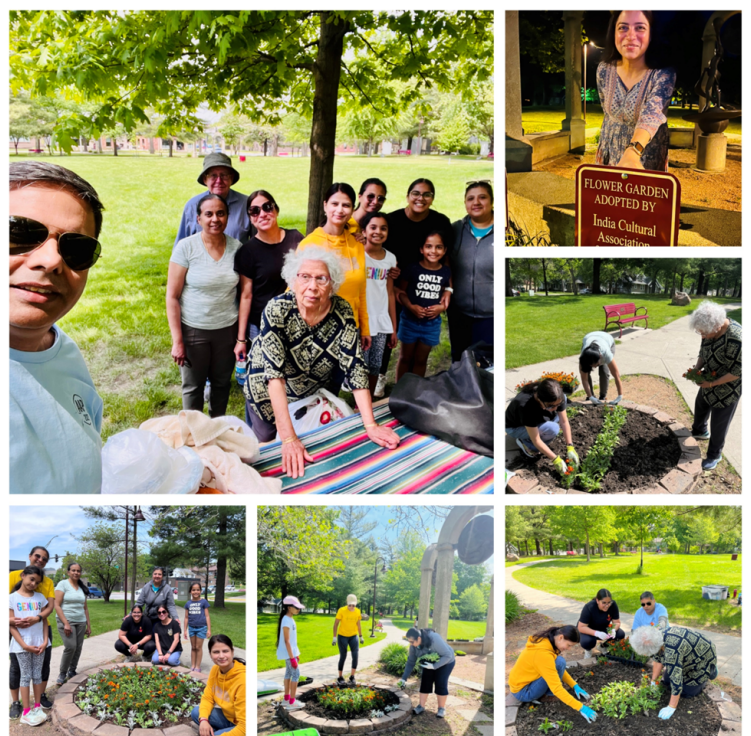
ICA Knitting Club Started in February-2023

ICA started a knitting club this past spring. The knitting club is open to all ICA members. With the help of Anjana Kanwar, we kicked off this great club. The club was attended by Jayati Mitra, Vandana Kothari, Damini Parulekar, Madhyami Deshmukh, and a few ICA EC members. While some of us were seasoned knitters, few novices tested Anjana's patience. But, if you know Anjana and her passion for knitting and giving back, you would know that she never gets tired of explaining all the tiny details about knitting. It was a therapeutic experience and we all have decided to continue the club even outside of ICA.



ICA's participation in the City's Adopt-A-Flower- Garden Program at Bandshell Park May-2023

Thanks to our volunteers, Nilam and Roger Engstrom, Neha Mehrotra, and Kavita Puvvula who accompanied ICA EC members in designing flower beds and planting the flowers. A special shout-out to The Engstroms for a wonderful lunch afterward!



Giving Back to the Community



Home Allies' Mid-Winter Food Drive for Local Pantries, February 11, 2023

ICA Executive Committee 22-23 is thankful to ICA members (Anupreet Minhas, Neha Mehrotra, Shankar Subramaniam, Sumana Sriram, and Surya Mallapragada) who volunteered for the Home Allies' Mid-Winter Food Drive. With their help, ICA contributed towards the total Food Collection of 2,586 Pounds, \$1,200 Cash. Total donations generated approximately 2,455 Meals.



Live United Food Drive 2023 for Local Pantries, April 24, 2023 to May 5, 2023

ICA Executive Committee 22-23 participated in the Live United Food Drive -2023. Special thanks to Rani Athreya for her volunteering hours. ICA contributed towards the total Food Collection of 22,379 Pounds, Total Cash Collection was more than \$19,600. ICA volunteers collected food donations from six different organizations and delivered the donations to ACSD Hope pantries.

ICA Hindi Play: Hum Honge Kamyab

February, 25, 2023



ICA presented a Hindi Play supported by a Special Project Grant through COTA, City of Ames. The subtitles were provided for our non-Hindi speaking audience. It was a great show that attracted over 230 guests from Ames, Ankeny , Cedar Rapids and Des Moines area.

ICA Talent Nite

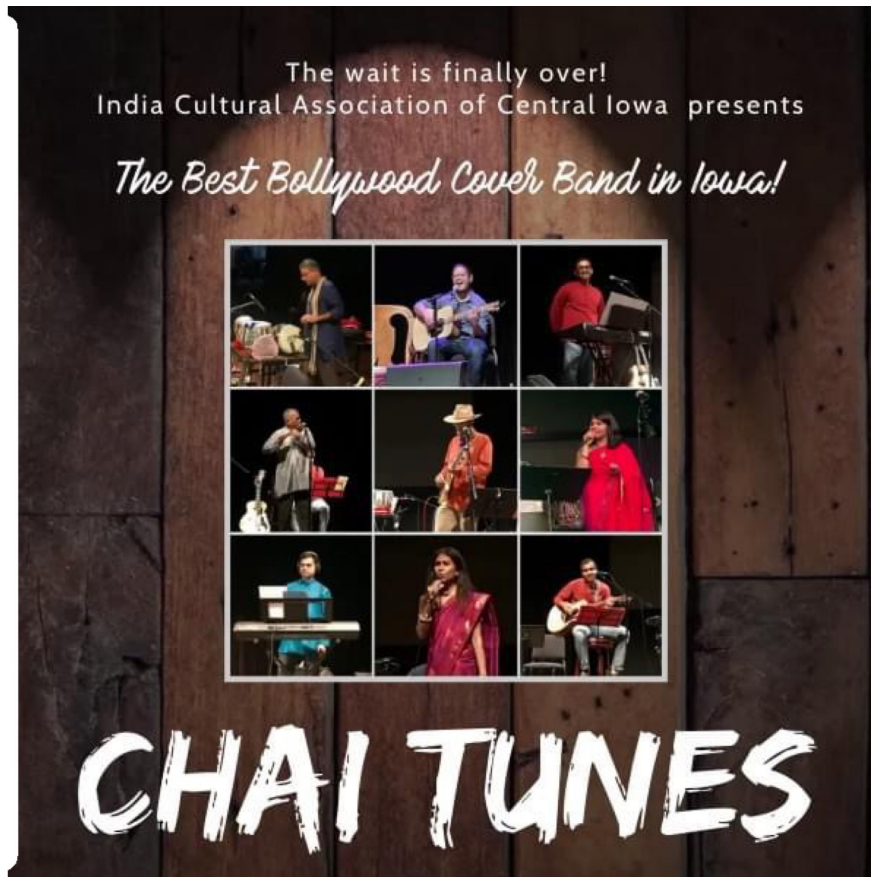
April, 2, 2023



ICA's Flagship Event was a great success. ICA has been conducting this event since its beginning years and it is the most popular event among ICA members and ISU students. This year ICA showcased a total of 12 performances. Among the performers were ICA members, ISU students, and local community members. The event was well attended and the total RSVP count for the event was 165. Dinner was served after the cultural programs. This event was free for the entire Ames community to attend. Our special Thanks to Dr. Suresh Kothari, Rema Nilakanta, Sree Nilakanta, and Sekar Raju for their valuable time and support. A shout-out to our awesome Emcees, Durga Sritharan (ISU), and Kritika Sharma (Ames High School). Thanks to the Engstrom family for bringing yummy cupcakes for kids!

Chai Tunes

May, 7, 2023



Chai Tunes is another popular event for our community. Around 180 people from the Ames, Ankeny, and Des Moines area joined this musical event. This event was also free and open admission to the Ames community and beyond. Chai Tunes group identified three local organizations (ChildServe, Gateway Dance Theater, and Food At First) where they donated all the money raised through donations for the event.

Father's Day Treat

June 17-18, 2023



ICA members received a sweet surprise over the Father's Day weekend. The ICA Executive Committee is grateful for all the love and warmth our community reciprocated over the year. This was our humble attempt to show our appreciation to all the fathers, and father-like-friends in our ICA community.

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Gilbert Cultural Fair, April 28, 2023
@Gilbert High School

“Thank you so so so much for all the work you put into the Culture Fair this year. The booths were amazing and I was impressed by the games, activities, and displays you created. Thank you so much to the India Culture Association and the Irish Performance Team for joining us.”

-Lisa Burianek

(ELL Teacher and Culture Club Coordinator for Gilbert Schools)

Kid's Corner



**Anika Shrotriya
(Sophomore, Ames High)
with her Photograph
displayed at the 2023 Des
Moines Art Festival Student
Exhibit**

**A canvas painting by
TJ, 5th grade
@Kate Mitchell Elementary**



**Village Paintings by Divija Roy, 4th grade
@Fellows Elementary**

Great Work By Our Community Members

Chai Across Generations

Nikil and Shankar

Dr. Shankar Subramaniam has embarked on this great journey of bridging the cultural and generational gaps among South Asians through his podcast. Chai Across Generations is a podcast featuring two friends a generation apart, Nikil and Shankar, as they explore a new topic each episode to better understand - and maybe even bridge - the gap between generations of South Asians.



The Manaloni Manishi Foundation (MMF)

Vijay Kalivarapu

Founded as a non-profit organization based in Des Moines and run by like-minded volunteers, the MMF raises funds to cater to the evolving financial needs of deserving students ranging from middle school through college, farmers that need capital for their farms, and families to establish means of self-sustenance after they lost an earning loved one. While these services are primarily rendered in India, the MMF performs several volunteer activities and runs programs in the US as well.



Feedback From Other Local Community Leaders

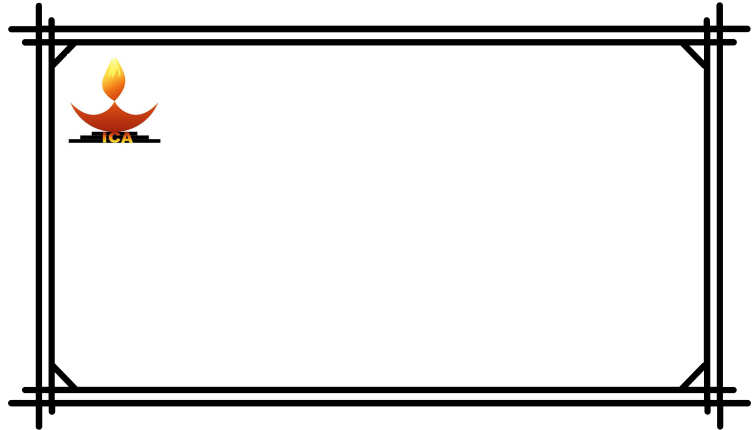
"United Way of Story County was delighted to have the participation of ICA in several initiatives this past year. ICA organized a successful Ethnic Clothes Drive, with items shared with the Refugee Alliance of Central Iowa. 3 members of ICA also assisted with the large, annual United Way food drive this spring: Krishna, Rama, and Manu collected and delivered hundreds of pounds of food to local emergency food programs, doing so with great energy and humor! Under the leadership of Manu Agnihotri, ICA also participated in the Story County Immigrant and Refugee Collaboration (SCIRC). SCIRC member organizations appreciated getting updates and invite to various cultural events in the Ames community. We hope for continued partnership. Thank you!"

-Anneke Mundel, Community Impact Director, United Way of Story County

"In May of 2022, the Ames Community Arts Council was asked to participate in a study that required us to attend a number of arts events throughout the community. The India Cultural Association of Central Iowa became one of our primary partners, helping us to collect over 60 surveys for our report. It was such a treat to attend so many beautiful and informative performances. Each event not only showcased the rich cultural diversity of India but also featured some amazing talent and marvelous food. I especially enjoyed the ICA Talent Nite in April, where we saw people from our own community playing beautiful musical instruments, dancing, and singing. Thank you, ICA, for being such willing and responsive collaborators, and for offering us such a warm welcome each time we attended an event. We look forward to continuing to attend the culturally rich performances you provide for the city of Ames, and will encourage others to do the same."

-Jennifer Brockpahler, Director, Ames Community Arts Council

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Celebrating Thirty Years

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Follow us on FB @IcaAmes, or on Instagram @ica_ames^g or on BOTH!:)

**Please share your suggestions and contributions with us
at contactus@icaiowa.org**

**Thank you to the City of Ames - Commission on the Arts and
Discover Ames for their continued support through their grants.**



AmesTM
COMMISSION ON THE ARTS

