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Printed & Published By
Greater Carolina Kerala Association

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Printed at

Media Relations
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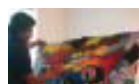
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Message

It gives me immense pleasure to know that Kerala Association in North Carolina is bringing out a souvenir in connection with its Onam Celebrations 2011.

I wish a happy and prosperous Onam for the Malayalee Community in North Carolina, I hope that the social and cultural activities of the association will continue more vigorously to benefit the Malayalees there.

I wish all success for the endeavour.

OOMMEN CHANDY

Shri. Jeyakumar V. S.
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editorial

Ajmel Kottai
Chief Editor



GCKA യുടെ 2010-11 ലെ motto ആയിരുന്നു 'Inspire and Enrich (Inspire the youth and Enrich the culture)'.

ഈ ഉദ്ദേശം സഫലീകരിക്കാൻ വേണ്ടി തുടങ്ങിയ പുതിയ സംരഭമാണ് GCKA പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണമായ കരോലിന മലയാളി . എല്ലാ വർഷങ്ങളിലും ക്രിസ്മസ് അനുബന്ധിച്ച് ഇറക്കി വരുന്ന GCKA മെമ്പർ ഡയറക്ടറിയാണ് ഈ വർഷം മുതൽ കെട്ടിലും മട്ടിലും മാറ്റങ്ങൾ വരുത്തി ഒരു പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണ രൂപത്തിൽ ഇറക്കുന്നത്. പുതിയ ബോർഡ് പ്രവർത്തനം തുടങ്ങുന്ന ആദ്യ മാസങ്ങളിൽ തന്നെ ഇറക്കിയിരുന്ന മെമ്പർ ഡയറക്ടറി ഓണം സമയത്തേക്ക് മാറ്റിയതോടെ GCKA യുടെ അംഗങ്ങൾക്കും കുടുംബങ്ങൾക്കും അവരുടെ സാഹിത്യകലാ രചനകൾ പങ്കുവക്കാൻ കൂടുതൽ എളുപ്പമായി തീർന്നിരിക്കുകയാണ്. കരോലിന മലയാളി ന്യൂസ് ലെറ്റർ രൂപത്തിൽ മൂന്നു ലക്കങ്ങൾ ഈ വർഷം പുറത്തിറങ്ങി. ഇതാദ്യമായി മാഗസിൻ രൂപത്തിൽ ഇപ്പോൾ പുറത്തിറങ്ങുകയാണ്. ഇതൊരു തുടക്കം മാത്രമാണ്. വരും വർഷങ്ങളിൽ കൂടുതൽ ഭംഗിയോടെ, അംഗങ്ങളുടെ സജീവ പങ്കാളിത്തത്തോടെ കരോലിന മലയാളി പുറത്തിറങ്ങുമെന്ന് പ്രത്യാശിക്കട്ടെ .

ഈ സംരംഭത്തിൽ ഞങ്ങളോടൊപ്പം പങ്കാളികളായ ഏവർക്കും പ്രത്യേകം നന്ദി അറിയിക്കുന്നു. മുഖചിത്രവും മറ്റു ചിത്രങ്ങളും വരച്ച് ഈ മാഗസിൻ ഇത്ര ഭംഗിയുള്ള ഒന്നാക്കിയ വിമൽ കുമാറിന് പ്രത്യേകം നന്ദി പറയട്ടെ.

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We Wish You a Very Happy Onam

MESSAGE FROM THE GCKA PRESIDENT



Jeyakumar V. S
President

The purpose of GCKA association is to promote and facilitate the cultural, educational, social and economic welfare of the Greater Carolina Keralite community and the surrounding community at large.

This year has been a phenomenal year in the history of GCKA, as this association has undertaken many new initiatives to take the association to a higher level. GCKA membership has been gradually growing from the beginning with increased inflow of Malayalees to RTP/Triad areas. This has prompted the current GCKA BOD not to limit GCKA activities in organizing Christmas, Onam, Social, Picnic and screening of movies. After long deliberations, we decided on 'Inspire and Enrich' to be our motto for 2010-2011. New initiatives were conceived which conforms to our slogan to inspire and enrich the community as a whole.

This BOD has started numerous new activities like Malayalam classes for the benefit of the children of our community members, newsletter series to precipitate talents in our community, a library for Malayalam books with a collection of around 50 books for the benefit of some of us to keep in touch with our language and culture, a souvenir for enriching and encouraging talents in our community, taking GCKA Youth Forum to the next level by channelling their energy to the development and upliftment of society at large through participation in numerous volunteer activities, started to redesign GCKA web site for better look and feel and user experience.

All these were only possible, with a lot of help and assistance from all BOD members and their families and the overwhelming support from our beloved sponsors and volunteers. I am very proud and feel lucky to lead a very cooperative and cohesive group of dedicated friends who helped us to perform consistently well through our tenure.

Going forward GCKA should also work for the benefit of our younger generation. GCKA members are encouraged to contact GCKA BOD for any programs which improves the skills of our younger generation like, availability of internships, dance and skit lessons, volunteer to coach sports, volunteer to provide supplementary lessons for those who need, information on various networking opportunities, etc. I like to propose a GCKA fraternity, to explore and attract opportunities through some of our eminent citizens of our community as well as from surrounding communities at large, under the guidance of GCKA BOD, thus providing career enriching opportunities for our youth and other members in need.

Language is the single most thread joining people from different religion, belief, and back ground. Educating our growing generation in our mother tongue Malayalam, will improve the unity and cohesiveness of our community. I would recommend members to take advantage of this opportunity and support this effort by continuing Malayalam classes diligently in the coming years as well.

I take this occasion to extend my sincere thanks and well wishes to GCKA BOD members and their families, Sponsors of GCKA and their families, GCKA volunteers, choreographers, performers and all members of GCKA.

Wishing all of you a Happy Onam. May God Bless all of us. Thank you.

Jeyakumar V. S
President



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GCKA 2010-2011 Annual Report

GCKA 2010-2011 committee officially took charge on September 26th, 2010 selecting VS Jeyakumar as President, Kuruvilla Kurian as Vice President, Smitha Krishna as Secretary and Binny Joseph as Treasurer. Joy Viswanath and Shiny B Puthuparambil volunteered to lead cultural program-event coordination. Babu Kuttiath, Madhu Kondath took charge to lead food and supplies coordination Ajmel Kottai took charge of scheduling and running Malayalam movies.

The following week, the new committee met at VS Jeyakumar's residence and deliberated on GCKA motto and initiatives for the upcoming year. All of us agreed on giving more importance to the younger generation of the community and hence decided to have one person dedicated to coordinate Youth Forum activities. Kuruvilla Kurian, Vice President volunteered to take the reins of GCKA Youth Forum. We also decided to bring up more changes in the association activities with more focus on enhancing the cultural and literary talents in our community and decided to release a Souvenir along with the member's directory during the Onam celebration in September 2011, instead of during the Christmas celebrations in December 2010. Binny Joseph volunteered to coordinate the Malayalam class initiative and Ajmel Kottai volunteered to be the Editor of GCKA Newsletter series and Souvenir in addition to his movie coordination role. We also decided to run a Malayalam library and revamp the GCKA web site for more user friendliness, improved functionalities and better design features.

Christmas


GCKA celebrated Christmas 2010 with more glory and pomp. Programs were richer in quality and excellent in theme, than witnessed to-date. Celebrations started with a sumptuous Christmas lunch for very reasonable cost and had 4 hours of high quality programs performed by talented members of GCKA. The cultural programs were inaugurated by lighting of the Christmas tree by one of the senior members of GCKA - Dr. T V Oomen. The release of GCKA Calendar



and the first edition of the GCKA newsletter 'Carolina Malayali' were also done at this occasion. GCKA President V S Jeyakumar presented the new policy initiatives of the 2010-11 committee to the community.

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The audience were mesmerized by the opening musical-dance program, named "Bethlehemile Oru Rathri". Around 40 singers, dancers and other performers participated in this grand opening. Total 24 programs were performed by around 100 artists. There was a record crowd turn-up than previous years, even with adverse weather conditions and a different venue from past years (Athens Drive High School, Raleigh). The program ended with a very exciting finale taking all of us to a traditional Kerala village atmosphere with nadan Carol music, skit and dance. Most of the people attended the event commented that they have never seen such a lively, excellent and more Kerala traditional Christmas event.

Social

GCKA Annual Social Night was held on May 7th 2011. This was a free event open to all GCKA members. The Social Night provided an opportunity for longtime community members to catch up with each other and also a great occasion for new members to meet and socialize with other Malayali families in the Triangle area. The GCKA Youth group entertained the crowd with a glamorous fashion show put together by them as a fund raising event. The 'Madhurikkum Malayalam' contest conducted by George Joseph also provided lot of entertainment and fun. The following day being Mother's Day, the event also included a brief celebration to recognize motherhood. Children recited



a poem honoring mothers and all were given flowers and chocolate to present to their moms. More than 300 members and families attended this year's social event. Free Dinner and snacks were served throughout the evening.

Picnic

Continuing the tradition, GCKA organized an annual summer picnic at Apex Community Park on July 9th 2011. This outdoor event started out with carnival games for children conducted by the Youth group and card games for adults. Community members worked together to prepare, grill, and serve delicious summer fare including chicken, veggie

patties, water melon and more. The highlight of the day was a series of closely contested tug-of-wars between women, men, and children's teams. The



participation of GCKA Youth Forum members was another highlight of this years picnic.

Malayalam Movies

During 2010-11, GCKA has decided to allow free entry for the Youth members to all Malayalam movies.

All children of GCKA members who are 18 and below were given free pass to all movies screened by GCKA. The primary reason for this decision was to attract more families to watch Malayalam movies along with their children. Watching good quality Malayalam movies will implicitly enhance the language skills of our budding youth.

This initiative conforms to this year motto 'Inspire and Enrich'. This initiative has proved to be a great success. The overall viewership of Malayalam movies during this year has increased with more families coming to watch movies.

The following movies were screened during 2010-11:

1. Katha Thudarunnu (Free for all GCKA members)

2. Elsamma enna Aankutty
3. Pranchiyettan and The Saint
4. Kandahaar
5. Best Actor
6. Akkarakaazhchakal
7. Merikkundoru Kunjadu
8. Seniors

Except for Best Actor and Seniors, all other movies had a viewership of more than 100 adults. With the help of our sponsors, we were able to continue to keep low ticket rates of \$6.

Newsletter

A contest was organized to name the GCKA newsletter. The name 'Carolina Malayali' was selected from the various entries, which was suggested by Mr. Joe Mathews. There were three editions for the newsletter during 2010-11, and we also published an Onam Souvenir edition in September 2011. The GCKA BOD acknowledges all the contributors for these editions, including the Souvenir. GCKA sincerely thanks all our sponsors and advertisers for our Onam Souvenir.



Malayalam Library

As part of the literary and cultural enrichment initiative, a new Malayalam book library was introduced this year. Members were urged to contribute their books that they already have completed reading and are of no use to them anymore. New books were also added to the catalogue. A policy was introduced to keep aside a small sum for purchasing new books. Special thanks to Mr. P O James who had donated around 40 books to the library.

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GCKA YOUTH FORUM ANNUAL REPORT 2010-11



Motto : "Enrich, Inspire and Serve"

GCKA community has grown over the years and so did the youth of the GCKA community. They are an inspiring group of teenagers, whose enthusiasm and energy has helped us to formally recognize them as an integral part of GCKA. Youth group was formed during the previous BOD under the guidance of Jimmy Pazhoor. The current BOD formally recognized the group as 'GCKA Youth Forum' and helped coordinate the youth activities by assigning Kuruvilla Kurian, GCKA Vice President as the GCKA BOD Youth Convener. Jimmy Pazhoor stayed on during the current year as the Parent Representative. The youths selected four energetic young leaders from them as Youth Coordinators for 2010-11 as listed below:

- Sruthi Pisharody
- Winston George
- Reshma Thomas
- Justin Andrews

These young leaders have organized all the activities throughout the year till they handed over to the next group of leaders whom they helped to select. The dedication and hard work of these four youth coordinators has inspired the BOD and the whole community who supported them fully during their tenure. The Youth group successfully completed several projects this year including:

- Ronald McDonald dinner serving project
- Stop Hunger Now project
- Fund raising for Poornima's health care expenses
- Spring Daze Festival Fund raising project
- Fashion show during Social night
- Developed policies and procedures for selecting future youth leaders



Ronald McDonald House - Dinner Serving project

Ronald McDonald House in Durham, provides a "home away from home" for families of critically ill children by keeping families together who are in need of a community of hope, comfort, and empathy. Our Youth Volunteers were very excited to cook for the families of these critically ill children who need the support and care from the community. They cooked home cooked meals on two occasions to feed the families who stayed there. The inmate families were so impressed with the youth and the food they cooked, that they urged the youth volunteers and their adult mentors to come back and cook some Indian food for them. Honoring their wishes the youth went back a second time in June '11 and cooked Biryani for them. It was a very rewarding experience for the youth volunteers, who appreciated the opportunity they got to serve these needy families.

Stop Hunger Now - Meals Packing project

Stop Hunger Now is an international hunger relief agency that has been fulfilling its commitment to end hunger for more than 12 years. Since 1998, SHN

Million Meals program provided over fifteen million packaged meals for the hungry. The evening of Wednesday, January 26, 2011 found a group of GCKA Youth and their parents in Durham's Southern High School's crowded cafeteria with 300 volunteers all working toward the same lofty goal: to feed the world. January 26th event in Durham was only one of scores of such events nationwide that contribute to this amazing tally. The GCKA Youth volunteers joined the NCCU and Duke students to pack total of 64,500 packaged meals that could feed 387,000 children around the world.

Fund raising for Poornima's health care expenses

The Youth Forum was very creative in raising funds for Poornima. They successfully raised \$127.75 from the Malayalee community who came for the movies and the entire community was very satisfied



in their efforts to support a just cause.

We are happy to note that Malayalee communities all over the world had contributed to this cause, and the surgery had been successful. It is reported that Poornima is inching towards recovery.

Spring Daze Festival Fund raising project

GCKA Youth enjoyed the day of April 30th, filled with sunshine and cheer at the Cary Spring Daze festival under the leadership of Reshma Thomas, Justin Andrews, Winston George and Sruthi Pisharody selling authentic Indian Food sponsored partially by Sitar India Palace, as part of a major fund raising initiative to support the Youth Forum activities. The youth demonstrated excellent team work and promoted their traditional menu with a smile and enjoyed raising the funds they needed for the year long activities. The youth were fully supported by the GCKA community in this endeavor.

Fashion show at Annual Social

This year's social was very colorful when the young and beautiful, both boys and girls, took to the runway adorned in glittering colors of their traditional



and non-traditional wears. The social gathering came alive out of their sleepy routine when our youngsters hit the stage. It was a very refreshing experience for youth and adults.

Developed policies and procedure for selecting youth leaders

In spite of their busy schedule in organizing fun and creative activities, the Youth forum leaders developed the operational policies and procedures for the selection of the next generation of Youth leaders. 2010-11 Youth leaders selected the youth leaders for the 2011-2012 Youth Forum Executive leadership, before the annual social and announced them during the social event, thus ensuring a smooth transition. The new executive leadership for 2011-2012 is listed below:

- Ann Lalsen
- Amanda Mathew
- Hari Joy
- Joseph George.

The GCKA BOD was very happy to congratulate and honor this year's Youth Forum leaders in their excellent achievements and success. 2010-2011 was a very colorful, active and eventful year for the GCKA Youth Forum.

GCKA Youth Committee



Youth Forum Executive Committee (2011-12) with Jimmy Pazhoor and Kuruvilla Kurian
Standing from left Jimmy Pazhoor, Joseph George and Kuruvilla Kurian
Sitting from left Amanda Mathew, Hari Joy and Ann Lalsen



Youth Forum Executive Committee (2010-11) with Kuruvilla Kurian
Kuruvilla Kurian, Wilson George, Justine Andrews, Sruthi Pisharody and Reshma Thomas



A Commitment of Spirit, Pride and Service in Our Community

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മലയാള പഠനക്ലാസിന്റെ



ശ്രീഗുരു കരോലിനാ കേരള അസ്സോസിയേഷൻ അതിലെ അംഗങ്ങളുടെ കുട്ടികൾക്കായി ആരംഭിച്ച മലയാള പഠന ക്ലാസിന്റെ ആദ്യവർഷ അവലോകനം.

അസ്സോസിയേഷന്റെ ബോർഡ് ഓഫ് ഡയറക്ടേഴ്സിന്റെ തീരുമാനപ്രകാരം ഈ വർഷം ജനുവരി മാസത്തിലാണ്. ആദ്യമായി മലയാളം ക്ലാസുകൾ ആരംഭിച്ചത്. ഈ ക്ലാസുകളിൽ ചേർന്ന് നമ്മുടെ മാതൃഭാഷ എഴുതാനും വായിക്കാനും പഠിക്കാനും അഭ്യുത്സാഹപൂർവ്വമായ തീരുമാനം അനുഭവപ്പെട്ടത്. കുട്ടികളെ പ്രായമനുസരിച്ച് രണ്ട് ബാച്ചായി തിരിച്ചാണ് ക്ലാസുകൾ നടത്തുന്നത്.

ഒൻപത് വയസ്സുവരെയുള്ള കുട്ടികൾ ആദ്യബാച്ചിലും ഒൻപതിനു മുകളിലുള്ള കുട്ടികൾ രണ്ടാമത്തെ ബാച്ചിലുമാണ് ക്ലാസുകൾ തരം തിരിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നത്. രണ്ട് ബാച്ചിലുമായി അറുപത്തി ആറ് കുട്ടികളാണ് പഠനം ആരംഭിച്ചത്.

മലയാള ഭാഷയുടെ ആദ്യാക്ഷരങ്ങൾ പോലും അറിഞ്ഞു കൂടാതിരുന്ന ഈ കുട്ടികളെ പഠിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള ഭാരമുള്ള ഉത്തരവാദിത്വം ഏറ്റെടുത്ത് അസ്സോസിയേഷനിലെ അംഗങ്ങളായ ജോർജ്ജ് ജോസഫും റെജിമോൾ ജോർജ്ജുമാണ്. കേരളത്തിലെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസക്രമമനുസരിച്ച് മലയാള പാഠാവലിയുടെ ഒന്നാം ഭാഗം മുതൽ ആണ് പഠിപ്പിച്ചു തുടങ്ങിയത്.

എല്ലാ ശനിയാഴ്ചകളിലും ഉച്ചകഴിഞ്ഞ് രണ്ടു മുതൽ

വാർഷിക റിപ്പോർട്ട്

നാലു വരെയാണ് ക്ലാസുകൾ നടത്തുന്നത്. ക്യാരി, എപ്പക്സ് സിറ്റികളുടെ കമ്മ്യൂണിറ്റി സെന്ററുകളും ലൈബ്രറികളുമാണ് ഇതിനായി ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നത്. ഈ ക്ലാസുകൾ ക്രമമായി നടത്തിക്കൊണ്ടു പോകുന്നതിൽ കോർഡിനേറ്ററായ മി.ബിന്നി ജോസഫും മറ്റ് ബോർഡംഗങ്ങളും കാണിക്കുന്ന താല്പര്യം എടുത്തു പറയത്തക്കതാണ്. ഏറെ ജോലിത്തിരക്കുകൾക്കിടയിലും തങ്ങളുടെ മക്കളെ മാതൃഭാഷ പരിശീലിപ്പിക്കാൻ മാതാപിതാക്കൾ പ്രകടിപ്പിക്കുന്ന താൽപര്യം ഏറെ പ്രശംസനീയമാണ്.

ഒരക്ഷരം പോലും അറിയാതെ പഠനം ആരംഭിച്ച നമ്മുടെ കുട്ടികൾക്ക് ഇപ്പോൾ ചെറിയ വാക്കുകളും വാചകങ്ങളും എഴുതാനും വായിക്കാനും കഴിയുന്നു എന്നത് അദ്ധ്യാപകരായ ഞങ്ങൾക്ക് വളരെ സംതൃപ്തി നൽകുന്നു.

മിക്ക കുട്ടികളുടെ വീടുകളിലും മലയാളം സംസാരിക്കാറില്ല എന്നത് കുട്ടികളുടെ ഭാഷാപഠനത്തിൽ തടസ്സമാണെന്നത് ഇത്തരൂണത്തിൽ പറയട്ടെ. വീടുകളിൽ സംസാരഭാഷ മലയാളമാക്കുന്നത് നമ്മുടെ കുട്ടികളുടെ ഭാഷാപഠനത്തിൽ ഏറെ സഹായിക്കുമെന്ന് സ്നേഹപൂർവ്വം ഓർമ്മിപ്പിക്കുന്നു.

നമ്മുടെ ഭാഷയും സംസ്കാരവും നമ്മൾ ഏവിടെയായിരുന്നാലും മറന്നുകൂടാ. ഞാൻ മലയാളിയാണെന്നും മലയാളം എന്റെ മാതൃഭാഷയാണെന്നും നാമും നമ്മുടെ കുട്ടികളും അഭിമാനത്തോടെ പറയണം.

