



CAROLINA MALAYALI

A GCKA PUBLICATION

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GCKA – The Socio Cultural cornerstone of the NC Malayalee

The Malayalee has been at the forefront of migration out of the Indian subcontinent in the modern era, starting with an influx to the Gulf in the major part and to the others regions of the Globe in a more steadfast manner. This has led to a sea change in the socio-politico and economic structure of the state of Kerala as a whole and the lives of Malayalees everywhere. The Malayalee has become more Global, yet the desire and tendency to hold onto, to nourish the cultural roots, to retain a semblance of tradition has become stronger.

As we celebrate the 25th anniversary of GCKA, it should remind us all, of the tremendous sense of belonging, the organization has been able to bring to all of us. A beacon of our community, built ground up by a group of founding members, whose aspirations to build a robust and vibrant platform for the Malayalee diaspora in the state of North Carolina, has borne fruit and how!!!

As a social and cultural forum with a wide mandate, ranging from assisting, entertaining and educating the resident Keralite community, GCKA has more than delivered. It has delivered where it matters most, bringing people together. New relationships

formed, older ones renewed and foundations laid for new ones yet to form.

The Annual Christmas, Onam, Social and Picnic programs, the weekly Malayalam Classes, Malayalam Library, Malayalam Movies, Youth forum and related activities, the sporting contests – Volleyball, Badminton and all others are simple enough events with far reaching significance. The complex web of volunteers from the community, the organizers, the sponsors all work with sense of purpose to turn up an event, which would remind us of how things were back home.

The Cultural events bring to all of us a sense of familiarity. Far away from the homeland, participating and engaging as a family, bringing to the fore programs, which mirror life in the Land of Mahabali, the importance of these events and its impact on the past, present and future generations cannot be discounted. They unequivocally state the fact that we are proud “Keralites”....

The effort to promote Malayalam as a language, via all media is important to impart to tie in the youth of today to the fabric of the great state of Kerala.

The sports events are recognition of the fact that Kerala as a traditional Indian sporting powerhouse, has a few sporting disciplines which are very dear to every Keralites.

This wide-ranging concoction of activities and events amply demonstrate why GCKA as a socio cultural organization is of unparalleled importance to each and every one of us. The familiarity, the excitement and the sense of commitment, which flames up in us, one time or the other as a participant, volunteer or organizer drives a special tempo in all our lives.

As we gear up for the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the GCKA, we hope everyone will take a step back, view the growth of the Organization with pride, look back fondly at all the memories created by the efforts of countless fellow Keralites and most importantly look forward to working together in charting a unique identity and a path to success for all of us.

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"Every view of the world that becomes extinct, every culture that disappears, diminishes a possibility of life."

K

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GCKA celebrated the 2012 Xmas on December 8th, 2012.

Various cultural events such as Fusion Dances, Oppana, Skit, Solo songs, and a grand opening and closing ceremony marked the event. The program started with American National Anthem followed by Indian National Anthem lead by Malayalam Class students. Around 700 people attended the event that was hosted in Green Hope High School, in Cary. Delicious Indian fare was in keeping with the past tradition of the event. The Annual Malayalam GCKA calendar for 2013 was also distributed to all of its members. Christmas program was also a time to meet and greet friends, and to forge new bonds.

The event was a huge success with tremendous support from members, volunteers, and sponsors. The program. We had some great positive feedback, as well as some feedback on improving the program. We use the feedback to bring improvements to the table for the subsequent programs in the year. The GCKA Xmas 2012 program was telecast on MCN Television on March 17th, 2013.

GCKA SOCIAL

GCKA will be hosting a social evening on June, 1st, 2013 Saturday at Green Hope High School. GCKA will celebrate the 25th year anniversary on this occasion. GCKA is decided to bring a Music and Comedy show during the social evening. Denson Kalabhavan, Comedy Star fame Susheelam will be performing on stage along with a couple of other artists. GCKA is also decided to invite all our founding members to this event. Social evening will be fun with Music, skit, and food. The event is only for members of GCKA.



GCKA Senior Forum

GCKA decided to organize a senior forum for all elders within our community. All senior members aged 55 and above are welcome to join this forum. We held our first meeting of seniors on April 6th, Saturday at 3PM in Cary Senior Center. The next gathering will be on Saturday, May 4th.

We hope that having an active senior community within GCKA helps the organization to grow to the next level, by utilizing the tremendous wealth of knowledge experience they bring to the forefront. We also wanted to create various opportunities for our senior members to come together, be active within the community and add an additional dose of zing in their day.

Malayalam Class

The weekly Malayalam Classes organized by the GCKA, led by a motivated group of teachers is a testimony to the drive that all the parents and teachers possess, to ensure that their children retain touch with their roots and also set them up to connect with their culture a lot more easily.

The ability to read, write and speak out Mother tongue will help genNext to communicate with parents, grandparents and relatives on travels back to India. Studies also shows that learning an additional language could help student to perform

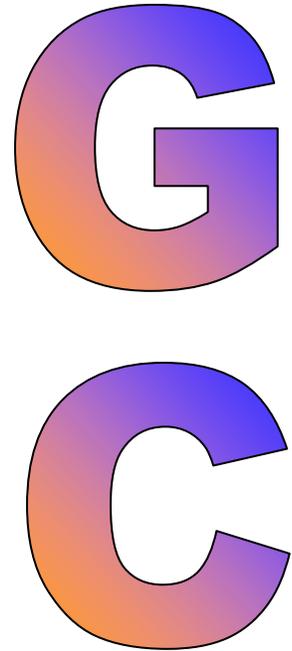
much better in other subject areas like Math, and Science.

GCKA will be launching a new Malayalam Class during this spring for all those who are interested to learn Malayalam. GCKA is working with Malayalam Mission of Kerala Government to introduce a new syllabus to learn Malayalam in an easier way. Kanikonna is the new certification course name and soon GCKA will be beginning a new batch to teach the new syllabus and would like to introduce the new course to all current students.

If you would like to learn Malayalam or would like to send your kids to learn Malayalam,



please send an email to sec@gcka.com with the name of the student, contact number of parent/guardian. We are also looking for more volunteers to teach our students. Please email to us, if you are interested to teach.



“We have all known the long loneliness and we have learned that the only solution is love and that love comes with community.”

Malayalam Movie

Kammath & Kammath
GCKA presented blockbuster movies Kammath & Kammath starred by Mammotty & Dileep during March 22 to March 26 2013 at Carmike Theater Raleigh. After closing of Galaxy Theater, it was hard to find out a theater that allows us to host a movie in the regular GCKA format. Finally we decided to

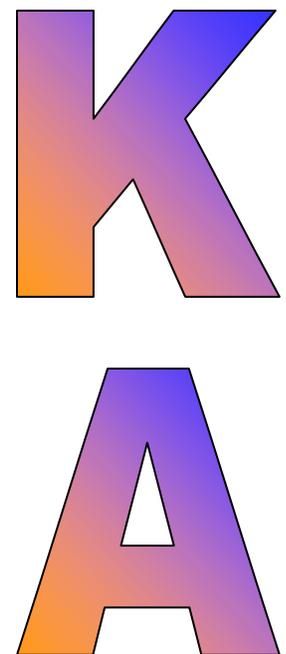
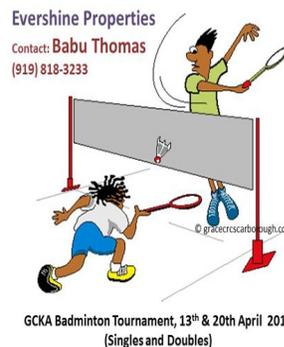
bring a movie for a whole week since that is the minimum number of days required to show a movie. All GCKA members were given the opportunity to watch the movie on a reduced rate on 23rd Saturday, 2013.



Badminton

GCKA will be conducting first annual Badminton tournament on April 13th, Saturday, and on April, 20th Saturday at Sycamore Gymnasium in Bond Park Community Center, Cary. The games are grouped into two categories, Singles and Doubles. Around 18 players are registered for Singles, and around eight teams are regis-

tered for Doubles. The match will begin at 9AM and end by 12 noon. Player will be contacted by GCKA with their scheduled date and time Badminton tournament is sponsored by Babu Thomas of Evershine Properties. GCKA will provide the shuttlecocks for the game.



Smoothie Fundraiser

Date: 05/18/13

GCKA YOUTH is sponsoring its first ever smoothie fundraiser for kids in need; we will donate the money raised to United Way. Please come out support us.



Time: 9.00 A.M.
to 6.00P.M.

Where: 1401 highway 55
Cary, NC, 27519



GCKA YOUTH: SPRING DAZE

Spring is here, and with it comes Easter, flowers, and...the Cary Spring Daze! On April 27th, the town of Cary will be hosting the 20th annual Spring Daze Arts & Crafts Festival at Bond Park from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. As part of the festival, the GCKA Youth will be running a food booth selling classic Indian food. The youth will be serving both vegetable and non-veg. platters, including pakora, fried rice, channa masala, either chicken tikka masala or saag paneer (depending on your platter), naan, and gulab jamun. There will also be samosas, lassi, and cool drinks on sale. This event is a huge fundraiser for the GCKA Youth Forum, and all of the money from the sales will go to the youth for other volunteer projects and fundraisers. Come out and support our youth!



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Silver Jubilee Year



GCKA – Silver Jubilee Year

GCKA celebrates year 2012-13 as the Silver Jubilee year. In 1987 GCKA formed as a formal organization and began organizing various social, cultural programs for the Kerala community in the North Carolina. GCKA decided to celebrate the Silver Jubilee during this year Social at Green Hope High School, Cary and to commemorate the founders of GCKA, and its humble beginning we are also inaugurating a senior forum within GCKA. To know more about GCKA's history, please visit GCKA website.

Silver Jubilee Year



2012-13

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Silver Jubilee Year



VISHU

Vishu is a Hindu festival celebrated across Kerala, usually falling in second week of April. As per the Malayalam calendar it marks the New Year. The auspiciousness of *Vishukkani* – the first sight of the day, is expected to last the entire year.

It is now a tradition for the RTP Hindu Malayalees to rejoice this traditional festival and its merriments in entirety, by gathering at a small location usually the Hindu Temple in Morrisville. This year's Vishu celebrations will be held in Hindu Temple on April 27th.

The group arranges the Vishukkani with all the prescribed items that we use back in homeland like bananas, golden cucumbers (*velliri*), arecanut (*adakka*), betel leaves (*vettilla*), available fruits, lemon, raw rice along with metal mirror, golden ornaments and Kerala's state flower *Kanikonna*. A lighted *Nilavilakku* will also be placed along with all these items in front of Lord Krishna.

Kids will conduct *bhajans* and will receive *Vishu Kaineettam* from the most elder person in the group. *Vishusadya* is a symbol of cooperation and teamwork in all aspects since it's conducted in a potluck manner where in every family brings a pre-agreed vegetarian *Sadya* dish. The *Vishusadya* is conducted in all its opulence with a multitude of traditional items like:- *olan, kaalan, thoran, koottukari, aviyal, home made achaars (maanga curry, injipuli, naaranga curry), pachadi, kitchadi, pappadam, upperi, parippu, sambar, pulissery, rasam, curd, adapradaman, parippu payasam and semiya payasam*, all served on paper *Vaazhayila*. The traditional way of kids and women eating first, and men serving these items (*Sadya vilambal*) wearing dhotis (*Mundu*) gives it a touch of nostalgic Kerala. Finally the night ends with kids enjoying some colorful fireworks. They are let to burst crackers, sparkles, fountains, wheels, flowerpots etc. to remind them of the fabulous time their parents have enjoyed as kids growing up in the homeland of culture rich Malayala naadu.



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

It is with great pride GCKA is presenting this newsletter to the community. We hope that to add more varied articles in the forthcoming editions. We invite GCKA members to send literary articles like stories, poems, write-ups, commentaries etc and paintings, drawings and cartoons. The entries can be either in English or in Malayalam. We will have an announcement section where members can publish birth announcements, wedding anniversaries, graduation news, student achievements etc. We also invite the community to make use of this newsletter for giving free classified advertisements. We also need news items for the Triangle News section. This can be any type of news that can be useful to the community like employment related news, new laws and regulations in surrounding cities etc.

GCKA Board of Directors and the magazine editorial board reserves its right to accept or reject any entries submitted for publication. Please send all the entries along with your suggestions, comments and appreciations to: sec@gcka.com