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<http://www.kcsmw.org>

Monthly Newsletter – December 2008

From your Editor,

My dear friends,

The leaves lost their golden hue, fallen off from the branches, the nights are getting colder, and there is icy frost in the wake of dawn. Decorations, twinkling lights and carol singing beckon Christmas is near. We had a wonderful Christmas celebrations, fascinating entertainment and sumptuous feast. I am sure you all enjoyed the various cultural events and social and educational activities that KCS put together during this year. You will find photographs from the Christmas celebrations in the pages of this Masika issue. Those who were not able to attend the party will know what you have missed! Soon we will be entering the New Year 2009. This is a special year for all of us here. The new President will take over, and a long time friend of India will be the Secretary of State. The India-US relationship is getting stronger, and our community is doing well amidst all the economic calamities. We all should be thankful to God the Almighty for all the blessings we have received, and be kind and sympathetic to the less fortunate. We should be a community that serves as a role model for others to follow. KCS is getting on passionately in this endeavor, and will continue to do so with the newly elected Executive Committee (you will see elsewhere in this issue).



This will be the last issue of Masika this year. I find no proper word to express the support I received from the readers, words of appreciation and good wishes. I had the privilege of working with very devoted committee members, a caring community that financially supported the Vartha during Onam, and a host of contributors who provided photographs from various occasions, advertisements, and above all taking the time to read and comment.

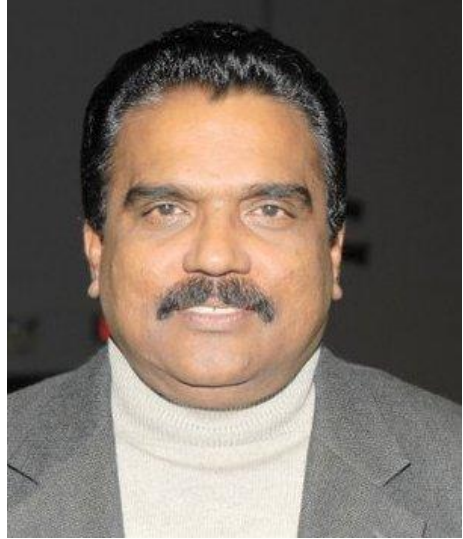
My KCS activity this year would not have been possible without the unfailing assistance I received from Anil Nair. In fact what you have seen in these issues is his trademark! Anil did a fantastic job, and I take this opportunity to thank him. I wish that the Masika will continue as a beacon filling you with the light radiating all the greatness of Kerala, God's Own Country!

I wish you all health and happiness, and a New Year filled with the best that this world can offer!

Regards,
Dr. Gabriel D. Roy
Editor



Farewell.....



Dear Friends:

Year 2008 is coming to an end, so does my position as the President of Kerala Cultural Society of Metropolitan Washington known as KCS. After a year in the service of our association, I shall lay down the responsibilities of the office as of December 31, 2008 and the authority of the Presidency is then vested in my successor.

Let me take this opportunity to express my gratitude to each and every member of KCS, volunteers, patrons, and sponsors for your wholehearted support and help in organizing the events and publishing our souvenir, *Vartha*, during this year. The quality of cultural programs demonstrated the effort, dedication and perseverance of the immensely talented pool of artists in the Washington Metropolitan Region and my heartfelt thanks go to all of them as well as their parents and others who played a role in putting together such programs.

An Executive committee with full of vigor, sincerity, and adeptness has been the force behind this success and I extend my sincere thanks to all for their hard work for making this year a memorable one. KCS has indisputably done an incredible job in expanding its base and has elevated the standard of cultural events by executing the programs without an Emcee stamping a unique style for this kind of program management that would stay with KCS, "Programs on Cruise Control" or PoCC.

Like every other member of KCS, I wish the new President, and all who will labor with him, the best and expect that the new Executive Committee will be resolved to better shape the future of the association. I sincerely hope that the coming year will be blessed with greater opportunities to take the association to the next level with your support.

Here's to the bright New Year, and fond farewell to the old; here's to the things that are yet to come, and to the memories that we hold.

Happy New Year!

Raj Kurup
President, KCSMW

Secretary's Report.....

Dear Friends,

I hope you all had a great 2008, but of course with its ups and downs. I have grown to believe, that is life. So as the year 2008 comes to its end we all are getting ready to greet the New Year with anticipation of better things to come. But I think its equally important to reflect back on what we did this year and appreciate the good effort and learn from the mistakes.



I think 2008 has been very promising and filled with activities for Kerala Cultural Society of Washington Metropolitan (KCSMW). Our cultural year started off with a highly entertaining show "Summer Dreams" on 31st May at University of Maryland, Shady Grove Campus. This program was well appreciated by adults and kids in our Malayalee community. We were able to present a showcase of highly talented local artists.

On June 14th Youth Day was celebrated with a Basketball tournament. Then the next day, the youngsters headed out to Hershey Park. This year the youth has really come forward and are showing unprecedented enthusiasm and energy to participate in the community activities. This is encouraging more people to come out to participate in future events.

Our Onam celebration "Utsav 2008" was on September 14th, which showcased N. Srikanth and his choreography. On the day we released our magazine Vartha that was highly appreciated by everybody for its quality of work. Before the end of summer we also had a day of fun with our other sister associations KAGW and Kairali, the picnic on October 4th. KCSMW also working towards giving back to the society, part of which was the road cleaning effort. KCSMW adopted 'Good Luck Road' and helped clean it twice this year.

The eventful year came to an end with Jingle Bells 2008 on December 13th, which again showcased highly talented local artists.

Please visit our website <http://www.kcsmw.org/pastevents.htm> for more information on these and view photos of the past events. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody who has worked towards making this a successful year for KCSMW. I want to convey special thanks to our editorial team Dr. Gabriel Roy and Anil Nair for their excellent work on Masika, our newsletter every month.

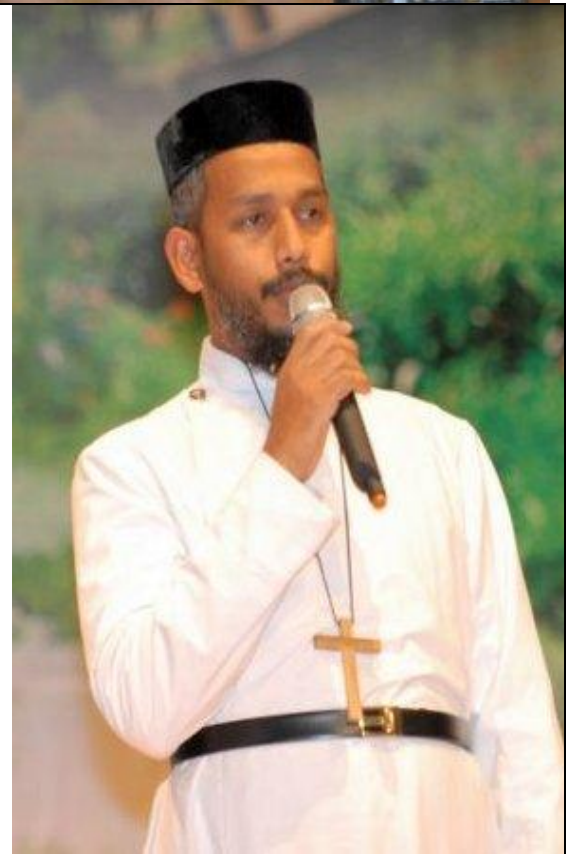
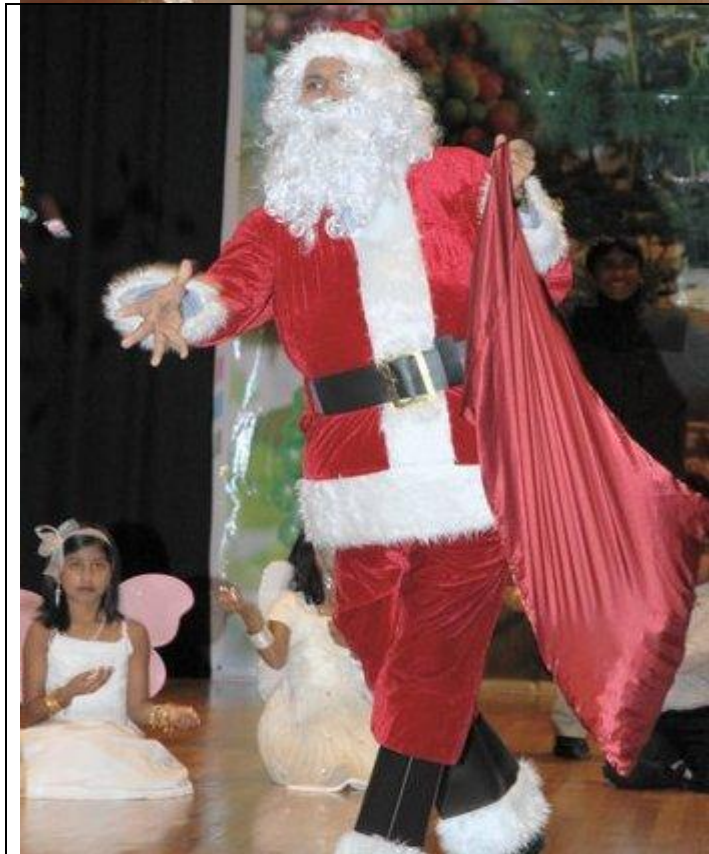
Wishing you all a Merry X'mas and a Happy New Year!

Preethy Raman
KCSMW Secretary

Jingle Bells 2008



Jingle Bells 2008



Jingle Bells 2008



Jingle Bells 2008





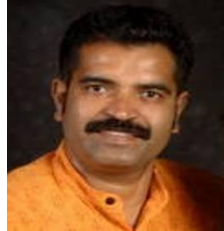
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Anil Nair



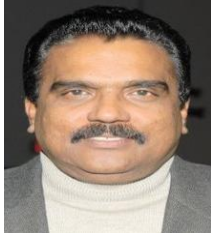
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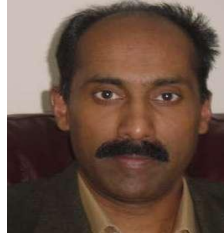
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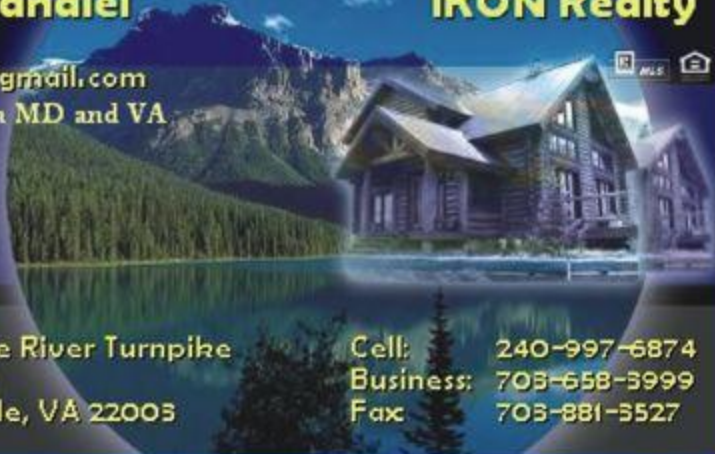
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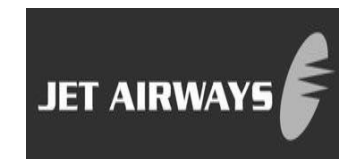
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