

# REFLECTIONS



A Hindu Cultural Center of Albany Hindu Temple Society's Newsletter devoted to the Capital District's Indian-American community particularly its seniors

## Grandparents Day Celebration

By Ram Chugh, Ph.D.

The Hindu Cultural Center (HCC) Board deserves commendation for sponsoring the first Grandparents Day Celebration on Sunday, September 13 from 12 to 5 PM to honor our grandparents. The celebration coincided with the National Grandparents Day in the United States.



Over 200 people attended the event at the HCC, including about 80 grandparents and 120 children and grandchildren. There were also six grandparents from outside the Capital District in attendance. Most of them had come from India to visit their children and grandchildren and happened to be in Albany on the day of the celebration.

The auditorium was decorated for the occasion with a large "Grandparents Day" banner, colorful balloons, flowers, and posters containing pictures of grandchildren and messages written by them to their grandparents. Several people donated money and volunteered their talents toward providing the delicious lunch that was served from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. All of the donors and volunteers deserve our heartfelt thanks.

The atmosphere in the dining hall and in the large auditorium was extremely festive. It was in that inviting environment that Dr. Swatantra Mitta, Chair of the HCC Board, welcomed the participants with a prayer from Temple Priest Sreedhara Acharya, who lit a lamp to commemorate the special occasion. She thanked everyone for coming to the event and highlighted the significance of Grandparents Day and the important role the grandparents play in our lives.

Dr. Manjula Salgam did a wonderful job as emcee for the cultural program portion of Grandparents Day at the HCC. She added magical touches and her personal charm to introduce the artists and various events. The program included a dance recital by a group composed of Aadya Kaushik, Aarya Kaushik, Nidhi Shah, Sia Shah and Nidhi Shah from the Heritage Class. Angana Patel choreographed the dance. Two instrumental music programs, one by Vishvesh and Nitin Obla (a father-son team) and another by Dr. Padma Sripada's team, composed of Leena Gupta, Pankaj Kishore, Ritu Jain and Padma herself, provided several heart-warming tunes and melodies using an impressive variety of instruments. The audience applauded the artists enthusiastically for their flawless performances.

In my remarks, I highlighted the many reasons for celebrating Grandparents Day at the HCC:

- Grandparents are anchors for our families. They connect us with our past and give us hope and inspiration for our future. They pass

on to us religious, cultural, moral, and social values they learned from their own parents and grandparents.

- In particular, they form special bonds with their grandchildren. They share stories of their lives with them, play games, read books, laugh and even cry with them.
- While playing with their grandchildren, grandparents become children again. In the process, they enrich their own lives and those of their grandchildren.
- They also become distant observers of the cycle of life and the passage of time. They think of their own childhood and of their own grandparents.
- There is then a realization that, like their own grandparents who continue to live through them, they will continue to live in the minds and hearts of their grandchildren as well.

I indicated that in his Grandparents Day message, President Barack Obama had said: "On National Grandparents Day, we honor the anchors of our families and recognize the immeasurable ways they enrich our lives." I added that is *exactly* what we were doing at the HCC Grandparents Day Celebration: We were expressing our gratitude to our grandparents as a community.

After my remarks, the children in the audience were asked to come forward and give one red rose to each of the grandparents present as an expression of our collective gratitude.

A highlight of the Grandparents Day celebration was the presence of a 91-year old grandmother, Vidyaben Patel. She was recognized with a standing ovation and a special gift. Another highlight was having Dhruv Patel among us, whose 84th birthday happened to be on September 13<sup>th</sup> – Grandparents Day. Everyone in the audience joined in singing "Happy Birthday to Dhruv" for him. He was given a special birthday gift as well.

Two well-known singers, Sangita Dave from the Capital District and Rajesh Panwar from Mumbai, India, entertained the audience by singing several memorable old Hindi movie songs. They received repeated applause and requests for singing more songs. They responded to every request and brought the Grandparent Day program to its conclusion with Rajesh singing, "Chalo ek bar phir se aajnabee ban jaye hum dono," and Sangita singing "Rahe na rahe hum mehka kareng."

In his closing remarks, Rasik Shah, Secretary of the HCC Board, thanked the singers and other performers, donors, and volunteers for their help in making the first HCC Grandparents Day a big success. He thanked me for being the inspiration behind the Grandparents Day and for my efforts in coordinating this event. The success of the Grandparents Day was due to team effort at its best.

It is hoped that the Grandparents Day Celebration will become an annual event at the HCC.

## Messages

From the grandchildren to their grandparents;  
From the grandparents to their grandchildren;  
From grandparents to their parents and grandparents.

### From Grandchildren Anika and Ishi Khedekar

We love our Nani and Papa because they are so much fun. Going on adventures, especially nature hikes, is one of our favorite things to do with you. Thank you for everything you do for us. We love your yummy cooking and surprises! You are the best Nani and Papa ever! Happy Grandparents Day!! We love you!



Anika and Rishi Khedekar with their grandparents Jayant and Mridula Paranjpe

### POEM: What is a Grandparent?

By Mosi, Jai, Tyee and Kush Clayton\*

A hugger, a kisser, a grandchild misser  
A laugher, a crafter, a fun looker-after  
A trusted adviser, an indulgent surpriser  
A listening ear & fair referee  
A carer, a sharer, a sometimes grey-hairer  
A traveller, talker, & leisurely walker  
A best friend & mentor, a clever inventor  
A thinker, a looker, a cup of tea drinker  
A mender, a sender, a coaxer & lender  
A pleaser, a teaser, affectionate squeezer.

But most of all, we love you more than anything Nanni & Nannu

\* Grandchildren of Ram and Seema Chugh. This poem was read aloud by the grandchildren on the stage.

### What's Not to Love about Our Grandparents?

By: Sahana Shah

Our grandparents are very special to us and are very caring, so what's not to love about them?



To start with, Dadi is an amazing educator. She is very smart. She is really helpful to me when I need help on my homework. I like to talk to her about what I am learning in school because she was a teacher. She tells my sister, my cousin, and me

L-R: Sahana, Annika, Greyson, Maxwell, Tovah (grandchildren of Rasik and Hansa Shah)

stories about her childhood and about our dads. She is easy to talk to and is always smiling. Dadi is also a great cook and always makes all of the grandkids favorite foods. She teaches all of us how she makes some of her dishes and gives our parents her recipes.

Dada is a jolly man who always greets our family with a smile and a lot of hugs.

He cares about us a lot and always makes sure that we are doing okay, which is why we call and FaceTime each other whenever we can. When we see each other, we play games together and we do his Sudoku puzzles together. My cousins and I play monopoly with him on holidays. We all like to play cards together during family gatherings. He loves all of us a lot and is extremely thoughtful, just like Dadi.

### What Do My Grandparents Mean to Me?

By Ishan Ahuja\*



My grandparents have had a short, yet long-lasting influence on my life.

I first got to know my grandparents as a little baby, when my grandma came all the way from India to help take care of my mom and me when I was born. From that point on, I feel that I have established a special bond with my grandma. I was her first grandchild and I know she always has a special place in her heart for me. I always love to learn from her and listen to the enlightening stories she tells. I will always remember her for her caring ways, giving nature, and smile on her face.

My grandfather, on the other hand, has been the one I can connect with as we are both December born and have only two days between our birthdays, so I feel we are very similar in nature. Somehow, he always finds a way to diffuse

a situation and lighten up the mood with his incredible humor and sarcasm, but knows when to stop if it goes too far. He is very honest, sincere, and also a little naïve, which I believe has also rubbed off on me, and is good. Health conditions and a few physical limitations have deterred him from visiting us too often.

On my father's side of the family, I have not gotten to know my grandparents very well. My paternal grandad unfortunately died in a car accident before my parents were married. When I listen to the stories of him that my dad tells me, I know that he was well educated and a good man. I would have definitely liked to meet and get to know him. I have not had much experience with my paternal grandmother, as I have only seen her a few times in my life for short periods of time. I do know for a fact though she is a great cook (as we both like spicy food!). I also love to listen and learn from the stories she tells me about my dad, aunt, and uncle every time she visits us. She is lively and loves watching movies.

Overall, all of my grandparents have had an impact on my life. They are always eager to know what I am up to, even with the long distance barrier keeping us physically apart. They always encourage me to pursue my dreams, and stress on honesty and simplicity. They have always shared their wisdom through their stories and advice. They provide me with direction and guidance in life, and their character traits have rubbed off on me. I am sure they will help me become a better person towards my family, my friends, and my community. I am truly grateful to be blessed with these wonderful grandparents and appreciate what they have done and continue to do for my family and me.

\* Ishan goes to Shaker High School and is in grade 9. ■

### Our Grandchildren Provide Such a Meaning to Our Life by Rasik Shah



We have five grand children (3 girls and 2 boys (twins)). My wife Hansa and I cherish them and consider an honor to be their "Dadi" and "Dada". Whenever we meet them in person, those excited words of

Rasik and Hansa Shah

greetings from them bring immense joy to both of us. We consider them our little angels.

Until very recently, we were able to see them frequently by planning our trips to Philadelphia and then to Washington, DC. During each trip, we spent several days at each location and enjoyed many joyous hours with the grand children, playing games and doing puzzles with them, taking them out to their favorite amusement areas or play grounds or library, or dinner or ice cream shops. They prefer to spend time with us alone without their parents. On some

occasions, we visit them when their parents have to be away for their own reasons; those unique situations provide us opportunities for even closer interactions with them. Now our older son and his family have relocated to Oregon State, so we will do more Facetime with them plus personal visits.

Their unconditional love and affection for us is a real blessing. We feel very much rejuvenated every time we visit them and understand them even better. They make our retirement years richer and more meaningful.

Rasik & Hansa Shah ■

### We Love Our Grandparents

By Asha, Niki, and Jiya

Patti is a great teacher. She is so creative.

Arts and crafts are what she does best.

We enjoy talking to Patti about science because she used to be a college professor. And she always tells us stories about mom's childhood. She is always a good person - she is never mad, she is always happy. And she says what food is bad and good for us - she makes us healthy.

And you know Thatha is so funny. Did you know that there is a kind of joke named after him? His jokes are better than Dad's.

He is such a happy guy. When we visit him in Albany, he is always waiting outside the door with open arms.



And he truly cares about us, which is why he Facetimes us constantly ☺. He is always so loving and caring. ■



Hans and Vasantha Narsimhan

### What Our Grandparents Mean to Us?

**By Kush, Mosi, Tyee & Jai Clayton**

*You are the best grandparents in my heart. The light is what you are and what you feel like to me.*

*In the whole world, you are the best and special in my heart.*

*I love when you help me do things.*

*I love when Nanu taught me how to tell time.*

*I love when you help me read books.*

*Your hugs are like a cuddly bear hug warm and soft.*

*Your kisses are like butterflies tickling my cheeks.*

*My only wish is that I can be with you for the rest of my life standing right next to you always.*

**Love, Kush**

*When people ask what my grandparents mean to me, I say that they mean everything to me. They support me in anything I do and they always never make me sad.*

*I have so many memories of what they do, but the closest one to me is when Nanu take me to Siena College and stays for a long time my brothers and me to play basketball because he knows how much it means to me.*

*Nani shows me unconditional*

*Love, support, and makes me all my favorite foods (all the time).*

*I will always love them and cherish them.*

**Love Mosi**

*You people are everything to me.*

*You are the best because*

*You spend time with me*

*You listen to me*

*You make me chocolate chip cookies*

*ALL THE TIME*

*You take me places alone*

*You make me Indian Ice Cream*

*You hug me ALL THE TIME*

*You let me sleep in your room when I visit.*

*You let me go for walks with you*

*And most important,*

*Nanu,*

*I love you because you take me to play basketball*

*And Nani,*

*I love you because you make me yummy food &*

*I love both of you because you make me tea.*

**Love, Tyee**

When I think about my grandparents  
I think about the most loving  
People on the planet

My Nani and Nanu are kind

Loving, considerate

Giving, smart, and people who win

The best Nani and Nanu year

Award every year.

They mean more than the world to me

They are like the best two apples

In an orchard.

Are the best two people on the Earth

Nanu's hugs are marshmallows

And

Nanu talks with me soothing

And comforting

They take special time to love me

And understand me

To grow up with them

Have memories with them

And have them with me all the time

Is the best gift ever.

I LOVE YOU NANI AND NANU,

**Love, Jai**

### Grandchildren:

**By Srinivas Mitta**

Being a grandfather of three grandsons and a grand daughter is a blessing and an honor to be called "thatha." Their smiles, laughter and excitement light me up like a sun. Their cute talk make me happy with a smile and laughter. They bring bundle of joy and excitement. They are so adorable that not a single day goes by that I can't think of them. I can't wait for the weekends to visit them and spend time even though 3 hours away from home to drive. My



Swatantra, Srinu Mitta with their granddaughter

weekends are the best that make me happy after working so hard over the week days. I get an opportunity to play tennis, basketball, base ball and other activities with them besides enjoying concerts. They like me to read bed

time stories so they can sleep. I consider them as Devine and God like as my mother used to say. I loved my two sons unconditionally as they grew up but I love my grand children more. It is true we love grand children more because they bring interest with principle. ■

## Memories of our Grandparents

By Sury and Jhansi Putta



We both were raised in large joint families and grew up with many siblings and cousins often exceeding 20 to 25 people in the same house. We have vague memories of our grand parents as they passed away during our childhood. Even our son and daughter only have

vague memories of their grand parents (our parents) as they only visited them when they were very young. We have two grand children who visit us frequently. During their recent visit to attend Hindu Heritage Camp at our Cultural Center, my daughter told my grand children how fortunate they are to have grand parents who love them and care for them. We are sure our grand children will have good memories of spending time with us when they grow up which was not the case with us. We are fortunate that we live in a town that has this beautiful temple and HCC that gave those opportunities to us. Sury and Jhansi Putta ■

### Grandparents:

By Shyam Mohanka

My grandfather passed away before I was born. However, I did spend my childhood with my grandmother. My mother also passed away when I was four years old and therefore, my grandmother was the one with whom I spent my childhood. My memory of my grandmother is as follows:

Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise. She was very particular that I get up on time in the morning and get ready for my breakfast so that I could go to school on time. She also insisted that I must do chores in my home as directed by elders.

Grandchildren (I am grateful to Lord for blessing us with such a wonderful four grandchildren):

Grandchildren are gifts to us from their parents. They are child of our child, heart of our heart and they smile bridges the years between us. We give them our loose change and they give us a million dollars' worth of pleasure.



Shyam and Uma Mohanka with their grandson Jayent ■



### Our Grandchildren and Grandparents:

By Ram Chugh

I adore my grandchildren. They bring smile on my face. While I teach them, I learn from them as well. They have given new meaning to my retirement.



L-R: Mosi, Jai, Tyee, Elo, and Kush with grandparents Seema and Ram

### Grandparents:



My grandfather was a pillar of strength. But he was very strict and stingy. Despite the horrors of the 1947 partition, he showed tremendous courage in adjusting to new life in India. He continues to inspire me when I experience tough situations.

Ram's Paternal Grandfather Sukh Dayal Chugh (1880-1956) ■

## My Grandfather and Father's Messages:

By Ashok Gupta:

My grand father and father's messages:

- Hard Work for a right cause and personal discipline always get rewarded; may be delayed but not never.
- Focus on personal financial discipline, which leads to self respect and self esteem, giving you courage and



confidence to face the challenges of life.

- Be kind and considerate to needy and helpless, who depend upon you. Their blessings may benefit you in many unknown ways through divine power."

Above messages have been my

guiding principles in all my life and I have been benefitted immensely throughout. I wish this to be followed by my kids and grandkids too.

In the picture: L-R: Son Jay, Rita, Ashok Gupta, daughter-in-law Panika with grandson Shivank ■

## A Tribute to My Revered Grandfather - Pandit Baldeo Malaviya

By Bimal Malaviya



My grandfather was a very noble soul - a veritable saint. He became a widower at a very early age and spent his life in selfless service -devotion to duty, to religious pursuits, family and to upholding traditional values with exemplary courage and conviction. His life spanned a period of

unprecedented change for India and the world and he demonstrated a remarkable capacity to move with the times, providing a link to a glorious past with inspiring memories that served as a beacon of hope for the future.

He has left behind a rich legacy of plain living and high thinking, selfless devotion to duty, personal sacrifice, humility, pride in his heritage and adherence to principled beliefs and ideals through courage and conviction, leading a life epitomizing humble dedication to the precepts of our dharma and the Bhagwat Gita. That legacy continues to inspire succeeding generations.

- In fond and respectful remembrance - his eternally grateful grandson Bima ■

## My Grandmother

By Angana Patel

My grandmother's ability to save money helped me imbibe that quality in my life.

Growing up I saw her saving money out of very little income, which helped my grandfather buy a piece of property. I learned that saving money is as good as making money.

My mom learned this (saving money is like making money) from her grandmother, taught it to us as children and we passed it on to our children -- from generation to generation.



In the picture: Angana's Father, Jitendra Desai ( born on September 13 ,1932) Mother Niranjana Desai( born on November 19 ,1933)Sister, Binita Patel ■

## Tribute to My Grandparents

By: Srinivas Mitta

My Grandparents are what made me who I am today. They taught me so much. Not just academics but how to survive and prosper in the new world. They taught me skills that are not only useful now, but will be useful for a long time. My grandparents are not only family, they are my friends. They are like my second parents. Since the day I was born my grandparents have always been by my side, and I have always been by their side. My Grandparents are the best people I know. They are always honest, have a lot of pride, and are very confident in their actions. From them I learned all that they could teach me. Thank you for everything, Grandma and Grandpa

### History of the Grandparents Day

Sunday is National Grandparents Day, a holiday dedicated to all the Nanas and Papas, Grams and Gramps, and Bubbes and Zaydes in the United States. No matter the nickname, grandchildren across the country will take the day to recognize their parents' parents. Grandparents Day started with regional celebrations in the 1960s, but it didn't become official in the U.S. until 1978. Then-president Jimmy Carter established in a proclamation that the first Sunday after Labor Day of each year would be National Grandparents Day.

From: [click here](#)

## Tributes to My Grandparents and Parents

By C.Suryanarayana Rao



I was given the first name of my paternal grandfather who died before I was born. My paternal grandmother was very fair colored, dressed always in nothing but a plain white sari, the dress code for a widow in our brahmin community.

She cooked in the tiny smoke filled kitchen after taking her bath, her sari still wet, on a wood fired stove, for the three joint families of her sons. She was the last one to eat. I never heard her complain except for cursing God for giving her a mentally disabled son who was an adult at that time and behaved inappropriately sometimes.

My maternal grandmother died at the time of my mother's birth.

My maternal grandfather did not remarry. He lived in the same town with his only son's family. He gave us, a group of his grandchildren; word tests in our native language Telugu and narrated mesmerizing stories from the Ramayana and Mahabharatha. He was stiff lipped and grumpy. Whenever he visited our house to see my mom, he complained to her about his son and daughter-in-law not taking care of him.

Mom was brought up by her aunt, till she was school going age after which she lived with her single father. She was married to my father when she was 13. She was the quiet type. She regularly read a Telugu weekly magazine, which had a column similar to 'Dear Abby'. This was my favorite page.

I was the darling of my father. I believe I did not let him down. He was the dominant middle brother in the joint family. He studied up to 12th class and was excellent in English. He was honest, hard working, disciplined, vocal, hot tempered and worldly wise. He was the go-to man who worked out practical solutions for problems involving money or health for relatives and us.



Dr. C.S.Rao's parents ■

## Oldest Grandmother

Vidyaben R. Patel: (07-17-1924)



Daughter, Sister, Mother, Grandmother, Great grandmother. Vidyaben R. Patel has seen her family grow enormously since her birth in the summer of 1924. She was born in a small village called Tarsana near city Vadodara in Gujarat, India. She grew up with 1 brother and 2 sisters, quickly taking on the responsibility of a household after being married at the age of 13. She married to late Raojibhai S. Patel, a freedom fighter, at the age of

13 and quickly involved in fighting for freedom at the age of 18. She and her husband raised a family of 5 sons and 1 daughter. She devoted her life to her family, and because of them, she had a chance to shift permanently in United States in 1985. Since then she lived with her son Indravadan and daughter in law Sangita Patel at a number of places (NC, NJ, MA and now in NY). In United States she was able to enjoy a lifestyle people only dreamed about where she came from. Her own sons and daughter blessed her with 13 grandchildren, of which she has 16 great grandchildren. She has been blessed graciously throughout her life, which she would attest to her strong belief in the Hindu Religion. She practices her religion daily, showing her commitment to what she believes in. These are beliefs instilled in her by her grandparents and parents, and she has passed that along her bloodline. Her values in family, religion, commitment, perseverance, and responsibility are all qualities to be praised and qualities she would advise those younger than her to carry. These are things which provide a happy and healthy life as the one she has lived. Shouldering so much responsibility early on in her life and now being able to enjoy herself with her growing family is truly a full lifetime. She continues to live a healthy and eventful life at age 91, proving as a testament to her strength and her powerful belief in love, God, and family. ■

**What children need most are the essentials that grandparents provide in abundance. They give unconditional love, kindness, patience, humor, comfort, lessons in life. And, most importantly, cookies.**

~Rudy Giuliani

## Visiting Grandparents from India

Here is what my dad wrote and would like to share: By Nita Ahuja



L-R: Veena and Chandrakumar Bajaj with their grandchildren Ishan (in red t-shirt) and Shriyan Ahuja

"As I grow older, I thought the best part of my life was over. Then I was handed my first grandchild and I realized the best part of my life had just begun!

As grandparents we all want to make the most of the precious family time we get to spend with our grandchildren. You can create deep, loving relationships with your grandchildren by sharing with them the things you love and by learning what excites them. Whether you are a full-time or a long-distance grandparent living 1000's of miles away you can find new ways to strengthen family ties and provide your grandchildren with joyful memories and valuable life lessons." ■

### My Parents

By Prashanth Tummallapalli



Tummallapalli srilam, Aruna Devi, with Rohith, Harini  
Visiting from Hyderabad, India.

#### Message from Grandchildren

"Feel Happy spending time with you... we miss you.."

#### Message from Grandparents

It was a pleasure to be there with you on the Grandparent's Day in Albany. It was great memorable moments in our life. We miss you. God bless you and best wishes to your future.

## What Do Our Grandchildren Mean to Us?



By V.V.Rami Muppidi

L-R Ramachandra Reddy Muppidi, Aneesh, Akshay, and Ammaji Muppidi , visiting from Bangaru gudem, West Godavari Dist., AP

### What Our Grandchildren Mean to Us

They fill our heart with pleasure. They are a gift from god to love. They are like connected dots in the line from generation to generation and they are loving reminders of what we're really here for. We feel full and complete.

### What Our Parents/Grandparents Meant to US

They mean a lot to us. We love them and they love us. They're... our roots, our values. ■

*"If nothing is going well, call your grandmother."*

-- Italian proverb

*"Young people need something stable to hang on to — a culture connection, a sense of their own past, a hope for their own future. Most of all, they need what grandparents can give them...."*

Jay Kesler

*"Nobody can do for little children what grandparents do. Grandparents sort of sprinkle stardust over the lives of little children."*

-- Alex Haley



MUSICAL PERFORMANCE:



Sangeeta Trivedi, Rajesh Panwar



Vishvesh & Nitin Obla

DANCE PERFORMANCE



Leena Gupta, Padma Sripada, Pankaj Kishore, Ritu Jain



Aadya Kaushik, Aarya Kaushik, Nidhi Shah, Sia Shah and Nidhi Shah

PORTRAIT GALLERY



DEAR NAINAMMA, I LOVE YOU SO MUCH BECAUSE YOU MAKE ME EAT HEALTHY. YOU TAUGHT ME NEW STUFF LIKE LANGUAGES SUCH AS HINDI AND TELUGU. YOU GIVE KNOWLEDGE ENCYCLOPEDIAS SO THAT I CAN LEARN AND BE SMART.



SUDHIR & SHEELA KULKARNI'S GRAND KIDS.

Dear Aaji and Ajoba,  
Happy Grandparents' Day! I love and admire you because you are kind, loving, and we love doing things together!! Thank you for being fun and caring people and we are so thankful for everything that you do for us! I love you!!  
Love, Meghna



Dear Aaji and Ajoba,  
Happy Grandparents' Day! I love and admire you both because of your generosity and kindness. I enjoy all the time we spend together and appreciate the tips and all the other fun things we do as a Family.  
Love, Justin

**MESSAGE FROM**

Swatantra Mitta, Chair, HCC Board  
Rasik Shah, Secretary HCC Board

We wish to thank everyone who attended the first Grandparents Day held at HCC on Sunday, September 13, 2015. We were touched with the large response and the enthusiasm shown by the grandparents, parents and the children. Seeing the children hand over the red roses to grandparents was an unforgettable experience.

The cultural program and the music show greatly enriched our program. The dance performers and singers received repeated applause for their flawless performances. They deserve our heartfelt thanks. So does Dr. Manjula Salgam, who served as the emcee.

The person who deserves the most thanks is Dr. Ram Chugh. He proposed the idea of the Grandparents Day to us several months ago. He was intimately involved with us in planning this event from the start to finish. Ram has devoted a great deal of his time and energy in serving our Temple and the Cultural Center. His love and devotion to our temple community are exemplary.

In recognition of his long service, Ram was given a framed picture of his grandchildren with the following wordings engraved on the frame.

*Ram Chugh:*

*For Outstanding Contributions to Community with  
Passion and Dedication.*

*Wishing Endless Joy, Health and Happiness.*

*Hindu Cultural Center*

*September 13, 2015*

We wish to thank the grandparents and grandchildren who sent written messages for the Grandparents Day. These and other messages received directly by Ram Chugh were compiled and edited by him and these are being presented as the 2015 Grandparents Day Supplement.

Vijay Oruganti deserves our thanks for his technical assistance in formatting this Supplement.



**GP Day Program Coordinators: Manjula Salgam, Swatantra Mitta, Rasik Shah, Ram Chugh, and Vijay Oruganti**

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