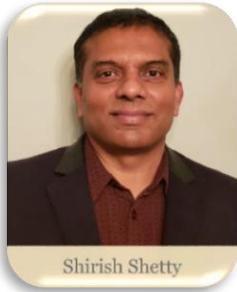


BANAVANI

JANUARY 2020

GREETINGS FROM ATLANTA!

President's Message



The past few months have been quite an interesting time for the BANA team in Atlanta. We know that we are in this for the long haul, and the team is just getting started. I, along with the rest of the Atlanta Executive Committee, would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members a very Happy New Year.

I am excited to present our very first newsletter. A big thank you to Nuthan Shetty and Suchith Hegde, from our Communications team, for putting together the newsletter. As you will see, we have lots of pictures from many different regions. Thanks to the Regional Representatives for your input. Please take some time to click on the links, to view all the photos for each region.

We in Atlanta had our first, ever Diwali event. Wow! What an event it turned out to be. A total of 161 guests attended the Atlanta Diwali event. Thanks to a very talented team from Atlanta for putting on an amazing show. Having seen it in action, I can rest easy that the BANA 2021 entertainment will be in good hands.

Some accomplishments so far:

One of the main points we have been working on is to increase our membership. How do we do this? Many people have been asking us, "What are the benefits of being a BANA member? With that in mind, the EC team worked on a power-point presentation**, where we ended up listing various benefits of being a BANA member. We are hoping that this is a starting point and over time we can work on refining and providing more value to our members. Be on the lookout for some amazing member values shortly.

We also reached out and appointed Regional Representatives. You will see many familiar faces, and some new names among them. We have also communicated to all our members and the Regional Reps how critical it is to increase our membership base. As a reinforcement to increasing the membership, we have introduced a fun contest, where the member with the most new-member referrals will be awarded a complimentary room at the 2021 convention in Atlanta.

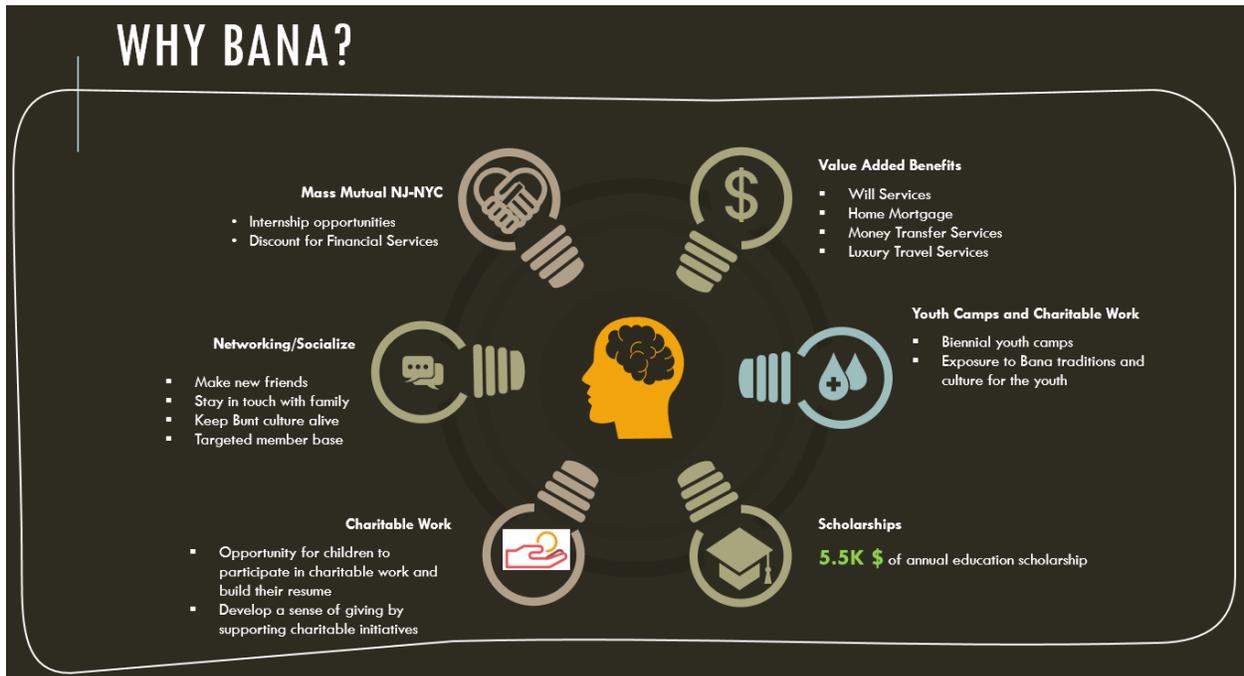
Until next time, I wish all of you good health and happiness.

Regards,

Shirish Shetty

****Benefits of being a BANA member – see link below**

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1embcgAsJXlvvNJu-RfdX7wAyRmKYyLS>



Bunts Survey Feedback

The NY area Bunts compiled and collated feedback from the attendees of the 2019 BANA in Manhattan. Here are the results, sent in by immediate past President, Mr. Ashish Shetty of New York. It's a good indicator of What Bunts Want.

Survey Question	Response
Overall Experience of 2019 BANA Convention	People were very happy with the event -- 95% people rated it as excellent or good
Favorite Parts of 2019 BANA	Tao Closing Party, 4th of July Fireworks on the New York Harbor, and the general variety of venues
Room for Improvement	Picnic (some questioned the need for a picnic generally, more activities), walking to get to events, hard to find picnic site
BANA Suggestions in Between Conventions	Charitable trips abroad, more local events in between conventions
Other Things to Focus on for Future Conventions	Forced mingling, theme / costume party, teen mixers, speed dating, name badges, encourage first timers to attend, affordability, cater to all ages
Charities: Mixed feelings about the role of charity within BANA	Some thought we should give to causes within the community (Akshaya Patra, for example), some thought people should donate outside of BANA. Within the community, people were further mixed whether that should apply to local communities or back in Mangalore itself. Many also focused on women's health, mental health, and kids / scholarships
Openness to Destination Event	Around 50% of respondents said they would prefer a destination event, whereas ~50% were open to either a traditional or destination event
Focus on the Youth	Many suggested that a continued focus on the youth, making sure they are engaged and involved in leadership is critical for BANA to continue. People definitely identified that BANA needs to focus on the younger generations to remain relevant for years to come

Atlanta Corner

Hey, we told you guys we would be introducing you to Atlanta, a little bit at a time. We keep our promises, folks. Welcome to this guided tour of Atlanta, our beautiful, vibrant city. We're glad y'all are visiting. Atlanta will blow you away with its cultural and epicurean diversity. Essentially, Atlanta is a city of many neighborhoods that make up an urban hub. We'd like to introduce you to some of these areas, so that your stay in our city is just fabulous. All of these neighborhoods are easily accessible by MARTA (light rail), bus, taxi and Uber/Lyft. There are also some cool pedestrian streets and lots of bike paths.

Atlanta is a city that is more than the sum of its parts. We hope you enjoy every corner of it. Come for the Coca Cola, stay for the grits.

PONCE CITY MARKET



Opened in 2014, Ponce City Market is a fantastic mix of shopping, food and activities. Situated in the historic Sears Roebuck and Co. building in the Old Fourth Ward, it has ushered in a new re-energization of old Atlanta. Be sure to spend a morning or an afternoon wandering the stores and sampling the food/wine/beer available in every shape, size and flavor. You can even ride a bike to get here, just to use the complimentary Valet Bike Parking! It provides access to some of Atlanta's coolest older neighborhoods like Virginia Highland, Inman Park, Candler Park, Druid Hills, just to name a few. The Historic Fourth Ward Park is nearby. The Market includes green space, access to the Atlanta Beltline corridor and a pedestrian network. There's no better way to spend a lazy day in the balmy southern summer. It has been listed in Travel & Leisure's 'The World's Coolest New Tourist Attractions'. Don't miss this one.

Check out the website to learn more. <https://poncecitymarket.com/>

FERNBANK SCIENCE CENTER



The Fernbank Center is a museum, a science center, a woodland adventure and a classroom all in one. It's in the beating heart of exciting Atlanta. The Fernbank is an Atlanta icon you don't want to miss. It's an adventure for the young and the old. Their tagline says, the Fernbank is where science becomes an adventure. Would you miss that? It includes several exhibit halls full of intriguing ancient anthropological artifacts and new science. It also houses a Planetarium and an Observatory. It's a fascinating place to spend a few hours in Atlanta. You'll walk out of there just a little bit smarter, and your kids will love the

experience.

Check out the website to learn more. www.fernbank.edu

Regional News

Diwali Celebrations

Diwali was a blast everywhere, even though winter had set in in some parts. Lots of us gathered, in lots of cities across the continent, to have lots of fun. Seattle, Washington D.C., Boston, Houston, Toronto, Atlanta, the Midwest, all had their own version of a family Diwali party. There was fun, food, talent, dancing and music. Enjoy the pictures below and click the links to find more pictures of your family and friends in far-flung places across the nation, and even Canada.

Atlanta



Atlanta Bunts held their first ever Diwali event in 2019. It was a smash. Attendance was excellent. We had 161 attendees and they all had a great time. We had guests come from as far afield as Florida and North Carolina. It was an evening of performances, color, music and dancing. What we discovered was: we have lots of Bunts in the area, lots of these Atlanta area Bunts are extremely talented (especially the kids), Atlanta area Bunts sure know how to party.



<https://www.niruclicks.com/downloads/efe513f552493e63829d/14800646>

<https://www.niruclicks.com/downloads/efe513f552493e63829d/14800647>

<https://www.niruclicks.com/downloads/efe513f552493e63829d/14800648>

Password: bunts

Bay Area



The Bay Area of California Bunt Diwali party was held at Marigold banquet hall in Sunnyvale, California. This was a very well attended Diwali get-together, with 75 families, and around 180 people. While there was great engagement from grown-ups participating in singing and dancing, they had a lot of young kids participate as well. The evening started with kids singing Gayatri Mantra and the MC for the evening was a freshman. High schoolers helped with Polaroid pictures, attending the photo booth, wrapping the party favors, etc. The primary focus of the organizers was to make sure everyone had a good time. More importantly, they wanted to involve the youth as much as possible. Observing the enthusiasm and the engagement from the kids and the teens, the Bay Area Bunt group is in good hands.



Chicago

On a lovely warm-ish Chicago night, on October 27th, Chicago area Bunts gathered for their traditional dessert-laden Diwali party. It was attended by about 125 colorfully attired guests. Thanks to Vidya Shetty Darshane, Regional Representative, for sending in the pictures.



https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Zm-i-bmHxtwSQZbVmyPVprgPX3M_NiDw

Seattle



Seattle area Bunts had a festive Diwali gathering on November 2nd. There was good food and fun all around. Thanks to Regional Representative, Namrata Mally for the pictures and the write-up.

https://drive.google.com/open?id=0BwryTHZ_zBNPNHZxeEtWZXpOTTMxqjVLaeFVS0pWV0IWVTA4

Boston



The Bunts in the Boston area gathered together on October 27th for a festive Diwali party. Kalpana and Shivaram Shetty of Boston, organized the event. Thanks to Puja Shetty, Regional Representative, for collecting pictures and news items.

More Pictures:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/CreBfWCCbdYaV14A9>

Houston

Far from home, the Bunts in Houston celebrated Diwali in a truly enchanting way. Around 110 Bunt members enthusiastically participated in the festivities. The diyas and lanterns formed the core of the theme throughout the venue, flowers and beautiful rangoli made the event look magical. All of the members were dressed in colorful traditional attire. The event began with the lighting of the traditional diya by the elders and a prayer song. This was followed by a variety of dance and singing performances.

The highlight of the day was a cultural skit portraying the story and significance of Deepavali which was scripted, directed and presented by children in the 7-10 year old age group.

The delicious home cooked Mangalorean menu comprising Kori-Rotti, Chicken Biryani, Kundapur chicken along with assortment of mouthwatering desserts Manjol Eere da Gatti, Boondhi ladoo and Padengi Payasam was a

fitting finale to a remarkable evening. It is occasions like these which bring out the Indian-ness in us. This also shows how Indian culture has migrated 8000 miles away and is inculcated into the younger generation.

https://drive.google.com/open?id=0BwryTHZ_zBNPbUdnS09HSTRJRG1pTFFTNHhKRnp1djUzLUtB



Washington D.C.



DC., Maryland and Virginia Bunts celebrated Diwali on October 26. Thanks to Sreenath Shetty, Regional Representative, for the photographs and input.

The 2019 Deepavali was celebrated by the Bunts of DC, Maryland and Virginia on October 26, the day of Naraka Chaturdashi of the three days that we commemorate this festival of lights in Ooru. The celebration was held at the Clara Barton Community Center in Maryland, but close to DC and Northern Virginia, making it access friendly to the families. The venue meant a little bit of helping hand from all the guests for both decorating and setting up of the hall.



There were several performances from the talented community. The evening kicked off to a song by three-year old Anya, followed up by a nostalgia-evoking set by Rupak, an

enthraling solo from Veena and an engaging duet from Veena and Anirudh for the finale. The dinner was well received and all the fretting over the menu was worth it. The post-dinner music was enticing enough to draw the guests to the dance floor.

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/QSmP6WwAHBUhuTfe8>

Toronto

Bunts Canada Diwali 2019 was held this year at Pearl Banquet Hall in Mississauga on November 09, 2019. This year's event had an impressive turnout of more than 200 members. The numbers have been growing each successive year. The event commenced with a prayer and singing of both the Canadian and Indian national anthems. The highlights of the evening included amazing dance performances by kids, youth and ladies' groups. This was followed by a hilarious skit and an energetic bhangra performance. The occasion acknowledged the achievements of Bunts in various fields over the past year. The event also recognized the potential of Bunt youth by awarding a scholarship to the most deserving individual for all -round excellence. The event continued late into the night with Bunts mingling with each other and everybody taking to the dance floor. Overall a very vibrant and very entertaining Diwali night 2019. Thanks to Satya Rai, Regional Representative, for collecting pictures and news items.



https://drive.google.com/open?id=1AQkTELAwZk5oN_ncl7VohlyAyxDHGZg5

Milestones

Beltway Bunts Walk For The Cure 2019

The walk for the cure is an annual ritual for Beltway Bunts of DC, Maryland and Virginia. It began in 2002. It was started by Shobha, as a way to come together, to remember Usha Aunty and her battle with the disease.

This year Shobha arranged it again, but with an intriguing twist. This time, she set up a T-shirt design contest. The winner was picked by Hema Aunty and Rasika. Avani submitted the winning design. It had the message, "**fight, hope, faith**" on the front, and a cherry-tree themed message on the back. It was quite different from the usual T Shirts provided by the Susan Komen group, and came in different colors.

It was a beautiful day for the Walk. The group got together at Freedom Plaza and set off on the 5k walk. It was wonderful to see thousands of people, each taking a moment from their busy lives and chores, to show solidarity for the people who had suffered. We walked in support of the cause, to raise awareness of the disease and to raise funding for research. In observing the people at the Walk, you could see the human stories, the fighting spirit, the hope for a cure, and the faith to help them through their hardships.



More Pictures: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/hWnEUKTvYc8bqh1R6>

Summiting Mount Rainier



Chetna Shetty, of the Seattle area, reached a personal milestone in 2019, when she summited Mt. Rainier in Washington. Mt. Rainier towers 14,410 feet above sea level. It is an active volcano and the most glaciated peak on the US mainland. Congratulations, Chetna, we wish you the best in your future climbing endeavors. You have made us proud!

Here is a message from Chetna, in her own words.

"This July I stood on the summit of Mt Rainier, which is the tallest mountain in Washington and the Cascade Range with a summit elevation of 14,411 ft. It is the most heavily glaciated peak in the lower 48 states.

We were a team of 3 on a private climb. The first day we climbed to 10,000 feet, to Camp Muir, with 52lb packs each. The second morning we woke up early roped up and continued to high camp at 11,000 feet, which is called Ingram Flats. The plan was to set up camp, eat rest and get ready to leave for our summit push at midnight. We geared up and started our climb as a roped team at midnight.

Along the way we crossed ladders and crevasses in the dark and kept climbing. The winds picked up and we were hit by 30 to 40 mile gusts but we decided to keep going. We reached the summit crater by 6.30am and it was below freezing. We pushed the last 200 feet to the true summit and signed the summit register and tried to get warm. Soon we started descending.

As E. D. Viesturs said, " Getting to the top is optional, getting down is mandatory ".

On our descent, we witnessed an icefall which had wiped out section of the route. We had to cross that section pretty fast and move out of imminent danger. We then got back to high camp, rested and started our descent back to the car the next day. It is a 16 mile trek and an elevation gain of around 9000 feet.



It's an amazing feeling to train your body and mind, and stand on top of the highest mountain in Washington State".

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1SutlHCM8xPxXwc6xk8SAru3x8u2kUNSo>

Congratulations

There was a new addition to the Seattle Bunt family. Nevin and Serena Shetty of Mercer Island, WA, welcomed their beautiful baby girl, Saana Shetty, on Oct 12th 2019. Welcome to the world, Baby Saana!

The Boston Bunt family had three little new additions in recent months.

Adi and Pooja Shetty welcomed their first child, Skanda Shetty, on September 3rd.

Nolan Arvind Hegde was born on October 25th. His parents, Dr. Sanjay Hegde and Dr. Tanya Rege, big brother Miles Hegde and his grandparents, Dr. Ramesh Hegde and Mrs. Sucharitha Hegde, are very excited.

Shareen Hegde and Sneha Shetty welcomed the New Year with the birth of their second child, Ved Shetty Hegde, on January 6th. Big sister Akira is super excited.

Youth involvement in Charity



Ananya Shetty, daughter of Ravi Shetty and Sahana Alva was the youngest volunteer representing the Boston Chapter event for fundraising for Snehalaya Pune (www.snehalaya.org) - which supports the underprivileged children in India. Dr Girish Kulkarni, founder of Snehalaya presented a memento to Ananya for her efforts.

Ananya Shetty won the Wipro 3k "Spirit of Wipro-2019" New England Region (for the 3rd consecutive year)

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1ovNkrmohzoUI9qh0BHxnrGYHuLGbf4DG>

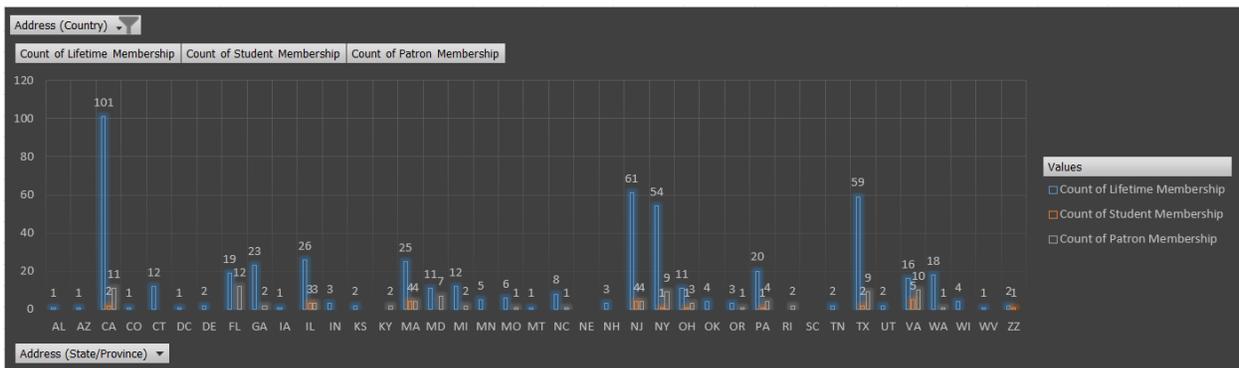
Obituary

Mrs. Ratna Rai



We regret to inform you of the passing of Smt. Ratna Rai, in Mangalore, on Oct. 10th 2019. Mrs. Ratna Rai passed away after a long battle with cancer. She was the mother of Sandhya Shetty and mother-in-law of Shirish Shetty (Atlanta). She is survived by Mr. Sadashiv Rai – Bangalore, Dr. Sandeep Rai & Suhana Rai, Saanya, Shaan – Mangalore, Shirish & Sandhya Shetty, Ariyana, Aatish - Atlanta

BANA Membership Snapshot



New Membership to-date: **17**