

NEWSLETTER

April – June 2023



AN EVENING IN SKY CITY



As we don't have expertise to serve the diverse communities, organisations like Roopa Aur Aap play a huge role in filling the gap."

— MINISTER MARAMA DAVIDSON

Roopa Aur Aap's mission to serve the community pulls hundreds to enjoy Bollywood music for a good cause at New Zealand's iconic SkyCity Theatre.

It was indeed a musical extravaganza with a difference as a talented team of singers and musicians including well-known Gopal Bhatia ji rocked the stage before enthused Bollywood lovers.

Titled 'Yeh Jo Mohabbat Hai', the aim of the event was to raise awareness on family harm and autism in the community. Chair of Roopa Aur Aap (RAA) Roshni Chadha ji, RAA's CEO Roopa Suchdev ji and RAA's Trustee and Chairperson of Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust Jeet Suchdev ji welcomed the audience and appreciated the house full of people who braved rain and thunderstorm on Saturday to attend the event showing massive support for a good cause.

The event was attended by many dignitaries including Minister for the Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence Marama Davidson MP ji; Honourary Consul of India in Auckland Bhav Dhillon ji; Indian High Commission's Second Secretary Durga Dass ji; Inspector Director Auckland City District Family Harm Beth Houlston ji; and Service Co-ordinator of Autism from Spectrum Care Maria Bernabe ji.



LEARN DIGITAL, LIVE DIGITAL!

Seniors at Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust successfully completed new terms of the Digital Learning lessons through Digital Inclusion Alliance Aotearoa in April and May.

A class for beginners that takes place at 3pm every Wednesday, saw a big turnout wherein members learned the basics to operate their smartphone. They are also learnt about cyber bullying, cyber safety and how to navigate their ways to safeguards themselves from online scams, phishing, and frauds committed online.

Mentor Leilani Ji said she felt confident that such classes were digitally robust.



Mentor Leilani ji takes a digital literacy class of Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust's members at BSCT Hall, Mt Roskill, Auckland.



Jeet Suchdev ji hands out Chromebook to senior members of BSCT

“Digital literacy is not only important to stay connected with the community, but it also offers a vast source of knowledge about cyber threats we are generally unaware of. Our goal is to let seniors in Aotearoa learn to navigate the Internet safely and securely.

-SAYS JEET SUCHDEV

UNTAPPED POOL OF TALENT

Be it singing, dance, drama or storytelling, performing arts allow seniors to express their emotions without inhibition.

“Singing and dancing with and in front of their friends and community help them connect with their deeper emotions in a very constructive way.

“Through storytelling and drama, they narrate their experiences, their success/struggles thereby revisiting cherished memories and reliving them,” says Jeet Suchdev.



Bhartiya Samaj's monthly and fortnightly meetings provide opportunities to members to showcase their various skills to a packed house of seniors.



WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY

As many as one in 10 older people in New Zealand will experience some kind of elder abuse. Most abuse isn't recognised or is ignored.

Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust helps raise awareness of elder abuse in its meetings and helps seniors in distress situation to deal with any kind of abuse. This World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, our senior members performed skits and drama to spread awareness on elder abuse. A movie was also played to make elders understand the abuse seniors of migrant communities go through in New Zealand.



India's Honourary Consul in Auckland Bhav Dhillon ji, Nepal's Honourary Consul in Auckland Dinesh Khadka ji, Jeet Suchdev ji and Roopa Suchdev ji present a memento acknowledging the services of Superintendent Karyn Malthus.



An address by India's Honourary Consul in Auckland Bhav Dhillon ji and New Zealand Police's Ethnic Responsiveness Manager for Metro Auckland Jessica Phuang ji helped seniors know about the support available to them in case they face abuse.

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY IS UNITY!

Senior members enjoyed a unique activity called "Unity in Diversity" organised by Roopa Aur Aap (RAA) during one of BSC's fortnightly meetings.

RAA rolled out a special workshop for seniors to learn about different festivals of India, wherein they had to match festivals with the region. The activity was aimed at increasing understanding of each other's culture among diverse communities of South Asia.



Seniors match different festivals with a region these are celebrated in India.

MAGICAL NZ

An interesting workshop called "Magical NZ" wherein seniors participated in a quiz to test their knowledge about New Zealand was organised at one of the fortnightly meetings of Bhartiya Samaj. Roopa Aur Aap (RAA) Chairperson Roshni Chadha ji had a one-on-one session with seniors to let them know more about New Zealand. The seniors thoroughly enjoyed the workshop and went back home with more understanding and knowledge about New Zealand, a country they have called their second home. The activity was organised by RAA.



RAA Chair Roshni Chadha interacts with seniors as they take part in the Magical NZ activity at a fortnightly meeting at Mt Roskill, Auckland

BAISAKHI FUN AT FLATBUSH MEETING

Our South Auckland seniors had a blast at Baisakhi celebrations during monthly meeting at Flatbush in April. All the senior members danced with immense enthusiasm to Bollywood songs. Some seniors recited poems to raise awareness on importance of Indian festivals.

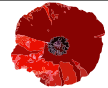
Celebrated mostly in North India Baisakhi or Vaisakhi, a harvest festival, marks the beginning of the new spring. It signifies the end of the harvest season in India, marking a time of prosperity for the farmers.



A packed hall of seniors at Bhartiya Samaj's Flatbush monthly meeting relived their festive memories by dancing to their favourite Bollywood numbers during Baisakhi celebrations.



ANZAC DAY: HOW WE REMEMBERED THEM



Members and volunteers of Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust and Roopa Aur Aap Charitable Trust took part in a special ANZAC Day parade and services at Mt Roskill War Memorial. The members lay a wreath at the ANZAC service, Jeet Suchdev said it was an honour to pay tribute to the brave who served the nation in times of war.



Anzac Day is observed on April 25 every year. It commemorates New Zealanders who sacrificed their lives in war.



Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust's members and volunteers along with Jeet Suchdev ji and Roopa Suchdev ji carry out a parade on ANZAC Day at Mount Roskill War Memorial



India's Honourary Consul in Auckland Bhav Dhillon ji, Jeet Suchdev ji, Roopa Suchdev ji and other dignitaries take part in International Yoga Day celebrations at Mahatma Gandhi Centre in Auckland. Honourable High Commissioner of India Her Excellency Shrimati Neeta Bhushan ji also joined them during the celebrations.

Jeet Suchdev and Co-founder Roopa Suchdev attended a yoga session at Mahatma Gandhi Centre in Auckland to mark International Yoga Day 2023.

Indian High Commissioner Honourable Her Excellency Shrimati Neeta Bhushan ji also took part in the event and encouraged the entire community.

Jeet Suchdev said this is the time when the world needs to relieve from stress and anguish following a pandemic and natural disasters in Auckland early this year. "Yoga will help all of us overcome the stress and anxiety to ensure our physical, mental and emotional well-being," says Jeet Suchdev.

CELEBRATING THE CONTRIBUTION AND LOVE OF OUR MOTHERS!



Bhartiya Samaj's seniors recounted the magnificent moments with their mothers and children that they always treasured. The seniors honoured their mothers, upheld the significance of motherhood and spoke on how Mother's Day is for everyone who loves like a mum.

The seniors got an opportunity to sing, dance and mingle amidst Mother's Day celebrations. The seniors thoroughly enjoyed signing performances of Sudha ji and Jeet Suchdev ji.



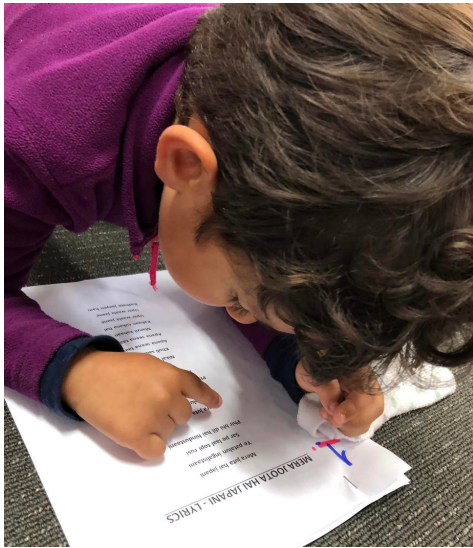
Contribution of BSCT's volunteer Mita Suchdev and other members was acknowledged at a fortnightly meeting of BSCT.



Seniors enjoy a workout session at Bhartiya Samaj's fortnightly meeting at Mt Roskill War Memorial Hall.



BSCT members and volunteers always start the meetings with a ritual prayer.



Children at Bal Vikas Language & Cultural Classes practice yoga, meditation, art & craft, and several other activities every Sunday at BSCT Hall, Mt Roskill, Auckland.



BAL VIKAS LANGUAGE & CULTURAL CLASSES

The children wing of Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust runs free of cost regular language and cultural classes for children aged 6-14 years on Sunday. The classes include teaching language, imparting cultural knowledge and inculcating interpersonal skills.

When:

Every Sunday 10:30am till 1:30 pm (Excluding term breaks)

At:

Bhartiya Samaj Hall, 13 May Road, Mt Roskill, Auckland.

For registration, call 0220398563/ 096200579



ABOUT US

Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust is a not-for-profit organisation that has been serving the community since 1995. Founded by Jeet Suchdev QSM JP and Ms. Roopa Suchdev QSM along with other like-minded people, the organisation is one of the largest multi-faith South Asian community groups with members from across Aotearoa.

We offer a wide range of services through our Senior Citizens' Wing, Children Wing; Youth Wing, New Migrants Support Wing and Social Services Wing.

Get In Touch

10, Rohi Place, Flatbush,
Auckland- 2019
Mobile: 0212221020
Email: jeet@xtra.co.nz



Jeet Suchdev ji

Chairperson of Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust