



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS (NFIA)

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NFIA: A new beginning of Unity in Seattle

Over the past decade Indian populations in Seattle have grown exponentially. With that culturally active community has grown in founding various organizations in greater Seattle area catering to diverse needs.

In April 2008, an elite group of Seattle Indians including while reflecting on various aspects of community needs decided it's time brings everyone closer by bringing in NFIA to Northwest. What better way than creating an opportunity for the first time in Seattle to hold the NFIA Biennial Convention in the fall of 2008! The idea seemed to appeal many movers and shakers of Seattle and thus began the preparation of hosting the event under the leadership of Vice President of North west region- Anjali Sachdev.

The formal presentation in NFIA Board meeting in on May 10th in Los Angeles got attention and unanimous approval. It was also a beginning of the convener, Anjali Sachdev's, hectic journey and process of bringing everyone together. With the help of core committee- Rashmee Sharma and Sudip Gorakshakar, she swiftly arranged to meet community groups and succeeded in bringing all aboard. "While it's good that every organization is doing their own thing, it's also important to work cohesively to as an umbrella

organization. With the oldest organization of India Arts and Heritage Society under the Leadership of Founder – Preseident Amrik Kamoh unquestioning support, and with the diligent persuasion of Convention Committee Chair Sudip Gorakshakar , the historic June 7th meeting brought others like Mrs. Lavannya Reddy President WA Telugu Society, Bunti Sarai, President Seattle Cricket Club saw the value NFIA would bring to showcasing and integrating the Pacific North west Indians.

Five months into the planning of a first ever national event the NFIA convention has drawn the support and excitement of several a diverse community represented by Trade Development Alliance of Greater Seattle; India Arts and Heritage Society; TiE- Seattle; Cry-Seattle; Tasveer; Washington Telugu Samithi; Seattle Cricket Club; Northwest Cricket League; Maharashtra Mandal Seattle; Bombay Grill; Indo-American Friendship Forum, Seattle Gujarati Cultural Society; Indian American Education Foundation; Indo-American Friendship forum.



As a legacy of the NFIA Convention the Convention Committee is exploring the options for creating a Memorial of Mahatma Gandhi in the Pacific Northwest.

On October 6, Counsel General Mrs. Sushmita Thomas, Consulate of India San Francisco CA visited Seattle and met with the Leading group of NFIA. Anjali Sachdev, Convener of NFIA Convention briefed CG of the location for planned Gandhi Memorial at the Bellevue Public

Library. Some of the prominent attendees instrumental in making the Gandhi Memorial possible include Bill Stafford, President of TDA (Trade Development Authority), Thomas Boydell, Manager



Economic Development City of Bellevue, The NFIA and the Gandhi Foundation of USA request the Indian Ambassador Hon. Ronen Sen and Counsel General to dedicate the gift of the statue “Apostle of Peace” Mahatma Gandhi to the State of Washington and Indian Community during their visit for the NFIA Convention.

“I am honored to be invited at the Biennial Convention and after meeting you all I can see a distinct need of a session addressing issues of immigration, PIO and other related queries and

we are here to help”, Mrs. Thomas told NFIA group at the luncheon at local ethnic restaurant, Chutneys.

The NFIA Convention event plans to host Business Expo, concurrent discussion sessions paneled by eminent global speakers from all walks of life. Anjali Sachdev, Convener and Regional VP NFIA Pacific North describe the convention as a “not to miss event”. “We are fortunate to have this event in Evergreen City of Seattle. We have invited many leaders both from the US and India. We are lucky to have confirmation from inspirational leaders such as Indian Ambassador Ronen Sen and Indian Americans like Sunita Williams Astronaut, 2008 Olympic Gymnast Raj Bhavsar, veteran Tennis Star Vijay Amritraj, Samir Ahuja, Entrepreneur, CFO Sports Museum in New York, Shalini Govil-Pai, famed 3D animator of Toy Story & A Bugs Life (Pixar), Pacific Northwest visionaries like Dr. Dinesh Keshkar, Sr. VP Boeing, Microsoft’s Anoop Gupta, Treasurer Democratic party Habib M.Habib

To match the uniqueness of Seattle, this convention will present NFIA’s in vibrant spirit of the Indian Diaspora in the US. For the first time we are hosting a sessions catering to all ages and all genders, weaving the achievements and interests special to Indian intellect and interest of professionalism and excellence.

Also for the first time the convention hopes to bring all Indian organizations together in Seattle. Currently there are more than 20 organizations catering to a diverse population. This is the first time NFIA will be providing a common platform in inviting all organizations to showcase their presentations at this convention.

NFIA’s 15th Biennial Convention in Seattle expects to attract more than two thousand attendees from India, Canada and the USA. “We are all set to accommodate and welcome many visitors to Seattle. We have ensured accommodation at the waterfront Marriott and other surrounding hotels,” Sudip Gorakshakar said.



The Convention events include, Recognitions by Roshni Media of prominent Indians featured as “Global Indians”, and focus on the growing achievements and opportunities for Indian Women,

Seniors, Children and Entrepreneurs in non-traditional fields. We plan to provide something for everyone, hands-on Aviation Models Exhibit and Competition, and interactive discussion sessions and workshops. Everyone is invited for some fun at “Impressions” of your favorite Celebrity Parade!



The highlights of banquet will include Keynote Address by Ambassador Ronen Sen, followed by “NFIA Awards” conferred to Indian American Achievers who have made a difference in their community.

For more information visit www.nfiaseattle.net or call Rashmee Sharma 206 730 0770