

Calgary Marathi Association (CMA), is a registered non-profit organization to preserve the Marathi Culture by bringing together Marathi speaking persons in Calgary and surrounding area. website : <http://www.cmacalgary.ca>

### CMA Vision

- To preserve and promote Marathi culture in Calgary and surrounding area for generations to come.
- To acquire charitable status by supporting relief of poverty, advancement of education, advancement of religion and other purposes that benefits the community at large.

### CMA Mission

- To support the spirit of Multiculturalism in Canada and invite other Canadians to participate in CMA functions and familiarize themselves with Marathi Culture.
- To acquaint the younger generation of the cultural heritage of India in general and with Maharashtra in particular, through various activities and educational sessions.
- To bring together all persons speaking Marathi language and/or others interested in the promotion of Marathi language.
- To encourage and promote Maharashtrian culture, tradition and festivities.
- To support relief of poverty by arranging various charitable events.

The event had a good balance of activities of cultural importance as also activities providing pure entertainment which made it appeal to a varied age group and demographic. The ladies enjoyed the traditional Haldi kunki and Bornahan while the children enjoyed participating in the kite making activity along with their parents.



### Makar Sankrant and AGM

Date: February 11, 2017

Venue: St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Congregation 404 Meredith Road N.E. Calgary, Alberta T2E 5A6

Makar Sankrant, was the first event hosted by CMA for the year 2017 at the Ukrainian Cultural Center. Upwards of 180 people attended this event and made it a grand success. This seasonal festival is celebrated throughout India with different names and with unique traditional variations. CMA was pleased to host this year's Makar Sankranti celebration to showcase the Maharashtrian way of celebrating this festival.

The event commenced with the AGM. CMA Executive Committee presented 2017 Annual General Meeting.

The cultural program had a mix of devotional songs and dances revering goddess Saraswati and Ganpati. "Chocolate cha bangla" and the song performed by **students of the Marathi school** were a hit with the kids while the traditional "Laavani" with its foot tapping rhythm enthralled all.

The play "Janiv" highlighted the day in the life of autistic kids and tugged at the audience's heart.

To add a Cherry on the Top, Tree of Unity performance was the main highlight of the evening. This performance showcased unity within Marathi Association. The night ended with dinner followed by dancing to tunes from Bollywood and Marathi songs.

#### **Senior's club: Samadhan**

**Information session with karaoke: 26th February 2017**

**Venue: Atul and Suchitra Dhokte's residence, Calgary.**

**Time 3:30pm to 5:30pm**

Seniors Club (Samadhan) kicked off its first event in its second year under the new leadership of Sapna and Vipin Savai with backend support from Salma Garde and Sucheta Kolhatkar. A successful Information session cum Karaoke event held on February 26th 2017 with 25 enthusiastic participants at Atul and Suchitra Dhokte's residence.

As most of you know, the purpose of Samadhan club is to keep our seniors active engaged and entertained while providing them with useful and valuable information that would help enrich their day to day living.



Our guest speaker **Chris Waldmann** provided a detailed presentation with valuable insight on our food choices and what to watch for in labels. Chris worked with seniors for more than a decade as a Chef in one of the Senior's retirement home and was indeed an authority to speak on this topic educating our seniors about making healthy and informed choices.

By giving practical examples on daily household food packages he demonstrated to the senior community how to read these labels. Make wise decisions based on the small portion/servings associated with those calories.

Chris's informative presentation about food facts and label reading will help us all make better food choices in future. Seniors actively participated with questions and showed a lot of interest on this topic.



Karaoke event was a huge success. Dhokte family commenced the singing with their melodious voices and senior's participation continued with selection of varied songs, smiles and laughter. This event was full of talent, energy and enthusiasm, which brought several moments of group singing, networking and energised the seniors recharging their mind and body.

This event was made possible due to the support and love from our members and volunteers. Special thanks to the following members and Volunteers: Atul and Suchitra Dhokate, Megh and Rajashri Thakurdesai, Sushama and Rajeev Shinde and Ajay Khanolkar.



#### **Gudhi Padwa – Marathi New Year**

**Date: April 8<sup>th</sup> 2017**

**Venue: St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Congregation 404 Meredith Road N.E. Calgary, Alberta T2E 5A6**

The event commenced with an **Educational session**, which CMA introduced this year as part of CMA's advancement of education mission towards society.



**Constable Carter Duchesny, Cybercrime Education Officer**, from the Calgary Police Services presented a workshop on **Cyber Crime prevention and Digital Citizenship** for children. It was a well-received workshop with members taking the opportunity to seek guidance and suggestions to resolve their specific challenges.



The Gudhi Padwa event hosted by CMA at the Ukrainian Cultural Center was a huge success. Approx. 230 members enjoyed the evening packed with cultural programs topped with ethnic food and snacks.

The cultural program commenced with a procession “Aarambh Yatra” by hoisting the Gudhi. This was followed by the Gudhi making event, which was enjoyed by members young and old. Families worked together to make miniature Gudhis that were then presented to the audience by children.

Various performances were delivered by kids & adults, out of which Vasudev performance was mainly to spread awareness of good deeds towards community.







Balya Dance performance was a surprise package of the evening & had the entire crowd on its toes. Guests enjoyed this high-quality skit & dance performance.



This group representing the Kerala community was specially invited to showcase the talent and cultural diversity of the Indian diaspora within Calgary. Representatives from Gujarati and Assamese communities were also present and added a multicultural vibe to the event.

The event concluded with a sumptuous ethnic meal that included delicacies like Shrikhand Puri and Gajar halwa.



**Paalavi – MEET & Greet and an Informative session on “The Art of Making Money and Planning Future Investments” by Mr. Wale Balogun.**

**Date: May 6<sup>th</sup> 2017**

**Venue: Garden Towers, 909 7th Ave SW, Calgary.**

Paalavi is CMA's platform for next generation of Marathi youth (age 14- 24) in Calgary. It provides them an opportunity to meet other youth with diverse interests, while creating long lasting friendships and promoting community involvement, adding new dimensions to youth engagement towards community and their personality development.

The year started with a survey to gather the thoughts and ideas of our previous Paalavi Committee (youth) members. Based on the survey form, Paalavi facilitator – Mrs. Sonali Deshpande initiated a Meet and Greet session for youths on May 6th 2017 from 3 to 6 pm at Downtown Calgary. This first meet was attended by 20 youths. An informative session on - “The Art of Making Money and Planning Future Investments” was delivered by Mr. Wale Balogun, a speaker from the Investor’s Group since 8 years.





Wale has extensive knowledge of the markets, investor psychology and risk management and was awarded the Region Director's Choice Award. He was recently recognized as one of Investors Group's top 10 consultants in Alberta.

The session was well received by youths and was equally beneficial in helping them to understand the difference between 'Short Term Money', 'Objective Specific Money' and 'Long Term Money', imbibing ideas of savings/ plan to save for their higher studies, outcomes when you fail to set your goals etc. Four lucky draws were drawn and the winners were happy to receive handbooks on Investments as prizes.

This was followed by a quick survey form for planning futuristic recreational activities for youths throughout the year. Self-introductions were provided by youths. Our young Paalavi Committee – Parul Wadodkar and Chinmoy Ayachit organized some fun games, which were thoroughly enjoyed by our young crowd! CMA EC 2017 served lights snacks – pizza, chips and soft drinks to the youths.

***Ananya Ayachit:** The presentation by Wale Balogun was informative and focused on how youngsters can start saving money right from their teenage years and get into a habit of ensuring financial security. I enjoyed interacting with fellow Marathi friends, playing ice breaker games and of course the free pizza :)*



### Calgary Drama and Movie club

To strengthen Marathi Drama and Art culture; CMA established a new forum called Calgary Drama n Movie club. Vikrant Karambelkar as a BOT representative took the lead to drive this initiative for year 2017. Anand Thakar (Lead), Ajay Pawar and Amit Mate joined the group for the first kick of event for year 2017. The club decided to bring **Sakhar Khalela Manus** a successful drama to Calgary in collaboration with Toronto, Edmonton and Vancouver mandals.



**Genres:** Black Comedy Drama  
**Presenter:** Prashant Damle Fan Foundation  
**Director:** Chandrakant Kulkarni  
**Writer:** Vidyasagar Adhyapak  
**Artist:** Prashant Damle, Sankarshan Karhade, Rucha Apte, Shubhangi Gokhale  
**Location :** Wright Theater, Mount Royal University  
**Date :** Friday May 26th , 2017 at 6.30pm

Lifestyle ailments are on the rise worldwide and diabetes is one of them. This so called lifestyle ailment is on the rise day by day with more than 422 million diabetic individuals currently diagnosed with this disease in 2014.



Perhaps, looking at these figures, writer Vidyasagar Adhyapak thought of a good script for a Marathi drama and that's how new Marathi play 'Sakhar Khallela Manus' came on the stage.

For CMA bringing a high profile drama was a big initiative and it required tremendous planning and organizing efforts. We were fortunate enough to see around 20-25 volunteers come forward in various capacities to help this event together. The show was fully sold out quickly by word of mouth and all 250 seats were gone in short while. Vishwas and Kalpana Sail, took a huge burden on their shoulders for building a stage along with a pool of 15 volunteers who used to go after work hours to help. The entire community came together to make this happen.

The show was housefull. The lead pair Prashant Damle and Shubhangi Gokhale did an awesome performance through all those humour filled situations, throughout the play. Good support also came from youngsters Sankarshan Karhade and Rucha Apte. However, it is Prashant Damle and Shubhangi Joshi who stole the show, with their non-stop comedy. Their presence from start to finish made this play more lively and entertaining. All their scenes received good appreciation from the audience.

Prashant not only received a rousing welcome from Calgary Marathi fans at his entry, but also received 'Once More' applaud for his song in the last scene, which indicates his popularity, as a stage actor and CMA love for Marathi Drama and Culture.



## Food Bank Drive

CMA has a vision and mission to incorporate the spirit of community amongst its members. We have chosen to incorporate charity aspect during every event that we conduct, in order to become a strong socially responsible community partner.

In keeping with this objective we invited members to a food bank drive for our sold out Drama "Sakhar Khalela Manus " show held at the Mount Royal University, Calgary on May 26th 2017. Members were very generous and we were able to fill up 2 big boxes for the Calgary Inter Faith Food bank with non-perishable food items.

CMA is thankful to its members for the active participation and looks forward to stronger collaboration in future drives.



## Calgary Inter Community Cricket tournament

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2017

Venue: Rotary Challenger Park, NE, Calgary

Event schedule: 2:30 to 8:30 pm

Winners: 200 cricket enthusiasts through out the evening.

CMA along with 3 other regional groups from Calgary took the initiative to conceptualize and conduct the first ever Inter Community Cricket tournament.



The tournament borne out of a vision to strengthen inter community relationships was a product of collaboration and partnership between CMA, RANA, Bihar Association and Gujrati mandal.



Played on 17th June 2017, at the Calgary Rotary Challenger Park in NE Calgary; the widely anticipated tournament was an outstanding success. It was a fantastic beginning to a new initiative. Families and spectators from all 4 communities came in numbers to enjoy the show. The music, audience participation, food and great games played in a spirit of camaraderie all made this cricket carnival a much talked about event in the 2017 summer festivities.



The Gujrati Mandal widely cheered on by about 150 cricket enthusiasts were the proud winners and raised the inaugural cup to rousing applause by members of all 4 communities. The success of this tournament has paved the way to making this an annual event moving forward. Plans are being made to hold this event every summer and invite all other Indian communities in Calgary.

## Marathi Shaala

Mrs. Shubhangi Purohit started Marathi Shaala in Calgary in 2003 at her residence.

She feels that kids should learn to read and write Marathi language, which brings them more close to the Marathi Culture and Heritage. She volunteers her time, space and effort so that the school is kept free of any charge. Expected in return is students and parents with genuine interest, strong commitments and passion for Marathi Language learning.

The Classes are conducted every Saturday and Sunday at her residence. Small groups are formalized into the house classrooms as per students' age group and learning abilities. Currently 15 plus students are gaining the knowledge through these regular learning interventions



For more information about the school please email [shala@cmacalgary.ca](mailto:shala@cmacalgary.ca) or you can reach directly to :

**Mrs. Shubhangi Purohit**  
**Email- [pshubhangi@hotmail.com](mailto:pshubhangi@hotmail.com)**  
**Phone:403-238-1648**



## CMA Events Calendar for Year 2017

Event	Date
Makarsankrant & AGM	11th Feb (Sat)
Karoke Eve and "How to read Food Labels session"	26 <sup>th</sup> Feb (Sun)
Gudi Padwa	8th April (Sat)
"The Art of Making Money and Planning Future Investments" by Mr. Wale Balogun	6 <sup>th</sup> May (Sat)
"Sakhar Khalela Manus" Marathi Drama & Food bank drive	26 <sup>th</sup> May (Fri)
Calgary Inter Community Cricket tournament	17 <sup>th</sup> Jun (Sat)
Senior's day out at Bar U Ranch	1 <sup>st</sup> July (Sat)
Camping	14th July (Fri) & 15th July (Sat)
Rawson Lake hike	30 <sup>th</sup> July (Sat)
Seniors Picnic at Edworthy Park	19 <sup>th</sup> Aug (Sat)
Mustard Seed drive	27 <sup>th</sup> Aug (Sun)
Ganapati	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept (Sat)
Garba / Dandiya	23 <sup>rd</sup> Sept (Sat)
Diwali	28 <sup>th</sup> Oct (Sat)
Charity Drive	Nov (TBD)
Movie Night	Nov (TBD)

### Executive Committee

- Akhil Deshpande – President
- Arun Jadhav - Vice President
- Kaustubh Apte – Treasurer
- Nikhil Achrekar – Secretary



### Board of Trustees (BoT)

- Ajay Khanolkar - Chairperson
- Sucheta Kolhatkar - Vice Chairperson
- Vikrant Karambelkar - Director
- Neeraj Arvikar - Treasurer- Secretary



### Program / Event Committee

- Sonali Deshpande – Paalavi Facilitator
- Kavita Jadhav – Cultural Coordinator
- Geetashree Apte – Decoration Lead
- Minal Achrekar – Annapurna
- Swati Girap – Stage Program Coordinator

### Youth Committee (Paalavi)

- Parul Wadodkar
- Chinmoy Ayachit

### Seniors Club (Samadhan)

- Sapna Savai
- Vipin Savai

### New Immigrant Advisory Committee:

- Rajesh Jintikar

### Web Administrator:

- Manish Kaduskar
- Pallavi Kaduskar

### BMM Co-ordinator:

- Vinit Yadnik

### Movie and Drama Club

- Anand Thakar (Lead)
- Amit Mate
- Ajay Pawar