



स्मरणिका SMARANIKA

जोडी मराठी मनं Bridging Marathi Minds

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>

Our Vision

- “As a forward thinking and socially responsible group, our vision is to work together to preserve, promote, and enhance our culture, heritage and religion as part of the multi
- We aspire to strengthen our community as a whole and to promote multi- culturalism and inclusiveness for all generations to come”

Our Mission

- Uphold and encourage our values, heritage and culture through celebration of our customs and traditions for generations to come.
- To support the spirit of Multiculturalism in Canada and invite other Canadians to participate in our community
- To bring all persons interested in Marathi language and/or others interested in the promotion of Marathi language.
- To support relief of poverty through community service and by arranging various charitable and educational activities.
- To promote language and/or others interested in the promotion of Marathi language.

CMA Objectives

- Endorse events to strengthen the heritage, culture, festivities of the Marathi traditions.
- Support initiatives to promote and preserve the rich legacy of Marathi Language including support to Marathi schools in & around Calgary.
- Endorse culture specific entertainment opportunities to members through social gatherings.
- Promote artists from other ethnic groups & cultures to perform at events organised by CMA.

- Support the spirit of multiculturalism by promoting the events of other ethnic groups within the Marathi community.
- Educate and inform the younger generation of the diverse cultural heritage of India in general and of Maharashtra through various activities
- Engage the youth group through Paalavi program, in leadership opportunities to develop life skills, self- image and volunteerism.
- Engage the senior members of the community by supporting the initiatives of the Samadhan (a group for senior members).
- Support new Immigrants for an easy transition and engage them in the community activities.
- Promote participation in various charity initiatives while liaising with various community and charitable organisations.
- Conduct educational and skill development programs open to all members to strengthen the community as a whole.

Our Core Values

- **Respect:** We believe that every person deserves to be treated with respect, dignity, equality and compassion.
- **Open- Mindedness:** We are committed to engage families, community partners and service providers in the various initiatives, programs, events to strength the community network and social support system an inclusive environment.
- **Passion:** We are passionate about what we do - we value innovation, growth, educational opportunities with the underlying philosophy of togetherness, union of families and communities.
- **Enhance natural capacities and networks:** We are committed to provide a safe, secure, fun filled community network and social support system that promotes physical, social and me



Gudi Padwa

Date: April 9/10, 2022

Venue: Online Event

Youtube Link: <https://tinyurl.com/3s2xwxfp>

The occasion of Hindu New year, Gudi Padwa, was celebrated by Calgary Marathi Association in a Online/Hybrid setting due to challenges of social distancing.

Community members participated in Singing competition called “Sur Nava Dhyas Nava” by submitting their recorded songs to our esteemed judges. We had 15 participants from all over Canada, ranging from Toronto, Edmonton and here in Calgary. The sounds of Maharashtrian musicians was well received by the community members when we published the event on Youtube for all to enjoy.

Community members also participated in the cooking competition called “Swaad Maharashtra” and submitted their favorite tasty delicacies to our chef/judge who tasted and scored the participants. We had 5 entries for this event with participants of all ages taking interest and showing off their cooking skills. Interesting one being the winner who was the young 10 year old Mrigaj Jadhav who made his favorite sweet dish “Basundi”.

Calgary Stampede Parade

Date: July 9, 2022

Venue: Downtown Clagary

In the very first for an Indian Organization got entry into the prestigious Calgary Stampede to showcase out Maharashtrian Culture with the beautiful draped traditional sarees playing legim on the beats of our Dhol Tasha Pathak (Drums). We had a big troupe of 100 participants who ranged from 18 to 55 years old.



Ganeshotsav

Date: September 17, 2022

Venue: Chestermere Recreation Center

201 W Chestermere DR, Chestermere, AB, T1X 1B2

Ganeshotsav 2022 can be considered a enormous event for CMA. After the Covid restrictions were lifted this was one of the first major community get togethers that was organized by CMA.

We had participation of 397 members of the community.



The beautiful Ganesh idol set decorously in the back, mystically acquired center stage and took the breath away from all present. CMA members chanted the hymns “Atharvasirsha” together to spread warmth and positivity. This event not only symbolizes the unity of the community but it demonstrates the inclusion and involvement of all to spread cheer and happiness.





is also called Vijayadashami. This day is considered as auspicious to embark on any new projects, make agreements and purchases. Indians young and old also celebrate this day by worshipping their tools and books and exchanging leaves as a symbol of gold.

Navratri is celebrated for 9 nights and observed in honour of Devi Durga who battled the buffalo demon to restore dharma. CMA holds an event every year to celebrate both this occasions jointly. Its an evening spent dancing and connecting with friends. Garba is a form of dance which originated from the state of Gujrat. Garba is performed around a centrally lit lamp or statue of Goddess Shakti. Garba is unique for its circular/ spiral dance motions and colourful attire.

The event started with Devi Aarti (prayer) followed by Bhondla program which included ladies and young girls offering prayers to the Devi. All participants in the exotic costumes danced with the dandiyas. Community participants were also asked to put up stalls of their small businesses and food stalls to offer their homemade delicacies to the attending community members.



Diwali Mahautsav

Date: November 5th, 2022

Venue: Chestermere Recreation Center

201 W Chestermere DR, Chestermere, AB, T1X 1B2

Diwali – also known as the Festival of Lights was easily the biggest and most anticipated event of the year. Over 400 people attended this mega event held at the Chestermere Rec Centre. Diwali one of the most popular festivals in India spiritually signifies the victory of light over darkness, good over evil and hope over despair.

It is a festival of joy, splendor and happiness. Indians celebrate Diwali all over the world with great enthusiasm. Its celebration includes millions of lights shining on houses, diyas outside doors and windows and around temples. Diwali is extremely anticipated by children who revel in the firework and lighting displays all around Maharashtra and the opportunity to burst crackers.



CMA members got the opportunity to socialize with the dignitaries and have dinner with them. The festival started with a procession to herald the arrival of Ganpati bappa.

The sound of Dhol Tasha and lezim, and the enthusiastic Ganpati Bappa Morya's from the participants filled the Chestermere parking lot. The sight of ladies spontaneously breaking into fugdi with carefree energy added to the charm of the occasion. The Ganesh staphana and puja was followed by aarti and prasad. The community members showcased their traditional dances and music to the energetic crowd.

Navratri Utsav – Kojagiri Pournima

Date: October 1, 2022

Venue: St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox

Congregation 404 Meredith Rd NE Calgary T2E5A6

Traditionally celebrated at the end of Navratri, Dasara is observed for different reasons and celebrated differently in various parts of India. Maharashtrians celebrate it as a reminder of Lord Ram's victory over the demon Ravana. It



During Diwali, people dress up in traditional clothes, light up diyas and participate in family pujas. Traditionally families come together to celebrate this festival with feasts and exchange sweets and gifts with loved one's and friends.

Diwali is celebrated over a period of 5 days each significant in its own way, dedicated to a special thought or ideal. Diwali festivities start with

- Dhanteras – On this day Lord Dhanwantari came out of the ocean with Ayurveda for mankind.
- Narak Chaturdashi – The day Lord Krishna destroyed the demon Narakasur and made the world free from fear
- Laxmi puja- A day when Goddess Laxmi is worshipped to celebrate the triumph of good over evil and light over darkness
- Padwa – celebrates the relationship between husband and wife
- Bhaubij – celebrates the relationship between brothers and sisters. Legend has it that Yama, the Lord of death had visited his sister on this day and granted her a boon. That whoever visits her on this day will be liberated of all sins. From then on, brothers visit their sisters on this day.

This cultural event included energetic performances from the community members with 3 skits, 16 dance numbers to keep the members entertained throughout the program.

This year we initiated a social program of Clothes Donation Drive to commemorate the festival of lights. The clothes donated by the community members were donated to the Mustard Seed Calgary.



MLA Jordan Walker visiting us for Diwali 2022/

The sumptuous dinner and falooda followed by an open dance floor provided a perfect end to the evening.

Palavi – Youth Club

Entrepreneurship Workshop

Date: May 28th, 2022

Venue: Calgary Central Library

Our own community's Lindsay presented a lecture on Momentum to empower our youth to with the sense of Entrepreneurship and a presentation on Junior Achievement by Josh Johal was inspiring for the young leaders of the community

Paint With Me

Date: June 4th, 2022

Venue: Calgary Central Library

Pallavi Kaduskar, an upcoming painter and inspiring artist, hosted a painting session for the youth to introduce them to the basics of painting.

Group Bike Ride

Date: August 20th, 2022

Venue: North Glenmore Park



Over 16 families participated in the group bike ride around the 20km loop of the beautiful North Glenmore Park. The ride ended with lunch and ice-cream for all the riders.

Traffic Management AI Workshop

Date: November 18th, 2022

Venue: City of Calgary Traffic Management

A very informative workshop on how the City of Calgary manages Traffic on our streets was given by the Calgary Traffic Management service. The youth were exposed to lot of new technology that they can grow up to help design.

Samadhan – Seniors Club

Pravachan Yakshaprashna

Date: February 27th, 2022

Sau. Shilpa Navare gave a keynote address on one of the chapter of Bhagwat Gita (Hindu Holy Book) for our senior members to attend and discuss.

Pranayam and Breathing Exercises

Date: March 20th, 2022

Mr. Raja gave an online lesson on traditional breathing exercises especially directed towards the seniors in the community to help deal with the Covid related ailments.

Health and Nutrition Workshop

Date: June 24th, 2022

Mrs. Monali Kulkarni held online classes for the seniors to help them understand the benefits of a well balanced diet and associated exercises to keep healthy.

Senior's Picnic

Date: August 20, 2020

Venue: North Glenmore Park, Area A.

CMA hosted the seniors outdoors picnic in North Glenmore park. In addition to lots chit chatting the seniors enjoyed yoga lessons and played games to enjoy the warm weather. In the evening when the weather turned to rainy the enthusiasm didn't dampen and we enjoyed some warm tea with biscuits.





Premier Daniel Smith with our Executive Team



Executive Committee

- Harshada Fadnavis – President
- Santosh Gunjal - Vice President
- Harshal Kale – Treasurer
- Priyanka Kale – Secretary

Board of Trustees (BoT)

- Vipin Savai - Chairperson
- Rajesh Jintikar- Director
- Mukesh Shinde- Director

Program / Event Committee

- Amit Tilak – Samadhan Coordinator
- Vaishali Mahavir – Palvee/Youth Club Coordinator
- Pranoti Tilak – Cultural Coordinator
- Francis Aranha – Newcomers Coordinator
- Savita Swami – Annapurna Coordinator

Youth Committee (Paalavi)

- Shruti Swami – President
- Ojas Ranshinge – Vice President
- Secretary – Shreesha LAtkar
- Treasurer – Tanishka Gokhale
- Media Communications – Shriya Sidhaye