

Strategic Community Alliance, Inc.

“Promoting and Empowering Communities as One”

October 19, 2024

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Strategic Community Alliance, Inc.’s Gentiva Ocala Metro India Fest 2024

Strategic Community Alliance, Inc. organized the Gentiva Ocala Metro India Fest 2024 – Ocala Metro and Marion County’s community-wide cross-cultural experience of India – on October 5, 2024, at Citizens’ Circle in Downtown Ocala. This event drew approximately 1,400 attendees from several counties of Florida. Approximately 90 individuals from diverse backgrounds and ethnicities (Indians, Caucasians, Hispanics, South Americans, Japanese, African Americans, West Indians, etc.) presented Indian classical, folk and Bollywood dances and music, participated in India Trivia Quiz, modeled traditional Indian clothes, and engaged in learning and sharing of Indian culture, music, dance, history, arts, food, henna, fashion, etc. Twenty-five individuals including youth and school/college students volunteered during the event.

Opening Ceremony and Welcome Remarks

Opening Ceremony consisted of color guard presentation by Vanguard High School’s NJROTC cadets, singing of American and Indian national anthems by individuals from Ocala, welcome remarks from Executive Consultant of Gentiva Hospice (Flag Sponsor of the event) Mr. Kerry Eck, and President of Strategic Community Alliance, Inc. Dr. Sheni Meghani.



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Below are the links to the wonderful and inspiring opening ceremony of Color Guard and National Anthems, a reminder of the tremendous sacrifice of brave men and women of both the countries to protect our freedom. YouTube videos credit is to Mr. Chester Karwoski.

[20241005 - Ocala, Florida - Opening Ceremony with Color Guard, American & Indian National Anthems \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=20241005)

Saree Experience

Women from diverse ethnicities wore Saree (traditional Indian attire for women) as women from Indian community of Ocala volunteered their time, skills, talent and shared their sarees and love for sarees to facilitate an experience of beauty and elegance of Saree for the participants of Saree Experience. The program was facilitated by Dr. Sheni Meghani.



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Indian Fashion Show

Individuals from various backgrounds and ethnicities modeled traditional Indian attire, sharing fashions, fabrics, weaves and colors of India with the visitors. The show was facilitated by Mrs. Minal Bhatt and Dr. Hima Mikkilineni of Ocala and the Indian clothes were generously loaned by Shama Boutique of Naples, FL.



Indian Cultural Performances

Individuals from diverse ethnicities learned, shared and presented Indian classical, folk, and Bollywood dances and music; inviting the audience to participate in dance along.



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Below are links to videos to Bollywood, folk and classical Indian dances performed by citizens of Ocala, Marion County and surrounding communities. YouTube vides credit to Mr. Chester Karwoski.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dRM4x9GNDus&list=PLgoQ6QUkc47Pq5Qs0gIDe298SOiCm4K2h&index=2>

[20241005 - Ocala, Florida - Bollywood Dance at the Gentiva Ocala Metro India Fest \(youtube.com\)](#)

[20241005 - Ocala, Florida - India Dance at the Gentiva Ocala Metro India Fest \(youtube.com\)](#)

Individuals from diverse backgrounds, ethnicities, and races learned, performed and enjoyed Indian dances, forming myriads of colorful rhythmic formations of folk and Bollywood dances.

Below is the link to a YouTube video of visitors from diverse ethnicities and varying dancing skills learning and performing Indian dances on Indian music. YouTube video credit is to Mr. Chester Karwoski.

[20241005 - Ocala, Florida - Audience Dancing at the Gentiva Ocala Metro India Fest \(youtube.com\)](#)

Health and Wellness

Health and Wellness space of this event included lectures, demonstration and audience participation in Yoga, Taichi and health benefits of Indian spices led by experts in each of those areas.



Below are the links to YouTube videos of Yoga and Taichi demonstration. YouTube videos credit is to Mr. Chester Karwoski.

[20241005 - Ocala, Florida - Intro to Yoga Demo at the Gentiva Ocala Metro India Fest \(youtube.com\)](#)

[20241005 - Ocala, Florida - Tai Chi Fan by HanQing Tai Chi at the Gentiva Ocala Metro India Fest \(youtube.com\)](#)

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Vendors, sponsors, volunteers, ambience, performers, audience participation, effective outreach and seamless organization allowed this event to facilitate an enriching cultural and education experience for all; highlighting the curiosity, mutual respect, strength, unity within our diverse community.



Media Coverage of SCA's Gentiva Ocala Metro India Fest 2024

October 7, 2024 – Ocala Gazette

[Cross-cultural experience | Ocala Gazette](#)

October 10, 2024 – Ocala Style Magazine

[Gentiva Ocala Metro India Fest - Ocala Style Magazine](#)

October 12, 2024 – The Villages Daily Sun



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Additional pictures, videos, flyers, announcements, etc. can be found on our website <http://www.scacommunities.org> (events and gallery) as well as our Facebook pages (Strategic Community Alliance, Inc. and Sheni Meghani).

Please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Sheni Meghani at shenimeghani@yahoo.com if you need any additional information.

Thank you for your support for this enriching cross-cultural experience for Ocala Metro and surrounding communities.

Sincerely,

Sheni Meghani

Sheni Meghani
President