

Marathi Chronicle

A Publication of the Mauritius Marathi Cultural Centre Trust

NEWSLETTER No 1

February 2013



FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Dear Readers,

As you are aware at the last **'Assises des Arts et de la Culture Marathi'** held on 25 August 2012, organized by the Mauritius Marathi Cultural Centre Trust, a Strategic Action Plan was formulated for implementation during the period 2013-2015.

It was observed that there was no regular and consistent mode of communications within the Marathi community and hence it was decided to issue regularly a Newsletter that will disseminate information through the 'Marathi Chronicle'.

Welcome therefore to the First edition of 'Marathi Chronicle' and we do hope that the information and news contained in this Newsletter will keep you updated about activities pertaining to the social and cultural spheres of the Marathi community.

This issue has been made possible with the collaboration of the Mauritius Marathi Mandali Federation. The Editorial Board would appreciate your views and comments on this first Newsletter and invites you for our next issues to make your contribution in the form of news or any forthcoming events in your association or elsewhere that may be of interest to the Marathi community.

Wish you will enjoy reading this first issue.

25 February 2013

1. MISSION and VISION STATEMENTS of the MMCCT

VISION

To become one of the leading cultural centres at regional, national and international level aimed at achieving artistic excellence and positive ancestral values towards a humanitarian global society by the next decade.

MISSION

To preserve and promote Marathi arts and culture amongst the diverse cultures of Mauritius through artistic and cultural activities while nurturing creativity and innovation.

2. SOME PAST MAIN ACTIVITIES & ACHIEVEMENTS

- Tabla courses conducted at the Maharashtra Bhawan and in other branches of the Mauritius Marathi Mandali Federation.
- A mammoth cultural programme '*Kalaa Ranga Dhara*' presented by more than 100 local artists on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the Federation in June 2010
- A DVD on Maharashtrian dishes and Palna Geet
- A Marathi Film Festival jointly with the Federation in collaboration with a team of film actors, producers and directors from Dubai.
- A DVD on Ganesh Murthi making entitled '*Avigna –Remover of all obstacles*'.
- A 22-member cultural troupe performed for the Platinum Jubilee of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, Mumbai in the presence of the former President of the Republic of India Smt Pratibha Patil in October 2011.
- Launching of the research document entitled '*A Study of the Marathi Settlements in Mauritius*'.
- Assises des Arts et de la Culture Marathi in August 2012
- Organization of the National Jhakri Competition in September 2012
- Participation in the Regional Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in Mauritius- October 2012
- Organization of a Cultural Trail-'Walk on the Steps of our Ancestors' in the Black River National Park in November 2012
- Participation in the '*Arrival of Indentured labourers Day*' November 2012 and a Food festival organised by the Appravasi Ghat Trust Fund
- Participation in the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in Kerala-January 2013

3. STRATEGIC PLAN OF ACTION OF THE MMCCT 2013-2015

Following the 'Assises des Arts et de la Culture Marathi' held in August 2012, a Plan of action in 5 disciplines was drawn up for implementation during the period 2013-2015 a summary of which is given below. The 2 key words on which the plan is based are 'Creativity and Innovation'

(A) THEATRE

- A Sensitization and Motivation Programme conducted by experts in the field in 4 key areas of the Island in view of the poor response and lack of interest in participation in drama activities.
- Organization of a One-Man show and Sketch competition for all ages and Junior Marathi Drama Competition for those under 15 years. More details in our next issue

(B) MUSIC

- Encourage our students to join recognised institutions for training in music like flute, sitar etc and to involve more artists in our programme.
- Organization of regional concerts, Song Competition for those under 15 years and senior citizens.
- Celebration of Artists Day

(C) CHOREOGRAPHY

- Provide training in various types of Maharashtra folk Dances.
- Encourage students to join professional classes in Dancing.
- Organize at high level Kohli, Lawni and other innovative dance competitions.
- Organize Solo Dance Competition for those under 12 years and Jhakri Competition at National level for those under 15 years.

(D) ARCHITECTURE AND RESEARCH

- Organize Painting, Photographic and Rangoli Competitions
- Set up a Marathi Folk Museum and a Marathi Cultural Village
- Publication of a Book on the life and works of Pandit Sahadeo

(E) COMMUNICATION & MISCELLANEOUS

- Since there is no existence of a regular and consistent mode of communication within the Marathi community, the 'Marathi Chronicle' as a form of Newsletter should be revived. Additionally, a Database of all Marathi associations, professionals and artists should be created to allow for networking.
- Organize a Food festival and a Fashion show.
- Revive the "Das Avtar"
- Setting up of an 'Association of Professional Artists Academy

4. PRESENT STATUS OF THE STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

In order to follow up closely the Plan, a Strategic Action Plan Monitoring and Implementation Committee has been set up and below is the present status of the implementation of the Plan:

A. THEATRE

A Sensitization and Motivation Programme campaign to boost up drama activities was held on Saturday 23 February 2013 at 3 p.m at the following places:

Place of meeting	Region	Supervising Persons
Maharashtra Bhawan, Moka	Districts of Plaine Wilhems & Port Louis and Moka & Flacq	Messrs Limbajee Bhiwajee & Rajen Ramma
Marathi Oopkharee Sabha Hall, Mont Fertile	District of Grand Port	Messrs Ashok Gowreea & Sonah Dhurmea
Marathi Ganesh Pawan Mandir, Black River	Districts of Savanne & Black River	Mrs Vashni Purusram & Mr Vijay Moocond

Around 40 participants were present, the majority of them being from Grand Port. The Maharashtra Bhawan meeting was monitored by Mrs. C. Ramah, the Black River meeting by Mr. S. Luximon and Mr. S. Babajee and that of Mont Fertile by Mr. V. Mulloo.

The Drama classes in all these zones would start on Saturday 16th March 2013. The supervising persons mentioned above could be contacted.

B. MUSIC –Initiation Class to Flute Playing

To encourage and initiate our people in music, we will be starting with 'An Initiation to Flute Playing' which will be conducted by Mr Paramasiven Valaydon, famous and well known professional flute player. Remember there are very few flutists in Mauritius and it is a luck that he has agreed to coach our people in flute playing.

It is a golden opportunity for all those who are interested in this flute training class which will begin by end April to kindly register their name, address, age, phone and mail numbers and any past experience in music and send it by mail or letter or fax to the Secretariat, MMCCT, Maharashtra Bhawan, Moka. Depending upon the number of applications received, a first gathering in the presence of Mr Valaydon will be held on a date to be fixed later. The classes may be held either on Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning. Mention also your preference on either day.

The course will be free but you will be required to make a non-refundable deposit of Rs 500. If the classes are run successfully, MMCCT may sponsor part of your travelling and flute instrument. Only 25 students will be selected.

N.B: Last date for registration is 31 March 2013

A. CHOREOGRAPHY-TRAINING IN MAHARASHTRA FOLK DANCES

In line with the recommendations of the Strategic Action Plan, the MMCCT has been able through Mrs. Priya Mulloo to contact a choreographer from Maharashtra to coach our people in various Maharashtra folk dances. Her name is Mrs Deepti Gokhale. She is a postgraduate with Distinction in Dance from the University of Pune. She has won many awards viz the Outstanding Performer Award in Deheradun, Paluskar Award, Mumbai etc and has been choreographer of many folk dances. She has also wide teaching experience in the subject.

Mrs. Gokhale will be in Mauritius on Friday 5 April and will start the classes as from Saturday 6 April till Saturday 13 April except 11 April which is Guddi Padwa. The classes will be held at the Maharashtra Bhawan, Moka on these 7 days from 9 a.m to 4 p.m. The workshop will consist of 8 forms of Marathi folkloric types of dance as detailed hereunder. She will also provide details of costumes, history etc.

Gondhal

Koli

Lavani

Mangalagour and

Povada

Bharud

Lezim

Dhangari.

Only 20 students from both boys and girls will be selected. The following are the criteria for selection which she has communicated:

- Age group from 15 to 30 years.
- Must possess a certificate in dance or have performed at national level for more than 2 years.
- Should be eager to learn and ready to share the knowledge transferred.
- Should be creative, motivated and ready for extra mile.

Those interested to participate in the 7- day workshop from 9.a.m to 4p.m should register at the Secretariat of MMCCT, Maharashtra Bhawan, Moka giving full name, address, age, tel No and experience before the 22 March 2013.

The Course will be FREE but those selected will be required to pay a participation fee of Rs 500 to cover materials and lunch.

We would like to stress that this is an Intensive training for Trainers that is after getting this training they should be able to train other people also. The MMCCT will not fail to follow them up after the workshop.

B. ARCHITECTURE and RESEARCH

Following the Cultural trail organized at the Black River National Park by the Trust in collaboration with the Mauritius Marathi Mandali Federation in November last, a site is being identified in that region for the setting up of a Marathi Cultural Village. Contacts with the Authorities will start in due course.

Mr. Anand Mulloo has already been entrusted with the writing of the book on the life and achievements of Pandit Sahadeo and it is planned to launch this publication in September 2013.

C. COMMUNICATIONS and MISCELLANEOUS

As regards Newsletter, we have already implemented this project and this first issue has set the tone.

We are thinking of gathering all Professional artists- Theatre, Choreography, Music, Architecture and so on; under the Academy of Professional Marathi Artists.

The first meeting is likely to be held on Saturday 30 March. Venue and time will be communicated later.

5. PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS -KERALA

A delegation led by Mr. Balraj Narroo, Chairman of MMCCT and MMMF and comprising Mr. Sanjay Govind, Board member of MMCCT, Mr. K. Appa of MMMF and Mr. A. Bheeca of MSU attended the PBD in Kochi, Kerala from 7 to 9 January 2013. Eminent personalities from India including the President Shri Pranab Mukerjee and the Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singh were present.

After the Convention, Mr. Balraj Narroo paid a courtesy visit to Mrs. Vaishali Sunil Bankar, the Mayoress of Pune Municipal Corporation, to the Hon. Shri Prithviraj Chavan, Chief Minister of Maharashtra and also had a meeting with the Hon. Shri Dilip Walse Patil, Speaker of Maharashtra State Assembly and discussed issues like translation in Marathi of the publication of 'A Study of Marathi Settlements in Mauritius' and also about a financial assistance for the construction of the Phase II of the Maharashtra Bhawan.

6. CELEBRATION OF GUDDI PADWA - 2013

Guddi Padwa will be organized by the Bambous Marathi Mitra Mandal in collaboration with the MMMF, MMCCT and MSU. It will be celebrated this year at national level at Bambous. All associations celebrating the Gudhi Padwa should inform us by 31st March 2013 so that we can mention it in forthcoming Newsletter.

7. NATIONAL DRAMA FESTIVAL 2013- Marathi

Please note that the Stage Rehearsals/Preliminaries for the National Drama Festival in Marathi organised by the Ministry of Arts and Culture for this year have been scheduled on Tues 2, Wed 3, Thurs 4, Fri 5, Sat 6, Wed 10, Fri 12 and Sat 13 July 2013.

The Stage Rehearsals and Finals have been fixed on Thursday 1 Aug and Sat 3 Aug 2013.

The last day for submission of entries is on Monday 6 May 2013. For more details, please contact Mr. L. Bhiwajee, Principle Arts Officer, Ministry of Arts and Culture. Tel No 211 2991 (Ext: 230)

8. MISCELLANEOUS NEWS AND INFORMATION

It is good to know that:

*The following Maharashtrians received the Bharat Ratna which is the Highest Civilian Award in India:

1958: Dr Dhondoo Keshav Karve ----- Social work
1963: Dr Pandurang Waman Kane-----Social Work
1983: Acharya Vinoba Bhave-----Social work
1990: Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar-----Public Affairs
2001: Lata Mangeshkar-----Arts
2008: Dr Bhimsen Joshi-----Arts

- 'Raja Harishchandra', produced and directed by DadaSaheb Phalke in 1913 i.e. 100 years ago was the first full length Indian feature film.
- The MMMF received the First Religious subsidy of Rs10,140 based on 13,170 heads at 0.77 cents in 1960. It is now Rs 1 million crossed.
- The first Marathi magazine 'The Marathi Guardian 'in Mauritius was published by MMMF in August 1964.
- Marathi language was first taught in very few Primary schools in 1965 with only 3 Marathi teachers. We have now more than 125 including graduates in Secondary schools.
- The Marathi Youth Federation organized the First Marathi Week in April 1967 and also arranged for the screening of the First Marathi film 'Saadhi Manse' in Mauritius in June 1968.
- The 2nd Marathi Week was organized by the MMMF in August 1990 in the presence of Hon Sushil Kumar Shinde, now Union Home Minister in India.
- The 2nd World Marathi Conference was held in Mauritius in April 1991 in the presence of Hon. Sharad Pawar, now Union Minister of Agriculture.

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