

From the President

On behalf of the TFAS Executive Committee, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy holiday season and good wishes for the upcoming New Year. However, I write this note with a heavy heart and express our condolences to the victims of the Mumbai terror attacks. In this hour of grief, we all stand together to denounce these acts of violence and terror by those who hate peace, prosperity and common good. We will send a clear message that people of India and especially those in Mumbai are resilient and normalcy will return soon. TFAS participated at a community gathering yesterday at the Morganville Temple to offer a special prayer to the victims of this tragedy. As we continue to heal, let us all pray for peace and harmony.

As I indicated in my last message, TFAS celebrated its Deepavali program on October 18th, 2008 at the North Brunswick High School. I am pleased to inform you that the event was a great success. For the first time in the history of TFAS, over 800 people attended this event. Although we only had about 500 people registered by 9 AM on the day of the event an additional 300 people showed up at the event. It was unfortunate that we had to turn back over 40 people back at the event due to concerns over fire code violations and for lack of space in the building. I strongly urge the members and their friends to register early for future events. In order to facilitate this, TFAS has collaborated with secondshows.com for online registration and credit card payments. This will ensure that your seat and meal are guaranteed at the event and will immensely help organize the event more effectively. With hard work from the entire Executive Committee, the Deepavali Celebrations yielded over \$7,000 in surplus. We will undertake various community service and membership benefit initiatives in the future, such as providing membership cards that will provide discounts at various Indian business establishments in the State. We wanted to extend our special gratitude to all the sponsors for their generous contributions towards this event.

The Executive Committee continues to be very active in planning for various upcoming events and participating at various community events. Members of the Committee were invited by Governor Jon Corzine to celebrate Diwali at the Governor's Mansion in Princeton. The Committee is currently planning Sankranti and Trimurthy Day, which will be held at the Bridgewater Temple on January 17th and March 14th, 2009, respectively. Details of these two events are available at tfas.net. These two programs are geared to encourage participation by our youngsters in various cultural and literary events.

In addition, we are planning to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the TFAS during the summer of 2009 in a grand way. We are trying to make plans to accommodate over 2,000 people at this event with a good mix of literary, cultural, entertainment and food. Details of this event are still in preliminary stages. I strongly urge anyone of you, who is interested in assisting TFAS to contact me to either serve on one of the committees or just volunteer. We are planning to have a fund-raising dinner in March, 2009 as a pre-cursor to this event.

Given the goals and objectives set forth by the Executive Committee, we are actively involved in increasing the TFAS membership, membership participation at various events, exposure and participation of TFAS at various community events. We hope you would agree with our goals and objectives and provide the support needed.

Have a safe, peaceful and warm holiday season and I will reach out to you again in the New Year.

Damu Gedala

TFAS invites you to **Sankranti Celebrations**
(An Exclusive Program for Children)
on **Saturday, January 17, 2008, 9 AM** onwards
at Venkateswara Temple Auditorium, Bridgewater, NJ
Participants should register on www.tfas.net. Fill-in the form and submit on web by Jan 2.
Confirmation of registration will be emailed by Jan 8.
Competitions in following categories: Rangoli; Fancy Dress; Small Skits (new); Poster/Collage (on Rivers of India) Contest (new); Telugu Text Reading (new); Bommala Koluvu; Kolatam or Gobbillu Dances (new).
Categories for open stage performances: Non-Competitions (Strict Time Limit = 5 Minutes): Any variety of Dance; Any variety of Vocal Music; Any variety of Instrumental music; Any Telugu Poem Narration.
All the participants will be awarded with Trophies.
Winners of competitions will receive prizes.
For details: see www.tfas.net (Program flyer will be posted on web soon).

Deepavali Program Income & Expenses October 18, 2008 North Brunswick High School	
INCOME	Amount \$
Collections for the program	8,634.00
Collections for Competitions	1,074.00
Vendors & Advertisers	951.00
SPONSORS	15,150.00
TOTAL INCOME	25,809.00
EXPENSES	
School Auditorium	3,459.00
Temple Auditorium	650.00
Food Catering	6,238.68
Indian Artists	5,000.00
Trophies	1,331.60
Miscellaneous	1,215.33
TOTAL EXPENSES	17,894.61
NET INCOME (Income - Expenses)	7,914.39

TFAS thanks the following sponsors for their generous donations: Global Tek, SPLN, SOLA2000, Nannapaneni, KV Rao, Ashok Pilly, Prime Soft, Hall Mark Global Tech Inc., Cyber Resources, Fare One, Radiant, Synerzy, Dhurti, Dreammaker, and Sriven Systems.