

# Roshni

Diwali 2004

This year's theme of 'roshni' allows our community to come together on this auspicious occasion to shine light on each other. This will give us the opportunity to meet old friends and be acquainted with new friends so that we can start our new year off with a fresh, radiant light.



MGM is delighted to bring 'roshni' into everyone's lives with the celebration of Bestu Varsh at our annual Diwali function taking place on Saturday, November 13th, 2004. This is the time to take advantage of the seasonal events, socialize with family and friends, and enjoy the many festive foods and sweets.

We often get caught up in the hustle and bustle of our daily activities. Work, kids, family and extra-curricular activities take up all the time that we have. This Bestu Varsh, we should use this opportunity to reflect on the past, and carry those experiences into the new year.

For more details on this event, please refer to page 4.

## **IT'S NAVRATRI TIME**

TIME FOR DANDIA RAAS!

It is finally that time of year again, the time where we can all get lost in the rhythm of the dandias and in the beat of the taal.

This year MGM and Panchal Samaj will be joining the Modh Gandhi Samaj of Ontario for our annual Dandia/Raas which will take place on Saturday, **October 23<sup>rd</sup>**, at **C.W. Jeffreys Collegiate Institute** at 7:30 p.m.

The address is **340 Sentinel Road** between Keele and Jane on Finch Avenue in the Downsview area. The Fee is **\$5 per person** for everyone over the age of 18.

So dust off those dandiya and get ready to boogie!



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## Message from the President

## MGM Mahila Mandal

Dear friends,

Nutanvarshabhinandan

Wishing you all a Happy Diwali and a Prosperous New Year.

It's been a busy and a full year so far in 2004. We started early in January with planning for the year with six full events, some of them very new, original and great fun. Skating, Music Evening, Casino Trip, two summer picnics are all successfully behind us and we now look forward to our 'Roshni Diwali' Celebration on November 13th.

We have seen so much support in so many ways from you, our community members, that it is truly heartwarming and energizing. You have shown your support by attending MGM events, volunteering your help, donating funds and equipment and most important, by simply smiling and enjoying yourself. The net result is – your committee members are re-energized and encouraged to continue to serve you. On behalf of your MGM committee, Mahila Committee and all volunteers, I would like to offer you our appreciation and thank you most sincerely.

Let's continue to grow together – healthy, happy and strong. We invite you all to our Roshni Diwali Celebrations on Bestu Varsh Day and look forward to meeting you again.

Best wishes and saprem namaste,  
Anupama Parmar

### MGM મહિલા મંડળ

મહિલા મંડળ વતી સમાજના તમામ સભ્યોને દિવાળી અને નવા વર્ષની શુભેચ્છા પાઠવું છું. ખાસ કરીને ઉનાળાની બે પીકનીક દરમ્યાન સમાજની બહેનોનો ઉત્કૃષ્ટ ફાળો અને સહકાર જોવા મળ્યો. આ તબક્કે હું મહિલા મંડળના પ્રમુખ તરીકે તમોનો આભાર વ્યક્ત કરું છું. બહેનોની સમૂહમાં કામ કરવાની તત્પરતા, હસમુખા ચહેરા અને સ્વેચ્છાએ યોગદાન આપવાની વૃત્તિના પરિણામે બંને પીકનીક અત્યંત સફળ રહી. આવનાર દિવાળી કાર્યક્રમમાં પણ આવા જ ઉત્સાહથી આપણે સૌ કામ કરીએ એવી અપેક્ષા રાખું છું. તમારો સહકાર અને ફાળો ખરેખર અભિનંદનને પાત્ર છે. સર્વે બહેનોને હું હમારી સ્વયંસેવકોની ઉત્તમ ટીમમાં જોડાઈ, સમાજનું વધુ શક્તિશાળી મહિલામંડળનું સ્વરૂપ કરવા આમંત્રણ પાઠવું છું.

જ્યારથી મહિલામંડળની સ્થાપના થઈ, ત્યારથી આજદિન સુધી મંડળ વધુને વધુ મજબૂત બન્યું છે. અમે MGMની તમામ પ્રકૃતિઓમાં મદદરૂપ થવા હંમેશા તત્પર છીએ. મહેરબાની કરી આવો જ ઉત્સાહ અને સહકાર હંમેશા આપતા રહેશો જેથી ભવિષ્યમાં આપણે મજબૂત સમાજનું નિર્માણ કરી શકીએ.

તમારા સહકાર બદલ આભાર!

– નિલા ચૌહાણ

On behalf of the Mahila Mandal, I would like to extend my best wishes for Diwali and the New Year to all our MGM members. As President of the Mahila Mandal, I would like to thank all the ladies for their unconditional support throughout the year and especially during both of our summer picnics. Because of their willingness to help, teamwork, smiling faces and eagerness to contribute, both picnics were a hit! I am looking forward to working with all of you during our next Diwali program. Your support and contribution is much appreciated! I also encourage others to please come out and join our fantastic team of volunteers so that we build an even stronger Mahila Mandal for our community.

Ever since the Mahila Mandal has been developed, it has been going strong. We have always been ready and willing to give a helping hand to our MGM community. Please continue to support us so that we are able to keep our community strong for the future.

Thank you for your support!

Neela Chauhan

### પ્રમુખશ્રીનો સંદેશ

હાલ મિત્રો, નૂતન વર્ષાભિનંદન!

સમાજના તમામ સભ્યોને શુભ દિવાલિ અને મંગલમય નૂતનવર્ષની શુભેચ્છા.

આત્યાર સુધીના ૨૦૦૪ વર્ષમાં આપણે અત્યંત પ્રગતિમય રહ્યા. આપણે જાન્યુઆરી માસમાં છ પૂર્ણ કાર્યક્રમની રૂપરેખા તૈયાર કરી હતી, જે પૈકી કેટલાક કાર્યક્રમો તદ્દન નવા, અસલ અને મનોરંજક હતા. સ્કેટીંગ, સંગીત સંધ્યા, કેસીનો પ્રવાસ અને બે પીકનીકનો આનંદ આપણે માણી ચૂક્યા છીએ. હવે આપણે નવેમ્બર ૧૩ના રોજ યોજાનાર “રોશની દિવાલી” ની ઉજવણી તરફ ધ્યાન આપીએ.

સમાજના તમામ સભ્યોનો અલગ અલગ રીતે મળેલ સહકાર ખરેખર હૃદયદ્રાવક અને ઉત્સાહપ્રેરક છે. તમે જ્ઞાતિમંડળના કાર્યક્રમોમાં હાજર રહીને, સ્વેચ્છાથી મદદ કરીને, તેમજ સાધન-સામગ્રી અને નાણાકીય મદદ આપીને તથા સૌથી વધુ અગત્યનું તો હસમુખો ચહેરો રાખી આ તમામ કાર્યક્રમોનો આનંદ માણીને સામજિક પ્રવૃત્તિઓમાં મોટું યોગદાન આપ્યું છે. પરિણામ સ્વરૂપે તમારા કમિટિ સભ્યોનું પુનઃ ઉત્સાહ પૂર્વક કામ કરવાની પ્રેરણા મળી છે. જ્ઞાતિ મંડળ સમિતી, મહિલા મંડળ સમિતી તથા તમામ સ્વયંસેવકો તરફથી તમામ સભ્યોનો હૃદયપૂર્વક આભાર માનીએ છીએ.

ચાલો આપણે સૌ ભેગા મળી તંદુરસ્ત, આનંદી અને શક્તિશાળી સમાજ બનાવીએ. બેસતાં વર્ષના દિવસે યોજાનાર “રોશની દિવાલી” સમારંભની ઉજવણી પ્રસંગે આપ સૌને ભાવભરી આમંત્રણ પાઠવીએ છીએ. આ પ્રસંગે આપ સૌને ફરીથી મળીશું. શુભેચ્છા અને સપ્રેમ નમસ્તે.

– અનુપમા પરમાર

## Tresurer's Report

2004 is flying by quickly and before we know it, Diwali will be here! So let us take a quick look back at the year so far.

Overall, we've enjoyed great success with so many new events organized this year like the winter Family Skating, Music Evening, Casinorama Trip and of course our traditional two summer picnics and our upcoming Diwali show. For a small community such as ours, we certainly are keeping ourselves entertained!

Good news to report is that since January we have received \$1700 in cash donations as well as sponsorships for all the costs for the picnics meals, cooking equipment, sports inventory and much more support to pour in. It is not easy to put a dollar value to these but one thing we are certain of - your tremendous support is invaluable. We thank all donors for their generosity and big hearts! No amount is too small. Let us continue to succeed in the challenge to close each event with a surplus so we can reinvest it back in MGM.

Just a friendly reminder to all members, if you have not paid your 2004 membership fees please mail us your cheque or you may pay at the Diwali Show on November 13<sup>th</sup>.

Our Diwali Greetings and best wishes to all.  
Ramesh Parmar, Treasurer  
Resha Chauhan, Asst. Treasurer

### Happy Diwali to everyone in the MGM community!!

Diwali is a time where we all come together to celebrate our lives, not only as individuals but as members of a larger united family. We are thankful for all that has been given to us, and in that we should also be thankful for being blessed with such a beautiful community, one in which we are all always there for each other.

Just as the divas light up our homes, may the New Year shine rays of happiness on our community as well as each of our families.

Best Wishes,  
Ramesh Parmar and Family

### GKM CONVENTION 2004 – FLORIDA

As most of you will know, this year's GKM Convention 2004 was held in Florida from July 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>. A few of our MGM families attended the Convention and told us just how successful it was. The weather was fabulous and the event was very well organized. Approximately 200 people attended with over 50 young adults for whom a special trip to Disney world was organized. Sounds like they all had a lot of fun.

Our congratulations to GKM and the Florida team lead by Mr. Shirishbhai Doolabh for successfully organizing this convention. We now look forward to news of the next GKM Convention in 2006!

### ગુજરાતી ક્ષત્રિય એસોશિએશન (GKM) કન્વેન્શન ૨૦૦૪ – ફ્લોરિડા

આપ સૌ જાણો છો કે, જી.કે.એમ. કન્વેન્શન ૨૦૦૪ જુલાઈ-૨ થી જુલાઈ-૪ દરમિયાન ફ્લોરિડા, યુ.એસ. એ.માં યોજાઈ ગયું. આપણાં એમ.જી.એમ. સમાજના કેટલાક પરિવાર સભ્યોએ આ સમારંભમાં રહી તેની સફળતા વિષે અમને માહિતગાર કર્યાં છે. સમગ્ર કાર્યક્રમનું ઉત્તમ રીતે આયોજન કરવામાં આવ્યું હતું. તે સાથે હવામાન પણ ઘણું જ ઉત્સાહપ્રેરક હતું. આશરે ૨૦૦ વ્યક્તિઓ આ સમારંભમાં હાજર રહ્યા હતા. જે પૈકી ૫૦ નવયુવક-યુવતીઓની ડીઝની-વર્લ્ડની પાસ મુલાકાતનું આયોજન પણ કરવામાં આવ્યું હતું. એવું જાણવા માળ્યું છે કે દરેક વ્યક્તિએ આ પ્રસંગે ખૂબ જ આનંદ માણ્યો.

શ્રી શિરીષભાઈ દુલ્લભની આગેવાની હેઠળની જી.કે.એમ. અને ફ્લોરિડાના જ્ઞાતિસમાજના સભ્યોની કુશળ ટીમને આ કાર્યક્રમનું સફળતાપૂર્વક આયોજન કરવા બદલ આપણે સૌ અભિનંદન પાઠવીએ છીએ. આગામી જી.કે.એમ. કન્વેન્શન ૨૦૦૬ના આયોજન અંગેના સમાચારની રાહ જોઈએ.

# Diwali 2004 - Roshni



It's that wonderful time of year again where the festive lights and sweets of Diwali and Bestu Varsh bring all of us together. MGM would like to warmly invite all community members, families, and friends to attend our very special Diwali and Bestu Varsh show on Saturday November 13, 2004. This year a Roshni theme will run throughout our program. Roshni means the divine lights of a festival and a bright future that will come with it. Please come out and spend this wonderful evening with us where there will be great performances, creative art displays, tasty food, and a chance to socialize with friends we don't see very often. Hope to see you all there!

ADMISSION	Paid Members	Non Members
Adult	\$20.00	\$25.00
Senior / Child	\$15.00	\$20.00
Children Under 5 Yrs	Free	Free

**PLACE: Sangeet Banquet Hall**

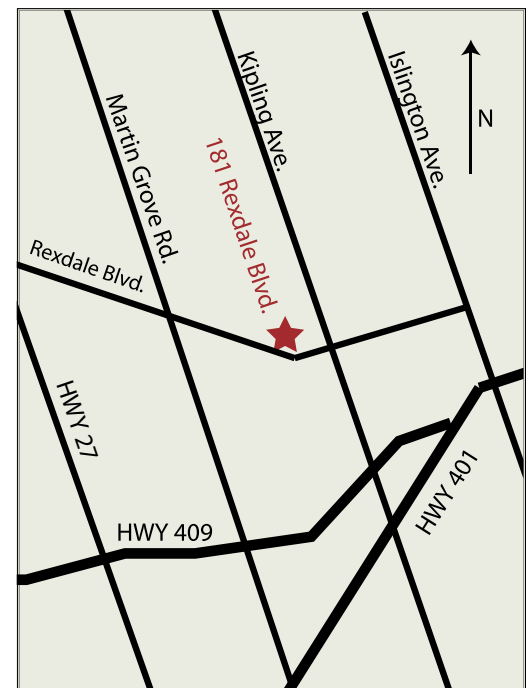
181 Rexdale Blvd.

Etobicoke, Ont. M9W 1P7

**DATE: Saturday November 13, 2004**

**PROGRAM TIME SCHEDULE:**

TIME	
5:00 pm – 6:30 pm	Arrival / Socializing
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Appetizers
7:30 pm – 9:00 pm	Welcome Speeches and Cultural Program
9:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Buffet Dinner (Vegetarian)
10:00 pm – 10:30 pm	Awards Presentation
10:30 pm – 11:30 pm	Raas / Garba
11:30 pm – 1:00 am	Bhangra / Dance



**NOTE TO ALL PARTICIPANTS:**

All groups and individuals wishing to participate in the cultural program, please contact Neela Chauhan at 905-886-8648 no later than October 15th, 2004 to submit your item. There are a limited number of items allowed so please call early to notify your intention to perform.

**Graduation Awards Presentation 2003-2004**

MGM recognizes the scholastic achievements of its members. Please inform us of any graduates from the school years 2003 to 2004. We wish to present scholastic awards at our annual Diwali celebration. Graduating classes are: Grade 8, Grade 12, College and University.

We require the following information from you:  
 Full Name  
 Name of School  
 Grade Graduating From / Name of Diploma or Degree  
 Year of Graduation

Please submit your details no later than October 15th, 2004 to:  
 Rina Arya- MGM Secretary  
 12 Stonegate Drive  
 Brampton, ON  
 L6Z 3L7  
 Phone: 905-840-6115  
 Email: rina\_arya@hotmail.com

## Events for 2004

### MGM Summer Picnics

#### Water Fight!

Heart Lake Conservation Park played host to our first picnic of the year, and boy was it a grand success! Approximately 200 people showed up to enjoy the beautiful weather and company. During the day the adults were busy chatting and eating away, while the children were invited to participate in various activities planned by the MGM Sports and Recreation Committee such as sack race, and the ever-so-popular tug 'o' war. Water fights were happening everywhere, to cool off from the hot and sticky weather. MGM was also on hand to welcome the many visitors from near and far who came to join us at our annual picnic. A full meal was cooked onsite with everyone helping out in the makeshift kitchen. The meal concluded with refreshing watermelon to cool us off in the hot sun.

#### Rain Rain, Go Away...

Wildwood Park was home to us again for our second annual picnic. The weather was a bit cool, but it was a refreshing change from the usual hot and humid temperature that we had experienced during the first picnic. The kids were having a great time in the inflatable obstacle course while the adults were mingling and trying out all the delicious snacks that everyone

had brought from home. The afternoon consisted of lots of rain, which in turn forced everyone to stay under the shelter for more socializing, playing games, drinking tea and of course cooking the big meal. The evening finished off with a delicious kichadi with tomato and potato dinner accompanied by chaas.

MGM would like to thank all the donors and everyone for coming out to the picnics and for making them as successful as they were! Can't wait to see everyone again next year!

### MGM SPORTING NEWS... TO DATE 2004

The weather was excellent for the various sports and activities played during the first picnic. Everyone was involved and participated in most of the games. It was nice to see lots of youth setting up teams and playing soccer and volleyball.

This year the MGM sports committee tried very hard to arrange for an MGM soccer team. However, the opposing team who had promised us our first friendly game could not come up with a team. Hopefully we will be able to get a game or two next year.

I would like to thank everyone who helped in arranging and setting up the games during the picnics. Without your help it makes things much more efficient and we hope to see the same support in years to come.

Once again, please contact your MGM Sports and Recreation representative, Kirit Parmar, for any suggestions concerning sports and activities.

### calendar of events to date

**Sunday, February 15th, 2004**  
**Family Skating Trip**  
Nathan Phillips Square, Toronto

**Friday, April 23rd, 2004**  
**Music/Bingo/Dinner Evening**  
Lombardo Banquet Hall, Mississauga  
7089 Torbram Rd.

**Saturday, May 29th, 2004**  
**MGM Casino Rama Trip**  
Orillia - Group Transportation

**Sunday, July 11th, 2004**  
**Summer Picnic #1**  
Heart Lake Conservation, Brampton  
(Full cooked meal onsite)

**Sunday, August 15th, 2004**  
**Summer Picnic #2**  
Wildwood Park, Malton  
(Khichadi Event)

**Saturday, October 23rd, 2004**  
**Navratri Dandia Raas**  
C.W. Jeffreys Collegiate Institute  
340 Sentinel Road between Keele and  
Jane on Finch

**Saturday, November 13th, 2004**  
**Grand Diwali & Bestu Varsh Show**  
Sangeet Banquet Hall, Rexdale  
(Bestu Varsh Celebrations  
only vegetarian meal provided)

For more up to date information on  
upcoming events, visit our website at  
[www.mgmontario.com](http://www.mgmontario.com).

### Gujarati Calendar

10/13/2004 ...Sharad Ends

10/14/2004 ...Navratri Begins

10/22/2004 ...Navratri Ends (Nom)

10/23/2004 ...Dassera

11/10/2004 ...Dhan Teras

11/11/2004....Kali Chaudash

11/12/2004 ...Diwali

11/13/2004 ...New Year (Saal Mubarak)

11/14/2004 ...Bhai Bij

## In Our Memories

### **Swargasth ganga swaroop Pushpaben Pattni – 1924 -2004**

Our beloved Ba, and everyone knew her as Ba, was a very warm and loving person, radiating spiritual strength and happiness. She read Gajendra Moksha and Bhishma Stuti everyday. On the most auspicious day of Sud Ekadasi in Adhik Sharaavan mas V.S 2060, she prayed to Krishna, "Take me to your dham, I want to come and see your raas lila."

Pushpaben traversed many eras and three continents in her lifespan. Born in a small town, called Jam Kandorna, near Somnaath in Saurashtra, in an era when she travelled by belgaadi, got water in "beda" on her head, and picked up chhana for fuel. She got married and travelled to Mombasa, Kenya in 1943 in WW2 times by dhows, which was an experience in itself. In 1976, she jetted down to Toronto, Canada and experienced the cold weather and the snow for the first time, and she really loved it! The computers intrigued her and even tried to understand the technology, but then she would say, she will learn all this in her next reincarnation.

She passed away on July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2004 at the golden age of 80 years. Ba, we are all going to miss you very much, but we know you are happy in Vrindavan playing raas with Radha and Krishna and other gopis.

We would like to thank everyone who gave so much love and respect to our Ba and for all the support that MGM members have given us through our difficult times.

Jai Shree Krishna  
Kanchan and Meena Zala



Shree Sashikant Ranchod Lutchman, brother of Ratilal Ranchod and Sharda Vallabh, passed away on July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2004, in Johannesburg, South Africa (905-845-0115 / 905-678-9840)

Ganga Swaroop Laxmiben Dhanjibhai Chauhan, mother of Hansa Hasmukh Chauhan, passed away on August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2004 in Bilimora, India (905-270-7060).

Shree Mahendrabhai Bhagubhai Kalidas, kaka of Anita Hamant Becharbhai and brother-in-law of Bhupendra Kuntawala, on August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2004 in Dallas, Texas (905-826-7123 / 416-248-6895).

Ganga Swaroop Kantaben Harjivanbhai Parmar, mother of Jyoti Dinesh Amalsadia, passed away on August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2004 in Preston, England (905-823-9336).

Ganga Swaroop Laxmiben Dahyabhai Parmar, dadimaa of Dinesh Harkishandas Parmar and Harsha Arvind Solanki, on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2004 in Luton, England (905-453-9621 / 517-381-9289).

MGM would like to offer our deepest condolences to all the families. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this sad time. OM SHANTI SHANTI.

*In our Hearts Forever*

**“Don't confuse fame with success. Madonna is one; Helen Keller is the other.”**

~ Erma Bombeck

## Perspectives

### ***GKM 5th International Convention - Orlando, Florida - 2004***

The 5<sup>th</sup> International Gujarati Kshatriya Mahasabha (GKM) Convention was hosted in the beautiful city of Orlando, Florida. The organizing committee showed great ambition and put forth an excellent effort to take the convention to a new level - by hosting all functions aboard the Royal Caribbean Cruise line! However, with only 28 cabins booked after 6 months, these plans had to be changed significantly. In spite of these complications, the dedicated organizing committee worked tirelessly to put together a GKM Convention, complete with interesting themes and a packed agenda, that was enjoyed by all.

The Convention drew an attendance of about 150 individuals and about a third of these individuals were young adults. Everyone was warmly greeted by members of the Convention Committee who were wearing pins that had the message: “I’m a Sweet-Tater”. Sweet-Taters were said to be: “Those who love others and are always prepared lend a helping hand. They bring real sunshine into the lives of others”. After being informed of some of the other types of taters (Spec-Taters, Hezzie-Taters, Agie-Taters), it was clear that the Sweet-Tater was the way to go. The “Tater” theme was used to help welcome attendees and to encourage them to interact with each other.



Because of the large number of young adult in attendance, the organizing committee put a special emphasis on youth activities. This included an exciting trip on a luxury bus (yes, not a yellow school bus!) to the Magical Midway, a local amusement park. Although the Magical Midway might not have been the most exciting place in the world, it did give us the opportunity to really get to know the other youths. Also included in the itinerary was a trip to the very popular Universal Studios City Walk. Along the walk were several venues where everyone had the chance to play some games and mingle over some nice beverages. Finally, in keeping with the emphasis on the youth, the Cultural Show called “Shaadi Ki Mazaa” – a simulated Indian Wedding – was presented with an educational and rather humourous touch.

The 5<sup>th</sup> International GKM Convention was a very pleasant experience and helped contribute to the unity in our Gujarati community. Thanks to everyone who put so much time and effort into making this event a success!

- Jiten Chauhan

#### **Budding Newsletter Architect**

If you are interested in using your graphic talent and showcasing your skills by helping out with the MGM newsletter, please contact Dharmesh Dayabhai @ [dharmesh@dayadesgin.com](mailto:dharmesh@dayadesgin.com).

#### **MGM Memberships**

Our membership year runs from January to December of every year. It is payable in advance – preferably at our Diwali Shows in November of the previous year.

**Current fees are:** Family \$35.  
Single independent (18+): \$20

Membership forms are available from Ramesh Parmar, Resha Chauhan, Rina Arya or Dharmesh Dayabhai. They are also available online at [mgmontario.com](http://mgmontario.com).

***Our sincerest thank you to all donors who contributed so generously in the 2004 year:***

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## **MGM Newsletter Advertising Rates**

Our newsletters are now a regular twice yearly publication. With increasing memberships there is a lot of interest in advertising opportunities in our newsletter. Advertising will begin with our Diwali newsletter this fall.

If you wish to advertise in our newsletter, rates are as follows:

### **Businesses**

1 Full Page Ad: (7½ X 9 in)..... \$270 (Premium Space Limited)

½ Page AD: (7¾ in X 5 1/8 in) ..... \$130 (Limited Space)

¼ Page Ads: (3¾ in X 5 1/8 in) ..... \$65

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**NOTE:** Artwork is to be provided for the newsletter.

Please Call Dharmesh Dayabhai at 416-891-7906 or email at [dharmesh@dayadesign.com](mailto:dharmesh@dayadesign.com) for any questions or to submit your artwork for the upcoming newsletter.

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# Happy Diwali!



Best wishes for a Happy Diwali and peaceful New Year.



**Bhupendra Kuntawala BA CLU CH.F.C. RHU**

*Associate Manager*

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## 2003 -2005 MGM COMMITTEE

Contact Sheet - Feel free to contact any one of these reps for any MGM Community questions. Post this page on your fridge as a quick reference.

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**Roshni**  
Diwali 2004

**Saturday November 13, 2004**

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