

The Vanza Society of London Diwali /Christmas Programme

Sunday 24th December 2006 By Arvind Solanki

It was an early Christmas gift for our community with yet another entertaining show of young talent on stage. Hard work and commitment was the order of the day and was all made possible by the generous help from our volunteers and committee members. It all kicked off at 11am where on arrival, our guests were entertained by a PowerPoint presentation compiled in short time by Mukesh Jethwa.

At 12pm we were all treated to a buffet lunch kindly catered by Chandni Sweet Mart. All the cost of lunch and evening refreshments were sponsored by Mr Ramesh Vithal Chavda. Our bandhus then started to settle into their seats ready for the show ahead.

To mark the success of 31 years, the program started with a welcoming speech by Arvind Solanki who in turn requested our President non-other than Maheshbhai Sonigra to say few words to start the proceedings. The bidding for the "parda" opening was well contested. Mr Purshottam Lalji Waghela and family finally won the bid to take the kind honours of opening the "parda" by cutting the ribbon with a generous bid. In recognition to this generous contribution, The Vanza Society presented a murti of Lord Ganesh to the Waghela family. Our sincere thanks and Congratulations go out to the Waghela family.

This year we were privileged to have **MATV** record the whole show which was aired to worldwide audience. Our thanks to MATV. The Vanza Society Youth Committee soon took care of things and started introducing and presenting the items, and what a smashing job they did too! This year the youth committee also presented with various awards in between items. The participants entertained the crowd non-stop and this was warmly appreciated by the crowd with great vigour. Our participants showed off to the crowd in great style. All the days and months of hard work of preparations and practice really did pay off.

The entertainment was not over just yet. Our youngsters were still to have a visit from Father Christmas. He came walking down the aisle in great fashion and then onto the stage to greet the excited children and present them with delicious sweets. The sweets were kindly donated by Late Vasubhai & Taraben Maganlal Chavda.

To show our gratitude, each of our participants was awarded memory stick for their computers. These were kindly donated by Mr Mathurbhai Meghji Sonigra. Our sincere thanks.

The stage was then set for the raffle prize draw, in which people anxiously waited for their very own numbers to be called out. A range of attractive prizes up for grabs. Once again this year Barclays had sponsored the raffle, organised by Arvind Solanki. Our sincere thanks to Barclays Bank. Our bandhus were again treated to yet more prasadi as chips, pasta, chocolate, ice cream and tea was served. On leaving the hall they were further treated to t-shirts and shirts courtesy of Barclays Bank.

It was no doubt, another successful program with star performances all round. The Vanza Society would like to thank all the volunteers who have lent a hand in putting this great program together including those that worked extremely hard in the kitchen, helped on stage, with the music, lighting and on the floor generally, and not forgetting all the sponsors.

Arvind Solanki