

# Community News in Brief

## ANTI TOBACCO DRIVE

The Medical Students/Residents/Fellows section of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin has launched its 2004-2005 National Service Project: Anti-Tobacco Awareness Among South Asians. Through this initiative, AAPI-MSRF will coordinate anti-tobacco health workshops, community health fairs, and lectures/seminars across the United States. AAPI's project is made possible by a grant from the CHEST Foundation, the Philanthropic Arm of the American College of Chest Physicians

"The aim of this nationwide blitz via simultaneous events is to raise public awareness surrounding this important cause and to encourage healthier lifestyles as well as tobacco prevention/cessation," said an AAPI press release. "Thus, AAPI members and other volunteers from around the nation are coming together to actively show their support for this cause."

AAPI's medical students/residents/fellows section has thirty-five active chapters throughout the United States.

## DANCE, MUSIC GROUP

Xpressions is a dance and music group teaching and promoting folk dances of India. Dance instructor Srividya Eashwar offers lessons in an encouraging environment.

Classes expose the children to a variety of Indian dance forms including folk (original), classical and Bollywood style (folk based). The mission of the school is to offer the students a chance to enjoy different

kinds of music and begin dancing in a group setting.

At the recently organized Youth Utsav Fest Dance Contest '05 by SRI Communications, the group entered 5 different dances and won four trophies in various categories.

The dances performed covered a wide range of folk dances from different parts of India like a harvest and *pongal* celebration song from Tamil Nadu, a folk dance from Rajasthan, and a *giddha* number from Punjab. The dances in the film category included *Bhumbro* and *Rang De*. Most of the costumes were done locally, courtesy the Ananta Boutique in Sunnyvale.

Xpressions director Eashwar credits her group's victory to her hard working students who never get tired of dancing.

Interested readers can get more information at the group's Web site at [www.xpressiondancemusic.com](http://www.xpressiondancemusic.com)

## BAPS CAREER FAIR

BAPS Care International and BAPS Shree Swaminarayan Mandir Milpitas organized an Education and Career Day March 20.

High school students and parents attended this event held at the Swaminarayan mandir.

Topics for students will included, study tips, high school success, importance of extracurricular activities, choosing a major, test preparation and much more.

The event was also useful for parents looking to ease the burden of financing their son or daughters college education. Topics covered on financial aid included federal grants and scholarships.

There was also a forum to interact with successful professionals and get their advice.



(Middle): Students of the Xpressions dance group during a performance.  
(Bottom): Srividya Eashwar with her students as they pose with their trophy.