

# Senior Friendship Group Chicago hosts Diwali celebration



The Senior Friendship Group Chicago - President Harshadbhai Parekh, Pinkyben Thakkar, Dineshbhai Thakkar, Meghna D Vora, Sunil Shah, Rita Shah, Vinita Gulbani with members and guests. (Courtesy of Suresh Bodiwala)

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Experience of culture, spirituality and community

Submitted by Suresh bodiwala

The Senior Friendship Group Chicago marked the occasion of Diwali with a celebration on Sunday, Nov. 12, at Golf Maine Park District, 8800 W Kathy Lane, in Niles. The festivities, which spanned from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., brought together members and guests for a day filled with cultural delights.

The event commenced with a breakfast featuring an array of Diwali delicacies, including Ghooghra, Cholafli Mathiya Farsi, Puri Chawanana, tea, and coffee. The beautifully adorned venue, embellished with exquisite depictions of Ganapatidada and Lakshmi Mata, was a testament to the meticulous efforts of Meghna D Vora, who orchestrated the enchanting decor.

President Harshadbhai Parekh extended heartfelt Diwali and New Year wishes to all attendees, outlining the day's program. A collective Aarti of Ganapati Dada and Lakshmi Mata, performed by both members and guests, set a spiritual tone. Smita Parekh presented prayers of Sarva Dharma and Mayurashtakam, adding a divine touch to the celebration.

In a special segment, November birthdays were celebrated, including the festivities for Sunilbhai Shah. The entertainment quotient soared as Jeetendraji, Amitbhai, Pratibhaji, and Ritaben Shah showcased their musical talents, creating a jubilant atmosphere that had everyone dancing.

The highlight of the event was the felicitation of President Harshadbhai Parekh and other dedicated members by Pinkiben Dineshbhai Thakkar and Mukeshbhai Mehta. Bouquets and shals were presented as tokens of appreciation for their significant contributions.

“On this Diwali and New Year celebration, I want to express my love and affection for my caring family and friends. I want to tell my husband, Dinesh Thakkar, how fortunate I am to have him in my life as my best friend and a wonderful life partner. I want to thank him for the love and support, and I look forward to celebrating our bond together for years and years to come. Happy Diwali and New Year,” said by Pinky Thakkar

Asian Media USA captured the magical moments of the day, diligently documenting individual and group pictures along with videos. The generosity of guests who contributed to the event was acknowledged, aligning with the spirit of giving during Diwali.

As a sweet conclusion to the celebration, the president, committee members and guest distributed sweets to all attendees, fostering a sense of camaraderie and shared joy.

The Senior Friendship Group Chicago's Diwali celebration was a resounding success, weaving together tradition, community, and festivity in a tapestry of unforgettable moments.