

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Virtual Meeting

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JANUARY IS VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH

Happy Birthday

Jan 27: Sharon Kyle

Jan 28: Mike Davies

Happy Anniversary

UPCOMING SPEAKERS:

Jan 25: Clint Callison
Insurance and Natural Disasters

Feb 01: Cauvery Cariappa
Effects of COVID on Vulnerable Woman

Feb 08:

OUR CLUB LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Pres. **Patrick Dobbyn** presided.

Program: **Shashanka Vangari: Who's Who**



Shashanka was born and raised in Hyderabad, India. Hyderabad is the capital of southern India's Telangana state, and is a major center for the technology industry. Being a very sociable person, he is still connected with about 80% of his grade 10 high school class through WhatsApp or other means. He received his Masters of

Science degree from the Acharya Nagarjuna University, situated in Namburu, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh, India. He moved with his family to Canada in 2002, settling briefly in Scarborough, Ontario (a district of Toronto).



Shashanka has been married for 25 years to Laxmi, and they have two children, as seen in this picture taken on the plane when they immigrated to Canada.

Laxmi earned a masters degree in bio chemistry in India, and also studied cardiology at BCIT, following which she worked at St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver. After a brief stay in snowy Scarborough, Shashanka visited British Columbia with Laxmi, who found our West Coast climate much more compatible with the 30C+ climate they were used to in India and insisted on moving to B.C. in February, 2003 (smart lady). Unfortunately, Laxmi was in a serious car accident when she got side-swiped by another car, resulting in her still being off work recuperating from her painful injuries, that are ongoing.

Shashanka has worked for various companies since moving to Canada.

Professionally...since 1995



He is currently working for 'Alexion, AstraZeneca Rare Disease' as the Director of Research & Clinical Development Operations, doing compliance management and consulting. [In July, 2021, Alexion was acquired by AstraZeneca (a global science-led pharmaceutical company), which has resulted in the creation of Alexion, AstraZeneca Rare Disease.] As compliance manager, Shashanka oversees clinical trial compliance and advises on quality issues, etc.

Shashanka is active in various sports, and is especially passionate about cricket which he plays here in Maple Ridge. This last summer he led his cricket team to winning the championship.



While in India and here in Canada, Shashanka he has been an active community volunteer and fundraiser for various charities, including:

Operation Eyesight,

- which funds cataract operations in rural India;

Huggs Canada,

- which helps girl children in India;

Two World's Cancer Collaboration,

- which funds palliative care in Hyderabad;

Hare Krishna Food for Life,

- which prepares food and takes it to the Downtown Eastside in Vancouver;

Shashanka also was the instigator, and a founding director, of the **Vancouver Area Teluga Association** ("VATA"), which was the first registered Teluga association in British Columbia. It was founded to represent all Teluga speaking people living in the Greater Vancouver Area. [People who live in certain parts of southern India are called Teluga, and the language they speak is also called Teluga.] When Shashanka moved to BC he found that he was alone without many contacts and saw the need for an association where the Teluga people, particularly the new immigrants, could reach out for guidance and get help to integrate with the Canadian society. Therefore, VATA was formed for this purpose as well as to celebrate Indian culture, to serve Teluga people in times of need, to participate in and contribute to charity events, and to encourage participation of youth and community activities. Shashanka led this organization for the first three years after it was incorporated, and he then turned it over to others to lead, but he is still very active in the organization and continues to be a director of it. VATA purchased and sent about 25 oxygen concentrator machines to rural India where the need was great (which are used to help persons who have difficulty breathing as a result of Covid 19 and other breathing related disorders).

Happy and Sad (Matt joined us from California)

Brenda Jenkins: A personal connection

Shashanka has been heavily involved in the development of treatment for cancers and rare diseases, including breast cancer, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, and others. Brenda Jenkins noted that her mother benefited greatly from a nuclear medicine procedure/treatment for cancer that Shashanka had helped develop. [It even had a beneficial side effect, which 'in the eyes of Brenda's mom' at least, was a cause for celebration –her eyelashes grew longer!]



[Well, maybe not this long]

Lynda Lawrence: It could have been worse

A vehicle went through the front window of the Friends in Need Food Bank on Monday afternoon, but nobody will miss a meal. And more importantly, nobody was hurt despite the fact that a food bank client (who was standing out front near the window) was narrowly missed. As noted in the News, "more than just a window replacement was necessary, as there was structural damage to the brickwork, a doorframe was bent, and the occupants will need to get a structural report to ensure the integrity of a support beam was not compromised".



Eric Mollema: He will miss London, Ontario [he will, but he won't] He is flying off to London (England, that is) for six days.



Deborah Hyslop: Dentures are not an option

Keep positive vibes and happy thoughts for Debora's cat, who has to undergo a dental procedure. Here's wishing for a totally clawsome recovery!



Announcement: (All Canadian) Wine Fest

Dave Rempel advised that a tentative date of April 30, 2022 has been set for the Wine Fest. The format will likely be the same as last year, and drivers will be needed. Stay tuned.

(Our new mascot?)



Submitted by Laurie Anderson