



Leela Baikabi, of Clarks Summit, explains some of the antique artifacts on display at Misericordia University.

Learning about India

By SARAH HITE
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A "Voyage to India" program sponsored by the Friends of the Mary Kintz Bevevino Library at Misericordia University celebrated National Library Week.

Sujata Nair-Mulloth, originally from India, presented an introduction to Indian history, culture and geography during the event while attendees sampled Indian cuisine and visited various exhibits featuring shrine statues, musical instruments and traditional clothing.

The theme of this year's National Library Week was "Create Your Own Story @ Your Library" and Misericordia University Electronic Resources and Systems Librarian Sameera Redkar, of Clarks Summit, thought it would be a good idea to present her culture to the community.

"We haven't really done anything about India here," Redkar said.

Students and members of the community had a chance to receive a henna tattoo, also known as mehendi. The paste is made from the fresh ground or dried leaves of the henna plant, also called Lawsonia inermis, native to regions in Africa, southern Asia and Australasia.

Kara Klimchak, of Hanover Township, was the first to be tattooed at the event by Leena Gajiwala, of Clarks Summit. What resulted was an ornate design on the palm of her right hand.

"It was extremely fast," Klimchok said of the process. "It's pretty and it smells nice."

While some of the attendees were experiencing Indian food and society for the first time, Hilary Hoover, of Trucksville, said she's been interested in the culture since she was a little girl.

"I've always had a fascination with Indian culture," she said.



Kara Klimchak has a temporary ink drawing applied to her hand by artist Leena Gajiwala.

"India has such a rich and beautiful culture, and I just want to learn as much as I can about it."

Nair-Mulloth greeted guests with a traditional Indian saying, "namaste," which means hello and goodbye in India, prior to her presentation about ancient cultures, languages, geography, political culture, dance, food, religion — a crash course on everything India.

Nair-Mulloth said teaching others about her culture has given her a better appreciation for the land from where she came. She said the most famous piece of Indian architecture, the Taj Mahal, usually inspires awe and fascination in her American friends, but while she was growing up, it was just another building for her.

"When I was in school, every time we had to go on a field trip, the teacher said, 'Let's go to the Taj Mahal,'" she said, causing the audience to laugh.

Guests who presented at various exhibits wore traditional Indian clothing, including a sari — six yards of unstitched fabric wrapped around the body. The garment, which can be wrapped to reveal several different styles, is made of cotton or silk. The cloth color usually depends on what was available in the area where the sari-wearer lived.

Erica Hannon, of Allentown, was interested to learn more about the land where her father had spent much time on work-related travels.

"He brought us silk scarves and a miniature Taj Mahal," she

said. "He even went on a camel ride."

Georgette Siedlecki, of Hanover Township, wanted to learn more about others in her community. She said the priest at her church is from India, and she wanted to learn more about his native land and have a better understanding of Indian influences on American culture.

She also wanted to relay some information back to an eager group of 5-year-olds she sees regularly.

"I tutor a kindergarten class, and they will just think this is the neatest thing in the world," she said, revealing the freshly-painted paste of the henna tattoo on her hand.

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CHURCH BRIEFS

LIUMC plans VBS

The Lehman-Idetown United Methodist Church will host its annual Vacation Bible School from 9 to 11:30 a.m. July 11-15.

The program is entitled "Treasure Quest" and will include Bible stories, crafts, treasure hunting, singing and snacks. VBS is free for children age 3 through sixth grade.

A special service will be held at 10 a.m. on Sunday, July 17 to celebrate the week.

For more information, contact Mandy Newman at 674-9777. Pre-registration is not required but appreciated.

TUMC Trustees plan barbeque

The Trustees of the Trucksville United Methodist Church will hold a "Take-Out Only" Chicken BBQ from 4:30 to 7 p.m. on Friday, July 15.

Orders may be picked up at

the Dickson Educational Facility on Church Road.

Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$4 for children and may be ordered in advance by calling the church office at 696-3897 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday.

HUMC plans yard sale

The Huntsville United Methodist Church will hold a Community Yard Sale and bake sale from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 16 at the church, 2355 Huntsville Rd., Shavertown. Rain date is Saturday, July 30.

Vendor space is \$10 each and may be reserved by calling Kris at 477-3748.

VBS slated for Cross Creek Church

Vacation Bible School will be held from 6:30 to 8:45 p.m. from July 25-29 at Cross Creek Community Church, 370 Carv-

erton Rd., Trucksville.

The theme of this year's bible School is "PandaMania — Where God is Wild About You!"

Participants will explore a bamboo forest filled with crazy pandas as they discover that God loves us. There will be Bible-learning activities, songs, teamwork-building games and treats.

For more information or to register, call 696-0399.

St. Paul's plans Summer Showcase

St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Dallas will hold a Summer Showcase and Live Auction on Saturday, Aug. 6 on the church grounds.

The event will begin at 9 a.m. and auction bidding, offering quilts, antiques, furniture, household goods and other items, will start at 1 p.m. Entertainment and food will be available all day.

For more information, call 675-3859.

Win Fair Tickets!

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Kids Colorful Drawing Contest!

Send us your best colorful drawing of your favorite fair memory for your chance to win tickets to the Luzerne County Fair!

Must be 5-12 years old to enter.

There will be 10 lucky winners!

Three winners will be chosen each week for three weeks to win 2 fair tickets. Winners will be published on August 5, 12 and 19.

ONE GRAND PRIZE WINNER

will receive 4 fair tickets, a limousine ride to and from the fair and \$100 spending cash! The grand prize winner will be published on August 26.



Mail or return this form along with your colorful drawing to The Times Leader, Colorful Drawing Contest, 15 N. Main Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711 by Monday, Aug. 1, 2011.



www.luzernecountyfair.com

Child's name: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone number: _____ Child's Age: _____

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FAMILY & COSMETIC DENTISTRY

R.D. Clements Dentistry in Dallas is pleased to welcome Dr. Duane R. Sprau as the new associate to their staff.

When Duane Sprau was 5 years old living on Church Street in Dallas, his family switched dentists and became patients of Dr. Bob Clements. He remembers that after that switch, his family thought going to the dentist was actually fun.

A soccer player for Dallas High School with a proclivity for the sciences, Duane went off to Penn State Main Campus. But instead of studying the sciences, he went on to study finance. As it turned out, the sciences were really his love. After receiving a B.S. in Finance, he re-enrolled at Penn State to fulfill science credits needed for dental school. In May of 2010, Duane obtained his Doctorate in Dental Medicine at the Temple University Kornberg School of Dentistry.

And now he's back. Back to his home, The Back Mountain, and back practicing where "going to the dentist is actually fun."
WELCOME DR. DUANE R. SPRAU!

Dr. Sprau will be accepting new patients on July 1

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