

FRIENDS OF SHAMAYITA MATH

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Dear members and friends of Shamayita Math

On March 5th Friends of Shamayita Math held its general meeting. The five previous members of the board were reelected. Deepshikha Daga was elected as a new member.

The tasks of the board members are:

Chairman: Lars Fynbo.

Secretary and treasurer: Bente Hagelund.

Event manager: Deepshikha Daga.

Volunteers and website: Lise Hagelund

Teachers and other trainees: Sarah Nissen and Søs Nielsen.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to Deepshikha. She has West Bengali origins and has lived with her family in Denmark more than ten years. She has an extensive network among people of Indian background in Denmark, several of whom have joined Friends of Shamayitha Math. Not all have lived in Denmark for a long time, so future biannual newsletters will be in Danish and English. This will probably also be welcome news for the Mothers at Shamayita Math, who keenly follows activities in our support organization.



We had a fund-raising event on May 27th in Deepshikhas and Aniruds garden in Lyngby. Deepshikha teaches classical Indian dances and had planned the end of year dance presentations to that day. It was very impressive to see 'Deepshikhas divas', in beautiful dresses perform several Indian dances and proudly receive their diplomas. The programme also included Indian songs and a young teenage boy performed a national and another dramatic dance. I admire his courage. I would not have dared a solo performance, when I was his age.

Eva, Anders and Abel (5 years) who spend some weeks this spring at Shamayita Math, talked about their experiences. Anders mentioned the prejudices he had about India and its people before the visit and how he had a completely different and overwhelming experience in reality. He had made several videos during the stay. The videos could be seen during the event. We plan to make a link to the videos on our website.



Before their visit, Eva had obtained a donation of 10.000 DKK from a foundation. The donation was used to buy sewing machines to the sewing workshop for rural women at Shamayita Math. Hopefully this can empower these women to obtain an income from sewing and selling clothes and other products. Eva is a designer by education and worked with the women to develop design that would appeal to western customers.

It really was an eventful day and an overwhelming attendance with a final turnout of 126! - 88 adults and 38 children. Thank you very much to each and everyone who donated and cooked food and to Deepshikha and Anirudh for their hospitality. We raised almost 8000 kr. at the event and got 7 new members of Friends of Shamayita Math.



Another family, Martin, Kim and Villads (15 years) spend two weeks at Shamayita Math in the beginning of January. They had the opportunity to be VIP guests to a very colorful tribal festival of 20.000 people. The moving account (in Danish) of their stay is on our website. A small quotation: 'For us the visit at Shamayita Math was an infusion of inspiration. We will especially remember the many projects and the daily improvements and changes in the life of thousands of people, Shamayita Math provides based on faith and hard work'.

As you can see, both families have enjoyed and learned from their stay at Shamayita Math. If other families contemplate a visit, I would encourage you to go. They love visitors from Denmark, you are taken good care of, they have decent guest rooms, the vegetarian food is tasty, and if you fall ill they have a small hospital - although not like a modern Danish hospital - and doctors present. We can assist you with information about Shamayita Math and how to get there.

In the December issue of the newsletter, I mentioned that the Christianshavn Rotary Club had donated 29.000 kr. to a Child protection Project for the villages around Shamayita Math. The project includes Child protection Committees in the villages, so the knowledge about child protection laws are known and implemented locally. The funds have been transferred and the project is in progress.

You are probably all aware from your in-mail box that new rules are in effect for the handling of personal data. This of course is also relevant for the data Friends of Shamayita Math possess. More information can be found on our website.

The Indian organizations in Denmark participate in a Bollywood Festival on 31st August 2018. The venue is Kildevældsskolen in Østebro. Here you can experience song and dance - also Deepshikhas divas. There will also be stalls with Indian food and artifacts.

Presently, we have 73 members, but would appreciate more, so please inform friends and acquaintances about our organization. This year, including membership fees, donations and the fundraising event, we have raised 19.950 DKK. The amount has been transferred to Shamayita Math.

Thanks a lot to all of you for your support. I wish you a pleasant summer.

Lars Fynbo
Chairman

