

\$25,000 grant to promote cross-cultural understanding

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Pleasanton, Calif.

LAST week, the City of Pleasanton Public Library and the East Bay Marathi Mandal (EBMM) won a \$25,000 Cultural Crossroads grant from the California State Library Fund offered under the Library Services and Technology Act.

This competitive grant is part of the state library's initiative to encourage libraries partnering with community organizations in order to explore and celebrate California's cultural diversity.

"Our grant logo is 'Fusion Pleasanton', and we will be examining the many ways in which the Indian community has enriched Pleasanton," said a library spokesperson and Varsha Upadhye, volunteer with EBMM.

Among the recently held events for 'Fusion Pleasanton' includes "Exotic Cuisine of India." Local food writers Laxmi Hiremath and Lachu Moorjani participated in the latter and discussed the use of spices and regional variations in Indian cuisine.

"The relentless efforts of the EBMM's Fusion Pleasanton core team, with the teams from the library and the City of Pleasanton bore fruit as was evident from hundreds of people from all walks of life representing a cross-section of Pleasanton's diverse culture and relishing desi food at the event," said appreciative members of Friends of Pleasanton Library, a support group. The Library's TAG team of youth volunteers were exemplary in their support for the event.

Another recently held event includes a panel discussion on 'The Indian Immigrant Woman in America,' which explored the joys and frustrations of being a South Asian woman in America. Topics discussed included arranged marriage, career challenges, and opportunities, isolation and complications re-



Participants at the panel discussion on 'The Indian Immigrant Woman In America'. Yogesh Upadhye

sulting from immigration.

Author Padma Shandas, whose book *Spices in the Melting Pot* has stories of courage and accomplishments of South Asian Women, was among the featured speakers. Maitri director Sarah Khan, too had lots to share. Her work involves providing help and assistance to Asian women who face abuse.

'Growing Up Bi-Cultural' saw animated discussions on being brought up under cross-cultural influences in America, led by author Mitali Perkins and culminated with Bollywood dance lessons and a pizza party.

Among the upcoming events include: 'Art and Architecture' with Michael Mastro, lecture and presentation by Amit Upadhye, Art Exhibition, Indian Fashion, etc.

The month of March will see a concert of Fusion Jazz by George Brooks, displaying east/west jazz utilizing traditional Indian instruments. George Brooks is a Berkeley-based jazz artist who has performed and recorded with some of great Indian artists including Zakir Hussain, Fareed Haque and Hariprasad Chaurasia. He will introduce and discuss traditional Indian instruments,

demonstrate, and then explore the relationship between jazz and Indian classical music, accompanied by Jeff Whittier a Basuri player also Peter Block accomplished East/West fusion artist on Guitar and Anil Datar on Tabla.

Vamsee Juluri will speak on 'The Romance of Bollywood Film' in April. A professor at San Francisco University and an expert on the Indian film industry, Juluri has also authored books on the subject. His lectures will be followed by a retrospective of select films.

IN BRIEF

PixSense raises \$5.4 million from ATA Ventures, Innovacom

■ **SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA:** PixSense raised \$5.4 million in funding from ATA Ventures and Innovacom.

The company, which simplifies management of photos, videos, audio, blogs and text on mobile services, will launch its new product soon. The company executives include founder and CEO Farza Hoodbhoy, Adnan Agboatwalla (COO), Islam Asad (CTO) and Anurag Mendhekar (chairman).

Mendhekar is a former founder and president of Blue Vector systems and cofounder of Online Anywhere which was acquired by Yahoo for \$18 million in 1998. Hoodbhoy was most recently at NextBrick solutions as vice president, Business Development.

TutorVista Inc. raises \$10.7 million from Lightspeed, Sequoia Capital

■ **MENLO PARK, CALIF.:** TutorVista Inc., an online tutoring and test preparation provider, recently closed a second funding round of about \$10.7 million. "This new round of funding speaks of the innumerable benefits our online tutoring and test-prep services are providing to students across the US and around the world," said TutorVista founder and chairman Krishnan Ganesh. "Not only have we have seen tremendous growth over the past year, but we have noted overwhelming support for our efforts to provide a low cost, high effective solution to many of the problems facing the American education system. This funding will expand our operations to answer the growing demand for online tutoring and test preparation."

Lightspeed Venture Partners contributed \$7 million to the round. Sequoia Capital India and Silicon Valley Bank contributed an additional \$3.75 million.

TutorVista, which was launched in 2005, said it will use the new funding to expand all its services and operations. The company's online tutoring and test-preparation services are available in the US and UK for K-12, college and graduate level students in some subjects.

"TutorVista is building the next big internet education

company," said Ravi Mhatre, general partner, Lightspeed Venture Partners. "Lightspeed's investment will enable TutorVista to continue its rapid growth in US, UK and other countries. We are looking forward to working with the company to meet the educational needs of thousands of students around the world."

"Our mission is to provide world-class tutoring and high-quality content to students around the world. TutorVista.com is an online destination for affordable education—anytime, anywhere and in any subject. Students can access the services from the convenience of their home or school. They can use the comprehensive and exhaustive lessons and question bank to master any subject and have access to a live tutor around the clock. TutorVista helps students to excel in school and at competitive examinations," said a company statement.

Google invests in Meraki Networks, aims for economical broadband

■ **MOUNTAIN VIEW, CALIF.:** Meraki Networks which prides itself on 'building products that enable low cost wireless community networks' said that Google had invested in their company. Media reports indicate that the amount was under a million dollars.

Meraki utilizes wireless mesh hardware and software based on the MIT's Roofnet project co-founder and CEO Sanjit Biswas. The company completed a bridge round of funding last week, which included Google and "a few Silicon Valley angels."

Biswas said, "We'd bootstrapped the company so far, so this cash is really just for growth/acceleration and for the development of some products we plan to launch next year. The company currently sells a \$49 wireless 802.11b/g router that allows users to build a wireless mesh network or extend the range of a municipal network."

Meraki says their goal is to enable a grassroots movement of small wireless ISPs by providing them everything they need to get started. Those goals match to what Google has been stating about their plans for their WiFi networks, which is to deliver economical wireless broadband outside the confines of the

current Telco/cable industries.

Cisco announces agreement to acquire IronPort

■ **SAN JOSE, CALIF.:** Cisco announced a definitive agreement to acquire the privately held company, IronPort Systems, Inc. of San Bruno, Calif. IronPort is a provider of messaging security appliances, focusing on enterprise spam and spyware protection.

Under the terms of the agreement, Cisco will pay approximately \$830 million in cash and stock. The acquisition is subject to various standard closing conditions and is expected to close in the third quarter of Cisco's fiscal year 2007.

IronPort was founded in 2000 and has 408 employees based primarily in San Bruno. Shrey Bhatia (VP, international sales and worldwide channels) is responsible for IronPort's international sales and worldwide channel organizations.

Prior to joining IronPort, Shrey was responsible for worldwide business development and strategic alliances at VERITAS Software (acquired by Symantec). Earlier, Shrey held several senior sales, product development, marketing and business development roles at companies including: iBEAM (acquired by Williams Co.), Booz Allen & Hamilton, GE Capital and GE International. He holds a BS in Computer Engineering from Rutgers University and an MBA from Harvard Business School.

"We feel there is enormous potential for enhanced email and message protection solutions to be integrated into the existing Cisco Self-Defending Network framework," said Richard Palmer, senior vice president of Cisco's Security Technology Group. "Using the network as a flexible platform to integrate IronPort's technologies, Cisco will be able to build new security applications as customers' demands evolve."

"Internet messaging threats continue to get more sophisticated, and IronPort has repeatedly delivered industry leading solutions," said Scott Weiss, CEO of IronPort Systems. "Integrating IronPort's messaging security technology with Cisco's self-defending network will enable a new level of defense for our customers."

