Jericho kids win accolades at Lego championships

The RoboFalcons, a group of young tech enthusiasts boys from Jericho Middle School, have been working hard again in preparation for the First Lego League (FLL) Championships. The six man crew has been working tirelessly outside of school hours to design and create robots. “It’s not just about robotics. It’s a great program for kids to learn how to construct projects while teaching them to work as a team together,” said Rohit Bhata, head coach of the RoboFalcons and father of one of the team members. The team, now in its fourth year, was assembled by Rohit Bhata, a Jericho resident with a desire to expose bright young minds to the science behind robotics and the associated technology. The group is not an officially recognized club in the middle school, yet the children within it are eager to devote their time to meeting and working together to achieve a common goal. This year, Bhata also put together another Junior FLL.

AIA NY’s Desi Next bowling event brings together young families

The Association of Indians in America NY Chapter (AIA NY) organized its first bowling event under its recently launched cultural exchange group called “Desi Next” at AMF Syosset Lanes in Long Island on March 31st to promote networking within young families while having fun in relaxed environment. Over 100 young enthusiasts along with their families and children attended the event. All guests were introduced with each other and their families to encourage conversation between them while bowling and having food and fun. Everybody enjoyed a lot and complimented the organization and the young team of Rajeev, Anuj and Atul for arranging such fun filled event, which was a huge success.

“We have been trying to continue to expand and strengthen youth development programs and activities and have been working towards energizing our youths, while understanding their concerns,” said Gobind Munjal, the president of AIA NY Chapter. Keeping this in mind, AIA NY Chapter launched ‘Desi Next’ in January 2017 to provide a platform for the younger generation where they can socialize, interact, address their issues and concerns and develop programs to suit their need. “We appointed young individuals Anuj Goenka, Atul Kukar and Rajeev Chaudhri to lead the charge for these youth programs. On January 22nd 2017, we managed to arrange the very first program under Desi Next and it was a huge success with 150 young adults and their children attending the event. Desi Next plans to bring young Indian families, youth and kids together through sports, family get-togethers and community outreach activities.”

AIA NY Chapter other upcoming programs are as follows: Investment Seminar on May 17; Fundraiser event for Project India Charity Program on June 9 in Manhattan; Benefit Gala on Sept 15th for the 31st Deepavali festival, 31st Deepavali festival celebration on Oct 7 at the iconic South Street Seaport in Manhattan, culminating with a spectacular display of fireworks; Children Deepavali in libraries around end of October 2018.

Kathak students make their stage debut


Dilip Chauhan, former Deputy Comptroller of Nassau County, New York was the chief guest for the night. During his speech Chauhan emphasized the importance of dance. Dance stands for defeat all negative energies via creative expression, he said. “People without the knowledge of their past history, origin, culture and art is like a tree without roots. Show me a person who found love in his life and did not celebrate it with a dance. Dance is the timeless interpretation of life. I think music in itself is healing. It’s an expression of humanity. It’s something we are all touched by. No matter what culture we’re from, everyone loves music.” Chauhan congratulated Ashish & Vaishali Patel, Mala & Jatin Shah, and Sejal & Uday Shah for enrolling their daughters into the traditional dance. “I know it’s not easy when kids start any kind of dance. Dancing is not only commitment from the student but from the parents as well.” He also presented New York state Senator honor on behalf of New York State Senator Jose Peralta to Anmol Patel, Arisha Shah and Mansi Shah.

Anmol Patel is currently a senior at Mineola High School and is the Salutatorian of the Class of 2018. She began her Kathak training at the age of 9, and has also explored various forms of dance such as Bollywood and Folk. Arisha Shah is currently attending Mineola High School, where she will graduate as the Valedictorian of her class in June 2018. Arisha hopes to pursue a career in the field of health care, and will major in the biological sciences and Mansi Shah will be graduating from Great Neck South High School in June 2018.