

AIHR PRESENTS

26th Annual



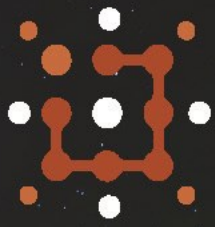
2023

# INDIA FEST

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Congratulations to AIHR for  
hosting

# INDIA FEST 26TH Anniversary

Best Regards,  
Bhavin Patel  
Nikhilesh Patel  
Ashish Patel  
Vrajesh Patel



Best wishes for  
Continued success



## Message from the Chairperson



Dear friends!

Namaste! Welcome to India Fest 26th anniversary hosted by the Asian Indians of Hampton Roads (AIHR). It gives me great pleasure to invite you to this celebration of India. The 26th celebration of India Fest, at the Virginia Beach Convention Center, promises to be a feast for the senses. We welcome you to explore and enjoy the vibrant tradition and culture of one of the world's oldest civilizations.

Savor the delicate intricacies of Indian spices from the best local Indian restaurants, be mesmerized by India's music and dance, and enjoy the educational activities with your children. Add bling to your wardrobe, and update your style with many exotic vendors from near and far. We have tried to create the overarching majesty and diversity of India, with nonstop cultural performances that capture the essence of Indian culture. We hope that India Fest is not only an enjoyable experience for you, but also fosters a deeper understanding and appreciation of India.

The Asian Indians of Hampton Roads group proactively supports the Hampton Roads community. Read more about us at [www.aihr.org](http://www.aihr.org). One of our focal missions is to promote education locally. Towards that goal, we have introduced youth-oriented competitions at India Fest. Art, badminton, chess, essay, math, poetry, ping pong, public speaking, and tennis competitions create an environment of learning and fun. We also had a fun panipuri eating competition that contestants and spectators enjoyed equally. Ladies came out and showed off their talent by participating in bridal makeup, wrap-n-roll and matki decorating competitions. Our goal is to recognize talent and encourage children to compete and shine!

NETCON provides festive and relaxed environment for people from corporations, banks, restaurants, health professional, political dignitaries and sponsors to mingle. NETCON has been instrumental to provide business connections for attendees.

AIHR is grateful to our community for their massive support and encouragement to this Mega India Fest. An event of this magnitude is only possible with dedication, meticulous planning, and the labor of love. We extend our sincere gratitude to our sponsors! Our vendors, who come from far and near, are the jewels of India Fest. Finally, AIHR is indebted to the service of our innumerable performers, choreographers, committee members, and volunteers. Thank you for championing the success of our India Fest!

Best wishes for peace and harmony amongst us!

*Bhranti Patel*

**Chairperson, India Fest**



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## WHO WE ARE

Hampton Roads Chess Association (HRCA) is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to bring the life benefits of chess to people of all ages and abilities throughout the Hampton Roads region of Virginia. We accomplish this through chess instruction, casual play, competition, and youth leadership development.



As a non-profit organization, tuition and fees are used to fulfill HRCA's mission of bringing the life benefits of chess to Hampton Roads!



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HRCA has specific programs to reach girls/women, at-risk youth, veterans/military, seniors, scouting units, and more!



## WHAT WE DO

We host chess classes and clubs throughout schools and in the community for adults and kids ages 4+. Our clubs promote the life benefits of chess through sportsmanship and competition.

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MARK R. WARNER  
VIRGINIA



UNITED STATES SENATOR  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

September 9, 2023

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to extend warm greetings to all who are gathered for the 26<sup>th</sup> India Fest at the Virginia Beach Convention Center.

We are so fortunate to have a thriving Indian-American community in Hampton Roads. This event allows community members to join together in celebration of their contributions to the Commonwealth and to experience Indian culture through performances, food, exhibits, and contests. I commend Asian Indians of Hampton Roads for hosting such a tremendous festival.

I take special pride in serving as Co-Chair of the bipartisan Senate India Caucus—one of the largest country caucuses in the United States Senate—which is a platform that allows me to stay engaged while continuing to learn and advocate for the community’s diverse interests. It is also an indispensable tool that enables me to work to deepen the United States-India relationship, including by establishing and maintaining robust strategic partnerships across a range of domains from technology, telecommunications, and defense, to global health, research, and clean energy.

In June of this year, I was proud to lead the introduction of a bipartisan, bicameral resolution in Congress, recognizing the importance of the United States-India relationship and highlighting the significant potential for deepened partnership. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues here in the Senate to further advance what is one of our country’s most consequential relationships.

On this important occasion, I send my best wishes for a fulfilling and successful event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark R. Warner".

MARK R. WARNER  
United States Senator



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## Words to Ponder...

1. Sometimes you win, sometimes you learn. – *John Maxwell*
2. When you Get, Give. When you Learn, Teach. – *Maya Angelou*
3. All truly great thoughts are conceived by walking. – *Friedrich Nietzsche*
4. The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others. – *Mahatma Gandhi*
5. We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give. – *Winston Churchill*
6. Never regret a day in your life: good days give happiness, bad days give experience, worst days give lessons, and best days give memories. – *Unknown*
7. Never regret a day in your life: good days give happiness, bad days give experience, worst days give lessons, and best days give memories. – *Unknown*
8. Try to be a Rainbow in Someone's Cloud. – *Maya Angelou*

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# Feed the Homeless

By Prisha Patel

Youth Volunteer Chair, India Fest



As a high school student taking the lead to organize a volunteer event to feed the homeless, I have been navigating a whirlwind of responsibilities. From navigating with the venue and ensuring that there were enough volunteers signed up for the event, it was a challenge. Planning, buying, and portioning food that fit within the budget was a lesson in precision and resourcefulness. As the event approached, there was a mix of nerves and excitement, hoping that our efforts would bring a bit of warmth and nourishment. In the end, with the volunteers' hard work and resources from the venue, we were able to successfully prepare and provide enough meals to help those in need within our community.



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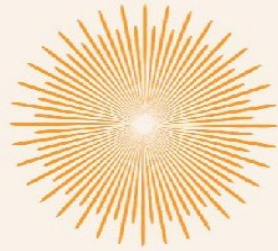
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# India Fest

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Prisha and Shivay**



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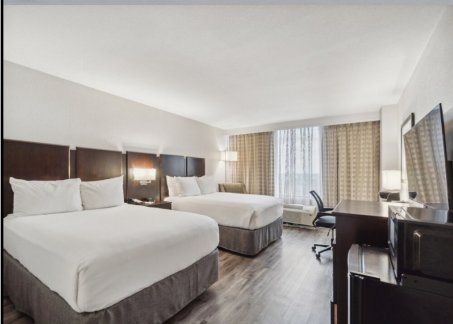


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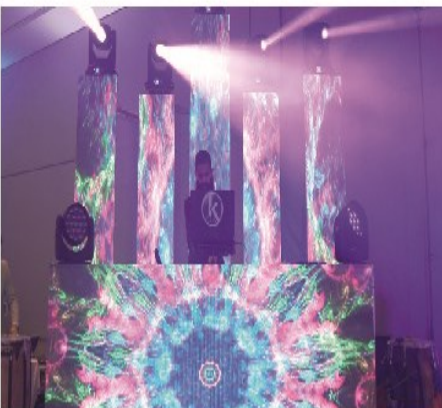
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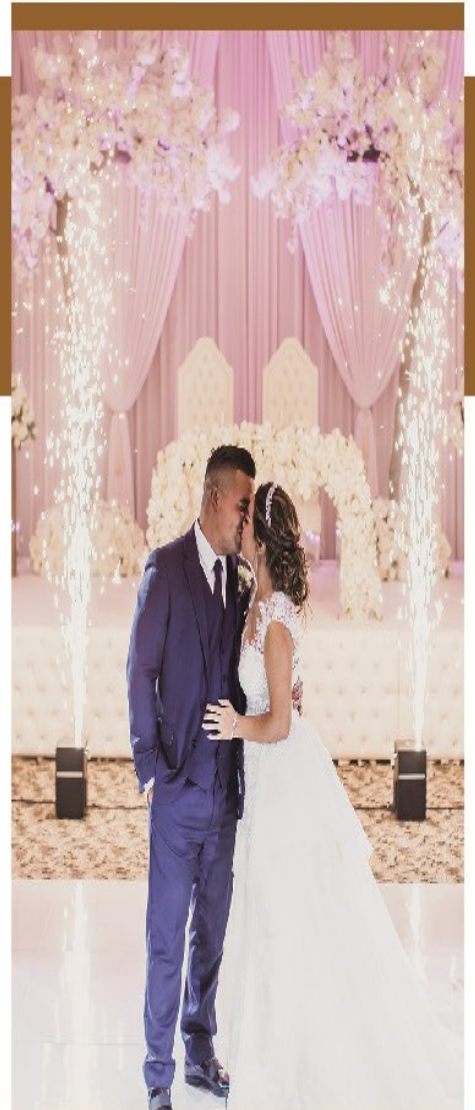
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# Memories from India Fest 2022



# Leadership Team



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Chairperson, India Fest



**Karamjit Rajpal**  
Co-Chair, India Fest



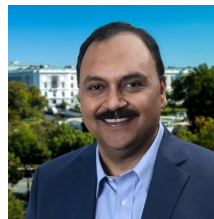
**Vidhi Sharma**  
Chair, Cultural



**Dharti Patel**  
Co-Chair, Cultural



**Bhavin Patel**  
Chair, Sponsorship



**Naveen Agarwal**  
Chair, Exhibits



**Janak Patel**  
Chair, Food



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**Pradip Patel**  
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**Parita Patel**  
Chair, Decor



**Reenu Agarwal**  
Chair, Volunteer



**Anil Nair**  
Chair, Netcon



**Rupal Master**  
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**Abhay Bhardwaj**  
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**Pringal Parikh**  
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**Bijay Singh**  
Chair, Publication



**Dhruv Parikh**  
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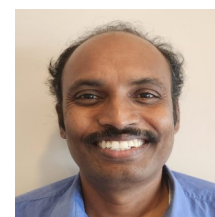
**Prisha Patel**  
Lead Youth Volunteer



**Meetali Chhaya**  
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**Henal Parikh**  
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**Ram Babu**  
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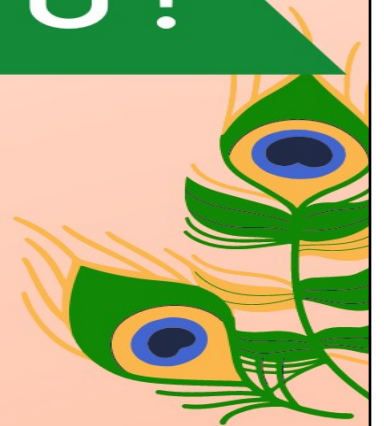
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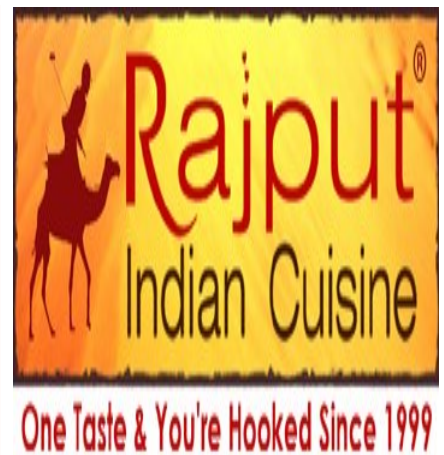


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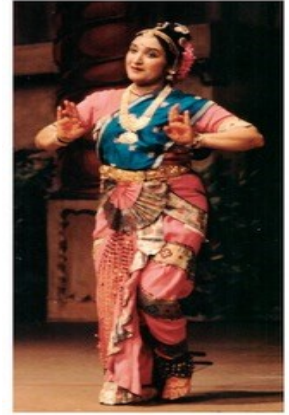
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# Weddings in India

By Malini Srirama



Weddings throughout the world are a rite of passage, full of tradition and customs, an exuberant joining of two individuals as they begin their life in unison. In similar fashion, the Indian wedding is a joyful celebration of glorious legacy, artistry, craftsmanship, and cultural heritage.

India is a diverse country known for its plurality of religions, customs, and cultural arts. The wedding not only represents a union of the bride and the groom, but also bonds their two families together.

Today we are showcasing a variety of age-old, Hindu wedding ceremony traditions and customs of some states, including Punjab, Bengal, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala.

While each state has its unique wedding customs throughout India, many similarities exist across the traditions. Indian weddings typically last several days, during which there are various ceremonies and rituals. Food represents a key element of every wedding. There are family feasts with traditional food, often vegetarian, as well as fruits and sweets. Also customary, pre-wedding blessings—often administered by married female relatives of the bride or groom—usually take place at the bride and groom’s family homes. Wedding attire varies from region to region with respect to colors, but in most, the wedding garments are made of silk and have gold borders or threading and the bride heavily adorns herself in gold jewelry for the ceremony. In many of the different traditions, the groom wears considerable gold adornments as well.

I remember my Tamil wedding in India many decades ago. The festivities lasted five days, and I wore silk saris of many colors and gold jewelry throughout the course of the festivities. My wedding was ritualistic, exhilarating, and exhausting.

The highlight of this year’s India Fest, a segment on the “Indian Wedding,” is produced by our own Dr. Raji Kaloji and Nupur Jain. Dr. Kaloji is well-known for her previous productions. Be our guest and enjoy the wedding ceremony!

*Malini Srirama is an accomplished dancer who has performed throughout India, Canada, Europe, Australia, and the United States. Hailing from a family deeply involved in the classical arts, she began studying dance from a young age. Throughout the years Malini, has continued to study dance and choreography under the tutelage of eminent gurus in India. She is a dancer, teacher, and choreographer of classical Indian dance, currently based in Norfolk, Virginia.*

With best regards to  
Asian Indians of Hampton Roads  
For

# India Fest

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# TALENT CONTEST'S RESULTS 2023

Contest	Category	Winner	Runner-up	2nd Runner-up
Instruments	Juniors	Nolan Bhandari	Tharani Nivas	
	Seniors	Haneeta Jain	Archita Basnet	
Singing	Juniors	Srinithi Murali	Adhiti Murali	Avika Vikas
	Seniors	Haneeta Jain	Shruthi Giridharan	
Public speaking	Juniors	Avika Vikas	Nolan Bhandari / Thara Ponnian	
	Intermediate	Aayushi Chhaya / Devika Padiri	Pranav Mohan	
	Seniors	Shree Vardhini Kesavamoorthy	Haneeta Jain	
Essay	Juniors	Adithi Deepu / Avika Vikas	Shreya Aravind	
	Seniors	Pranav Mohan	Akshit Mangesh	
Art	Juniors	Akshadha Magesh	Aarav Prakash	Aarohi Chhaya
	Intermediate	Shruthi Giridharan	Devika Padiri	Tharani Nivas
	Seniors	Megha Solairajan / Jhasvisri Bezswad / Samyuktha Satheesh	Avantika Rajasekaran	Saanvi Jadhav
Chess	Elite	Mohan Pranav	Lebakken Lukas William	Timothy Fuller
	Novice	Shreyas Malipeddi	Abhinav Chokkalingam	Mrithun Balaji Arunvijay
	Junior rookie	Adithi Deepu	Stephen Zhou	Roberto Diego Roy
	Senior rookie	Ruthvik Manjunatha	Aditya Patel	Aidan Viar
Math	Juniors	Avyukt Thalluri	Anika Sirsat	Shrihan Pattnaik
	Intermediate	Abhinav Chokkalingam	Siddhant Samtani	Mokshita Kumar
	Seniors	Prasanna Chokkalingam	Soham Pattnaik	Aditya Patel
Matki Decorating		Mayuri Patil	Rekha Padiri	Poornima Satheshkumar
Wrap 'N' Roll		Mayuri Patil	Shivani Parihar	
Bridal Makeup		Vanita Uttam		
Pani Puri eating		Nitin Patil		
Hula hoop		Milap Patel / Dhrumil Patel / Sachin Kathar / Tirtha Bhandari		
Badminton	Men	Aneesh Panachiketh / Sudhakar Selvaraj	Sanjay Patel & Manish Patel	
	Women	Adwita Mishra / Kanchan Mishra	Shyamala & Abirami	
Ping Pong	Kids	Vivek Patel	Akshaya Magesh	
	Men	Vijay Seth	Arindam Sarkar	
	Women	Sujata Datta	Debjani Kanjilal	
Sack Race		Dhrumil Patel		
Carrom	Men	Murali Krishnan Radhakrishna / Sathish Jayakanthan	Srikantha Reddy yepala / Raj Mollu ( Ravi)	
	Women	Madhuvanathi Rajabhoj / Rathna Prabha Ponniah	Shyamala Gowri Subburam / Kannammal	
Pool		Samkit Patel	Chirag Chhaya	
Volleyball		Team - NOVA Avish, Roshan, Pritesh, Mike, Dipal, Karan & Priyank	Team - VirginiaBeach Hiren, Priti, Shivam, Jay, Nikunj & Niran	
Tennis		Vijay Govindan and Satish Chekuri	Vikram Aleti and Ram Surapaneni	



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We appreciate your support!!

*If roses grow in Heaven  
Lord please pick a bunch for me  
Place them in my mother's arms  
And tell her they are from us.  
Tell her I love her and miss her  
And when she turns to smile  
Place a kiss upon her cheek  
And tell her that kiss is from me.*



*Mom as I was child you held my hands for a while  
And stayed in my hearts forever.  
Your loving memory, we'll always miss you*

*Love - Anil Kumar, Kavitha Sri, Srivarun, Vasanth*



Dr.Vasanth & Kavitha Sri Hathwar dedicates GRAND Sponsorship to India Fest/AIHR in sweet memories of their mother. The goal of the sponsorship is to help the penurious of our society through educational and academic support. We wish all the best to AIHR in their mission and endeavor to promote and foster educational excellence in our community children





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Best wishes to  
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# AIHR MISSIONS & OBJECTIVES

<b>Charity &amp; Community efforts</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Donate funds to local, domestic and international charities, trusts &amp; foundations</li> <li>2. Support the penurious of the community.</li> <li>3. Support and work with community organizations like Union Mission, homeless shelters, Food Bank etc.</li> <li>4. Donate funds to support the Veterans of United States</li> <li>5. Raise funds for charities through events &amp; programs.</li> </ol>
<b>Disaster Relief</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support domestic and international disasters through financial and non-financial aid.</li> <li>2. Host fund raising events to support disasters.</li> </ol>
<b>Educational</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Promote the importance of Education in local schools.</li> <li>2. Seek and recognize talents from the local community.</li> <li>3. Host Math, English and Science competitions for school kids.</li> <li>4. Participate and promote Children's events and festivals.</li> <li>5. Award scholarships for academically excellent students.</li> </ol>
<b>Cultural</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Promote the cultural heritage of India in mainstream America.</li> <li>2. Represent India in various cultural events and programs.</li> <li>3. Host cultural events to show cast the cultural heritage of India.</li> </ol>
<b>Health</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Educate community about the importance of healthy living</li> <li>2. Promote Yoga and benefits of yoga in local community</li> <li>3. Host health related seminars and workshops</li> <li>4. Host Blood Donation camps in association with Red Cross</li> <li>5. Host Health Fair and camps to create health awareness</li> </ol>
<b>Community Support</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support local community activities in Hampton Roads.</li> <li>2. Activities include cultural, charities, fund raising and festivities.</li> <li>3. Support local organizations and trusts.</li> <li>4. Promote networking platform for local businesses and sponsors.</li> </ol>
<b>Indian Heritage</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Act as a liaison and facilitate the involvement of people of Asian Indian origin in the mainstream of American social fabric.</li> <li>2. Disseminate information about India in local schools and colleges.</li> <li>3. Jointly host events with Indian orgs to promote culture and heritage of India.</li> </ol>
<b>Events Hosting</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Host signature event like India Fest to raise funds for charities, disaster support and operational expenses.</li> <li>2. Provide platforms to the local business community for networking through events.</li> <li>3. Raise funds through hosting cultural and non-cultural events.</li> </ol>
<b>Social &amp; Political</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Disseminate information on economic, social &amp; political issues</li> </ol>



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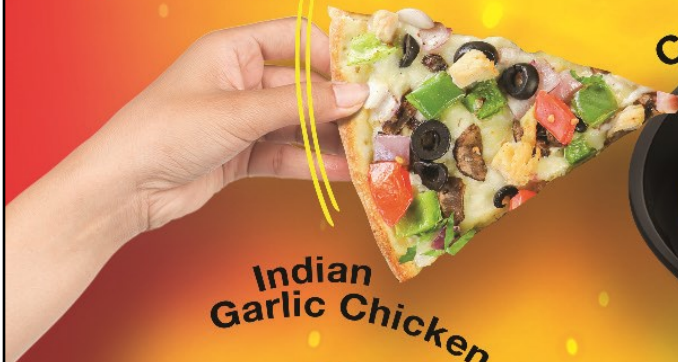


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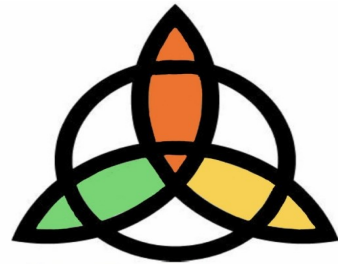
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