



# SRUTI NOTES

**SRUTI**

The India Music & Dance Society

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## FROM THE EDITORS

Dear Patrons:

We are pleased to present this issue of SRUTI Notes with news of exciting Fall schedule of events.

In this issue of Sruti Notes, we present reviews of Malladi Brothers performance presented in July and the recent Bharata Natyam performance by Priyadarshini Govind. We thank Kala Menon and Rasikan for their contributions.

The world of Carnatic music recently lost a well-known, highly revered flutist and educator, Tanjore Viswanathan, who did yeomen service to the cause of Carnatic music in the US. An obituary appears on page 3. Sruti mourns the loss of Kalpathi C. Krishnan, a long-time life member and a strong supporter of Sruti.

We have been busy during the summer months compiling and editing articles for this year's issue of Sruti Ranjani. We are very happy with the response we have received from enthusiastic contributors. We are still in the process of raising funds to cover the cost of publication and we request members who own businesses to help us by advertising in the magazine.

The Library Committee is in need of one or more additional members to share the responsibilities of bringing out the publications and editing and producing concert tapes. Please call a member of the Committee if you would like to help. I would like to personally thank Dr. Sarada Tyagaraja for taking on a major portion of the tasks of compiling and editing the magazine.

As always, we welcome our members to send us news of major milestones (graduations, arangetrams, weddings, births, etc) in the lives of their family members, to share with the SRUTI community through our newsletter.

Respectfully

P. Swaminathan (chairman)  
For the library committee



## UPCOMING SRUTI PROGRAMS

### Vishwa Mohan Bhatt & Chitravina Ravikiran (Jugalbandi)

(Oct 19, 2002, Mandell Theater, Drexel University, PA )

See attached flyer for details

### T.M. Krishna (Vocal)

(November 2, 2002, Gwynedd-Mercy College, Gwynedd, PA)

See attached flyer for details

### Composers Day featuring two concerts Rama Ravi (Vocal) & Ashok Ramani (Vocal)

(November 16, 2002, Venue to be announced)

## From the President's Desk

Dear Friends

Welcome to an exciting Fall schedule! The recent Bharatanatyam performance by the highly talented Priyadarshini Govind was very well attended and drew a significant number of new audience. We are preparing for another highlight of the season, a Jugalbandi on October 19 by the renowned Grammy award winner Vishwa Mohan Bhatt playing the *mohan-vina* in Hindusthani style and the legendary Chitravina Ravikiran in Carnatic style. Soon to follow is a vocal concert by the popular T.M. Krishna.

As promised, we will be launching the first annual *Composers Day* on November 16 with two main concerts - a vocal concert by Rama Ravi, regarded as one of the leading exponents of the Dhanammal School, and another by Papanasam Ashok Ramani. The day will also feature presentations by groups of local artists.

We are very happy that we have received some enthusiastic responses to our attempts to promote patron/donor memberships. We urge more life members to come forward to support our endeavor to place Sruti on a firm financial footing. We would also like to see more involvement of members in deciding the type of programs (Carnatic, Hindusthani, vocal, instrumental, dance, workshops and other educational programs, etc) presented by Sruti. Please call us or write to let us know your preferences.

The Library Committee and the Resources Committee are both in need of a few people to share the responsibilities with the current members. Please call if you would like to help. You will find it a very rewarding and learning experience.

We will look forward to seeing you all at the next performance.

Sincerely,  
Viji Swaminathan, President  
For the Board of Directors

## Priyadarshini Govind

Kala Menon

On Saturday, September 21, Sruti presented Priyadarshini Govind in her exquisite solo dance performance premiere of *Siva-Shakthi--The Divine Union*, choreographed by A. Lakshman. Priyadarshini, a student of Rajaratnam Pillai and Kalanidhi Narayanan is a dancer with unparalleled talent in *Aangika Abhinaya* which she executes with impeccable body-line precision and extension that is worthy of emulation. The students and connoisseurs of *Bharatanatyam* in the audience could not have missed the high aesthetic quality of her presentation. Although Priyadarshini picked an intense theme for the evening's performance that culminated in the union of *Shiva(Purusha)* and *Shakthi (Prakriti)*, she presented it rather simplistically. She prefaced each part of her performance with a simple but effective verbal delineation of the underlying folklore/meaning. It was an enjoyable evening.

The performance was divided into five parts. In the first part, Priyadarshini introduced the characters *Shiva* and *Shakthi* to the audience. While, *Shiva* was once considered the "angry one" (*Rudra*), and the "inauspicious one", and was "intimidating" to the devotee, *Shakthi* was considered the "auspicious one" and represented "positive energy" and was therefore worthy of celebration. Priyadarshini's depiction of *Shakthi* being brought to Earth in a palanquin with pomp and glory was very impressive.

In the second part, Priyadarshini presented *Shiva* as the One who became auspicious over time and came to be known as *Ashtamoorthy*, the Lord of the five elements and the sun and the moon and also of *Aham* or self. In this piece, Priyadarshini also depicted *Shakthi* as *Mahishaasuramardhini*, the One who killed the demon *Mahisha*. Priyadarshini's presentation of the change in *Shakthi's* emotions from *Roudram* to *Shaantham* in the moments immediately after the destruction of *Mahisha* until the time when the devotees calm her with a rendition of *Aigiri Nandini* was truly an uplifting experience. One could not help being drawn into the presentation of a Hindi *Bhajan* in praise of *Amba* depicting the simplicity and blissful devotion of everyday village folk in the presence of the deity. This part of the evening's performance was the high-point of the repertoire.

Priyadarshini then went on to depict an incident that occurred between *Shiva* and *Shakthi* through a composition of Subramanya Bharathi. *Shakthi* was bored with life and refused to respond to *Shiva's* invitation for a game of dice. To amuse her, *Shiva* apparently offered *Shakthi* an opportunity to play the role of the "Destroyer" while He played the role of the "Creator". *Shakthi* then manifests herself as *Kali* and the whole universe becomes distraught. It was *Shiva's* touch that finally calms *Shakthi* down and peace and harmony reign on Earth again. Priyadarshini depicted this harmony in the universe as the physical love between *Shiva* and *Shakthi*.

After the intermission, Priyadarshini presented a rather light-hearted folklore about the jealousy that *Shakthi* carried in her heart for *Ganga* because *Shiva* had the maiden trapped in his matted hair. When all attempts to appease her with rational explanations failed, *Shiva* asks for forgiveness by prostrating before *Shakthi*. Priyadarshini amused her audience by suggesting that the only reason *Shakthi* was appeased when *Shiva* bowed to her was because *Ganga* who was trapped in *Shiva's* locks of hair also bowed to her.

The evening's performance ended with the presentation of *Shiva-Shakthi* as *Ardhanaareeshwara*. This part of the performance had more of the *Nritta* aspect of *Bharatanatyam* than the preceding pieces.

The music for the performance was composed by Sri C.V. Chandrashekar, a renowned *Guru of Bharatanatyam*. It is laudable that Smt. Ramya Ramnarayan stepped in at very short notice to replace Sri A. Lakshman, the Nattuvanaar who could not accompany the troupe from India due to Visa problems. The relatively young and enthusiastic team of musicians included Deepu Karunakaran Nair as the vocalist, T. Vishwanathan as the mridangist and Vinod Kumar as the violinist.

[Dr. Kala Menon is a research faculty member in the Division of Surgical Oncology at U of Penn. Also, she has been a student and connoisseur of Bharatanatyam for several years now.]

The opinions expressed by the contributors of articles and reviews are published in a spirit of openness of communication and freedom of expression. They do not necessarily reflect the views of Sruti's Board or its members.

## Community News

### Kalpathi C. Krishnan

Kalpathi C. Krishnan, 78, a retired Project Manager in Univac Corporation, (Blue Bell, PA) died on August 23 at the Bryn Mawr Convalescent Home.

Mr. Krishnan came to the United States in 1955 as a Fulbright Scholar to attend the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. After receiving his MBA in 1956, Mr. Krishnan joined Sperry Univac where he worked until his retirement in 1984. As a resident of West Philadelphia, he served as a mentor and guardian to many students from India who were attending the University of Pennsylvania. He later moved to Havertown where he lived for the past 29 years. An avid gardener, he enjoyed the challenge of growing exotic vegetables. Known affectionately to his friends as "KC", he was a man who never dodged a fight for social justice. He liked to keep abreast of world events and was curious and inquisitive by nature. He always insisted on doing his own research on any given topic. He also enjoyed spending time with his family.

Mr. Krishnan was a life member of *Sruti* and loved attending concerts until his failing health robbed him of this pleasure. He will be deeply missed. Our deep condolences to Mrs. Lalitha Krishnan and her family.

Board of Directors, *Sruti*

## SRUTI in the Community

**Akhila Vasthare**, representing *Sruti*, held a workshop at the Nations Heritage Explorer summer camp in North Philadelphia on July 17. She spoke to 5-12 year old children about Indian culture, held a Q/A session, performed a piece of classical dance and got them to dance to Indian music. A student of Natya Academy, Akhila is a high school senior and had her Bharatanatyam arangetram last year.

**Neha Agarwal, Veena Abraham, Anusha Goossens, Preeti Mokka, Janita Patwardhan, Urmila Plakkat, Rathi Ramesh, and Ratipriya Suresh**, all students of the **Nardhana Academy**, gave a Bharatanatyam performance as representatives of *Sruti* at the India Day celebrations hosted by the Council of Indian Organizations at Penns Landing on August 17.

Our thanks and congratulations to Akhila and the students of Nardhana Academy for the excellent job!

## Sangeet Rajani 2002

Entries are invited for *Sangeet Rajani 2002* Young Artists Indian classical music competition to be held in Fairless Hills, PA on Saturday, October 26, 2002. Competitions will be held for senior and junior age groups in Hindusthani and Carnatic music. For details, please call Hema Ramamurthy (215.295.1980), Purvi Vinchhi (732.625.0964) or Vivek Khadilkar at 215.357.5383

## Internationally Acclaimed Karnatak Flutist T. Viswanathan Dead at 75

South Indian flutist and adjunct professor of music at Wesleyan University Tanjore Viswanathan died Tuesday, Sept. 10, of a heart attack at Hartford Hospital. He was 75.

Beloved throughout India, Viswanathan came from an illustrious family of musicians and dancers. His grandmother was the legendary Veena Dhanammal, one of the greatest veena players of her time. His sister, the late South Indian classical dancer T. Balasaraswati, and his late niece, Lakshmi Knight, were regarded as premiere Bharata Natyam performers. He and his brother, the late mridangam player T. Ranganaathan, both performed solo concerts and dance performances with their sister throughout the world. In 1990, Viswanathan received a Ford Foundation Grant that allowed him to conduct a six-month workshop reviving and preserving rare compositions from his family repertoire.

For more than a quarter century, Viswanathan taught at Wesleyan, first as an artist-in-residence and later as an adjunct professor. He instructed students in South Indian flute and vocals, adapting his teaching style to a more descriptive method in order to overcome the cultural and language barriers many students experience when attempting to learn Karnatak music. Several of his students have gone on to illustrious music careers including the late Jon Higgins - the first non-Indian to have been accorded recognition in India as a professional performer of classical Indian vocal music. Viswanathan also served as the founder and coordinator of Wesleyan's 26-year-old Navaratri Festival, one of the oldest festivals in the United States featuring dance and music of South and North India.

He trained under his mother, singer T. Jayammal, and under flutist T.N. Swaminatha Pillai in India before traveling to California to study ethnomusicology at UCLA on a Fulbright grant. Upon completing his study at UCLA, he returned to India to head up the department of Indian music at Madras University for five years. He later returned to the United States to earn a Ph.D. in ethnomusicology from Wesleyan.

A world-renowned musician, Viswanathan received many accolades including the *Kalaimamani* (Crest Jewel of Fine Arts), recognizing him as the instrumentalist of the year in 1978, by the state government of Madras, India; the Federal Government of India's *Sangeet Natak Akademy* (President's) Award for Karnatak Instrumental Music; and the *Sangita Kalanidhi* (Treasure of Musical Art) from the Music Academy of Madras, the most prestigious title given to a South Indian musician. Last December, he was honored by the Bharat Kalachar with the title of "Viswa Kala Bharathi."

His accomplishments were noted in the United States as well. He was the first Indian traditional artist to be honored as a National Heritage Fellow - America's highest tribute for traditional artists — by the National Endowment for the Arts for his contribution to culture in the United States and for his achievement in South Indian music. He also received a distinguished award for contributions to Indo-American understanding from the Tarakanth Das Foundation of Columbia University in 1998.

He recorded seven albums of his own, including the 2000 release *Tribute*, and contributed to recordings for five films.

In addition to teaching at Madras University and at Wesleyan, Viswanathan also taught at California Institute of the Arts, the American Dance Festival and the American Society for Eastern Arts.

He is survived by his wife, Josepha "Jody" Cormack Viswanathan of Middletown, Conn., and three children.

[Obituary released by the Office of University Communications, Wesleyan University]

**Pleasing Music**  
**Malladi Brothers concert**  
*Rasikan*

Malladi Brothers, Sriram Prasad and Ravi Kumar, treated the SRUTI audience to some wholesome and pleasing Carnatic music on July 29, '02 at St. Mary Hall of Villanova University. They were accompanied by R. Swaminathan on the violin and Palani Kumar on the mridangam.

Malladi Brothers are among the most promising young vocalists of the last few years. They are the younger torch bearers of the Dr. Sripada Pinakapani school of music. Their alapana and kriti rendering carry the *sukha bhavam* (serenity) associated with Nedunuri Krishnamoorthy. I felt it particularly while listening to their Kedaragowla. Voleti Venkeswarulu's influence could be discerned in the touches of Hindustani music, although this reviewer felt a tad uncomfortable with the mixture of Bageshri in the Srianjani alapana.

The Brothers tend to preface an alapana to many of the pieces, which is a welcome feature.

The concert began with the Saveri varnam 'Sarasuda' of Patnam Subramania Iyer followed by Sivan's 'Gajavadana' in Sri Ranjani. After a staid 'Sangita gnanamu', (Dhanyasi, Adi, Thyagaraja), they rendered a pleasing alapana in Kedaragowla for 'Tulasi Bilwa', a Thyagaraja composition in Adi talam. The team spirit between the brothers, and the nice blending with the accompanists lent a peaceful feeling for this piece.

The Brothers rendered with bhavam the Syama Sastry kriti, 'Parvati ninnu ne' in the rare raga Kalgada, Adi. This was followed by two quick fillers: 'Bogeendara sayinam' (Kuntalavarali, Kanda chapu, Swati Tirunal) and 'Vaade

*Venkatdri'* (Vasantha, Adi, Annamacharya).

They then took up 'Swara raga sudha' the majestic composition of Thyagaraja in Sankarabharanam, Adi for full treatment including neraval, kalpana swaram with kuraipuu and kanakku. This was followed by a crisp Tani by Palani Kumar, the veteran mridangist.

Perhaps because it was already well over two hours into the concert, the RTP in Shanmukhapriya was quite short. Incidentally this was the first prati madhyama ragam in the concert. The pallavi was rendered in Tisra Tripura talam with short trikalam, tisram and swara kalpana in Mohanam, Kalyani and Kapi.

The post pallavi period consisted of two Annamacharya keertanas (in Revathy and Kurinji), a Puranadara Dasa kriti in Hamirkalyani, a Sadasiva Brahmendra composition in Sindhu Bairavi and Lalgudi Jayaraman's tillana in Rageshri all in Adi talam. The Brothers concluded their concert with the Surti piece 'Pathiki haratheere' of Thyagaraja.

R. Swaminadhan provided adequate support without being flashy. In fact flashiness was one feature totally absent during the entire concert.

Although the music was pleasant, there was a degree of monotonicity during the concert. In my opinion, two factors may have contributed to it. One was that all except two pieces were in Adi talam. And the other was the lack of any prati madhyama piece in the early or even middle segment of the concert.

**SRUTI Concert Tapes**

The following is a partial list of music tapes of SRUTI concerts available for distribution among the patrons of SRUTI. For a complete list or to place an order, please send an email to [sruti@sruti.org](mailto:sruti@sruti.org) or call (215)-643-2145. The year of the concert and the number of cassettes (within parentheses) are given. Prices for Sruti members (unless noted otherwise) are: \$10 for a two-cassette set and \$15 for a three-cassette set. Non-members should add \$2 to the cost of each set. Please add \$2.00 per set for shipping.

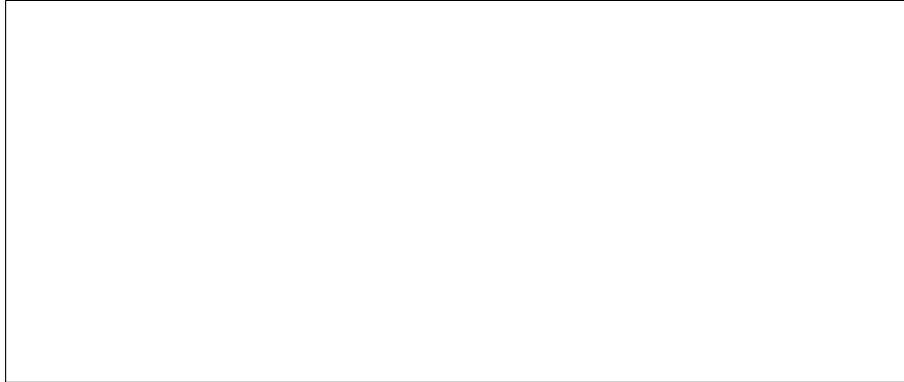
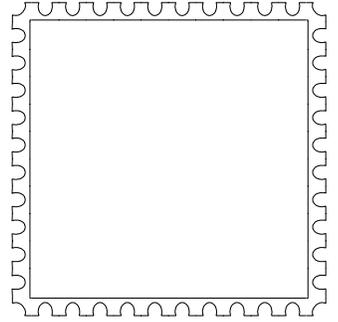
15. Nedunuri Krishnamurthi Thiruparkadal S. Veeraraghavan (Violin), Umalyapuram K. Sivaraman (Mridangam)	1991(2)	21. U. Srinivas (mandolin) P. S. Ramamurthy (Violin), K. V. Prasad (Mridangam)	1993(2)
16. N. Ramani (Flute) Kanyakumari (Violin), Guruvayor Dorai (Mridangam)	1992(2)	22. K.V.Narayanaswamy (Vocal) Nagai Muralidharan (Violin), Vellore Ramabhadran (Mridangam)	1993(2)
17. Sudha Raghunathan (Vocal) V. V. Ravi (Violin), T. Vaidyanathan (Mridangam)	1992(3)	23. Vijay Siva (Vocal) Shriram Kumar (Violin), J. Vaidhyathan (mridangam)	1993(2)
18. T.N.Seshagopalan (Vocal) G. Chandramouli (Violin), Neyveli Narayanan (Mridangam)	1992(2)	24. C. Chittibabu (Veena) N. Somayajulu (Mridangam), U.K. Narayanaswa (Ghatam)	1994(2)
19. Trichur V. Ramachandran (Vocal) V. V. Ravi (Violin), S. V. Raja Rao (Mridangam)	1992(2)	25. Ravi Kiran (Chitravina) P. Sunder Rajan (Violin), Vellore Ramabhadran (Mridangam)	1994(2)
20. Lalgudi G. Jayaraman, G.J.R. Krishnan & J. Vijayalakshmi (Violin) Trichy Sankaran (Mridangam), Vinayakaram (Ghatam), V. Nagarajan (Khanjira)	1993(2)	26. T.V. Sankaranarayanan (Vocal) T.K.V. Ramanujacharyulu (Violin), B. Harikumar (Mridangam)	1994(2)

27. T. N. Bala (Vocal) Sashidhar (Violin), Balachander (Mridangam) & Murali (Khanjira)	1994(2)	46. N. Ravikiran (Chitravina) A. Ananthkrishnan (Violin), Master Anand (Mridangam)	1998(2)
28. S.P. Ramh (Vocal) Shashidhar (Violin), Satish Pathakota (Mridangam)	1994(2)	47. Neyveli Santhanagopalan (Vocal) Delhi Sundararajan (Violin), S. Rajarao (mridangam)	1999(2)
29. Charumathi Ramachandran (Vocal) M.S. Anantharaman (Violin), Skandaprasad (Mridangam)	1994(2)	48. Mysore Nagaraj and Manjunath (Violin) Thiruvarur Bhaktavatsalam (Mridangam)	1999(3)
30. Bombay Jayashri (Vocal) Vittal Ramamurthy (Violin), Palani Chakravarthy (Mridangam)	1995(2)	49. Sikkil Mala Chandrasekhar (Flute) H.N. Bhaskar (Violin), M. Suresh (Mridangam)	1999(2)
31. Sowmya (Vocal) Narmada (Violin), Balaji (Mridangam)	1995(2)	50. T .N. Seshagopalan (Vocal) Jayasankaran Bala (Violin), Vaidyanathan (Mridangam)	2000(2)
32. Sanjay Subramaniam (Vocal) R.K. Sriramkumar (Violin), K. Arun Prakash (Mridangam)	1995(2)	51. Maharajapuram Ramachandran (Vocal) M. Chandramouli (Violin), K. Ganesh (Mridangam)	2000(2)
33. Vani Satish (Vocal) Satish (Violin), Mahesh Krishnamurthy (Mridangam)	1995(2)	52. M.S. Gopalakrishnan & Narmada (Violin) T. Bhaktavatsalam (Mridangam)	2000(2)
34. Nithyasree (Vocal) Embar Kannan (Violin), Siva Kumar (Mridangam)	1996(2)	53. Priya Sisters (Vocal) B. Raghavendra Rao (Violin), J. Vaidyanatha (Mridangam)	2000(2)
35. M.S. Sheela (Vocal) Nalina Mohan (Violin), Anoor Ananthkrishna Sharma (Mridangam), Sukanya Ramgopal (Ghatam)	1996(3)	54. Mysore Nagaraj & Manjunath (Violin) Srimushnam Raja Rao (Mridangam)	2001(2)
36. Jayanthi & Padmavathi (Veena Duet) Thiruvarur Vaidyanathan (Mridangam)	1996(2)	55. M.S. Sheela (Vocal) Radhika Mani (Violin), A. R. Dattatreya Sharma (Mridangam), V. Kashinath (Kanjira), Rudrapatnam Sathyakumar (Ghatam)	2001(2)
37. Shashank (Flute) Gopinath (Violin), Satish Kumar (Mridangam), Tripunithira Radhakrishnan (Ghatam)	1996(2)	56. P. Unnikrishnan (Vocal) Vittal Ramamurthy (Violin), Trichur Narendran (Mridangam)	2001(2)
38. O.S. Thyagarajan (Vocal) Srikanth Venkataraman (Violin),S Raja Rao (Mridangam)	1997(3)	57. Hyderabad Brothers (Vocal) Delhi Sundararajan (violin), S. Raja Rao ((Mridangam)	2001(2)
39. Balaji Shankar Ganesh Prasad (Violin), P. Subramaniam (Mridangam)	1997(2)	58. Bombay Jayashri (Vocal) R.K. Sriramkumar (Violin), K. Arun Prakash (Mridangam)	2001(2)
40. T.N. Krishnan & Viji Krishnan Natarajan (Violin) B. Harikumar (Mridangam), Vaikom R. Gopalakrishnan (Ghatam)	1997(2)	59. Rajeswari Satish (Vocal) Radhika Mani (Violin), C.G. Balachandran (Mridangam), Murali Balachandran (Ghatam)	2002(2)
41. Kadri Gopalanath (Saxophone) Kanyakumari (Violin), Guruvayur Durai (Mridangam)	1997(2)	60. S. Shashank (Flute) B.U. Ganesh Prasad (Violin), Satish Kumar (Mridangam), T. Radhakrishnan(Ghatam), M. Gururaj (Morsing)	2002(2)
42. N. Ramani (Flute) Srikant Venkataraman (Violin), S. Rajarao (Mridangam)	1998(2)	61. Ustad Shahid Pervez Khan (Sitar) Ustad Kadar Khan (Tabla)	2002(2)
43. Lalgudi G.J.R. Krishnan (Violon) Vellore Ramabhadran (Mridangam), V. Nagaraja (Kanjira)	1998(2)	62. Malladi Brothers (Vocal) R. Swaminadhan (violin), Palani C. Kumar (mridangam)	2002(3)
44. Sanjay Subrahmanyam (Vocal) A. Ananthkrishnan (Violin), Palghat Raghu (Mridangam)	1998(2)		
45. T.M. Krishna (Vocal) Bombay Gayathri (Violin), K.Arun Prakash (Mridangam)	1998(2)		



**SRUTI**

The India Music & Dance Society  
1436 Joel Drive  
Ambler, PA 19002



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\* Please call a member of the Board of Directors for more information.