

At the Ellenville Public Library

Ellenville Library Hosts East Indian Folk Arts Festival

The **Ellenville Public Library & Museum**, in collaboration with the Society for Folk Arts Preservation, will host an East Indian Folk Arts Festival in July at the **Library**. The program will include an exhibit of art and artifacts, a lecture program, crafts, and a dance performance. Funded by the Dutchess County Arts Council and the New York Council for the Humanities, a State affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the programs are free and open to the public. They will take place in the **Library's Community Room, 40 Center Street**, which is handicapped-accessible.

An exhibit of art, artifacts, and textiles from the Society for Folk Arts Preservation, dubbed "India Before the Shopping Malls," will be on display in the **Library's Gallery Link** during the month of July. Artifacts will be on loan through the end of September.



The festival will begin on **Thursday, July 21st**, at **7:00 PM** when Kalika Stern, Executive Director of the Society for Folk Arts Preservation, (*left*) will present an illustrated lecture entitled "India: A Visual Tour of Ancient and Living Craft Traditions." Ms. Stern's talk will depict traditional craft workers of India, their environments and art forms, from tribal and temple art to every-day art forms. Stern has traveled

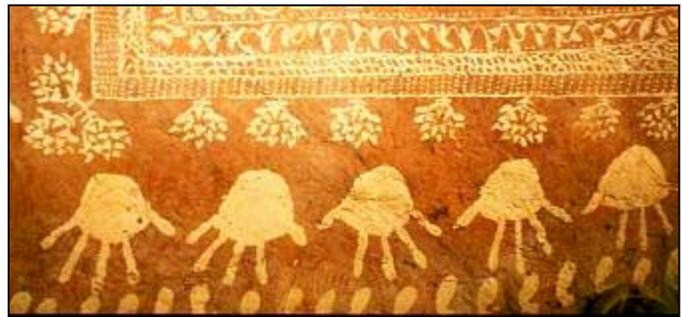
to India five times, where she created the seminal work from which her talk derives under a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. She will provide examples of stone-age tribal paintings and hand stampings on the wall of Warli Tribe mud huts (*photo, top right*), tracing the influence of these early protection symbols to textile designs like Calico and Paisley in addition to exploring the myriad craft traditions that she aspires to preserve through her ongoing work (*Benares Brocade, right*).

"India: A Visual Tour..." addresses the human need to create and communicate. It acknowledges the unifying traditions that link folk crafts to other areas of human expression and art and also points out those craft traditions that are in danger of dying out and emphasizes the need to preserve these expressions of our human, intuitive sense of beauty," said Stern.



On **Saturday, July 23rd**, from **1:30 to 3:00 PM**, craft workshops will be offered. Mandara Calderon will work with adult participants to make Rangoli (sand mandalas), and Sadhna Bhargava will teach Mehndi, the henna body painting technique in a workshop for adults and children over age 10. Pre-registration is available at **647-5530**.

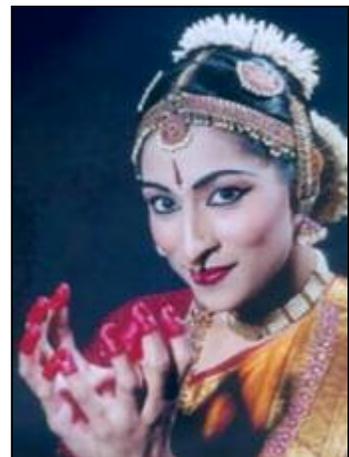
The festival will culminate in a dance performance and discussion on **Sunday, July 24th** at **3:00 PM**, with Krithika Rajagopalan, principal dancer and assistant artis-



tic director of the Natya Dance Theatre (*below*), a critically acclaimed dance company based in Chicago. Krithika has trained in the art of histrionic expression and dramaturgy and has presented more than 200 solo performances, including appearing for President Bill Clinton. She is the recipient of several awards and has many choreographic credits including full productions such as "Dhrasta: The One Who Sees," which received the Critics' Choice Award from the Chicago Reader.

"It is an honor to work with the very talented and generous people who have come together for this festival," said program coordinator Diane DeChillo. "We are thrilled to bring a bit of the richness and diversity of Indian art and performance to Ellenville, and invite the public to share the experience," she said.

For more information about the program, please contact the library at **647-5530** or visit **www.societyforfolkarts.com** and **www.natya.com** to learn more about the artists, or call Kalika Stern, Executive Director, Society for Folk Arts Preservation (SFAP) **845-436-7314**. ☸



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