

KHAASBAAT

A PUBLICATION FOR INDIAN AMERICANS IN FLORIDA

JULY 2022

WWW.KHAASBAAT.COM

EDITOR@KHAASBAAT.COM

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Inside:



Florida News
Mukundananda

2



Events
Concert

3



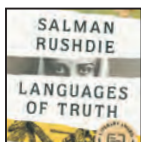
Classifieds
Help Wanted

5



Motoring
Caddy Escalade

6



Books
'Languages of Truth'

9

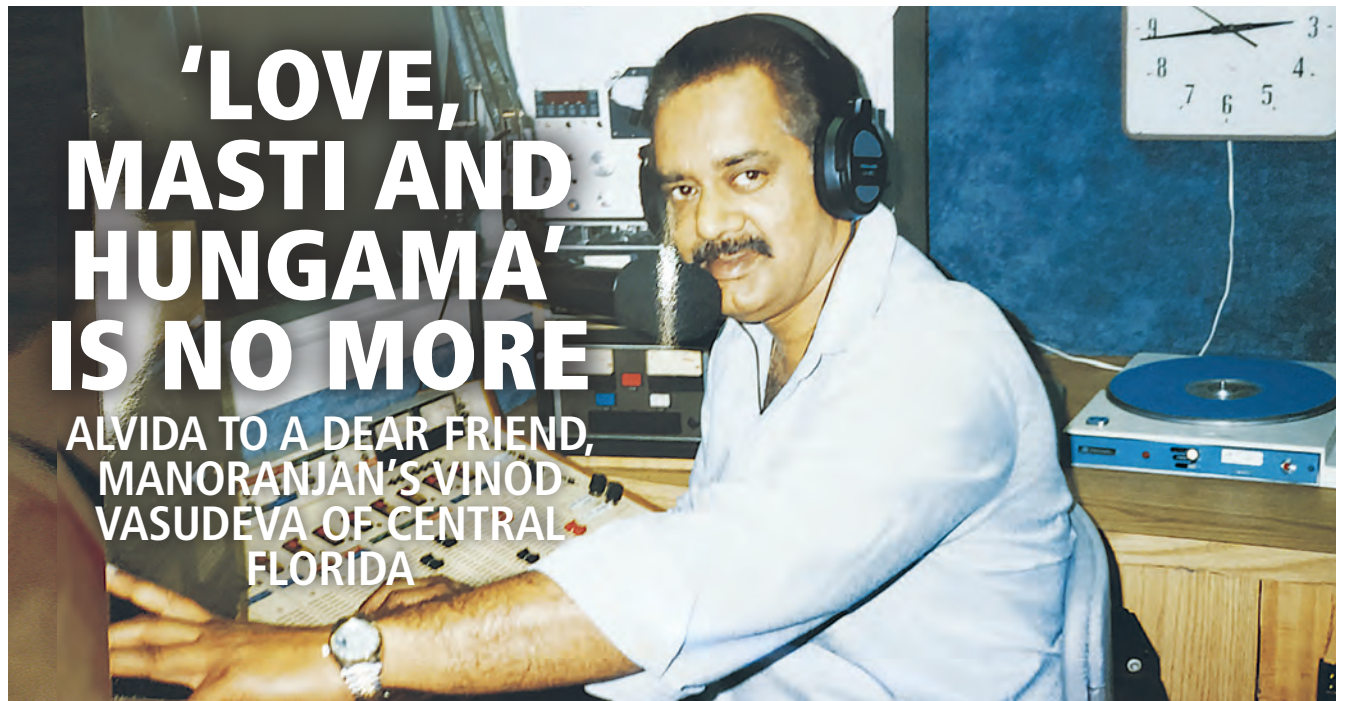


Astrology
July forecast

12

'LOVE, MASTI AND HUNGAMA' IS NO MORE

ALVIDA TO A DEAR FRIEND, MANORANJAN'S VINOD VASUDEVA OF CENTRAL FLORIDA



By **NITISH S. RELE**

"Bhau, kasa ahe?" (brother, how are you?) The minute we heard the celestial, mellifluous and mesmerizing voice utter those words in Marathi on the phone (and from a Punjabi!), we knew it was the late Vinod Vasudeva, a dear friend we had known for over three decades. Vasudeva, 74, died on April 26 in Longwood.

For over 30 years, he hosted Manoranjan the radio show out of Central Florida. A native of Mumbai,

Vasudeva earned his master's degree in economics at Delhi University. After a brief visit to the United States, he returned in 1973 with Kusum, whom he had known since 1962. "We'd come on an extended honeymoon to New York, opportunities rose and we stayed back," Vasudeva told us when sat down for an interview back in 2011 in his Longwood/Orlando area living room, surrounded by family photographs and of course hundreds of audio cassettes and CDs.

Continued on page 7

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WHO'S WHO

Khaas Baat is a monthly publication that has been in circulation since August 2004. Issues are direct mailed to subscribers and also are available at South Asian grocery stores and restaurants. It presents exclusive, informative and relevant news about the Indian American community in Florida to its readers.

EDITOR/PUBLISHER: NITISH S. RELE, M.A. IN JOURNALISM
ASSOCIATE EDITOR: SHEPHALI J. RELE, M.A. IN JOURNALISM
CREATIVE DIRECTOR: TIM LANCASTER

Khaas Baat, 8312 Windsor Bluff Drive, Tampa, FL 33647
Phone: 813-758-0518 • e-mail: editor@khaasbaat.com

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NOTE FROM THE PUBLISHERS

KHAAS BAAT INTRODUCES REDESIGNED SLEEK FORMAT

By **NITISH S. RELE & SHEPHALI J. RELE**

After almost 18 years publishing Khaas Baat as a large 11 X 17 inch page, we are introducing a redesigned and reformatted version. The newspaper is now 10.5 inches across and 12 inches tall. But readers rest assured the new, more convenient size will have the same hyper-local focus on the Indian American community, news and content-wise. Particularly, the ever-popular events listing, which is growing as celebrations and festivities take a front seat once again.

This change has been almost 15 years in the making, so to speak. In that time period, over a third of the newspapers in the United States have ceased publication. Newsprint mills have shuttered and several existing ones are now making packages for companies like Amazon. Community newspapers such as Khaas Baat are hit the hardest with paper shortages and paper supply issues but we still have managed to carry on monthly since we began printing in August 2004. The pandemic, high inflation and gasoline prices, and raw materials shortage continue to plague newspapers, raising the price of available newsprint to record levels as publishers struggle to operate.

While exploding newsprint costs demand size changes for printing efficiencies, Khaas Baat remains committed to providing news to the Indian-American community throughout Florida. In addition, we inform readers about topics such as health, finance, accounting, book reviews, family matters, entertainment, immigration, motoring and astrology, among other features. Suggestions for new features are always welcome.

The new format allows for additional editorial layout configurations and ad sizes. Additional advertising opportunities are being created and will be made available in the near future.

Once again, we urge readers to support us by subscribing (form on page 2), sponsoring a month, or in any way you can. Checks can be addressed to KHAAS BAAT, 8312 Windsor Bluff Drive, Tampa, FL 33647. Or via zelle to (813) 758-1786.



SWAMI MUKUNDANANDA CONDUCTS SCIENCE OF HAPPINESS LECTURE SERIES

Swami Mukundananda conducted a seven-day Life Transformation Program from May 31-to June 6 at the Hindu Temple of Florida in Tampa. The program included energizing yoga, mindful meditation and enthralling discourses, revealing techniques to achieve true happiness, ultimate success and perfect balance in life.

Swami Mukundananda began the lecture by highlighting the illusive nature of happiness. He then revealed the Science of Happiness as laid out and prescribed in the Vedic scriptures. Swamiji elaborated on the esoteric Vedic aphorisms using contemporary examples and shared practical tools and techniques needed to maintain a positive frame of mind in daily lives.



Each day, morning walks were hosted at various locations in the Tampa Bay area. Swamiji answered questions and clarified doubts for participants.

A special morning walk and picnic with Swamiji was also held to raise awareness and garner support for the 'Education and Healthcare for the Underprivileged' – a JKYog initiative to improve the quality of life of individuals impacted

by lack of resources and infrastructure in rural India. <https://www.jkyog.org/walkforeducationandhealthcare/>

Swami Mukundananda is the founder of JKYog, international authority on mind management, IIT and IIM alumnus and a best-selling author. Along with workshops offered in major cities in the U.S., JKYog has numerous online offerings (<https://www.jkyog.org>). Also, there are JKYog Satsang Centers in many cities. Contact Dale/Bill (727-313-1887) or Simmy (813-300-0584) to connect with the Tampa JKYog center.



E V E N T S

TAMPA/ST. PETERSBURG/CLEARWATER

JULY 2: JAGANNATH RATH YATRA (FESTIVAL OF CHARIOTS);

Sanatan Mandir, 311 E. Palm Ave., Tampa; for sponsorship, visit <https://www.explara.com/e/indian-festival-of-chariots-ratha-yatra>; email info@sanatanmandirtampa.org for information.

JULY 12: HANUMAN CHALISA; second Tuesday of month; Vishnu Mandir Tampa, 5803 Lynn Road; 7 to 9 p.m.; for information, call Deo Gajadhar at (813) 817-9724.

JULY 20: ICC SENIORS GET-TOGETHER; India Cultural Center, 5509 Lynn Road, Tampa; 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; free seminar, lunch and entertainment; no age restriction; for information, text email address along with your name to Bhikhu Nayi at (631) 560-2718 to receive details about seniors gathering every month; or call Mahesh Modha at (813) 476-1540.

AUG. 14: INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION;

India completes 75 years of independence this year; celebrate "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" on India's 76th Independence Day with FIA of Tampa Bay; India Cultural Center (ICC), 5511 Lynn Road, Tampa; 10 a.m.; contact FIA President Jigisha Desai or Event Chair Himatlal Parekh at FIA_TPA_Cultural@Googlegroups.com



LAKELAND/WINTER HAVEN

JULY 7-9: 17th PATOTSAV CELEBRATION; Shree Swaminarayan Hindu Temple, 2793 New Tampa Highway, Lakeland; for information, call (863) 687-1550 or visit www.issolakeland.org

ORLANDO/CASSELBERRY

JULY 10: HSCF NEW AGE GROUP MEETING; 1:30 to 5 p.m.; Hindu Society of Central Florida community hall, 1994 Lake Drive, Casselberry; seminar topic on diabetes will be doncuted by Dr. Naresh Bhatt followed by tea/coffee, snacks; free for 2022 paid members with prior RSVP to hscfnewagegroup@gmail.com; for information, call Madan Arora at (407) 971-9259.

AUG. 7: "BAIRA ONO BAHUBALI;" Gujarati play presented by Gujarati Society of Central Florida; 6 p.m.; Olympia High School, 4301 S. Apopka Vineland Road, Orlando; for tickets and more information, visit www.gujaratisocietycfl.com

SOUTH FLORIDA (DAVIE) AUG. 7: MUSICAL CONCERT; presented by Association of Performing Arts of

India; Pandit Milind Raikar on violin and Rajesh Bhandari on tabla; 5 to 8 p.m.; Palace Indian restaurant, 11422 W. State Road 84, Davie; \$60 ticket includes dinner after concert; for information, visit www.apaiart.com



Disclaimer: Event details are subject to change. Please check with local organizers. Event submissions are free, e-mail information to editor@khaasbaat.com by the 20th.

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MONTHLY EVENTS	WEEKLY EVENTS
<p>SATURDAY, JUL 2 (10:00 AM to 1:00 PM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SHRI JAGNNATH RATH YATRA (Visit website or call temple for more details) <p>SATURDAY, JUL 9 (11:00 PM to 12:30 PM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SHRI JAGNNATH JI BHAJAN • CHATURMAS PRARAMBH (From Jul-9 to Nov-10) (Devshyani ekadashi to Dev Prabhodhini Ekadashi) • GAURI VRAT (From Jul-9 to Jul-13) (Gauri Visarjan on Jul-13) <p>MONDAY, JUL 11 (11:00 AM to 12:00 PM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JAYA PARVATI VRAT (From Jul-11 to Jul-15) <p>WEDNESDAY, JUL 13 (6:00 PM to 8:00 PM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PURNIMA SATYANARAYAN KATHA <p>THURSDAY, JUL 14 (7:00PM to 8:00 PM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NORTH SHRAAVAN (Start) • GURUPURNIMA CELEBRATIONS, PADUKA PUJAN, BHAJAN (Sponsored by: Sanjeev & Babita Kumar Family) <p>SUNDAY, JUL 24 (5:00 PM to 7:00 PM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MA BHUCHAR ANANAD NO GARBO <p>FRIDAY, JUL 29 (6:00 PM to 7:00 PM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GUJARATI SHRAVAAN (Starts) <p>SUNDAY, JUL 31 (6:00 PM to 7:00 PM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SHRI JHULAY LAAL BHAJAN 	<p>EVERY MONDAY - 6:30 PM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SHIV ABHISHEK AND PUJA • SHRAVAN SOMVAR PUJA <p>EVERY TUESDAY - 7:00 PM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SUNDARKAND • HANUMAM KATHA <p>EVERY THURSDAY - 7:00 PM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAI BABA SATSANG • MAHA PRASAD <p>Pandit Manikya Sharma 813-484-9568 Pandit Rushi Vyas 813-503-3388</p>
<p>IMPORTANT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Puja services have been resumed with guidelines. - Please follow CDC guidelines when visiting temple. - For private puja at Temple or at your place, please contact Temple or Pandit Ji. 	

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CANCER: WHAT IS THE ANSWER - PART VIII HARNESSING OUR IMMUNE SYSTEM

By M.P. RAVINDRA NATHAN, M.D., FACC



Last month, we talked about immunotherapy, the latest advance in the management of cancer. Harnessing a patient’s own immune system is considered the Holy Grail of cancer treatment nowadays. This means eradication of cancer through natural methods, which would then eliminate the necessity for chemotherapy with its side effects, radiotherapy and surgery. But of course, it’s easier said than done.

A little knowledge about our immune system would come handy in understanding the modern treatments of cancer. As you already know, the immune system – a complex arrangement – is our primary defense system that protects us from the invasion of bacteria, viruses, fungi and other organisms that invade the body. However, all these come from outside. But cancer cells develop spontaneously within our body and in addition they are equipped with a ‘taser’-like mechanism that give them ability to viciously attack our immune cells and destroy them, so they can proliferate and overwhelm the body. So, this action of cancer cells needs to be disabled. Which means our immune system should recognize the normal cells of our body as ‘self’ and needs to be protected and nurtured and the spontaneously growing malignant cells as foreign and must be destroyed. More than a dozen type of immune cells and hundreds of immune molecules collaborate and work in harmony to achieve this incredible feat. So, the main question is how to boost our immune system to recognize and fight cancer cells that spontaneously appear and grow in our body?

A type of cells called T Cells, part of the immune system, launch the fight against the cancer cells but they are blocked by the cancer cells. A new type of antibody developed recently seems to release the ‘breaks on these immune cells’ by the cancer cells and enables them to recognize and fight the cancer cells. The first such novel immune-stimulatory monoclonal antibody, Ipilimumab, was introduced almost a decade ago and now there are many such drugs approved for cancer treatment. Another approach is to genetically modify the patient’s T cells to accept immune stimulating genes and this has been a game changer. Yet another successful approach is ‘replacing the immune system’ with stem cell transplantation that has been in vogue for many years but significantly improved in efficacy and safety recently. This is called bone marrow transplant and the stem cells can be obtained from peripheral blood of a healthy donor – a simple procedure.

Any role for alternate therapies?

Once the cancer diagnosis is made, patients automatically get depressed and they can’t help feeling a sense of ‘gloom and doom.’ So, they try to do whatever they can to control this malady and many resort to alternative therapy often while undergoing scientific treatment by an oncologist. And patients often fall for advertisements that tout the benefits of alternative and naturopathic treatments. Please don’t pay attention to these false claims. And natural doesn’t mean harmless. Many patients take herbal medicines like Saw Palmetto, Garlic, Echinacea, Red wine leaf, Wild Yam, etc., but there is no proof that they work in scientific studies. Some patients were more likely to consider using herbal medicines to address the long-term consequences of cancer treatment.

Oncologists always ask their patients to keep in mind these five things: 1. No dietary or herbal product can cure cancer. 2. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) does not approve dietary products for cancer. 3. Herbs may interact with chemotherapy and other drug treatments. 4. Antioxidant supplements, commonly used by many, may make cancer treatments less effective. 5. Some supplements may help reduce specific side effects of treatment – such as ginger for nausea, Vitamin B6 or glutamine for peripheral neuropathy, etc.

Having said all these, some of the Indian spices often used in cooking may help to stimulate immune system and fight cancer. These include **1. Turmeric** the yellow curry powder, shown to inhibit cancer cells. **2. Ginger** with its antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties, also used for upset stomach **3. Cayenne Pepper:** This hot pepper contains capsaicin, a powerful antioxidant that is an anti-inflammatory, and also beta-carotene, considered toxic to cancer cells and helps prevent growth of cancer cells. **4. Saffron:** also packs a good punch. It has water-soluble carotenoids that may inhibit tumor growth and progression of cancer. **5. Oregano:** The richest source of antioxidants among herbs slows cancer growth and promotes apoptosis or cell death. Also to be mentioned are coffee and green tea that may be helpful in slowing the cancer growth. Please, always discuss what you are taking with your treating oncologist.

To be continued ...

M.P. Ravindra Nathan, M.D., is a cardiologist and Emeritus Editor of AAPI Journal. For further reading, “Second Chance - A Sister’s Act of Love” by Dr. Nathan from Outskirts Press, can be found at www.amazon.com

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INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA HELD IN TAMPA

Story provided by organizers

The 8th International Day of Yoga was celebrated with great fanfare on June 12 at India Cultural Center (ICC) in Tampa. It began with a short prayer and lighting of diya lamps.

After a short welcome speech, Chakara-dhyana and Prana-kriya were presented. A bigger dose of Prana (vitality) was received by the participants in the next session with the practice of Anulom-Vilom, Kapalabathi and Bastrika pranayama techniques. Thereafter, there was a gentle session on chanting with awareness of breath and how it helps to quieten the mind.

During a vigorous session on Hatha yoga (postures), participants stretched and worked their joints and muscles. A presentation on "Gut Health and Nutrition" with slides and live demo captivated the attention of the audience. An effective session on "Laughter Yoga" helped the participants chuckle their worries away followed by meditation. After almost three hours of activity to the mind, body and soul, attendees were led into a deep relaxation.

The program concluded with lunch prepared by the Hindu Temple of Florida and Nritya (dance) yoga performed by children.

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HELP WANTED Urgent need for caregiver. Live-in or Daily help with care of my mother and some kitchen work. Located in Lansbrook, Palm Harbor. Please call Rashmi at (727) 741-1664.

HELP WANTED Tampa restaurant is looking for servers, food runners and front host. Good pay. Call (972) 900-1526 or email minervatampa@gmail.com

HELP WANTED Front desk and housekeeper needed in local motel in St. Petersburg. Both are in day shift. Accommodation provided. Contact (727) 686-0807.

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TECH-LADEN 2022 CADDY ESCALADE IS A POWERHOUSE!

Test-drive stories by NITISH S. RELE motoringtampabay@gmail.com

After a major transformation inside out last year, the fifth-gen Cadillac Escalade continues mostly as is for 2022.

A 6.2-liter V-8 Ecotec engine blasts off 420 horsepower @ 5600 rpm and 460 pounds-feet of torque @ 4100 rpm. The 10-speed auto gearbox is quieter than most that we have driven recently in any luxury SUV. And the start-stop feature (automatic engine stop when the vehicle halts) ensures substantial savings in fuel and weight. The Dynamic Fuel Management system deactivates four of the eight cylinders for fuel savings. And if you need to haul a sailboat or another car, tow capacity is an astonishing 8,000 pounds.

You can identify an Escalade anywhere, thanks to its gigantic presence up front with the centered and traditional crest emblem in the Galvano chromed grille, flanked by horizontal HID headlights. The iconic full-size luxury SUV genuinely gleams in the cabin department with OLED (organic light-emitting diode) screen technology, which basically is light produced in response to an electric current. Three screens: a 14.2-inch instrument display behind the steering wheel; to the left, a 7.2-inch touch screen for driver information center; and a 16.9-inch infotainment screen in the dashboard; all use OLED and boast twice the clarity of a 4K TV! Audiophiles will love the 36-speaker AKG sound miracle, which can be heard via the ceiling, headrests and even the center console! Add the navigation system with augmented

ESCALADE SPORT (4WD)

Tires: P275/50R22 all season

Wheelbase: 120.9 inches

Length: 211 inches

Width: 81 inches

Height: 76.6 inches

Suspension: coil-over-shock front, independent rear

Steering: electric power rack-and-pinion

Fuel capacity: 24 gallons

City: 14 mpg **Highway:** 19 mpg

Base price: \$90,595

Price as tested: \$106,515

Web site: www.cadillac.com



reality to the mix and you are in business! Other luxuries include tri-zone auto a/c, flip-down 12.6-inch DVD screens for rear passengers, panoramic sun roof, hands-free lift gate, heated/cooled front seats, suede headliner and attractive dark auburn with black accent interior. The stainless-steel speaker grilles throughout are eye-catching. Ingress and egress into the high-sitting vehicle is convenient, thanks to power retractable running boards (optional). The third-row seat folds via a power button in the cargo hold while the second-row seat moves fore and aft 5.5 inches.

Standard safety features include dual front and side airbags, side curtain airbag for

rear rows, stability, hill descent and traction controls, four-wheel antilock brakes, rearview camera, rear-cross traffic, forward-collision and side-blind zone alerts, lane keep assist with departure warning, front/rear park sensors, tire pressure monitoring system and daytime running lights. Magnetic Ride Control adjusts the four-wheel independent suspension as per road conditions, resulting in a smooth but firm ride. It also keeps body roll to a minimum.

It may weigh almost 5,800 pounds but the Escalade has bountiful of power to result in a graceful, smooth and easy-riding companion as your passengers ride in luxury. All you need is an overblown bank balance to pamper yourself and the family.

FUEL-SIPPER KIA K5 IS ATTRACTIVE INSIDE AND OUT

It is undoubtedly one of the boldest-appearing midsize sedans today. After all, it replaced another sharp-looking car, Optima, that is now in the history books. The midsize K5 is not just an eye-pleaser but comes with a robust power train, solid chassis and desirable creature comforts.

Bigger than its predecessor in almost every respect (except height), under the hood of the K5 sits a 1.6-liter turbo gas inline-4 cylinder engine that produces a decent 180 horsepower @ 5500 rpm and 195 pounds-feet of torque @ 4500 rpm. Power reaches the front wheels via a crisp-shifting and accurate 8-speed automatic transmission.

Ensnconed on the steel-unibody based car is a wide and thin front silver-metallic radiator grille that extends into its LED headlights and the hood. The cabin offers such helpful amenities as a 10-way power heated/cooled driver and 6-way manual passenger leatherette seats, 60/40 rear seat, manual tilt/telescopic steering column, panoramic sun roof, dual auto a/c with rear vents, push-button start, 4.2-inch LCD instrument display, power windows, door locks and outside mirrors. The previous 8-inch touch screen for infotainment has been replaced by a bigger 10.25-inch display. Satin chrome accents on



K5 (EX)

Tires: 236/45R18

Wheelbase: 112.2 inches

Length: 193.1 inches

Width: 73.2 inches

Height: 56.9 inches

Suspension: MacPherson front, multilink rear

Steering: rack-and-pinion power

Weight: 3,228 pounds

Fuel capacity: 15.8 gallons

City: 27 mpg **Highway:** 37 mpg

Base price: \$28,590

Price as tested: \$33,785

Web site: www.kiausa.com

the center console garnish, dash pad bezel and air vents convey elegance. Trunk volume is commendable at 16 cubic feet (compare that to the Camry at 15.1).

Dual front and side airbags, side curtain airbag, driver knee airbag, four-wheel antilock brakes, stability and traction control systems, forward and blind-spot collision avoidance assists, as well as lane-keep and lane-follow assists, rearview camera, front and rear crumple zones, side-impact door beams,

three-point front seatbelts with pretensioners, daytime running lights and tire pressure monitoring system are standard.

The affordably priced K5 turbo exhibits admirable performance with lovely styling inside and out. And with gas prices hovering around \$5 a gallon, this one's a tremendous money saver with fuel economy at over 35 mpg in combined driving during our drive. Undoubtedly, it's an impeccably tuned ride for the daily grind.

VINOD VASUDEVA

Continued from page 1

"I ran my imports company, Vasudeva International, for 4-5 years. Then circumstances pushed us into exports for some more years before we moved to Miami in 1982."

A year later, the couple headed to Orlando. "The reason is Kusum liked Orlando very much and being the henpecked husband I was, I caved in," said Vasudeva. "Subsequently, I started my own exports company. In 1990, I was asked by the India Association of Greater Orlando to go on a radio program to announce the winner of their competition. I guess people liked what they heard and quite a few folks asked me to start a radio show."



And that is how Manoranjan, named by Kusum, kicked off in 1990, first for 30 minutes, then gradually to an hour, hour and a half and two hours. In his Delhi days, Vasudeva had been active in stage and fashion shows, conducting music and party nights. "We also had a group Betaab, which used to sing ghazals, American songs," he reminisced. "I even did a few stints on All India Radio."

Manoranjan began primarily as a service to the community. In those days, there was no platform to bring the community made up of different ethnicities together. "But the backbone of the show was Kusum," Vasudeva told us. "She was the one who would contact advertisers, sponsors, do all the administrative work. And on the day of the show, she would put the program together and I would just go on and babble. What I present in Manoranjan is an environment of love, masti and hungama."

And his biggest fan and critic was Kusum, who passed away on March 28, 2007. Vasudeva is survived by sons Varun and Vivek, and daughters Aditi Carman and Anjali Van Drie. "If you ask any of his four kids about who our dad was, I think we would each say how charismatic and full of love and laughter he was," they said. "Our father was a perfect blend of love, laughter, and positivity along with structure, guidance and advice. When we were younger, he was the one who taught us not to take life too seriously, to not hurt too much when people let you down, and to know your family is your family, always there for you in life."

As the Vasudeva children grew into adulthood, their father's lessons persisted and helped each of them become successful, happy, confident adults with a fierce love for their family. "But as we grew, the lessons didn't end, they changed," the foursome said. "After mom was gone, dad would say, 'I don't know how to do this, I don't know how to do this like she would.' Through these words, he showed us that it's okay not to know and to figure it out together. To want to live up to an expectation that maybe we can't achieve but would be damned if we didn't try as hard as we could."

"There's a time in each of our lives where our parents stop being someone who have all the answers and can do no wrong. Then we see them as adults alongside us. As his kids, we feel incredibly fortunate we got to know our father not just as a hero in every way, but as a man. A man who anyone would be lucky to know. A man who taught us all what it meant to live life to the fullest, to live without fear and to love with all you have."

RIP, mere dost Vinod.



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CHECKING THE WRONG BOX CAN GET YOU DEPORTED!

By DILIP PATEL



Imagine being ordered deported for checking the wrong box on a driver license application. Imagine further that you are lucky enough to have your case taken all the way all the way to the Supreme Court of the United States and the Supreme Court confirms the deportation order! That is exactly what happened on May 16, 2022, to Mr. Pankajkumar Patel and his wife Mrs. Jyotsnaben Patel who have lived in the United States since 1992. The Supreme Court decision is known as *Patel v. Garland*.

In August 2007, Mr. Patel applied for adjustment of status to receive a green card. While the application was in process, in December 2008, he sought to renew his Georgia driver's license and checked a box on the application stating that he was a United States citizen. Unfortunately for Mr. Patel, at that time in Georgia, they specifically investigated crimes associated with driver license applications.

After an interview with investigators at the Georgia Department of Driver Services, he was charged with false representation, a low-level offense under state law, for purportedly misrepresenting his citizenship status. The charge was eventually dismissed, but because of the record it generated, an immigration officer decided that Mr. Patel was "inadmissible" to the United States because he had lied to obtain a government benefit.

The case involved complex legal issues. Mr. Patel had applied for "adjustment of status," which allows a person to obtain permanent residency (i.e., a green card). Like with many forms of discretionary relief, adjustment of status involves two steps. First, the applicant must meet precise eligibility requirements under a federal statute. Second, immigration officials must exercise their discretion to grant the relief.

Mr. Patel was denied adjustment and later placed in deportation proceedings before an immigration judge in the Department of Justice. He again applied for adjustment of status as a defense to removal. The immigration judge denied Mr. Patel's adjustment application, concluding that he intentionally marked "U.S. citizen" on his application, despite Patel's testimony that he made a mistake and did not intend to mark the U.S. citizen box. The judge determined that the misrepresentation made Patel ineligible for adjustment and never decided the second step — the discretionary one.

Mr. Patel sought to have a federal court review the immigration judge's factual finding — specifically, the question of whether he intentionally or mistakenly checked the citizen box. But he ran into a problem: a provision of immigration known as the jurisdictional bar. That provision, 8 U.S.C. § 1252(a)(2)(B)(i), bars federal courts from reviewing "any judgment regarding the granting of relief" under five specific immigration remedies, including adjustment. *Patel v. Garland* asked the Supreme Court to clarify the scope of the jurisdictional bar.

The 5 to 4 opinion, written by Justice Amy Coney Barrett, severely limits the ability of the federal courts to provide relief to people injured by bureaucratic errors, even if the mistake is on the part of the government and not the applicant. Justice Barrett was appointed to the Supreme Court in October 2020 by then President Trump because of her conservative views. The dissenting opinion was written by Justice Gorsuch (another conservative appointed by Trump). He wrote:

An immigrant to this country applied for legal residency. The government rejected his application. Allegedly, the government did so based on a glaring factual error. In circumstances like that, our law has long permitted individuals to petition a court to consider the question and correct any mistake.

Not anymore. Today, the court holds that a federal bureaucracy can make an obvious factual error, one that will result in an individual's removal from this country, and nothing can be done about it. No court may even hear the case. It is a bold claim promising dire consequences for countless lawful immigrants. And it is such an unlikely assertion of raw administrative power that not even the agency that allegedly erred, nor any other arm of the executive branch, endorses it. Today's majority acts on its own to shield the government from the embarrassment of having to correct even its most obvious errors.

It requires considerable mental gymnastics to follow the technical legal arguments used by the majority to substantiate the decision.

Still, the takeaway point for our readers is this: If you are not a U.S. citizen, do not say or sign anything which indicates that you are a U.S. citizen. This relates not only to applications for driver licenses. It also comes up in applications for jobs and loans. If you are eligible for U.S. citizenship, do not put off the application.

Dilip Patel of Shutts & Bowen LLP, a Florida Bar board-certified expert on immigration law, can be reached at (813) 227-8178 or e-mail dpatel@shutts.com



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BOOK REVIEW

Under the Cover



By Nitish Rele

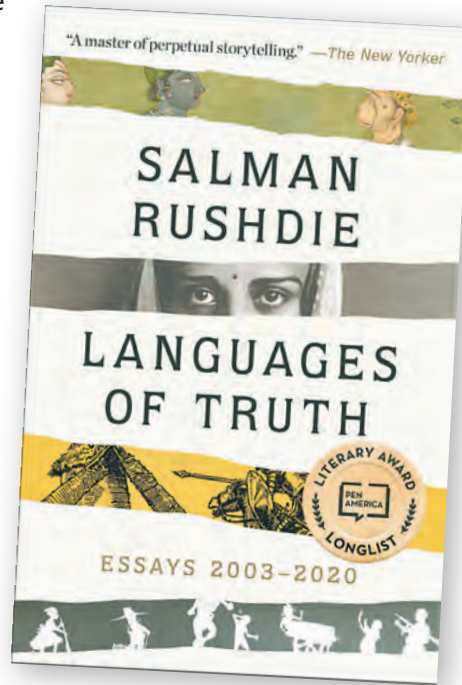
"Languages of Truth: Essays 2003-2020" (358 pages; \$28) by Salman Rushdie; published by Penguin Random House (www.randomhousebooks.com)

"Before there were books, there were stories. At first the stories weren't written down.

Sometimes they were even sung.

Children were born, and before they could speak, their parents sang

them songs, a song about an egg that fell off a wall, perhaps, or about a boy and a girl who went up a hill and fell down it. As the children grew older, they asked for stories almost as often as they asked for food ... I believe that the books and stories we fall in love with make us who we are, or, not to claim too much, that the act of falling in love with a book or story changes us in some way, and the beloved tale becomes a part of our picture of the world, a part of the way in which we understand things and make judgments and choices in our daily lives." So begins "Wonder Tales," the first of essays, criticism and speeches written over a 17-year period by the master storyteller Salman Rushdie. And those stories live till today, "Mahabharata" and "Ramayana," and



"The Arabian Nights," which the author is quick to note didn't originate in the Arab world but its probable origin is Indian. He eloquently pens heartfelt tributes to late friends like writers Harold Pinter and Christopher Hitchens, as well as actor Carrie Fisher. There is even a chapter on his personal engagement with coronavirus. Shakespeare, Philip Roth, Kurt Vonnegut, Samuel Beckett, Hans Christian

Andersen, Gabriel Garcia Marquez and several others get a mention or two along with the greatest Ali, Osama Bin Laden, painter Bhupen Khakhar, Amrita Sher-Gil, and even a spotlight on Emperor Akbar and the making of the Hamzanama (legendary adventures of Amir Hamza). And he can be inspirational as is evident from a commencement address at Emory University: "The best response to the vastness of the unknown is to be larger than life." "You can change things. Don't believe anyone who tells you can't ... Question everything ... Don't respect what doesn't deserve respect ... Use your imagination. And express what it tells you to express." Art, literature, politics and largely life in general come under examination in this enthralling book by an equally intriguing author. When "Vanity Fair" asked where he would like to live, Rushdie replied, "On bookshelves. Forever." And he will.

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WHAT IS "EDUCATION" AND WHY DOES "FIT" MATTER?

By **ROBERT LEVINE**



For some professions, a degree in higher education is essential to obtaining a license. For some people, a name-brand college feels necessary to career success. However, neither of those "needs" has anything to do with learning.

In fact, education has very little to do with classes, curricula or professors. It's not the teaching that matters. It's the learning that matters. Education is what a person absorbs and understands, not what is (or is not) being thrown at them.

The truth is: college is merely a collection of resources, which you either use or don't use. It's

up to you – not the school – to maximize your experience. Motivation is heavily influenced by factors you cannot control.

Have you ever tried to do something when you're exhausted? Fatigue limits focus and performance. Have you ever tried to function when

upset, depressed or anxious? Emotional status is important to success. Have you ever been bored and disinterested by things that seem to have no relevance? Been someplace where it felt like there was nothing worth doing? Wanted "more" from your environment?

Education is all about how a person learns, and obviously learning is dramatically affected by environment. Although brand names are great, school "fit" is all-important to educational success.

But what is "fit," and how do you identify what works for you?

At UCA, we identify college fit upon three factors: (1) the structure of the curriculum; (2) the culture of the campus; and (3) off-campus opportunities.

When considering academics, look away from reputation, prestige, and perceptions of caliber and quality. Although some schools (and professors) may be less challenging than others, coursework is merely the foundation of what you can learn in college. In a place that houses the world's greatest educational resources, taking classes is just the bare minimum of what is possible. If all you're doing is eating what they feed, you're nothing more than a baby in a highchair being spoon fed.

Instead, understand the way each school presents academics. How many courses do you take? How many of those courses are required by your major? Within the major, look at the number and variety of electives you can choose. Beyond the major, what are the school's "distribution" requirements. Is it a Core, General Education or Open curriculum? Are kinesthetic and experiential learning opportunities such as internships and co-op programs available for course credit? Can you take classes from the university's graduate programs? Can you take classes at other colleges? Where can you study abroad, and for how long?

The variety of academic structures in our country is breathtaking, perhaps the greatest advantage of the U.S. education system over all others. Yet in picking a college, students and parents seem to ignore this critical component. Because you are investing significant time and money in a learning environment, you should understand what you're getting and whether it is optimal for your education.

A second "fit" factor is campus culture. If you are in a place that inspires, stimulates and feeds you, then you will succeed in a way that will not occur in the wrong environment. In what kind of campus environment should you spend four years?

At some schools, intercollegiate athletics are indispensable; at others, sports are not important. On some campuses, drinking alcohol is a prideful part of the college experience; at others, partying is not paramount. At some schools, faith is a foundation for integrity; other schools emphasize different values in different ways. Clubs, service and extracurriculars are a huge part of the experience at Harvard, but at MIT, academics is the thing that students seem to enjoy most.

Finally, consider what is available off-campus, for inspiration and for education. If you like the outdoors, maybe NYU – in the best part of Manhattan – is not the place for you. If you prefer cities, a college town may not offer enough opportunity for growth. If you want to learn about business, internships and after-class jobs are not available on campus, so you'll want a city that offers what you need. If you are interested in politics, consider Washington, D.C., or a school in a state capitol. If you love country music, Nashville is a great place to recharge. If you want to travel, is there an international airport nearby?

Education is a critical key to achievement, and your education will be better in a place with the attributes that help you learn. The entire environment in which you immerse – not just some classes – will forever mold, shape and influence you. For lifetime success, seek a school that fits you, not just your resume.

Robert Levine is the founder and CEO of University Consultants of America, an independent educational consultancy assisting students around the world with applications to colleges, universities and graduate schools. For more information, call University Consultants of America, Inc. at 1-800-465-5890 or visit www.universitycoa.com

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JULY FORECAST

By PANKAJ KOHLI



ARIES / Mesha (Fire sign, ruling planet is Mars) - (March 21-April 20) Mars Sign – Stars covered Ashwini, Bharani, Krittika (1st Part) For Arians, major planetary connections stop at the 7th house; this means one may not get desired results in a timely manner. One may have to work harder than other signs for some time now. Stay away from undue stress and unnecessary thinking. It may harm mentally and drain energies. Prayers offered to Rahu and Ketu or Sarpa pooja can be helpful.

TAURUS / Vrushabha (Earthen sign, ruling planet is Venus) - (April 21-May 21) Venus Sign - Stars covered Krittika

(last 3 parts), Rohini, Mrigashira (first 2 parts) Taurians and savings don't go together! Some may get the urge to spend more and save less. With all planets in excellent positions, it is a positive month! Wealth, finance and all material comforts may be increasing and some stand to gain on all fronts, especially through savings. Health-wise, chronic allergies and illnesses may subside. Professionally, some stand to gain as well. However, beware of minor afflictions on domestic front.

GEMINI / Mithuna (Air sign, ruling planet is Mercury) - (May 22-June 21) Mercury Sign - Stars covered Mrigashira (last 2 parts), Ardra & Punarvasu (first 3 parts) In terms of money and finance, some stand to gain on one side and then spend equally on the other, end result little saving – income equal to expenses! People seeking job changes, especially in financial sector, banking, stocks and shares, could gain professionally. Be careful with partying or eating – everything needs moderation, health and well-being must not be compromised.

CANCER / Kataka (Watery sign, ruling planet is Moon) - (June 22-July 22) Moon Sign – Stars covered Punarvasu (4th part), Pushya, Aslesha This is a weak month! All activities and results may slow down and this may pull some down taking away the desire to work and enthusiasm within. One can be ahead of the game if issues, challenges and problems are addressed immediately; so, do not procrastinate. Manage finances well. Professional and domestic front requires attention. Tread carefully, take care of health, and count less on blessings. Mind may remain in a state of confusion, so stay focused.

LEO / Simha (Fire sign, ruling planet is Sun) - (July 23-Aug. 22) Sun Sign – Stars covered Magha, Purva Phalguni, Uttara Phalguni (1st part) Control anger and emotions. Stay calm while dealing with situations as they might lead some to get angry and frustrated. Stress could lead to blood pressures or ulcers, which is not worth the risk. Manage finances wisely as expenditure may outweigh income. Health conditions need maximum consideration at slightest provocation. Domestic front needs attention too.

VIRGO / Kanya (Earthen sign, ruling planet is Mercury) (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Mercury Sign – Stars covered Uttara Phalguni (last 3 parts), Hasta, Chitra (first 2 parts) Expect positive results in finances and monetary growth. Insurance claims or even speculative winning may be on the cards for some. Happy domestic conditions prevail – love and be loved. Health conditions require

attention. Professionally, this is not a good time for change.

LIBRA / Tula (Air sign, ruling planet is Venus) - (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Venus Sign – Stars covered Chitra (last 2 parts), Swati, Vishakha (first 3 parts) Financial gains seem to increase, and love and romance is in the air. Health-wise, some feel great, full of energy and enthusiasm. Major planets bestow prosperity and happiness. Some may have to work hard but at the end of the day rewards are plenty.

SCORPIO / Vruschika (Water sign, ruling planet is Mars) - (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Mars Sign – Stars covered Vishakha (4th part), Anuradha, Jyestha Planets reduce the ability to take decisions. Spend more time and relax with family as this helps reduce stress. Meditation may bring a calm disposition too. Hard work could reward some suitably, but do not expect any help from anywhere.

SAGITTARIUS / Dhanush (Fire sign, ruling planet is Jupiter) - (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Jupiter Sign – Stars covered Moola, Purva Shada, Uttara Shada (first part) Some natives could benefit from transiting planets that are favorably placed. Stay committed, calm and focused; do not lose sight of somber objective. Even though there are domestic and financial hardships, some may stand to gain much in the end. Be spiritually inclined, meditate and pray in whichever way and luck may shine. Be extremely careful with health.

CAPRICORN / Makara (Earthen sign, ruling planet is Saturn) - (Dec. 22-Jan. 20) Saturn Sign – Stars covered Uttara Shada (last 3 parts) Shravana, Dhanistha (first 2 parts) Professionally, this is a good time for a job change or salary raise/promotion at the workplace. Yet, mind may remain in a state of confusion, despite best efforts some may not be rewarded fully. Don't mind, just be persistent. This applies to personal, domestic and professional issues. Health might not be at its best, so be extra careful, eat, work, feast in moderation. Monetary position may be good if one is careful with expenses.

AQUARIUS / Kumbha (Air sign, ruling planet is Saturn) – (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) Saturn Sign - Stars covered: Dhanishta (last 2 parts) Satabhisha, Purva Bhadra Pada (1st 3 parts) Major transiting planets provide a positive Gochara phal and effect. Speculative activities may be beneficial for some! Love and romance are on the go, so enjoy. For some natives, happiness lies on the domestic front. While there are domestic pleasures, some are totally bound by work pressure. Expenses are on the increase, so spend wisely. Take care of health-related issues immediately.

PISCES / Meena (Water sign, ruling planet is Jupiter) - (Feb. 20-March 20) Jupiter Sign - Stars covered: Purva Bhadra Pada (last part) Uttara Bhadra Pada, Revathi Urge to drink, smoke and use of bad language should be avoided. Rahu may act detrimental to one's interest, so be careful in all activities. Luck is shining upon some, make best use of it on domestic, financial and professional fronts. Domestic happiness is on the cards and love is in the air, enjoy every moment. Be careful with health.

For detailed horoscope analysis and chart reading, courtesy Pankaj-Astro Jyotish, call Pankaj Kohli at (905) 910-1441 or e-mail Pathofastrology@gmail.com

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COMPACT BMW 240i COUPE IS A BLAST TO DRIVE!

Test-drive story by NITISH S. RELE motoringtampabay@gmail.com

The 3 Series may be a best-seller and most popular BMW ever but potential buyers are missing out on another stellar ride from the German automaker. You just cannot overlook the second-gen 2 Series, particularly the M240i, in the small luxury car segment. For 2022, BMW has boosted the width, length and wheelbase for the brisk car, which can zip off 0 to 60 in a mere 4.1 seconds with top speed of 155 mph. So what if it is now available only as a coupe and not a convertible anymore?

Under the hood of the stunningly handsome all-wheel-drive M240 resides a 3.0-liter twin-power turbo inline-6 cylinder gas engine cranking 382 horsepower @ 6500 rpm and 369 pounds-feet of torque @ 5000 rpm. It is mated to a flawless 8-speed auto gearbox, which is even more exciting with moves via the steering paddle shifters. Suspension is handled capably via a two-joint spring strut front and a 5-link rear system. However, the standard adaptive M suspension is specially tuned to enhance nimbleness and poise when pushing pedal to the metal. And the electric power steering with variable sport has a solid and communicative feel, keeping the coupe straight and watchful on curvy roads.

BMW M240i xDRIVE
Tires: P225/40R19
Wheelbase: 107.9 inches
Length: 179.4 inches
Width: 72.4 inches
Height: 55.3 inches
Fuel capacity: 13.7 gallons
Mileage: 23 city, 32 highway
Weight: 3,871 pounds
Base price: \$48,550
Price as tested: \$57,295
Web site: www.bmw.com



A wide, slow-slung turbine-style kidney grille with vertical air flaps (open for increased cooling) is encircled by gorgeously contoured LED headlights while M sport brakes, blue calipers and the M logo will grab attention. Walk to the rear and you will notice trapezoidal tail pipe finishers and a clear black spoiler. An 8.8-inch infotainment touch screen operated via the iDrive controller and a 5.1-inch instrument cluster point to a well-appointed and classy cabin. Further adding to the rich ambiance are

touches of high-gloss black trim on the dash. Other minutiae include tri-zone auto a/c, power moon roof, anthracite headliner, power front sport seats, three-spoke leather steering wheel, 40/20/40 rear seat, and more. Barring a small trunk and a modest rear seat, the sensational M240 is a cool sporty luxury coupe to toss around at sharp turns or go cruising on the highway. You can be rest assured it is German engineering at its finest on display!

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SCHEMING IN A COLORFUL WAY! – PART 2

By BRINDA PAMULAPATI



There are so many areas of our life that are touched by color, but sometimes it's hard to choose what those colors will be or even where to start. In part one of "Scheming in a Colorful Way," we discussed some of the most common ways to

choose a color scheme, based on color theory. In part two, we will continue to explore color schemes and examples of how artists use them in their work.

Picking up from where we left off, the next scheme to discuss is split complementary, which is made up of three colors. First, you find one color, say orange, and then its complement, blue, but instead of using blue, you find the two colors that border blue, blue-purple, and blue-green. So, your split complementary color scheme is orange, blue-purple and blue-green.

For example, "The Middle" by Bella Falbo features another split complementary scheme: red, yellow-green and blue-green. The rich red in the pomegranate is emphasized by the yellow-greens and blue-greens in the surrounding leaves.



Figure 1: Color Wheel by Brinda Pamulapati

Another is the triadic color scheme. To find triadic colors, look for three colors that are equal distances from each other. An example could be red, blue and yellow.

Another example could be yellow-orange, blue-green and red-violet in the piece, "Silk Scarf and Bonnard" by Michelle Wilcox. The yellow-orange and red-violet in the scarf



Figure 2: "The Middle" by Bella Falbo

look harmonious next to the greenish-blue ground it lays on.

And the final common color scheme is tetradic. Tetradic color schemes are made up of two different complementary color pairs, chosen so they form a rectangle on the color wheel. For example, a tetradic scheme could include red, red-orange, green and blue-green.

This tetradic color scheme is seen in the first panel of "Sealed for Freshness" by Bella Falbo. Here you can see the pops of color in the composition are the red and red-orange in the strawberry, the green of the leaves and the blue-green of jar's lid.

In this column, we discussed split complementary, triadic, and tetradic color schemes.

Choose colors that suit your mood, or to make an impact, choose one bright color and other muted colors.

Next time you visit an upholstery store, art gallery or plant nursery, take your color wheel with you.



Figure 4: "Sealed for Freshness" by Bella Falbo



Figure 3: "Silk Scarf and Bonnard" by Michelle Wilcox

Brinda Pamulapati, owner/managing director, of Venvi Art Gallery in Tallahassee, can be reached at (850) 322-0965 or visit www.VenviArtGallery.com

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