

Brookhaven Labs celebrates Bollywood music



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The Indo-American Association at the Brookhaven National Laboratory recently presented a Bollywood Musical Evening, featuring singer Sharda, who is remembered for the 1966 hit, *Titli Udi*, from the film *Suraj*.

The program began with a multimedia presentation. Sharda sang live while clips of her songs filmed on various actresses were screened.

While evoking nostalgia by singing *Duniya Ki Sair Kar Lo* and *Chale Jaana Zara Tehro* from Raj Kapoor's *Around the World in Eight Dollars*, she also lent her voice to a qawaali. The audience also got to hear ghazals from her new album, *Andaz-E-Bayan Aur*.

Actor Shabana Azmi had released the album in Mumbai last year. The singer-composer lives in Levittown, New York.

Among the others who sang that evening was Jyoti Gupta, who runs a karaoke club (with about 20 members) and organizes a gathering called Mehfil E Sangeet, where about 30 people meet at a member's house to sing.

Gupta's group has performed at the Valentine's day celebration hosted by the India Association of Long Island.

Other who entertained the gathering with new and old songs were Dr Rakesh Dua (who sang the melodious *Pukarta Chala Hoon Main*). Hemant Kumar who sang the haunting *Kuch Na Kaho* from Vidhu Vinod Chopra's 1942 *A Love Story* and Jyotsna Kejriwal brought alive *Socha Na Tha* from the 1997 release, *Yes Boss*. Ajay Shah sang many oldies with Sharda. The program concluded with *Desh Geet*, where all artists came together on stage.

IAA is part of the Brookhaven Employees Recreation Association, which oversees

■ Sharda sings along with Dr Rakesh Dua, Jyoti Gupta, Jyotsna Kejriwal and Hemant Kumar



■ Ankur Kejriwal performs

as children born in the United States aware of Indian culture and traditions, IAA President Ramesh Gupta said. Its members are Brookhaven laboratory employees and their families. People who live in surrounding areas are welcome to attend its programs.

BNL has about 3,000 scientists, engineers, technicians and support personnel, of which about 70 are of Indian origin, Gupta said.

The laboratory provides space free for IAA programs; the one featuring Sharda was held at BNL's Berkner Auditorium.

many organizations like a cricket club, the Reiki Community Circle, Hispanic Heritage Club and a music club.

The Indo-American Association came into being 15 years ago with the goal of making the mainstream community as well

The Indo-American Association celebrates festivals like Holi, and Diwali and regularly organizes classical music concerts, lectures and yoga classes. About 200 people attended the Bollywood evening, Gupta said.