

# ULKA NAGARKAR

## Candidate for BMM Member at Large

Requesting support from all BMM Representatives, Presidents, and Executive Committee members of all Mandals. Vote for Ulka Nagarkar!

*Chicago Resident · 20+ Years of Community Service · Champion social worker for Women Empowerment and Marathi community*



### COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP & EXPERIENCE

- **2021-2022:** Maharashtra Mandal Chicago (MMC) President for 2 consecutive years - started many new initiatives like Sahitya Katta, Adhyatma Pith, Itihas Manch, Arth Vichar, Aarogya Dham, Bhraman Gatha, etc. that still add value and benefit the communities
- **2023-2025:** MMC Board Of Trustee
- **2026:** MMC's BMM Representative
- **2025-2026:** MMC's Chicago Marathi Shala - Substitute Teacher & Cultural Programs Manager
- **2025-2026:** BMM Arth Manthan Group - Founder & Admin of this initiative
- **2022-2024:** BMM India Programming Committee Member
- **2011:** BMM North America Program Committee Member
- **2023 & 2025:** Produced and executed music program Nakshatra Prabha on Zoom for BMM Uttar Rang - included talented artists from Chicago and Florida
- **2015, 2020:** Editor of MMC's Rachana Magazine
- **2019:** Editor & Chair of Smarnika team at MMC's 50th year celebration - GJC Golden Jubilee Celebration
- **2012-2018:** Initiated and created MMC's social media platforms - Facebook group (2012), WhatsApp MMC Katta (2018), MMC Instagram, MMC Twitter (2018)

### MY GOALS FOR BMM

- As of 2026, the Marathi community in North America is evolving from a culture-centric diaspora into a more professionally and socially diverse group. To remain relevant, BMM needs to work as cultural preserver and facilitator of professional growth, youth leadership, and comprehensive support systems. Will ensure that BMM remains a dynamic support ecosystem
- Build strong communication channels between all member Mandals
- Create a central hub for resource sharing & regional networking
- Strengthen Yuwa program - scholarships & internships (100x growth)
- Engage 2nd & 3rd generation Indian-American Marathi youth
- Support talented local Marathi artists at member Mandals
- Collaborate closely with BMM 2028 Convention host team
- Advocate for Marathi as a recognized foreign language in North American schools - Seal of Bilinguality

### ACHIEVEMENTS

- Vishwa Marathi Sammelan (2023 & 2024) - Honored to be recognized by the State Government of Maharashtra and invited as a featured guest speaker for two consecutive years for significant contributions to the global Marathi community, especially during the challenging COVID-19 Pandemic
- Founded and led the COVID-19 Help Volunteers group during the pandemic - mobilized a strong network of volunteers to aid stranded Indians across the USA, with a special focus on students and senior citizens, working closely and effectively alongside the Consulate General of India in Chicago
- Actively volunteered with the Indian Task Force / Midwest Region Leaders - representing and dedicatedly serving the Marathi diaspora in key regional leadership initiatives and community-building efforts across the Midwest region
- Dedicated volunteer at SEWA, India Hub, Smart Sakhi, Ekjut, DuPage Children's Museum, and Chicago Kali Bari Temple - actively supporting causes across women's empowerment, children's welfare, education, cultural preservation, and broader community service

### AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

- **2026:** "She Matters" Women Empowerment Award - Aarush Entertainment
- **2025:** Most Valuable Person Award - RUSH Walk for Wellness
- **2025:** Ekjut Theatre Group - Yoni ki Baat (English drama, performed for 10 years)
- **2023:** LCIA Award (Lake County Indian Association) - Advancing the Role of Women Socially, Economically & Culturally
- **2023:** Suvidya Prasarak Sangh, Mumbai - International Work for Marathi Community
- **2021:** IACA Leadership Award - Indian American Cultural Association
- **2021:** Mandi Theatre Group - Rangmanch Utsav - Khidki (Marathi drama)

### MORE ABOUT ME

**Residence:** Chicago, IL - 20+ years

**Family:** Married to Ashish; twin daughters Savni (Software Engineer) & Saloni (Mechanical Engineer); Golden Retriever Pluto

**Education:** Vaidya Ulka Nagarkar - Gold Medalist, MD Ayurveda (Kayachikitsa), University of Mumbai

**Profession:** Certified Medical Coder, Coding Auditor & Provider Educator in Physician Billing

**Interests:** Passionate about social service, connecting communities, cultural arts, dog lover