

IJC stages Indian Jewish wedding ceremony



The Indian Jewish Congregation of USA (IJC) staged an Indian Jewish Wedding ceremony at the Jewish Community Center on February 17. It was a close replica of the wedding rituals and ceremony done in India by the Bene Israel community. The ceremony began with first the bridegroom and then the bride being brought on to the Bima (platform). It was followed by the ritualistic wedding ceremony, the melody for confirming the vows and exchange of rings. David Galsurkar chanted the Akhtana (wedding contract written in Aramaic) and the five blessings (instead of the normal seven as this was not a real wedding). Romiel Daniel, the President of IJC explained all the rituals that go with the wedding and also spoke about the unique Indian Jewish ceremony the 'Malida' where any auspicious occasion is preceded by invoking the blessings of God and requesting Elijah the prophet to be the protector assigned by the Lord. The wedding ceremony was preceded by an Indian Kosher Vegetarian buffet lunch. Seen in the photo are, the bridegroom Lael Daniel, left, bride Regina Daniel, center and IJC President, Romiel Daniel. *(Photo: Courtesy, IJC)*