

FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE



This oral history is copyrighted 2018, by the Fort Bend County Historical Commission. All Rights Reserved. For information contact: Fort Bend County Historical Commission, Attn: Chairman-Oral History Committee, 301 Jackson St., Richmond, TX, 77469.

Terms and Conditions

These oral histories do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the County Historical Commission or Fort Bend County. This file may not be modified or changed in any way without the express written permission of the Fort Bend County Historical Commission. This file may not be redistributed for profit. Please do not 'hot link' to this file or repost this file.

Abstract: **Rathna Kumar**

Ms Kumar was born in Chennai, India in 1946. She was an international dancer and traveled extensively worldwide. After earning a master's degree in English, she got married in 1975 and joined her husband in Houston. Her first love is dancing so she opened an Indian dance studio called *Anjali* (meaning offering) Center for Performing Art. Her studio is located in Fort Bend County where she has taught almost 2,000 students the art of Indian dance.

Rathna comes from well-known radio Indian artists: her mother is a professional singer and author; while her father, a former hero in many Indian movies and announcer, became a building contractor.

15 Pages

∥ *Scroll down for Key Words from the Interview.* ∥

Interview Summary

People (in alphabetical)

Anasuya Devii – mother

Anjali Kumar – granddaughter

Carissa Kumar – granddaughter

Chaitan Kumar – son

Kedaar Kumar – son

Mia Kumar – daughter in law

Places / Businesses

All India Radio

US Citizenship and Immigration Services,
American Embassy in India

Andhra Pradesh – state in India

Anjali Center for Performing Arts – Sugar Land

Cultural Arts Council of Houston

Kuchi Pudi – village in India & form of dance

Stella Maris College in India

University of Madras in India

Events

Proud of heritage and to be an Indian-American, Ms Kumar has lived in Houston since 1975 when she joined her husband.

Following in the footsteps of her artistic parents, she was an internationally acclaimed dancer and traveled worldwide.

After moving to Houston, she opened the *Anjali* Center for Performing Art in Sugar Land in 2003 where she and other instructors have taught Indian dance techniques to over 2,000 students.