



The

Oshwal Report



A Newsletter by the Halari Visa Oshwals of America

www.oshwal-usa.org

Issue 2: Summer 2002

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(2002-2003)

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Feel free to share ideas, comments, or suggestions with any of us.



U.S.A. - Canada Get-Together

For several years, attempts have been made for a US - Canada Oshwal gathering. This is the year!



In North America, the distances between major population centers are often vast. For the Oshwal community, this has resulted in the formation of active regional communities such as in the Northeast and in Texas, but has worked against the development of a national or continental Oshwal community.

As a young community, we've finally been able to account for our members through efforts with the Oshwal Directory. However, without meaningful communication and contact to strengthen the common bond of our roots and past, our community will perish within a generation. To prevent this, efforts have been made for regional gatherings, and now we're beginning to organize gatherings across regions.

The first such gathering will take place this Labor Day weekend, and is located in Rochester, New York, within driving distance of New York, New Jersey, New England, and Ontario, Canada, and accessible to those further away by Rochester International Airport.

Entertaining and educational events are planned for the weekend, with plenty of time to catch up with old friends and get reacquainted with new ones. Take a look at the itinerary to the right. At the meeting and entertainment program, we'll showcase our members' work and talents. If you're interested in presenting a project or topic, and/or performing an item, please get in touch with us. Saturday's Garba/Raas will be an opportunity to wear one of your more festive outfits.

Most activities and meals will take place at the Indian Community Center of Rochester (ICOR). Meals listed in the itinerary will be catered and included with the registration fee. We've arranged for groups rates at hotels in the area, but be sure to make reservations before August 16 to guarantee those rates. Details about costs and locations are on the next page.

WHEN - September 1-2, 2002 (Sunday and Monday of Labor Day Weekend)

WHERE - Rochester, New York (on the shore of Lake Ontario, central to New York, New Jersey, Boston, and Toronto)

CONTACT - Manisha Shah
(845)-462-0321,
president@oshwal-usa.org



Itinerary

Sunday, September 1, 2002

- 12:30pm - Registration
- 1:00pm - Welcome and introductions
- 1:30pm - Lunch
- 3:00pm - Games
- 4:00pm - General meeting and presentations by community members (charitable causes, family trees, etc)
- 6:00pm - Dinner
- 7:30pm - Entertainment program, performed by community members
- 9:30pm - Garba/Raas

Monday, September 2, 2002 (Labor Day)

- 9:00am - Breakfast
- 10:00am - Talks on the history of Oshwals in India and North America, Jainism.
- 10:00am - Hiking
- 1:00pm - Lunch/Goodbye

Although no events are organized for Saturday through Sunday morning, members are encouraged to arrive on Saturday, as this would be an ideal time to relax and enjoy the area's sights, which include the beach at Lake Ontario, Seabreeze amusement park, boating/canoeing, science museums, planetarium, wineries, and other attractions. Details about area attractions are on our website <www.oshwal-usa.org>.

U.S.A. - Canada Get-Together: Details

Registration: to covers costs of meals (lunch, dinner, lunch) and hall rental for the weekend.

\$30, Adults (all prices in US Dollars)
\$20, Children (below 12 years)

Please email president@oshwal-usa.org or call Manisha Shah at (845)-462-0321 by August 16, to confirm how many in your party will be attending, as this will help us plan meals properly.

Lodging: we've arranged for group rates at the following hotels. You must contact the hotel make your reservation:

1. Crowne Plaza Rochester - <www.rccc.com/crowne.asp>
Phone: 716-546-3450 (please call for directions)
Address: 70 State St, Rochester, NY 14614
Amenities: Outdoor pool, fitness center, restaurants, Shuttle from airport available
Rate: \$62/night, if reserved before August 16
Mention "Shah Group"
Distance: 15 miles from Indian Community Center
2. Hyatt Regency Rochester - <<http://rochester.hyatt.com>>
Phone: 585-546-1234 (please call for directions)
Address: 125 East Main Street, Rochester, NY 14604
Amenities: Indoor pool, whirlpool, fitness center, Shuttle from airport available
Rate: \$83/night, if reserved before August 16 Mention "Halari Visa Oshwals"
Distance: 15 miles from Indian Community Center
3. Days Inn Rochester - <www.the.daysinn.com/rochester05121>
Phone: 716-334-9300 (please call for directions)
Address: 4853 W Henrietta Rd, Rochester, NY 14467
Amenities: Cable TV, restaurants, close to Thruway
Rate: \$50/ night, if reserved before August 16.
Mention "Halari Visa Oshwals"
Distance: 20 miles from Indian Community Center

There are many other hotels in the area that you can find through websites such as expedia.com or travelocity.com

Travel - Driving: Rochester is approximately 330 miles (6 hours) from New York City, 390 miles (6.5 hours) from Boston, and 270 miles (4 hours) from Toronto.

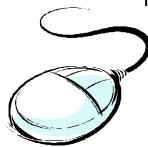
Flying: Rochester International Airport serves the following airlines: Air Georgian, American, Continental, Delta, JetBlue, Midway, Northwest, United, USAirways.

Program - events and meals will take place at:
The Indian Community Center of Rochester
<www.icor.org>
2171 County Line Rd, Macedon, NY 14502

Directions: visit <www.icor.org> (to get detailed door-to-door directions to the Center from anywhere)

From New York State Thruway (Interstate I-90),

1. Take Exit #45, I-490 exit towards ROCHESTER, (1 mile)
2. Turn Right on VICTOR RD/VICTOR-PITTSFORD RD (1 mile)
3. Turn Right on TURK HILL RD (5.5 miles)
4. Turn Right on WHITNEY RD E (1.5 miles)
5. Turn Left on CARTER RD (1.5 miles)
6. Turn Right on PENFIELD RD (1.5 miles)
7. Turn Right on COUNTY LINE RD



This Newsletter is brought to you by the generous support of Hemendra and Madhu Shah of Leominster, Mass. Thank you.

Membership dues:

The Oshwal committee has decided to collect a yearly membership fee per family in order to defray the ongoing operating costs of the Oshwal organization. **Membership fees are \$20/family/year.** Please send a check payable to Tushar Shah for \$20 to the address below. We have collected dues from 13 families to date and will be getting in touch with the rest of you to encourage you to send in your dues.

Tushar Shah
416 E11th Street, Apt 3b
New York, NY 10009
201-694-0517
treasurer@oshwal-usa.org

Treasurer's Report:

Picnic - June 23, 2002

Attendance:	45 people
Paying adults:	36
Money collected (\$5/adult):	\$180
Cost of picnic:	\$90
Surplus:	\$90

The picnic surplus funds will be kept in a separate fund and used to defray costs of next year's picnic.



Spring Event - Picnic Summary

This re-visit to old favorite tradition was unexpectedly rescheduled to June 23rd, 2002, due to inclement weather. The venue was held at Clark Recreation Center in Suffern, NY. Forty-five Oshwals attended the hot, sunny afternoon for games, food, and conversation. The families that came were from the NY/NJ region, and we welcomed one family from Boston, one from England and one from India, who were new to the area.

Be sure to visit our website at <www.oshwal-usa.org> for pictures from the event.



Technology Update:

Since the last newsletter the technology group has accomplished the first steps in its goals to use the web as a source of information. A new web site link <www.oshwal-usa.org> was created to direct our members to the web site more easily. We have had success with putting the newsletter, updates on upcoming events and even the details for those events online.

Other changes for the site have been planned such as changing the design of the site, and adding features that would make the site a platform for the community to communicate with one another. If you have any suggestions for the web site or uses of technology please email me, and continue to access the web site since new updates are always posted.

The Greening of Jamnagar

Dear Halari Visa Oshwals of North America,

Most of us are concerned about the poverty and natural disasters in Gujarat. I got involved in relief aid immediately after the January 2001 earthquake. We collected a fair amount of monetary donations, but our main problem was to choose an organization to donate to, so that the aid would reach the needy. We considered a) the Indian Government; b) Religious organizations; c) Other NGO (Non government organizations) in India; and d) Red Cross. We did not then have enough information about credibility of many of the organizations and finally through a consensus sent the aid to Gujarat through Red Cross. In April 2001, I visited Gujarat and personally reviewed the work done by many organizations. I was quite impressed by the integrity of, and quality of the work being done by, the Anarde Foundation. So, after a lot of research and investigation we have decided to channel our future aid through Anarde Foundation. Last month I met Kapoorbhai Chandaria, the Chairman of Anarde. I posed a number of questions to him and after a three hour meeting with him was convinced that any aid channeled through Anarde Foundation would reach the intended targets.

You are probably aware that the Oshwals are concentrated in and around Jamnagar. The Jamnagar district has had problem of water shortage for many years and *the Greening of Jamnagar District* is one solution that will go a long way in solving the problem and uplifting the economic status of inhabitants of the District. With the knowledge that Anarde is capable of building dams, digging ponds (TALAAVS), and has the personnel to supervise the work, I proposed to Kapoorbhai that we start with building ponds in the villages in the Jamnagar district. A deal was reached with him that work will begin immediately in a few villages. We would raise \$500 (Canadian) for each village, the villagers will raise an equivalent amount, and other smaller requirements (supervisory manpower) will be provided by Anarde. The fund raising campaign has begun in Canada and we have raised funds for ten villages. I would like to appeal to Oshwals in USA to join hands with us and sponsor 20 to 30 villages. I will be making a similar appeal to Oshwals in U.K.

For more information on this effort, background on how I got involved in this project, and notes from my meeting with Kapoorbhai Chandaria, the Chairman of Anarde Foundation, please visit <www.oshwal-usa.org>

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Community News:



Recent Weddings... Congratulations to:

- **Rupen** (parents: **Kanti & Vena Gosrani**, NY) and **Shalini Gosrani** (parents **Kantilal & Anju Patel**, England) on their wedding, which took place in England on July 14th.
- **Bansi** (parents: **Rashmi & Anajali Haria**, Bombay) and **Kalpesh Shah** (parents **Keshavji & Shantaben Nagaria**, Mandha) of Arizona, on their wedding, which took place in Bombay on July 11.

Graduations... Congratulations to:

- **Nina A. Shah** (parents **Anilkumar & Ila Shah**, NY) on her graduation from Fordham University, with an MEd in Reading and Literacy Development.
- **Ketan M. Dodhia** (parents **Manek & Madhu Dodhia**, NY) on his graduation from Cornell University, with an MS in Structural Engineering.
- **Poorni Bid** (parents **Velji & Champa Bid**, NJ) on her graduation from the Wharton School of Business, University of Pennsylvania, with an MBA.
- **Jay Bid** (parents **Velji & Champa Bid**, NJ) on his high school graduation from Livingston H.S. Jay will attend Williams College in Mass., beginning in the fall.
- **Nisha Shah** (parents **Manusukh & Mina Shah**, NY) on her graduation from Eldorado Elementary School, NY. Nisha will be entering Chestnut Ridge Middle School, NY, this fall.



Condolences:

- To **Manek Dodhia and family**, NY, on the passing away of his mother, **Gomaben Ranmal Dodhia** (Vasai, India) last February. Gomaben was 98 and left behind about 140 descendants.

If you would like to share any news with the community in this Newsletter, please contact newsletter@oshwal-usa.org

Oshwal Directory Information:

We try to keep addresses of all members up to date in our database so that when we are ready to publish the next edition of the Directory in 2004, we will not have to contact members to confirm their addresses.

Moreover, HVONA mails out newsletters and last time nearly 20 HVONA newsletters were returned because these members had moved and had not advised us of their new address. We encourage all members to inform us of changes to their addresses, additions to their families or any other changes or additions they would like to make. Also, please encourage other Oshwals and their families (we list all those whose one family member is of Oshwal origin) to list themselves in the Directory by visiting our web site and completing the Directory Update form under the Directory section at www.oshwal-usa.org

Satish and Surya Shah
4648 Hinton Drive
Plano, Texas 75024
Phone: (972)-618-9509.
E-mail: satishshah5@yahoo.com

Upcoming Events... Mark your calendar!



- September 1-2, 2002; Sunday-Monday
Rochester, New York
USA-Canada Get-Together
(Details included in this newsletter.)
- November 28, 2002; Thursday (Thanksgiving)
Boston, Massachusetts
Annual Halari Visa Oshwal of North America
Thanksgiving Gathering
(Details will be provided in next Newsletter.)
- July 4-6, 2003; (July 4th weekend)
Cincinnati, Ohio
JAINA (Jain Assoc. in N. America) Convention
This is the ideal meeting time and place for our community from all over the continent. We'll expand on the meetings and short gatherings we've held at the past two conventions. Look to future newsletters for details, but **please start making plans to attend next year's convention.** Visit <www.jaina.org> for details.



From the Editors:

Greetings,

In this second Oshwal Report, you'll find important information regarding the upcoming US-Canada Oshwal Gathering. A lot of work is going into this event, so please support it and make an effort to attend. On a similar note, a lot of work goes into these newsletters... so take a minute and get up-to-speed with what's happening in the Oshwal community. You'll also find an introduction to an interesting charitable project directed towards reducing the water shortage Jamnagar that will probably peak your curiosity. We've tried to highlight upcoming events as well, so you can plan accordingly.

If you would prefer to receive future newsletters electronically via email (which helps us out!), please send a message to newsletter@oshwal-usa.org or visit our website at <www.oshwal-usa.org>.

Finally, this is a Community Newsletter... we encourage and request all contributions, suggestions, criticisms and praise. Get in touch and help our community grow.

Nina Shah (NY) and Ketan Dodhia (NY)

If undeliverable, please return to:
Ketan Dodhia
c/o Halari Visa Oshwals of North America
22 Yorkshire Dr.
Suffern, NY 10901-7417
USA

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