



The

Oshwal Report



A Newsletter by the Halari Visa Oshwals of America

www.oshwal-usa.org

Issue 3: Fall 2002

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(2002-2003)

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

ANNUAL THANKSGIVING GATHERING

WHEN - November 28, 2002
(Thursday, Thanksgiving Day)
2-11 PM

WHERE - Nashua, New Hampshire
Sheraton Nashua Hotel, Ballroom
11 Tara Boulevard
Nashua, New Hampshire 03062
Tel: (603)-888-9970
Fax: (603)-891-4179

CONTACT - Jyotsna Shah



(650)-424-1191, ext 14
Jyotsna @ aol.com
RSVP: November 14, 2002

Join us this year in New England for our annual gathering. The Oshwal community in the Northeast has kept this tradition for over a decade. Oshwals from all over the US and Canada are encouraged to attend, rekindle old friendships and meet new members of the community.

Program: Details to follow. Contact Poorni Bid at pbid@wharton.upenn.edu or 973-533-1942 if you'd like to present/perform an item or have news to share at the gathering.

Cost: \$20.00 Adult, \$14.00 Children 12 and under.

Accommodations: The local families in the area shall host all the guests. However, if anyone is interested in staying at the Sheraton, the negotiated rate is \$79.00/room under "Shah-Oshwal Society". To guarantee the rate, bookings must be done by November 14, 2002.

Directions: From I-95

1. Take the US-3N/MIDDLESEX TPK exit - exit number 32B-A-towards LOWELL
2. Keep LEFT at the fork in the ramp (0.22 miles)
3. Keep RIGHT at the fork in the ramp (0.36 miles)
4. Merge onto US-3N (20.30 miles, Cross the Mass Border into New Hampshire)
5. Take the SPLIT Brook Road Exit (0.55 miles)
6. Turn LEFT onto SPLIT BROOK Rd (0.32 miles)
7. Stay straight to go onto TARA BLVD (0.11 miles)

(Note: from 495N take exit for Route 3N, cross Mass border, continue north and follow #5-#7).

Oshwals @ JAINA 2003

Plan on attending the JAINA convention in Cincinnati, Ohio, next year from July 4-6 (2003). As it is centrally located, well organized, and attended by many Oshwals throughout North America, this convention is the ideal venue for the next **Oshwals of North America gathering**. For the first time, an entire half-day will be set aside for community reunions. We plan to organize a program for our group. The next newsletter will contain additional information.

There is an early-bird discounted registration until January 15, 2003. For details:
<http://www.jainaconvention.org>,
email: registration@jainaconvention.org
phone: 937-848-3228

First U.S.A - Canada Oshwal Gathering is a Great Success!

We are pleased to inform the first USA/Canada Oshwal Gathering was held in Rochester, NY from September 1-2, 2002. Nearly 100 adults and children traveled from as far away as Michigan, Montreal, and Massachusetts, and many families from Canada came to attend the event. This was a very memorable occasion in our USA Oshwals history.

We gathered at a beautiful Indian community center in Rochester. The first day, we played a series of games after lunch to help everyone get to know one another. We were then treated to some wonderful singing from Misty Arun Shah (see Page 2). We had a tasty dinner, which was then followed by garba/raas. The following day we gathered at a local park and had a relaxing morning hike and then a picnic lunch after which we sadly made our farewells.

It was nice to see our young people attend this function. Many friendships were begun and many others renewed, and we look forward to making this very successful first event the beginning of a tradition of regular gatherings into the future.

Please join us at our next North American Oshwals gathering, which will be next July 4th weekend, at the JAINA convention in Cincinnati, Ohio (see above)

I will be very grateful if everyone can attend our annual Thanksgiving gathering.

Jai Jinedra,
Manisha Shah, President of HVONA

Jamnagar Panjarapole (Animal Shelter) looks to Oshwals for help

Fellow Oshwals,

We've been contacted by our Oshwals from India about helping the Shree Halari Visha Oshwal Sarvajanik Panjarapole. The Panjarapole is an animal shelter near Aradhnadham (Halartirth, Jamnagar District, Gujarat) that is run by Oshwals.

This year's drought in Jamnagar has caused severe hardships for the local farmers. The subsequent crop failures have resulted in a shortage of fodder for the farmers' cattle. Without food to feed cattle, farmers either release the cattle into the streets, or sell them to slaughterhouses. The Panjarapole has provided another option, by offering to take-in and feed cattle that cannot be supported by the farmers.

However, due to the severity of the drought, the Panjarapole is filled to capacity. For this reason, generous donations are being sought to help support the animal shelter and provide food for the increased number of animals being taken care of.

If you would like more information about this cause, and/or are interested in donating to support it, please contact Mukesh and Vibha Shah (of Connecticut) at:

vmsindia@aol.com
203-375-1699

Help Write Our Oshwal History

Dear fellow Halari Visa Oswals,

My name is Ratilal Dodhia. I am a physician in active practice in United States of America. I migrated to USA in 1965 from Nairobi Kenya.

It is my desire to write history of Halari Visa Oswals in English for the benefit of the younger generations of our community.

The first person to migrate outside India was Mr. Jetha Anand from Kharaberaja who settled down in Madadagascar. He opened the doors and inspired many others to leave their Motherland, India. I am interested in getting any information you may have, such as:

- Stories about the village you come from.
- Biographies of outstanding persons of our community from your village.
- Knowledge how your last name originated.
- Old pictures of villages, people, old houses, people working on farms, riding bullock carts.

Any thing you feel will be of historical interest shall be most appreciated

In addition, perhaps some young enthusiastic persons will write history of our settlement in USA in English or Gujarati.

With many thanks.

Rati Dodhia.
12 Mitris Blvd:
Lincoln RI 02865 (USA)
(401)-333-1066
r_dodhia@netzero.net

Kind words from our Canadian Friends

Jai Jinendra! On behalf of Directors and Executives of Oshwals Canada, I would like to congratulate and thank you for hosting the first joint Canada-USA Oshwals gathering in Rochester on September 1-2, 2002.

To say the least, those of us who attended the event have nothing to say but a lot of praise for the effort that you and your dedicated team put in planning, organizing and executing this very successful endeavor. All of us experienced a lot of joy in meeting old and making new acquaintances and had a lot of fun and fellowship together. Most importantly, it was nice to see our young people attending this function in large numbers and striking friendships. It truly brought to light how much love and warmth we have for each other as Oshwals.

Where do we go from here? Let us try to make this a regular event. As discussed, we will try to get a good size delegation for the 2003 JAINA Convention in Cincinnati. Also, the Young JAINA of America's 2004 Convention will be held in Toronto, Canada - an ideal time for us to get together once again. This is something we will discuss with our members shortly.

Let us maintain our strong bond, remain connected as a vibrant Oshwal community in North America and keep the Oshwal spirit alive.

Jai Oshwal!

Amritlal R. Shah, President
Oshwals Canada

Introducing... A Beautiful Voice from our Community

Misty Shah, daughter of Arun and Punita Shah, is a twelve-year-old multitalented girl who resides in Vestal, New York.

She released her first album of "Jain Devotional Songs" at the age of ten. Misty is the first person in the Oshwal community to release an album. She has given several solo performances on the East Coast.

Misty is a devoted Jain and a strict vegetarian. She is highly inspired by the humanitarian work of Veerayatan. With the blessings of Sadhviji Shree Subhamji she has decided to donate the proceeds of her album, music programs, paintings, literature and poetry awards for this great cause.

This album is for sale on her web site, www.mistymelodies.com. Please visit Misty at her web site and support the noble Mission and Vision of Veerayatan.

Regional Representatives

With some input from the community, it was decided that everyone would be better served if there were regional contacts throughout the country. The volunteer representatives (see below) will serve as contacts for HVONA committee, initiate social programs in their region, collect community news, and help keep the Directory up to date. Special thanks to Satish Shah (TX) who was instrumental in helping the executive board set up the regional committee.

One of the first discussions amongst the representatives was to have an Oshwal gathering during holidays (for example Diwali, Thanksgiving, Christmas). Your regional representative should be contacting you shortly discuss a holiday Oshwal gathering in your area. Your input is vital! Thank you,

Manisha K. Shah, President HVONA

The new Regional Representatives:

Maryland, Virginia, D.C.
Niru Manu Shah
shah_niru@hotmail.com

Florida
Veni Shah,
veni.shah@chase.com

North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia
Nutan Malde
numaldesc@yahoo.com

Southern California, Arizona
Nimish Vora
nimishvora@yahoo.com

Northern California, Hawaii
Jyotsna Sudhir Shah
jyotsna@aol.com

Illinois, Ohio, Kentucky
Smita Dipak Shah
dshah22258@aol.com

Missouri, Iowa, Kansas
Kiran Shah
shahkiran@usa.net

Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire
Ramila Vinod Shah
ramila99@aol.com

Michigan
Jital Rahul Khimasia
secretary@oshsal-usa.org

Minnesota, Wisconsin
Hansa Dinesh Shah
hansashah@aol.com

Washington, Montana
Achal Shah
Minals@winisp.net

New Jersey, Pennsylvania
Champa Velji Bid
Champavel@hotmail.com

Texas
Satish Shah
satishshah5@yahoo.com

New York, Connecticut
Manisha Kantilal Shah
manishakanti@yahoo.com

Community News:

Hello! We are pleased to announce that our Oshwal community, while pleasantly growing in numbers, is also growing much closer. We have a lot of news to share!

High School Graduations:

- Congratulations to Reena Shah (daughter of Dipak and Smita Shah from Illinois). Reena is attending the College of Dupage in Chicago, IL, beginning September 2002.

Atthai

(8 consecutive days of fasting)

- Congratulations to Vijya Galayia (NJ), who completed her third "Atthai" this year.
- Congratulations to Naina Jayantilal Meghji Shah of Sherman, Texas, on her "Atthai".
- Congratulations to Nitin and Milan Hirji Shah, of Laguna Hills, CA on their "Attahi".

Engagements

- Congratulations to Nina Anil Shah (daughter of late Anilkumar Khimchand Shah and Ila Anil Shah of Chestnut Ridge, NY) on her recent engagement to Sachin Desai (son of Narendra and Dhaksha Desai of York, PA).
- Congratulations to Ketan Manek Dodhia (son of Manek Ranmal and Madhu Dodhia of Suffern, NY) on his recent engagement to Divya Malhotra (daughter of Rajendra and Aruna Malhotra, of Windsor, Ontario).
- Congratulations to Purvi Shah (daughter of Dinesh Keshavji Shah of St. Louis, MO). Purvi is currently living in Bloomfield NJ and will be getting married this Thanksgiving.

Weddings

- Congratulations to Amish Gada (son of Kesu and Vijya Gada, NY) on his recent marriage to Theresa Nichols. They were married on August 17th, 2002 in Rumson, NJ.

Births

- Seena Beed is proud to announce that she is an older sister. Seena, along with proud parents Bina and Jayesh Beed, (of Livingston, NJ) would like to introduce everyone to Shaam Beed, born on August 24th, 2002.

- Congratulations to Kanaka and Sibin Nair on a recent addition to their family. We welcome Pranav Nair, born on March 16th, 2002.

- Congratulations to Kajal and Sandip Premchand Shah of Plano, Texas on the birth of their son, Shanil.

- Dr. Manjul Shah (son of deceased Jayantilal Khimchand Shah) and his wife Ragini, had their first baby on October 8, 2002. Their son was 6lbs at birth and is healthy.

Newcomers

We would like to welcome several new families into our Oshwal community:

- Harakhchand Shah, brother of Keshav Shah (NY) and Vijya Galayia (NJ), arrived from India this August and is currently residing in Long Valley, NJ.

- Pushpa Jankharia, sister of Keshav Shah (NY) and Vijya Galayia (NJ), arrived from India this September and is currently residing in Long Valley, NJ.

- Nitish and Jigna Dodhia have settled in Bloomfield NJ. They have moved from India several years back.

- Pratik and Sujal Shah moved from London, England and are currently residing in NYC, NY.

- Pratul and Rupal Wadher have recently arrived from Kisumu, Kenya and are currently residing in Santa Clara, CA,

Promotions

- Riaz Motani (NJ) accepted a Detective position with the Howell Township Police Department in July 2002.

- Biren (Ratnesh) Amritlal Nagda (originally from Nairobi, Kenya) was promoted to Associated Professor with Tenure at the University of Washington's School of Social Work, effective September 2002.

Condolences

- Our heartfelt condolences to Binit Prabhulal Shah of Hackensack, NJ. and Alka Rushabh Gandhi of Bensalem, PA on the untimely and shocking passing away of their beloved father Prabhulal Manekchand Shah of Nairobi, Kenya.

Please share your news - contact your regional representative (see box, left), or newsletter@oshsal-usa.org

Upcoming Events... Mark your calendar!



- November 28, 2002; Thursday (Thanksgiving)
Nashua, New Hampshire
Annual Halari Visa Oshwal of North America
Thanksgiving Gathering
(Details in this 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 conven-
tion.** For details, visit:
<http://www.jainaconvention.org>

HEADLINE: NEWSLETTER EDITORS GET ENGAGED!

Read about this and much more in our newly expanded community news section on Page 3. Of course, there would be no community news to publish, if it were not for the help of our new volunteer regional representatives, who will be serving as contacts between the executive board and the community, which is sprinkled all around the country. Feel free to contact your regional representative if you have any ideas or would like to initiate any programs in your area.

Our annual Thanksgiving gathering will be in Nashua, New Hampshire this year. Come enjoy your holiday with your old friends, or make new ones. Details are inside this newsletter

Building on the great success of our first USA-Canada Oshwal gathering in Rochester this past September, we plan on hosting the next such gathering at the JAINA convention in Cincinnati next July, 4-6 (2003). Mark your calendar today and start making plans to attend.

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:
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c/o Halari Visa Oshwals of North America
22 Yorkshire Dr.
Suffern, NY 10901-7417
USA

The Oshwal Report

A Newsletter by the
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