



The

Oshwal Report



A Newsletter by the Halari Visa Oshwals of America

www.oshwal-usa.org

Issue 5: Fall 2003

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(2002-2003)

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

Message from the President

Jai Jinendra,

On behalf of the Executive Committee of Halari Visa Oshwals of America, I wish you and your entire family a very happy, healthy and peaceful New Year. I hope you all had grand celebrations for Navratri and Diwali.

We are planning our traditional annual Oshwal gathering on the Thanksgiving Day. This year the gathering will be held in Poughkeepsie, N.Y.. Detailed information about the gathering is included in this newsletter. Please keep Thursday, November 27, open and make every effort to attend the gathering. The Thanksgiving is a national holiday. What better way to celebrate it than with our Oshwal families?

This year several State representatives had arranged picnics and dinners. From the reports I have read these functions were all very successful and gave an opportunity to meet with other Oshwals.

The Executive Committee members also organized an excellent picnic in the New York area. We played games and had delicious food. Everyone enjoyed the event.

We had an Oshwal gathering during the Jaina Convention in Cincinnati. At that time the new Executive Committee was introduced and the Oshwal Directory was distributed. The convention program was well organized and informative. It gave us an opportunity to meet many old friends and to make new friends.

The Oshwal community of Canada will host the joint USA and Canada Oshwals biannual gathering in the summer of 2004. More details will be posted on both Oshwals USA and Canada Web sites as the location and the dates are fixed.

We are grateful to Ketan Dodhia and Nina Shah from New York for publishing the newsletter for two years. Their hard work and dedication made it possible for us to publish the newsletter regularly. They are not in a position to continue with this responsibility. We, therefore, would like new volunteers to take over the responsibility. This would give an opportunity to others to get involved in Oshwal activities. If you or someone you know who would like to publish the newsletter, please contact me at the following address: President@Oshwal-usa.org.

Our thanks to Satish and Surya Shah of Plano, Texas for updating and editing the Oshwal Directory. The Directory was distributed in July and if you have not received it, please contact them or me.

I am really thankful to all the State representatives who have organized social activities in their region. I hope the representatives will continue to have one or two Oshwal community functions every year.

Finally, I really appreciate the support I am receiving from our Community and the Executive Committee. Their support and cooperation has made my task much enjoyable.

Thank you,
Manisha K. Shah, President
Halari Visa Oshwals of America

Thanksgiving Gathering, November 27, 2003, Poughkeepsie, NY (directions)

*** NOTE CHANGE OF DATE ***

The next Annual Thanksgiving weekend gathering will be held at the Jain-Hindu Temple of Wappingers Falls (near Poughkeepsie), New York, on Thursday, November 27, 2003.

The cost will be \$15 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under.

The address of the Temple is:
3 Brown Road, Wappingers Falls NY
12590

Contact Rajesh Shah at rajesh7403@aol.com or Nimish Vora at nimishvora@yahoo.com if you'd like to present/perform an item or have news to share at the gathering.

We will be updating the website with more information about the gathering so check the website to get the most up to date information at <http://www.oshwal-usa.org>.

Directions

Please Visit the website for Detailed Directions at :
<http://www.hindusamajtemple.org/contact/directions.htm>

Community News:

For the most current community news please visit the website at <http://www.oshwal-usa.org>

We have decided to put all the news on the website because it will be easier to maintain the information and to reduce the size of the newsletter to save cost and reduce paper.

Regional Representatives:

Maryland, Virginia, D.C.
Niru Manu Shah
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Washington, Montana
Achal Shah
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New Jersey, Pennsylvania
Champa Velji Bid
Champavel@hotmail.com

Texas
Satish Shah
satishshah5@yahoo.com

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

Next US - Canada Gathering; September 2004; Toronto, Canada

At the JAINA 2003 convention, preliminary plans were announced for the next US-Canada gathering to take place some time in September 2004, in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Dear Oshwal Members and Friends:

We are writing to seek your support for the [JAIN SPIRIT](#) magazine. Jain Spirit is published in the United Kingdom with global readership. The mission of Jain Spirit is "Sharing Jain Values Globally".

It is currently in its fourth year of publication. The Executive Editor is Atul Keshavji Rupshi Shah. He has a doctorate degree from the London School of Economics. In lieu of promising academic career with potential for full professorship, and despite having young family including two children, he gave up his career to start Jain Spirit.

During the recent Jaina Convention in Cincinnati, we had an opportunity to view an exhibition of stunning images from eminent photographers of Indian culture. The theme of this photographic exhibition was "Jainism ancient tradition, modern values". It was organized out of UK by Jain Spirit and is a wonderful example of one of the many ways Jain Spirit promotes message of Jainism. Atul and two members of the Board of Directors, Anant Shah and Manish Shah, and three staff members represented Jain Spirit in Cincinnati.

During our discussions with Atul, Anant and Manish, we learnt that Jain Spirit needs to increase its revenue base in order to remain viable. Currently it has 2,000 subscribers globally (1,000 in UK, 500 in US, and rest in other parts of the world including India and East Africa etc). Jain Spirit needs a minimum of 5,000 subscribers to sustain it.

Jain Spirit is an exceptional magazine with great images, content, design and layout. It is our window to the past and future. Jain Spirit is our meeting place and forum to exchange and disseminate ideas and thought. The magazine shows how relevant Jainism is today and has caught the imagination of Jain youths. Jainism has an important message for the world "Ahimsa" or "non-violence" and this vital message needs to be spread throughout the world.

We the members of the Oshwal community have an opportunity to make significant contributions to our community and beyond through the medium of Jain Spirit. Jain Spirit is ours and belongs to us all. It allows us to maintain our dignity and heritage and it is our small gift to current and future generations.

We appreciate and thank Atul, his colleagues and all the great patrons in London and elsewhere who have selflessly sustained the Jain Spirit for many years. SHOULD WE NOT STEP TO THE LINE AND OFFER TO CARRY OUR SHARE OF THE BURDEN?

We suggest and respectfully request all Oshwal families living in the US (i) to subscribe for Jain Spirit for a period of five years costing \$115.00, (ii) to provide one-year GIFT SUBSCRIPTION to your SIX or more relatives, friends or colleagues

(both Jains and non-Jains) at a cost of \$15.00 per gift subscription, and (iii) advertise in the magazine to increase its revenue base. All those who have already subscribed for the magazine, they should consider gift subscriptions and advertisement. As for gift subscriptions, the recipients will be notified of the gift subscription from you.

You can subscribe on-line at the following Web site: [www.jainspirit.com](#). Please note that the site has been recently upgraded to include gift subscriptions. For more information, you can contact Jain Spirit staff by e-mail at the following address: [subscription@jainspirit.com](#), or

Write to Jain Spirit, 14 Cowdray Office Centre, Cowdray Avenue, Colchester, CO1 1QB, United Kingdom.

Please be sure to visit to the Web site to get a taste of the Jain Spirit. Please join us in making Jain Spirit a global success.

Thank you,
Manisha Kantilal Shah
President Halari Visa Oshwals of America

P.S. IF YOU ARE NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE MAGAZINE IT IS POSSIBLE THAT YOU WOULD BE HESITANT TO SUBSCRIBE FOR FIVE YEARS. IN THIS CASE WE URGE YOU TO SUBSCRIBE AT LEAST FOR A YEAR (COST \$24.00 FOR FOUR ISSUES) AND SEE WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT YOU WILL BECOME A REGULAR READER OF THE MAGAZINE.

HALARI VISA OSHWALS OF AMERICA AND CANADA Members Directory was distributed to all listed members in July, 2003. If you have not received your copy, please contact us at the following address.

We would appreciate it if you would keep your listing up-to-date by completing the Directory Update form available at the following web site:

[www.oshsal-usa.org](#).

We are trying to get e-mail addresses of all members so that it would be easy to contact members. We request all those whose e-mail addresses are not listed in the directory to provide us their e-mail addresses.

Surya and Satish Shah, Plano, TX. e-mail: [satishshah5@yahoo.com](#)

Treasurer's report

Our association is currently financially stable with a surplus of \$1925 as of October 22, 2003. We anticipate using the surplus funds to help pay for future events as well as cover minor administrative costs.

Tushar Shah
treasurer@oshsal-usa.org

Directions to Hindu Samaj Temple For Thanksgiving Gathering

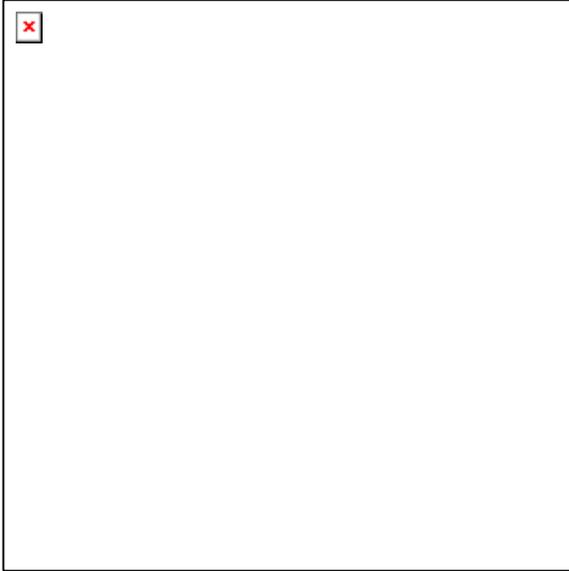
The Hindu Temple and Indian Cultural Center is located at the intersection of All Angels and Brown Roads, Wappingers Falls NY. The entrance to the parking lot is from Brown Road.

From NYS Thruway South (Route 87)

Take Exit 17 travelling north on NYS Thruway (Rte. 87)

After the toll, take route 84 East Take Exit 13 to route 9 North

Travel about 5 miles make right onto Dutchess 28 East (Old Hopewell Rd at 7-11 store). Go 3 miles. Follow the directions below from [Common Directions](#)



From NYS Thruway North (Route 87)

Take Exit 18 travelling south on NYS Thruway(Route 87) After the toll, make right at the traffic light to Route 299 East, Travel about 4 miles, make right to 9W South, After about 2 miles, make an exit to Route 44/55 East Take the exit for Route 9 South Follow the directions below from [Common Directions](#)

From Taconic Parkway

Travelling from south or north take exit Route 82 South towards Fishkill After about 5/6 miles on route 82 make a right onto Route 28 Make a right onto Route-94(ALL ANGELS HILL ROAD) Follow the directions below from [Common Directions](#)

From Route 9

Travel North towards wappingers Falls. After travelling about 5 miles make right onto Dutchess 28 East(Old Hopewell Rd - at 7-11 store). Go 3 miles. Follow the directions below from [Common Directions](#)

Common Directions

Take left on Dutchess 94 North at traffic light (All Angels Rd).

Within a mile, Opposite Chinese Christian Church, Take right on Brown Rd. The Hindu Temple Entrance is on left within a block.

Community New:

Congratulations to Amber and Anand Torres

Congratulations to Anand Torres (son of Anju and Andre) to Amber Hanning on their recent marriage on Saturday 20th September, 2003. They were married at the Lake of the Ozark, Missouri. The traditional ceremony was conducted on Saturday, while the church wedding took place on Sunday 21st September followed by a reception.

Congratulations to Maitri and Nimish Shah

Congratulations to Nimish, son Of Anilaben and Maganbhai Shah of Dracut, Mass. on his marriage to Maitri, daughter of Dr. Rajnibhia and Dr. Deepakben Patel of St. Antonio, Texas on August 02, 2003.

Congratulations to Maulee and Sachin Shah

Congratulations to Sachin, son of Dr. Gulab and Anila Shah of S. Hadley, Mass. on his marriage to Maulee, daughter of Dr. Atul and Nila Tolia of Toronto, Canada on June 07, 2003.

Congratulations to Nina and Sachin Desai

Congratulations to Nina, daughter of Illa and the late Anil Shah on her marriage to Sachin, son of Daxasha and Narndre Desai on July 19, 2003.

Congratulations to Hansil and Roshni

Congratulations to Hansil Amritlal Dharamshi Shah of Plano, TX on his engagement to Roshni Ashwin Dharamshi Devraj Dodhia of U.K.

Congratulations to Divya and Ketan Dodhia

Congratulations to Ketan Dodhia (son of Manek and Madhu Dodhia of Suffern, New York) on his wedding to Divya Malhotra (Daughter of Rajendra and Arunaben Malhotra) of Windsor, Ontario, Canada. Their wedding took place on August 31, 2003 in Windsor, Ontario, Canada.

Condolences - Lalji Gosar Raja Shah.

Our heartfelt condolences to Mr. Chandulal Papatlal Shah of Irving, TX, and his family on the demise of his cousin brother Lalji Gosar Raja Shah of Dabasang/Nairobi.

Southern California Oshwals and Friends Picnic

Nina and Ashit Harshad Amritlal Shah of Carlsbad arranged a picnic on Sunday, October 5, at Salt Creek Beach, Orange County, California. It was attended by about 35 Oshwals living in Southern California. This was the first gathering of Oshwals of Southern California. Everybody had a good time - the ocean water was a little cool, but the kids being more adventurous did not mind swimming in the ocean. Nina and Ashit had made a special effort to provide roasted Mogo and Corn as appetizers, and the main entree was the Subway sandwich. Before saying good bye and heading home, everybody was happy to have a hot cup of Masala tea.

Appeal for information by Satish Shah, Plano, Texas:

I am in the process of writing history of Halari Visa Oshwals in the USA in association with Dr. Rati Dodhia of Rhode Island who is writing history of Halari Visa Oshwals world-wide.

I have collected some information, e.g. Jethalal Khimchand Kachara Gudka of Navagam/ Kenya/ Mumbai was the first Oshwal to have studied in the USA. He came to New York in 1946 and stayed for three years. In 1948/1949, four more Oshwals came to the USA for studies. They were (i) Jayantilal Nemchand Fulchand Shah of Kansumara/ Kenya, (ii) Ke! shav Premchand Popat Chandari of Champa Beraja/ Kenya and his brother (iii) Manu Chandaria, and (iv) Dhiru Premchand Vrajpal Shah of Padana/Kenya.

I like to get information about Oshwals who came to the USA in 1950's and early 1960's for studies and/or settlement. After the U.S. Immigration Act of 1964 was passed, quotas for permanent settlement visas were allocated to Asian and African countries. This provided opportunities for Asians and Africans to settle in the USA.

I plan to include major achievements by Oshwals in their studies, professional field, businesses, social activities, sports, politics, etc. I would appreciate it if you would let me know of your major achievements and/or of any other Oshwal that you know of.

Please contact me at the following address: satishshah5@yahoo.com or telephone: 972 618 9509.

Along with this Rati Dodhia is looking for any information on the origins of surnames, any historical oshwal stories from you home town/village, and any stories or information of important people of oshwal decent. The information should be sent by December 31, 2003 so that the stories can get published in the book.

You can email Rati Dodhia at r_dodhia@netzero.net, or call him at 401-333-1066. If you wish you can also mail your stories to his home. The address is

PRATISHTA MOHATSAV

VISA OSHWAL VANIK COMMUNITY OF KISUMU, KENYA, has organized a very auspicious and grand Pratishta Mohatsav of their new Jain Temple. The Mohatsav will take place from December 8 to December 12, 2003 and the Pratishta ceremony will take place on December 12, 2003. The temple has been built with generous donation and unitiring efforts of Narshi Punja Shah and his family, a long time resident of Kisumu. Jains through out the world have been invited for the celebrations.

Mr. Narshi Punja Shah was born in Kajurda, Jamnagar District, in 1928 and migrated to Kenya at the age of 11 years. After completing high school education he joined the family business in Kisumu. He is married to Kanchanben Hirji Jivraj Shah (Khara Beraja/Nairobi) and has two sons and one daughter. The daughter, Nutan Aggarwal, lives in Overland Park, Kansas.

Halari Visa Oshwals of America thank the Kisumu Oshwal Community for the invitation and wish them a very successful Pratishta ceremony.