



The

# Oshwal Report



A Newsletter by the Halari Visa Oshwals of America

www.oshwal-usa.org

Issue 10: Fall 2007

## **Executive Board** (2005-2007)

### **President**

Jayantilal Z. Galaiya  
Long Valley, NJ  
president@oshwal-usa.org

### **Vice President**

Neil A. Shah  
Chestnut Ridge, NY  
president2@oshwal-usa.org

### **Treasurer**

Chandulal L. Shah  
Spring Field NJ  
treasurer@oshwal-usa.org

### **Secretary**

Bina J. Beed  
Livingston, NJ  
secretary@oshwal-usa.org

### **Assistant Treasurer**

Tanvi M. Shah  
Hackensack, NJ  
treasurer2@oshwal-usa.org

### **Assistant Secretary**

Rashmika A. Shah  
Troy, MI  
secretary2@oshwal-usa.org

### **Website**

Ketan M. Dodhia  
Jersey City, NJ  
webmaster@oshwal-usa.org

Nikesh K. Shah  
Danbury, CT  
webmaster2@oshwal-usa.org

## **Scholarship**

We are delighted to inform everyone that Halari Visa Oshwals of America can award the scholarships for higher education here and abroad. If you are pursuing higher education, please contact one of the board representatives and we will get you started with application process. You may be eligible to receive the scholarship.

## **Message from President**

I am proud of our accomplishments in past couple of years, most notable of them is our approval of federal non profit status, and we have a constitution to guide us in the future. I thank the community for the opportunity to serve and also would like to thank the executive team for their hard work. As you know we are a small community, I would encourage everyone to take part in various activities and be counted. Most importantly keeping in touch and maintaining our heritage. Verify that we have your up to date information and if need be please submit the correction to [directory@oshwal-usa.org](mailto:directory@oshwal-usa.org).

Jai Jinendra.  
Jayanti Galaiya

## **Board elections: Request for nominations**

In the last few years the Halari Visa Oshwals of America have been making strides towards building a national communication network amongst Oshwals. We aim to have broader participation in the election of the Oshwal Executive Committee. All Oshwal members should be given an opportunity to nominate Executive Committee members and to vote. Elections will be held bi-annually.

The positions in the Executive board for 2008-2009:

**President and Vice President-** responsible for coordinating activities and communications among executive board and regional representatives

**Secretary and Assistant Secretary-** responsible for coordinating communications between executive board and all Oshwals (e.g. newsletters, emails)

**Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer -** responsible for coordinating funds between members and activities

We request nominations for the positions listed above. Self-nominations may be made. Please submit your nomination by email to:

[nominations@oshwal-usa.org](mailto:nominations@oshwal-usa.org)

## **Upcoming Events**

### **>> Annual New York Metro area Thanksgiving Gathering.**

The NY Metro Area annual Thanksgiving gathering will be held on Saturday, November 24. Here are the details:

- Location: Caldwell College, Mother Joseph Hall Cafeteria, 9 Ryerson Ave, Caldwell, NJ (Directions and maps are available on the website)
- Time: from 2:00pm to 11:00pm on Saturday the November 24th.
- The dues for the event will be
  - o \$20 per adult (age 13 and up)
  - o \$10 per child (age 6-12)
  - o Free for children 5 and under.

We are looking for partial or entire event sponsors. If you are interested, please contact one of the board members (contact information on left sidebar).

If you would like to present anything during the event or have any special recognition in mind, please let us know.

**>> Diwali Gathering in Texas.** The Halari Visa Oshwals of the northern Texas and Oklahoma area will hold their annual gathering at time of Diwali everyone is invited to attend the program. The details are as follows:

- Saturday, November 3rd, at PASAND restaurant in Irving, TX.

For more information contact Oklahoma/Texas representatives Alpa and Shilpa Shah. (contact information on next page)

## Regional Representatives:

State	Name	Email
Alabama (AL)	Veni Jivraj Shah	Alabama@oshwal-usa.org
Arizona (AZ)	Dr. Gulab K. Shah	Arizona@oshwal-usa.org
California (Northern) (CA)	Jyotsna Sudhir Shah	California-north@oshwal-usa.org
California (Southern) (CA)	Nina Asit Shah	California-south@oshwal-usa.org
Connecticut (CT)	Nikesh K. Shah	Connecticut@oshwal-usa.org
District of Columbia (DC)	Manu Gosar Shah	DC@oshwal-usa.org
Florida (FL)	Veni Jivraj Shah	Florida@oshwal-usa.org
Georgia (GA)	Paresh M. Shah	Georgia@oshwal-usa.org
Iowa (IA)	Kiran Keshavlal Shah	Iowa@oshwal-usa.org
Illinois (IL)	Smita Dipak Shah	Illinois@oshwal-usa.org
Kansas (KS)	Kiran Keshavlal Shah	Kansas@oshwal-usa.org
Kentucky (KY)	Smita Dipak Shah	Kentucky@oshwal-usa.org
Massachusetts (MA)	Kamala Gudhka	Massachusetts@oshwal-usa.org
Maryland (MD)	Manu Gosar Shah	Maryland@oshwal-usa.org
Michigan (MI)	Rashmika A. Shah	Michigan@oshwal-usa.org
Minnesota (MN)	Dinesh Velji Shah	Minnesota@oshwal-usa.org
Missouri (MO)	Kiran Keshavlal Shah	Missouri@oshwal-usa.org
Montana (MT)	Achal Kanti Shah	Montana@oshwal-usa.org
North Carolina (NC)	Nutan Anuj Malde	Northcarolina@oshwal-usa.org
New Hampshire (NH)	Kamala Gudhka	Newhampshire@oshwal-usa.org
New Jersey (NJ)	Chandu Shah	Newjersey@oshwal-usa.org
New York	Manisha Kantilal Shah	Newyork@oshwal-usa.org
Ohio (OH)	Smita Dipak Shah	Ohio@oshwal-usa.org
Oklahoma (OK)	Dr. Alpa K. Shah	Oklahoma@oshwal-usa.org
Oklahoma (OK)	Shilpa R. Shah	Oklahoma@oshwal-usa.org
Pennsylvania (PA)	Jayanti Galaiya	Pennsylvania@oshwal-usa.org
Rhode Island (RI)	Kamala Gudhka	Rhodeisland@oshwal-usa.org
South Carolina (SC)	Nutan Anuj Malde	Southcarolina@oshwal-usa.org
Texas (TX)	Dr. Alpa K. Shah	Texas@oshwal-usa.org
Texas (TX)	Shilpa R. Shah	Texas@oshwal-usa.org
Virginia (VA)	Manu Gosar Shah	Virginia@oshwal-usa.org
Washington (WA)	Achal Kanti Shah	Washington@oshwal-usa.org
Wisconsin (WI)	Priti Shah	Wisconsin@oshwal-usa.org

**Community News:** (Please share your news - contact your regional representative (see box, right), or newsletter@oshwal-usa.org)

### Michchhami Dukkadam

Congratulations to all the Tapasvis. This past paryushana we had five atthais:

- Jayanti & Vijya Galaiya of Long Valley, New Jersey.
- Kamal & Lipa Shah of Massachusetts.
- Hita Shah of Celebration, Florida.

### Graduations

- Vishal Shah (son of Jayu & Pushpa Shah) of Carol Stream, Illinois, graduated from DePaul University in Chicago with a double major in Accounting & Finance, and Minor in Economics.
- Reena Dipak Shah, (daughter of Smita and Dipak Shah of Lemont, Illinois) graduated from North Illinois University with a Bachelors of Science /Marketing.
- Hiren Gudka, son of Kamala Gudka and nephew of Debbie and Veni Sumaria from Boxford, Massachusetts, graduated Magna Cum Laude from University of Massachusetts- Dartmouth with Bachelor of Science degree.
- Sneha Shah from Nashua, New Hampshire, is graduating Magna Cum Laude from Springfield College, Massachusetts, with a Bachelor of Science in Movement in Sports Studies with a concentration in Physical Education, on May 13th. She will be a licensed Physical Education teacher and is going on to do her Master of Science in Health Education in September at Springfield College.

### Weddings

- Arti Shah (daughter of Sharad & Mayuri Shah of St. Louis, MO) and Kiran Patel (son of Jagubhai & Dahiben Patel of Salinas, CA) on their wedding on May 19th, 2007.

### Births

- Congratulations to Rajvi & Jayesh Shah of Atlanta, Georgia, on the birth of their son, Ruhaan, last June.
- Congratulations to Drs. Shilpa and Amit Gaggar of Birmingham, Alabama on the birth of their baby boy. Akash Shah Gaggar was born in August 2007. Grandparents Kanchan and Keshav Shah (NY) and aunt & uncle Neha and Nikesh Shah (CT) are extremely proud of the new addition to the family.

### Condolences

- Shamji Vershi Shah, Director of Lalit Corporation of Bombay, and Trustee of Aradhanadham (near Jamnagar), passed away on 25th September 2007, of a severe heart attack. He was husband of Shantaben, father of Jayendra and Varsha Hareh Shah, grandfather of Binay and Bansi Jayendra Shah, father-in-law of Hareh Nyalchand Shah, nana of Pratik and Mira H. Shah. He was cousin-brother of N.K.Haria (known as Hari) of Lalit Industries of Bombay and Kandlahe, and was uncle of Madhu Manek Dodhia of New York. He was a very close friend of Chandulal Popatlal Shah of Irving, Texas.
- Sarlaben Chandrakant Chandaria of Southgate UK, passed away on July 24, 2007. Sarlaben was a daughter of (Late) Meghji Kumbha and Amratben Meghji Shah of Texas, sister to Chandrakant and Niru Shah of Chicago, Jayanti and Nayana Shah of Sherman Texas, Pravinaben and Pravinbhai Shah of Austin Texas.
- Somchand H. Shah, of Lowell, MA, passed away on July 17, 2007. He was the husband of Ansuriya (Dodhia) Shah of Lowell. He was the son of the late Hansraj and the late Kankuben Shah. He Besides his wife, he is survived by a daughter and son-in-law, Bindi and Joseph Carpenter of Amesbury; a son, Rakesh Shah of Lowell; six sisters, Jayaben Shah, Rupaben Shah and Narmadaben Shah, all of Bombay India, and Champaben Shah of Bangalore, India, Ratanben Maru of Danvers, and Kamalaben Gudka of Boxford; four brothers, Nathalal Shah of Palm Springs, Calif., Venilal Sumaria of Boxford, Premchand Shah of Palm Springs, Calif., and Chandu Shah of Reading; as well as many nieces and nephews.
- Raxita Manish Shah, passed away after brief illness in Birmingham, England. She was cousin (Kaka's daughter) of our president, Jayanti Galaiya of Long Valley, New Jersey.

## Community News (cont'd)

- **New York Metro area Picnic, Sunday June 17, Liberty State Park, Jersey City, NJ.** This year, the Statue of Liberty and NYC skyline were the backdrop our New York Metro area picnic, held on Fathers Day, Sunday, June 17, from 10am to 4pm, at Liberty State Park, in Jersey City, NJ. We had a fun filled day with a record attendance of 58 adults and children. The weather cooperated for the day, with the sea breeze helping cool us off. We had jalebi-gathiya, bagels, and chai for breakfast. We grilled sweet corn and set up a fresh sandwich bar for lunch. For desert we had chilled watermelon and ice cream. Kids took the opportunity to fly kites with guidance from the adults, and many people enjoyed walking along the waterfront.
- **Illinois and Wisconsin Oshwal Gathering.** Wisconsin Oshwals Rep Priti Shah had a gathering with Illinois Oshwals, to celebrate Mother's Day at India House Restaurant, in Schaumburg, Illinois, on May 13th. Approximately 24 Oshwals had a wonderful time with 3 generations of families. We all enjoyed the grand Mother's Day Buffet of 100 items. This was very much enjoyed by all of us and the best thing was that all the MOTHERS really relaxed with their loved ones. Thanks to Priti Shah for putting this occasion together.
- **Annual picnic of Texas and Oklahoma chapter.** Texas and Oklahoma Oshwals met on May 6th for the annual picnic at Russell Creek Park in Plano, Texas from 4 to 8 pm. There were about 35 adults and 12 children. We had a forecast of thunderstorm and showers, but the Oshwals braved the chances and fortunately, it turned out to be beautiful and perfect picnic weather. Everyone had volunteered for food that included Indian and Mexican appetizers, fruit platter, pizza dinner, ice cream and cup cakes. Fun activities included all time favorite volleyball, kites, sand box and couple game. Such gatherings help our community unite and everyone enjoys it as well.
- **Good Job Madhuben.** Madhu Shah from Leominster MA, while having a prayer for her Father-in-law in early April at the Jain center, noticed that the Jain center needed to be cleaned up. So, she contacted one of the authorized persons at the Center and asked if she could volunteer to clean up the Center. Once she received permission, she created volunteer team. They painted the wall, cleaned up the shelves, and did many other things, which you can see in the pictures on the website. Thanks to Madhuben for her good thinking.
- **Bangalore HVO has made plan to build a Mahajan wadi.** As many of us are aware and have used our beloved Mahajan wadi at various locations wherever Halari Visha Oshwals are settled. Bangalore is one of the best cities and has experienced explosive growth in recent years and so does halari population in Bangalore. For many years halari population in Bangalore was limited, however with explosive growth of Bangalore and halaris in Bagalore and surrounding areas HVO samaj of Bangalore have planned to build a Mahajan wadi with facillties similar to elsewhere next to Halari dehasar in Basheshwara nagar central to halari population there. Two local families of Bangalore have pledged Rs. 25 lakhs each and they have raised some additional funds there. They have asked us to donate generously for the mahajan wadi. Bangalore is one the most visited tourist places of south. This is our chance to donate towards the Bangalore mahajan wadi and remember your donation is federal and NJ tax deductible as we are NJ non profit organization.

## Impact of Oshwals on JAINA

As many of you may be aware, we as Halari Visa Oshwals have been involved in JAINA for several years and we have significant impact every time we are involved. I have seen it from JAINA at Chicago to Canada to Philadelphia to Edison. We have been involved at several different levels.

To re-cap our involvement in JAINA at Edison:

We had Oshwals from different corners of the world at Edison JAINA. From Kenya Rangoli group, from England HVO president of UK, Ahswin Shah and Secretary, Shailesh Shah; several guests from India, from coast to coast of Canada and all over the USA. We had a get together on Saturday afternoon in the Sheraton and created a mini Halar in Edison.

The opening prayer was performed by Misty Shah of Vestal, NY.

Evening cultural program: Chandrakant and Ishani Shah (MA), not only co-ordinated the evening programs, but also performed Hasya Chintamani, and Ahm na Odkar. Written and directed by Chandrakant Shah.

There was a fabulous display of Rangoli Samovasaran by a Rangoli group from Kenya.

Many of you may be aware JAINA does significant work in conjunction with Virayatan and the Virayatan stall was managed by Arun Shah (NY) and his family.

Swami Shrut Pragya, has ashram in Rajkot and lots of followers of his yoga teachings. His US institutions stall was managed by Velji Bid(NJ) and his family.

Acharya Shushil Kumarji co founded JAINA with Gurudev Chitrabhanu. We have two of our Oshwals are very active in his Ashram Siddhachalam in Blairstown, NJ. Tansukh Maru (NJ) is a presentative to United Nations as Non Governmental Organization from Siddhachalam and Jayanti Galaiya (NJ) has been a senior trustee of Siddhachalam for many years.

JAINA recognized few people for doing outstanding work in various areas. Our own Manu Shah of Hanover, MD was recognized for doing such a work in Silver Spring, MD Jain center.

Raju Shah (DC/MD) has been active in YJA for many years and Deepa Galaiya (RI/NJ) is North East regional representative of YJA. YJA is Young Jain of America, a chapter of JAINA for our youths.

Jai Jinendra.  
Jayanti Galaiya

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### Treasurer's Report

We are currently financially stable with a surplus of \$325.54 as of October 17, 2007. We will use the surplus funds to help cover administrative costs.

Chandu Shah, Treasurer

*Upcoming Events...* Mark you calendar!

- Diwali Gathering at PASAND restaurant in Irving, TX. For more information contact Oklahoma/Texas representatives Alpa and Shilpa Shah.
- November 24, 2007 (Saturday, Thanksgiving weekend). Annual New York Metro area gathering, Caldwell, New Jersey.

### **Visit the \*new\* Oshwal-usa.org website**

The original Oshwal-USA.org website was designed over four years ago, and we thought it was time for a re-design. We've completely updated the design of the website and went "live" with it in September. Check it out at:

<http://www.oshwal-usa.org>

As before, the site is centered on tying the community together, and the community news is the main focus. You can submit a story easily using the online form. Archives from the original site have been uploaded to the new site and are searchable. A pictures section includes all our pictures from past events. The mailing list subscription and directory update forms are also available. Rise and Glory (History of Halari Visa Oshwals), by Rati Dodhia, is now available for download.

Take a look at the site, and if there's anything you'd like to see, please let us know at:

[webmaster@oshwal-usa.org](mailto:webmaster@oshwal-usa.org)

If undeliverable, please return to:

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c/o Halari Visa Oshwals of North America  
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Livingston, NJ 07039  
USA

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