



The

Oshwal Report



A Newsletter by the Halari Visa Oshwals of America

www.oshwal-usa.org

Issue 11: Spring 2008

Executive Board

(2008-2009)

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President's Message

I would like to thank our community for giving us the opportunity to serve on the Executive Board. On behalf of all Halari Visa Oshwals, I sincerely would like to thank our outgoing executive committee members for their excellent work for the past two years. Our goal is to reach out all community members and pass on our heritage to younger generation. We are a small community and your participation is very important. I request everyone to take part in your area activities and keep in touch with our organization. We will contact all area representatives soon to get their feed back. We are also exploring an idea to have a 3-day gathering/retreat for community members somewhere in USA this year or next year.

We are requesting donations for three places in India and details are in our newsletter and on our Website. All community members around the world will benefit from this Fund Raising. I request everyone to donate generously towards their selection/choice of the places.

I ask you all to verify your information in our directory and submit any corrections, changes or new additions by completing the form available on www.oshwal-usa.org website in Directory category. I request every one to forward any significant news/information to our secretary or your area representative for publishing in our newsletter. Most of our community news is also regularly posted on our website.

I really appreciate the trust you all have placed on us. We will make every effort to bring our organization to the highest level, to be recognized and be visible in the World Halari Visa Oshwal Community.

Jai Jinendra,

Keshav Shah
Halari Visa Oshwals of America

Fund Raising for Three Projects

On behalf of the Halari Visa Oshwals of America (HVOA), the Executive Committee is requesting donations for three places in India. A summary of funds required and purpose for each place is detailed below. Donors can select any one, two or all three places for their donations. Each need is unique and different from each other. Donations will be beneficial to all Oshwals. We request everyone to donate generously towards their selection/choice. Our association is a registered non-profit organization and therefore donations are tax-deductible.

Halari Visa Oshwal Boarding and Kanya Chhatralay, Jamnagar, Gujarat:

Our Halari Visa Oshwal Education and Relief Board (India) owns and manages several facilities. There are two facilities: Boarding for boys and Kanya Chhatralay for girls, in Jamnagar. They provide housing, lodging and some educational assistance (like college dormitories). Students are in 5th grade to 12th grade and some in college. These boys and girls come from the areas where no education facility is available. Over the years, many Oshwal students have benefited from these facilities.

These facilities have no computers or any Information Technology for students' study or homework. There is limited access to computers in their school, mostly for higher grade students. Recently, our president, Keshav Shah, visited our Boarding for boys. He toured the facility and talked to several students and staff members. He confirmed with students that they have no computers for use in both facilities. Most of these students can not afford to buy computers for their use and they are not allowed to have personal electronics in their room by governing rules.

Each facility will need at least four sets of computers, furniture and accessories. It will provide our young students much needed access to Information Technology in the Global World. This work will need approximately Rs. 4,00,000 (\$10,000) and can be completed in few months.

Oshwal Yatrik Grah, Palitana, Gujarat:

Palitana is one of the most visited Jain religious places in India. Palitana is beautiful and all Jain Temples are on scenic hills. Most Oshwals visit Palitana due to its proximity to our homeland, Halar. It was always a problem for staying overnight in Palitana until Oshwal Yatrik Grah opened. It is managed by Oshwal Trustees. The Yatrik Grah was built about 34 years ago, and several facilities, such as dining room, breakfast room, Dehrasar, and Upashray, have been added since then. It has 68 rooms with attached bathroom and nine dormitories. There is a need to renovate bathrooms and to paint rooms, halls and corridors with plastic paint and doors and windows with oil paint. Somchand Pethraj Gosarani, the managing trustee, has sent an appeal to Oshwals through out the world asking for donations to renovate several facilities. Recently, Satish and Surya Shah (Texas) and Dr. Champa and Velji Bid (New Jersey) separately visited Palitana. They enjoyed their stay at Oswal Yatrik Grah and had noticed a need for renovation of the facility.

The total cost is estimated at Rs. 75,00,000 (\$200,000). Trustees have decided that those who donate Rs. 11,00,000 (\$28,000), Rs. 5,00,000 (\$12,500) or Rs. 2.5,00,000 (\$6,500) have their names displayed on 2 feet by 1 1/2 feet granite plaques in the waiting room. Takhti will have our association name along with person/family who donates over \$1,000. This will give the recognition to our association.

Halari Visa Oshwals Mahajanwadi in Bangalore

Halari Visa Oshwals of Bangalore are planning to build a Mahajanwadi. Bangalore has experienced an explosive growth in recent years and with its growth, the Halari population has also increased in Bangalore and surrounding areas. We all are aware and have used our beloved Mahajanwadis at various locations wherever Halari Visa Oshwals are settled. Halari Visa Oshwal Samaj of Bangalore wants to build a Mahajanwadi with facilities similar to other cities. It will be built next to Halari dehrasar in Basveshwar Nagar which is central to Halari population there.

HALARI VISA OSHWAL SAMAJ-USA is a non-profit organization of NJ

Two local families of Bangalore have pledged Rs. 25 lakhs each and they have raised some additional funds there. Bangalore is one the most visited tourist places of south and having a Mahajanwadi will be a plus for our community.

Donors can select any one, two or all three places for their donations. Please, donate as soon as possible but no later than October 1, 2008. Check shall be made to The Halari Visa Oshwals of America and mail it to Jay Bid, Treasurer, 3 Yale Court, Livingston, NJ 07039

If anyone has questions or need more information on donation requests, please, contact **President: Keshav Shah** - president@oshwal-usa.org; **Vice President: Paulomi Shah** - president2@oshwal-usa.org; **Treasurer: Jay Bid** - treasurer@oshwal-usa.org; **Secretary: Rashmi Shah** - secretary@oshwal-usa.org or any other members of the Executive Committee.

Jai Jinendra

Executive Committee – 2008-2009

Secretary's Message

This year we are going to have some very exciting events. We are very appreciative of your continuing support, helping us grow bigger and better. We highly encourage you to actively participate in the programs by getting more involved in the events planned for the rest of 2008. We would also like to reach each and every Mahajan and become a part of our small but growing Mahajan population.

Secretary's Notes and Announcements.

- We bring you this first newsletter for 2008 containing a **list of all events** planned for the year. The executive committee tries their best every year to bring you exciting events. We would appreciate your feedback and any suggestions for improvements.

Please mark your calendars for our upcoming events as follows:

- Annual Summer Picnic for the Tri- State area (NY-NJ-CT), June 15th 2008 (Father's Day) at Haverstraw Bay Park, Haverstraw, Rockland County, NY, from 10am to 5pm. If anyone is interested in sponsoring the picnic fully or partially, please call Rashmi Shah or Keshav Shah.
- Annual Northeast Thanksgiving Get Together, November 29th 2008.

All detailed information regarding above events will be posted on the Oshwal website at www.oshwal-usa.org and in addition all the Mahajans will be notified for the same via email.

Past Events

Annual Thanksgiving Get Together On November 24, 2007

The function was held at Mother Joseph Hall, Caldwell NJ. As usual there was a great response with over 65 people attending the event. It was an evening with fine food, dancing, games and gaiety.

The outgoing President, Jayantibhai Galaiya gave his farewell speech and thanked his outgoing committee members. A new executive committee was voted in and introduced.

The food from Rajbhog was mouth watering and entertainment was in the form of games, Garba and Dandiya Raas. The gathering was a great success.

Texas-Oklahoma Spring Picnic on May 4th, 2008

Texas-Oklahoma Oshwal Samaj organized a spring picnic on May 4th, 2008 with a turn out of 60 people. Everyone present were very glad to have Oshwal USA president, Mr. Keshavbhai Shah, joined them for the picnic. Satishbhai-Suryaben Shah was the grand sponsors for a delicious dinner along with other families who participated in the potluck for appetizers and desserts .The weather was beautiful and the adults and kids were busy with kite-flying, volley ball, dodge ball, biking and walking.

Community News

Merits

Congratulations to...

- Chiraag Galaiya, son of Jayanti and Vijya Galaiya of Long Valley, NJ. Chiraag is accepted at Drew University for the prestigious Governor School program for Math and Science. Chiraag scored perfect in his PSAT and SAT math.
- Renu Shah daughter of Chandu and Meena Shah from Springfield who has graduated from Rutgers University, New Jersey majoring in Biology and Psychology.
- Deepa Galaiya daughter of Jayanti and Vijya Galaiya of Long Valley, NJ on her double graduation from Brown University in Bio Physics and International relations. Deepa is graduating with several honors and awards. She will go on to Stanford University in Palo Alto, CA for further studies.
- Bijal Jhankhariya daughter of Shantilal and Pushpa Jhankhariya of Hackettstown, NJ who has graduated from William Paterson University, New Jersey majoring in Accounting.

Births

Congratulations to...

- Purvi and Neil Sanghvi on the birth of their daughter, Anya Sanghvi, in April 2008. Grandparents are Dinesh and Varsha Shah of St. Louis, MO.
- Neemit and Pinki Shah, on the birth of their baby boy, Aaryan, in December 2007. Grandparents are Mukesh & Vibha Shah of Connecticut; Great grand parents are Harilal & Kasturben Shah.
- Dr. Punita Shah and Mehul Udani of Plano, Texas, on the birth of their baby boy, Veer Udani, in December 2007. Grandparents are Kanchanben and Harakhchand Devraj Shah of U.K., and Sudhaben and the late Kantilal Ravikant Udani of Maryland.

Weddings/Engagements

Congratulations to...

- Kapil, Son of Jyoti and Harakhchand Shah of Budd Lake, NJ on his engagement to Bhavna of Mumbai in March, 2008
- Rahul Motichand Dodhia of Thika, Kenya, and Annette De Soto of Seattle, WA, on their wedding in February 3, 2008 in Thika.
- Neerali Shah (daughter of Mukesh and Vibha Shah of Connecticut) was engaged to Christopher Bernard in September 2007.
- Sohini Shah (Daughter of Sudhirbhai and Jyotsnaben Shah of Santa Clara, California) and Sean Stone (Son of Dave and Diane Stone of Nashua, New Hampshire) on their wedding in August 18th, 2007.

Condolences

- The owner of Gemini Insurance (Kenya) Bimal Ramniklal Shah, passed away in April 2008 in Nairobi due to some complications. He was only 50 years of age. May his soul rest in peace!
- Dr. Ashwin Hemraj Shah passed away on Monday, March 17th 2008 in London while visiting his parents. He was husband of Smitaben, father of Nomit and Shreya. He lived in Farmington Hills, MI.

Fund Raising Update

Manek and Madhu Dodhia of Suffern, NY have pledged \$6,500 for our fund raising. The Executive Committee is very thankful to them for supporting this worthy cause.

Oshwal-USA.org

The Internet home of the Halari Visa Oshwals of America is at <<http://www.oshwal-usa.org>>. The frequently updated website includes community related news, information about upcoming events, links to other websites of interest. You can update or add to your directory entry online, subscribe to RSS and email updates, view pictures of past events, find contact information for the Board members and Regional Representatives, and download Rati Dodhia's, "Rise and Glory" – A history of the Halari Visa Oshwals (in English). We're looking to constantly improve the website, so please send your comments, questions or suggestions to webmaster@oshwal-usa.org.

Halari Visa Oshwals of America Members Directory

In order to keep the members list updated, we request members to advise us when there is any change in the family status or address by visiting the web site – www.oshwal-usa.org and completing the Directory update page. Also, when a family member marries or if you know of any Oshwal family or individual who is not listed (one member must have a direct linkage to our Halar region in Jamnagar District, State of Gujarat, India and is residing in the USA) please encourage them to complete the Oshwal Directory form on-line. We thank you all for your support. Surya and Satish Shah, Plano, TX 75024.

Conference Survey

We are exploring/discussing a 3-day gathering/conference of community members, somewhere in USA, this year or next year. We will put a Survey Form on our Website and email as many Oshwals as possible to get your feedback. Survey Form will include the locations, length of conference, activities/interests, affordable cost per person and volunteering.

Children travel the world without leaving the building at Meadowbrook School Hillsdale, NJ.

Teaching children to appreciate differences in cultures is a key to overcoming racial intolerance, and a recent event held at Meadowbrook School Hillsdale, NJ, went pretty far toward that end.

Meadowbrook took the idea of standard lessons on cultures and ran with it. The school held its first Multi-Cultural Festival on Feb 1st 2007 and the second on April 1st 2008, in which kids could hop to Germany, skip to India and jump to Japan in the course of a day.

During the Multi-Cultural festival, each class traveled to at least seven different countries, Gaining stamps to their faux passports along the way. Three of these” countrified” classrooms Contained parent presentations one of which was India, the show stopper of the whole festival.

The trip to India was the greatest hit. I volunteered to represent the country India along with three other Indian friends from Hillsdale. Overnight the Art room transformed from an ordinary classroom to an exotic Indian Mela, with bright gaudy colors. We had sections like Arts and Crafts , Spices and Food, Music(Tabla, Sitar, Payal, etc.), Religious books along with books in different scripts, Currency of India, Yoga, Body Art (Henna, Bindis, etc.), Costumes with different textures and embroideries, (mainly Saris), Jewelry, A place of worship, (temple), etc.

To welcome all the “Atithis” (guests), we placed Torans on the doors displayed a beautiful Rangoli at the entrance with Diyas, etc. Of course the main highlight was the Flag of India.

The students on arrival were greeted with a Namaste, and educated with a slide show which comprised of what India really was. The students made a rakhi, which was then taken as a souvenir. The female students were mesmerized with the clothes, jewelry and the body art. Thus the students traveled India without spending a fortune on “Palace on Wheels” and left breaking the myth that India was only a “Land of Snake Charmers”.

Dr.Cozine (the principal of Meadowbrook School) who was attired in a beautiful Indian Shalwar Kameez, dramatic dangling earrings and a Bindi (which I had lent her) credited the enthusiasm and hard work of the teachers, students and parent volunteers for the success of the program.

As a token of appreciation of our hard work an article was published in two local newspapers, “Pascack Valley Community Life” and “Pascack Press” along with our pictures. These can be viewed on the Oshwal website, www.oshwal-usa.org

This made my daughter Chandni K. Shah very proud of her origin and heritage as we reside in a predominantly American neighborhood.

- **Rashmi**

If undelivered please return to

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