



The

Oshwal Report



A Newsletter by the Halari Visa Oshwals of America

www.oshwal-usa.org

Issue 9: Spring 2007

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(2005-2007)

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Message from President

I am excited to report that our non-profit status is approved and we are ready to take benefits of it. We can award the scholarships, relief work, get grants, etc. Please contact the board members for more details and how you can benefit from it. The last annual gathering was held concurrently at several locations. We had a very successful annual gathering in Hackettstown, New Jersey and a family gathering St. Louis, Missouri. In the Dallas area it was celebrated as a Diwali gathering just before Thanksgiving.

At the annual gathering we released our third edition of the combined USA and Canada directory and we distributed "Rise and Glory" (a history of Halari Oshwals in English) by Rati Dodhia. If you have not received either one of the books, please contact us. Due to distance limitations, we are trying to have several picnics and gatherings concurrently. If anyone feels that they want to organize the event for the area, please let us know and we will post it on the web.

With your support, suggestions and comments by-laws are almost ready and it is available for your review. We need to prepare for the next executive board election, need to plan for an annual gathering in November, hopefully we can have concurrent annual gatherings at multiple locations through out the country.

The Dallas area just had their picnic, we will be having picnics in Metro New York on Fathers Day, and on August 25th in the New England area. Everyone is welcome to join us. Also, we will be having our general body meeting at JAINA in Edison, NJ, during the July 5-8 event. We are actively volunteering in JAINA as the Halari group. As usual, we have engagement, wedding, and birth announcements, camps, tapasyas, and many other events. Feel free to celebrate with fellow Oshwals and announce anything significant you want to share with rest of the community.

Jai Jinendra.
Jayanti Galaiya

Picnics

>> This year, the NYC skyline will be the backdrop our New York Metro area picnic, which will be held on Fathers Day, Sunday, June 17, from 10am to 4pm, at Liberty State Park, in Jersey City, NJ.

We will have fun filled day with everyone's participation. And if anyone does not feel like participating you can just come to relax and enjoy the weather and the surroundings. We will try to have activities for everyone to participate and enjoy, so please join us and meet other fellow Oshwals on this day. Also make suggestions if you have any ideas. We need volunteers to organize games. Please contact Bina Beed at secretary@oshwal-usa.org to RSVP for the picnic, or if you wish to volunteer.

>> The New England area picnic will be on Saturday, August 25th. The details will follow, but the location will be central to Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island. Please contact. Please contact Kamala Gudhka at Newhampshire@oshwal-usa.org, for more information.

>> Almost 50 Texas and Oklahoma Oshwals met on May 6th for the annual picnic at Russell Creek Park in Plano, Texas. Everyone volunteered for food, including Indian and Mexican appetizers, fruit platter, pizza dinner, ice cream and cup cakes. Fun activities included the all time favorite volleyball, kites, sand box and couple games.

A few visiting friends included, Mr. Jagat Shah from Jogeshwari, India, Dr Rati Dodhia from Rhode Island, Mr Krishnakant Kapadia from Poona, India and Ms Maniben from California.

Regional Representatives:

State	Name	Email
Alabama (AL)	Veni Jivraj Shah	Alabama@oshwal-usa.org
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Community News: (Please share your news - contact your regional representative (see box, right), or newsletter@oshwal-usa.org)

Weddings

- **Arish** (Son of **Vasanti and Naril Shah** of Northridge, CA) and **Jalni** (Daughter of **Nisha and Hitesh Haria** of Kisumu, Kenya) were married July 22, 2006 in Northridge, CA.

Condolences

- **Jayantilal Velji Devshi Shah** of Kansumura/Mombasa/Dar-es-Salaam/ Indore/London/Eden Prairie, Minnesota (MN) passed away in London on November 3, 2006. He was 72 years old. He is survived by his wife, Chandraben (d/o Jivraj Bhoja Dodhia of Naghadi); two sons, Dipak of Eden Prairie, MN, and Milan, and daughter-in-law Reeta of Plano, Texas (TX), three grandsons, Shamir Dipak, Raoul Dipak, Vijay Dipak and granddaughter Shree Niva Milan. He was brother to Vinodbhai of Burnsville, MN; the late Navinbhai of Plano, TX; Dineshbhai of Apple Valley, MN; Ashwinbhai of Savage, MN; Savitaben Jivraj Depar of London and Arunaben Satish Punja Gudka of Nairobi.
- **Shri Raichandbai Juthalal Shah (Dodhia)**, father of Hemendra K. Shah of Leominster, MA, passed away on February 11, 2007, in Pandhurna, MP, India at the age of 86. Originally from Kansumara, he was a respected member of the local community of Pandhurna, deeply involved in social and religious activities.
- **Ratilal Keshivji Shah**, Bolton, UK, passed away on February 20, 2007. He was a husband to Amratben (Bolton, UK). He was a father to Suryakant Shah, Cleveland, Ohio; Ashwin Shah of Columbus, Ohio; Chandriben of London, UK; and Vijayaben Desai of New Jersey. He will be missed by all the grandchildren both in UK and USA.
- **Keshavlal Vershi Shah** passed away on March 16, 2007, in London, UK, at the age of 80. He was husband of Shushilaben, brother of Shamji Vershi Shah of Lalit Corporation of Mumbai, India. He was banevi of Sudhaben Chandulal Popatlal Shah of Irving, Texas.

Births

- **Shital and Bhavesh Patel** of Parsippany, NJ, are proud parents of their son, **Varun Patel**, born July 2006, at Morristown Memorial Hospital. He weighed 4.10 lbs, and was 19.25 inches and in good health. **Jayantilal and Surbhi Shah** are proud grandparents residing in Chestnut Ridge, NY. **Roshni and Benoj David** are proud aunt and uncle residing in Norwalk, CT.
- **Nina and Sachin Desai** of Phoenix, AZ, on the birth of their healthy, beautiful baby boy. **Dilan Desai** was born December 2006, at 19 inches and 6 lbs, 5 oz. Dilan is the grandson of **Ila** and the late **Anilkumar Khimchand Shah** of Chestnut Ridge, NY, and Daxa and Narendra Desai of York, PA.
- **Maulee Tolia** (daughter of **Nila** and **Atul Tolia**), and **Sachin Shah** (son of **Anila** and **Gulab Khimchand Shah**) became proud parents of baby boy **Saavan** in January 2007, in Chicago, Illinois.
- **Dipa Shah** (daughter of **Bharati and Kirti Zaverchad Khimchand Shah**) and **Nihaal Rao** (son of **Suman** and **Mohan Rao**) became proud parents of baby girl **Bella** in Phoenix, Arizona, in April 2007.

Graduations

- **Divya Dodhia** (New Jersey) graduated from Fordham University in New York with Masters of Social Work degree, in May 2007.
- **Puja Shah** from Nashua, New Hampshire, is graduating with High Honors, from Nashua High School North in June 2007 and will be attending Bentley College in Waltham, Massachusetts in September 2007.
- **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.
- **Bena Shah** graduated from the Harvard Business School in June 2006. Bena is currently working in Marketing at the Estee Lauder Companies. She is the youngest daughter of **Ila** and the late **Anilkumar Shah** of Chestnut Ridge, NY and married to **Abhay Patel** of Farmington Hills, MI.

Community News (cont'd)

■ **Puriben Meghji Virji Chedda celebrates her 100th birthday.** Originally from Changa (near Jamnagar), Gujarat, India, she lived in Madagascar for a few years, returned back to Changa, and currently resides in Nairobi, Kenya. She has 5 sons, 3 daughters, and an extended family of 108, who celebrated her centennial birthday at the Oshwal Center in Nairobi. The celebration included bhavna and panchkalyan pooja at the Jain Derasar. She donated lunch for 750 children at the Jalaram Temple, and over 2000 people for her birthday at the Oshwal center. The highlight of the celebration was the memories her children and grandchildren brought by decorating the hall with all the items she used to use in her life, brass and cooper utensils, hand mill (ghanti) a water fountain (well water she fetched), all variety of goods that brought joyous memories to her and her children. This was a grand family reunion of four generations.

■ **Our own Oshwal Marathoner.** Congratulations to **Ketan Dodhia** (NJ) for finishing the New York City Marathon, on November 5, 2006. Ketan was in good spirits when he reached 26.2 mile finish line at Central Park, in just under 4 and a half hours, and met his parents Manek and Madhu (NY), wife Divya, Masi Bina, and friends who were holding cheering signs.

■ **Thanksgiving Gathering - November 25, 2006 - Hackettstown, New Jersey.** Once again, a great Thanksgiving weekend gathering was held in the Northeast. This year, the gathering took place on Saturday, November 25, in Hackettstown, NJ. About 100 people in our extended Oshwal family attended, mostly from nearby New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut areas, but some attended from as far away as Massachusetts and Missouri.

Most of the evening was spent mingling amongst the members who were able to catch up with old friends and make new acquaintances. There was a brief general meeting to announce community related news, and discuss the current happening and progress of the organization. Following dinner, some impromptu games and one of our classic "Jagdish" skits provided some laughs and entertainment. Overall everyone enjoyed the time spent together over the holiday weekend. Visit our website for pictures from the event.

■ **Oshwal Charities appointments.** Manek Dodhia (NY), Jayanti Galaiya (NJ) and Satish Shah (TX) were appointed to the International Information exchange committee for the Oshwal charities. Oshwal Charities owns and runs Oshwal Yatrik Gruh in Shatrunjay Palitana (Gujarat, India).

Shatrunjay Palitana is the holiest place for the Jains all over the world. Being Jain one always dreams and wishes that in the life time at least one time one visits the Shatrunjay.

Oshwal Yatrik Gruh is an Oshwals institution at the foot hills of Shatrunjay. It has modern, world class facilities, as well as a Deharasar within the four walls of the compound for Jains wishing to satisfy their spiritual desire. There are always many Sadhus, Sadhvis, Shrivaks, and Shrivikas available through out the year to answer questions, especially those posed by Jains living the western world and struggling to get the answers.

Whether one is going to pay the homage, to do the pilgrimage, visiting one time to experience the Shatrunjay Tirth or going to do the Navvanus (99 yatra), the staff at the Oshwal Yatrik Gruh welcoming you with open arms and warm heart. If you are visiting India, Oshwal Yatrik Gruh and Shatrunjay Maha Tirth must be on your list of places to see and visit.

Be a volunteer at JAINA Convention 2007

5th - 8th July, 2007 Raritan Expo, Edison, New Jersey

How can you be a volunteer at JAINA Convention 2007?

The most awaited JAINA Convention 2007 is going to be held at Raritan Expo, Edison, New Jersey from July 5th to July 8th, 2007. Thousands of Jains of all ages from all over North America will attend this largest Jaingathering. Lots of Activities are planned including speeches by dignitaries, keynote speakers, cultural events, exclusive exhibitions & youth activities etc. Team New Jersey (Team NJ) formed by Jain Center of New Jersey will play a leading role in organizing the volunteer efforts for this huge event. Volunteer work will be made rewarding for all of us & we will experience how good it will feel to lend a helping hand & make a difference. You will have an opportunity to develop valuable connections with fellow Jains that you will work with each day.

Be a proud volunteer of Team NJ to become the strong pillar of JAINA Convention 2007.

• Various Opportunities to Help— Team NJ volunteers will provide assistance in transportation / registration / security / technical / medical emergencies / dining / parking / site management / baby sitting etc. at the JAINA Convention 2007. Typical Volunteer Opportunities (Checklist)

• Fits Your Schedule— Team NJ group will work with you to provide rewarding experiences, whatever's your schedule of availability. How much time do you have ?

• All Talents / Special Skills Required — Team NJ needs people with different backgrounds, talents and skill levels. Your Talents

Team NJ depends on Volunteers to make this event, the most memorable JAINA Convention.

If you feel like talking about volunteering, please feel free to reach our Team NJ Volunteer Group Co-ordinators.

Mahendra Shah, 732-422-7285 , mshah4@gmail.com

Manish Shah, 732-819-7120, shahmanish007@gmail.com

Hemang Shah, 732-762-0649, hemangdshah@gmail.com

Oshwal Directory Update

The new joint U.S. and Canada Oshwal Members Directory was printed in November, 2006 to coincide with the Annual Thanksgiving Gathering of Oshwals in the North East region of the USA. The Directory was distributed at the gathering. We mailed directories to all others either individually or to their regional representatives. You should have received your directory by now. If not, please send us an e-mail at the following address: Directory@oshwal-usa.org.

We thank all the sponsors for their contributions for the cost of printing and mailing directories. Please check your entry to make sure the information is correct. If you find any error or want to make any change, please send us an e-mail.

Surya and Satish Shah
Plano, Texas 75024
email: Directory@oshwal-usa.org

Upcoming Events... Mark you calendar!

- June 17, 2007 (Sunday) Fathers Day Picnic at Liberty State Park in Jersey City, NJ
- August 25, 2007 (Saturday) Picnic in New England Area.
- November 24, 2007 (Saturday, Thanksgiving weekend). Annual Gathering.

JAINA Convention

July 5-8, Raritan Expo, Edison, New Jersey

The JAINA convention is an ideal meeting time and place for our community, from all over the continent. The convention program is not yet finalized, but but as with past conventions there will be a meeting room and time reserved for our community meeting. Details and registration information for the convention are here:

<http://www.jaina.org/convention/>

If undeliverable, please return to:

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