



The

Oshwal Report



A Newsletter by the Halari Visa Oshwals of America

www.oshwal-usa.org

Issue 13: Spring 2009

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(2008-2009)

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President's Message

Dear Friends,

Cold winter is almost over and beautiful spring is around the corner. There is warmth in the air and birds are singing and chirping in backyards. Flowers will blossom soon and children will play outside. Once again, it is time to plan for spring and summer activities. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our community and committee members for their support and cooperation throughout the past year. I also would like to thank the area representatives for arranging picnics, dinners, meetings and other activities during last year. These gatherings were very successful and beneficial to all for developing closer contacts among Oshwals and making new friends. I would like to encourage all area representatives to arrange such activities throughout the USA.

Last year, the executive committee had requested donations for three facilities/institutions in India. This was our first general communitywide fund raising effort and response was exceptionally good. We have received donations totaling \$36,627 from individuals and families, exceeding our goal of \$35,000. We sincerely would like to thank all those who have donated generously for these worthy needs. We are really proud of our heritage and we have shown our support to other Oshwals. I also would like to thank our committee members and community volunteers for their help in fund raising.

Next Biennial Jaina Convention will be held during July 4th weekend in Buena Park, CA at the Los Angeles Jain Temple. It will be a great opportunity to learn more about Jainism and meet other Oshwals. So make a plan to attend with a family and friends. Detailed information is available on web site www.jaina.org.

Our association is for you, your family and friends. I request all of you to attend area events whenever possible with friends and family. We are a small community and your participation is very important. Our community news are regularly posted on our website and also included into newsletter. Please, forward community news or information to us as earliest as possible. **A friendly reminder:** Please, verify your information in our directory and inform Satish and Surya Shah (TX) for any changes or additions by completing the form available on website: www.oshwal-usa.org

Finally, I would like to thank our committee members for their time and hard work. We really appreciate the support and cooperation from our community. Our special thanks to Kunal and Pooja Shah (TN) for printing newsletters free of charge and mailing out, and Nimish and Mita Vora (NJ) for sponsoring the postage cost.

Jai Jinendra,
Keshav Shah

Secretary's Notes

Greetings!!!

- As we head into 2009, we are excited to bring fun events for this year. However, we kindly request that you and your family **RSVP** the committee members in a timely manner for all the events. Many of these events require that we reserve ahead the type of facilities, quantity of food, etc. This requires advance deposits and head count of the attendees, etc.
- Members can send in achievements and announcements to the Editors for inclusion in the Community Events section. This is a good way for the entire community to celebrate and take pride in the achievements of our members and their children.
- **E-Communication:** To take the Oshwal Samaj of USA up a notch, to be in sync with the latest technology, and to make the communication between the Executive Committee and the fellow Oshwals more efficient; the E-vites and an automated phone messaging service was used to invite all the Oshwals residing in the Northeast Region. This is the fastest and the easiest way to reach each and every Mahajan and make them aware of the upcoming events. The expense for the Automated Phone Messaging Service was sponsored by Kalpesh and Rashmi Shah (NJ).

Please mark your calendars for our upcoming events as follows:

- Annual Summer Picnic for the Tri-State area (NY-NJ-CT) will be on Sunday, June 21st (Father's Day). The venue will be announced later via email, phone, etc.
- Annual Texas/Oklahoma Spring picnic will be on Saturday, April 25, 2009 in Plano, Texas. The venue will be announced later via email, phone, etc.
- Next Biennial Jaina Convention will be held in Buena Park, CA at the Jain Center of Southern California (Los Angeles Jain Temple) from Thursday, July 2nd to Sunday, July 5th, 2009. Detailed information is available on web site www.jaina.org. Please, make a plan to attend with friends and family. We are planning to have our Halari Visa Oshwals get-together and meeting in the afternoon of Saturday, July 4th, for two hours. Please let us know if you have registered to attend by RSVP to convention@oshwal-usa.org.

Past Events

Diwali Celebration, Texas

We met at Ruchi Palace Restaurant in Carrollton, TX on the evening of Nov 1st, 2008. This year, about 60-65 guests were present at the Diwali dinner. We started with a social hour. This was followed by Arti, Mangal Divo and Navkar Mantra recital. Then all the members enjoyed a Punjabi dinner with variety of mistans. Later, in the childrens' presentation, we had a variety ranging from importance of Diwali in Jainism, magic show and song recitals. Adults and children all participated in family game and antakshri. This year, we also planned a can food and basic home item drive on behalf of TX/OK Oshwal Samaj for a local TX food bank

Annual Northeast Thanksgiving Gathering

Our annual northeast area Thanksgiving Gathering was held on Saturday, November 29, 2008, in Caldwell, New Jersey. About 65 people attended, and spent the evening catching up with friends and relatives, and meeting several new Oshwals in the area. There were several dance and music performances, and a couple of games including "Oshwal-ingo" (an *Oshwal* take on Bingo!), and a test of how well wives could tie their husband's ties. During the meeting, Keshav Shah (president) gave an update on our successful fund raising effort.

Community News

Merits

- Congratulations to Atish Haria, son of Anil & Aruna Haria of Austin, Texas, graduated with first degree in Bio Medical Engineering from University of Oklahoma & the second degree MBA (Master of Business Administration) in finance from University of San Diego.

Births

- Congratulations to Ajay and Sejal Shah of Farmington Hills, Michigan on the birth of their baby boy, Kalan Shah in November 2008. Proud grandparents are Arvind and Indu Shah of Nairobi, Kenya and Shantilal and Savitaben Shah of London, UK.
- Congratulation to Anjeli and Travis. Romi and Irene Shah of Baltimore have become proud grandparents. Angeli, their daughter, and Travis, their son-in-law, are proud parents of the newest member of their family, Rohan Nathan Tempel, born in September.

Weddings/Engagements

- Congratulation to Jayni and Austin. Romi and Irene Shah of Baltimore would like to share some good news. Their daughter, Jayni Shah Lanham, passed her bar exams recently. Jayni also got married in Baltimore to Austin Howard Lanham on August 16. The wedding was held at the Baltimore Museum of Industry. Family and friends from all over USA and UK attended the wedding.
- Congratulations to Premchand (Brother of Veni Sumaria, Chandu Shah, Ratanben Maru and Kamala Gudka of Boston) and Uravshi (Daughter of Mrs. Kantaben and Mr. Dhaneshbhai Brahmhatt of Rajkot, India), on their wedding which took place on December 4, 2007, in Mumbai, India.
- Congratulations to Selina, daughter of Ramesh and Pushpa Shah of Lakeland, Florida, and Michael, son of Fred and Diane Peri of Phoenix, Arizona, were married on May 24th, 2008, at the Hilton in Orlando, Florida. Friends and Relatives from Kenya, England, Australia, Mexico and U.S.A. attended the wedding.
- Congratulations to Kapil, son of Jyoti and Harakhchand Shah of Budd Lake, NJ, and Bhavna, daughter of Champaben and late Subhash Nagaria of Mumbai, on their wedding in December 2008.

Condolences

- Somchand Zaverchand Mulji (Babubhai Shah) passed away on November 10th 2009 in Kenya. Babubhai was a very active member not only in the Oshwal Community of Kenya, but also in the Indian Community as a whole. He was also a very successful businessman. He will be greatly missed by all for all his good deeds. May his soul rest in peace! His two sisters Dhani Shah and Ansuya Shah reside in New York State. For more details, please refer to the article posted on our website: www.oshwal-usa.org.
- Maganlal Lakhman Maru passed away on February 23, 2009 in Thana (Mumbai) after a fruitful journey of 72 years. Maganbhai was an industrialist and a community leader. He was a very religious and philanthropic person and he dedicated his entire life towards the betterment of the Oshwal community. He helped the cause of Education in general by arranging many fund raisers for communities such as the Oshwal Shikshan and Rahat Sangh. He was an inspiration to many and an example of a life worth living. He will be greatly missed by all, not only oshwals. May his soul rest in peace! More details are posted on our website: www.oshwal-usa.org.

India Fund Raising – Final Update

Last year, on behalf of the Halari Visa Oshwals of America, the Executive Committee had requested donations for three facilities/institutions in India. These are (1) Halari Visa Oshwal Boarding and Kanya Chhatralay, Jamnagar, Gujarat, (2) Oshwal Yatrik Gruh, Palitana, Gujarat and (3) Halari Visa Oshwal Mahajanwadi in Bangalore. This was our first general communitywide fund raising effort and response was exceptionally good. We have received donations totaling \$36,627 ranging from \$51 to \$10,000 from individuals and families. We sincerely would like to thank all those who have donated generously for these worthy needs. We really appreciate your support and kindness. We are really proud of our heritage and we have shown our support to other Oshwals. We also would like to thank community volunteers for their time and efforts to help out in fund raising.

We exceeded our total projected goal of \$35,000. We received more monies for (1) Halari Visa Oshwal Boarding and Kanya Chhatralay, Jamnagar, and (2) Oshwal Yatrik Gruh, Palitana than our projections. However, we received minimal for (3) Halari Visa Oshwal Mahajanwadi in Bangalore than our projection of \$5,000. We have transferred \$21,840 to Oshwal Yatrik Gruh in Palitana. Yatrik Gruh trustees were very pleased with our efforts and they have appreciated the contribution from all donors. Trustee Somchandbhai Gosrani has sent email to all donors, thankfully acknowledging contributions and valuable support. Renovation work is already underway. Last year, our president Keshav Shah had called and discussed our plans with a committee member of Oshwal Boarding and Chhatralay for computer systems. His message was conveyed to other members. Since then, they have purchased two sets of computer system for each facility. Our past president Jayanti Galaiya was in India in last December. He met with them and discussed our plan for donating four sets of computer system for each facility. He also observed students using computers. They have welcomed our plans and appreciated our efforts for information technology and higher education for our oshwal students. We will transfer money soon and then they will buy two more sets for each facility. Remaining money will be used for reimbursement of recently purchased computer systems and future training cost and maintenance/repair. We will also transfer \$1,485 to Bangalore Mahajanwadi within few weeks.

We have sent receipts to all donors, indicating your choice and amount for each choice. If we have missed someone or you did not get it, please, let's know and we will be glad to send it again. The following list shows name, city and state of each donor. If we have missed someone or incorrectly shown, please, notify us and we will add or correct it. Keshav Shah is working on Takhtis with Yatrik Gruh and Jamnagar Boarding and Chhatralay. Once again, thank you very much for your contribution in response to our request for fund raising.

LIST OF DONORS					
No.	Donors	City & State	No.	Donors	City & State
1	Manek and Madhu Dodhia	Suffern, NY	18	Rajesh and Shilpa Shah	Plano, TX
	Ketan and Divya Dodhia	Jersey City, NJ	19	Sharad and Mayuri Shah	Eureka, MO
	Sukesh and Swati Jakharia	Burbank, CA	20	Lalji and Manjula Shah	Austin, TX
2	Satish and Surya Shah	Plano, TX	21	Nilay Shah	Philadelphia, PA
3	Kiran and Alpa Shah	Plano, TX	22	Jayanti and Vijya Galaiya	Long Valley, NJ
4	Manu, Niru, and Meena Shah	Hanover, MD	23	Vinod and Ramila Shah	Longmeadow, MA
5	Raju and Monica Shah	Hanover, MD	24	Kishorchand and Ranjan Savla	Houston, TX
6	Anonymous	New York, NY	25	Sujit and Seema Shah	Aliso Viejo, CA
7	Venilal and Debbie Sumaria	Danvers, MA	26	Kamla, Leena and Neel Shah	Jersey City, NJ
8	Jayesh, Bina, Seena and Shaam Beed	Livingston, NJ	27	Sanjay and Asmita Shah	Columbia, SC
9	Velji, Champa, Poorni and Jay Bid	Livingston, NJ	28	Kalpesh , Rashmi ,Chandni and Kareena Shah	Hillsdale, NJ
10	Keshav and Kanchan Shah	Chestnut Ridge, NY	29	Anita Gada	Easton, PA
11	Amit and Shilpa Gaggar	Hoover, AL	30	Keshavji and Vijaya Gada	Morganville, NJ
12	Nikesh and Neha Shah	Danbury, CT	31	Kanti and Veena Gosrani	Chestnut Ridge, NY
13	Ketan and Pallavi Dedhiya	Jamesburg, NJ	32	Kanti and Manisha Shah	Poughkeepsie, NY
14	Gulab and Anila Shah	Scottsdale, AZ	33	Chandu and Meena Shah	Springfield, NJ
15	Nimish Vora and Mita Mehta	Princeton, NJ	34	Tansukh and Manjula Maru	Hazlet, NJ
16	Rashmi and Sandya Shah	Grapevine, TX	35	Jayendra and Surbhi Shah	Monsey, NY
17	Mitesh and Tanvi Shah	Edison, NJ			

How Times Have Changed

In these modern times we have the internet and the cell phones. We can get the news from thousands of miles faster than neighbors find out. Well, we have been able to use this technology to build a complete dome that used to take years, in less than 4 months. Yes, I am talking about the dome in the Jain temple in Atlanta. For details visit our website: www.oshwal-usa.org

Jain Media Live—World's First And Only Jain Radio Channel

Jain Media Live.com presents Jinvani, a Jain radio station that will broadcast 24×7 on the internet. Their aim is to relay various programs, including Abhishek, Pooja, Lecture (Pravachan), Bhakti, Aarti, Samayik, Pratikraman, etc. throughout the day.

Who says that “WE ARE THE SLUMDOGS?”

As you all know that Multicultural events are celebrated everywhere to bridge the gap between different races and religions. Such an event was celebrated in Meadowbrook Elementary School, Hillsdale NJ. Rashmi Shah took upon to represent India the correct way and to remind everyone that India is the birthplace of Gautum Budhha, Mahavir and Mahatma Gandhi and many more, and not only slumdogs. Her daughter, Chandni, performed the classical Bharatnatyam dance, too. As usual being the show stopper, India made its way into NJN Public Television. (The first year India made its way into the local newspaper and now it is the Television). The show will broadcast on September 14 and 19 and October 19 and 24, 2009.

Jai Jinendra,

Executive Committee
The Halari Visa Oshwals of America

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If undeliverable, please return to

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HALARI VISA OSHWALS OF AMERICA is a non-profit organization of NJ