



The

# Oshwal Report



A Newsletter by the Halari Visa Oshwals of America

www.oshwal-usa.org

Issue 14: Fall 2009

**Executive Board**  
(2008-2009)

**President**

Keshav Laxman Shah  
Chestnut Ridge, NY  
president@oshwal-usa.org

**Vice President**

Paulomi Shashikant Shah  
Waldham, MA  
president2@oshwal-usa.org

**Treasurer**

Jay Velji Bid  
New York NY  
treasurer@oshwal-usa.org

**Secretary**

Rashmi Kalpesh Shah  
Hillsdale, NJ  
secretary@oshwal-usa.org

**Assistant Treasurer**

Tushar Vinod Shah  
New York, NY  
treasurer2@oshwal-usa.org

**Assistant Secretary**

Smita Deepak Shah  
Lemont, IL  
secretary2@oshwal-usa.org

**Webmaster**

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

**Assistant Webmaster**

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

## President's Message

Jai Jinendra,

On behalf of the Executive Committee, I wish you all a very happy, healthy and peaceful New Year. I hope you all have enjoyed Diwali and New Year celebrations.

I am proud of our accomplishments in past two years, mainly fund raising for India and area activities. I would like to thank our executive committee and area representatives for their hard work. I also sincerely thank our community for giving us the opportunity to serve and for their support and cooperation. We are having more area activities across USA and I encourage everyone to take part and get involved to pass on our heritage to younger generation.

We are planning to publish new Members Directory of Halari Visa Oshwals of America and Canada next year. We request everyone to update/correct their family information as changes may have occurred. We also request all oshwals to ask their friends and relatives who have not provided family information at all. We sincerely thank Satish and Surya Shah of Plano, Texas for their time and effort to update and edit the Members Directory.

We are grateful to Ketan Dodhia of Jersey City, NJ and Nikesh Shah of Danbury, CT for maintaining our website and posting articles on it regularly. I ask you all to send community news or other important matters to share with other oshwals.

Finally, I would like to thank Kushal and Pooja Shah of Memphis, TN for printing newsletters free of charge and mailing out, and Nimish and Mita Vora of Princeton, NJ for sponsoring the postage cost.

Thank you very much.

Keshav Shah, Halari Visa Oshwals of America

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## Board Election - Request for Nominations

Executive board members are elected biennially by the community members for two-year term. We are requesting nominations for year 2010 – 2011. See inside for full details.

## **Assistant Secretary's Notes:**

*Greetings!!!*

- Members can send community news and other important matters to the Editors for inclusion in the newsletter. However, we encourage everyone to post on our website. This is a good way for the entire community to share and reduce the size of the newsletter. For the most current community news, please visit the website at [www.oshwal-usa.org](http://www.oshwal-usa.org)
- We would like to move towards an environmental friendly paper-less publication of the newsletter in electronic format for reducing the printing and mailing costs. If you prefer to receive future newsletters electronically via email, please let us know by sending email to [Keshav Shah](mailto:Keshav.Shah@oshwal-usa.org) or visit our website at [www.oshwal-usa.org](http://www.oshwal-usa.org) to sign up for email list.

## **Upcoming Events:**

### *Annual Northeast Thanksgiving Get Together*

Annual Northeast Thanksgiving Gathering will be held on **Saturday, November 28, 2009** in New York Metro area. All oshwal families and friends are invited to attend the event. Mark your calendar, plan your trip and join us at our extended Oshwal family gathering to renew our contacts. As always, local families will provide accommodations for people traveling from a distance. We also need head count as soon as possible. Please, email [Keshav Shah](mailto:Keshav.Shah@oshwal-usa.org) (president@oshwal-usa.org) at the earliest with your name and no. of people attending. Gathering will be at **Ramada Limited, 2989 Hamilton Boulevard, South Plainfield, NJ 07080** from 5:00 pm onwards. Event details are post on our website at <http://www.oshwal-usa.org>.

### *Board Election - Request for Nominations*

Executive board members are elected biennially by the community members. We are requesting nominations for year 2010 – 2011. We are a small community spread across USA. Halari Visa Oshwals of America is making efforts to build a national network among community members. We strive for a broader participation in the election of the Executive Board. All community members should be given an opportunity to nominate Executive Board members and also to vote. We are a registered non-profit organization and we should abide by our By-Laws.

The following positions are for the Executive Board for Year 2010-2011:

**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 Oshwal members (e.g. meeting notes/notices, newsletters, emails, etc.)

**Treasurer** and **Assistant Treasurer** - responsible for keeping fund records/books and coordinating funds between members and activities

We request nominations for the positions listed above. Self-nomination may be made. Nomination should include name, address and position. Please submit your nomination by email to: [nominations@oshwal-usa.org](mailto:nominations@oshwal-usa.org) no later than **November 22, 2009**.

## **Past Events:**

### ***Father's Day Picnic in Haverstraw, NY***

The annual Father's Day picnic in the New York Metro area was cancelled twice due to inclement weather and it was finally held on Sunday, July 19, 2009 at Haverstraw Bay Park, in Haverstraw, New York. Over 25 people attended and enjoyed catching up, with the Hudson River as a backdrop and sunny and mild weather. There was plenty of food, including jalebi-gathiya, bagels, chai, sweet corn, homemade Jamnagary bhel, sandwiches and watermelon. Thanks to everyone for attending and making this event a success.

### ***Annual Texas/Oklahoma Diwali Dinner 2009***

We are delighted to share the details of our Texas/Oklahoma Diwali 2009 celebration. We met on Saturday, Oct 3rd, at Pasand Restaurant in Richardson, Texas. We had over 50 members at the party. We had a short get-together at the beginning followed by Arti, Mangal Devo and Navkar Mantra recital. Music and Artis were brought in by Shilpa Shah. Later, we had art activities for children and supplies were sponsored by Sandhya and Sangeeta Shah. We then enjoyed dinner followed by family quiz game. Special thanks to Reeta Shah for assisting in the party planning. A big "thank you" to all the members who have always been eager to help and support our community gatherings.

## **●-----●●●-----● COMMUNITY NEWS ●-----●●●-----●**

### **Merits:**

- Congratulations to Sonam Dodhia, daughter of Pragna & Navin Dodhia of Aurora, Illinois, who graduated from Waubonsie Valley High School in May 2009 with many awards and honors including Salutatorian. She will be attending the University of Illinois at Chicago's Guaranteed Professional Program Admissions by the College of Medicine in Fall 2009.
- Congratulations to Jeenesh Shah, son of Harakhchand and Jyoti Shah of Budd Lake, NJ, who graduated from Rutgers University, New Jersey, majoring in Accounting, in May 2009.
- Congratulations to Chiraag Galaiya, son of Jayanti and Vijya Galaiya of Long Valley, NJ, who graduated with flying colors in June 2009 with many awards and honors. Chiraag will be attending Princeton University, Princeton, NJ in Fall 2009.
- Congratulations to Shwet Savla, son of Aruna and Pravin Govindji Savla of Nana Mandha, Halar, Gujarat, who has successfully completed his Commercial Pilot Training course with flying colors from Palm Beach Flight Training Corp., in Lantana, Florida. He completed private pilot, instrumental rating & commercial pilot in the first attempts with high grades.

### **Births:**

- Congratulations to Bindi and Nipul (Karanja) Shah, Long Valley, NJ on the recent birth of their daughter, Neeya. Proud grand aunt and uncle (Nani and Nana) Vijya and Jayanti Galaiya, Long Valley, NJ. Grandparents (Dadi and Dada) Kanchan and Ramesh Vrajpal (Karanja) Shah of Eldoret and (Nani and Nana) Manjula and Kantilal Zaverchand (Galaiya) Shah of Bangalore.
- Congratulations to Arif and Hena Hajee of Frisco, TX on arrival of their baby girl, Ariana in July 2009. Proud grandparents are Jyoti and Shiraz Hajee of Plano, TX.
- Congratulations to Mayur and Jigna from Boston, MA, on their newborn baby boy, Dhruv. Proud Uncle (Kaka) Hiren Gudka, Aunt (Faiba) Mijal Gudka, Grandma (Dadi) Kamala Gudka of

Boxford, MA. Grand Parents (Nani and Nana) Gitaben and Ashokbhai Shah from London. Grand Uncle Veni Sumaria, Chandu Shah, and Grand Aunt Ratan Maru from Boston, MA.

### **Births:** (continued)

- Congratulations to Nikesh and Neha Shah of Danbury, Connecticut, on arrival of their baby boy, Shailen, in September 2009. Grandparents Keshav and Kanchan Shah of Chestnut Ridge, New York, and Manu and Nirmala Parikh of Franklin Lakes, New Jersey, Aunt (Faiba) Shilpa Gaggar, Uncle (Fuva) Amit Gaggar, and little cousin Akash Gaggar of Hoover, Alabama, and Uncle (Mama) Dhiman Parikh of Franklin Lakes, New Jersey are extremely proud of the new addition to the family.
- Congratulations to Sandip and Sonal Maru of Long Island, New York, on arrival of their baby girl, Saaya, in September 2009. Grandparents Tansukh & Manju Maru of Hazlet, New Jersey and Hansaben & Jitubhai Patel of Florida and Aunt (Faiba) Seema Maru are proud of the new addition to the family.
- Congratulations to Amit and Ruhi Shah of Washington, DC, on arrival of their baby girl, Anaya, in October 2009. Grandparents Kantilal and Manisha Shah of Poughkeepsie, New York, and Uncle (Kaka) Nirav are extremely proud of the new addition to the family.

### **Weddings/Engagements:**

- Congratulations to Poonam and Ameet who got engaged in May 2009. Poonam is the daughter of Kiran & Kundan Shah of St. Louis, MO, and Ameet is the son of Pradhuman and Shubhangi Mahale of Round Rock, TX. The engagement festivities were held in Texas.
- Congratulations to Shelan, son of Rajnikant & Ranjan Shah of Bolingbrook, Illinois, and Tripti, daughter of Rohini & Nirmala Sharma of Denver, Colorado, on their wedding in June 2009 at the Summit Banquet Halls, in Aurora (Denver), Colorado. Relatives and friends came from Kenya, UK and all over the USA to take part in wedding festivities. Everyone had a wonderful time.
- Congratulations to Ajul, son of Shantilal and Minaxi Shah of Plano, Texas, and Shefali Patel of Columbus, Ohio, on their engagement in August 2009.
- Congratulations to Madhavi, daughter of Ramila and Vinodray Shah of Longmeadow, MA, and Saavan, son of Rekha and Alfred Gatfield of Meols (Liverpool) UK, on their wedding in September 2009 in Boston, MA. Relatives and friends from all over the world attended the wedding festivities.
- Congratulations to Samir, son of Rasikant and Manjula Dhanani of Bolling Brook, IL, and Amy, daughter of Naranbhai and Valiben Patel of Niagara Falls, NY, on their wedding in October 2009. Relatives and friends came from UK and all over the USA and Canada to attend the wedding festivities overlooking the Niagara Falls.
- Congratulations to Heena Shah and Brian Griffin on their engagement in October 2009. Heena is a daughter of Suryakant and Ramila Shah of Ballwin, MO.

### **Congratulations to Tapasvis:**

This year during Paryushana in a small New Jersey Oshwal community, there were six persons who completed Atthai Tapasya, and several others did various level of Tapasya.

Congratulations to following six Atthai tapasvis:

- Chiraag Galaiya (Long Valley, NJ),
- Jayanti Galaiya (Long Valley, NJ),
- Sushila Gudhka (Kinelon, NJ),

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- Seema Maru (Hazlet, NJ),
- Meena Shah (Budd Lake, NJ),
- Nimish Vora (Princeton).

### **Condolences:**

The following Oshwals have passed away since our Spring Newsletter and details are posted on our website. Our deepest condolences to the families and relatives and May God rest their souls in eternal peace.

- Chhaganlal Meghji Virji Chheda passed away in Nairobi, Kenya on May 14, 2009.
- Hansraj Lakhamsi Dodhia (known as Kaka) passed away in Ilford, Essex, UK, on June 5, 2009
- Tarachand Dharamshi Virji Malde passed away on September 4, 2009, in Mombasa, Kenya
- Motiben Narshi Samat Shah-Dodhia passed away in London, UK, on August 25, 2009.
- Ratanben Ramji Shah passed away on September 19, 2009, in London, UK,
- Sudhaben Chandulal Popatlal (Sumaria) Shah passed away on October 7, 2009 in Irving, Texas
- Mahen Velji Dharamshi Chandaria passed away on September 11, 2009 in Toronto, Canada
- Kiran (Bhikhu) Govindji Hemraj Shah passed away in Nakuru, Kenya on September 14, 2009.

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## **MEMBERS DIRECTORY HALARI VISA OSHWALS OF AMERICA AND CANADA**

We are planning to publish the fourth edition of Members Directory of Halari Visa Oshwals of America and Canada next year (2010). We request all those **who are not listed in the Directory or have moved or changed his/her marital status or have additions in the family to complete the Directory form on the website ([www.oshwal-usa.org](http://www.oshwal-usa.org))**. The only requirement is that at least one member of the family should have a direct link with Visa Oshwal of the Halar region in Jamnagar District of the State of Gujarat, India. For example, if husband's or wife's father or paternal grandfather or great grandfather was born in the Halar region then his or her family can be listed in the Directory.

We also request all regional Representatives and others who know of people who have recently settled in the USA or who are not listed in the Directory to encourage these families to complete the Directory form on line or send their information by mail to us. We would like to have all Oshwals living in the USA to be listed.

**Sponsors:** As it has been the practice in the past, we once again request all those who would like to make financial contribution for the cost of printing and distributing the directory, please contact us as soon as possible. In the past, donations have ranged from \$100.00 to \$500.00. Since our Association is now registered as a non-profit organization, all donations are deductible from the US Federal tax.

We thank you all for your support and we wish you a happy and healthy New Year.

Satish and Surya Shah                      Telephone: (972) 618-9509  
 4648 Hinton Drive                              E-mail: [satishshah5@yahoo.com](mailto:satishshah5@yahoo.com)  
 Plano, TX 75024

## ***India Fund Raising Status***

Last year, we had received donations totaling \$36,627 for three facilities/institutions in India, (1) Halari Visa Oshwal Boarding and Kanya Chhatralay, Jamnagar, Gujarat, (2) Oshwal Yatrik Gruh, Palitana, Gujarat and (3) Halari Visa Oshwal Mahajanwadi in Bangalore.

We had transferred \$21,840 to Oshwal Yatrik Gruh in Palitana. Renovation of wing "C" is already complete and work for wing "B" & "A" will start from December 1, 2009. All takhtis were prepared by a painter at Jamnagar. Takhtis are inscribed on granite and then all words were applied golden varakh (golden colors). All taktis were put on walls in the waiting hall on October 13, 2009. Last year, committee members of Halari Visa Oshwal Boarding and Chhatralay agreed with our plans for computer systems. Then, they decided to use this fund for higher education scholarships. Our president Keshav Shah insisted and convinced them to give our youngsters the opportunities to learn and use computer technology. We are in process of transferring money for eight (8) computers and one year training cost. Remaining money will be transferred each year for training for next 3-4 years. We are also waiting for bank account information to transfer \$1,485 to Halari Visa Oshwal Mahajanwadi in Bangalore. It will be transferred in few weeks.

## ***Treasurer's Report***

We have currently account balance of \$14,986.17 at the end of October. However, we have donations payable to HVO Boarding and Kanya Chhatralay for \$13,301.67 and HVO Samaj (Bangalore Mahajanwadi) for \$1,485.67. We are in process of transferring these donation amounts. Thus, our available balance is only \$198.84 which will be used for minor administrative and website costs.

Jay Bid, Treasurer  
Halari Visa Oshwals of America

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*If undeliverable, please return to*

**Smita D. Shah**  
**15134 W 129<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Lemont, IL 60439**

***Inside.....***

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