

# Kachchhi Oswal Jain Association In NorthAmerica Inc.

## KOJAIN NEWSLETTER

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### President's Message

My dear fellow Kachchhi Oswals,

Jai Jinendra.

As many of you know, this year, due to two Shravan Mass, Paryushan Maha Parva is celebrated in August, by some and in September by others. Most of our Jain Centers in North America are celebrating it in September.

On this auspicious occasion after performing the Savantsharik Pratikman, we express our heartfelt request for forgiveness for any misdeeds that we may have committed, knowingly or unknowingly, in thought, in words, or in action. *Michchhami Dukkadam*. We ask for the wellbeing of all those who have done devout and austere "tapasya" during this most holy occasion.

More than 125 members attended the one-day Tri State Gathering on September 4, 2004, organized by the hosts, Shri Chandrakant Gangar, Louise Shah and other Kachchhi families of Chicago. Every one enjoyed all the planned activities including various cultural programs. May be, we need to meet more often like this, in such Tri-State gatherings, or where and when possible, its expanded format, until some group in some State could host a KOJAIN convention. Of course, we certainly will have a Kachchhi gathering during the 2005 JAINA Convention on July 4 weekend to be held in Northern California.

You will notice on the top left hand corner of the address label of your newsletter, letter/s such as "L" or "NM". "L" indicates your life membership. "NM" means you are not a KOJAIN dues-paying member. If you see four digits there, that indicates the year your paid membership is/was valid up to. We request all the NM members as well as those whose membership is expired to consider becoming a dues paying member. Active membership represents strength of KOJAIN.

In the July 2004 edition of Pagadandi, Shri Rajendra Pasad has written an article on the life of one of our own, Shri Damibhai Rambhia. He has given us a glimpse of Damibhai's early youth and has paid a rich tribute on some of the various activities Damibhai is engaged in, including - and especially - the host program conducted by him under the auspices of KOJAIN. We congratulate Damibhai and are proud of it that such honorable tribute is bestowed upon him. Also, please make it a point to have youngsters in your family read "I Will Come Back" article in this newsletter after you have read it.

Thank you for sending entries in the KOJAIN logo contest. The applicants have submitted some good entries. The result of the contest will be published soon.

Please keep sending your comments. We would love to hear from you.

With warm regards,

Kalyanji Mota  
President Of KOJAIN

**Treasurer's Report:**

Following is the list of deposits received in listed accounts as of May 2004

**New Membership:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>ST</u>	<u>Amt.</u>
Madhuri & Chunilal Gala	Bloomfield Hills	MI	\$250
Mita & Vijay Sankhla	Toms River	NJ	\$250
Vandana & Anand Shah	Maumee	OH	\$ 40
Indira & Hiren Gala	Voorhees	NJ	\$ 40
Sonal & Jiten Dedhia	Binghamton	NY	\$ 40
Mithibai & Morarji Rambhia	North York	M2H 2X3	\$ 40

**Kachchh Mahila Vikas Sangthan Committee**

<u>Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>ST</u>	<u>Amt.</u>
Shaheli group		CT	\$ 160
Smita Doshi	Pelham	NY	\$ 200
Arvind & Asha Kotak	Buffalo Grove	IL	\$ 151

**Hira Monghi Navneet Hospital**

<u>Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>ST</u>	<u>Amt.</u>
Tejani Navin & Shushila	Hixson	TN	\$ 2,500
Savla Popat and Kalpana	Pasadena	CA	\$35,000

**KOJAIN's General Donation Fund**

<u>Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>ST</u>	<u>Amt.</u>
Harak Gala for Tax preparation of KOJAIN for the year 2002 & 03	Odonto	MD	\$ 1,000.

**TRI STATE GATHERING REPORT****Reported by Louise Shah of Chicago**

The City of Chicago held its second Tri-State Kachchhi gathering on Saturday, September 4th, 2004. The event was well attended and was represented by Kachchhis from as far away as California, Nebraska, Houston-Texas, Michigan, Maryland, Ohio, New Jersey, Wisconsin, Indiana, and Illinois.

There were many highlights of the day. Dr. Surendra Shah, held a mini Medical Camp and offered free health screenings for all, including Blood Pressure check, Blood Sugar check, Lipid Analysis. This was later followed by two hours of questions and answers related to all types of health issues from a wide range of people attending the event.

A spectacular Entertainment Program by youths and adults was followed by a Kachchhi traditional Dinner, which included Bajri Rotla, Khachadi, Curry - a pure Kachchhi style menu. After dinner, we had a two-hour of non-stop Raas and Dandia program which no one wanted to end even after 10PM deadline. It was one of the best memorable events in the city of Chicago.

Following are the remarks made by Bela Satra, our Youth leader of the group. Quote "The day went off so well, and, for me personally, since I haven't attended very many Kachchhi functions recently, and it was great to reconnect with both old and new people in attendance. I am going to take Chad Uncle's vision one-step further. I plan to recommend to Kalyanji Mota that if a national Kachchhi Sammelan doesn't happen every year, regions should strongly consider hosting a one day event (like our successful Gathering) and invite people from across the country. There has to be a concerted effort for preserving the Kachchhi spirit." Unquote.

**Group photo of Tri State Gathering in Chicago on Sep. 4, 2004**

*This article, written in Gujarati by Shri Lilatherbhai Gada, appeared in Pagadandi - Monthly, July 2004 issue. It talks about one of our own Kachchhi young adult who went from USA to Kachchh and how she is affected by the sufferings of women in Kachchh. The author has put the sequence of events in a heart-warming way that only Lilatherbhai can put. It is an inspiration to young adults as well as all the adults of all ages to see how we can participate in efforts made by organization that work towards improving the condition of women of Kachchh. The full article is translated in English.*

### Pagme Bhamri

#### *Hu Paachhi Aavish...*

#### “I Will Come Back...”

You may have heard the name of Dr. Albert Schweitzer. He was a Professor of Anthropology at the Bonn-Munich University in Germany. Dr. Schweitzer's main research topic was history of civilization. He went to West Africa to study certain African tribes. He was disturbed by the condition of Africans there. Many people were dying of ailments such as malaria, high fever and cholera. Hospitals, clinics and doctors were non-existent. Quack and folk medicine was their only support. After seeing these conditions, he decided to do something about the **protection** of the human race rather than study its **history**. He returned from Africa to Germany with the message to Africans, “I will come back.” At his mature age, he got admission to medical school. After graduation, he did return to Africa and started a hospital. The hospital was the torchlight for humanity. Dr. Schweitzer received a Nobel Peace Prize. Even today, any medical facility in an underserved area is nicknamed as Dr. Schweitzer's hospital.

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Everyone dreams. The day that humans stop dreaming, emptiness will prevail. Responsible individuals strive to realize their dreams. An individual's struggle reaches a climax in trying to materialize dreams that seem impossible. If such a dream does indeed materialize, the joy of achievement also attains a climax.

Bhojay Sarvodaya Trust had invited village Dhais (midwives) from the Banni and Khavda area for training at Tata and KEM hospitals in Mumbai. Included in the group of ten ladies were Parma Bai and Bharna Bai. Parma Bai came from the village Jaamkunaria and Bharna Bai from Dhrobana. They learned about pregnancy and ovarian cancer. When they returned to Kachchh, they informed other Dhais of their training and alerted them about the need to understand these issues. Since that time, whenever Bhojay Hospital organizes a clinic for women's diseases (four times a year), a special training for Dhais is arranged. Dhais attend the training in maximum possible number. Kachchh Mahila Vikas Sangathan (KMVS), the women's collective that Parma Bai and Bharna Bai belong to, also conducts training programs specifically for Dhais and sends them to training centers like SEWA Jhagadia (a rural branch of the Self Employed Women's Association). Participating in these activities, Parma Bai and Bharna Bai dreamt of creating a maternity facility, owned and operated by Dhais themselves. They dreamt that a mother and baby could be cared for in a clean and bright health facility rather than in an unclean atmosphere and a dark room.

At such a clinic or health center, women's hemoglobin and blood pressure could be tested monthly, along with providing general check-ups and blood grouping. Specialists of women's health would visit the center weekly or biweekly. In the fifth month of the pregnancy, the fetus could be examined by sonography (to examine the health of the fetus, not to determine the sex of the baby). Precautions could be taken in case of high-risk pregnancy, such as multiple fetuses. Expectant mothers and fathers could be educated about family planning and family health through posters and videos. They visualized a health center to fulfill many purposes. At Bhojay Medical Camp in April 2000, the Dhais proposed the idea to Kachchh Mahila Vikas Sangathan and Bhojay Sarvodaya Trust. KMVS had started some activity in this direction a year ago and

### **Continued... Pagme Bhamri, Hu Paachhi Aavish... "I Will Come Back..."**

conducted a program to inculcate in them self-confidence as well as increase their efficiency. Dr. Lata Ben Shah and Ashok Bhargav of IDEAL organization often joined the program. Lata Ben is a well-known gynecologist who gave up her medical practice and chose to train Dhais from Kachchh, Saurashtra and Northern Gujarat. Her guidance was beneficial to the Dhais. Their knowledge and effectiveness was enhanced greatly. But we were unsure about the feasibility of an independently run clinic or a maternity center by Dhais.

However, the Dhais were full of self-confidence. Parma Bai's proposal in her own words: "Deliveries in the villages of Kachchh, just like in villages everywhere, are performed by Dhais. Doctors who specialize in women's health are only available in Bhuj, Mandvi, Anjar and Gandhidham. In all of the smaller towns and villages women depend on us. Even in villages where there is a hospital, the nurses conduct the deliveries. If we could receive the training that nurses have, then we could combine it with our traditional knowledge and experience and actually improve the quality of care. It is difficult to discuss family planning and other issues in women's homes because other family members are present. Such discussions could be carried out at our health center. Instead of working only in our villages, we could do a lot more work at quality clinics in places like Khavda or Bhirandiyara. If you could decide how to get this kind of clinic organized, then we will operate it successfully."

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A meeting was held at KMVS office to discuss a medical insurance plan, such as Medclaim, for KMVS's women members. Present were Sushma Ben Iyengar, Lata Ben Sachde, Alka Ben Jani, Veena Ben, and Shehnaz Ben as well as the heads of the four branches. Among these familiar faces, there was one unfamiliar face—a dark complexion, and eyes full of spark and curiosity. When she offered her opinions, her pronunciations revealed her to be a non-resident Indian (NRI). At the end of the meeting, Sushma Ben introduced this young lady: "Adha (Liladhar Bhai is well known as Adha, father), this is Sheela Maru, sister of Vivek Maru who worked with KMVS six months prior to the earthquake." Shaking her hand, I said, "You are our friend Hans Maru's daughter, right?" "Oh yes," replied Sheela. Soon this acquaintance resulted in close friendship and that evening Sheela decided to come with me to visit Bhojay.

On the way to Bhojay, after some preliminary conversation, she talked about her reason for coming to Kachchh. Sheela is born in America and is a citizen of that country. She has finished her graduation in History and Science from Harvard University. She intends to research the history of one of the communities of Kachchh. She wanted to study a sub-tribe of Banni's Jat community. Right now she is making initial preparation for that. At the same time, she is also taking interest in the Sangathan's health initiative.

After spending two days in Bhojay, she returned to Bhuj. From there, she often traveled with Sangathan volunteers to and from Khavda. Later she came to Bhojay as a volunteer in a women's health camp, where she learned about uterine cancer and other women's illnesses. As she learned more and more about these issues, she became more and more disturbed.

The next time I saw her at the Sangathan office in Bhuj, she told me that she was going to America and will return to Kachchh in a few days. I assumed that she was going to consult her advisor in America about her thesis on the Jat community's history. But the fact was quite different, as I learned later.

Sheela came back from America and joined Sangathan for eight months. She decided to undertake a study of health issues in the Banni Pachchham region. She would do a comprehensive study of the health problems, economic conditions, social customs, women's diseases and healthcare facilities in twenty-some villages surrounding Khavda.

This eight-month program was a challenge for Sheela. She had to work in all three seasons. Other than the Sangathan building in Khavda, there was no place for overnight stay. That required a 150 km daily round trip. If a Sangathan vehicle was unavailable, to go from Khavda to an individual village required traveling in a Chhakda (a makeshift van crowding 10 or so people in a small vehicle). If she was delayed in the village, she had to stay overnight in Khavda, where mosquitoes abound. Meals were somewhat crude. If you did catch an ST Bus (public bus), there was no guarantee you would reach your destination, as they would frequently break down.

**Continued... Pagme Bhamri, Hu Paachhi Aavish... "I Will Come Back..."**

Private buses are jam-packed. Somehow after a lot of hassle, she would reach Bhuj and cook supper with her friends. After a late night, she would depart for Khavda in the early morning. In the winter, the temperature would go down to 5 degree (centigrade), and in the summer, sometimes, to 45 degrees. If you opened your mouth to talk, a 100-gram dose of desert sand would push its way in. She had fever and stomach infections a couple of times, but she did complete her survey. On holidays, she would analyze the information accumulated during the week, and enter the data in the computer.

Whenever I met her during this period and we discussed health issues, Sheela would become depressed. When we discussed the economic and health plight of women in this region, she would empathize with their condition. At the end of the eight-month survey, on the last day, she stayed up to 3 am at night with Abhiyan's computer staff. For the survey and analysis, Sheela received expert guidance from Dr. Leela Ben Visaria, wife of our community's prominent economist, late Dr. Pravin Visaria. Leela Ben has made unparalleled contributions to health research.

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In my article, I intentionally discussed Dr. Albert Schweitzer. Then I wrote about the health center dream of Parma Bai and her fellow Dhais. At the end, I share the story of Sheela's struggles. How can we link these three different topics? There is something that brings all of these stories together.

On her day of departure from Bhuj to America, Sheela met me at the Mahila Sangathan office. Parma Bai was also there. Sheela said in touching words, "Adha, please establish a health center in Khavda in collaboration with Mahila Sangathan and Bhojay Trust. It is do-able. I am going back to USA to continue my study. I have admission in medicine. I am more interested in curing illnesses of these people, rather than writing about their History. To decide the subject for my post graduation, I worked with this community. The health survey will provide me guidelines.

Upon inquiring about her postgraduate work, she responded: "I want to be a gynecologist. I want to work in Dhai Bens' clinic. Khavda would be my priority, and I will also find time to work for Bhojay Hospital.. It will take five years for me to complete my studies. Thereafter I will come back. Adha, please bless me."

I placed my hand on her head. "God bless you. We are proud of you, Sheela".

Tears filled Sheela's eyes. I also could not stop my tears. I remembered Dr. Albert Schweitzer's words, "I will come back." Sheela's self confidence, "Hu paachhi aavish" (I will come back) kept ringing in my ears....it was then that I could see Parma Bai and her friends' dream coming to life.

**P.S. (August 9, 2004)**

*The story continues. Please see below the email from Liladhar Bhai. We can help from here with a concrete project (maternity clinic) by raising \$11,000 as suggested by Liladhar Bhai.*

*The dream which Parma & Dhais had, is now coming true. District officer has allotted 1500 sq feet building to KMVS for the purpose of starting a Maternity Clinic. Ballarpur Industries is considering the proposal of supporting partial revenue expenditure, whereas partial cost will be borne by beneficiaries. Government would also provide medical ambulance.*

*The building given by the Government needs some repairing and alteration costing about Rs.3.00 lakhs, and equipments and furniture would need further Rs.3.00 lakhs, totaling to Rs. 6 lakhs as capital cost. Government would contribute Rs.1.00 lakh towards capital cost, leading to a deficit of Rs.5 lakhs or \$11000/-. Could we expect donation of \$ 11000 from friends from USA? If we get it, the work would start very fast and hopefully we can start the clinic within two to three months.*

*With regards*

*Lilidhar (Adha)*

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**KOJAIN'S COMMITTEE FOR KACHCHH MAHILA VIKAS SANGHATHAN**

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Dear friends:

Through this letter we would like to draw your kind attention to three things related to KMVS, an organization for the social empowerment and total development of women in Kachchh:

1. Background on KMVS and a brief bio of KMVS founder, Sushma Ben Ayengar.
2. An article by Shri Liladhar Gada on Kachchhi women's health issues.
3. An appeal for moral and financial support.

1. **KMVS:** The Sangathan entered 14th year, serving rural women of Kachchh. Grassroots activities of this organization were described in our earlier communications to you and were also briefly narrated in last newsletter. Sushmaben Ayengar is the founder and mentor of KMVS; currently Alkabeni Jani leads the organization. Sushmaben's family comes from South India, and she grew up in Vadodhara, Gujarat. She was always interested in women's issues and wanted to make a difference in the lives of women in India. After completing her Master of Philosophy degree in Social Work at Cornell University, USA, she started to work in Amdavad. After a short time, she was told that if she was really committed to make a difference in women's lives, she should go to Kachchh. The problems there are extremely hard and due to the very rural locations little was being done there. She did not even know kachchhi language but decided to march on. Today the organization serves 165 villages with the help of some 12,000 rural women as volunteers.

This is Sushmaben. She empowers, educates, and trains the women, who are in need of help. These same women become volunteers and in turn help others with confidence and an unwavering commitment. Today, Sushmaben is known as a loving, caring MOTHER in the villages of Kachchh.

2. Article, "I Will Come Back", by Sri Liladhar Gada in Pagadandi is printed in this Newsletter. The article focuses on two things. First, how KMVS is able to empower Parma Dhai (Midwife) and Bharna Dhai, train them, and provide them with a cause to work endlessly. The inner strength of these rural rugged women, to make a difference, is remarkable. They do need our support.

Second, KMVS has provided a unique organization for our youths to work in Kachchh and gain the self confidence that they too could contribute and make a difference. Sushmaben being educated in India and USA is an intelligent, exciting, loving mentor for our youth.

3. We would love to hear from you all, and humbly solicit your moral and financial support. We assure you that your support will make a difference. A self addressed envelope is enclosed for your convenience. Your donation is tax deductible and is going to support these dedicated volunteers. Any amount is great. Donations made in the past have truly helped this organization. Last year one of the major grants was delayed and KMVS was able to use our support for interim period. Your continued support is vital.

- **\$11,000 required to upgrade building given by Government to KMVS as suggested by Lilatherbhai**
- **Any amount of donation will go for the betterment of Kachchhi women.**
- Thank you very much if you have already donated. Please consider giving more, if you can.

Please make your **tax deductible donation to KOJAIN w/memo "KMVS Fund" and mail check** In the attached, pre-paid envelope to KMVS Committee Chairperson : **Usha H. Maru, 7 Trailing Ridge Road, Brookfield, CT 06084, as soon as possible.** We hope to receive your check by November 30, 2004. These checks will then be transmitted to KOJAIN Treasurer as and when received.

Any questions? Need more information about KMVS? Please contact any of the committees members. Thank you for your time and consideration.

## NEWS FROM REGIONS

### Region 9: NY

#### Chhotalal Bheddah Recognized in the local paper NEWSDAY of Long Island



**Chhotalal Bheddah**

make Long Island - and, India - a better place"

Following is the excerpts from the article appeared in The NEWSDAY, a Long Island newspaper. Once every week, Newsday presents Everyday Hero - "a special person who helps make Long Island a better place." The newspaper presented Chhotalal (Peter) Bheddah as

"a special person who helps

Peter Bheddah retired in 2001 after establishing a successful business and rewarding career. His humanitarian efforts have been geared toward helping those who are less fortunate in both of the countries he has called home throughout his lifetime.

Today, Bheddah is a member of the India Association of Long Island (IALI) and has served as a liaison between IALI and the Interfaith Nutrition Network (The INN), an organization that provides soup kitchens, shelters, transitional and long-term housing to the homeless. Over the years, he has spearheaded many efforts to raise funds for the INN, including sponsoring dinners and participating in annual food drives that have successfully generated hundreds of thousands of dollars to help the needy. Bheddah is also past president of Gujarati Samaj of New York, a social and cultural organization, and, for the past ten years, has been a member of the Advisory Board of Heart and Hand for Handicapped which raises funds to rehabilitate children in India and the United States.

After the earthquake in India in 2001, Bheddah raised \$100,000 for the victims and visited the site with President Bill Clinton to assess the damage and support reconstruction efforts. He has also been instrumental in raising funds to improve medical facilities at several hospitals in the country. The Nargis Dutt Memorial Foundation is responsible for sending more than \$5 million in advanced medical equipment to hospitals in India, including scopes for cancer detection and most recently, a mammography unit. Bheddah is a past president of the Foundation and a longtime member of its Board of Directors. He is also on Board Of Directors of KOJAIN since its inception in 1997.

We congratulate Shri Chhotalal Bheddah for the recognition in the local newspaper well deserved. Bheddah resides in Port Washington. He and his wife Dorothy have two daughters.

### Region 2: AK, ID, MT, NV, NO. CA, OR, WA, WY.:

**New arrivals:** Congratulations to proud parents & close family:

- Nilesh & Vandana Buricha of Santa Clara, California, (Village: Pratapar) are proud parents of a baby boy, named Saahas, born on April 23, 2004.
- Sanjay & Parul Gala of Cupertino, California, (Village: Vadala) are proud parents of a baby girl, named Aarshi.
- Poonam (Gala, Village: Naredi) & Parikshit Gajaria of Milpitas, California, are proud parents of a baby girl, named Aashna.
- Baby girl, named Kevali, born in June 2004 to Tushar/Kunjil Shah (Village: Vadala) of San Jose, California. Congratulations to the parents and Grandparents Dinesh/Lila Shah of San Jose

**Matrimonial news:** Congratulations to newly wed and their families:

- Deepna Nishar (Village: Devpur) of Milpitas, California, got married to Sam Ashknez in March.

#### **Graduation:**

- Rinky Dilip Dedhia (Cupertino, Village: Bhorara) graduated from the University of Davis, Davis, California. Rinky was also one of the Committee leaders in the YJA (JAINA) convention held during July 4 in Santa Clara, California.

**Achievement:** Congratulations.

- Navin S. Dedhia (Village: Bidada) of San Jose, California, was re-elected as the National Director of American Society for Quality (ASQ), Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for the two year term.

#### **Announcement:**

- Jain Center of Northern California (JCNC) will be a host for the 13th Annual JAINA Convention, taking place in Santa Clara, California, during July 4 weekend, 2005.

#### **Picnic:**

- Bay area KOJAIN Community held its Annual picnic on July 24. 100 members attended the picnic and enjoyed breakfast, lunch and Kachchhi Dinner at the Lake Elizabeth Park, Fremont.

#### **Prayushan Tap:**

- During the Deravasi Achalgachchh Paryushan, following Tapsyas were done by the Community members:-Saroj Himat Dagli (Fremont) 8 days of fasting. Navin S. Dedhia (San Jose) 9 days of fasting

### Region 1: AZ, CO, HI, NM, SO. CA, UT. Mexico

#### **Graduation:**

- Larry Momaya has completed his residency. He is working at New Port beach as a Psychiatrist performing brain scans.
- Mausami Momaya received a Certificate as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW). Now she can practice Psychotherapy.
- Amy Rasmi Shah graduated from Irvine High School & will be joining UCI this fall.

**New arrivals:** Congratulations to proud parents & close family:

- Chheda Munjal and Dimple of Santa Ana, Southern California, are proud parents of a baby boy, named Rishabh, born on June 30, 2004.

#### **Pleasure Trip:**

- A group of 27 Kachchhi Oswals visited Alaska in a cruise for 14 days. Since last few years, this has become a tradition, after 34 Kachchhi Oswals went to gather to Europe few years back.

**Region 5: AL,FL,GA,MS,TN.****An Astounding Arangetram****Mili Shah**

Mili Shah, 17 years old, daughter of former chairman of AAHOA, also Former Board Of Director of KOJAIN Nitin Shah, and Pravina Shah of Atlanta Georgia, performed her Arangetram on July 25, 2004. After 9 years of training in Bharatnaytam (classical Indian dance), Mili's talent was put to test on stage through 11 solo, continuous items. She graduated from Atlanta's Kruti Dance Academy where she was one of the first disciples of Mrs. Dina Sheth.

Her performance thrilled the 600+ people who had come to watch her. One of the highlights of the evening was when Mili herself spoke at the end of her performance. With a hilarious, witty, and thoughtful speech, the audience became emotional. But to top it off, she surprised everyone when the curtains reopened with a grand piano waiting on stage. Mili played "My Heart Will Go On" from *Titanic*, and the theme songs of *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai* and *Kal Ho Na Ho*, which ultimately put half the crowd to tears. Mili says it was dedicated to all those who have helped her reach this extraordinary level and it was a going away present to her parents.

To reach this pinnacle day in her life, Mili practiced extra hard for two months, spending at least 7 hours a day at the studio. During her high school years, Mili says, "I was able to manage time and balance academics with extracurricular activities because I loved what I was doing; there was no effort involved, simply passion."

Aside from dance, Mili has excelled in many other areas as well. Mili recently became the youngest to graduate Norcross High School's class of 2004. A respected honor graduate of her class, Mili was very involved inside and outside of school. She was elected junior class representative, International Club President, CO-ED Y Vice President, and was involved with the school's several advisory committees and voluntary services. She performed dances at the annual International Cultural Show which was held throughout the day. Mili is also an avid piano player of 11 years. In her junior year, Mili was nominated and selected in Spanish to attend the prestigious Georgia Governor's Honors Program. Mili has written various articles that have been published by magazines and newspapers such as *Khabar Magazine* and *The Advocate* newspaper. She has also appeared in televised programs such as *Namaste Bombay*.

As she continues to illuminate her zeal for dance and music through performance, Mili will soon engage in a learning experience by continuing her educational journey at New York University where she plans to study journalism, film, business, and entertainment law.

**Introducing young children age 1 to 5 to our native language. It's never too early!**

(Courtesy of India post)

Fremont mom Ruchira Agarwal decided to take the plunge when she quit her well paying job at one of the big technology firms during boom time to take care of her son, much like all Indian American parents trying to raise their child in the United States was quick to realize that **instilling the necessary Indian language skills was an arduous task**. 'English was everywhere'.

The whole Indian language environment is missing here and to expose child to the Indian language, all that one could do was to show him Hindi movies, which is something that surely no parents would want to do at the earlier age. **With the language comes the culture appreciation**. There are videos available for older kids like Ramayana, Mahabharata but again not very conducive for growing up children age 1 to 5.

The resolve in Agarwal to do something to change the situation became stronger when she had her second child, who is now 20 months old. We wanted to expose her to the language right from the beginning, and that's how Baby Hindustani, was born. Children growing here need to be given an external language stimulus. **Ruchira Agarwal has developed an innovative and educational videos for kids aged 1-5 in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Gujarati and English.**

These 30-minute fun filled videos modeled on the Baby Einstein videos introduces the child to basic vocabulary and the rich sounds of various languages using everyday objects, colors, numbers and commonly used short phrases all set to the music of Mozart. These videos teach the child to memorize by repetition, which she explains is done so that the child does not lose the words while internalizing it. Kids learn (while) having fun. **She has based her videos on scientific studies, which have shown that the child always reacts to visual stimulation first. "Children learn by association with colors, objects in these videos."**

**The videos would also be available in the DVD format soon.** Agarwal says, she has been getting enquiries from parents from all parts of the US. The Baby Hindustani's Language Series is available in **Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Gujarati and English**, on web site ([www.babyhindustani.com](http://www.babyhindustani.com), (415) 756-9909).

Among the future plans says Agarwal; "I want to bring out language videos in Bengali, Marathi and culture training videos for children."

# KACHCHHI YOUTH ASSOCIATION (KYA)

## Board of Youth Directors:

### Officers:

#### President:

**Region 8: DE,E.PA,NJ.**

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#### Vice-President:

**Region 11: Canada**

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#### Public Relation Chair:

**Region 4: IL,IN,IA,MN,NE,ND,SD WI**

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#### Technology Chair

Open.

## Regional Youth Directors:

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**Region 2: AK,ID,MT,NV,NO,CA,OR,WA,WY.**

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**Region 10: CT,ME,MA,NH,RI,VT.**

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**Past Youth Representative Director:**

Chirag Shah (979) 268-9026  
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**Advisory Committee:**

Chairperson: Kalyanji Mota

Members: Prem Gada,  
Dhiraj Gosar

## Know Kachchh, Give Back To Kachchh

A Trip to Kachchh Jointly Sponsored by KOJAIN and YJP



### Contact:

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<b>Objective</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To discover the rich and varied history of Kachchh.</li> <li>To get involved in community service at the Bidada medical camp</li> </ul>
<b>Destination</b>	<b>Kachchh, Gujarat</b>
<b>Date of Travel</b>	12 day trip to Kachchh. Departing by Train from Mumbai to Kachchh on December 28, 2004 and returning to Mumbai on Jan 10, 2005.
<b>Cost of Trip</b>	<b>\$200 US dollars</b> (excluding airfare to Mumbai, India). The trip cost includes accommodation, meals, coach tours, sightseeing and surface transportation as mentioned in the itinerary. It <b>does not</b> include items of personal nature such as shopping.
<b>Registration deadline</b>	<b>October 01, 2004</b> <b>Age Group: 18 - 35</b>
<b>Trip Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 days of community service at Bidada medical camp</li> <li>1 day visiting Veerayatan</li> <li>Rest of the days sight seeing in Kachchh</li> </ul> <p>Dholavira, Bhujodi, Bauter Jinalaya, Jesal Toral, Prag Mahal, Aina Mahal, Haji pir, Mata No Madh, Narayan Sarovar, Mandvi Beach, Vijay Vilas Palace, Jhakhau, Nalia, Suthri, Sandhan, V.R.T.I</p>
<b>Application Form</b>	Down load the application form pdf file Link: <a href="http://www.kojain.com/Articles/Kutch_web/Main.htm">http://www.kojain.com/Articles/Kutch_web/Main.htm</a>

### KOJAIN Youth Committee develops its By Laws

- The KOJAIN Youth Committee has developed its own By Laws. It has given the organization a new name "Kachchhi Youth Association" under KOJAIN. In order, not to stop the progress of KYA, the Board OF Directors of KOJAIN have given a "Conditional Provisional Approval" subject to the majority of the paid membership of KOJAIN to approve the changes when next round of KOJAIN by laws are revised. KYA is in process of implementing the changes suggested by the Board Of Directors of KOJAIN and making further progress.
- With many projects on the table, the Youth Board has had a very busy term, as a part of our ongoing efforts to bring the younger generation closer together, each regional representative will be hosting a youth get-together, so expect an invitation soon!
- The Kachchhi youth list serv is up and running! You can join by going to [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/KOJAIN\\_Youths](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/KOJAIN_Youths).

### Regional News:

Suchita Gala coordinated a Washington D.C. youth group to have a lunch event with the local members on Sunday August 29, 2004. Everyone seemed very much interested in a Kutchi youth conference. They expressed much more interest in a Bahamas cruise than having one in L.A. An early-mid 2005 would probably be best for this. There was also definite interest in continuing local events on a regular basis.

**Change Of Addresses: Update your Directory****Arizona:**

1. Mota Manish & Bhavna  
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4. Prashant & Dimple Shah  
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*We would like to maintain address/phone changes/corrections on our KOJAIN website for those listed in our current KOJAIN directory. We also welcome those whose names/addresses are not listed in the current directory if they wish to have their names/ mailing addresses/phone numbers added on our KOJAIN website. Please notify Dami Rambhia of all such changes/corrections/additions.*

**From: Dami Rambhia / KOJAIN  
66 Ruff Circle  
Glastonbury, CT. 06033-1439**