



## KOJAIN NEWSLETTER

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 A Non-Profit Organization  
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**Region 9:** NY

**Chhotalal Bheddah**

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

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**Region 11:** Canada

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### Past President:

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## KOJAIN 2008 Sammelan, Detroit, Michigan, Aug 1 - 3, 2008



KOJAIN Sammelan 2008 was extremely successful under the responsible and meticulous planning of Arvin and Jaya Shah, and the whole Detroit team. The entrepreneur workshop went well beyond our loftiest expectations. Akshay Shah and Anand Ganger managed the whole program exceedingly well to impress every one present there. Speakers did their part to give their best to all those eager beavers who intently absorbed every word spoken by the speakers so as to bring out their entrepreneurship spirit that is hidden in them. Anand Ganger's website was a great help in registration of guests, as well as membership. The hospitality committee headed by Kanti Shah and Ashwin Shah did a superb job in making sure that we were "at home" in Detroit. Plenty of food with all kinds of variety all around every time!!! What a variety!!! We all had our tummies full all the time - with all the food to our liking. The planners of the food items deserve our special thanks from the depth of our stomachs!!!! The entertainment in the evenings was, of course, superb. Vatsala Patil and her group entertained us for hours. Thanks to all for such a wonderful experience.

### 2009 KOJAIN Mini Sammelan

**KOJAIN mini-Sammelán** in July 09 in conjunction with JAINA Sammelán, July 2-5, 09.

More details to follow soon! Keep checking [www.kojain.com](http://www.kojain.com)

**KOJAIN Regional News:**

**Region 1 (AZ, CO, HI, NM, SO.CA and UT):**

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

Dr. Ajit and Nirali are proud parents of Roshan Shah who was born on December 4, 2007.

Ajay and Sneha Parikh are proud parents of Ankur who was born on Monday February 11, 2008.

**Newly wedded couples:**

Rushabh and Forum Shah were married on February 2008  
Amy, daughter of Rasmi & Rekha, married to Sujan Patel on May 2008

Amishi, daughter of Hari & Ranjan Dedhia married to Jeff Williamson on September 2008

**Tapsya during Prayushan:**

Ashok Savla, is doing Varsi Tap this year and did Athai during Paryushan

Vijay Chheda, did Athai during Paryushan

**Educational Achievement: Congratulations.**



Neelam Savla, daughter of late Jethalal (Jayesh) and Lata Savla (Northridge, California; Village: Faradri) recently graduated from Northridge Academy High School as valedictorian of her class. She was founder and President of the California Scholarship Federation at her school for all four years, was an active member of the Leadership class, and was labeled by her teachers and administration as the "Voice of Northridge Academy". Neelam will be

attending the University of Southern California this fall on a full tuition, merit based scholarship for four years, with an intended major in Psychology. She has also received other scholarships from Discover Card, the Wal-Mart Foundation, USA Funds, the Valley University Women's Club, the Chi Chapter, and from the state of California. Congratulations, Neelam!

**Region 2 (AK, ID, MT, NV, NO, CA, OR, WA, WY)**

Nitul Haria, son of Sundarji Haria and Ratan Haria has been playing Dhol and singing in Bay Area for more than 2 years. Nitul has performed at various Dandiya events at GCA - Hayward, Sankara Eye Foundation at Santa Clara convention Center and also at various Sangeet Sandhya events.

Nitul has been singing Stavans for past more than 15 years and has taught Stavans to kids at Milpitas Temple.

Nilesh and Vandana Buricha are proud parents of daughter Saanvi born on May 29, 2008. Big Brother Saahas is all excited in his new role.

Jenica Khona, daughter born to Purvesh & Monita Khona

Kojain Bay Area celebrated Diwali (<http://kojain-bayarea.com/diwali>) with a Dhamaal Celebration on Saturday, Nov 1<sup>st</sup> at the Golden Peacock Restaurant, Fremont. About 150 people attended the Diwali Party. The programs included 2 kids group dances (8 kids in each, age group 3-7), 2 duet dances, a Bollywood Era Dance, A Happy Diwali Video by 9 Kojain Bay Area toddlers, and a hilarious Kachchhi drama based on the current presidential election. Folks enjoyed socializing and meeting new people. The Dhamaal ended with an open dance floor for all.

**Region 7 (MD, NC, SC, VA, Wa.DC):**

Washington DC metro area Kachchhis celebrated Diwali on October 25, 2008. Party was organized by Gunvati Gala, Kala Jain, and Rekha Chheda. Entertainment was arranged by Kanti and Meeta Gangar.

Sonia Nagda, daughter of Niren and Jaya Nagda completed 26.2 miles Marine marathon in Washington DC on October 26, 2008.

Washington DC metro Kachchhis celebrated Parushan Parva with Shrut Pragayaji Maharaj and Das Lakshan Parva with Illaben, a scholar from Rajkot, India.

Bhaves and Neeta Shah are the proud parents of a son Naman born on January 24, 2008.



**Reynolds Scholar**

Shaleen Vira, son of Dr. Naren and Kasturi Vira of Silver Spring, MD (Kutch Gaam: Bidada), recently graduated from the prestigious Catherine Reynolds Scholars Program in Social Entrepreneurship at

New York University (NYU). The Reynolds program, a joint initiative at NYU and Harvard University, selects 20 outstanding students to participate in an intensive co-curricular that prepares future change-agents and global leaders. Training includes rigorous coursework in entrepreneurial methodologies and advanced exposure to distinguished leaders in society through hands-on workshops and retreats.

Currently, Shaleen is a first year medical student at NYU School of Medicine. This past spring, he received B.A. degree, Phi Beta Kappa, from NYU (GPA: 3.9 / 4.0) with

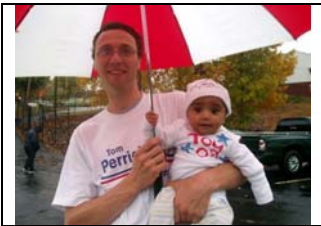
double major in Biology and Economics with honors. His senior thesis was on economic health development under Professor William Easterly, a renowned economist and author of the acclaimed book, "White Man's Burden."

At the age of 17, Shaleen was admitted to six medical schools and chose NYU Medical School's BA/MD program. In his spare time, he enjoys ballroom dancing, golfing, skiing, and playing violin and piano.

### **Maru Family on the Campaign Trail**

For our family, there was to be more remarkable news that night. Tom Perriello, a law school classmate of our brother Vivek, was leading by a razor-thin margin. Tom had run a smart and positive people-powered campaign against six-term incumbent Virgil Goode for a House seat in VA-5. We had spent the last week campaigning for Perriello and Obama in Martinsville, a small city in Southern Virginia near the border of North Carolina. The campaign managers had nicknamed it 'Maruville' after our group, consisting of Sheela, Duncan, Vivek, Chintan, and the twins Anand and Umed Maru, had arrived.

Our days consisted of knocking on doors and talking with people about the candidates and encouraging them to vote. Our greatest asset was our enthusiasm—it motivated people to exercise their right to vote. And who wouldn't be convinced by six-month old twins wearing 'Tom 08' onesies?



all supporting the same change in their community.

Our participation in the campaign changed us as well. We recognized the power of people, neighbors, talking with one another about issues that affected them. We saw an 81 year-old white woman, a black furniture craftsman, a mother and ex-felon, candidates, working together for

Vivek was our team leader, a group of about fourteen of out-of-town volunteers who had been inspired by Tom Perriello and his call to service for the common good and faith. Economic policy was the central focus of Tom's campaign, since that was the number one issue on the minds of his constituents. What was more unique about Tom's campaign was that, in this largely rural and conservative district, he did not shy away from talking about international moral issues like Darfur. Our work paid off: in Martinsville we had won 2400 more votes than in the 2006 election. After the final numbers were in on Friday, Tom claimed victory with 724 more votes than his opponent. It was a wonderful time working with the campaign, and we felt blessed to have played a small role in the remarkable social movement that has transformed our country.

### **Region 8 (DE, E.PA, NJ):**

Lankesh and Anisha Haria are the proud parents of a daughter Jaini born on November 6, 2008.

Congratulations to Raj and Aruna Mota as they became proud parents of Arnab on Jul, 9, 2008. They moved into their new

home at 201 Wellington Park Drive, Princeton, NJ 08540, and Raj was promoted to Worldwide Controller (Acct / Fin) of Princeton, NJ based Berlitz International, Inc

### **Region 9 (NY):**

Nov 15: At INTERFAITH NUTRITION NETWORK (INN) under INDIA ASSOCIATION OF LONG ISLAND (IALI) Diwali Food Drive, Peter Bheddah was one of the honorees at their event. INN runs 19 soup kitchens and shelters for less fortunate in Long Island.

Plaque under INN & IALI insignia was awarded to Peter for "OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD" for my 15 years support to INN's "FOOD DRIVE PROJECT." Three council members and more than 100 community members were present.

In 1994, Peter originated and promoted the concept of assisting less fortunate at IALI. During all these years, IALI's support has helped INN provide more than 250,000 meals to less fortunate, a remarkable achievement for our community.

Again in the evening at GUJARATI SAMAJ HALL Diwali program, at a newly renovated hall, at a cost of \$500,000, all the Past Presidents were recognized. As a Past President, Peter was appointed a TRUSTEE for 2009-2010.

### **Region 10 (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT):**

Recently, several members of KOJAIN went on a three week tour of Australia and New Zealand. They are: Vijay & Madhu Chheda (CA), Navin & Vimla Chheda (CT), Dinesh & Ranjana Chheda (MA), Ram & Neena Gada (MN), Shanti & Rukmini Kenia (MA), Dami & Prabha Rambhia (CT), Lalit & Hema Savla (MA), Surendra & Bharati Shah (IN), Meena Shah (MI), Bhavi Vora (MD).



Archana Savla, daughter of Pradeep and Bhanu Savla is working at Biogan, a renowned pharmaceutical company in Boston, as a senior clinical investigator.

Kekin and Kajal kaka have moved to New Jersey and his cell phone is 203 543 0990.

## **KOJAIN awards no-interest student loan**

KOJAIN Loan Program Committee is happy to announce the non-interest student loan in the amount of \$4,000 to Ms. Mega Pravin Shah, who is studying for Master in communication Management at Emerson College in Boston, MA. The amount is sent towards the tuition fee for next semester. The loan is to be repaid in installments after Mega enters into job market, following her graduation.

Miss Mega Shah is from Bhandup area of Mumbai suburb and from Kachchh village Talvana. We congratulate Miss Mega and wish a great success in her study and her job hunt.

So far KOJAIN has awarded interest free loans including this one in the amount of \$18,175 to Kachchhi students. These loans are possible due to the generous donations from KOJAIN's members.

### **Scholarship Programs for Jain Students by the International Alumni Association of Shri Mahavira Jain Vidyalaya (IAAMJV):**

IAAMJV offers the following scholarships to Jain Students:

- 1) Graduate Loan Scholarships for Students from India for Higher Education Studies in USA
- 2) Undergraduate Loan Scholarships in India
- 3) US Students' College Education Loan Scholarships in USA.

Visit [www.iaamjv.org](http://www.iaamjv.org) for additional information.

### **ASQ Inspection Division Merit Scholarship**

ASQ (American Society for Quality) Inspection Division offers a one time Merit Scholarship to a graduating High School student or an enrolled undergraduate or graduate college student.

The deadline to submit the Scholarship application form is Feb 15, 2009. Scholarship criteria and requirements are given below. The scholarship form can be downloaded by visiting ASQ Inspection Division Website at <http://www.asq.org/inspect/scholarships/index.html>

If you are applying, Navin Dedhia would be glad to sponsor and can send you a softcopy of his membership card. Application can be submitted now. We encourage the eligible students to apply.

### **KOJAIN mini - S sammelan, July 2009 Los Angeles, CA:**

Mark July 2-5 2009 dates on your calendar to be in Los Angeles, California, to attend, participate, network and socialize during 2009 KOJAIN mini S sammelan, in conjunction with the JAINA convention. More details to follow.

## **24th annual bike event in New York city**



Connecticut, October 5 2008 – Usha Maru and her nephew Ashish Maru of Connecticut rode their bicycles through New York City to raise money for Multiple Sclerosis

Over 2.5 million people world wide live with the challenges of multiple sclerosis, a devastating neurological condition. The National MS Society provides hope by doing something about MS now. It hosted its 24th annual bike event in New York city, where 5000 individuals rode support a world free of MS. Usha Maru and Ashish Maru were amongst the riders participating in Bike Ride. Ashish has participated in several such charity rides before, but it was Usha's first ever organized bike ride. "I have never even owned a bike before, I have bought tens of bikes for my kids but never one for myself, I am so excited!" said Usha. Usha was not alone; there were many riders that had not ridden a bike for decades before they signed up for this event. "How often do you get to ride on the FDR drive, over the George Washington Bridge, through the Lincoln Tunnel and then end with cheerleaders cheering you on," Ashish said. The ride offered three distance options, 30, 60 and 100 miles; Usha completed the 30 mile ride and Ashish did the 60 mile ride. Instead of Power bars, Ashish carried four Gudiya Laddus in his bike pack which kept him going through out the day. The two Marus said that they are not stopping here, next year they plan to get even more family members and friends to ride.

## **Other News**

### **KOJAIN MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM:**

Please donate generously towards the Merit Scholarship Program. Please make your check payable to 'KOJAIN' with a note: "Scholarship Program" on the memo line. Mail the check to the Treasurer of KOJAIN:

Vijay J. Savla, 4 Sandy Drive, Acton, MA 01720, USA

For information, please contact Dinesh K. Chheda, Chair Scholarship Committee, 14 Paris Place, Parsippany, NJ 07054 Tel: 973-394-1701, email : [dinesh.chheda@us.army.mil](mailto:dinesh.chheda@us.army.mil)

Results for 2008 KOJAIN Merit Scholarships

Recipient	Parents	State	Amount
1) Dipal Savla	Vijay/Piyusha	MA	\$ 1500
2) Neelam Savla	Jayesh/Lata	CA	\$ 1250
3) Kinisha Gala	Pankaj/Asha	NJ	\$ 1000
4) Neil Gala	Gangji/Prabha	TX	\$ 750
5) Neil Vora	Navin/Sudha	TX	\$ 500

**Medical & Surgical Camp:**

Shree Bidada Sarvodaya Trust organizes Medical & Surgical Camp from Jan 2-22, 2009 in 30 specialties.

The trust invites all the Kachchhi members to participate in camp. If you are visiting India in January, the trust will arrange for your travel from Mumbai to Kutch. More information is available on website [www.bidada.org](http://www.bidada.org) or contact Vijay Chheda (Mumbai Cell # 9819142447).

**KOJAIN Membership:**

KOJAIN encourages everyone to be a member, preferably a LIFE MEMBER of KOJAIN to support your own activities, culture, art and crafts. KOJAIN provides a venue for networking, exchanging ideas and keeping in touch with our motherland. KOJAIN Membership options are:

Family Life membership	US \$ 250
Family 2-year membership	US \$ 40
Individual Life Membership	US \$ 200
Individual 2-year membership	US \$ 30

Membership form (see page 7) can also be downloaded from [www.kojain.com](http://www.kojain.com) and completed form along with a check, payable to KOJAIN, be sent to:

Vijay J. Savla, 4 Sandy Drive, Acton, MA 01720

**KOJAIN Yahoo Group:**

We request you to visit the KOJAIN E-group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/kojain/> to read messages and other information. Any key information is sent to KOJAIN Yahoo group members. If you are not receiving KOJAIN Yahoo group e-mails, visit KOJAIN's web site at <http://www.kojain.com/infoandwebsites/infoandwebsites.htm> and click on subscribe to KOJAIN E-group.

**KOJAIN Website:**

Please make a habit of visiting website [www.kojain.com](http://www.kojain.com) to read important news related to the KOJAIN's activities (Sammelan, Membership, Scholarships, etc.)

**KOJAIN Membership Form**

Last Name	
First Name	
Middle Name	
Email	
Phone	
Occupation	
Village in Kachchh	
Spouse - First Name	
Spouse - Email	
Spouse - Phone	
Spouse - Occupation	
Spouse - Village in Kachchh (Before Marriage)	
Home Address - Street	
Home Address - City	
Home Address – State, Zip Code & Country	
Child 1 Name	
Child 1 Year Born (if married do not enter year born)	
Child 2 Name	
Child 2 Year Born (if married do not enter year born)	
Child 3 Name	
Child 3 Year Born (if married do not enter year born)	

 Family Life membership (US \$250) Family 2-year membership (\$40) Individual Life Membership (US \$200) Individual 2-year membership (US) \$30

We urge every KOJAIN family to send the duly completed form to maintain KOJAIN Database. Help us make the database as complete as possible. Thank you for your support and cooperation.

Signed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*We encourage you to join KOJAIN organization as a life member. Please make your check payable to KOJAIN*

Please mail the above form completely filled to the Treasurer of KOJAIN:

Vijay J. Savla, 4 Sandy Drive, Acton, MA 01720, USA

Tel: 001-978-264-0596 (email: [visavla@gmail.com](mailto:visavla@gmail.com))

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