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# THE KASHMIRI PANDIT INTERNATIONAL (KPI)

Newsletter of Kashmiri Overseas Association, Inc.

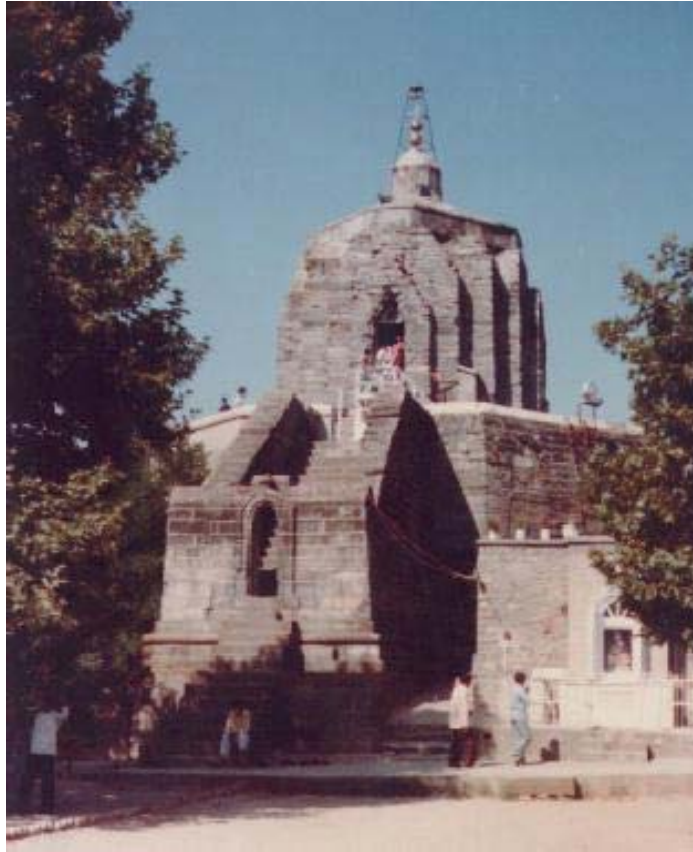
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Shankracharya Temple, Srinagar

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## President's Column

Namaskar!

All KOA activities and programs have been going on as per schedule. Recently concluded KOA Annual Camp at Hershey, Pennsylvania was a great success. Despite the holiday falling in the middle of the week and community members having marriages and yagnopavit ceremony around the same time, we had close to seventy-five families at the camp. Usual it was reminiscent of a Kashmiri Khander. The biggest achievement at the camp was the participation of around 30 community youth most of whom had come on their own to participate. This is definitely a welcome sign and we are looking forward to their continued participation and involvement in community and organizational affairs. For souvenirs to the camp attendees, this year we got 2 feet by 2 feet Namdas and for kids age group 5 to 14 we got folk tale books from India and both these items were very much appreciated. This being a special issue of the newsletter about the camp, a detailed description is provided. This camp not only serves as a social gathering, it also serves the purpose of bringing the community together. In addition to socializing, many issues facing the community are also discussed. I urge members in other parts of this country to organize regional camps. In this regard, early this year I had urged various Zonal Directors to work together to make regional camps a reality. I will work hard on it and hope to have regional camps in other regions next year.

Latest updated version of our member directory was launched at this camp. This directory has been mailed to all paid members. We have made an effort to present information as accurately as possible, but it is still possible that inadvertently there may be some incorrect information. As in the member directory, this newsletter also contains a form for correction. It is my request to you; please check your information as well as of those who you know. If you find that someone (your relations, friends, acquaintances) who belongs in there but is not listed, please urge him or her to send in their information to KOA.

I have requested Shri Rajinder Kaul of WA to head KOA's membership drive effort. All unpaid members will be contacted through regular mail, e-mail or phone. Your mailing label shows the year until which your membership is paid, if un-paid, I urge you not to procrastinate, mail in your dues for this year. Your membership dues, generous donations help the association to run its activities and programs.

I have requested Dr. Ashok Raina of LA to develop a "Welcome Kit" It is long overdue but I assure you that within next three months it will be ready.

On the cultural exchange front, as you know I had invited Kailash Mehra and Virendra Qazi to tour the USA, but unfortunately Kailashji was denied visa by the U.S Embassy in Delhi. Shri Qazi toured from June 19 to July 15.

From time to time KOA gets requests for medical help and we always try to help to the best of our ability and it is only possible with your donations. Some appeals for help are listed in this newsletter, please donate generously. Early this year through the efforts of Shri Pran Kaul of CA and Shri Vinod Moza of CA, we raised some money to help one Shri Talashi of Jammu for his kidney transplant, I am proud to report that Shri Talashi is recovering. My sincere thanks to those who helped.

We are launching fund raising drive for our "Educational Fund" and "Sponsor-A-Child" projects, if you are already a sponsor, thank you, if you are not, please join and help the less fortunate members of the community. On one else but you can help. Please provide financial support for these and other programs.

Ten day Kashmiri language course as planned under our Language Institute will start on August 3. My best wishes to the organizers; Komal Bazaz and Sonal Bakaya. I wish them success with this youth camp.

KOA held general body meeting of the members at the camp. We received very encouraging comments and suggestions from all members.

In order to meet with all members and present my plans for the organization and receive your comments and suggestions, I am willing to travel to various places. All KOA chapters hold social and cultural functions from time-to time, and it would be a good idea to meet membership at these events. Please volunteer your time and effort for the organization; nothing can be achieved without your active involvement and participation.

Beginning next issue we will assign some space to discuss reforms in the community. These will include social, cultural and religious reforms. If you have any ideas and would like to discuss those, please come forward, I am especially inviting senior citizens to take the lead.

Finally, please feel free to call me or any member of my team with your questions and suggestions or simply to express your support. Together we will make a difference. May God bless our community? Namaskar!

**Sanjay Kaul, Boston, MA**

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## The Great Betrayal

Pakistan played the game for the benefit of the world media. At one level, Pervez Musharraf showed that he was a perfect gentleman, a man with a will to resolve bilateral disputes with peaceful talks. But take away the symbolic media handshakes, and you get back to **“Bagal Mein Churi, Muh me Ram Ram”** Kashmir and Kashmir alone could lead to the normalization of relations between India and Pakistan, was his most humble and gentle remark.

He was able to put Pakistan’s viewpoint on the forefront in sharp contrast from India’s stance of cross-border terrorism to indigenous freedom struggle. While in New Delhi, the general had avoided referring to a plebiscite, and had indicated that he would settle for Kashmir being an “issue” rather than only a dispute. In Islamabad, he went a step further and acknowledged for the first time that Kashmir could be settled bilaterally, failing which third-party intervention could be sought.

The Indian position on Kashmir rests on two premises:

1. The unquestionable legality of Kashmir’s accession to India.
2. Kashmir’s symbolic relevance to India’s secular identity.

The loss of Kashmir will mean the negation of the fundamental values, which our founding fathers enshrined in the Constitution. We also must accept that Kashmir continues to be an intractable problem precisely because of the poor handling. How many times the Indian leaders have blundered on Kashmir? And in the process of all this the fate of Kashmiri Pandits is ignored and forgotten, more than half a million of whom have been forced to live as refugees in their own country since 1990. The Muslim majority in the Valley merely indulged in unrestrained ethnic cleansing, under the watchful eyes of our own secular government. The Great betrayal of Kashmiri Pandits in the name of secularism by our own government was as peaceful as Lord Shiva drinking the poison at the time of **“Samunder Manthan”**.

Kashmir is burning, innocent Hindus are being massacred at will, and our politicians are still willing to negotiate with the killers? Handover the valley to the army and let professionals do the job than the politicians. We as an affected community also need to assert our demands forcefully. Let it be known to all concerned that a permanent solution on Kashmir will be impossible without involvement of Kashmir Pandits. We may be living scattered all over the world but our roots are in Kashmir. We must demand our own place in Kashmir. Our community has tolerated genocide and ethnic persecution silently, but the time has come when we must stand and fight for our rights with one united voice.

For Indian Government Kashmir is a symbol of the struggle between secularism and religious extremism, but for us it is a matter of existence and survival of our culture and community.

**Deepak Ganju, FL**

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## KOA National Camp 2001



**Day One:** On the first day of the camp, after a day of travel, first thing we did was to get introduced to everyone attending, so that we don’t act and feel like strangers. In the evening IAKF and Panun Kashmir, both political parties representing our community in this country were assigned time to hold their meetings for half an hour each. Since only IAKF officials were present on the first day they conducted their meeting. Which was followed by children’s cultural program. Miss Neha Ganju (FL) coordinating this event. Boston Kashmiri School students sang a Kashmiri song and demonstrated their Kashmiri language skills. The dinner was followed by evening Musical program open to all community members. Dr. Inder K. Bhat was the MC. Highlights of this program included a monologue by Anil Hashia of WA, items from Pandit brothers/family of IL and sweet voice of Mr Raina of NJ.

**Day Two:** In the morning a Hawan was performed early morning, Dr. Ashok Raina is coordinating this effort. A puja was performed and Bhajans were sung it was a sight to see most people wearing traditional dresses for this occasion. The hawan was followed by presentation on the wise sayings of Lalleshwari by Shri Virendra Qazi. Shri Qazi is a cultural activist and had come from India. Arti Kaul who sang the Lal-Vakhs joined Shri Qazi. Afternoon session was devoted to children’s competitive games for the age group 4 yrs. -14 yrs. old. Yogi & Anshu Kak coordinated this event with help from Neeta Bhat and Jyoti Kachru. Prizes were given out to participants and winners. A cricket match was played and Upinder Bhats team won the match. This was followed by a group photograph taken as usual by Dr. Inder Bhat. Evening session had KOA General Body Meeting/Q&A/Rewards & Recognition, which was followed by a slide, show on Kashmir by Rajiv Pandit and a round of ANTAKSHANI. A sumptuous dinner was followed by a skit by talented Florida group. This skit was written by Chandermukhi Ganju, Deepak Ganju stole all hearts this year for his role as Bush, others who participated included Neha Ganju, Kuldeep Bhat and Anil Hashia. It was followed by Musical Night Program which was dedicated to “Master Zinda Kaul” a short summary on his life and work was provided. World famous Arti Kaul was the star attraction with help from other talented artists Rahul & Rajiv Pandit. This was followed by Campfire and informal singing, jokes, shairee etc hosted by Inderji.

**Day Three:** Morning began with Dhyana: A demonstrations

of simple techniques of Yoga for interested and discerning audience with some recorded music by Shri Virendra Qazi. This was followed by 2<sup>nd</sup> group photograph, Fund Raising: Kashmiri Dress Photo Session (For couples as typical “Pandit and Batni” and for teenage girls as a typical “Kashir Koor”) Afternoon was spent with a trip to Hershey Amusement Park. The early evening session was devoted to youth (age group +16). It was an open forum discussion moderated by Sheenu Jalla with a panel of four young adults who shared their experiences of cross-cultural issues titled, “Upbringing in America – A cultural conflict” with the audience and then was opened up for all to participate. Dinner was followed by an evening musical program open to all community members at the campfire.

All good things have to come to an end and next day morning after the breakfast was the most difficult part, which is saying goodbye.

**Camp Organizers**

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**Camp we Remember**

KOA National Camp 2001 at Hershey in Pennsylvania was a great success. It was an exciting weekend with lots of interesting activities, we hope it was fun and memorable time for all those who attended. Like everyone else, we had a wonderful time and enjoyed the camp thoroughly. Congratulations to Rohit & Kiran Dhar and their team for all the work that must have gone into it. Every step was very well organized. Catered food was excellent and it made all the difference. None of us had to spend time in the kitchen, instead it was spent socializing and interacting with each other. This year we had a large number of youth and young-adults, who came to this camp and actively participated, which is a welcome sign for the community. Highlights of the camp this year included: Stand-up comic talent of Anil Hashia (WA), Kashmiri Skit by Florida group, Rajiv Pandit on Sitar and Rahul Pandit on Tabla, and group discussion on cross-cultural issues by youth. Talented people who in a way can be called discovery of this camp included: Anil Hashia (WA) he was popularly named Koshur Jerry Sinfeld, Abinav Raina (NJ) with beautiful voice, Sumeeta Bhan (Canada) definitely Ghazal Queen, Kuldeep Bhat for his role as Dick Chaney. Special thanks to Sunita Dhar (NJ) for holding it all together for us and to Prakash for his managing the kitchen. Thanks to all the participants to make it such a wonderful and memorable event. Many people at the camp took video coverage, those of you who did it, please send me a copy of your coverage. I intend to compile what I receive and then make it available to members, many people have asked for it.

**Karan, Shiva, Bela & Sanjay Kaul (Boston, MA)**

The KOA camp 2001 started with new enthusiasm and zeal. Although the number of people were few, but many of them were new! It was refreshing to see a lot of new young adults, some who had come recently from India while some who were participating in the camp for the first time, and some who have been coming to the camp every year. It was a good mix of different age groups, one could say.

This year we had good entertainment and a show of new talent. The Massachusetts group, Anjali Wali, Nisha Wali, Akshay Kaul, Shiva Kaul and Karan Kaul, had prepared a Kashmiri song “Asi chu Tarun Kashmir” The audience was enthralled and applauded loudly. These children are the students of the Kashmiri Language/Culture class in Massachusetts. They also presented some of the Kashmiri vocabulary that they have been learning in their class. This was followed by songs and dance performance by new talents. The high point was Anil Hashia, from Seattle, young man full of humor. He had the crowd roaring with laughter with his jokes and humorous poetry. This year two young and talented brothers, Rajeev and Rahul Pandit came to the camp for the first time and presented a short program together. Rajeev played the Sitar and was accompanied by his brother Rahul on Tabla. Rajeev’s wife, who is not a Kashmiri, sang a Kashmiri bhajan, with perfect diction and tuneful voice. The other highlights of the entertainment program were a short Kashmiri play by Deepak Ganju and his family from Miami. The play was a comical one, a satire on the Bush-Jr. and Bush Sr. relation in the election time. Deepak had to perform as two characters of Sr. and Jr. Bush. The Ganju family was applauded by the audience for their creativity and bringing something new for us this year too. I also participated by singing some of my old and new songs, some sad, some happy and some bringing back memories of the past spent in the beautiful valley of Kashmir.

This year’s camp made me feel happy seeing some good talent come forward and present whatever they could. We hope to see more such participation in the near future from more people, young and old! In Dina Nath Nadim’s words- ‘ May chum aash pagahich, pagah sholi duniya’

**Arti Kaul, Cultural Secretary, KOA**

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We had best three days in last many years. We do not have any Kashmiri family in our area and this informal get together is very therapeutic for us. We will be looking forward to meet everybody at next KOA camp. Thanks again for a wonderful time.

**Sushma Kaul (WI)**

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This is the first KOA camp I have attended in well over 10 years, and I had a truly excellent time. The camps have come a long way in terms of the organization of essential areas, such as food, lodging, registration, etc. Clearly many people have worked very hard to make such an event so successful. I was very happy to see so many KP youth. Panel discus-

sions are very useful in this kind of a camp. They help bring various groups and cliques together to discuss one topic. The cultural dichotomy panel that was held on Monday evening went very well. This panel discussion did an excellent job of bringing together two groups of KP youth: those brought up in the U.S. (called “ABCD’s” at the camp – American Born Confused Desi’s) and those from Kashmir/India (called “FOB” at the camp – Fresh of the Boat). I truly had a great camp experience this year. I would also be happy to assist in any way that I can in future KOA activities.

### **Rajiv Pandit (IL/TX)**

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**KOA encourages youngsters to provide articles for this newsletter. We have received following two about the camp:**

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As a tradition, the Kashmiri Community of Northeast America spent the Fourth of July weekend together. This year, we all camped out in Hershey, Pennsylvania, right next to the chocolate factory and amusement park. The camp provided us with four days of exciting events all connected to our Kashmiri roots.

All day Saturday, people from Maryland, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Florida, and everywhere in between started to trickle in to the campgrounds. Several introductions were made as campers set up their tents with the help of their neighbors. In the evening, everyone gathered in the main tent for an authentic Kashmiri dinner. The food was catered by a restaurant where one of the cooks has been taught to prepare the delicious Kashmiri food. Razma/Gogji, dam-aloo, maccha, nadur daal, and everyone’s all time favorite, roghan josh. After dinner on all three night, a few people sang traditional Kashmiri songs and put on a little cultural program.

Sunday was not only the hottest day but also the busiest. The morning began with a Hawan, an essential aspect for a Kashmiri Pandit gathering. Asking happiness, health, and peace, several of the women sang Kashmiri bhajans and other devotional songs. Everyone then offered flowers and ate the prasad, the food specially offered to God during the Hawan. Continuing on the religious note, Shri Virendra Qazi explained Kashmir Shaivism, which is based on the Lord Shiva. Many of the elders and also some youngsters listened to the philosophy.

After a lunch of chole bhatura, everyone headed down to the fields for the sports events. The men and even some young boys played a competitive match of cricket while the smaller children participated in various races such as the three-legged race, sprinting, and tug of war. The toddlers jumped around on the playground and those who couldn’t stand the heat went right down to the pool. Around three or four o’clock, thunderstorms disrupted the outdoor fun and everyone crowded back into the main tent. Seizing the opportunity and our attention, Rajiv Pandit presented a slide show on

Kashmir. Old memories were revived and the children were able to see pictures of their parents and grandparents’ homeland. On improvisation, we started a game of antakshari, which turned out to be very entertaining and enjoyable. Everybody was calling out songs and singing along to the Hindi film tunes.

Towards the evening, Sanjay Kaul, president of KOA, organized the general body meeting where he introduced all the directors and important members of the organization. He then informed the campers how KOA had, over the last year, raised funds and donated to various causes such as schools, hospitals, sanitation project and helping the needy. Then members of the audience were given the opportunity to ask their questions. The meeting concluded with an emotional comment from Jawahar Matu (Denmark) who was overwhelmed by the idea of being with so many Kashmiris for the four-day weekend. He told the assembly he felt as though he was back home in Kashmir and such events like the camp helped the Kashmiri people to unify as a community.

Just before dinner, many of the children showcased their talent in the cultural program. Some danced to Hindi songs, others played an instrument, and others sang for us. After dinner, Deepak Ganjoo and his crew performed a funny skit completely in Kashmiri. Other talented folks sang bhajans and a group of young people (Hashia Company), who had left Kashmir only in 1990, entertained the audience with their humorous monologues and jokes. Later on, he made us aware of the present-day life in our unstable homeland.

Late at night, kehva was served and a bonfire started. The college crowd sat up late talking while the others sang songs, told jokes and enjoyed the cool night near the bonfire. After the rain, it was a chilly night and everyone was layered in sweaters and shawls. Of course, the train at night was helpful in lulling us all to sleep ☺.

Monday morning was a little quieter since a few people had to leave for work. (This Fourth of July was awkward in that it fell on a Wednesday.) A few families headed down to Hershey Park to take the factory tour and visit the amusement park. Many people just spent the day talking with each other or relaxing.

Around 5:30/6:00, the college kids discussed the issues they faced growing up as Kashmiri Indians in the United States. Many of the children told us that they loved to come to the annual KOA camp because they had a great time meeting other friends who were so similar to them. At the camp, they felt accepted and a part of the Kashmiri group. Hopefully, this is a sign that they will continue to keep alive our Kashmiri traditions.

On Tuesday morning, everyone gathered at the main tent for breakfast and to say final farewells. Group pictures were taken and the campers took down their tents.

At the camp, each and every person seemed to have a pleasant/great time. Of course, the older grandparents were able to meet fellow Kashmiris and discourse on the old days back home. And the young couples could definitely spot some

of their kind at this year's camp. But even the children met some friends. The boys all played basketball and the girls had their little card table not too far away from the main tent. Needless to say, the college students had a great time together. Hopefully the children will pick up on the programs of KOA and through participation in such events, they will ensure the survival of the Kashmiri culture.

**DEEPALI DHAR, NJ**

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Since 1991, I have been regularly participating in the KOA annual camp, with the same sprit and fresh enthusiasm every year. I have been seeing that the management and the organizers of the camp, are constantly improving and getting more and more innovative, to make the camp a success and a memorable experience for everyone.

This year as usual on the second day we had a Hawan and Bhajans, which were nicely conducted by the party from the Hindu Temple. One could see that everyone felt relaxed, and peaceful in spiritual bliss. The food catered was timely, good and in abundance. The distribution system was proper, as such all the members were free to talk, walk, eat and meet without any tension.

The evening and night programs were conducted in the main tent and proved a great success. The sound system did have some problems, but still the entertainment went on. This year we had much more participation of young adults, who kept everyone, entertained with good jokes, songs, plays etc. The young people had a separate campfire, for all the three days, where they made acquaintances with the new members and met so many old friends and relatives. These are the best occasions when the young get to meet and interact with each other, participate in group discussions on topics related to their culture and community. Shri Virendra Qazi's talk and translations on Lal vakh, also was a good experience with singing support by Arti Kaul.

For senior citizens like me, who have been living in this country after the exodus, the camp provides a wonderful opportunity to meet with friends and relatives, who we have not seen for years together. With the hope of meeting again in the next camp, may all stay well and healthy!

**Trilok. N. Tiku, MA.**

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**Pictures from the camp** are available, courtesy of Sh. Suman Hukku. He has put them on Yahoo Photos. To view them, Please go to <http://photos.yahoo.com/hukku> If you like a picture and would like to receive the original electronic version, just send Sumanji an e-mail with the picture #, etc. and he will send it to you. He can be reached at: [hukku@yahoo.com](mailto:hukku@yahoo.com)

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**NEXT YEAR's CAMP**

Next year KOA Annual Camp will be held from Thursday July 4 through Sunday July 7. Please mark your calendars a year in advance. It is our appeal to the community not to plan their social functions around this community event.

Three people/groups have offered to look for a place for next year's camp. These include: 1) Mrs Veena Kaul of MI has offered to look in and around Detroit, MI area, 2) Bimla Kaul and Neera Ganju, both from Canada, have offered to look around Toronto area. There is one problem with that, most of the H-visa and visitors visa holders from the USA will need a visa to go to Canada and that might drive the participation down, keeping this in mind, Bimlaji and Neeraji have been requested to look in and around Buffalo area in upstate NY, 3) Anupam Wali of MA has offered to organize the camp at Moodus, CT.

I am requesting all interested members to come forward and suggest other alternatives/places and help in locating a good camping ground and organizing the camp.

**Sanjay Kaul**

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**KOA Membership Information**

At the end of year 2000, total number of known addresses listed with KOA was 968. Out of which 510 were paid members, approximately 53 percent. Of the 510 paid members only 12 were life members. All members are urged to be paid members and we encourage you to become life members. Don't procrastinate, mail your membership for this year today.

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**KOA  
Encourages  
Young Adults  
To  
Write on issues  
Concerning them in this country.**

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**KOA  
Invites  
Community Members especially Senior Citizens  
To  
Write on issues  
Facing our community**

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# The Question of Kashmiri Identity

Respected Community Members,

Namaskar! As many of you probably heard from family and friends who attended the KOA Annual Camp this year, it was a great success. After attending a number of KOA camps over the years, I think this was an extraordinarily special camp as it brought hordes of enthusiastic and spirited young people from all over the world. Realizing that the youth are the future, camp organizers wisely allocated a portion of an evening's entertainment program to the discussion of young people's issues. The topic for this year was entitled, "The Question of Kashmiri Identity: How does one grow up as a Kashmiri in the United States? What are the possible conflicts?" This topic was raised so that we as a community both young and old alike could gain a better understanding of each other not to stir a debate. As you can imagine this topic was hugely popular with both young people and the older generations.

I had the privilege of being the moderator for this discussion and had some wonderful and brave panelists who included: Preeti Wali, Jaani Kaul, Shankar Jalla and Suneil Kaul. The panelists kicked off the discussion with relating their own experiences about growing up in the United States. The panelists' gave poignant descriptions regarding their own struggle to develop and maintain their Kashmiri identity without a homeland. The panelists unanimously thanked their parents for doing their best to impart Kashmiri culture and values into their lives. That said, panelists did indicate that American culture did have a lot of positive values that both young people and older generations could learn from. A similar theme ran through the panelists' talks and echoes true for me as well which is the following: the key is to take the best attributes from both cultures and apply them to one's life. As soon as the panelists finished speaking, the rest of the 150 odd audience members were asked to participate and express their views.

As the moderator, I was overwhelmed to see the number of hands that immediately shot up to speak on this topic. I can tell you that people who wanted to speak were from all age groups and even from non-United States living folks. The audience participation section of the discussion touched many topics and questions that I have highlighted below.

- \* What are the key values that make an individual 'Kashmiri'?
- \* Are you less 'Kashmiri' if you do not understand and/or speak the language?
- \* Do parents understand how instrumental they are in parlaying Kashmiri culture to their kids?
- \* If young people are learning to take the best from both cultures, shouldn't parents do the same?
- \* What is Kashmiri Shavism? Do we as a community really

understand what we are reciting during pujas?

- \* How does the second generation Kashmiri community relate to the new Kashmiri arrivals from India? Are we similar or different?
- \* Is it possible to have more camps so young people can feel the power and unity of the Kashmiri community and culture?

I am sure I have not captured all the points that were raised. However, that gives all the non-attendees a little more incentive to participate next year so you can hear the rich and healthy discussion for yourself! I can tell you that although the topics were highly serious in nature, we all laughed a lot like we were old friends talking! As a Kashmiri, I was proud and encouraged to hear the great discourse among our community members especially from my fellow young people. Furthermore, I was delighted to see (at camp) an example of how different Kashmiri generations can be united and passionate about their desire to preserve and grow our culture and community. "Sammav Karuv Gindhuna Bronthus!" I hope to see you all next year at camp.

**Sheenu Jalla (MD)**

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## KOA General Body Meeting

KOA held a general body meeting of its members at Hershey, PA on Sunday, July 1, 2001 at 6:00 pm. The president of the association Sanjay Kaul welcomed all the members and declared the general body meeting open. The purpose of the GB meeting was to provide information to members and also respond to questions. In addition, suggestions and comments from the membership at large were sought. Agenda for the meeting included: 1) Election results, 2) Introduction of Board members, 3) Introduction of Executive Committee Members, 4) Membership statistics, 5) Status of KOA activities for membership in the USA which include: Calendar, Member Directory, Newsletter, Kashmiri Sunday Schools for age group 5 to 14 year olds, Kashmiri Institute-Language classes in DC from August 3 to 12 for age group 18+, Internet Activity, Camps in other regions, New member kit, Cultural activities-inviting artists and activists from India, and finally restructuring the association 6) Status of KOA activities to help community members in India especially Jammu, programs include: Educational Assistance Program, Sponsor A Child Program, Udampur School, Sanitation Project in Camps, and financial help to needy, 7) Financial report, 8) Plans for next year 9) Awards and recognition 10) Question and Answer. At this meeting there was no agenda item that needed general body vote, if need be in future, general body vote will be conducted through postal ballots. After the Q & A session, president thanked all those who were present and declared the KOA general body meeting closed.

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# Kashmiri Pandit Picnic to Lake Cachuma

April 24, 2001

The forecast was rain, but then this would not be the first time that the weatherman would be wrong and in Southern California rain/snow are only distant images. The forecast kept a few of us away. The bus was half-full (we were 30-35) and for some of you it was only half empty – optimism, cheer, Kashmiri music and Indian film videos made a very good caravan.

We started from Cerritos on a somewhat chilly, but sunny morning. Sushma and Shibon Tiku, our area scouts in their car, supposedly ahead of us were pleasantly surprised – we were running ahead of time. Lake Cachuma is about 2 hrs drive from Los Angeles. East of the Santa Barbara beach, cupped by the rolling hills, the lake surrounds and wraps around the hilly Cachuma State Park. The lake is a pleasure for boaters, but this time boating was not possible because of the intermittent gusts of wind – we had to sit on everything that we wanted anchored. Thus this setting was perfect for the Tooruf and Tripati and so it was, with sumptuous food of Rogan Josh, Chaaman and Pulao etc., etc. It was a perfect picnic for idle chatter, under a sunny blue sky attended by fluttering breeze – a little bit of South and a little bit of winter – for those of us who always use the “home standard” to measure the picnic potential of a place – Lake Cachuma justifies a second look!

After eating, dozing, tea and tooruf/tripati our final engagement was physically demanding – we played KOH till exhaustion overcame the enthusiasm and we had to drag ourselves into the waiting bus at around 5:30PM. On the way back, we stopped in Santa Barbara, visited the beach and warmed our souls with a hot beverage. Guided by an instinct rather than a honed talent, the occupants in front of the bus continued the sing-a-song tradition. The back of the bus was transformed into a makeshift card-den for the diehards who sincerely did not want the trip to end so quickly. Their prayers were answered – about 20 min into the trip, the bus blew one of the rear tires. It took about 2 hrs of wait to get the tire fixed – but that did not matter – the card-den was oblivious of this and for others, the scenic beauty of the Santa Barbara beach was theirs to enjoy. We got home around 11:00PM. We must thank every one who prepared food and served it. These outings are refreshing breaks. This was the second bus trip that our director has arranged and it has been one joyous trip after another! Thanks to Dr. Amrit Nehru.

## KOA SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMP



KOA - Southern California is having its two day annual camp at LakeCachuma on August 25th. People from other zones should feel free to join the camp. If anybody is interested, please contact Mahesh Bhan at mbhan@trillium.com for details.

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## International Symposium on Kashmir in Fremont, California, June 9

A picture may be worth a thousand words, but "Sharnarhi Apne Desh Mein" stirred a thousand emotions among the viewers. The documentary by Ashok Pandit, brought tears to many eyes.

The documentary followed a day-long symposium, titled "From Paradise to Ideological Battleground", where well-known Kashmir experts and policy makers, including U.S. Congressman Jim McDermott, co-chair of the India Caucus in the U.S. House of Representatives, deliberated on the Kashmir problem and the plight of Kashmiri Pandits.

Among those deliberating at the day-long symposium were Yossef Bodansky, Director of Terrorism Task Force, State Department, former U.S. Ambassadors Teresita Schaffer of the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and Howard Schaffer, and Prof. Raju Thomas of Marquette University, Milwaukee.

While many of the speakers were of the opinion that a solution to the Kashmir issue was unlikely in the foreseeable future, others, including Prof. SarDesai, a professor of history, and Mr. D.N. Munshi, President of the All India Kashmiri Samaj Trust Fund, were of the view that the solution reached should be a long-term solution and not necessarily a convenient solution.

Some of the other speakers and moderators included Congressman Mike Honda, Prof SarDesai, H.L. Fotedae, Capt. S.K. Tikoo, general Secretary J&K Awami Conference, Subash Razdan from Atlanta, Dr. Rajiv Pandit of Chicago, Dr Vijay Sazawal, President IAKF.

The day-long symposium culminated in a cultural evening, with well-known Kashmiri Singer Nirja Pandit, enthraling the audiences with Kashmiri songs.

The symposium, was organized by the Indo-American Community Federation whose president, Mr. Jeevan Zutshi, served as the symposium's conenor. Indo-American Kashmir Forum also sponsored the event.

**Rajiv Pandit (IL/TX)**

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## Awards & Recognitions

KOA has a tradition of recognizing members for their contribution to the community and the organization. It is our way of saying “thank You” recommendations are received from the board members and then a final selection is made. This year following eight persons were recognized at the KOA General Body Meeting for their efforts:

**1. Lalit Wanchoo** (past president): Shri Wanchoo was the president of KOA for last four years from 1997 to 2000. Before that, he served as the secretary of the organization from 1995 to 1996. He is recognized for dedication, enormous hours of hard work, thoughtfulness and his leadership in taking the organization on to new heights.

**2. Hari Bhat (CA):** For community service and web work, he volunteered his time for translation of Kashmiri Bhajans for our Bhajan Book and the web site.

**3. Rohit and Kiron Dhar (NJ):** For organizing KOA Annual Camp.

**4. Maharaj K. Jalla (MD):** For entrepreneurship and creating job opportunities for young community members. Shri Jalla is a long-standing member of the community, served as the Director/Secretary of the association in early eighties. He has his own business in IT industry and has provided many jobs to community members in India and here.

**5. Rattan and Bharti Khosa (IL):** For generous support of KOA’s Educational Fund and help to refugees in Jammu camps from time to time through their Khosa JG Foundation. They are long standing members of the association. Shri Khosa has also served as the Director of the association in early eighties. They have a soft corner for needy community members in Jammu camps. Last year they donated \$10,000, which KOA spent on Education Fund supporting 22 students.

**6. Nirmal Mattoo (NY):** For community service and efforts to preserve Kashmiri culture. Shri Mattoo is one of the long-standing members of the association, also, served as the director from Zone 1 for six years. He has provided financial and advisory support to the organization. He has been very helpful to new arriving members in his area. He is very knowledgeable person about Kashmiri culture and takes a keen interest in preserving it. Association of Indians in America (AIA) recently recognized Shri Mattoo for his service to the Indian community.

**7. Subash Razdan (GA):** For community service and leadership in maintaining democratic values of KOA’s election process. Shri Razdan served as the Chief Elec-

tion Officer of KOA for the last two years. He ran the process very professionally and meticulously. He along with the other members of his team spent numerous hours of their time in addressing several procedural issues relating to the elections. As a past Chairman of National Federation of Indian Associations (NFIA), Subashji helped KOA get a donation of \$10,000. He is currently an advisor on the advisory council of a major corporation and he donated his advisory fee that he receives to KOA.

**8. Ambika Wali (MA):** For volunteer efforts in raising funds for various activities of the organization. She raised \$1,500 for KOA’s Koshur Calendar from our members. She ran a donation drive at her school and raised \$1,500 for KOA from non-KOA members like her friends, neighbors and others.

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## IAKF General Body Meeting at Hershey, PA on June 30.

This meeting was moderated by Upender Nazir of Minneapolis, who serves as IAKF's secretary. He encouraged people to join IAKF as this is the only political advocacy group of KP's in the US which is recognised in influential political circles. Vijay Sazawal gave a brief summary of IAKF's accomplishments in the past six months. This was followed by a Q&A session. Ashok Kaul from the Indo-American Canadian Forum also spoke and essentially reiterated what Vijay Sazawal had said.

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# LEARN KASHMIRI

LET'S KEEP IT ALIVE

IT IS OUR MOTHER — TONGUE

# Educational Fund Program: Sponsor A Student

## History :

This program was initiated at the K.O.A. National Camp in 1994, at that time a suggestion was made that the best way to help our devastated community back in India was to help needy community students in their pursuit of higher education, so that they could get a gainful employment. At that very moment many community members pledged their support for this program and Shri Tej Nath Kaul of Buffalo, NY, was entrusted to run the program. Dr Hira Lal Gurtoo and Dr. Bansilal Kaul from Buffalo, NY, volunteered to help him in this program. In January 1995, Dr. Tej Nath went to India and visited various refugee camps and discussed about this program with Camp Coordinators in Jammu and Udhampur. KOA developed a liaison with Kashmiri Pandit Sabha, Jammu, to help us in receiving applications from the needy students, and then with the distribution of funds to the selected students. The program is advertised in Daily Excelsior paper for receiving applications, which is a very widely read newspaper in our community in Jammu.

## Requirements:

The applicant must be a refugee from Kashmir Valley. Applicant has to provide proof of admission in a recognized educational institution. Top priority is given to the students from the refugee camps.

## Selection Process:

KP Sabha Jammu, on our behalf receives applications. After preliminary verification at their end, all applications are mailed to Dr. Tej Nath Kaul who with help from Dr. Hira Lal Gurtoo and Dr. Bansilal Kaul makes the final selection. All applications are verified based on the criteria set forth by KOA. The students are selected for financial assistance on merit cum poverty basis.

## Sponsors:

Community members and friends of the community are approached by the association to take part in this program by becoming sponsors. Some community members have set up foundations in the name of their loved ones and are encouraged to sponsor through their foundations. There are some employers who match funds for such non-profit charitable

causes. Sponsors are requested to explore such a possibility with their employers. Every drop helps.

## Cost:

At present, it takes \$250 to sponsor a student for one year. Sponsors are encouraged to continue funding for the complete training period of the selected student. We have received numerous requests to enhance this amount due to increase in the tuition fee and other expenses over the years and may be increased to \$300/year.

## Process/Distribution:

We notify the students about their selection. Sponsors/Donors write a check to the KOA. KOA in turn issues checks in the name of the student, which are mailed to KP Sabha, Jammu, for distribution. The KP Sabha, Jammu, after verifying the criteria set forth by us disburses the check to the selected student.

## Update and Liaison:

Selected students are notified about their sponsor family and the sponsor is also informed about the student so that they can get in touch with each other directly. The program coordinator at KP Sabha, Jammu, monitors every student's progress and is conveyed to the sponsor family from time to time.

## Feedback:

Every KOA office bearer visiting Jammu on a personal trip are requested to go the KP Sabha office, check the working and execution of the program and meet with the students or the parents, whoever is available. Sponsors/Donors are also encouraged to do so when visiting India. In order to get direct feedback, Dr. Tej Nath on his recent visit to Jammu in March 2001 visited the refugee camps in Jammu and met many sponsored students and their parents, he also met with many other students or their parents who live outside the camps. All the students receiving the assistance were very appreciative of the generosity of our donors/sponsors.

Sponsor a student program has been running successfully since 1995. Following data gives you the summary of the program since its inception.

<u>Academic Year</u>	<u>Money Raised</u>	<u># Students Sponsored.</u>
1. 1995-96	\$ 19,251.00	41
2. 1996-97	\$ 28,917.00 +Rs. 30,000.00	108
3. 1997-98	\$ 33,442.00 +Rs. 88,475.00	166
4. 1998-99	\$ 40,452.00 + Rs. 97,250.00	213
5. 1999-2000	\$ 41,876.00 + Rs. 78,000.00	204
6. 2000-2001	\$ 54,026.00 + Rs. 30,000.00	211

**By the end of June 2000 a total of 203 students have graduated through our program.**

It is always heart breaking to see many more desperate students asking for the financial assistance. All the students sponsored by us for financial assistance are receiving only a part of their total expenses from us, mainly for tuition. Needless to say, this is the best way to help our less fortunate brethren back home. It is our goal to increase the number of sponsorships for this program to 300 and more, and can only be achieved with your help. If you are already a sponsor, we thank you. **If you are not a sponsor yet, please become one. Your community needs you.**

Collection of checks for the year 2001 has already started. Please make your tax deductible checks **payable to KOA Educational Fund** and **mail to** Dr. Kaul at 35 Spicier Creek Run, Grand Island, NY.14072.

If you need any further information regarding this program or have any questions or comments please feel free to call Dr. Tej N. Kaul at (716) 773-3416 or e-mail at [tkaul@adelphia.net](mailto:tkaul@adelphia.net). Together we can make a difference in the lives of our less fortunate brethren. Thank again you for your support.

**KASHMIRI OVERSEAS ASSOCIATION**



**KOA Washington Chapter Members Join  
Race for the Cure**

Washington DC KOA Chapter this year put a team of over 25 people to join 5 km Race for The Cure organized by Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation on June 2, 2001 in Washington DC.

This event is world's largest 5 km race and this year over 70,000 people attended the race/walk with over 7000 breast cancer survivors. We registered our group as a KOA team called "Kashmiri Overseas for Care" and the organizers told us that about 40 registered under our group there by raising \$1000. Our group met at 7.45 AM which included 11 adults and 5 children with one toddler. Everyone who participated in the race enjoyed this race/walk. Some of the people from DC area have been participating in this event for last five years but this is the first year when a group was organized. We are hoping to make this as a yearly event for the KOA DC Chapter.

**Hira Lal Nakhasi - Director Zone 4**



# Save A Smile: Sponsor A Child Program

are mailed to KP Sabha, Jammu, for distribution.

## History:

The program started about six years ago in 1995 to bring much-needed financial help to the indigent children of school-going age, from the refugee camps that have sprouted around Jammu in the wake of the exodus of the KP community from Kashmir. Shri Pran N. Kaul of Fremont, CA is the program coordinator. Kashmiri Pandit Sabha, Jammu, help KOA in identifying the needy children and then with the distribution of funds to the selected children. Shri Pran Kaul maintains a list of children in need of support, which he furnishes to prospective sponsors on request. This list of needy children originally compiled by the KP Sabha in Jammu has been expanded/updated to reflect the growing need for help in the camps, based on the information provided by the Sabha.

In the first year 36 children were supported through this program where as this program currently covers about 225 children who are supported by a total of 125 sponsors. The majority of the sponsors are from the U.S, thirteen of whom are non-Kashmiris. Three of the sponsors are from Canada and a couple from India.

## Sponsors:

Community members and friends of the community are approached to take part in this program by becoming sponsors. Some community members have set up foundations in the name of their loved ones and are encouraged to sponsor through their foundations. There are some employers who match funds for such non-profit charitable causes. Sponsors are requested to explore such a possibility with their employers. Every drop helps.

## Cost:

The cost of sponsoring a child was originally pegged down at about \$16 per month, on the basis of input from the KP Sabha, Jammu. During the past few years it has however, become evident that the cost is around \$20 per month. Contributions to the children are tax deductible, if routed through KOA.

## Process/Distribution:

Sponsors/Donors select the child they want to support from the list (s) furnished to them by the program coordinator on request. Payments are typically made by sponsors every six months, though a great number of them make yearly payments. Sponsors are required to mail their checks for the children to Shri Pran Kaul who keeps track of all payments and sends reminders to sponsors to mail their checks when due. After receiving checks from sponsors, KOA in turn issues checks in the name of the children, which

## Update and Liaison:

With a view to fostering rapport between the sponsors and the children supported by them, the children are encouraged and exhorted to write to their sponsors and vice versa. It not only helps the child feel a sense of belonging, but it also provides a unique opportunity to a sponsor to be a mentor to a hapless child who is otherwise adrift in a sea of misery, and without any sense of purpose or direction. Sponsors are expected and encouraged to evince interest in a child's education by keeping track of his or her progress at school by asking for progress reports or marks cards and other similar documents issued by a school periodically.

KOA appeals to all the community members and friends of the community to rise to the occasion, as the need of providing financial help, counsel and guidance to the children is acute and real. Their parents are invariably either illiterate or lack the wherewithal to be of any help to their children. Our responsibility and commitment to these children is not just limited to mailing checks to them, but we have to play a much broader role in shaping their future, otherwise a whole generation will be lost for good. It is our duty to help a fellow KP in need; we owe this to ourselves and to our community. The time to make a difference is now, not tomorrow or a year from now. Needless to say, this is the best way to help our less fortunate brethren back home. It is our goal to increase the number of sponsorships for this program to 300 and more, and can only be achieved with your help. KOA thanks all the sponsors who have supported the children over the past several years and take active interest in the welfare of the children. We would like to utilize this opportunity to appeal to others who have preferred to remain on the sidelines, to step on the plate and bring much-needed succor to a fellow KP in need and in a state of abject penury. If you are not a sponsor yet, please become one. Your community needs you.

If you need any further information regarding this program or have any questions or comments please feel free to call Shri Pran N. Kaul at 510-795-9641 or e-mail him at [pkaul@slac.stanford.edu](mailto:pkaul@slac.stanford.edu). Please make your tax-deductible checks **payable to** KOA Sponsor A Child Program and **mail to** Shri Pran Kaul at 4212 Lorren Dr., Apartment # 158, Fremont, CA 94536.

Together we can make a difference in the lives of our less fortunate brethren. Thank again you for your support.

## MEMBER INFORMATION

For new members, please provide following information for the KOA directory and mailing list. For those members who have moved recently to a new area, please update your information for our records and future directory updates.

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership # \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse Maiden Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Profession: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse Profession \_\_\_\_\_

Current Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Old Address

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

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

1st Child Name: \_\_\_\_\_ D.O.B \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Child Name \_\_\_\_\_ D.O.B \_\_\_\_\_

3rd Child Name \_\_\_\_\_ D.O.B \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

New Member: \_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_ NO

Mail to: **KOA**  
**24 Sartell Road**  
**Waltham, MA 02451-2986**

## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

All community members are requested to be dues paying members. Please check the address label on this newsletter. It indicates the year up to which your membership is paid. If unpaid for current year, please mail in your dues today.

### **Membership dues are:**

\$15/yr. for a single person,

\$30/yr. for a family,

\$15/yr. for a senior couple and

\$500 for life membership

Mail membership dues to:

Mrs. Prana Kaul

**Treasurer, KOA**

**15 Ardmore Road**

**Burlington, MA 01803**

Payable to: **KOA**

# KASHMIR LANGUAGE/CULTURAL YOUTH CAMP 2001

IN WASHINGTON DC AUGUST 3 TO AUGUST 12

KOA is organizing a ten day Kashmiri Language/Cultural Youth Camp in Washington DC from August 3 to 12, 2001. Total 15 students have registered and rooms have been reserved in the American University dorm. All the speakers have been contacted and confirmed.

## The schedule is:

August 3, 2001:

Registration and Welcome

August 4, 2001:

Kashmiri Language - Braj Kachru, University of Illinois  
Contributions to Kashmiri culture/religion - Nirmal Mattoo, NY

August 5, 2001:

Kashmiri Language - Braj Kachru, University of Illinois  
History and Geography - Sanjay Kaul, MA

August 6, 2001:

Kashmiri Language - Braj Kachru, University of Illinois  
Cooking -

August 7, 2001:

Kashmiri Language - Ashok Kaul, Brown University  
Art, Music, & Dance - Arti Tiku Koul, MA

August 8, 2001:

Kashmiri Language - Ashok Kaul, Brown University  
Tour of Kashmir - Ashok Sultan, NJ

August 9, 2001:

Kashmiri Language - Ashok Kaul, Brown University  
Kashmir Issues - Rajiv Pandit, IL

August 10, 2001:

Kashmiri Language - Ashok Kaul, Brown University  
Kashmir Current Events - Vijay Sazawal, MD

August 11, 2001:

Kashmiri Language - Ashok Kaul, Brown University  
Religion and Culture - Bansi Pandit, IL

August 12, 2001:

Exam and concluding ceremony

## For more information, please contact

Komal Bazaz ([komalbazaz@hotmail.com](mailto:komalbazaz@hotmail.com)) or  
Sonal Bakaya ([sonalkabaya@hotmail.com](mailto:sonalkabaya@hotmail.com)) or  
Lalit Wanchoo ([lalitwanchoo@hotmail.com](mailto:lalitwanchoo@hotmail.com))

## Some Quotes from George W Bush

• **“Rarely is the question asked: Is our children learning?”**

-Florence, S.C., Jan. 11, 2000

• **“Laura and I really don’t realize how bright our children is sometimes until we get an objective analysis.”**

Meet the Press, April 15, 2000

• **“I don’t know whether I’m going to win or not. I think I am. I do know I’m ready for the job. And, if not, that’s just the way it goes.”**

Des Moines, Iowa, Aug. 21, 2000

• **“It’s clearly a budget. It’s got a lot of numbers in it.”**

Reuters, May 5, 2000

• **“I think anybody who doesn’t think I’m smart enough to handle the job is underestimating.”**

U.S. News & World Report, April 3, 2000

• **“I know how hard it is for you to put food on your family.”**

Greater Nashua, N.H, Chamber of Commerce, Jan. 27, 2000

• **“I understand small business growth. I was one.”**

New York Daily News, Feb. 19, 2000

• **“I want you to know that farmers are not going to be secondary thoughts to a Bush administration. They will be in the forethought of our thinking.”**

Salinas, Calif., Aug. 10, 2000

• **“They underestimated me.”**

Bentonville, Ark., Nov. 6, 2000

• **“Anyway, I’m so thankful, and so gracious— I’m gracious that my brother Jeb is concerned about the hemisphere as well.”**

Miami, Fla., June 4, 2001

• **“There’s no question that the minute I got elected, the storm clouds on the horizon were getting nearly directly overhead.”**

Washington, D.C., May 11, 2001

Deepak Ganju, FL

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## MUBARAK MEKHALI MAHARAJ

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(YAGNOPAVIT)

- Sandeep S/O Surender and Uma Bhan of CT
- Suvir & Nikhil sons of Ashok and Kunti Dhar of MO
- Akhil S/O Vijay and Rajni Dhar of CA
- Aditya S/O Rabinder and Rajni Koul of IL
- Abinav and Anand sons of Rajinder and Chandrika Koul of WA

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## NEW ARRIVALS

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\*\*\*\*\* *Congratulations* \*\*\*\*\*

- Bazaz Family: Bansi Lal & Vaneeta (NY) for the arrival of a baby
- Subash of PA for the arrival of a baby
- Kaul Family: Deep & Usha (CT), for the arrival of a baby boy.
- Bipin of PA for the arrival of a baby boy.

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## MARRIED

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\* \* \* \* \* *Congratulations* \* \* \* \* \*

- SHARAT s/o Shri Moti Lal and Krishna Koul of VA with PRIYA d/o Shri Vijay and Meenakshi Sazawal of MD in washington DC on May 25,2001.
- Mona D/O Madan and Usha Zutshi of MA
- Mona D/O Arun and Santosh Dhar of NH

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## CRICKET TEAM LAUNCH IN CA.

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Community members from northern California-Bay area have launched a cricket team named "Dalgate Club." Their motto is "Don't sit stay fit." Please visit their web site @[www.Dalgate.com](http://www.Dalgate.com)

**NEW DIRECTORY  
IS  
AVAILABLE NOW**

**FOR 2001 PAID MEMBERS**

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## THEY LEFT US

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Heart felt condolences to Kuldeep & Kaveri (CA) and the whole Hak family on the sad demise of Shri Chuni Lal Hak, Kuldeep's father.

Heartfelt condolences to Gokal Raina & his family of MN & Jai Krishen Raina & his family of Canada on the sad demise of their father Shri Niranjana Nath Raina who expired on 07/23/2001

**KOA sends condolences to the members of bereaved families.**

MAIJ SHARIKA WILL BRING PEACE AND TRANQUILITY TO THE DEPARTED SOULS

*LAL-VAAKH*

**"Swamana gaarun manz yath kande"**

Should you, in this body, seek The Supreme Self that dwells within, Greed and Illusion soon removed, A halo of glory will surround this very body of yours



## Kashmiri Overseas Association-USA

A tax-exempt non-profit organization to  
**Promote, Preserve, and Protect**  
Kashmiri Pandit ethnic & socio-cultural heritage

### **KOA Executive Committee:**

President	Sanjay Kaul, MA (781) 893-4982
Vice-President	Vijay Dhar, CA (408) 252-4382
Secretary	Anupam Wali, MA (978) 667-1695
Treasurer	Prana Koul, MA (781) 221-0350
Cultural Secretary	Arti Kaul, MA (781) 687-9787
Media Secretary	Vijay Parimoo, NJ (732) 418-1471

### **Directors:**

Zone 1:	Vijay Kaul (518) 357-2747
Zone 2:	Lalit Koul (508) 337-9181
Zone 3:	Sarla Warikoo (732) 727-6972
Zone 4:	Hira Lal Nakhasi (301) 469-7084
Zone 5:	Kamlesh Moza (281) 421-7521
Zone 6:	Sidharth Ganju (770) 409-1200
Zone 7:	Upender Nazir (952) 893-2390
Zone 8:	Hira Lal Koul (517) 732-1606
Zone 9:	Vijay Dhar (408) 252-4382
Zone 10:	Amrit Nehru (714) 626-0251

### **REMINDER:**

**Please renew your KOA membership**  
Annual Dues: \$30/family, \$15/single,  
\$15/senior couple, Life member: \$500

### **APPEAL**

**Please donate generously to KOA**  
(Donations are tax deductible)

### **e-mail:**

[koausa@koausa.org](mailto:koausa@koausa.org)

### **Web Site:**

<http://www.koausa.org/>

<http://www.kashmir-information.com/>

### **KOA Address:**

**24 Sartell Road**  
**Waltham, MA 02451-2986**

## **Kashmiri Overseas Association**

**24 Sartell Road**  
**Waltham, MA 02451-2986**  
**(781) 893-4982**