

THE KASHMIRI PANDIT INTERNATIONAL (KPI)

Newsletter of Kashmiri Overseas Association, Inc.

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New York Sept 2001 & Kashmir since 1980

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President's Column

Namaskar!

The terrorist attacks on Tuesday, September 11 on New York's World Trade Center and the Pentagon in Washington, both symbols of US power stunned the entire world. These events have left our community shocked and saddened. People from all over the world, Indians included, worked at these two premier cities of the United States. We pray to God that the victims who died in these tragic events find eternal peace. For all of us these events hit close to home as our community has been at the receiving end of Islamic fundamentalism and terrorism in Kashmir and now the world has realized the same pain that we have been talking about for years. Islamic terrorism, after affecting our lives and those of many others in our country for years, has finally surfaced in America. Let us hope that America and the entire world will fight to check this menace in its totality.

Our community was fortunate that no one was lost to these tragic events. Community members everywhere joined with the main stream America to show our solidarity. Candle light vigils were held and everyone contributed in whatever way they could to help. I hope young parents in our community took time to discuss such events with their children and told them how our community was targeted in similar ways in Kashmir.

On a different note, all KOA activities and programs are going on as planned and as per schedule. It is time for electing our board members/Zone Director for 2002-2003 term. Out of ten zones, six are up for election and these are:

Zone 2: CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT

Zone 3: NJ and PA

Zone 5: AR, CO, KS, LA, OK, TX, UT

Zone 7: AK, IA, IL, MN, ND, NE, SD, WI, WY

Zone 9: Northern CA, ID, MT, OR, WA

Zone 10: AZ, Southern CA, HI, NM, NV

It is my request to you, please nominate and elect those members who can devote some time and effort for the community / organization and are action oriented. The organization can only be as good as the input going into it.

Your membership dues and generous donations help the association run its activities and programs. Your mailing label shows the year until which your membership is paid, if it does not say 2001, then please mail your membership dues for the current year immediately. I urge you not to procrastinate, mail in your dues and donations today.

Shri Pran Kaul of CA and Shri Tej Kaul of NY are both running fund raising drives for Sponsor a Child and Educational Fund programs, if you are not a sponsor yet, please

contact them and join to help the less fortunate members of our community. No one else but you can help, please provide financial support for these and other programs.

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 possible only with your generous donations. Some appeals for help are listed in this newsletter, please donate generously to help.

Please volunteer your time and effort for the organization, nothing can be achieved without your active involvement and participation.

I urge senior citizens, children, and youth to come forward and write about issues facing them and the topics that interest them.

Finally, 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



LEARN KASHMIRI

Let's keep it alive

IT IS OUR MOTHER — TONGUE

September 11 Tragedy & Kashmir

The September 11 incidents were a traumatic experience for all of us and even more so for we as Kashmiri's having witnessed and lived through this pain since 1980. A few terrorists inflicted a devastating blow to the credibility of the US and exposed the vulnerability of all of us living in this country to terrorist acts.

This serious blow to the US, forced them to lean towards, Pakistan, and the other Islamic countries of the world rather than countries like India and Israel for the obvious reasons of logistics. Under such circumstances, there is hardly any point for we as Kashmiri's and Indians to feel left out by the US. India has no other option but to wait for its time and analyze its future options, and to learn to strike with a vengeance when it comes to National Security

We should also understand that the objective of US is to punish those who humiliated them on their own turf rather than making the world safe from terrorism, as it proclaims. Once that objective is achieved, it will let others take care of themselves. We should not be under any illusion that the US would take action against Pakistan sponsored terrorism in Kashmir which has resulted in ethnic cleansing of more Kashmiri Hindus since 1980 than the number of civilians killed by various terrorist groups in the rest of the world. India has to protect the lives of its citizens and its national interests. Neither the US nor any other country will do it for us.

One should not overlook the role of Pakistan as the nursery and cradle of evil. Using a criminal to catch a criminal may help in dealing with a single crime, but not in wiping out crime as a menace. Using and rewarding one evil (Pakistan) to end another evil (bin Laden and the Taliban) may help the US in avenging September 11, but will not prevent more September 11s unless evil itself is eliminated wherever it is present (Pakistan, Afghanistan or elsewhere) in whatever form.

Crude reality is that US interests will prevail over those of others. They will keep Pakistan happy despite its record as Terrorism sponsoring state and a dictatorship. They will keep helping Saudi's because of oil despite the fact that most of the September 11 attackers were Saudi citizens and funded from its soil.

US may win the battle in Afghanistan, and eradicate Taliban, but they will keep and nourish the roots of terrorism which unfortunately are in Pakistan and will come to haunt them, when..... we don't know?

Deepak Ganju, FL

September 11 Tragedy & Candle Light Vigil



March, 2000



Oct. 12, 2001

From: **ZONE 10**

Several members of Southern California Kashmiri Pandit Baradri joined in lighting the candles in remembrance to the victims of September 11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington DC. Candles were lightened in the heart of Southland nicknamed little India, i.e. Pioneer blvd. in the city of Artesia on 16th September. There was solidarity shown by our brethren along with Indo American community gathered for the occasion. The mood of the gathering was such that the traffic, which was moving, pulled off the road and riders joined the crowd, which had swelled. Silence was maintained for 2 minutes to pray for the souls of the victims who became innocent victims of fundamentalist terrorism, which has been unleashed on our community for the last 13 years.

From: ZONE 4

Community members in Washington D.C. area held a candle light vigil in front of the Lincoln Memorial in downtown DC on September 29. The vigil was held for two main reasons; to show solidarity with the American public and to bring focus on Kashmiri Pandits who as we all know are also the worst sufferers of Islamic Fundamentalism. A gathering of about 100 community members assembled at the Lincoln Memorial at 7:00 PM. They made God Bless America with candles, held candles in their hands and sang American and Indian National Anthems. Many others also joined this group.

Kashmiri Pandits Martyr's Day becomes International Martyr's Day

September 14 was observed as Kashmiri Pandits Martyr's Day. On this day we remember those community members who submitted to death rather than renounce their religion, freedom and honor. No words can express the loss of these community members. They sacrificed their lives and everything for a cause; we have to remind ourselves that we need to carry forward the cause for which they laid their lives. Normally members observe a one-minute silence and express their sentiments by wearing black clothes or a ribbon on this day. But this year, this day was observed as a day of mourning in America for the killings of innocent people on September 11 by heartless terrorist. To show our solidarity all members lit candles at 7:00 p.m. outside their door.

Children's Concern

Juhi Kuchroo, 11 years of age, a 6th grader at The Winsor School in Boston and an elected member of the Students' Council of her school, has initiated an effort to raise funds for September 11 victims (particularly for Red Cross) in her school by selling raffle tickets and getting donations etc.

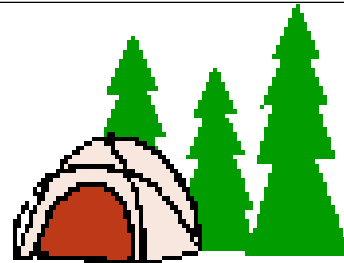
KOA
Encourages
Young Adults
To
Write on issues
Concerning them in this country.

Members meet with Chairman Senate Intelligence Committee

Many members of the community arranged meetings with Senators and Congressmen to apprise them of our communities concern as well as to bring focus on existence of Islamic Fundamentalism and Terrorism in our homeland Kashmir. Many others sent letters and memorandums to elected and other officials in the USA.

One such example is "Americans Against Terrorism" an organization recently launched in Miami had a meeting in the office of Senator Bob Graham who is presently Chairman of Select Committee on Intelligence on October 2nd. The meeting lasted for about an hour and was very encouraging. The six-member delegation was able to convince the committee on the issue of Pakistan as the Corporate Headquarters of Terrorism and Osama BinLaden as only the fruit of the wine, the roots of which were in Pakistan and also the close nexus between the Kashmiri Terrorists and Pakistan.

Next Years Annual Camp



In our last newsletter, I had informed you that three members had offered to look for a place for next years camp. After looking into all possibilities, it has been decided that the next year camp will be held at MOODUS, Connecticut. Shri Anupam & Neelam Wali will organize this camp with help from other members. The camp will be held from Thursday July 4 through Sunday July 7, 2002.

Please mark your calendars now. It is my appeal to community members to keep this weekend free by not planning their social functions around this community event.

Sanjay Kaul
President, KOA

KOA Board Meeting October 21st, 2001

The KOA Board of directors met on October 21 for their bi-annual meeting through tele-conference. Agenda included the following: (Minutes of the meeting will be published in the next newsletter)

1. Pass a resolution for the September 11, 2001 terrorists attack on the USA

2. Status of Projects in India

Funding of Udhampur School, S-A-C Program, Educational Fund Program, Medical Help, Help to Needy in Camps Help to Earthquake Victims in Gujjrat.

3. Status of Projects in the USA

Koshur Calendar, Member Directory, KPI Newsletter, Kashmiri Institute: Youth Culture/Language Camp, Sunday School: Kashyap Vidhyalya, Annual Camp, Future Regional Camps, Artists from India under cultural exchange program: this year, next year, Membership Drive, Web Activity: E-mail groups, Current and new Web sites, Status of unifying Kongposh with KOA, Welcome Package, Funds to Zones for local activities, Survey of membership, Yearly Journal, Election 2001(for Board Members in six Zones)

4. Issues to be voted on:

a) Expand Executive Committee to include past president for past information and experience.

b) Include Youth representatives on the board

5. Set up committees:

Setup a committees which will look into following issues that are important for the organization. These committees will develop plans and provide their recommendations to the KOA board for their approval and implementation:

a) Membership Cost: Is it time for it to be increased, should it be increased, if not why not. **b) Event Sponsorship Criteria for KOA:** Which events/organizations can we sponsor if approached. Develop criteria for who and what can/should KOA sponsor. **c) Criteria for who/which community organization should we invite or allow to address our members at our organized events.** **d) Organizing Cultural events:** Who should we invite and how best to coordinate such functions nationwide. **e) Defining the role of Directors and Chapter Presidents:** Minimize conflict and improve coordination **f) Conflict of Interest for office bearers of KOA:** Can a member be a KOA office bearer and also represent other community organizations. How do we safeguard the integrity of KOA from getting dragged into issues of conflict? **G) Define KOA's Action Plan:** when any community member misinforms/misrepresents information about the organization.

6. New Planned Projects

Open a liaison office in Jammu; Assistance with Board Exam Fee: Set up a fund and a committee to oversee it; Medical

Assistance: Set up a fund and a committee to oversee it; Mail New Year Cards, with membership renewal and soliciting donations for the organization; Restructure of the organizational setup: Promote more chapters in major urban centers; Scholarship for children in USA: Shri Hiralal Kaul of Michigan has suggested we start a Scholarship of \$1000.00 for our children here in the USA; Kashmiri Institute: Next year Language/Cultural Classes in West Coast; KP Leadership Weekend Retreat

Resolution to be passed by the KOA Board

BOSTON: Kashmiri Overseas Association (KOA) condemns terrorist attacks carried out on September 11, which resulted in the loss of thousands of innocent lives. This was a tragedy of colossal magnitude and Kashmiri Hindu community worldwide is deeply saddened and shares in the grief and sorrow of the affected families. KOA also condemns the use of biological weapons to terrorize innocent public by the Islamic terrorists.

As Kashmiri Hindus, we have been deeply touched by these acts of terrorism; we have ourselves been victims of terrorism and fundamentalism. Our community has been uprooted from our homeland "Kashmir" in India as a result of Islamic fundamentalism and terrorism against Hindus. We were forced to flee our ancestral homes. We relate to and are part of the pain that American public is feeling today.

KOA believes that terrorism is the ultimate refuge of cowards. The perpetrators of these attacks have shown that they are against any and every democratic and peace loving society and must be brought to justice. We support the US public and the government in pursuit of peace, freedom, life, and liberty.

Kashmiri Overseas Association is a non-profit social and cultural organization based in the United States of America. KOA helps to preserve and promote Kashmiri Hindu culture among our community members and provides opportunities to learn about Kashmiri Hindu heritage and culture. For more info, please visit: www.koausa.org

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

Youth take initiative to Protect Language and Culture

WASHINGTON D.C. / After 12 years of exile from their homeland, second-generation Kashmiri Pandits in the U.S. have taken the matter into their own hands.

Last year 24-year old Komal Bazaz and 23-year old Sonal Bakaya, both from the Washington D.C. area, met to form the Kashmiri Language & Culture Institute (KLCI), under the auspices of the Kashmiri Overseas Association (KOA). Their goal was to provide information on language and culture for Kashmiri Pandit youth growing up in the U.S. "My concern was that our unique language, Kashmiri, would be the first casualty after our exodus," says Komal Bazaz, "because when our language goes, so does our culture and heritage."

Bazaz, who will be attending Georgetown University for her master's in International Affairs, and Bakaya, a second-year medical student at Boston University, both approached the Kashmiri Overseas Association (KOA) for assistance in this unique project. Former KOA president, Lalit Wanchoo, happy to see the initiative arising from second-generation Kashmiris, assisted the Institute's cofounders in organizing their first project - a language course. The result was a 10-day intensive language and culture course offered at American University in August. Thirteen participants from around the country and Canada came to attend what has been described as the first ever Kashmiri language and culture course held in the U.S.

The primary instructors of this course were Professor Braj Kachru of the Univ. of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign, and Dr. Ashok Koul, senior instructor in Hindi-Urdu at Brown University. The course also included daily presentations on various aspects of Kashmiri culture, including literature, history, politics, religion, and of course, Kashmiri cuisine. The speakers for the cultural presentations traveled from around the country to attend this course, and represented a Who's Who of Kashmiri culture.

"My favorite part was the cooking lessons," says Preeti Wali of Syracuse, NY, "because we all received a hands-on opportunity to learn classic Kashmiri recipes."

Dhiraj Bakaya of Philadelphia, enjoyed the session on Hindu Heritage by Bansi Pandit, author of the popular book "The Hindu Mind." Smriti "Sumi" Nakhasi, a senior at Georgetown University, enjoyed the lecture on Kashmiri literature and poetry by Arti Tiku Kaul, an authority on the subject who has also

produced her own music albums. Other students pointed to lectures on history and politics as being the most informative, given by Drs. Vijay Sazawal and Rajiv Pandit, both active members of the Indo-American Kashmir Forum, the political wing of Kashmiri Pandits in the U.S. Additional information on Kashmir's unique history and geography was presented by Sanjay Kaul, the current president of the Kashmiri Overseas Association. Other talks were presented by O.N. Kaul and Ashok Sultan.

But all pointed to the language sessions as being the most time-intensive and crucial part of the course. Dr. Koul, affectionately nicknamed Masterji by these students, says, "At first when I was asked to teach this course, I assumed the initiative was coming from the parents. I was surprised to learn that the interest and enthusiasm was purely from second-generation Kashmiris, many of whom were born in the U.S. and have not seen Kashmir since the violence began in 1989."

The course used two well-known books on Kashmiri language. The first was by Prof. Braj Kachru, "Introduction to Spoken Kashmiri." The second was by Omkar N. Koul, "Spoken Kashmiri: A Language Course."

The success of this course can be measured by what the students felt that they achieved at its completion. As Komal Bazaz states, "I really enjoyed learning the language and feeling as if I was really making progress in being able to communicate with my parents. I loved feeling like I was bridging the gap between being aware of my culture and actually understanding it."

Others point to the increased self-confidence and cultural awareness that comes with understanding one's native language. Sumi Nakhasi says, "The comfortable learning atmosphere allowed me to gain confidence in speaking the language."

Gautam Bazaz of D.C. adds, "Instead of talking about how much I think I am Kashmiri, I actually did something to bring some identity to myself." Overall, most students expressed a renewed interest in their heritage. "For many years Kashmir was the cradle of civilization for Europe and Asia," says Abhinav Koul, a high school senior from Ottawa, Canada. Eklavya "Shongraf" Saraf, a student from Greece now attending Boston University, says "It was amazing to learn the tremendous contributions that Kashmiris have made in all walks of Indian life, as well as learning about the heritage of our homeland."

Would they attend again? The answer was a resounding "Yes!" Eric "Jaani" Kaul of Connecticut both emphasized the fun, personalized style of the course, helping to forge long-term bonds. Vikram Dhar, a junior at Cornell University, noted that every night a different Kashmiri family in the D.C. area hosted dinner for the entire group, adding to the family environment envisioned by the Institute's cofounders.

The Institute's cofounder, Sonal Bakaya, added that classes would be offered annually and hopefully increase in size. This should not be a difficult task based on the overall feedback that she has received from this year's class. For example, Ambika Wali from Boston had this to say about the course, "This was without a doubt one of the greatest experiences of my life. The friends I made, and the amount of Kashmiri I learned was amazing. Who knew that a 10-day crash course in Kashmiri would change my life forever."

Rajiv Pandit, M.D.



ANNUAL SUMMER CAMP of Kashmiri Pandits Of Southern California

Los Angeles, CA

Kashmiri Pandits Of Southern California organized two days summer camp at Lake Cachuma/Santa Barbara on Aug. 25, 2001. Mountains and meadows, vales and waters have a particu-



lar lure for Kashmiri Pandits. These places of special natural magnetism stir up nostalgia replete with memories of their homes, their people and their very living, now in the grip of religious terrorism.

The camp was held right on one of the rims of this very lengthy and winding lake. About fifty Kashmiri Pandits with their families pitched their tenets on the lakeside and reminisced



about their land around a campfire that lasted late into the night. The most remarkable part of the camping experience was the boat ride, the next day. Lake Cachuma offers large boats that accommodate large groups in a single boat. This was no "Dal Lake" and this was no houseboat with hand carved panels and silken window shades; soft namdas and carpeted walls. However, in emotion and setting it was a very close second. The campers stayed on the lake in the boat known as a "Donga" in Kashmiri, for the whole afternoon of Sunday. The camp ebbed as did the sun, on Sunday evening with the hope that one day Kashmiri Pandits along with their compatriots from the rest of the country can experience the real "Dal lake" boat ride and peace will return to Kashmir, the abode of Kashyap Rishi and his descendants, the very pride of motherIndia.

Kuldeep Hak, Zone 10

INFORMATION EXCHANGE FORUM FOR KOA COMMUNITY MEMBERS (e-groups)

You have all been highly involved in matters concerning our KP community and our KOA organization. Keeping in mind your desire to have channels of communication at the national level as well as within a zone, as already mentioned in our last newsletter we have launched two parallel yahoo e-group services. Please take a moment to read the explanation below so that we get maximum benefit from these services, and at the same time causing minimum intrusion to others.

1. KOAUSA@yahoogroups.com is a communication medium for the KOA office bearers to serve you better by keeping you better informed about the organization, events and certain key issues. We understand that we have varying levels of requirement for such information. Hence, we have used a very customizable service that can be adapted to your specific requirement. To establish the service in the best possible manner, only KOA Zone directors are able to post messages to this forum. If you would like to share some information with every community member, you will have to ask your zone director to post it for you.

2. KOAZoneX@yahoogroups.com (Substitute your zone number for the **X**) is an interactive communication medium for all individuals within a KOA zone. Keeping in mind the wishes of others in your zone, you could use the medium to communicate regarding local community announcements, invitations, functions, information exchange etc., The responsibility of group administration has been assigned to local Zone Director and/or Chapter President. To post messages to all members of your group, simply send email to your zone group address.

KOA President, vested with the email-id koamoderator@yahoo.com, will remain the owner of all these groups. We have great expectations from the launch of these services, if you would like to be part of your local zone e-mail group or the national level KOA group, please provide your e-mail address to us at **KOAModerator@yahoo.com**. Looking forward to better communication and interaction.

Sanjay Kaul
President, KOA

KASHMIRI OVERSEAS ASSOCIATION

ELECTION COMMITTEE 2001

Dear Biradari Member:

It is that time of the year – when we select our Pole Bearers for the years to come. Or should I say when we nominate, vote and elect KOA Board Members. The KOA President, Sanjay Kaul, with the current KOA Board's approval has appointed an Election Committee (EC) consisting of the undersigned (Suman K. Hukku) as Chairperson along with Mr. Chaman Bhan and Mrs. Sunita Kaul – all from Rochester Hills, Michigan (Zone 8) – as committee members. We are honored and hope to serve the President and our biradari to the best of our ability. Here is our first communication to you.

.. Let us start with a well deserved applause for the outgoing Election Committee – Subash Razdan Chairperson), Ravi Raina and Prakash Raina. Speaking on behalf of the entire KP community we think they did a splendid job in conducting a real 21st century high tech. Election – with candidates' manifestos, debates and what not. We have taken many 'pointers' from them and hope to deploy them as needed.

.. The proposed schedules of events and the election calendar is as follows,

- Election Announcement (this letter) in your hands - by 27 October 2001
- Last date to receive nominations – 18 November 2001

§ You will be allowed to e-mail nominations using a standard Nomination Form as attachment.

§ You must have the candidate's acceptance prior to sending in the nomination(s).

- Verification and validation of candidates – by 24 November 2001

§ Both the nominating individual and the nominated candidate must be "2001 dues paid" KOA members.

§ You may enclose the membership dues with the nominations. **However, this year we will not permit membership check enclosure with the actual ballot.** Please note.

- Ballots mailed by the Election Committee – 24 November 2001

- Election forums, discussion, debates, etc. – through 16 December 2001

§ **This is also the period to encourage biradari members to mail in their 2001 KOA dues. As stated earlier dues enclosed in the ballot envelope will not be acceptable this year.** Respectfully the Election Committee submits that we feel this practice is equivalent to 'buying the election'. It will not stand (God forbid!) a possible challenge in the court of law and should be discontinued.

- Ballots received by the Election Committee – by 20 December 2001

- Ballots opened, validated and counted – by 22 December 2001

§ Official membership status as provided by KOA and amended by the membership checks received by the EC as of 16 December 2001.

- Election results sent to the Candidates and the KOA President – 23 December 2001

- Election results posted on KOA web site and/or sent to biradari – ASAP thereafter.

.. This year we have to elect six (6) Zonal Directors. These are from **Zone 2:** CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT; **Zone 3:** NJ, PA; **Zone 5:** AR, CO, KS, LA, OK, TX, UT; **Zone 7:** AK, IA, IL, MN, ND, NE, SD, WI, WY; **Zone 9:** Northern CA, ID, MT, OR, WA; and **Zone 10:** AZ, Southern CA, HI, NM, NV

.. The KOA Election 2001 Nomination Form is attached to this letter. Please use it for your nominations.

.. While you will receive addressed envelopes, please note the official Election Committee mailing address,

KOA Election 2001, 1872 N. Adams Road, Rochester Hills, Michigan 48306

E-mail: (Suman K. Hukku) hukku@yahoo.com Phone: 248-656-2542

.. And finally, we promise to provide you with a "non chad" ballot but beg you to help us by adhering to the suggested guidelines and schedule – and let the best candidates win !!

Suman K. Hukku – Chairperson, Chaman Bhan and Sunita Kaul

KOA Election Committee 2001

KASHMIRI OVERSEAS ASSOCIATION
KOA ELECTION 2001 - Nomination Form

Instructions:

To send in your nomination, please do one of the following,

1. Fill in a paper copy of this form and mail it along with your membership dues (if applicable) to **KOA Election 2001, 1872 N. Adams Road, Rochester Hills, Michigan 48306**
2. Download an electronic copy of this form from the KOA web site or request one from Suman K. Hukku hukku@yahoo.com. Fill in the e-copy and attach to an e-mail sent to Suman K. Hukku.

Declaration:

I (Your Name) _____

Living at (Your Address) _____

Your Phone # _____

Your e-mail address _____

Hereby nominate the following individual for the office of KOA Director for Zone # _____

Candidate's Name _____

Candidate's Address _____

Candidate's Phone # _____

Candidate's e-mail address _____

I further certify that:

- I reside in the KOA Zone _____ which is the same as that of the candidate I have nominated above.
- I understand that the office of Director for this Zone is due for election in 2001 as announced by KOA
- I am a 'dues paid' member of KOA for the year 2001 **OR** I am enclosing my membership dues.
- The individual whose name appears above;
 - Has shown the dedication and community spirit worthy of this nomination.
 - To the best of my knowledge, is also a 'dues paid' member of KOA for the year 2001.
 - Has indicated a willingness to run for this office. (The candidate will have a right to withdraw pending revelation of all nominations from that Zone.)
- My signature below indicates an honest representation of facts and a willingness to comply with the rules as set by KOA and the Election Committee 2001

Please print your name, sign and date this Nomination Form. Thank you.

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

APPEAL:

For Financial Assistance

to a community members for a medical condition

Recently an appeal for medical assistance has been received from one Mrs. Verda Kaul Sawhney originally from India, currently in Naperville, IL for the medical treatment of her seven month old son who is undergoing treatment at UIC Eye Center for Retinopathy of Premature stage 4 & 5. Treatment of this complicated case was not available in India and hence they came here. The cost of treatment is beyond their financial resources. Verda has implored upon all community members living in this country to come to their rescue, as they are unable to pay their medical bills. Please help.

KOA appeals to you to please donate generously for this worthy cause help a family in distress and save a precious life. Please send your donations payable to KOA and mail it to **Treasurer, KOA at 15 Ardmore Road, Burlington, MA 01803**. Please mark "for Sankalp" on your check. In addition to saving a life, all donations are tax-deductible. Please mail in your donations today.

Support

"SPONSOR-A-CHILD" Program

For: Age Group 5 year – 17 year

Financial Assistance to Economically Under Privileged

Cost: US \$200/year Or Indian Rupees 9,000/year

Contact: Shri Pran Kaul at 510-795-9641 or e-mail him at pkaul@slac.stanford.edu

"EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE" Program

For Age Group 17 year and up

Financial Assistance based on Merit and Poverty

Cost: US \$ 300/year Or Indian Rupees 15,000/year

Contact: Shri Tej Kaul at 716-773-3416 or e-mail him at tkaul@adelphia.net

Your Contribution in US \$ is Tax Deductible

These Children in Camps Need Your Help

Contact KOA and become A Sponsor today

KOA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

By becoming a member of KOA you have shown your determination to help, support and make a difference in your community. Kashmiri Overseas Association (KOA) and its board of directors, would like to thank you for being a proud kashmiri pandit. But this a small step toward achieving a larger goal of supporting our community, here in United States as well as around the world. KOA strongly urges you to play an active part in raising our membership level so that we can take on bigger challenges of helping our community. If you are already a member for many years, we would urge you to become a life member. The intent of this appeal is to both promote new membership and encourage current members become life members.

KOA is a non-profit social and cultural organization. Its purpose is to protect, preserve, and promote our ethnic and socio-cultural heritage, to promote and celebrate our festivals, and to provide financial assistance to the needy and deserving.

KOA supports fund-raising for our brethren in India. KOA has raised money for refugees and continues to do so. Membership money and donations are used for many worthy causes. Some of KOA's special programs structured for KP refugees in India include educational assistance, children sponsorship, support to a primary school in Udhampur, financial assistance to community members for medical/social conditions, and improving sanitary conditions at the refugee camps.

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 payable KOA to:

Mrs. Prana Kaul

Treasurer, KOA

15 Ardmore Road

Burlington, MA 01803

THEY LEFT US

- 1) Maharaj Kishen and Lalita Raina of NJ on the passing away of Maharaj ji's father Shri Vish Nath Khanzanchi R/O New Delhi who left for heavenly abode recently. Maharaj Kishen and Lalita Raina can be contacted at 908-369-6353 or maharaj@rcn.com
- 2) Sharda and Satish Cherwoo of CT on the passing away of Sharda's grandmother Smt. Shyam Rani Kaul-Kilam W/O Sh. Shyam Sunder Kaul-Kilam R/O Dehradun, India on October 3rd. Sharda and Satish Cherwoo can be contacted at 203-629-4949 or sharda.cherwoo@ey.com
- 3) Ravi and Illa Ganjoo of CA on the passing away of Ravi's father Shri Brij Lal Ganjoo who left for heavenly abode on September 13, 2001 in New Delhi, as a result of complications following kidney transplant surgery. Ravi & Illa can be contacted at 925-736-2832 or rganjoo@aol.com
- 4) S.K. and Santosh Khachroo of Oldbridge NJ on the passing away of Khachroo Sahibs mother in India. Khachroo's can be reached at 732-727-1877
- 5) Ashok and Malini Koul of Providence (RI) on the passing away of Ashok jees mother in Jammu. Koul family can be reached at: 401-861-9329/ ashok_koul@brown.edu
- 6) Mrs. Krishna Chaku wife of Shri Prithvi Nath Chaku resident of Avon, Connecticut, left all of us for heavenly abode on Sunday August 5, 2001. Adarsh Chaku of CT and Asha Qusba of CT are Krishna jees children. Bereaved family can be reached at: 860-677-7547 and Adarsh & Rekha Chaku 203-261-6392, Asha & Piara Lal Qusba 860-674-1003
- 7) Community Loses a Proud Son—Mr. BANSI :NIRDOSH (Bansi "Niirdosh" Wali Pases Away): Noted Kashmiri writer, journalist, distinguished social activist, and a prominent Kashmiri broadcaster playwright and short story writer, Bansi Nirdosh is no more with us. He was 73. Nirdosh was born at Ganpatyar Srinagar on June 28, 1928. And so, another star from the Galaxy of literature of Kashmir has disappeared. His passing away has created a void. A sense of emptiness overwhelms us when we Kashmiris remembers these men of literature and art. Nirdosh has left behind a store of memories to remember him. Nirdosh has left behind a store of memories to remember him. He was 73. He was born at Ganpatyar Srinagar on June 28, 1928. He was Influenced by his writer reformist father Pt. Sham lal Wali "TIRTH KASHMERE" A leftist by conviction but polite by disposition, Nirdosh was a humble man of principles. A true human being, Bansi was the god-father of Many a Kashmir journalists.

He was reserved but never disappointed anyone. He was always ready to extend any kind of guidance: it was his simplicity, which appealed to all. Nirdosh joined the National Conference Civilian Militia after passing his Matriculation in 1945. But since Nirdosh could not continue his college education, he left for Amritsar in search of livelihood. Later Nirdosh worked on the staff of Naya Zamana (Jalander) He wrote his First Urdu short story while working with Naya Zamana. He was basically a Creative journalist and contributed for many a Srinagar Urdu newspapers in different capacities.

On his return in 1950, he worked as sub editor of KHIDMAT and attended many cultural conferences and meetings. Whatever he said was always concise and proved instrumental in taking many writers ahead. He always produced and cited different facts and propositions, which were always informative.

Bansi Nirdosh is one among great a playwright. His contributions to Urdu literature cannot be forgotten KHAWISH, PINJRA, SANATA, TARCOOT and many Other stories have given him honour. Nirdosh's stories have been called representative stories which reflected compulsions of the down trodden and the neglected. He is the author of many essays, which reflect the sharpness of his analytical and critical mind. SUBASHSADIQ a booklet was authored by him Nirdosh's literary works have not been compiled very properly so far. One can understand Nirdosh as a literary figure only when his works are arranged sequentially and see the light of day.

Nirdosh wrote his first Kashmiri short story SHRUK for all India radiostations Srinagar. His first short story collection "BAL MARAYO" in 1961 awarded by The cultural academy was marked by deep observation and lively narration. "ADAM CHHUYITHA BADNAAM" depicts human situation in the face of cruel Destiny. "GIRDAAB" earned him the state academy award in 1974 and the novel "AKHDAUR" is well known for its detailed description of the feudal times During which the unwary people of the valley suffered.

'DANTHAR' a radio play was awarded a prize in the all India Radio Competition. He joined Radio Kashmir as a staff artist in 1961 and retired as a senior editor in June 1986. Nirdosh remained associated with programs like "Halat-e-Haazera" and "Wadi Ki Awaaz"

On August 21st, 2001 at 8:40 P.M. Nirdosh shuffled off his mortal coil. Even though we will hear him no more and his candle is extinguished, it is prayed that his Soul rests in peace

Autar Wali, Vijay Wali MD, Friends and Relatives
714-773-4800 , Tel No In Jammu 593239

KOA sends condolences to the members of bereaved families.

MAIJ SHARIKA WILL BRING PEACE AND TRANQUILITY TO THE DEPARTED SOULS



Kashmiri Overseas Association-USA

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

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\$15/senior couple, Life member: \$500

APPEAL

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