

THE KASHMIRI PANDIT INTERNATIONAL (KPI)

Newsletter of Kashmiri Overseas Association, Inc.

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Our Kashmir - What they made of our Paradise???

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message by sanjay kaul	2	Coming Zonal Shivratri Functions	12
KOA delegation meets Indian Home Minister	3,4	KPI Annual Issue	12
KOA Board Meeting Minutes by Anupam Wali	5,6	KOA Financial Report	13
Zonal Election Results by Suman K Hakku	7	KOA Membership Drive by Rajinder Kaul & Sanjay Kaul.....	14
Texas Camp	7	Letter to Editor by Rajdulari kaw.....	14
Kashmiri Language Institution by Sumi Nakhasi & Preeti Wali	8	Appeal for Financial Assistance & Support	15
KOA Annual Camp 2002 Info & Registration	9,10	From a Frozen Beat a poem by Ramesh Braru.....	15
Zonal Activities Reportt	11	News and Events	15

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Namaskar! Happy New Year. I wish you and yours, a very joyful and prosperous year ahead. In an effort to keep in touch with our membership, apart from meeting members in Boston (place of my residence), I went to two other places, San Francisco and Washington D.C. I joined Zone 9: Northern California community members on their Diwali celebration, and I joined Zone 4: Washington D.C. folks on their New Years Eve celebration. It gave me a chance to inform the membership about KOA programs and achievements and to get direct feed back from members from these areas. I have found these interactions to be very fruitful. The input I receive helps me shape the organization to better serve the community. At around the coming Shivratri time, I have made plans to join Zone 5: Texas Biradari at their Shivratri Camp and Zone 7: Chicago Biradari at their Shivratri get-together. I am looking forward to meeting members in these zones.

As you already know, KOA Board Members (Zone Directors) are elected for a term of two years (with no term limit). At the end of Year 2001, the term of six board members come to an end. We needed to elect board members for these zones. The election notification from the Election Committee went out as part of the KPI Newsletter, which was sent to all members in the last week of October 2001. Nominations were due by November 18, 2001. After verifying and validation, and getting the consents from all the candidates who were nominated, the KOA election committee declared the results.

I take this opportunity to thank all the outgoing board members which include: Zone 2: Lalit Koul; Zone 3: Sarla Warikoo; Zone 5: Kamlesh Moza; Zone 7: Upender Kaul; Zone 9: Vijay Dhar; and Zone 10: Amrit Nehru. I thank them for their leadership and the time and effort that they put in for the organization and community work. I have enjoyed working with them and appreciate their cooperation. I am looking forward to their continued involvement in community affairs. Thanks are due to Mohan Bhan of Zone 9 Kuldeep Hak of Zone 10 who served as Chapter Presidents for their zones. Thanks for a job well done.

I take this opportunity to welcome the newly elected members (directors) to the KOA Board which include: Zone 2: Mrs. Sulochna Tickoo; Zone 5: Mrs. Anita Kaul; Zone 7: Mr. Sanjay Bhat; Zone 9: Mr. Ravinder Mirakhur; and Zone 10: Mrs. Anjali Bhat. I am looking forward to their active involvement with regards to activities in their respective zone and close cooperation with me in implementing KOA's programs. Please welcome the new Director for your zone and provide them with your support and full cooperation.

Shri Vijay Dhar of CA was also the Vice President of the association. As per our By-laws, the Vice-President has to be a member of the KOA Board; I have appointed Shri Sidharth Ganju of Atlanta, Georgia as the Vijayjees replacement. Sidharth ji is a senior member of the board. He is also very active and dedicated person. I take this opportunity to thank Shri Vijay Dhar for his good work and look forward to close cooperation and coordination from Shri Sidharth Ganju to take this organization to the next level.

A KOA delegation met with Home Minister of India, Shri L.K. Advani on his visit to the US in New York City. The delegation focused on issues related to our community in general and of those

living in refugee camps in particular. Emphasis was placed on our disappointments and expectations. Delegation presented a memorandum to Mr. Advani. It was a very fruitful meeting, details are provided in this newsletter.

All KOA activities and programs are going on as planned and as per schedule. Your membership 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 2002, then please mail your membership dues for the current year along with the arrears immediately. I urge you not to procrastinate.

For KOA's two main programs "Sponsor-A-Child" and "Educational Fund," specifically designed to help our needy community back in Jammu especially those who are in the refugee camps, we need sponsors. No one else but you can help, please provide financial support for these programs.

From time to time KOA gets requests for medical help. We always try to help to the best of our ability, which is only possible with your generous donations. Two such appeal for help are listed in this newsletter; please donate generously to help a needy family.

Your input and active participation is vital for the organization and the community. Please volunteer your time and efforts for the organization. I urge senior citizens, children and youth to come forward and write about issues facing them in this country.

Finally, feel free to contact 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

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 DELEGATION MEETS INDIAN HOME MINISTER IN NEW YORK

A delegation from the Kashmiri Overseas Association (KOA) representing the overseas community of Kashmiri Pandits met with Shri Lal Krishan Advani, Home Minister of India, in New York City on January 13, 2002. The delegation was led by Sanjay Kaul, KOA president, and also included three KOA executive committee members and a youth member. The delegation put forward the concerns and complex issues facing the Kashmiri Pandit community, members of which, after a forced exodus from Kashmir, are living as refugees in subhuman conditions in various parts of India.

The delegation emphasized an urgent need to safeguard the interests of their community, making a plea to save the original inhabitants of the Kashmir Valley from extinction. The delegation appealed to the government of India to provide assistance for education, health care, and living conditions at the various refugee camps.

Shri Advani asserted that the interests of the Kashmiri Pandits and the government of India coincide in the fight against terrorism. He made following comments: that the terrorist backed ethno-religious cleansing of the Kashmiri Hindu minority community from Kashmir is a tragic event; that the government of India feels responsible for the plight of Kashmiri Pandit community; that all measures will be taken to save this community from extinction; and that no solution of the Kashmir issue will be complete until the Kashmiri Pandit community is returned to Kashmir under safe, secure and honorable conditions. The KOA delegation presented Shri Advani with a memorandum listing the short-term and long-term concerns of the Kashmiri Pandit community.

DETAILS OF THE MEETING

The Kashmiri Overseas Association delegation comprised of Sanjay Kaul, Anupam Wali, Lalit Wanchoo, Vijay Parimoo, and Ambika Wali. Home Minister L.K. Advani was accompanied by Lalit Mansingh, Ambassador of India; Shashi Tripathi, Counsel General NY; B.K. Agnihotri, Ambassador at large and many other officials and observers. KOA delegation structured this meeting in such a way that in the beginning every member talked about one specific issue related to our community in general and those living in refugee camps in particular. Emphasis was placed on our disappointments and expectations. After a brief presentation by each member of the delegation, the Home Minister was asked to respond, which was then followed by open discussion.

Sanjay Kaul brought Mr. Advani up-to-date on issues facing our Kashmiri Hindu community living in refugee camps in India and apprised him of KOA's long standing role to promote Kashmiri Pandit culture in this country and how this role has turned now into providing moral and financial support for Kashmiris living in sub human conditions in camps. Mr. Advani was informed that KOA receives requests for education, health, and financial help from KP refugees in India for over \$500,000. KOA raises about

\$100,000. We expect GOI to meet these demands from unfortunate innocent victims. It was emphasized that unless GOI provided direct and immediate assistance to the Kashmiri Pandits to salvage what is left of our community, the already dispersed community would lose its long inherited traditions, culture and in the long run cease to exist.

Ambika Wali struck a cord with Mr. Advani through her articulate and genuine issues about the conditions under which KP children had to study in Jammu with poor education facilities available and be subject of discrimination and harassment in schools. Mr. Advani, his staff, were overcome with emotion as Ambika described when she personally witnessed the living and schooling conditions in refugee camps 5 years ago.

Vijay Parimoo brought up the various health issues facing our young and aging community members. Vijay summarized that older folks were having psychological issues dealing with the effects of living long time under unhealthy conditions and without a social or economical support; women were having severe health issues with unhealthy pregnancies, early menopause; younger kids becoming alcoholics without a social outlet and without any remedy in sight.

Anupam Wali pointed out to Mr. Advani that even if the GOI were to get their wish and terrorism in Kashmir stopped, Kashmir would still not be a safe place for KP's return.

On the similar lines, Lalit Wanchoo expressed fear of continued discrimination against KPs even after state becomes normal. He stressed a need to have a discrimination and fear free place for Kashmiri Hindus to propagate KP culture with prosperity. Both Lalit Wanchoo and Anupam Wali stressed that GOI has to mobilize their resources now so that KP could live as proud Indians in their own homeland.

Finally, the delegation stressed the urgency for GOI to take corrective and protective measures as the KP community birth numbers were on a decline and that the community will become endangered specie in the next few decades.

Mr. Advani spoke about GOI non-nonsense approach to Pakistan intervention in Kashmir and that GOI will not stop their fight on Kashmir issue unless Pakistan stopped cross border terrorism. He felt the pain and anger in the KP community and expressed regret and somewhat guilt on his part and that of GOI in not being able to do more for KP's. He assured the delegation that GOI would never let outside interests' take over Kashmir. He further stated: 1. KPs have become victim of cross-border terrorism and this has not received significant visibility. KP's have become refugees in their own country. 2. Most of KPs who have settled outside refugee camps are not going to return to valley. Only refugees living in refugee camps have potential of returning to the valley. 3. We will not let KP culture die because we will make sure at least a small mass of KP move back to valley. This population will save and propagate KP culture. 4. Will not consider J&K normal until and unless KP refugees can return back to valley and can live with out any fear. 5. GOI is not satisfied with the State government's progress in terms of refugee support.

KOA delegation urged Mr. Advani and his staff that GOI assign a task force that would directly provide financial and educational assistance to displaced KP's, create a state of well being and safety for KP's so they can live in a secure place in Kashmir. Delegation presented a memorandum to Mr. Advani.

The Home Minister, the ambassador to Washington, Lalit

Mansingh, and the Counsel General of Indian Consulate in New York Mrs Shashi Tripathi, all spoke in favor of the issue facing the Kashmiri community and promised support for our cause. However, they all pointed out that GOI couldn't do it alone. Kashmiri Pandits have to get together on a regular basis and present their cases by meeting elected officials and by writing to newspapers throughout the country both in India and the United States.

Memorandum to Shri Lal Krishan Advani, Home Minister, Government Of India

Dear Sir:

The overseas community of Kashmiri Pandits (Hindus) has been keenly watching the situation as it has been unfolding in India after the recent terrorist attacks and is particularly interested in the situation in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. We are very much shocked and outraged at these terrorist attacks. We relate to such acts of terrorism, as we have ourselves been victims of terrorism and fundamentalism. You very well know that our community was uprooted from our homeland "Kashmir." The ethno-religious cleansing of the Kashmiri Hindus from their six thousand-year old habitat is one of the greatest human tragedy of the last century.

No one knows better than you that Pakistan has been sponsoring the terrorist violence for many years which has resulted in the loss of life of thousands of innocent civilians; rendered hundreds of thousands of people refugees in their own country; thousands of Indian security forces have been martyred fighting this menace; and property and infrastructure worth billions has been destroyed. It is very clear that Pakistan and those operating from there want to create instability in India and want the Jammu and Kashmir state to secede from India. The need of the hour is to take tough steps against the terrorists and their sponsors across the Line of Control. Any self-respecting nation has every right to defend its people against terrorism. Government of India has to make its own choices, independent of the pulls and pressures, in order to safeguard and strengthen the unity and integrity of the country.

You are also aware of the plight of the Kashmiri Hindus; we are now in the twelfth year of forced exodus from Kashmir. This community is living as refugees in their own country. Everything we owned in Kashmir has either been destroyed or occupied by the militants and their supporters. Others are being forced to sell their properties. It seems that Kashmiri Hindu community is paying a very big price for its loyalty to India, and yet, there appears to be very little appreciation and understanding by the Government of India. Our continuous efforts of appeals and requests to the central government as well to the state government representatives have not yielded any concrete results yet. After having been forced out of their homeland, Kashmiri Hindus continue to live in refugee camps in most undignified and unhygienic conditions without even basic necessities available to them. The future of our children seems permanently frozen within the confines of the refugee camps. Our community feels insecure and left out. At this juncture words are not enough and the need of the hour is an action plan from the Government of India that will be implemented to overcome pain and sufferings of this unfortunate hapless community.

The Government of India has to develop a short and a long-term plan for resettlement of the displaced Kashmiri Hindu community. This community has to be assured of security and safety

for its long-term survival. No such plans are visible today - the community feels that the Indian Government has long since abandoned it. We want to emphasize that the need of our community's survival is exceptionally urgent; otherwise it will be extinct in the near future. We have the following concerns and appeal to your goodself that Government of India take necessary steps to address these concerns:

Kashmiri Hindu's should be declared/recognized as internally displaced people.

Kashmiri Pandits by virtue of being aborigines and the original inhabitants of the Kashmir valley are fundamental party to Kashmir issue and have a birthright to their homeland. Kashmiri Pandits have so far been deliberately ignored for any talks on Kashmir, which is very unfortunate. Not including Kashmiri Pandits in any kinds of talks on Kashmir will have far reaching effect on the over all politics of the state in particular and the Republic of India as a whole. Their participation in any negotiated settlement of Kashmir is of vital importance to the democratic and secular profile of India and therefore should be included in each and every step of it.

Being the indigenous people of the Kashmir Valley, Kashmiri Hindus have an inalienable right on Kashmir and that they exercise their right to live and grow in Kashmir not on the basis of the goodwill of the Muslims of Kashmir, but as a fundamental right by virtue of being the aboriginal natives of this land. In any kind of settlement of Kashmir issue, Pandits are looking for a territory in Kashmir Valley with political authority and organized civil society where constitution of India can be fully practiced.

There has been a complete lack of prosecution of terrorists and militants, including those who have openly admitted to wanton killing of Kashmiri Hindus in the past. Such terrorists should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

To those living in refugee camps, provide additional assistance in order to improve their living conditions including better sanitation, clean water supply, and bathrooms facilities etc., The current facilities provided to the refugees do not meet basic human living needs.

Provide free health care to Kashmiri Hindus at all the major health care institutions in India and establish special health care facilities for those who are living in camps.

Provide means to meet all educational needs of the refugee children such as teachers, classrooms, and academic supplies.

A special quota in all government educational institutions all over India should be reserved for the Kashmiri Hindu children because of the unfavorable conditions under which they are studying and growing up. These children's future should not be sacrificed while the refugees stay in limbo for years and decades.

A special quota in all central government agencies should be reserved for Kashmiri Hindus because of the unfavorable conditions in the Jammu & Kashmir state and lack of opportunities else where.

Implement a plan to ensure that property left behind by the refugees is preserved and protected and illegal occupants thrown out. If Kashmiri Hindus lose their houses and property to Kashmiri Muslims, their ethnic cleansing will become permanent.

Our places of worship have been burnt, vandalized and damaged. We strongly urge the Government of India that our temples and cultural institutions be secured, preserved and protected in the valley.

We know Kashmir will never be the same without the Kashmiri Hindu community. To make sure the Kashmiri Pandit community survives these unfortunate times, we believe that the Government of India should take immediate initiatives to combat the issues of security, social and economic welfare, children's education, and the well being of the community. Once again, on behalf of the Overseas Kashmiri Pandit community, I urge the Government of India to take our concerns into serious consideration and take necessary actions to address them. We thank you for giving us this opportunity to present our concerns and issues to you and hope to see an action plan in this regard.

Sincerely,

Sanjay Kaul, President

Kashmiri Overseas Association

NEW BOOK RELEASED ON GLIMPSES OF ANCIENT KASHMIR

D.K. Printworld (P) Ltd, Sri Kunj, F-52, Bali Nagar, New Delhi - 110 015, has published the book titled, "LOST SHANGRI LA: Glimpses of Ancient Kashmir" by S. Sapru with a foreword by M. V. Kamath. Price US \$ 14.00 (Inclusive of airmail postage). To order this book, please write to them directly.

About The Book: The Land of Kashmir, celebrated as paradise on earth for its scenic beauty, has an equally enchanting historical and cultural past: this is the place symbolising India's cultural unity, where different cultures have prospered at different times. The author, S. Sapru here unravels the glorious past of Kashmir; he discusses its importance as the centre of Sanskrit learning in the bygone eras; its achievements in music, dance, drama, sculpture, language and literature, and philosophy — marked by the artistic and literary contributions of eminent men like Jayaditta, Bhatta, Jayadhara, Pingala and Abhinavagupta. Referring to various historical works and combining facts with legend, folklore and impressions from oral traditions, he presents a graphic picture of life and times in the valley in the past that deals with a range of themes like the land's mythology, statecraft, trade links, urban centres, tax system, system of crime and punishment and an ancient tourist's impressions of the valley. The author points out that there is more to Kashmir than the present-day spate of violence; the land and its people have an essential 'Indianness' common to other people of India and Kashmir's links with the rest of India cannot be severed.

About The Author: S. Sapru is a senior journalist who has been associated with the leading newspapers — The Indian Express, The Pioneer and The Deccan Herald. Presently, Consulting Editor for the Reference Encyclopedia India and Consultant to Enbee Technologies, he is the winner of prestigious awards including Journalist of the year Award 1987. He is the author of many books including: The News Merchants, The Pioneer Saga, and the Sky Hawks.

KOA BOARD MEETING

To KOA Board Members

From: Anupam Wali

Subject: Minutes of the Board Meeting

Date: Held on Sunday, October 21, 2001, 11/20/01

KOA Board members met through Tele-conference to transact the KOA business as per the agenda circulated earlier. Following list includes members who were present (P) or absent (A) at this meeting:

Zone

1:	Vijay Kaul	(Present)
2:	Lalit Koul	(Absent)
3:	Sarla Warikoo	(Present)
4:	Hira Lal Nakhasi	(Present)
5:	Kamlesh Moza	(Present)
6:	Deepak Ganju	(Present)
6:	Sidharth Ganju	(Present)
7:	Upender Nazir	(Absent)
8:	Hira Lal Koul	(Present)
9:	Vijay Dhar	(Present)
10:	Amrit Nehru	(Present)

Sanjay Kaul (MA):	President	(Present)
Vijay Dhar (CA):	Vice-President	(Present)
Anupam Wali (MA):	Board/Program Secretary	(Present)
Prana Koul (MA):	Treasurer	(Present)
Arti Kaul (MA):	Cultural Secretary	(Present)
Vijay Parimoo (NJ):	Media/Outreach Secretary	(Present)

The Meeting was called to order at 12:00 Noon by President of KOA, Shri Sanjay Kaul

Sanjay Kaul proposed that KOA board pass a resolution condemning the September 11th 2001 terrorist attacks. This resolution was seconded by Hira Lal Kaul of (MI). The Resolution was read and passed by unanimous vote.

Sanjay Kaul highlighted the various accomplishments since the last Board meeting held on January 14, 2001

A) Status of Projects for members in the United States and Accomplishments:

1) We produced Koshur Calendar and mailed it in time to all members on KOA's mailing list at a Cost of \$5,994 including mailing. To defray the costs of printing and mailing, we raised \$3500 by way of donations from members.

2) Long awaited KOA directory was updated and presented to the community at the Annual KOA Camp in Hershey Pennsylvania. Cost of production including mailing \$7288, Amount raised through advertisements \$1350. This directory was mailed to all paid members for Year 2000 and 2001.

3) Four issues of newsletters have been published and mailed to all Kashmiri Pandits in the United States and Canada who are on KOA mailing List, printing and mailing cost \$3672. Shri Deepak Ganju of FL has taken up the charge of putting the Newsletter together.

4) Kashmiri Institute: In year 2001 for the first time Youth Culture/Language Camp was organized in Washington DC. This was an initiative taken by Komal Bazaz (VA) and Sonal Bakaya (MD) under the able guidance of Shri Lalit Wanchoo. The camp was attended by 13 young adults for duration of 10 days and was taught By Prof. Brij Kachru from University of Illinois (IL) and Prof. Ashok Kaul of Brown University (RI). Board thanked: Both Professors; all the community members who supported the activities in Washington area; and the guest lectur-

ers who came from various parts of the country to teach the Kids. KOA contributed \$ 2000 for this course and the rest of the expenses for this Camp were met by registration fee and generous donations by few community members. KOA pledged to support for such activities in future to be arranged both on the East coast and the West coast. For Next Year, Smriti Nakhasi and Preeti Wali have agreed to coordinate the youth camp.

5) Year 2001 National Camp was held at Hershey Pennsylvania. Seventy-six member families (Approx 300 people) attended the Camp. The highlight of the annual camp was participation of young adults of our community in larger numbers. The camp was very well organized by the organizing team including Shri Rohit Dhar (NJ), Mrs. Sunita Dhar (NJ), Shri Inder Bhat (VA), Usha Nakhasi (MD) with able support of many volunteers. The Board thanked the organizers and the volunteers for their dedication to the community work.

6) Future Regional Camps: Even though we have been holding a very well attended Annual Camp, not everyone can attend the annual camp due to distances. Sanjay Kaul proposed to all the Zone Directors to explore possibility of having local camps in their own zones at least once a year so that the community can come together. He also recommended that few Zone Directors could jointly work to arrange Regional Camps. He proposed to have regional camps in CA, Texas, Georgia and Chicago area. He asked Directors from these areas to take initiative to make it happen.

7) In year 2001 we tried to bring Mrs. Kailas Mehra (Kashmiri Singer) and Shri Virender Quazi (Shaivism expert) for our Annual Camp Event. Unfortunately, Mrs. Kailash Mehra could not come because of Visa denial, but Shri Virender Quazi was able to come. KOA was able to arrange a lecture series for Shri Quazi at various places. KOA paid the traveling expenses for Mr. Quazi. For year 2002, we are in touch with Mrs. Nirja Pandit to tour the US. KOA board was supportive of bringing Kashmiri singers and other cultural activists to tour the United States for the benefit of our members.

8) Culture and Language School for young children: This year Arti Kaul (MA) initiated a new Sunday school program in Boston area for our children. Monica Dhar and others have initiated similar program in Northern California. These programs were initiated to give information to our children about Kashmir, teach them Kashmiri culture and language in a classroom environment. This is an experiment. To develop a broader structure for holding similar classes for our children in other parts of the country, Artiji has been developing course structure so that the experience can be shared with other Zones.

9) KOA Membership: As of October 2001, we had only 20% renewal rate for membership. He expressed serious concern about such low renewal rate of membership. Zone directors can play an important role in collecting the dues. After all, the success of the organization, and its ability to communicate with its members very much will depend on the availability of funds. The board directors agreed to promote and take responsibility for collecting membership dues. It was suggested that they should seek help from others in their respective zones and make phone calls to the members in their zones.

10) E Mail Service: KOA started an e-mail group purely for exchange of information between its members and within their zones. According to the current setup, any KOA member can post messages at the local zone level. On the national level, only the zone directors have the message posting privileges. Board members are encouraged to use this email ser-

vice for communication between their zones.

11) Website: KOA is in the process of developing a new website, which will be more dynamic and interactive in nature with tremendous flexibility for future expansion of the site and content. Members can go to the site and update their information while as maintaining their privacy.

12) Unifying, Kongposh (NJ) with KOA: Sanjay Kaul informed the board about his efforts in unifying the New Jersey organization with KOA. In this regard he has initiated communication with Maharaj Kaul President of Kongposh. He had invited Maharaj Kaul to July 4th KOA Camp, and Mr Kaul graciously accepted his invitation. He informed the board about the future developments that might occur and he would keep the board informed.

13) Welcome package: Sanjay Kaul informed the board that Shri Ashok Raina had taken the responsibility to come up with the Welcome package. He believes that Shri Ashok Raina will have the package ready by next board meeting.

14) Elections: By the end of 2001, six zones are up for election of Zone Directors. The zones are 2, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 10. The notification for the announcement of the election will be sent by October 24, and the closing date for nominations will be Nov. 18. The Nominations will be verified by November 24th and Ballots mailed by Nov. 28. The Ballots for elections will be received by Dec. 20 and opened by Dec. 22. The results of elections will be announced by December 23, 2001.

B) Sanjay Kaul presented a status report of the various projects underway in Jammu and the efforts to streamline the activities of KOA so as to serve the community better in India. Projects for helping community in India:

1) Educational Fund: This fund is managed by Shri Tej Kaul of NY. Last year we raised about \$54K and this money was distributed to 210 Students. This year we have raised about \$44K by Now. We have received 160 new applications, and we have sufficient funds to support only 76 new students. All board members were asked to help get new sponsors.

2) Sponsor-A-Child Program: Shri Pran Kaul of CA manages this program. This year 235 students are being supported with help from 135 sponsors. Many more children need help. All board members were asked to help get new sponsors.

3) Medical Help: From members we raised \$7,200 and mailed it to one Mr. Talashi for kidney transplant. He is doing OK. Another person Sh. M.L. Bhat needed help for the cost of his medication, and KOA is supporting him, a check for \$100 was sent.

4) Help to Needy: One young KP died in a train accident and left behind his wife and two young daughters. KOA contributed \$220 equivalent to Rs 10,000 and we are supporting one of the girls through S A C program and the second will be supported from January next year.

5) Help to Needy: As per a list published in Koshur Samachar, 20 families from camps in Jammu needed help to meet their basic need. Khosa JG Foundation of IL donated \$2200; KOA matched \$1100, each family got \$165, about Rs. 7500/- each.

6) School at Udhampur: In year 2001, two checks of \$1500 each were given to Shri Bhat Memorial Trust. KOA contributes towards the operating cost of Rishi Memorial School at Udhampur.

7) Earth Quake: For Gujarat Earth Quake, an amount of \$6,900 was raised from members. KOA contributed another \$2,000, and a total of \$8,900 was sent through CARE International.

C) New Business-Setting Up Committees: Various committees were setup to look into issues facing the organization and then develop plans, make recommendations to the board for approval and implementation.

Following Committees were set up:

Vijay Parimu (NJ), Sidharth Ganju (GA), Rajinder Kaul (WA)

i) Membership Cost: To Review KOA membership dues structure.

Amrit Nehu (CA), Hiralal Nakhasi (MD), Lalit Wanchoo (MD)

ii) Develop Event Sponsorship Criteria for KOA: Which events/organizations can we sponsor if approached.

iii) Criteria for Who/Which Community/Organization should be invited or allowed to address our members at our organized events.

Siddharth Ganju (GA), Vijay Dhar (CA), Vijay Kaul (NY)

iv) Defining the role of Directors and Chapter Presidents,

v) How to deal with a situation of "Conflict Of Interest" for KOA office bearers

vi) Define Action Plan: When any of KOA members misinforms or misrepresents the information about the organization.

Arti Kaul, Anupam Wali, Deepak Ganju

vii) Organizing cultural events: Who to invite and how to coordinate such programs.

D) Issues Voted :

1) Shri Sanjay Kaul proposed that immediate past president of KOA be included in the executive committee for their guidance and information for smooth transition and provide continued support for projects. Shri Hiralal Nakhasi (MD) seconded the proposal and was passed.

2) Shri Sanjay Kaul proposed that we appoint a Youth Representative on KOA board. Shri Vijay Kaul (NY) seconded the proposal and was passed.

New Planned Projects:

1) **Open a liaison office in Jammu:** Board approved the idea of having a liaison office in Jammu. Cost involved to be estimated and then present a proposal.

2) **Assistance with Board Exam Fee:** Set up a fund and a committee to oversee it.

3) **Medical Assistance:** Set up a fund and a committee to oversee it

4) **Mail New Year Cards:** Mail New Year Cards with membership renewal and soliciting donations for the organization

5) **Restructure of the organizational setup:** Promote more chapters in major urban centers

6) **Scholarship for children in USA:** Shri Hiralal Kaul of Michigan has suggested we start a Scholarship of \$1000.00 for college bound children here in the USA. Hiralalji will come up with criteria and communicate with the President and the KOA board as to how to fund this scholarship activity.

7) **Kashmiri Institute:** Plan next years Language/Cultural classes in DC and West Coast, estimate costs involved and then present requirements to the board.

8) **KP Leadership Weekend Retreat:** Plan a KP leadership Weekend retreat Next Year

This was followed by questions and answers. The president then asked for any other business. This meeting was called to an end by the president.

ZONAL ELECTION RESULTS

ELECTION Result received from KOA Election Committee for this year's KOA Zone Directors elections:

Zone 2 (CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT) - Two candidates were nominated from this zone. They are Mrs. Neelam Wali and Mrs. Sulochna Tickoo. Both nominations were valid. Mrs. Neelam Wali withdrew in favor of Mrs. Sulochna Tickoo who accepted. Therefore, Mrs. SULOCHANA TICKOO is declared elected from Zone 2.

Zone 3 (NJ, PA) - There was just one nomination. The candidate did not accept. The current Director of Zone 3 Mrs. Sarla Warikoo is requested to continue until the KOA President can appoint someone to the position.

Zone 5 (AR, CO, KS, LA, OK, TX, UT) - One candidate (Mrs. Anita Kaul) was nominated from this zone. The nomination was found to be valid and the candidate accepted it. Therefore, Mrs. ANITA KAUL is declared elected from Zone 5.

Zone 7 (AK, IA, IL, MN, ND, NE, SD, WI, WY) - Two candidates were nominated from this zone. They are Mr. Upender Kaul (Nazir) and Mr. Sanjay Bhat. Both nominations were valid. Mr. Upender Kaul withdrew in favor of Mr. Sanjay Bhat who accepted. Therefore, Mr. SANJAY BHAT is declared elected from zone 7.

Zone 9 (Northern CA, ID, MT, OR, WA) - One candidate (Mr. Ravinder Mirakhur) was nominated from this zone. The nomination was found to be valid and the candidate accepted it. Therefore, Mr. RAVINDER MIRAKHUR is declared elected from Zone 9.

Zone 10 (Southern CA, AZ, HI, NM, NV) - Two candidates were nominated from this zone. They are Mr. Kuldeep Hak and Mrs. Anjali Bhat. Both nominations were valid. Mr. Kuldeep Hak withdrew in favor of Mrs Anjali Bhat who accepted. Therefore, Mrs. ANJALI BHAT is declared elected from Zone 10.

It was an honor for us to serve the community. Thanks for the opportunity. Respectfully submitted by:

Suman K. Hukku, Chair - KOA EC 2001

Chaman Bhan, Member

Sunita Kaul, Member

*Any Questions/concerns/comments may be sent to: Suman K. Hukku, 1872 N. Adams Road, Rochester Hills, MI 48306
Phone: 248-656-2542 Email: hukku@yahoo.com*

TEXAS CAMP



Texas Kashmiri Biradaris organizing annual Shivraatri Camp. It will be held at Bastrop State Park, Bastrop, TX from March 8 - March 11, 2002. Apart from having a good time, it is a great opportunity to meet other members of our community. It has been a great success in the past years. It will be a pleasure to have you amongst us. The campsite has barracks with bunk beds and can accommodate about 100 people. We all have to bring our linens. The facility includes a large kitchen and dining hall. All participating families share the cooking responsibility. Sh. Tej Ganju, Chapter President, along with Smt. Asha Chaku are organizing this camp. More information about the Bastrop State Park can be found at link: <http://www.reserveamerica.com/usa/tx/bast/index.html>

For further information please contact any of the following:
Usha & Tej Ganju at (281)-980-7185 or
ushatej@hotmail.com / usha.ganju@enron.com Or Asha Chaku at (713)-466-9532 or pran.chaku@us.abb.com

KASHMIRI LANGUAGE INSTITUTE 2002

Kashmiri Youth has taken a lead to preserve our language and culture, We are very proud of our youth and are very pleased to reproduce a letter from Sumi Nakhasi who is organising a special camp for these activities..... EDITOR

Namaskar!

We hope that 2002 started well for you. Sumi Nakhasi and I, Preeti Wali, are very excited as we begin planning this August's Kashmiri Institute to be held at American University in Washington DC! This is the second year of the event designed for (and by) Kashmiri-American students interested in learning about their culture. We hope you'll take a minute to go over the enclosed material.

A brief history:

Kashmir Institute (KI) is the brainchild of Sonal Bakaya and Komal Bazaz who, from discussions at KOA Camp and from the KP Youth forum, realized that many Kashmiri-Americans in the 17-30 year old range longed to learn more about the long and colorful history and culture of Kashmiri Pandits. With the help of KOA, Sonal and Komal put together an intensive program to give Kashmiri-Americans a background on these topics.

Sumi and I, along with ten others, were given the opportunity to participate in this forum first hand. Along with intensive Kashmiri language instruction, KI provided sessions in cooking classes (*rogan josh!*), history, current news, and religion. (All lectures were given by professors or specialists in the topic.) With the exceptional location, we were able to not only take advantage of the educational opportunities but the social ones as well, ranging from dinner with Kashmiri families to experiencing DC's night life!

KI 2002:

We are continuing the effort that Komal and Sonal started in order to keep our language alive. We have invested a lot of time and research into this effort, along with help from Lalit Wanchoo. After scheduling and planning, we are trying our best to not only recreate this past year's event, but to significantly add to it and to share an unforgettable experience with all of you. So, to get this show on the road, here are the details.

First, there will be a \$50 deposit due by Feb 26th. Last year, each student paid total fees of \$260, inclusive of the deposit. This year, we anticipate the fees to be around this same price, if not less! The payment overall will cover:

- Housing
- Instruction
- Classroom rental
- Classroom supplies
- Light refreshments

Tentative Agenda for Kashmiri Institute:

August 2nd - Check In, Introductions, Dinner and overview of curriculum.

August 3rd – August 8th - Language Instruction and Speaker Presentations

August 9th – Assessment and Goodbyes...

The participant will be responsible for:

- Transportation to and from Washington DC
- Meals (there will be 4 dinners held in the homes of Kashmiri families as well as a light breakfast each day)
- Any other personal expenses associated with touring in our nation's capital, such as entertainment, etc.

We are very serious and committed to this initiative. Sumi and I will be spending inordinate amounts of energy, time, and effort to make this event a success. Though we realize that many of you might find this idea interesting or exciting, we need to have a realistic idea of how many of you are serious about attending! We need a firm commitment from those of you that want to come so that we can best tailor the events to your needs. Please remember that there is the option to attend only a part of this course, although it is not recommended in terms of learning purposes. If you feel like you can only attend part of the course, please indicate why and what part (which dates) you would be attending.

We have many email addresses of Kashmiri youth from the ages of 17-30, but we realize we do not even come close to reaching everyone that is out there. For those of you that get this email, please spread the word about it and forward it on to any Kashmiri youth between the ages of 17-30 that you know. Ask them to pass it along. We are very anxious to contact as many people as we possibly can.

If you are interested in attending, we need this registration form and a deposit of \$50 by Feb 26th.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us:

Sumi Nakhasi (nakhasis@georgetown.edu)

(202)342-5601 (h), (202)431-6041 (c)

Preeti Wali (elphaba77@hotmail.com)

(315)446-6762 (h), (315)467-2215 (p)

Thank you so much for your time and support!



REGISTRATION FORM

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

Phone: Day _____ **Night** _____

Permanent

Address: _____

(if different from above)

Phone: Day _____ **Night** _____

(if different from above)

Email: _____

Date arriving _____

Date departing _____

Kashmiri Proficiency:

None _____

Little Some A lot

Understand _____

Speak _____

Signature: _____

Thank you for your time and consideration. Your deposit of \$50 is needed by February 26th, 2002.

Please make check payable to: Kashmiri Overseas Association.
No cash.

Send check and completed registration form to:

Sumi Nakhasi

8504 Potomac School Terrace

Potomac, MD 20854

Kashmiri Overseas Association National Camp 2002

Moodus Connecticut, July 4 - July 7 2002

On behalf of KOA, I am pleased to inform you that **KOA National Camp 2002** will be held at Sunrise Resort, located in the town of Moodus, Connecticut, from **Thursday, July 4, to Sunday, July 7, 2002.**

Sunrise is a beautiful resort with an excellent location and a very good layout. It is a fun place for everyone with about 400 acres set in the rolling countryside of rural Connecticut on the banks of Salmon River. We are sure that you will enjoy this camping event, for it is bound to provide something for everyone. Some of the attractions are:

- Giant-size swimming pool for kids and adults
- Boating facilities that include canoes and rowboats on the river
- Tennis, basketball, volleyball courts, and a huge softball field
- Separate play area for small children and a fun house for teenagers
- Hot tubs and whirlpools
- Horseback riding
- Walking trails and bike trails
- Horseshoes and table tennis

Moodus is conveniently located, to the nearest airports at Hartford, CT and Providence, RI (both within 40 minutes' driving time). Southwest Airlines comes to Providence and they offer some excellent deals from every part of the country. Driving time is about 2 hrs. from Boston, Albany, and New York City, about 3 hrs. from Philadelphia and the NJ area, and about 6 hrs. from Buffalo, Pittsburgh and Washington D.C. area. We hope that easy ground and air access will help more families to take part in this annual camping event. **So start making plans now.**

We have reserved an exclusive camping area for our group along with **40 cottages and 5 motel-type rooms**. Early in the season we may be able to get some more cottages if needed. **Allotment will be strictly on first-come-first-served basis.** These 40 cottages and 5 motel-type rooms will be held for us until **May 18, 2002**. Sunrise is a very busy resort; once we have released any of the pre-reserved cottages or motel rooms, it will be almost impossible to get them back. We urge you to reserve your camp site/cottage/motel room as soon as you can to avoid disappointment later. A three-night minimum stay is required. The following rental rates were negotiated for KOA members for a total of 3 nights starting on July 4.

Tent sites	\$100 for 3-night stay/tent site/for 2 adults and their dependent children. XP \$10/night.
Cottages	\$65 for 2 adults/cottage/night; additional person (child or adult) shall be charged \$10/night; + 12% tax. The cottages have 1 double bed and 1 bathroom; a maximum of 2 additional cots shall be provided for each cottage.
Motel rooms	\$108/room for 2 adults/night; additional person (child or adult) shall be charged \$20/night; + 12% tax (these are luxuriously furnished rooms with 2 double beds and attached bathroom).

Reservations for motel rooms or cottages are to be made directly with Mr. Bob Johnson of Sunrise Resort at **1-800-225-9033** or **1-860-873-8681**. You have to mention that you are a KOA member and have to pay in full at the time of reservation. **Payments are refundable less \$10 processing fee until June 1, 2002; after that date, deposits for motels or cottages shall be non-refundable unless Sunrise Resort is able to resell. People making direct reservations with Sunrise Resort for the cottages or motel-type rooms still need to fill out the attached reservation form. Reservations for tent sites shall be made with me.** Remember, **the last date for campsite registration is May 3, 2002. Cancellation date without penalty: June 1 2002 for tent sites. A\$10 processing fee applies for cancellations after June 1, 2002.**

SO HURRY-UP AND MAKE THE RESERVATION NOW!

We would like to see you as part of the annual KOA Camp 2002. Come meet your friends, relatives and make new friends. We encourage you to organize reunions and catchup on oldtimes. We hope to see you at the camp. For further information, we can be reached at **(978) 667-1695 (Evenings), (978) 667 6950 (Day time) or via e-mail at awali@gis.net.**

With warm regards.

Anupam Wali
Neelam Wali

KOA CAMP 2002

REGISTRATION FORM

SECTION I:

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____
Husband **Wife**

Children: 1) _____ Address: _____
 2) _____
 3) _____

 E-mail _____ Phone#() _____ - _____
 _____ Fax#() _____ - _____

Other Family members _____ Total Number of Persons: _____

Date of Arrival: _____ Date of Departure: _____

If you plan to stay in motel rooms or cottages: (1) Fill out only sections I & III and mail this form to me with a check for \$100 (Common Expense Deposit). (2) Also, call Bob Johnson @1-800-225-9033 or 1-860-873-8681 to make your reservation.

Last Date for Registration: May 3, 2002
Cancellation date without penalty: June 1 for motel rooms, cottages and tent sites.
Late Registration Fee Of \$ 25.00 Applies After May 3 and Before June 1, 2002

SECTION II FOR HARD-CORE CAMPERS			
Reservation Request	Number	Rate	Amount
Number Of Camp/Tent Sites <small>(2 adults and their dependent children/site)</small>		\$ 100 for 3 -nights stay/camp site	
Additional Person		\$ 10 per person/nights	
Common Expense Deposit <small>(additional common expense is payable at the camp)</small>		\$ 100 per party	\$ 100.00
Late Registration \$			
Total Amount \$			

Enclose check payable to KOA Camp2002 for the total amount with this form and mail it to:

Anupam Wali, Camp2002
505 Middlesex Turnpike #8, Billerica, MA 01821
email: awali@gis.net

SECTION III:

- 1) Would you or any of your family members, including children, like to perform at the camp? Please give the name of the person who will perform and indicate the kind of performance.
 Name: _____ Performance: _____
 Name: _____ Performance: _____
 Name: _____ Performance: _____
- 2) Please indicate if you or your spouse would like to volunteer to help at the camp. YES ___ NO ___
- 3) Would you be interested in initiating camp activities: YES ___ NO ___

Please return this Form with Your Check and beat the May 3 2002 deadline

Camp Organizers reserve the right to accept or reject late registrations after deadline date

ZONAL ACTIVITIES REPORT

KOA Zone -7

Every year in Chicago, we celebrate Picnic, We had a great time at this years Picnic, which was arranged at a forest preserve in Woodridge. A hut was booked, everybody had a great time, all of us got together, played Cricket, Volleyball, Kho Khoo., awards were given away by the Chapter President to the winners of various games. Kids and adults also played musical chairs. Mr. & Mrs. Sundeep Kak had done great arrangements at the picnic. The picnic ended around 6.30 PM, everybody went home.



We celebrated Deepawali and this year too Deepawali function was celebrated with great enthusiasm. The function was held at the Aryra Samaj mandir in Chicago. The function started with a hawan performed, Chicago Chapter President Mr. Sundeep Kak was the host of the function. It was a potluck arrangement where in every family got the food for their family and for one additional family. After the hawan,, we all went down to the hall where in we had Kehwa tea with prashad, Samosa, sweets and other dry fruits which were brought by different families. It was great to see all of us talking to each other and knowing how each of us was doing, related to work and our families in Kashmir. After the snacks Mr. Rabinder Ji talked about Deepawali to Kids and all of us, everybody Aneysha Bhat, Aditya Koul, Kungposh Dhar, Sidarth Sapru read a paragraph and explained the translation of what Deepawali meant. We had fire works, all of us did fireworks and acted like kids, it was so nice to see all of us having a great time, as if we were back in Kashmir where in we used to have a great time in playing with Fireworks.

After the fireworks were over, we had dinner, where we had various types of dishes prepared by every family, it was a potluck. After the dinner Mr. & Mrs. Sundeep Kak had planned for a cultural program. We have a lot of talent here in Chicago, Rajni Koul, Jyoti Bhat, Neena Gassi sang various Kasmiri and Hindi songs, Sundeep Kak's mother who is in Chicago these days sang a very beautiful Bajan. The function ended around 10.30 PM.

Sanjay Bhat, Director Zone 7

KOA Zone -4

Namaskar! The Kashmiri community in the D.C. area has been very busy these past few months. On November 10th KOA Zone 4 celebrated the Diwali Function at the residence of Usha and Hira Nakhasi. There we held a Puja, followed by a

Kashmiri gourmet dinner provided by India Grill. Afterwards, there was singing of authentic Kashmiri Bhajans by various talented members of the Washington D.C Kashmiri community, as we slowly wound down the excitement. Another event was a havan organized by Mohini and Surinder Nath to celebrate Thanksgiving. On December 31st to January 1st the D.C. Kashmiri community brought in the New Year at the residence of Lokesh and Malini Bazaz. The evening began at around 7:30p.m. and was promptly followed by a wonderfully cooked dinner by the members of the community. After everyone had digested his or her food, there was a speech made by KOA President Sanjay Koul, who was invited to join us, followed by dancing. Pankaj Qasba and Rakesh Raina provided the music and DJ. The evening eventually wound down with singing of old Kashmiri and Hindi songs. Slowly the tired feet and sleepy eyes, after a long night, went back to their homes.

We are pleased to announce that we have had more to celebrate than these functions. The community would like to announce the birth of Eashan Kak to the parents, Anurag and Kanishta Kak. May their son bring them years of happiness. Also, we would like to announce the engagement of Sheenu Jalla, daughter of Maharaj and Girja Jalla and the engagement of Komal Bazaz, daughter of Lokesh and Malini Bazaz.

The KOA Washington D.C. community would like to wish you all a happy New Year. Namaskar!

Hira Nakhasi, Director Zone 4

Diwali Celebration at Greater Pittsburgh

Greater Pittsburgh Chapter of KOA celebrated Diwali on 11/18/2001 at Dr. Shibani & Nanna Warikoo's residence (Johnstown, PA). All participants performed a puja, which was led by Shibani Ji. After a wonderful lunch we had a meeting where new members were introduced, every one introduced themselves in Kashmiri even the kids tried. This was really great. Dr. Ramesh & Surabhi Raina joined us from State College with their kids Rachna and Rahul. We well come Raina family to Greater Pittsburgh Chapter. A collection was made, where every member family pitched in \$30.00 each, which would be used for future get togethers. Also, a suggestion was made as to sponsor a classroom for Kashmiri School students in Udhamapur.

KP's living in Western Pennsylvania met in Mars (Pennsylvania) at Dr. Vijay Trisal's house on 9/9/01, and following people were elected for Western Pennsylvania Chapter of KOA: Anil Koul (Chapter President), Upinder Bhat (Treasurer), Sunalini Kotwal (Secretary). This Chapter of KOA also includes few families from West Virginia (Wheeling) & Ohio. We have a total of 24 member family's in our chapter. We had a Picnic at Pyle in Ohio on 08/18/01, Diwali celebrations on 11/18/01 at Dr. Shibani Warikoo's house. New year's eve was celebrated at Dr. Vijay Trisal house. We will be Celebrating Shivratri on 03/16/02 at Dr. Vijay Trisal house.

Anil Koul,
Greater Pittsburgh Chapter President, PA

Coming Shivratri Functions



Zone 2: Shivratri function will be held on Saturday, March 30th at Bedford Town Center Cafeteria, Bedford, MA. For information, contact Sulochna Tickoo at 978-250-8193.

Zone 3: Pittsburgh Chapter will be Celebrating Shivratri on 03/16/02 at Dr. Vijay Trisal house. For information, contact Anil Koul at 412-344-3384.

New Jersey Chapter will Celebrate Shivratri on 03/23/02. For information, Sarla Warikoo at 732-727-6972 or Vizay kaul at 518-357-2747

Zone 4: Shivratri function will be held on Saturday, March 16th. For information, contact Hira Lal Nakhasi at 301 469-7084

Zone 5: Texas Kashmiri Biradari is organizing annual Shivratri Camp at Bastrop State Park, Bastrop, TX from March 8 - March 11, 2002. For further information please contact: Usha & Tej Ganju at (281)-980-7185 or Asha Chaku at (713)-466-9532

Zone 6: The Greater Atlanta KP community will be holding its Shivratri event on Friday, March 22nd at Bombay Grill Restaurant in Atlanta. For information contact: Sidharth Ganju at (770)-409-1200

The **South Florida** KP community will celebrate Shivratri event from Friday 8th March to Sunday 10th March in Miami and Ft. Lauderdale. Cultural events will be on 8th and 9th, which will culminate with Puja at SFHT Temple on 10th morning. For information contact: Deepak Ganju at (305)-757-8251

Zone 7: In Chicago, Shivratri Hawan will be held at Hindu Temple at Greater Chicago on 3/10/02 and we will have Shivratri function on 16th of March, 2002 starting at 2.30PM. For information, contact Sundeep Kak at 312-226-0766 or Sanjay Bhat at 630-236-7668.

Zone 9: Will celebrate Shivratri function on March 16, 2002. For information, contact Ravi Mirakhur at 516-713-7284.

Zone 10: Shivratri function will be held on March 16, 2002 at Colina Glen UCLA Rec. Ctr., starting with Pooja at 4:00 PM sharp.. For information, contact Anjali Bhat at 316-475-8698.

Kg sends Greetings on **SHIVRATRI**

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The Biggest Festival Of Kashmiri Pandits
Monday, 11th March 2002

ANNUAL KPI MAGAZINE

We will be publishing our Annual Magazine, which will be released, on our KOA National Camp on 4th of July 2002. This will include interesting Articles on Kashmir and important events in the past year. We would request you to send us articles and other relevant materials before 15th May 2002.

Advertisement Rates will be as follows:

Back Cover Page Color:	\$500.00
Front & Back Cover inner Page B/W:	\$300.00
Full Page:	\$200.00
Half Page:	\$100.00
Quarter Page:	\$50.00
Visiting Card:	\$25.00
Matrimonial:	\$25.00

For further information please contact:

Deepak Ganju (FL)	Sanjay Kaul (MA)
305-757-8251	781-893-4982
deepakganju@hotmail.com	sanjaykaul@hotmail.com

Life Members

Member	Zone
Buddhadev & Dolly MANVER, NY	1
Nirmal & Augustina Mattoo, NY	1
Chand & Rekha Bhan, MA	2
Vijay & Anuradha Trisal, PA	3
Lokesh & Malini Bazaz, VA	4
Hira Lal & Usha Nakhasi, MD	4
Rajender & Pamposh Razdan, MD	4
Paul & Anita Parmar, IL	7
Ajay & Sharon Labroo, IL	7
Jag Bhushan & Veena Kaul, MI	8
Shivi & Sonu Fotedar, CA	9
Surender & Girja Raina, CA	9

New Added in 2001

Sanjay & Bela Kaul, MA	2
Balkrishen & Sarita Kaul, VA	4
Suman & Bharti Hakku, MI	8
Vikram & Monica Khoshoo, MI	8
Alexander & Renu Bhat-Hansen, CA	10

Percentage of Paid Members for 2001

Zone	Percent Paid
1	37
2	35
3	26
4	39
5	16
6	23
7	23
8	41
9	16
10	16

Priliminary KOA Account Summary From 01/01/2001 to 01/31/2002

Item	Account in Washington**	Account in Boston*	Total
Beginning Balance	81,290.33		81,290.33
INCOME			
Bank Interest	1,389.11	987.90	2,377.01
Membership	5,820.00	7,515.00	13,335.00
Donations For:			
General Purpose	270.00	10,313.00	10,583.00
Gujarat Relief	6,938.00	101.00	7,039.00
Social Condition		2,421.00	2,421.00
Medical Condition		10,794.00	10,794.00
Cultural Artist etc		225.00	225.00
Udhampur School		500.00	500.00
Internet Activity		1,500.00	1,500.00
Calendar***		2,200.00	2,200.00
Directory***		450.00	450.00
Camp****			
Sale of Cassets/Handicrafts		1,360.00	1,360.00
Educational Fund	16,880.00	45,260.00	62,140.00
S-A-C Fund	7,655.00	20,297.00	27,952.00
TOTAL INCOME	38,952.11	103,923.90	142,876.01
EXPENSES			
Bank Charges	30.25	811.65	841.90
Accountant Services	750.00		750.00
Contribution to Chapters	1,100.00	3,490.00	4,590.00
Election 2000 Mail Box Rental	134.15		134.15
Conference Call Charges	526.04	554.01	1,080.05
KSS Project	500.00		500.00
Gujarat Relief	8,700.00		8,700.00
Medical Assistance		8,400.00	8,400.00
Financial Assistance		3,520.00	3,520.00
Internet	263.40	889.40	1,152.80
Printing	3,319.66		3,319.66
Newsletters		4,113.20	4,113.20
Calendar		4,599.99	4,599.99
Directory		6,645.00	6,645.00
New Years Card		468.00	468.00
Mailing Charges		3,209.56	3,209.56
Educational Fund	15,750.00	45,900.00	61,650.00
S-A-C Fund	9,366.00	19,283.00	28,649.00
Udhampur School	1,500.00	1,500.00	3,000.00
Kashmir Institute	1,505.16	4,443.26	5,948.42
Cultural Artist etc		1,739.50	1,739.50
Camp Souvenir		125.00	125.00
Stationary		72.10	72.10
Jammu Sabha		75.00	75.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	43,444.66	109,838.67	153,283.33
CREDITS/DEBITS			
Credit for un-cashed checks for 2000 & 2001	5,608.00		5,608.00
ENDING BALANCE	82,405.78		76,491.01

Note: * Account opened in Boston on March 27, 2001
 ** Account closed in Washington November, 2001
 *** Pledged additional amount yet to be collected
 **** Account and balance not available yet

ASSOCIATION AND MEMBERSHIP

Dear Biradari Member,

This is an appeal to all community members to become active members of the Kashmiri Overseas Association (KOA). This organization belongs to all of us. The organization will be only as good as its members want it to be; and only as effective as we are involved in it. It is not only the President, the Board of Directors and the Chapter Presidents but also the grass roots level activity and participation by all the members that can make KOA an effective organization. Unfortunately, a vast majority of us have become aloof and do not take an active role in KOA. And the question is why?

Some of us may have personal reasons to feel one way or the other about KOA. Obviously, KOA has no impact on our professional lives. Socially, most of us either have enough close KP friends or think that organization really does not count. Or, some of us probably do not even care if we have a KP friend and social structure and are thus pleased with the way things are. One could think of several other scenarios and reasons for our indifference. A convincing theory for indifference towards KOA may be that we do not find the organization of much consequence in our day-to-day life. It could be that we may have grown the perception that KOA does not serve much purpose or has no appeal to our finer senses. There may be any number of reasons or no reasons at all for indifference towards KOA. Our contention is that no organization is of much consequence unless it serves a definite purpose or appeals to the finer sentiments of its members. The question then is: do we need an organization like KOA? If we do, what should KOA be doing to appeal to a small community like ours that includes well-educated yet highly individualized people?

KOA has been a very creative child of our community in this country. Initially, few decades back, having an organization and organizing community functions on social occasions peculiar to our community served us very well. But back then, we always had the feelings that we have "Maej Kashir" waiting to welcome us back whenever we wanted to visit or go back. That scene changed dramatically in the January of 1990, when suddenly, all of us were rendered homeless. At that moment in our community's history, we got scattered all over globe without any anchor to hold on to. Although, we (those outside India, or in major metropolitan cities of India) all seem to be doing reasonably well individually, we are at the risk of loosing everything that made us a unique group of people. More than the current generation, our future generations are increasingly at risk of being deprived of the rich spiritual, philosophical, and cultural history of our forefathers. For all of us, coming out of India provided a realization of what all we miss by living so far away. After the forced exodus from Kashmir these feelings have become much stronger. This realization has turned lots of us to seek our roots, understand its history and drink its rich nectar of spiritual philosophy. No other part of India has contributed such a disproportionate amount to the total Hindu ethos as "Maej Kashir." Indeed large number of Indians seeking spiritual heights would come and settle in "Kashyapmaer", the land of "Sati", "Uma" "Parvati". The point is that we are inheritors of rare and privileged heritage and we should not loose it and thus deprive our future generations.

What then is the future role for KOA? One obvious reason for KOA to survive and exist would be to ensure continuity of our rich cultural heritage. What and how it could be achieved can be debated and an agenda established. But we must all realize that given our numbers, every one of us will have to contribute to this discussion for setting the agenda, determining the milestones and then work towards achieving the goals. The goals will be lofty, but then so is the cause. No individual will be able to achieve these goals by themselves, but instead collectively as an organization we will chart the course and execute the plans. Therefore, we need to strengthen the current organization. This would need resources and professional ways of getting the job done. KOA needs to launch an aggressive plan to develop an active agenda, seek resources from within and outside the community and go about the business of propagating and reinstalling the KP heritage to its past glory and be what its members want it to be.

Membership money and donations are used for many worthy causes. Although not a very diverse set of programs, there are currently few noble causes being pursued by the KOA, which include: Maintaining websites to provide historical, cultural and political information; maintain e-groups for sharing community news; projects to preserve and promote culture (booklets, cassettes, cultural exchange), projects to propagate culture/language (Kashmiri Institute: Language classes); promote social and cultural cause of the community; and provide a social fabric to hold the community together. *Fund-raising for our brethren in India:* KOA has raised money for refugees and continues to do so. 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.

It is hoped that you will take time to reflect upon this appeal and get involved by contributing your ideas and resources in whichever shape and form you can. We will not give up until KOA has grass roots level support from its community it is striving to serve. Please contact by email or telephone.

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President
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Letter to the Editor from a visiting Lucknow Kashmiri Pandit Association Member

Recently through your Website, I came to know about the valuable work being done by your organization. I highly appreciate its efforts in replanting the uprooted community back in India. We have lost our land of paradise, but we have to hope and make efforts to regain it. United we will not let our culture and heritage die. We owe that to our future generation, as we are indebted to our ancestors. Once and again all of us have to remember, that we are the offspring of Kashyap Rishi – one of the originators and torchbearers of Brahma culture on the international platform. In this context I think everyone of us has to do ones own share towards the community cause. We did remarkable work during the first four five years of Kashmiri influx into the other parts of India.

We in Lucknow are pursuing to build a community hall for the last many years. A piece of land has been purchased for the same; a boundary wall has been built up. Usually we celebrate different community functions over there, like Shivratri-milan, yagnya, nav-reh, diwali milan etc. Many a times we struggle to raise the funds for the construction of the community hall and a small lord Shiva temple adjacent to it. But we are unable to get started because of scarcity of funds. This has lead to the constant postponement of this progressive step, which is a great necessity for the functioning of our community. The community hall at Lucknow will be a great asset to our whole community, especially the youth who will find room for temporary stay there.

Being an executive member of the society for the last ten years I know that all of us in Lucknow are very eager to make this dream come true. Apart from our own efforts in Lucknow, I would appreciate any contribution of my community members here in the United States, towards this great cause. Contributions of any amount will be welcome. Please mail your Tax –Deductible contributions to KOA. Please mark "FOR Lucknow Community Hall" on your check.

For anyone who is interested in knowing more about our organization and its activities, please feel free to contact me at 518-432-4268 or durakaw@yahoo.co.in.

RAJDULARI KAW
Lucknow Association, Currently in Albany NY.

APPEAL FOR MEDICAL HELP

1: Shri Maharaj Krishan Anand (43 years) has been suffering from diabetes and both his kidneys are damaged. His illness consumed all his savings and his wife has to look after three children (the eldest being 12 years old) and an aged and ailing father-in-law. Her only income is the monthly relief of Rs 2400/-. The doctors had advised for transplantation and the patient was operated upon successfully and now requires a lot of help for about a year on expensive medication and once-a-month checkup at Amritsar. The monthly expenditure is Rs 20,000/-..

2: A young boy Master Sachin Pandit is receiving treatment for 70 % burn injury at C.M.C. Ludhiana. Till date the poor father of the child has spent more than 2 lakhs. He requires around 1 lakh of rupees further. Please help him to save his only son if you can.

KOA appeals to you on behalf of both Mr. Anand and Sachin Pandit to donate generously to save their lives. To help these families, please send tax-deductible donations to KOA Treasurer, 15 Ardmore Road, Burlington, MA 01803. On your donation, please mark, "for MK Anand." Or "Sachin Pandit." All the donations received will be forwarded to the patient's family respectively.

From A Frozen Beat

My heart aches to say this rhyme,
Opportunity knocks but one time,
My grave beckons you to thunder,
Can't forgive cowardice for ever.
My heart, my mind and my crumbs,
Have fallen pray to foreign dumbs',
Broken, alone and weak at knees,
How can you enjoy at Disney's.
Oh children of Aurobindo and Bhawani Kheer,
the land of your fathers and many a seer,
Shiva keep our paradise and our race
Our hills, our lakes and enemies scarce.

Whose Victory

In defeat, they have lost ground,
A poem from Bamiyan, relayed to my mind,
O! my lips speak directly, in ears of suffering,
Language does me unkind, when emotions are boiling.

O! Yembarzali, shred your veil,
Camels can't steal no zeal;
Hunood, Yahood, Singh and Buddh,
Arjuna prevails in Dharma Yudh.

Unfurl your hair, reclaim your flair,
O! Lace your face with sandal paste;
Apple cheeks and cherry breasts,
Next on my list of conquests.

Vedic lands shall reclaim history,
O! Mother forgive my treachery;
Womb of poverty breeds greed,
Money making Diwali, my new creed.

To teach us love, blind she acted when born,
Krishna called her bluff, gave her a scorn;
O! Cowherd, in you Radha's vision lie,
Thou had to be first, in the white of my eye.

Ramesh Braroo, Edina, Minnesota

WELCOME

The Houston Kashmiri Biradari welcomes following families who have moved to Texas. Their timing is perfect. They have moved just in time for our annual camp. The new members are:

Sushma and Chand Kaul
Sushma and Manoj Kaul
Sunita and Ravinder Fotedar
Sheetal and Ashish Sadhu

The Florida Kashmiri Biradari welcomes **Ashish Dhar** who recently came from Faridabad(India) to Orlando, for higher studies. **Bindu & Ashutosh Kaul** of New York are proud to announce the arrival of **Sharika Kaul** on January 15 morning. Bindu and Ashutosh can be reached at 718-583-2392.

THEY LEFT US

The KOA beradhari sends heart felt condolences and sympathies to:

1. Raj and Ragini Pandita of Los Angeles on the **sad demise of Raj's mother in India.**
2. Mr. Moti Lal Dhar of Toronto, Mrs. Mahalaxmi Tikoo of Yumna Nagar - India, Vijaya Misri of Yarrow, B.C., Mr. Iqbal Dhar of Hoshiarpur - India, Mr. Kuldeep Dhar of Seattle - Washington and Mr. Anil Dhar of Edmonton - Canada on the **passing away of Mr. Niranjan Dhar**
3. Shiban K & Nanna Warikoo of PA and Makhan L. & Sarla Warikoo of NJ on the **sad demise of their father Pt. Shamboo Nath Warikoo in Jammu.**
4. Nancy & Bushan Bhat and Anjali & Suraj Bhat on the **sad demise of their brother Vijay Bhat in Jammu**
5. Purshotam and Anila Bhan of Belle Mead, NJ, on the **passing away of Purshotam's brother-in-law.**
6. Surinder and Girija Raina of Stockton CA on the **passing away of their son Avinash Raina.**
7. Nancy Zutshi of Champaign, IL on the **passing away of Nancy's mother Babiji**, w/o Late Sh. O.N.Tickoo.
8. Vanita & Roopji Karihaloo and Jitender (Kutty) Ganju on the **sad demise of their father Shri Hriday Nath Ganju.**
9. Nirmala Mitra (Dhar) of NY and Vinod & Basanti Dhar of NY on the **sad demise of their father Shri Janki Nath Dhar in Jammu** at the age of 88, survived by his wife & 4 children.

**MAJ 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

KOA Executive Committee:

President	Sanjay Kaul, MA (781) 893-4982
Vice-President	Sidharth Ganju GA (770) 409-1200
Secretary	Anupam Wali, MA (978) 667-1695
Treasurer	Prana Koul, MA (781) 221-0350
Cultural Secretary	Arti Kaul, MA (781) 687-9787
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KPI Newsletter - Editorial Board:

Sanjay Kaul, MA; Deepak Ganju, FL

Kashmiri Overseas Association

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Waltham, MA 02451-2986

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

Web Site:

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

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

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