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# THE KASHMIRI PANDIT INTERNATIONAL (KPI)

## Newsletter of Kashmiri Overseas Association, Inc.

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October 2007

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## President's Message

Namaskaar !

It gives me immense pleasure to bring to you the KOA's newsletter Kashmiri Pandit International (KPI) that had been keeping KOA members connected for many years. It was this newsletter that was started by the founders of our organization and kept us informed about the organizational as well as community events that were held across the nation. This newsletter has gone through many editorial boards and has evolved in its content and look and feel but the fundamental objective of keeping us connected has never been compromised. So today I am very glad that I have been able to revive it and bring it back to you. As times have changed and technology is playing a much greater role in our lives, this edition and future editions of this newsletter will be published electronically and will be accessible over the web at our updated website <http://www.koausa.org>.

In this edition, you will find important organizational information as well as the community news roundup. As you will read, your KOA board has passed many new resolutions that will help the organization move forward. You will also find the updates about various projects that are being led by various zonal directors and/or volunteers. Even though there is lot to accomplish yet, you will find that many smaller steps have been taken in the right direction. For more information on each of these projects, you can always contact me and/or the project leaders or visit the following KOA site: <http://www.koausa.org/projects>

We have initiated the process of updating the KOA Directory and to complete that process we need your complete participation. You may please use the web-based form available at <http://www.koausa.org/directory> to let us know about the latest updates about your particulars. We will keep this form available for 60 days. At the end of 60 days, we will compile all the information that you will provide us along with the information we already have with us and create the new updated KOA directory. So please help us to keep the directory up-to-date.

As we all know, ours is a volunteer and donations-based organization and such organizations are only as good as its volunteers and donors. I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the volunteers and donors who have volunteered their time and effort and/or donated their hard-earned earnings for the causes dearest to them. I will continue to look forward to active and positive volunteerism from each one of you.

In your service,  
Sunil Fotedar  
San Antonio, TX  
Phone: 210-568-7726  
Email: [sunilfotedar@yahoo.com](mailto:sunilfotedar@yahoo.com)

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### Board Resolutions

KOA Board has approved number of resolutions that were introduced by the Executive Committee this year. Following are some of the key resolutions that were proposed, approved and adopted:

#### March 8, 2007

- I. Approve Dr. Hira Kaul to continue as the Coordinator of One Time College Bound Achievement Award program
- II. Allow KOA to write a letter of support for the World Brahman Foundation Convention  
World Brahman Foundation is a non-profit organization and they have used their foras to increase the awareness about Kashmiri Hindu refugees. They have also raised funds to help KPs living in refugee camps in Jammu. KOA was approached by Dr. Rabinder Koul of Chicago/New Jersey for the letter of support to be published in World Brahman Foundation's Convention held in New Jersey.
- III. "Back to Zone Funds" Resolution  
KOA will return 20% of membership fee raised, back to zones for offsetting the expenses incurred in organizing local events. These funds will be used for activities that support the mission of KOA, like our cultural events, celebrations, etc.

#### May 9, 2007

- IV. Pilot Project of Milk Supply for Children in KP Refugee Camps in Jammu  
Sh. Pran Ji Kaul from California and some of our community members in San Francisco Bay area approached KOA with a proposal to start a pilot Milk Supply project for children in KP refugee camps in Jammu. KOA board voted on the proposal and approved the pilot project. Pran Ji will coordinate and monitor this pilot project for KOA and report the progress as well as other related data back to the board and the administration.

#### May 22, 2007

- V. Medical Cases Resolution  
In order to create an accountable process around medical funds disbursement, board approved the proposal that the medical cases will be split into two categories:  
  
Category 1 - Those that require heavy-duty fund-raising when the patient requires a specialized treatment at a particular hospital/medical provider of his/her choice, and  
  
Category 2 - Those who are going to a doctor occasionally for some of these ailments that do not require that much expenditure, say \$500-\$1000 per patient (one time deal).  
  
For Category 1 cases, KOA will pay directly to the medical provider, and for Category 2 cases, KOA should pay directly to the patient on a case-by-case basis under the condition that KOA gets proper verification from the patient and his/her medical provider.

#### May 25, 2007

- VI. Rishi Memorial School Salary Increase Funding Resolution  
Based on his evaluation of the school's most pressing needs, Pamposh Zutshi, KOA Program Director for Rishi Memorial School at Udhampur, proposed the following recommendations:  
1) KOA underwrite a 20% across the board salary increase for teachers and support staff, and a 25% raise for the principal;  
2) KOA commit funds for a 2-year support of this initiative.  
The board voted on the following recommendation:  
\$1419 for the year 2007 and \$1419 for the year 2008 to be sent to the school for an increase in their salaries. This is in addition to \$2000 per year that KOA is already committed to that pays for its operational costs.

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### Awards and Recognitions

#### A. Achievement Awards - For Kashmiri Pandit College bound students living in USA

Each year KOA awards one-time achievement award to Kashmiri Pandit College-bound student(s) living in the USA. Any high school senior student meeting the following requirements qualifies to apply for this award:

- High school GPA of at least 3.5.
- SAT score of at least 1985 out of 2400. Or an ACT score of at least 30.
- A two-page essay about Kashmiri Pandit heritage.

This year the KOA Achievement Awards committee was impressed by the following college-bound KP students:

Rohit Gunan Ganju (Georgia Tech)  
Duluth, GA



Rohit is a senior at Northview High School in Duluth, Georgia and son of Sid and Jyoti Ganju of Duluth. Gunan is the Co-President and Captain of the Northview Academic team that won the National Quiznet Championship and several Academic bowl tournaments. He represented his high school and won many awards in Science Bowl, Future Problem solving, Policy Debate, and Ocean Science Bowl. Gunan has a GPA of 4.0, SAT score of 2360 and ACT score of 35. He has been active in volunteer work with Beta Club and National Honors Society.

Gunan has earned a Blackbelt in Tae Kwon Do and enjoyed playing classic soccer at U19 level in Georgia. He is a National Merit and AP Scholar and plans to attend Georgia Institute of Technology this Fall on Presidential Scholarship.

Eisha Wali (Northwestern University)  
Darien, IL



Eisha is currently a senior at Hinsdale Central High School in Hinsdale, IL. She will be attending Northwestern University in Evanston, IL this fall, where she intends to major in Economics while following a pre-med track.

Eisha recently had her Arangetram, signifying her Bharatanatyam dance debut. She received a grant from the Illinois Arts Council to continue her dance education and is currently dancing for the Kalapriya Dance Company. She founded the South Asian Students Association at her high school and was co-president. She was president of International Club and was in-charge of the annual Ethnic Fair. She was also a member of the National Honors Society and was a National Merit Commended Scholar. She has spent time volunteering at the local hospital and at a nursing home, and she is currently working as a tutor.

Ankush Zutshi  
Port Saint Lucie, FL



School: Fort Pierce Westwood High School (High School Diploma May '07)  
Indian River Community College (A. A. Degree May '07)  
Attending In Fall : University of Miami  
Class Rank: 1 with 5.24 Weighted GPA (3.56 Unweighted)  
Academic Honors, Awards, and Recognitions  
- Governor's High School All-Star of St. Lucie County. (2005)  
- Received National Honor Roll Twice. (2003-2004)  
- Regional Academic Team Competition. 3<sup>rd</sup> place. (2005)  
- Westwood/Centennial Principal's Honor Roll. 11 consecutive times. (2004-2005)  
- IRCC Dean's List. (2006)  
- Second place in Treasure Coast Science and Engineering Fair - Biochemistry.

(2003)  
- Harvard Prize Book Award. (2005)

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The committee agreed to award each of them the *College Bound Achievement Award* of \$500.00 for the year 2007.

KOA and its members congratulate Rohit Ganju, Eisha Wali, and Ankush Zutshi on their achievements and wish them success in their endeavors.

### B. Recognitions for Community Work

These awards are given to KOA members annually to recognize them for their efforts to volunteer their time for and support KOA programs. This year following persons were selected for recognition at the KOA General Body Meeting 2007 for their efforts:

1. KOA Camp 2007 Coordinators - Ramesh and Neeru Ganju, Inderjit and Sunita Kaul, Rakesh and Nitu Kaul: for their outstanding efforts and dedication in organizing the KOA 2007 Annual Camp at Moodus, CT
2. Hari Bhat (Chairperson, Nomination/Election Committee): for conducting with efficiency, timeliness, and impartiality the KOA's nomination and election process for year 2006.
3. Deepak Ganju (KOA President, 2005-2006): In recognition of devoted and valuable services rendered to this organization and its membership.
4. Sharda and Satish Cherwoo: For their long-term and sustained commitment and support of KOA and its programs.
5. Kul Bhushan Razdan: For his leadership in organizing the first ever KOA Convention in 2006, which provided a platform for building support for KOA and its programs.
6. Certificates and medals were given to kids for participating in several Cultural activities and games.

## Project Updates

### A. Kids' Corner

Create a "Kids Corner" for the children that are truly in their formative years to be able to absorb and retain Kashmiri Pandit values including the areas of language and our regular rituals.

Project Manager: Ashtosh Ganjoo, Bethlehem, PA

Support: Anjali Kaul Zutshi, Austin, TX

#### UPDATE

I am leading the Kids corner. As a start, we have finally decided to write a regular newsletter every month. The newsletter will consist of various corners including but not limited to Stories (related to Kashmir), Jokes, facts about Kashmir, finding and making Kashmiri friends, fun facts about the way we celebrate our festivals, games involved in various festivals. This is taking shape and most probably we will be sending our first newsletter in summer.

– Ashtosh Ganjoo, PA

### B. KOA Endowment

Establish KOA Endowment with the ultimate goal of raising \$1M to support KOA programs.

Project Manager: Anjali Kaul Zutshi, TX

#### UPDATE - Report on KOA Endowment Feasibility Assessment

One major goal of the KOA board and leadership this year has been to explore the possibility of a \$1 million KOA Endowment Campaign. The goal of this endowment is to support, in a more sustainable manner, KOA's programs, projects and mission.

Before KOA launches a major fundraising campaign, it is necessary to assess the viability of such a campaign. This will be done through a "feasibility assessment" – a process that, through a series of interviews and review of programs, historical fundraising, and financial information, will provide a set of recommendations for the campaign process. The assessment will answer the following broad questions:

- a) Is KOA placed well, as an established organization, to run a successful major fundraising campaign?
- b) Does KOA have the requisite donor base for a major campaign?
- c) Based on current status, what is a realistic goal for the organization?
- d) What improvements in programs, projects and other fiscal and administrative functions are needed in order for donors to feel comfortable making major gifts to the organization?

As a first step, a draft "goals document" and a draft questionnaire has been prepared for the feasibility assessment. This questionnaire will be used to conduct one-on-one interviews (in person or on the phone) with current and former board members, current and "lapsed" donors and volunteers. Subsequent to the interviews, a report will be prepared that will address the above listed broad questions in detail. The report will also provide recommendations on any changes in administrative policies, fiscal management, donor management and communications, and broader marketing and outreach strategies.

Our goal is to complete the interviews and present the report to the board and the interviewees soon thereafter. For additional information please feel free to call Anjali Kaul Zutshi at 512-306-8213, or e-mail at [AnjaliHKaul@gmail.com](mailto:AnjaliHKaul@gmail.com)

- Anjali Kaul Zutshi, TX

### C. Kashmiri Welfare Initiative (KWI) - Fundraising & Associated programs

The Kashmiri Welfare initiative (KWI) is created, developed and now being piloted by the volunteers from Chicago KP community, which is a part of KOA Zone 7. The volunteer team members have got the support of their local community as well as some well wishers from other parts of the US.

The philanthropic aim of Kashmiri Welfare Initiative (KWI) is to promote the development and well being of children and families. This initiative is committed to meet the needs of the community ranging from short-term to long-term. KWI shall identify people in dire need of help, KWI volunteers will raise funds in USA, and with the help of ground level volunteers in India will identify needy KP refugees in India, and those individuals / families / organizations who are willing to help them. The deserving / needy people shall be identified by coordinating with reliable sources in various localities and / or by inviting requests / applications. A careful verification / examination of each individual case shall then be carried out before the case is enlisted for providing / arranging help. Charitable funds collected in USA for the needy KP families in India will be made available to them through the office of Kashmiri Overseas Association, per KWI recommendations.

Chicago Volunteer Organization / Working Structure:

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The organizing team works as a group of volunteers, and does not want to create a hierarchy. The team members work on the principle of joint accountability.

Chicago Volunteer Team: Naveen Dhar, Siddarth Raina, Soman Dhar, Ajay Koul, Rajni Koul, Bansi Pandit, Praveen Raina, Mohan Sapru.

Other Locations:

As the program becomes successful, other zones could emulate the similar program in support of the KP refugees, who have been thrown out of Kashmir.

Project Manager: Ajay Koul (Chicago, IL)

Support: Nimmi Kalla (Bellerose, NY) Anjali Kaul Zutshi (Austin, TX)

3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr-2007 UPDATE

FINANCIALS

- Donated Funds Collected: \$29,233 (collections: \$19,233; written pledge: \$10,000)
- Company Matching Funds: \$ 4,400 (estimated; company procedural delay expected in receiving)
- Total: \$33,633 (actual, plus pledge fulfillment & anticipated company match).

PROJECTS

Projects "confirmed" during the past 3-months:

*Family Assistance:*

(1) Ten Families Confirmed

*Vocational Training / Education:*

(2) Women's Craft Center

(3) Computer Training at NIIT

(4) Educational Coaching

Projects "to confirm" in the next 3-months: (See NOTE Below)

(1) Computer Training at NIIT

Large un-met need exists in the Jammu camps.

(2) Educational Coaching

Most school-grade students are in need of educational coaching in the Jammu camps.

(3) Other Projects

More project requests are at early stages (further details being compiled by the volunteer team)

NOTE: Funding outcome for some of the items above will depend upon the << conversion of written pledge into payment >>, and the << receipt of company-matching funds >>.

### D. Election Reforms Committee

Election Reforms committee is to recommend the necessary reforms needed in the conduct of elections from national to chapter levels and issues connected with the process.

Project Manager: Amrit Nehru, La-Mirada, CA

Committee: Mr. Rajeev Sumbly (co-chair), Dr. Anil Kaul, Mr. Kul Razdan and Mr. Ankit Monga

UPDATE (as of 9/14/2007)

Dear members of the Board and KP members at large,

I and my team have been entrusted by the Board of Directors to simplify, streamline and improve the election process for KOA elections. We formulated a set objectives, given below, based on eliminating past problems and hoping to be a stronger, unified, and effective community.

We started with the existing election process, as stated in the existing 1996 KOA By Laws, as a base, formalizing excellent reforms made by the last election commissioners and their teams; and formalizing and streamlining the electronic election process. Most importantly, we want to consider feedback's for improvement, streamlining, and simplifying from KOA members. Subsequently we realized a departure has to be made to comply with the stated objectives. Various recommendations were put forth by team members, and presented herewith is a proposal which is evolutionary, but meets all of the stated objectives. This proposal needs further refining, but at this time we are seeking comments, from membership at large, before formalizing this proposal and presenting to Board for discussion and vote.

OBJECTIVES

- 1) Ensure "fair" elections, close loopholes, if any.
- 2) Simplify or shorten the election process.

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- 3) Ensure candidates provide factual information
- 4) Keep elections focused on relevant issues and eliminate "personal attacks"
- 5) Prevent any undue advantage to incumbent, other than his record.
- 6) Allow electronic election, without disenfranchising those that are not "electronic literate".
- 7) Ensure there is some continuation of KP traditions in USA, as well as in each zone/chapter, while still encouraging change.
- 8) Prevent divisiveness and promote UNITY and working together
- 9) Ensure that there is Build up of future leaders and a Dynamic organization
- 10) Ensure uniformity of Local elections
- 11) Ensure Board representation commensurate with population

### POSSIBLE APPROACH

- 1) Chapter presidents to be SELECTED by longtime local community members (local Panchayats)
- 2) Panchayat members to be ELECTED by local members.
- 3) Chapter Presidents to ELECT National President for a 2 year term.
- 4) Board members to be ELECTED, for 2 year term, form each zone by zonal members.
- 5) Board members to ELECT chairman of the BOARD.
- 6) Chairman of Board to be Different than President (Board to set policy & priorities, provide oversight and monitor and President and his executive team having responsibility for execution)
- 7) Term limit for Chairman of the Board one or two terms only
- 8) President also a member of Board.
- 9) Board to select committee Chairs for Various committees and each committees' members.
- 10) Charity Fund disbursement to be under a trust ELECTED by local Panchayat members.
- 11) National President to select his Executive team from the Chapter presidents. The Chapter presidents would get the assigned work done to them through their local team and Volunteers. (More work will be done this way)
- 12) Each Chapter to have Youth Wing and Youth President, ELECTED by youth members. Chapter Youth presidents would elect a National Youth president.
- 13) Minimum residency requirement recommended for various positions are:
  - a) Local and US residency for chapter President (3 and 5 years)
  - b) Zonal and US residency for Board members (3 and 10 years respectively)
  - c) US residency for Board president (10 years)
  - d) Board Chairman US residency 15 years
  - e) Panchayat Members (10 years)
  - f) Trustees for charitable donations, 20 years US residency.
- 14) Northern California needs to have more than one Zone based on the largest US KP population
- 15) KP Voter/member eligibility:
  - a) Only US citizens, Permanent residents, and those KP's with work visas, residing in USA for at least 3 years are eligible for voting membership.
  - b) Visitors are not eligible for voting membership
  - c) Dues of voting members are collected by local KOA chapters and deposited with KOA treasurer. The idea is to have 100% of those eligible for voting membership participate in the community activities including voting.

We realize that this evolutionary approach would require changing of Bylaws, and needs to be coordinated with Bylaws committee formally (the chairman of which is a member of this committee too). We intend to submit our formal input to the Bylaw committee, after receiving feedback from membership at large.

All KP's, in USA, members or not, are requested to send their comments on the above Objectives and the Proposed Approach to [DRNEHRU@gmail.com](mailto:DRNEHRU@gmail.com). Your valued input will help us formalize our recommendations.

Election Reform Committee Team, KOA  
Dr Amrit Nehru (Chair), Mr Rajeev Sumbly (Co-Chair), Dr Anil Kaul, Mr Kul Razdan and Mr Ankit Monga

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### KOA Annual Camp Report

We believe that this camp was well attended particularly in view of the fact that this year the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday fell on a Wednesday as opposed to the beginning or the ending of a week. We thank all the members who graced this occasion by their presence, all the volunteers and helpers without whom this would not have been possible, and most importantly the members who couldn't be with us physically but had us in their thoughts.



It gives us immense pleasure to share with you that 86 families registered for the camp resulting in 320 attendees including 27 kids under the age of 5. We are particularly indebted to the youth (10 and above) who constituted approximately 20% of the total number of the attendees. Fifteen states from the continental US were represented (MD, NJ, VA/DC, NY, MA, PA, DE, CT, RI, CA, MI, KS, TX, OK and IN) and the highest number of registrations were from NY (22) followed very closely by NJ (21) with MA in the third rank (16). In addition, we had three families from Ontario, Canada. Based on these numbers we would hope that the KOA community would categorize this camp as a success.

#### Camp Expenditure

As regards the approximate revenues collected for this camp, total collections amounted to \$29,296. KOA has made one refund in the amount of \$378 due a death in the family of a registrant. As such we had a total amount of \$28,918 to operate with. Of this amount of \$2244 was collected as cash, \$300 was deposited online, \$316 was charged to a credit card, \$114 generated as a net gain from the Hawan donations and the balance of \$26,322 was by checks.

Our total approximate expenses were \$27,916 leaving the KOA with an approximate positive cash flow of \$1002. An itemization of the approximate costs incurred is provided below:

Food + Camp supplies +Transportation	= \$17,735
(Breakfast, lunch, afternoon snacks, dinner and evening tea)	
Sunrise Resort Campground (inclusive of amenities)	= \$6,400
DJ (music)	= \$1,500
Helpers at the camp (x2)	= \$720
Dunk Tank and Snow Cones (kids entertainment)	= \$660
Registration materials including souvenirs	= \$630
Certificates, medals and plaques	= \$271
Total	= \$27,916

Since we are talking about the budgets we would be remiss if we did not share with you that the DJ (non-Kashmiri) donated \$100 to the KOA education fund. Furthermore, the collection process could have been more painful had it not been for the unconditional help and assistance that Mr. Ashok Kaul of Andover, MA provided to the camp coordinating team in addition to the numerous runs he made to the town for last minute needs. For this, the camp coordinators remain grateful to him.

#### Events and Activities

A brief synopsis of the activities that took place at this camp includes a kids cultural event performed by 15 kids; 25 kids participated in a painting competition, lots of kids fun games including dunk tank, several sessions of competitive cricket, volleyball and golf. Musical entertainment included Kashmiri light music, chakri, antakshari, hindi light music and DJ. Dr. Shubha enthralled us with her bhajan recitals. All of this was topped off by daily morning sessions of yoga led by the talented Neeta Datta.

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On Sunday morning, we had hawan which was arranged by Deep and Usha Kaul. We are also grateful to them for setting up the temple at the campsite. We are thankful to Asheesh Goja for the video coverage.

We also had a panel/discussion session moderated by Sanjay Kaul. Following topics were discussed: (A) Retirement colony for Kashmiri community: Are we prepared for it? (B) Political Aspiration: What should be solution to the Kashmir issue from a Kashmiri pandit's point of view? (C) Experiences of parents for the upbringing of their children in this country.

### Fund-Raising

KOA Annual Camp is probably the most important event that KOA has in the United States and appropriately so, fund raising is an important event at this meeting. More than \$41,000 was pledged. While we the camp coordinators cannot take the entire credit for the record pledges made at this camp, nevertheless this accomplishment would lead us to believe that the camp was a huge success on this score.

### KOA Camp Pictures

1. <http://picasaweb.google.com/neeruganju/KOACamp2007Album> (Courtesy: Neeru Ganju)
2. <http://picasaweb.google.com/umeshkaul/KOACampJuly2007> (Courtesy: Umesh Kaul)
3. <http://picasaweb.google.com/asheeshgoja/KOACamp2007> (Courtesy: Asheesh Goja)
4. <http://picasaweb.google.com/sunilkdhar> (Courtesy: Sunil K. Dhar)
5. <http://picasaweb.google.com/sandeepkaul1/KOACamp2007?authkey=q-dnHhPuvPQ>  
(Courtesy: Sandeep Kaul)
6. <http://picasaweb.google.com/purshotam.bhan/KOACamp200702?authkey=EktwSY1gIJo>  
(Courtesy: Purshotam Bhan)

One thing that we sorely missed was the absence of Lalit Koul, Secretary KOA who was in India at the time of this camp. As we repeatedly mentioned to the camp participants none of this would have materialized had it not been for the inordinate hours and effort he put into this activity.

Neeru Ganju deserves our special thanks and gratitude for her hard work and dedication. Her enthusiasm and drive were par excellence ensuring everyone was attended to and made comfortable. One particular skill that we all got to observe first hand was her ability to multi task in a very effective and efficient manner.

We would like to thank all the volunteers who helped with serving food, preparing tea, snacks, arranging kids games, Dunk tank, Ice Cone machine and other activities.

We are glad we were able to serve our community. We sincerely hope that we came up to your expectations and did nothing purposeful to let you down. God Bless our community.

### Camp Coordinators:

Ramesh Ganju  
Inder Kaul  
Rakesh Kaul  
Sunil Fotedar

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### **Zonal Reports**

#### ZONES 1 AND 3

1. Shivratri Report from Ashtosh and Wimi:

Thanks to all of you for attending and making the Shivratri get together a great gathering. I was overwhelmed by the response and the support and help we received. My special thanks to Anita Ji and Sanjaya Ji for making sure that everything went well. They were the greatest help. My thanks to Rakesh Ji for coordinating the cultural event. Thanks to Umesh Ji for taking the pictures. And thanks to all the persons who helped in setting up the place and cleaning afterwards. Thanks to Smt. and Sh. Razdan Ji for being there when we needed them for distributing Kharach and Atgat.

Their blessings will guide all of us in the years to come. Thanks to all of you for attending, without you all we would not have had any fun.

Most importantly, thanks to all the children who made the evening so special with their performances. Thanks to their parents for the help. We are all very proud of them.

We will be planning some other events starting with a summer picnic. I am always open to suggestions. If the community wants any type of interactions, let us get involved. Please suggest your ideas. I really appreciate the idea put forward by Anita Ji about the Havan and please do come forward and make it a reality.

Thanks to Arvind Kalla Ji for helping with the most important part, keeping track of the money at the entrance. Due to his efforts, I am proud to announce that we made a profit of \$ 9.05 at the end of the event. Isn't it great? This will be our seed money for the forthcoming activities.

I am so sorry that I forgot to mention how lucky we were to have Rabinder Kaul Ji amongst us who took upon himself and performed such a wonderful Puja. The chanting of the names and mantras helped and guided all of us. Rabinder Ji spent so much of his time compiling the Puja. We are grateful to him for his efforts. Without Puja, Shivratri celebrations would have lost their true sense. Rabinder Ji, Thanks from all of us.

I have added some more pictures taken by Wimi at the get together. They can be viewed at

<http://ph.groups.yahoo.com/group/KOAZone3/photos>  
<http://new.photos.yahoo.com/ashganjoo/album/576460762392924684>

#### ZONE 2

1. August, 2007: Group Photos at the picnic  
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/12260363@N07/>

2. Pictures of KOA Zone 2 - Shivratri get-together are available at the following address:  
<http://groups.msn.com/KOAZone2Shivratri07/shoobox.msnw>

3. Akshay Ganjoo's yagnopavit (thread) ceremony was held in Jammu, India, on January 29th. Akshay is son of Ramesh and Neeru Ganjoo.

#### ZONE 4

1. Congratulations to our budding young artists...SHIVANI AND SACHIN RAINA  
Both of them had their art work on display in the COLUMBIA Mall from April 10-22, 2007  
- Deepti, Chapter President

2. Navreh Report by Dr. Inder Bhat:

We thank everyone who graced the Navreh function at our residence a couple of weekends back. As Deepti has mentioned, 100 people were present and this is certainly one of the largest Washington area KP gatherings that we have had. Thanks to the organizers. It takes a lot of work and efforts on their part. As always, our family enjoyed the gathering, although towards the end I had to leave some of the guests (those who did not want to leave!) unattended, since I had to go for an emergency Surgery!!

#### ZONE 7

1. Jun 16, 2007 Community Picnic report by Mohan Sapru, Chapter President, Chicago:  
Regarding June 16th picnic function, I wish to sincerely thank Anitaji Ambardar and Rajji Koul for organizing a wonderful and fun-filled community picnic at the Gilson Park, and express gratitude to all the community members who rendered help. Since Anitaji had booked the park shed free of cost for our

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community picnic, no money was collected from the attending families and hence there are no account details to report.

Last but not least, many thanks to all those community members who made it a priority to attend this community picnic despite their busy summer schedules.

2. Naveen and Sanjila Dhar's Report on the Chicago camp:

As part of keeping the KP Chicago family informed, i am sending a link with the pictures of the camp. Thanks to Bansiji, Sanjila and Sharat for uploading the pictures.

We had a blast and enjoyed the camp. We had 10 families. Hiking, Swimming, Singing, campfire, Great Food were the Highlights. The kids had an overdose of Fun ( if there is such a thing as that)...:-) The Cabins at Potato creek are simply great.

We missed a lot of you who couldn't make it especially the three families who unfortunately due to cabin issues could not make it. The camp would have even more enjoyable with your company. We missed you.. We all enjoyed having Kachru's who drove in for the day..

The link for the photos ...

[http://www1.snapfish.com/thumbnailshare/AlbumID=165622792/a=70323172/t\\_=70323172](http://www1.snapfish.com/thumbnailshare/AlbumID=165622792/a=70323172/t_=70323172)

There are no Accounts to share as no money was collected. The cabin cost was split by people sharing cabins.

3. Pictures from the September 1, 2007 KP Picnic, taken by Ramesh and Kavita Wali

<http://picasaweb.google.com/Sapru2000/KPChicagoPicnicSept2007>

### ZONE 8

Anuradha Munshi – Star of the Month, September 2007:

Congratulations to Anuradha!

Website address:

<http://taranaa.com/Tarang/index.php?title=AnuSepSoM>

### ZONE 9

1. Shivratri Pictures:

<http://www.koazone9.org/> and then click on photo gallery option – choose "Album: Happy Shivratri to every one" album

### ZONE 10

1. Dr. Amrit Nehru reports: Mrs. Monica Salman/Aima's dad gets Gallantry award fighting terrorists

KP Police Officers awarded President's Gallantry Medal

Sh. Udhey Kumar Aima, retired Superintendent of Police, J&K was awarded the President's Gallantry Medal on 15 August 2007. He received this award for showing extraordinary courage in fighting and killing the two terrorists who had made a fidayeen attempt on the Jammu Railway Station on January 2, 2004. Earlier, Sh. Udhey Aima had been awarded the Sheri-Kashmir gallantry award in 2004, the Director General Of Police Medal in 1996, besides 75 commendation certificates. You can access :

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/07aug15/index.htm>

2. Dr. Amrit Nehru reports: Kashmiri's celebrate Shivratri festival in Fullerton:

The Kashmiri Pandits of Southern California celebrated the Shivratri festival on Saturday, March 10, 2007. About a hundred Kashmiri Hindus congregated in Fullerton for this celebration. Among a myriad of Hindu festivals that are celebrated in India, Shivratri for the Kashmiri Pandit is the epitome of all festivals. Historically, celebrated in the Kashmir valley in the middle of winter, Shivratri defines the ethos of the Kashmiri Pandit (Hindus) way of life and living. This is a celebration of creation with deep connections in the spiritual fabric of the philosophy of Shivism. This community, which is dispersed all over the world and within India, now made nomadic by the harsh hand of Islamic fanaticism seeks solace in its link to the traditions of the homeland of their ancestors, the valley of Kashmir. Living here in Southern California, without their ancestral and spiritual moorings intact, this festival is an attempt at linking with cultural

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origins nurtured over more than 5000 years. Kashmiri Hindu residents of Southern California plan to bind together in a common bond of mutual care and culture.

This Shivratri function started with traditional invocations and hymns followed by traditional Kashmiri music and topped off with a typically sumptuous Kashmiri dinner prepared by different Kashmiri families of Southern California. A subtle reminder of their uprooted homeland was evident on the easels by FACT exhibition depicting the past and present struggles of our community. Foundation against continuing terrorism, FACT was well received by the attendees and shown alongside the walls of this large Hall. These easels narrated in pictures the recent violent history of these peaceful people in the backdrop of this festive celebration. It was not easy to escape the evidence of pain, but this evening belonged to the celebration of the resiliency of the human spirit under all circumstances. Happy Shivratri to Hindus world wide. Pictures at: <http://picasaweb.google.com/amitashokkak/KOAShivratriFunction>

3. Camp at The Big Bear - July 2007,

<http://picasaweb.google.com/khazanachi/20070728BigBear/photo#s5094415973398465714>

## Community News Round-Up

### A. Achievements & Recognitions

January 22, 2007

Fellowship awarded to Smt. JAYA SIBU RAINA

Original message from Professor B L Pandit to Smt Jaya Sib  
blpandit@econdse.org wrote on 22nd January, 2007

Dear Shrimati Jaya Ji,

Bhagavaan Gopinath Ji Charitable Cultural and Research Foundation, New Delhi has whole heartedly welcomed your proposal to write a book on Bhagavaan Ji in Hindi. The Executive of the Foundation has decided to award a Research Fellowship for your labour of love and dedication. The chapter contents were discussed by the Executive. It is hoped that your effort shall enlighten Hindi knowing people about the Divine Message of Bhagavaan Ji.

With Kind Regards,

B L Pandit (Editor, Prakash)  
Professor of Economics  
Delhi School of Economics  
University of Delhi  
Delhi 110007

About Jaya Sib

Smt Jaya Sib writes in Hindi and Kashmiri for KOSHUR SAMACHAR- New Delhi, Kshir Bhavani Times-Jammu; B G PATRIKA, Prakash- New Delhi; Madhyama Pratipda Patrika-Ajmer, Vitasta - Kolkata, and Milchar -Mumbai.

One of her Kashmiri poems related to " Visthapan" , has been translated by Smt Amrita Pritam in her famous book AAWAAZEI. Amrita ji has written a biographical sketch of Jaya sib in her works.

Jaya Sib has her Kashmiri and Hindi poems on KOAUSA's kashmirgroup website at <http://www.kashmirgroup.com> , Kashmirshaivism e-forum, Satisar e-forum, Kpnetwork e-forum and kashmir-interchange e-forum.

She is the author of MAANTRIK BHAJAN DEEPIKA. In this book, she has given the essence of the BIJA MANTRAS in Kashmiri verse. She also authored the MSS "Vitasta Kei Aanchal Mei" in Hindi prose, in 1991, which reveals the sad tale of her migration. It was versified later by the renowned poet Shri B S SAHWAL, a recipient of the Bhagwan Gopinath ji Centenary Honour.

Under the present Fellowship, Smt. Jaya Sib Raina will cover Bhagwan Ji's Life and Spirituality, Message of THE BHAGAVAN SUTRA--- "Sezar, Pazar, Shozar". Impact of the Vedas, the Bhagwadgita, Panchastavi and Guru Gita on Bhagwan ji's life and philosophy. His Yantrik Puja and the Agamic view will be described, along with other allied topics.

Smt. Jaya Sib will dedicate this work to the Bhagavaan Gopinath ji Charitable, Cultural and Research FOUNDATION, New Delhi.

January 25, 2007:

Dr. Sudhir Kumar Sopory awarded India's Padam Shri



Kashmiri Overseas Association (KOA, USA) congratulates Dr. Sudhir Kumar Sopory on being awarded India's one of the highest awards Padam Shri.

Sudhir Ji is a Professor at International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, Delhi. His major work has been towards understanding the mechanism of light and stress regulation of gene expression. Specifically, he is looking into the signal transduction events and pathways and developing transgenic technology for the production of salinity tolerant plants.

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He has been previously awarded the following:

- Bhatnagar Award of the Council and Scientific and Industrial Research, India (1987)
- Chakravorty Award (1988)
- Birbal Sahni Medal of the Botanical Society (2001)
- Birbal Sahni Birth Centenary Award of Indian Science Congress (2005)
- Godnev Award Lecture of Belarus Academy of Sciences.

He is an elected Fellow of the Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi; the Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore; the National Academy of Sciences, Allahabad; the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, New Delhi, and The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) Trieste, Italy.

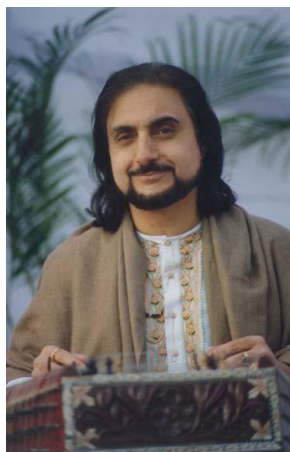
Sudhir Ji has also written a book "Glimpses of Kashmir: Science and Kashmiri Heritage". It contains the proceedings of a seminar relating to Kashmir and attempts to bring about a synthesis of various scientific discipline as well as synthesis of science and culture and spiritual heritage of Kashmir. Divided into 2 parts, Part I covers contribution of Kashmiri scientists and Part II relates to science, spirituality and Kashmir Shaivism.

Our heartiest CONGRATULATIONS to Sudhir Ji and his family !

(Picture: <http://www.icgeb.trieste.it/RESEARCH/ND/Sopory.htm>)

**January 26, 2007:**

**Pandit Bhajan Sopori honoured with the 'J&K State Award'**



Pandit Bhajan Sopori has been awarded the highest civilian award of the Jammu & Kashmir State – the 'J&K State Award'. The award has been announced today on 26th January, the 58th Republic day of India, by the J&K Govt. the award ceremony shall be held after few weeks.

Pandit Bhajan Sopori, the legendary Santoor Maestro and Music Composer, is hailed as the "Saint of Santoor" and the "King of Strings". A composer of around 5000 songs in various languages, his compositions bear the distinctive stamp of his virtuosity and erudition. He has used his Santoor and his compositions to highlight the concept of oneness and foster unity enshrining the idea of national integration, humanism and peace amongst the common man and the youth in particular.

For his enormous contributions, he has received numerous awards including the prestigious Padma Shri, Sangeet Natak Academy Award, Delhi Ratan Award, Delhi Telugu Academy Award, Shiromani Award, Beenkar Samman, Punjab Sakha Award, Shardha Samman, Sangeet Ratna Samman & many more including the 'Sangeet Vibuthi (lifetime achievement award) and the 'National Flag of the Arab Republic of Egypt'. He has also been honoured with the 'Golden Jubilee Celebrations Award' (AIR-Srinagar) for his contribution to Kashmiri music & society and by 'Kashmiri Overseas Association' (USA) for his contribution towards preserving Kashmiri Art & Music and his dedication to community service.

**January 28, 2007:**

**Dr. Upendra Kaul conferred National Excellence Award**

Dr Upendra Kaul, recipient of Padma Shri in 2006 has now been conferred the National Excellence Award. National Excellence Awards presented:

<http://www.hindu.com/thehindu/holnus/001200701271613.htm>

New Delhi, Jan. 27 (PTI): Noted cardiologist Upendra Kaul, famous Kuchipudi dancers Raja and Radha Reddy and Vastu expert N K Jhajharia have been conferred the National Excellence Awards.

The awards, given every year to intellectuals and humanists who are rendering outstanding yeoman service to the society by T P Jhunjhunwala Foundation, were presented last evening on the occasion of Republic Day.

Senior lawyer and Congress leader Abhishek Manu Singhvi gave away the awards, comprising a citation and a memento.

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While Kaul got the award for his contribution in the field of medicine, the Reddy couple were awarded for excellence in art and culture. N K Jhajharia was awarded for his expertise in Vaastu. The Jhunjhunwala Foundation with the help of governmental and non-governmental bodies works to provide aids and appliances to the handicapped, assistance for rehabilitation of the disabled, vocational training to women and scholarships to poor children to facilitate their higher education.

Upendra Kaul is currently Director of Cardiology, Fortis group of hospitals in NOIDA and New Delhi. He was formerly Professor of Cardiology at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi. He has also been on the faculty of G.B. Pant Hospital, New Delhi ,PGIMER, Chandigarh and Batra Hospital, New Delhi. Prof. Kaul is one of the first Cardiologists to start coronary interventions in India. He has started a number of new techniques in Interventional Cardiology which include percutaneous cardiopulmonary bypass, rotational & directional atherectomy, coronary stenting and percutaneous laser myocardial revascularization etc.

Dr. Kaul is a fellow of the National Academy of Medical Sciences, a fellow of American College of Cardiology a fellow of society of cardiac angiography and interventions and a fellow of Indian Society of interventional cardiology. He has conducted several interventional live demonstration courses during the last 15years. He has trained more than 200 full time cardiologists and is on the faculty of several prestigious universities in USA, Europe, Far East, China & Australia. He also participates as a faculty in most of the important meetings in Interventional Cardiology nationally and internationally. Prof. Kaul is a Past President of the Cardiological Society of India & is currently Vice President of the SAARC Cardiac Society. He was awarded the Dr. B.C. Roy Award for the year 1999 by the President of India and has more than 450 publications to his credit. Awarded the Padma Shri in 2006.

March 1, 2007:

Abhay Rustum Sopori awarded 'Sangeet Natak Akademy Award 2007'

Abhay Rustum Sopori gets prestigious Sangeet Natak Akademy's first 'Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar' 2006.



Abhay Rustum Sopori, the internationally acclaimed Santoor Maestro and Music composer has been awarded the prestigious Sangeet Natak Akademy's first 'Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar' for the year 2006.

This award is been constituted this year only and shall be given to prominent personalities every year for their contribution and achievements in performing arts such as Music, Dance, Drama. This award consists of a cash prize of Rs.25,000 along with a citation. The award ceremony's shall be held in april.

Abhay Rustum is the youngest Santoor Player of India from Delhi born in beautiful valleys of Kashmir, in a musical environment and spiritual surroundings, he has been the torch bearer of the exclusive traditional Santoor family of the country.

He is the son of Santoor Legend Pt. Bhajan Sopori. He learnt Santoor from Grand Father Pt. Shambo Nath Sopori and from his father. He has immense musical sense from traditional Sufiana Gharana. He also acquired knowledge of Western Classical Music to get a base for systematic compositional work.

Abhay has performed in so many concerts at national and international levels to spread the Indian music through his magic of Santoor. Opening-Strings, Shehjaar, Aao Kadam Badhayain, etc. are some of his innovations in the field of music.

More details at

<http://www.indiaenews.com/bollywood/20070223/40657.htm>

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April 5, 2007:

Anurag Harsh from New York performs at the prestigious Carnegie Hall in New York

One of our own, Anurag Harsh from New York, recently performed at the prestigious Carnegie Hall in New York. Congratulations, Anurag !

The TV coverage and concert videos are available at Anurag's personal website:

[www.anuragharsh.com](http://www.anuragharsh.com)



Anurag Harsh (vocal) is the son of Shrimati Asha Kaul, the leading singer of Kashmir from the 60s. He was born in Srinagar , spent his childhood in Jamshedpur, high school and college years in London and now lives in New York . A British Council Scholar from the University of Sheffield , Anurag holds an MBA from the MIT Sloan School where he studied as a Sloan Fellow, and an MS in Management from the Wharton School . He has also been a live broadcaster for the BBC and co-authored a book published by McGraw-Hill. Anurag is the winner of two of India 's most prestigious musical contests organized by ITC's Sangeet Research Academy as well as the All India Radio Music Contest. Anurag is the leading young performer of contemporary vocal Indian music. His songs are based on North Indian classical music but improvised to appeal to a wide audience. Gifted with rare vocal dexterity, he performs his concerts with accompanying tabla (Indian drums) and harmonium (Indian reed organ). Anurag can sing effortlessly in all three octaves. His Indian devotional song titled "Guruji" (translation: O' Master) has been remixed by leading DJs in Europe and USA and is perhaps one of the rare Indian classical tracks that is widely played at dance clubs around the world.

Anurag is among the youngest upcoming vocalists of the new generation and has performed at leading venues around the world including the Royal Festival Hall and Nehru Center in London . Anurag completed his Sangeet Alankaar (MA in Music) from Gandharva University at the age of 17. His first ever live concert was at the age of 4 when he gave a 45 minute solo performance. He was a regular featured artist at the All India Radio studios in India and during his childhood years, was the youngest regularly recorded radio artist on AIR (at Age 4). Anurag has a musical repertoire that comprises over 100 ragas and rhythms, including khayal, trivat, chaturang, tarana, thumri, bhajan, as well as Urdu, Sanskrit and Sufi poetry.

April 19, 2007:

Dr. Ramesh Ganju leads research against lung cancer



Congratulations to Dr. Ramesh Ji Ganju of Brookline, Massachusetts !!

He led the research team at Harvard University in the fight against lung cancer.  
Websites of interest:

1. <http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn11630-cannabis-compound-slows-lung-cancer-in-mice.html>
2. <http://www.caromont.org/body.cfm?id=381&action=detail&ref=18222>
3. <http://www.huliq.com/18764/delta-tetrahydrocannabinol-inhibits-growth-and-metastasis-of-lung-cancer>
4. [http://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2007-04/aafc-gtc041007.php](http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2007-04/aafc-gtc041007.php)
5. <http://www.fiercebiotech.com/node/6524>
6. <http://bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601202&sid=aLRKiCe0XoRQ&refer=healthcare>
7. <http://www.hindustantimes.com/StoryPage/StoryPage.aspx?id=4a756bf1-a7b0-418a-ba7b-2f4c924a46f8&MatchID1=4452&TeamID1=4&TeamID2=10&MatchType1=2&SeriesID1=1104&PrimaryID=4452>

Putting the brakes on leukocyte chemotaxis:

An interview with Dr. Ramesh K. Ganju

Website address: <http://koausa.org/members/rameshganju.pdf>

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September 13, 2007:  
Inspiring news from Udhampur



PRIDE OF OUR COMMUNITY

*Left to Right:* Ruchi Kandroo (10th), Sakshi Bhat (9th), Neeshu Bhat (10th)  
This picture has been provided by Sh. Bhushan Garoo

These young girls from the Battal Balian refugee camp near Udhampur, who attended the Rishi Memorial School, secured 9th and joint 10th positions in the 8th Grade public examinations conducted by the District Board of Education. More than 8,000 students appeared in the examination from all over Udhampur district, and only the top ten positions were notified in the government gazette.

Let us celebrate these young girls as a symbol of our community's strength and determination. Members interested in sending congratulatory notes to Ruchi, Sakshi, Neeshu, or the school staff, please send an e-mail message to [pamposh\\_zutshi@hotmail.com](mailto:pamposh_zutshi@hotmail.com).

Many thanks to KOA membership, especially to those who contributed to KOA Education Fund.

### Background Information:

The Rishi Memorial School is a tangible success story of collective community effort. It educates approx. 175 kids through the 8th grade, an overwhelming majority of whom are refugee Kashmiri Pandit kids. The school employs 17 staff (1 principal, 13 teachers and 3 support staff), out of which 15 are refugees from Kashmir.

Individuals interested in making tax-exempt contributions, please visit KOA Education Fund at: [https://app.etapestry.com/hosted/KashmiriOverseasAssociation\\_1/OnlineGiving.html](https://app.etapestry.com/hosted/KashmiriOverseasAssociation_1/OnlineGiving.html)

## B. Those Who Joined Us



- January 23, 2007: Shivani and Krishen Fotedar were blessed with a baby girl Maya Lakshmi.
- January 17, 2007: Deepika and Vinod Raina were blessed with baby boys Neel and Sohum.
- February 7, 2007: Rajan and Veena Kaul became proud parents of Nikhil Raj Kaul
- March 31, 2007: Archana and Arun Zarabi were blessed with Aarush Zarabi.
- April 22, 2007: Congratulations to Rajashri and Rajneesh Raina who became proud parents of a baby boy.
- May 29, 2007: Shubi and Suraj Mukatira were blessed with son Sujay Razdan Mukatira
- July 5, 2007: Bhavna and Arun Bhat were blessed with another baby girl Avani at Wake Med, NC.
- July 18, 2007: Ashish and Meenakshi Kak became proud parents of Annika
- July 26, 2007: Congratulations to Seema Mattoo and Mike on their bundle of joy.....a baby daughter....KEYA.
- August 8, 2007: Annu and Ashwani were blessed with son Aran
- August 16, 2007: Congratulations to Deepti and Sandeep Vaishnavi of Maryland on birth of their son Shivum Vaishnavi
- September 6, 2007: Shalini and Sanjay Dhar of San Jose, CA became proud parents of Sahil Krishna Dhar
- September 10, 2007: Congratulations to Deepali and Ankit Monga who became proud parents of a baby girl - Mihira Monga
- September 12, 2007: Congratulations to Archana and Anup Tikku who became proud parents of a baby boy Arsh Tikku
- September 19, 2007: Komal & Jamie had a baby boy Jahan Kumar
- Congratulations to Angela Vali and Sunil Vali of Chicago area on the birth of their lovely baby boy.

## C. Those Who Got Married



- September 23, 2007: Jharna Kachru (Daughter of Rajni & Yoginder Kachru) weds Akshay Adalti (Son of Anjana & Sohan Lal Adalti)

### D. Those Who Left Us

- September 20, 2006: Prof. Moti Lal Wali. Survived by: Vasanta Wali (wife), Dr. Anil and Sunita Wali (son and daughter-in-law); Ramesh and Nimi Wali (son and daughter-in-law); and Nirja and Ravi Nehru (daughter and son-in-law); and grandchildren.
- January 9, 2007: Prof. Shiban Krishen Kaul (Babuji) of Chicago, father of Dr. Ameeta Bamzai and Pickee Kaul
- January 8, 2007: Mrs. Durga Moza w/o Late Shri Prithvi Nath Moza resident of Fremont, California. Survived by: Children: Savita & Makhan Seru, CA (Daughter & Son-in-law); Usha & Jeevan Zutshi, CA (Daughter & Son-in-law); Romesh & Rashmi Moza, TX (Son & Daughter-in-law); Ashok & Reena Moza, CA (Son & Daughter-in-law); Asha Moza (Daughter); Sandeep Moza (Son); Grand Children: Vinita Seru, Amit & Rahul Zutshi, Rohin & Roma Moza
- January 10, 2007: Shrimati Indrawati Kaul (Bhabi ji), mother of J.B. Kaul of MI. Survived by: Satya Bhushan and Raj Dulari Kaul (son and daughter-in-law); JB and Veena Kaul (son and daughter-in-law); Pyari and Ravi Kilam (daughter and son-in-law); Manmohan and Mini Kaul (son and daughter-in-law)
- January 7, 2007: Sh Prithvi Nath Mattoo (Daddy-Bhaisahib). Survived by Bhabi, Soomawati (Kamla) Mattoo (wife of deceased); Autar Mattoo (son) Laurel, MD; Shana Mattoo Lanham, MD; Ashok and Rita Mattoo (son) Bangalore; Savitri and Gokal Nath Warikoo (daughter) Bangalore; Nirmala and Surinder Yachha (daughter) Lucknow; Grandchildren: (Sanjay and Promila Warikoo Fremont, CA; Kanchan and Stacy Mattoo, Los Angeles, CA; Amrita and Bishal Thapa New York; Rohin Mattoo, Amar Mattoo, Monika Yachha, Yukhti Yachha); Dwarika Nath Mattoo (brother) Jammu and other Man-Mattoo parivar.
- March 2, 2007: Dr. Kameshwar Razdan. Survived by: Raj Razdan (Wife); Ashutosh & Preeti Razdan, CA (Son & Daughter-in-law); Renu & Rakesh Peer, CA (Daughter & Son-in-law); Krishna & Kulbhushan Razdan, IL (Sister & Brother-in-law); Soomnath & Santosh Raina, India (Brother & Sister-in-law); Nitranath & Amritsheri Raina (Parents); Grand Children: Reva, Rohan, Neil, & Nikhil
- April 20, 2007: Smt. Shobawati Kaw (Jigur), wife of Late Sh. Janki Nath Kaw, originally from Rainawari, Srinagar, left for heavenly abode at Bantalab, Jammu. Survived by (in US): Ashtosh Ganjoo (Grandson; Pennsylvania) 610-691-8657; Beenu Kaw (Grand daughter; Michigan) 248-614-6229; Sonu Kaw (Grand daughter; Michigan) 517-703-0568
- April 24, 2007: Mr. P.K. Mattoo IAS, (rtd. Chief Secretary, Himachal Pradesh) at Vasant Kunj, New Delhi. Besides many friends and family members in U.S. and India, he is survived by his wife, Mrs Raj Karni Mattoo (Shair) and his son Sunil and daughter Ranjana and their families.
- April 30, 2007: Prem Nath Kaul (Dulloo) in Indore, India. Survived by: Mrs. Gora Bhatani Kaul, wife. (91-731-247-9524); Devinder and Indira Kaul, son and daughter-in-law. (91-120-251-8296); Ravinder and Girja Kaul, son and daughter-in-law. (91-731-247-9524); Arun and Pinky Kaul, son and daughter-in-law; Vivek Kaul, grandson. (404-545-4111)
- June 6, 2007: Shri Hari Krishen Kaw on Wednesday, June 6th, 2007. Survived by his children G.L. & Lalita Badam, Ravindhar & Nancy Kaw, Vijay & Girija Kachroo and Inder Mohan Kaw; and grandchildren: Priya & Anand Palimkar, Puneet Badam, Samihita & Shagun Bhat, Sidharth Kaw, Avinash & Akshay Kachroo, Eashan Kaw, and great-grandchild: Aryan.
- July 6, 2007: Smt. Kanta Tiku (Bu jee, maiden name Kanta Bhan), wife of late Shri Trilok Nath Tiku of Batayar and Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar). Survived by: Shanta Kaul, Sister-in-Law from Jammu, India; Pran and Raj Tiku, Son and Daughter-in-Law from Bedford, MA; Ved Prakash and Nirmala Tiku, Nephew and his wife from Canada; Shana and Autar Mattoo, Daughter from Maryland; Ashok and Raksha Tiku, Nephew and his wife from Chandigarh; Swaranlata and Ashok Raina, Niece and her husband from New Delhi; Om and Sarla Tiku, Nephew and his wife from California; Rajni and Vijay Dhar, Niece and her husband from California; Arti and Arvind Kaul, Daughter and Son-in-Law from Bedford, Ma; Grandchildren: Seema Tiku; Neel Tiku; Geeta Tiku; Anubhav Kaul; Akshay Kaul; Kanchan Mattoo and Stacey Mckee; Amrita and Vishal Thappa; The

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- Bhans from Jammu, Delhi and Boston; Shiv kumar & Rita Tiku ( Bangalore); and All Kashmiri Biradari in US and India
- July 9, 2007: Dr. Arun Fotedar of San Diego, CA. Survived by: Dr. D.N. Fotedar (father), Shrimati Lakshmi Fotedar (Mother) and Avinash Fotedar (brother).
  - July 28, 2007: Ratna Razdan, wife of Mr. Bansi Lal Razdan in Gurgaon, Haryana, India. Survived by: Mr. B.L. Razdan (Husband), Neena & Dr. R.M. Kaul and (Daughter & Son-in-Law), Sanjay and Dr. Meera Razdan (Son and Daughter-in-Law), Namrata & Amit Bhan (Daughter & Son-in-Law); Grandchildren: Kanav Rishi, Ankita, Mahima, Arun, Malika, Arjun - E-714, Jalvayu Towers, Sector 56, Gurgaon, Haryana, India. Tel: 9810013736
  - August 3, 2007: Dr. J. L Kaul in Delhi, India, father of Anita Raina of New Jersey. Survived by: Anita and Sanjaya Raina, Daughter and Son-in-law, New Jersey, US (732-452-1262); Lalit and Sunita Kaul, Son and Daughter-in-law, India; Pawan and Chitra kaul, Son and Daughter-in-law, India; Kunal and Karan Raina, Grandsons, New Jersey, US (732-452-1262)
  - August 7, 2007: Sh. Makhan Lal Koul. Survived by his wife and two daughters (in India) and son, Umesh Ji (New Jersey)
  - August 30, 2007: Sh. Som Nath Ambardar brother of Dr Mohini Kaushik of Potomac, MD

## KOA Elections

### Constitution of New Nomination & Election Committee (NEC)

September 5, 2007

After Hari Ji Bhat's resignation as Chair of KOA's Nomination and Election Committee, a new Nomination and Election Committee (NEC) has been constituted. As per KOA's bylaws Article IV, Section 4, President nominated the NEC Chair and the team and submitted the proposal to the board for their approval.

The proposal was passed with 6 votes in favor. 2 board members (Nimmi Kalla and Ashutosh Kaul) did not vote. 3 board members (Ashtosh Ganjoo, Rajeev Sumbly and Amrit Nehru) expressed reservations about the voting process and thus did not vote. Other six board members (Santosh Raina, Swapna Raina, Anjali Kaul Zutshi, Ajay Kaul, Pradumon Tickoo, and Sunil Fotedar) voted YES in favor of approving the proposed NEC.

The new NEC is chaired by Dr. Autar Mattoo of Maryland. He will be assisted by Dr. Hira Nakhasi and Dr. Sujata Qasba, both from Maryland. This NEC term starts with immediate effect and ends on December 31, 2008. For more information, please visit <http://koausa.org/nec/index.html>

Dr. Autar Mattoo, a scientist by profession, has been involved with KOA ever since its inception. He was an Editor for KOA's newsletter for a number of years. Dr. Hira Nakhasi, a scientist by profession, was KOA Director for Zone 4 (2001-2002) and Dr. Sujata Qasba, a pediatrician by profession, was also a KOA Director for Zone 4 (2003-2004). As per KOA bylaws, Soman Dhar, KOA secretary, is the *ex-officio* member of the committee.

Dr. Mattoo, Research Leader of the Vegetable Laboratory at Beltsville, Maryland, is known internationally as an authority in two diverse programs: molecular aspects of chloroplast function with particular emphasis on the photosystem II reaction center proteins, and regulation of ethylene biosynthesis and fruit ripening. His pioneering investigations have provided fundamental new knowledge and novel concepts. (Source: <http://www.ba.ars.usda.gov/lectures2003/mattoo.html>)

#### Contact Information:



Dr. Autar Mattoo  
7201 Exbury Court  
Laurel, MD 20707  
(301) 725-6515



Dr. Hira Lal Nakhasi  
8504 Potomac School Ter.  
Potomac, MD 20854  
(301) 469-7084



Dr. Sujata Qasba  
6302 Morning Dew Court  
Clarksville, MD 21029  
(410) 531-1408

#### ELECTION DEADLINES FOR ELECTION CYCLE FOR YEAR 2007

- Pay your membership dues by October 20, 2007, 11:59 PM EST  
Nominations are sought for Director's position from Zone 2, Zone 5, Zone 9 and Zone 10.
- Nomination Submission Deadline: November 5, 2007, 11:59 PM EST
- Nomination Acceptance Deadline: November 10, 2007, 11:59 PM EST

## Procedure for 2007 KOA Elections

1. The eligible voter list for Kashmir Overseas Association (KOA) elections will be provided by the secretary of KOA to National Election Committee (NEC) Chair, Autar Mattoo with a copy to respective zonal directors of KOA as soon as possible but no later than November 5, 2007. This list will include names of persons/families with whom correspondence will be done using e-mail and/or postal mail services. The KOA zonal directors will independently verify and finalize this voter list for their respective zones and forward it to NEC Chair by November 10.
2. The NEC will invite nominations for the KOA Zonal Directors whose positions need to be filled as per KOA secretary's announcements.
3. After the nomination process is complete and the candidates have accepted their nominations, the Zonal Director candidates will be sent voter lists for the respective zones for which elections are being held. The contesting candidates may use their representatives to contact membership at large. In that case, the candidates should identify to NEC their representatives who may contact the membership at large via e-mails, telephone calls or postal mailings by November 25, 2007.
4. If any KOA member/voter does not want to be contacted by telephone, the contesting candidate or their representative shall not contact such a person. The voters who do not want to be contacted by telephone calls should inform NEC by e-mailing autarmattoo@yahoo.com.
5. All the election-related materials will be posted by NEC only, on different zones or forums. The incumbent zonal directors shall not misuse the information system to further their candidacy.
6. The contesting candidates shall not contact NEC by phone during the election process. All communications will be via e-mail.
7. As successfully carried out during the 2005 and 2006 KOA elections, the 2007 KOA elections will be held using an electronic/web based system because of: its simplicity, ease of counting ballots, little chances of vote tampering, and significantly reduced cost encumbered compared to paper balloting.
8. Those dues-paid members (for the year 2007) who do not have e-mail IDs or who cannot or do not wish to use electronic system for balloting will be allowed to send in their ballots by postal mail. The paper ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by NEC. Paper ballots will be signed by at least two NEC members before being mailed to the voters and votes will be considered eligible only when the NEC signatures on the returning ballots will be confirmed by the NEC members who had signed the ballots.
9. The contesting candidates or their representatives shall not indulge in trash talk, mud slinging, innuendos or insulting personal attacks or any such activity that would be considered detrimental by NEC to our goal of ensuring an honest and upright election with equal opportunity for all candidates to express their positions and views in an environment of decency and good will.
10. If any candidate violates this procedure in any way, the NEC may declare such candidate in violation of this procedure and disqualify such a candidate from the upcoming elections.

NEC 2007

Autar Mattoo (Chair) Hira Nakhasi (Member) Sujata Qasba (Member)

For Election related Nomination and Acceptance forms, please visit:

<http://www.koausa.org/downloads/index.html>

## The Kashmir Pandit International (KPI)

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### KOA Executive Committee and Board

#### KOA Executive Committee

PRESIDENT  
Sunil Fotedar  
24427 Flint Creek  
San Antonio, TX 78255  
Phone: (210) 568-7726  
president@koausa.org

VICE-PRESIDENT  
Nimmi Kalla  
81-20 247 Street  
Bellerose, NY 11426  
Phone: (718) 962-9034  
vicepresident@koausa.org

TREASURER  
Zippy Aima Sapru  
6018 Kingston Ranch  
San Antonio, TX 78249  
Phone: (210) 877-5484  
treasurer@koausa.org

SECRETARY  
Soman Dhar  
2308 Sedgwick Ct  
Naperville, IL 60564  
Phone: (630) 922-5401  
secretary@koausa.org

#### KOA Board of Directors

Chairman	Sunil Fotedar (TX)	sunilfotedar@yahoo.com 210-568-7726
Zone 1 Director	Nimmi Kalla (NY)	n_kalla@yahoo.com 718-962-9034
Zone 2 Director	Santosh Raina (MA)	sraina@shire.com 781-863-5393
Zone 3 Director	Ashtosh Ganjoo (PA)	ashganjoo@yahoo.com 610-691-8657
Zone 4 Director	Swapna Raina (MD)	rraina04@yahoo.com 410-799-9098
Zone 5 Director	Anjali K. Zutshi (TX)	Anjali.Kaul@tpl.org 512-306-8213
Zone 6 Director	Ashutosh Kaul (NC)	ashu01@yahoo.com 704-392-8356
Zone 7 Director	Ajay Koul (IL)	akkoul@gmail.com 847-770-2939
Zone 8 Director	Pradumon Tickoo (MI)	ptickoo@hotmail.com 248-743-1711
Zone 9 Director	Rajeev Sumbly (CA)	r_sumbly@yahoo.com 510-659-8584
Zone 10 Director	Amrit Nehru (CA)	drnehr@gmail.com 562-866-9739

The Kashmir Pandit International (KPI)

**KOA Membership Form**

Namaskaar and welcome to KOA !!!

Community members are requested to please join KOA and participate actively in community affairs and organizational activities.

Membership dues are:

- \$15/yr for a single person
- \$30/yr for a family
- \$15/yr for a senior couple and a student
- \$500 for life membership

Payable to: Kashmiri Overseas Association (KOA), Inc.

Mail membership form and dues to:

Zippy Aima Sapru  
Treasurer, KOA  
6018 Kingston Ranch  
San Antonio, TX 78249  
210-877-5484

Membership can also be paid online at:

[https://app.etapestry.com/hosted/KashmiriOverseasAssociation\\_1/OnlineGiving.html](https://app.etapestry.com/hosted/KashmiriOverseasAssociation_1/OnlineGiving.html)

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please provide following information for the KOA directory and mailing list.

New Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Spouse Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Current Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Old Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

Home Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Home Fax #: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Web Page: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Office Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Office Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Children Names:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

Member Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Member Parents: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Parents: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Kashmir Pandit International (KPI)

### KOA WEBSITES UPDATED

The KOA websites have been updated and are available at:

<http://koausa.org>

and

<http://kashmir-information.com>

We will be adding more organizational information as well as cultural features in near future. Along with features like making online donations and membership dues that have been there for some time now, you can now also make your announcements directly through the koausa.org website by clicking on the "Make An Announcement" option on right-side menu. KOA official documents, bylaws, financial records, past newsletters are now just one click away and available to you 24X7.

Please visit these two sites and let us know your feedback. Your positive suggestions are always welcome and will be entertained in due course.

### KOA DIRECTORY

We need your current information for the upcoming KOA directory that will be published soon. Please submit your information online at:

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

KPI Newsletter  
Compiled and Created by KOA Executive Committee

Kashmiri Overseas Association, Inc.  
24427 Flint Creek  
San Antonio, TX 78255  
Phone: (210) 568-7726  
Website: <http://koausa.org> , <http://kashmir-information.com>  
e-mail: [koaexecutive@koausa.org](mailto:koaexecutive@koausa.org)