

Khabbar

North American Konkani Newsletter

Volume XXVIII No. 1

January, February, March - 2005

From:

The Honorary Editor,
"Khabbar"

P. O. Box 222

Lake Jackson, TX 77566 - 0222

XXVIII-1

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



FIRST CLASS

TO:

Khabbar Follies

In this section, Khabbar looks into the Konkani community and anything and everything that is Konkani from a Konkani point of view. The names will never be published but geographic location will be identified in general terms.

There is no doubt in my mind that *Khabbar* is a part & parcel of life of Konkanis in North America. In fact, *Khabbar* has developed a special relation with most of the Konkani families and here are some examples of those close encounters of a different kind.....

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Khabbar and its unofficial "Official" correspondents are doing a great job in bring out the "*hoon khabbars*" of the North American community on a regular basis. They truly believe that "If it did not appear in *Khabbar*, then it did not happen!" They really take pride in their position as area reporters and here are some of their "off the cuff" remarks during routine reporting ...

1. In particular, during last quarter's *Khabbar* publication, this Midwest representative was not ready with the news coverage

to be sent to *Khabbar* in-time! Not to be undone, sends a brief message to me – "i was too busy cooking *hoon* turkey. had no time to check on the *hoon khabbar*. I will certainly send you an update on the new arrivals and some more Chicago news. Just give me a couple more days. Thanks for being so patient. Happy belated Thanksgiving!"

2. Another time, this same correspondent was kind of early with the news coverage of the area and sends them to me with a note – "You are getting a sneak peek into the Chicago *Hoon* gossip!"

3. This CT Correspondent had nothing to report this quarter, even then, sends this note, "Sorry, no reportable news from here .. We survived the Blizzard of 2005. Must be we are hibernating!"

SUBSCRIPTION FORM:

Dear Konkani family,
It is time to renew your subscription for 2005! Please, note that you have the FREE access to the eKhabbar, the electronic version of Khabbar, by logging on to ekhabbar.com. If you want hard copy, then only remit your subscription for 2005 at \$15.00 a year. **Please, don't pay for future years!** Fill the form below and send your subscription with a check payable to Khabbar to P. O. Box 222, Lake Jackson, TX 77566-0222. (Canadian Konkanis please pay cash or MO in US\$)

Name: _____

Spouse Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email ID: _____

Children.....

Name	Boy/Girl	d.o.b.	Hobby/Interest
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Comments, if any: _____

Quarterly Newsletter
For Circulation to the Konkani Community in North America
Volume XXVIII No. 1

January, February, March - 2005
Honorary Editor: Mr. Vasanth Bhat
Mailing Address:

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Annual Subscription: \$15.00

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The Editorial Committee reserves the right to exclude, edit and correct all material received for publication and does not accept any responsibility for views expressed by authors of the publications.

EDITORIAL

Dear Konkani family,
I hope all is well with you and your family.

This issue of *Khabbar* has been mailed to **ALL** families that have paid dues **at least once since 1998**. In other words, families who have not paid since 1997 will not be receiving this issue and for families that have paid only in 1998, this will be the last time they will receive the hard copy of *Khabbar*. The numbers on the mailing label clearly indicate the year/s the dues for *Khabbar* has been received since 1998 and if there is any error let me know.

It is time to renew your subscription for 2005. The Advisory Committee of *Khabbar* is glad that the annual dues will remain the same at \$15.00 a year and for that you get:

- Four issues of the *Khabbar*,
- Annual Mailing List and
- Discounted advertisement rates.

The on-line version of *Khabbar*, *ekhabbar*, will be on the web a **quarter** after the hard copies have been mailed. This issue has **not** been mailed to families that have specifically indicated that they will access *ekhabbar*.

The *Khabbar* Mailing List is a prized possession of our community and help me to keep it up-to-date. Send names and addresses of Konkani families that are not in the list to P. O. Box 222, Lake Jackson, TX 77566-0222, or email khabbar@hotmail.com and rest be assured that I'll "*khabbarize*" them!

Khabbar will publish all the developments and progress made by **The North American Konkani Association (NAKA)** on an on-going basis. The decision by **Konkani Sammelan - 2004** to give all the surplus funds of over \$50k has boosted NAKA's role in preserving our culture here in North America. This should help us all in combining all our resources to make it into a *jawka* organization. Send your constructive suggestions to any of the Directors.

The next big event for 2005 will be the **AmCHigale Youth Convention - 2005** in Chicago. NAKA will join American Konkani Association (AKA) to make this an event to remember. I request all families to encourage eligible youngsters to attend this event.

Also, the preparations for the event of 2006 are taking shape on a grand scale. **The KonCANi S sammelan - 2006** in Toronto will be an event no Konkani in North America or in the world should miss! The various committees and their volunteers are already at work to prove that this will be worth your time and money. Visit their website (www.konkani2006.com) to find out more about this great event of 2006.

Based on the feedback of various Konkani families, **Konkani Bhas Ani Sanskriti Pratistan**, will be organizing a 22 day Summer Camp in Mangalore in 2005. Please make the best use of the program, if you can. Also, thanks to untiring efforts of **Basti Ganapathi Shenoy**, who has devised a method

wherein families wanting to help **Konkani Bhas Ani Sanskriti Pratistan** can do so with relative ease! Please extend your help.

Congrats to **Shyam Amladi** on his first new book "Why Me!". All the best to you & your efforts.

The unofficial *Khabbar* correspondents in your area who send in the *hoon khabbars* on a regular basis are doing an outstanding job. If your area is not represented wholly, let me know and I'll recruit more volunteers. You send the news items via email (khabbar@hotmail.com).

On the Quiz front, *Khabbar* has still remained as an undefeated champion for a long time!

Khabbar will always publish appeals for charity free of charge but cannot collect money on behalf of any charity. Families are encouraged to send the money directly to the concerned charities. It is heartening to note that various Konkani organizations including NAKA contributed generously to the Tsunami disaster relief.

On the sad note, I must mention the passing away of one of the greatest Konkanis of our generation, **T. Ramesh Pai**. He was a great patron of *Khabbar* and will be missed

Happy Yugadi to you all.

Devu Boren Karo.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor will be considered for publication unless the writer requests otherwise. Letters may be edited for publication. Editor reserves the right not to publish anonymous letters. Initials only on request if the writer includes his or her name.

Dear Vasanth,

Here is this year's analysis of the 2005 *Khabbar* Mailing List dated 12-6-2004:

Of the 1,871 families in the list (it was 1,757 last year!), we have Konkans living in 44 states & DC (same as last year!). We do not have any Konkans living in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming!!

Also, we have:

198 Kamat(h)

188 Shenoy, Shenai, Shanbh(o)ag(ue)

182 Pai

147 Nayak (Naik)

104 Prabhu

90 Rao (u)

73 Bhat(t)

39 Baliga

34 Kini

31 Mal(l)ya, Mallia, Mahale

25 Nadkarni(y)

19 Kudva

15 Bhandarkar, Bhandari(y)

14 Hegde

15 Acharya.

12 Kop(p)ikar

12 Hatt(i)angadi(y)

10 Amladi

The Kamat(h) families have maintained their lead. California still leads with 427 families (69 more than last year!) and San Jose, CA has the highest number of Konkani families living (66)! It was 59 last year!!

Keep up the great work.

*Ravindra Nayak,
Flanders, NJ*

Editor's Reply:

Thanks for your timely analysis. I am sure there are Konkans in those six states and hope someday, we'll discover them! Once again, I appeal to all families to send in the names of their friends and relatives who are not in the list to make this list complete.

Dear Editor,

I returned yesterday from visiting the Tsunami hit areas in South India. I had an opportunity to extensively

interview and talk to several of the villagers affected by the disaster as well as many of the relief workers and relief agencies. I would be interested in sharing my findings with you and your readers. I can be reached by email cakymal@aol.com or by phone 734-604-6552.

Regards

Chad Kymal
Amma Center of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI
www.ammamich.org

Dear Sir:

I am Ramesh Pai's American foster daughter through Rotary. I have composed my own tribute to my dear Daddy and if there is any opportunity to include it in your programme or booklet, I would be very honored.

Regards,

Christine Futia
Morton Grove, IL USA
cfutia@aol.com

Dear Mr. Vasant Bhat

Here are the few lines we'd like to appear in the *Khabbar* publication (Vol. XXVIII-1) about the activities of the American Midwest Konkani Association (AMKA) of Greater Chicago for this year.

Thanks,

Vinaya Nayak.
vinnu@comcast.net

Dear Vasanthmam,

Attached is an ad for this years activities for Konkani Sabha. Please post the same in the upcoming *Khabbar* publication (Vol. XXVIII-1). Thanks as always

Rajesh & Radhika Mallya
mallyas@hotmail.com

Editor's Reply:

Khabbar is glad to publish these Upcoming Konkani events and hope other organizations will follow.

Vasantmam:

My e-mail was published incorrectly in the latest *Khabbar* (Vol. XXVII-4) on page 16 in connection with the SammelAn DVD. The correct e-mail is baligas3@cox.net (the 3 was missing in *Khabbar*!). If you get any feedback about defective DVDs, please let me know. Hope you are enjoying your own DVDs!!

Regards,

Shankar Baliga
baligas3@cox.net

Vasanth Uncle,

If space permits, please re-publish this scholarship availability notice. The South Asian Journalists Association (SAJA) in NY, NY, sponsors the competition.

Thanks!

Sanjay Bhatt, Seattle, WA
sbhatt33@yahoo.com

Namaskar Vasanthmam,

A new Guesthouse is proposed to be built near the Temple for which Devotees can contribute for the Suite/Suites. The cost per suite will come around Rs. 2.5 Lacs for which one can contribute in a lump sum or in installments. Kindly go to <http://manjeshwar.org/appeal.htm> for more details.

Also, if anyone in and around US wishes to contribute for the entire floor

which comprises of 9 suites, the amount will be Rs. 18 Lacs for the entire floor of 9 suites.

Yours in the service of the Lord,

MANAGER, S. A. TEMPLE
MANJESHWAR
satemple@rediffmail.com

Dear Sri Bhat,

Namasthe! How do you do? It gives me great pleasure to inform you about the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of our Parishath. I am enclosing an attachment for your perusal & publishing in *Khabbar*.

Yours in the service of the Lord,

SARVOTHAMADAS
sarvothamadas@hotmail.com

Hoon Khabbar

Congratulations:

JAI PRAKASH NAGARKATTI of Chesterfield, MO has become the President & CEO of Sigma-Aldrich Corporation (NASDAQ: SIAL), company that develops, manufactures and distributes a range of biochemicals and organic chemicals.

The T.M.A. Pai Foundation awarded the Distinguished Achievement Awards-2005 to five outstanding Konkans here on January 15th 2005.

A press release issued by the foundation said that the five outstanding Konkans, who had been chosen for the awards, were the former Union Minister and MP, **Suresh P. Prabhu**; the Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), **Kishori Udeshi**; the retired IAS officer, **P.D. Shenoy**; the retired **IPS officer, Maxwell Pereira**; and **M.R. Pai** (posthumously) of Mumbai. The awards are given annually to outstanding Konkans in the country for their meritorious services. The awards presentation function would be held at Valley View here, the release added. Prabhu, Udeshi and Shenoy spoke. K K Pai, President of the TMA Pai Foundation, welcomed the gathering.

The Chairman of the Prasar Bharati Board, M V Kamath, the senior journalist, T V R Shenoy, the President of MAHE, T Ramdas Pai and the General Manager of Syndicate Bank, Alen Pereira were present.

Dr. SHAILA BHAT BHARADWAJ PhD, of Winston-Salem, NC, a post-doctoral candidate in Dr. Mary Sorci-Thomas's lab, won the Post-Doctoral Junior Investigator Award for Women for her poster, "Analysis of Intra- and Inter-molecular protein cross-links from Lipid-bound apoA-I using Chemical Cross-linking and Mass Spectrometry," at the 5th Annual Conference of Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis, and Vascular Biology, May 6-8th, 2004, in San Francisco, CA.

Pandit RAVI BELLARE of Chino Hills, CA, was presented a special award for a lifetime's contribution to performing arts by the **Kanara Saraswat Association**, which celebrated its own 93rd Anniversary, on November 26th 2004, at a special ceremony at Talmakiwadi, Tardeo, Mumbai. He was also presented a special award for performing arts at the Konkani SammelAn 2004.

SANJAY BHATT of Seattle, Wash., delivered a speech in January in Bangalore to more than 400 communications students, faculty and working journalists from across India. He was one of several guests invited to speak at an international media seminar sponsored by COMMITS (Convergence Institute of Media, Management and Information Technology Studies). He spoke about his passion for journalism and gave the students some idea of how the American press works. The audience peppered him with questions for more than 20 minutes before the MC ended the session, after which more than a dozen students queried him during the lunch break. Other invited guests: The head of ZTV in India, the editor-in-chief of the (Kolkata) Statesman and the editor of Indian Express.

New Arrivals:

VINITH, a baby boy to Vivekanand & Neeta Shenoy of Avenel, NJ on May 26th 2004. Grandchild to Konchady Baburai & Sumitra Shenoy and Perdur Prakash & Shobha Prabhu of Belgaum.

AMIT, a baby boy, weighing 7 lb.8 oz, 21" tall, born to Uday & Kavitha Hegde of Westford, MA on Oct 8th 2004. A brother to Anya. On visit are Paternal grand parents Kota Mohandas & Sharada Hegde of Mumbai. Maternal grand parents are Mr. & Mrs. M.V.Kamath of Bangalore.

AVNI, a baby girl to Yatin & Jyotsna Gokarn of Thousand Oaks, CA, on Oct. 8th 2004. The proud grandparents are Raghunath & Kumudini Gokarn of

Mumbai and Padmanabh & Late Ramamani Rao of Bangalore.

AMEYA, a baby girl to Praveen & Anitha Kamath of West Orange, NJ, on October 28th 2005. Sister to Anshul.

ANIK, a 6 lbs, 11 ounces and 20 inches baby girl to Rakesh & Sharmila Thakkar of Chicago, IL on November 24th 2004, at 11:35 a.m. The maternal grandparents - Dr. Sabitha S. Rao and late K. Sudhaker Rao of Staten Island, NY and paternal grandparents are Pravin & Premila Thakkar of Columbus, IN.

MIRA, a baby girl to Vijay & Shikha Nayak of Jamaica Plain, MA on December 19th 2004. The grand parents are Suresh & Anu Nayak of Houston, TX, and Brij & Kamal Anand of Franklin Lakes, NJ.

UMA, a baby girl to Prasad & Deepa Upasani of Placentia, CA on Dec. 22nd 2004. The proud grandparents are Raja & Sita Upasani of Mumbai and Dilip & Geeta Soude of Mumbai.

KIRAN, a son to and Nitish & Jeanette (nee Shook) Bangalore at Milwaukee, WI on Januray 11th 2005. The paternal grandparents are Shrikar & Nirmala Bangalore of Elmhurst, IL, and maternal grandparents are David & Mary Shook of West Allis, WI.

DIVYA, 21.5 inches tall & 8.3 lbs baby girl to Ashok & Surekha Shenoy of Stamford, CT on Jan. 24th 2005 at 6:43 pm. A baby sister to Nithya. Another granddaughter to Bhamy Venkatraman & Suman Shenoy of Mysore (formerly Houston, TX). See baby photos at <http://photos.yahoo.com/ashenoy2000>

SIDHARTH, a 6 Pounds and 9 ounces & 18.5 inches tall baby boy to Dinesh & Deeksha Shenoy of New Market, Ont., Canada on February 5th 2005 at 11.16pm. The paternal grand parents are Kottacherry Jagadish & Jayalaskmi Shenoy of Kanhangad, Kerala and maternal grand parents are

Smt. Geeta Pai (presently visiting Sidharth) & late Sri M. R. Pai of Mumbai.

Engagements:

Kum. RASHMI, d/o Ratnakar & Sudha Bhandarkar of London, ONT., engaged to **Chi. ED**, s/o Late Anne Marie & Alexander MacPhee of Port Hood, Nova Scotia.

Kum. SANGEETHA, d/o Ratnakar & Sudha Bhandarkar of London, ONT., engaged to **Chi. CHAITAN**, s/o Suchita and Late Sudarshan Nayak, of Montreal Quebec.

Kum. KAVITHA, d/o Bipin & Vrinda Pai of Munster, IN got engaged to **Chi. Dr. NICHOLAS MEHTA** of Cincinnati, OH, on Feb. 12th 2005. An October wedding has been planned.

Newly Weds:

Chi. Dr. ASHISH, s/o Drs Gajanan & Pramila Shanbhag of Duncan, SC married **Sow. MEENU**, d/o Anand & Usha Potdar of Ajmir, India on Saturday October 30th 2004 at Hotel Clarks Shiraj in Agra, India.

Chi. RAUL, s/o of Ashok & Suneela Kuchinad of London, ONT. married to **Sow. ESTHER**, d/o Doris & Robert Sinasac on December 30th 2004 in London, Ontario

Chi. VIJAY of Tysons Corner, VA, s/o Dr. Ramesh & Roopa Nayak of Indiana, PA married to **Sow. AMRITHA**, d/o Kamalaksha & Poornima Shenoy of Mangalore on Thursday February 17th 2005 at 6:36 PM (*Godhuli Lagnam*) at T. V. Raman Pai Convention Centre, Kodialbail, Mangalore.

Wedding Reception:

Dr. Purandar & Anuradha Mallya of Whittier, CA, held a Wedding Reception of their son, **Chi. MANDAR**, with **Sow. SIMA**, d/o Ashok & Lata Surkund of Toronto, Ont., CAN on Sunday February 20th 2005 at 6:00 PM at Pacific Hills Banquet Hall in Laguna Hills, CA

Email ID Change:

The **SHENOY** family, Basti Ganapathi & Gayathri of Las Vegas, NV changed their email ID to: bshenoy@cox.net effective immediately.

Relocation:

The **BERGER** family, Jonathan & Radhika Nayak, with their toddler, Kiran, have relocated within Brooklyn, NY to 333 4th Street, Apt. # 4F, Brooklyn, NY 11215. The telephone is (718)-788-6878.

Sri. KONCHADY G. SHENOY has moved within Las Vegas, NV to 2000 N. Rampart Blvd., # 250, Las Vegas, NV 89128.

The **SHENOY** family, Vivekanand (Vivek) & Neeta moved from New York to 2108 Leesville Ave, Avenel, NJ 07001. Their new telephone is (732)-388 2599.

The **SHENOY** family, Vasanth Bhamy & Chethana, with their newborn baby girl, Nina, have relocated from San Jose, CA to 38836 Stillwater Common, Fremont, CA 94536-4284. The new telephone is (510)-713-9144 and the email ID is vasanthshenoy@yahoo.com

The **KAMATH** family, Satish & Vrinda, with their sons, Chetan & Naveen have relocated from Hackettstown, NJ to 19 McKelvie Street, Budd Lake, NJ 07828. The new telephone is (973)-347-3617 and email ID: Amruth@aol.com

SATISH ULLAL, relocated within Sunnyvale, CA to 998 Tulip Ct., Sunnyvale CA 94086

Address Change:

The mailing address of the **NAYAK** family, Irvathur Narasimha & Kanaka has changed to 10 Nayak Drive, Hazard, KY 41701-7995. The telephone remains the same at (606)-439-3822.

Konkani Happenings:

The first **Konkani Association Of California (KAOCA)** event for 2005 was a Charity event serving the needy a Dinner. This was held on January 15th at National Guard

Armory, in Sunnyvale, CA. Many families came together at a short notice (less than 2 weeks) and whole heartedly participated.

On the day of the event, the KAOCA volunteers arrived at the venue between 6PM and 6:30PM as planned. The serving tables were quickly set-up and 25 plates were prepared for the late arriving inmates. Dinner was served between 6:55PM and 7:40PM and approx 90 inmates had enjoyed the dinner.

Dinner included Salad & Salad dressing, Garlic Bread, Spaghetti & meatball, Rotisserie chicken, Apples & Bananas, Chocolate chip cookies, Cup cake & Variety Soft drinks. Sufficient paper products was also arranged for this dinner.

The event went very smoothly and the inmates appreciated KAOCA efforts.

The Houston Area Amchigale Association (HAAS)

celebrated their annual *Satyantarayan Pooja* on Sunday January 16th 2005 between 12:00 PM - 3:00PM at Eldridge Park Community Hall in Sugar Land, TX. Under Dr. Ramakrishna Prabhu's guidance, the Konkani youth conducted the pooja. Later, the youngsters enacted the *Satyantarayan* story.

Konkani Association Of California (KAOCA)

held a seminar at the India Community Center on February 12th 2005 & this was a great success with over 30 attendees. Dilip Saraf, the guest speaker and eminent career counselor, did a good job in highlighting the issues around career planning and growth and made all the attendees reflect on their own career growth plans and chart their road to 'job nirvana'. Thanks also go to Vidya Ullal for getting Dilip to present to the KAOCA community.

Bay Area Unites for Tsunami Relief:

In their tradition of extending support to people in need, Bay Area communities and organizations came together like never before.

Prominent personalities like Dr. Deepak Chopra, Grammy-nominated singer Lisa Loeb, philanthropist Dr. Malini Alles and 49er Hall of famer Steve Young & Roni Lott were present at this major Tsunami Relief

event on February 20th 2005 at the HP Pavilion, San Jose. Former President Bill Clinton made a video appearance. The event was a great success and over \$1.5 million was collected. The proceeds will benefit the victims of the tsunami in seven of the hardest hit countries: Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand, the Maldives, Malaysia and Somalia.

KAOCA was one among the bay area organizations to co host this event. KAOCA members volunteered 'thanu', 'mana' & 'dhana' to promote this event to our community and beyond.

The Konkani Association of Southern California (KASC) held their first function for 2005, *Shivaratri Bhajan*, at the residence of Vishwanath & Shalini Bhat of Chino Hills, CA on March 5th 2005.

25th Wedding Anniversary:

Friends and families of **ASHOK & AMITA BHATT** of London, ONT. celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary on December 17th 2004.

Rahul and Rupal Nayak hosted a surprise Silver Anniversary party for their parents, **VIVEK & RATNA NAYAK** of Schaumburg, IL on January 8th 2005. The couple were truly surprised by their kith and kin that had flown in from other regions of the US. AMKA friends got together for a very memorable event. Roasting and toasting was done by the Nayak family and friends. Rahul & Rupal had a slide show of 25 years of life together for their parents.

AMKA girls and moms entertained the crowd with dances. The lunch was Italian Fare and very delicious indeed!

Friends and families of **RAMCHANDRA & PRABHA MALYA** of Houston, TX celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary at the Madras Pavilion by the Lake in Sugarland, TX on Saturday January 22nd 2005.

30th Wedding Anniversary:

Friends and families of **ARVIND & NEELA KAMATH** of Houston, TX

celebrated their 30th Wedding Anniversary at the residence of Suresh & Usha Shenoy in Sugarland, TX on December 11th 2004.

90th Birthday Bash:

Families and friends of **Shri. S. N. PAI** of Fairfax, VA celebrated his 90th birthday at "Doshi Kalyan" in Chennai on December 26th 2004.

Saharshra Chandra Darshan:

B. N. KAMATH & SITABAI KAMATH celebrated their "*Saharshra Chandra Darshan*" in Shimoga India on January 11th 2005 with family and friends. They had surprise visit by great grandson baby Nandan Pai of Los Angeles, CA. Kamaths are parents of Mrs. Rajashree Pai of Carlsbad, NM and Dr. Jayashree Rao of New Orleans, LA. *Khabbar* wishes them both many many more happy *Chandra Darshans* and healthy life.

Return to India:

Their AMKA friends gave a fond Farewell party Shrikar and Nirmala Bangalore of Elmhurst, IL on January 9th 2005 at the Indian Garden Restaurant. The Bangalores have started their retired life together in Mumbai, India. Kirti Acharya and Meera Amladi co-ordinated this wonderful event. Many friends made farewell speeches. Nirmala and Shrikar reciprocated and have invited all friends to their new home in Mumbai. An album of photos and messages from all the friends was given to the couple. Good Luck to the couple as they start a new life in Mumbai. Nimmu and Shrikar will be truly missed in Chicago!

Their new address is Vakola Jeevan Sarath CHS. #1, Datta Mandir Road, Vakola Pipeline, Santacruz East, MUMBAI 400 007. The email ID: s.nbangalore@yahoo.com

Obituary:

Smt. SUGUNA K PAI (78), wife of well known banker and Chairman of Manipal Group of Institutions K K Pai, passed away due to cardiac arrest at her residence in Manipal on Saturday November 20th 2004.

Khabbar sends heartfelt sympathies to her son Dr. Arvind Pai & family of Redding, CA, daughters Geetha Kamath & family of Cape Girardeau, MO & family and Deepa Prabhu & family of Taylorville, IL.

Smt. SHARADA NAYAK (85), wife of late Mr. Sujir Rayap Nayak, passed away peacefully in Hyderabad, India, on Dec. 7th 2004. *Khabbar* sends heartfelt sympathies to her daughters, Mrs. Shalini Bhat of Chino Hills, CA and family, Dr. Padmini Nayak of Grosse Pointe, MI and family.

Sri. TONSE RAMESH PAI (81), Chairman of Manipal Group of companies, died of cardiac arrest at Mallige Nursing Home in Bangalore on January 26th 2005 Wednesday evening. His last rites were held at Wilson Garden crematorium at 7:30 am on Thursday.

Pai was also Chairman of Kurlon Ltd, Manipal Motors, Manipal E-com besides a host of other companies. He had achieved the unique distinction of becoming a Director of Rotary International during 1992-94. Ramesh Pai was the younger brother of late union minister T A Pai.

Ramesh Pai, as a Rotarian, was instrumental in implementing the polio eradication programme across the country. He was also director of several companies, including Reliance Industries Ltd. He was chairman of the Karnataka State Board of All India Manufacturers Organisation, and President of the Udupi Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

He was a member of the Senate of Madras, Mangalore and Goa Universities, and member of the Syndicate of Mysore University and was the founder of several institutions relating to education, health care and rural development.

Khabbar sends heartfelt sympathies to his son Dr. Shantharam Pai & family of Loma Linda, CA and daughter Shobha Pai & family of Redding, CA.



EULOGY

From: Christine Futia, Morton Grove, IL, dated: January 26, 2004

Ramesh Pai made the world come closer together. Unlike many people, I didn't know him as a businessman, a humanitarian, or a Rotary big-shot. He was just my Daddy. **It is an honor to be known as a daughter of his house.**

I was only 16 when I went to live with Ramesh and Shanti in Manipal as a Rotary Exchange Student. Sometimes, I was terribly homesick. One day Daddy came home from a business trip and saw my long face. He said, in his commanding, voice, "Come, Baby! We'll go to Valley View (a local hotel) for dinner!" That night, he sat and happily watched me eat chicken noodle soup, finally satisfying my craving for non-vegetarian food. Of course, I learned to savor Mummy's delicious Konkani cooking in time, but at that moment, Daddy had sensed my deep need for comfort and found the perfect remedy.

In those days, Daddy was not often at home, and there were three other teenagers at home, Shantharam, Sudhakar and Sheela. Yet he gave me so much of his precious time. I appreciate this gift even more now that I'm a parent myself.

In later life, the most outstanding thing about Daddy was his incredible zest for life. Despite everything, he still had a twinkle in his eye. He loved telling jokes. He brought happiness into a room.

On one of my last visits to Manipal, just a few years ago, I heard a noise outside my window in the morning. I peeked out, only to see 76-year-old Daddy in teeny, tiny running shorts, with a pedometer clipped to his waist. He was getting his morning exercise. And, despite numerous serious health issues, he lived a long, active and productive life.

Of course, he didn't do this alone. When he was a tiny baby, his mother prayed to the Goddess at Ambalpaddy temple in Udupi, to save him from a terrible illness. When Mummy married him, she took over the responsibility for visiting the temple every week to request the Goddess's continued blessings on Daddy. In my mind, the Goddess saved Daddy twice in his life – once when he was a baby, and once when she gave him Mummy to look after him for the rest of his life. Think of him, so full of life as we all remember him, and you'll recognize what a wonderful job she did.

The world feels emptier today without my dear Daddy, a man who touched many people's lives, but especially mine. After welcoming me into his heart and home, he also welcomed my three children, who were adopted by our family after their birth and abandonment in Kolkata. Thanks to Daddy, these children, who have lost all linkage with their biological families, still have an Indian family to call their own. Their lives are blessed by his willingness to embrace them, as he once embraced me.

AmCHIGale Youth Convention 2005

from Friday, In August 5th thru Sunday 7th 2005

at the Hilton Garden in the heart of the city of Chicago.

Attendees will have to be at least 18 years old to attend the convention by August 5th 2005.

This **AmCHIGele S sammelan** is giving all of us the opportunity to not only embrace our Konkani culture, but to also enjoy the sights and sounds of the Windy City! Right now, the Konkani Youth of the Midwest are currently in the process of putting together a great weekend for all of you! Seminars, community events and parties are just some of the items that we plan to put together soon! Keep these dates locked people, for over the next few months you will be receiving e-mails from the Chicago Youth Committee regarding this event. In order to provide the Konkani youth in attendance with the most creative and enjoyable events, the Chicago youth committee needs all the support we can get.

got questions?

For more information, updates, and contact information, visit the 2005 Konkani Youth Convention link on the www.konkaniyouth.com homepage or contact us at amchigele2005@yahoo.com

Seema Kamath & Vikram Acharya, Youth Coordinators

The easiest way is to donate money. Send your tax-deductible donation to:

The North American Konkani Association (NAKA)
2465 Bergen Avenue, BROOKLYN, NY 11234
Attn: Damodar Baliga, 718-251-4795,
dambaliga@yahoo.com

American Konkani Association (AKA)
1153 Tamarack Pl., MUNSTER, IN 46321
Attn: Bipin K. Pai, Ph: (219)-922-6461
bipinpai@hotmail.com

Bhagavad-Gita as a Stress Management Guide - Cont.

By: K. P. S. Kamath, M. D.
Psychiatrist in private practice in Cape Girardeau, MO

Chapter Ten:

An interview with a *Bhakti* Yogi

No sooner was Bhakta Kanaka Daasa on line than I heard a gentle voice ask, “*Yaen magoo, hyagiddiya?* (How are you, my child?)” With great reverence I said, “*Adda bidde Swami. Dhanyanaade!* (I fall at your feet, O sage. I am truly blessed!). “Just call me Daasa,” he said with humility and with a faint laughter. “Daasa means a servant. I am His daasa. I am a daasa of a daasa. In fact, I am the son of the housemaid (daasi) at the house of His daasa’s daasa!” (*Dasa dasara maneya dasiyara maga naanu!*) I was very touched by his extreme humility.

“Daasaji, some years ago, I heard a stirring Harikatha in Kannada about you rendered by Sant Bhadrageeracharya Achuta Daasa. I keep listening to this Harikatha now and then for inspiration. I have heard many other wise people say that you were one of the greatest practitioners of Bhakti Yoga as described by Gita. I would like to know what Bhakti Yoga is and how it can help stressed-out people.” Daasaji said, “Bhakti means devotion to a personal deity that leads to one’s salvation. Yoga, of course, means the single-minded effort in achieving this end. Absolute Faith in and Total Devotion to Him is the path of Bhakti Yoga.”

“Daasaji, did Bhakti (devotional worship) come to you naturally? Or, did you have to cultivate it?” Daasaji said, “I was born a *Kuruba*, a caste of shepherds, perhaps due to my past deeds. I came to acquire a lot of wealth and power in my younger days, and I was totally blinded by these worldly things. By sheer luck I discovered a few buried treasures of gold (*kanaka*). Using this wealth, I indulged in a lot of selfish activities; I waged wars; I amassed more wealth without regards to others’ welfare. My heart full of greed and my mind full of false pride, I built a magnificent temple for Adi Keshava at Kaginele, and pretended like I was a great Bhakta. Then, one day I lost everything due to conspiracy of people I trusted the most. In fact, I almost lost my life. It was then that I realized the futility and momentary nature of happiness based on attachment to materials. I went through a process of soul-searching, which led to *Jnanodaya* (dawning of Knowledge = I got in touch with my *Buddhi*). I decided to permanently cancel-out my *Karma* Account by renouncing everything and devoting the rest of my life to Kaginele Adi Keshava, my personal deity. Between then and till my material death at age ninety eight, I totally surrendered my life to Him in devotional service (9:34; 18:55, 18:66).”

“Daasaji, Gita says that Bhakti Yoga is superior to Karma Yoga and Jnana Yoga (6:47). Lord Krishna tells Arjuna repeatedly to devote himself to Him for his swift salvation (12:6,7). How do you feel about this?” Daasaji replied, “All Yogas ultimately lead to Him. Ordinary people like me may experience difficulty in understanding the Unmanifested form of God and in practicing *Jnana* Yoga to achieve Him. Some of us may not have boundless energy to selflessly serve people through Karma Yoga. What recourse do we simple folks have? People have to go on living their lives, doing business, raising families, indulging in sense activities. Does that mean they should be denied Self-realization? There must be a short cut for personal salvation. Bhakti Yoga is every man’s bread and butter for his personal salvation.”

Daasaji went on, “For ordinary people, a personal deity, *Ishta Deva*, as the earthly representative of Almighty God, is needed to focus their devotion on to, since most of them have difficulty in relating to abstract concepts of *Atman*, *Brahman*, etc. That way, they can perform daily devotional service to Him, dedicate their actions and thoughts to Him. I chose Lord Krishna in the form of Adi Keshava as my personal deity. Some others may choose Rama or Hanuman or Ganesha or any other deity.”

“Daasaji, does that mean devotional service to your chosen deity by itself is enough for salvation?” “No. Purity of thought (*manasa*), acts (*karya*) and of speech (*vacha*) is needed. We will also have to give up greed-driven activity and excessive attachment to people, money, power, etc. Make as much money as you want, but do so by good means, and do not take your wealth too seriously. Do not let it make you haughty. People who are immersed in Bhakti who are not pure in any of these also attain salvation as long as they are struggling to overcome their weaknesses.”

“Daasaji, I have read that when you came to Udupi for Lord Krishna’s *darshan*, you were not allowed into His temple by the priests because of your “low birth.” Legend goes that Lord Krishna was so moved (literally) by your unstinted devotion to Him that His statue turned around to your direction and opened a window in the wall between the two of you. What are your thoughts about this miracle?” Daasaji had a good laugh about this miracle. “I did not stay there long enough to verify this “miracle”. All I know is that when I was totally immersed in my *keerthans* in His praise, and was pining in my heart for His *darshan*, I saw a window open in my mind’s eye and I actually saw Him. And I experienced indescribable ecstasy in my consciousness. When that happened, I considered myself blessed, and I left. This must have been an eye opener for the priests who were busy “protecting Lord Krishna” from “polluted” people like me. Whether the wall collapsed to open a window is not important. The wall inside me collapsed and through a window in it the Lord gave me *darshan*. At that moment my Mind merged with my *Atman*/Him. The Lord loves all those who worship Him in devotion, adore Him and love Him, regardless of their body odor, color of their skin, caste, creed, religion, sex, ethnicity, race or the type of visa they hold. God is an Equal Opportunity Lover!”

I had a good laugh at this claim. I asked, "Daasaji, how can Bhakti Yoga help people who are stressed-out?" Daasaji had an answer for this too. "When I was immersed in material delusion, I too felt stressed-out all the time. Worrying about how to get rid of my enemies; protect my life and wealth; keep up with my title, my position, royal favor, etc., made me feel stressed-out all the time. I slept poorly; I was irritable; I yelled and screamed at the ones I loved; I was impossible to live with. Once I came out of this delusion by dedicating everything to Him, my worry went away. I said to myself, 'I will devote all my energies to Him. Whatever I do, whatever I have, whatever I lose, whatever I gain will be in His name from this time onwards (9:26-28).' Once I took this step, my stress disappeared.

"Daasaji, are activities such as visiting temples, going on pilgrimage to holy places, listening to *Harikatha* and *Gita pravachana*, and the like helpful?" "Absolutely! Such activities reinforce our efforts in keeping the focus on Him. In addition, volunteering for temple activities, performing pujas, vrithas, etc. are very soothing to your soul as long as these are done with purity of heart and total devotion, and without any selfish motive. However, when such activities are done for one's ego and false pride, or to get something in return, one would soon be stressed-out. Why? Look at all the petty politics, backbiting and other problems you see in our temples, churches, mosques and Gurudwaras. The devotees here have forgotten the real purpose of Bhakti; devotional service for Self-realization, not self-aggrandizement. Unfortunately a lot of people get bogged down by the religious rituals and forget spiritual enlightenment."

As I prepared to part with Bhakta Kanakadaasa I asked him, "Daasaji, do you have any quick fix for stressed-out people?" Without pausing for a moment he replied, "Have Absolute Faith in Him! Absolute Faith kills fear. Fear of losing this or losing that is at the root of all our stress in life. Those who have Absolute Faith in Him never fear anything, not even death. Lord Krishna said in Gita 18:66: "Abandon all *dharma*s and surrender unto Me. I will deliver you from all sins (stress); DO NOT GRIEVE!"

I thanked Bhakta Kanaka Daasa for his instruction on Bhakti Yoga and bid him goodbye. "Always keep Lord Krishna in your thoughts (*Yaavagloo devara smaraNe madtha iru!*)" he said, and left.

By now my hour had come to an end. As I was wondering where I would go from here, the Gentle Voice of The Gatekeeper came on again, "Well, Kamthi, did you get anything out of these interviews?" I said, "Absolutely, Mr. Gatekeeper! I have realized like never before that the Bhagavad Gita is nothing but a great guide on how to live a nobler life while we are on this earth." After I thanked The Gatekeeper for his kindness in arranging these interviews with three Mahatmas, I turned around to leave. To my surprise, the Gentle Voice came back on the intercom and asked, "You being a psychiatrist, have you figured out the differences between the stress management techniques of modern psychiatry and the those of the Gita?" I said, "Yes, of course!" To my consternation, the Gentle Voice said, "I will spare you twenty minutes to tell me what you think are the essential differences between these two dissimilar paths." Disbelieving my own ears, I started to give him my opinion.

pkamath001@charter.net 1/28/05

.....To Be Continued

PRATHAM: A SILVER BULLET TO BRING ABOUT EDUCATIONAL REFORM

Dr. Bhamy V. Shenoy

Since 1998, I have been involved in raising funds for Pratham in the US. I had only a theoretical comprehension of the great features of balawadi and balasakhi models like replicability, low cost and tri-partite partnership. However my recent experience of getting involved in the management of Pratham Mysore has given me an opportunity to appreciate and admire those features first hand. And from that experience I was able to learn how Pratham has the potential to bring about a revolutionary change in our centuries old outdated educational system and drive out the ghost of Macaulay.

Pratham Mysore started in May, 2002 thanks to the initiative of a small scale industrialist Mr. Ashvini Ranjan with his own funds. It was not a smooth ride from the beginning. He had to close the first few balawadis because of lack of community participation. The lesson learnt from that experience was very useful for the later expansion. At the end of the first year, there were 39 balawadis. By the end of second year it had increased to 100. For this academic year, it is planned to increase to 160. Even more impressive is the number of children assisted through Pratham Mysore during this academic year. Through greatly expanded programs of balawadi, balasakhi, bridge courses and read city, more than 10000 children will be assisted in 2005 versus 2600 in 2004. By any standard this makes Pratham a leading educational NGO in Mysore. That in turn will help in playing an active role in shaping the educational policy of the city.

Pratham is planning a summer school program for 5000 disadvantaged children. There are more than 15000 children attending government schools unable to read beyond a sentence. The program has four major components, which include teaching children to read Kannada in two months, teaching mathematics using an innovative technique developed by a retired scientist from the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, teaching learning techniques using storytelling, reading reference books, and motivating children to ask questions; and teaching Basic English. During the summer period it is possible to make use of the library and lab facilities of the private schools which otherwise would not have been used. This concept of summer school of using the idle but rich resources of private schools is radical and new. In short, making learning an enjoyable exercise is the goal of the Summer School program

In line with the growth of Pratham Mysore, its budget needs have gone to \$45000 from \$4400 in 2003 and \$19,000 in 2004. The cost to assist a child per year and work towards the Pratham mission of every child in school and learning well is only \$12. Pratham Mysore has set up the goal of raising at least 10% of the budget from Mysore residents for 2005. As Mysore residents learn more about Pratham programs and start appreciating its contribution, it is expected that it should be possible to raise most of the needed funds from Mysore itself.

Through many innovative programs, Pratham Mysore has been able to achieve the involvement of community. The fancy dress competition brought out the creative ideas of the children and teachers. The longest greeting card of 350 feet constructed by 600 tiny tots welcoming 2004 was a big community event. Many teachers from the conservative Muslim community today are greeting the visitors to balawadis without burkhas and are stepping out of their houses to participate in monthly review meetings at Pratham head quarters located far from their place. This kind of women empowerment was not anticipated and unexpected benefit of Pratham. This has influenced Pratham Mysore to train more young girls than they need to become balawadi teachers.

The visit of Pratham ambassador Waheeda Rehman in March of this year to Mysore to inaugurate the Pratham Play Home (where children can play, read books and get exposed to computer) was covered by all the local papers and has generated interest in Pratham activities and attracted many volunteers. Today students from Mysore University and other leading colleges are working as interns with Pratham. Pratham is also serving as a platform to attract and train future NGO leaders to shape the educational policy of the city and the state. This perhaps may be one of its most significant contributions.

Pratham Mysore would not have been able to do all of the above but for the generous support given by Pratham Mumbai, which in turn is, the recipient of funding from Indo-Americans led by Vijay Goradia. Most if not all the readers of *Khabbar* are likely to support one or the other cause in India. They may consider recommending the Pratham model if they are involved in supporting the educational programs. Pratham has spread to more than 35 cities in India. Some *khabbar* readers may even be searching for that silver bullet which can bring about systemic changes, which are sustainable, replicable and can set up a chain reaction. Pratham model has all the potential of being such a silver bullet based on my experience of working with Pratham in Mysore. Those who are interested to know more about Pratham can visit www.Pratham.org or call me at 713-797-1147.

The South Asian Journalists Association (SAJA)

Submitted by Sanjay Bhatt, Seattle, WA

From: Aparna Swarts Mukherjee, student committee and scholarships coordinator

E-mail: aparna.mukherjee@alumnae.brynmawr.edu

When's the last time someone offered you a chance to win part of a \$5,000 prize to follow your professional dreams? Here's your opportunity – The South Asian Journalists Association (SAJA) is offering funds to help you pursue your education goals, as well as the honor that comes with receiving a SAJA Scholarship Award.

If you're a high school senior about to enter college, a current undergraduate, or a student starting or continuing your post-graduate studies, and you're **SERIOUS ABOUT JOURNALISM**, we want you! For more information about how to enter the 4th Annual SAJA Scholarship Awards, visit <http://www.saja.org/scholarships.html>. There you'll find the application form, the eligibility rules and a list of past recipients.

As one of our first winners, Julie Patel, said upon receiving her award, "This scholarship gives me the inspiration and makes me believe that I will be able to do what I love. That's worth more than anything."

Don't miss your chance to pursue your passion for journalism! Enter now...the postmark deadline is Thursday, March 31, 2005.

Winners will be presented their checks at the SAJA Convention, June 16-19, 2005, at Columbia University: June 16-19, 2005:

<http://www.saja.org/convention2005.html>

All scholarship program details at <http://www.saja.org/scholarships.html>

KONKANI CALENDER

April 2005	May 2005	June 2005
8 th Amavasya (Dark Moon)	7 th Amavasya (Dark Moon)	6 th Amavasya (Dark Moon)
9 th Yugadi	10 th Akshaya Thritiye	11th Konkani Sabha Picnic
9th KAO Yugadi	14 th Vrisbh Sankranthi	14 th Mithun Sankranthi
9th AMKA Yugadi	14th KAO Satyanarayan Pooja	18 th Yekadashi
13 th Mesh Sankranthi	19 th Yekadashi	21 st Poornami
14 th Saura Yugadi	22 nd Shri Narasimha Jayanthi	24 th Sankashta Chaturthi
17 th Shri Rama Navami	23 rd Vaisakhi Poornami	
19 th Yekadashi	26 th Sankashta Chaturthi	
23 rd Shri Hanuman Jayanthi		
27 th Sankashta Chaturthi		

Khabbar thanks Sri P. V. Kamath of Mumbai for furnishing the Panchang and My Astrologer-version 1.0 by Mr. Muralidhar Shenoy, Durham, N C.

My Sincere Thanks to

Some readers go out of their way to help Khabbar. Monetary means is one of them. The Advisory Committee of Khabbar has decided on publishing the names of the families that has contributed \$50.00 or more to Khabbar. This quarter, the following have extended their help and thanks to you

Names	Amount, \$
Shyamala B. Shenoy, Basking Ridge, NJ	50.00
Uma Yadunath & Yadunath Madakasira, Freehold, NJ	65.00
Shrikar & Nirmala Bangalore, Mumbai, India	51.00
Ananth & Poornima Kini, Fishers, IN	75.00
Ashwin & Kasturi Bhatt, Houston, TX	65.00
Ramadas & Udaya Kamath, Apple Valley, CA	50.00
Datta & Devyani Bhende, Moraga, CA	105.00
Ramesh & Pratibha Kamath, Redwood City, CA	50.00
Gajanan & Pramila Shanbhag, Duncan, SC	101.00
Shivkumar & Vrinda Hatti, West Chester, PA	60.00
Krishna & Padmini Nayak, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI	65.00
Varadaraj & Radha Pai, Parsons, KS	50.00
Kaup Muralidhar & Sudha Shenoy, Durham, NC	50.00
Narayan & Saguna Nayak, Bradford, NY	60.00
Parashuram & Vimala Bhatt, Yorktown Heights, NY	50.00
Ajit & Asha Rao, Camarillo, CA	75.00
Vivek & Maya Kulkarni, Mississauga, Ont	100.00
Mohan & Mohini Kamath, Cerritos, CA	50.00
Dr. Ramkrishna & Vaishali Acharya, Rockville Centre, NY	116.00

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Description	Credit, \$	Debit, \$
Balance Carried over since Khabbar Vol. XXVII No. 4	3,020.00	
Money Received:		
Subscriptions (123) and donations	3,318.00	
Advertisements (3)	290.00	
Interest	2.00	
Sub Total:	3,610.00	
Money Spent (Khabbar Vol. XXVII No. 4):		
Printing- Khabbar (750) - 20 pages		675.00
Printing- Mailing List (380) - 24 pages		497.00
First Class Mail-Khabbar (678)		406.80
First Class Mail-Mailing List (270)		224.10
Canada Khabbar (20)		17.00
Canada Mailing List (8)		8.80
Overseas (20)		60.00
Mail Fines, computer paper & labels, envelopes, service fees, etc		511.30
Sub Total:		2,400.00
Final Balance:	4,230.00	

Money spent on this issue was not available during press time.



The last quarter's quiz: How far an "ideal" bouncing ball will travel before it comes to rest, dropped from 10 feet high, and on each rebounding exactly half its height?

The Answer:

Let H=initial height=10'. Then the first bounce will go to 1/2H, the second bounce to 1/4H, and so on. If you add together all the fractions, you get exactly 1H or 10' total for all the "up" bounces. But after each bounce up, the ball must fall the same distance, so add in another 10'. Finally, add in the 10 feet the ball before the first bounce, for a total of 30 feet.

The following gave the correct answers:

Vindya Bhat, New York, NY
Shivadev Ubhayakar, Rancho Pale Verdes, CA

Gayathri Baliga, Winston-Salem, NC
Bipin Pai, Munster, IN

This Quarter's Quiz

By

"Vasanthmaam"

Continuing with the Konkani tradition of quizzing, here's the brainteaser for this quarter. If you can solve this correctly, send it to Khabbar address to have your name published in the next issue.

What is the least-frequently used letter of the English alphabet?

NAKA, The North American Konkani Association

NAKA, once dormant since its inception after the successful completion of the first Konkani Sammelan in NJ in 1996, got a fresh lease of life in 2002 when the Houston Konkani Sammelan 2002 gave all its surplus to NAKA. Now, SammeLAN-2004 has decided to give all their Sammelan surplus to NAKA. **Khabbar will make every effort to publish all the progress made by NAKA so that the North American community will be kept abreast of its activities.**

On January 31st 2005, an on-line meeting was held with NAKA Board and the following course of actions were taken:

1. NAKA will provide \$5k seed money to AmCHIGale Youth Convention – 2005.
2. NAKA will reimburse the registration fee after the successful completion of the AmCHIGale Youth Convention – 2005.
3. Added Ranjit Shiralkar & Sheila Shenoy to the Youth Board.

The NAKA Board now consists of:

Vasanth Bhat, Damodar Baliga and Nina Padukone (Founding members), Ramesh Kamath & Bharat Shiralkar, Vasant Acharya & Sandhya Kamath, Suren Kamath, Sudhir Golikeri & Suresh Shenoy, Ramadas Kamath, Ashok Bhatt & Sadanand Mankikar.

Seema Kamath, Ranjit Shiralkar & Sheila Shenoy (Youth).

If any North American Konkani have any constructive suggestions, please, send them to NAKA, 2465 Bergen Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11234. Phone: (718)-251-4795 and Email: naka1@indiatimes.com

NAKA - Statement Of Accounts

Date	Description	Credit, \$	Debit, \$
11/15/04	Balance from last report	17,610.19	
12/31/04	Donation – Dr. Vasudev Nayak	100.00	
1/15/05	Tsunami Relief		2,000.00
2/15/05	AmCHIGale Youth Convention – 2005 Seed money		5,000.00
2/28/05	Final Balance:	10,710.19	

Signed: Damodar Baliga
Treasurer, NAKA

Upcoming Konkani Activities:

KISS 2005 PICNIC

It is time for a weekend of fun and excitement with your family and friends at the KISS (Konkanis in Southern States) 2005 picnic. It will be held at Fort Parker State Park from **5 PM, Friday, March 25th to noon on Sunday, March 27th 2005**. The park is located 7 miles south of Mexia and 6 miles north of Groesbeck on State Highway 14. The entrance is on Park Road 28.

There will be pizza on Friday evening. Meals on Saturday will include breakfast, lunch and dinner, and on Sunday there will be 'brunch'. There will also be various sports, games, door prizes, evenings filled with first-class entertainment, and plenty of time to socialize, reminisce, and do 'panchaadika'. Come ready to have fun!

Registration Charges:

Adults (13 and above)- \$20

Children 5 and under - FREE

Senior Citizens (65 & above) & Children (5 to 12) - \$15

The park admission fee is NOT included in the KISS registration charge. Each family has to pay it at the park entrance. The admission fee is \$2 per day per person 13 years or older, \$1 per day per person for Texas residents older than 65.

Accommodations:

On site- Charges are included in the price. There are heated barracks with 96 bunk beds. Beds have mattresses. Availability is on a "first-come-first-served" basis for on site accommodation. We have discounted rates for KISS picnic guests at The Mexia Inn (Tel: 254-562-5593) located about 7 miles from the park. The rates are \$35/night for single queen bed and \$43/night for 2 queen beds.

Area Coordinators:

Austin

Gen. info: Sadu Bajekal (sbajekal@us.ibm.com) and Dinkar Rao (cdr Rao@sbcglobal.net)

Dallas

Gen. info: Gaurang Kalyanpur (gaurang-archana@comcast.net), Uday Khambadkone (udoo_piyu@hotmail.com) and Prakash Kagal (kagalp@yahoo.com)

Houston

Gen. Info: Sudhir Golikeri (sgolikeri@houston.rr.com) and Suresh Shenoy (ShenoySuresh@hotmail.com)

For more information, visit Fort Parker State Park website at: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/fortpark/>

Payment:

Please make checks payable to Neela Kamath and mail it along with the registration form below to:

Neela Kamath, 8810 Heatherly Drive, Houston, TX 77083 Phone: 281-498-3188; e-mail: neelakamath@yahoo.com

Registration Form:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email Address: _____

Adults and children above 13: (\$20): _____

Children (between 5 and 12) and Senior Citizens (65 and above): (\$15): _____

Children under 5: FREE

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

2005 Konkani Sabha Activities

Following are the highlights of the KONKANI SABHA activities for the year 2005

Picnic (Rain or Shine):

Date: Saturday, June 11th 2005; Time: 10 AM to sunset

Location: Mercer County Park East, NJ

Cost: Free for all Konkanis and their friends and family

Activities: Volleyball, Cricket, Badminton, Bingo, children's' activities and a Grand Raffle

Note: Please bring food items (entrée only) enough for 2 families. Konkani Sabha will provide desserts.

For details including directions, visit our website at www.KonkaniSabha.org

Anyone interested in sponsoring/contributing prizes for children's activities, please contact the office bearers in advance.

Advance registration and payment for the Diwali function will be accepted on this day. So Come On, Don't miss out on the fun

Diwali:

Date: Saturday, October 29th 2004; Time: Registration counters open at 3 PM sharp
Note: We have strict time constraints with the hall, and need to vacate by 8 PM.
We will be starting the events at 3 PM sharp to meet this time constraint.

Location: Shri Venkateshwara Temple Community Center, 780 Old Farm Road, Bridgewater, NJ 08807, Tel: (908) 725-4477

Cost: Registration and Payment by October 5th - \$12 (12 years and older) and \$5 (ages 6 to 12)
Registration after Oct 5th and at the door - \$15 (12 years and older) and \$8 (ages 6 to 12)
Please contact Rajesh Mallya, at (908) 790-9274 for advance registration and payment details.
Advance Registration and payments will also be accepted at the picnic

Activities: Variety Entertainment, Dinner
Picnic and Diwali flyers will be emailed to all members of the Konkani community in the NJ, NY, PA, CT and DE areas whose contact information is on record with the Konkani Sabha. The flyers WILL NOT be mailed by post. Anyone interested in receiving the Konkani Sabha flyers, please contact the office bearers, or, email your contact information including email addresses to KonkaniSabha@gmail.com. Visit our website at WWW.KonkaniSabha.org for further details and updates on our activities.
Interested in volunteering to organize the events and activities, and/or in performing at the Diwali function please contact the office bearers.

Rajesh Mallya, President	mallyas@hotmail.com	(908) 790-9274
Ganapathi Kamath, Vice President	gkamathcpa@yahoo.com	(732) 422-0175
Manoj Bijoor, Secretary	bijoor@ieee.org	(914) 923-4550
Vivek Pai, Secretary	wewakepie@yahoo.com	(201) 776-7466

2005 The American Midwest Konkani Association (AMKA) Activities

The American Midwest Konkani Association (AMKA) of Greater Chicago will celebrate its annual Yugadhi function at the Sri Venkateswara (Balaji) Temple in Aurora on **April 9, 2005**. Please mark your calendars and join us on this day to mark the Hindu New Year with good friends, great Aamchigele food and a fun cultural programme.

Also, our annual Picnic will be held on **July 16, 2005** at Busse Woods. For more information, please call Ashok Nayak at (847) 541-9342 or Manohar Kamath at (847) 882-9866.

KONKANI APPEALS:

SRIMATH ANANTHESHWARA TEMPLE, MANJESHWAR

Shri Bhadra Narasimha Prasanna

The Managing Committee of Srimath Anantheshwara Temple and Sahasra Kumbhabhisheka Samithi have resolved to have a fine Guest House near the Temple with 27 well furnished suites with all the amenities and comforts for the devotee pilgrims. These suites will be located on the three floors of the proposed structure. His Holiness Sri Sri Sudheendra Thirtha Swamiji of Sri Kashi Math Samsthan has conferred His blessings upon the venture and has granted us the Prasada. Construction work has already commenced and it is expected that the work will be completed by the first quarter of the year 2005.

The estimated cost of the building is about Rs. 75 lakhs. Donors who wish to contribute for the Guest house can donate any sum. Donors who donate 2.5 lakhs of rupees towards the cost of each suite can have their names or the names of their parents or of the family inscribed on plaques, which will be installed in each suite.

The Managing Committee appeals to all the members of the society to donate liberally and participate in the blessings of Shri Bhadra Narasimha.

President:

Sri M. Jagannath Shenoy, Mysore.

Vice Presidents:

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Sri K. Sridhar Kamath, Koteswar

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Sri H. Ramachandra Pai

Secretary:

Sri M. Anantheshwar Kamath, Manjeshwar

Treasurer:

Sri K. Giridhar Kamath, Kasaragod

Joint Secretaries:

Sri G. Ratnakar Kamath, Mangalore

Sri M. Devaraya Kamath, Mangalore

Sri M. Dinesh Shenoy, Manjeshwar

Note: Silver and Thamra (Copper) Kalashas are available. For your requirement, please contact the Temple authorities.

Home: Srimath Anantheshwar Temple, Manjeshwar

HARIDASA KALYANA NIDHI

My Dear Devotees of Lord,

Blessings and good wishes in the Name of Lord Narayana!

It gives me great pleasure to inform you that the Akhila Karnataka Kirtana Kala Parishat has completed its 25 years of existence. We have thought of a beautiful program of conducting 100 Harikathas from 100 well known Haridasas to commemorate the Silver Jubilee. This program will start from 24th of Feb. and closes on 12th June 2005.

To mark the Silver Jubilee Celebrations, we have thought of creating a Corpus Fund of Rs. Twenty Five Lakh by name "HARIDASA KALYANA NIDHI". The main intention of creating such a Fund is to look after the welfare of the Old Haridasas, provide them with necessary medicines and care. Death relief Fund to enable the last rites to be conducted by their relatives. There are other demanding necessities to the Parishath such as Own Building for the Parishat as well as a good Reference Library etc.,

We have got great confidence in you that you will come forward to help us. You might have helped a number of Organisations but please remember Haridasas are uncared of the lot today. He contributes the best in him to the Society. Centuries old cultural values are carried on to the next generations by virtue of Katha Kirtan every day in India in all the States. When Katha Kirtankar stands to perform the Katha, he has forgotten everything personal but gave his best to the Society. Now the Parishat expects a little from the Society, a small contribution whatever felt best by the Donor, to the best of his capacity for the welfare measures to be taken up by us. Dear Friends, I know a few people whom I came in contact during my three visits to USA. There are number of people I could not meet and know of. May I request you to carry this message to them by forwarding email so that they can also participate in this great YAJNA.

Your contributions may be sent us individually by cheque or any Association can collect cheque on our behalf and send them to us. The cheque has to be written in the name of 'HARIDASA KALYANA NIDHI' and sent to The President, Akhila Karnataka Kirtana Kala Parishat, 27/1, D T Street, 8th Cross, near Maramma Temple, Malleswaram, Bangalore 560 003. or please send the cheque to Canara Bank, SB A/c. No.33729 Kodandaramapuram Branch, Bangalore-560 003 India and oblige.

Sd/ Sant Sarvothamdas Pai

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The American Konkani Association (A. K. A.) is helping eligible Konkani youth by granting College Loan Scholarships. Send your generous contributions to: American Konkani Association, 1613 Maple Avenue, Berwyn, IL 60402

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The Saraswat Foundation is helping poor deserving Bhanaps in India. Send your donations to: Saraswat Foundation
118 Norman Drive, Morrisville, PA 19067

KONKANI CHARITIES

The Three river Area Konkani Association (TAKA) is a non-profit organization helping the needy Konkans in North America and India. Send generous contributions to:
Three river Area Konkani Association
111 Volpe Dr., MONROEVILLE, PA 15146

KONKANI COOK BOOKS

The two Konkani Cook Books, "Indian Cooking Konkani Style" and "Millennium Masala Konkani Style" published by American Konkani Association (A. K. A.) are for sale. The cost per book is \$12.00 + \$1.50 for S & H. Mail check payable to A.K.A. to: Mrs. Sandhya Kamath, 440 Glencrest Dr., Barrington, IL 60010, Phone: (847)-277-9771
skamath@aol.com

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A Primer (with accompanying CD tracked to each chapter in the book) for learning Konkani in a quick and easy manner. Based on the Devanagari alphabet and sounds, the reader is introduced to vowels, consonants, verbs, nouns, and commonly used words. Book sale proceeds will be donated to the 'Vishwa Konkani Kendra' in Mangalore, India, being built by Konkani Bandhavas of the World, under the leadership of Shri Basti Vaman Shenoy, 'Vishwa Konkani Sardar', 'Vishwa Saraswat Sardar'

The cost per book is \$12.00 (USD) \$16.00 (CAN).

Please send checks payable to: Shrikar Bangalore, 260, E. Butterfield Rd. Apt 113, Elmhurst, IL 60126 Phone: (630) 758-0761 E mail: s_nbangalore@yahoo.com

SammeLAN – 2004 DVD's

We hope by now you have received your copy of the SammeLAN DVD that you ordered. If your copy of the DVD is defective for any reason, please, send an email to Shankar Baliga at baligas3@cox.net

SammeLAN 2004 Souvenir Books

A few SammeLAN 2004 souvenir books are still available. The cost is \$10.00 per copy plus \$7 for shipping and handling within USA. Send checks addressed to "North American Konkani Association", to Vivek Ullal, 5604 Indian Hills Drive, Simi Valley, CA 93063. For inquiries, email to viveku@yahoo.com

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As a service to Konkani community, Sri. R. C. Nayak will offer free matrimonial assistance. Contact: Sri. R. C. Nayak
Pais Compound, Microwave Station Road
Mangalore 575 006 (INDIA)

A P P E A L

I hope you are aware of my free service of Matrimonial Information to our Samaj since 1988. To meet the expenses towards the free publication of the SOIRIKA, your financial help is required. Your contribution will also be utilized to provide Mangalasutra, Sarees, and marriage expenses of the poor brides and also for the remarriage of young widows. Your contribution, big or small, may kindly be sent to by way of DD or check in favor of "GSB Matrimonial Trust" and sent to: Sri B. N. Baliga, 5th Main, Near Band Box, Bangalore 560 009 (INDIA) <http://www.soirika.com>

MATRIMONIAL DIRECTORY

Mr. Basti Ganapathi Shenoy of Las Vegas, NV is maintaining a list of Konkani youth that are eligible for matrimony. Interested boys and girls can send in their information to:

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KonCANi2006

An update from the Executive Committee

KonCANi2006 will be held in Toronto on July 1st, July 2nd, and July 3rd 2006. Registration for the Sammellan will commence on July 1st 2005.

Fellow Konkans and Friends,
Here is the latest news on the KonCANi 2006 Sammellan.

UPDATES:

- **REGISTRATION** begins July 2005. Please make your plans and register early! Keep in mind that attached to the Hamilton Convention Centre is the Sheraton Hotel and therefore early registration will ensure your stay in the hotel.
- KonCANi 2006 invites authors to contribute articles of interest to our **Souvenir**. Personal essays, profiles of extraordinary "Amchis," culinary advice.... we need them all. Seen any unusual places of interest in Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra or anywhere else that Amchis inhabit in large numbers? WE NEED YOUR IDEAS.... EMAIL US AT arunajay29@hotmail.com
- There will be an **EXHIBITION** at the 2006 Sammellan. We are inviting applications from vendors to grab this opportunity to showcase or sell their products/services. We invite both local and international vendors. Variety is encouraged i.e. Jewelry, saris, books, packaged Konkani food etc. Allotment will be on a first-come first-serve basis, so hurry and send in your offers.
- **WEBSITE:** Our website is expected to be launched by the end of March, 2005. Valuable advertising space is available for those who are interested in using it to reach out to prospective clients. For more information on advertising on our website, taking a stall at the Exhibition, or advertising in our souvenir, please contact Madhuri and Avinash Gaitonde at snehatec@hotmail.com
- **PROGRAMS:** We need your help to find Speakers! If you know of anyone who can fill the role of keynote speaker/end note speaker, please contact the Chikramanes at programs@konkani2006.com Please visit the website to participate in the various surveys and give your input!

HOW CAN YOU HELP >>> REGISTER EARLY + VOLUNTEER + GIVE US YOUR INPUT TO HELP US MEET YOUR EXPECTATIONS + PARTICIPATE IN OUR ONLINE SURVEYS

WHY ATTEND?

1. Great time for a family reunion , 2. Meet new people and make personal connections, 3.Potential networking opportunities
4. Cultural growth and sharing and 5. Travel, visit locations such as Niagara Falls & Toronto

.....*So why not come EH?!*

Summer Vacation Programmes For Konkani Youths In India

(Konkani Language and Cultural Foundation, K.S. Rao Road, Mangalore)

During our visits to various States in U.S.A. and Canada during July – August 2004, Konkani parents have expressed their desire that their children be given basic training in Konkani language, culture, Samskaras, to keep `Konkani Identity (daiz) alive. Here is a programme:

KONKANI SUMMER CAMP/VACATION IN INDIA

During July-August 2005, a 22 days Summer Camp will be organized in Mangalore for the young Konkans (age 11-18 years).

Activities will include:

Introduction of Basic Konkani language

Yogasana

Pranayam

Sarvang Sundar Vyayam

Introduction To Konkani Arts such as Literature, Poetry, Songs, & Skits etc.

Visits to famous places of worship in Mangalore, Udupi, Karwar and Goa. Opportunity to meet their Holinesses, Grand parents, Other Friends & Relatives

Package cost will include:

Grand Accommodation and Konkani food (Vegetarian & Non-Vegetarian) and Travel to other cities mentioned above.

Last date of Entry May 30th 2005

Contact for details : e-mail: bvs_193@hotmail.com / baraya@vishwakonkani.org

PRESIDENT, KONKANI BHAS ANI SAMSKRITI PRATISTAN, VISHWA KONKANI OFFICE, NAVARATHNA PALACE, K.S.RAO ROAD, MANGALORE-575 001. (D. K. DISTRICT, Karnataka, INDIA).

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Here is an excerpt from a chapter titled "The Culture Phenom" which shows in clear contrast what Garth's idea of culture is (versus Nora's). "...twice a year my wife Nora and I take what can be described as a Culture Trip. Into the womb of ancient cities like Venice, Athens, Karlovy Vary. Nora loves it, I detest it. My idea of a splendid vacation is where there is plenty of water, plenty of bikini-clad babes prancing around the pool and very dry martinis with luscious olives. This, to say the least, is as far removed from Nora's approved list as Accelerated Depreciation would be from Fidel Castro's..."

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(Comments or questions are welcome: email: shyama@aol.com)