

Khabbar

North American Konkani Newsletter

Volume XXXVI No. 3

July, August, September - 2013

From:

The Honorary Editor,

"Khabbar"

P. O. Box 222

Lake Jackson, TX 77566 - 0222

XXXVI-3

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.....

I always wondered whether people really read *Khabbar* or not. I get quite a few calls, emails, etc. assuring me that people do read *Khabbar*. As I was absorbing this, I get an email from a Konkani family in GA as shown below:

Here is a book in English, "Eka Konkani Kutumba Pravasu" seems to carry some interesting writings.

<http://www.journeyofakonkanifamily.com/>

Besides requesting you to obtain a copy through the link mentioned in the website,

I just wonder if you could also share the information with your friends over there.

Regards,

Xxxxxx(name withheld)

The pity is that this book had been advertised in *Khabbar*. The author had placed a 2-page ad for this book by paying \$170!! And only a few know about this!?!

Still, the question is do people really read *Khabbar*?

SUBSCRIPTION FORM:

Dear Konkani family,

It is time to renew your subscription for 2013. The numbers on the mailing label clearly indicate the year/s the dues for *Khabbar* has been received since 2011. Please, note that you have the FREE access to the e*Khabbar*, the electronic version of *Khabbar*, by logging on to e*Khabbar*.com. If you want hard copy, then only remit your subscription at \$15.00/yr. **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
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Comments, if any: _____

Quarterly Newsletter
For Circulation to the Konkani Community in North America
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July, August, September - 2013
Honorary Editor: Mr. Vasanth Bhat

Mailing Address:
P. O. Box 222
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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 2011**. In other words, families who **have not** paid since 2010 will not be receiving this issue. The numbers on the mailing label clearly indicate the year/s the dues for *Khabbar* has been received since 2011 and if there is any error let me know.

Even in these tough economic times, the Advisory Committee of *Khabbar* has decided 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.

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

Please, note it is time to renew your subscription for 2013. The *Khabbar* Mailing List is a prized possession of our community and helps 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!

The youth were planning **Konkani Youth Convention** in LA area during August 2-

4, 2013. But, due to lack of enrollment, this milestone event had to be cancelled! I hope there will be more support from the community for future youth undertakings.

The newly re-organized **North American Konkani Association (NAKA)** is already busy in making progress. Please note that this is an interim Board who are making every effort to make a NAKA a viable organization in North America. *Khabbar* will publish all the developments and progress made by **NAKA** on an on-going basis.

Khabbar will also publish progress made by **Konkani Charitable Fund (KCF)** on a regular basis. The team KCF needs all our support to help our folks anywhere in the world. I must say that team KCF is doing a great job. Keep it up

The unofficial *Khabbar* correspondents in your area who send in the *hoon Khabbars* on a regular basis are doing an outstanding job. **Remember, if it did not appear in *Khabbar*, then it did not happen in North America!** If your area is not represented wholly, let me know and I'll recruit more volunteers. You can send the news items via email (khabbar@hotmail.com).

On the Quiz front, *Khabbar* has still remained as a champ. What a pity, only three people were able to solve last quarter's quiz! Let us see how you will do with this quarter's quiz.

The progress of the ambitious project, **Konkani Kendra**, the **Konkani Bhas Ani**

Sanskriti Pratistan is good. Thanks to **Basti Ganapathi Shenoy** who has devised a method wherein families wanting to help **Konkani Bhas Ani Sanskriti Pratistan** can do so with relative ease! Call him at (702)-341-6706 or email: bastishenoy@gmail.com if interested to extend your help for this worthy cause. Indeed, the Kendra has become a center of attraction and I urge all North American Konkani to visit the Kendra to see what way they can benefit from this. Also, see in what way we can help our brethren who are doing an outstanding job in preserving our culture.

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 or thru KCF if approved by KCF. *Khabbar* firmly believes in helping our people whether it is in India or here. Here's a link to all the appeals I gotten so far: <http://www.eKhabbar.com/SpecialAppeals.htm>

I hope the struggle to rid terrorism from this world will materialize soon. Hope Peace & Tranquility will prevail.

Have a great and safe Fall. Happy *Diwali* to you all.

Devu Boren Karo.

Vasanthi
Honorary Editor

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 Sri Vasanth Bhat

As you are aware Konkani Language was awarded the prestigious place in the 8th schedule of our constitution in the year 1992 on Aug 20th.

It is the greatest honour the Central Government could give to any language according to our constitution. With this Konkani became one of the Recognized National Languages along with Hindi and Kannada.

Lot of struggle by various Konkani activists has gone in to this. To pay tribute to them and to highlight the events lead to the inclusion of Konkani into 8th schedule and its benefits, we are coming out with a special supplement on 18th Aug. 2013.

We request you to kindly give an article on "Overseas Konkani's – Love towards mother tongue" by 6th Aug. 2013 and oblige. Please restrict your article to 200 words. Please send your latest passport size photograph too.

Thanking you,

DEVU BAREN KARO

Manvinkurve Venkatesh Baliga, Chief Editor, Kodial Khaber

Editor's Reply:

Below is the article submitted by Ramesh Kamath & Vasanth Bhat

Overseas Konkani's – Love Towards Mother Tongue

By Ramesh Kamath & Vasanth Bhat

Major Konkani migration to North America started in 1970's. I do remember one of my uncles asking me "Whai re tu americanu kassle khattalo ani jewtalo? Tayi Patrode Dalithoy meltha ve?". The real reason we came here is to pursue higher education and/or find better quality of life. We are happy to say that we have found what we were hoping for in this land of opportunity. The second generation of Konkanis here is exceptionally talented and has achieved recognition in the academics and is well on their way to be leaders in their field.

We have however not forgotten our roots. Our culture, our food and our respect for the elderly remains the priority. We do celebrate all festivals like, *Chudi, Ashtami, Sutta Punnava, Chawathi, Diwali*, etc. To make sure that the next generation has a guide to learning Konkani, we have published a book called "Konklish" to enable the youngsters to learn Konkani. We have started Bhajans for our youngsters in areas like Bay area of California, Houston, etc. Eight Konkani Sammelans were held in various cities here. The last one in N.J. was attended by over 1,800 Konkanis. These events provide opportunity to promote Konkani language, our culture and of course our food. We have invited several leading Konkani artists to perform here.

We have a newsletter called "Khabbar" which has been a mouthpiece of Konkanis in North America. Four years back we started a **Konkani Charitable Fund** to support education and Senior Citizens in India. We have granted in excess of 2 crore Rupees to various charities in India! This is our way of giving back to the community where we came from.

Lot of work lies ahead in focusing our next generation to the roots they belong to. We have a strong Konkani leadership in USA to make it happen.

Future is bright for Konkani and Konkanis in North America.

Devu Baren Koro

KS-2012 Special Notice

Dear Friends,

We are excited to inform you that the **Konkani Sammelan DVDs** are now available for purchase. A set of 9 DVDs can be ordered from our website (<http://www.konkani2012.org/>) at a **SALE price of \$20**. The DVDs cover entirely all the events on the Main Stage as well as edited parts of Seminars, Friday's Reception, Luncheons, and Sunday's grand Farewell Party.

Thank you for supporting the Konkani Sammelan 2012. These DVDs will bring back fond memories of the Sammelan for everyone who attended. For those who could not attend the Sammelan, this is your chance to get a glimpse into what happened at the Sammelan and to relive the event vicariously by watching these high quality DVDs. In either case, the DVDs are a collector's item and we are sure you will like them. Please do not wait too long as we have limited number of DVDs and they may be sold out soon. Please visit our website (<http://www.konkani2012.org/>) to pay and order your DVD copy today...

Please note once they are sold out, we will not reprint them. To avoid disappointment, please order DVD sets as soon as possible

Visit konkanisammelan.org & konkanisammelan.com

Devu Baren Karo,

Organizing Committee - Konkani Sammelan 2012

Gopal Bhandarkar M.D.
President, KS-2012

<http://www.konkani2012.org>
bhandarkar11705@gmail.com

Hoon Khabbar

Congratulations:

Indo-American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston (IACCGH) conducted first in a series of seminars in 2013 based on the topic of Cloud Technologies and how small businesses and individuals can benefit from it. The seminar was held on June 20th 2013 at START, Houston and was a big success. Among the panelists were **Pankaj Dhume**, VP of Unique group of Industries. **Sunil Shenoy** of Spring, TX, Technical Partner Manager from Dell Inc.

Aditya Rao of Cupertino, age 9 years wins the CFSCPTA, Reflection Award for his entry in the Musical Composition category at the School District level at Lynbrook High School on March 19, 2013. Cupertino-Fremont-Sunnyvale Council of PTAs (CFSCPTA) is comprised of 29 PTA/PTSA Schools.

RAM SHENOY, a Houston Konkani and Chief Technology Officer of Conoco Phillips, has been appointed to the U.S. Dept. of Energy Secretary's Energy Advisory Board (SEAB). The nineteen member board comprised of scientists, business executives, academics and former government officials will serve as an independent advisory committee to Energy Secretary Moniz. For further information, please see DOE Press Release dated August 26, 2013: <http://energy.gov/articles/departments-energy-announces-members-secretary-energy-advisory-board>

Arangetram:

MEERA RAO, d/o Prashant & Monisha Rao of Camarillo, CA, performed her *Bharatanatyam Arangetram* (Solo Dance performance) on June 30th, 2013 at the Scherr Auditorium in Thousand Oaks, California. Meera is a disciple of Guru Padmini Vasani (Padmalaya School of Dance) in Thousand Oaks, CA. The beautiful dance performance was well attended by friends and families from all over U.S. and India.

PRIYA (13), d/o Nagaraja & Geetha Kini of Cupertino, CA did her

arangetram on July 20th at the McAfee Theater in Saratoga. She is the disciple of guru Vishal Ramani.

Kum. **RIA**, d/o Pramod & Archana Rao of Katy, TX performed *Bharathanatyam Arangetram* Dance Debut on Saturday, Aug 10, 2013 at 3:00 PM at Kaplan Theater, Jewish Community Center in Houston, TX. The performance exposed the richness of Indian culture through dance accompanied by live musicians.

Konkani Graduates:

PREETI, d/o Pundalik & Premal Shenoy of Parsippany, NJ finished her medical degree as MD in June 2013 from Drexel University, PA and has graduated as Preeti P. Shenoy; MD. She wants to become a Surgeon and her specialty is yet to be decided in next 5 years. As of July 1st 2013, she is doing her 5 years residency in Christiana Hospital in Delaware State.

NISHAD, s/o Pradeep & Uma Gulvady of Saugus, CA, graduated from Saugus High School and will be joining University of California, San Diego (UCSD) in September 2013 for undergraduate studies.

PRIYA, d/o Dr. Anita & Amar Rajan of Camarillo, CA, graduated *summa cum laude* from University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) on June 14th, 2013 with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and a dual concentration in International Relations and Comparative Politics. She now works in Business Management at a material management company in Los Angeles and plans to pursue graduate studies part time within the next year.

AMAR, s/o Jaidev & Meena Rao of Los Angeles, CA, is finishing the research part of his M.S. in Geology at California State University, Long Beach. He is appointed as an Energy & Mineral Resources Engineer with California State Lands Commission in Long Beach where he is part of a group that administers oil and gas drilling, mineral mining and geothermal energy extracting leases.

They negotiate leases, set and collect lease rents. He previously obtained his B.S. in Geology and B.A. in Environmental Science from UCLA.

SANJANA, d/o Mandar & Sharmila Surkund of San Jose, CA graduated from Lynbrook High School this year as a valedictorian. She was a section leader in her school marching band, has earned her Gold Award through Girl Scouts, was involved in the American Red Cross Youth Executive Board and was also the President of her school Red Cross club. She will be attending University of California, Berkeley this fall and is planning to pursue social sciences.

MEKHALA, d/o Dinkar & Uma Hoskote of Pleasanton, CA graduated from Amador Valley High School and will be pursuing Undergraduate studies in the Sciences at UC-Berkeley. In addition to being an accomplished Odissi dancer, Mekhala's stellar achievement in her senior year was being part of the AVHS "We the People" Competition Civics team that represented California and placed second at the 2013 Nationals in Washington, DC for which she received commendation from the City of Pleasanton, the California State Senate and the United States Congress.

MIHIKA, d/o Sumant & Sanee Padbidri of San Jose, CA, graduated from Evergreen Valley High School and will be attending college at California State University, Long Beach. She intends to pursue her passion for film making there.

AVANTIKA, d/o Shantanu & Pratima Mundkur of Fremont, CA, graduated from American High School, Fremont. She will be attending UCLA starting Fall 2013 and will major in Neuroscience.

SANJANA, d/o Manohar & Sujata Kamath of Fremont, CA, graduated from Mission San Jose High School, Fremont, CA. She will be joining UC Santa Barbara in September and will major in biology. During high school, Sanjana excelled in gymnastics, track

and field, was a member of the National Honor Society, completed a Toastmasters Youth Leadership Certification and served as Science Camp Counselor for elementary school children.

AMEYA, s/o Ketan & Shilpa Padwekar of Saratoga, CA, is a class of 2013 Saratoga High School graduate, graduating from high school with very high honors, and community service distinctions. Apart from Ameya's academics at SHS, he was also actively involved in community service, tutoring students, band, swimming, karate, and leadership roles in an assortment of different clubs at his school. This fall, Ameya will be attending the University of Pennsylvania, to study under the university's Jerome Fisher program studying both computer science and engineering as well as business, with a minor in physics.

ROHIL, s/o Kanchan & late Shyam Taggarasi of Saratoga, CA, graduated from Saratoga High School with Academic Honors. He will be attending UC Berkeley this Fall and plans to follow the pre-med track as a Molecular and Cell Biology (MCB) major with an emphasis in Neurobiology. He is a recipient of the Leadership Award, a merit-based scholarship granted by the Cal Alumni Association. Rohil looks forward to continuing his passion for the drums and raising cancer awareness on campus.

Brahmopadeshams:

Milind & Archana Gokarn of San Jose, CA celebrated the Brahmopadeshams of their sons, **Chi. TEJAS and Chi. AALOK** at Shri Karla Math, Karla (near Pune) on June 2, 2013.

Narendra & Shaila Shenoy of Cupertino, CA celebrated the upanayam of their son, **Chi. VISHAL** at San Jose Airport Garden Hotel, San Jose, on 16th June, 2013. The occasion was graced by family and friends from all over the US and abroad.

Vinay & Seema Hemmady of Cupertino CA celebrated the sacred thread ceremony of their sons, **Chi.**

ARNAV and Chi. ABHINAV on Sunday 23rd June 2013 at Shri Vamanashram Hall, Borivali, Mumbai.

Arun & Deepa Rao of Cupertino, CA celebrated the Brahmopadeshams of their son, **Chi. ADITHYA** at the Shri Manguesh Devasthan, Ponda, Goa, India on 24th June, 2013

Anup & Radha Netrawali celebrated the Brahmopadeshams (Upanayanam) ceremony of their son, **Chi. AARNITH** on 07/14/2013 at the Sri Vishweshwara Venugopala Krishna Temple at Karkala in Udipi District of Karnataka.

Engagement:

Smt Lalitha & Sri Sridhar celebrated the engagement of their daughter **Kum. CHARANYA with Chi. NIKHIL**, s/o of Suresh & Kusum Pai of Stafford, TX at the Madras Pavilion in Sugarland, TX on Friday July 5th 2013.

Chi. AJAY, s/o Vivek & Jyoti Ullal of Simi Valley, CA, is engaged to **Kum. MEERA**, d/o Satish & Poonita Parbhakar of Cupertino, CA. Ajay, is a final year medical student at State University of New York, Stony Brook, and Meera, is a doctoral student of Clinical Psychology at Fordham University in New York City.

New Arrival:

ANANYA SAI, a baby girl to Vedant & Rucheeta Kulkarni on July 27th, 2013, at San Diego, CA; sister to big sister Janani Sai. The proud paternal grandparents are Ashok & Ranjana Kulkarni of San Jose, CA and aunt Avanti. Visiting their great granddaughters in San Diego are the proud 'Panaja and Panaji', Vasant & Kamala Masurkar.

SAIRA, a baby girl to Ranjit & Reena Shiralkar of Irving, TX on June 26th, 2013; a sister to big sister Sonika. The proud paternal grandparents are Bharat & Suman Shiralkar of San Jose, CA.

SIDDHATH (Sid) a baby boy to Sonali Ubhayakar & Gautam Venkatesh of Torrance, CA on Aug. 2nd, 2013. The proud maternal

grandparents are Shivadev & Lata Ubhayakar of Rancho Palos Verdes, CA and the paternal grandmother is Kamala Venkatesh of San Diego, CA.

Relocation:

The **SHENOY** family, Ashok & Malini, have relocated from Warren, OH to 9141 65th Street N., Pinellas Park, FL 33782 effective August 1, 2013. Their email: mauryal@aol.com

The **BHAT** family, Vinodh & Kalpana, together with their kids, Shoriya & Zade, have relocated from New York, NY to 7 Third Avenue, Port Washington, NY 11050 effective July 16, 2013. Their new phone (516)-472-0194 and email: kbandarkar@gmail.com

The **BALIGA** family, Shankar & Bindya, have relocated within Irvine, CA to 218 Wyndover, Irvine, CA 92620-2168. The new telephone is (714)-389-4062 and email: baligas3@yahoo.com

MANJESHWAR PUNDALIK KAMATH, has relocated from Sudbury, MA to 3031 Borge Street, # 207, Oakton, VA 22124-2805. His email is mpkamath@hotmail.com

Mrs. SHRIKALA SAVKOOR relocated from San Jose, CA to 3465 Dublin Blvd. #341, Dublin, CA 94568. The new telephone is (925) 560-8226.

40th Birthday Bash

Pranav & Sayali together with their dad Narendra Rao celebrated the 40th Birthday, the new 20th Birthday, party for their mother, **GAYATHRI RAO** of Sugarland, TX on Saturday June 29th 2013 at the Madras Pavilion in Sugarland, TX..

75th Surprise Birthday Party

Deepak, Sunil and Kalpana, together with their mother Pratibha and family & friends, hosted a surprise 75th birthday party for their father, **Dr. GOPAL BHANDARKAR** at Devi Restaurant, NY, NY on Saturday July 13th 2013.

Obituaries:

VIJAYALAXMI RAO (91) w/o late Padbidri Deva Rao of Shivaji Park,

Mumbai, passed away peacefully in Mumbai, on August 5, 2013. *Khabbar* sends heartfelt condolences to her son, Jaidev Rao of Los Angeles, CA, daughters, Jaya Kodical and Uma

Kelkar of Bay area, and son Manmohan Rao of Mumbai. **NIRANJAN BENEGAL**, of Seattle, WA passed away peacefully on July 23, 2013 at his home. *Khabbar* sends heartfelt condolences to his wife

Shantha Benegal of Seattle, WA, and three siblings, Dr. Jaigopal Benegal of Sicklerville, NJ, Aravind Benegal of Mangalore, and Asha Gangolli of Pune. He was brother-in-law of Vivek Ullal of Simi Valley, CA.

KONKANI HAPPENINGS

Konkani Association of Northern California (KAOCA):

KAOCA's summer PICNIC was held on August 17th, 2013 from 10 am to 6 pm at the beautiful and spacious Central Park of Santa Clara. It was a fun filled day-long event with a variety of sports and food. Over 200 KAOCA members including several new families attended this event. The seasoned members who had just returned from a visit back to family in India or from a much needed vacation, also really enjoyed this occasion to share their stories with fellow Konkani friends.

On the sports front, the day started with a Cricket match between the Kodial Kings and Mumbai Maharajas teams. Volleyball games were played throughout the day and we even had to add an additional court to accommodate the large number of participants. Kids and adults alike participated in the 3-legged race, spoon race, tug of war, etc. The participants also practiced their favorite Zumba moves with a muscle tingling Zumba session.

There were variety of food items starting with a barbeque grilled fresh in the pavilion by the committee and volunteers. For lunch, KAOCA chefs had also cooked Konkani delicacies such as Chane Ghashi, Batane Pulav, Sagu, etc. A few other Konkani items such as Cantaloupe Harshale, Charmbure Upkari, Panak and Pacchadi were also the hits for the day.

The day ended with newcomer introductions and a bingo. Throughout, the kids were playing in the park and the lawns, thoroughly enjoying their time together. Memorable photos were shared in the KAOCA Friends Facebook pages and were well appreciated by the members.

--Contributed by Ram and Aruna Acharya, President (KAOCA), Fremont, CA

Konkani Association of Southern California (KASC):

Konkani Association of Southern California's annual *Yugadi* event was celebrated at Laguna Woods Clubhouse # 2 on April 20, 2013 between 3:30 -8:00 pm. The event started with a social hour, Aarthi and prayers to Lord Ganesh and Goddess Lakshmi. Popular Bhajans were sung by KASC ladies, children and men.

The cultural event commenced with a group Ganapati Prayer Dance by Kids from Orange County, followed by a semi-classical dance By Nivedita and subsequently Shreya Pai performed a Bollywood dance. Thereafter there was an unique performance by Suraj Pai, Brenna Rao, Ruthie Shenoy and Anika Bhat. In this performance Suraj was playing Piano, Brenna was singing and Ruthi and Anika were dancing to the song. This piece was well coordinated by the kids and taken very well by the audience. This program was followed by Piano performance by Suraj Pai. Subsequently Samar Bhat played violin. The siblings Samar and Anika also gave a group performance. While Samar was playing violin, Anika was singing the song, These are few of my favorite things from The Sound of Music.

The highlight of the evening was a group performance, *Bollywood over the years* by Orange County and Los Angeles County Konkani men, women and children. Popular Bollywood numbers from 1950s to this era were performed by the group. Orange County women represented the 50s, 60s and 70s era and did a phenomenal job of taking the audience back to that era with some of the popular dance moves, hair style and fashion. Venkatesha Rao enacted the song, Mera Joota Hein Japani from the movie Shri 420. The 80s,90s and 2000s were represented by Los Angeles County KASC women and men.

The nomination for the new committee was made by Sridar Rao and the KASC members. Congratulations to the following members for being elected as KASC committee board members for the tenure 2013-2015.

KASC Board Members – 2013-2015

President:	Rohan and Deepa Samsi
Vice President:	Rethnu P. and Maya Pai
Secretary:	Anand and Mohana Mahale & Deepa and Rajesh Prabhu
Cultural Coordinator:	Sapan and Devika Shenoy
Treasurers:	Vivek and Rashmi (Kulkani) Pai
Editors:	Vivek and Jyoti Ullal
Web-Master:	Prasad and Deepa Upasani
Venue Coordinator:	Venkatesh and Padma Rao.

The cultural program ended with a fabulous south Indian dinner and Mysore Pak was served for dessert. Thanks to Southern California Konkani people for attending the event.

Submitted by Deepa Samsi

KONKANI SABHA PICNIC KICK STARTS SUMMER 2013 IN THE NORTH EAST:

Continuing the long tradition, Konkani Sabha organized the annual summer picnic in Mercer County Park in NJ on June 15. The picnic, with strong attendance (200+ people from Tri-State and surrounding areas) and perfect outdoor weather, sunny with 80 degrees, kicked the official start of the summer season for the North East Konkans. The picnic park has to be booked 6 months in

advance to get the spot and organizers have no control on weather except to track the weather patterns anxiously as the D-day nears. Even though the picnic spot accommodates rainy days by utilizing the huge built-in shed, the level of enthusiasm is most likely dissipated if it rains heavily on the day. Everyone was delighted to see the prediction of zero percent chance of rain realized, especially as the days before and after the event witnessed heavy rains!

Volunteers started arriving at the park from 9 AM, followed by steady stream of enthusiastic attendees, all eager to participate, play games, volunteer, network and have fun. Hot steaming breakfast of Idli, Vada, Sambar and Upma was provided by Konkani Sabha to fuel the activities for the day.

Every family brought delicious food entrée item sufficient for at least 5 families with few bringing snacks too. The result was an assortment of amazing food ranging from sandwiches, pasta, rice, daal, biryanis, curries and everything in between!

Games for junior and senior kids started around 11 AM and included painting, track race, pass the ball, kick the shoe, sack race and relay race. Kids were followed by adults to try their luck in the competition in 3-legged race, spoon & lemon and dodge ball. Dodge ball has become one of the popular items in picnic these years, outshining some of the earlier tried yesteryear games such as 'lagori'.

After heavy lunch from 2 to 3 PM, it was time for Konkani Premier League Cricket, Panchadika (for those who were not interested in Cricket), and Bingo and Raffle draws. Volleyball was played throughout the day by the sport enthusiasts and few of them had to be called repeatedly for having food during lunch time. The picnic concluded with the Best of Three set of Tug Of War challenge games, and the Watermelon and Bhelpuri/Charumboro Upkari combo supplied by Konkani Sabha on the side. For the Tug of War, the 2 teams were chosen by respective captains and were represented by gentlemen, ladies as well as kids. Many family members were on opposite sides and it was interesting to watch the competitive spirit kicking in the challenge!!

Overall, everyone enjoyed the day outdoors with friends and had lots of fun. The committee and key volunteers of Konkani Sabha want to thank all our friends and volunteers who helped in Preparatory Meetings, Inventory Purchases, Website and Evite Communications, Registration, Games Scheduling, Food Management and other areas to make the 2013 Konkani Sabha Picnic a grand success.

Dev Baren Karo,

Konkani Sabha Committee
(www.konkanisabha.org)

Bhanap Annual Picnic:

The Saraswat Foundation held their annual Bhanap picnic at Reichler Park in South Brunswick, NJ on Saturday August 3, 2013. The all-day event included breakfast, lunch and dinner and lots of recreational activities.

Houston Area Amchigale Samaj (HAAS) Picnic:

The annual HAAS picnic was held at Lost Creek Park, Sugarland, TX on April 27, 2013.

Houston Area Amchigale Samaj (HAAS) Krishnasthmi Celebrations:

HAAS celebrated Sri Krishna Janmashtami on Saturday, August 24, 2013 at the Austin Parkway Hall, Sugar Land, TX.

President of GSB Sabha- Mumbai visits Houston:

(As appeared in HAAS newsletter, *Konkani Express*)

Mrs. **Sudha G.Pai**, President of GSB Sabha-Mumbai, addressed the HAAS Management Committee on June 29, 2013. She presented an overview of the Sabha's various activities and how it has combined "the wisdom of the old with the excitement and passion of youth" to carry out its objective of service to the community. The Voice of GSB and the Sabha's website helps to bind together Konkanis who are spread out all over Mumbai. The Foundation Day, Gudi Padwa Sneha Milan, the Annual Adhyatmik Program celebration and biweekly satsangs are occasions that meet cultural and spiritual needs of Konkanis there. The Mahila Sabha actively conducts a number of social initiatives including the Anand Bazaar and Medical Camp, Ladies Day, Annual get together and 3 haldi kumkums every year. The Vidyanidhi Fund, Medical Aid Fund, Marriage Assistance Fund and the Senior Citizens Welfare Fund serve disadvantaged Konkanis.

Mrs. Sudha G. Pai was recently awarded "Outstanding Service to the Community" by the Gowd Saraswath Mahila Vrinda in Bangalore. She brings with her to the table a wealth of wisdom and experience. The frank exchange of ideas that occurred will help bring Houston and Mumbai closer and help us in our future endeavors.

KHABBAR FROM KULAR

By: - Vishwa Konkani Sardar BASTI VAMAN SHENOY

There were good monsoon rains in Coastal India this year and Mangalore, Udipi received more than 150 inches rains this year.

H.H. Srimad Sudhindra Thirtha Swamiji, Sri Kashi Mutt Samsthan commenced Vijaya Samvatsara Chaturmasya Camp at Sri Kashi Mutt, Konchady, Mangalore, **H.H. Sri Samyameendra Thirtha Shishya Swamiji** at Sri Kashi Mutt, Bangalore, **H.H. Sri Vidyardhiraja Thirtha Wader Swamiji** of Sri Gokarn Jeevatham Partagali Mutt at Madgaon, Goa, **H.H. Sri Shivananda Saraswathi Swamiji** of Sri Kaivalya Mutt at G.S.B. Sabha, Hubli and **H.H. Sri Sadyojatha Swamiji** of Sri Chitrapur Mutt at Samadhi Mutt, Mangalore.

Four Books (i) 'Vaishakhi' Kannada Poem by RashttraKavi Late Manjeshwar Govind Pai translated to Konkani by **Shabda Ratnakar Shri Mandarke Madhav Pai**, Shimoga, (ii) 'Saiba Bogus' Konkani Novel by eminent Konkani writer **Dr. V.J.P. Saldanha** in Kannada Script transliterated to Devanagari Script by **Mr. Melwyn Rodrigues and Mrs. Averyl Rodrigues** (iii) 'Opera House' - Short stories of Mr. Jayant Kaikini in Kannada, translated to Konkani by **Mr. Ramesh Lad**, Madgaon, Goa (iv) Vishwa Konkani Parichay Kosh Vol.2 Edited by Dr. Tanaji Halarnkar, Goa is ready for release. Thus Vishwa Konkani Sahitya from Vishwa Konkani Sahitya Akademi, World Konkani Centre has till now published 17 Books. Government of Karnataka has announced Rs.3.50 Crores to Konkani Language & Cultural Foundation in the Budget 2013-2014 for the various Konkani literature, art & culture, Research and Konkani language and Konkani people related matters.

Mr. B. Ramanath Rai, Hon. Minister for Forest and Ecology was honoured by G.S.B. Samaj of Bantwal at Yashawant Vyayama Shala, Bantwal.

Kharvi and Kudubi Konkani students were given Life Insurance Scholarships sponsored by World Konkani Centre at Bhatkal, Gangolli, Kundapur and Mandarthi to continue School education on 22.06.2013.

7 Training Camps under KSHAMATA (Konkani Students Higher Achievement Motivation And Training Academy) in July 2013 for Vishwa Konkani Student Scholarship Fund beneficiary Scholars were held at World Konkani Centre. The Scholars were given training in Soft skills, public speaking, leadership, Facing Interviews and Konkani related matters under the Orientation Programs.

'Amrith Mahotsav' of All India Konkani Parishad was held at Karwar where late Madhav Manjunath Shanbhag, a leading Lawyer to bring Konkani people living in many parts of India in 1939.

400 Konkani learning Students in Higher Primary classes in Karnataka were given School Bags, Rs.1,000/= Cash prize and Konkani Books in Karwar, Kumta, Bhatkal in Uttara Kannada District, Gangolli, Karkala, Udupi Mangalore, etc. through Vishwa Konkani Student Scholarship Fund. **Dr. Kasturi Mohan Pai** takes active part in this project.

Lion K.C. Prabhu, Mangalore has taken charge as Governor Lion District in a Gala Function at Dr. T.M.A. Pai Convention Hall on 10.8.2013.

'Khel Rajaunv' Research on Konkani Stage edited by famous Konkani Researcher, litterateur and activist Mr. Paul Moras was released on 4.8.2013 at Mangalore by **Dr. Na D'Souza**, famous Kannada Novelist. **Mr. Basti Vaman Shenoy** was the Chief Guest.

Mr. Vasanth Bhat, Editor, Khabbar visited Vishwa Konkani Student Scholarship Fund officials at Mangalore on 16.08.2013.

596 engineering and 28 MBBS students received scholarships worth Rs 2.50 crores from the Vishwa Konkani Student Scholarship Fund (VKSSF), established by World Konkani Center (WKC), at a programme held at T V Raman Pai Convention Hall on Monday 2013 September 2.

The award ceremony was inaugurated by **Shri R V Deshpande**, Hon. Minister for Higher Education and Tourism, Government of Karnataka. He also awarded scholarships to students along with other dignitaries, **Shri J R Lobo**, MLA, **Shri T. V. Mohandas Pai**, Chairman of Manipal Global Education, **Shri Ramadas Kamath** U, Chairman of VKSSF, World Konkani Center President **Shri Basti Vaman Shenoy** presided and **Shri Annappa Kamath** shared the dais.

The 3rd Annual P.G.Kamath Commemoration Conference

The 3rd Annual P.G.Kamath Commemoration Conference was held on 30th June 2013 in Swarna Bhavan, I.S.Press Road, Ernaulam. The Meeting was inaugurated by an old time associate of Late P.G.Kamath, **Sri.N.Gopinath Prabhu**, (President of K.Nagendra Prabhu Foundation, Alappuzha). It was chaired by **Sri.A.Sudhakar Shenoy** (Former Director, MPEDA).

The Keynote Address was delivered by the noted Konkani poet and Freedom fighter from Goa, **Sri.Nagesh Karmali**. In his Keynote Address Sri.Nagesh Karmali recounted his association with the Late P.G.Kamath. Welcome speech was delivered by **Anand G Kamath**, while a Vote of Thanks was proposed by **Adv. Nivedita Kamath**.

Later a Multilingual poets' meet was also held, with Sri.Nagesh Karmali on the Chair. Different poets from Gujarati, Malayalam, Hindi, English, Tamil and Konkani languages presented their poems on the occasion. Participants were : **Dr. Jayaprabha.C.S** (Hindi), **Sri. Aymanam Raveendran** (Malayalam), **Smt. Nisha.G.** (English), **Dr. K. Murugesan Reddiar** (Tamil), **Sri. A. P. Bhanu Prakash, Kum. Anjali Kini, Sri.R.S.Bhaskar** (Konkani).

Sri. Nagesh Karmali reading his poem during the Multilingual Poets' Meet

Sri. Niranjana Parekh read out the Gujarati poems of **Sri. Dilip K. Mehta**. **Smt. Suseela Pai** recited a few stanzas from 'Raghu Ramayan' composed by the Late Smt. G. Kamalammal. **Sri.R.S.Bhaskar** welcomed the gathering, and **Sri. N. Balakrishna Mallya** proposed a Vote of Thanks.

P G Kamath Foundation is a NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) registered as a Charitable Trust based at Ernakulum, Kerala. The Foundation was formed by the friends and relatives of the late Konkani poet and scholar P.G.Kamath.

The GSBS Medical Centre at Mumbai, is a 43 year old organization giving medical aid to the economically backward and needy people of Mumbai city at a highly subsidized, affordable rate. Over the years this Trust has developed 4 units to cater to the requirements of people, irrespective of caste community and creed. Last week, a state of the art, new X Ray unit was inaugurated by **Sri Dattanand Bhat**, who was quite well known in USA for his long association with the GSB community. Sri Bhat who is now residing in Mumbai, was extremely generous to announce that the R Ray machine as his personal donation to the Trust. GSBS Medical Trust has named the Unit as "**Smt. Shanta D. Bhat X Ray Unit**". I am enclosing a brief report of the installation ceremony and also photographs of the occasion.

Submitted by: Gita Pai

A Thought for the Day from Bhagavan's Divine Discourse in 1964

Submitted by Dr. Devdutt Nagarkar

When you go to a temple, some of you break a coconut before the altar. If you try to break the coconut, just as it is when it falls from the tree, will it break? No! The fibre protects the shell and prevents any damage to the fruit. Hence, you must first remove the fibrous cover with a lot of effort. Moksha (liberation) results from the breaking of the mind with all its vagaries and wishes. You have to break your mind but, how can you do it, when the fibrous armour of sensual desires encompasses it? The toughest fibre is anger, it is the stickiest dirt. When you get angry, you forget mother, father, and teacher and descend to the lowest depths. You lose all discrimination in the excitement. So remove them and dedicate the mind to God and smash it in His presence. That moment, you are free.

- Divine Discourse, Oct 10, 1964.

Southern California Konkani Entrepreneur

Reported by Shiva Ubhayakar, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA

Nandalke is a small village near Karkala. This is where a Konkani boy was born and grew up among eleven of his siblings in a typical South Kanara bucolic setting with coconut, mango and jack-fruit trees. The boy's mother passed away when he was only ten years old. He was nurtured by his father and his older sisters. His pastime was to play *Chinni Kolu* (or *Gilli Dandu*) and street cricket. He studied avidly at a local school. Years passed. From a boy to a teenager to an adult. We have all gone through this. But his future diverged significantly from the rest of us. He had a vision – a vision to do something new, something challenging, something state-of-the art. And most importantly, he wanted to make a living doing just what he enjoyed doing.

Today **Dr. Jayanth Nandalke Kudva**, President and Founder of *NextGen Aeronautics* located in Torrance, CA, is busy pursuing his dreams. From his early roots in Nandalke and Mangalore, Jayanth continued his life journey and received his B.S. in Aeronautical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology (Madras) in 1973 and his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Aerospace Engineering from Virginia Tech in 1976 and 1979, respectively. He worked at Northrop Grumman Corporation from 1980 to 2002. At Northrop, he established himself as a leading technologist in the field of aerospace structures with several patents to his credit. He managed a R&D group and led the division activities on smart materials and adaptive aircraft. While working at Northrop he met his wife Esther, who hails from Havana, Cuba.

In 2003 he founded NextGen Aeronautics with the explicit purpose of developing revolutionary technologies and designs for the next century of flight. Since founding in 2003, NextGen has completed over 120 projects from basic research to complete flight and underwater vehicles for NASA, DoD, and major system integrators as well as small companies. NextGen employs about 30 highly qualified engineers, technicians and business support personnel. Esther supports her husband as a Contracts Administrator. NextGen excels in state-of-the-art technologies such as: Materials and Structures, Sensors and Actuators, Aircraft Modeling and Simulations, Vehicle Systems, and Wind Tunnel Models.

In April 2013, Boeing Aerospace Corporation presented NextGen with the prestigious "*Supplier of the Year*" award for Technology. This highly competitive award is given to companies that best meet and exceed Boeing's high standards of quality, on-time delivery, post-delivery support, affordability and demonstrating the ability to anticipate and respond to challenging requirements. Every year Boeing Corporation selects one company from among thousands of its suppliers in each of 16 categories to receive this award.

Jayanth and Esther live in Rancho Palos Verdes, California, a short commute from NextGen's headquarters in Torrance, CA. Jayanth is a quintessential Konkani entrepreneur who is still a Nandalke boy at heart who now plays tennis instead of street cricket.

(As appeared in July 2013 issue of KASC Newsletter)

Grace of Lord Ganesha

By: - Narayandas Kamath, Richmond Hill, Ont.

As appeared at: <http://theemerald.wordpress.com/2011/03/05/readers-contribution-grace-of-lord-ganesh-mr-kamath/>
Mr. Narayandas Kamath, of Richmond Hill, Ont., a Ganesha devotee, shares this article giving various accounts of his experiences he encountered with Lord Ganesh and His Murti's (Idols) during his spiritual journey.



॥ श्री महागणपती-टिटवाळा ॥

It started with an image that appeared in my dream some forty years ago – an image of a very different and remarkably unique Ganapati. One with a small face, long trunk, long body and limbs. The vision was so vivid and memorable because immediately after it happened I mysteriously received HIS location, HIS history and directions to HIS temple. That was the Great Titwala Ganapati who has become my main God since that day. Jai Ganesh!

Image : SHRI TITWALA GANAPATI

Image: MAHA MANTAP GANAPATI

About a year later I received a small Ganapati murti — brought forth into my hands seemingly from thin air — from a spiritual man named Baba from the town of Kalyan in Maharashtra State. He told me to carry the statue with me to Atlanta, GA where I was headed for post-graduate studies. I called this powerful Ganapati, who was like a guardian angel to me during my four year tenure in the US, Baba Ganapati. Jai Ganesh!



One of the greatest blessings in my life is my collection of over one hundred beautiful Ganapati murtis. I have dedicated an entire room on the second floor of my home to

Hindu deities –for daily prayers and meditation. It is truly my shrine – a place where I spend a few hours each daily. Some of the murtis I have collected were gifts from friends, some my wife and I purchased from various temple gift shops across Canada, USA and

Hawaii, while others were purchased in some of India's holiest cities. There are, however, a few murtis that arrived in my shrine in a very unique way which I would like to share with you. Image : SHRI ASTA VINAYAKAS



In the mid-1990s, my wife returned from a trip to India with a large, stunningly beautiful and intricately carved rosewood maha mantap for our shrine. She also brought single murtis of Lord Ganapati, Laxmi and Saraswati Matas made of pancha loha (5 metals). Although they looked grand, they were much too small for the size of the mantap. Nonetheless, they were kept as the main murtis in the mantap at that



time. One weekend, a few months later, my wife wanted me to buy some Indian groceries. Even though there are a number of stores within a few kilometers of our home, I just felt like driving north where we used to reside over five years ago and one with just one Indian grocery store. Leisurely I drove up north, almost 30 kilometers away, and parked in front of the Indian Store. I immediately noticed large signs stating: “Last day, Final Closing Sale.” As soon as I walked inside the door I was met by the store owner who questioned where I had been for the past 5 years. Even before we could explain she breathlessly added: “Look that is your Ganapati....waiting for you all this time..... Take him with you!” I looked at the Ganapati, sitting alone on top of an empty shelf. I was stunned by His beauty, size and colour. Even though many customers had come and gone, she offered the Ganesh murti only to me. The murti was approximately 18” by 15” in height and width, intricately carved and of rosewood colour that made it a perfect match for our rosewood maha mantap. I asked the store owner how much I should pay. Again and again she repeated, “He is your Ganapati, pay whatever you want.” I immediately held that Ganapati in both my hands, paid the owner with whatever cash I had in my wallet, and seated Him in the front seat of the car and drove home. I then installed him with due reverence and formalities. He looked so majestic in our maha mantap and has been the centerpiece of our shrine, we call him Maha Mantap Ganapati. We beautifully decorate him with silk and fresh flowers; coral, semi-precious stones and rudraksha garlands; offer daily dhoop, diya; lots of Ganesh mantras, shlokas, Arthavasheershas; durva grass and copious amount of tears of devotion – Bhakti. One look at Him melts my heart with devotion and brings so much peace and tranquility. Thank you for coming into my house Oh! Lord, I am so much more blessed because of HIM. Jai Ganesh!

It has been over ten years since I visited mother India. Every November I used to plan to go there but something always happened that prevented me from making the trip. In 2004, I was so determined to go – mainly to visit the Asta Vinayak temples located between Pune and Mumbai. That is all I wanted to do. However, that winter I fell down and dislocated my patella – I was in pain for several months. Again, the next year during the winter months I kept falling sick and was not fit to undertake a trip to visit the Asta Vinayakas. I was feeling sad and dejected at the thought that I could not pay a pilgrimage to Lord Ganapati. However, soon after Diwali, one of my old neighbours stopped by unexpectedly.



I was surprised to see them after many years. They had left our neighbourhood, moved to Ottawa and now returned back. As we were catching up on things, they said that they had brought a small gift for me and presented me with a package approximately 2” by 18” in dimensions. They insisted that I open the gift right away. As I started unpacking the gift... low and behold... My Asta Vinayaka Devas came to me in one single package – there were small statues of eight Vinayakas all on one strip of a cardboard box. I cried out of pure joy. I could not believe this was real and that this was really

happening to ME!

It was very mystifying because as I later learned; the murtis were brought from India by their son and were left in a drawer for a couple of years... unopened. They felt like giving it to me despite the fact that they did not have that murti in their own house. These Asta Vinayakas are now located on the top of the maha mantap, very appropriately to remind me

daily of the immense and unconditional love that God has for His Bhaktas. I painted the background with pictures of Doorva grass between each Vinayakas. Eight Atharvasheershas are recited daily in their honour. Incidentally, when my wife and son went to India a few months later, they visited over 100 shrines all over India, including the Asta Vinayaka temples, but could not find a complete set of Asta Vinayakas anywhere. They could only get individual murtis from each Vinayaka temples. The Asta (eight) Vinayakas are located in 1) Ballaleshwar – Pali, 2) Chintamani- Theur, 3) Girijatmaj – Lenyadri, 4) MahaGanapati – Ranjangaon, 5) Moreshwar- Moregaon, 6) Sidhi Vinayak- Sidhitek, 7) Varad Vinayak – Mahad and 8) Vighnagar, Ozar. This was another example of how mysteriously God comes to those who truly yearn for him. Jai Ganesh! Image : MAHAMAYA GANAPATI & SIDHI VINAYAKA

Every year I love to go to the CNE Exhibition which comes to Toronto in late August to early September. I especially loved to visit the International Pavilion where handicrafts from all over the world are exhibited for sale. While walking leisurely with my wife through various pavilions and making a number of purchases – including 2 laser carved crystal Ganapatis – we came across an Afghani store. They carried a variety of semi-precious stone wares, vases, flower pots, ash trays and toys made of aventurines, citrines and other semi-precious stones. Surprisingly, in between them was a small group of brass Ganapati murtis. I was especially drawn to one with Lord Shiva and Parvati's face on either side of a Shiv Linga with Ganga falling from the Jatha of Shiva on to Shiva Linga on which a little Bala (baby) Ganapati was seated. This was a unique combined Shiv- Parvati-Bala Ganapati murti all around a Shiv Lingam – something I had never seen before. There were also other Ganapati statues. I held this Ganapati in both my hands to see the price. There was no price tag. When I asked the store keeper about the price of these statues he casually said one hundred dollars. As I had already spent money on other articles, I opened my wallet to see how much I was left with. I had four bank notes of \$20 each for a total \$80. I offered all of it to the Afghani vendor. He simply refused to accept it and ignored me. It was an instant love at first sight, and I was determined that I will not leave this Maha Ganapati in such a condition with this vendor. I told my wife that we will go around the store and come back again and hoped that he would change his mind. Before leaving the store I took one last look at the Ganapati and I mentally cried that instead of being in a shrine He is exhibited with tens of collectibles and consumer goods. I wanted this unique murti to be given its due honour. But this vendor did not take any credit card payments and I only had \$80 with me. Within seconds of our leaving the store, we heard a very loud noise that shocked hundreds of people sitting in the food court in front of that store. When we turned around we were shocked also to see that articles and objects worth hundreds or perhaps even thousands of dollars had been smashed and broken into pieces. My wife never believes in my "interpretations" of these types of "coincidences" but at that moment she was so shocked that she held my hand and even without my uttering a word said: "Now I really believe in you." She knew my inner feelings. It was the little Bala Ganapati throwing a tantrum! He wanted to come with me right then and there but the shop owner would not let HIM go. The vendor was trying to exhibit a heavy hand-woven carpet on the top of the table where he had kept hundreds of items for sale. The string that was supposed to hold the carpet snapped and destroyed many of his wares. Immediately his old mother and wife came running from behind the curtain to clean up the broken glass pieces and other fallen objects. The vendor sadly uttered "I break, I pay." Too bad. More determined than before, we circled and came back again to the store. With tears in my eyes, I bluntly told the vendor, "Sir, He is our most powerful God. He does not want to stay here. He wants to go with me right NOW. Let HIM go, take this money." Without uttering a single word and with his head bowed, the shop owner simply grabbed the money and let

me have the Ganapati. I immediately told my wife that our CNE trip was over and that we were now going straight back to the car and heading home. We bathed the murti in milk, applied kumkum and chandan and performed arti. Since that day, a diya is lit up every evening in front of the Lord; he is offered beautiful flowers, doorva grass and daily morning and evening prayers and is installed on a beautiful mahogany and marble pedestal near the entrance of the shrine. Jai Ganesh!

Image : BABA GANAPATI in front of GOLD & CORAL GANAPATI

Numerous similar coincidences have occurred more recently in my life and anything I consider lacking is somehow fulfilled by Him without efforts. For example, many years ago, I did not have the picture of Sidhi Vinayak of Mumbai and the very next week a friend of mine visited me, bringing with him a picture of Sidhi Vinayak in a silver frame without my even asking. It is now on permanent display in my shrine. Another murti that I did not have for a long time and which I wanted very much was that of my Kuladevata Shirali Mahamaya Ganapati. I had helped a few new immigrants to Canada by introducing them to some of my customers for employment. The parents-in law of one such person somehow found out about my Kuladevata and when they visited their son-in-law in Toronto, decided to carry in their hand baggage a small beautifully carved wooden mantap with Mahamaya Ganapati - all the way from near Mangalore. This Ganapati is also prominently kept in our shrine. Jai Ganesh!

I have murtis of Lord Ganesh made of clay, Panch Loha, Asta dravya (8 types of grain), 22 karat gold, pure silver, iron, aventurine, jade, citrine, tiger-eyed, plastic, stone, granite, marble, cardboard, madar- white dry tree root, gold and silver plated, paper, wax, straw and many others. Somehow, one that I did not have and wanted badly was that of coral



Ganapati. Recently a friend of ours visited us and after seeing my shrine commented that I have a large collection of different types of Ganeshas to which I mentioned that I am missing a coral Ganapati. She immediately noted that her parents had given her two coral Ganapati two years ago — which she said she had never opened from the box and was probably still lying in one of the suite cases in her home and assured us that she won't have much difficulty finding it and that once she did she would bring it for us. The very next day she found the tiny coral Ganapati — still unopened in a

small cardboard box. Within a couple of days she brought that Ganapati to our home and He was duly bathed in milk and received with the honour and reverence He deserved. He is now kept next to the 22 karat gold Ganapati in the centre of Maha Mantap. Jai Ganesh

Soon after we relocated to Toronto almost 15 years ago, we visited the magnificent Ganesh temple, a couple of kilometers from our home. They were having ten days of a special Maha Pooja celebration during Vinayak Chaturthi, consisting of different families sponsoring morning and evening Maha Poojas with Ganesh homa, abhisheka and circling within the temple with Ganesh on the palanquin and a grand procession with Ganesh on a chariot around the temple. The minute I saw this beautiful ceremony I wanted to perform it during one of those important days on behalf of our family. I asked the President of the temple to give me an opportunity to sponsor the pooja. He replied that both the annual morning and evening events had already been booked solid a long time ago by the long standing trustees of the temple. He went on to say that getting the opportunity to perform this maha pooja – especially for a newcomer like me – was next to impossible.

Dejected and disappointed I accepted his verdict and went home. This was a Friday evening. Early Saturday morning that temple Ganapati appeared to me in my dream and wanted me to offer my maha pooja. Shocked but not surprised, I woke up and told my wife about it. She said that it was just my wish being restated in the dream. Around 8:30 a.m., while we were having our breakfast I got a telephone call from the President of the temple stating that one of the trustee's father had died and thus he would not be able to perform the pooja. He said that since I wanted to perform the maha pooja I can take over his responsibility and I immediately accepted it. Jai Ganesh! Image : Partial view of my Home Shrine



Over the last many years and with great difficulty, I had carefully nurtured and maintained 3 earthen pots with doorva grass for daily offerings to Lord Ganapati. Recently I used all of the doorva grass on the Ganesh Chaturti day when I recited 1008 atharvasheershas from my home shrine at which time I offered one doorva each, with each recital to Lord Ganesh. It is very hard to grow doorva grass throughout the year in the arctic Canada. We only get some in the summer months. Thereafter it has to be grown indoor with much difficulty.

A week later I went out for lunch with an elderly friend and after lunch drove to his residence to drop him where I found a large earthen pot overgrown with packed doorva grass enjoying the last few days of summer in their front yard. I looked at it but did not ask for anything, because they had only one pot with doorvas and they do take most of it to the nearby Ganesh Temple.

A couple of days later the same gentleman phoned me and asked me to come to his house to pick up something. Not knowing what it is, I casually drove to their home a few hours later and found that out that he was not there but instead his son-in-law, whom I have not seen for many years came at the door and indicated that while splitting up the packed doorva grass in 3 separate pots, something felt in him to call me to take one of the pots. When I asked his father-in-law later as to how did his son-in-law whom I have not met in many years think of me and know about my need for the doorva grass, the only thing he could say with some gestures was the big Lord in the sky did what is called Ganesh Lila. The Lord knew that I was struggling to find even a single decent doorva for my daily poojas. So even without my asking He brings a pot full of doorvas! Jai Ganesh!

I have no words to express my joy and gratitude to Lord Ganapati for all his timely help, kindness and lavish blessings throughout my life. Sometimes I wonder what I have done to deserve these blessings. He is a permanent and invaluable force in my life and without him I have nothing and am nothing. All the joys and sorrows are shared with him. I talk to him daily like a little boy talking to his mother. I put all my burdens on him and he decides how I am to react. This gives me a joy and sense of security that I have never known before. I can hardly express in words the feelings and certainty that I am never alone because He is always with me. When I close my eyes I can always visualize Him clearly and when I open my eyes there is no joy greater than to see his image in the form of a murti. His majestic form, beautiful face, piercing and kind eyes and ever present Varada Mudra (blessing hand) gives me immense joy, hope and life. To me, the Murtis are the most powerful objects that represent the almighty God. Some of them have a mind of their own and have distinct likes and preferences. Some of the murtis choose to come into our homes in mysterious ways and at the most

appropriate of times – often when our bhakti reaches a certain level of maturity. It is the natural reaction from the almighty – God always responds promptly and decisively to His Bhakta’s call. Often, God wants our humble and simple services, just to bring us closer to Him. It is HIS simple response to our unconditional and selfless love through our ardent devotion – Bhakti. One develops Bhakti through years and perhaps many births of prayers, japas, good karmas and meditation. When I do something wrong, He presents the dire consequences in my dream. He is my guide, Guru and God and through the murtis I am able to be closer to Him. Like some of our spiritual masters or Gurus, murtis also appear in our dreams to convey God’s blessings. They represent the God we worship. So where did my love affair with Lord Ganapati begin? Well, that’s another story. Jai Ganesh! Jai Maha Deva Titwala Ganapati! Jai Vinayaka!

Konkani Calendar

October 2013	November 2013	December 2013
4 th Mahalaya Amavasya	2 nd Naraka Chaturdashi	2 nd Amavasya (Dark Moon)
5 th Navarathri Beginning	2 nd HAAS Diwali	7 th Skanda Shashti
9 th Lalitha Panchami Sharadha Pooja	3 rd Deepawali	12 th Vaikuntha Yekadashi
11 th Durgasthami	9 th KAOCA Diwali	13 th Muktoti Dwadashi
12 th Ayudha Pooja	13 th Karthika Yekadashi	15 th Dhanu Sankranthi
13 th Vijaya Dashami	14 th Uthana Dwadashi	16 th Poornami
14 th Yekadashi	15 th Vrishk Sankranthi	20 th Sankashta Chaturthi
16 th Tula Sankranthi	16 th Vaikuntha Chaturdashi	31 st Amavasya (Dark Moon)
18 th Poornami	16 th KAO 25 th Anniversary Utsav	
21 st Sankashta Chaturthi	17 th Karthika Poornami	
26 th Konkani Sabha Diwali	20 th Sankashta Chaturthi	

Khabbar thanks My Astrologer-version 1.0 by Mr. Muralidhar Shenoy, Durham, NC and Vedamoorthy Raghuchandra Bhat of Brookfield, WI

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, \$
Govinda & Rekha Malya, Glen Mills, PA	51.00
Nandini S. Mallya, Wanaque, NJ	50.00
Sheila Shenoy & Santosh Reddy, Las Vegas, NV	101.00
Rajarama & Aneetha Shenoy, Huntington, CT	51.00
Praveen & Prema Prabhu, Greensboro, NC	60.00
Narayan & Vidya Baliga, Kenosha, WI	50.00
Praveen & Vaishali Kamath, Centreville, VA	50.00
Suresh & Usha Shenoy, Sugar Land, TX	250.00

Statement of Accounts

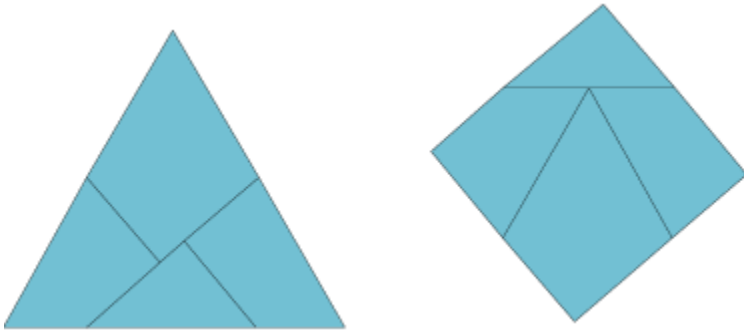
Description	Credit, \$	Debit, \$
Balance Carried over since Khabbar Vol. XXXVI No. 2	2,805.00	
Money Received:		
Subscriptions (36) and donations	1,118.00	
Interest	2.00	
Sub Total:	1,120.00	
Money Spent (Khabbar Vol. XXXVI No. 2):		
Printing- Khabbar (350) - 20 pages		478.88
Mailing - First Class Mail-Khabbar (319)		210.54
Mailing Canada Khabbar (11)		12.10
Overseas (20)		60.00
Mail Fines, computer paper & labels, envelopes, service fees, etc.		388.48
Sub Total:		1,150.00
Final Balance:	2,775.00	

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

Kwiz

The last quarter's quiz: Can you cut an equilateral triangle into 4 pieces that can then be reassembled to form a square?

The Answer:



The following gave the right answers:

Govind Kamath, Austin, TX

Shivdev Ubhaykar, Rancho Pales Verdes, CA

Vindya Bhat, Atlanta, GA

This Quarter's Kwiz

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 if your subscription is current.

Multiplication Magic Square:

Each row, column, and diagonal produces the same figure when its three numbers are multiplied! All numbers must be different!! What is the value of a, b, c, d?

4	512	a
b	32	8
64	c	d

The North American Konkani Association (NAKA) Quarterly Update



Dear Fellow Konkanis,

Here's the quarterly update on NAKA for this quarter:

The Interim NAKA team meets regularly on a bi-weekly basis to discuss how to make NAKA a viable organization in North America. The team now consists of **Sheila Shenoy Reddy, Sadanand Mankikar, Vasanth Bhat, Suresh Shenoy and Ranjit Shiralkar.**

Despite the best efforts and hard work by the Los Angeles Konkani Youth committee, the 2013 Konkani Youth Convention had to be cancelled. NAKA worked alongside the committee to raise funds, awareness and enthusiasm, however due to extremely low registration numbers, both committees felt it was best to cancel the event. The 2013 KYC committee has reimbursed all attendees and are working on recouping all costs associated with the event. We wanted to thank all those that supported KYC. NAKA is working diligently with the 2013 KYC committee to minimize the financial loss incurred and whatever surplus is left will be noted by NAKA for Konkani youth related efforts. In addition, NAKA is looking to other initiatives to bolster the Konkani youth in North America and are looking into other programming that would be best suited in the changing times.

We are proud to announce that NAKA will be launching a website in the next month highlighting ways you can get involved in national Konkani programming. In addition, we will be publishing the amended by laws and constitution. Again, thanks for all your support!

All the financial dealing of NAKA will be transparent are here's the statement for this quarter:

NAKA - Statement Of Accounts

Date	Description	Credit, \$	Debit, \$
5/31/2013	Balance from last report	108,338.90	
8/30/2013	Check to KAOCA for Logo Contest win (to be mailed)		100.00
8/31/2013	Final Balance:	108,238.90	

Signed: **Suresh Shenoy**, Treasurer, NAKA

Dev Baren Karo.

Sheila Shenoy Reddy

Interim President, North American Konkani Association, Email: northamericakonkaniassociation@gmail.com

Konkani Sabha Events for 2013

We take this opportunity to thank you all for the support and your involvement in the Konkani Sabha activities in NJ/NY area during the past year. Following is the highlight of the KONKANI SABHA activity for the remainder of the year 2013.

Diwali Talent Show:

Date: Saturday, October 26th, 2013

Time: 3:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Location: Shri Venkateswara Temple Community Center, Bridgewater, NJ 1075 Route 202/206, Bridgewater, NJ 08807 Click for Directions

Phone: (908) 725-4477

(More information on Payment and Performance details for the Diwali event will be posted later)

Activities: Variety Entertainment, Socialization, Appetizer and Dinner

Performers: If you would be interested in performing this year, please contact one of the following people:

Name: Rajesh Nayak Email: rajesh_nayak@yahoo.com Cell: 201-931-5614

Name: Amit Kantak Email: kvamit@yahoo.com Cell: 732-986-8025

We once again thank you all for your support. We hope to have continued support and involvement from all of you in the coming years. We also ask each of you to spread the word to any Konkanis you know. Also visit our website at <http://www.konkanisabha.org/> for details and updates.

Thanks and regards,

Konkani Sabha Committee Members – 2013

Santosh Kamat	President	kamats2008@gmail.com	908-812-2253
Vivek Shenoy	Vice President	vivekshenoy@gmail.com	908-436-7473
Amit Kantak	Secretary	kvamit@yahoo.com	732-986-8025
Prakash Shenoy	Treasurer	pmsHENoy@gmail.com	732-470-8967
Venkatesh Kamat	Joint Secretary	kamatvs@gmail.com	908-240-2776

Manipal's Dr. Ranjan Pai makes it to the 2013 Forbes Billionaire List

Mangalore Today News Network

Udupi, Mar 6, 2013: Dr. Ranjan Pai who heads the Manipal Education and Medical Group has figured in the latest list of billionaires released by the International business magazine Forbes.

He is among the 210 newcomers on the 2013 Forbes billionaires list, joining the coveted club at number 1107 with a net worth of \$1.3 billion. Forty year old Ranjan Pai is credited with turning his Manipal Group into a global brand in education.

The Manipal Education and Medical Group (MEMG) set up by Dr Pai is a corporate entity responsible for the administration of new and existing hospitals and the education institutions of the group. He is responsible for conceptualizing the Melaka-Manipal Medical College (MMMC), Malaysia as a world-class international medical college to place Manipal in the global arena. It is a testimony to Dr. Ranjan Pai's skills and a demonstration of the making of an Indian MNC. Besides, Dr. Ranjan Pai is focused on taking up the Education and Healthcare Programme in Western countries like UK & US.

Dr. Pai is a medical graduate of the Kasturba Medical College, Manipal and has studied Hospital Administration in the United States. He has an excellent insight into the functioning of large healthcare systems and medical schools, having been exposed to the nuances of healthcare administration and medical education at various stages.

As the CEO of MEMG, Dr. Ranjan Pai's focus is on the new business initiatives of the group.

He is acknowledged for financial restructuring of the Group and creating a platform for the induction of private equity for the rapid growth of the Group



Konkani Charitable Fund, Inc.
230 Oakley Avenue, San Carlos, CA 94070
(650) 596-0716
www.Konkanicf.org
Registered Charity under 501 (3)(c)

Appeal

Ramesh & Pratibha Kamath
ramesh.kamath@konkanicf.org

Vinayak & Radha Kudva
vinayak.kudva@konkanicf.org

Ashok & Amita Bhatt
ashok.bhatt@konkanicf.org

Ravi & Asha Baliga
ravi.baliga@konkanicf.org

Surendra & Shalini Shenoy
surendra.shenoy@konkanicf.org

Gopal & Pratibha Bhandarkar
Gopal.bhandarkar@konkanicf.org

Now in existence for over three years, Konkani Charitable Fund (KCF) continues to strive to expand its programs and offerings to the needy Konkani Community in India. It is our mission to fund and assist orphanages and old age homes in India, provide educational scholarships, and organize health camps and food drives for needy and deserving Konkans in India. Without the assistance of community-minded individuals just like you, we wouldn't be able to serve those in our community. We hope that you will be able to contribute in one or more of the many charitable causes and experience firsthand the pride in supporting these noble causes.

During the year of 2012, Konkani Charitable Fund made big strides in donations received and contributions made. More than 50 donations were received during the year amounting to more than \$200,000. Many donations received have been distributed in early part of 2013. The most notable aspect of KCF is that we have been able to achieve this success with zero administrative cost to the donors. The directors made the commitment to send 100 percent of the donations to the designated charitable cause. 100 percent of the administrative cost is offset by the funds donated by the directors for that specific purpose. We look forward to similar continued growth in 2013.

Top 10 reasons to contribute to Konkani Charitable Fund.

10. KCF is dedicated to do humanitarian work to benefit needy Konkani communities in India.
9. KCF makes sure that the organizations receiving funds meet all legal requirements of charitable organizations.
8. KCF gives scholarships to needy students to pursue higher education.
7. KCF provides help to senior citizen centers to provide improved quality of life during their twilight years in life.
6. KCF is a 501 (3) (C) charitable organization.
5. All donations to KCF qualify for tax benefits afforded by the IRS.
4. KCF allows the donor to direct the funds to a specific charitable organization.
3. KCF has no paid employees. All are volunteers.
2. KCF does not charge any administrative fees.
1. 100 % of all contributions are sent to the charitable cause designated by the donor.

Double your donation with Employer Matching gift programs: Many companies / corporations / foundations offer charity matching gift programs, whereby they will match your charitable donations. You can inquire with your human resources office to find out if your company has a matching gift program. Additionally, we are a qualified charitable organization under the United Way umbrella.

Contact Konkani Charitable Fund at contact@konkanicf.org to become a part of Konkani Charitable Fund and a beacon of hope.

P.S. Please send in your check to KCF, 230 Oakley Ave, San Carlos, CA 94070.

Devu Baren Koro
KCF Board of Directors

To be removed from our mailing list, write to contact@konkanicf.org

Klassified

Please patronize the Khabbar advertisers. Khabbar reaches over 1,700 families in North America. The advertisement rates are:

	Matrimonial (5 Lines)	1/4 Page	1/2 Page	Full Page
Subscribers	\$15.00	\$25.00	\$45.00	\$85.00
Non-Subscribers	\$25.00	\$45.00	\$85.00	\$160.00
Non Konkani	\$50.00	\$90.00	\$170.00	\$320.00

The Advisory Committee of Khabbar has unanimously decided NOT to accept any ads. wherein the advertisers prefer to stay anonymous by using Khabbar reference.

WANTED:

Any Hoon Khabbar, sunshine news, your or your child's promotion or achievement, articles of interest, etc. are always in need to be published in Khabbar. Share your news with fellow Konkans. Send your contribution to: Khabbar, P. O. Box 222, Lake Jackson, TX 77566-0222. email: khabbar@hotmail.com

KONKANI CHARITIES

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, 1153 Tamarack Pl., Munster, IN 46321

KONKANI CHARITIES

The Saraswat Foundation is helping poor deserving Bhanaps in India. Send your donations to: Saraswat Foundation 178 Norman Drive, Morrisville, PA 19067

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:

Mr. Basti Ganapathi Shenoy

8017 Celebreeze Crt., LAS VEGAS, NV 89145

Phone: (702)-341-6706; Email: bastishenoy@gmail.com

Please call weekends only 10:00 AM to 10:00PM (PST)

A P P E A L

The *soirika* magazine edition (<http://www.soirika.com>) has been named as SAMBHANDU and will be done by: Sambhandhu, C/o Bangalore Sri Kashi Math, # 14, Sri Kashi Math Road, Malleshwaram, Bangalore 560 055

MATRIMONIAL ASSISTANCE

As a service to Konkani community, Sri. B. Srinivas Kamath will offer free matrimonial assistance. Contact: B.S.Kamath, Block #5, 1st Floor, Deepak Building, Hari Shanker Joshi Road, Dahisar East, Mumbai-400068


Tel: 011-91-22-2828-3392

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A P P E A L

A great opportunity to serve an Indian Charity Organization (Anandashram) which shelters already 26 poor old people and which also offers the free services of a "Hospice" (Palliative Care center)-a home for the terminally ill Cancer patients of our society. Income Tax Payees in USA get the benefit of Income tax Exemption for their donations, if they donate directly to Konkani Charitable Fund (KCF) Inc., with the suggestion that they should donate the same amount to Anandashram Seva Trust @, Puttur. The donors in USA can help us directly or indirectly thru KCF, 230 Oakley Avenue, San Carlos, CA 94070, to build this Palliative Care Centre. Please, visit our website: www.oldagehome-india.org

F O R S A L E

2008 Sammelan DVD set, which includes 8 DVD's, is on clearance sale. Send us \$10 ,which includes shipping and handling, and you can have this memorable event DVD set for your collection. If interested please send the check payable to KAOCA addressed to the following:
Bab Rau, 1730 Kinglet Court, Sunnyvale, CA 94087