

Khabbar

North American Konkani Newsletter

Volume XXXIX No. 4

October, November, December - 2016

From:

The Honorary Editor,

"Khabbar"

P. O. Box 222

Lake Jackson, TX77566 - 0222

XXXIX-4

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.....

Here is a question for *Khabbar* readers that I received via email from mdpai79@gmail.com:

Why is the *mangal sutra* so named? When you put the words together it means holy thread/string. But separately Mangal (or Mangala) is the name of Mars in Sanskrit, otherwise known as the god of war.

It is strange that Hindus later used the word to mean auspicious, rather than war. Or were early Hindus being sarcastic about the what marriage truly is?

Perhaps another way of looking at this is that wives are in charge of the mangal sutra so only they truly determine the outcome of marital arguments.

Perhaps you or a *Khabbar* subscriber can answer this question for me.

Editor's Reply:

Ha!

Here is an opportunity for readership to shed light on this. You can send your response directly to mdpai79@gmail.com and/or to *Khabbar* at khabbar@gmail.com

SUBSCRIPTION FORM:

Dear Konkani family,

It is time to renew your subscription for 2017. The numbers on the mailing label clearly indicate the year/s the dues for *Khabbar* has been received since 2014. 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*, 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 XXXIX No. 4

October, November, December - 2016

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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 2014**. In other words, families who **have not** paid since 2013 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 2014 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*, which will be on the web a **quarter** after mailing the hard copies.

The latest 2017 *Khabbar* Mailing List will be mailed to all the subscribers who have paid their dues for 2016. The *Khabbar* Mailing List is a prized possession of our community. Please 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!

With one of the most successful sammelans in Atlanta this year, we as a community can look forward for more future activities.

I want to thank Interim NAKA Board under the able leadership of **Sheila Shenoy Reddy** in making NAKA a viable organization in North America. The newly elected Board will take reins of NAKA on Jan 1, 2017! Please, extend your support to the new Board. *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. **Dr. Gopal Bhandarkar** and his team are doing a fantastic job in making our community aware of KCF and hope you will help him to help our people.

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, it is the same story! Only two people got the right answer!!

Khabbar has still remained a champ. 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 volunteered his services to help **Konkani Bhas Ani Sanskriti Pratistan**. Please, 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 Konkans to visit the Kendra to see in 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 special appeals I have gotten so far:

<http://www.ekhabbar.com/special%20appeals/special%20appeals.htm>

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

Happy Holidays & Happy New Year to you all.

Devu Boren Karo.

Vasanth
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 Mr. Vasanth Bhatji,

I request you to publish the "Bantwal Baliga Charitable Trust" advertisement in your next Quarterly 'KHABBAR' Magazines.
Devu Baren Koro-

Basti Vaman Shenoy
President, World Konkani Centre, Shaktinagar Mangaluru

Editor's Reply:

Done! Wish the Trust all the success.

Dear Vasanthmaam

Thank you for publishing the article for Parijnan foundation in *Khabbar* (Vol. XXXIX-No.3). Further, I am forwarding you an e-mail from Shankar Bhat maam from Shirali. Could you please help by publishing this announcement in the next issue of *Khabbar*?

Thank you very much

Best regards

Vrinda Trikannad
vrindakannad@gmail.com

----- Forwarded message -----

On Mon, Sep 19, 2016 at 1:34 PM, V. SHANKAR BHAT <vshankar.bhat65@gmail.com> wrote:

Namaste Vrinda pacchi,

Please refer to our discussion a few days ago. Kindly note that purely a small announcement is to be made in various publications such as Chitrapur Sunbeam, Kanara Saraswat magazine etc. Likewise, could you request the Editor / Publisher of *Khabbar* magazine to carry this announcement for the benefit of the readers please:

"A Message from H.H. Shrimat Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji and detailed articles on Shri Chitrapur Math, Our Holy Guruparampara, the social and charitable work being carried out under Parama Pujya Swamiji's Guidance have appeared in a four- page supplement of a prominent Kannada Newspaper - Sanyukt Karnataka (dated 16-9-2016). This has been uploaded on the Math's website. Readers can log on to www.chitrapurmath.net to read the Message and the articles."

Regards

Shankar

vshankar.bhat65@gmail.com

Editor's Reply:

Done! Proud of the accomplishments of the Foundation and wish the Foundation all the success. May Swamiji's blessings be on all of us in North America.

Dear Editor,

I am deeply touched by your kind words showered on my immediate younger brother Mr. M. V. Kini as published in the quarterly newsletter, *Khabbar* (Vol. XXXIX-No.3) in USA.

More than appreciating the message of my brother to the world as a whole I must profusely complement those who had the very thoughtfully chosen M. V. Kini from India as the Chief Guest to grace the noblest ambience in Atlanta on 2016 July weekend.

The quality of this Samaritan who has earned human blessings from millions all over the world, has become household talks that for any kind of problems whether economic, social, religious or financial, look to M. V. Kini just over a mobile call.

I had previously attended one or two sammelans in USA, but I really feel the message is soul stirring for introspection on our own ways of day to day life.

I am immensely happy and proud of my younger brother whom I wish abundance of laurels as we have grown from the absolutely have nots category. I am also feeling deeply vibrant in a manner with which you have dedicated this Konkani Quarterly for respecting our own language which should be mother tongue to all our people in America and elsewhere.

This is the richest heritage and all the Konkani have earned the best of everything more particularly after migrating to other countries. I wish that a day will come when one Indian American Konkani will adore the seat of the President of the United States of America.

With respectful regards,

Yours sincerely,

Prof. M. M. Kini
Bengaluru, India

Editor's Reply:

Thank You.

Hoon Khabbar

Congratulations:

Ms. GAYATHRI RAO of Sugar Land, TX won the 2nd Runner Up Mrs. Bollywood USA 2016 at the 4th Annual Bollywood Pageant held on Sep 4, 2016 at Hotel Sorella in City Center in Houston, TX. The beauty pageant was aptly named "Beauty with a purpose" as Gayathri used the platform to raise awareness about Bone marrow/Stem cell donation which she is passionate about. She donated her Bone marrow to an 11 year old boy suffering from Leukemia in India. Since then she is involved with educating public about bone marrow donation. She is currently the Vice President of Indian American Cancer Network. She competed with 16 ladies from all over USA.

Gayathri, d/o late Jayaram Pai and Shantha Pai from Eloor. She grew up in Kerala. After finishing her Engineering degree at Thrissur Engineering College and getting married, she is currently settled in Houston, USA where she works as Structural engineer in Oil & Gas field. She is married to Narendra Rao for 20 years and has two kids. Pranav Rao (17 years) and Sayali Rao (11 years).

Gayathri is learning *Mohiniyattam* from famous Malayalam actress Divya Unni for past 3 years and performed at many stages. She is very passionate about photography and Yoga. One of her main hobby is working and maintaining her all organic kitchen garden where she grows many vegetables and fruits. Gayathri Rao who is 43 years old and was the oldest contestants in the beauty pageant want to encourage all the woman and girls out there and want to send a message that age is just a number

and you can achieve anything you want if you set your goals and work hard towards it.

UMESH BALIGA of Sugar Land, TX was one of the five individuals inducted into the American Society of Indian Engineers (ASIE) Class of 2016 at a gala at India House in Houston, TX on Friday November 11, 2016.

Umesh Baliga, an inductee in the Construction/Project Management category, is a Chemical Engineer and currently the Chief Technology Engineer and a senior member of the Process C Global Discipline Leadership Team at KBR, Houston. He has 40+ years of experience in Process Engineering, design, start up, design of grassroots, restart/revamp/debottlenecking of facilities for Oil & Gas processing, refining, ammonia plants, Ethylene, LNG, specialty chemicals and polymers. Umesh is the sole KBR representative on the PIP Executive Committee, Steering Team, a Sponsor for the Civil/Structural and Architectural team, and a member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers for over 20 years. With music as his hobby, he also gives back to the community via service and activities.

Dr. MEENA PAI of NY recently wrote and published an Emergency Medicine Board Review Book targeted for those who practice in the field of Emergency Medicine. The book is entitled "Emergency Medicine: To The Point! Written and Oral Board Review". The book addresses the most important aspects of the Model of Clinical Practice of Emergency Medicine. It includes Chief Complaints,

Differential Diagnoses, Pertinent Questions to Ask, Mnemonics, Written and Oral Board Review Topics, A Rapid Review Section with Must Know Bullet Points in Question/Answer Format and Questions to Ask on your Job Interviews. Dr. Pai is a Board Certified Emergency Medicine Physician, currently practicing in New York. The links where you may access the book are as follows (Amazon, Barnes and Noble):

Amazon:

https://www.amazon.com/Emergency-Medicine-Point-Written-Review/dp/0692804242/ref=sr_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1481139459&sr=8-1&keywords=meena+pai

Barnes and Noble:

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/emergency-medicine-meena-pai-md/1125258333?ean=9780692804247>

In Mumbai, in October 2016, the Economic Times of India awarded the Lifetime Achievement award to **Sri KUNDAPUR VAMAN KAMATH**, 68, the former ICICI Bank executive who now heads the New Development Bank of the BRICS nations.

When it came to choosing the winner of the award for lifetime achievement, there was hardly any debate. K. V. Kamath got six votes against three for the next candidate at the shortlist stage. The jury didn't feel the need for a second ballot.

If India is proud of its burgeoning consumer economy and the fact that millions are able to afford many things that they could only dream of before the 1990s, then Kamath is the banker who led the changes that made this possible.

After returning to India from the Asian Development Bank in the

mid-1990s at the persuasion of the then Industrial Credit and Investment Corp of India chairman N Vaghul, the ambitious Kamath sowed the seeds of consumer lending, partly to wean away the industry leaning ICICI Bank. As the CEO of India's second-largest lender, Kamath changed the rules of the game in banking. He served as managing director and CEO from May 1, 1996, till his retirement from executive responsibilities on April 30, 2009. Kamath's resume is studded with achievements. He created India's largest bank in the private sector by assets, took banking technology to the people and created a retail finance market from scratch. He's also an elder statesman of India Inc., and helped broker a peace deal between the Ambani brothers.

What has set Kamath apart from the rest of Indian bankers or professionals was his big thinking. Executives planned ahead for a year or two, or five. But Kamath did so for a decade or even more. When companies were contemplating raising funds of Rs 2,000 crore or Rs 3,000 crore in share sales, he went ahead and raised about Rs 20,000 crore (\$5 billion) in 2007, a record that remains unbroken.

Kamath secured his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the Karnataka Regional Educational College (KREC). After graduating from KREC in 1969, he joined the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, for a master's degree in business administration.

He introduced ICICI to new concepts and best practices from sectors such as auto, hospitality and aviation. Years before the internet became ubiquitous, Kamath took a call that every new product should be e-enabled. He also demonstrated how mergers could be successfully managed. The most notable of all has been his ability to let go of things that

don't work, which is why ICICI gave up the concept of standalone development banking before it died a natural death.

His ability to spot and nurture talent has contributed to the banking sector as a whole. Many top institutions are today headed by those groomed by him, such as Shikha Sharma of Axis Bank, Sonjoy Chatterjee of Goldman Sachs and Renuka Ramnath of Multiples Equity. When Kamath decided to hang up his boots, the board selection committee had a number of bright young leaders to choose from.

That the Prime Minister Modi has called on him to play the role of a banker and diplomat as head of the New Development Bank of the BRICS reflects Kamath's stature.

Konkani Graduates:

Dr. GAYATHRI SHENOY of Boston, MA, currently in the international dentist program at the Tufts School of Dental Medicine, was elected to the American Student Dental Association (National Leadership Council) as a member of the International dentist advisory committee. It is a five student committee that helps and guides international dentists in their pursuit to gain licensure by applying to dental programs in the US. Foreign trained dentists in our community that maybe on this path and seeking guidance can reach out to Dr. Shenoy for guidance.

SAMANTHA, d/o Vanita & Joel Braver of Warren, NJ and granddaughter of Venkatesh & Ajita Kamath of Northvale, NJ was inducted into *Phi Beta Kappa* and a recipient of the generous McGlennon Scholarship Award through the Government Dept. at William & Mary. She was admitted to one of the top masters' program in the world in International Relations & Politics-Cambridge University in the U.K.

Samantha graduates after three years in May 2017 - double majoring in Government and Gender & Women Studies.

Newlyweds:

Dr. & Mrs. Panduranga & Shobha Kini of Swansea, IL celebrated the marriage of their daughter **Sow. Dr. SEEMA** with **Chi. Dr. NEAL**, s/o Drs. Karan & Gita Bhatia of Orlando, FL on Saturday Sep.10, 2016 at the Peabody Opera House in St. Louis, MO. Seema is an Assistant Professor in the Emory University Department of Dermatology and Neal is Chief Cardiology Fellow also at Emory. The newlyweds reside in Atlanta, GA.

Relocation:

The **BOLOOR** family, Govind & Pratibha, have relocated within Houston, TX to 5406 Marble Acres Court, Houston, TX 77059.

The **BHAT** family, Naren & Seema have relocated from Orange, CT to 2 Bradford Court, Morristown, NJ 07960. The new telephone is (973)-539-3458 and email ID: annu_bhat@yahoo.com

The **SHENOY** family, Surathkal Vaman & Jyothi have relocated from Keyser, WV to 9242 Marble Stone Drive, Naples, FL 34199. Their new telephone (304)-813-8060 and email: vamshenoy@gmail.com

The **SHENOY** family, Sanur Subraya & Shamala have relocated from Clifton, NJ to 175A Concordia Cir., Monroe Township, NJ 08831. Their new telephone (973)-778-8861 and email: sanur.shenoy@gmail.com

The **BELTANGADY** family, Srirammohan & Shamal, have relocated within Gainesville, VA to 6920 Tred Avon Pl, Gainesville, VA 20155. Their telephone remains the same at (860)-434-1423 and email: mcelestial@msn.com

40th Wedding Anniversary:

Suren & Vidya Kamath of San Antonio, TX celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary with a guided group tour to the Canadian Rockies. They flew into Calgary and visited Lake Louise- Pristine Waters and Flora & Fauna, Jasper - Ice Fields and Canyons, and Banff- Canada's First National Park.

70th Birthday Bash:

Families of **Vasanth Bhat** of Lake Jackson, TX celebrated his 70th birthday in NYC area.

Obituary:

Dr. LABADAYA MOHAN RAO (85), of Hemet, CA passed away peacefully on Sept. 2, 2016 in Hemet, CA. *Khabbar* sends heartfelt condolences to his wife, Vinita, and son Vinay Rao & family of San Jacinto, CA.

CHANDRAKANTHA KALA (Geeta Haldipur) of Trabuco Canyon, CA (earlier Laguna Woods), passed away peacefully on Oct. 31st, 2016. *Khabbar* sends heartfelt condolences to her two sons, Sanjay and Ketan Kala and a daughter, Raksha Dudhekar & their families.

VAMAN ACHYUT BHANDARKAR (83) of Borivili, Mumbai, passed away peacefully on Monday Dec 5th 2016. He did his schooling from the well renowned Gopalji Hemraj school in Mumbai. He graduated his Matriculation with honors and thereafter he pursued his Diploma in Radio Engineering at the premier Institute of V.J.T.I in Mumbai. He was so innovative, enthusiastic and inquisitive that he made his own radio set, which he

used until recently. He was a voracious reader on all topics ranging from Geographic to political affairs of the country. Was one of the few subscribers of the "Readers Digest" for the longest period of his times. At the same time, went on to pursue Diploma in pharmacy, got registered and put to good use and practice during his 55 years' tenure at the " Bhandarkar Pharmacy ", one of the leading pharmacy in Mumbai. He was honored by the Rotary club of Borivili for his sheer social work for the community. He was known for his philanthropy towards the poor class with unaffordable medicines and healthcare at any cost. *Khabbar* sends heartfelt condolences to his brother Dr. Gopal Bhandarkar of Bayport, NY and family.

KONKANI HAPPENINGS

HAAS (Houston Area Amchigale Samaj) Diwali Celebrations:

The HAAS Diwali Gala was held on Saturday Nov 5th at Madras Pavilion in Sugar Land, TX. The place was decorated tastefully, with a beautiful festive backdrop behind the stage, and lamps at each table for our Festival of Lights.

The evening started off with some *panchadika* and appetizers. Everyone mingled and wished each other, while also indulging in some tasty hors d'oeuvres!

The entertainment program was hosted by our youth committee members- **Rohit Kamath and Mallika Nagarkatti**. It started off with talented **Sneha Shenoy's** dance to Lord Ganesha. She had composed the dance herself! Our young HAAS members- **Aditya Shenoy, Chaitra Shenoy, Shreyas Kini, Sanjita Kini, Prakrati Shenoy, Pranati Shenoy, Serene Pai, Sahana Sashital and Meera Nagarkatti** did a skit to depict the significance of the 5 days of Diwali and how each day is celebrated. The skit was written by **Keerthi Shenoy**.

The HAAS dance divas- **Reim Rao and Uma Kamath** did a Bollywood Fusion dance which was followed by another dance by an upcoming dance star- **Priyanka Reddy!**

Our sweet **Amuli pachi** shared some hilarious jokes with everyone.

All the children who participated in events this year were given certificates of appreciation by **Amuli pachi**.

The current HAAS committee then welcomed the new committee and introduced them to everybody.

The 2017-18 HAAS Committee comprises of:

- **Jayanthi Nayak as President**
- **Sheila Kini as Vice President**
- **Archana Rao as Secretary**
- **Akhila Bhat as Event Co-ordinator**
- **Aparna Shenoy as Treasurer**
- **Mallika Nagarkatti, Samhita Bhat, Neha Bhat in the Youth Committee**

We wish them good luck and an enjoyable 2 years ahead!

The entertainment program continued with a Bollywood song by **Archana Rao and Pandu Nayak**. The **Karkal and Bellare families** entertained everyone with dances from various Bollywood songs, spanning 4 decades! **Gayathri Rao** did a graceful *Mohiniyattam* style dance. **Prashant Lotlikar, Meera Lotlikar pachi, Pandu Nayak, Vijay Shenoy & Suresh Shenoy** sang some beautiful songs to karaoke. **Sujatha Desai** sang a melodious Marathi song. **Mallika**

Nagarkatti did a beautiful kathak dance accompanied by her dad, **Mahesh Nagarkatti** on the tabla. **Deepa Karkal** entertained us with some classic jokes!

After the entertainment program concluded- there was a special Diwali dinner spread, waiting for everyone!

Each family was given Konkani style sweets in a festive bag from HAAS, as per our Diwali tradition back home!

We would like to thank **Vardaraj Rao** for the decor, **Govind Bloor mam** for the sweets and **Drs Maya and Ramkrishna Prabhu** for helping with the sound. We appreciate help with the registrations by **Charani Kamath, Anu Malya and Sneha Shenoy**. Special shout out to **Serene Pai, Sahana Sashital, Meera Nagarkatti and Mahesh Nagarkatti** for jumping in to help with some last minute tasks! **Shobha Shenoy and Prabha Malya** helped manage a table to collect donations for **Upaya**. The night and festivity finally ended with music and dance!

We hope you all had a great time at the Diwali event- and those who couldn't make it- we missed you and hope to see you at the next HAAS event!

Thanks

HAAS Management Committee

www.ourhaas.com

Konkani Association Of California (KAOCA) Diwali (Nov 5)

Diwali celebrations have just got over and we are now officially in the holiday season. KAOCA celebrated its final Diwali function with festivities. More than 500 community members attended this function. We presented some fun filled entertainment to our community, with never performed dances moderns as well as traditional ones which blended so well with our theme this year, Integration, Interaction, Inspiration. Diwali goody bags with Diwali *khaan* and directory were given to each family.

Food committee prepared awesome traditional Konkani dishes with mouthwatering menu. Committee did a great job of delivering all of the events with great style and substance. Ugadi, Annual Sports Day, Picnic, Classical Concert(Omkar Gulvady,Balchandra Prabhu) and Diwali were all very well received by our community here in the Bay Area. Committee was very happy to donate funds to NAKA this year and a check was presented to the incoming President of NAKA during our Diwali function. Our term has ended and our best wishes to the new KAOCA 2017 committee. Wishing you all a very Happy New Year and safe travels!

Dev Baren Koro!

Deepa & Arun Rao (Presidents) on Behalf of the KAOCA 2016 Committee

Konkani Sabha (KS) Diwali 2016

The Konkani Sabha celebrated its annual Diwali program in the Bridgewater temple community hall in New Jersey on Saturday, October 22, 2016. This hallmark event included variety entertainment program and delicious Konkani food (catered). Nearly 300 people attended the function.

Ontario Konkani Association (OKA) Diwali 2016

OKA held their annual Diwali on Saturday Nov 19th 2016 at Chinguacousy Secondary School in Brampton, Ont.

The function included Socializing, enticing appetizers, Rangoli and gala performances. The event ended with sumptuous Konkani food.

American Midwest Konkani Association (AMKA):

The 2016 Diwali Event was held on Saturday October 22nd at the Hinsdale Community Center, which is well located for almost every Chicago Metro area suburb. The event started at 5:30pm with registration and snacks. The function concluded with variety entertainment program and delicious Konkani food.

Konkani Association of Southern California (KASC) Diwali 2016

The KASC celebrated its annual Diwali program at Bombay Tandoori Restaurant in Torrance, CA on Saturday, November 5, 2016. After the social hour, there was entertainment including kids' drama titled "KASC Job Fair". The hallmark event included variety entertainment program and delicious Konkani food.

KHABBAR FROM KULAR

By: - Vishwa Konkani Sardar BASTI VAMAN SHENOY

On 11.092016 two Saraswath Sadhakas (Achievers) **Mr. Ulhas Kamath**, Joint M.D. Jyothi Laboratories Pvt. Ltd. Mumbai and **Mr. Harish Bhat** now board Mumbai Tata Sons Mumbai were honored and blessed by **H.H. Vidyadhiraja Thirtha Wader Swamiji** of Sri Gokarn Partagali Mutt, Mangaluru.

On 14-09-2016 A Konkani Drama "Railway Platform" was staged at Town Hall, Mangaluru by Sadhana Balaga to a packed audience. The Drama was sponsored by World Konkani Centre, Shaktinagar.

On 6th Nov 2016 Kavita Trust Held finals of Konkani Poetry Reciting competitions for the High School and college students of Goa, Karnataka and Kerala at World Konkani Centre. Famous Konkani Poet and Founder of Kavita Trust had arranged the Konkani Poetry competitions. **Sri Basti Vaman Shenoy, Sri Rohan Monterio** were guest about 30 students from High Schools and Colleges attended the Competitions.

In connection with "All India Children's Day" World Konkani Centre arranged "Odemalyo Kanyo" (Grand Ma Tales) story telling Competition for Elementary class students and Higher Middle class students on 13-11-2016 at W.K.C. 80 students from Uttara Kannada, Udupi and Mangaluru Districts were participated. Veteran Kannada and Konkani writer **Padma Shenoy and Dr. Meera Aranha**, General Manager, Karnataka Bank distributed Prizes to the winners. The Grand Ma Stories will be published in Book form soon from World Konkani Centre.

Rashtrakavi (Poet litterateur) Manjeshwara Govinda Pai residence will be named as "Gilivindu" his famous poem. Govts of Karnataka and Kerala have taken up construction of large buildings complex with a cost of Rs. 6.00 crores. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed to digitalise all his 5000 plus books in 22 Indian and foreign languages collected by Late Rashtrakavi during his life time is signed between the Trust and World Konkani Centre recently.

'Karthik Poornima Mahotsava' was celebrated in many a Temples in Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Uttara Kannada districts in the 2nd week of Nov 2016.

On 21-11-2016 The Central committee office of Vishwa GSB Sammelan was Inaugurated at Mangaluru. The Mega event will be held at Hejmady (near Udupi) on 25-12-2016 and nearly 3000 GSB people are expected to the Sammelan. **Dr. P. Dayananda Pai** Bangalore is the Chairman of the Reception Committee.

"Acharya Dharmananda Kosambi Vishwa Konkani Sahitya Samaroha" was held at World Konkani Centre on 3rd and 4th December 2016. **Dr. Geetha Shenoy** spoke about Acharya Kosambi and gave details about his life and approach to Buddhism, Gandhian philosophy, Freedom struggle and his biography 'Nivedana'.

Famous Kannada – Konkani writer, poet, film music director **Mr. Jayanth Kaikini, Dr. Kiran Budkuley** (Head English Dept, Goa University) writer and poet **Sampurna Chattarji** Kolkatta, **Dr. B.A. Vivek Rai, Dr. Geralyn Pinto** Mangaluru, **Mr. Jayawanth Nayak**, Co ordinator, Konkani Chair, Mangaluru University, took part in the two days Samaroh. Vice Chancellor Mangaluru University, **Prof. K. Byrappa** Inaugurated the Vishwa Konkani Sahitya Samaroha. World Konkani Centre Founder President **Sri Basti Vaman Shenoy** Chaired the function.

Vimala V.Pai Vishwa Konkani Sahitya Awards and Basti Vaman Shenoy Vishwa Konkani Seva Puraskar-2016 Ceremony was held at Mangaluru Town Hall on 3rd Dec 2016 evening.

Smt. Vimala Pai Vishwa Konkani Sahitya Puraskar 2016 was conferred on veteran Goan Konkani writer **Smt. Sudha Karangate**. The Vimala Pai Vishwa Konkani Kavita Kriti Puraskar 2016 was conferred on veteran Konkani poet **Sri Melvyn Rodrigues**. The Vimala V Pai Vishwa Konkani Jeevan Siddhi Samman 2016 was bestowed upon former bureaucrat and Goan Konkani activist **Sri Aravind Bhatikar**. The Basti Vaman Shenoy Vishwa Konkani Seva Puraskar were presented to veteran social worker **Dr.Olinda Periera** (93) and **Bhaskar Kogga Kamath** of Uppinakudru puppets fame.

Each of these five awards consisted of Rs 1 lakh cash with citation, shawl and memento.

Delivering the keynote address Chairman of Manipal Global Education, **Mr. T.V. Mohandas Pai** said, "We the Konkani-speaking people constitute about 25 lac of the 129 crore population of the country. So when it comes to numbers we are a small community. Our true assets are education and the rich culture we inherit. If we do not honour the writers and artisans, there is a danger that all the art and culture might become extinct in the next 15-20 years. So keeping aside our religious and regional differences we must come together and work at preserving our Konkani Culture."

In her presidential address, President of Kannada Sahitya Academy **Malathi Pattanashetty** said that honouring artistes and achievers was the need of the hour. "The achievers, the writers and the artisans do not work for awards. If they do so, it affects their creativity. The work of Vishwa Konkani Kendra in this recognizing achievers is appreciable," she said.

All the recipients of the awards thanked the Vishwa Konkani Kendra and Konkani Language and Cultural Foundation for the honours.

Dr Sr Olinda Periera in her address said, "We must help each other and show concern for each other. If we cannot do anything for the ones in need of help we have to at least say a few good words of kindness."

Poet **Melvyn Rodrigues** compared the joy of receiving the award to the joy of eating a coconut kernel in the kitchen when his mother was not watching. "The coconut kernel was kept at a particular spot in the kitchen so that it could not be eaten by the mice or insects. As children, when no one's around, we yearned to eat it and also the jaggery along with water. Such is the joy in my heart today," he said.

Bhaskar Kogga Kamath of Uppinakudru puppets fame said that even though he has performed puppet shows in more than twenty countries, this was one of his most joyous occasions. "This art has spread for over 350 years since my forefathers, and I belong to the sixth generation. I feel proud to be a Konkani- " he said.

President of World Konkani Centre, **Basti Vaman Shenoy** welcomed the gathering Chief Editor Kodial Khabar, Vice-president of World Konkani Centre **Mr. Venkatesh N. Baliga** compared the programme.

हाँव म्हांतारो जाल्लो मुखारी कसले?

Now I Am A Senior..... What Next?

Following are the highlights of the workshop conducted by **Sadanand Mankikar** at the 2016 Konkani Sammelan held in Atlanta from July 01 to 03:

The population is aging fast. In the last 15 years the 85-99 age group increased by 90%. In Canada the number of seniors over 100 years changed from 3,825 in 2001 to 5,725 in 2011 to over 7,400 in 2015. That number could double in the next ten years and reach over 78,000 by 2061. In Canada, in the last seven years, under 18 age group changed from 16.8% to 14.8%; 18 to 60 group changed from 67.2% to 68.2% and over 60 group changed from 16% to 17%.

Sammelan attendees: 14% under 18, 58% 18 to 60 and 28% over 60

Konkani population in Ontario, Canada approximately 20% under 18, 55% 18 to 60, 25% over 60

In all age groups, % of women is higher than men. The gap increases in higher age groups. In North American centenarians, more than 84% are women. In 105 plus group this ratio is much higher

Time, when old took care of young and then young took care of the old and invalid. There was always someone.

Things have changed even in India where children find themselves difficult to take care of their aged parents because both at work, jobs take them away from parents, parents not willing to move, changing Lifestyle and Culture.

Major concern is how we will manage when we get old and not able to take care of ourselves and following are some of the options:

- Continue to live in the house and arrange for nanny etc.
- Live in condos in a same building and make arrangements for cooking/catering food and taking care of daily needs,
- Share a house where a few likeminded seniors can live and make arrangements for food and other necessary chores. There could be more than one such houses in the same neighborhood and services can be centralized
- A few seniors moving to the same old age home and request/arrange for specific needs
- Plan and build Konkani Seniors homes which can fully cater to the needs of our seniors. Where there is no critical mass, this project can be developed in collaboration with other communities close to our customs and practices such as Maharastrians and Kannadigas.

NEED FOR SOCIAL SERVICES SUPPORT SYSTEM:

Our community is growing at a steady speed, yet the number is not so large that we can form a number of local needs-based groups/associations. If we want to remain strong and close and continue to flourish, we have to identify their needs and find ways to cater to these needs. Brain storming, focus groups, developing achievable short term and long term goals and planning and executing these goals would be the way to go. Locally, we can form three groups within our community, based broadly on the age and needs.

- Below 30 years' group needing assistance, direction and guidance in choosing and/or advancing career path and developing leadership and professional skills. Forums could be set up to facilitate networking, develop team of mentors, develop a buddy system/program for new arrivals.
- The 60 years and above group heading towards or already leading retirement life who might need social support and assistance and even reliable guidance in better managing their lives. The programs for seniors could include forums to disseminate important and relevant information, conduct lectures/seminars/workshop on relevant topics, conduct outings and activities of interest; assistance in taking the "advantages" of existing programs; facilitate transition to Seniors/Old age Homes; buddy System to give company and provide rides as needed.
- The 30 to 60 years' group who have completed their education and settled as well as flourishing in their chosen field who can provide guidance and direction to the 1st group (as Mentors) and assistance, support and guidance to the 2nd group (as Supporters) while enabling networking opportunities among themselves.

THE PROGRAM FOR THE SENIORS COULD INCLUDE:

- forums to disseminate important and relevant information,
- conduct lectures/seminars/workshop on relevant topics,
- conduct outings and activities of interest,
- assistance in using existing programs,
- facilitate transition to Seniors/Old age Homes,
- buddy System to give company and provide rides as needed.

Before it is too late, we ought to start working on these projects through group discussions and brain storming sessions at local, national and international levels with and amongst representatives from all different groups so that every one's needs, interests and concerns are met and Konkani communities will remain as close knit "families" and continue to flourish.

FEEDBACK FROM BREAKOUT SESSION:

Group 1.

- No Companions
- How far to go to see Children/Proximity to relatives – Travel
- Security
- Maintenance (Not money) problems – cannot solve for by ourselves (changing bulb etc.)
- Concerns of children and relatives – financial condition
- Concern of relative's health
- Once a widower or a widow what will be our lives

Group 2.

- Change in Lifestyle – Not knowing what to do next – find community support for the following
 - Income Security
 - Companionship
 - Doing daily chores as we age
 - Food
 - Accommodation
 - Settling down
 - What about our kids – proximity
 - How much help we need
 - Moving around - Mobility
 - Find groups of similar age
 - Create a support group for our community

- Create awareness amongst youth
- Making will
- Death and aftermath – financial arrangements/financial planning
- Association should involve more discussions on seniors – programs/Help/mobilize youth for support
- Interact with government agencies and other community organizations handling health issues

Group 3

- Never confident about financial independence
- Balance between spending and saving
- Solutions
- Meals on Wheels (Grocery – Home Delivery)
- Wheel Transportation (Government subsidized)
- Concerns: Physical and Mental

Group 4

- People have trouble getting along with locals
- Financial Resources
- Many aspects/factors go into decision
- 4 stages
 - Active
 - Partial – Active
 - Loss of spouse
 - End of Life
- Power of Attorney – A Must
- Durable Power of Life
- Living Will

CONCERNS

- being independent on everything how to proceed.?
- how to handle govt. laws?
- how to ensure security?
- how to handle son or daughter in laws?
- power of attorney?
- working up to 70/75years?
- how to improve physical average?
- financial independence such as savings vs expectation?
- loss of companionship?
- in case of widower?
- what should be children's role?

SUGGESTIONS

- appoint nanny/maid to assist
- share houses to share,
- catering together
- move to seniors or old age homes.
- can come together and create senior Konkani people house/home.
- can develop likeminded persons/people group
- create social support system
- can create group for guiding the groups of less than 18 years and 18 to 60years group.
- understand by the group and make sure to utilize all facilities offered by govt.
- join Konkani organizations to get better assistance

Please send your comments, concerns and suggestions to sadanand.mankikar@gmail.com . Your input is very important for initiating a Social Services Support System in North America.

Konkani Community Support Initiatives – AMCHIGELI.com

On the auspicious occasion of this year's Gouri & Ganapati Festival, a new website <http://amchigeli.com/> was launched.

Amchigeli.com, a brainchild of **Muralidhar Shenoy** of Atlanta, has its origin from the good initiatives started at the Konkani Sammelan 2016 in Atlanta. The objective is to take forward these initiatives and support the North American Konkani community. The sections on this site include:

- Soirika – Matrimonial connections for our community
- Amchi Mhalgade – Support group for our Seniors
- Amchi Community Activities
 - Randhap – Recipes
 - Emergency Support for the Needy
 - Panchadike – Discussion Forum

When we find facilitators, we intend to start sections on Youth and Women.

Soirika is free service for the Konkani community members to look for matrimonial Connections. The Key features are:

1. **Discrete:** Registered users can post their profiles without actually publishing their identity online- only the generic attributes of the profile are published (Name, Address, email ID etc. are not published) so interested parties can review objectively and respond.
2. **Self-Directed:** Registered users get access to all posted generic profiles, and review the information to make an informed decision for themselves on the profile that best matches their criteria. They also have to option the email the parties with any questions and get answers for any points that are not explicit on the published profile. Once you establish mutual interest, the two parties can make direct contact take it forward on their own.

Amchi Mhalgade, facilitated by Sadanand Mankikar, aims to be a stepping stone and a mouthpiece for identifying the needs and concerns and help develop programs that can be helpful to all our seniors. It invites articles, useful references, relevant topics for discussion and questions for gathering information. We plan to post different issues from time to time and invite comments and suggestions from the readers. It is hoped that all our seniors join this group and share their thoughts and benefit from the website.

We have made a beginning and there are opportunities for you to volunteer and support the cause. We look forward to the support of each of you to help our community.

For contact /additional information: <http://www.amchigeli.com>

Like us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Amchigeli/?hc_ref=PAGES_TIMELINE

A Promise that is fulfilled by Sri Bhuvanendra Teertha Swamiji of Kashi Mutt

By: Prof. Kadambi Ramadas Prabhu, prabhu_ramdas@yahoo.com

HISTORY: In the olden days there was a direct contact between the *peetaadhipatis* and *shishya* (individual follower). The pontiffs were spending more time with community members to know their problems, touching events in their life. The “*anugrah*–grace” of the *pitha* for the prosperity of the individual, his family and the entire community was miraculously helping them.

Mutt heads were to enquire with others coming from a place, the welfare matters of the followers from that area of place. This was a strong bridge between the mutt heads and the individual from the community.

KADAMBI PRABHU’S HOUSE: Kadambu is place near Vittal town of Dakshina Kannada. Kadambi Prabhus were like “*jahagirdhars*” of GSB community, holding large acres of lands and well known for their charity, religious (*dhaarmic prajna*) ethics in their transactions in every segment of life. In recognition of which Kadambi Prabhus were appointed by Kashi Mutt as one of the trustees of the mutt for the landholdings of the mutt. There were other trustees also belonging to reputed houses from other areas. These trustees are to collect the revenue (rice *murrahs*) from the land holdings of the mutt and send them in bullock carts to Bantwal where the mutt office was situated maintaining all accounts.

DHARMISTA KADAMBI MANJAYYA PRABHU as usual every year Kadambi house used to collect the revenue (rice) from the tenants and used to send them to Bantwal Kashi Mutt. Whenever the tenants used to tell their difficulties and were not delivering the rice on the grounds such as 1. No rains 2. Floods 3. Attacked by wild animals etc. Manjayya Prabhu used to consider their difficulties and used to excuse them (he was doing the same to his own tenants out of mercy and to give a fair treatment to them). Sometimes he used to give them rice to avoid them from starving.

Once Manjayya Prabhu visited bantwal kashi mutt and checked the accounts. He found that nearly 600 *murrahs* of rice was pending from Kadambi house. He did also not know that the figure has reached that level. His human consideration to tenants of Kashi Mutt lead to a debt of 600 *murrahs* of rice from Kadambi house. He could have paid from his own holdings of Kadambi house in one stroke. (He was holding 2000 *murrah* rice property to the house)

SRIMAD BHUVANENDRA SWAMIJI: As usual Sri Swamiji came to Bantwal and during the same time, Manjayya Prabhu also visited the mutt. He handed over the “gift deed” (*dana shaasana patra*) to His Holiness and pleaded that he has decided to donate 600 *murrahs* rice property (lands) in favor of the mutt. Swamiji refuses to accept. He says, “For my mistake of pending 600 *murrahs* of rice, I hand over the property that gives 600 *murrahs* of rice every year to the mutt. Nobody should dupe God, temple, mutt, *daivas*, *pitras* and *brahmans*. All must know this lesson. If Swamiji refuses the gift deed, he was not going back to Kadambi and accept death in the Netravati river.” His Holiness made many attempts to convince Manjayya Prabhu but it was in vain. His Holiness recognises Manjayya Prabhu as a “*dharma nistavanta shishya*”. And finally, the Swamiji accepted the gift deed.

While leaving the swami’s place, Manjayya Prabhu shed tears for embarrassing His Holiness apologetically falling on the feet. Swamiji pacify him and ask him what he expects/desires from the *sannidhanam*. Manjayya Prabhu asks for “*moksha*” on the holy feet of Swamiji. Swamiji gives a promise and says that the time is not ripe for death. But your wish will be fulfilled by the grace of Vyasa Raghupathi.”

TARPANA BY HIS HOLINESS: Years passed. One day when His Holiness was in Kashi, a person from Bantwal visited the mutt. Swamiji while enquiring about the local information, asked, “How is Kadambi Manjayya Prabhu?” The person informed that Manjayya Prabhu has passed away.” Sri swamiji’s eyes were filled with tears. Swamiji got up from his seat and walked straight to river Ganga and held water in his both palms, looked at the sun and said, “Vyasa Raghupati Kadambi Manjayya Prabhus *sadgati di* (grant moksha to Manjayya Prabhu)” and offered the “*tarpan*” by breaking all restrictions applicable to mutt heads (they are barred from offering “*tarpan*” to anyone including their own parents”). This is an example of “*dharmo rakshiti rakshitaha*” no one in history received the “*tarpan*” from a mutt head. People around the Swamiji ask his holiness why the “*tarpan*” was given. The Swamiji replies that the promise was fulfilled.

That is the real bliss – love to dharma and dharma *nistavant shishya varga*. In the history of Kashi Mutt there is no one who has a “*maha dana*” like Kadambi Manjayya Prabhu.

(A similar instant has happened in the last century between chitrapur saraswat sri Anand ashram Swamiji and Nadakarni-mam, chairman of Shamrao Vittal Bank).

(For full details request a Kannada version running in 18 pages – from - Kadambi Krishna Prabhu - NY, prabhu.kadambi@gmail.com)

Konkani Calendar

January 2017	February 2017	March 2017
8 th Yekadashi	3 rd Ratha Saphami	8 th Yekadashi
11 th Poornami	6 th Yekadashi	12 th Holi – Poornami
13 th Makara Sankranthi	10 th Poornami	13 th Meena Sankranthi
15 th Sankashta Chathurthi	12 th Kumbh Sankranthi	15 th Sankashta Chathurthi
27 th Amavasya (Dark Moon)	13 th Samkashta Chathurthi	27 th Amavasya (Dark Moon)
	24 th Maha Shivaratri	28 th Ugadi – New Year Day
	26 th Amavasya (Dark Moon)	

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, \$
Damodar & Shobha Baliga, NY	50.00
Vindya Bhat & Sridharan Raman, New York, NY	101.00
Ravi & Sharda Shenoy, Montville, NJ	65.00
Ramesh & Aparna Kamath, Katy, TX	51.00
Vasudev & Shobha Shenoy, Houston, TX	101.00

Statement of Accounts

Description	Credit, \$	Debit, \$
Balance Carried over since <i>Khabbar</i> Vol. XXXIX No. 3	3,485.00	
Money Received:		
Subscriptions (30) and donations	798.00	
Advertisement (1)	25.00	
Interest	2.00	
Sub Total:	825.00	
Money Spent (<i>Khabbar</i> Vol. XXXIX No. 3):		
Printing- <i>Khabbar</i> (305) - 20 pages		430.16
Mailing - First Class Mail- <i>Khabbar</i> (263)		178.84
Mailing Canada <i>Khabbar</i> (7)		8.05
Overseas (20)		60.00
Mail Fines, computer paper & labels, envelopes, service fees, etc.		322.95
Sub Total:		1,000.00
Final Balance:	3,310.00	

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

Kwiz

The last quarter's quiz:

Complete the following series:

S N V F R G ? ? ? ? ?

Answer: H J O K L (Letter after A B C D... on a QWERTY key Board)

The following gave the right answers:

Praveen Kamath, Centreville, VA

Krishna Kudva, Alta Loma, CA

This Quarter's Kwiz

By "Krishnamaam"

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.

The king's daughter had three suitors and couldn't decide which one to marry. So the king said "I have three gold crowns and two silver ones. I will put either a gold or silver crown on each of your heads. The suitor who can tell me which crown he has will marry my daughter."

The first suitor looked around and said he could not tell. The second suitor did the same. The third suitor said, " I have a gold crown". He was correct, but the daughter was puzzled: The suitor was blind. How did he know?

Konkani Charities and Appeals

K.A.B. Foundation
5080 Cedar Creek Drive
Houston, TX 77056

501 (c)3 registered in 2015
Website: wiselygiving.org
Email: wiselygiving@gmail.com

KABF has been selecting nonprofit charities on the basis of their high rankings by Charity Navigator, Guidestar and Charity Watch, 3 leading charity rating organizations. The rating agencies rank those charities which offer the best giving opportunities based on the mission, low overhead, accountability and transparency and maximization of the donation funds to the ultimate beneficiaries.

The two charities, **UPAYA & Konkani Charitable Fund (KCF)** run by Konkanis continue to be listed among our charities.

We are excited to introduce a newsletter showcasing " THE CHARITY OF THE MONTH ", where a summary of its work and impact on the community will be presented on our website. You can subscribe to this Newsletter by giving your e mail address at the CONTACT US section of our website, <http://www.wiselygiving.org> All donations are tax deductible.

Kasturi and Ashwin Bhatt
(713)-622-6835



Aspiring Entrepreneurs, Inspiring Outcomes

Upaya Social Ventures builds businesses that create dignified jobs for the poorest of the poor in India. Upaya is a non-profit organization that believes in providing a "hand up" and not a "hand-out" in order to alleviate extreme poverty. To date, the organization has supported the development of five businesses that have created over 1,100 jobs. Please visit www.upayasv.org to learn more, or please feel free to contact Executive Director and Co-Founder Sachi Shenoy at sshenoy@upayasv.org

BANTWAL BALIGA CHARITABLE TRUST (R), COLLEGE ROAD, BANTWAL, DAKSHINA KANNADA, INDIA 574 211

AN APPEAL

Bantwal Baliga Charitable Trust (R) registered on 16th Sept 2016 with a specific purpose to uphold and perform traditional rituals of the Bantwal Baliga family, such as Ganesh Chaturthi, Mahalaya Amavasya, Kurindu Utsav, Vaishakha Shanivar etc. which are presently performed by different Bantwal Baliga Families. A majority of Bantwal Baliga families now spread across India and the world often visit their Home town Bantwal. The Practice of newlywed couples of Baliga Family paying a visit to Shri Venkataramana Swamy Temple and Babbale Katte is followed by a majority of Baliga Family members with full devotion.

For this purpose, the Trust is in the process of building necessary infrastructure.

We appeal to the members of Bantwal Baliga Family members to support and contribute generously to the activities of the trust.

President -Bantwal Laxman A Baliga, Vice President: Dr. Bantwal Narendra Baliga

Secretary -Bantwal Sarvothama Baliga (+91 9449837485)
Email.id bantwalbaliga.trust@gmail.com, Join Whatsaap group +91 9448138322.

NAKA, the North American Konkani Association Update



Dear Fellow Konkanis,

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

The Interim NAKA team met its goal of making NAKA a viable organization in North America. The team consisted of:

President: **Sheila Shenoy Reddy**,
Vice President: **Sadanand Mankikar**,
Secretary: **Vasanth Bhat**,
Treasurer: **Suresh Shenoy**
Executive Board Member: **Ranjit Shiralkar**.

The much anticipated NAKA website (www.myNAKA.org) is up and running. Please visit the website and send your comments about the website or any other activity about NAKA. Again, thanks for all your support!

Path forward:

The interim NAKA Board had set following goals and ALL have been met. They are:

1. Hold the Konkani Sannelan in 2016 (KS-2016) with KAOG as hosts. **DONE** with overwhelming success!
2. Hold fund raising events across North America to benefit the KS-2016. **DONE**. The extreme fund raising with everyone's help turned the sannelan deficit into a surplus!
3. Hold an election for NAKA so that NAKA truly represents the North American Konkani community. **DONE**. With the help of three volunteers, Dr. Gopal Bhandarkar, Dr. Rajarama Shenoy and Vivek Kulkarni, an election was held and the following were elected unanimously and take over the reins of NAKA on January 1, 2017:

President: **Ramesh Kamath, Cupertino, CA**
Vice President: **Ajay Rao, Toronto, ON**
Secretary: **Sudha Shenoy, Johns Creek, GA**
Treasurer: **Damodar Baliga, Brooklyn, NY**
Executive Board Member: **Pramod Mavinkurve, Princeton, NJ**

The Interim Board while handing over NAKA to the incoming Board wishes to thank all the past Board Directors and the entire North American Konkani Community for their confidence and whole hearted support and cooperation throughout their term. It also congratulates the duly elected incoming Board and wishes them all the very best.

All the financial dealing of NAKA have been transparent and here's the statement for this quarter:

NAKA - Statement Of Accounts

Date	Description	Credit, \$	Debit, \$
8/31/16	Balance from last report	80,747.92	
	Interest for the quarter	8.50	
	Received from Youth Convention-2011	1,368.04	
11/30/16	Final Balance:	82,119.46	

This Financial Statement does not include the final financial outcome of the 2016 Konkani Sannelan held in July in Atlanta.

Signed: **Damodar Baliga/Suresh Shenoy**, Treasurer, NAKA

Dev Baren Karo.

Sheila Shenoy Reddy
President, North American Konkani Association northamericakonkaniassociation@gmail.com

Meet the new NAKA Board

RAMESH KAMATH

President

Ramesh was born in Katapadi, Karnataka state in India. He came to the US to pursue his Master's degree and upon completion, he then moved to California and has been living in the Bay area for 30 years. He is an active member of the Konkani Association of California (KAOCA) and is involved in many NPO organizations in the Bay area. Currently working at Dell Sonic WALL in Santa Clara. He lives with his wife Abirami, and daughters, Nivya and Tanvi.

AJAY RAO

Vice President

Ajay was the President of Ontario Konkani Association (OKA) with his wife Chitra in 2014-15, having previously served as Treasurer/Secretary and VP. Under their leadership, the Association made significant progress in moving with the times - successfully blending the old with the new. They ensured that entertainment was supplemented with cultural content, in the well-attended programs put up by the Executive Committee. The highlight of their term was the transformation of the newsletter, the eSamachar, to a content rich glossy magazine, which was much appreciated by the readership.

Ajay is a CFO with a North American group headquartered in Canada. Chitra is a microbiologist, son Amol is an Environmental Engineer, and daughter Dipti is also a CA. Ajay was on the Board of the Toronto Chapter of Indian CAs, and is an active member of Finance Executives International (FEI).

The Raos lived in Mauritius and South Africa (after leaving India in the late 80s) before migrating to Canada in the early 2000s.

Ajay is passionate about change management, governance, and providing thought leadership in a transparent and collaborative manner. He is committed to doing his bit for the community by leveraging his skills and competencies.

DAMODAR BALIGA

Treasurer

Damodar Baliga came to the US in 1970, together with his wife Shobha and settled down in Queens, NY. He is a Chartered Accountant from India and did his MBA in accounting and finance. He is a founding member of Konkani Sabha and assisted in organizing the first Konkani sammelan in 1996. He is one of the founders of NAKA and was instrumental in getting IRS approval for NAKA as a not-for-profit cultural organization.

Since retiring from a full time job, Damo now serves as the Chairman of the Board for HealthCare Choices NY, a not-for-profit organization with three medical centers in Brooklyn & Queens.

SUDHA SHENOY

Secretary

Sudha and her husband Suresh Shenoy are current residents of Johns Creek, GA. Sudha is a health actuary by profession and is currently employed as VP and consulting actuary for a major health organization in the US. She has been active member of the Konkani Association of Georgia (KAOG) and was in 2016 sammelan Executive and Entertainment committees.

PRAMOD MAVINKURVE

Executive Board Member

Pramod is a retired professional from Johnson & Johnson. He currently lives in Langhorne, PA and spends time with social and community work, hiking, traveling and Konkani social work. He is the secretary of the Chitrapur Heritage Foundation (CHF) and actively coordinates monthly CHF satsangs. He is also involved with supporting the Srivali High School and regularly campaigns and supports student programming.



Konkani Charitable Fund, Inc.

43 Spray Court Bayport, NY 11705
(631) 472-1418
www.Konkanicf.org
contact@konkanicf.org
Registered Charity under 501 (3)(c)

APPEAL FOR DONATION

December 8, 2016

President:

Dr. Gopal Bhandarkar

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