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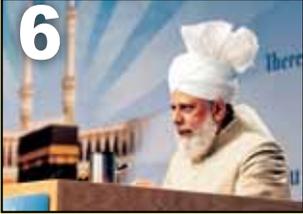
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Today

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Khalifa of Islam visits US for 64th annual Muslim convention



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Dara Singh passes away



33

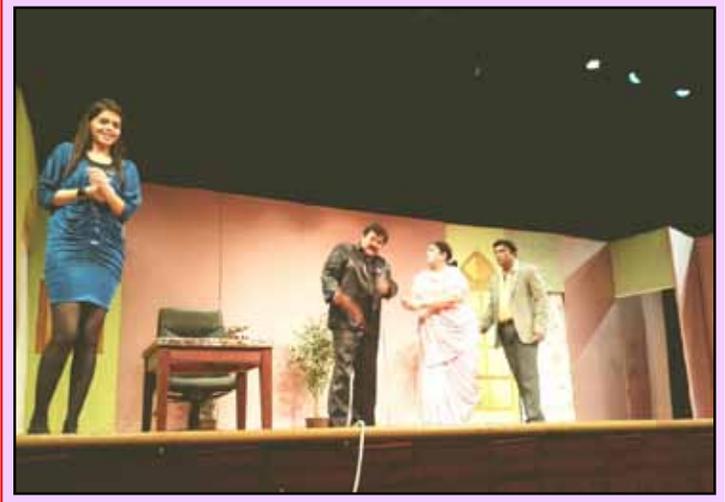
Rajesh Khanna, the hero who had many 'wives'



35

Bollywood is back with a bang in the Valley of the Sun!

Hera Pheri by Gujurati Cultural Association of Arizona



By DeepaWalia July 28, 2012

On July 28, 2012, Gujurati Cultural Association of Arizona brought a Gujurati play titled Hera Pheri to the Gujurati community.

• Continued on P03

Giani Pinderpal Singh Ji Ludhiana Wale in Arizona

By Deepa Walia July 16, 2012

On July 16, 2012, Nishkam Sewa Gurudwara of Arizona hosted the esteemed Giani Pinderpal Singh Ji Ludhiana Waale. A special evening program was organized at Gurudwara Sahib on a Monday evening that started with a Kirtan Diwan, followed by a Gurmat Katha-Vichar by Giani Pinderpal Singh Ji. Bhai Sahib is well known through his "Gurmat Gyan" telecast on the PTC Punjabi Channel and the Arizona

• Continued on P03



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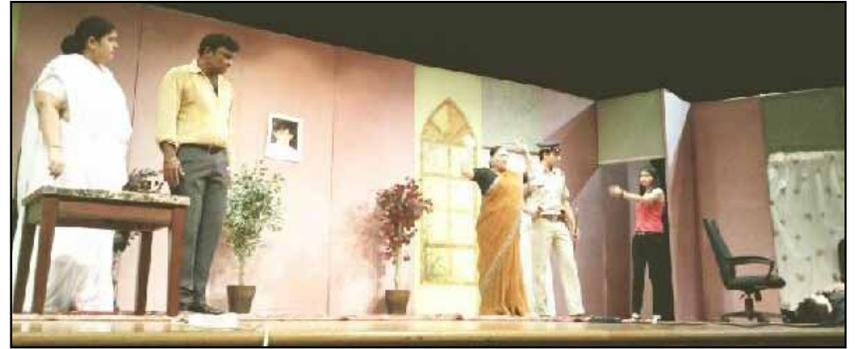
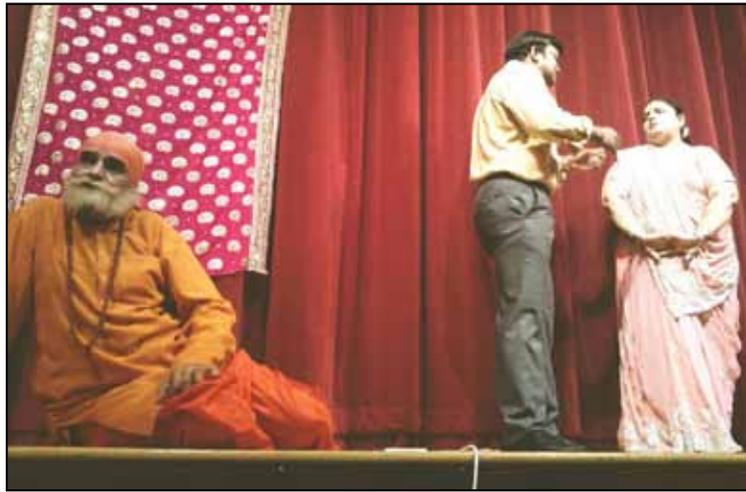
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Hera Pheri by Gujurati Cultural Association of Arizona

munity of Arizona. The comedy brought non-stop laughter from the audience as the play took its many twists and turns. Congratulations to the Gujurati Cultural Association of Arizona for organizing a comical evening for their members.



Giani Pinderpal Singh Ji Ludhiana Wale in Arizona



Sikh community was honored to hear him speak about the sacred Shri Guru Granth Sahib Ji in person, due to the tireless efforts of the Nishkam Sewa Gurudwara and their dedication to keeping the Sikh religion and Punjabi culture alive in Arizona.



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Everything Happens for a Reason . . . Even the Bad Things

Life isn't easy... anyone I say that in front of always responds with, "you can say that again." It is a simple truth – life isn't easy. It is a rollercoaster with unexpected ups and downs, but it is a unique rollercoaster in the sense that you only get one ride. You cannot ride this adventure over and over again hoping to familiarize yourself with the ups and downs so you are not so shocked when you encounter them because you only live once – at least from what you can remember!

So, when life sends you on tough roads strewn with rocks, darkness, and thorns, instead of flowers, happiness, and light, how do you keep your spirits up so you don't waste the precious moments of life given to you? I know many of us have heard this traditional South Asian belief that everything happens for a reason. We may have listened to it from one ear and taken it out another as wishful thinking from an older generation that just doesn't get it. But, if you actually take the time out to evaluate your good and bad times in life so far, you will realize the truth in this wisdom.

It is so easy to get negative and complain about why certain things happened to us and that is what we do as soon as we encounter these moments. When something positive happens, we enjoy the happiness it brings us and are content for those few moments. But how many of us actually spend the time connecting the dots on all that life has thrown our way in an attempt to understand whether the happiness that came our way would have been possible had we not gone down those difficult roads? It is a simple exercise, but one that makes an individual mentally and emotionally stronger – making them more



Editor's NOTE

capable of handling all that life may throw their way. When you sit down and evaluate the choices you made, the paths you chose – you will easily see that it was a combination of those choices and paths that led you to encounters such as meeting your closest friends, obtaining your dream job, finding the love of your life, amongst many others. Had you not made the tough choices or travelled the difficult paths, some of the encounters that bring the most joy to your life would never have happened. Therefore, if you cherish the outcome of those happenings,

you must cherish the negativity and difficulty that led you down those paths. When you see the connection in the turn of events your life has taken and truly believe in your heart that everything in your life is happening for a reason, no difficulty will seem too hard, no negative time will seem too long, and your heart and mind will learn to accept that something refreshingly positive will come out of whatever ordeal you may be going through at the moment. Anything that is acquired or comes easy will also depart as easily and you will not have as much value for them as those things that you have yearned and pined for or worked hard to obtain and accomplish. All the difficulty and negativity in your life is a form of yearning that will make the fruits of that labor much sweeter, giving you the ability to truly appreciate them. So, next time life throws you a curve ball, keep these words in mind and instead of getting down in your spirits, wait for the amazing, experience that is bound to enter your life as a result of that much-dreaded curve ball. Wishing U a Very Very "HAPPY JANMASHTAMI" and "HAPPY EID MUBARIK".

- Deepa Kaur Walia
Editor, Asia Today, editor@asiatodayaz.com

An image circulating on Facebook has been on my mind the entire month. It's a quote by the Dalai Lama...

*We have bigger houses but smaller families,
More conveniences, but less time.*

We have more degrees, but less sense

More knowledge, but less judgment

More experts, but more problems

More medicines, but less healthiness.

*We've been all the way to the moon and back
But have trouble crossing the street to meet the neighbor.*

We built more computers to hold more information

To produce more copies than ever"

But have less communication.

We have become long on quantity but short on quality.

These are fast times of fast foods but slow digestion.

Tall man but short character.

Steep profits but shallow relationships.

It is a time where there is much in the window

But nothing in the room.

-Dalai Lama

I loved this quote the moment I read it. In a world with a way to communicate at anytime, anywhere, in any means, we have no communication at all. All we have are interpretations of what we believe. Our senses as human beings are dull, and there is no change or new wave in evolution that is going to fix it. My character, who I am, what I believe, what I do many... people in the community have their understandings of it. Yet the only people aside from people who I consider close friends even know I have a job outside of the newspaper. No one takes time to understand a person but everyone as

enough time to talk about who a person is, and what they are like. People will continue to think they know what they are talking about, understand it, dwell on it, make it a reality in their minds, the next logical step... it becomes the truth. The misguided truth then becomes reality and from that, they live there day to day life, disregarding anything that challenges it. "We have been all the way to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet the neighbor". We can't approach them, we can't say anything to them, and we can't challenge them. What can we do?... We Wait. We wait for these people to have enough sense, enough humbleness to ask... and if they don't then your lives will move on and so will there's. In a world filled with everything, we have nothing but regret's "it is a time where there is much in the window, but nothing in the room".

I am happy to say the Asia today website is up and running, and fully functioning. Over the next month we will be replacing and re-adding all the content that was lost due to someone going after and maliciously hacking the asiatodayaz website. Thank you all our supporters and everyone who helped us during the transition process. Thank you Tauran Chopra, and Kasim Aslam for your help in cleaning up and making suggestions to the website.

-Raja Walia
Publiser, Asia Today, publisher@asiatodayaz.com



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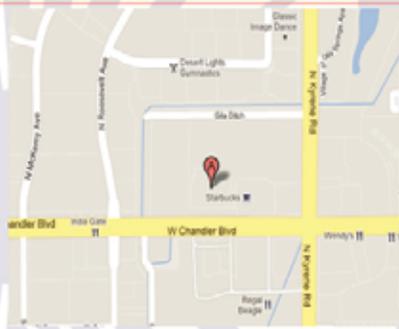
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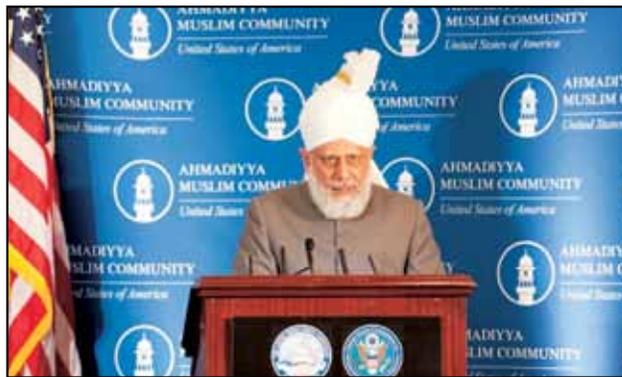
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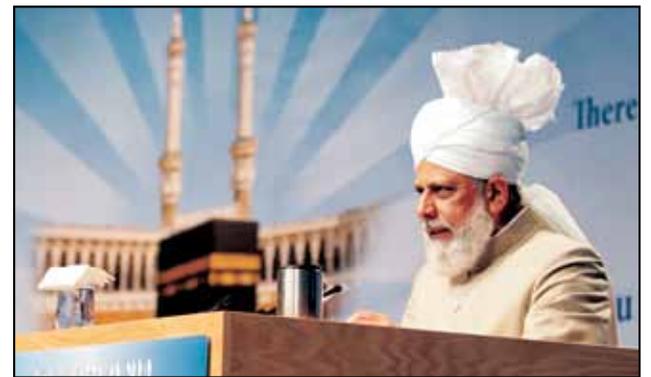
Khalifa of Islam visits US for 64th annual Muslim convention



(L-to-R) Khalifa Mirza Masroor Ahmad - Rep. Keith Ellison - Democratic House leader Nancy Pelosi



5th Khalifa Mirza Masroor Ahmad on June 27th 2012 addressing Capitol Hill members June 27th 2012



5th Khalifa at 64th Ahmadiyya USA convention giving closing address Sunday July 1st

By Imam Shamshad A. Nasir
June 29-July 1, 2012

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is the oldest Islamic propagation organization in America. It was established in 1921 by Mufti Muhammad Sadiq, a companion of the Promised Messiah and Imam Mahdi, Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian. In 1948 the Community held its first national convention, which was attended by only scores of people, but now the number of Ahmadi Muslims who come to the annual convention is between 7,000 and 10,000 people.

The 2012 US national Ahmadiyya Muslim convention took place June 29th to July 1st and marked the 64th consecutive year the event was held. This year's convention was graced by the presence of the Ahmadiyya Community's spiritual leader, the 5th Khalifa (Caliph), Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad. He came from the Ahmadiyya world headquarters in London to preside over the three-day event that ran from Friday, June 29th until Sunday, July 1st. Attendance at the convention topped 11,400, with guests and visiting dignitaries from 33 countries.

The Khalifa delivered the Friday sermon at the opening session of the Harrisburg convention, which was transmitted live via satellite to the tens of millions of Ahmadi Muslims all over the world. He advised the convention and satellite audience that in order to gain the spiritual blessings of attending the annual conventions held in each country where Ahmadi Muslims live, they must adopt true piety and righteousness, and worship God with full devotion and humility. His Holiness said that Ahmadi Muslims had to "walk the walk and not just talk the talk" when it came to being the best Muslims.

The topics of the speeches delivered later the same day included "Mercy and Grace: the principle Attributes of God" by Imam and Ahmadiyya national vice-president Azhar Haneef, "Ahmadiyyat: a Community raised for Peace on Earth" by Faheem Younes, and "Ahmadiyya Khilafat: the Second Manifestation of Divine Power" by Dr. Waseem Sayed, which highlighted how opposition to the Ahmadiyya Community and its Khalifas was thwarted at every turn and how the opponents, no matter how powerful or popular, were cast into ruin and largely forgotten by anyone except Ahmadi Muslims.

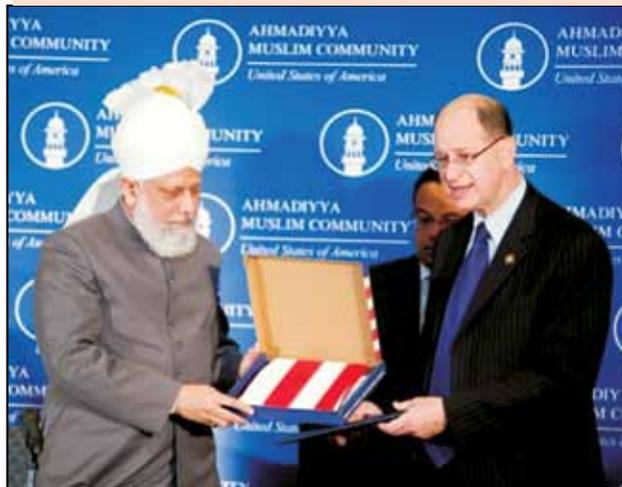
Speech topics for the Saturday and Sunday sessions included: "Harmonizing Word and Deed" by Basyir Rodney, "Abrogation of the Holy Quran: Setting the Record Straight" by Falahuddin Shams, "Introduction to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community" by Hasan Hakeem, "The Holy Prophet's Love for Service and Servants of Humanity" by Nasirullah Ahmad, and "Regard for the Less Fortunate" by Sahibzade Mirza Maghfoor Ahmad.

The 5th Khalifa, Mirza Masroor Ahmad, gave his customary address to the Ladies session on Saturday afternoon, reminding the gathered Ahmadi women that Islam gave them the highest status and honor of any religion. He exhorted them to follow the Quran and example of the Holy Prophet, and to always be mindful of their vital responsibility for the spiritual and moral training of the children.

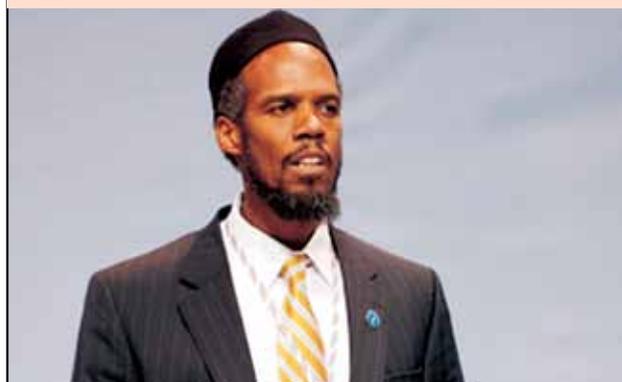
As the Promised Messiah said over a century ago, if the ladies of the Community reform themselves and attain a high level of righteousness and piety and impart these qualities to their children, then the whole Community will be protected. He also addressed the entire Community when



5th Khalifa leaving the Capitol building after June 27th reception in his honor



Ahmadiyya Muslim leader Mirza Masroor Ahmad being presented with the US flag



Ahmadiyya Natl VP and Imam Azhar Hanif at Fri. session of the 64th USA Convention

he said that only by following the ten conditions of initiation into the Community would Ahmadi homes be filled with the love and remembrance of God. He said in the Western societies, many people are making criticisms of Islam and it is the responsibility of Ahmadi Muslims to meet this challenge by being good role models and examples of the true teachings of Islam.

The Khalifa of the Age gave his Closing Address and silent prayer on the men's side at the end of the Sunday session, where he specifically mentioned the 19th century Christian evangelist and critic of Islam and the prophet Muhammad (pbuh), Rev. John Alexander Dowie, saying he was an example of what happens to the opponents of the Promised Messiah Mirza Ghulam Ahmad and how the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, despite intense hostility to its message and the persecution of its members, continues to grow stronger and larger with every passing day.

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community started with 40 people in India in 1889 and now has tens of millions of members in 200 countries, all bound together by the simple yet indomitable proclamation of belief in Islam that: "There is none worthy of worship except God, and Muhammad is God's messenger." This tenet, coupled with the philosophy of: "Love for All - Hatred for None," is what has defined Ahmadi Muslims from their beginning in 1889 to the present day.

(All three days of the convention speech videos and the Khalifa's addresses can be viewed online at: www.alislam.org/v/k-Jalsa_Salana_USA_2012.html)

Prior to the convention, on Wed., June 27th, the 5th Khalifa of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community addressed a joint Congressional reception in his honor on Capitol Hill, with Democratic House leader Nancy Pelosi and Muslim congressman (D-MN) Keith Ellison among the dignitaries welcoming the Khalifa to America. More than 300 people were in attendance as Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad enlightened the assembled audience about the teachings of the Holy Qur'an in terms of international relations.

His Holiness said that the key principle in maintaining peace was true justice. He said: "The truth is that peace and justice are inseparable – you cannot have one without the other... Yet, in general, there is little doubt that restlessness and anxiety is increasing in the world and so disorder is spreading. This clearly proves that somewhere along the line, the requirements of justice are not being fulfilled."

His Holiness said that Islam taught that all people were born equal and were deserving of equal human rights. He said: "In the Holy Qur'an, God Almighty has made it clear that while our nationalities or ethnic backgrounds act as a means of identity, they do not entitle or validate any form of superiority of any kind."

"Thus, it is a clear teaching of Islam that the people of all nationalities and all races are equal. And it is also made clear that all people should be granted equal rights without any discrimination or prejudice. This is the key and golden principle that lays the foundation for harmony between different groups and nations and for the establishment of peace."

(The complete video of the welcoming remarks made by the various speakers as well as the main address by the 5th Khalifa can be seen at this link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=z9bzmCGkHnM&feature=plcp)

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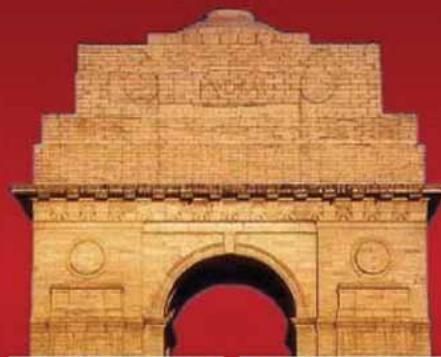
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Ramadhan a time for seeking God and serving humanity

July, 2012

Ramadhan, the Islamic month of fasting, begins in the US at sunset on Friday, July 20th, with the first day of fasting beginning one hour and 20-minutes before sunrise on Sat., July 21st. Mosques all over the world will be gearing up for an influx of the faithful who seek a return to God, forgiveness for sins, self-reform, and physical and spiritual purification.

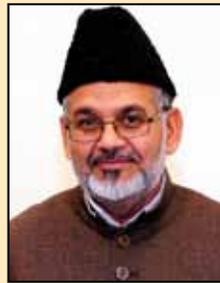
And while the start of Ramadhan may not begin on the same day in all parts of the Muslim world – based as it is on the required local sighting of the new moon – in principle and practice, all Muslims are joined together in a religious observance that gives them the opportunity for one lunar month each year to restore their connectedness to God, to their fellow Muslims and to the world around them through prayer, fasting and good deeds. No other religion has such a unified, intensive, prolonged and time-tested activity designed for the physical, moral and spiritual cleansing and rejuvenation of the faithful.

All devout Muslims look forward to Ramadhan each year because it provides an opportunity to rededicate themselves to the Islamic faith and work on improving themselves physically, morally and spiritually. Fasting in Islam is not primarily about not eating, although going hungry does generate empathy for those less fortunate who go hungry due to economic as op-

posed to religious reasons. For Muslims who observe the fast with zeal and not just because it's an obligatory Pillar of Islam, the main goal is spiritual and moral training and striving to purify their hearts, minds and bodies by abstaining from all food, drink and marital relations during daylight hours. The purpose is to increase their connection and nearness to God and do good works for others.

Ramadhan also provides a welcoming and communal framework for a lapsed Muslim to resume the five-time daily prayers, attendance at the Friday Sermon and to be restored by the love of God and the healing brotherhood or sisterhood of Islam. God is always waiting for those who have turned away from Him to return again to Him. God is ever eager and ready to forgive sins and accept repentance.

Many people ask, why is the month-long fast such a fundamental requirement in Islam? God answers this in chapter 2 verse 184 of the Holy Quran where He says: "O ye who believe! Fasting is prescribed for you, as it was prescribed for those before you, so that you may become righteous." Thus, the primary purpose of the fast is declared by God to be spiritual purification – abstinence from eating, drinking and sex during daylight hours is just the means to help facilitate that



By Imam
Shamshad A.
Nasir

goal, it is not the goal itself.

The proof for this is that fasting is not required of pregnant or nursing women, the ill or infirm, or children not yet entering adulthood. Otherwise, all healthy, adult Muslims are expected to participate in the spiritual activities of Ramadhan, which include reading the entire Quran at least once during the month, avoiding all quarrels and vain pursuits, seeking forgiveness for their sins, and striving to increase their piety and righteousness and rid themselves of their vices, shortcomings and un-Islamic habits.

During Ramadhan, giving charity is also encouraged and deemed highly meritorious. Charity may include the direct feeding of the poor or helping them with other resources so they can help themselves and escape their poverty. But if a Muslim is one of the poor as well, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said that if someone is unable to provide food or other help to the poor and needy, then a kind word is also an act of charity and should be given.

During the month of Ramadhan, every night after Isha -- the fifth daily prayer in Islam -- lengthy sections of the Quran are recited aloud with the goal of reciting the entire Quran by the end of Ramadhan. These extra prayers are called Taraveeh; they pro-

vide a way for those Muslims to participate in these extra prayers who, because of their work, may not be able to get up early enough in the morning to do them at home.

If you wish to observe or participate in the fasting activities during Ramadhan, you are encouraged to contact your local mosque and speak with the Imam. The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA always welcomes visitors to their Ramadhan activities and has chapters in 70 cities across America. You can find the nearest Ahmadiyya mosque or mission house by going online to www.Ahmadiyya.us and clicking on the drop-down menu on the right side titled SELECT CHAPTER. For more information on Ramadhan, Islam or the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, please go online to: www.alislam.org or call Toll-Free: 1-800-WHY-ISLAM.

In Southern California, there are two locations: the BaitulHameed Mosque in Chino north of the 60 freeway at 1941 Ramona Ave. (call 909-627-2252 or 909-636-8332) or the Baitus Salaam Mosque in Hawthorne at 132nd and S. Prairie (call 310-679-4500).

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is a dynamic, fast-growing international revival movement within Islam. Founded in 1889, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community spans 200 countries with membership exceeding tens of millions. Their motto is: "Love for All – Hatred for None."

Mahavatar Babaji told Gyan Swami, you should earn your own bread and teach Kriya Yoga without charging money

Few months after the incident of monk's disappearance someone gave "Autobiography of a Yogi" book written by Paramahansa Yogananda to Gyan Swami. When Gyan Swami read chapter 33 about Mahavatar Babaji and show his sketch, he realized that the monk who cured him from deadly heart diseases and disappeared from his sight was none other than Mahavatar Babaji. He decided to find him and be with him after completing his studies.

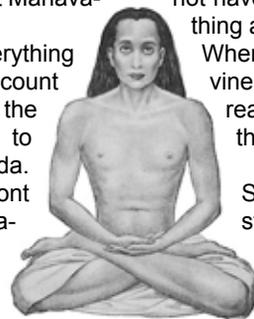
Mahavatar Babaji

He left for Himalayas after writing final exams of electrical engineering. He went to the same place where he met Babaji first time, but there was nothing there. Babaji had given him a clue to recognize him. He kept looking for that clue and asked about Babaji to monks he met in Himalayas. After many days he met a group of monk, when he asked them about Babaji they all laughed, but they offered him to stay with them. After few weeks Gyan Swami noticed as if all the monks were preparing to welcome an honorable guest. He was overjoyed to see familiar face of the same monk for whom he had left the world. He checked

Recap: The monk disappeared in front of Gyan Swami's eye

the clue, and ran to bow down at Mahavatar Babaji's holy feet.

Gyan Swami forgot everything about the world; he even lost count of months and years. One of the monks in Babaji's group used to call Gyan Swami as Vivekananda. Many times while seating in front of fire he used to tell Gyan Swami – Vivekananda, you like dry fruits, right?, the next moment he would put his hand in fire and took out real dry fruits and gave it to Gyan Swami. Out of doubt Gyan Swami used to check if the monk hid something in fire, but he never found anything. That monk was able to read Gyan Swami's mind; he asked Gyan Swami, what type of food you get on railway stations (in India)? Gyan Swami replied, hot puri and sabji. The monk put his hands in fire and took out a plate of hot puri and sabji!!! The monks in Himalayas were very advanced, they did



not have any book but they knew everything about vedas and other scriptures.

When a yogi connects himself with divine realm, no book is required to be read, the knowledge flows through them.

One day Babaji told Gyan Swami to go back to the world to start his family life and become an example of house hold yogi. Gyan Swami was reluctant to leave his divine Guru, he told Babaji that you are everything to me, what will I do without you? Mahavatar Babaji replied to Gyan Swami with love - "my dignity is due to you". Mahavatar Babaji told Gyan Swami that "today people have commercialized yoga by charging money, yoga is seen as alternate medicine but the real purpose of yoga is self-realization, you should earn your own bread and teach Kriya Yoga without charging money".

Gyan Swami worked 23 years in Tata

Motors in Jamshedpur, Bihar, India. He retired few years back from his job at RSB Transmission in Pune, India. But he was offered to continue in same role as a consultant. He specializes in SAP. In all these years he has initiated many thousands of disciples who were in search of a true guru for self-realization.

Today if you look around, there are many gurus and most of them are millionaires, in name of non-profit they charge and earn tons of money from common people. Unfortunately they are all on the verge of getting exposed in some kind of scandals, if not today for sure in near future. As a result many honest people lose their faith in religion and monks.

But in midst of all the odds and commercialization of yoga teachings we are very fortunate that a monk like Gyan Swami visits valley area every year. Please email me if you have any comments or questions.

Next Month: Is Krishna a mythical character? Have you ever seen him?

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Classic Souls

Shahid Parvez Khan & Zakir Hussain

Ustad Shahid Parvez Khan, affectionately called "Ustadji" by his students, descends from six generations of sitarists. He is one of the leading exponents of the Etawah Gharana, a musical tradition or "family" committed to this most famous of Indian instruments. He was trained by his father and guru, Ustad Aziz Khan.

There is an interesting story concerning Ustadji's relationship with his father, who never became a performing sitarist, opting instead to compose film music under the stage name Aziz Hindi. This abdication to popular culture greatly displeased Ustadji's grandfather, the surbahar maestro Ustad Waheed Khan. At the prospect of failing to find an heir to his music, the old patriarch let his displeasure be known and threatened to never forgive Ustadji's father unless his grandson, Shahid, were properly instructed in the classical tradition. Haunted by this threat, Ustadji's father abandoned popular music forever and dedicated the rest of his life to training his only son in the musical traditions of the family. Ustad Aziz Khan actually moved to a small village in order to avoid the many distractions of the city while teaching his gifted progeny.

At the age of three Ustadji began his apprenticeship in this musically cloistered environment. It would be some years before Ustadji was allowed to pick up a sitar however, being first trained in the classical vocal music that forms the foundation of the "gayaki ang" -- a style of sitar, which transfers the emotional directness and tonal nuance of the human voice to the instrument.

Ustadji's grandfather was his first vocal teacher. He later worked with his uncle, Bollywood film composer Hafiz Khan (aka Khan Mustana). While still a young boy, Ustadji also learned rhythm and tabla from Ustad Munne Khan. This early training has paid dividends for Ustadji, and he is now renowned both for his lyricism and for compelling rhythms. When Ustadji finally began playing sitar, he learned exclusively with his father.

The traditions of the Etawah Gharana have remained vital and productive in Ustadji's hands. He has worked hard to emphasize the unique capabilities of the sitar itself, introducing highly energized, and rhythmically innovative instrumental play (tantrakari) into a tradition heavily reliant on the models of classical vocal music (gayaki ang).

Ustad Shahid Parvez Khan is privileged with both belonging to an illustrious musical family, and for achieving success is not only preserving the tradition but is in pushing its boundaries to even greater heights of aesthetic beauty. He is one of the most brilliant musical gems of the famous Etawah Gharana and belongs to the seventh generation of this musical lineage.

His family has produced the most revered and influential figures in Hindustani Classical Music including the likes of Sahabdad Khansahab, Imdad Khansahab, Enayet Khansahab, Waheed Khansahab and Vilayat Khansahab.

A very young Shahid Parvez was initiated into the rich music of the Gharana by his illustrious father and Guru Ustad Aziz Khan, a famous musician and a noted composer and the son of the legendary Sitar and Surbahar virtuoso Ustad Waheed Khansahab. As is the custom, Ustad Aziz Khan first initiated his son into vocal music and tabla, before training him on the Sitar over many years with all the intensity and rigor that had made this Gharana famous. The young Shahid Parvez was recognized as a child prodigy and had started performing in public by the time he was only eight years of age. Dogged perseverance and hard work over the years have been rewarded with an extra-ordinary technical prowess and a mastery over 'Layakari'.

One of the numerous achievements of Ustad Shahid Parvez Khan is to have mastered both Vocal Music and the 'Tantrakari Baaj' and then fuse them in such a way as to bring this complex amalgam within the easy reach of all.

For Ustad Shahid Parvez Khan, the Sitar and Self are identical entities, and music is not just a discipline but life itself -- vibrating, pulsating, and full of color. The power of his music is most immediately encountered in the highly charged sound quality he conjures from his Sitar and the sparkling intelligence that is the hallmark of his improvisatory music. By sheer precision and an astute artistic sense, he has made for himself a place in the limitless, infinite universe of Indian Classical Music. As the Rajasthan Patrika once said, "After listening to Ustad Shahid Parvez, the future of Sitar is still bright after Pandit Ravi Shankarji."

Shahidji has performed in all major musical festivals in India and abroad including the Festival of India held in the US, Europe, USSR, Canada, Africa, Middle-East and Australia, enthraling the audience everywhere. With numerous LP records, audio and video cassettes, CDs and DVDs, numerous awards and accolades, and a distinguished performance career in India and around the world, he is widely recognized as one of the finest living sitar players.

Ustad Shahid ji is recipient of numerous prestigious awards including Sangeet Natak Academy Award, Padma Shri, AIR - Top Grade artist, Sur Shringar, Kumar Gandharva Samman and M. L. Koser Award.

"To play with Shahidbhai, I have to think a lot. I have to be on my toes and concentrate constantly. Playing with him is never a casual affair. He plays very serious music."
Ustad Zakir Hussain commenting about accompanying Shahid ji.

Zakir Hussain is today appreciated both in the field of percussion and in the music world at large as an international phenomenon and one of the greatest musicians of our time.

A classical tabla virtuoso of the highest order, his consistently brilliant and exciting performances have established him as a national treasure in his own country, India, and as one of India's reigning cultural ambassadors. Along with his legendary father and teacher, Ustad Allarakha, he has elevated the status of his instrument both in India and around the world. His playing is marked by uncanny intuition and masterful improvisational dexterity, founded in formidable knowledge and study. Widely considered a chief architect of the contemporary world music movement,

Zakir's contribution to world music has been unique, with many historic collaborations, including Shakti, which he founded with John McLaughlin and L. Shankar. He has performed with the Diga Rhythm Band, Making Music, Planet Drum with Mickey Hart, Tabla Beat Science, Sangam with Charles Lloyd and Eric Harland, and recordings and performances with artists as diverse as George Harrison, YoYo Ma, Joe Henderson, Van Morrison, Air to Moreira, Pharoah Sanders, Billy Cobham, Mark Morris, Rennie Harris, and the Kodo drummers. His music and extraordinary contribution to the music world were honored in April 2009, with four widely heralded and sold-out concerts at Carnegie Hall's Artist Perspective series.

The recipient of countless honors, Zakir has received the titles of Padma Bhushan, in 2002, and Padma Shri, in 1988, becoming the youngest percussionist to be awarded these, given to civilians of merit, by the Indian government. In 1990, he was awarded the Indo-American Award in recognition for his outstanding cultural contribution to USA-India relations. In April 1991, he was presented with the Sangeet Natak Academy Award by the President of India, making him one of the youngest musicians to receive this recognition from India's governing cultural institute. In 2007, readers' polls from both Modern Drummer and Drum! Magazines named him Best World Music and Best World beat Drummer respectively. On February 8, 2009, Zakir received a Grammy in the Best Contemporary World Music category for Global Drum Project, his group with Mickey Hart, Giovanni Hidalgo, and Sikiru Adepoku. In addition, in 2009, Zakir was named a Member in the Order of Arts and Letters by France's Ministry of Culture and Communication for his extraordinary artistic and cultural contribution.

A child prodigy, Zakir was touring by the age of twelve. Zakir came to the United States in 1970, performing his first concert at the Fillmore East in New York City with Pandit Ravi Shankar, embarking on an illustrious international career. A prolific composer and recording artist, Zakir has received widespread recognition for his many ensembles and collaborations. In 1987, his first solo release, Making Music, was acclaimed as "one of the most inspired East-West fusion albums ever recorded." In 1992, Planet Drum, an album co-created and produced by Zakir and Mickey Hart, became the first recording to win a Grammy in the Best World Music category, the Downbeat Critics' Poll for Best World Beat Album and the NARM Indie Best Seller Award for World Music Recording. Zakir received the distinct honor of co-composing the opening music for the Summer Olympics in Atlanta, 1996.

"Classic Souls" is scheduled on August 25, 2012 at Orpheum Theatre, Phoenix downtown. For tickets and program information, please contact the concert organizers Mumbai Beats (Kiran or Sneha Dhole 480-726-9229), Valley Dreams (Dr. Kamaljeet Sachdeva 480-302-0300) Prakash Deshmukh (602-690-7301), and Neha/Aziz Mallik (623-451-9041).

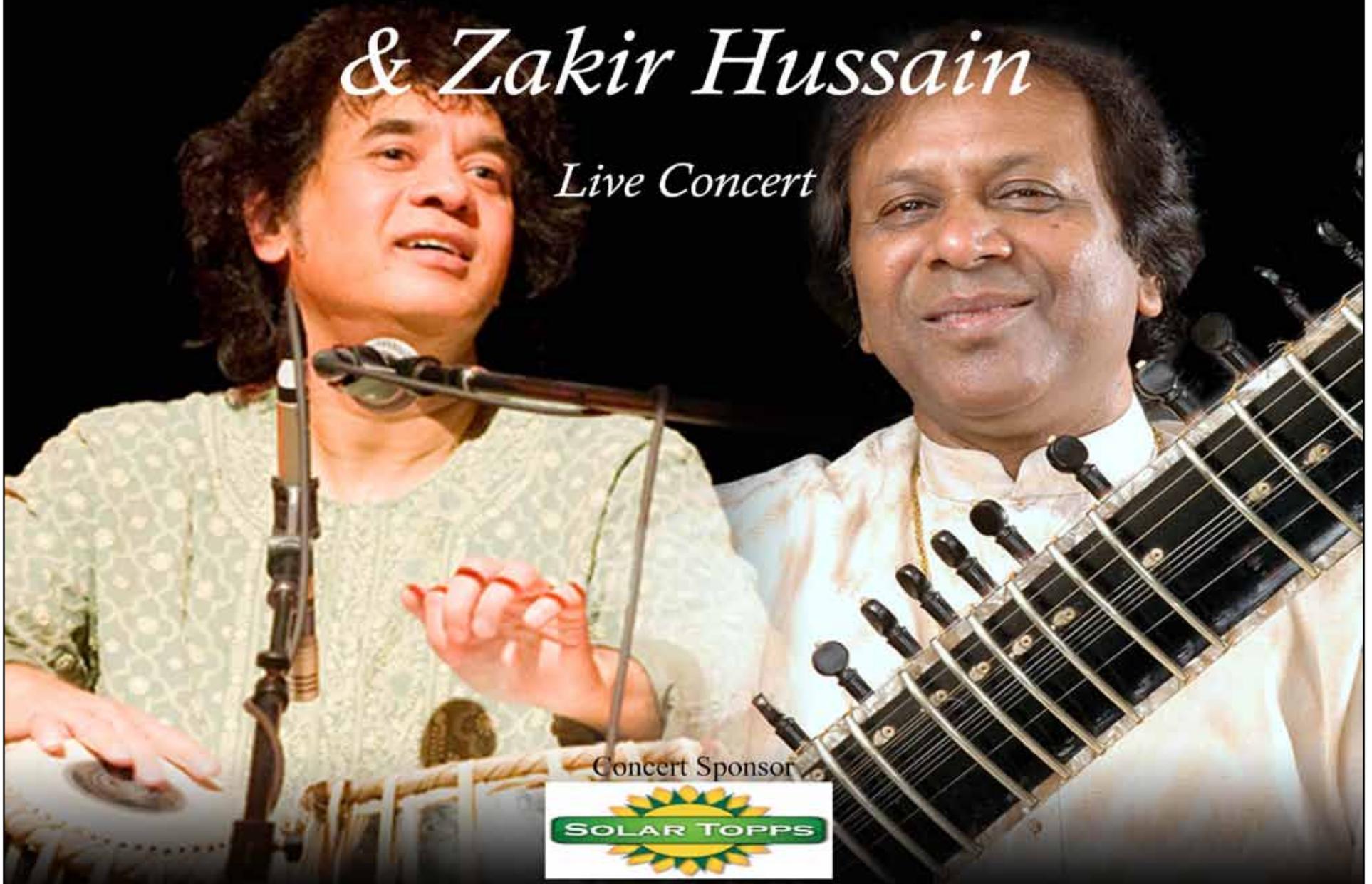


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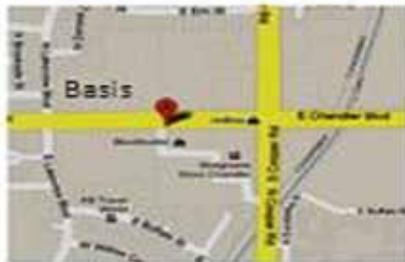


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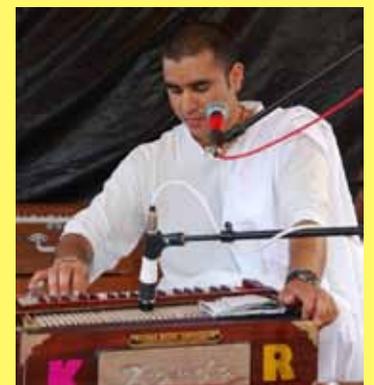
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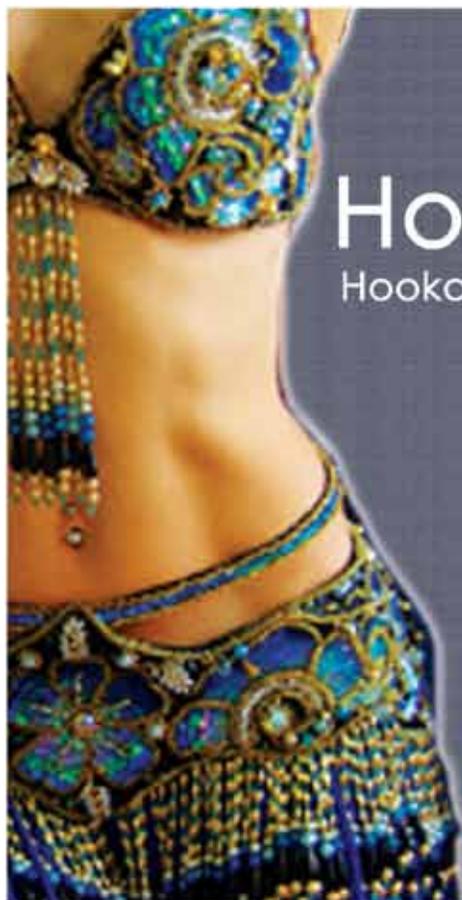
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On June 26, 2012, Jitubhai welcomed Fakirchandbhai and Manjuben. Fakirchandji addressed the group with a few words of advice. Announcement was made on the upcoming ISAA Anniversary Program on Sept 7th and the need for a commitment with a nominal charge of \$10 to ISAA members due to limited space availability. Volunteer help for various support committees was requested as the event represents the entire ISAA membership. The help is needed in- program, brochure, tickets, food, decoration, seating discipline, door prizes, photographs, sound and lighting, finance, and publicity/publications support committees.

A special presentation by Anseia Adina of Mac Cosmetics was made on Make-up art. Thanks to Deepika for arranging this unique demonstration which was a hit for the ladies paying full attention to optimize their beautification skills! The ISAA celebrated Deepika's birthday with a heartfelt presentation of a gift basket. The luncheon sponsored by Deepika was a special treat consisting- dahiwada, dahi-pudi, pulao, panipudi with spiced water, wadas with chhole, and fruit custard. The group also observed one minute silence paying tribute to Vijayben's father who passed away recently in Delhi

On July 03, 2012, ISAA congratulated Prakash and Vimal Gandhi for becoming grandparents. Everyone enjoyed the ice cream treat by them. Regular meeting got underway with salutation to the flag and pledge of allegiance led by Narayanbhai. Vijayben Tangri briefed all with her short battle with bureaucracy in India on behalf of her mother as she tries to face life on her own. One minute silence was observed to remember losses of Subhasbhai's brother-in-law and Maheshbhai Desai's son. A short prayer was offered by Narayanbhai for a quick recovery of Mannu Bajpai. Congratulations to Iqbalsingh and Surjit Kaur on their 50th wedding anniversary. Jitubhai made a PPT presentation reviewing ISAA Anniversary program. He encouraged involvement from the entire membership in planning, organizing, and execution of the event. The response has been positive. Prafulbhai and now Jayshreeben Kshatriya are coordinating "Dandia Raas" participation. On July 17th 2012, Jitubhai presented the estimated number of seats available (about 50 to 75) after accounting members, their families, children of performers and VIPs. No more than 250 seats will be allocated and no standing will be allowed. The interest by the younger generation has been fabulous. If anyone has any splendid item of significance for presentation then please come forward. Everyone is encouraged to actively participate and volunteer on any committee of their choice. An action has been taken by the ISAA to safeguard the yahooGroup e-mail process to avoid inappropriate mailing. If any member has something of importance for distribution to the general membership, please contact any member of the working committee. Shantadevi, Kiranben, Meenaben and Harpal Sharmaji presented a song of their choice. Vidyaben managed Sajju ka Chobara very well. The speakers included were- Vishnubhai, Ramanbhai, Gulabbhai and Amritbhai. Sewakbhai asked for suggestions for Diwali program later this year. Today's luncheon consisted - a variety of pizza and ice cream. The sponsors were Gulabbhai and Anuben Shah.

On July 24, 2012, the Group reviewed the September 7th ISAA Anniversary Program progress. VIP invitation cards are ready if someone needs to invite a potential supporter. We are still open for any interesting item that could put a spark for the Sept 7th program. Nilam & Biren contributed \$400 for a full page ad in the program brochure. Another anonymous donor gave \$200 towards the program.

Furthermore Dr. Rasikbhai read a Hindi poem about NRIs while Dr. Tangri entertained everyone with his wealth of Urdu collection. Jitubhai thanked Urvashiben for her charitable gift of \$301 to ISAA. Deepika and her long time friend Dr. Jyoti Sinha from Jaipur enjoyed the luncheon with nearly seventy members and guests. Dr. Jyoti was impressed with the seniors "togetherness" and was inspired to establish a similar association in Jaipur when she returns. Today's unusual luncheon of Subway sandwiches was sponsored by Shashikantbhai. Chum-chum mithai was the treat by Anil from India Palace. Ice cream was donated by Prakash Gandhi.



ISAA paying tribute to Vijayben's father who ISAA celebrated Deepika's birthday! recently passed away in India.



Jitubhai Amin assisting Chhotubhai in ISAA Anniversary Program collectopn



Ladies paying full attention to the Make-up Anniversary Program Demo.



Words of Wisdom by Fakirchand Dalal



Bhajan by Harpal Singh Sharmaji



Poorani Yande by Dr. Gulabbhai & Anuben



Old is Gold by Amrutkaka



Minna Sharma "Badhai ho Grandma - Kanwal"



Shashikantbhai welcoming Dr. Jyoti Sinha from Jaipur to ISAA center with medical school-mate Deepika

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Friday August 10th, 2012



- 7:30am Srila Prabhupada Guru Puja
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- 10:30am Kirtan
- 11:00am Vyasa Puja Offering & Class
- 12:00am Offering
- 12:30pm arati
- 1:00pm Maha Prasadam
- Evening Program 7:00pm to Midnight

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Darshan Arati 7:30am - 8:00am
Dhoop Arati 8:30am - 8:45am
Raj Bhog Arati 12:30pm - 1:00pm

Morning Darshan: 7:30am - 1:00pm
Dhoop Arati 4:30pm - 4:45pm

Sandhya Arati 7:00pm - 7:30pm
Evening Darshan 4:30pm - 8:00pm

SUNDAY FESTIVAL & LOVE FEAST: Purpose of Samskaras:

Gurupuja & Tulasi Arati 4:30pm - 5:00pm
Sandhya Arati 5:00pm - 5:45pm

Bhagavad-Gita Lecture 5:45pm - 6:25pm

Chanting Japa Hare Krishna Mantra 6:25pm - 6:35pm

Blessings & Prasadam 6:35pm - onwards

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Hidden Gems... Kamal Kharbanda

by Deepa Walia
July, 2012

As much as I enjoy finding a hidden gem to highlight in the community from our very own community members, this month a humble request from a beautiful young lady Allisha Kharbanda was so special and so sweet, it deserved the limelight this page offers. Allisha, who has grown up in Arizona, will shortly be moving to Boston and wanted to pay a tribute to her mom and share her mom's accomplishments and influence on her life with the community of Arizona. Only Allisha's very own words could do those sentiments justice so this month's regular Hidden Gems written by me is turned over to Allisha. Asia Today wishes her a bright and shining future ahead.

Kamal Kharbanda...My Angel Mother

By Allisha Kharbanda

For many of us, our first word we learn to say is simple yet means the world: "Mom". Just in a three letter word, we feel security, compassion, and strength. Mothers all over the world sacrifice their lives for their children, and never ask for anything in return, which is why they say a mother's love is the strongest. When I was sixteen years old, I was asked to write an essay on the most influential person in my life. As a single mother and successful business woman, I knew my mother would win this title, and I sat down to write my essay. For days I stared at the blank page, trying to find inspiration as to where I can begin to show my gratitude and appreciation for such a strong woman. How can any individual put into words their love, without compromising its integrity?

Ever since I wrote that essay, I knew I had to find more than one way to express how thankful I was to have her around. I began writing letters, making videos, creating scrapbooks, anything I could do to show her, but nothing ever felt enough. As a college graduate taking the next step in life (law school in Boston), I have spent the past few days looking back as to how I got here. Kamal Kharbanda, my mom, has always inspired me to work my hardest, do my best, and never settle for anything less. She provided the guidance and wisdom necessary to reach where I have today. While growing up, I always thought of my mom as the "most strict", and would get very frustrated when she would push me in the direction I thought to be boring and tiresome. However, as I look forward and see a treacherous and steep slope of law school ahead, I feel the support and love of my mom acting as a cushion for the fall.

Besides all work, my mom has provided me with laughter and gossip, just like my older sister. We joke with each other, and most of the time about each other, bringing tears and stomach aches because of laughing too hard. About two years ago, with a few family friends, we traveled to Snowbowl during the winter, as we do every year for our "Christmas Vacation". Besides being the center of the joke circle, my mom was the most brave, as she went sledding head first down the ski mountain (which most of the kids would not even attempt).

Like most daughters and mothers, my mom and I had our good times and our bad times. It is the good times I appreciate the most, and the bad times in which I have learnt the most. I appreciate every single one of those moments, and appreciate the "free advice" my mom still offers (even when I don't want it). As I take these next steps in my life, I look back on the years and realize how my mom not only has been my loving mother, but my best friend, father figure, counselor, motivator, older sister, and most importantly, my role model.

Mom, you have given me everything and never asked for anything in return. You are truly the best, greatest woman in this world and in my heart. I am happy to have you by my side to take care of me, protect me, and give me your love. I can't wait till the day that I become a successful lawyer in life and provide you with the same and more love, protection, and riches in life.

"All that I am, or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother"- Abraham Lincoln



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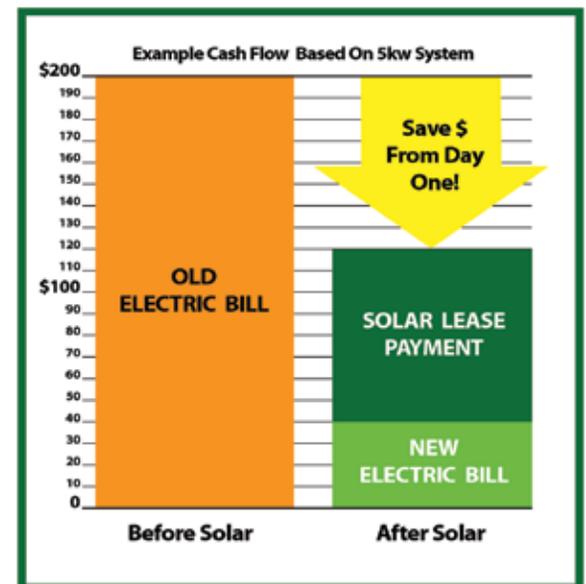
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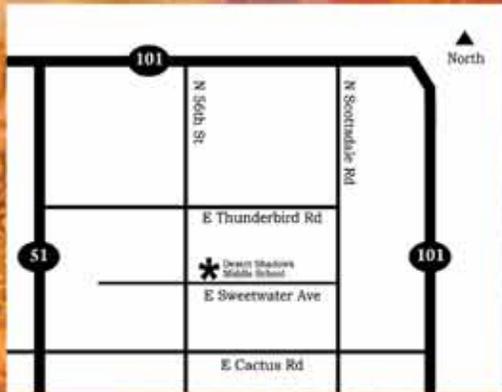
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Chettinaad cuisine is the cuisine of the Chettinaad region of Tamil Nadu state in South India. Chettinaad cuisine is one of the spiciest and the most aromatic in India. Chettinaad cuisine is famous for its use of a variety of spices used in preparing mainly non-vegetarian food. The dishes are hot and pungent with fresh ground masalas. Most of the dishes are eaten with rice and rice based accompaniments such as dosais, appams, idiyappams, adais and idli. Chettinaad cuisine offers a variety of vegetarian and non-vegetarian dishes. In Chettinaad food, the most important spices are maratti mokku (dried flower pods), anasipoo (star aniseed) and kalpasi (a lichen known as the "black stone flower", also known as dagad phool). In addition, tamarind, whole red chillies, and sombu (fennel seed) are also used along with pattai (cinnamon), lavangam (cloves), bay leaf, karu miLagu (peppercorn), jeeragam (cumin seeds), and venthayam (also called mendhiyam or fenugreek). Chettinaad is known for its culinary delicacies. Chettinaad food now is one of the many reasons why people visit Chettinaad. Chettinaad food is essentially spicy, with a standard full meal consisting of cooked lentils, Brinjal curry, drumstick sambar, ghee for flavouring rice, and sweet meats like payasam and paal paniyaram. Kara kolambu is a highly regarded south Indian sambar.

Atharva's Corner

The Grass is Just as Green as it Needs to be

This past month in India, I've come to truly understand the expression "the grass is always greener on the other side." Many individuals here are under the pretense that the United States involves a greater standard of living, greater wealth, and in essence, greater opportunity. In many cases, this is true. However, in other cases, life in the United States is relatively isolated in comparison to that in India. That which had once distinguished the United States from India is now a common ground for both countries. Yet as globalization takes over our world, the question that came to my mind is: "what will remain unique when every commodity becomes readily available?"

Take the economy for example. When I visited five years ago, the dollar was worth 45 rupees. During my visit, the value had depreciated to 55 rupees per dollar. This could be caused by an increased money supply or increased money in circulation. Possible reasons are plentiful, as this decrease in value could be caused by increasing exports bringing in more income, forged notes increasing the money in circulation, or a decreased demand of Indian currency. Regardless of the reason, one of the things that stands true is that the Rupee



is valued in India greater than the Dollar is valued in the United States. You are able to purchase the same item for far less in terms of converting the Rupee amount back into the Dollar, suggesting that commodities are cheaper in general.

Yet, if you ask someone in India, you'll realize that what we may find as being "cheaper" is actually a significant price. This demonstrates the idea that the Rupee is a greater value in India than the conversion value between Rupee and Dollar. This sug-

gests that one stands to benefit from moving to India from the United States. But at what cost? The standard of living in India is not up to par with the in the United States, culture is a drastic change, sanitary conditions are often lacking, regulations are lax, and corruption in the government is a much hot topic. And suppose one migrates the opposite direction, with the US being the destination? At the expense of a dramatically changed culture and relatively expensive commodity basket, one would notice a greater standard of living, better access to healthcare, and perhaps even greater opportunity

And then again, does the standard of living need to reflect a lavish lifestyle where each house has multiple television sets, each family owns two or more cars, and each person has a cell phone? Probably not. So does a higher standard of living really reflect how well a person's living necessities are provided? It's interesting to think about, because it adds another variable to the equation: necessity. Some cultures, such as many of those found in eastern and southern Asia as well as many parts of Africa, function on a subsistence farming system in which a family



grows only crops to feed itself with little desire for the luxuries such as television sets. In this instance, the grass needs to only be as green so as to support the basic necessities of the party in considerations.

In summary, one must decide for themselves whether the grass is greener on the other side, or if the grass is as green as it needs to be. In Anandwan, a village devoted to the empowerment and education of leprosy ridden patients and those inflicted with blindness, deafness, or the inability to talk.

This village serves as a prime example of how the grass is simply as green as it needs to be. All the things we would consider as necessities are regarded as luxuries that were previously unavailable to the residents. Thus, when put in perspective, the grass is either greener elsewhere, or just green enough.

- Atharva Kiran Dhole

Water is Life

Hey everyone! Oh my goodness. Guys, it is already August! Already the start of the new school year! Summer vacation just flew by, did it not? My mind is blown on how quickly this year is going by. Okay, so this month I am going to talk to you about a non-profit organization called WaterisLife! I remember talking to you guys about this organization a while ago, maybe a few months back, but I just felt like I should refresh your memory on this wonderful opportunity and experience that I am going to be living, coming up in a couple of months! So here is how it started: 2 years ago, the Phoenix Office for this organization met with me to ask if I would be interested to do such an amazing thing! Obviously, I agreed, and I got to work right away! This organization is very life changing and eye

opening! I am extremely proud to be apart of this wonderful cause and feel very great to be changing the world.

WaterisLife is an organization that provides straw filters to third world countries around the world in need of clean water. You see, there are 1.8 billion people that die everyday due to waterborne diseases like typhoid, diarrhea, etc. The WaterisLife teams just came back from Haiti to deliver the filters and next are going to Africa. Travelling from country to country, continent to continent, across the globe just shows how much dedication and confidence this organization brings to the WaterisLife team. SO, let



me tell you more about the actual straw filter; this straw has three filtrations within it that clean and purify the water as it flows through. Each straw works for one year and is only ten dollars! I am currently raising money for our India project (which, by the way is going fantastic, I am so excited!). In December, I am going to India to go deliver these filters to children in different schools that need clean water in their systems. When I am there, we will also be giving the kids hygiene lessons and holding clinics to teach the children about cleanliness and sanitation. I can not wait to go help the children in India and see their

bright faces come to life!

So far, I have raised over \$3,500, which is more than 350 filters! I also had a WaterisLife assembly in my school a couple of years ago to explain to them what WaterisLife is all about. In there, a couple of my fellow student council members and I drank dirty turtle water out of the tank with the turtle in it with the straw! It sounds gross, but with the straw, it tasted just like clean tap water! I love involving everyone, like you, to do this project with me, and make the children healthy and blissful! To give a child a straw, which will give them clean drinking water to live for a whole year, all you have to do is donate \$10 to this spectacular organization! Thank you so much!



- Sanam Mallik



108

SHRIMAD BHAGAVAT POTHI PUJAN

BHARATIYA EKTA MANDIR OF ARIZONA

All are notified that this month is Purushottam Maas, that comes in 3 years. Purushottam Maas is embodiment of God, just as Shrimad Bhagavat is.

In Arizona for the first time, Ekta Mandir is conducting 108 Bhagavat Pothi Puja and Katha from Saturday August 18 to 25th. During these 8 days, Shrimad Bhagavat Pothi puja, Path and Katha will take place culminating in Poorna Ahooti on August 25th and Bhagavat Pustak will be presented to sponsors.

Bhagavat Puja will be done by Pandit Varadragan (Ekta Mandir Priest) Katha Pravachan and Bhagavat Path will be performed by Pandit Hari Prasad Joshi (Ekta Mandir Priest).

Sangeet and Bhajan during the Katha will be performed by Shrimati Harsha Joshi (wife of Pandit Hariparsad Joshi), Sangeet Vishavad, Radio, TV artist Shrimati and Shri Joshi have performed Katha and Bhajans in 27 countries around the world.



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KATHA
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PM

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KATHA
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Archana: \$11, Abhishek: \$21, Both: \$31

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Program

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7:30am-8:00am Mangal Aarti

8:00am-11:00am Pooja, Abhishekam, Archana

11:00am-11:30am Rajbhog and Rajbhog Aarti

11:30am-5:00pm Pooja and Archana for Devotees

4:00pm-6:00pm Bhajans by Phoenix Mahila Mandal

5:00pm-11:00pm Abhishekam by Devotees

(puja plate and milk will be provided)

6:00pm-8:00pm Maha Prasad @ Community Center

7:00pm-7:30pm Cultural program -Children's Dance

7:30pm-8:00pm Fancy Dress Competition for
Children 3-12 yrs old!

8:00pm-9:00pm H.H. Swami Chidanand Saraswati

(Pujya Muniji) - Discourse on Janmashtami Significance

9:00pm-9:30pm Bhajans by Harsha Joshi

9:30pm-11:30pm Bhajans by Jalaram Bhajan Mandal

11:30pm-12:00am Dhun by Harsha Joshi, Panchamruta

Abhishek, Shringar, Janma pooja, Aarti followed by Dar-
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Bhagubhai Patel 602 524 9658, Jagdish Sagar 480 768 1533

Sri Krishna Janmashtami

Sri Krishna Janmashtami celebrates the birthday of Lord Krishna. Special poojas and rituals are also held at midnight – the time of Krishna's birth. Processions with tabloids depicting various episodes from the life of Shri Krishna enacted by children are a major highlight of the festival. A twenty-four hour fast is observed on Sri Krishna Jayanti and this is broken at midnight. The most important mantra recited on the day is 'Om Namo Bhagavate Vasudevaya.' Temples conduct special bhajans and kirtan sessions. Processions with children dressed as Sri Krishna, Radha and Gopis are held on the occasion. Stories of Krishna are enacted on the day. The significance of Sri Krishna is that he used his life to explain to us the great teachings in Upanishads.

Physical Location: 2804 & 2809 W. Maryland Ave. Phoenix AZ 85017
Directions: Take I-17, Exit Bethany Home West, Right on 27th Ave, Left on Maryland Ave.
WWW.EKTAMANDIR.ORG

A Unique Kirtan Darbar in Memory of a Unique Person: Principal Gyani Dyal Singh Ji



**Dr. Jaswant Singh Sachdev
Phoenix, Arizona**

The evening of Saturday, July the 28th, 2012, was one of the rarest evenings in local Sikh community's history when all five Raagi Jethas from the local Gurudwaras assembled together and rendered melodious Kirtan in memory of Principal Gyani Dyal Singh Ji who left for heavenly abode on Feb 27th 2012. He was one of the rarest gems of Gurmat Sangeet who taught this art to his students, turning them into world class professional Raagis of classical Gurmat Sangeet. And he did this Seva after he assumed the office of Principal Gurmat Sangeet Vidyalya, physically located at Gurudwara Sahib, Raquab Ganj, New Delhi. Several Sikh Classical Singers and intellectuals had gathered in Feb of 1967

at the Antim Ardas for Gyani Hardit Singh Ji, the founder Principal who had earlier started this August institute in 1930 in the premises of Gurudwara Sahib Raquab Ganj. All of them unanimously and collectively selected Gyani Dyal Singh as the next Principal who then served at this position for the next 45 years with great distinction turning it into a world class institute until he left for his heavenly abode this February.

Born in 1935 in a small village of UP in Meerut district in 1935, Principal Dyal Singh joined this school in 1946 at the age of 11 as a student of Gyani Hardit Singh Ji learning various musical instruments including string instruments, especially Dilruba. He joined Raagi Jetha of Bhai Samund Singh Ji, one of the finest Raagis of Sikh Panth in yes-

teryears and played Dilruba between 1959 through 1964 at Sri Harmandir Sahib as part of Hazoori Raagi Jetha. In between he helped Gyani Gyan Singh Ji of Abbotabad in writing Gurmat sangeet in notational form for his book that was published in 1961. A second book was then produced in 1965 by Gyani Gyan Singh with Bhai Dyal Singh Ji's help.

During the time he was Principal till the day he passed away i.e. 1967 through 2012, he trained Raagis in hundreds, picking poor children from weak segments of population from Uttrakhand, U.P. and Rajasthan. With his training, he turned them into professional Raagis of highest cadre so that they could go out in the world and spread the message of Sikh Gurus through Gurbani Kirtan. In the process, he brought many

poor families of that region under the fold of Sikh faith, enriching them financially, socially and spiritually. Go to any county of the world where there are Sikh Gurudwaras and chances are that you may find a Raagi jetha trained by him. Gyani Ji wrote "Gurmat Sangeet Sagar" in four volumes as well as ancient shabad reets, Partals, Dhru-pads and Guldastas. A book on Table instruction titled "Table Mridang Sagar", as well as an annotated Asa Di Var, set to multiple Ragas has also been published by him.

To pay respect to his soul, five Raagi jethas i.e. Bhai Gyan Singh Ji of Nishkam Seva, Gurudwara Sahib (students of Bhai Dyal Singh Ji), Raagi Jetha Bhai Meg Singh Ji of the same Gurudwara Sahib, Raagi Jetha Bhai Sampooran Singh Ji of Arizona

Sikh Gurudwara Sahib, Raagi Jetha Bhai Manjeet Singh Ji, a local Raagi Jetha and Raagi Jetha Bhai Surinder Singh Ji of Guru Nanak Dwara Sahib (students of Bhai Dyal Singh Ji), all took part. With their melodious Kirtan in Raag Malaar (miraculously it was raining outside), they mesmerized the entire Sangat present in several hundreds taking all the attendees to the next level of consciousness. A five minutes talk on the life of Principal Dyal Singh by Dr. Sachdev was also included in the program to inform the Sangat members about this man extraordinary'.

The program finished about 9:15 P.M. followed by hot freshly prepared sumptuous Langar, available free and in plenty. We pray that his soul may rest in peace at the feet of Almighty.

DON'T STOP DREAMING! OBAMA ADMINISTRATION AND SUPREME COURT TAKE SMALL STEPS IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

On June 15, the Obama administration announced that the Department of Homeland Security would grant relief from removal to certain young immigrants who entered the United States as children. Less than two weeks later, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the majority of Arizona's (in) famous Senate Bill 1070. Although these were both steps in the right direction, the need for Congress to introduce comprehensive immigration reform remains critical.

Deferred Action Policy for DREAM-Eligible Youth

The Federal Government's decision to grant temporary immigration benefits to certain young people through deferred action is fundamentally grounded in a need to enforce our country's immigration laws in a sensible manner. Effective immediately, individuals who meet the criteria outlined below will therefore be considered for relief from removal and from entering into removal proceedings for a period of two years,

subject to renewal. Eligible individuals will also be able to apply for work authorization. In order to be eligible, the individual must have:

1. Come to the United States under the age of sixteen;
2. Continuously resided in the United States for at least five years preceding June 15, 2012, and been present in the United States on June 15, 2012;
3. Graduated from high school, obtained a general education development certificate, currently be in school, or been honorably discharged from the Coast Guard or Armed Forces of the United States;
4. Not been convicted of a felony offense, a significant misdemeanor offense, multiple misdemeanor offenses, or otherwise pose a threat to national security or public safety; and
5. Not yet turned thirty years of age.

Applications for deferred action and related work authorization will not be accepted until the USCIS establishes appli-

cation requirements and filing fees, which is supposed to happen within by August 15. With only a few weeks to go, now is time to inform friends and family who may be eligible and begin to prepare supporting documents.

Be advised, however, that the temporary benefits granted through deferred action do not provide a path to permanent residency or citizenship. Also, the process of applying is not risk-free. Every applicant must undergo an extensive background check and volunteer information that may place them or their family at substantial risk should this policy change in the future, for example if a new President is elected this fall. Potential dreamers are highly encouraged to use established non-profit legal services and licensed pro-bono attorneys to obtain the most accurate and current information on application procedures the related risks.

U.S. Supreme Court Rule on Arizona SB1070

On June 25, the Supreme

Court issued its long-awaited ruling on the constitutionality of SB1070 in Arizona v. United States. The Court struck down every provision of Arizona's aggressive immigration law except for §2(B), which requires police officers conducting a stop, detention, or arrest to make an effort to verify an individual's immigration status if they have reasonable suspicion to believe that the individual is unlawfully present in the United States.

Still, §2(B) remains open to challenges based on certain preemption and constitutional grounds that were not raised during arguments in this case. More specifically, the interpretation and application of this section should be further litigated based on ethnic and racial profiling claims. The Court also warned that detaining individuals for long periods of time solely to verify their immigration status may open the door for further legal challenges.

The Court's decision serves to confirm that the power to regulate immigration and

to enforce applicable laws rests exclusively with federal authorities. In other words, it is impermissible for states such as Arizona to create their own immigration laws and to penalize foreign nationals due to lack of immigration status.

To conclude, it seems fair to say that the recent steps taken by our Supreme Court and the Department of Homeland Security are in the right direction, though they are by no means sufficiently comprehensive to address our country's broken immigration laws.

* For questions about SB1070 or the new Deferred Action policy for dreamers, please contact Elizabeth Chatham at (480) 344-4056 or echatham@davismls.com. Ms. Chatham is a partner at Davis Miles McGuire Gardner, PLLC, practicing exclusively in the area of immigration and nationality law. Ms. Chatham has broad experience representing private employers, nonprofits, families, and individuals in complex immigration matters.

Ownership of Domestic Servants

Once upon a time a Russian, born and raised in Russia where existence of God is often denied, happened to visit India for the first time. He was perplexed by what he saw. Watching all the haphazardness in every facet of the daily Indian life, he simply couldn't figure out how exactly India keeps going amidst all the chaos.

After being in India for a few days, he emphatically mentioned to his hosts about his desire to change his long-held belief about the non-existence of God. He stated, "We, the citizens of communist Russia must have been wrong all along about such a belief. Isn't it amazing that no efforts are being spared by your politicians and ordinary people in ripping their own country apart and letting it go down the drain, yet life in India moves haltingly forward? Such a system should have completely torn apart India's political and social fabric long ago. I am convinced that some occult higher power – a so-called God -- must be standing guard in order to keep India on track, protecting it from itself and all the evil that you people are incessantly unleashing on your motherland." What a truth!

Given a close scrutiny, it seems that we have been a failure in carrying out our duties according to the age-old spiritual wisdom imparted to us by our ancestors, seers, and sages. Looking into any aspect of modern life, one finds abundant examples of a twisted sense of truthful living. We have lost the essential ingredients of a morally-correct life. We have forgotten or ignored the ideals of honest work that ensures a comfortable yet simple life that maintains a concern about the needs of others. We are living our lives in such a selfish manner that most of our efforts involve finding ways to avoid hard and honest work.

Taking advantage of the labor of the others, through means that might not be ethical, is a norm. We take pride in actions that could be considered clearly wrong, both spiritually and socially, especially if understood from the viewpoints of people belonging to non-Indian cultures. Yet we do not care what others think and simply keep on moving in a direction that lets our country and culture go down the drain.

This write up focuses on just one aspect of our lost ideals: the apparent necessity of having what an Indian back home would often perceive as 'ownership' of domestic servants.

Our ancestors often tried to

announce their elevated social status through ownership of the heads of cattle. Nowadays the presence of household servants among some middle class Indians is considered an enhancement of their social status in the eyes of relatives and friends. Oftentimes it might not be based on a true need. This phenomenon among middle class Indians has become contagious and indeed a true menace. By having servants around, we only emphasize and exaggerate our laziness in most of the circumstances.

During one of our visits to India, my wife and I were invited to lunch at the house of a relative. A refrigerator containing cold bottles of water was located a couple of feet away from where the host's wife was sitting at the dining table. A young Nepalese boy named Bahadur (a common name amongst many Nepalese), not more than twelve years of age, was employed as a domestic servant in the household of our hosts. He was working in the kitchen that was at least fifty feet away, if not more, from the dining table. The lady of the house wanted to offer water to us, so she started shouting aloud, "Bahadur! Arey! Fridge se thunda paani laauo, thunda," or "Bahadur! Come and fetch cold water bottles from the refrigerator and serve." We felt embarrassed, as it was totally unfair to bother a person, even if that happens to be a servant, at fifty or sixty feet when what we needed was easily approachable by the lady of the house without even getting up from her chair. My wife stood up and tried to extend her arm to take a bottle from the refrigerator. The lady of the house said, "Sister! This is not your job. We have a servant at our house. Let him take care of it."

It was all too obvious that such an attitude on our hostess's part was simply an indirect attempt to inform us that she was not only in a position to own a servant, but she indeed had one. At this point, I started mentioning the advantages of indulging oneself in the minor physical chores of the house. By avoiding dependence upon the servants, she was informed, she could control her weight, which was somewhat generous to begin with, and also help lower her blood pressure, for which she was under a doctor's care. During my later visit with the same family some years later, it was all too obvious that my unsolicited medical advice had fallen upon deaf ears, for the lady of the house appeared to have

doubled her size. It must be said that the lady's health appeared to have declined further, so much so that she truly needed domestic help now. Too much dependence, even for routine domestic chores, might have played a role here in part.

There is a need to emphasize that as a community, we often try to ignore or even degrade the people belonging to lower socio-economical strata. We perceive ownership of domestic servants to be a privilege while ignoring the underlying reality that it is neither worthy of pride nor healthy. At times, the household servants are underage boys and girls, sometimes even younger than 12 years of age, and invariably belonging to the poorest of the poor families of Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar or Nepal.

They arrive to work at the homes of their masters at an age when they have barely opened their eyes to the complexities of the world. Like little birds they are made to fly away from the nests of their families often against their will. And like little helpless animals, they are put to work from sunrise to sunset, and often later. They end up existing in this cruel world at the mercy of their masters who, instead of being shameful for their behaviors, display pride in owning them outright and in using them for all of their household chores.

Many times they are made to survive on the leftover food from the plates of their owners. They are usually relegated to exist in a remote nook of the backyard of the house in a makeshift hut that is proudly labeled as the servant's quarter. They are asked to dress with the used clothing of the family members. They are often "on the job" twenty-four hours a day, every day of the week. The impression is often projected that these little child-slaves have been bought outright and are somehow the "children of a lesser God."

We boast of having many laws on the books against the exploitation of the helpless and the poor, yet we end up ignoring the plight of these poor young children-turned-servants. The books in which these laws were written keep on collecting dust somewhere on the shelves of bureaucracy.

Another strange perspective from an entirely different angle was brought forth during my discussion with that family. The hostess happened to mention in passing that by providing a job to the domestic servant, she was



Dr. Jaswant Singh
Sachdev, MD*
Phoenix, Arizona

not merely helping herself, but also doing a favor to the poverty-stricken family of little 'Bahadur.' She did seem to have a point, but to me it only made sense if a child was of a legal working age and was treated in a humane way without any exploitation. But this is often not the case.

Understanding valuable and morally correct customs of Western culture can provide us with an opportunity to recognize the anomalies in our culture that may need to be highlighted and explained to our near and dear ones when we find an occasion to do so. In this way, the values and dignity of self-help can be reinforced and perhaps headway can be made with a possibility of causing a dent in the age-old, yet not-so-ethical labor practices. Only through personal contacts on one to one basis, can one make inroads into such style of living and thwart the progression of this unfortunate menace. However, this is not to say that each and every cultural aspect of the West is above board and needs to be followed blindly.

Creating laws that require and force keepers of domestic servants to arrange and support part-time schooling of their wards, in addition to looking after their health and other needs, will be a step in the right direction. The establishment of child protective agencies, if not established already, would keep a watch upon those who try to infringe upon human rights of the children. It will assist and protect many helpless children from being exploited while letting those concerned with their status have their desires fulfilled, but this time through honest and lawful means.

*Author of 1. "Square Pegs, Round Holes" www.SquarePegsRoundHolesBook.com and 2. "Sikhism: Points to Ponder; Perspectives of a Sikh Living Abroad," as well as a recently published masterpiece about the cross-cultural dilemma of Indian subcontinent diaspora, 3. "One Coin, Two Sides," For details of the this new book, please go to the LINK <http://inkwellproductions.com/one-coin-two-sides.htm>

Insightful Motivation Enjoying Education Racing to the Top

In every field of work there is a positive thrust and commitment taking place for people to improve and enjoy what it is they do. The words unique and innovative are being connected with insightful motivation causing an environment for astonishing results. Whether it's in the world of work or the world of education the sun is becoming brighter and brighter making it not only easier but simple to become a winner. No time is allowed that's not enlightening and encouraging. Teachers teaching each other while parents make it their business to master skills and techniques enabling them to be eager to assist their children with their afterschool assignments.

When we think about the essentials of our educational system around the country the idea of racing to the top is beyond just a dream. Teachers understand what it means to enjoy teaching while students enjoy learning. They've studied the situation well enough to engage the whole child regardless of his or her life experiences. It's called learning made fun with assignments getting done. The joy of music, poetry, drama, along with creative writing and speaking. It's an environment where students are found saying kind and pleasant things about each other. No child bullying another child. The feeling of worthiness

is at an all time high! Insightful motivation is being used openly to uplift the spirit of every child. You can hear the future leaders of our society saying: "Beautiful, I knew you could do it. Now let's turn to the next page and use the same approach with spelling and language production. By the way you just earned another five (5) hundred points. Your parents are going to be very excited when you show them you have mastered the process. Since you've been so successful, I want you, Robert, to sit here in the Kings Chair and continue your penmanship or legible writing. Suzie, you sit here in the Queens Chair and continue your story concerning the value of productive behavior."

Teachers and parents learn how to reward rather than punish or demean students. Again, it's called Insightful Motivation Enjoying Education...Racing to the Top.

This is what goes on, in and after school settings for both parents and students who are taught how to learn and enjoy academic and social excellence. In the Creative Reaching Teaching Motivational tutoring sessions, everyone involved becomes what we call Hall of Fame learners: Not Hall of Shame, but Hall of Fame. The student praise and reward system is constantly in effect. Once learning two educational raps with instrumental

music, their picture is taken and given to them in color with the words Modern Day Achiever in the World of Champion Education. It's about building pride and human worthiness. It's about building confidence while removing doubt and fear. They learn to say with conviction I will and I must because I have what it takes.

Each student is taught the science of taking words apart and putting them back together. They become scientists and surgeons of vocabulary. Parents are permitted to observe as often as they would like and given the opportunity to ask questions. They are also permitted and seen teaching what they learn to their children and vice versa. It's a whole family approach towards learning.

When visiting school to offer assembly and classroom motivation, a strong and positive song is made available in education rap form. Again – it's about building morale. Poetry such as Poor Link Refused To Think is turned into a play or role playing. Other words, emphasis are on the importance of thinking with high expectation as the core foundation. It's called keeping the batteries from dying. What others call failure is treated as an opportunity or message to improve and continue to practice. Insightful motivation is about confront-

ing challenge with balance and optimistic vision. Students are taught to engage endurance, sacrifice and determination. They understand the marriage between the words effort and results. They understand that you can rearrange the letters in the word MIRACLE and end up with the word RECLAIM. They learn that when rearranging the letters in the word LISTEN we discover the word SILENT. Other words, they actually witness what insightful motivation is all about.

I can remember a student in high school after hearing me speak saying 'you have skill.' Another stated; 'thank you for teaching me.' Students and parents don't hesitate to let it be known that you not only know how to reach them, but teach them as well.

In conclusion, the message I want to leave you with from this article is the importance of everyone pulling together in support of each other. Academic and social collaboration is among the essential priorities in racing to the top while refusing to stop. The students seen in this article are among many who have benefited and were able to share some of their astonishing achievements with our present Mayor, Greg Stanton. The Mayor was more than amazed and inspired when observing them put words together and take



For comments or concerns, contact: Habibullah Saleem at hscrta@aol.com www.futureimpact.weebly.com

By Habibullah Saleem

them apart. They pronounced advanced words for their grade level and recited meaningful poetry with projection and impact. To witness for yourself, call and make an appointment to have me visit your school or afterschool program. With so many students thinking of themselves as a failure, we now have the opportunity to strongly minimize such unacceptable behavior.

By the way, the parent and grand parent of Kenneth and Joshua remain most appreciative of the Mayor and his positive message he shared at the time concerning the benefits of sound communication. He spoke knowing that he has an obligation to assist wherever possible to build educational bridges that will be sufficient for all students to race to the top with insightful motivation in full gear. Now is the time!

This is a journey of the breath. Life begins with the first breath and ends with the last breath. As a human, when we are born, we have no memory where we came from or why we are the supreme creature in the creation. This is a mystery and virtue from our previous life. In other words, the result of our previous karma. What you sow, it will grow. Remember, every journey has a destination and different requirements along the way. When we are less than a year old we need milk, love and grace. After that our mind starts to recognize different colors, shapes and language of the parents. The environment of the house and behavior of the family starts to affect the mind of the child. This is the beginning development of human thoughts. As parents, it's in our hands to lay the foundation for the future of our children. Remember, our children are the future of our coun-

Life Is A Journey

try and global stability. They will grow in the direction which we give them. If they spend hours watching violence, sex and criminal activity on the screen daily during their formative years; this influence will be a permanent part of their life. As a parent, please take the responsibility to give them the proper direction for their future in order to become gentle humans, well-educated and familiar with the natural way of life.

This universe is a house of Mother Nature and a wealth of Divine Father. We are not here forever because it is a journey. Every breath is a forward step to the destination of the last breath. When we visit a funeral, for a moment we think; what has happened with this person? We don't realize this is going to happen to us at any time. Under the influence of the five passions, our

mind is never ready to accept the fact; this is a journey. Please don't spend any breath in this doubt. We are just visitors here.

As a traveler, when we suffer on the way, then we realize what mistake we made in the journey's preparation. Remember, what we have in this life, we earned in a previous life. Good or bad, suffering or sorrow, happiness or joy, kind or cruel, poor or rich, egotistic or gentle, cool or angry, religious or atheist, violent or peaceful; these are all beautiful gifts we brought with us from our previous birth. As a human, please don't repeat these mistakes again. If we don't realize our mistakes now, we will suffer all the more in our next journey. The next journey will start after the last breath of this life. Prepare carefully for the next journey. No one

else will cover for your mistakes or greet you at the end of the tunnel. Only your good deeds will guide you along the path.

A little advice at the end of this article. As a human being, serve the whole creation without discrimination because we all share the same soul. We are all children of Mother Nature and the Divine Father, Supreme Creator of the Universe. Believe in one God, reality of the truth. Meditate and pray every day for Divine guidance. In this way we will see a glimpse of Divine light, without physical eyes, before the last breath. This will show you the path of your next journey.



Thank you
-Harbhajan Singh Sandhu.

KAL SARPA YOGA – Effects on Happy married Life

Rahu and Ketu are known as shadow planets. Rahu acts as Saturn and Ketu acts as Mars. Rahu gives very good results when under good influence. Ketu is as fearful as Mars but if it is in good house and the planet conjoining it is also beneficial, it gives an excellent result.

Western Astrology has named Rahu and Ketu as Dragons. Rahu is the Dragon's head and Ketu as Dragon's tail. Rahu indicates the current activities of the human being and Ketu indicates the traits acquired during the past lives. They always occupy opposite houses on the charts. Rahu and Ketu have been jointly assigned a yoga called "KalSarpa Yoga". Not only the Indian Astrologers even the western astrologers have recognized the impact of this yoga on one's married life.

This yoga is formed when the seven planets Sun, Moon, Mars, Mercury, Jupiter, Venus and Saturn are placed within the orbit of Rahu and Ketu – within the arc formed by them.

Rahu being at the upper end of the planets and Ketu at the lower end.

There is no planet outside the arc. In all there can be six, combination as follows:

1. Rahu is in 1st, Ketu is in 7th: When it happens, there is marital discord, Unhappiness, loss of spirituality.

2. Rahu is in 2nd, Ketu is in 8th: It is bad for finances, loss of ancestral wealth and gives bad health.

3. Rahu is in 3rd, Ketu is in 9th: One wastes energy in unpopular activities. Brothers and sisters may cause great trouble in such cases.

4. Rahu is in 4th and Ketu is in 10th: It gives disappointments in respect of all types of family affairs and unhappiness.

5. Rahu is in 5th and Ketu is in 11th: Friends will betray causing great losses and loss of child.

6. Rahu is in 6th and Ketu is in 12th: It gives imprisonment, secret enemies, bad health and severe diseases.

If any one of the 7 planets is outside the orbit of Rahu and Ketu, then no KalSarpayoga is formed. Western Astrologers says if Uranus and Neptune or Pluto are outside the circle of Rahu and Ketu no Kal Sarpa Yoga is caused but most of the Indian Astrologers do not agree with them. Generally a question is raised whether Kal Sarpa Yoga remain operative throughout the life. The answer is big NO. It remains operative up to a specific period as follows:

Position of Rahu-Ketu Kal Sarpa Yoga Operative up to

1st and 7th house Up to 27 years of age

2nd and 8th house Up to 33 years of age

3rd and 9th house Up to 36 years of age

4th and 10th house Up to 42 years of age

5th and 11th house Up to 48 years of age

6th and 12th house Up to 54 years of age

"Kal Sarpa Yoga" gives malefic effects during their periods and inter-periods. It also gives more malefic effects when they transit 1st, 5th and 9th house from themselves, from Saturn and other malefic planets. It has been keenly observed that Kal Sarpa Yoga gives indirect beneficial effects as follows:

a) It turns the native to become pious and hard work.

b) It eliminates any malefic operations of planets in the chart.

c) It compels the planets to conjunct between

themselves and has exchanges between RAJA-YOGAS. These yogas cannot be destroyed by Rahu and Ketu.

d) It gives great malefic result if Rahu has beneficial relation with Jupiter or Moon.

e) When Jupiter is retrograde in the chart but have greater longitude than Rahu. Rahu becomes extremely beneficial and beneficial results are delivered by Rahu.

It has been observed that many heads of state – Presidents, Prime Ministers have Kal Sarpa Yoga. Most of the successful people in politics, business, industry, profession and religion have "Kal Sarpa Yoga". At the same time, numerous poor and humble people who have Kal Sarpa Yoga in their chart have not achieved greatness and neither held high and prominent positions but have suffered a lot. It causes sufferings to honest, pure, hardworking, sincere and simple people. It reduces marital happiness and causes strain, tension, delays, failures and frustrations.

If all seven planets are facing Ketu instead of Rahu not ahead of Ketu, no "Kal Sarpa Yoga" is formed. In such cases, the planets feel obliged to give beneficial results to the native.

It is most malefic Yoga for marital bliss and happiness, it may either destroy, wife, spouse, and children or deprive them of a male child. It may also develop some bad habits – gambling, speculation, drinking and illicit sex.

One must get his or her horoscope examined to find out whether there is a "Kal Sarpa yoga" or not and in case there is one, he must have its malefic effects reduced by performing puja, jaap, mantras and yantras.

- Rajesh Khaana (Ph. 602-774-4159)

Hello Friends,

I love End-of-July. Its typically a Look-Forward-to time of the year with weather slowly getting better, look forward for some rains, vacations getting over and parents getting busy with kids in organizing for schools. Summers are great not only for some awesome family time but also from a real-estate perspective.

Lets look at how the valley real-estate performed during this summer. Home sales in Maricopa country was 9,779 sold homes for June whereas May has 7,454 sold homes. That's a 3.2% improvement from last month. Also the June active listing were 24,478 as compared to 13,588 in May. Pending sales in June was 10,974 compared to 9,204 in May. These statistics are only about single family homes, condominiums and patio homes.

Real-estate is showing signs of improvement beyond Arizona as well. On the national level, inventory of for-sale single family homes, condominiums, townhouses and co-ops declined by -19.35% in June 2012 compared to a year ago, and declined in all but three of the 146 markets covered by REALTOR.com. The median age of the inventory

fell -9.67% on a year-over-year basis last month, and the median national list price increased 2.68% last month compared to June 2011. Low inventories, combined with steadily rising list prices are positive signs that the overall market is gaining traction and is entering a recovery mode.

Many markets that have experienced some of the largest house price declines and the highest foreclosure rates since the beginning of the housing crisis are now registering some of the largest gains, while markets in parts of the Midwest and Northeast are losing ground. The recovery process, which began in Florida last year, appears to be taking hold in most major California markets, as evidenced by large declines in inventories and significant increases in median list prices.

Lets look at the Commercial side as well

The Phoenix Industrial market ended the second quarter 2012 with a vacancy rate of 13.1%. The vacancy rate was down over the previous quarter, with net absorption totaling

positive 2,599,206 square feet in the second quarter. Vacant sublease space increased in the quarter, ending the quarter at 2,087,585 square feet. Rental rates ended the second quarter at \$6.19, an increase over the previous quarter. A total of four buildings delivered to the market in the quarter totaling 326,674 square feet, with 3,290,760 square feet still under construction at the end of the quarter. This trend is compared to the U.S. national industrial vacancy rate, which decreased to 9.2% from the previous quarter, with net absorption positive 46.48 million square feet in the second quarter. Below are some of the major commercial transactions in the valley-

- An affiliate of Equity Residential sold the 225-unit Park Meadow Apartments in Gilbert, AZ to CR Park Meadow Communities LLC for \$20.8 million, or approximately \$92,000 per unit.
- Commonwealth Holdings LLC has purchased the office building at 1864 E. Florence Blvd. in Casa Grande, AZ from Oxford Investment Partners for

\$2.3 million, or about \$209 per square foot. The 11,000-square-foot, single-story office building was constructed in 2008 on 1.2 acres in the Pinal County submarket of Phoenix.

- Sonax acquired the industrial building at 3820 W. Washington St. in Phoenix, AZ from Hughes Western for \$1.64 million, or about \$49 per square foot.

- The 33,200-square-foot warehouse building was constructed in 2006 and sits on two acres

Overall there are good indicators that the market traction is catching up and is beyond the valley. One more reason, why I love July as a look-forward-to month. As always, I love all the questions, comments & feedback.

Please keep them coming at arti@artiier.com or call me at 480.242.8573

Disclaimer: This article makes no representation or warranties of any kind as to the accuracy of the data. The source of data has been taken from several sources such as wall street journal, Armls, Cromford Report, Costar, Globest and BizJournal



Valley Real Estate Market

You can make a difference if you're willing to stand up and be counted. Get ready to do some fancy footwork when it comes to taking care of your financial situation. Be up front if you don't want to be embarrassed. Mingle with individuals who are established and can give you some serious insight into business and future trends. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

ARIES



Mar 21 to Apr 20

Plan to do things with your faithful pet or with youngsters who have interesting hobbies. You will have a problem holding on to your cash this month. Trips, educational pursuits, or projects that could lead to new outlooks should be on your agenda. Loss or theft may occur if you are careless with your belongings. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

TAURUS



April 21 to May 20

Those close to your heart may be difficult to reason with. Your attitude could be up and down like a yo-yo. You will be relentless when it comes to getting yourself back into shape. You may experience setbacks due to additional responsibilities with loved ones. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

GEMINI



May 21 to June 21

Learn some new skills that will increase your income. Compromise may be necessary. Be prepared to overcome frustrations and obstacles at work. Don't blow situations out of proportion or you could find that others will misinterpret what really happened. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

CANCER



Jun 22 to Jul 22

Leave things as they are for the moment and focus on reaching your highest potential at work. Focus on what's important rather than spreading yourself too thin and accomplishing little. Be sure to get involved with those who can introduce you to unusual forms of entertainment. You are best to avoid confrontations. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

LEO



Jul 23 to Aug 23

Relationships will form if you get out and do things that you enjoy. Be primed to use your intellect in order to get what you want. Don't use the interstate as a racetrack. Don't think the worst if you hear something negative about your partner. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

VIRGO



Aug 24 to Sep 23

appearance. You can't always have your own way. Your versatile mind and common sense will allow you to come up with various solutions. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

LIBRA



Sep 24 to Oct 23

You must deal with an emotional problem with your loved one that you have been avoiding for some time now. Opportunities for financial gains through investments and games of chance are likely. You might want to spend some time by yourself in order to decide exactly how you feel. Your mate needs extra attention and is feeling rather insecure when you're not in sight. Your support and concern will help. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

SCORPIO



Oct 24 to Nov 22

Your need to be in a leadership position will help you surpass any rivals you might encounter. Try not to lend or borrow money this month. Be diplomatic when dealing with in-law. You may find that your generosity has been taken for granted. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

SAGITTARIUS



Nov 23 to Dec 21

Rely on the one you love for support and affection. You are best to stick to yourself this month. Spending too much time talking to friends or relatives could easily turn into a debate that could lead to estrangement. They won't pay you back and you'll be upset. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

CAPRICORN



Dec 22 to Jan 21

Your mate will appreciate your honesty. Trips will be favorable for business as well as pleasure. Change will be required to make your life more harmonious. Focus your efforts on details, and keep to yourself in order to finish your work. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

AQUARIUS



Jan 22 to Feb 19

Travel will be in your best interest regardless of whether it is business or pleasure. Make arrangements to meet friends at your local dance club. You need to get out and have some fun to reduce tension. Take time to relax. Stress and pressure at home may have worn you ragged. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

PISCES



Feb 20 to Mar 20

August 2012						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 Tiyana Da Mela @ Indo American Cultural Centre	4
5	6	7	8	9 Sri Krishna Janmastami 2012 @ Hare Krishna Temple	10 Sri Krishna Janmashtami Celebrations @ Ekta Mandir Sri Krishna Janmastami 2012 @ Hare Krishna Temple	11 Super Dancer Mega Final & Comedy Superstars in USA @ Dobson High School
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 Chand Raat AZ 2012 India Nite 2012 @ Arcadia High School 108 Shrimad Bhagavat Pothi Pujan @ Ekta Mandir
19 Disco King Bappi Lahiri Live in Concert @ Mesa Arts Center Ikeda Theater	20	21	22	23	24	25 Android Mobile App Training Onam Ponnonam - 2012 @ ASU Preparatory School Auditorium Classic Souls (Shahid Parvez Khan & Zakir Hussain) Live Concert
26	27	28	29	30	31 Eid and Independence Celebrations @ Phoenix Airport Marriott	

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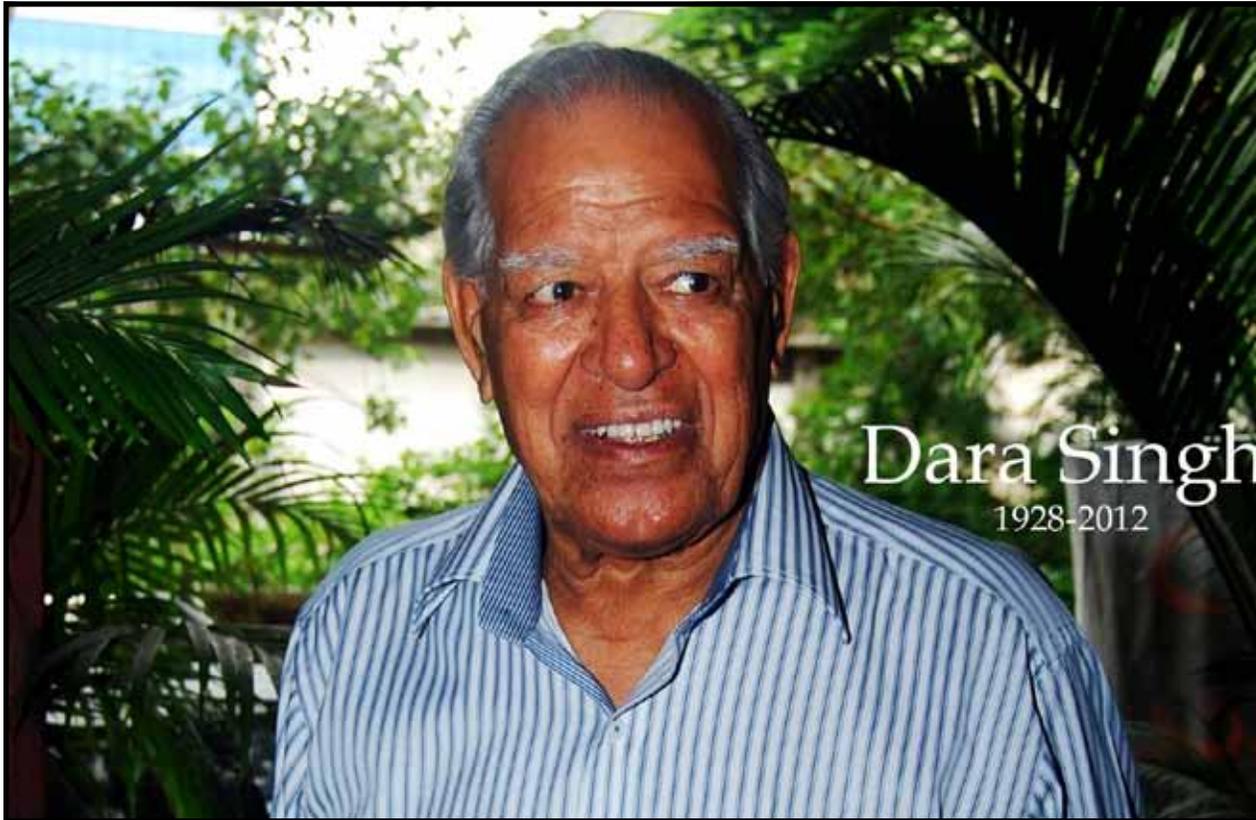
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Dara Singh passes away



Dara Singh was India's original He-Man

Dara Singh, who passed away, was unquestionably India's original He-Man. Colossal and strikingly handsome, Singh was one of India's redoubtable wrestlers best remembered for a fight against Australia's King Kong.

In what was one of the most breathtaking fights in the ring, Singh (130 kg) lifted an almost 200kg King Kong of Australia over his head and twirled him around in dramatic fashion. It made King Kong yell at the referee, reminding him that this was not in the rules. When the referee intervened, Singh threw the Australian out of the ring and he fell just a few feet from the crowd.

His bouts with King Kong attracted massive crowds who were floored by Singh's show of strength and skills. Apart from Singh and King Kong, Flash Gordon was the third wrestler who ruled the ring in 1950s. Legend has it that while Dara Singh would devour chapattis, King Kong used to swallow chickens by the dozens.

Singh took part in about 500 professional fights, all undefeated while competing against some of the greatest names such as George Gordienko of Canada and John Desilva of New Zealand among others. He won the title of 'Rustam-E-Punjab' and 'Rustam-e-Hind' for his wrestling prowess.

Arjuna Awardee and former wrestler Kripa Shankar recalled, "I met him in 1991 during the Bharat Kesari championship in Mehrauli, New Delhi. This was when I returned home after winning the silver medal in the sub-junior category at the World Championships. My guru Chandgi Ram introduced me to Dara Singh-ji who gave me a guru mantra. He said continuity in wrestling was most important if I wanted to go a long way."

Asian Games gold medallist Mahabali Satpal relived the moment Singh visited his akhara after Sushil Kumar won the bronze in Beijing. Satpal said, "He spoke to Sushil about his training and encouraged us to train harder in order to achieve our goals. Only two months back, I met him at a function in Nashik. He asked me about Sushil's training for the Olympics. He blessed our wrestlers. I'm sure our wrestlers will give their best in London."

Wrestler-turned-actor Dara Singh, who wowed audiences with his brawn and on screen histrionics for over five decades, died here early Thursday morning losing his five-day fight for life.

A childhood hero to many for his wrestling prowess, 83-year-old Singh, who played Hanuman in epic teleserial Ramayanan and also dabbled in politics, passed away at 7.30 AM at his residence in Juhu in suburban Mumbai.

Singh was taken home from hospital last night by his family members so that they could be with him in the last few moments of his life.

He passed away last month.

"He was a tough guy... He wanted to stay fit. But unfortunately his body was getting weaker. An

angel now has gone to shine like a star up above," one of his sons, Vindu Dara Singh told PTI.

The very first of action heroes in Hindi films, Singh was last seen in Imtiaz Ali's *Jab We Met* in 2007 where he played Kareena Kapoor's grandfather.

From his first marriage, he has a son Parduman Singh Randhawa and from his second marriage he has five children – two sons and three daughters including Vindu, a TV-film actor.

Standing tall with rippling muscles, Singh made a name in the field of professional wrestling and had over 500 professional fights to his credit, all undefeated.

Singh won the title of 'Rustam-E-Punjab' and 'Rustam-e-Hind' for his wrestling prowess. Also, he be-

came the Commonwealth Champion in 1959 and in 1996 he was inducted into the Wrestling Observer Newsletter Hall of Fame. He announced his retirement from wrestling in 1983.

A wrestling hero to some and a much loved cine artist to others, Singh muscled his way into the film world with ease will always be remembered for his variety of roles in cinema including his brawny avatar in *King Kong* and *Tarzan*. One of his notable friends was actress Mumtaz, with whom he starred in 16 Hindi films including *Faulad* (1963), *Veer Bhimsen* (1964), *Hercules* (1964), *Aandhi Aur Toofan* (1964), *Tarzan Comes to Delhi*, *Tarzan and King Kong* (1965), *Sikandar-e-Azam* (1965), *Rustom-E-Hind* (1965).

Sonakshi Sinha hurts eye while filming song

Actress Sonakshi Sinha, who has done an item number for actor Akshay Kumar's film *Oh My God* suffered a discomfort in her eye while shooting for it. The song *Go go Govinda*, which is designed around Gokulashtami was to be filmed in three days at Filmistan in Mumbai but because of Sonakshi's injury it had to be postponed by a day. Says a source, "Sona came to the sets very excited about the song. However, towards the climax of the song, there is a lot of water-splash and colours are thrown at each other, in keeping with the festival. Since the actress was wearing contact lenses, some of the colour and water got into her eyes and she was accidentally hurt. Consequently, the shooting had to be stalled for a day." Incidentally, *Go go Govinda* is inspired by a Tamil hit song *Govinda Govinda* from *Engayum Eppodhum*. Produced by Akshay Kumar, *Oh My God* is the adaptation of a play *Kishen Vs Kanhaiya* and stars Paresh Rawal in a pivotal role. Akshay plays the role of God in the film. Sonakshi, who showcased her dancing skills in *Rowdy Rathore*, however, refuses to liken her song in the film to an item number. "It's a special song. It was even more special because Prabhudheva choreographed it. I had a great time shooting for it," she had said.



Rajesh Khanna, the **hero** who had many 'wives'

With his crinkly eyes and lop-sided smile, superstar Rajesh Khanna wooed women on and off screen. His female fan following in the 1970s was legendary. "Women, irrespective of their marital status, would send him letters written in their blood," recalls songstress Asha Bhosle.

Khanna, the first ever superstar of Hindi cinema, sparked a never-seen-before frenzy everywhere he went. Female fans would wait outside his Bandra home just to get a glimpse of their heartthrob. They chanted his name, left lipstick marks all over his car and even got 'married' to his photograph. "I was so crazy about him that I cut my finger with a blade after watching Aradhana. As the blood oozed out, I stood near one of his many pin-ups in my room and applied sindoor in Rajesh Khanna's name," recalls Shyama Singh, a die-hard Rajesh Khanna fan and now a mother of two grown-up children.

Such was Khanna's appeal in those days that an entire generation looked up to the hero who redefined romance with a careless tilt of his head and his piercing expressions. "When he was on screen we did not doubt for a minute that his jeep would not keep pace with the train in which his lady love was travelling or that two lovelorn people would not find shelter on a stormy



night," says retired school teacher Abha Shah, another big fan of Khanna and his films. Just like his movies, Khanna's personal life too made headlines. The matinee idol broke innumerable hearts when he married a much younger Dimple Kapadia at the peak of his career in 1973. However, the frenzy surrounding him did not abate as he continued to make his female fans go weak in the knees.

Part of his appeal is attributed to the romantic melodies, including *Roop tera*

mastana and *O mere dil ke chain*, that RD Burman and Kishore Kumar created for Khanna's onscreen persona.

Even as women were swooning over him, male fans were busy emulating his clothes or hairstyle. "The dizzying heights that Rajesh reached as a superstar remain a landmark that no one star has been able to enjoy before since," says scriptwriter Salim Khan, a good friend of Khanna, who has penned *Haathi Mere Saathi* and *Andaaz*.

Superstar Rajesh Khanna

passes away

Yesteryear Bollywood superstar Rajesh Khanna, who was ailing for sometime, died at his Bandra residence on Wednesday, family sources said. The 69-year-old actor had been in and out of hospital since April, was discharged from the Lilavati hospital two days back.

He is survived by wife Dimple Kapadia and daughters Twinkle and Rinke.

Scores of worried fans gathered outside his 'Aashirwad' home on Carter Road in Bandra today following the news.

Khanna was hailed as India's first superstar after 15 consecutive solo superhits between 1969 and 1972 including *Aradhana*, *Haathi Mere Saathi*, *Anand* and *Amar Prem*.

Saif Ali Khan will decide on wedding date: Kareena Kapoor

The impending marriage of star couple Kareena Kapoor and Saif Ali Khan has been talk of the town since last year, but the actress says it's her beau Saif who will decide on the wedding date.

Earlier Saif Ali Khan's mother Sharmila Tagore had confirmed that his wedding with Kareena will take place on October 16 at the Pataudi Palace in Pataudi village.

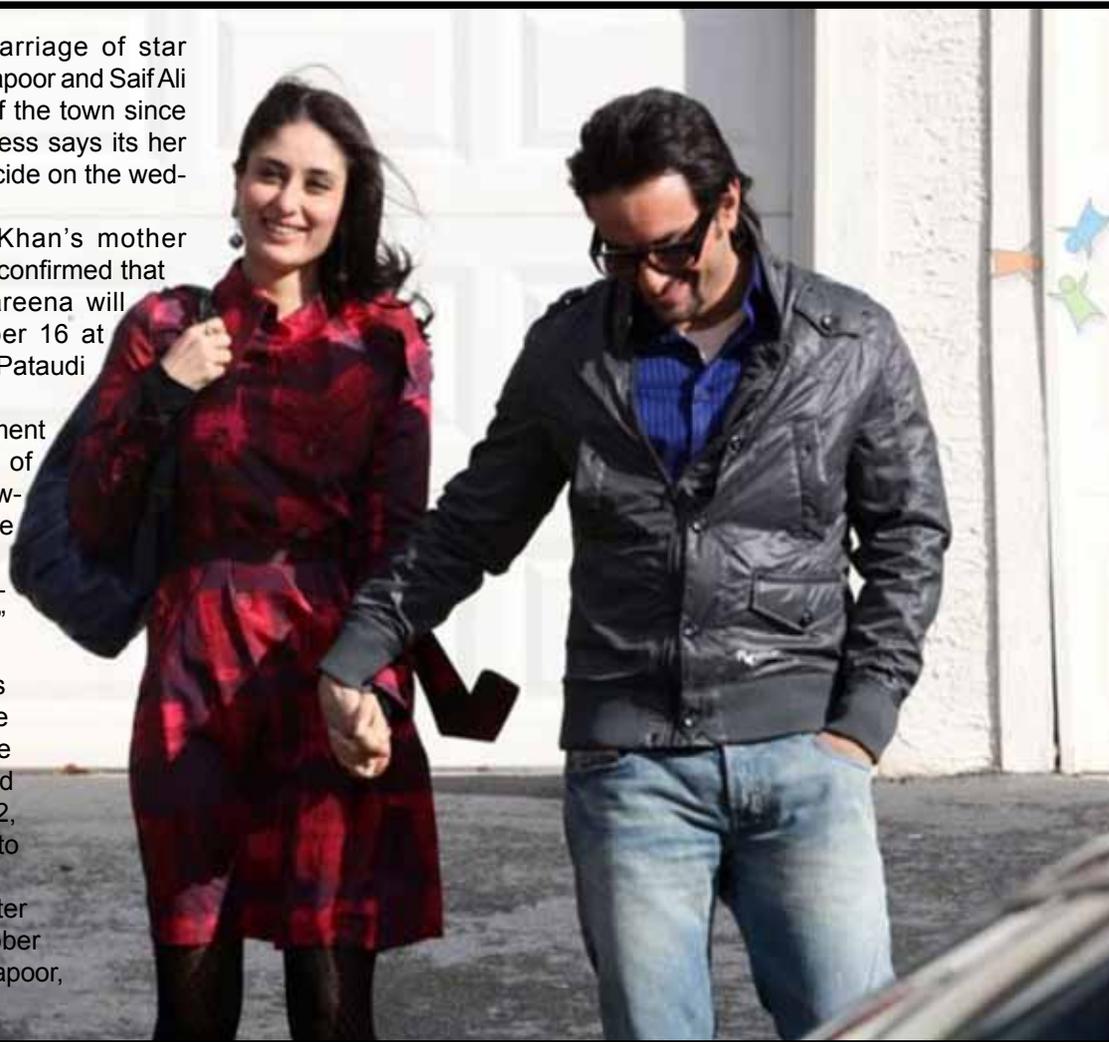
When the excitement around the marriage of the couple started grow-

ing, Saif surprised everyone when he denied having marked the date on his calendar.

"I think we all should wait for Saif to give an official announcement on the date. Right now I am focusing on my film (*Heroine*)," Kareena told reporters here last night, at the first look of her film.

Earlier Saif in an exclusive interview to PTI, had said, "It is going to be a year-end wedding. We haven't fixed a date for the wedding yet." Saif and Kareena, lovingly called 'Saifeena', have been dating for five years and are going strong. The couple had declared officially that they will tie the knot in the beginning of 2012, after the release of their film '*Agent Vinod*'. But that postponed to October 16 and now year-end.

41-year-old Saif has two children -- son Ibrahim and daughter Sara from his previous marriage to actress Amrita Singh in October 1991 and Kareena ended her three-year relationship with Shahid Kapoor, before she chose the Nawab of Pataudi.



Chai with... Kiran and Sneha Dhole of Mumbai Beats Entertainment

By Deepa Walia
July 29, 2012

As the South Asian population in Arizona grows, we see more and more cultural, regional, and Bollywood shows coming to Arizona, but the residents who come and enjoy these shows may not be familiar with the hard work that goes on behind the scenes and the individuals responsible for those efforts. Asia Today had the opportunity to sit down and spend time with Arizona residents Kiran and Sneha Dhole, who along with ArjunMudda from India, formed Mumbai Beats and have been bringing high quality entertainment to the Valley of the Sun since 2003.

Kiran Dhole moved to Arizona as a student 22 years ago and through an arranged marriage, Sneha Dhole came into his life in 1992. Having been born and raised in Mumbai, they are both passionate about the arts and culture of India, as well as Bollywood. Many famous names such as LataMangeshkar, AshaBhosle, G.P. Sippy, Tanuja, Ambani family and JRD Tata were very close neighbors as well as clients of Kiran's father's fresh fruits business, which was one of the largest wholesale fruit business in Mumbai and, due to that influence, even while supporting many other interests, they ventured into the entertainment business. In addition to this, Kiran Dhole also runs an IT professional business for past 15 years and follows his passion of commercial photography (Images of Expressions Photography) and Sneha Dhole explores her creativity through baking artistic and creative cakes as well as serving as an Interior Designer and Realtor for many close friends and family. They also have two beautiful children, Aishvarya and Atharva Dhole, who are currently 16 but will be celebrating their 17th birthday in the com-



ing week.

Their ventures started when a well-known artist in Maharashtra, Mr. DilipPrabhavalkar, known for his role as Gandhi in MunnaBhai 2, was touring in the USA and they had the opportunity to bring him to Arizona, in association with Phoenix Metro Maharashtra Mandal, for a Marathi play called VaatChal. Being a small, regional community, they had limited resources but were convinced they did not want to pass up the opportunity for that community due to resources and money. They got an overwhelming response and that was the start of their ventures in the entertainment industry.

Shortly after, ArjunMudda a close family friend of the Dhole family, was visiting Arizona and asked them about programs in the Phoenix area, which were limited at that time. Having enjoyed the experience with the Marathi play, they agreed with Arjun that the need and time to bring these programs to Arizona was right. A week after ArjunMudda returned to India

and told them about an opportunity to have the legendary AshaBhosle come to Arizona. Once again, they were of the mentality that if they don't do it now, an opportunity like this may not come up again and committed to bringing AshaBhosle to Arizona, with assistance from other community members and organizations.

Mumbai Beats believes in team work and working together to bring high class, high quality entertainment including plays, concerts, and movies to the Arizona community. Since their initial start has partnered with many organizations and individuals to bring VaatChal (Marathi Play, 2003), 75 Years of Asha (AshaBhosle Concert, 2008), Explosion-2009 (Sonu Nigam Concert, 2009), Impact (ShreyaGoshland AtifAslam Concert in Phoenix and San Jose, CA, 2010), AgneePariksha (Marathi Movie North America Premiere, 2010), Maestros in Concert (Pandit Shiv Kumar and ZakirHussain, 2011), Shaan Se (Shan, 2011), and Bal-Gandharva (Marathi Movie

North America Premiere, 2011). In addition to being the originator for all these events, they have also been major sponsors for shows such as Trendz and Bollywood Milestones – both dedicated to promoting highly talented performers with a passion for quality music from the many decades and styles of Bollywood.

Their most recent venture, Classic Souls, featuring UstadShahidParvez Khan and UstadZakirHussain is coming to Arizona on August 25, 2012. Keeping with the sentiments of teamwork, Mumbai Beats has again partnered with Neha & Aziz Mallik, Valley Dreams and PrakashDeshmukh, – an exemplary team that has also come together to bring some of the other entertainment ventures in the past. Mumbai Beats has certainly set the trend of fine Bollywood concerts in Phoenix since 2008.

Mumbai Beats founders, Kiran & Sneha Dhole and ArjunMudda base their lives and practice the principle by late SadguruWamanraoPai, "You Are the Architect of Your Destiny". As a final message to our readers, they would like to thank the South Asian community in Phoenix metro for overwhelmingly supporting its shows. In their own words "Your support made all the difference in the success of events and bringing our community together. We hope you will join us again for Classic Souls on August 25th. Don't forget to meet our team members who have brought you another fine concert." Kiran and Sneha are also very appreciative of Asia Today for doing a tireless job of bringing quality news to our community every month and helping our community. Asia Today thanks Mumbai Beats for their kind words and time and wishes them success in all their upcoming ventures.



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CONTACTS:

- Bajarang Agrawal (602-318-7563)
- Vasu Atluri (480-227-8411)
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IACRF Loan modification accomplished



Unity always triumphs, we are standing tall with broad based local support and that is what we want to report. In changing economic times, we are successful in getting modification of loan thru Wells Fargo Bank. IACRF is in existence since 1988 (with asset of over \$6 to 7 million) and has been successful serving Indo-American community in AZ. With growing Indo-American community in AZ, more faith based Temples are being built and it has taken toll on community's core support to keep our community together and generate financial support.

IACRF will be celebrating 25th Anniversary. Since Ekta Mandir was built, last few years expenses are climbing over \$40,000 per month to sustain Indo-American Community Center and Unity Temple. Economic down turn did not

are shelved although community deserves better services. BOD appointed committee to renegotiate Wells Fargo bank mortgage loan. Under leadership of Gautam Shah, Jay Ankur Bansal, Dayaram Ahir, Lalit Patel and Mahesh Shah, Wells Fargo reopened dialogue and after 8 months of negotiations Bank agreed to modify the loan to new terms and conditions. This would significantly lower financial outlay for IACRF and help concentrate future growth and capital improvements. Combining two loans of approx, 1,250,000 with new interest rate of 4.25% and modifying new terms it would significantly lower monthly obligations. IACRF was successful in lowering principal \$100,000 every year for last six years. IACRF has set goal to lower \$200,000 principal in 2012. IACRF would

support and generosity over the years to keep our mission of Unity alive. Loan modification is accomplished with keeping community pride and respect intact and without any default or stress as our Indo-American community is considered financially responsible and sound leader in USA. IACRF prides itself as unifying force and enjoys cross section local support with transparent operation.

New dining hall & two class rooms addition of over 3200 sq ft will be completed in mid July 2012 and community appreciate major donation by Dr Dhirendra & Minaxi Patel, Lalitbhai Patel and Vasu Atluri. Total cost for expansion will be approximately over \$350,000.

For more info regarding Loan modification contact any of BOD members of IACRF.

Bollywood is back with a bang in the Valley of the Sun!

By Kalpana Batni
July 16, 2012

Phoenix fans- the long wait is finally over... IACRF is proud to bring to you for the very first time in Phoenix. The Disco King of Bollywood- Bappi Lahiri in a live concert accompanied by the very talented SA RE GA MA singers! Sunday, August 19, 2012 at the Ikea Theater, Mesa. Come dance and disco the night away to such great tunes as Ula-Ulala, I am a Disco Dancer, Tama Tama Loge and many more toe tapping numbers! This concert will kick off the Silver Jubilee celebrations of IACRF- serving the Indo-American community in the Valley for 25 years! Please see flier on Page 35 for more details and ticket information.

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| ❖ Friday Evening Kirtan Diwan | Friday, 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM |
| ❖ Continuing Akhand Path Sahib | Saturday all day |
| ❖ Kirtan Darbar with Ragl Jathas:
Bhai Nirmal Singh Ji Nagpuri, Bhai Gyan Singh Ji
and Bhai Megh Singh Ji | Saturday, 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM |
| ❖ Guru-ka-Langar | Saturday, 8:30 PM – |
| ❖ Akhand Path Sahib Bhog | Sunday, 9:00 AM |
| ❖ Kirtan Darbar with Ragl Jathas:
Bhai Nirmal Singh Ji Nagpuri, Bhai Gyan Singh Ji,
Bhai Megh Singh Ji and Giani Harbhajan Singh Ji. | Sunday, 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM |
| ❖ Guru-ka-Langar | Sunday, 1:30 PM – |

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