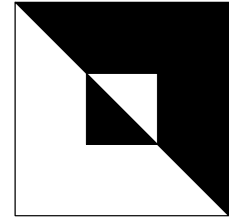


Sandesh



The Gujarati Samaj of Western Australia (Inc)

Issue 51

August 2003

The President's Pen

There is a lot of activity planned for the Samaj in the coming months. It is exciting times. In particular, I recommend members book the 1st November 2003 in their diaries for a Gujarati music and bhajan performance by Ashit and Hema Desai from India (see www.ashitdesai.com for details on the artistes). Further details will be published and circulated as soon as they are available.

I welcome to the Gujarati sister communities, the Kutchhi Leva Patel Samaj which has recently been incorporated and wish it the very best in achieving its cherished objectives. We look forward to working together with all the sister organisations to ensure that Gujarati culture and traditions continue to flourish in WA.

I note the fantastic community spirit that has been generated by:

- Our seniors group who meet every Friday. I was made a very welcome guest at one of their recent gatherings and am so happy that they have, through self-help, created a tremendous community group. The Samaj has a lot to learn from the wisdom of our elders and it is incumbent upon us all to seek their guidance and share their wisdom and time for the betterment of the community. I recommend members who have time to attend one of the seniors' sessions – you will enjoy the experience.
- The Garba group which took part in the Indian Society's Independence Day celebrations.
- Our youth group which organised a terrific Bhangra Night in July 2003. We love your energy and optimism and look forward to your involvement with the Samaj and to your leadership for the Samaj in the future.
- The Zoroastrian Association at their recently held annual New Year function. I pay that sister organisation tribute for the way it conducted itself in a positive, respectful and encouraging way. The best part was a true blue Parsi Gujarati Naatak with all its humour actually being performed in Perth – please look out for such activities taking place in Perth in future.

Come on, fellow Gujaratis! Let us follow the lead from our youth, seniors and sister organisations to ensure that the community spirit continues to flow. Only then will we earn our rightful place in this society with pride.

Pranam.
Aniket Maroo

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Feedback Column

YOUR view on the Dandia/Bhangra night.....

Saturday the 19th of July 2003 saw the Gujarati Samaj host their annual Dandia and Bhangra night at the Scarborough Police and Citizen's Youth Club. In the past few years, the Gujarati Samaj events have attracted diverse audiences catering to members and a growing number of non-members. Those that attended this event danced the night away to the excellent dandia music provided by the live band and DJ Bishi's bhangra and hindi mixes. And when people got tired from dancing there was the scrumptious chaat and samosas to turn to!

Thank you to all those people who have completed the survey provided that evening. So...what did you have to say about the event?

- **Organisation:** most respondents felt the event was well organized.
- **Venue:** 50% were happy with the venue; 25% felt that it was time to get a bigger hall.
- **Time** (8pm-Midnight): All those that responded felt this was a great time.
- **Price** (\$3 members, \$6 non-members): 100% of the respondents felt that the entry price was reasonable and worthwhile.
- **Music:** All respondents agreed that the music, especially the live band provided by Amar and Co. was absolutely fantastic! Congratulations to all those that performed or helped the band.

So where do we go from here? The committee will definitely take into account the responses when planning this event next year. If you have any other comments or suggestions, please contact Priya Karia on 9447 7121 or email priyakaria@yahoo.co.uk. The Samaj would also like to plan other events for the youth. If you have any ideas, or would like to be involved in a youth sub-committee please contact me (Priya) on the above phone number or email address.

Priya Karia

Senior's Column

Greetings from all Seniors

Our Gujarati Seniors meet every Friday at Warwick Community Hall from 11:00 am to 4:00pm. From 11:30am to 12:30pm Mrs Ramaben Shah conducts simple yoga classes. Thereafter there is an open session for humour, jokes, poems etc. All the seniors participate in these sessions and we have had some interesting input from them.

On 27th June 2003, we had invited Mr Harold Ball (Fire Officer) from Joondalup City Council to give us a talk and demonstration on 'Fire Safety'. This programme was well received by the group and hopefully these programmes will be ongoing.

We also had a visit from our president Mr Aniket Maroo on 11th July 2003 where seniors had an opportunity to have a discussion and an open forum.

On 8th August 2003 Kamleshbhai Patel from AMCO Pharmacy gave an excellent talk and explained in simple language the use and effects of taking medications on time and how medicines work. There was ample time for each senior to ask question and discuss details about their own medications.

Seniors meetings are open to Gujarati members and non members over the age of 55 years. It is also open to visiting Seniors who wish to attend while visiting Perth.

If you need further informations please call any of the following Committee members:

Mr. Kantibhai Natalwala - 94096302
 Mr. Parbatbhai Patel - 9244891
 Mrs. Ramaben Shah - 92036172
 Mrs. Maniben Karia - 92753212
 Mrs. Savitaben Haria - 93041816

Mrs. Bhagyarathiben Bhuva - 94010950
 Mr. Gajendrabhai Bhuva - 94027281
 Mr. Motichand Shah - 94096184
 Mr. Gulabchand Shah - 92534040

Hamida Bhatt



Samaj Notices

Membership

- **Remember to renew your yearly membership using the form provided on page 14. Future issues of the Sandesh as well as discounted rates for forthcoming events organized by the Gujarati Samaj will only be available to registered & paid-up members.**
- Members are also requested to advise the secretary of their e-mail addresses so that urgent messages or notices can be conveyed to them quickly.

Diwali Function 2003

The Diwali function hosted by the Gujarati Samaj this year will include a **Rangoli** talent contest as well as an **Arts & Crafts** display. An entry form for the Rangoli competition is included on page 5 in this issue of the Sandesh. Please fill in this form and send to Pushpa Naran by 20th October 2003. Please note that late entries will not be accepted. Interested participants for the Arts and Crafts display should also contact Pushpa Naran for additional details regarding this event.

Women's Progressive Group

A new group is being formed under the auspices of the Gujarati Samaj. This group is aimed at all women, young and old. Interest in this group has been slow but we are optimistic about its future. The group will foster friendship and kinship amongst the ladies in the community. The aim is to empower, learn and enrich our lives with emphasis on fun, pleasure and other matters of interest to the group. Register your interest by email to pushpa@iinet.net.au for notification of the venue of the first meeting which will be held on the 17th September 2003.

Indian Society Awards

Three young members from the Gujarati Samaj were recently honoured by being presented awards by the **Indian Society of WA** at their Independence Day Celebrations. We announce with great pride and joy that they were successful in receiving the following awards:

- **Amar Desai** Award for Outstanding Youth
- **Archana Haria** Young Achievers Excellence Award - Secondary School
- **Akaash Patel** Young Achievers Excellence Award - Primary School

Heartiest congratulations to them!

These awards will now be presented annually by ISWA. Future nominations for candidates who excel in the academic field, community work and volunteer work should be forwarded to the committee.

Resignation

We regretfully announce the resignation of Bimal Bosmia as committee member due to his overseas work commitments.

Final Notice

Gujarati Membership Directory

For legal reasons, we are only able to print contact details of current paid-up members in our new directory. If you would like to be included in the directory, please re-new your membership by the end of September 2003.



Entry Form for Rangoli Competition

Held by

Gujarati Samaj of WA

Date: 25th OCTOBER 2003

Venue: Scarborough Civic Centre

Time: 14:00pm - 17:00pm

Name/s: _____

Address: _____

Phone No.: _____

Age: _____

Conditions of Entry

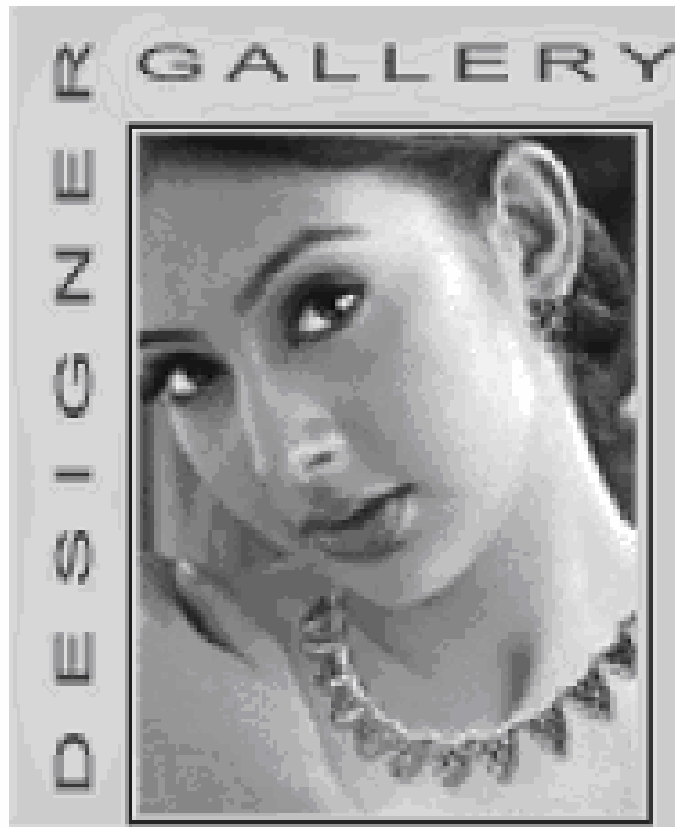
1. All entrants are responsible for their own board (60cm X 60cm) and rangoli materials.
2. Competition will begin at 2 pm and finish at 5 pm and no extra time will be allowed.
3. Participants may work individually or in a group (if in a group all names must be submitted on this form prior to commencement of the competition).
4. Judging will take place on the 26th October 2003 and the judges decision will be final.

2003-2004 Committee

PRESIDENT	Mr Aniket Maroo	H: 9388 0308	maroo@iprimus.com.au
VICE PRESIDENT	Mrs Pushpa Naran	H: 9354 2565	pushpa@inet.net.au
SECRETARY	Mrs Anjana Rajani	H: 9402 0544 M: 0423 279 330	anjanarajani@hotmail.com
TREASURER	Mr Kalpesh Kotecha	H: 9456 4664 M: 0422 678 120	kkotecha@anglicanhomes.org.au
MEMBER	Dr Chotoo Bhagat	H: 9446 8771	chotoo.bhagat@health.wa.gov.au
MEMBER	Mr Rajni Sheth	H: 9245 1341	nehamitesh@hotmail.com
MEMBER	Ms Priya Karia	H: 9447 7121 M: 0422 351 781	priyakaria@yahoo.co.uk

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TEL: 9448 8695**



Food for Thought

Another interesting concept found floating around on the internet ...pass it along!!!

BALANCE SHEET OF LIFE

As only accountants would understand

Our Birth is our Opening Balance
 Our Death is our Closing Balance
 Our Prejudiced Views are our Liabilities
 Our Creative Ideas are our Assets
 Heart is our Current Asset
 Soul is our Fixed Asset
 Brain is our Fixed Deposit
 Thinking is our Current Account
 Achievements are our Capital
 Character & Morals are our Stock-in-Trade
 Friends are our General Reserves
 Values & Behaviour are our Goodwill
 Patience is our Interest Earned
 Love is our Dividend
 Children are our Bonus Issues
 Education is Brands / Patents
 Knowledge is our Investment
 Experience is our Premium Account
 The Aim is to Tally the Balance Sheet Accurately.
 The Goal is to get the Best Presented Accounts Award.

કહેવત

- ❖ જીવન એક પંચવટી છે, એમાં જ્યારે રામ નિવાસ કરે ત્યારે જ જ્ઞાન, વૈરાગ્ય અને ભક્તિ પ્રગટ થાય છે.
- ❖ ખોટા માર્ગે પગ મૂકે તેનાં બળ, બુદ્ધિ અને તેજ હણાઈ જાય છે, પાપ અને પુણ્યનો હિસાબ અહીં જ ચૂકવવાનો.
- ❖ જ્યારે ભયાનક અશાંતિ આપણા મનને પીડી રહી હોય, ત્યારે નામસ્મરણ અને સત્સંગ તેમાંથી છૂટકારો અપાવે છે.
- ❖ પોતાનું પેટ ભરવું તે પ્રકૃતિ, કોઈને પેટ ન ભરવા દેવું તે વિકૃતિ, પારકાનું પેટ ભરવું તે સંસ્કૃતિ.
- ❖ યાદ રાખો કે સમયની કિંમત સોના કરતાં વધુ છે.

Precious Minute

It only takes a minute, to say a word of cheer;
 It only takes a minute, to dry a falling tear;
 It only takes a minute, to lend a helping hand;
 It only takes a minute, to try to understand;
 It only takes a minute, to make and keep a friend;
 It only takes a minute, to mend a broken heart;
 It only takes a minute, to brighten someone's day;
 Then use this very minute, before it slips away.

Phyllis C Michael

Sayings

- You cannot discover new oceans unless you have the courage to lose sight of the shore
- In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity
- There are many things in life that will catch your eye, but only a few will catch your heart... pursue those
- In the confrontation between the stream and the rock, the stream always wins...not through strength, but persistence
- Success is a journey, not a destination
- Wisdom begins in a wonder

Would you like to communicate any news to the general community? Do you know of any special achievements made by members of the community? Are there any issues you'd like to raise in the community?

Write to the Sandesh to publish your news, views and comments!



Panchatantra

The Panchatantra was probably written about 200 BC by the great Hindu scholar Pandit Vishnu Sharma and is the oldest collection of **Indian fables** surviving today. It consists of five volumes of stories written by the teacher to serve as a manual for a prospective king, to help him in deciding how to rule, how to choose his fellow friends, fellow ministers, how to conduct himself in daily life etc. Every story in Panchatantra is accompanied by a moral, but before you read any of the fables, you must read the background story, which is below:

"Long ago in the kingdom of Mahilaropya, there lived a king who was ruling very ideally. He had three sons, who were not intelligent. The king was worried about the heir to the throne, as he knew that his sons were incapable of governing. He was desperate to find a good and knowledgeable teacher for his sons, who would teach them the scriptures and make them knowledgeable in a short time. His minister then pointed towards a skilled pundit, Vishnu Sharman. Vishnu Sharman was old and the king was worried as to how the teacher could pass on this knowledge to his sons as he had been told that even an intelligent man takes more than twelve years to grasp all the elements of the scriptures. Vishnu Sharman convinced the king that he would teach the princes about kingly conduct through a series of stories, which would be more effective than the scriptures. Vishnu Sharman compiled the collection of stories in five volumes known as PanchaTantra, which were meant to serve as guidance for the princes to learn about kingly behaviour."

The story of the Monkey and the crocodile

Once upon a time there lived a monkey named Red-face on a tree by the side of the sea. The tree was an apple tree and the fruits it bore were sweet as nectar. Once a crocodile named Ugly-Mug swam ashore and Red-face threw apples at him and asked him to taste them. Ugly-Mug started coming ashore everyday to eat the fruits thrown by Red-face and soon they became good friends. Ugly-Mug also used to take some fruit home to his wife.

His wife was a greedy lady and asked him as to where he got the nectar filled apples. Ugly-Mug told about his friend the monkey. The lady was greedy and pleaded with her husband that she would like to eat the monkey's heart, as a person who gave such tasty fruits must have a heart filled with nectar. Ugly-Mug was angered and did not agree to deceive his friend. But she then insisted on not eating anything till he brought her his friend's heart. Out of desperation, Ugly-mug started making plans for killing his friend.

He came back to Red-face and entreated him with an invitation to his house for supper stating that his wife would be thrilled to have him home and also that she was very anxious to meet such a nice friend. Poor Red-face believed the story but asked his friend how he could cross the sea to reach the house of the crocodile on the other side. Ugly-mug then offered to carry him on his back and the monkey agreed.

In the middle of the sea, Ugly-mug took the monkey deep into the water to kill him. The monkey was frightened and asked the crocodile why he was doing this. Ugly-mug told him that his wife wanted to eat the monkey's heart which was filled with nectar. Red-face immediately asked to be taken back to the tree as he had left his other heart which was full of nectar there. The foolish crocodile then swam back to the tree and the terrified monkey jumped up the tree never to return. Upon being asked why he was not returning, the monkey answered that he had only one heart and that he had been fooled and scolded his friend for abusing their friendship.

The crocodile was ashamed at what happened and asked the monkey if he could make amends. He was also scared that his wife would not let him back in because he had returned without the monkey's heart. Just then he heard that a huge he-crocodile had occupied his house. The monkey advised him to fight the he-crocodile and drive him out of his home to gain his wife's confidence. The crocodile followed his advice and he was back home happy with his wife.

MORAL: *Wit is superior to brute force*

Taken from: <http://www.indiaoz.com.au/>

Additional stories to follow in forthcoming issues of the Sandesh.



Kiddies Corner

Ever thought of it this way?

- If vegetable oil comes from vegetables, where does baby oil come from?
- When sign makers go on strike, is anything written on their signs?
- Why do we wash bath towels, aren't we clean when we use them?
- Why don't sheep shrink in the rain?
- Why is the man, who invests all your money, called a broker?
- Why is the word abbreviation so long?
- Isn't it scary that doctors, call what they do, practice?
- What should you do if you see an endangered animal eating an endangered plant?
- How do you tell when you run out of invisible ink?
- If a cow laughed would milk come out of its nose?
- When dog food is new and improved tasting, who tests it?
- Living on earth is expensive, but it does include a free trip around the sun.
- He who laughs last thinks slowest.

Prashant Morar

Interesting Facts about Indians

(published in a German magazine dealing with World History)

- 38% of Doctors in America are Indians.
- 12% of Scientists in America are Indians.
- 36% of NASA employees are Indians.
- 34% of MICROSOFT employees are Indians
- 28% of IBM employees are Indians
- 17% of INTEL employees are Indians
- 13% of XEROX employees are Indians

Interesting Facts about India

- India is the world's largest, oldest and continuous civilizations.
- Varanasi, also known as Benares, was called "the ancient city" when Lord Buddha visited it in 500 B.C., and is the oldest, continuously inhabited city in the world today.
- India never invaded any country in her last 10,000 years of history.
- India is the world's largest democracy.
- Grammar constitutes one of India's greatest contributions to Western philology. Panini, the Sanskrit grammarian, who lived between 750 and 500BC, was the first to compose formal grammar through his Astadhyai.
- India invented the Number System. Zero was invented by Aryabhata.
- Chess was invented in India.
- The world's first university was established in Takshashila in 700BC. More than 10,500 students from all over the world studied more than 60 subjects. The University of Nalanda built in the 4th century BC was one of the greatest achievements of ancient India in the field of education.
- Sanskrit is the mother of all European languages. Sanskrit is the most suitable language for computer software - a report in Forbes magazine, July 1987.
- Ayurveda is the earliest school of medicine known to humans. Charaka, the father of medicine consolidated Ayurveda 2,500 years ago. Today Ayurveda is fast regaining its rightful place in our civilization.
- Although modern images of India often show poverty and lack of development, India was the richest country on earth until the time of British invasion in the early 17th Century. Christopher Columbus was attracted by India's wealth.
- The art of Navigation was born in the river Sindh 6,000 years ago. The very word Navigation is derived from the Sanskrit word NAVGATI. The word navy is also derived from Sanskrit 'Nou'.
- Bhaskaracharya calculated the time taken by the earth to orbit the sun hundreds of years before the astronomer Smart. Time taken by earth to orbit the sun: (5th century) 365.258756484 days



Do you remember these facts about the land of your ancestors?



National Facts of India

- National Anthem of India - Jana-Gana-Mana (Thou Art the Ruler of All Minds)
- National Song of India - Vande Mataram
- National Animal of India - Tiger
- National Flower of India- Lotus
- National Bird of India - Peacock
- National Tree of India - Banyan Tree
- National Fruit of India - Mango

Facts of Gujarat

History

The name 'Gujarat' is said to have been derived from the Prakrit **Gujjar Ratta** or **Gujjar Rashtra** - the land of **Gujjars** - a tribe that entered India with the Huns in ancient time and wandered through Punjab and Rajasthan, settled in western India.

Gujarat had a great civilization even before the arrival of the Aryans. It had trade links with ancient civilizations of Sumer, Babylon, Assyria and Egypt. The Port of Lothal which has been excavated recently has been identified as an important centre of the 4500 years old Aryan civilization.

Signs of civilization in the region that is now Gujarat dates back to the period from 3000 to 1500 BC. The region was part of the Mauryan Empire in the 3rd century BC under King Ashoka. In 1818 the English East India Company took control of Gujarat, administering the state through local princely rulers. With the independence of India in 1947, Gujarat became part of the state of Bombay. In 1960 Bombay state was split up, and Gujarat was formed from the northern and western portions, which were predominantly Gujarati-speaking areas. Most of the remainder of Bombay state became Maharashtra state, with a small portion going to Karnataka state.

Compiled by Bhavik Naran





Religions of India

As the birthplace of four major religions that exist even today, India is rightfully known as the land of spirituality and philosophy. The most dominant religion in India today is Hinduism with almost 81% of the people being Hindus. One of the truly ancient religions of the world, Hinduism is believed to have developed nearly 5000 years ago.

Around 500 BC two other religions made their mark in India: Buddhism and Jainism, and today, while these two religions together account for no more than 1.2% of the population, their impact on Indian culture and sensibility is far in excess of that. Between them these three ancient religions - Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism - moulded Indian philosophy and thinking. One comparatively new religion in India is Sikhism which was established in the 15th century. Today about 2% of Indians are Sikhs. There were other attempts to create new religions in India, and though they did not always succeed, they add to the mystic lore and spiritual depth of the land. For example, the great Mughal emperor, Akbar, who reigned between 1556 and 1605, tried to establish a new religion, Din-E-Elahi. Sadly, it did not survive.

Along with the religions that developed in India, there are followers of non-Indian religions as well. Islam is the chosen faith of a hefty 12% of India's population. Christians account for more than 2% and Zoroastrians (Parsis) though a tiny minority, still make their presence felt. There are also a few thousand Jews in India.

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Anup Jalota

Bhajan & Ghazal Samrat and World record holder of most Silver, Gold & Platinum Discs will be visiting Perth.

Details of the concert by Anup Jalota

Date: 19th September 2003

Venue: Fremantle Town Hall

Time: 7:00 pm

Price of tickets:

First two rows \$100.00

Reserved Seats \$50.00

Unreserved Seats \$35.00

Students & Pensioners \$30.00

Kindly phone for tickets on 9249 1038 or 0412 709 729 or 9486 9011(9:30am and 1:00pm).

For further information on please visit www.perthsamachar.com

Sushma

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Community Announcements

"The Essence of Jainism: Live & Let Live"

An exhibition explaining the fundamentals of Jainism & its relationship with other eastern philosophies has been organised by Shree Chandana Vidyapeeth, under the banner of The Jain Community of Western Australia. It will be held at the "Boulevard Centre", Floreat, on Saturday the 11th (2:00 pm-5:00pm) & Sunday the 12th (9:00am-5:00pm) October at the "Lakes Suites".

Open to all, this work of art will take one on a journey through the Jain Philosophy, Values & Customs. Colourful exhibits on topics like Non-Violence, Law of Karma, Vegetarianism, Religious Tolerance (anekantwad), Compassion & the Life of Lord Mahavir will be on display. Models such as those of Palitana & Pavapuri will help one achieve the merits of a pilgrimage, whilst still in Perth.

A reflection on the Values & the 3-d models of moral stories have been especially incorporated for the spiritual nourishment of children.

The Jain Community of WA invites one & all to come & view this: a colourful combination of a cultural & religious affair, which should provide one with a better understanding of one of the world's most ancient philosophies.

Hindu Temple News

NAVRATRI will be celebrated from Friday 26th September to Sunday 5th October 2003. Special ceremonies will commence every morning at 6:00am and evening at 6:30pm. A CHANDI HAVAN will be performed on Sunday 28th September 2003 commencing at 9:00am. This Havan ceremony is very special and generates tremendous energy.

The Gujarati group has been allocated the responsibility for the Tuesday 30th September 2003 programme. This entails the group providing all the Puja materials and Prasad for the evening. Please contact Hamidaben Bhatt on 9310 5525 if you are interested in the Prasad preparation and contact Hemlataben Patel on 9457 2016 if you would like to donate the Puja expenses. Everyone is invited to attend.

Gujarati Community BHAJANS are held at the temple on the 3rd Sunday of each month, commencing at 3:00pm. Daily PUJAS are performed at the temple commencing at 6:30am and 7:00pm.

For further information please contact *Rasik Desai* on 9335 9897.

Badminton Coaching

All those interested in weekly Badminton Coaching/playing sessions please contact Aarti Chandarana on 0421 483 883 and Chirag Dassani on 0422 751 482 to register your interest.

Change of Addresses

- Pravin Ruparelia 21 Fernwood Square, Padbury 6025 "Lighthouse"
- Anil Shah 5 Merlin drive, Carine 6020
- Jayesh Jeshrani 31 Chauncy Way, Spencer Park, Albany
- Yogesh & Dina Shah 8 Metz Way, Wembley Downs, WA 6019
- Dilip & Inna Shah 29 Parkstone Retreat, Currambine, WA 6027 Tel: 9305 3746
- Bharat & Prasila Natha 2 Irian Grove, Riverton, WA 6148



MEMBERSHIP FORM
The Gujarati Samaj of Western Australia (Inc)
P.O. Box 365, Hillarys WA 6923

Please tick the appropriate box and complete the relevant details:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. New Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Category |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Membership Renewal | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Category |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Change of Particulars | <input type="checkbox"/> Associate Category |

I / We would like to become new member(s) of the Gujarati Samaj / renew membership / change particulars of my / our membership and enclose my / our subscription of \$_____ for the year ending 31st March 2004 for the category indicated above. In the event of my / our admission to the membership, I / we agree to be bound by the Constitution and by-laws of the Samaj.

I acknowledge that under the constitution of the Samaj, the right or privileges of membership to the Samaj will not extend to any individual.

Membership No: _____ Country of Origin: _____

Name of Applicant: _____ Profession _____

Name of Spouse: _____ Profession _____

Childrens Names: _____

Address: _____

Phone: Home _____ Work _____ Mobile _____

Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Proposer and Seconder:

We hereby nominate the above person/family as a member(s) of the Gujarati Samaj of Western Australia (Inc) and believe that he/she/they are eligible for membership.

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Signature</u>	<u>Date</u>
Applicant	_____	_____	_____
Proposer	_____	_____	_____
Seconder	_____	_____	_____

Note: Every application for membership must be signed by the applicant and by two current members of the Gujarati Samaj of Western Australia (Inc) as a proposer and seconder.

Membership Fees : Family \$30; Individual \$18; Full-time student \$10; Associate \$10
(Membership fees are inclusive of 10% GST)



General

As You Sow So Shall You Reap

Once a sanskari Sadhu, who was on his way to become a realised soul, came to his Guru and asked, “Guruji, why in the creation of God does there prevail injustice? God is supposed to be generous, impartial, kind, forgiving and loving. Aren’t we all children of one God?”

“But No! He is so narrow-minded; all his applications are different for different individuals. He makes things too big or too small, some healthy or sickly, some rich or poor, some tall or short, some intelligent or stupid, some black or white, some ugly or pretty. Some live for a long time while others die in a few days or months. Some are blind, deaf and dumb while others can see, hear and speak. O! Guruji Why? Why?”

The Guru replied. “My son, go to the village and as you enter the village you will find a massive pipal tree. In that tree lives a snake. Ask him this question and he will give you the answer”. The Sadhu went to the village and seeing the snake he asked the same question. But instead of answering the question, the snake fell onto the ground and died.

The Sadhu was shocked and came back to his Guru relating the incident. The Guru said, “Okay, now go to the village to Mr.Ratanlal’s home. He has a cow, which is going to give birth to a calf. Ask the little calf the same question; he will give you the answer”.

The Sadhu went to Mr.Ratanlal’s house and asked the same question to the calf, but instead of answering, the calf fell to the ground and died. The Sadhu was again shocked and asked himself, “What is the Guru trying to do?” He returned to the Guru and related what had happened.

The Guru said, “I know! Now go to the Mayor of the village. His wife has just delivered a little son; ask the son the same question”. The Sadhu refused, thinking that if the son dies, the Mayor of the village may have him killed. The Guru said, “Do not be afraid, the son will live and no harm may come to you”. The Sadhu came to the mayor’s house and saw everybody in very high spirits and happy. He requested the mayor to ask his newly born a question. The Mayor laughed and replied, “How on earth is he going to answer questions if he can’t even speak?” As he was in a happy mood he obliged to the Sadhu’s request. The Sadhu asked his question. The newly born spoke in very sweet and gentle voice, “Thank you Sadhu for coming here. How fortunate I am that three times your association has blessed me, to be released from my karmic commitments”. The Sadhu was surprised to hear this and asked, “What do you mean by three-time association with me?”

The child explained, “My soul travelled in many forms and in each form I had done many wrong deeds. My ego was in its prime. I killed to live, cheated for my greed, harmed others without consideration, raped, humiliated, insulted and hurt feeling of others. In each form I added karmas (actions) and my soul was in a form of a snake for many years. Recently my heart started bleeding and I felt very sorry for the deeds I did. And there you came; I think my repenting feelings brought me close to you. I felt that the great Lord of Lords has sent you to release me. I was so overwhelmed that my soul immediately left and the Lord put me into the body of the calf. But to my surprise, when I saw you again I became so overwhelmed that my soul left the body of the calf and here I am in a human body. And again you are here. My good fortunes have changed. Now I am going to pray to the almighty Lord to release me and take me back home, never to return in this cycle of birth and death”.

The child enquired, “How did this happen?” The Sadhu replied, “It is not me, but the grace of my Guru who sent me to you”. The child pleaded, “Take me to your Guru, who has cleared my enormous load of karmas and brought me to this human form. I am sure he will show me the way to liberate myself from this prison of birth and death”.

At that moment the Guru himself walked in and said, “My child it is not that easy. Although the Lord has pardoned you from your heavy load of karmas, you still have the karmic load of this life to clear. So when you grow up and become more understanding and are still willing, come to me and I will guide you for your permanent liberation. This is a karma-bhoomi (Land), the law of this universe is **as you sow so shall you reap**. So you will have to live a normal human life, shoulder the responsibilities and fulfil your commitments. At the same time you will have to learn and practice how to liberate your soul. It is not easy but it can be done in this human form”.

The Guru then turned to the Sadhu and said, “The Lord has dedicated the administration of this physical universe to the negative power called **Kal**. Kal makes all the decision according to each individual’s past actions and he judges what they deserve. That makes all the difference in individuals and the injustices that you are inquiring about. God does not interfere in Kal’s affairs, nor does he interfere in our affairs. But God remains with us all the time, over looking and attentive for the souls who are tired and repenting and asking for his help. Even Kal does not interfere when God is helping. So, when one cannot help themselves, if they turn to the almighty God, he is always there to help”.

Anonymous



Laughter the Best Medicine

- A couple had been married for 25 years and was celebrating the husband's 60th birthday. During the party, a fairy appeared and said that because they had been such a loving couple all those years, she would give them one wish each. The wife said, "We've been so poor all these years, and I've never gotten to see the world. I wish we could travel all over the world." The fairy waved her wand and POOF! She had the tickets in her hand. Next, it was the husband's turn. He paused for a moment, and then said, "Well, I'd like to be married to a woman 30 years younger than me." The fairy waved her wand and POOF! He was 90.
- John and Mary were having dinner in a very fine restaurant. Their waitress, taking another order at a table a few paces away noticed that John was ever so slowly, silently sliding down his chair and under the table, while Mary acted quite unconcerned. Their waitress watched as John slid all the way down his chair and out of sight under the table. Still, Mary appeared calm and unruffled, apparently unaware that John had disappeared under the table. After the waitress finished taking the order, she came over to the table and said to the woman, "Pardon me, ma'am, but I think your husband just slid under the table." The woman calmly looked up at her and replied firmly, "Oh, no he didn't. In fact, my husband just walked in the front door."

Disclaimer

Opinions and views expressed in the Sandesh are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Committee of the Gujarati Samaj or the Editors.

Articles Submission

Articles for the next issue of the Sandesh should be e-mailed to the editors by the 30th September 2003. Please note that only Microsoft word documents and black & white photographic images will be accepted.

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Mailing Address

A large empty rectangular box intended for the recipient's mailing address.