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Monthly Newspaper

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He went through a phase and it's fine. Ranbir is here to stay:
Anushka Sharma

Diwali and Govardhan Puja at Hare Krishna Temple in Chandler



On 30th of October we have celebrated Diwali in our traditional way by decorating the altar of Their Lordships Sri Sri Radhamadhavahari with hundreds of Ghee lamps. All the surroundings and pathways of temple decorated with candle lights.

Diwali is the day when in the Satya yuga mother Laxmi brought back Sri Narayan from Satal loka the abode of King Bali. On that

occasion resident of Vaikuntha loka first celebrated the Dipotsava. In Treta Yuga same day Prabhu Ramachandra returned to Ayodhya and resident of Ayodhya to Dipotsva.

In Dwapar Yuga Diwali is the day when most wonderful pastime of Lord Damodar happened.

In present day we celebra it remember the wonderful activities of the Lord. • More on P6

Sixth Annual Diwali Mela by Mauj Entertainment



October 22, 2016
Kiwanis Park, Tempe AZ

Once again, Mauj Entertainment partnered with Asia Today Arizona to bring Arizona its Sixth Annual Diwali Mela. Diwali, the festival of lights, is celebrated for different reasons within the different religions

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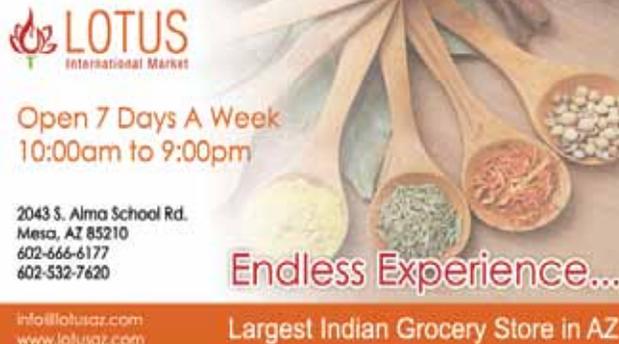
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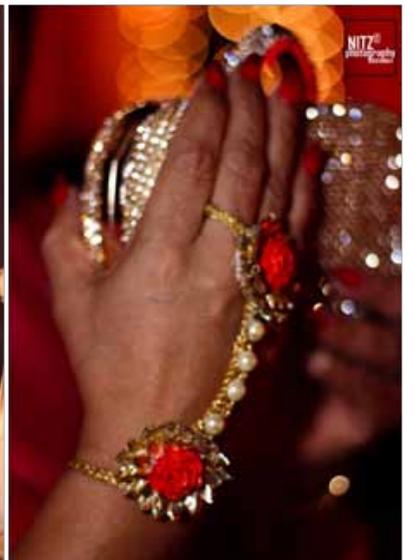
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Delhi Divas

I am in Delhi and that too in the festive season! Diwali is the best time to experience culture, food, bright colors and fashion. Since recent trends have been all about mixing-and-matching, I saw so many inspiring looks to merge modern and traditional together.

I was lucky to attend Page 3 Diwali party and it was great to see fashion on full swing. Delhites are leaving no stone unturned to look their glamorous best this festive season. Along with the festivities, culture everywhere there is an excitement, such happiness, which is so refreshing!



Fashion can mean different things to different people. It's one of the ways of self-expression and Diwali gives us an opportunity to bring out the best in us.

Delhites are so far ahead in trying bold colors while still maintaining the elegance. I can see that they are not afraid to re-sculpt their image using colors, adding glitter and most importantly carrying it with grace and confidence.

It was a privilege of meet with prominent fashion designers, fashion/beauty stylist and leading makeup

artist. My Sister Avleen Khokher is a multi-fascinated and very talented makeup artist who is also a mind therapist invited us to this event. It was a re-union for all of us after 9 years to be in Delhi for Diwali 2016.

Accessories—Bazira Mastani movie had brought back the love for nose rings, hand pieces, Baju Band aka arm pieces. It was so refreshing to see women rocking these stunning accessories. I believe such pieces can give a new definition to our existing wardrobes.

Bomber Jackets - The bomber has recently tak-

en over the fashion world, but this year it takes on a new twist in unusual colors, textures, shine. Whether oversized or embroidered, it's all about the details in 2016.

This Diwali has marked a new beginning of connections and relationships with designers and photographers.

-Harpreet Kaur

Photo Credits:
Nishant Aggarwal





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“Those who can, do. Those who can’t, bully!” ...

The quote rings loud and true and this month I want to take a few moments to talk about bullying. We all hear about it, read about it, and are encouraged to ensure children in our communities are not being bullied. But, do we really understand the impact of bullying? I definitely didn’t up until very recently. I would read stories in the news or see posts on social media related to keeping an eye out for bullying and stepping in to help and I would glance over them and move on. It wasn’t until I was a victim of bullying that I truly realized the impact of it and as they say you have to live it to understand it.

Bullying doesn’t stop in schools or as you grow up. Whenever you step into the world to do something, you take a risk that you will encounter a bully. And when a bully is successful in his campaign of destruction on his victim, he will cause you to believe that you are responsible for everything that is happening to you. It is no different than the victims of abuse or assault that may have questions in their mind about whether they did something to provoke it. And at that point, it is very critical for the individual to understand that there is nothing you can do that deserves that kind of a response whether it be bullying, abuse, or assault.

An incident with a bully in a professional situation made me realize that this doesn’t stop when we grow up. But, further, it really helped me realize the strong impact an incident such as this can have on someone. I consider myself a fairly strong person but the incident really shook me to my core, had a negative impact on my ability to do all the things I loved at work and at home, and I could not stop asking myself did I somehow provoke this behavior. I had to work hard to tune out the pointless noise, concentrate on the task at hand and what I was trying to accomplish, and get the rubbish questions around whether this was my fault out of my head.

I was blessed to have support from my husband



Editor's NOTE

who patiently helped me work through the confusion I was feeling and helped me realize that I had to learn to let it go quickly. I can honestly say I don’t think I would have gotten over the situation that quickly if it hadn’t been for his support and words of wisdom.

As I moved on, it made me wonder if it can have such a devastating impact on me – an adult who considers herself fairly strong, how could a child handle such a situation? Most children have not seen tough

situations in life, are still trying to figure out who they are, and are extremely fragile and sometimes insecure. An incident like this would be a thousand times more devastating for a child and if I could not get over it without someone standing by me, how would a child?

And would a child even know to ask for help? As adults, we form strong relationships with family, friends, or spouses where we share details of our lives and get more comfortable asking for help. However, a child may not have that comfort to share what is happening and ask for help. So, it becomes our duty to watch for changes in behavior and try to look for signs of whether a child is being bullied and form relationships based on trust where they can feel comfortable coming to us and talking about these things.

In our lives, we tend to get pulled into the chaos of balancing work, social life, home, and family. And, even though we may notice changes in behavior, don’t take the time out to truly understand what might be causing it. After my recent experience, I highly encourage everyone to try and not fall into the trap of our busy lives and take the time to talk to the children in our lives. Make sure incidents such as this are not a part of their lives because it will have a long lasting impact on their future and who they become as adults. As we enter the South Asian Holiday Season followed by the American Holiday Season, I wish everyone a house full of family, love, food, and celebrations. Happy Diwali!

-Deepa Kaur Walia

Editor, Asia Today, editor@asiatodayaz.com

Dear Friends,

Thank you for joining us at our 6th Annual Diwali Mela, thanks to our wonderful volunteers, sponsors, vendors, singers and especially everyone that came out to enjoy a fun family festival.

Diwali Mela was on Saturday , Oct 22nd. the event offered families a day of fun, food, entertainment, shopping with the activities such as arts and crafts for kids.

The entertainment on stage didn’t stop even for a moment and was entertaining for all ages with interactive , dances songs and Ramleela. This all ranges from a children’s fashion depicting the beautiful clothes of India to regional dance performance. Of course we can’t forget the unmissable performances of Darshana Menon. This list of acts and performances really doesn’t end here – there was so much more to see, discover and learn and thanks to the overwhelming response from the public.

We look forward to making this event even bigger next year! So help us share this event with your friends and family on our Facebook page!



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-Manju Walia

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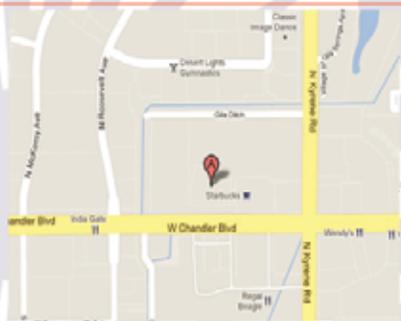
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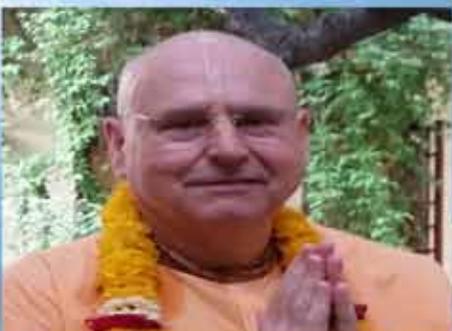

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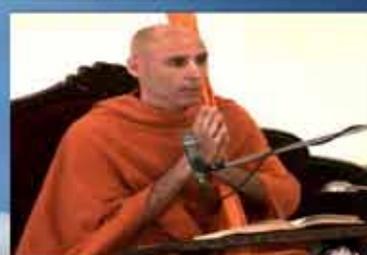
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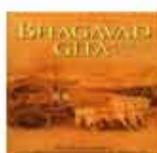
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Glimpse of Diwali Celebration at Ekta Mandir



Diwali was last month, it is festival that we all celebrate with great enthusiasm and look forward to every year. It is the festival of lights, and it's celebrated in the memory of Lord Ram's return to Ayodhya. Ramayana is the holy Hindu scripture from which we learn of Lord Ram, his greatness, of Lord Hanuman, his devotion to Lord Rama, etc. However, most of us haven't read Ramayana, and probably won't until we are in our 60s or 70s. In fact, most people work hard to accomplish all their responsibilities, and then devote the rest of their lives to spiritual and social causes. Fortunately, there are many animated movies and documentaries on Diwali that prevent us from falling into complete oblivion.

Every scripture in Hinduism is accompanied by numerous morals, from which everyone can learn something. There isn't a point in celebrating a festival without understanding its backstory, furthermore, it's necessary that we follow the lessons taught by these backstories. In this article I would like to share just a couple or more thoughts we - as teenagers - can learn from Ramayana.

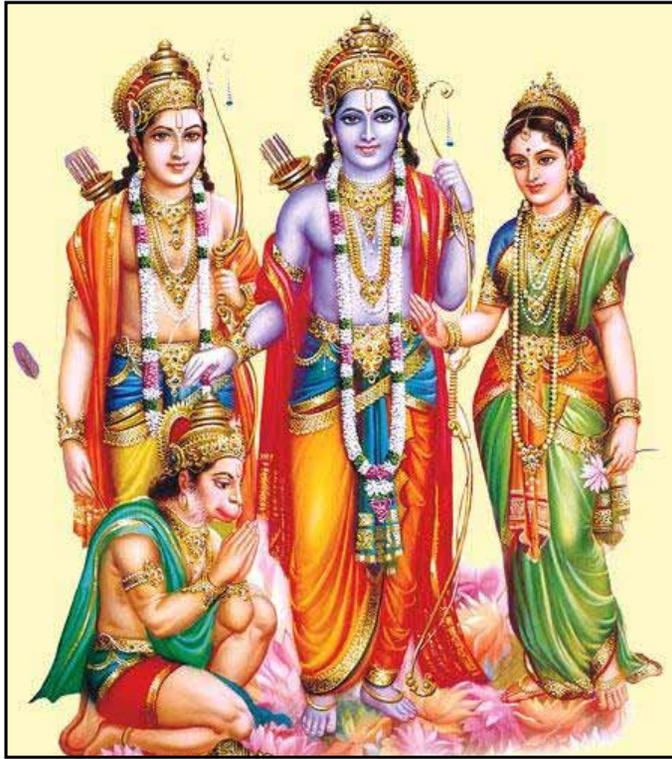
1. Execute your parents' commandes: Lord Rama was sent into wilderness, due to the promises his father had made to one of his wives. King Dasarath had granted his wife three wishes, and in the future she demanded that Lord Rama

Learn from Ramayan

leave Ayodhya, so that her son could become the next king. Lord Rama didn't have anything to do with this promise, but these were the words his father had promised to someone. It was about his father's honor and respect in the kingdom and the household, and so he left without any arguments or hesitation.

if our parent's make us a sincere request we must understand and execute it immediately, like Lord Rama did. This isn't only limited to requests, advices or suggestions are a part of this learning as well. Parents are more experienced than we are, so in some cases it is better to follow your parent's words without hesitation, because they would give us thoughtful advices and honest criticism.

2. Another thought that I grasped was helping your siblings or closed ones in hardships. Laxman could've stayed and lived a comfortable life in Ayodhya, however, he and Ma Sita accompanied Lord Rama



to the forest. It is quite obvious that Lord Rama, the avatar of Lord Vishnu, would have survive on his own in the wilderness, but as a sibling, family member, or a friend it is necessary to become each other's support in hard times.

In loneliness, depression, struggles, etc. These are all times when people look for support, and as a friend or a family member, they'll be thankful that you didn't show your back.

3. In the forest, Ma Sita was fascinated by a golden deer dancing around the lake, so she asked Lord Rama to

bring it to her. In this context the golden deer is like the day to day distractions that we face. Ma Sita's stubbornness to get that deer lead to her abduction and long separation from Lord Rama.

For us the consequences won't be as severe, but it's obvious they won't be any good either. Therefore, a good lesson is that you don't fall for distractions as a teenager or a student.

4. When Angada was sent in Ravana's palace, Ravana ordered to throw him out, but nobody - as a group or individually - move his feet. He persisted and in the end he threatened Ravana to be ready for Lord Rama's war. Similarly, Vibhishana, who was the only devotee of Lord Rama among all the rakshasa brothers, stayed headstrong and faced all the criticism for his devotion. In the very end he met Lord Rama and helped him win the war against Ravana.

If you're confident and right about something, then don't

move from your opinion one bit. Don't fall for the words of people who aren't as confident as you are. This is a common mistake we all make; we sideline our views, even though we are confident as to what is right and wrong. Therefore, maintain your stance even in criticism or difficult times.

5. Another most important message, don't be overconfident of your strengths, there's always someone above you. Ravana made the same mistake, believing he had the blessings of Lord Shiva, he thought he was unbeatable. In the end he and his forces lost to Lord Rama and his vanars.

You maybe at the top of class or school, but this is a big world and you haven't met all your competitors, so it's best to be self confident and understated.

Every religion has a story behind its existence, it is important that we understand that story and learn from it, instead of blindly following. Learn from these holy scriptures and try to apply them in reality. After all these are the most divine scriptures in Hinduism, the teachings of our Gods themselves.

I hope the article was relatable!

neurobhavya1@gmail.com

Bhavya Sharma

Paragon Science Academy.



Marijuana: A Nightmare

By Vicki Mayo

Imagine getting in your car with a higher than average risk that you could get into an accident with someone high on marijuana. As you drive to pick up your child from preschool, sign spinners next to her school advertise edibles marketed as popular mainstream candy bars. When you stop to fill your gas tank, the store has only one employee and a line out the door. Apparently the owner can't find anyone to work that can pass a drug test. Driving home yet another friend calls you lamenting about their teenager's addiction to

marijuana.

This isn't a nightmare; this scary scenario is the current reality in Colorado. Almost four years ago, Colorado passed a measure legalizing marijuana. Now four years later, the "marijuana experiment" clearly failed. Teen drug use is 74% higher than the national average. ACT scores have dropped lower and lower. Marijuana DUI rates have increased 600%. Traffic fatalities have increased 62% since legalization.

The Colorado experiment is on track to be recreated in Arizona if Prop 205 passes

in November. Prop 205 was written by medical marijuana dispensaries that stand to profit from a legal drug trade. Prop 205 is written so liberally as to make it legal to sell marijuana edibles near preschools and youth clubs such as the Boys and Girls Clubs. Prop 205 allows the production and sale of highly concentrated marijuana edibles and candies without limits on potency. Prop 205 also allows the growth of marijuana plants in homeowner's yards giving easy access to youth.

Proponents of Prop 205 argue that a portion of the tax

revenue will provide additional funding for our Schools. Colorado included a similar provision when they legalized marijuana. Four years later, Denver schools have yet to receive even a penny. Instead what got is the highest teen marijuana usage rate in country.

If all of this isn't frightening enough, due to the Arizona 1998 Voter Protection Act, if Prop 205 passes, there is Virtually NO TURNING BACK. Unlike normal legislation which can be changed and tinkered with each legislative session, a Proposition is essentially a

fundamental change to our constitution and cannot be changed.

Right now, there's a strong chance that Prop 205 will pass. If there's anything we've learned from the Colorado experiment, it's that it was a failure. Don't allow our state to turn into a failure! Please VOTE NO TO PROP 205!

For more information, please visit noprop205.com.

Vicki Mayo is a member of Nishkam Seva Gurudwara and has lived in the Valley for almost 20 years. She, her husband, and two children live in Scottsdale, Arizona.

The Sandwiched Generation



Dr. Jaswant Singh Sachdev
M.D., F.A.A.N.
Phoenix, Arizona

In trying to understand the thought process of the South Asian immigrants who left their homelands about half a century or more ago to settle in the West, it becomes obvious that the most important reason for them to leave their homeland was to seek a better life. Equally imperative was their desire to have promising careers for their children as and when they would arrive on this earth. While most of them succeeded in achieving their goals, unfortunately some never anticipated that their offspring would end up supporting a lifestyle contrary to what they, the immigrants, had aspired all along.

By no means do I imply here that the Western-born children of so-called "The Sandwiched Generation," the immigrants, did not succeed in their lives. On the contrary, if anything, the great educational achievements and unparalleled successes in the professional careers of most of the children of the immigrants have been above par, thanks to the constant motivation and untiring efforts of their parents in guiding their children. In fact, the success of these children turns out to be far superior to what many parents could have hoped for. This should certainly bring tremendous amount of satisfaction to their immigrant parents. The credit for their successes and achievements of Western Born children in part goes to the abundance of opportunities available in these countries, in addition to the constant hard work of their parents.

Let us now for a moment glance at the unique situations and conditions under which the immigrant parents came to the West from the Eastern countries like India. The majority of them left their homelands during the second wave of immigration in the late 60s, 70s and 80s. They had been through professional colleges and schools and were very well trained in their respective fields and all of them had a dream. And the dream was not just limited to the advancement of their own careers or of their children, but also to make sure that their close relatives--i.e. parents, brothers and sisters that they left behind--would also be financially well looked after with their support. This was important to them, for they were keenly aware of the contributions that their relatives and friends had made, one way or the other, first to support them in going through professional schools and then to help them in settling in the West. Wherever it was possible, many of these NRI's have been going out of their ways to arrange for their eligible nears and dears to come and settle in the West.

Consequently, a constant stream of relatives kept trickling in behind them as immigrants.

After arriving on the Western shores, they started to explore their surroundings, looking for opportunities to work hard and progress so that they could fulfill their dreams. Working incessantly, more than sixteen to eighteen hours a day, sometimes even at two jobs, in order to save few bucks and then send them to their needy folks, brought a real sense of satisfaction to them. On finding out that their hard earned greens were helping those in need; their eyes would sparkle with satisfaction.

Yet, their constant desire to make and save money ran much against the local culture, since saving has never been a part of the training of Western childhood. It took no time for them to realize that the life in the West is somewhat self-oriented, where catering to one's own needs is of utmost importance.

In one of his televised discourses, while talking about the concept of FAMILY in the Western culture, respected Muni Tarun Sagar Ji has truly gone deep to the bottom of Western mentality. He explained and I quote, "No doubt, the word FAMILY, when broken down, may imply as F = father, A = and, M = mother, I = I, L = love, Y = you; yet in Western culture it merely remains a superficial talk. In reality, a Family in the West is only and primarily limited to a spouse and the minor children. There is no true space for father or mother at all in the Western social model of the family, instead, they are simply transformed into and known as "folks." It is unlike the Eastern concept, where this word "FAMILY", at least in the past, included all the near and dear ones, such as parents and even grandparents.

As parents themselves, the immigrants usually show a great concern about the well-being of their growing families, as they should. They want to make sure that their offspring get the best education and comforts so that they can also become professional and successful like their parents. After all, taking care of the children in the best possible way is the intent of all living beings. Decision of the sandwiched generation to leave own comforts back home, in fact, was based on this reasoning.

But herein lays the dilemma for which they were poorly prepared.

The Eastern cultural philosophy, the only one they knew, had all along made them pin their hopes on their children to take care of them in their later years. Having taken care of their parents back

home or here, they maintained their hopes that their children will be around to help them when old age would start showing its ugly head. Little did they realize however, that this was not to be! As this reality started to dawn upon them, it became obvious that the support from their Western-born and grown children, as they were expecting, never arrived and perhaps never will, in most of the circumstances.

The children born and raised in the West are phenotypically very much like their parents, yet they turn out to be fully westernized in their thought processes and culture. The social and moral aspects of Western-born children, especially in terms of their relationships with and responsibilities toward their parents, the sandwiched generation, are 180 degrees apart from what their parents had with their parents. Through no fault of their own, these children stand at the crossroads between the Western culture outside the home and the remnants of the Eastern culture promoted at home by their immigrant parents.

Thus, as far as these first-generation immigrant parents are concerned, their lives get "sandwiched" between two opposing responsibilities. One side of this "sandwich" is the loaf or responsibility of maintaining the well-being of their older parents as well as those left back home. But this is only true for those who accepted these responsibilities. Fortunately, most of the immigrant community did so and tried not to shirk what was expected of them. To that end, many of those in the diaspora did indeed manage to bring their elderly to the West to live with them, situation permitting, of course.

The other side of the "sandwich" represents the responsibility of running a household in an alien culture, with all its inherent trials and tribulations. The care and education of their children lies on this side of the sandwich. Fortunately most of them, not only become successful in their personal achievements, but they also try to make sure that their children's careers achieve higher goals than the guys across the street.

However, their desire to live in joint families with children waiting upon them and standing on their toes like their cousins back home do, and as is projected in the Bollywood TV soaps and movies, is neither possible in the Western world nor should it have been expected.

The question then arises, what the first generation diaspora should or should not have done to avoid the present dilemma in which some of them find themselves? The answers are

not simple to come by. Leaving one's country was felt to be the best choice at the time they decided to emigrate. Having children and expanding families was also the natural outcome of a fuller life. But the effects and the stress of the surrounding culture on growing-up children on a daily basis in an environment alien to their home turf was something they could have never foreseen.

Many parents try to control the company that their children keep, but again this may be a difficult proposition. Be it for better or for worse, the influence of local friends on the lifestyle of Western-born desi children does leave its mark simply because children do not and cannot grow up in a vacuum. This does not mean that parents should not attempt to instill in their children what they feel is good in their culture. Awareness about one's faith, introducing the children to the realities of what their parents' life was like back home, and knowledge about their extended families is vitally important and children should be made aware of such matters. For this reason, an occasional trip back home as a family unit is essential and must not be ignored, circumstances and resources permitting, of course.

Having said this all, what "The Sandwiched Generation" needs to realize is that their previous mind-set has to change so that they are ready to accept new realities and make adjustments accordingly concurrent with time and situations. Delivering a constant dose of parental back-home-culture in an open and serious manner but with the full awareness of the realities of living in the West is all one can hope for. Once children reach adulthood, the ball is in their court in terms of how they are going to interact with their parents. Seeking a change in their behavior at that stage of the game is often difficult--in fact, almost impossible. Having resources set aside for rainy days and arranging for long-term health care in a facility away from home is something that each one of us from the diaspora should at least be prepared to do.

The time to guide the children is before they turn into teens. Once they get to that curve, one must settle with the reality that the arrow has already left the bow and to reset its direction or to change its course at that stage is going to be extremely difficult, if not impossible.

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Sam Thomasson
Founder and CEO



Zounds® Founder and CEO, Sam Thomasson and his daughter, Kate

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Sangeetshri Music Festival 2016



Many young talented music students of Sangeetshri School of Music came together and delivered their mesmerizing solo, duet, and group performances at the Sangeetshri Music Festival held at the Chandler Center for the Arts on Saturday, October 15th, 2016. The musical performances included pure classical, semi-classical, hindi compositions, sanskrit shlokas, punjabi folk song, and marathi abhang. It was a sight to see the vocalists, violinists, percussionists on tabla and mridangam, sharing the stage and enthralling the audience.



Give Back to Motherland

In USA among three million Indo-American population, there may be about 200,000 first generation persons retired or close to retirement. There are also equal or larger number of Indian immigrant retired persons in other countries. They have a strong desire to help their Motherland - India. There are many charitable organizations with Indian countrywide macro concepts benefit programs where these people can help. But how to connect the desire, energies and talents of these retirees to the beneficial activity for Motherland? We describe herein a micro concept with total solution approach to contribute for education from kindergarten to completing education and thereby to give back to Motherland. This simultaneously addresses continuity of culture and Roots - "Vatan" - belonging to retirees next generations.

One of the problems Eastern immigrants living in western world have is that as their children are raised in the adopted country, the children start losing connection with their Roots resulting in possible loss of original culture and knowledge of ancestry. And after couple of generations, the families may not even know where their ancestors came from. Starting mid-19th century Indian people migrated to areas like South America, Fiji Islands, Malaysia, Africa, etc. looking for work opportunities and later on from mid-twentieth Century to Europe and North America. As generations passed by, the immigrants retained some original culture and heritage but lost knowledge of their Roots as well as connection to the native place. Obviously, early immigrants have a strong desire to maintain the native connection and culture, religion, etc. How to get the next generation of NRI's interested in "back home"? Just visiting now and then is not enough as with modern life style vacation time is limited. There has to be a purpose, a driving force to keep next generation interested - a sense of achievement, a sense of fulfilling - helping someone in need, a humanitarian cause.

Typically Non Resident Indians - NRI - donated thru charitable organization. There are many non-profits in USA with a goal of helping with education of the poor in third world countries and they run excellent programs. They appeal to the kind feeling and generosity of the donors. But the donors and onsite administration people generally do not have any personal attachment to the local area being served. They do carry out this work very nicely and with feelings of humanity.

One of the ways for close connection is to connect retiring immigrants and their families to work with people in their native area to provide humanitarian aid



for the need of the local community. This aid can be related to education, health, social ills, etc. The difference is that the donors and local operatives are connected by way of belonging to the area. They have deep feeling to improve the area and local population's life style. They are equally desirous to see that their next generations stay connected with their Roots - "Vatan". This micro-approach with hands own involvement - securing donation, selection of type of benefits, administrating benefit programs and monitoring results - has a great potential of success. Also, with partnership with benefiting organization they are involved in total development of education - KG to higher education and humanitarian aid as needed. The program can be run by an umbrella organization specific to a country or donors can create their own organization with a given activity area of their Roots. Obviously one needs to have at the minimum couple of dedicated persons on either end to promote and carry out the benefit programs.

A case history is CBG Foundation - founded by Bhagubhai & Jayaben Patel, residents of Chandler, Arizona, USA. His Roots are in Thuvavi village near Vadodara, Gujarat, India. The village has a public education trust - Thuvavi Area Public Education Trust - that operates since 1971 a school for KG to 12th grade with a student population of 1,100. He is a trustee on this Education Trust. He is first generation Indian immigrant who came to USA in nineteen sixties and retired in late nineties like many others of his time. His family was associated with education facilities development in Thuvavi village. One of the problems the Thuvavi Education Trust continually faces is school's financial health. With the urbanization of the population in India, the village population has moved to cities leaving families in villages with low means of lively hood. They depend

on farming land or as farm laborers - resulting in inability of supporting education of their children. At the school the tuition fees are not being paid and many times the students will not have required school uniforms or worse yet did not attend the school regularly as parents took them to work on the farms. The other issue is with the tremendous increase in youth in Indian population, there is not enough work opportunities for unskilled youths. There is large demand for skilled craftsman in factories as well as by independent contractors and as repair technicians. Many of this area graduating students were working menial jobs - not sufficient income to start a family or having a prospective career.

Hence, CBG Foundation kept looking for answers for - (1) how to have students attend the school regularly and means to sustain and improve quality of education and (2) additional training to qualify for a well paying job. Bhagubhai and Jayben found answer in connecting Non Resident Indians abroad from a given area of their origin to the need of the same area along with appealing to generous people to financially help the poor families with children's education. In search of answer to this situation, Bhagubhai Patel created CBG Foundation for Humanity and Education - to provide financial help to needy families and to start a post high school craftsman training facility. CBG Foundation is a non-profit organization (USA IRS 501(c)(3) with Directors on Board of Directors primarily from second generation immigrants having Roots in the beneficiary area - Dipen Patel is President and Minesh Patel, Wayne Armoogam, Mahesh Shah and Jai Seecharran are Directors from Western USA region while Kirti Patel manages "Single Mother Support" program" and Sutapa Armoogam manages other benefit programs. CBG Foundation partnered with Thuvavi

Area Public education Trust to carry out their programs related to education and humanity. www.cbgfoundation.org and www.arpateliti.org. Donations come from people with the Roots in the area and also persons with compassion to help poor families. With pleasant surprise CBG Foundation found excellent participation in the program from Guyanese community in USA whose ancestor left India more than 100 years ago. Guyanese immigrants have a deep feeling to do something for their ancestral land. Under our "Sponsor A Student" program, we supported education costs of 93 students in academic year 2014/15 and 156 students in academic year 2015/16. We also supported two mothers with school going children under our "Single Mother Support" program. This program is aimed to help these mothers to be self sufficient by earning enough money to support their family. We provided Gas Stoves and Bottles to few underprivileged families. There is vast opportunity to spread this type of program in India. Many times Indian Immigrants do help out to organizations in their Roots area. Many of the first generation immigrants visit India regularly and this type of involvement will give them an opportunity to spend their time for a worthy humanitarian cause. In fact, it may encourage them and next generation to visit India more often. What is needed is going in an organized way and also connecting future generations to their Roots area which will result in continuity of efforts and preservation of our culture. These types of efforts will result in uplifting under privileged population - a great humanitarian service to Motherland.

Bhagubhai Patel may be contacted at Tel: 602-524-9658 bdjbtempe@gmail.com and Dr. Prakash Kotecha at Tel: 480-492-2088 pvkotecha@gmail.com

SeniorAdvice.com Ranks the Best American Cities for LGBT Seniors

The first data-driven senior livability index identifies top cities that are gay-friendly for older adults.

AUSTIN, Texas, Oct. 4, 2016 / PRNewswire/ -- SeniorAdvice.com, one of the nation's top senior housing referral services, released a list of America's top cities for gay-friendly retirement today. The company created SeniorScore™, the first comprehensive un-biased scoring system specifically designed to measure the livability for seniors, and most recently determined the top gay-friendly cities for seniors.

SeniorAdvice.com recognizes that the lesbian,

gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) older adult community is currently a very important part of the American population to consider. According to the American Psychological Association, more than 39 million people in the U.S. are age 65 years or older including 1.5 million people who identify as LGBT. Furthermore, as the baby boomer generation ages, the senior population will increase from 12.8 percent to an estimated 19 percent in

2030, meaning that the LGBT senior niche will undoubtedly grow as well.

The following U.S. cities have been named by SeniorScore™ as the most



accommodating for LGBT seniors based on a data-driven algorithm:

Austin, TX
Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN
Atlanta, GA
Phoenix, AZ
Orlando, FL
Tampa, FL
Portland, OR

Seattle, WA
Columbus, OH
Salt Lake City, UT
Dallas, TX
Las Vegas, NV

San Francisco, CA
Houston, TX

To assemble the list of gay-friendly cities, SeniorAdvice.com utilized SeniorScore™, to determine the best cities in general for seniors. The ranking is calculated by compiling and factoring over 100 variables, including access to health care and number of senior residents, to help determine how well a specific location accommodates the comfort and needs of senior citizens. SeniorScore™ takes into account four different categories: health and safety, recreation and leisure, finance, and general quality of life. The SeniorScore™ is un-biased and is not influenced by personal opinion or financial interests in any way.

After considering the top cities for seniors through SeniorScore™, SeniorAdvice.com carefully researched and identified individual variables and conveniences specifically for the LGBT community. Some of these specific considerations include: acceptance of the LGBT community; gay-friendly bars, clubs and other

establishments; LGBT festivals and other recreational activities; level of legal protection for gay, lesbian, and trans residents; and presence of gay senior groups.

"SeniorAdvice.com is an invaluable resource for seniors, their family members, and caregivers to help find the most livable locations. We're also very dedicated to diversity and inclusion, and we wanted to make sure we could assist members of the gay and lesbian community in finding the best locations for retirement and senior housing," said SeniorAdvice.com CEO and Founder, Ryan Patterson.

For more information on SeniorScore™, visit <http://www.senioradvice.com/seniorscore>. To view details regarding the top gay-friendly cities in America for seniors, visit <https://www.senioradvice.com/articles/americas-best-cities-for-gay-friendly-retirement>.

ABOUT SeniorAdvice.com Launched in 2016, SeniorAdvice.com connects older people and their support systems to more than 50,000 housing options. The free senior living search engine contains comprehensive information on providers nationwide, including assisted living, nursing homes, memory care, home healthcare, independent living, adult day services, retirement homes, respite care, and hospice.

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Peace can not be achieved without justice, respect and tolerance. Said Imam Shamsad

Report by: Riyaz Ahmad Chicago.

Pastor Corey Brost invited a meeting of the different faith leaders and youths to build a bridge between faiths and communities in the area, meeting took place Wednesday 19th October at 1212 E. Euclid Ave, Arlington Heights, ILL.

Meeting started with prayers and introduction of the members present of three Abrahamic Faiths.

Father Corey the meeting organizer then went to read the Agenda of the meeting, the purpose was to reach other communities and know the different events taking place in the town and neighborhood. One of the goals of this group will be to visit Synagogues, Churches, Mosques and Gurdwaras to become familiar with the teachings and worship of other Faiths.

Imam Shamsad of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community of Glen Ellyn was also invited for the meeting. In his speech, he briefly introduced Ahmadiyya Muslim and its activities in the area and worldwide, Imam said Islam is the religion of Peace tolerance which teaches respect for all without any discrimination.

Imam Shamsad also gave some examples how Islam is misunderstood in the west, unfortunately very few so-called Muslims are hijacking Islam. We are looking just in unjust society Imam added.

Imam explained how the worldwide spiritual leader, of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community His Holiness



Mirza Masroor Ahmad is removing the Misunderstanding about Islam through his speeches in different Countries of the world and meeting the Heads of states reminding them their duties

about Peace. If you will not pay heed now then we can see that 3rd world war is not far from us. Imam also gave the Book about Peace which is the collections of His Holiness speeches

about teachings of Islam. Imam was accompanied with Mr Riyaz Ahmad of Chicago. More than 20 members attended this meeting from different faith mostly the youth.

Prema Bhagti: Pure Devotion

Namaskar, and Sat Sri Akal to all my readers.

A long time ago when Lord Vishnu and mother Laxmi were in human life they were talking about visiting their devotees. Lord Vishnu asked Laxmi, "Where do you want to visit first?" Laxmi answered, "My devotee's home, Lord. I will show you how they will serve us. "How much wealth my devotee has." Next day they started the journey. Laxmi was walking ahead very proudly. The lord walked behind with calm poise. The path was delighted with the presence of the divine couple.

When they reached the large palace they were greeted by the servants with great excitement. The servants informed the mother of the place and she greeted them very humbly and provid-

ed a special place for them to live in the palace. Laxmi asked the wife "where's my devotee" His wife answered, "He's on a business trip. I hope he'll return in a few days."

Mother Laxmi was very happy because it was a most comfortable stay in her devotee's house. When the devotee returned from his trip he visited Lord Narayan and Laxmi with great excitement asked them, "Are you comfortable in your stay? Please forgive me for any discomfort. Tomorrow, I'm leaving again on business. I hope I will see you again soon."

Two days after that Lord Vishnu said to Laxmi, It's time to move on and visit my devotees.

Mother Laxmi questioned the lord, "Where does he live? My Lord." Narayan

said, "Laxmi, he is living in a heavenly place. It's in a thick jungle, calm and cool filled with the fragrance of nature. There is a little hut with a divine couple living with their cow in it. And they are very eager to see us. Their eyes are always filled with tears of divine love to see our darsan."

But, mother Laxmi was speechless to say to the lord, "Where will we stay there, in that little hut?" Lord Narayan answered the question with a hidden laugh. "Yes, Laxmi yes, with them in that hut. When we will reach there, Laxmi; that hut will become a heavenly place on this earth for them."

When Lord Vishnu reached the hut and Laxmi opened her eyes to see; what happened in her mind was unspeakable joy and all the heavenly

comforts were there. And that divine couple washed the feet of Lord Vishnu and Laxmi with their tears of joy.

In Laxmi's mind there was just oneness, joy and supreme peace and the absence of any worldly desires. There was no existence of Sun and Moon, Day and Night, just divinity.

My friends, if you pray with pure devotion, all the desires will be fulfilled by God's grace.

Happy and Prosperous Diwali.

God Bless You All with Divine Grace. Please pray for me.



Gyani Ji,
Harbhajan Singh Sandhu
Email: GHSSandhu@gmail.com

INDIAN SENIORS ASSOCIATION OF ARIZONA (ISAA)- LA PRINCESA La Princesa Hall



ISAA Celebrated 5th Anniversary: On Tuesday September 27, 2016 ISAA celebrated their 5th Anniversary magnificently! What a celebration we had! All present thoroughly enjoyed right from Breakfast, ISAA photos - showing the highlights from over the years, welcoming of Guest of honors, recognition and their remarks, photo sessions by Leena who took a day off from work, music and dance, food, door prizes and surprise gifts at the end. Wow, Just non-stop fun. A brief history of ISAA was given along with a warm welcome to ALL including Guests of Honor- Deepika Bhalla, Melissa Elliott, Jeff Struble, Deepa Walia, Daniel & Randy Rondberg, Minaxi Pandit and Gabriella Ruiz. As the guests delivered special messages "plaques" were presented to them for contributions in ISAA's growth. Tereq Khan, Anjali and Ravi took over the floor after the photo session and rocked the hall with music. The vibrant music started to flow non-stop. Many seniors couldn't help but dance and dance. Vote of thanks was in order at the end. Cake was cut to mark the occasion by the senior most Shantikaka and Sarlaben. Grand luncheon got underway as Gary Vasvani and Mini Pandit conducted the distribution of door prizes to winners. Over 130 in attendance enjoyed the royal lavish food. At the end, all present were given a ISAA memento of S/S double walled customized mug with ISAA logo on it.

On Oct 04, 2016, the morning got underway with a photo show of 5th Anniversary celebrations. Some enjoyed

hot tea while socializing. The screening of the "Dying Art of BrotoAlponas of Bengal" was a great hit. The documentary was produced by Sarbari Chowdhury and it was sponsored by Mini Pandit. Sradhanjali tribute to our 19 "jawans" who sacrificed their lives in the recent cross border surgical strike ("eh mere vatanke logo" by Lata Mangeshkar). Mini Pandit paid a short tribute to Gandhiji as well as Lal Bhadur Shastri as Oct 2 happened to be their birth anniversaries. People enjoyed garba and rassa before luncheon as Navratri celebrations continue during the week. Today's grand luncheon was sponsored by Miniben with Mohanthaal, and a Bengali treat of "sandesh". Over ninety members and guests had a great time. Jitubhai presented the "accounts" of 5th Anniversary celebrations as well as ISAA's 3rd quarter financial report as of Sept 30.

On Oct 11, 2016, people enjoyed viewing the photos from last week while socializing as the music played in the background. Hot tea was the favorite accompaniment. Celebrated Dussehra relating the story of Lord Rama's victory over demon King Ravana and Durga Mata's king of Mahisasur. Video clippings included Alok Sagar's passionate and simple life among the adivasis serving their needs. It is quite an example of sacrifice and dedication to humanity. Another humorous video showed why the corrupt politicians and leaders need to be removed on a Dussehra day. Minu, a restaurant owner, comes up with a noble idea of

feeding the hungry by saving the foods that would go to waste. She provides a commercial refrigerator outside the restaurant. Dangers of using mobile phones while driving was shown when a girl survived but her parents lost their lives. She had to learn a lot of things all over again due to injuries. Daily life in Amdavad can be very touchy and full of humor as shown by another video. Beautifully dressed up ladies enjoyed non-stop garba and bhangra dances. Today's program was quite a hit. The function was wrapped up with aarti and prasada at a beautifully decorated temple by Meena Sharma. This was complemented by Deviben's aarti samagri. The sponsors today were Sarojben and Ashokbhai family. Their daughters - Sangeeta and Anjali graced the occasion with their children. Over seventy-five guests and members enjoyed the meal.

On Oct 18, 2016, the favorite start of the day was tea with biscuits and watching the photo show with music from the last week. Friends greeted while enjoying the morning. Jitubhai and the audience thanked- Paddasahab and his brothers, Miniben's late father and Meenaben Sharma's late husband for their Desh bhakti and sacrifices in the independence struggle of India. Hats Off to them. The following video clips were shown- "Don't kill animals" a heart touching video of a little girl; "The queen of dancing- Madhuri Dixit" in her favorite performance; "Water Saves Life" excellent tips that help and work in many ways for bet-

1. ISAA ladies dressed up for Sharad Purnima celebrations
2. Madhok Family sponsored the Dussehra Luncheon
3. ISAA paying Tribute to Indian Jawans in Uniform, who lost their lives in the recent Surgical Strikes.
4. The movie & Luncheon sponsor - Mini Pandit & Family with the movie Producer Sarbari Chowdhury.
5. ISAA appreciated Gosalia's support in designing the Flyers and the Program Booklet for the celebrations
7. Ashvinbhai & Indravadanbhai were the back bones of the ISAA Celebration Preparations
7. ISAA Guests and Members having great times at the Anniversary celebrations
8. Tereq Khan and Anjali Swamy's music & singing talents made the celebrations a huge success
9. Rondberg Family became a part of the ISAA Family gracing the occasion with lots of fun
10. Cake-Cutting Ceremony was the blessings by the two highly respected senior mosts!
11. The ever ending Non-stop fun by Dancing with vigor and high energy!
12. ISAA Committee with Guests - Rondbergs, Deepa Walia, Deepika Bhalla, Gabriel Ruiz & Melissa Elliott

ter health; A humorous dance "Dhoti-yawalo Mane Nathi Gamto"; We celebrated Sharad Purnima with non-stop garba followed by aarti. Thanks to Deviben and Babubhai for setting up the beautiful mandir. Over eighty members and guests enjoyed today's delicious luncheon sponsored by Shakuben and Shashikantbhai.

Yoga

Path to self realization

arjuna uvāca

senayor ubhayor madhye ratham sthāpaya me 'cyuta
yāvad etān nirīkse 'ham yoddhu-kāmān avasthitān
(Bhagavad Gita 01.21)



Translation:

Arjuna said: O infallible one, please draw my chariot between the two armies so that I may see those present here, who desire to fight, and with whom I must contend in this great trial of arms.

Reflection by Chaitanya Charan:

Suppose a cricket World Cup final match is about to start. Thousands of spectators have assembled and are cheering; the fielders are in place; and the bowler has taken guard. Suppose at that intense moment the batsman calls the non-striker and the two start talking – and keep talking, on and on. If the two batsmen were reputed to be high-minded, competent players who wouldn't resort to any underhanded delaying tactics, then the very unlikeliness of their actions would suggest that whatever they are discussing must be something extremely important and

**The
unlikeliness of
the Gita's
setting
underscores the
urgency of its
message**

~Chaitanya Charan



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urgent.

The Bhagavad-gita's battlefield setting points to a similar inference. The two armies have assembled; the conches have been blown to signify the war's start; and the Pandavas' foremost warrior Arjuna has raised his bow. But at that critical moment, he asks his charioteer Krishna to take his chariot in between the two armies (01.21) and then engages in a fairly long philosophical discussion with him. Arjuna is famed as a principled, powerful and fearless warrior. And Krishna is God himself incarnate on earth for the purpose of establishing dharma. Neither of them is likely to adopt any delaying tactic – and certainly not at the cusp of a dharmic war for which Arjuna has trained lifelong.

The Gita's unlikely setting emphasizes the urgency of its message. Such emphasis is meant especially for those of us who think that a philosophical book like the Gita is for armchair speculators, not go-getters like us. But few things call for a go-getting attitude as much as does a war. If a warrior about to fight his life's most important war found the Gita's wisdom relevant and empowering, so too will we.

Thus, the Gita's unlikely setting anticipates and addresses an apprehension that prevents many people from exploring life's spiritual side.

www.gitadaily.com - World's only website offering a new article on Bhagavad Gita everyday

http://radhakrishnaphoenix.org - ISKCON Phoenix

Namaste Everyone. Karthik is a very auspicious month and it has already started. This is a perfect month for connection with the Godhead. Absorbing all positive vibrations in this month and leaving away all negative thoughts should be our goal. We also had Sharad Poonima this month which was a special full moon night and it is believed that the nectar falls from the moonlight on this night.

With several festivals in line, we tend to consume high calorie diets. So let's take vows to maintain our body to balance and lead a healthy life. And what can be best than to get engaged in Yoga practices which will not only make your body fit but also will act in all other deeper layers of consciousness. After all a clean and healthy body will always smile. This month we will be focusing on Trikonasana. This is another balancing pose and is called the Triangle Pose. There are many variations to this pose namely

- Baddha trikonasana (bound triangle pose)
- Baddha parivritta trikonasana (bound revolved triangle pose)
- Parivritta trikonasana (revolved triangle pose)
- Supta trikonasana (reclining triangle pose)

TRIKONASANA

Triangle Pose



Trikon = Triangle

In trikonasana with an obvious spinal sidebend (topside ribs shifting up toward the ceiling), the legs have to work even more to support the length in the spine. In this pose, as in all sidebends, the tissues and vital organs on the side that's lifting are being decompressed, creating an inner spaciousness which facilitates cellular activity. The tissues on the lower side are being compressed, wrung out like a washcloth, facilitating the release of intercellular waste.

To extrapolate from ida and pingala nadis, or right and left energy channels of the body, lifting the right side is said to be energizing, whereas lifting left side is said to be more cooling and grounding.

Steps to follow

Variation 1:

- Stand erect with the feet about a metre apart.
- Turn the right foot to the right side.
- Stretch the arms sideways and raise them to shoulder level so

that they are in one straight line.

- Bend to the right, taking care not to bring the body forward. Simultaneously bend the right knee slightly.
- Place the right hand on the right foot, keeping the two arms in line with each other. Turn the left palm forward.
- Look up at the left hand in the final position.
- Return to the upright position with the arms in a straight line.
- Repeat on the opposite side, bending the left knee slightly. This completes one round. Practise 5 rounds.

Variation 2

- Repeat the basic form
 - Instead of keeping the upper arm vertical in the final position, lower it over the ear until it is parallel to the floor with the palm facing down.
 - Try not to bend forward but to keep the body in one vertical plane.
 - Look up at the left hand.
 - Slowly return to the starting position.
 - Repeat on the left side.
- Breathing: Inhale while raising the

arms. Exhale while bending.

Hold the breath for a few seconds in the final position.

Inhale while raising the body to the vertical position.

Practice note: When this asana can be performed easily, repeat the practice keeping both legs straight.

Dynamic practice: Perform the posture rapidly with an increased number of rounds.

Awareness: Physical - on coordination of movement, balance and the stretch on the side of the trunk in the final position.

Spiritual - on manipura chakra.

Contra-indications: This asana should not be performed by those suffering from back conditions.

Benefits: This series may be performed daily for a few weeks to tone the entire body. It affects the muscles on the sides of the trunk, the waist and the back of the legs. It stimulates the nervous system and alleviates nervous depression. It

improves digestion, stimulating the appetite, activating intestinal peristalsis and alleviating constipation. It also strengthens the pelvic area and tones the reproductive organs. Regular practice will also help reduce waistline fat.

Sikh Awareness Activities for the Month of October 2016



Dr. Jaswant Singh Sachdev, M.D., F.A.A.N, Phoenix, Arizona

The Sikh awareness volunteers have continued to carry on their passion of letting rest of the Valley know about Sikh presence. It has become all the more important given the circumstances and environment created by upcoming Presidential Election this year. An escalating dislike for people of different ethnicities and religions other than majority seems to be on the rise. The Sikhs given their unique identity unfortunately have been more susceptible to this hatred. Keeping this in mind continuous efforts are being made wherever and whenever an opportunity arises to let others know as to who

Sikhs are, what they stand for, how long they have made USA their home and what differentiates them from look-alike people? The following events were undertaken this month in addition to some others.

1. CLASS AT DESERT EDGE HIGH SCHOOL IN GOODYEAR OCT 4th:

Mrs. and Mr. Rangji as well as author taught a senior class of about 90 high school students providing a crash course of about two hours on October 4th. Included in their teaching was a power point presentation



about Sikh faith, Sikh History, Sikh arrival in US, Role of Sikhs in WWI and WWII presented by author followed by question and answer session by both.

2. GROUP OF SENIORS

the author for about 40 minutes followed by and in-depth question answer session by Mrs. Rangji, S. Devinder Singh as well as the author followed. Program ended with a hearty

ARRIVE AT NISHKAM SEVA GURDWARA TO LEARN ABOUT SIKH FAITH

A group of about 60 people belonging to various Churches, Synagogues and Community Centers arrived in Nishkam Seva Gurdwara Sahib on the evening of Oct 5th. Again a power point presentation by the author for about 40 minutes followed by and in-depth question answer session by Mrs. Rangji, S. Devinder Singh as well as the author followed. Program ended with a hearty

hot Vegetarian Dinner, the Langar.

3. Dr. SACHDEV TALKS ABOUT SIKH FAITH IN FAITH FORM: AN EVENT HOSTED IN DOWNTOWN BY ARIZONA INTERFAITH MOVEMENT

Every month a faith form event is held at Jews Historical Society where representatives of different faiths are invited for discussion on a given topic. On October 20th, the topic of discussion was the role of prayers in each faith followed by as to how the prayer is done in a given faith. The author was blessed to be one of the representatives from Sikh Faith among priests and preachers belonging to eight different faiths. It was an interesting dialogue very informative and spiritually uplifting.

Trump's bogeyman strategy nothing new

The campaign strategy that Donald Trump used to win the Republican party nomination for president is not a new one. It was taken from the play book that had been used by the Republicans to win elections for decades. Step 1: Come up with a bogeyman and blame the bogeyman for what is wrong with America. Step 2: Appeal to the electorate's hate and fear of said Boogeyman. Step 3: Come up with images and slogans that convey the message of hate and fear of the bogeyman. There are countless of examples of the use of this strategy by Republicans through the years. Their all time favorite Bogeymen are African Americans and not far behind them, immigrants, students activists, professors and universities.

Ronald Reagan used the Bogeyman Strategy to launch his political career in 1966 by targeting UC Berkeley's student peace activists, professors, and the University of California. Reagan was running to be the governor of California in 1966, at the height of the Vietnam War. when the student activists at Berkeley launched their demonstrations and protests against the war. At that time those opposing the war were in the minority and Reagan ceased on that by tapping into the discontent the majority of Americans had against those opposing the war.

The Executive Vice Chancellor at Berkeley, Earl Cheit, talking about Reagan, said "Incidents of campus disruption and reports about what was going on here - often exaggerated reports - became a standard part of his campaign rhetoric" he continued "One of his great skills was to understand popular feeling. He really tapped into the discontent people felt about what was happening on campus. I have no doubt that this was a big factor in his election as governor."

George Herbert Bush in his 1988 presidential campaign used an African American as a bogeyman.. Bush senior used the "Revolving Door" television commercial which became known as the Willie Horton's commercial, to defeat Michael Dukakis. Horton, an African American, was a convicted felon who was released from a Massachusetts prison on a weekend furlough program, during which time he escaped and raped a woman. Bush used this against Dukakis, the Democrat nominee for president, who was then the governor of Massachusetts and had supported the prison furlough program. The imagery that the commercial conveyed to the electorates was so powerful, Bush won in a landslide.

In his book, Race Matters, Cornel West said "The Republican party since 1968 has appealed to

popular xenophobic images- playing the black, female, and homophobic cards to realign the electorate along race, sex and sexual orientation lines - "

Donald Trump launched his campaign by calling Mexicans "rapists," exploiting the frustrations most Americans have with illegal immigration, and conveying the imagery of brown skin men raping American women. Then he moved to his next bogeyman, a new favorite for the Republicans in recent years, Muslims. He called for a complete ban of Muslims entering the United States. The Republican electorate went wild as millions voted for Trump in the primaries and chose him over 16 other candidates to be their nominee. The strategy, obviously, worked for Trump in the primaries and might just win him the White House, just as it did for Bush and Reagan before him.

Mohammed W. Alzaidi, established his law firm and has been serving the Phoenix community for the past 23 years focusing on Civil Rights and personal injury, he is an executive board member of the Maricopa county NAACP and a member of the Arab- American Anti-Discrimination Committee, he can be reached at malzaidi@alzaidilaw.com



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Sixth Annual Diwali Mela by Mauj Entertainment

of vendors, sponsors, advertisers, performers, and of course attendees, it has grown year after year adding exciting attractions and activities and this year was no different. Attendees had the chance to complete their Diwali shopping from a variety of clothes and jewelry vendors, as well as handicraft vendors selling decorative items such as diyas and rangoli patterns. There were also various businesses giving advice about industries such as travel,

real estate, insurance, and many others. Last, but not least, there was an exquisite collection of food vendors from Indo-Chinese to South Indian to North Indian to dessert vendors selling Indian ice cream and Faloodas, as well as the always popular Snow Cone truck. There was a bustle of activity to keep the crowd of all ages occupied. The childrens area was once again a hit with children coloring diyas on paper or painting diyas with paint to take

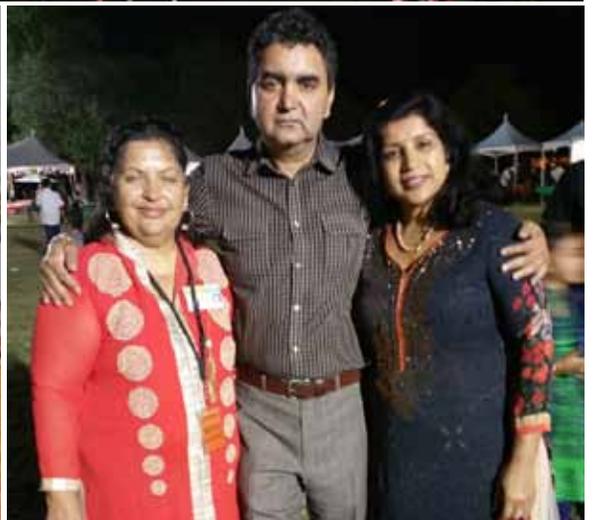
home with them. The stage was full of classical and fusion dance and vocal performances by artists of all ages and backgrounds. In addition to the local performers, there was a full Ram Leela coordinated and organized with the support of ISKCON temple in Chandler, AZ which was a great hit amongst the crowd giving children an opportunity to learn more about the festival of Diwali and letting the adults reminisce about the good old times when they would

see such things at the celebrations in their home towns. Last, but not least, the stage was graced by Darshana Menon of Sa Re Ga Ma fame who had the crowd dancing on their feet through the late hours of the evening. It was very evident that the crowd did not want Darshana to stop and definitely did not want to stop dancing.

Once again, Mauj entertainment is grateful for the generous support from the community and looks forward to organizing another spectacular event with new surprises next year.







Golden Temple- Incredible history, Exceptional ambience



Amardeep Kaur

Did you know that the Golden Temple is among the top ten places to visit in India? The Golden Temple is also known as Harmandir Sahib (Temple of God) or Darbar Sahib (Court of the lord). Tripadvisor, a famous traveler's site, has included Harmandir Sahib in Top 10 Landmarks in India. The Golden Temple is in Amritsar, India. Amritsar is the city that comes under Punjab state and is in the northern part of India. It will take around 20 minutes to reach Golden Temple from airport, as it is 13 km away from the Sri Guru Ram Das International Airport.

The Golden Temple portrays the Sikh heritage in its full glory. The golden temple is the Sikh's most sacred religious place. The Harmandir Sahib was built, so that men and women from different religions, castes and economics can worship God equally. The four entrances (representing four directions) also symbolizes that people from all religions are welcomed at this temple. This makes Harmandir Sahib, a true symbol of humility.

Amritsar was founded in 1577 by the fourth Sikh Guru, Guru Ram Das



ji. Amritsar means "the holy tank" or "the tank of nectar of immortality". The Golden temple was designed by the fifth Sikh Guru, Guru Arjan Dev ji. He wanted the temple to be at the center of this holy tank. As a gesture of universal brotherhood, Guru Arjan Dev ji asked Hazrat "Mian Mir", a muslim sufi saint to lay the foundation of Harmandir Sahib. The sacred site, for the construction of the Golden Temple, was gifted by Mughal Emperor Akbar to Guru Ram Das ji. The Harmandir Sahib gives a unique peep into the craftsman-

ship of Sikh artists. Unparalleled gold work can be seen on all the domes of Harmandir Sahib, doors, inner roof as well as inner walls. The base of copper sheets had special designs, which were later covered with gold leaves. When it was built in 1577, the temple's dome was made with 750 kg of pure gold. The complex that surrounds it, is also stunning. The temple is surrounded by a white marble walkway (parikrama), with white buildings protecting it on all four sides. The aesthetics of the Golden temple are awe inspiring.

As many as 100,000 people visit Darbar Sahib daily. Devotees bathe in the holy water, as it is known for its healing properties. With so many people coming here daily, you have to wait in queues for your turn to go inside the temple. If you want to avoid the rush, go early in the morning. One more thing, the Golden temple at night is so picturesque. Specially, during festivals like Diwali and Gurburabs, it is decorated all over with lights, making it all the more dazzling. You will be served Langar (free meal) without any inhibitions. The langar is a unique praiseworthy tradition at all Sikh Gurudwaras. In Langar here, 100,000 vegetarian meals are served daily and the kitchen never closes. If you are not a follower of Sikh faith, two things to keep in mind are that you have to cover your head and remove your shoes before entering the Golden Temple. If you don't have head cover, you will be provided one free of cost. Visitors around 150,000 visit the Golden Temple on Gurburabs and other festivals. This holy temple has more daily traffic than the Taj Mahal, India's biggest tourist attraction. Just sitting at parikrama near the sarovar (holy tank), gives you so much peace. If you have not been there yet, you are really missing something.



PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF RELIGION: TO CONNECT WITH GOD

Judaism, Christianity and Islam are monotheistic, Abrahamic religions that have spiritual, religious and political aspects.

THE STATE OF RELIGION TODAY

In the world, there are millions of Christians, Muslims and Jews respectively. However, the world is not at rest. We do not see any impact of those religions on humanity today. People are worshipping God in worship places all over the world, but the hatred people carry with them against each other is still to diminish.

Their religiosity, servitude to God and the knowledge they have about their religions, somehow or other is not helping them get rid of this hatred.

People will always speak highly of their own religion. The problem is: if everybody's religion is the best, then why aren't people who follow that religion the best people?

If I claim to have the best car in the world yet other cars of lower quality are faster than my car, I'll have to reconsider my claim.

According to the Quran, Muslims are the best nation on Earth. Muslims only remember that Quran declares them as the best of all nations; however, they ignore what else was said by the Prophet Mohammad. For example, he said, 'One who lies is not from my nation.' He also said, 'One who promotes racism is not from my nation.' He declared, 'One who praises somebody for false is not from my nation.' He stated, 'If you are a Muslim and your neighbour goes to sleep without food, I will not take you as a Muslim.'

The problem is that the religion and its practice has been confined to the books. We do not see the best of the religions in practice today.

One narrative from God in the Quran states, 'In the beginning, you were all progeny of one Adam. Then I divided you into many tribes

and nations for the sake of recognition.'

124 000 prophets were sent into this world in order to guide people towards God. Different people were given to keep company of different prophets. Those who belonged to a prophet formed a nation. There were the nations of Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Mohammad. They were introduced with division, but the messages given to Adam, Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Mohammad came from the same God. In different languages, you

call upon God with different names but that supreme being who sent all the messengers and prophets is the same.

For example, Canadian, British and American citizens live in their respective countries. The fact that they are citizens of different countries does not invite them to fight each other.

Similarly, a Jew reaches God through Abraham. A Christian will reach God through Jesus, and a Muslim will reach God through Mohammad. The destination is the same. Then why are these people killing and hating each other?

A Quranic verse says, 'When all those who follow different religions shun the religions, God will send down on Earth his nation. They will love God and God will love them.'

Towards the end times, the only religion which will be established will be the religion of God's love.

We live in an era where we do not have any prophet



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or messenger guiding us. All we get to know about these prophets and messengers is through the books. The books have become so untrustworthy; the words written there might have been adulterated. There are 50 000 different version of the Bible. It is God's word, but people modified not just the interpretation, but the original text too. The human mind is full of corruption.

When a human mind and heart are corrupt, the religions suffer.

People over 60 start to have problems with their internal organs. The kidneys, liver or heart may struggle to function properly, simply due to old age. It is understandable if somebody who is 80-85 years of age dies of a heart attack, kidney failure or liver failure. However, sometimes, we see that people who are 20-25 years of age die of a heart attack.; their body may be young but the organs have failed.

It is not the body that the life rests on; it is the internal organs which keep the body

moving.

Similarly, the body of every religion is so beautiful still, but the internal organs of the religion, spirituality, has failed.

Spirituality was part of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. In Islam, it was known as Sufism.

In one Prophetic Tradition, Prophet Mohammad calls upon all human beings, 'O humanity, there is a piece of flesh in your body: if that is right, your entire body is right. If that piece of flesh in your body is corrupted,

your entire body is corrupted. Remember well: this is your heart.'

Enlightening, reviving and awakening the heart is the art of Sufism. This is the gist of the Bible, the Quran, Talmud and Torah.

People have forgotten why they practise a religion. When you marry, you do so for many reasons. If you marry a woman and you don't see her and she doesn't see you, what is the use of that marriage?

Today, people don't know why they follow a religion. The most they know is that they follow their religion so that when they die, God sends them into paradise.

The primary objective with which you follow a religion is to connect to God.

You should be able to hear God and God should be able to hear you.

People think God has the divine calibre to see and hear everything. God has the power to do anything, but there is a system manufactured by God. God said that he does not look

at your faces, actions and deeds; he looks at your hearts and intentions thereabout.

There is a system in which you say things with a different tongue and only then, God is able to hear you. We have a body and we have a soul. Our reality is not our body; our reality is our soul.

It is the soul that God created. The body was not created by God; it was formed in the womb of your mother. God will hear your voice if your soul is able to speak.

After your death, you will speak with your soul. God is ethereal and the creator of the soul, so you have to revive your soul. When your soul is revived and awakened, then God will hear your soul and your heart.

The lack of spiritual knowledge has misled people all over the world. When foods are adulterated, your stomach will suffer. When religions are adulterated, your heart will suffer.

GOD'S LOVE: SUPERIOR TO ALL RELIGIONS

We aim to unite humanity into a Universal Brotherhood under the umbrella of God's love. Lord Ra Riaz Gohar Shahi invited all humanity to become unified with the bond of God's love. His approach and his message is so universal. It is not limited by any religion, creed or book; it is purely divine.

Lord Ra Riaz said, 'In order to reach God and recognise God, learn spirituality no matter what religion you practise.'

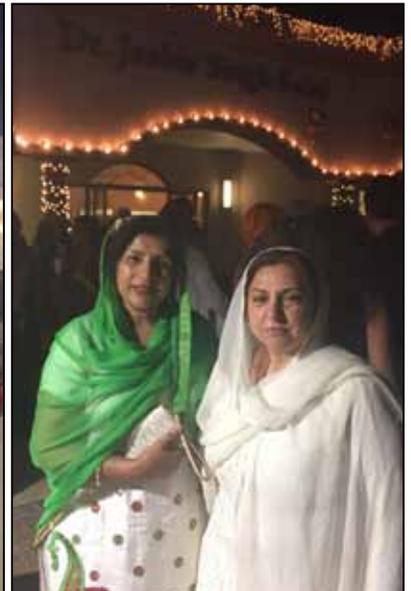
Spirituality is for all. All those who want to love God are invited, whether they follow Islam, Christianity, Judaism or any other religion. Those also are invited who do not follow any religion but they want to love God.

Lord Ra Riaz Gohar Shahi said, 'The best human being among all is one who has God's love in his heart even if he does not practise any religion. God's love is superior to all religions.'

Glimpse of Dussehra Celebration at Ekta Mandir



Diwali Celebration at Nishkam Sewa Guruduwara



Waheguru ji ka Khalsa! Waheguru ji ki Fateh!

GURDWARA MONTHLY

A Monthly digest of Gurdwara Programs and Events

NOVEMBER 2016 Programs & Events

17 Katik – 16 Maghar, 548 Nanakshahi Era (NE)

- Nov 4 - 6 (Fri. – Sun.) – We Remember the Sikh Genocide, Oct 31 – Nov 4, 1984. [Choutha (4th) Ghalughara]**
In memory of over 30,000 Sikhs murdered in Delhi & other cities in India.
Gurgaddi Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji (Actual: Nov 1, 1708)
Birthday Mata Sahib Kaur Ji. (Actual: Nov 1, 1681)
- Nov 11 (Fri.) – Birthday Bhagat Namdev Ji.**
(Actual: Nov 11, 1270)
- Nov 13 (Sun.) – Shaheedi Baba Deep Singh Ji.**
(Actual: Nov 13, 1757)
- Nov 14 (Mon.) – Parkash Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji**
Actual Day evening program: 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM
- Nov 15, Maghar 1 (Tues.) – Sangrand Monthly Program**
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM.
- Nov 18 - 20 (Fri. – Sun.) – Parkash Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji**
(actual: Nov 14, 1469)
Akhand Path, Nagar Kirtan....(See separate flyer)
- Nov 13 (Sun.) – Homeless Langar Seva.**
Call 602 741 8021 for more info.
- Nov 27 (Sun.) – Birthday Sahibzada Zorawar Singh Ji**
(Actual: Nov 28, 1696)



A Platoon of Army Soldiers on a killing rampage – the boy was later found with a crushed skull



Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji

Regular Programs:

Main Kirtan Diwans on Fridays (7 PM – 9 PM) and Sundays (10 AM – 1 PM).
Morning Banis: 5:30 AM – 6:30 AM followed by ASA-DI-VAAR to 8:30 AM.
Evening Banis: 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM.
Sukhmani Sahib every Wednesday: 10:30AM - 11:30AM
Please check Gurdwara notice board for latest details of all Programs and Events

Waheguru ji ka Khalsa! Waheguru ji ki Fateh!



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Happy Diwali from IACRF Senior Group

Contributed by: Bhagubhai Patel & Dr. Prakash V Kotecha

Upcoming Events: Thanks giving Thursday November 24th - No Meeting due to holiday.

Las Vegas Bus Tour: December 27 to 29, \$160 per person double occupancy, sign up deadline November 1, 2017. Please contact Kishor Vyas Tel: 623-570-1520 for details.

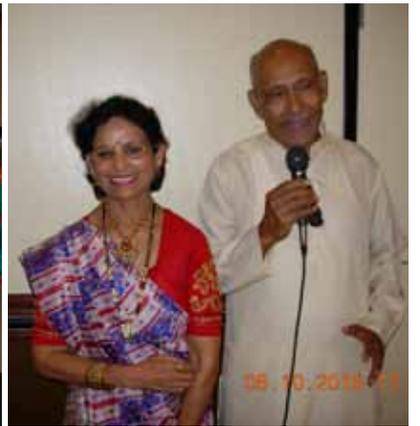
News from Thursday Meetings:

On October 13th Ramanbhai Patel demonstrated of watermelon cutting with his invented special knife. He has also invented a solar cooker and a roti making machine. Members enjoyed and were keenly interested.

Navratri Celebration: On October 6th gathering we celebrated Navratri with Garba. Members came in the traditional colorful dress (read sarees!) and were greeted with a special Masala Chai prepared by Surindar Aggarwal with his special recipe along with Biscuits, Cookies, etc. Most of the members stopped by at Ekta Mandir for Mataji dershana and were impressed with beautiful decoration of the Mandir. Jayaben and Meena Kotecha set up the Mataji Devasthan in the middle of the Community Center Hall for our celebration of the Navaratri. Lalitbhai set up the sound system with Garba Songs being played in background as members were enjoying the refreshments and usual Games and Table Tennis. Meenaben Bhavsar initiated Garba Dance with nice Mataji songs and a large number of members joined in the dance circle. Pleasantly many male members also participated in Dandiya Rass. New members followed playing dandia raas and were instructed in Rass dance technique and we had very spirited Dandiya Rass going on until time limitation stopped them with other program coming up. Participants had a very enjoyable time. Aarti followed the dance program with dry nuts as prasad.

Going beyond Thursday morning, our Senior Group had committed to cook Mahaprasad for Ekta Mandir Navaratri Garba on evening of Thursday October 6th. Our thanks to Senior Group member volunteers Meena Kotecha, Meenaben Bhavsar, Bipin Desai, Jaya & Bhagubhai Patel, Malati & Mahendra Devgania and Usha & Surya Prakash Gautam for preparation of Mahaprasad which was sponsored by Meena and Prakash Kotecha.

USA Election & Voting Registration: APCA Representatives Vic Reid, Civic Engagement Manager and Dr.



Prakash Kotecha and volunteers Angel and Ryan presented importance of voting in the general election and that it is a right of the citizen's of a country. They urged members to vote in the upcoming election and to register for voting. They facilitated by filling up the necessary forms for registration and for early voting by mail if so desired and to submit the forms to Maricopa County office before the deadline of October 10th. Members availed the service benefit extended by them.

Picnic Program on September 29th originally was planned at Piestewa Park- Squaw Peak Dr. was moved to Community Center because of overcast sky and rain in some parts of the city, but we had an awesome indoor picnic at our center, second time in this year the picnic getting changed to indoor picnic. People were in jolly good mood. Delicious snacks of various types of chips and Salsa with hot tea were served in the beginning. Meenaben Bhavsar asked members to volunteer for help in the kitchen for making bhajia to which a number of enthusiastic members came forward. Long hours of preparation for raw materials of Bhajia were done by Jayaben and Bhagubhai at home as part of picnic preparation already. It was a day of fun and frolic and the weather turned out to be very pleasant. The environment was warm and inviting. Constantly different types of bhajia-methi, onion and

chillies were served with chutneys. Everyone enjoyed to their fill.

Senior Group Annual Day and Diwali Celebration is scheduled on October 27th, Madhu Vijaya, a professional singer had been invited to perform and Chairman of IAFSG Board of Trustees Mr Jagdish Sagar and the President Of Board of Directors Mr.Subhash Thati will be attending, we are all excited about it.

Lunch sponsors for this month were Kapilaben & Thakorabhai Patel, Meena & Prakash Kotecha, Jon Banks and Jayshree & Praduman Kshatriya. We also celebrated Prakash Kotecha's birthday with well wishing song and a nicely decorated cake.

Member News: Dr. Prakash Kotecha has accepted a position with Asian Pacific Community in Action (APCA). Dr. Kotecha has been a very active member with Senior Group and we surely will miss his presence in our Thursday Gatherings. However, he will continue helping us with our publications, digital technology assistance, etc.

Sevantibhai Shah is recovering nicely after his second Total Knee Replacement. Darshana Dewan started attending Thursday Gatherings after her knee surgery. Mahendra Dave had suffered acute attack of Dengu, he has recovered nicely and recuperating at his home in Mumbai. Munnu Bajpai is showing remarkable progress in re-

gaining his ability; recently he belted away the whole Gayatrai Mantra.

Muku and Prabha Venkat they have moved in the Sun Valley, they intend to become members of our Senior Group. Welcome back to Ramani Reddy and Uma Lingamneni who has recovered nicely from recent illness. Visitors were Chandubhai & Ranjamben Morbiya from Windsor, Canada; Mahesh & Meena Patel from Metro Phoenix along with Vasant Abhayankar who is a long time valley resident. Vijay Mehta from Mumbai visited accompanied by our members Gloria and Ramu. Bipin Desai (Meena Bhavsar's brother) from Vadodara is in Phoenix and he spoke about his family and recent experiences spending few weeks in Manhattan, New York city.

Mahendrabhai Devgania is collecting the Annual membership fee of \$25/member. So members who haven't paid it yet, are reminded to do contact Mahendrabhai Devgania and pay the membership fees.

Photos by Mahendra Devgania.

Senior Group meets every Thursday, 10:00AM to 3:00PM at the Indo-American Community Center located at 2809 W. Maryland Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85017, for information please contact Mahendra Devgania Tel: 602-708-0733

Take the time to sort out your personal papers and double-check your financial investments. Try to get others to stand behind your good judgment. Lack of cash might be partly to blame for the problems at home. Travel will be favorable and bring you the greatest rewards. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

ARIES



Mar 21 to Apr 20

You must be careful not to reveal secrets or get involved in gossip. Family members will not be happy with the amount of time you are spending away from home. Don't overdo it. You need to enjoy yourself. Physical work or exercise should be part of your schedule. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

TAURUS



April 21 to May 20

You will be overly sensitive when dealing with your personal life. Don't expect anyone else to pay your bills for you. You could have a change of heart if an old flame waltzes back into your life. Go out with friends who are positive and supportive. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

GEMINI



May 21 to June 21

You may find that someone you live with may be irritable; you're best to leave them alone. You will find that money could slip through your fingers. Look into making changes to your personal papers and don't neglect those bills that have been piling up. Expect temper tantrums on the home front if you haven't been letting someone have their way. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

CANCER



Jun 22 to Jul 22

Kick your shoes off and relax. Be aware that joint financial ventures could fall apart. Don't put limitations on yourself. You may be out of sorts if you have been extravagant or have let children or friends take advantage of you financially. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

LEO



Jul 23 to Aug 23

Someone may not be thinking of your best interests. Don't beat around the bush; state your case in plain and simple terms. Rewards, gifts, or money from investments or taxes can be expected. Use your head and do things to your liking. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

VIRGO



Aug 24 to Sep 23

You must make them stand on their own two feet regardless of how much you want to make things better for them. Don't forget that you've only heard one side of the story. In-laws or relatives may oppose your personal intentions. Do something special for them. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

LIBRA



Sep 24 to Oct 23

Your ability to stand out in a crowd will bring you the recognition you desire. Don't be too eager to start any debates. You should visit a friend or relative who hasn't been feeling up to par. Take matters in hand when it comes to dealing with clients or colleagues. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

SCORPIO



Oct 24 to Nov 22

Don't waste this exciting day by sitting at home. You will be able to pick up on future trends if you keep your eyes peeled for unique ideas. Don't get so wrapped up in being rich that you overlook the fact that your plan may not be as solid as you thought. You can expect opposition from family as well as colleagues. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

SAGITTARIUS



Nov 23 to Dec 21

Someone may try to damage your reputation. For best results get out of the office and do your job en route. You may have problems with those you live with. Don't take your frustrations out on the ones you love. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

CAPRICORN



Dec 22 to Jan 21

Family outings that aren't expensive will be enjoyable and help strengthen ties. Offers of joint ventures are likely. Take your time; do not make any decisions in haste. You can make successful moves. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

AQUARIUS



Jan 22 to Feb 19

Your creative imagination will help you in coming up with unique ideas. Be aware that you might be at fault as well. Concentrate on work. Changes in your home are apparent, and you must be willing to bend if you don't want to find yourself alone. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

PISCES



Feb 20 to Mar 20

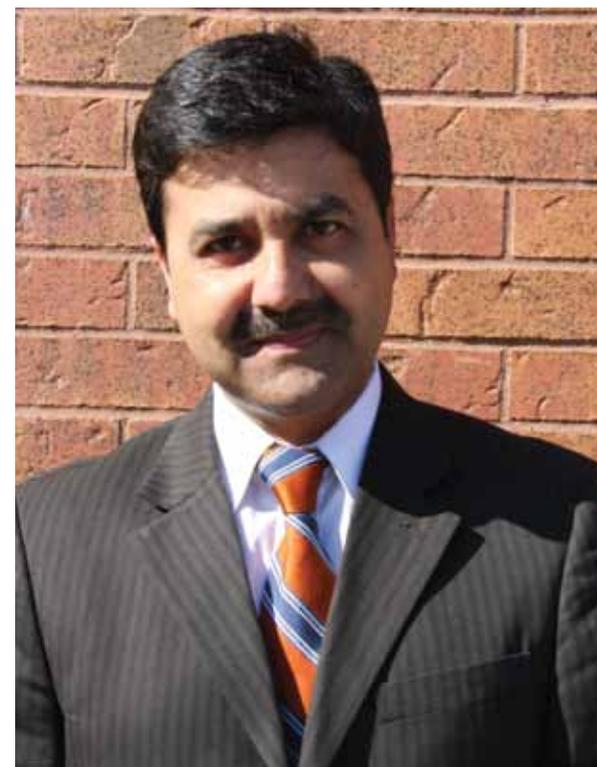
November 1 - 30, 2016 By KRISHNA PANDIT – 905-910-1441

Nov. Day	Muhurta
1 Tue	Rough but a powerful day to push work that requires courage & power, otherwise risk from fire or accident, avoid journey or lending money
2 Wed	Mind may wander towards negative thinking, otherwise the day is compatible with its own Nakshatra ending the day on a positive note
3 Thu	Caution, let the day pass off peacefully, stick to routine activities only
4 Fri	Dhana Nash after second half: Avoid any financial transaction, money may be spent on unnecessary things
5 Sat	Favourable day, big results with least action; complete pending jobs & assignments only until 3 pm.
6 Sun	Highly auspicious day for undertaking any new activity, day of happiness, fulfillment, recovery and gains
7 Mon	Increase in everything: Love, name, fame, personal growth, family life, money and resources. An Excellent day
8 Tue	Karya Labh: Permanent benefit from important activities undertaken today. Work will get done with little effort
9 Wed	Day for undertaking activities aimed at recovering outstanding money; the day also brings undue mental stress
10 Thu	Rough day, risk from activities. Schemers may try to harm & may get their way
11 Fri	Fulfillment day, but beware of schemers & back biting; Benefit from important activities undertaken today
12 Sat	One will be fearful and unsure of actions; best is to avoid undertaking any important activity today.
13 Sun	Purnima: Highly auspicious day for any new activity, soft & light work, day of happiness, fulfillment & recovery
14 Mon	Caution, let the day pass off peacefully, stick to routine activities only
15 Tue	A sweet day with positivity all over, love and romance, attachment & attraction & surrendering to needs & desires
16 Wed	Lucky day: Luck favours people who do their best and give their 100%. Help from unknown sources
17 Thu	Caution, let the day pass off peacefully, stick to routine activities only
18 Fri	Highly auspicious day for undertaking any new activity, day of happiness, fulfillment, recovery and gains
19 Sat	Increase in everything: Love, name, fame, personal growth, family life, money and resources. An Excellent day
20 Sun	Favourable day, big results with least action; success in all your actions done today.
21 Mon	Financial losses & bad debts will accrue. One will be fearful and unsure of actions; best is to avoid undertaking any important activity today.
22 Tue	Auspicious day, make new friends, new ventures, matrimonial & business alliances
23 Wed	Day of Fulfillment & Dhana Prapti: Recover outstanding dues and bad debts, chances are high for recovery.
24 Thu	Avoid negative thinking, otherwise the day is compatible with a friendly Nakshatra ending the day on a positive note
25 Fri	Karya Labh: Permanent benefit from important activities undertaken today
26 Sat	Caution, let the day pass off peacefully, stick to routine activities only
27 Sun	Caution, let the day pass off peacefully, stick to routine activities only
28 Mon	Amavasya effect; perform pooja for the departed near & dear ones, spiritual practice, meditation & self improvement actions recommended only.
29 Tue	Caution, let the day pass off peacefully, stick to routine activities only
30 Wed	Increase in everything: happy conditions prevail until first half of the day only, thereafter cease doing important activities

For questions on Astrology, Vedic Mantras, Muhurtas & Hindu rituals call: KRISHNA PANDIT – 905-910-1441

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Shivaay review: Ajay Devgn climbs mountains, the film doesn't

A bare-chested trekker is lying on top of a mountain. The white snow in the background makes us notice his prominent tattoos and still warm pipe. Panoramic aerial shots give us a tour of the

Film Review

Shivaay

Cast: Ajay Devgn, Erika Kaar, Abigail Eames

Director: Ajay Devgn

Rating: 2.5/5



beautiful place, and a question rears its head: Why didn't they make it in 3D?

Some college students join Shivaay (Ajay Devgn) for a mountaineering mission. Olga (Erika Kaar), a Bulgarian studying at the Delhi University, is one of them. There is a spontaneous spark between Olga and Shivaay. They fall in love before the sun sets. Unfortunately, this isn't enough to hold Olga back in India.

But, our heroes know how to preserve love for centuries. And thus after years, Shivaay decides to visit Bulgaria. Gaura (Abigail Eames), an eight-year-old girl, is accompanying him. Olga hadn't left only Shivaay wandering in the mountains.

The new country turns out to be more mysterious than what the father-daughter duo expected. And they might not be able to untangle the web of lies and deceit coming their way.

Aseem Bajaj's camera

guides us through tunnels and snow-covered hills. With a little help from the CGI team, he successfully creates an environment where the vast canvas makes the audience anxious. Devgn escalates the excitement with a well-choreographed opening action sequence that sees him doing bungee-jumping, gliding and parachuting. The rising crescendo in the background makes him appear flamboyant, tough, skilled and intimidating.

It is also the moment when Devgn gets carried away. He doesn't want to let go the initial momentum and keeps stretching the sequence. As a result, the film takes time in arriving to the actual plot.

After beating around the

bush for many minutes, Devgn finally gathers the courage to come out of the mountains. He has already set a tone for the narrative by now. The film moves to a new location, but it needs to maintain the same attitude.

Shivaay is primarily conceived as an action film. Shiva — the destroyer is dominant than Shiva — the protector. References through names and symbols make it obvious. Plus, Devgn is really good in action sequences.

If the opening sequence brings out his athleticism, the fist-fighting in Bulgaria presents him as a vulnerable yet competitive guy.

You can occasionally be reminded of Vin Diesel's xXx,

Vertical Limit or The Dark Knight Rises, but proceedings mostly remain under Devgn's control except when he tries to make space for emotional unfolding.

Actually, it's such an action-dominated film that the efforts to put emotional breathers in between seem futile. After all, we all know where we are going to bump into.

Obvious things take till eternity to happen. The characters sledgehammer us with useless information. Actors like Girish Karnad and Saurabh Shukla mouth dialogues that have no or least connection with the central theme.

Accommodating everyone pushes the length of the film to 173 minutes.

What begins as a thrilling adventure turns into a self-indulgent experiment. From shaky camera to mafia to corrupt policemen, everything boils down to Devgn's uncontrollable urge to raze each standing thing to the ground.

When you think it's about to touch a logical end, another twist comes into sight. It keeps dragging in search of an end.

The ingredients are there, but loose ends restrict Shivaay from becoming a smooth ride.

Devgn's stunts are a treat to watch, but that's about it. Shivaay treks through high altitudes, but the film keeps waiting for him to return to the valley with a string attached to his legs.

Sonakshi Sinha's new version of Kaate Nahi Katate in Force 2 song

The makers of upcoming film Force 2 starring John Abraham and Sonakshi Sinha have shared a song from the film. 'O Jaaniya' is a new version of Sridevi's iconic song Kaate Nahi Katate from Mr India. In the song, Sonakshi dons a glamorous avatar, flaunting her sexy moves.

Talking about the song, Sonakshi said "The intention was never to replicate what Srijni has done. That is iconic and I



truly believe no one even comes close to

her! But the song is great and I love the fact that we have given it a modern twist by fusing it with EDM music which is the flavour of today!" Neha Kakkar has lent her voice for the song that has been composed by Gourov Roshin.

Force 2 produced by Vipul Amrutlal Shah and John Abraham, directed by Abhinay Deo, is all set to release on November 18.

Anushka Sharma believes Ranbir Kapoor is here to stay despite going through a phase where his films did not work at the box office.

Anushka teamed up with the Ranbir for the second time in *Ae Dil Hai Mushkil* after *Bombay Velvet*, which did not do well.

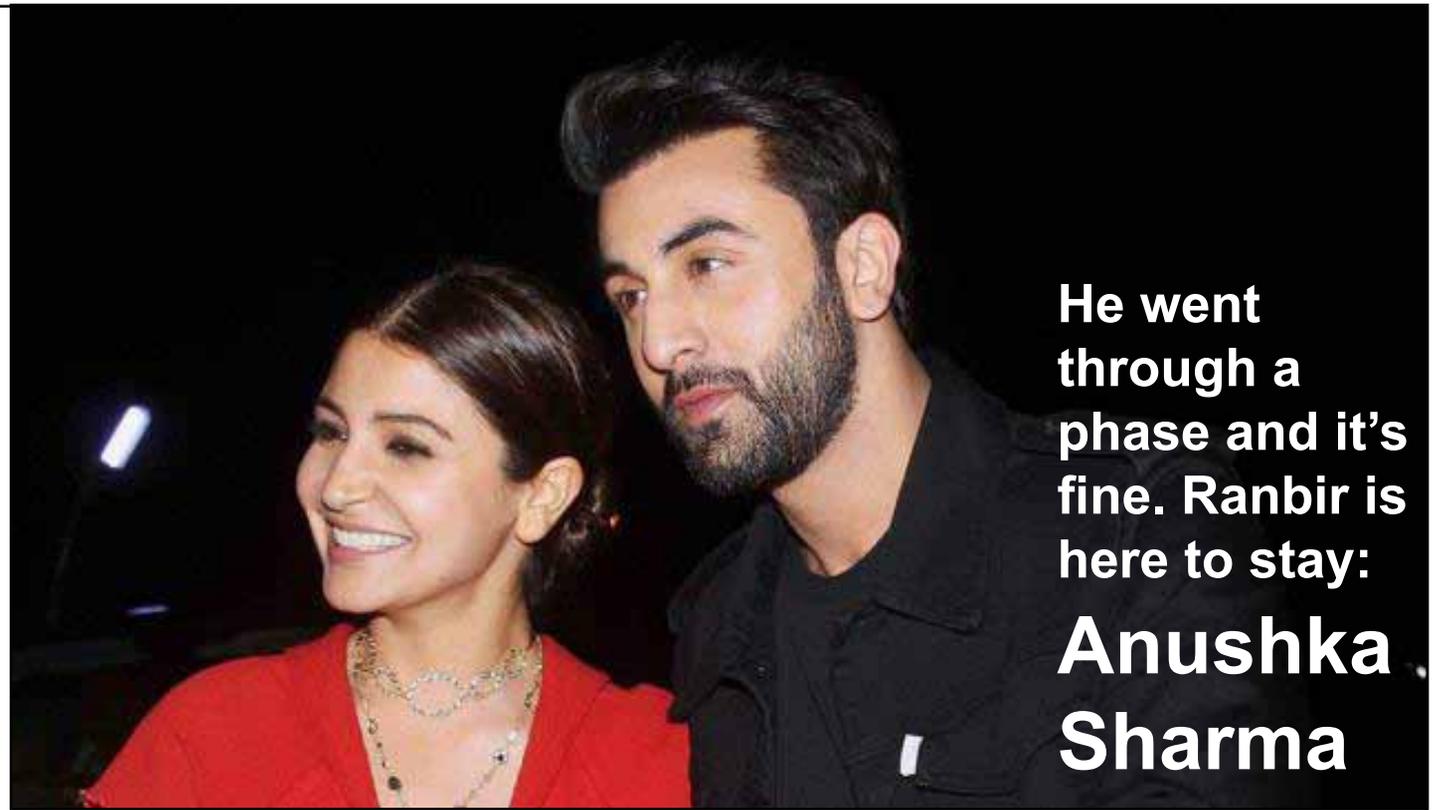
"Ranbir is a very good actor. He has given us some amazing films. I admire him for the choices he made at the beginning of his career.

"He did films like *Rocket Singh: Salesman of the Year*, *Rajneeti*, *Barfi*. It's refreshing to see a young actor making such kind of choices," Anushka told PTI. Anushka, who also shares a great camaraderie off screen with Ranbir, says hits and flops are a part of every actor's life.

"Sometimes you will have films that will not work and that has happened to everyone. He just went through a phase in which his films did not do well and it's fine. He is an actor, he is a performer. Ranbir is here to stay because of the actor that he is," she said.

Their on-screen chemistry has been appreciated by the audience in the Karan Johar-directed movie and Anushka agrees that it is easier if you know your co-star well.

"Whether you know somebody or you don't know somebody, the out-



He went through a phase and it's fine. Ranbir is here to stay: Anushka Sharma

come has to be the same. You will have to take the same route. When you work with somebody you know then it is comfortable right from the beginning but when you don't know, initially it gets difficult, then you become comfortable," she says.

After doing a physically intense sports drama like *Sultan*, the 28-year-old actress says her latest film was

like a breather to her.

"Physically *Ae Dil Hai Mushkil* wasn't demanding. Every film comes with its own challenges. For me it's important to do different kind of films and genres as I like to keep things interesting for my audience and myself," she said.

"And then to work with Karan Johar who is a super entertaining person, he

is a very relaxed director. I was working with Ranbir who is a friend. I share a comfortable equation with him. So it was easy and smooth shoot."

Also starring Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, besides Shah Rukh Khan, Fawad Khan and Alia Bhatt in cameo, the film, according to producers, has made Rs 35.60 crore in India in three days.

It starts as just another day for Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking (DESU) worker Devinder Singh. By 7:30am, he has already sent his children to school and is mentally preparing himself for the usual mundane day in office. But, all of that is going to change in next 110 minutes.

31st October is an account of that one day when the national capital burnt with its own rage after the then prime minister Indira Gandhi was assassinated by her Sikh bodyguards Beant Singh and Satwant Singh. Official estimates put the death toll in the aftermath of the riots to nearly 2,500 but it's believed that the actual numbers are at least three times more. Communal tension is growing every second in west Delhi's Tilak Nagar where Devinder (Vir Das) and his wife Tejinder (Soha Ali Khan) live and killings start by the afternoon. It's mayhem as rioters are catching up with every Sikh at a pace beyond imagination.

Effective reminder of the 1984 anti-Sikh riots

Tilak Nagar is an obvious target because of its dense Sikh population, mostly middle class and helpless. Local politicians see it as an opportunity to rise in the ranks and thus it's likely to continue for a few more days.

However, the violence is just one side of the coin.

Devinder has friends like Pal (Deepraj Rana), Yogesh (Lakhwinder) and Tilak (Vineet Sharma), who have vowed to get his family out of the barricaded Tilak Nagar area. But, is it already late?

Director Shivaji Lotan Patil's film opens with a sneak peek into the lives of some Good Samaritans. Good-



natured, god-fearing beings who look for a moment of affection and solace. They know each other for long and are as closely knit as a family.

To establish a well-meaning premise, characters refrain from showing their grey sides. The camera hovers at amateurish angles, mostly trying to provide a feel of the claustrophobic space. You also see the famous monuments as you enter the bylanes with *Gold Spot* and *Bournvita*

ads splashed on unfinished walls. Patil doesn't limit the drama only to Devinder's house. He shows how common people turned into rioters in just three hours. But he hasn't

lost faith in humanity and thus some Hindus risk their lives to save their Sikh friends. The canvas is big and budget constraints force the crew to go for easier options. The actors also falter. Their accent, makeup and visual effects don't really set a benchmark but the film does manage to create that atmosphere of fear and tension.

People look scared as well as deceptive. They can change their stance anytime

and that makes Sikhs even more vulnerable. Nagesh Bhonsle as a policeman only escalates the fear. Pogrom is written all over Delhi.

But it gets a bit stretched despite the 102-minute length. Twists are predictable and secondary actors appear half prepared. Also, they keep shifting gears between Punjabi and Hindi.

There isn't just one narrator or a central character. That shifts focus to some extent because sub-stories become a bit preachy about the riots. It's all there in front of our eyes. Do we still need somebody to hammer it through our heads? If we do, then we are only going to take it as just another film about riots and not as a strictly non-repeatable crime.

31st October is an important film, especially when many have gone scot-free in the anti-Sikh riots cases even after so many years. It's going to be 32 years in 10 days.

As they say, justice delayed is justice denied.

Chai with Nitin Gupta, CPA of Accounting Professionals LLC

Five years ago, Asia Today had the pleasure of introducing our readers to Nitin Gupta, CPA at Accounting Professionals LLC. With the support of our readers and growing community, we have watched Accounting Professionals grow and expand into becoming the household name for full service accounting needs in the valley. With the end of the year upon us and taxes on everyone's minds, we thought it would be good to catch up with him once again to see where the firm has come in the last five years, as well as get guidance on how the economy has changed and its impacts to our readers.

A little bit of history...

Nitin grew up in New Delhi, India and moved with his parents and family to Los Angeles, California in 1990. With a passion for accounting and business, he completed his Bachelors of Commerce with Honors from Delhi University. Having studied both business and accounting and ending up in a country like the States, where taxes and financial accounting are at the core of everyone's personal and professional lives, he was destined to land into the accounting business. In his own words, "everyone needs accounting and personal financials" and those that know him personally will know that his outgoing and caring personality is a natural fit for an industry that is responsible for helping people. Starting out as a bookkeeper in 1990, he transitioned into tax work in California in 1993. During that time frame, he lived in Manhattan Beach and worked in LA, a 17 mile commute that took an hour and a half drive each way given the LA



traffic.

In 2003, he left the LA traffic behind to move to Phoenix, Arizona. Having spent 14 years growing up in Jaipur, Phoenix reminded him a lot of Jaipur. Also, Nitin found that the South Asian community in Arizona was increasing but lacked a CPA that could assist them with their financial needs, espe-

cially those wanting the comfort of being able to speak their native language without fear of conversations being lost in translation.

With over 25+ years of experience in multiple states, Nitin is well versed in full service accounting needs that include both personal and business income taxes, financial audits, financial

reviews, day to day consulting for business management, federal and state tax audits and assistance with mergers and acquisitions. In addition to the services mentioned, he can also guide individuals and businesses on the effects of daily decisions and the impact it can have on their financials. Nitin has been known to speak at seminars on topics related to real estate all over the valley sponsored by various Title companies, real estate brokers and the Arizona Academy of Real Estate.

A Glimpse of the Past and a Look into the Future...

When we met with him last, the economy was in the midst of the largest real estate crash in history and he guided his clientele through tricky foreclosure and short sale situations, helping them figure out whether the savings in a short sale/foreclosure were worth the tax debt and assisted in working out payment plans for the tax liabilities. With the changing economy, the focus of the service has changed to help manage the growth and success of the business with tax strategies and planning. The firm has shifted to helping businesses survive through the downturn to maximizing their potentials in the good economic times.

At Accounting Professionals LLC, encounters with clients are treated as a long-term relationship and the firm does not believe in nickel-and-dime type of billing behavior. Nitin's credibility and experience can clearly be seen in the fact that he does not spend any time or money in advertising/marketing efforts, but all his customers are either repeat or referral customers. He is a strong advocate for doing something





right to begin with, because it is harder to fix something once it has been done incorrectly. Nitin's belief is that a relationship with your CPA is very personal, because an individual must reveal extremely confidential details of their financial matters and a comfort and trust level becomes extremely important to making that relationships a success and giving the CPA the ability to assist them fully. Those personal relationships have benefited his clients that have been with him for years because his attention to detail and ability to remember where the businesses have come from and how they have grown and changes has provided a very personalized level of service to those clients.

Nitin's easy demeanor and jovial personality puts his clients, friends, and family at ease right away. His personality reflects in the way he lives his life and his steadfast belief to never forget where one comes from. Even today, he returns to India every year to spend some quality time with those friends that he grew up with and rekindle their friendship and keep the relationship strong. This is the exact same principle he applies in his professional lives with his clients. His clients are long-term returning customers and his firm has experience with their individual, unique situations to be able to cater to their specific needs. Nitin prides himself on being there for his clients' year around, unlike large tax chains that come around and establish bases during peak tax season, but are nowhere to be found if an issue arises post filing. These seasonal chains also hire data entry experts that are subject matter experts on data entry only. They can take the data provided by individuals and file their taxes. However, Nitin and the professionals at Accounting Professionals LLC are trained in the tax code and with the ability to ask the right questions to find tax deductions that may otherwise be overlooked. While talking with him, I learned for

the first time that there are certain deductions that only apply to certain industry verticals such as doctors, construction, etc. His firm provides specialized service asking the right questions based on the person's background to ensure nothing is overlooked. If all the reasons mentioned above are not enough to choose him as your CPA, clients also have the benefit of only being charged where absolutely necessary.

Final Message to Readers...

His final message to our readers is to understand the importance of staying current on your filing status and not ignoring such extremely important matters. Nitin and Accounting Professionals LLC can assist you with staying current moving forward, as well as help individuals and businesses in need of corrections or back-filing to get them up to date and corrected moving forward. He also advises clients to start changing their perspective and recognizing that paying taxes is a good problem to have; it means you are making money which you need to be able to show to

accommodate your growth and future needs whether it is for business expansion loans or mortgages.

Nitin is also very grateful for the support of the community and the tremendous response after his last interview. Since then, the firm has grown in size and experience and the type of clientele being served. To accommodate the growing needs and better serve his clients, the firm will be moving into a new office which is twice the size of the current office space by the end of the year. In addition, his brother Gautam Gupta has also joined the firm as a CPA to assist with the growing needs of the firm.

Asia Today thanks Nitin for taking the time out to speak with us and provide our readers for this invaluable advice. We wish Nitin Gupta and Accounting Professionals LLC, best wishes for the coming year and in their future endeavors. Please visit www.apcpa.net for more information regarding the firm and their services. Nitin can also be reached at 602-482-9101 or at nitin@apcpa.net

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HIS HOLINESS MIRZA MASROOR AHMED, THE SPIRITUAL HEAD OF ISLAM AHMADIYYAT, 5TH SUCCESSOR OF HIS HOLINESS MIRZA GHULAM AHMED THE PROMISED MESSIAH DELIVERED THIS FRIDAY SERMON IN BAITUL FUTUH, LONDON ON FRIDAY JULY 29, 2016 WHICH WAS TELEVISED ON MTA INTERNATIONAL WITH TRANSLATIONS IN OTHER LANGUAGES SIMULTANEOUSLY



His Holiness Mirza Masroor Ahmed
5th Caliph Of Promised Messiah

His Holiness said that the situation in today's world is deteriorating at a very fast pace and unfortunately the reason behind these circumstances are some Islamic groups. Even the leaders of the Islamic countries do not understand that the world powers against Islam are trying to capture them in their traps. The atrocities being conducted in the name of Islam and Jihad have no link with the teachings of Islam. Similarly the injustices being committed by the Muslims governments do not relate to Islamic teachings even in the remote sense. The terrorist organizations in the western countries are killing innocent people and are undertaking extremely brutal steps that have brought bad

name to Islam. This may be true that in order to defame Islam these anti-Islamic forces in foreign countries are responsible for all these brutalities in order to bring bad name to Islam. These countries in the name of aid and in the name of protecting the people from terrorism may be able to get an excuse to get a strong hold in Islamic countries. Keeping in view the current situation of the world, every Ahmadi needs to be protected from the evil. Therefore, we have to give immense importance to prayers and charity in order to be protected collectively as a community from the mischievous doings of these people. Particularly in these days

we need to pay attention because the condition is becoming worse with every passing day. May Allah Almighty protect us from these mischiefs and from those who are doing injustice in the name of Islam. Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) regarding the charity said that for the protection from fire you must always give charity and giving charity in the way of Allah (sadaqa) is obligatory upon all Muslims. The companions asked that if somebody doesn't have anything than what one should give in the name of charity. Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) said that then he/she must act upon the teachings of Islam. Live according to the code

of Islam and do good things and abstain from bad doings. Huzoor (may Allah be his helper) said may Allah fail all the plans of the opponents of Ahmadiyya community and bring to them frustrations. Huzoor (may Allah be his helper) said that Allah has taught us a prayer in the Holy Qur'an which must be recited and one should recite them with full understanding. Promised Messiah regarding the Qur'anic prayers has guided us and this point has been highlighted that the prayers taught to us in the Holy Qur'an are taught with this purpose that when a true believer whole heartedly prays in those wordings, Allah will accept them. Thus to be safe from calamities and evils we must take advantage of these Qur'anic prayers.

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نوع انسان میں محبت و پیار پیدا کرنے کی کوشش کریں قطع نظر اس کے کہ کون کس مذہب سے تعلق رکھتا ہے

ہمارا دین دہشت گردی اور جبر و تشدد کو رد کرتا اور امن صلح و آشتی کا پیغام دیتا ہے

ہر احمدی اپنی ذمہ داری سمجھے، ان دنوں میں ہمیں دعاؤں اور صدقات پر خاص طور پر توجہ دینی چاہیے

امام جماعت احمدیہ حضرت مرزا مسرور احمد صاحب نے مورخہ 29 جولائی 2016ء کو بیت الفتوح، لندن میں خطبہ جمعہ ارشاد فرمایا جو کہ ایم ٹی اے انٹرنیشنل پر براہ راست مختلف زبانوں میں ترجمہ کے ساتھ نشر کیا گیا

اس کا یہ مطلب نہیں کہ جس نے مال کا صدقہ دے دیا وہ بیشک معروف باتوں پر عمل نہ کرے۔ مخالفین کے جماعت کے خلاف ہر حربے اور ہر حملے کو ناکام و نامراد کرے، اللہ تعالیٰ نے ہمیں قرآن کریم میں بعض دعائیں سکھائیں ہیں وہ بھی پڑھنا چاہئیں اور سمجھ کر پڑھنا چاہئیں۔ حضرت مسیح موعودؑ نے قرآنی دعاؤں کے بارہ میں ہماری یہ بھی راہنمائی فرمائی ہے اور یہ نقطہ بیان فرمایا کہ اللہ تعالیٰ نے قرآن کریم میں جو دعائیں سکھائیں ہیں وہ بتائی ہی اس لئے گئی ہیں کہ جب ایک مومن حناص ہو کر یہ دعائیں مانگے تو اللہ تعالیٰ انہیں قبول فرمائے۔ آمین۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پس بلاؤں سے دور رہنے اور شرور سے محفوظ رہنے کیلئے ہمیں بھی ان قرآنی دعاؤں پر بھی زور دینا چاہئے۔

حضور نے فرمایا آجکل حالات خراب سے خراب تر ہوتے جا رہے ہیں، اللہ تعالیٰ شریروں کے شران پر الٹائے جو اسلام کو بدنام کر رہے ہیں، اسلام کے نام پر ظلم اور تعدی کر کے اللہ تعالیٰ کے دین کو بدنام کر رہے ہیں، اللہ تعالیٰ ان کے پکڑ کے سامان جلد پیدا فرمائے اور تمام بلاؤں اور مشکلات کو دور فرمائے۔ آنحضور ﷺ نے صدقات کے بارہ میں فرمایا کہ ابستلاؤں اور آگ سے بچنے کیلئے صدقات دو بلکہ آپ ﷺ نے یہ بھی فرمایا کہ صدقہ کرنا ہر مسلمان پر فرض ہے، صحابہؓ کے پوچھنے پر کہ جس کے پاس کچھ بھی نہ ہو تو وہ کیا کرے تو آپ ﷺ نے فرمایا کہ وہ معروف باتوں اور اسلامی احکامات پر عمل کرے، نیکیوں پر عمل کرے اور بری باتوں سے روکے، یہی اس کیلئے صدقہ ہے لیکن



امام جماعت احمدیہ حضرت مرزا مسرور احمد

اسلام کو بدنام کرنا شروع کیا ہوا ہے، یہ بھی بعید نہیں کہ اسلام کو بدنام کرنے کیلئے مخالف طاقتیں ہی غیر مسلم ممالک میں ایسی حرکتیں ان لوگوں سے کروا رہی ہوں، جس سے اسلام بھی بدنام ہو اور ان کو مدد کے نام پر، دنیا کو دہشت گردی سے بچانے کے نام پر اپنے اڈے ان ممالک میں قائم کرنے کیلئے ایک وجہ ہاتھ آجائے، اگر صحیح اسلامی تعلیم سے یہ لوگ آگاہ ہوں تو ان کو پتہ ہونا چاہئے کہ یہ کوئی اسلامی تعلیم نہیں ہے کہ معصوموں کی قتل و غارت ہو۔ دنیا کے جو حالات ہیں اس کیلئے ہر احمدی کو ہر شر کی اور جماعت کو من حیث الجماعت دنیا میں ہر جگہ شریروں کے شر سے بچنے کیلئے ہمیں صدقات اور دعاؤں پر خاص طور پر توجہ دینی چاہئے۔ جیسا کہ

انہوں کہا کہ آجکل دنیا کے حالات بڑی تیزی سے خراب ہو رہے ہیں اور بد قسمتی سے اس کی وجہ مسلمانوں کے بعض گروہ بن رہے ہیں، مسلمان ممالک کے سربراہ بھی یہ نہیں سمجھتے کہ ان کو مسلمان مخالف طاقتیں گھیرے میں لینے کی کوشش کر رہی ہیں، اسلام کے نام پر اور جہاد کے نام پر جو ظلم ہو رہے ہیں، ان کا اسلام کی تعلیم سے دور کا بھی واسطہ نہیں ہے، اسی طرح جو حکومتیں اپنے لوگوں پر ظلم ڈھا رہی ہیں ان کا بھی اسلامی تعلیم سے دور کا بھی واسطہ نہیں ہے، یہ کہاں لکھا ہے اسلام میں کہ معصوموں کو قتل کرو اور پھر یہ اسلام کے نام پر نہ صرف غیر مسلموں کو قتل کر رہے ہیں بلکہ مسلمانوں کے بھی قتل کر رہے ہیں۔ دہشت گرد تنظیموں نے مغربی ممالک میں ان معصوم جانوں کو قتل کرنے کے انتہائی بہیمانہ اور ظالمانہ عمل کر کے

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Real Estate News of Arizona - November 2016

Hello Friends,

The holiday season is upon us and along with it comes family time, travels, vacations and lot of shopping sales. As we wind down this holiday season, let's look at how the valley real estate performed in the fall season!

As per the ARMLS, the September 2016 sales volume was up 5.7% year-over-year. Our housing supply is best viewed by price range. We see

than enough supply at the high end of our market. Month-over-month sales volume was down 6.6%. The decline in month-over-month sales volume can be directly attributed to seasonal patterns. As the chart below demonstrates, we will continue to see month-over-month declines in both October and November

Let's take a look at the September sales of Residential Properties in Maricopa County-



constraint at the lower price points and gains as list prices increase with more

• Total Sales for Single Family, Town-home, Condos, for September are

6,469 whereas, August were 6,955 and July was 7,622

• The Active listings for Single Family, Town-home, Condos, for September are 19,818 whereas, August were 18,942 and July was 22,858

• Pending sales for Single Family, Town-home, Condos, for September are 5,800 whereas, August were 6,152 and July was 6,579

The total home sales by financing were-

- Cash Sales - 1,271
- Conventional - 3,320
- FHA - 1,366, VA- 456

The largest percentage increase in sales is taking place in new construction. Newly constructed homes for the first nine months of this year are up 33.3%. The median price for a newly constructed home is \$321,258, while the STAT median price home is \$230,000. Only 16.8% of the newly constructed homes are selling at or below \$230,000. The primary areas where new homes are being sold in the lower price range are being built are Buckeye, the western outskirts of Phoenix, Peoria and Goodyear. Our shortage of inventory at the lower price points is getting little

• Pending Sales for Single Family, Town-home, Condos, for September are 600 whereas, August were 654 and July was 592

Now let's take a look on the commercial side-

Bealls Outlet has leased 21,580 square feet of retail space at Circle Plaza at Broadway Blvd in Tucson, it totals to 163,746 square feet in the East Tucson.

A private investor sold the retail buildings at Scottsdale Rd in Scottsdale, to a private investor for \$7.2 million, or approximately \$529 per square foot. Built in 1995, the buildings total 13,692 square feet on 2.3 acres.

Rancho Industrial Park Inc acquired the industrial property in Phoenix for \$6.8 million, or about \$42 per square foot. The single story distribution facility totals 162,960 square feet. It was built in 1960 on a 5.7-acre lot in the North Airport Industrial area near the Sky Harbor International Airport.

Hope this article gives you a peek in what's happening in our valley. As always, I love your questions, comments & feedback. Please keep them coming at arti@artiier.com or call me at 480-

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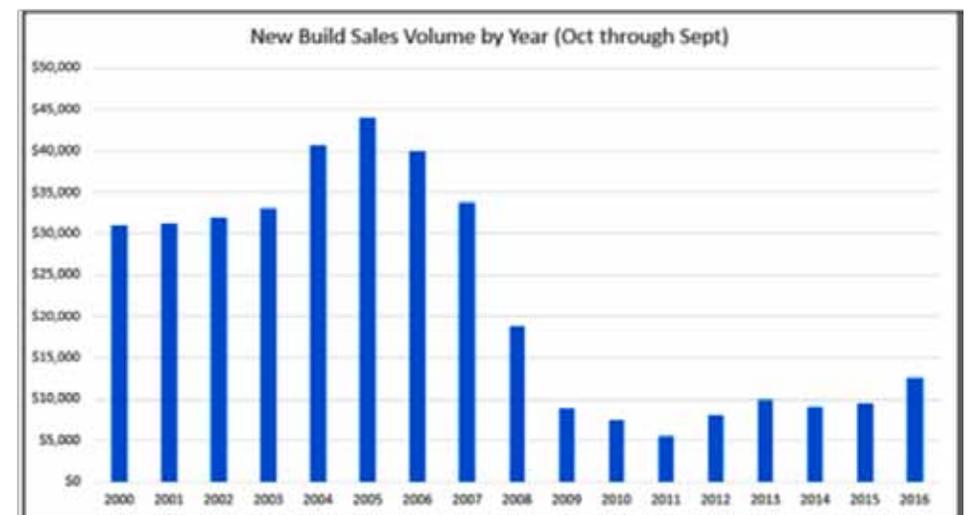


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aid from new construction as only 136 new homes on average are being sold in this price range. Please see the charts below-

Here are the September sales of Residential Properties in Pinal County-

• Total Sales for Single Family, Town-home, Condos for September are 613 whereas, August were 676 and July was 735

• The Active listings for Single Family, Town-home, Condos for September are 2,063 whereas, August were 2,024 and July was 2,092

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 Armls, cromford re-port, Better Homes and Garden, Costar, Globest, BizJournal, Newsgeni, Realty times, azcentral, wall street journal.



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