



LOHANA SAMAJ NEWSLETTER



LOHANA CULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

P.O. Box 927, Adelaide Post Station, Toronto, Ontario, M5C 2K3

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www.mylohana.com

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Report from the Executive Committee **“BE PROUD, BE LOHANA”**

Jai Jalarambapa, Jai Shree Krishna, Jai Siya Ram & Jai Swaminarayan

Wishing you and your families a very Happy New Year

The current year of the Executive Committee will expire at the 2008 **Annual General Meeting** which is scheduled for **Sunday, February 10, 2008**. (Please refer to details elsewhere in this newsletter). We therefore wish to take this opportunity to comment on the general community affairs as well as on the community activities of the past year.

GENERAL COMMENTS

We believe that the Lohana community's key achievement in the recent past has been the significant induction of new and young blood, both in the organizing committees and in participation in the various events. The new members that have come to the Greater Toronto Area over the past three to five years are indeed very talented and active in community affairs. Further, the young adults are equally enthusiastic and exhibit exciting talents in terms of what they can do for the community. The Executive Committee is both proud and thankful for their involvement and we urge this category of members to be direct and active participants in the community matters. The Executive Committee also urges the community to entice these members further into the fold by treating each other in a courteous and professional manner without the nitpicking and cliquishness.

ACTIVITIES IN THE PAST YEAR

Several events were organized during the past year, and most of them were successful both from socio-cultural and financial viewpoints. The **Children's Camp** was once again a great success, even though a greater involvement by the Lohana children would have been appreciated. The **Lohana Golf Tournament** and Entertainment Evening was very well attended and enjoyed by all. The **Annual Picnic** in summer, another flagship was a great success.

The **Navratri Garbas** and **Chopda Poojan** were equally successful. The well-coordinated **Diwali Dinner**, with some new concepts, received raving reviews. Many members as well as non-Lohanas praised how well we organize these events.

The Lohana Samaj Newsletter has been issued four times during the year. The **Auto-Dialer** service, now based on the internet technology, was used many times to make urgent announcements such as a death within the local area of Greater Toronto or Bhajans being held by a bereaved Lohana family within the local area and to announce LCA/LCF sponsored events.

The Funeral Committee was once again busy, sadly, but it continued to perform very efficiently and professionally providing solace and courage to the bereaved families.

ACTIVITIES IN THE COMING YEAR

We would like to make a special announcement that our active member, **Navinbhai Majithia** together with a team of ten other Lohanas are organizing a community gathering, or a sort of “Mini Adhivation”, in March 2008. The Executive Committee, on behalf of the community, has endorsed this event and we will support this initiative as much as possible and we encourage all of you to join in and support and attend this beautiful undertaking that will no doubt bring community members together to celebrate our proud heritage.

A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE

All the Executive Committee members wish to thank the community for giving us the opportunity to serve you during the year. Without doubt, we have enjoyed the past year immensely and we will cherish this experience forever. We hope that we have been able to meet the community expectations for the most part. The Executive Committee conveys its sincere appreciation to the many volunteers, donors, and the membership at large for all the support and encouragement during the past year. We also urge other members to step up now to partake in next year’s Executive Committee, a truly exciting and wonderful challenge!

In order to keep up to date on all the Lohana news, please ensure that if you move, you notify us of your address and phone numbers changes so we can update the database with the most current information.

Please constantly check our website www.mylohana.com as we will be updating it with all the Community happenings. We will also use e-mail for all our programs and updates as well and request your help in sending us your e-mail addresses as well to lohananews@gmail.com.

The Funeral Committee consists of the following **Kantibhai Raja, Sureshbhai Thakrar, and Vipinbhai Mithia**.

To conclude our report we would like to wish all our members and their families a very happy festive season and a very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Your Executive & Youth Committees

GENERAL ELECTIONS

Many of our Board members, including the President are stepping down. Our tradition is to receive nominations for the President who then brings forward his/her team members.

Kindly forward your nominations to **Kamlesh Thakrar** at kamlesh.thakrar@gmail.com as soon as possible.

YOUTH MESSAGE

Hey YOUth ...

It's been a great year. We have had quite a few successful events including **Laser Quest**, the **Summer Camp, Picnic, Navratri** (even though the Youth presence was low), and what a fantastic **Diwali Dinner**, where many youths showed up. Congratulations to some of the young children who put on a fantastic performance at the dinner.

Unfortunately, it is time for us to leave the Committee and make room for others to get involved. We have thoroughly enjoyed organizing the youth events, trying to bring the youth together and helping out at the Diwali Dinner.

At this time we would like to thank **Kamleshuncle** and the rest of the **Executive Committee** in giving us their full support throughout the year.

Any youth who are interested in joining the Committee for the coming year, or are considering running for Youth President, please contact any of the Youth Committee or send an email to [**lcayouth@gmail.com**](mailto:lcayouth@gmail.com)

Thank you,
Anuj, Sahil & Sejal
Your Youth Committee

DIWALI DINNER CHILDREN'S DANCE PARTICIPANTS

Thanks to all the participants, directors, dance coordinator, donors, and of course to all parents for your time. Without you all, we would not have done it.

Participants: **Aruna Aundhia, Minal Aundhia, Alisha Badiani, Krish Chandarana, Esha Karia, Asha Morar, Ronak Panchnatia, Nikita Shah, Deven Thakkar, Heral Thakkar, and Shreeya Thakrar**

Directors: **Rupal & Bhavini Sachdev**

MANDIR ACTIVITIES

- ❖ The **Hindu Mandir** invites you to participate in their monthly **Jalaram Bapa Bhajans** on the **1st Sunday** of every month from **5:00pm to 7:00pm**. Every one from the Community is invited and most welcome. Maha Prasad is served immediately afterwards. For further inquiries please call the **Mandir** at **905-678-1166**
- ❖ The **Vishnu Mandir** invites you to participate in their monthly **Jalaram Bapa Bhajans** on the **last Sunday** of every month from **5:00pm to 7:00pm**. Maha Prasad is served immediately afterwards. For sponsorship and donations, please contact **Prakash Badiani** at **905-737-3585** or **Dipak Bhayani** at **905-886-4800**.
- ❖ The **Mississauga Ram Mandir** invites you to participate in their monthly **Jalaram Bapa Bhajans**. They are held every **3rd Thursday** of the month from **7:30pm to 9:00pm**. Every one from the Community is invited and most welcome. For further inquiries please contact **Alka Panchmatia** at **905-542-3332**.

2007 LCA GRADUATES

Provided by Beju Lakhani

Lisa Bhatt

Daughter of **Sadhana Chandarana**
Electrical Engineering, University of Western Ontario

Amit Ghelani

Son of **Navin** and **Ramila Ghelani**
B.Sc. Honours, McMaster University

Nina Han

Daughter of **Yogesh Chandarana & Asia Shin**
Psychology and Communication, York University

Nirav Kotak

Son of **Jaswant & Punita Kotak**
Aviation Management Diploma; Commercial Pilot's License; Multi/IFR Rating Brampton Flight College

Bimal Lakhani

Son of **Chandra** and **Rekha Lakhani**
Bachelor's of Science in Honours Kinesiology, University of Waterloo

Radhika Lakhani

Daughter of **Praful** and **Meena Lakhani**
Bachelor of Laws (LLB), Osgoode Hall Law School

Rishi Lukka

Son of **Himanshu** and **Lekha Lukka**
BASc (Bachelor of Applied Science) - Systems Design Engineering, International Studies Option
BA (Bachelor of Arts) - General Arts, French Certificate Level Two, University of Waterloo

Viral Paun

Son of **Dinesh & Bhavna Paun**
Bachelor of Administrative Studies, Honours; Specialization in Human Resources, York University

Risha Raja

Daughter of **Sadhana & Suru Raja**
Bachelor of Science with Honours in Kinesiology, York University

Suraj Raythatha

Son of **Manoj & Daxa Raythatha**
MBA Richard Ivey School of Business at the University of Western

Vishaal Saujani

Son of **Kirit** and **Kirti Saujani**
Honours Law Clerk' program, Humber College Business School

Mittale Suchak

Daughter of **Narendra** and **Smita Suchak**

With Distinction Bachelor of Environmental Science, Honours Environment and Business, Co-op with a Minor in Human Resources Management and Economics, University of Waterloo

Mila Tanna

Daughter of **Prakash** and **Ushi Tanna**

Early Childhood Assistance, Centennial College

Priya Tanna

Daughter of **Arti** and **Niru Tanna**

Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry, McGill University

Shamir Tanna

Son of **Arti** and **Niru Tanna**

BASC in Electrical Engineering from University of Toronto

Neesha Vadera

Daughter of **Raj** and **Nimat Vadera**

Honours Bachelor of Science, University of Toronto

NAVRATRI REPORT

Submitted by Vipin Mithia

Besides Diwali Dinner, Navratri is the most-attended event for our community. And this year it wasn't an exception. Members and non-members alike flocked the hall to the capacity. This despite the fact that there were Garbas organized the same evening at temples and other places - some sponsored privately by our own community members. How one wishes that these members came to this once-a-year event and joined the rest of the community in celebrating the Navratri.

Navratri is one event which draws young and adults alike. It, considering today's fast pace of life and lack of social interaction with one another, gives all of us a forum to meet and greet and be merry and dance with joy and happiness. The presence of the youth at Garbas is particularly notable.

There was no entrance fee and most of the collection at the entrance came from donations. The attendees played Garbas and Raas to their heart's content till after mid-night.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CONGRATULATIONS

- ❖ Congratulations to **Urvish & Reshma Badiani** on the birth of their son, **Rayan** on October 26, 2007. Big sisters **Alisha & Meghan** as well as grandparents, **Amratlal & Savitaben Badiani** and **Narendra & Sarla Kanani** are very excited about the newest Badiani addition.
- ❖ **Ekta Lakhani** – daughter of **Dilip & Jayshree** on the following accomplishments: CSA Diamond Scholarship, University of Toronto BSc Honours Graduate with High Distinction, UofT Scholar Award, UofT Faculty of Medicine - Institute of Medical Science - Open Fellowship Award
- ❖ **Aditi Lakhani** - daughter of **Dilip & Jayshree** on the following accomplishments: Valedictorian at High School Graduation - Stephen Leacock Collegiate, Toronto Biotechnology Initiative Science Award, Queen Elizabeth II - Aiming for the Top Scholarship, Cadillac Fairview Spire Scholarship, UofT Admission Scholarship, UofT National Book Award.
- ❖ **Vipin Mithia** received an award of Merit from the Ontario Dental Association in November 2007 for his contributions to the dental profession in Ontario, Canada and Tanzania and was also recognized for his social community work.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Our Deepest condolences to the following families who have lost their dearest ones. Thank you Kantibhai for providing this:

- ❖ **Biharilal Rai** eldest brother of **Kirit** and **Devendra** passed away peacefully on Sunday October 7th, 2007 after a short illness
- ❖ **Muktaben Gokaldas Sodha**, of Kisumu Kenya passed away in Mississauga on October 17th, 2007. Muktaben was the beloved mother of **Sureshbhai** (London UK), **Rameshbhai** (Kisumu, Kenya), **Vinubhai** and **Subhashbhai** (Mississauga), **Pushpaben Jamnadas Masrani** (Brampton) and **Sudhaben Bharatbhai Ghelani** (London UK)
- ❖ **Kishore Damodardas Budhdeo**, son of **Late Damodardas & Pushpaben** of Mombasa, Kenya and brother of **Kirit, Sudhir, Kumar, Piyush, Sunil, Nalini Tanna** (Leicester), **Indira Chandarana** (Florida), **Shobna Kataria** (Holland), **Raksha Popat** (Kisumu), and **Bhavna Jobanputra** (Nairobi) passed away in Leicester, England on Friday, September 14th, 2007 after a short illness at the age of 63. He is survived by his two sons, **Jiten** and **Sachin** residing in England
- ❖ **Mayank Dahyalal Kanani** loving husband of **Rupa**, beloved father to **Meera & Neil** sadly passed away on November 28, 2007 in his 43rd year.

Dear son of **Kesarben Kanani**, and younger brother of **Subodh, Manish, Dinaben Suchak** and **Pragati Thakrar** (UK).

Dear son-in-law to **Rasikbhai & Madhuben Ruparelia** and brother-in-law to **Sunjay, Sheerali & Shafali Raja**. Uncle to **Ravi, Raksha, Maya, Nikita, Anand & Amar** (UK), **Rishi Suchak**, and **Shreena Thakrar** (UK)

The families would like to express their deep appreciation to everyone who gave their final respects, support, sent their condolences, and attended Bhajans. While the family grieves his passing, they have heard from the community members. Mayank was well liked by all and he has left many good memories. This gives Mayank's family strength to face difficult times.

May his soul rest in peace. Om Shanti, Om Shanti, Om Shanti.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Deleted due to privacy

NEWSLETTER SPONSORSHIP

Thank you to **Manish** and **Nanda Kanani** for graciously sponsoring the costs associated with the postage of this newsletter.

Submitted by Vasantbhai Lakhani (Vancouver):

Offering a healing hand: North Shore couple bringing medical care to poorest areas of India

Vasant Lakhani knows what it's like to make a difference.

His devotion to others has seen him fulfill many roles over the years, including various multicultural causes and countless community-related events. Following his move with his wife Sudha to North Vancouver in 2001 after retiring from a successful career as a civil servant in Thunder Bay, Ont., he has turned his focus on improving the health of people around the world.

The people Lakhani works to help are those living in extreme poverty, without access to medical, dental or eye care.

Over the past few years, Lakhani has gone on a number of medical trips to India, assisting medical professionals in their work to provide care to people in surrounding villages. While seeing people in pain is incredibly difficult for him, and the work itself is difficult due to the long hours, the satisfaction of seeing someone healed continues to make it all worthwhile, he says.

"By the end of the 10 days, we are tired," he says. "Emotionally," his wife adds. Sudha sometimes accompanies her husband on his trips as she shares his strong interest in humanitarian aid.

Lakhani is currently recruiting like-minded individuals to join him on his next trip, a medical, dental and eye camp, supported by the Association of Indian Physicians of Northern Ohio, in Puri, Orissa, located on India's east coast. He'll offer support at a medical camp in the area from Jan. 17 to 30, 2008, travelling with a team of 12 to 14 doctors.

The team will be hosted by Kriya Yoga, a community-based non-profit organization in India.

Lakhani says they're looking for volunteers, doctors or civilians of all nationalities to help them make a difference. Volunteers are asked to pay their airfare plus an additional \$151 US.

Having participated in many similar trips, Lakhani has learned that making a difference is possible. From a 2001 trip to Bhuj, Gujarat, India, where he offered administrative aid in an earthquake-stricken area to his first trip with the Association of Indian Physicians of Northern Ohio in 2005 to Cochin, Kerala, India, where he helped in the building of homes for tsunami victims and registered patients and dispensed medicine at a medical camp, he has seen the positive impacts of his teams' work.

During his last medical trip, in January to Jamnagar, Gujarat, India, he adopted a stronger leadership role, helping the association choose the location for the medical trip, as well as assist with site co-ordination.

"When we go to one village, it's not one village," he says, describing the people seeking care that travel extensive distances. During that trip, two teams of doctors visited 14 villages over a two-week trip and treated 5,183 patients.

Cases that stick out in his mind include a girl whose eye suffered a condition that had gone untreated for far too long and was infected, another woman whose gums were painfully inflamed and a 14-year-old at risk of losing her hair due to an illness. "Had we not been there, probably they wouldn't have gone to the doctor in time," he says.

While Lakhani plans to continue going on these types of humanitarian trips, he's currently in the process of setting up some permanent medical infrastructure in India. Thanks to his fundraising, he's responsible for the introduction of a mobile medical clinic in Jamnagar, Gujarat.

He's covering the costs of the truck, \$8,000 a year, and the association, partnered with Anadabava Seva Sanstha, a volunteer organization that provides a number of community services like housing for seniors and educating deaf children, based in India, are providing the medicine.

Since September the unit has been serving three villages a week, dispensing medicine for free. With the January 2008 trip nearing, the couple already have their sights set on their next humanitarian project: a medical camp in Uganda. "That's our birthplace and we'd like to go and help the people out," says Lakhani of their goal.

For more information on the medical trip, to join, or to offer financial support, contact Lakhani at 604-987-1925.

2008 Annual General Meeting

**Sunday, February 10, 2008
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

**Sapphire Banquet Hall
959 Derry Road East
Mississauga, Ontario
905-256-6666**

Timing will be *strictly* observed

AGENDA

- 1. Review of minutes from 2007 AGM**
- 2. Treasurer's Report**
- 3. Lohana Mahaparishad Report**
- 4. President's Report**
- 5. Youth Report & Elections**
- 6. Dissolution of 2007 Executive Committee**
- 7. Election process for 2008 Executive Committee**
- 8. Any other business**
- 9. Adjournment**

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Refreshments will be served
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The Executive Committee wishes to thank the Community for a wonderful year, delightful experience, and unfailing support.