

Khabbar

North American Konkani Newsletter

Volume XXV No. 3

July, August, September - 2002

From:

The Honorary Editor,
"Khabbar"

P. O. Box 222

Lake Jackson, TX 77566 - 0222

XXV-3

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



FIRST CLASS

TO:

Khabbar Follies

In this section, Khabbar looks into the Konkani community and anything and everything that is Konkani from a Konkani point of view. The names will never be published but geographic location will be identified in general terms.

Khabbar and the subscription of \$15.00/year always brings the best in Konkani. It necessarily has a funny angle. I have two more stories to add.....

1. This family from Florida calls.
"Hey, Vasanth, how come I did not get the latest Khabbar Mailing List?"
"Probably, you did not pay the Khabbar subscription for the last year!?" was my reply. "Look at the address label of the latest Khabbar to find out about your payment record".
"Well, I might have forgotten! Why don't you make a lifetime subscription so that I do not have to remember you and your Khabbar every year!"
"Thanks! You made my day!! The Advisory Committee of Khabbar has decided against it a while ago and I do not think they will approve of it"
"You see, sending a check of \$15.00 is too small an amount to write and hence I do not feel liking writing one. If I make it

more, say, \$50.00, then you publicize my name on Khabbar and I do not like that!!"
"Now, you do have a problem!?"

2. This family of Nevada "forgot" to pay the 2002 subscription. Here comes the dues with this apology:
"Dear Vasanth,
I just found out that V have not paid our 2002 subscription to Khabbar. With apologies, shame, hurt and what not, I am enclosing herewith a check.
One of the reasons why Khabbar is so popular is, I think, U never bring up the issue of subscribing or subscription. C in the last 6 months, V had probably 6 or 8 telephone conversations at least. But, U never brought up the issue. I feel there is lot to learn from U."

SUBSCRIPTION FORM:

Dear Konkani family,
Please, note that you have the FREE access to the eKhabbar, the electronic version of Khabbar, by logging on to ekhabbar.com. If you want hard copy, then only renew your subscription for \$15.00 a year. **Please, don't pay for future years!** Please, fill the form below and send your subscription with a check payable to Khabbar to P. O. Box 222, Lake Jackson, TX 77566-0222. (Canadian Konkani please pay cash or MO in US\$)

Name: _____

Spouse Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email ID: _____

Children.....

Name	Boy/Girl	d.o.b.	Hobby/Interest
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Comments, if any: _____

Quarterly Newsletter
For Circulation to the Konkani Community in North America
Volume XXV No. 3

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The Editorial Committee reserves the right to exclude, edit and correct all material received for publication and does not accept any responsibility for views expressed by authors of the publications.

EDITORIAL

Dear Konkani family,
I hope all is well with you and your family.

As I said before, this July 2002 has definitely gone in the history of North American Konkani. The fourth North American Konkani Sannelan 2002 (KS-2002) held from July 4th thru 6th has proved to be the best ever! **The KS-2002 did make us all feel proud to be Konkani.** Please, visit their website: www.konkani2002.com to see the photo gallery, message boards, etc.

Over 1,250 people from all over North America, Europe and India had fun filled 2-1/2 days in Houston. Simply put, our women truly felt like they were at their "kular".

And the great Konkani tradition continues. **The Konkani Association of Southern California (KASC)** has decided to host the fifth North American Konkani Sannelan in Los Angeles area during the July 4th weekend in 2004. I already heard them say, "You haven't seen anything yet!". Visit their website: www.konkani2004.com to find out all about that Sannelan.

Khabbar also reached a milestone during KS-2002. The *Khabbar's* 25th anniversary during the banquet dinner was also well received. The Advisory Committee of *Khabbar* owes it to you for your continued support and encouragement. Without you, *Khabbar* would not be what it is today.

This issue of *Khabbar* has been mailed to you, compliments of KS-2002.

In order to reach ALL the North American Konkani families to convey the message of the Sannelan success, KS-2002 has decided to fund the cost of printing and mailing this issue of *Khabbar* to ALL the families in the *Khabbar* Mailing List.

The fact that you are getting this issue of *Khabbar* means that you are in the *Khabbar* Mailing List whether you are a regular subscriber or not. Also, this is an invitation for non-subscribing families to get "*Khabbarized*". Please fill the Subscription form on page 2 to rest assured you are *khabbarized*!

For the subscription of \$15.00 a year, you get:

- Four issues of the *Khabbar*,
- Annual Mailing List and
- Discounted advertisement rates.

The reality of dotcom economy is true for *Khabbar* also. The on-line version of *Khabbar*, ekhabbar, is not generating any revenues. Also, people prefer the hard copy of *Khabbar*. Hence, ekhabbar will go on the web a **quarter later** after the hard copies have been mailed.

Sri Sarvothamdas Pai of the legendary Bhadraviri brothers is touring the US to spread the word of the Lord through his *hari keertans*. His performance at the Konkani Sannelan 2002 was enjoyed by one and all. He will be in the US till November and any Konkani family wanting to avail his services can contact

him directly at sarvothamdas@hotmail.com

It is heartening to see our kid's accomplishments. *Khabbar* is proud to publish all these feats and really feels that our second generation is right on track for being the best in class.

Most of the articles and news item come voluntarily on a regularly basis. If you send them via email (khabbar@hotmail.com), it makes the editing job much easy. Send any Hoon *Khabbar*, sunshine news, your or your child's promotion or achievement, articles of interest, etc. Share your joy or grief with fellow Konkani.

On the Quiz front, *Khabbar* has remained as an undefeated champion for a long time! It is really pitiable to see only a handful few got the correct solution to the last quarter's quiz!!! Let us see what will happen with this quarter's quiz?!

Khabbar will always publish appeals for charity free of charge but cannot collect money on behalf of any charity. Families are encouraged to send the money directly to the concerned charities.

The struggle to rid terrorism from this world is far from over and I hope peace and tranquility will prevail soon.

Happy Diwali to you all. *Devu Boren Karo.*

Vasanthi
Editor

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor will be considered for publication unless the writer requests otherwise. Letters may be edited for publication. Editor reserves the right not to publish anonymous letters. Initials only on request if the writer includes his or her name.

Dear Vasantmam,
My special request to you is to kindly view the new website www.oldagehome.net launched on July 4th 2002 (Konkani Sammelan in Houston) by HH Swamiji. For readying for next move we need your feedback please. Please, confirm per return email that you have completely viewed it (and your comments).

Secondly, I want to have positive publicity, as much as possible, through your widely circulated "Khabbar".

Thirdly, is it possible for me to have through you the databank of email addresses of GSBs/SBs in USA. If yes, kindly share it with me.

Warm personal regards,
Vaman R.Kamath,Mumbai
Vaman_Kamath@ril.com

Editor's Reply:

Congrats to you on the splendid job you are doing to the community. The website is good and contains the information people are looking for. The *Khabbar* has been and will continue to give all the publicity you need. Sorry there is no database of emails of Konkani in North America.

Dear Sirs,
My name is Mayur Chikramane. I was a resident of Oregon until a few months ago. I came across the case of Mithun and his progress. It was very encouraging to read about the same. A nephew of my friend Rajeev is suffering from leukemia. I am attaching the mail he sent me. Please publish it in *Khabbar*, and also please, Mr. Kamath, any info you could give me on potential donors will be most appreciated. Alternatively, you can get in touch with Rajeev with my reference. His email is: shas3isnow@yahoo.com
Any help from your side will be most appreciated.

Thanking you
Best Wishes,

Mayur Chikramane
mayurchikramane@hotmail.com

Dear Konkani Bandhubandhavas,
Historical data about our roots with several pictures are compiled by Dr. Kalyanaraman with the title "Great monumental work on Saraswati Sindhu Civilization and Revival of Saraswati River". Recently I had a chance to listen to Dr.Kalyanaraman who has worked on this project for 2decades. It was vast, interesting and felt worth sharing. For more details: Surf www.hindunet.org and click on history in the resource center.
Devu Boren Koro,

Manjeshwar Ganesha Kamath,
Morristown TN
mgkamath@msn.com

Hello Sir,
I am Anil Kumar R. Pai of Calicut, Kerala, India. I have created a new website named www.akrpai.cjb.net with a vision to boost our great Konkani Culture. And also attempted to sweep light over Samyuktha Gowd Saraswath Sabha of Calicut. I want your help to promote my website. Please forward the URL www.akrpai.cjb.net to your members, friends and relatives. Hoping a good response from your side.

AKRPai.

Dear Sir/Madam
Could you kindly provide a link to our website WWW.SARASWATSAMAJUK.ORG from your Website. We will also do the same as soon as we receive reciprocal acknowledgement. We are an organization of about 100 families with a thriving community. Please do visit our Website. Many thanks
Devesh M Nayel
Chairman - Saraswat Samaj UK

Editor's Reply:

Congrats on an impressive website. It was quite refreshing to go through the website. Job well done and wish your association all the best.

The www.ekhabbar.com website has no provision yet for links like you had requested. But, by publishing this letter in this issue of *Khabbar* should give wide publicity to your website in North America. Good luck.

Dear Editor:

I am enclosing a write up about recent events, honoring prominent Konkani, by American Konkani Association (AKA) of Illinois. Hope you will be able to publish it as soon as you can. Thank you.

Shyam Amladi
AKA Board member

Editor's Reply:

Thank you. Like you, lots of Konkani families across North America are sending in the *hoon khabbar* items voluntarily. This kind of trend will certainly make *Khabbar* a worthwhile commodity for North American Konkani.

Dear Vasanth,

Our hats off to the Texan Konkani for the fantastic show they put on. It was educational, entertaining and a gastronomic delight.

Who would have thought you had such good contact with Gov. Pataki of New York to exchange the heat and humidity of Texas for the slightly cooler weather of New York during the convention period!?!.

Our sincere thanks to all the organizers for the tremendous work they did.

Damo Baliga
damobaliga@yahoo.com

Hoon Khabbar

Congratulations:

The Kashi Mutt celebrated the *Shishya Sweekar* function at Haridwar on 20th June 2002. The function was a success and the new shishya is named as **H. H. SAMYAMINDRA THEERTHA SWAMI.**

H.H. Sudhindra Theertha Swamiji released the cassette created specially for the occasion by Pandit Upendra Bhat of Pune. Nearly 15,000 people from all over India attended this function. On the 19th June Sri Pandit Upendra Bhat performed devotional songs program and on the 20th Sant Bhadrigiri Achutdas Hari Katha program (GURU MAHIMA) both were attended by all the audience.

An evening of North Indian Classical music, Tabla solo and Bhajans featuring **PRASAD UPASANI** - Vocal, (A versatile vocalist in the style of Agra Gharana and senior disciple of Late Pandit K.G.Ginde and Pandit S.C.R. Bhat), Pandit Sadanand Naimpalli- Tabla (Disciple of Late Pt. Taranath Rao and a highly sought tabla accompanist and solo artist) and DR. Gopal Marathe - Harmonium (Ph.D in Microbiology, and a accomplished composer), performer and teacher of Indian music in USA and India) was held at Radha Krishna Temple in Norwalk, CA on Sunday July 21st 2002 at 3:30 PM.

Sri. Venkateshwara Temple (SVT) in Pittsburgh, PA invited **Mr. DAMODAR U. PRABHU** of Pittsburgh, PA to give a talk during SVT's Youth camp on "Hinduism in Bali, Indonesia" on August 2nd 2002.

The Council of Hindu Temples of North America at its last annual meeting on May 2002 unanimously selected **Mrs. KANAKA D. PRABHU** of Pittsburgh, PA and **Mrs. BETH KULKARNI** of Houston, TX as two of the four members/judges of the panel to adjudicate the entries of the yearly essay competition for the middle school, high school and college students through out USA.

NILESH, s/o Prakash & Rekha Pai of Houston, TX won the third place in the costume contest (age 1 to 3) at the 13th Grand Annual Event of Janmashtami Celebrations held by Hindus of Greater Houston at George R. Brown Center in Houston, TX on September 7th 2002

Konkani Graduates:

ASHA, d/o Sadanand & Kasturi Pai of Raleigh, NC graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Pharmacy with her Doctor of Pharmacy degree in May 2002. She is pursuing a one-year clinical pharmacy residency with an independent pharmacy (Wilson Pharmacy) in Johnson City, TN.

KALPANA, d/o Madhav & Vijaya Shenoy of West New York, NJ graduated as salutatorian of Memorial High School in West New York, NJ and will attend Rutgers University this fall. Ms. Shenoy is recipient of the Ruth Epstein Schuler Scholarship, the James H. Lynch Scholarship, and the Scheslinger/Silver Scholarship.

CHETAN S. NAYAK of Laurel, MD was awarded the Bernard J. Ronis and Max L. Ronis Prize in Otolaryngology. He was also awarded the Joseph C. Duane Memorial Prize for achieving the most outstanding academic performance during the four years of medical school. Chetan graduated from Temple University School of Medicine this May and was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha honor medical society. He is doing his E.N.T. residency at University of Maryland.

KELLI McDERMOTT NAYAK of Laurel, MD graduated from CMP University Hahnemannensis, Philadelphia, PA with Doctor of Medicine and has joined Pediatric residency at Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland.

PRITHI, d/o Satish & Suman Nayak of Schnecksville, PA graduated *magna cum laude* with a Bachelor of

Arts degree from the University of Pittsburgh in Pittsburgh, PA.

NITESH, s/o Naren & Geeta Gangoli of Budd Lake, NJ graduated from Mount Olive High School and has joined Boston University this Fall.

SURAJ, s/o Deepak & Purnima Brahmavar of South Windsor, CT graduated from High School and has joined Boston University this Fall.

SUNEIL, s/o Ashok & Asha Kumta of Douglaston, NY graduated from High School and has joined Sophie Davis Medical College in Manhattan, NY for the 7 yr. Medicine Program.

MEGHAN, d/o Ajit & Kalpana Chickermane of Hazelton, PA graduated from High School and has joined University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA this Fall.

SHILPA, d/o Vasant & Surekha Keny of La Palma, CA, completed her MD program from UC Irvine and is now a physician. She will do her residency in OB/GYN for next 4 years at KAISER-PERMANENTE in Santa Clara, CA.

SHVETA, d/o Vasant & Surekha Keny of La Palma, CA, completed her Masters program at USC (University of Southern California) in Economics and is currently a Financial Analyst at Deloitte & Touché. She passed her first Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) exam in July 2002.

NANDAN KALLE of Santa Monica, CA received his MBA with Honors from UCLA. He was doing this part time while working at Disney.

GITANJALI, d/o Gurudatt & Veena Borkar of Moorpark, CA, graduated from High School with High Honors and will attend the University of California, Berkeley to pursue higher education. In July 2002, Gitanjali also received the honor of performing a contemporary piano piece with the Conejo Concerto Orchestra for her culmination recital.

AMITA, d/o Anil & Maya Shenoy of Encino, CA, graduated with a MSW (Master's in Social Welfare) from UCLA graduate school. Currently she is working for a non-profit organization in Downtown doing case management and counseling.

AVANTIKA, d/o Jaidev & Meena Rao of Reseda, CA, received her J.D. (Law degree from U. C. Davis in May 2002. She was given the chancellors' achievement award during the commencement ceremony. She took her California Bar exam in July 2002 and will be working under a judge in Honolulu, Hawaii starting Sept. 2002.

AMAR, s/o Jaidev & Meena Rao of Reseda, CA, graduated from Cleveland Humanities Magnet High School as a valedictorian. He will be a freshman at UCLA in fall of 2002. He has been accepted in their Honors program and will be majoring in Chemistry.

MALAVIKA, d/o Jagdish and Jothi Gangolly of Claremont, CA, graduated with Honors from Revelle College at the University of California, San Diego in June. She received her Bachelors Degree in Political Science, with an area of focus in Management Science.

During the past four years, Malavika has completed internships at London Stock Exchange, CNN's Larry King Live Show, The Washington Times, The San Diego Downtown News, and FOX and KUSI News in San Diego. Malavika also served as President of SANGAM (UCSD'S South Asian Students Association) and was the Features Editor at UCSD'S newspaper, The Guardian. She was also a member of the executive committee that organized the 1st Konkani Youth Convention, held in Boston in the summer of 2001.

Malavika plans to pursue the joint M.A./J.D. program at USC and will begin her Masters Degree in Journalism at U.S.C.'s Annenberg School of Journalism School in the fall.

LEENA, d/o Sheel & Milita Palekar of Las Vegas, NV, graduated with

M.S. in Microbiology (Bio-remedial Microbiology) from University of Georgia.

New Arrivals:

NAVEEN, a baby boy to Satish & Vrinda Kamath of Hackettstown, NJ on May 29th 2001. A brother to Chetan. The paternal grandparents Vasudev & Sudha Kamath from Bangalore and the maternal grand parents are Basti Mukund & Mitra Shenoy of Mangalore.

TARA, a baby girl, to Mahesh and Sharan Nayak on Dec. 18th 2001. The happy grandparents are Krishna and Padmini Nayak of Detroit, MI and Arun and Gita Pai of Pittsburg, PA. Helping the new mom with the baby are great grandparents Sulochana and Pundalika Mallya of Mangalore.

MIHIR, a baby boy 8.5oz and 21 inches long born to Ramchandra & Dipti Bhandarkar of Novi, MI on Jan 4th 2002. Brother to Nikhil. Proud grandparents are P. S. & Sunanda Bhandarkar of Bangalore and Ganapathi & Nivedita Hegde of Dharwad.

RHEA, a 8 lb. 5 oz., 20-3/4" tall baby girl to Mandar & Roopa Patil of Lodi, NJ on February 22nd 2002. The paternal grand parents are Vasudev & Nirmala (Chitra) Bhat of Mumbai and the paternal grand parents are Vittal & Vidya Patil of Sion, Mumbai.

NITHYA, 8-1/4 lb. baby girl to Ashok & Surekha Shenoy of Paterson, NJ on Saturday April 13th 2002 at 3 am. Grandson to Venkatraman & Suman Shenoy of Mysore (formerly Houston, TX)

To see the baby pictures, go to Yahoo! photos and select "Slideshow"

<http://photos.yahoo.com/bc/ashenoy2000/1st?.dir=/Nithya%27s+Birth&.view=1>

LILY, a 6 lb 5 oz, 19 in baby girl to Ram and Bela Shenoy of Paris, France on June 11th 2002. A sister to Jayanth. Maternal grandparents are Mohandas and Chitra Bhat of Rockville, MD and paternal grandmother is Pavuma Shenoy of Surrey, U.K.

SONYA and SERENA, twin daughters to Naveen & Priti Bangia of Buffalo, NY on Thursday, 29th August 2002 at Buffalo, NY.

The maternal grand parents are Sathish & Gita Shenoy of Mississauga, Ont., Canada and the paternal grand parents are Baldev & Prabha Bangia of Toronto, Ont., Canada

Brahmopadesham:

Divakar & Geetha Shenoy of W. Simsbury, CT celebrated the Brahmopadesham (the sacred thread ceremony) of their son, **Chi. AVINASH** on June 15th 2002 at approximately 11:00 AM at Connecticut Valley Hindu Temple Society's Hall. The Upanayanam ceremony was performed by Vedamoorthy Madhusudan Bhat of Bangalore. Approximately 150 people attended the event.

Kyle & Meetha Pai Gould of Cleveland Heights, OH celebrated the sacred thread ceremony of their son, **Chi. IAN GOPAL**, grandson of Late B. H. Gopalkrishna Pai & Smt. Shanthi Pai of Altamonte Springs, FL on Sunday September 1st 2002 at 12 noon muhurtham at their residence.

It has been reported that the vatus are extremely busy doing Sandhyavanandanam even early morning and late at nights with devoted conviction & dedication.

Engagement:

Dr. & Mrs. Vasudev & Shobha Shenoy of Houston, TX celebrated the engagement ceremony of their daughter, **Kum. SACHITA** with **Chi. VIVEK** of Providence, RI, (s/o Mr. & Mrs. Vishwanath & Prema Nayak of Bangalore, India) on Saturday June 22nd 2002 at 7:00 PM at Four Leaf Towers East Banquet Hall in Houston, TX.

Newly Weds:

Chi. VIJAY, s/o Madhukar & Kishori Shenoy of Windsor Locks, CT married to **Sow. SACHITA**, d/o Sri & Smt. Acharya of Karkala on May 22nd 2002 at Manjunath Pai Hall in Karkal. The event was attended by 1,500 people. The couple came to the

USA early June and are settled in Poughkeepsie, NY. Vijay is an engineer and works at IBM. Sachita graduated from Bhuvanendra College in Commerce.

Subramanya & Vasanthi Baliga of Princeton, NJ celebrated the marriage of their daughter, **Sow. SUREKHA** with **Chi. NIKHIL**, s/o Dinesh & Jaya Bhat of Mumbai on 23rd June 2002 at 11:15 AM *Simha Lagna* at GSB Seva Mandals' Shri Guru Ganesh Prasad Hall, Bhookailash Nagar, Near Sion Fort, Sion (E), Mumbai.

Chi. VINAY, s/o Late Prof. Prabhaker Nayak & Mrs. Suman Nayak of Wanaque, NJ married to **Sow. NICOLE**, d/o Ms. Colleen Velba. The Hindu ceremony was held on Saturday July 13th 2002 at the Regency House Hotel in North Pompton Plains, NJ and the church wedding was held on Saturday July 20th 2002 at 3 O'clock in the afternoon at the Corpus Christi Church in South River, NJ followed by reception at Somerset Marriott Hotel in Somerset, NJ.

Dr. SONALI, d/o Aravind & Anjali Muzumdar of Munster, IN. married to **Dr. SANJAY**, s/o Pravinchandra & Jyotsna Patel of Naperville, IL on Saturday August 24th 2002 at Empress Banquets in Addison, IL.

Konkani Happenings:

Konkani Sabha held the Annual Picnic at Mercer County Park, Princeton, NJ on June 16th 2002. Despite not very favorable weather forecast for the day, several Konkani families took the chance and participated in the event. It turned out to be a nice day, and everybody had lots of good ammchi food and fun.

Under the auspices of **American Konkani Association (AKA) & American Midwest Konkani Association (AMKA)**, **Sandhya Rao (Badakere)** and her daughter **Ritika** gave a concert of light classical music at the Balaji Temple, Aurora, IL on July 13th 2002. **Vikas Phalnikar** on Harmonium and **Anil Datar** on Tabla provided excellent support. Sandhya,

a popular TV and radio vocalist from Mumbai, and winner of the "Swarabhilasha" award, sang old and new favorites, from Abhangs like "Maghe Ubha Mangesh" to the poignant melody "Jeevalaga", as well as ghazals and songs from her own "Meerabai" TV production. She also sang popular Hindi film songs at the request of the audience. Sandhya (and Ritika, who is fast following in her mother's footsteps) delighted the audience for over two and half hours with her pensive yet mellifluous voice and sang compositions of the famous singer composer, Moinderjeet Singh. Sandhya ended her concert with a beautiful, serene rendition of the famous film bhajan, "Allah Tero Naam". **Anil Datar** also performed an exciting Tabla solo laced with intricate but captivating "laggis" designed for folk dances. Sandhya Rao recently performed for the **2002 Houston Konkani Sammelan**. **Shyam Amladi**, who provided accompaniment on rhythm ensemble, introduced the artists. The evening ended with the presentation of gifts and mementos to the artists by **Shobha Pai** and **Dr. Vasant Acharya**, AKA President, giving a vote of thanks to the appreciative audience as well as to the organizers, **Meera and Shyam Amladi**.

On July 18th 2002, **American Konkani Association (AKA)** sponsored a concert by the well-known singer, **Puttur Narasimha Nayak**, who also sang at the Houston Sammelan. The concert was at Prema and Dr. Vijaykumar's house and was organized by **Anita and Raghu Nayak, Kirti and Vasant Acharya and Prema and Vijaykumar Rao**. Puttur, who has sung for famous Kannada films and has received numerous awards both in India and in the west, was accompanied on the mandolin by **Prasad**, on the Tabla by **Praveen Kumar** and on the taal by **Subhash Nadkarni**. Puttur kept the audience enthralled with his deep and powerful rendering of popular Purandardas abhangs in Kannada, bhajans in Konkani and then with characteristic aplomb, eased into singing Marathi bhavgeets and a couple of Hindi songs, including a soulful ghazal. The jugalbandi

between the trio was captivating, with its swinging rhythms, the serrated, rapid-fire "boltaans" and "gamaks" interwoven into a variety of devotional and romantic songs. The highlight of the evening was a soul-stirring rendition of "Bhagyada Laxmi Baramma". The evening ended with a bhairavi bhajan in Kannada. **Mita and Prema Rao** introduced the artists; AKA director **Sandhya Kamath** thanked the hosts, the organizers, the artists and the audience for a truly memorable, shared experience.

On a sunny, pleasant day of August 10th, **American Midwest Konkani Association (AMKA)** had the annual picnic. Fun, food and games was the theme for the event. This was true in every sense.

The young and the old alike had a lot of fun meeting people, getting up dated on the local hoon khabbar, and participating in the various games. Four new families joined AMKA that day. Sizzling hoon batata ambados fried on the spot, Bhel puri, pani puri, Dhokla, Pullao and raita, Idli sambar, Uppuma, Chicken kababs, Lamb kababs, Baluchi chicken, chilly chicken, fruit salad, watermelon, munchkins, cookies and ice cream was the menu. Games and team sports interested a lot of the crowd. Cricket, baseball, volleyball, and Frisbee had participants from all age groups. Games like Hot potato, Lemon and spoon race and limbo attracted the tots and teens. The not so young did very well at Hot Potato. Alas! they certainly refused to limbo after tucking in the finger licking, munchy crunchy, deliciously delightful food. Gift certificates were given to all the young participants. Announcements were made to all AMKA members to participate in the Indian Independence Day Parade. On a very positive note the term of Presidency ended for Vijay and Prema Rao. The New President of AMKA for the year 2002 -- 2003 are **Ajay and Preeti Nagarkatte**. Kudos to the 2001-2002 Committee for a job well done!

Konkani Association Of Georgia (KAOG) held their annual picnic at Coopers Furnace at Lake Allatoona on Saturday 17th August, 2002.

The Houston Area Konkani Association (HAKA) celebrated their first annual *Ganesh Chaturthi* on Friday September 13th 2002 at 7: 30 PM at the First Colony Conference Center in Sugarland, TX

Relocation:

The **DESAI** family, Anjali & Vihang have relocated from Plano, TX to 6508 Aspen Road, Edina MN 55436. Their new telephone is 952-936-7806 and email ID: SAVAM@msn.com

The **KAMATH** family, Satish & Vrinda, together with their sons, Chetan & Naveen have relocated from Collegeville, PA to 202 Winding Hill Drive, Hackettstown, NJ 07840. Their new telephone is (908)-813-0548 and email ID: Amruth@aol.com

The **NAYAK** family, newlyweds Chetan & Kelli have relocated from Philadelphia, PA to 9060 Stebbing Way, Apt. H, Laurel, MD 20723. Their new telephone is (301)-604-2604 and the email ID: nayakc@hotmail.com

The **PRABHU** family, newly weds Pradeep and Latha have relocated within York PA. to 10 Hillary Court, Apt B-22, York PA . The New telephone is (717)-755-4796 and email ID: York90@aol.com

The **SHENOY** family, Ashok & Surekha with their newborn daughter, Nithya, have relocated from Paterson, NJ to 50 Forest Street, #1012, Stamford, CT 06901. Their new telephone is (203)-327-5721 and email ID: ashenoy68@hotmail.com

Ms. KALPANA BHANDARKAR has relocated to 20 Plaza Street East, #C7, Brooklyn, NY 11238. The new telephone is (718)-623-1151.

The **SHENOY** family, Ram and Bela with their children, Jay and Lily, will be relocating from Paris, France to Yokohama, Japan. They were in Paris for two years and previously lived in Danbury, CT.

The **KAMATH** family, Praveen & Shanthi have relocated with in San Jose to 3170 Regency Avenue, San Jose, CA 95136. Their new telephone

is (408) 267-1475 and email ID: Shanthi200@aol.com

Email ID Change:

Email ID of the Sudhir & Ranjana Golikeri of Houston, TX has been changed to: sgolikeri@houston.rr.com

60th Birthday (Satti Shanthi):
Dr. KRISHNA NAYAK's satti shanthi (60th birthday) was performed in the traditional manner at the Bharatiya Temple, Detroit on June 15th 2002. This included the appropriate *homam* and *pujas*. A reception followed at a local restaurant. To help celebrate this occasion, Krishna's family and friends were joined by his brother Rama Nayak and family from Uppinangady as well as his sister in law Dr. Usha Shenoy and family from Hyderabad.

Welcome to America:

The **RAO** family, **Kishore Nayampalli & Padmini**, have relocated from Holland to America. Their new address is 444 Washington Blvd., # 1112, Jersey City, NJ 07310 and the telephone is (201)-659-7140. The email ID: kishorenrao@hotmail.com

ASHWIN, s/o Late Vijaya Rao & Smt. Suman Rao of Mumbai has joined UCLA for Postgraduate study in Computer Science. His new address is: 1024, West 24th #303, Los Angeles, CA 90007. His telephone is (213)-748-1152 and email ID: ashwinvrao@hotmail.com

The **NAYAK** family, Pramod & Jyoti have migrated from UK to 501 Woodbridge Commons Way, Iselin, NJ 08830. Their email ID: [jy_nayak@hotmail.com](mailto: jy_nayak@hotmail.com)

Obituary:

ATTUR VASUDEVA PRABHU (75) passed away in Mangalore on July 1st 2002. *Khabbar* sends heartfelt condolences to his daughters, Preme Kamath & family of Auburn, AL, Meera Kamath & family of Sugar Land, TX and Gowri Rao & family of Chicago, IL.

Sri. RADHAKRISHNA R. BHAT "Kittu" (63), passed away in Mangalore (India) on 9th July 2002 at 1:30PM (IST) after a year long suffering due to kidney failure. *Khabbar* sends heartfelt condolences to his daughters, Jyoti D. Shenoy & family of Edison, NJ and Radhika N. Prabhu & family of Somerset, NJ.

Smt. KAUP SHARADA SHENOY (82) passed away on August 14th 2002 at Manipal General Hospital. *Khabbar* sends heartfelt condolences to her sons, Mohandas Shenoy & family of South Easton, MA and Muralidhar Shenoy & family of Durham, NC.

Smt. RADHA SHENOY, w/o Sri Konchady Venkatraya Shenoy of Mangalore passed away in Mangalore on August 20th 2002. *Khabbar* sends heartfelt condolences to her sons, Sudhakar Shenoy and family of Great Falls, VA and Suresh Shenoy and family of Great Falls, VA

BASTI DAMODAR SHENOY (86) passed away in Pune on August 22nd 2002. *Khabbar* sends heartfelt condolences to his daughter Neela Kamath & family of Houston, TX.

Sh...sh.. Speak in Konkani.....

We were in our room at the Sheraton Hotel when I overheard the following conversation coming from the corridor:

Female voice: *Eta muhlre, hava aje khunche bhargare ghalka? Diamond ki, pearl ke emerald necklace?*

Male voice replies: *Tuve amchigalen ulai, nahi zalari tugele kasale bhargar aaseh muhnu saglakai kaltalai.*

I guess the couple forgot they were in a hotel almost fully occupied by Konkanis!

By: *Shobha Baliga, Brooklyn, NY*

Send your "hoon khabbars" to:
Khabbar,

PO Box 222

Lake Jackson, TX 77566-0222

Email: khabbar@hotmail.com

Konkani Sammelan 2002

By: Shanthi Jayakumar, Tel: 512-328-2817, email: prasidh@yahoo.com

Venue: Humble Civic Center, Humble, Texas

Time: July 4 – 6, 2002

From the banks of the river Saraswathi in India, to 7000 years later at the Humble Civic Center, near Houston, Texas, USA, the origins of the Konkani community and their rich and varied cultural heritage came alive this Independence Day weekend. Over 1200 Konkani speakers from all over North America, U.K and India gathered to re-acquaint themselves with their ancient history, traditions, language and cultural practices.

The fourth in a series of biennial Sammelans (conventions), this Sammelan was devoted to exploring the theme **“Proud To Be Konkani”**. Earlier conventions had sought to **“Kindle The Konkani Connection”** (1996, New Jersey), **“Nurture The Culture”** (1998, California), and **“Promote The Konkani Heritage”** (2000, Illinois).

Organized by the Konkans In Southern States (K.I.S.S’ers) the Sammelan succeeded in attracting Konkans of all ages (2 months to 90+ years). The focus was to engage the attendees, in a dialog about issues facing the Konkani community in North America, specifically, the preservation of the Konkani language, customs and food habits that have sustained and cohered the community over the millennia. This was achieved through a series of seminars, speeches, docudramas and other entertainment that showcased the dazzling array of Konkani talent and through the offering of time-honored Konkani specialty food. The organizers emphasized participation by children and youth in particular. All those who came, left with a renewed determination to honor, preserve and enrich their “proud” Konkani culture. The next Sammelan is scheduled for Los Angeles, California in 2004.

The Sammelan was graced by the presence of several prominent leaders in business, education, medicine and the entertainment fields. The keynote address was delivered by **Dr. Vilas Prabhu**, Associate Provost for Academic and Student Affairs at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford, Oklahoma. Dr. Prabhu exhorted all Konkans, and the youth in particular, to become involved in the political arena. Other celebrities who inspired the audience were **Mr. Anant Pai** of *“Amar Chitra Katha”* fame who emphasized the need for passion and emotional involvement to ensure success in any endeavor, and **Shyam Benegal**, Konkani filmmaker, who sent a message urging Konkans to keep their language and traditions alive. Representatives of Chitrapur Math, Shirali, India, presented **Sri Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji's** vision for the Konkani community. **Sant Bhadrageeri Sarvothama Das** delivered a series of Harikathas (religious discourses) and singers **Sandhya Rao** and **Puttur Narasimha Nayak** (both came from India for the Sammelan) delighted the audience with their distinctive musical cadences. **K.V. Kamath**, Chairman and Managing Director of ICICI Bank, Mumbai, India, was an invited guest. **Neil Hattangadi**, Rhodes Scholar, had his audience spell-bound by his brilliant speech where he urged everyone to remember the hardships

experienced by the Konkani ancestors and strive to keep alive the traditions of excellence by exploring career options which rouse their passions. **Khabbar** was feted for its contributions and efforts in keeping the North American Konkani Community connected over the past 25 years.

Entertainment was a constant at the Sammelan with almost fifteen hours of dances, skits, dramas, and a grand finale of a musical fashion parade. The visual and auditory stimulation was only surpassed by the tantalizing array of food that mesmerized the palate and threw the olfactory senses into over-drive mode.

The entertainment highlight was the fascinating docudrama production that traced the migratory path taken by the Saraswaths from their first arrival into India from Central Asia to their settlements along the banks of the river Saraswathi and then along the Konkani coast of India (hence the term Konkans) and the more recent (last fifty years) migrations to the U.S and Europe. The pageant highlighted the perseverance, love of education, and resilient spirit of the Konkans that helped them as a race to survive and prosper over the centuries in the many locations that they called “home”. There were over seventy individuals involved in this presentation. It literally moved the audience to tears while “witnessing” the enactments of the hardships endured by their ancestors. Among these were the large-scale migrations brought on by the drought caused by disappearance of the river Saraswathi and many years later by the arrival in Goa of the Portuguese, who converted the Hindu Konkans to Christianity under duress and prompted many to flee to regions along the Konkani, Karnataka and Kerala coast, seeking refuge from their persecutors and a haven to continue their religious and agrarian way of life.

Seminars and Workshops included lively and informative discussions by industrious Konkani business leaders and distinguished medical professionals. Some of the topics were educational, among which were the presentations on the latest radiological advances, early detection of heart disease among Konkans, steps to ensure the prevention of diabetes, maintenance of kidney health and the prevention of Osteoporosis. These topics were further enhanced by a discussion on stress management. The seniors had their specific seminars on support groups and on the challenges of living in America in their old age. Youth workshops included the discussion on choice of careers and addressed the reasons for pursuing them. Yet another seminar, with both youth and adult presenters, proceeded to examine the controversial topic of religion and went on to define “success” as understood by the Konkani community that has a tradition of sometimes setting unrealistic goals for its youth. The business forum suggested innovative measures of introducing “profitable” cultural trends from Asian markets into the American mainstream. The entire line-up of workshops and seminars

paved the way for a “lets stay in touch and build a strong Konkani community” conclusion among the participants.

Younger children were treated to face painting, the antics of a clown, and there was a caricaturist on hand to create pencil sketches for the kids to take home.

A commemorative Souvenir with articles, artwork, poems, and anecdotes echoing the Sarmelan theme “Proud to be Konkani” was published. It has a wealth of information garnered from sources in India, North America, and Europe.

Finally, no Sarmelan among Konkanis is complete without some energetic dancing of which the youth had their own dinner dance session for the 13-17 year olds and the “Club Amchigalo” for the older teens and young adults. The final

hours of the Sarmelan were spent on the dance floor where youth and the “youth-challenged” both swung to the music of a DJ.

Asked what it meant to have attended this Sarmelan, one woman said with great longing in her voice “I am going to miss this. It feels like leaving ones parental home”. That’s how much people felt “at-home” during the Sarmelan.

Just as they adapted themselves to the many different domiciles in their migratory path, Konkanis in North America have created a niche for themselves. It is the fond hope of the organizers of this Sarmelan that future generations of Konkanis will take pride in their heritage and continue the traditions that they have inherited over the millennia.

Our Konkani Heritage: Narration

The highlight of the Konkani Sarmelan 2002 was the Heritage Tableau that won the hearts of the young and old alike. It really made all the Konkanis proud of their heritage. This has been published on the official website: www.konkani2002.com.

Scene 1: Saraswati River

7000 years ago, around 5000 BC, a small group of people from Central Asia, made the treacherous journey through the Hindu-Kush mountains and the Khyber pass, and came into the Indian sub-continent. As they came south, into what today are the states of Haryana and Rajasthan, they came upon the river Saraswati, which was the most magnificent river in India at that time. The attraction of this glorious river and the fertile land around it, was so irresistible to this group of migrants, that they decided to settle along its banks. From that day onward, these settlers were known as Saraswats, and they were our forefathers.

The Saraswats had already learnt how to domesticate animals, and how to cultivate the land for food, so they lived on milk from the cows and goats and on the bountiful harvests from the crops they grew. Education was of great importance to the Saraswats and so they taught their young the Sanskrit language and enlightened themselves from the Rig Veda. The Saraswats were also a very religious people and in the early stages of their settlement they worshipped the elements. Although they spoke Sanskrit in public, they innovated a simpler language which they spoke only at home, called Brahmani. This language was the grass-root for the Konkani we speak today. Brahmani was a simplified version of Sanskrit so Chira-dimbha was changed to Cherdun, kahallika-hasta became kaylato, anna-koshti became angadi and vadhu-vara-vivah-deeksha became vhardika.

Life for the Saraswats along the Saraswati river was peaceful and food was plentiful, until a severe drought hit the region. Suddenly the crops were not enough to feed everyone, and soon the survival of the Saraswats was at stake. When they could find no apparent solution to their vexing problem, they went to their guru, Saraswat, to ask for his advise. Saraswat, being pragmatic, encouraged them to eat fish from the Saraswati river in order to survive. The Saraswats had little choice but to heed his advise and thus they became the only fish-eating Brahmins ever known.

Over the years along the Saraswati, the Saraswats established the concept of Kul-devas or family gods, and began worshipping them instead of the elements. That is how they lived, survived, evolved and thrived along the resplendent Saraswati river for 4000 years ! Then, around 1000 BC, Mother Nature changed their fate. The Saraswati started to subside; its gushing waters began to recede; and finally the river went dry. The entire region started becoming arid and with no means of growing their crops, the Saraswats had no choice but to pack up and move. They decided to move East in search of greener pastures.

As the Saraswats moved away from the dry Saraswati river, they left behind the land where they had flourished for 4000 years; the land that now, was mired in desolation.

(dark stage)

The Saraswats moved east towards Magadha, which today is the state of Bihar. In 1000 BC Pataliputra, today’s Patna, was a bustling city along the river Ganga. It was the capital of the Magadha kingdom and the center of all political, religious and cultural activity in Northern India at that time. The Lichhavis were the ruling dynasty then, to be followed later by the Mauryas. The Lichhavis were one of the first empires ever, to be ruled as a Republic with an elected body of representatives and an efficient administrative system.

Scene 2: Bihar

Into this vivacious and progressive arena came the Saraswats, ready to start their lives anew.

With a strong ability to adapt, the Saraswats easily mingled with the locals, but did not try to compete with them in agriculture. Instead, being Brahmins, they relied on their superior intellect and educational background to secure administrative positions in the Lichhavi Republic. It is this administrative experience that the Saraswats carried forward with them for hundreds of years.

Although they had moved to a new land, the Saraswats staunchly maintained their Kul-devas and their religious practices, much to the curiosity of the locals. And thus, it was not long before the Saraswats firmly rooted themselves in this new land along the river Ganga, where they were destined to stay for the next 2000 years.

During their stay in Magadha, the Saraswats were witness to saintly individuals like Mahavir and Buddha, who both attained enlightenment in places around Pataliputra. Surely, the spiritual ideals of these saints must have rubbed off on the Saraswats too. In 500 BC, Nalanda was the world's largest and most renowned university, with 10,000 students and 2000 professors. The Saraswats both taught and learned at this great institution and thereby enhanced their fervor for the quest for knowledge. Through all this, the Saraswats never neglected educating their own young. Education has always held a place of paramount importance in our lives. So much so, that the Saraswats even taught Vedic values to the locals in Magadha.

The Saraswats lived in Magadha during the reign of Chandragupta Maurya and also through the period of Ashoka, the last of the great Maurya kings. After Ashoka's reign, the Magadha kingdom was plundered repeatedly by hordes of Persian invaders. The local armies were vanquished in battle after battle, and Pataliputra slowly ceased to be the glorious city it once was. Life in Magadha became quite unbearable for the Saraswats, and so, around 1000 AD, almost 2000 years after they had settled there, the Saraswats decided to move again. This time, however, they moved out in several different directions...one group went towards Kashmir, one group moved to Bengal, one group went towards Punjab, and the last group headed southwest towards Goa. From the time the Saraswats left, to this day, Bihar has never been quite the same again.

(dark stage)

Even though they went in separate directions, the Saraswats never lost their thirst for learning. They educated themselves about the different places and assimilated their customs and languages. Even today, one will find Saraswats in Kashmir, Punjab and Bengal; each group still very religious, each group still valuing education above everything else in life.

Let us now focus on the group of Saraswats that went southwest towards Goa, a small fishing village on the Arabian sea that was known as Gomantak at that time. After an arduous trek of more than 1000 miles, the Saraswats reached Goa and found an idyllic setting along the beautiful sea, with sandy beaches, and tall coconut palms swaying in the breeze.

Scene 3: Goa

The Saraswats immersed themselves into farming and fishing. They continued in their traditional professions of administration and education. Teaching the young was still of great importance. But the opportunities in these familiar professions were limited in Goa at that time. So some enterprising Saraswats branched out into the practice of trading. Most of the trade was with traders from Gujarat, where they sold rice in exchange for ornaments of gold. The successes of these pioneering Saraswat traders encouraged many other Saraswats to whole-heartedly adopt and nurture trading as a mainstream profession.

Over the 2000 years the Saraswats spent in Bihar, their original language of Brahmani was somewhat influenced by other languages like Prakrit, Magadhi and Maithili. So the language the Saraswats spoke in Goa was a modified version of Brahmani, which today we call Konkani. Perhaps inspired by the beauty of Goa, the Saraswats began composing poetry and writing literature in Konkani. All the Konkani literature was written in the Devanagari script, volumes upon volumes of literary works were created and over the years the Konkani language and writing flourished.

The Saraswats in Goa continued with their religious practices. They had preserved their Kul-devas through their stay in Bihar and in Goa they built temples for them and continued to worship them as before. A new religious tradition emerged - a festive routine of taking the Kul-deva in a palki, through the streets of the village before commencing the worship. Being Brahmins, the Saraswats needed a spiritual leader, or Swami. Their first Swami was from Kashmir, and for him the Saraswats built a beautiful residence - the Kavle Math. This first Swami was from the Gaudapada gotra of Kashmir and so, from then on, the Saraswats in Goa were known as Gauda Saraswats.

The Saraswats enjoyed peace and prosperity in Goa for 400 years. Then in 1472, the Bahamani Muslims attacked. The Muslim invaders totally ransacked Goa and many Saraswats, mostly the educators and administrators, migrated to Karnataka. We will tell you

more about these Saraswats later. Those Saraswats involved in farming and trading were less willing to abandon their farms and businesses. They stayed back in Goa and slowly rebuilt their lives as farmers and traders.

Barely 40 years after the Muslim attack, just as the Saraswats were getting their lives back to normal, the Portuguese conquered Goa in 1512. This invasion of Goa was devastating to the Saraswats. The Portuguese were intent on removing all traces of Saraswat culture and religion. They systematically destroyed all the wonderful literature that the Saraswats had created over the past 500 years. In their zeal for converting people to Christianity, the Portuguese resorted to drastic measures like throwing meat into the village well, and proclaiming that anyone who drank from the well was automatically a converted Christian. Forced conversions to Christianity were rampant; practicing the Hindu religion was strictly forbidden and Saraswat temples were totally destroyed. The Kul-devas, symbols of the Saraswat family Gods, were in danger of being eradicated too, but some brave Saraswat bhatts, quickly moved the Kul-devas from the temples to their own homes and guarded them with their lives. And so, our Kul-devas survived. Such were the atrocities exacted upon our ancestors in Goa.

(Dark stage)

Many who could not bear the persistent persecution by the Portuguese, fled to Maharashtra, where they assimilated the local language and culture. But most Saraswats stayed put in Goa, refusing to abandon their farms and businesses, somehow co-existing with the Portuguese, in the hope that peace and prosperity would return to the region. Soon, many enterprising Saraswat traders felt the desire to expand the trading opportunities available to them, and so over the next 200 years, many Saraswats migrated south, to ports along the Konkan coast.

Scene 4: South by Sea

As the Saraswats sailed south from Goa, along the Konkan coast, they disembarked at several ports to start a fresh new life in places such as Ankola, Kumta, Honavar, Bhatkal, Gangoli, Basrur, Udupi, Mulki, Mangalore, Ullal, and even as far south as Cochin.

(dark stage)

Now, the Saraswats who had sailed south from Goa were a very dispersed group, living in villages and towns all along the length of the Konkan coast. But although they were physically spread out, what kept them as a cohesive group was their culture, their language and their ingrained reverence for education and religion. Several families had brought their Kul-devas with them from Goa. They continued to worship their Kul-devas, they continued to speak in Konkani, they maintained their unique form of cooking; and while they clung passionately to their culture, they ventured boldly in search of new opportunities.

Scene 5: Konkan village

As the Gauda Saraswats settled down and prospered in villages along the Konkan Coast, they built scores of temples for their Kul-devas. The pace at which these temples sprouted is breathtaking. Temples were built in Ankola, Shirali, Manjeshwar, Mangalore, Bantwal, Udupi, Karkal, Gangoli, Kundapur, Mulki, Honavar, Kumta, Murdeshwar, Sirsi and other places. In Bhatkal alone they built nearly a dozen temples. To this day, all these temples are managed by Saraswats.

The Saraswats continued their earlier professions as farmers, accountants and administrators. They also took on new professions as ambassadors, mediators and interpreters. Although they spoke Konkani, the Saraswats made significant contributions in literature, in the language of their adopted state.

Being Brahmins, The Saraswats always followed the teachings of their spiritual leader, their Swami. Out of reverence to their Swami, this group of Saraswats built two Maths at Parthagali and Kashi, in addition to the existing Math at Kavle in Goa.

But all said and done, the most distinctive accomplishment of this group of Saraswats, was their incredible success as traders. Although they really were outsiders, and relatively new migrants, in a very short span of time they established themselves as astute traders. In Cochin, Saraswats were the favored overseas traders, used extensively by the Dutch. In the Vijaynagar empire, Bhatkal was the main port and most of the trade there was conducted by Saraswats. The Saraswats exported rice to Muscat, and hence the name Muscati rice, in exchange for horses. They exported textiles, teak and sandalwood, in exchange for foreign wines. They sold the finest quality of cinnamon and pepper in exchange for gold. So formidable was the business acumen of these Saraswats that they competed very effectively against the local Muslim traders. The Saraswats had ventured boldly, undaunted by the innumerable challenges that confronted them, and had come through standing tall.

(dark stage)

Let us now look back at the group of Gauda Saraswats who had migrated from Goa at the time of the Muslim invasion in the 1400's. This migrant group moved a little inland to North and South Canara. These Saraswats were mostly educators and administrators. Their superior intelligence and generations-old experience as administrators, allowed some of them to secure prominent positions as accountants in the courts of the Hindu rulers of the time.

Scene 6: Canara villages:

One such Hindu king, was so impressed by the diligence and skills of his Saraswat accountant, that he decreed that each village in his kingdom, be administered by a Saraswat. And so it transpired, that these Saraswats were assigned as accountants to different villages in North and South Canara. Eventually these Saraswats took on the name of the village as their last name.

Although the Saraswats were well respected as accountants, they were not readily recognized as true Brahmins by the local Brahmins in the villages, primarily because the Saraswats ate fish and were perceived as having no spiritual guru. To rectify this perception, these Saraswats pleaded with a Saraswat Rishi visiting from North India, to become their guru. Although at first reluctant, the Rishi ultimately succumbed to their pleas and agreed. So overjoyed were the Saraswats that they built a Math for their new Swami in Gokarn. This first Swami's successor traveled to Chitrapur and attained Samadhi there. So another math was built in Chitrapur, and thus this group of Saraswats came to be known as Chitrapur Saraswats.

When the British ruled India, these Saraswats were encouraged to learn English earlier than others. Subsequently, as a result of their knowledge of English, they were able to obtain key jobs at the district offices and the Collector's offices in Mangalore, Honavar and Karwar. They were also quickly employed as administrators in the Cotton and Textile export industry in Kumta, Hubli and Dharwad. The Railways, originally headquartered in Dharwad, employed numerous Saraswats. When the Railway headquarters was later moved to Madras, it prompted many Saraswats to migrate, yet again.

(dark stage)

Over more than 400 years, between 1472 and 1900, the Saraswats of Goa had been scattered along the Konkan coast and Canara. But time and distance had not detracted from their keen adherence to the Saraswat culture. However, the Konkani language spoken by these disparate groups had developed some distinct dialects and accents. But all these accents are, in fact, Konkani.

As the 20th century dawned, the Saraswats decided to migrate again. This time in search of higher education and more promising employment. Many migrated to Madras and Bangalore, but the predominant migration was to Bombay.

Scene 7: Bombay

Initially, they came into Bombay, one Saraswat at a time, and to them, Bombay was a bit overwhelming.

They joined the Bombay colleges, worked rigorously, graduated honorably and got employment promptly. Encouraged by these early successes, more Saraswats followed into Bombay and soon this city became a magnet for a vast number of Saraswats. Some enterprising Saraswats were pioneers in banking, like Shamrao Vithal Kaikini, who opened the Shamrao Vithal Bank in Bombay, Ammembal Pai who started Canara bank and TMA Pai who started Syndicate bank, both in Karnataka. During the 20th century many Saraswats achieved exceptional professional distinctions as educators, lawyers, administrators, managers, engineers, doctors, writers and poets.

And let us not forget the Freedom Movement in India. Both Saraswat men and women played a very active role in the Satyagraha Freedom fight against the British. With several Saraswat women at the helm, the women of North Canara were the largest contingent of women freedom fighters in the country. We are indeed immensely grateful to those Saraswats who joined Mahatma Gandhi's crusade, for they risked everything, to help India win Freedom.

In the latter part of the 20th century, many Saraswats ached for even better professional opportunities, and with travel being quicker and the world seemingly getting smaller, the Saraswats took one more daring step, and migrated overseas.

(dark stage)

Scene 8: USA

The quest for a better future, both for them and the generations to come, took the Saraswats to the Middle East, Australia, Europe and North America. As the 21st century is just beginning to dawn on us, several thousand of us Saraswats find ourselves here in these, the United States of America. We go by the moniker of Konkani, for we are all Konkani speaking Saraswats. And as we Konkanis look back upon the past 7000 years of our rich heritage, we cannot help but wonder how the next 7000 years will shape us.

Just as each journey starts with a single step, our first step into the Konkani future will be taken, not by us, but by our children and grand-children. With the myriad opportunities available to them, how they will shape our Konkani future, is left to one's imagination. But no matter what they do, and no matter where they go, they will always make us, proud to be Konkani.

(song and curtain)

UPDATE ON MITHUN – September 2002

Mithun's RT-PCR results from the April blood test were the same as his previous test with a little variation and he seems to be very close to a molecular remission. His next blood test will be performed in October or November. He continues to take 600 mg of Gleevec. He is much taller now and is in 11th grade at Ben Franklin High School.

We attended the Konkani Sammelan 2002 during the July 4th weekend. Many friends who knew about Mithun through the "Khabbar" updates were eager to see him and talk to us. We believe that it is all your prayers and best wishes that have helped us through this ordeal.

We are grateful to the Konkani community and Khabbar for all their support. Thanks also to those of you who donated to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS) in response to Maya Shenoy's (Mithun's aunt) appeal. The LLS heavily funded Dr. Druker's studies, which resulted in this miracle drug, Gleevec.

Even though Mithun may not need a bone marrow transplant any more, we continue to work towards adding more bone marrow donors to the National Registry for the sake of many other less fortunate cancer patients whose life depends on bone marrow from a matched donor. Through our crisis, we have realized how important the Gift of Life is. Bone marrow, when donated to save a life, replenishes within 3-4 weeks, just like blood donation with absolutely no loss to the donor. Without a suitable HLA matched donor, the chance of survival is slim for many cancer patients. Those of you, who have not yet become a part of the registry, please give it serious consideration. You may be able to save a life.

Contact us for information on how you can become a donor and how to organize a donor drive.. You can also get more information at <http://boloji.com/bonemarrow/index.html> and at <http://www.samarinfo.org>

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"We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give" – Winston Churchill

KONKANI CALENDER

October 2002	November 2002	December 2002
5 th Amavasya	2 nd Konkani Sabha Diwali	3 rd Amavasya
6 th Vavarathri Begins	3 rd Naraka Chathurdashi	9 th Skanda Shashti
10 th Lalitha Panchami/Sharada Pooja	4 th Deepawali	14 th Vaikunta Ekadashi
13 th Durgastami	9 th HAKA - Diwali	16 th Mukkoti Dwadashi
14 th Ayudha Pooja	15 th Kartika Ekadashi	19 th Poornami
15 th Vijaya Dashami	16 th Uthana Dwadashi	22 nd Sankasta Chaturthi
16 th Ekadashi	18 th Vaikunta Chaturdashi	
20 th Poornami	19 th Kartika Poornami	
24 th Sankasta Chaturthi	23 rd Sankasta Chaturthi	

Khabbar thanks Sri P. V. Kamath of Shrewsbury, MA for furnishing the Panchang and My Astrologer-version 1.0 by Mr. Muralidhar Shenoy of Durham, NC

My Sincere Thanks to

Some readers go out of their way to help Khabbar. Monetary means is one of them. The Advisory Committee of Khabbar has decided on publishing the names of the families that has contributed \$50.00 or more to Khabbar. This quarter, the following have extended their help and thanks to you

Names	Amount, \$
Pandurang & Jayanthi Nayak, Katy, TX	100.00
Arvind & Chandralekha Kamath, West Point, GA	60.00
Vasudev & Shaila Nayak, Cranbury, NJ	111.00
Praveen & Prema Prabhu, Greensboro, NC	60.00
Ravindranath & Sharda Shenoy, Montville, NJ	115.00
Sathyendra & Shalini Bhat, Arroyo Grande, CA	90.00
Laxmidas & Bharati Sawkar, Overland, KS	66.00

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Description	Amount, \$
Balance Carried over since Khabbar Vol. XXV No. 2	2,020.00
Money Received:	
Subscriptions (53) and donations	1,182.00
Advertisements (7)	165.00
Interest	3.00
Sub Total:	1,350.00
Money Spent (Khabbar Vol. XXV No. 2):	
Printing-Khabbar (900) - 20 pages	810.00
First Class Mail-Khabbar (810)	461.70
Canada Khabbar (30)	25.50
Overseas (20)	60.00
Mail Fines, computer paper & labels, envelopes, service fees, etc	392.80
Sub Total:	1,750.00
Final Balance:	1,620.00

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

KWIZ

The last quarter's quiz: Two jockeys were fighting for the hand of a beautiful girl. The father of the girl who liked neither of these men to become the future husband of his daughter, came up with a clever plan: a race would determine who of the two men would be allowed to marry his daughter. And so he organized a horse race and the one whose horse would arrive **LAST** in race would be allowed to marry his daughter! The two jockeys, realizing that this could be come a rather lengthy expedition, finally decided to consult a Wise Konkani Man of their village. Arrived there, they explained him the situation, upon which the Wise Konkani Man raised his cane and spoke three wise words. Relieved, the two jockeys were ready for the contest! What were the Konkani Wise Man's three words that helped them to compete?

The answer: **Exchange your horses!** And the following gave the correct solution:

Iona Shenoy of Creamridge, NJ
Deepa Goli, Wilson, NC

Ms. Nameeta Kamath, Bayside, NY
Mukund Kamath, San Ramon, CA

This Quarter's Quiz

By

"Vasanthmaam"

Continuing with the Konkani tradition of quizzing, here's the brainteaser for this quarter. If you can solve this correctly, send it to Khabbar address to have your name published in the next issue.

This Konkani father gives his daughter \$2.46 worth of coins. The coins are of four different denominations, and has the same number of each denomination. What are the four denominations, and how many of each?

2002 Konkani Sabha Diwali Function

KONKANI SABHA cordially invites you and your family to the annual Diwali Function on **Saturday, November 2nd 2002.**

Location: Sri Venkateshwara Temple Community Center (Bridgewater Temple), Bridgewater, NJ (Tel: 908-725-4477)

Time: 3:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Entrance Fee: \$14/- per person (Adults) and \$8 for children ages 6-12 Fees payable at the door

Program details are as below:

3:30 pm to 5:00 pm: Light refreshments and Raas Garba (Dandiya sticks will be provided)

5:00 pm to 5:30 pm: Pooja

5:30 pm to 7:30 pm: Variety Entertainment

7:30 pm Dinner

Please RSVP by October, 15 2002 to Narsim Buntval at (908) 451-2222 or to Vasanthi Baliga at (609) 275-6215, or, by email to office_bearers@konkanisabha.org

NOTES:

1. Those interested in performing for the variety entertainment program should respond to Narsim Buntval at (908) 451-2222

(narsim_buntval@yahoo.com) or to Rajesh Mallya at (908) 790-9274 (mallyas@hotmail.com)

2. Those wishing to volunteer in setting up can come to the hall at 3 PM

3. Also visit the Konkani Sabha web site at for more details and updates at <http://www.konkanisabha.org>

Office Bearers:

Narsim Buntval,
President

Dr. Sudha Kamath,
Vice President

Vasanthi Baliga,
Treasurer

Rajesh Mallya,
Secretary

The Council of Hindu Temples of North America

Chairman/Secretariat: Dr. Uma Mysorekar

45-57 Bowne Street, Flushing, NY 11355 Tel: (718)-460-8484 * FAX: (718)-461-8055

ESSAY COMPETITION for Middle School, High School and College students.

Prize of \$151 each will be awarded to the top two Middle School students, High School students and prize of \$201 each to the top two College students.

Essay Topics are:

Middle School (750 words) **Teachings and lives of ancient Hindu sages inspire us even today**

High School (1000 words) **Hinduism teaches values that will help in global understanding**

College students (1500 words) **The principles of Hindu Dharma and karma can explain the complexities of human life.**

The entrants to the competition may please send four copies of their essays. Entrants must also give their particulars including: Name, Address, Telephone no. on a separate sheet and their current academic standing before **January 31st 2003**. A panel of judges has been established to adjudicate the entries and they are:

1. **Mrs. Kanaka Prabhu**
2. **Mr. M. G. Prasad**
3. **Mrs. Beth Kulkarni and**
4. **Dr. K. S. Raju**

Entries must reach Dr. Uma Mysorekar,

Chairman/Secretariat: Dr. Uma Mysorekar

45-57 Bowne Street, Flushing, NY 11355 Tel: (718)-460-8484 * FAX: (718)-461-8055

APPEALS

Om Sri Ram Jai Ram Jai Jai Ram

Sri Veera Maruti Temple Renovation Committee

Nandavar – 574 231, Near Panemangalore, Bantwal Taluk, D.K., Karnataka, India

Tel: 0824-436683, 491147

Email: nandavarveeramaruti@indiatimes.com

Website : www.nandavarveeramaruti.tripod.com

Dear friend,

I request you to offer your mite to **Sri Veera Maruti Temple Renovation and Development Project**, and help in the speedy execution, thereby receiving the blessings of Sri Veera Maruti.

Devotees contributing \$1,000 and above will become the *Daanis* (donors) of the temple and their names will be inscribed on a marble plaque and affixed to the premises of the temple.

The special pooja (on Hanuman Jayanti Day) will be conducted every year in the name of the *Daanis* and the prasadam will be sent to them.

When the *Daanis* visit the temple, they can have free use of the Temple Guest House for seven days a year. (They can make use of their sojourn by visiting the holy places in and around D.K. district, in which case all possible guidance and assistance will be extended, on receiving prior information from them)

The *Daanis* will also receive a gift of the book entitled “**Hanuman Chalisa and Ashtaka**” (with original text, transliteration and Hindi and English translations), which reveals (in Part Two) “**The Glory of Sri Hanuman**”, “**The Glory of Hanuman Chalisa**” and “**The Glory of Ramnam**”, and (in Part Three) presents “**A Pilgrim Guide to Some Holy Places in Dakshina Kannada and Around**” to facilitate the pilgrimage of the devotees.

The *Mahaa daanis* (munificent donors) wishing to sponsor exclusively one or more items of the Temple Project (viz. Temple *Prakaram*, Community Hall, Residential Quarters, Guest House, Meditation Hall and Spiritual Training Center) can do so in memory of their near and dear ones, in which case those buildings will be dedicated to their loving memory and their names inscribed on a marble plaque will be affixed to the respective premises. The *Mahaa daanis* will also enjoy the above privileges of the *Daanis*.

I will be grateful if you could please send your valued remittance by checks drawn in favor of Sri Veera Maruti Temple Renovation Committee, SB Account No. 20526, Canara Bank, Market Road, Mangalore 575 001, D.K., Karnataka.

Thanking you in anticipation

Nandavar Yogish Bhat B.Sc., M.L. A., Email: yogishbhatn@indiatimes.com

SRI RAMAKRISHNA UNIVERSAL TEMPLE
VIVEKANANDA VEDANTA SOCIETY
A Branch of the Ramakrishna Order

The Vivekananda Vedanta Society is in the process of looking for a site on which to build a new temple. The present location in Hyde Park has no parking and is inconvenient. The new temple will provide:

Shrine

Chapel with 500 seats

Dining Hall

Sunday School

Library

Book Store

Offices

Guest Rooms

Residential Facilities

Parking for 100 cars

The project is being undertaken in three phases:

PHASE 1: Purchase of Land

PHASE 2: Construction of Temple

PHASE 3: Beautification and Expansion of Temple

Part of the cost of the new Sri Ramakrishna Universal Temple will be offset by selling the Hyde Park property after we move, but there will still be a major expense involved. In order to meet this expense, we have set up a Temple Fund to raise money for the project. Our first goal is to raise \$1.5-2.5 million to pay for purchase of the land.

We request you to generously contribute towards this project, which is one of the most important events in the history of the Vivekananda Vedanta Society. All donations are tax deductible. Checks should be made out to the "Vivekananda Vedanta Society" with "temple fund" on the memo line. Checks can be mailed to:

Vivekananda Vedanta Society
5423 S. Hyde Park Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60615

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

I would like to donate _____ I would like to pledge _____

Shantikunj Sevashram

Kindly view in detail the new website: oldagehome.net launched on July 4 (Konkani Sammelan at Houston U.S.A.!!) by H.H.Swamiji at Goa

Shantikunj Sevashram is Human Service Centre initiated by Saraswats, foundation stone laid individually by Mathadhipathis of Sri Samsthan Kashi Mutt, Samsthan Gokarn-Partagali Mutt, Samsthan Kavle Gowdapadacharya Mutt, and Samsthan Chitrapur Mutt before any construction could be commenced.

We need the support from all Konkanis / Saraswats for the success of this unique project. USA citizens also can get tax-break on donations to our Vidyadhiraj Charitable Trust (R).

Please also note that we have scheduled for 2008-2009, with an objective of World Peace, Nation's progress and Prosperity for our Society, One Billion, Likhita (written), **'Taaraka Mantra'**** Japa Maha Yajna and other Maha Yajna & Yaagas with Sashasra Kumbhabhishek to Lord Shree Ram and Vitthal-Rakhumayi in our Temple.

**writing of "Shree Rama Jaya Rama Jaya Rama" in any language to be sent to us . (brief in website).

Kindly commence wide publicity to our initiative and ensure extensive participation throughout. Please read website - oldagehome.net - in detail.

Thanks & Regards,
V.R.Kamath

Klassified

Please patronize the Khabbar advertisers. Khabbar reaches over 1,700 families in North America. The advertisement rates are:

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Non Subscribers	\$25.00	\$45.00	\$85.00	\$160.00

The Advisory Committee of Khabbar has unanimously decided NOT to accept any ads. wherein the advertisers prefer to stay anonymous by using Khabbar reference.

WANTED:

Any Hoon Khabbar, sunshine news, your or your child's promotion or achievement, articles of interest, etc. are always in need to be published in Khabbar. Share your joy or grief with fellow Konkans. Send your contribution to: Khabbar, P. O. Box 222, Lake Jackson, TX 77566-0222. email: khabbar@hotmail.com

KONKANI CHARITIES

The American Konkani Association (A. K. A.) is helping eligible Konkani youth by granting College Loan Scholarships. Send your generous contributions to:

American Konkani Association, 1613 Maple Avenue,
Berwyn, IL 60402

KONKANI CHARITIES

The Saraswat Foundation is helping poor deserving Bhanaps in India. Send your donations to: Saraswat Foundation
178 Norman Drive, Morrisville, PA 19067

KONKANI CHARITIES

The Three river Area Konkani Association (TAKA) is a non-profit organization helping the needy Konkans in North America and India. Send generous contributions to:

Three river Area Konkani Association
111 Volpe Dr., MONROEVILLE, PA 15146

World Konkani Conference (WKC)-1995 Video

As a fundraiser, the Konkani Basha Mandal of Mangalore has provided a rare video-"**Coming Together**" of the WKC-1995. This 35-min. video covers the highlights of the December 1995 historic event held in Mangalore. The social and cultural events are a treasure every Konkani should have. Please, send \$20 (cash or check made out to WKC-1995) and mail to:

Ms. Nina Padukone, 430W 22nd Street, New York, NY 10011

KONKANI COOK BOOKS

The two Konkani Cook Books, "Indian Cooking Konkani Style" and "Millennium Masala Konkani Style" published by American Konkani Association (A. K. A.) are for sale. The cost per book is \$12.00 + \$1.50 for S & H. Mail check payable to A.K.A. to:

Mrs. Sandhya Kamath, 440 Glencrest Dr.,
Barrington, IL 60010, Phone: (847)-271-9771
skamath@aol.com

MATRIMONIAL ASSISTANCE

As a service to Konkani community, Sri. B. N. Baliga will offer free matrimonial assistance and send "SOIRIKA" monthly. Contact: Sri B. N. Baliga, 5th Main, Near Band Box, Bangalore 560 009 (INDIA)

<http://www.soirika.com>

MATRIMONIAL ASSISTANCE

As a service to Konkani community, Sri. R. C. Nayak will offer free matrimonial assistance. Contact: Sri. R. C. Nayak
Pais Compound, Microwave Station Road
Mangalore 575 006 (INDIA)

A P P E A L

I hope you are aware of my free service of Matrimonial Information to our Samaj since 1988. To meet the expenses towards the free publication of the SOIRIKA, your financial help is required. Your contribution will also be utilized to provide Mangalasutra, Sarees, and marriage expenses of the poor brides and also for the remarriage of young widows. Your contribution, big or small, may kindly be sent to by way of DD or check in favor of "GSB Matrimonial Trust" and sent to: Sri B. N. Baliga, 5th Main, Near Band Box, Bangalore 560 009 (INDIA)

<http://www.soirika.com>

MATRIMONIAL

Saraswat parents invite correspondence from professionally qualified and well settled SB/GSB boys in US for their fair, smart, and good looking daughter (M.D.), 29, 5' 4", working in US. Please respond with details to email ID:

saj8us@yahoo.com

MATRIMONIAL

Father invites alliance for his only daughter, 28, 5'-4", medium fair, residing in Mumbai-well qualified (Gold Medalist in Business Administration) working for Morgan Stanley-prefers educated GSB/SB boy settled here. Contact 0484-227780 or email pdbaliga@yahoo.com directly or uncle here in USA at 562-947-7800

HARI KATHA PROGRAMS...Available

Sant Bhadrhiri Sarvathamadas is available for Harikatha Programs from September till November 2002. Having toured NJ, PA, NY and Chicago in July & August, he will be in Detroit in September. Desirous of organizing program may contact him on Email: sarvathamadas@hotmail.com. He is giving discourse in four languages like Kannada, Konkani, Hindi and English. People can avail this opportunity.

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Suresh & Usha Shenoy wish to thank members of the
community for their support to Kirti Jewelers over the years
and look forward to serving you for many years to come.

Thanks from the Organizing Committee of Konkani Sarmmelan 2002

Dear Konkani Family, Namaskaru

Sweet memories of Konkani Sarmmelan 2002 still linger in our minds. We sincerely hope the events lived up to make every attendee **"Proud to be Konkani"**. We would like to thank all the volunteers, participants, sponsors, advertisers and most importantly-the attendees, for the success of the Sarmmelan. In the Konkani spirit we hope you will overlook any perceived shortcomings during the Sarmmelan.

Thank you and *Devu Baren Koro*

Suresh & Usha Shenoy
Presidents

Suren & Vidya Kamath
Vice Presidents

Sudhir & Ranjana Golikeri
Secretaries

.....
...
Lots of people are waiting see the audio & video recordings of the Sarmmelan. Now we have the following items available for sale in limited quantities.

ORDER FORM

No.	Description	Cost per set, \$	Your Order, \$
1	Sarmmelan Souvenir & Program Guide	20.00	
2	Sarmmelan video (24 hours) in 12 DVDs	95.00	
3	Sarmmelan video (24 hours) in 12 VHS tapes	60.00	
4	"Proud to be Konkani" Audio & Karaoke Sound Track CD	10.00 (*)	

All the above cost includes shipping & handling

Total:

(*) "Proud to be Konkani" Audio & Karaoke Sound Track CD valued at \$10.00 will be shipped FREE with any of the orders. If you want the CD only, then that cost is \$10.00

Make check payable "Konkani Sarmmelan 2002" and mail to:

Konkani Sarmmelan 2002

P.O. Box 16148

Sugar Land, TX 77496-6148

Email: ksarmmelan2002@yahoo.com

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

The Konkani Association Of Southern California (KASC) invite all the North American Konkanis to attend the Fifth North American Konkani Sarmmelan July 4th weekend in 2004

Ramadas & Udaya Kamath – President
Mohan & Mohini Kamath – Vice President
Sridhar & Nandini Rao - Treasurer
Pradeep & Uma Gulvady – Secretary
Malavika Gangolly –Youth/Youth Adult Rep.

"You Haven't Seen Anything Yet....."
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For more details, visit the website: www.konkani2004.com