

**KOJAIN NEWSLETTER**

Secretary, KOJAIN
 422 Hillview Dr # 202, Linthicum, MD 21090
 Phone: (443) 420-1346
 Web site: www.kojain.com
 A Non-Profit Organization
 Tax exempt no. 06-1442444
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Board of Directors (Officers)

President: Vijay D. Chheda
 (714) 654-6097
vijaychheda@hotmail.com
Vice President: Dami Rambhia
 (860) 633-1392
drambhia@aol.com
Secretary: Nimesh Chheda
 (443) 420-1346
Nimesh.Chheda@gmail.com
Treasurer: Vijay J. Savla
 (978) 264-0596
visavla@gmail.com

Regional Directors:

Region 1: AZ, CO, HI, NM, So.CA, UT
Kalyanji Mota (714) 956-0405
kalyanjim@hotmail.com

Region 2: AK, ID, MT, NV, No.CA, OR, WA, WY

Sarla Chheda (Kansara)
 (510) 226-8450
Sarla2@juno.com

Region 3: AR, KS, LA, MO, OK, TX
Dhiraj Gosar (281) 530-1931
gosardm@yahoo.com

Region 4: IL, IN, IA, MN, NE, ND, SD, WI

Ram S Gada (612) 788-2566
ramgada@gmail.com

Region 5: AL, FL, GA, MS, TN
Harsha R.Nagda (352) 854-1776
babuji@aol.com

Region 6: KY, MI, OH, W.PA, WV
Mulchand Gala (440) 777-9945
mulchandgala@yahoo.com

Region 7: MD, NC, SC, VA, Wa.DC
Kala Jain (703) 207-2323
bhavijain@gmail.com

Region 8: DE, E.PA, NJ
Tansukh Maru (732) 495-2304
tanmaru@gmail.com

Region 9: NY
Chhotalal Bheddah
 (516) 883-0345
bheddah@aol.com

Region 10: CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT
Dr. Lalit Savla (508) 856-9630
hlsavla@yahoo.com

Region 11: Canada
Rita Dharamshi (905) 542-0397
rita.dharamshi@hotmail.com

Past President:

Navin S. Dedhia (408) 629-1723
NavinDedhia@hotmail.com

KOJAIN 2008 Sammelan, Detroit, Michigan, Aug 1 - 3, 2008

Theme: Anmol (Incredible) Kachchh

4:00 pm Friday, Aug 1 - 12:00 noon Sunday, Aug 3

Pre-Sammelan Entrepreneurship Program (Age 20-35) 9 am – 4 pm (Friday, Aug 1)

Registration for Sammelan 10 am – 6 pm (Friday, Aug 1)

Sammelan Ends 12 noon (Sunday, August 3)

Venue:

Holiday Inn Southgate - Banquet & Conference Center
 17201 Northline Road, Southgate, MI 48195
Phone: 734-283-4400
Fax: 734-283-6855
www.HISouthgate.com

For Registration visit:

1) Sammelan website at

<http://kojain.ganger.com>

2) OR linking thru the KOJAIN website (www.kojain.com).

3) OR Direct link at

<http://kojain.ganger.com/koj/registration.php>

KOJAIN Regional News:

Region 1 (AZ, CO, HI, NM, SO.CA and UT):

KCET TV in Los Angeles and The Union Bank of California Presented "Local Heroes of the Year" award in the social services category to Hemlata Momaya, Executive Director of Bal Jagat Children's World, Inc. at Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month Celebration.

Recognizing May as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, KCET and Union Bank of California teamed up to present the 5th Annual "Local Hero of the Year" Awards at a special event for honorees and their guests on Thursday, May 8, 2008, at KCET. The awards are presented to individuals of Asian/Pacific heritage who have inspired others and enriched their communities, improving the quality of life for all. Event Honors Southern Californians in Arts, Business, Community Activism, Education and Social Services

Bal Jagat, Children's World, Inc. is a private, non-profit inter-country adoption agency she founded in 1983. Bal Jagat is dedicated to uniting children from countries such as Ethiopia, China, Thailand, Romania, Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, and Guatemala with loving parents living in the US. Momaya has successfully placed about 5000 children from 35 countries.

Hemlata Momaya lives with her husband, Laherchand, and daughter, Mausami, in Chatsworth, CA

Region 2 (AK, ID, MT, NV, NO, CA, OR, WA, WY)

Navin S. Dedhia (Village: Bidada) of San Jose, CA, received the Harry Lessig Medal from ASQ (American Society for Quality) Inspection Division during the General Body Meeting in Houston, Texas, May 5, 2008, for his contribution to the Inspection tools, technologies and methodologies.

Navin has received the E. Jack Lancaster Medal and Testimonial Awards from ASQ and the Harrington-Ishikawa Medal from APQO (Asia Pacific Quality Organization). He has held many visible positions in the organizations including the chair/Trustee of ASQ International Chapter, chair of ASQ Inspection Div., National Director of ASQ and others.

He worked at IBM Corporation and Hitachi Global Storage Technologies previously. At present, he is a Quality Consultant.

Region 3 (AR, KS, LA, MO, OK, TX)

1) Timir Dilip Chheda, son of Aarti and Dilip Khimji Chheda (Nalia) got engaged to Arpna Rasiklal Solanki on 12/22/07 in Houston, TX.

2) Neil Vora (son of Sudha and Navin Vora) graduated from Fort Bend Austin High School, Sugar Land, Texas. He will be attending Univ. Of Texas at San Antonio, TX

Region 4 (IL, IN, IA, MN, NE, ND, SD, and WI):

1) Kachchhi Group is going to have a picnic on July 20, 2008. More than 110 members are expected to attend this annual event.

2) Nirav Shah, son of Dr. Surendra and Bharti Shah, graduated from Northwestern University with a combined degree MD/MPH in May 2008. Nirav is starting his residency in internal medicine at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in June 2008

3) Tejal, daughter of Deepak & Sujata Chande, graduated from University of Illinois at Chicago with a PharmD degree. She works as pharmacist with CVS.

4) Rima Gala, daughter of Jitu and Hansa Gala, graduated from IMSA (Illinois Math and Science Academy). She is admitted to GPPA program in Physical Therapy at University of Illinois at Chicago.

5) Nirav Dedhia, son of Devchand and Indira Dedhia, got married to Binny on December 29, 2007 in Ahmedabad.

6) Neil Dedhia, son of Devchand and Indira Dedhia got married to Jennifer in March, 2008 in Costa Rica.

7) Amul and Trisha Ganger became proud parent of "Tyler" on November 29, 2007. Amul Ganger achieved superb promotion as the 'youngest' Senior Director of Admissions at American Intercontinental University's online education.

8) Anand Ganger developed the website for KOJAIN Detroit Sammelan 2008. Laura Thomas, Anand's wife graduated and is now a board certified Dermatologist. Laura and Anand are proud parents of Anya.

10) Rakesh and Payal Ghala are proud parents of daughter Ariyanna born on April 12, 2008

11) Masum, daughter of Hemendra and Hansa Momaya, completed her PhD in Human Development from Stanford University, CA.

12) Dr. Piyush M. Vyas, husband of Rachna K. Gala (of Kutch, Samagoga) awarded Young Scientist Award from American Heart Association for the upcoming conference of Basic Cardiovascular Sciences 2008 to be held in Keystone, Colorado in July 2008. His research involves the development of novel protein therapeutics for the mitochondrial diseases. He did his PhD in Pharmaceutics from College of Pharmacy, University of Iowa in 2006

Region 6 (KY, MI, OH, W.PA, and WVA):

Chaitali Chheda, daughter of Leena and Laxmichand Chheda of Mumbai, India, and niece of Gunvanti and Dr. Lax Dedhia of Middletown, Delaware, graduated from University of Sciences in Philadelphia, PA, with a PharmD degree. She will be working at the inpatient Pharmacy, Hospital of University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, as a pharmacist.

Region 7 (MD, NC, SC, VA, Wa.DC):

Jeenal Chheda, daughter of Ratilal and Rekha Chheda is graduated with Master Degree in Psychology from James Madison University. She will begin working as a School Psychologist with Fairfax County Public Schools in Northern Virginia this fall.

Pinkesh Gala, son of Gunvanti Gala is graduated with Baccalaureate degree in Supply Chain Management and Accounting from University of Maryland.

Vinay Vira, son of Arvind and Rita Vira has graduated from Clarksburg High School in Maryland. He will be attending Montgomery College in Maryland.

Vince Shah (son of Vinod and Nirmala Shah) and Jinal Shah (daughter of Pravin and Jyostna Shah) were married in Houston Texas on June 2008.

Lakin (son of Mansukh and Niranjana Haria) and Sonali (daughter of Gunvanti Gala) were married in Mumbai, India on January 2008

Region 8 (DE,E.PA,NJ):

Pravin Chheda of Edison, NJ, passed away on June 11, 2008. He leaves behind, his wife, Madhubala, his son, Jinen and daughter-in-law, Pankti. As his son, Jinen, puts it, he was 'an amazing person, loving husband, father, brother, son and friend. He touched many lives around the world.' In the words of KOJAIN Regional Director, Tansukh Maru, "He was always a smiling and lively person and displayed a strong will power in overcoming challenges due to his health problems. He will be surely missed by our community" May his soul rest in peace.

Region 9 (NY):

Sonal Shah has recently graduated from the MSc. Urban Planning program at Columbia University. She has a background in architecture and is interested in the relationship between land policy, labor and urban space. Her work has been based in Mumbai and includes a one year research on "*Slum Rehabilitation Policy: Examining its construct and manifestation, A Case Study of Housing policies in the 1990s.*" She was the Project Architect with the Urban Design Research Institute and Charles Correa Associates on the *Redevelopment Plan for the Textile Mill Lands of Mumbai*. It was widely covered in Indian newspapers and exhibited as *The Future of Our City* at the KalaGhoda Festival in January 2005. She was the co-founder and Vice-President of a student

group, International Urban Planners in the Urban Planning Department at Columbia University. She was also elected as the Resident Trustee at International House (2007-08), New York, where she represented the 700 resident community on the Board of Trustees. She was recently awarded the Earth Institute Travel Grant at Columbia University for her thesis research. Besides her studies, Sonal loves dancing, reading and watching/making films. She hopes to make a difference in the world through her work.

Sonal is the daughter of Pushpa and Navin Shah of village Koday in Kachchh. Navin & Pushpa were U.S. resident from 1968 through 1982. They returned to India in 1982 and are now settled in Irla, Mumbai.

Region 10 (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT):

1) North American South Asian Bar Association ("NASABA") has selected Vivek Maru, son of Hansraj and Usha Maru of Brookfield (Danbury), CT, to receive the 2008 NASABA Pioneer Award in recognition of his work.

Vivek Maru is the founder and co-director of Timap for Justice, an organization dedicated to ensuring justice for the people of Sierra Leone. He is a former consultant for the World Bank, a Finberg fellow for the Human Rights Watch & a clerk for Judge Marsha Berzon of the 9th Federal Circuit Court of Appeals. His articles explaining the plight of the people of Sierra Leone and advocating justice to those without access to adequate legal representation have been widely disseminated. Timap has been recognized within and outside Sierra Leone for pioneering a creative, effective methodology for delivering justice services in the context of a failed state and a dualist legal system. He previously worked at Human Rights Watch in the AIDS and Human Rights program. He has also engaged in human rights and development work in India, Bangladesh, South Africa, and New Haven, CT. Last year, he accepted a position in the Justice Reform Group at the World Bank in Washington D.C.

Our heartiest congratulations to Vivek Maru for this recognition of his pioneering work.

2) Congratulations to Tanvi Jayantilal Mediwala and Ashish Chandrakant Chheda of NY on their marriage. Also, congratulations to Ashish on completing his MBA from Baruch College in NYC and starting a new job with KPMG in New York City.

3) Congratulations to Sonia (daughter of Dinesh and Ranjana Chheda of MA) for completing BS from Brandies University and starting a new job with CAPCO consulting, in New York City

4) Congratulations to Tina (daughter of Jayant and Jayu Malde of NY) and Rajul Chandrakant Mepani on their marriage.

5) Congratulations to Tina (daughter of Shanti and Rukmini Kenia of MA) for completing BBA from George Washington University. She will be working with U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in Washington, DC.

6) Congratulations to Neil (son of Navin and Vimla Chheda of CT) and Sandhya Chheda on arrival of their baby boy, Vinay, on February 15th 2008.

7) Congratulations to Dr. Neil Chheda (son of Navin and Vimla Chheda of CT) for completing a fellowship in Laryngology from Medical College of Georgia and becoming a Board Certified Otolaryngologist (ENT specialist). He will be joining The University of Florida Medical School in Gainesville, FL as an Assistant Professor.

8) Congratulations to Sheila (daughter of Hans and Usha Maru of CT) and Duncan Maru on arrival of their twin boys Anand and Umed on May 10th 2008.

9) Congratulations to Tina (daughter of Jyoti and Prakash Lapsia of CT), a recipient of a scholar/leader award. She is an eighth-grade student and is one of the two chosen for this award.

10) Congratulations to Dipal (daughter of Vijay and Piyusha Savla of MA) for completing high school and joining Brandeis University.

11) Congratulations to Dr. Dhiren Mulchand Haria (Village – Bidada) for graduating from SUNY Downstate Medical Center, NY, as a Clinical Nephrologist (Kidney Specialist). He will be joining Dr. Mahendra Maru in his practice in Owensboro, KY. Good Luck to Dhiren, his wife, Priti & son, Parth.

Region 11 (Canada):

1) Rita Dharamshi of Region 11 is arranging a picnic in Toronto, Canada, on Saturday, July 26, 2008, for her region's KOJAIN families

Other News

KOJAIN MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM:

Please donate generously towards the Merit Scholarship Program.

Please make your check payable to 'KOJAIN' with a note: "Scholarship Program" on the memo line. Mail the check to the Treasurer of KOJAIN:

Vijay J. Savla, 4 Sandy Drive, Acton, MA 01720, USA

For information, please contact Dinesh K. Chheda, Chair Scholarship Committee, 14 Paris Place, Parsippany, NJ 07054
Tel: 973-394-1701, email : dinesh.chheda@us.army.mil

Scholarship Programs for Jain Students by the International Alumni Association of Shri Mahavira Jain Vidyalaya (IAAMJV):

IAAMJV offers the following scholarships to Jain Students:

- 1) Graduate Loan Scholarships for Students from India for Higher Education Studies in USA
- 2) Undergraduate Loan Scholarships in India
- 3) US Students' College Education Loan Scholarships in USA.

Visit www.iaamjv.org for additional information.

Update on Medical Committee by Vimla Chheda of Easton, CT

Many thanks to Dr. Mahendra Maru of KY - When one of our community members in her 40's was severely ill and doctors and family had given up hopes, his consultation and calls to doctors in India for modified treatment resulted in her miraculous recovery to a level where she is now busy planning for her son's wedding in July-08.

KOJAIN medical professionals are encouraged to join our panel of volunteers as consultants, to assist our community members, by signing up on KOJAIN website. For more information, contact Vimla Chheda at 203-372-4958 or at yncheda@optonline.net

KOJAIN Sammelan, Aug 1 – 3, 2008, Detroit, Michigan:

Mark Aug 1 -3, 2008 dates on your calendar to be in Detroit, Michigan, to attend, participate, network and socialize during 2008 KOJAIN Sammelan. The venue for the Sammelan is Holiday Inn Southgate, 17201 Northline Road, Southgate, Michigan 48195, Tel: 734-283-4400, www.hisouthgate.com
Holiday Inn Southgate is located 10 miles south of Detroit, off I-75 at Exit # 37 and 9 miles from Detroit Metro Airport.

Registration, Finance, Hospitality, Food/Beverage, Entertainment/Workshop, Transportation, Sightseeing, Decoration, Vendor Displays, Communication, Advertising, Youth Activities are some of the Sammelan Committees.

To participate and volunteer in the Sammelan, please contact Arvin V. Shah (Jaya Travel & Tours), 6809 Kennswy Ct, West Bloomfield, MI 48322, Tel: 248-681-5233, arvin@skybirdtravel.com

KOJAIN Membership:

KOJAIN encourages everyone to be a member, preferably a LIFE MEMBER of KOJAIN to support your own activities, culture, art and crafts. KOJAIN provides a venue for networking, exchanging ideas and keeping in touch with our motherland. KOJAIN Membership options are:

Family Life membership	US \$ 250
Family 2-year membership	US \$ 40
Individual Life Membership	US \$ 200
Individual 2-year membership	US \$ 30

Membership form (see page 7) can also be downloaded from www.kojain.com and completed form along with a check, payable to KOJAIN, be sent to:

Vijay J. Savla, 4 Sandy Drive, Acton, MA 01720

KOJAIN Yahoo Group:

We request you to visit the KOJAIN E-group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/kojain/> to read messages and other information. Any key information is sent to KOJAIN Yahoo group members. If you are not receiving KOJAIN Yahoo group e-mails, visit KOJAIN's web site at <http://www.kojain.com/infoandwebsites/infoandwebsites.htm> and click on subscribe to KOJAIN E-group.

KOJAIN Website:

Please make a habit of visiting website www.kojain.com to read important news related to the KOJAIN's activities (Sammelan, Membership, Scholarships, etc.)

Sammelan: Exhibition & Banner Display for Your Products & Services

2008 KOJAIN Detroit Sammelan is pleased to provide you a unique opportunity to showcase your products and services. You can rent one of the eight booth spaces available there and/or you can display your banner there during our three-day (August 1 - 3) Sammelan. This will give you an excellent opportunity to let the Sammelan attendees become aware of the products and services you wish to sell.

Here are the details of Booth as well as the banner:

Date: August 1 (Friday) through August 3 (Sunday Noon)
 Location: Holiday Inn Southgate, Banquet & Conference Center
 17201 Northline Road, Southgate, MI 48195
www.HISouthgate.com

Rent: Exhibition Booth: \$300 to rent 8' table & a chair for 3 days
 For Display banner: \$150 for a 3' X 5' ready-to-hang banner

Please contact Mrs. Niru Maru, Detroit, MI 248-212-6477 (cell); 248-848-9179 (Home) email: dhiraj248@yahoo.com

Sammelan Souvenir Advertisement Rates:

Front Inside Page	\$ 3000
Back Inside Page	\$ 2500
Back Page	\$ 5000
Inside Half Page	\$ 300
Inside Full Page	\$ 500 (Black & White)
Inside Full Page	\$ 1000 (Colored)

Articles related to Kachchh and its culture, architecture, language, people, history, etc. are being sought for the souvenir. Send the camera ready soft copy advertisement and articles by June 30, 2008 to Lataben Champsee (latachampsee@gmail.com)

Sammelan Cultural Program Participation

Aug 1 – 3, 2008 Detroit KOJAIN Sammelan Cultural Program Committee is inviting cultural program entries for presentation during the Cultural event night.

Basic guidelines/rules to be followed in submitting entries:

- * **One Hour Cultural Program is planned**
- * **Garba-Raas will follow the Cultural Program**
- * **A maximum of seven items are planned to be presented**
- * **Possibly, relate the item to the Sammelan theme 'Anmol Kachchh'**
- * **A solo or group dance item can be of 3- 6 minutes.**
- * **A skit item can be of 10-15 minutes.**
- * **Limit the dance participants to 8-10 (the stage area is small).**
- * **Bring the song or background music on a CD (A CD player will be provided).**
- * **Detroit Cultural Program Committee will be the final authority on Accept/Reject Decision**
- * **A preference will be given to the items relating to Kachchh, culture, customs, people, etc.**

Requirements to send the event entry:

- * **Full name, address, telephone number, cell number, e-mail of choreographer/director**
- * **Title name of an entry**
- * **100 words description of an entry**
- * **Item presentation time in minutes**
- * **Is stage preparation required? Yes _____ No _____**
If Yes, what are you planning to do? How much time is required?
- * **Number of participants:**

Send the entry with the above requirements to:

**Maya R. Dedhia
3914 Highwood Place
Okemos, MI 48864
Email: dedhiamr@yahoo.com**

- * **Deadline to send entry: June 30, 2008**
- * **Accept/Reject Notification: July 15, 2008**

KOJAIN Membership Form

Last Name	
First Name	
Middle Name	
Email	
Phone	
Occupation	
Village in Kachchh	
Spouse - First Name	
Spouse - Email	
Spouse - Phone	
Spouse - Occupation	
Spouse - Village in Kachchh (Before Marriage)	
Home Address - Street	
Home Address - City	
Home Address - State, Zip Code & Country	
Child 1 Name	
Child 1 Year Born (if married do not enter year born)	
Child 2 Name	
Child 2 Year Born (if married do not enter year born)	
Child 3 Name	
Child 3 Year Born (if married do not enter year born)	

 Family Life membership (US \$250) Family 2-year membership (\$40) Individual Life Membership (US \$200) Individual 2-year membership (US) \$30

We urge every KOJAIN family to send the duly completed form to maintain KOJAIN Database. Help us make the database as complete as possible. Thank you for your support and cooperation.

Signed by: _____

Date: _____

We encourage you to join KOJAIN organization as a life member. Please make your check payable to KOJAIN

Please mail the above form completely filled to the Treasurer of KOJAIN:

Vijay J. Savla, 4 Sandy Drive, Acton, MA 01720, USA

Tel: 001-978-264-0596 (email: visavla@gmail.com)

SAMMELAN SPONSORSHIPS BEING SOUGHT:

As you know, Detroit Sarmelan Team is working very hard to make this Sarmelan a memorable one.

In this type of get-together, we traditionally keep the registration fee in the affordable range of an average family so that those who have the opportunity to come to this Sarmelan can attend our gathering with all members of their family. Prices of everything have gone up since we started planning for this Sarmelan. That is why our KOJAIN team has come to rely on donors in our community to sponsor individual meals for each day of the Sarmelan as well as other activities, including the souvenir.

There are totally six meals to be sponsored during our 3-day Sarmelan in Detroit.

Friday Light lunch	\$1,000	Friday Dinner	\$5,000
Saturday Breakfast	\$2,000.....	Saturday Lunch	\$3,000
Saturday Dinner	\$5,000.....	Sunday Brunch	\$3,000

So far, we have commitments for the following mealtime’s sponsorship:

- Friday evening dinner is sponsored by Kanti and Lata Gala of NJ)
- Saturday lunch is sponsored by Vijay and Madhu Chheda of California.
- Sunday Brunch is sponsored by Arvin and Jaya Shah of Detroit. MI

We have kept this sponsorship open-ended. Any other donor (or a group of donors) from anywhere in North America can also become their partner (or, partners) in co-sponsoring the aforementioned meals by matching the donation amount (i.e., \$5,000 for Friday evening meal and \$3,000 each for Saturday lunch and Sunday brunch) they have pledged.

We are looking for sponsors for:

- (1) Friday Light Lunch: \$1,000
- (2) Saturday Morning Breakfast: \$2,000
- (3) Saturday Evening Dinner: \$5,000

All sponsors will be recognized

BE A SPONSOR FOR:

Detroit Sarmelan Entrepreneurship Workshop on Friday, Aug 1	\$	5,000
Detroit Sarmelan Friday evening, Aug 1 entertainment program	\$	5,000
Detroit Sarmelan Saturday evening, Aug 2 entertainment program	\$	5,000

From: Nimesh Chheda (KOJAIN)
 422 Hillview Dr # 202,
 Linthicum, MD 21090

Change of Address/Updates to: [Nimesh. Chheda@ gmail.com](mailto:Nimesh.Chheda@gmail.com)