

BRAHMA BHARATI

A Quarterly Newsletter of the Brahman Samaj of North America

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Editor: Surendra Nath Pandey



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



Dear Fellow Brahmans,

The Toronto Convention was definitely a very successful and an historical event for the BSNA. It was the eighth BSNA convention and the first one in Canada. In spite of the fact that the Southern Ontario chapter was left to remain suspended and inactive for several years, it sprang up when we approached the members to reorganize it once again. They not only revived the chapter by increasing the membership from around 5 to almost 50 in 10 months but also held a very successful convention. The BSNA is really proud of the Southern Ontario chapter and its members.

At the convention many participants came to me personally and mentioned that they enjoyed it thoroughly. On behalf of the entire BSNA I thank Mr. Hari Panday, the Convention Director, and his wonderful team, which included Mrs. Rita Pandey (Convention Treasurer), Mr. Lila Dhar Mishra (the Chapter President), Mr. Brij Pandey, Mr. Sachin Tewari, Dr. Devendra Misra, Mr. Arjun Panday, Mr. Aakash Bhatt, Mr. Mitthoo Sharma, Miss Ruchie Kalia and many others. Mr. Hari Panday's entire family was involved in the coordination and arrangement of the convention. He took the responsibility as the Convention Director only when a few months were left, as a challenge, and made it a success.

At this convention Professor Onkar P. Dwivedi of the University of Guelph, Canada delivered the keynote speech. His speech was very scholarly. He traced the glorious past of the Brahmans' contributions to the Hindu society, reminded the present day Brahmans as to why they are losing their respectable place in the society and what they should do about it.

This convention had many novel features. Mr. Hari Panday saw to it that the youth programs got priority and maximum visibility. Many participants appreciated our visit to the Vishnu Mandir by bus, the devotional programs and dinner there. The introduction of members with power point presentation was very effective, efficient and elegant. Felicitating Dr. Budhendra Doobay, a Greater Toronto community leader, and inviting Prof. Naren Wagle and other local Brahman scholars for a plenary session were marvelous ideas with the point of view of developing permanent relations of the BSNA with them. .
Continued to page 2, col. 1

President's message, continued from page 1

The procession of the keynote speaker, EC and BOT members accompanied by *Nadasvaram* and also the invocation by a priest with chanting of Vedic *mantras* created a very *Brahmanic* atmosphere there.

The vocal music concert of Sudhir Narain and Pradeep Narain of Agra, India, kept the audience spellbound for three hours. Mr. Ashok Sharma's devotional and melodious songs were very much liked. He came from India and participated as a delegate on his own. The folk songs presented by Mr. Brij Pandey, his wife Mrs. Mamta Pandey, his daughter Rashmi and Mrs. Vanita Seth were a real hit.

There were more than 110 families with about 400 attendees, at the convention. This included about ten participants from India. I thank all the participants who came there. Many of them personally offered their appreciation and encouragement to the organizers of the convention.

We will have the next convention at San Francisco on July 4, 5 and 6, 2003. Dr. Chandra Dwivedi has accepted the responsibility of managing it as the Convention Director. He has selected a very good hotel, namely, Airport Westin Hotel near San Francisco Airport. I assure you that the next convention will be equally good and enjoyable for your entire family. You probably know that San Francisco and Paris closely compete with each other as the most popular tourist city of the world. Because the conventions bring our member families closer together physically and emotionally and bind us as members of one greater family, namely, the Brahman Samaj of North America, I encourage you to come and join us at the convention. I am eagerly looking forward to your participation at the next convention at San Francisco.

With my warmest regards,
Shyam Narayan Shukla
President, BSNA
Phone: 510-770-1218 E-mail: shuklas@attbi.com

**A MESSAGE FROM THE
YOUTH GROUP PRESIDENT**

I hope I find everyone in good health, and my best wishes to all. I would like to congratulate the Toronto, Canada chapter on a great job gone. With the little time that they had, the chapter did a marvelous job. I would like to tell you all that the Youth Group of the chapter was good! They were at

the center of everything that was going on. They even held the break out sessions themselves. It was a great job!

I would encourage the youth of BSNA all over North America to take part, and mold the youth BSNA into what they wish it to be. I once again would like to give you all my email address Semabb@aol.com, and my Phone number 209-839-9022. Any youth or parent that has ideas or suggestions for me please let me know and I will try to work on them. I look forward to meeting you all in sunny California next year at the convention.

Sema Sharma
National Youth Wing President

CONVENTION REPORTS

The annual convention was held at Marriott Hotel in Toronto on July 5-7, 2002. The three-day fun-filled extravaganza consisted of a variety of activities including entertainment, panel discussion, and business meetings. The highlight of the convention was an evening at Shri Vishnu Mandir. Throughout their stay, the delegates were treated with sumptuous meals and snacks including cardamom-flavored tea.

The chairs and moderators of various activities and business meetings have submitted following reports:

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT
Dr. Uday C. Naval, BOT Chairman**

Five members of the Board of Trustees attended the Toronto Convention: Dr Suresh Tiwari, Dr. Lakshmi Shankar Dubey, Dr Satchidanand Mishra, Dr Ghanshyam Pandey, and Dr Uday C. Naval. Two slots were scheduled for the BOT at the convention -at the EC meeting on July 5th, and the General Body meeting on July 7. Dr Uday C. Naval, Chair, BOT, represented the BOT on both occasions.

What's more important, however, is that the BOT members held informal and friendly discussions amongst themselves as to how the BOT could make constructive inputs to BSNA. In this respect, some suggestions emerged which are as follows:

1. The BOT chair could be invited to the EC meetings (physical and electronic) as an observer. This would enable the BOT to keep

Continued to page 3, col. 1

BOT Report, continued from page 2

track first hand of the trends and discussions taking place at the BSNA executive.

2. The EC may, at the beginning of each year, invite the BOT for its input in furthering the objectives of BSNA including the enhancement, strengthening and expansion of the Association's goals and objectives.

3. At the annual Conventions, a special plenary session to be organized by the BOT would be desirable. This would help increase the general membership's awareness of the potential role that the Constitution has laid down for BOT.

In general, the BOT members recognized the need to be in active communication with one another through e-mails and phone contacts so that a coherent and constructive role by the BOT could be made possible.

Finally, I would personally like to express my appreciation and gratitude to the Ontario chapter as well as the BSNA EC members for a very successful Convention. Particularly noticeable were the indefatigable energy and creative talents of the Mr. Hari Panday and Mr. Lila Dhar Mishra. At the same time, without the behind-the-scenes dedicated efforts of other chapter officials - Mr. Sachin Tiwari, Mr. Vishva Sharma, Mrs. Rita Pandey and others - such grand success was all but impossible.

Doubtless, this Convention broke fresh ground by introducing several innovative features, such as the active involvement of the youth and the utilization of the local Brahmanical talent from the wider Toronto area - to name just a couple. These features are exemplars that may profitably be emulated in the many BSNA Conventions in the years to come.

Finally, the BOT conveys its best wishes and regards to each and every BSNA member and their families and hope that they all would help enlarge its membership and enhance its activities.

REPORT: BSNA EDUCATION PROGRAMS
Dr. Ramesh C. Paliwal, Vice President

The panelists were: Dr. Satchidanand Mishra, Ms. Simi Dube, and Dr. Ramesh C. Paliwal, who also chaired the panel discussion on BSNA's Education Program (EP).

Dr. Paliwal presented an overview of the BSNA's Education Program focusing on identifying and living personal values based on the universal values of Hinduism or the *Sanatan Dharma*. He also presented a strategy to build the Education Program based on balancing the "Four Aims of Life" of Hinduism - Righteousness (the "*Dharma*"),

material Success (the "*Artha*"), Pleasure (the "*Kama*"), and Absolute Happiness or Bliss (the "*Moksha*"). From implementation perspective, his strategy also recognized the religious pluralism of the surrounding society, increasing emphasis on individual personal values, and the local laws.

Dr. Paliwal recommended a minimum set of courses - separate for 8 to 15 years old, and 15 - 30 years old -for offering at the BSNA chapter meetings. The course contents include understanding and practicing of Hinduism, topics related to Indian History and Culture, significance of prayer, yoga, meditation, marriage-related new trends, as well as some India-related issues of international significance.

Ms Simi Dube, presenting a youth's perspective of the Education Program, recommended that a General Indian history course should be included in the BSNA's Education Program. She pointed out that, in the high schools here, only US and World history, with only vague sections on Hinduism, were taught. Therefore, for the youths growing up here in USA, there was a need to understand the beginnings of Indian civilization and culture, and the relevant current social issues.

Dr. Satchidanand Mishra, speaking on the relevance and adjustment of Hindu ritualistic practices in the context of present-day living in North America, said that, in Hinduism, the concepts of *Sanskars*, rituals and symbolism were all integrated to attain the perfection in this life and realize the ultimate goal as prescribed in the basic tenets of Hinduism. Rituals provide the means of transferring the right *Sanskars* from the time of conceiving life to the time of death. The details of practices of these rituals vary from place to place but the basic concepts are retained. It is the strength of Hinduism, which allows the adjustment of details. Even in the present context of American Hindus it is possible to continue the practices and reap the rewards.

Participants received several handouts

What a Treat!

The *Lok Sangeet* performance by Mr. Brij Pandey and family delighted the delegates. The audience enjoyed the folk songs so much that they kept on chanting, "One more.." at the end of each song. Mrs. Mamta Pandey, Mrs. Vanita Seth and Ms. Rashmi Pandey accompanied him. The program was ended due to time constraints.

CHAPTER NEWS

MINNESOTA CHAPTER

Dr. Rakesh Sharma, Chapter President held the first Chapter meeting at his residence. They discussed several topics including how to make their chapter more effective. They also discussed whether they could accept those people as BSNA members, who are not Brahmans by birth but want to promote Brahman values. One of the attendees, Dr. Amit Chandra is such a person.

The attendees were:

Dr. Amit Chandra & Family
Mr. Anurag Sharma & Family
Mr. Har Narayan Shukla & Family
Mr. Arvind Sharma & Family
Mr. Shailesh Sharma
Dr. Rakesh Sharma & Family.

SOUTHERN ONTARIO CHAPTER

The SOC is planning a Diwali celebration program on November 10, 2002. For further details, please contact Mr. Liladhar Mishra, the Chapter President at: Liladhar.Mishra@ec.gc.ca

VIRGINIA CHAPTER

The annual picnic will be held at the Deer Run Park, Henrico County, near the Hindu Center in Richmond on Saturday, September 7, 2002, starting at 10:00 A.M. The plan includes, not only potluck food, but also lots of games, like football, Tennis, slides, swings, and also cultural activities that include *Shlokas*, Hindi competition and games for the children. Members are asked to bring some group game items of their choice. For more information and directions, please contact Mr. Upendra Pandey at (804) 747-1422 or Dr. Upadhyay at (804) 520-2043, E-mail: drjupadhyay@yahoo.com The Chapter leaders have started making plans for Diwali celebration. They welcome your suggestions and comments.

Brahman Samaj of North America
9TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
July 4-6, 2003
San Francisco
California, U.S.A.

2003 CONVENTION DIRECTOR



Dr. Chandra Mohan Dwivedi

The Executive Committee has selected Dr. Dwivedi as the Convention Director for the 9th BSNA convention to be held in San Francisco.

Dr. Dwivedi was born and raised at Lucknow, India. He received his B.S. degree in Biology from Lucknow University, M.S. in Chemistry from Kanpur University and Ph.D. in Chemistry from Lucknow University. He did his research work for his Ph.D. thesis at CDRI Lucknow. He was a postdoctoral fellow at Tufts and Harvard Universities. Currently he is the Manager of Process Validation at Bayer Corporation, Berkeley.

He performed advanced research in the fields of cancer, thrombosis and homeostasis, enzyme/protein replacement therapy, wound healing, drug development technologies & processes and transferred them to manufacturing for commercial production. He plays key management role for the development and licensing technology and manufacturing facilities. He prepares regulatory documents for licensing of new drugs and participates in regulatory inspections. He was awarded research-training fellowships from U.S.P.H.S, C.S.I.R. and I.C.M.R., India. He is a member of ISPE, PDA, and Lucknow University Alumni Association. He has published more than 30 research articles in scientific journals and books, and was granted two patents.

Dr. Dwivedi is Chapter President of the San Francisco Bay Area chapter. He is married to Purnima Dwivedi, who also works for Bayer Corporation as a scientist. They have two children. Their daughter Simi, a senior at University of California, Berkeley was the Youth Group President of the BSNA and son Dave is a Junior High School student.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPOINTMENT



The Executive Committee has selected Dr. Janeshwar Upadhyay to serve as a member of the BSNA Board of Trustees.

Dr. Upadhyay was born in a respectable and religious Brahman family at village Ankraha in Palamau district, Jharkhand,

India. He received his B.S. degree in Agricultural Biology from Bihar University, M.S. degree in Microbiology-Pathology from Banaras Hindu University and Ph.D. in Microbiology-Pathology from University of Illinois. He worked as a Post Doctoral Fellow at IIT, Chicago and Medical College, Richmond, VA. He was an Associate Professor at Chicago State University and was Professor of Microbiology at Virginia State University for 32 years. He retired from his last position in 1999.

He discovered soil microbes and enzymes as a graduate student and later published over 50 papers in leading journals. He organized and headed several organizations, out of which more prominent was Indian Microbiologists Association of America. He was its President three times and wrote its constitution.

As a student he received a scholarship at BHU, and later several USDA, NIH and other research awards.

Dr. Upadhyay is the Chapter President of Virginia Chapter, which is a very active chapter. He has published several articles in Brahma-Vani and Brahma Bharati, and conducted panel discussions at BSNA conventions. In recognition of his dedication and service to the BSNA, he has been awarded *Shrestha Puraskar* and *Brahmadeep Puraskar*. He performs religious rites for different families in his area and gives lectures on the Bhagvadgita. He is a member of other social organizations, namely, India Association and Hindu Center of Virginia.

Dr. Upadhyay will continue to serve as the Chapter President of the Virginia Chapter until such time that a new Chapter President is elected.

Nominations & Election Committee Announcement

The purpose of the NEC is to seek out suitable candidates and conduct election, if necessary, to fill the Executive Committee (EC) positions. The core EC consists of the President as the leader of the BSNA supported by six other officers. They are: Executive Vice President, Vice Presidents (2), General Secretary, Treasurer and an Assistant Treasurer.

As per BSNA constitution, the term of EC members is three years with no term limit, i.e. EC members may be re-elected. The term of the current EC members expires on December 31, 2003. In order to make a smooth transition, NEC plans to complete the election process immediately following the 2003 Convention. NEC is seeking input from BSNA members in the form of nomination or suggestions for the office of the President.

NEC members believe that one who has proven leadership record, is respected by the community, and the BSNA membership all across North America should hold the office of the President. The President should be able to build and strengthen unity among BSNA members. The President of BSNA should have a vision for the growth and enhancement of BSNA.

The committee will publish further communications and the election process in the future issues of Brahma Bharati.

Please address your comments, inquiries and suggestions to:

Dr. Surendra N. Pandey, Chair
Nominations & Election Committee
E-mail: spandey@asurams.edu
US mail: 2303 West Alberson Dr.

Albany, GA 31721-2043 U.S.A.

MATRIMONIAL

◆ Parents invite correspondence for their daughter, 26 yr, M.D., 5'6", slim, fair, from North Indian Brahmin & M.D. with good Indian values.

Phone: (330) 745-6440, E-mail: vedi75@yahoo.com

◆ Parents invite correspondence for son, 29 yr, M.D., 5' 9 ½", medium built, U.S. citizen, extremely fair, from North Indian Brahmin girls with good Indian values. Phone: (330) 745-6440, E-mail: vedi75@yahoo.com

Useful Websites

Compiled by Mr. Jagar Sharma, BSNA Executive Vice President

Editor's note: The sites are related to Hinduism and India –ancient, current, historical and political. Please note that most of these sites have a vast number of cross-links providing a broad coverage. Also, due to the dynamic nature of the Web sites, a few of them may not be active or might have relocated. Editor regrets any inconvenience that the readers may experience.

<http://www.hindukids.org/> -an excellent site for youths

www.arshavidya.org.

www.arxiv.org/abs/physics/0207026

- Big Bang vs. Indian theory

www.ambedakar.org

www.arutkural.tripod.com

www.bhagavad-gita.org

- complete Bhagvad Gita in 16 languages

www.beguide.com

www.bharatavani.org

www.bharat-rakshak.com

www.bsna.org

www.cifjkindia.org - details about Kashmir

www.Kashmir.org

www.clas.vfl.edu

<http://dsal.uchicago.edu/sanskrit/papers/>

-Contains several research papers on Sanskrit

www.esamskriti.com

www.esamskriti.org.

www.egita.com

www.endowmentforlight.org.

www.fair.org.

www.fullwebinfo.com

www.goodnewsindia.com - for truthful look at India

www.geocities.com

www.hinduonnet.com/thehindu

www.hindu-university.edu (Florida)

www.hinduismtoday.com

<http://www.hindunet.org/>

<http://www.brown.edu/Departments/AmCiv/Studentprojects/apurva/> (Hinduism in America)

www.india-unveiled.com - a book by Robert Arnett

www.infinityfoundation.com

www.clas.ufl.edu/users/gthursby/ijhs/ (International Journal of Hindu Studies)

www.indiacause.org.

www.indianconsulate.com - most comprehensive site

www.123india.com - culture and references

www.jammu-kashmir.com/basicfacts

www.Kamakoti.org

www.netjall.com

www.peoplesforum.com/

www.petitiononline.com

www.samachar.com

www.saag.org/papers

www.savari.com

www.subrang.com

www.sulekha.com

www.sunsar.com

www.spiritweb.org

-Vedic, physics, cosmography,

how the universe was created

<http://www.tourismofindia.com/>

<http://hinduwebsite.com/vedicsection/vediclinks.htm> (Vedas, other scriptures and ancient India)

www.usindiafriendship.net

www.vidyapeeth.net

www.vedant.com

www.vlib.org

<http://travel.vsnl.com/toursindia/>

www.wsws.com

<http://www.sabarimala.com/> -Sabarimala Temple in Kerala

<http://www.vishnumandir.com/> -Vishnu Mandir, Richmond Hill near Toronto, Canada

Hindi sites:

<http://web-to-u.com/ihai/> (International Hindi Association)

<http://www.cs.colostate.edu/~malaiya/hindilinks.html> (List of sites with Hindi lessons)

<http://www.it-c.dk/people/pfw/hindi/> (Hindi lessons)

<http://hindi.sify.com/kathadesh/> (Hindi stories, poems and essays)

CONDOLENCE

Mrs. Nirmal Sharma, wife of Dr. Mohinder Sharma of Fremont (a life member of BSNA), left this world for heavenly abode on August 18, 2002. at about 7:00 p.m. She had been sick for some time. The funeral (cremation) services were to take place on Friday, August 23 at the Lima Family Mortuary, 48800 Warm Springs Blvd., Fremont.

President Shukla and members of the BSNA family express their condolences and the deepest sympathy to the Sharma family. May God give the bereaved family the strength to bear the pain of this grief and may He give the departed soul the eternal peace in heaven.

From the Editor's Desk

The impact of the Toronto Convention on BSNA organization will be felt for long time. It was the first convention held outside USA giving true meaning to our organization's name. Not only this convention had the largest number of our Canadian brothers and sisters attending the convention, there was also such enthusiasm and a positive feeling in air not seen in the past conventions. Another feature was the active and visible involvement of Brahman youths in various programs. The quality and variety of programs they presented were quite impressive. This certainly is a sign of strong future for BSNA. We commend our youths for such a fine performance.

Mr. Hari Panday and many Canadian Brahmans who helped in organizing this convention deserve our praises. Above all, the credit goes to President Shukla whose vision and tireless efforts are responsible for bringing our Canadian brothers back in the BSNA organization with full enthusiasm. It is his leadership style that has brought a unity in BSNA organization never seen before. We salute President Shukla.

The Minnesota Chapter report published in this issue is a must read for everyone. There is an idea that deserves our attention. We do need to give a serious thought to how to engage those who are not Brahmans by birth but are equally dedicated to enhancing the BSNA and its goals. Let's not ignore the present realities of the societies that we live in. I am sure this will cause a lengthy debate –as it should– but eventually produce a result that will be helpful for the expansion, enhancement and strengthening of BSNA.

More on this and related topics in the next issue.

With warm regards.

Surendra Nath Pandey

To join BSNA, please download membership information form from its homepage (www.bsna.org), or contact:

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Other correspondence about BSNA should be sent to Dr. Shyam Narayan Shukla, BSNA President at:

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or mailed to: P.O. Box 660933
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BSNA homepage: www.bsna.org