

BRAHMA BHARATI

A Quarterly Publication of Brahman Samaj of North America

Volume 10 Number 1

Editor: Surendra Nath Pandey, Ph.D.



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President's Message

Dear Fellow Members

Nameste

I take this opportunity to wish all the members and their families a very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

The term of four BOT members expired on January 31st hence your Executive Committee has approved the appointment of four new BOT members. Their names are Drs. Shyam N. Shukla, Lakshmi Shankar Dube, Hans Upadhyaya and (Mani) S. Yegnasubramanian. Please join me in welcoming them as new BOT members. Their term is for three years starting 1st February. On behalf of BSNA and myself, I take this opportunity to thank the four outgoing BOT members, Dr. O. P. Dwivedi, Dr. Shri Kant Mishra, Mr. Jagar Sharma and Mr. Kanwal D. Prashar for their dedication and service to BSNA for the past several years.

BSNA has achieved its goal of sponsoring twenty-six Ekal Vidyalayas (one teacher school) through out India in the year 2007. I request you all to please sponsor one Ekal Vidyalay (<http://ekalindia.org>) for only Dollar a day i.e. \$365.00 a year in this year. Your support will educate 25 to 30 poor children in remote villages of India.

I am very pleased to inform you that the Executive Committee has finalized the venue for the 14th Annual BSNA Convention.



This Convention will be held in Sacramento, CA on July 4-6, 2008. Mr. Bharat Mohla and the Convention Director Mr. Pradeep Sharma are in the process of establishing a number of committees of dedicated members to organize the convention. Further details, including the registration form, appear elsewhere in this issue, and will also be posted on the BSNA website at www.bsna.org.

With best regards,
Purushottam Sharma
President, BSNA
psharma@mail.com

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For updates:

<http://www.bsna.org>

BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPOINTMENTS

The BSNA Executive Committee has selected Dr. Lakshmi Shankar Dube, Dr. Shyam Narayan Shukla, Dr. Hans Upadhyay, Dr. (Mani) S. Yegnasubramanian as the members of the Board of Trustees for a three-year term starting 1st February 2008.

Dr. Lakshmi Shankar Dube of Dollard Des Ormeaux, Quebec, Canada is a life member of BSNA and has been the member of BOT in the past. Dr. Dube is a scientist and has good knowledge of the Hindu scriptures.



Dr. Dube was born in village Tilthi, Mirzapur, U.P. He obtained a B.Sc degree from K.N. Govt College, Gyanpur; M.Sc (Math) from Banaras Hindu University; M.Sc (Math) from Memorial University of NFLD; and Ph.D. (Math) from Carleton University, Ottawa. He is married to Urmila; they have four children and six grand children. He is a Professor of Math at Vanier College, and also teaches part-time at Concordia University, Montreal. He has published several research papers in reputed math journals, and has received various academic and community awards.

Dr. Dube is actively involved in Hindu Temple of Montreal, and gives discourses on Ramayan and Bhagwat Gita on Sundays; arranges activities and meetings of BSNA (Quebec Chapter) with emphasis on passing Brahmanic values to younger generations.

Dr. Shyam Narayan Shukla was born at village Tulsii of Janjgir district, Chhattisgarh, India. He received his his B.E. (Hon's) degree in Civil Engineering from University of Jabalpur; M.Sc. (Eng'g) from University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, NB, Canada; and Ph.D. from Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, USA. He has Professional



Engineer's license (P.E.) as a Civil Engineer in the State of California and is a Fellow of American Society of Civil Engineers.

He worked as a civil engineer and structural engineer in India; taught at University of Sulemania, Iraq before returning to USA in 1974. After five years with Bechtel Corporation, he joined the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, University of California from where he retired as a Project Manager in 2001, after 21 years of service. He wrote a book entitled "*Design of Reinforced Concrete Slabs by Yield-Line and Strip Methods*", and has published more than 50 papers and technical reports in his field. He has a patent on "Seismic Isolation System" for residential structures and

was Vice President of his company Ever-Level Foundation Systems, Inc.

He has published more than 100 articles, poems and stories in Hindi in India and USA. He has published four books, two each in Hindi and their English version with titles, "*Ganga Se Mississippi Tak*" and "*Mississippi Ke Par*" with similar titles. Another book, "*Introduction to Hindu Religion*" is ready for publication. He co-edited a Hindi magazine, "*Vishva Vivek*", and is a member of the Editorial Board of *Hindi Jagat*, the quarterly journal of World Hindi Foundation and is a member of its Board of Directors.

He has been a member of the Board of Directors of Vedic Dharma Samaj, Fremont, CA and World Association of Vedic Studies (WAVES), USA. He is a founding member of BSNA and has served as its General Secretary, BOT Member, and President (2001-07). He was President of World Brahman Organization for the years 2005-07, and is a WBO Patron.

Dr. Shukla has been married to Nirmala, who retired as a Senior Software Engineer from Cisco Systems, San Jose, CA. The Shuklas have 3 daughters, a son and four grandsons.

Dr. Hans Upadhyay of Elk Grove, IL had been a very active member of BSNA and was the first Regional Director covering IL, MI, IN, OH. Dr. Upadhyay is an educator and a scientist.

He was born in Almora, India. He did his master's in Geology from Lucknow University, and Ph.D. from Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada. He is currently a Professor of Geology at Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago. He is married to the former Sudha Joshi. Their son Vikas and his wife Rupal live in the Chicago area. Their daughter Ritu and her husband Vinay live abroad.

Dr. Upadhyay is a BSNA Life Member, and has participated in BSNA activities since its inception. He is also a Life Member of Uttar Pradesh Association of Greater Chicago and he has served as President of the Chicago-based Uttaranchal Midwest Association.

Dr. (Mani) S. Yegnasubramanian of New Jersey is an eminent research scientist and related to the Jagadguru Shankaracharya Sri Sri Bharathi Teertha Mahaswamiji of India's renowned Sringeri Math. He is a Founder President of Sringeri Sadhana Center in Stroudsburg, PA. Dr. Mani Yegnasubramanian is the chairman of the Hindu Temple and Cultural Society's religious affairs committee. He has been



teaching the Vedic scriptures and philosophy for more than 20 years in New Jersey.

CHAPTER NEWS

ILLINOIS (CHICAGO) CHAPTER

The Illinois chapter has chosen the following officials:

1. **Dr. Subhash C Pandey - Chapter President**
2. **Mr. Gopal Sharma - Vice President**
3. **Dr. Deepak Shukla - Treasurer**
4. **Mrs. Chetna Tewari - Secretary**

Executive Committee Members-at-Large:

Mr. Chandra Shekhar Trivedi, Mr. Raj Tiwari and Mr. Mahesh Chaturvedi.

The Chapter is planning to celebrate Saraswati Pooja on 23rd February at the Hindu Temple of greater Chicago from 6 to 10 pm. The celebration includes a cultural program and dinner. For further information, please contact the Illinois Chapter President, Dr. Subhash Pandey, 630-985-2720, spandey@sbcglobal.net

Dr. Subhash C. Pandey

President, Illinois Chapter

Dr. Subhash C. Pandey received his M.S. in Biochemistry from Allahabad University, and Ph.D. in Pharmacology at Central Drug Research Institute Lucknow, India. He is currently Professor and Director of Neuroscience Alcoholism Research at Dept. of Psychiatry, College of Medicine, University of Illinois at Chicago and is also a VA career medical scientist at Jesse Brown VA medical center, Chicago, IL. He is recognized as one of the leading scientists in the neuroscience of alcohol and drug addiction, and has received several honors and awards including an award by Richard M. Daley, Mayor City of Chicago, in the Year 2001 and a Senior Scientist Award by the Association of Scientists of Indian Origin in 2006. In July 2007, his research was featured in "O" The Oprah magazine. Dr. Pandey's research has also been featured in National Institutes of Health's report to the US congress in 2007.

Dr. Pandey has been involved in community service by promoting the enrichment of the Indian culture. He was the President of the Hindu Satsang, a well-known Indian organization that promotes the Hindu culture and religion. He is a founding member of the Uttar Pradesh Association of Greater Chicago that is actively involved in preserving and promoting the Indian culture and heritage. He has served as Treasurer, Vice President, and President. Dr. Pandey is also a founding member of the International Ramayana Institute of North America and has served as Treasurer, Vice President, and President. Members of several Asian communities such as India, Thailand, Indonesia, and Myanmar are also involved in this organization. This organization in the last seven years has presented several programs involving Ramayana dance drama

featuring the multicultural artists from these Asian countries that live in Chicago. Dr. Pandey has also served as the Chairperson for the International Conference on Ramayana in 2001 and 2005 held in collaboration with Northern Illinois University in Dekalb. His wife Mrs. Kanchan Pandey is also active in community service and has served as president of Hindu Satsang in year 1998. He has two sons --Vikas is currently second year medical student at University of Illinois at Chicago and Vivek who is student in the BS-MD combined degree program at St. Louis University in St.Louis.

BSNA ENDOWMENT FUND

The Executive Committee discussed the strategic role of BSNA in serving the Brahman families and communities they live in. In addition to members providing voluntary services to various community and civic organizations, BSNA may fund projects, and provide scholarships to meritorious and needy children in USA as well as in India. It was decided to establish an endowment fund with seed money of \$2,000 from BSNA general funds. It is expected that the seed money will help get the fund started. However, the major portion of the fund is to be generated with the help of generous donations from the BSNA members and others. The EC will establish guidelines, and a list of projects and scholarships to be awarded each year with modifications as necessary, with needs of projects in the USA and India, and with the understanding that BSNA members would be given first priority.

The EC has planned to launch a fund-raising campaign at the 2008 Convention in order to solicit donors for building the endowment fund. Funds for the scholarships will be raised from donors, with a target of 10 scholarships of \$500 each for the first year (2008). At least of 3 scholarships were approved for 2008 at the November 2007 meeting of the EC.

Mr. Purushottam Sharma has made a commitment to fund at least one scholarship. The following have committed to two scholarships of \$500 each:

Dr. Umesh & Mrs. Prabha Shukla of NJ

Mr. Kanahiya Lal and Mrs. Uma Shukla of NJ

Community Service by BSNA members

BSNA members have donated Rs. 31,000 to support group weddings and Yagyopaveet sanskar for the needy organized by Brahman Samaj of Unnao, UP (India). This is an annual event (Feb 24 2008) performed by Brahman Samaj of Unnao in which the Brahman Samaj of Unnao pays for all the expenses. This year 15 couples will participate. Mr. Hari Sharma and Mrs Kaushal Sharma have donated Rs 11,000 and Dr. Umesh and Prabha Shukla have donated Rs. 20,000 to support this community service event.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

What Are in the Upanishads?

Shyam N. Shukla, Ph.D.

Chair, BSNA Religious Committee

The Board of Directors of Albany Tomorrow, Inc. (ATI) has selected Dr. Surendra Nath Pandey to serve on its Executive Committee. ("ATI Selects Officers", *Albany Herald*, February 12, 2008). ATI is a private-public partnership for planning, development and implementation of multi-million dollar projects for enhancement of Albany. ATI has implemented over \$100 million worth of building projects during the past decade. The most recently completed project is the Ray Charles Plaza, named after Ray Charles, a singer of international fame who was born in Albany. Other projects to be completed within the next two years are discovery center, planetarium, civil rights museum, and walk & bike trail around Albany. Dr. Pandey has been a member of the ATI Board of Directors for the last seven years.



A long time resident of the City of Albany and Dougherty County, Dr. Pandey has been quite active member of this South Georgia community. He is a member of the Board of Directors of Chehaw Park Foundation. "The Parks at Chehaw" is the largest state park in South Georgia consisting of several contiguous parks with a variety of themes. It includes a nationally accredited zoo, Education & Research Center, convention center, water sports arena, children's park, and camping & picnic sites. The foundation oversees expansion and growth of the park, including the development of Fowler Wild Animal Park, which is the brainchild of Jim Fowler, the wildlife expert who has appeared frequently on CNN, and NBC's Morning and Tonight Shows. Dr. Pandey is the former chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee, a body appointed by the Board of Commissioners of City of Albany and Dougherty County; and has been a member of the following committees and boards:

Recreation Advisory Board, Citizens Transportation Committee, Dougherty Area Regional Transportation Study, and Chambers of Commerce Education Advisory Committee.

A life member of BSNA, Dr. Pandey has served in a number of BSNA committees, and chaired a few also. At present, he is the editor of *Brahma Bharati*, this publication, and *Brahma Vani*, the souvenir publication of BSNA commemorating the annual conventions.

BSNA's Fourteenth Annual Convention
July 4- 6, 2008 Sacramento, CA
See details starting pages 6

The Upanishads are the final and the most important messages of the Vedas. They occur at the end of the Vedas and are the end product of the Vedic messages. Therefore, the philosophy they propound is called the 'Vedanta'.

The main theme of the Upanishads is *Brahman*, the Supreme Being, who has no form, is changeless, never takes birth and never dies. He is as ever existent, full of consciousness and ever blissful (*Sat Chit Ananda*). He is also the creator of this entire universe. According to the Upanishads the universe came out of Brahman in the same way as the cobweb comes out of the spider. When the Vedic sages (Rishis) made Brahman the subject of their research they discovered that it is very difficult to describe Him. Their method of research was simply a deep meditation on Him. Different Rishis, who realized Brahman, tried to describe their experiences, which are available to us in the form of the Upanishads.

Since the formless Supreme Being is very difficult to worship or meditate upon, He was also imagined to have some human form. This Supreme Being with human form was called Ishvara in the *Puranas*. Thus Lord Vishnu represents Brahman for those devotees who cannot worship a formless god.

The Upanishads declare boldly four very important truths, which are called the *Mahavakyas*. The *Aitareya Upanishad* of the *Rigveda* proclaims, "Brahman is pure consciousness" (*Prajnanam Brahma*). The *Brihadaranyaka Upanishad* of the *Shukla Yajurveda* says, "I am Brahman" (*Aham Brahmasmi*). The *Chhandogya Upanishad* of the *Samaveda* says, "You are That" (*Tat tvamasi*). Here the word "That" means Brahman, according to the technical language of the Upanishads. In the Upanishads "That" (*Tat* or *Adah*) is used for Brahman or Atman, which we cannot see. On the other hand "This" (*Idam*) is used for the universe, which we can see.

There are about 200 Upanishads, out of which Shri Shankaracharya picked up only ten and called them the "Principal Upanishads" that contain the messages of all Upanishads. The principal Upanishads are: *Isha, Kena, Katha, Prashna, Mundaka, Mandukya, Taittiriya, Aitareya, Chhandogya* and *Brihadaranyaka*. The last two are very large Upanishads.

The very opening verse of the first Upanishad, namely, the *Ishopanishad* or the *Ishavasyopanishad*, contains the central theme of all the Upanishads. It says that Ishvara or Brahman encompasses each and everything in this universe. Therefore, everything belongs to Him only. With this fact in mind we should always support ourselves with whatever He has given to us. That is why Mahatma Gandhi used to say that even if we lose all the Upanishads but remember the first verse of the *Isha Upanishad*, we have the main message of all the Upanishads.

NEWS FROM THE
WORLD BRAHMAN ORGANIZATION
(Reported by Dr. Shyam Narayan Shukla, Patron, WBO)

Respected Fellow Brahmans,

I, with my wife Nirmala, traveled to several places in India, during the month of December '07, to attend a marriage in the family at Raipur, to participate in a Vedic conference at Vrindavan (organized by WAVES India) and mainly to promote World Brahman Organization (WBO) in India. We were just back on the eve of the New Year's Day.

Dr. Surendra Pandey (Emeritus Professor of Physics and Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, Albany State University, Georgia) also traveled through India to participate in the Vedic conference and to attend WBO meetings in different parts of India. He is also Vice President (International Relations) of WBO.

We reached Delhi on November 30. Since two other officers of WBO from the USA, namely, Dr. Shri Kant Mishra, Associate Dean, College of Medicine, Univ. of Southern California (and BOT Chair of WBO) and Dr. Umesh Shukla, Senior Director, Johnson and Johnson (and BOT Member, WBO) were also going to be at Delhi on December 1, Dr. Sangam Mishra (President, WBO) decided to have a meeting of WBO officers with leaders of a few Brahman organizations of Northern India. Shri Mange Ram Sharma (Patron, WBO) of Gurgaon and Shri Rameshwar Dayal Dixit (Vice President, WBO) of Delhi had reserved a meeting place at the Shankarachary Temple of Vasant Vihar, Delhi. About 50 Brahman leaders participated in the meeting. Some prominent leaders who were present are: Shri Mahesh Dutt Sharma (President, All India Brahman Mahasabha), Acharya Prabhakar Mishra (President, Brahman International), Shri Ram Naresh Tiwari 'Pindibasa' (President, UP Unit of WBO).

Dr. Sangam Mishra talked about the successful fourth World Brahman Convention at Washington, DC in May 2007. He also announced WBO's plan to hold the next World Brahman Convention (WBC) at Jaipur, Rajasthan on December 21-22, 2008. All the Brahman leaders introduced themselves and then pledged to support WBO as well as the WBC-2008 wholeheartedly. Shri Mange Ram Sharma and Shri Dixit stated that WBF (India), an independent Brahman organization registered in India, would unconditionally support WBC-2008. Other Brahman leaders enthusiastically expressed their support for WBO, and stated that there was a need for a strong unifying force like WBO to bring all the Brahmans of the world on one platform, especially when the Indian politicians are using Brahmans as the scapegoat, responsible for all the maladies of the 'Dalits' of India, just as a ploy to create vote-bank by dividing the Indian society for ever.

Dr. Pandey, Dr. Sangam Mishra, Shri Dixit and I had decided to fly to Hyderabad that evening to participate in the next day meeting organized by Dr.

Brahma Bharati, 10 (1), February 2008

P.V. Sessa Sai, (Vice President, WBO and President, Andhra Pradesh Unit of WBO). We were warmly received by Dr. Sessa Sai and his associates at the airport and were driven to Hotel Minerva, where we stayed.



Hyderabad: WBO Mini-convention

The meeting on Dec. 2, 2007 was attended by Brahmans from all over Andhra Pradesh and some leaders of Brahman organizations of the neighboring states, namely, Orissa, Tamilnadu and Karnataka. Dr. Pralhad B. Sattur of Hubli (Karnataka), who is a Vice President of WBO also came to attend the meeting with Mrs. Sattur. On behalf of WBO (Andhra Pradesh Unit) certificates of recognition were awarded to many Brahman leaders of AP. Several Members of Parliament and former Ministers also attended the meeting. Honorable N.D. Tiwari, Governor of Andhra Pradesh was also invited but he expressed his inability to attend due to scheduling conflicts. However, he invited us to come to Raj Bhavan that evening.



Front L to R: Honorable N. D. Tiwari, Dr. Sessa Sai, Dr. Surendra Pandey, Mr. R.D. Dixit and Mrs. Sessa Sai

We met the Governor at Raj Bhavan that evening. He spent about an hour with our group of 40 Brahmans. Later, all 40 of us left for Shri Shailam, which is over 100 km from Hyderabad. Because we had to travel through the Naxalites infested forest we had to take a special permission to travel at night. We were at Shri Shailam at about 2.00 AM that night. ...Continued

[WBO news continued] The next morning we went to the Krishna River to have a bath on the last day of the holy month of Kartika, which is supposed to be the holiest day of the year.

In the morning, we had a *darshan* of one of the 12 Jyotirlingams of India. Because of the influence of Dr. Sessa Sai we got into a fast line and could touch the Lingam with our hands. We spent the next day for sightseeing at the city. We also visited Shri P.V. Rao, I.A.S. (Ret'd) to request him to accept the position of "Special Advisor" to WBO. He kindly and gracefully accepted it. Dr. Rao has served as the Special Advisor to the former Prime Minister P.V. Narasingha Rao.

After attending a marriage in the family on December 8 at Raipur, we went to Vrindavan to attend a Vedic conference arranged by World Association of Vedic Studies, India Branch. Dr. Pandey and I presented papers on topics related to the convention theme: Relevance of Vedic Culture in the Modern Society. At the time we were in Vrindavan, Northern India was in the grip of a severe cold wave that affected us also. We were sick with flu like symptoms when we returned to Raipur. As a result we had to cancel our visit to Pune where we were invited to participate in the convention of World Chitpavan Brahmans. I received the information later that almost 100,000 delegates attended the convention. We have invited the Chitpavan Brahmans to join the WBO.

The Gujarat Unit of WBO also had initially planned to hold a meeting of WBO in Ahmedabad. But Shri Shashikant Tiwari, WBO Vice President and leader of the Gujarat unit, informed us that due to the intensive participation of many of the Brahman leaders in the election campaign they would like to cancel the WBO meeting in December, the peak of election period.

Dr. Prakash Narayan Shukla, President, Chhattisgarh Brahman Sabha and a Vice President of WBO, organized a meeting of leaders of different Brahman organizations of Chhattisgarh on 23rd December. About 40 leaders came to attend the meeting and pledged their support for WBO. They also promised to bring as many delegates as possible to the Jaipur World Brahman Convention next December.

Overall, this was a very successful trip, especially for the expansion and strengthening of WBO in India and Brahman unity.

With best regards,

Shyam Narayan Shukla, Ph.D., P.E., Fellow ASCE
Patron and Past President, WBO

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Please complete the Membership/Update form on page 11 to ensure that you continue receiving all mailings from BSNA, including Brahma Bharati. You may update via E-mail with CC to Dr. Surendra Pandey (BB Editor) and Mr. Anupam Choubey (Treasurer) at: ajaykp@yahoo.com, pandeyns@yahoo.com, anupamkchoubey@yahoo.com

An Appeal from the Convention Organizing Committee and the Editor of Brahma Vani

After twelve successful, exciting and great volumes of the Convention souvenir magazine *Brahma Vani*, we are embarking on the 13th edition commemorating the 14th Annual Convention to be held on **July 4-6, 2008 at Sacramento, California**. Our goal is to publish yet another volume that we all can be proud of, and keep it forever for our children to read and cherish. To accomplish this, we need your help in the following areas:

Youth Editorial Board – We need youth volunteers to serve on the youth editorial board, and to solicit articles from the youth group. We publish articles from youth on a variety of topics including their understanding of *Sanatan Dharma*, Hindu scriptures, memorable experience while traveling to India, their accomplishments, etc.

Editorial Board – We need adults who will be willing to devote time for reviewing the articles submitted for publication in BV, and also to solicit articles from members and others relevant to BSNA members. If you can assist with the editorial activity, please let us know.

Articles – Please submit articles on the convention theme or topics of interest listed on the convention flyer, or on any relevant topic on Sanatan Dharma, Vedic values, Hindu scriptures and articles of historical significance to BSNA members. Submit the articles early so that the editorial board has enough time to review them. Again, we would like to see articles from our youth. Please plan ahead for the articles. It is very difficult to accommodate the last minute rush. The first preference is given to the theme-related articles. If space permits, we would include other articles. Please also submit articles related to reflection, first person types of pieces that make up popular reading, especially from our youth, which could include experiences at our conventions, visit to India, meeting a unique Brahman, or their marriage, etc. Please see the guidelines for submitting articles under a separate heading.

Fund Raising is an important component of BV. Please plan ahead for getting greetings and advertisements. If we make a commitment to sponsor at least a quarter page, we would reach the milestone. You can become a sponsor for the youth section by donating as little as \$50. Congratulatory messages with the photographs of the youth on their graduation and other accomplishments have been quite popular. Please note that the chapters are reimbursed 20% of the advertisement revenue coming from their chapters to support their chapter activities.

The deadline for articles and ads in Brahma Vani is May 16, 2008.

For further information and contribution, please contact **Dr. Surendra Nath Pandey, Chief Editor (Tel: 229-883-1687, E-mail: pandeysn@yahoo.com)**, or any member of the convention organizing committee.

Advertisements and Convention Sponsorships

Brahman Samaj of North America is a non-profit organization, approved under the IRS section 503 (c), as a Social, Cultural and Religious organization. The organization has about 600 members and has been holding its annual conventions during the month of July every year, except in 2007 when the convention was held in May with World Brahman Organization. BSNA is an affiliate organization of WBO, hence, as in the past, several foreign delegates are expected to attend BSNA's annual convention in 2008.

Brahma Vani is published as the souvenir magazine for the BSNA annual convention. The publication costs and part of the convention costs are supported by the advertisements and generous donations from individuals and businesses.

The advertisement rates and/or suggested donations for this year are:

Full page - color	\$ 1,000+*
Full page - black/white	\$ 500.
Half page black/white	\$ 300
Quarter page black/white	\$ 200.

*The color pages start at \$1,000 per page depending on the location.

Each advertiser will receive a copy of the publication along with a receipt and a letter of acknowledgment.

CONVENTION SPONSORSHIP RATES

SILVER SPONSOR \$1,500

- A full-page COLOUR advertisement in Brahma Vani.
- Worldwide distribution of Brahma Vani to over 1,000 readers.
- Identification as a Sponsor in media release.
- Opportunity to place gift items in the delegates' gift pack.

GOLD SPONSOR \$2,500

- All of the Silver Sponsor benefits plus:
- Free attendance at the Convention for a family of up to five members.
- Free membership for one year.
- Identification as a Sponsor in media releases and the Opening Ceremonies.

PLATINUM SPONSOR \$3,500

- All of the Gold sponsor benefits plus:
- A full-page four-color advertisement: choice of outside back cover/inside front or back/ centerfold/ or another spot, subject to availability.
- Identification as a Sponsor in media releases and the Opening Ceremony, Distinguished Speech, Dinner.
- BSNA web site hot linked to your site for one year.
- Sign as the Presenting Organization, at the Registration Desk.
- Prominent display of banner, if provided by the sponsor, at the Convention.

EVENT SPONSORSHIPS

Members may sponsor an event at the convention by making donations to defray the cost of the event. Please contact the Convention Director or any member of the Convention Organizing Committee.

*Note: **For publication in Brahma Vani, please forward electronically logo or artwork in Word Format by May 16, 2008. Late submissions will not be accepted.***

Full page size: 7.5" (width) x 10" (height);

Half page size: 7.5" (width) x 4.5" (height)

*Quarter page size: 3.375" (width) x 4.5" (height)
(All finished size)*

GUIDELINES FOR ORGANIZING A SESSION

Proposals are accepted, depending on available time, from members for organizing session on topics of interest to BSNA members. Generally, a session is one-hour long with three to four presenters. The time for each speaker should be distributed accordingly, leaving a few minutes for question & answer. **If you are interested in organizing a session**, please contact the Program Committee Chair, the Convention Director, or BSNA President for further information on scheduling a session **as early as possible but no later than**

April 30, 2008

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS AND ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION IN BRAHMA VANI

- The **abstracts** of paper presentations must be no more than one page.
- Use standard fonts (Times New Roman, Century School Book or Arial), size 12.
- For quotations in Sanskrit, Hindi or other languages, please use most commonly used Devanagari fonts or send your font definition. If in doubt, please discuss with the Editor via e-mail or phone.
- Place the title in capital letters on top.
- Author's full name, city, state and E-mail address. (Optional –phone number)
- A **brief** bio and photo will be published if supplied.
- All of the above should fit in one standard page.
- Full **articles** must not exceed four pages including bio and photo.
- Photographs: Submit electronically. Non-returnable paper prints will be accepted.
- Please review your submissions very carefully for any spelling or content errors.
- Any quotations, citations must include full reference, including URL if extracted from a web site.

**Please submit your articles, abstracts and
photographs electronically to:**

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Address: 2303 West Alberson Dr.
Albany, GA 31721-2043 U.S.A.

If interested in participating in the convention **cultural program**, please contact:
Mrs. Anjana Bhargava, Cultural Program Director,
916-939-9233, bharfam4@sbcglobal.net

BSNA WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Life Member: Dr. S. Yegnasubramanian, Skillman, NJ

Annual Members:

Mr. Ashok & Mrs. Meena Sharma, Woodland, CA
Mr. Davinder and Mrs. Raj Rani Bhradwaj, Yuba City, CA
Mr. Aseem and Mrs. Arti Sharma, Sacramento, CA
Mr. Balraj Joshi, Yuba City, CA

2008 DATES TO REMEMBER 2008 Vikram Samvat 2064-65 Saka 1929-30	
Makar Sankranti	January 14/15
Republic Day -India	January 26
Vasant Panchami	February 11
Maha Shivaratri	March 6
Holi celebration day	March 21
Hindi New Year (Saka 1930)	March 21
Telagu New Year/Ugadi	April 7
Baisakhi/Tamil New Year	April 14
Ramnavami	April 14
Hanuman Jayanti	April 20
Buddha Purnima	May 20
Independence Day -USA	July 4
BSNA Annual Convention	July 4- 6
Guru Purnima	July 18
Teej	August 4
Naag Panchami	August 6
Independence Day -India	August 15
Raksha Bandhan	August 16
Krishna Janmashthami	August 24
Ganesh Chaturthi	September 3
Onam	September 12
Pitr-Paksha bigins	September 16
Pitr-Paksha ends	September 29
Navratri begins	September 30
Vijay Dashami (Dusehra)	October 9
Sharad Purnima/Valmiki Jayanti	October 14
Karwa Chauth	October 18
Dhanteras	October 26
Deepavali	October 28
Vikram New Year (Samvat 2065)	October 29
Bhai Dooj	October 30
<i>Note: Some dates may vary by a day depending on the locations</i>	



BRAHMAN SAMAJ OF NORTH AMERICA
FOURTEENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

Sacramento, California

Courtyard Sacramento Cal Expo Hotel
1782 Tribute Road, Sacramento, CA 95815

July 4 - 6, 2008



Early Registration by March 31, 2008

One person, one night: \$250

Two persons one night: \$375

Each child (staying with adults): \$99

One person two nights: \$350

Two persons two nights: \$450

Children under age 5, free.

Registering after March 31st : Add \$50 for one and \$100 for two persons to the above rates. The rate for children remains at \$99.

Early Bird Registration Incentive: Register and pay registration fee by March 31st and you will be entered to win a prize (drawing to win a DVD player or a TV)

*Rates are listed on per room basis: one night means lodging for Saturday night, two nights include Friday and Saturday nights. Two persons rates are for two adults sharing one room; Child rate: dependent children sharing the room with adults/parents.

- Registration includes parking, hotel accommodation, meals and refreshment for Saturday & Sunday, one registration packet, and admission to all convention programs. Dinner/refreshment included for those guests arriving Friday afternoon and staying Friday night at the Convention hotel.
- Rooms are available for special rate of US\$86/Night (incl. taxes) for three nights before or after the convention if booked at least 30 days in advance through BSNA.
- Only vegetarian food and non-alcoholic beverages are served or allowed at the convention.
- Registration starts Friday afternoon. Regular convention programs start with breakfast on Saturday morning and end with lunch on Sunday.
- The business meetings of the Board of Trustees and Executive Committees are scheduled on Friday late afternoon.
- Cancellation Policy: A cancellation fee of \$100 will be charged if notified in writing before **May 30, 2008; \$150** before **June 15, 2008. No refund if notified on or after June 15, 2008.** Full credit will be given to BSNA life members toward the registration fee for the next BSNA convention if notified before June 15, 2008.

For Additional Information Please Contact (Call or E-mail)

Convention Director: Mr. Pardeep Sharma

Phone: 530-792-7191, E-mail: hums5@msn.com

Mr. Kuldeep Sharma, 510-796-3470 Ksharma67@comcast.net

Mr. Purushottam Sharma, 248-853-4076; psharma@mail.com

Dr. Surendra N. Pandey, 229-883-1687, pandeysn@yahoo.com

Dr. Om Sharma, 908-359-3348 hmosharma@gmail.com

Dr. Umesh Shukla, 908-431-9845; shuklafamily@earthlink.net

Mr. Nitin Purohit, 248-318-0598, climatek@aol.com

Mr. Mahendra Misra, 610-539-6073 mahendramisra@hotmail.com

Mrs. Rita Pandey, 905-680-1952 ritagpandey@hotmail.com

Cultural Programs Chair: Mrs. Anjana Bhargava

916-939-9233, bharfam4@sbcglobal.net

Mr. Manohar L. Ratti, 916-681-7681 mlratti@aol.com

Mr. Bharat Mohla, 916-939-6339 Mohla01@aol.com

Mr. Raga Misra, 909-987-0186 ragamisra@yahoo.com

Mr. Janak Sidhra, 916-607-9287 janak@americantravels.net

Dr. Shyam N. Shukla, 510-770-1218; shuklas@comcast.net

Mrs. Mamta tiwari, 301-774-6365; tiwarip@bah.com

Dr. Tej Pandey, 916-489-5916; tpandey@sbcglobal.net

Dr. Sangam Mishra (India) +91-294-2526570,

mishrasangam@hotmail.com

Please complete the Registration Form (next page) and mail with your payment to:
Mr. MANOHAR RATTI at 8844 LISCARNEY WAY, Sacramento, CA-95828



BRAHMAN SAMAJ OF NORTH AMERICA FOURTEENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

Courtyard Sacramento Cal Expo, Sacramento, CA

July 4 – 6, 2008

(Visit www.BSNA.org for More Information and Updates)

MEMBER'S NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

RELATIONSHIP (H/W/S/D/IN-LAW/F/M etc.)

NAME	Relationship to the member	Age of single children/youth (optional)	Interested in performing in the cultural programs	Interested in helping out at the convention
	Member			
	Spouse			

Please refer to the Convention Announcement (previous page) for the rates, and fill in the fees below as appropriate.

FEE: Adults: [] One [] Two; Lodging nights: [] One [] Two US\$ _____
 Dependents(s) over age 5, # _____ X \$99/Child US\$ _____
 Additional Room(s), # _____ Dates _____ @ \$86/Night US\$ _____

BSNA Membership dues*** US\$ _____
Voluntary donation for the convention. (The convention fee is subsidized; voluntary donations are requested to offset the deficit.) US\$ _____

TOTAL US\$ _____

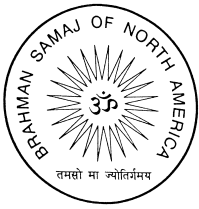
***BSNA Membership Rate in US Dollars: \$35 yearly; \$350 life; \$1000 Benefactor; \$5000 Patron.

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO BSNA, AND MAIL TO:
Mr. MANOHAR RATTI at 8844 LISCARNEY WAY, Sacramento, CA-95828.
 Tel: (916) 681-7681, Email: mlratti@aol.com

COMMENTS _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

*BSNA is a Not-For-Profit organization registered in the State of New York, USA
 WBO is a Not-For-Profit organization registered in the State of California, USA*



BRAHMAN SAMAJ OF NORTH AMERICA
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & INFORMATION UPDATE FORM
 For membership renewal or new membership, please include a check payable to BSNA
 Mail to: The BSNA Treasurer, P.O. Box 716, Belle Mead, NJ 08502 U.S.A.

Name _____	
Last	First
Address _____	
Street address, City, State, Zip Code	Country
Telephone # _____	
Home	Work
FAX	Cell
E-mail: _____	

FAMILY INFORMATION

	First & Middle name	Education Degree/Univ./Year	Professional/ Position	Employer
You				
Your spouse				

CHILDREN INFORMATION

Son/Daughter Single/Married	First & Middle Name	Education Degree/Univ./Yr	Profession Position	Employer	DOB Mo/yr

Enclosed a check in US Dollars payable to BSNA: (please circle one)
 \$5,000 –Patron; \$1,000 –Benefactor; \$350 -Life Member; \$35 –Annual; \$5 –Foreign Student Annual

I understand that the database will be used for the benefit of the members of BSNA & its affiliate organizations. I absolve BSNA or any one connected with this effort from any wrongdoing. I have the authority to sign the waiver. Additionally, I declare that I have respect for the Brahman culture & values; believe in, and have faith in Vedic Hindu philosophy of life or Sanatan Dharma; subscribe to, and willing to contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the BSNA.

Signature(s): _____ Date _____

For additional children, comments and other information, please add a page with your name written at the top.

BSNA is a Not-For-Profit organization registered in the State of New York. Donations to BSNA are tax-deductible in USA.

FROM: BSNA
P.O. Box 716
Belle Mead, NJ 08502
<http://www.bsna.org>

TO:

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**BSNA's 14th Annual Convention
July 4 - 6, 2008**

Courtyard Marriott Cal Expo Hotel, Sacramento

For further details, see inside this issue of Brahma Bharati and BSNA homepage (www.bsna.org).

Contact information: Mr. Pardeep Sharma, Convention Director (530-792-7191), or
Mr. Bharat Mohla, BSNA Vice President (916-933-6339),

Brahma Bharati is a publication of Brahman Samaj of North America (BSNA), a not-for-profit organization registered in the state of New York. It is sent to its members free of charge. It is also posted on the BSNA home page (<http://www.bsna.org>). Members may send articles for publication (with a brief bio and photo) and/or comments about contents in BB to the Editor at: pandeyns@yahoo.com

Other correspondence about BSNA should be sent to Mr. Purushottam Sharma, President
at: psharma@mail.com (phone: 248-853-4076) or mailed to: BSNA, P.O. Box 716, Belle Mead, NJ 08502