

BRAHMA BHARATI

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Editor: Surendra Nath Pandey, Ph.D.



A REPORT ON THE 2007 WORLD BRAHMAN CONVENTION

Shyam Narayan Shukla, Ph.D., P.E.
Past President of BSNA and WBO



The fourth World Brahman Convention (WBC), jointly organized by Brahman Samaj of North America (BSNA) and World Brahman Organization (WBO), was held with a great fanfare and success at the Crowne Plaza Hotel & Conference Center located near Dulles International Airport of Washington, D.C, on May 26 and 27, 2007. Out of more than 450 delegates attending the convention, 85

were from countries outside North America covering every region of the globe from New Zealand to the Americas.

More than 100 delegates, mostly from foreign countries, had arrived at the hotel by May 25. By courtesy of the

Washington DC chapter, dinner for all the delegates was arranged in advance. The Executive Committee of WBO held a special meeting from 4.00 to 6.30 PM on May 25, at which the WBO President Dr. Shyam Narayan Shukla reported of his visits to Brahmins of different countries of the world. He also informed that by now 21 Brahman organizations from all over the world are affiliated with WBO, the latest being a Brahman

organization of Andhra Pradesh led by Dr. P.V. Sesha Sai. Dinner and an entertainment program consisting of songs, poetry and humorous recitations emceed by Mr. Jagar Sharma, WBO Board of Trustees, followed the business meeting. The convention activities of 26th May started at 6.30 AM with sessions on the Yoga led by Mr. Prabhat Tiwari and meditation led by Dr. Manjul Kant Dwivedi. At 7.30 AM melodious Bhajans were sung by a team of local



Acharya Sadhvi Dr. Chaitanya ji

members. The registration started at 7.30 AM and continued until 4.00 PM. The BSNA Council Meeting consisting of the Executive Committee, Board of Trustees, and Chapter Presidents was held from 8.00 to 9.30 AM.



Saumya Vats and Megna Mishra

The convention was formally inaugurated with chanting of Veda-mantras and Ganesha puja by several learned Pundits and Vedic scholars including Dr. P. V. Sessa Sai, Pt. Manohar Chaturvedi, Pt. Kapildev Mishra and Acharya Sadhvi Dr. Chaitanya ji. Dr. Sessa Sai also performed a special unity and peace *puja* for which he had brought waters from India's holy rivers and oceans. Dr. Surendra Pandey, the Secretary General of WBO, emceed the convention. Convention Director Dr. Satish Misra, BSNA President Mr. Purushottam Sharma and WBO President Dr. Shyam Narayan Shukla welcomed all the delegates. Leaders of Brahman organizations from abroad and Indian political leaders read their messages of greetings to the convention delegates.

This was followed by four parallel sessions on (1) *Ayurveda* (chaired by Dr. Shrikant Mishra), (2) *Plights of Kashmiri Pundits* (presented by Mr. Sanjay Kaul), (3) *How to Impart Study of Scriptures to the New Generation* (chaired by Dr. P.V. Sessa Sai with panelists Dr. Ram Chandra Pandey and Dr. Raj Dubey), and (4) *The Art of Prarthana* (Prayers) (led by Ankur Misra). Following the luncheon at which delegates were formally introduced, Acharya Sadhvi Dr. Chaitanya ji of the Arsha Vidyapitha gave a talk on *Interpretation of Vedic Mantras and Preservation of Vedic Culture*

In the afternoon, another WBO business meeting was held at which the WBO EC accepted an invitation from a group of Brahmans from Rajasthan to hold the next World Brahman Convention at Jaipur, India. Subsequently, Dr. Sangam Mishra of Akhil Bharatiya Brahman Mahasabha was elected the new WBO President for a two-year term as per WBO constitution.

Late afternoon, a two-hour cultural program was held under the direction of Mrs. Manisha Tewari. They included songs, drama, and classical and popular dances by artists of different BSNA chapters. After that there were two parallel sessions, one on Health Topics and on Matrimonial Issues. The health topics were on hypertension, diabetes and heart problems conducted by Dr. Shrikant Mishra, Dr. Gopesh Sharma and Dr. Alka Sharma. The day was concluded with a sumptuous dinner, followed by a Kavi-Sammelan, which lasted until 11.30 with Mr. Himanshu Pathak chairing the session. At the same time the youths had their separate entertainment program.

The Sunday (27th May) morning started with the Yoga, Meditation and Bhajans again. In the Bhajan session the singers were Mrs. Pragna Shah, Drs. Naresh and Karuna Sharma. This was followed by breakfast. In a ceremonial session, distinguished Brahmans (listed under Awards and Honors on the next page) of BSNA and other WBO affiliate organizations were honored with plaques and certificates. Dr. Shesha Sai gave special blessings to all officers of BSNA and WBO, and to the special guest Honorable Upendra Chivkula, Deputy Speaker of the NJ state assembly.



A Personality Parade - Leaders of India

The outgoing President Dr. Shyam Narayan Shukla introduced the newly elected WBO President Dr. Sangam Mishra to the audience and announced that the next World Brahman Convention will be held on December 20-21, 2008 at Jaipur. He handed over a roving shield to Dr. Mishra, who will keep it with him until the next WBC. The Brahmans from Rajasthan had brought red dupattas (scarves) to offer to all the delegates as a gesture of kinship and friendship.

At about 10.30 AM the Presidents of WBO and BSNA addressed the audience. Dr. Shukla mentioned that there are so many poor Brahmans who have moved from villages to the cities in search of jobs but are working as coolies at railway stations, as rikshaw pullers on the streets or as public toilet cleaners to make a living. BSNA and WBO should start a fund-raising to help such desperate Brahmans, as do the Parsees and the Jews for their people.

RESOLUTIONS



**Ankur Misra, President and Ruby Tiwari, Secretary
of BSNA Youth Group**

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Earlier Dr. Sangam Mishra had announced that he would contribute Rs.600, 000 (six lakhs) to such a fund.

In the afternoon, two parallel sessions were held, one on the Reservation Policy of India and Its Effect on the Indian Society. Dr. Surendra Pandey led this session with Mr. R.D. Dixit, Dr. Sangam Mishra and Dr. Janeshwar Upadhyay as panelists. The other session was on How to Prevent Conversion of Hindus to Other Religions. This was co-chaired by Dr. Naresh Sharma and Mr. Mahendra Misra.

Later, seven speakers presented talks on a variety of topics, namely, Vastu Shastra (Dr. Manjul Kant Dwivedi), Astrology (Dr. Ram Chandra Pandey), The Vedas (Pt. Manohar Chaturvedi) and Brahman Unity (Mr. Krishan Kumar Sharma, Mrs. Manjula Kaushik, Mr. Uttam Kumar Tiwari and Mr. Mahesh Pareek).

In the concluding session, chaired by Dr. Shyam Narayan Shukla, the chairs of all sessions summarized the talks covered in their sessions for the benefits of all those who could not attend other parallel sessions. Dr. Surendra Nath Pandey, Secretary General of WBO presented several resolutions approved by the EC of BSNA and WBO. The general body present there passed all resolutions unanimously. The resolutions will be widely circulated through various media, and are included in this issue of Brahma Bharati. The resolutions and conventions pictures are also posted on BSNA homepage (www.bsna.org).

The convention came to an end after dinner followed by an informal entertainment program.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Executive Committees of BSNA and WBO, Convention Director Dr. Satish Misra and his entire team who made this convention a success.

The following resolutions were unanimously passed by the delegates representing BSNA and other WBO affiliate organizations present at the World Brahman Convention on May 27, 2007 in Washington DC:

Endowment Fund

The Brahman Samaj of North America (BSNA), and all affiliate organizations of World Brahman Organizations (WBO) will establish an Endowment Fund for supporting educational, social and economic activities for the benefit of Brahmans, and Hindus throughout the world, especially in India.

Kashmiri Hindus

World Brahman Organization is very much concerned about the plights of the Kashmiri Hindus and, therefore, believes that the Government of India should facilitate in obtaining justice for Kashmiri Pundits along with other Hindus of Kashmir. The Government of India should also take appropriate measures for their safe return to their homeland and provide adequate support and security for their re-settlement.

Preserving Family Values and Unity

Brahman families throughout the world are becoming more and more westernized and forgetting our age-old values and customs. WBO promotes family values and emphasizes unity within the extended family. We should work together, help in developing self-esteem and pride in our Hindu heritage, foster friendship and help all needy Brahmans. We should develop efficient ways of communicating our concerns through websites, e-mails or personal contacts. We should also help Brahman families all over the world in their quest for excellence in life, finding appropriate life partners and livelihood through our collective efforts.

Conversion of Hindus

WBO is very concerned about the conversion of Hindus to other religions. WBO will make specific efforts to educate Hindus, and support other organizations that are making efforts to prevent the conversion of Hindus.

Unity of Brahmans

WBO congratulates and appreciates the unity of Brahmans in the recent elections in Uttar Pradesh, India. For the first time, Brahmans have united themselves and voted for the Brahmans and the party. We hope that this kind of unity will continue in the future in political scenario and Brahmans will play a vital role in India.

HONORS & AWARDS

Members of Brahman Samaj of North America (BSNA) and World Brahman Organization (WBO) were honored and recognized at the World Brahman Convention 2007 for their contribution and services to BSNA, WBO and/or the society in various categories. The list includes the award categories and names.

Brahma Shiromani Puraskaar

(For leadership and exceptionally valuable services to Brahman Samaj of North America and World Brahman Organization)

Dr. Surendra Nath Pandey

Brahma Alankaar Puraskaar

(For leadership and very valuable services to BSNA)

Mr. Purushottam Sharma, Dr. Umesh Shukla, Dr. Satish Misra, Mrs. Mamta Tiwari, Dr. Shrikant Mishra.

(For leadership and very valuable services to Brahman community)

Mr. R.D. Dixit, Dr. Sangam Mishra, Acharya Prabhakar Mishra, Mr. Jagprasad P. Pandey, Mr. Dharni Dhar Trivedi, Dr. P.V. Sessa Sai.

Brahma Gaurav Puraskaar

(For valuable contributions to BSNA)

Dr. Parmesh Dwivedi, Dr. Om Sharma (MD), Dr. Lal Ji Mishra, Dr. Gopesh Sharma, Mr. Bharat Mohla, Dr. Tej Pandey, Mrs. Manisha Tewari, Mr. Suresh Tewari, Dr. Om Sharma (NJ).

(For valuable contributions to Brahmans)

Mrs. Kusum Lata Agnihotri, Mr. Sham Rakchhapal Agnihotri, Mr. Ram Chandra Tiwari, Mr. Ram Naresh Tiwari, Mrs. Era Sharma, Mr. Dinesh Raval, Pandit Kapildev Mishra, Shri Suresh Mishra, Shri B.M. Sharma, Shri Manohar Chaturvedi, Shri Krishna Kumar Sharma.

Brahma Shreshtha Puraskaar

(For dedicated services to BSNA)

Mr. Satyendra Chaturvedi, Mr. Kamal Sharma, Mr. Ashok Awasthi, Dr. U.N. Tiwari, Mr. Anil Sharma, Mr. Hari Sharma, Dr. Karuna Sharma, Mr. Anupam Choubey, Mrs. Uma Shukla, Mr. Shri Niwas Sharma, Mrs. Pratima Sharma, Dr. Suman Sharma, Mrs Durga Mishra, Mrs. Rani Sharma Harnal, Mr. Hirdaynath Sharma Harnal, Dr. Kanhaiya Lal Shukla, Mrs. Rita Pandey, Dr. Naresh Sharma, Mr. Pardeep Sharma, Dr. Ajay Pandey.

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(For dedicated services to Brahmans)

Mr. Shailesh Vyas, Shri Subhash Vats, Shri Jagdish Chander Sharma "Kaushik", Mrs. Manjula Kaushik, Pt. Anand Shukla Kalapnat, Pt. Col. Dewinder Djwalapersad, Dr. Prakash Narayan Shukla.

Brahma Deep Puraskaar

(For excellent services to BSNA)

Mrs. Anshu Sharma, Mr. Ashok Sharma, Ms. Sadhna Dubey, Mr. Nalin Mishra.

YOUTH AWARDS

Nava Prabhat Puraskaar

(For services to BSNA)

Mr. Ankur Misra, Mr. Prasun Mishra, Ms. Ruby Tiwari.

Nava Jyoti Puraskaar

(For continuous participation in BSNA cultural activities)

Ms. Kajal Sharma



The Youth Group

AWARDS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE CULTURAL PROGRAM

Pragna Shah, Saumya Vats, Anmol Raj Tewari, Ishani Dei Tewari, Savita C. Misra, Kavita C. Misra, Himanshu Sharma, Juhi Shukla, Bhavna Pathak, Neha Purohit, Hemkant Mishra, Yash Upadhyay, Sameer Sharma, Ananya Mishra, Soumya Mishra, Chandravati Mishra, Kamlesh Tripathi, Rani Mishra, Arushi Shrama, Amisha Sharma, Manju Sharma, Jagar Sharma, Meena Choubey, Deepika Upadhyay, Jyotsna Upadhyay, Rohan Sharma, Angeli Sharma, Kavita Sharma, Giriraj Sharma, Anup Pandey, Rashmi Kumar, Anand Tiwari, Megna Mishra.

For more convention news and photos,
please visit: <http://www.bsna.org>

Message from the President of BSNA

(This is a summary of President Purushottam Sharma's report at the Convention given on May 27, 2007.)

Dear Fellow Brahman Families,
Namaste

I am honored to have assumed the responsibilities of the President of BSNA effective January 2007. On behalf of all BSNA members and myself, I thank Dr. Shyam Narayan Shukla for his dedicated and progressive stewardship of BSNA during the last six years.

BSNA is a local North American Organization. It is BSNA's responsibility to concentrate in doing and promoting its social and cultural activities in North America first. For the International affairs we have World Brahman Organization where BSNA represents North America. With WBO we help the needy people throughout the World against any calamities. We raise our voice and show our concerns when needed for Brahmanic causes. WBO should be our unified voice.

During the past few months, we have taken many steps to continually strengthen BSNA and its organizational structure. I am listing below a few of them:

1. The BOT appointments have been made to fill 12 positions in a manner that 4 members will be replaced/reappointed each year thus maintaining continuity.
2. New recruitment effort has already produced eight new members, including three Life Members. Although this is not much, yet it is a start.
3. The member database is being updated. We need your cooperation and ask that you submit any changes in your address, etc. to Dr. Ajay Pandey, the editor of Brahmakulam, the BSNA directory.
4. All chapters have been asked to conduct election for their officers.
5. Of course your EC has worked very hard to host this World Brahman Convention in Washington, DC area. Without the hard work of Washington DC area Chapter, NJ chapter and other close-by chapters this Convention would not have been possible. I am sure you have enjoyed the Convention so far and have made new friends. Please join me in giving the Organizers a big hand.

Our future plans include the following:

- Increase the membership to BSNA
- Involve Young Adults in BSNA activities and give them leadership responsibilities. Just saying that we are
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doing this for our kids is not enough. We have been saying this for the last 15 years. This does not mean much if we do not let it go -- pass the responsibilities to them. Let's engage them, make them accountable and let them feel BSNA is their own Organization.

- Engage in charity work in our community and for India. BSNA has started

a collective charity work for poor families in India by sponsoring as many Ekal Vidyalays as possible. I would request you all if you are already sponsoring Ekal Vidyalaya please do this through BSNA, and encourage those who wish to support this good cause to please consider doing through BSNA.

Please do not underestimate our youths. They are independently doing a lot of charitable work in the society, which we perhaps are not even aware of. I know personally that several youths are involved in their local temples as President, General Secretary, or members of the Board of Trustees of the Temples. Some youths are helping by adopting a child in India and some are committed for Ekal Vidyalaya (one teacher school). My own son Vikas is the Chairman of the Board of Directors of VHA home health care organization. This is a member agency of the United Way of the Greater Toronto Area, and is a non-profit organization started in 1925 for providing high quality service in Toronto, Canada. All Directors of the Board are volunteers and are influential people in society. Also, one of our Brahman youth is the CEO of United Way in Ontario, Canada.

You may be wondering whom I am calling Youth. In my definition the youths are people who have entered in the Second Phase of their life (i.e. 25 to 50 years of age, Grihastha Ashram).

- If we want to teach the Brahmanic values to the next generation, we have to learn to listen to what they want. We understand and acknowledge that Sanskrit is a very scientific language, but if we want to transfer our knowledge to younger generation then just reading and reciting our Holy books in Sanskrit is not going to do it. This might look impressive to them but does not transfer much substance to them. For this either we have to promote Sanskrit or need to translate our religious books into English and other Indian languages.

- Bhagavat Geeta was translated in Poems (Padya) form in Hindi by Shri Deenanath Dinesh in the year 1933 and is titled as Shri Hari Geeta. More of us could understand this. I would request the Pundits who



BSNA President's report, continued from page 5
are gathered here to please consider translating our holy books in our mother tongue.

- Increase activities in BSNA Chapters. All the Chapters should hold at least four meetings and or other activities each year.

Sacramento chapter conducted several meetings to revive the Chapter in April- May. Under the leadership of the new Chapter President, Mr. Pradeep Sharma, the Sacramento chapter has volunteered to host the next BSNA annual convention there in July 2008. The BSNA EC has accepted the invitation.

I plan to travel in the coming months to Chicago, Houston, Toronto and Miami (south Florida) to revive BSNA chapters or to start a new chapter. We, at BSNA have a strong and dedicated team and a well-established structure. It is time now to make the BSNA a very strong organization for the benefit of our membership and the Brahman communities.

With best regards,
Purushottam Sharma (Psharma@mail.com)
President, BSNA

General Secretary's Report Om Sharma, Ph.D.

I would like to give some account of the activities that BSNA has been doing.

Elections of the new Executive Committee of BSNA were completed in late 2006 in a democratic way according to the BSNA constitution. Complete result was published in Brahma Bharati, posted on the BSNA homepage, and circulated via e-mail. The 3-year term of the new EC started on January 1, 2007. The EC has selected four new Board of Trustees, and Mr. Mahendra Misra of PA was elected as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Most of the Chapters have completed their elections for the Presidents and other officers.

BSNA has been steadily progressing in achieving its objectives for the last 14 years; especially in the past few years, BSNA has been truly striving to bring Brahman families and Brahman organizations around the world together. In 2005 BSNA joined the World Brahman Organization (WBO) under the leadership of then BSNA President Dr. Shyam Narayan Shukla. At that time BSNA was given the honor of hosting the 2007 World Brahman Convention in the US.

BSNA has been active in financially supporting educational and charitable organizations in India. Several BSNA members are supporting different projects in India on individual basis. BSNA has supported the society worldwide in the time of need such as earthquake in India, tsunami in Asia, etc. We are in

the process of establishing endowment funds and scholarships for qualified students in the near future. Recently, BSNA has committed to support 25 Ekal Vidyalayas in rural India.

Treasurer's Report

A financial report, handed out during the convention is a summary statement that includes the overall financial health of BSNA and was submitted to the IRS with 2006 taxes filing. BSNA's net asset at the end of the year was \$98,403 up from \$90,179 at the start of the year. Although BSNA does not have a lot of assets, we are financially sound since we spend every penny very wisely. The convention expenses are subsidized to make it affordable to the members. About 45-50% of the expenses are supported by your generous donations and advertisements in the BV, etc. The net asset listed above also includes the professionally managed investment portfolio which has an year-end value of \$73,548 up from \$64,475 at the start of the year.

A thank you note from the Convention Director



On behalf of the convention co-directors, committees, BSNA, WBC and my family, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude and thanks to all delegates who attended the World Brahman Convention 2007 in Washington, D. C. Metro area. I want to express my special thanks to the

youth and non-US delegates who really energized the atmosphere, making it the largest gathering ever of youth and non-US delegates of any Brahman convention sponsored by BSNA and WBO. Thank you all!

The event was widely covered in various media including India Abroad, India Tribune, India Globe, India West, TV Asia and several non-US media. The picture web-site www.misra.phanfare.com was a real hit. I keep getting weekly and cumulative reports of number of visitors and I am really happy that so many of you have actually visited this website. Please take time out to see the work of our youths, delegates and excellent cultural performance.

The World Brahman Organization has elected a new president, Dr. Sangam Mishra of Rajasthan. The next World Brahman Convention will be held in Dec. 2008 or Jan. 2009 in Jaipur, India. Let's plan on attending and keeping our commitment strong, visible and vibrant.

May Bhagvan Vishnu bless us all now and forever!

Satish C. Misra, Ph. D.

NEW TREASURER OF BSNA



The BSNA EC has appointed Mr. Anupam Kumar Choubey to fill the vacant position of BSNA Treasurer.

Mr. Choubey was born in Jabalpur, M.P, India. His father Late Shri Jagannath Prasad Choubey was a lawyer and mother Mrs. Shanti Choubey was a lecturer in Home Science College, Jabalpur. He comes from a large family of distinguished educator, doctors, lawyers, soldiers

and freedom fighter.

Mr. Choubey graduated with a B.Sc. in Biological Sciences and a M.Sc. in Economics from the University of Jabalpur. After working as an accountant for a few years in Postal Services in Bhopal, India, Mr. Choubey joined the Indian Armed Forces. He served the army in various ranks. After several years of distinguished service, he retired in 1987 as a Captain in Indian Army.

He came to the United States of America in 1987. After working for 3 years in retail industry, he completed a certification course in computer science from Devry School, NJ, and joined Brandon System Corporation as a consultant. In 1997, he joined his current employer, IBM Global Business Services.

Mr. Choubey is married to his beautiful wife Meena for the last 17 years. Mrs. Choubey has a B.Com. degree from Calcutta University and is employed as an Office Manager with an Ob/Gyn Group, Piscataway, NJ. They have two beautiful children, 16-year old son Ankit, a tenth grader and 11-year old daughter Meghana, a fifth grader. Ankit and Meghana are regular participants in BSNA activities.

A life member of BSNA, Mr. Choubey has been a very active member of the BSNA NJ Chapter for the past six years. He was elected the General Secretary of NJ Chapter in January 2007. As an individual who is very proud of his heritage, he is excited to promote the Indian culture and preserve its rich traditions among future generations. Mr. Choubey was appointed the Treasurer of BSNA effective June 1, 2007. He could be reached at:

732-398-1039 or E-mail: anupamkchoubey@yahoo.com

Congratulations To Dr. Pandey

Mahendra P. Misra

Chairman, BSNA Board of Trustees

Congratulations to Dr. Surendra Nath Pandey for receiving Brahma Shiromani Puraskaar, the highest award given by BSNA and WBO. Dr. Pandey was honored at the World Brahman Convention 2007 in Washington DC for his "leadership and exceptionally valuable services to Brahman Samaj of North America and World Brahman Organization."



Dr. Shyam Shukla, WBO President, Dr. Pandey and Mr. Purushottam Sharma, BSNA President

Albany State University has awarded him the title of Dean & Professor Emeritus upon his retirement from the University as the Dean of Arts & Sciences and Professor of Physics after a long and distinguished career. During his tenure he served on several committees and leadership positions in his profession at the state and national level. He is a past President of Georgia Academy of Science, and was inducted as the Fellow of the Academy in 2001. He is also involved in local civic activities and serves on several civic boards and committees. He has also served as the President of Cultural Association of India of southwest Georgia.

He has been a very active member of BSNA from its beginning. He was the first elected General Secretary of BSNA, a member of the Constitution Committee that wrote the first constitution, and chair of the Constitution Review Committee in 2005, Chair of Nominations and Election Committee (NEC) in 2003 and 2006. He has been the Editor of Brahma Bharati since 2000 and Chief Editor of Brahma Vani since 2006. He has also been the Secretary General of World Brahman Organization (WBO) and editor of its newsletter Vishva Vani.

The World Brahman Convention of 2007 has been a grand event that brought Brahmans from all over the world under one roof for three days to celebrate the values that Brahmans share. Also, the participants used this opportunity to share their concerns, and exchange ideas for future plan of action to strengthen and enhance Brahman families. The event was a grand success in achieving those objectives.



The convention helps in energizing all of us, making us think of things that we may have taken for granted. The real success, however, will be measured by what we do afterwards –did we forget what we discussed and planned, or we continue with the same vigor to ensure that the plan of action developed at the convention is indeed implemented.

There was a sense of unity and kinship among all of us present there. We must admonish ourselves and be vigilant against the detractors of Brahman unity who will leave nothing unturned to destroy the Brahman unity for the sake of their self-glorification and satisfying ones ego.

We have tried to share all kinds of news about our members through this publication –this helps us in maintaining a connection with other members and chapters. I am asking all of you to please send me news, comments and pictures for publication. To keep the cost low, we publish Brahma Bharati in black & white. However, a color version is posted on the BSNA homepage (www.bsna.org). The latest edition is linked from the main page, while the past editions are under the BB Archives. Please take full advantage of these member services and become a contributor to enhance the values of these publications.

Surendra Nath Pandey

Sacramento Chapter
Members are invited to a chapter meeting and a fun-filled day of picnic at Beals Point on Folsom Lake Saturday, August 11, 2007 starting at 11:00 a.m.
Contact: Mr. Pradeep Sharma (530-792-7191)
Mr. Bharat Mohla (916-933-6339)

LOS ANGELES CHAPTER

LA chapter of BSNA held its meeting on 24 June 2007 at the Woodlands Restaurant in Artesia, CA. Since this restaurant is centrally located, it was decided to make this a regular meeting place. The restaurant has agreed to let us use the conference room without any fees. Several community dignitaries attended this meeting including Yogi Ramesh Pandey (www.universal yoga.org), Mr. Ajoy Dube (adube1234@yahoo.com), past president of LA BSNA chapter and a real estate expert, and Mr. Jay Trivedi owner of a financial service company Jay Tee (willseeyouat@yahoo.com).

We started Ekal Vidyalaya campaign with Raga Misra donating one school (\$365), and others to follow soon. LA BSNA members have also been contributing to CARE organization (www.CARE.org), which accepts frequent flyers miles, toys, gifts etc.

Invited guest Dr. P. V. Sesha Sai, who is founder of “Chief Saints School for Scientific analysis on Indian traditional Systems” (www.ashwamedhayaagam.org) blessed everyone with the Holy Water, which he had collected from all the Indian rivers, three seas, and Mansarovar. He gave everyone a Rudraksha bead, Mansarovar sand, a fortune coin, and many other items.

The group engaged in a very lively discussion on variety of topics ranging from Mahabharata to the present day. One cannot explain why India’s general conditions remain miserable in spite of so many holy men performing all kinds of ceremonies for centuries for the welfare of her people and the land. Two Indian community newspapers - India West and India Post- have informed us that the faith in the Indian spiritual values has started to sink with so many Indian Gurus visiting USA promoting themselves only.

The group thanked Jay Trivedi who very graciously paid for all the food expenses.

Congratulations to Dr Shrikant Mishra, past BOT chair of BSNA and a current member, who has been blessed with a grand son named Taj Mishra.

Submitted by Raga Misra (Ragamisra@aol.com)

MICHIGAN CHAPTER

The chapter meeting was held June 16, 2007 at the residence of Kamal and Krishna Sharma. Twelve families attended the meeting, which started with prayer followed by introductions.

...Continued

Michigan Chapter, continued from page 8

Mr. Purushottam Sharma gave a brief report on the World Brahman Convention that was held in Washington DC.

Next, members discussed on ways to involve youth in organizing events for BSNA –summer picnic may be one such event. One of the main topics in the discussion was Hinduism. Mr Sanjay Rishi, our new member, suggested that we should pick topics to discuss at the next meeting. This way, people are informed and involved in our religion.

Mr. Ajay Pandey discussed the new membership drive. Everyone extended warm welcome to the following new members: Mr. Sunil and Mrs. Vijay Joshi,
Mr. Mohinder and Mrs. Shama Kenkre.
Mr. Sanjay and Mrs. Neha Rishi

Members were asked to mark their calendar for the annual summer BSNA picnic that will be held at Stoney Creek Park on August 26 at 12:00 P.M.

Submitted by
Kamal Dev Sharma (kdev.sharma@gmail.com)

MINNESOTA CHAPTER

Mr. Satyendra Chaturvedi of Minneapolis, MN has been selected as the president of the Minnesota Chapter of BSNA. Mr. Cahturvedi's contact information:
Phone: (763) 566-3103, E-mail: Essenco@yahoo.com

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

The Chapter meeting was held on March 24, 2007 at the residence of Dr. Umesh and Prabha Shukla mainly to discuss the upcoming WBC-2007 convention in Washington, DC. About 20 families from New Jersey, New York and PA participated in the meeting.

The program started with prayers by Dr. Naresh Sharma and the Chapter President Dr. Hari Sharma. Following introductions, BSNA members welcomed several guests and potential members. In addition to the regular BSNA members Shalini and Ajay Sharma from New York, Navneet and Vinod from NJ, and Sonia, Dinesh and Aryan Gaur, from NJ also attended the meeting. Anand and Arundhati Kulkarni family from NJ became the new Life Member of BSNA. Congratulations to them and best wishes for a happy and productive journey with BSNA family.

Drs. Umesh Shukla and Om Sharma provided the detailed information about the WBC-2007 and encouraged members to register early. The members were also requested to give and pledge generous donations for the convention. This resulted in several on-the-spot registrations as well as donations and

pledges worth \$2,350. Mr. Hans Sharma, PA Chapter President suggested that 10% of all collections for convention should be earmarked for charitable contribution, scholarship or any suggested worthy cause. Dr Naresh Sharma said he is also looking in to starting a sponsorship program for talented under privileged students by establishing a trust fund by soliciting donation.

The next NJ Chapter meeting on April 21, 2007 will be devoted mainly to obtain registrations for the convention, and finalize participation in the cultural program at the convention. Mr. Jagar Sharma, a BSNA BOT member presented a well-deserved meritorious service contribution award to Kamal Jiwan Sharma in recognition of his devoted services to BSNA. Multiple talented people presented an entertaining program followed by a sumptuous dinner and networking.

Submitted by
Anupam Kumar Choubey
Secretary, BSNA NJ Chapter

Condolence

We are saddened to announce the passing away of the father of Mr. Shri Niwas Sharma of NJ, former BSNA Treasurer. Mr. Sharma is visiting India to perform the last rites. We pray to Lord Vishnu to grant eternal peace to the departed soul and courage to the family members to bear the loss of their elder.

SACRAMENTO CHAPTER

Sacramento Chapter of BSNA held a series of three meetings in less than two months after a very long inactivity due to many divisive factors. The first meeting was held on 3rd March at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Bharat Mohla, Vice President of BSNA. In addition to many local Brahman families, there were also a few out-of-town guests who came for the sole purpose of attending the meeting and show of support and unity. They were: from Fremont, California, Dr. Shyam Narayan Shukla, President of World Brahman Organization (WBO) and his wife Mrs. Nirmala Shukla, and from Belle Mead, New Jersey, Dr. Umesh Shukla, Executive Vice President of BSNA. The meeting concluded with a very positive note and future plan of action.

The second meeting was held on 31st March at the residence of a new BSNA member, Mr. & Mrs. Ravi Sanwal of Eldorado Hills. The meeting was well attended with more than 20 families from the area and a few outside guests, including Dr. Shyam Narayan and Mrs. Nirmala Shukla. After puja and prayers, a formal session was held to elect the chapter officers. They elected the following officers unanimously:

Sacramento Chapter, continued from page 9

President - Mr. Pradeep Sharma,
Secretary - Mr. Vijay Bhargava,
Treasurer – Mr. Manohar Rati, and
Board of Directors -Mrs. Prem Sidhra, Mrs. Manita
Sanwal, Mrs. Anita Vats and Mr. Baldev Sharma

The Chapter held its third meeting on 15th April at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Ashwani Vats. All members present enthusiastically decided to invite BSNA to hold its 2008 Annual Convention at Sacramento. The BSNA EC has agreed to hold its annual convention during the weekend of July 4-6, 2008 in Sacramento, California.

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA CHAPTER

April Meeting

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter held its meeting on 22nd April, 2007 at the residence of Mr. Devender and Dr. Alka Sharma of Alameda. About 25 people attended the meeting. I performed pooja and gave a talk on the Gita, which was designed mainly for youths.

Chapter President Mr. Kuldeep Sharma talked about the coming WBC and asked people to make donations to BSNA for WBC-2007. Mr. Devender Sharma gave a check for \$500. We made a new member Mr. & Mrs. Tapendra and Maitreyi Gangopadhyay of Alameda, CA.

We planned to hold five monthly meetings of BSNA Bay Area Chapter –following are the hosts for the meeting for the dates listed:

May 20: Jeevan & Usha Zutshi of Fremont,
June 30: Praveen & Julia Sharma of Los Altos Hills
July: Dharam and Vijay Salwan of Fremont
August: Rajinder and Sita Sharma of Fremont
September: Naresh & Neeru Sharma of Fremont

Mr. Praveen Sharma, (brother of Mr. Devender Sharma and Mr. Chakradhar Sharma, and Mr. Mahendra Misra's brother-in-law) has made a pledge to make a donation to BSNA. Dr. Salwan has already pledged to donate \$500, which he said he would send to me soon.

June Meeting

The BSNA Bay Area Chapter held its June meeting at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Praveen and Julia Sharma of Los Altos Hills, CA on Saturday, June 30, 2007. The program consisted of get together, Shri Ganesh and Navagraha Puja, a talk on the Gita, and lunch.

About 40 people attended the meeting. Dr. Shyam N. Shukla presided as the priest to perform the puja. He also gave a talk on Chapter 6, "Dhyanayoga" of the Bhagavadgita while quoting also from "Patanjala Yogasutra". He showed how to perform meditation, which not only connects us to the Almighty but also reduces day-to-day stress. There were about 10 children

who attentively watched the Puja and listened to the talk on Meditation.

Mr. Kuldeep Sharma, the Chapter President, announced that Dr. & Mrs. Salwan of Fremont would host the meeting next month. He also announced that next annual convention of BSNA will be held at Sacramento, CA in the 4th of July weekend in 2008. Dr. Shukla mentioned that the new President of World Brahman Organization is Dr. Sangam Mishra of Udaipur, India and that the next WBO convention will be held Jaipur in the last week of December 2008.

Submitted by
Shyam N. Shukla (shuklas@comcast.net)

BSNA WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Life Members:

Mr. Anand & Mrs. Arundhati Kulkarni (NJ)
Mr. Ravi & Mrs. Manita Sanwal (CA)
Mr. Ajay & Mrs. Shalini Sharma (NY)

Annual Members:

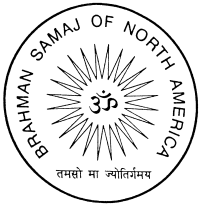
Mr. Satish & Mrs. Veena Agnihotri (NJ)
Mr. Ajay & Mrs. Sujata Awasthi (VA)
Mr. Krishan K. Chhibbar (VA)
Mr. Tapendra & Mrs. Maitreyi Gangopadhyay (CA)
Mr. Sunil and Mrs. Vijay Joshi (MI)
Mr. Mohinder and Mrs. Shama Kenkre. (MI)
Mr. Hemkant Mishra (MD)
Mr. Lalji & Mrs. Chandrawati Mishra (MD)
Mr. Ravindra Kumar & Mrs. Durga Mishra (MD)
Mr. Sanjay and Mrs. Neha Rishi (MI)
Mr. Dushyanta & Mrs. Renuka Sharma (IL)
Mr. Kundan Kant & Mrs. Poonam Upadhyay (MD)

Student Members:

Mr. Prasun J. Mishra (NJ)
Mr. Pravin Mishra (NJ)

Announcement
BSNA's
14th Annual Convention
Sacramento, California
July 4-6, 2008

Further details will be announced in the next issue of Brahma Bharati and posted on the BSNA homepage (www.bsna.org).
For further information, please contact:
Mr. Bharat Mohla (916-933-6339),
Mr. Pardeep Sharma (530-6846264),



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
 [Canadian: C\$400 –Life Member, C\$40 -Annual member; other categories, multiply by 1.15]

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

Sacramento, California on July 4-6, 2008

Further details in the next issue of Brahma Bharati and BSNA homepage (www.bsna.org).
Contact information: Mr. Bharat Mohla (916-933-6339), Mr. Pardeep Sharma (530-6846264)

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 to the editor at: pandeysn@yahoo.com

Please send **change of address** information to:

Dr. Ajay Pandey, Brahmakulum (Directory) editor at: ajaykp@yahoo.com (phone: 248-656-4144)

Other correspondence about BSNA should be sent to Mr. Purushottam Sharma, BSNA President at: psharma@mail.com (phone: 248-719-0096) or mailed to: BSNA, P.O. Box 716, Belle Mead, NJ 08502