



LOHANA SAMAJ NEWSLETTER



LOHANA CHARITABLE FOUNDATION OF CANADA
P.O. BOX 927, ADELAIDE POST STATION, TORONTO, ONTARIO, M5C 2K3

APRIL 2011

www.mylohana.com EDITOR: Alka Panchmatia

Message from the President

“BE PROUD, BE LOHANA”

Dear Lohana Community:

I am delighted and honoured to be given an opportunity to serve the Lohana Community. We have a very enthusiastic and talented committee, and it is my pleasure to work with such bright, and hard working young adults and youths. I wish to take this opportunity to thank our past committee for making 2010 a successful year. In particular, I wish to thank Lalitbhai for his ongoing support and dedication to LCF.

As we gear up for the activities this year, please save the dates for the events planned so far this year:

- Jalaram Bapa Bhajans-Sunday, April 10, 2011 (see attached details)
- LCF Family Day Bowling Event-Sunday, April 17, 2011 (see attached details)
- LCF Professional/Entrepreneurial Networking Event-TBD
- Youth Camp-July 1-3, 2011 (see attached details)
- Picnic-August 14, 2011
- Navratri Garba-Saturday, Oct 1, 2011
- Diwali Dinner-Sat. October 22, 2011-Including Children's Cultural Items, Graduate Recognition, and Scholarship Award
- Chopra Poojan-Wed. October 26, 2011

We look forward to your support and participation at our community events. Check out the newsletter for further details on upcoming events.

Feedback and support from the community is greatly appreciated and vital to the growth of our samaj. I thank everyone who attended the AGM on February 27, 2011 and participated in the development of our community. Minutes from the AGM have also been provided in the newsletter. I look forward to meeting you all at the community events.

Regards,

Ambrish Thakkar

LCF Committee (2011)

PRESIDENT:

AMBRISH THAKKAR

TREASURER:

LALIT KANABAR

SECRETARY:

HARSH THAKKAR

Management Team:

SANJAY SAUJANI- (VP)
RAKESH KANABAR
MEHUL PANCHMATIA

AUDITOR:

RAKESH MAJITHIA

BOARD MEMBERS:

PRATIK DHRONA
MILA TANNA
DHURU THAKKAR
NAREN PATTANI (Past Pres.)

YOUTH COMMITTEE:

SHEEL RADIA (President)

FUNERAL COMMITTEE:

SURESHBHAI THAKRAR
KANTIBHAI RAJA
VIPINBHAI MITHIA
KAMLESHBHAI THAKRAR

FOGA REPS:

RAMESHBHAI CHOTAI
VIPINBHAI MITHIA

SPECIAL DUTIES:

SAMIR CHANDE (Website)
BIMAL LAKANI
SANKET THAKKAR
ALKA PANCHMATIA
(Newsletter Editor)



Lohana Charitable Foundation of Canada

Invites all members to attend:

Shri Jalaram Bapa's Satsang



Sunday, April 10, 2011

Bhajans: 4:00-6:00pm

Followed by Maha Prasad

Mississauga Ram Mandir

270 Export Blvd

Mississauga, ON

For more information please contact:

Alka Panchmatia

647-293-6440

Mississauga Ram Mandir

905-696-8886

Ten Pins To and Fro Knock Them Down in a Row!



***Please join the LCF and their community members in
a fun filled family day with bowling, food and lots of
fun!***

Sunday, April 17, 2011

4:00-6:00pm

Classic Bowl

3055 Dundas St. West

Mississauga, ON

RSVP by: April 10, 2011

To reserve your spot, kindly call or email Lalitbhai Kanabar (Treasurer) @ kanabar@rogers.com (905-820-3351) with your Visa card details. Please include your Visa #, name on card, and expiry date, along with the # of adults/children/non-bowlers in your party.

PLEASE NOTE LCF DOES NOT ACCEPT ANY OTHER CREDIT CARD EXCEPT VISA

Bowlers: Adults: \$18.00

Children(3-12yrs): \$13.00

Non-Bowlers: \$8.00 Adults

\$5.00 children

Cost includes: 2 hours of bowling, shoe rental, food & drink
(please note that one parent per child must bowl for safety reasons)

All ages and all level of bowlers are encouraged to come and participate in this fun-filled event!

Annual General Meeting 2011

Minutes

LOHANA CHARITABLE FOUNDATION (LCF) OF CANADA

Minutes: For the AGM

Recorded By: Sanket Thakkar

Date: Sunday February 27th, 2011

Time/Location: 4:00 to 5:00 pm at Vishnu Mandir

(1.0) Remembering community members & relatives who passed away since last AGM

- Ani (Hindocha) Devani - Sweden
- Neeta Nathwani - Toronto
- Smitaben Hasmukh Tanna – Atlanta USA
- Bhanumatiben Sodha - Toronto
- Sandra Rach - Toronto
- Chandra Dattani
- Rameshbhai Gokuldas Sodha
- Narendrabhai Madhavjui Chandarana
- Muktaben Purshottam Morzaria
- Muktaben Dullabji Kotecha
- Ashvinbhai Moarjaria - Toronto
- Madhusudan Jiwan - Baroda
- Himatlal Laxmidas Sedani
- Kiranben Bhatt – Dar es Salaam
- Vinodbhai Rajani
- Hemlataben Majithia
- Ujamben Majithia
- Dr. Rameshbhai Karia - Toronto
- Jaykrishnabhai Tulsidas Thakkar
- Surendrabhai Chaganlal Tanna - Nairobi
- Dineshbhai Maganlal Samani - London
- Apna Thakrar - Toronto
- Mansukhbhai Panchmatia - Toronto
- Vallabhdasbhai Dattani – Toronto

Every one Remained Silent for a minute in the memory for everyone who departed in last year.

(2.0) Review of minutes from 2010 AGM

- Unfortunately the minutes for 2010 AGM cannot be recovered due to laptop crash
- Vipin Mithia Suggested to have the minutes posted in the newsletter and If the Board can post the Minutes on our Website.
 - Supported by Kamleshbhai and everyone agreed.

(3.0) Resolution to Amend Constitution about Board of Directors

- Proposal to Amend Constitution about Board of Directors, specifically to enable a 3-member Management Committee on the Board, was presented and discussed
- Vipinbhai suggested not discontinuing the Vice President position and appointing one of the members from the Management Team as a Vice President. Everyone supported the suggestion.
- The resolution to amend the constitution, with the additional amendment proposed by Vipinbhai, was passed unanimously.
- Ambrishbhai nominated Sanjay Saujani as Vice-President and Mila Tanna seconded the nomination (via conf-call)

(4.0) Treasurer's Report

- Rameshbhai Chotai congratulated the President and the Board for working hard for the last year and congratulated for having good profit this year compare to other years
- No one had any questions and report approved by Ramesh Chotai and supported by Raj Tanna

(5.0) Lohana Mahaparishad Report

- Vipinbhai had no updates on the report. The last meeting of Mahaparishad was in Ahmedabad and now the Parishad operates from Ahmedabad not anymore from Mumbai
- Kamleshbhai suggested having Vipinbhai as representative from Canada for next year and everyone supported.

(6.0) President's Report

- Naren Pattani – President thanked all the Jalaram Group for helping for setup and he thanked the Vishnu Mandir for the complimentary accommodation.
- He thanked all the Board member and specially Lalit uncle for being an active member of the board for so many years.

(7.0) Youth Report

- Meesha Tanna suggested increasing awareness about the camp for the coming years so that we can have more campers.
- Laser quest event was really a good turnout and everyone liked it
- For next year board agreed for the camp.

(8.0) Dissolution of 2010 Executive Committee

Raj Tanna voted and supported by Kamleshbhai

(9.0) **Election process for 2011 Executive Committee**

President: Ambrish Thakkar

Management Committee (per Amended Constitution):

- 1) Rakesh Kanabar
- 2) Mehul Panchmatia
- 3) Sanjay Saujani (VP)

Treasurer: Lalit Kanabar

Secretary: Harsh Thakkar

Other Voting Members (total 9) of the Board:

Pratik Dhrona (who will look after E-Mail Communications)
Mila Tanna
Dhru Thakkar

Non-Voting Member of the Board:

Sanket Thakkar (who will look after Auto-Dialer)

Ms. Alka Panchmatia has agreed to serve on the board in her capacity as the LCF Newsletter Editor and of course to help us in other events

And Lastly Bhavesh Thakkar also as a nonvoting member

New Committee approved by Rameshbhai Chotai and Praful Lakhani supported it

(10.0) **Any other business**

No one had any questions and concerns and welcomed the new Committee

(11.0) **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 4 pm and refreshments were served.

THE WAY I SEE IT

(AN EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNT)

*When I think of us I wonder
What we've lost what we've gained
What we've missed what we've attained
About one thing, though, we'll never wonder
That our Funeral Committee steals the thunder*

*So much happens behind the scenes we are not aware
Unseen, unheard but always near
For their personal time, work or commitments, they don't care
The bereaved burden momentarily they are willing to bear*

*Credit to their names they shun but would gladly give their cell phone number
They mind not at what mid-night hour you wake them up from their slumber
Death never takes a holiday and they don't either
Attending to death's aftermath is not less cumbersome either*

*Death could arouse, understandably, a strange uncontrolled emotion
At the scene usually much trauma and commotion
We have men with commitment and devotion
Usually the first to arrive at the scene one cannot help but marvel at their dedication*

*Soon they'd be dealing with dust and ash
Delicate moment, decisions made at times could be rash
Family unable to think clearly, victims of emotional clash
Relieved to see somebody who can their concerns rehash*

*Witnessed recently, not for the first time, one of them arrive at a death scene
With a life gone - people in the room looked sad, lost and forlorn; helpless and unable to take charge
Himself chanting mantras and singing bhajans and making others do the same he took charge
With prayers, tulsi ji and ganga jal for the departed soul, spiritually changed the aura of the scene*

*Dealt with a coroner and called a colleague to meet at a funeral home to negotiate yet another funeral
next day
Five hours passed by before he was done and headed home to be in time for two funerals next day
Very tragic two weeks for the Lohana community and these individuals to have handled four funerals
with dexterity
If it takes a toll, and undoubtedly it does, they don't show its severity, indeed, seem prepared to help in
austerity*

*Elsewhere they'd go less but at funerals they don't spend time less
So much they do and we know so much less
To them it is simply a selfless seva nothing more nothing less
So many hearts they touch more than less*

We can't ask for more-they don't serve less

***Thank you LCF Funeral Committee for working as hard and diligently as you do – Jai Shree Krishna
By: Lalit Kanabar***

My Mother's Gift

By Avni Suchak

It was December 7, 2000, and I was at the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston where the first kidney transplant took place in 1954. I was getting ready in one room for a surgery that would change the course of my life. My mother, Ramila Radia, was in another room, getting ready for a surgery that she had been anticipating for months.

After years of living with an autoimmune disorder that had affected the function of my kidneys, I had reached a stage of kidney failure that required dialysis. Dialysis would mean being hooked up to a machine to clean my blood, the job my kidneys could no longer perform. Dialysis would mean two to three visits to the hospital a week. Imagine the limitations this would have on my life, being newly married, continuing my career and hoping to start a family. There was another option, a kidney transplant.

Transplantation is essentially the moving of an organ or tissue from one body to another in order to replace an organ or tissue that is damaged or not functioning. This results in prolonging and enhancing the quality of someone's life. Organs and tissues can be transplanted from deceased donors as well as from living donors. Kidneys can be transplanted from living donors because our body has two kidneys and if one is damaged or removed the other has the ability to do the work of two.

I was very fortunate that all my family members were willing to donate an organ. It was not something they questioned. It was something they knew they wanted to do. They were very supportive and got tested to see if their kidney could be a match for me.

It turned out that my mother's kidney was the best match to give me my second chance in life. With a team of transplant experts preparing us both for the procedures, we felt very comfortable with what to expect. I was blessed with a successful kidney transplant.

Both my mom and I were able to recover in the following few weeks. Even though I need to take medications to ensure my body can sustain the transplanted kidney, I am able to lead a normal, healthy life. As for my mom, she is also very active and healthy. The donation of a kidney has not affected her health or life in any negative way.

I was very fortunate that I found a donor right away and didn't have to be put on a transplant waiting list. So many people are on wait lists for organ and tissue transplants. So many people have benefited from the kindness of those who have donated their organs and tissues. But so many more could be given a life of health and happiness if more donors would register.

Having just passed the tenth anniversary of my kidney transplant, my wish is for as many people as possible to register their consent for organ and tissue donation and discuss this with their families.

The Lohana community is known for giving; it is indeed part of our heritage. Let's talk about organ and tissue donation at the dinner table. Let's ensure our children and our aging parents are aware of the difference they can make in someone else's life.

To register your consent:

Download the form online at www.giftoflife.on.ca and mail it in or visit your closest Service Ontario health card office.

YOUTH Corner!

Hey Youth,

Ready for another youth event? Make sure to keep your calendar clear for Sunday May 22. More details to come, but check your e-mails and facebook!!!!

Hope to see you all there!

Your Youth Committee

Thanks,
Sheel Radia, President
LCA Youth
lcayouth@gmail.com or
sheelradia@hotmail.com

Youth Camp!!!

Dear Lohana Community,

We are pleased to announce that Lohana Camp is back in action for 2011! Lohana Camp is a 2-night, 3-day weekend, taking place from July 1st - July 3rd, 2011 at Blue Springs Scout Reserve in Acton, Ontario. We've got activities planned for all ages, ranging from sports to cultural activities to arts and crafts as well as great food, great people and tonnes of fun! Whether or not your kids have been to camp before, we're hoping you send this year because this is guaranteed to be a truly memorable weekend!

In addition to campers, we are looking for energetic, responsible youth to attend the camp in a leadership role as camp counselors. This is a great opportunity for youth to volunteer in their community and have a fun and exciting time doing it!

Camper registration forms and camp counselor registration forms can be found at www.mylohana.com and must be submitted NO LATER THAN May 1th 2011.

If anyone is interested in being a adult volunteer or if you have questions/concerns please email lohanacamp@gmail.com

Thank you!

Meesha Tanna & Sahil Radia

.....

The LCF encourages you to submit announcements for publication in the newsletter. We are always proud to hear about the accomplishments within our community! We would love to hear from you if you have a poem, an article, or something of interest that you would like to share with your community. We would like to hear from our youth as well! Young ones feel a great sense of pride when their work is recognized or put on display. So if you think you or someone in your family has done something that deserves publishing, don't hesitate to send it to lohanainfo@gmail.com

Community News

Announcements are based on submissions by the family.

Congratulations!

Rakesh & Heena Kanabar are proud to formally announce the birth of their second daughter, Janvi Kanabar, on December 9, 2010. Janvi is growing up fast with teachings of cute mischief from her older sister, Rainaa. The Kanabar family thanks everyone for their love and blessings.

It is a matter of great pride and honor for our community that our own Ambrishbhai Thakkar has already been shortlisted in the list of “Top 75 Immigrants”, a semifinal milestone, and the voting has now begun (as of February 18) for finally selecting “Top 25 Immigrants”. Ambrishbhai, aside from being a very active member of the LCF Board, also participates in many other charitable and volunteer works in the mainstream Canada. He spends so much time and resources in helping the disadvantaged – including the poor, the orphans, and the handicapped children – that Tim Horton’s gives him the accountability of coordinating and carrying their corporate image during many local, provincial, and national events such as the grand Santa Clause Parade in Toronto. Our community is proud that the mainstream institutions, including the *Toronto Star* and the federal *Canadian Immigrant* organization, have recognized him in such a gallant manner.

The urges everyone to please vote for Ambrishbhai Thakkar so that we can be even more proud when he gets in the list of “Top 25 Immigrants”. The voting takes place from February 18th till April 18th, but the earlier you vote, the better it is. Please click on this link <http://www.canadianimmigrant.ca/top25> to vote. (Please forward this e-mail to your friends and acquaintances).

Ambrish Thakkar & Family wishes to thank everyone...

We wish to take this opportunity to thank the community members who have casted their votes and have supported the nomination of Ambrish Thakkar among the “Top 25 Canadian Immigrants”. If you haven’t already, please do vote before April 18. Thank you once again!!

Mandir Activities

- The **Hindu Mandir** invites you to participate in their monthly **Jalaram Bapa Bhajans** on the **1st Sunday of every month from 5:00pm-7:00pm**. Everyone from the community is invited and welcome. Maha Prasad is served immediately afterwards. For further inquiries please call the **Mandir at 905-678-1166**
- The **Mississauga Ram Mandir** invites you to participate in their monthly **Jalaram Bapa Bhajans** on the **2nd Sunday of every month from 4:00pm-6:00pm**. Everyone is invited and welcome. Maha Prasad is served immediately afterwards. For further inquiries/sponsorship, please contact **Alka Panchmatia at 647-293-6440**
- The **Vishnu Mandir** invites you to participate in their monthly **Jalaram Bapa Bhajans** on the **last Sunday of every month from 5:00pm-7:00pm**. Maha Prasad is served immediately afterwards. For sponsorship and donations, please contact **Prakash Badiani at 905-737-3585** or **Dipak Bhayani at 905-886-4800**

ॐ Condolences ॐ

Jai Shri Krishna

Jayaben Ramniklal Mehta

Jayaben Ramniklal Mehta, mother of Pravin Mehta(Mississauga), in London- U.K. Formerly of Jinja - Uganda. Jayaben passed away on 2nd January at 2.30 P.M. She was 86 years of age. Jayaben is survived by Dilip/Pallavi, Pravin/Bharti, Mahendra/Vibhuti, Bharat/Jayshree and Kunden/Mayur, 9 grand children and 2 great grand children. Pravin and Bharti are grateful for the prayers & condolences received.

Aum Shanti Shanti Shanti

Muktaben Amritlal Devani

Muktaben Amritlal Devani, beloved mother of Rekha Chandrakant Lakhani and Rajen Devani; loving grandmother (Nanima) of Beju and Bimal Lakhani and (Dadima) of Neeloy and Nital Devani; and dearest sister of Sudhaben Ruperalia and Ushaben Raja (Vancouver) -- passed away peacefully at the age of 87 on Thursday, January 20th, 2011 in Mombassa, Kenya.

Aum Shanti Shanti Shanti

Dr. Rameshbhai Karia

Dr. Rameshbhai Karia of Mumbai passed away Jan. 30, 2011 at the age of 86 at the Scarborough Grace Hospital. He is survived by his wife Pushpaben, son Nitin, and daughter Rashmi Kotecha.

Aum Shanti, Shanti, Shanti.

Apna Thakrar

It is with deep regret and great sadness that we would like to inform you of the untimely passing away of Apna Thakrar. Beloved wife and soul mate of Khilan Patel, dear and loving sister of Amish, beloved daughter of Jayshreeben and Pravin Thakrar and dear daughter-in-law of the late Bhupendrabhai Patel, Minaben Patel and Harkantbhai Joshi (Calgary) on Thursday, February 3rd in Mississauga.

Aum Shanti....Shanti...Shanti...

Mansukhbhai Panchmatia

It is with deep regret and great sadness that we would like to inform you of the passing away of Mansukhbhai Dharamshibhai Panchmatia -- beloved husband and soul mate of Sudhaben Panchmatia, dear and loving father of Seema Chandarana, Sujata Loncke & Mehul Panchmatia; beloved grandfather of Neil & Natasha Chandarana, Shyam & Shreena Bhojani and Ronak & Rahil Panchmatia; and father-in-law of Nitinbhai Chandarana, Michael Loncke & Alka Panchmatia - on Friday, February 11th in Mississauga, Ontario.

Aum Shanti....Shanti...Shanti...

Vallabhdasbhai Dayalji Dattani

It is with deep regret and great sadness that we would like to inform you of the passing away of Vallabhdasbhai Dayalji Dattani (101 years old) -- dear father of Tulsidasbhai; beloved father-in-law of Rasikbhai Sedani; beloved and loving grandfather (nana) of Sudarshana Kotecha (Michigan), Kamlesh Sedani, Rajesh Sedani (Edmonton), and Smita Modi (Hyderabad); and dear and loving great-grandfather of Rupesh, Ritesh, Risha, Anish, Keval, Sneha, Sujay, and Shaila -- on Saturday, February 12th in Mississauga, Ontario.

Aum Shanti...Shanti...Shanti

Membership Reminder:

If you have not already paid your 2011 membership fees, please send in your payment. To ensure you continue to receive the Samaj Newsletters, Auto-Dialer messages and other membership advantages, please mail your membership dues - cheques made payable to:

Lohana Charitable Foundation
P. O. Box 927
Adelaide Post Office
Toronto, Ontario, M5C 2K3

Annual Life Members Fee: \$25
Annual Membership (Residents of GTA): \$50
Annual Membership (Outside Greater Toronto Area): \$30
Life Membership: \$300

Address Change/Correction:

Jayantilal & Jyotsna Davda
1450 Kirkrow Crescent, Mississauga, ON L5M 3Y4

Management and Updates of the New Database and Mass Communications

The Lohana Database will be handled in confidence and it will not be posted on the internet in any form. Subject to any specific amendments at an Annual General Meeting, the Board of Directors will adopt the following rules and procedures for the management of the database and communication matters.

Responsibility for Ongoing Database Management

We are pleased to note that the dedicated duo of **Harsh and Sanket Thakkar** have agreed to look after the ongoing maintenance of the database.

Labels for Use in Private Mailings

At times, such as when wishing to send out invitations for private functions, community members may request labels from the LCF for use in private mailings. This service is provided by LCF for the benefit of community at large. A charge of \$ 100 per set of labels, to cover costs, will be levied for this service. Please contact **Ambrish Thakkar** (647-290-2115) or **Harsh Thakkar** (226-448-5922) for this service.

Database Updates Going Forward

The 2010 Directory was issued on Diwali day and was based on the complete reset of the community database during the summer of 2010. Going forward, if anyone wishes to add or change entries in the database, they should download the LCF Database Update Form, in WORD format, from main page of the community web-site www.myLohana.com and submit it in accordance with the instructions on that form. Any changes to database entries should be submitted to the e-mail address "LCFDirectory@gmail.com". If any assistance is required, preferably please e-mail to "LCFDirectory@gmail.com" or contact any member of the prevailing Board of Directors for assistance in doing so.

Distribution List for E-Mail & Auto-Dialer Communications

All the e-mail addresses and the primary "home" phone numbers received through the 2010 Directory initiative will soon be added to the current lists of e-mail addresses and auto-dialer phone numbers that receive Lohana Samaj messages. In order not to intrude on personal preferences, we have chosen not to include any new cell phone numbers in the auto-dialer list. Please send an e-mail to "lohanainfo@gmail.com" if you wish to add, change, or delete an e-mail address or phone number that is used for mass communications. At any time, requisite information for subscribing to, or unsubscribing from, these distribution lists can also be obtained from the community website "www.myLohana.com".

Criteria for Messages by Community E-Mails & Auto-Dialer

In order to respect the privacy and collective interest of the Lohana community members that have provided us their e-mail addresses and phone numbers, the Board of Directors has established a criteria that the community e-mail and auto-dialer will normally be used only if the announcement is to do with an event sponsored by LCF or for the funeral or Bhajans related to the death of a community member, or his/her nearest relative, that has passed away recently. The auto-dialer will be used only for events taking place in the GTA. For all other announcements that may be proposed by any Lohana, the Board will vote on a case-by-case basis to determine if the proposed message should be sent out even if the aforementioned Board criteria is not being met. Such Board deliberations are carried out without any debate and on a confidentiality basis in order to be efficient in this voluntary capacity. Requests to send community messages should be directed to "lohanainfo@gmail.com" with a phone call to **Pratik Dhrona** (647 302 7739) to ensure rapidity. If any request does not meet the above criteria, he will engage the President to seek Board vote on the matter.