



ગુજરાતી સમાજ

Gujarati Samaj of Baltimore

Navneet

Gujarati Community Newsletter

A Non-Profit Tax-Exempt Organization

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 687, OWINGS MILLS, MD 21117

Federal ID 52-1038340 Web Address: www.gsbaltimore.org E-mail: contact@GSBaltimore.org

Manu Shah, Editor

V10-03

March, 2010

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410-526-4574

President's Message

State of Gujarat is completing 50 years on May 1st 2010. The Central Government agreed to the State of Gujarat and under the leadership of Shri Jivraj Mehta, first Government of Gujarat was sworn in on May 1st, 1960, the day which is remembered as the day when a new era of self-confidence began for Gujarat and the Gujaratis.

You are cordially invited to the Celebration of 50th anniversary of Gujarat State, India in Washington Metropolitan area. This celebration is sponsored by Gujarati Samaj of Metropolitan Washington together with Gujarati Samaj of Baltimore and the Saurashtra Patel Cultural Samaj of Washington, D.C. It will be held on May 8, 2010 at Eleanor Roosevelt High School located in Greenbelt, MD from 1 p.m. to midnight.

Gujaratis are known for turning adversities into advantages and "Jya Jya Vase Gujarati, Tya Tya Vase Gujarat" meaning "Wherever in the world Gujaratis live, there exists a Gujarat". With that in mind, multiple associations have decided to join hands to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Gujarat State near the Nation's Capital area.

Our goal is to provide an opportunity to the local Indian-American community to witness the culture and heritage of "Swarnim (Golden) Gujarat". There will be cultural activities and performances throughout the day giving opportunity to the local talents of all ages to perform on stage and display their skills. We are expecting many vendors to participate and display their various articles of arts, handicrafts, costume jewelry, ethnic dresses, and so on. There will also be a grand evening finale for this event. We expect more than 3,000 people to attend this event. We invite our members to represent us in the cultural program and various activities. For details, see elsewhere in the Newsletter.

On April 10, 2010 we will be presenting a **dinner and drama** – "CHITKAAR". Chitkaar is the No. 1 record breaking best original Gujarati play and has been running non-stop for 25 years. Please register online at your earliest convenience.

We sincerely appreciate and thank the generous support from Dharmesh Shah, Nimesh Shah, and Bhavna Patel for enabling us a trip for our seniors to Vraj on April 25, 2010. For details, see elsewhere in the Newsletter.

I take this opportunity to sincerely thank all volunteers and committee members for their support and help.

Payesh Jhaveri
March 2010

Volunteers

Rushi Bhatt
410-581-9693
Mitu Dalwadi
410-517-2812
Suresh Dalwadi
443-629-3324
Nilesh Desai
410-489-6592
Nishith Gandhi
410-997-3917
Raghuvir Patel
443-710-9456
Raj Patel
410-998-9838
B. G. Thakkar
410-465-0955

Youth Committee Coordinator

TBA

Members

TBA

Here is a poem and response to the poem for you to ponder.....

એક અનોખું કાવ્ય

સારી રીત નથી

એવુંય નથી કે વતન માટે મને પ્રિત નથી
હું એય જાણ છું કે અમેરીકા રહેવામા મારું હીત નથી
ઇચ્છા થાય છે અમેરીકાના અનુભવો લાખ તમને
શું લાખુ ? અહીયા સંસ્કાર કે સંસ્કૃતિ સંકલિત નથી.
મને ઘણો થાય છે વતન છોડ્યાનો અફસોસ હવે,
હિમાલય છોડીને સ્નોના ઢગલા મેળવામા કાઇ જીત નથી.
અમેરીકન રેપ સોંગ સાંભળીને કાન ને એઠા કરવાના
અહીયા નરસિંહ મીરા ના પ્રભાતિયા કે ભજન સંગિત નથી.
સુંતાનો ના ઉછેરીકરણ નોય અહીયા હોય છે હિસાબ કિતાબ
અહીયા ભરતીય માબાપ જેવું ઉદારીકરણ ગણિત નથી
બદલાતી કેશનના નખરા અહીયા હોય છે નિત્ય નવા
સ્ત્રીના બાહ્ય સૌદર્ય જેટલું આંતરીક સૌદર્ય ચકચકીત નથી.
પ્રેમ, વિસ્વાસ અને અનુકુલીન આધરીત સંબંધો નથી
ઇન્ડીયન કલ્ચર જેવું લગ્નજીવન અહીયા વ્યવસ્થિત નથી
દુઃખી થવાની ઘણીજ રીતો હશે દુનિયા મા હે પ્રભુ
મનને મારીને જીવ્યાકરવું એ સારી રીત નથી

Jaykant Jani (USA)

NOW READ AN ANSWER TO THIS POEM.....

મગરનાં આંસુ-

જે દેશનો રોટલો ખાવો છે-તેને ગાળો ભાંડવી ઠીક નથી.
વતનને તરછોડી આવ્યા છો જાતે,હવે રોટડાં રડવા ઠીક નથી.
લો કટના બ્લાઉઝ અને ખુલ્લા પેટ ગુજરાતમાં જોયા પછી,
અમેરિકાની સંસ્કૃતિની વાતો કરવી ઠીક નથી.
સરસ્વતી મંદીરોમા, જ્યાં વિદ્યાર્થીનીઓ સેઇક નથી,
ત્યાં રોજ સંસ્કૃતિના બાણગાં ફેંકવા ઠીક નથી.
બોલિવુડના બિભત્સ નૃત્યોને રોજ ટીવી પર જોયા પછી,
મનમાં ગમતી-અમેરિકાની કેશન વાખોડવી ઠીક નથી.
જ્યાં ઘરડાંઘર નીત નવા બંધાતા હોય ત્યાં,
ભારતિય માબાપોની સેવા કરતાં શ્રવણોની વાતો ઠીક નથી.
મહારાજો,બાબાઓ,લાલુઓ, ઠાકરેઓ-અને “ભાઇ”ઓ નો
દેશ છોડી આવ્યા પછી,હવે ઓબામાને ગાળો દેવી ઠીક નથી.
જે માને તમે તરછોડીને આવ્યા છો તે હજુ ત્યાં જ છે.
પાછા પહોંચી જાવ,કોઇ રોકે નહી, મગરના આ આંસુ ઠીક નથી.

-Harnish Jani (USA)

Message from the Executive Committee on Membership Database

Gujarati Samaj was established in 1975 and is proudly serving the Baltimore and the surrounding community for 35 years. We very much appreciate the trust and the support that our members has placed in us for carrying out the association charter and its objectives. Our association has grown strong with the current life membership of over 550 families.

Some of our members have expressed concern to us about receiving unsolicited correspondence from other association(s) and have asked us to investigate if our membership database was used for the solicitation purposes. We consider these types of actions a breach of ethics and a code of conduct unbecoming of our Board Members. We want to assure you that the current Executive Committee has not provided or sold the membership database to any other organizations for any marketing or any other purposes.

We are not in a position to speculate on how other association(s), if any, may have received our membership information at this time. We do want to inform you that we have given due notice to some of the past members of the Board of Trustees of Gujarati Samaj of Baltimore advising them not to disclose or misuse membership database.

We are committed to protect the privacy of our members and will take all legal actions, if necessary, to protect the interests of the Gujarati Samaj of Baltimore and all of its members.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact any of the Executive Committee members or send us an e-mail to contact@gsbaltimore.org.

Past Events

Management and Team Building Seminar



The Leadership Training on March 6, 2010 was yet another successful event. We got an opportunity to get to know each other, to learn and to share our views on different issues. Dr. Sushil Jain presented a different angle to volunteer leadership that will definitely help manage and build our organization better. Furthermore, we learnt the Do's and Don'ts of running an effective organization. Overall, it was a very healthy interactive session.

I would like to thank Sailesh (Sly) Patel for organizing such a wonderful event. My special thanks to Dr. Sushil Jain to provide a simple yet rich in content presentation and training session. And, thank you for giving us some valuable tips for our organizations. I look forward to seeing more of these training sessions in the future which will help me grow personally and build my organization stronger thus leading to a better future for our community.

Bhupesh Mehta

I very much enjoyed Dr Sushil Jain's presentation and came away with concrete ideas on what I can implement in my personal life and bring together all volunteers to effectively utilize their strengths. I found presentation on the leadership/management techniques used in Hindi movie "LAGAAN" very stimulating.

Rushi Bhatt

Editor's Note:

We would like to acknowledge the value of training provided by Dr. Sushil Jain and his willingness to share with us his management skills honed during his 20 years of service with the Navy and insights gained while serving with many non-profit organizations including Jain Society of Metropolitan Washington, JAINA, United Hindu Jain Temples of Metropolitan Washington, Interfaith Conference and networking at the US Capitol and serving as an attending physician to many members of the US Senate, House of Representatives and the Whitehouse.

Gujarati Samaj of Baltimore Proudly Presents - April 10, 2010

Dinner & Drama

(Dinner Menu: Paratha, Malai Kofta, Daal Tadka, Panjabi Samosa, Malai Sandwich, Jeera Rice, Salad, and Raitu)

Dinner (Pre-paid tickets only): 6:30 to 8:00 PM; Drama: 8:30 PM

Place: New Town High School, Owings Mills, MD



Tickets: \$20, \$30, & \$50. Book your tickets online at WWW.GSBaltimore.org

Get \$5 early discount on \$30 and \$50 tickets if purchased before April 5, 2010.

Mail Payment to: Gujarati Samaj of Baltimore, P.O. Box 687, Owings Mills, MD 21117

To register, please call any committee member or visit our website.

Sponsor this event for as low as \$500. Each sponsor will get 4, first row tickets.

Contact Atul Patel @ 410-833-2251 or Dipak Desai @ 410-356-5660

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TUE-SAT: 11:00 AM TO 7:00 PM
SUNDAY: 11:00 AM TO 5:00 PM

MONDAY CLOSED

FEBRUARY 22 – NOVEMBER 14
TUE-SAT: 11:00 AM TO 8:00 PM
SUNDAY: 11:00 AM TO 5:00 PM

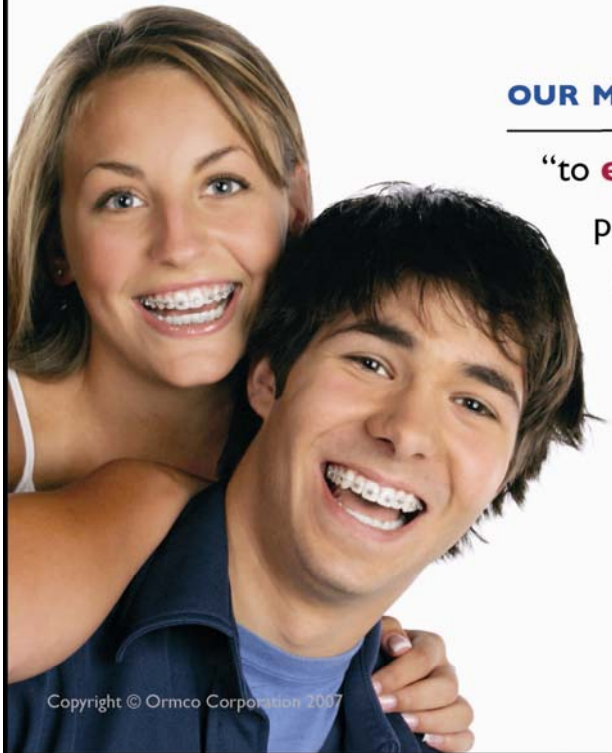
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phone: 301.776.9500
email: info@MapleLawnOrthodontics.com
web: www.MapleLawnOrthodontics.com



ABOUT DR. KAMLESH PATEL

Dr. Patel received his Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) degree in 1986 from the University of Pennsylvania, School of Dental Medicine, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He completed a one year Comprehensive General Practice Residency at the V.A. Medical Center (1987-1988) Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Patel, then practiced General & Cosmetic Dentistry for 4 years treating all phases of General Dentistry. Dr. Patel, formerly, served as a Clinical Instructor, Department of Oral Medicine, Temple University, School of Dentistry, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Dr. Patel, completed his Specialty training in Orthodontics & Dentofacial Orthopedics in 1994 at the Howard University, College of Dentistry, Washington, D.C. **Dr. Patel is a Diplomate of the American Board of Orthodontics.**

Dr. Patel has been published in the “American Journal of Orthodontics & Dentofacial Orthopedics” and the “Journal of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery”.

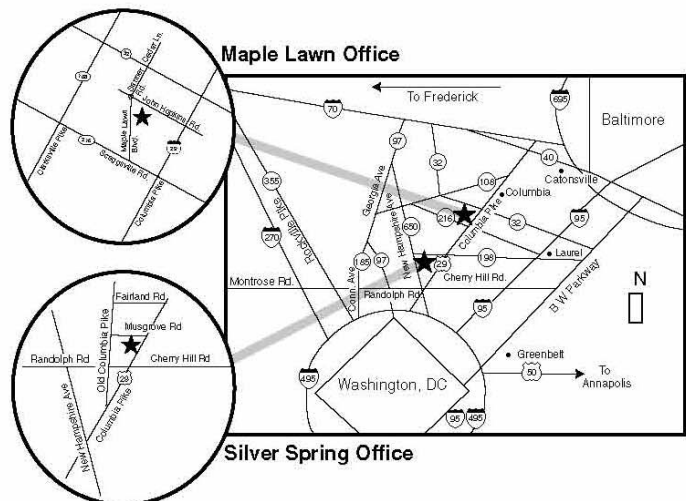
Dr. Patel is a member of the American Association of Orthodontists, the Maryland State Society of Orthodontists, the American Dental Association and the Maryland State Dental Association.

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www.PatelOrthodontics.com

A Day Trip To The Vraj Temple

MEMBERS ONLY EVENT

Sunday, April 25, 2010

Venue: Vraj Temple, 15 Manor Road, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

Limited capacity of 200 only – First come first served.

Register online at www.gsbaltimore.org by April 15, 2010 or by calling any committee members.

Registration will close once we reach the capacity.



**Pickup at 9:00 AM and Drop-off at 8:00 PM at
Owings Mills Metro Station**

**Cost: \$10 per member (partially covers transportation and food)
Seniors 60 years and above – Free (bring valid photo identification)**

Please register as soon as possible and send your payment to Gujarati Samaj of Baltimore, P.O. Box 687, Baltimore, MD 21117. To secure your place, please ensure that your payment reaches us within a week or by April 15, 2010 whichever comes first. Samaj will provide the bus transportation and meals for nominal cost of \$10 per person.

Please note: Each participant is required to sign Gujarati Samaj of Baltimore's liability release form. Form will be provided on a day of the trip.



**Gujarati Samaj of Baltimore together with Gujarati Samaj of
Washington and Saurashtra Patel Cultural Samaj of Washington**

invites you to

SWARNIM GUJARAT

Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Gujarat State

Saturday, May 8th, 2010 1p.m. to midnight

Eleanor Roosevelt High School, 7601 Hanover Parkway, Greenbelt, MD

Grand Celebration includes:

**Gujarat Mela with “Taste of Gujarat” Cooking Competition, Painting,
Mehndi, Food Carving, Rangoli, Exhibitions, Cultural Performances,
Carnival Games, Children Activities, Clothing, Jewelry, Food Stalls and
An Evening Finale Event with Live Entertainment**

For up-to-date information and event schedule, please visit:

www.GujaratDayDC.com

For event sponsorship and / or support, please contact:

Nipa Parikh (301) 762-6365; Payesh Jhaveri (443) 568-1300; Ashok Kavi (301) 346-1034

With support of Gujarati Mitra Mandal, Shri Mangal Mandir, Jain Society & Gujarati Literary Academy





Gujarat Golden Jubilee Celebration

Sponsored by:

Gujarati Samaj of Washington, Gujarati Samaj of Baltimore, Saurashtra Patel Cultural Samaj of DC
Activities and Competition Information

Saturday May 8, 2010

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Eleanor Roosevelt High School, 7601 Hanover Parkway, Greenbelt, MD 20770



www.dcsamaj.org; www.gsbaltimore.org; www.spcs.org; www.gujaratdaydc.com; www.gujaratdaybaltimore.com

TASTE OF GUJARAT COOKING COMPETITION

Come join us in celebrating the state of Gujarat's 50th Birthday
May 8, 2010

Who can cook the best Gujarati food?

We'll soon find out, at the "Taste of Gujarat" cooking competition.

The Taste of Gujarat cooking competition is designed to showcase the culinary talents of our local Iron Chefs. This is a chance for you to impress our esteemed judges with your best sweets and snacks, and win great prizes.

Categories:

There are two categories of entries: 1. Sweets 2. Snacks/Farsan. You must prepare an item from the list of options listed below.

Sweets: Puran Poli, Halvo (dudhi/ chiku/ gajar), Halvasan, Badam Pista Burfi, Ghari, Srikhand, Penda, Mohanthal, Gughra, Koprapak

Snacks: Khandvi, Handvo, Sev Khamani, Daal Dhokli, Khaman Dhokla, Patra, Bhakharwadi, Kachori (Lilva / Dal), Muthiya, Patice (Farari/ Potato), Sandwich Dhokala

Criteria:

Each entry will be judged on two factors: Presentation and Taste (presentation 35 points, taste 65 points).

Prizes:

First place winner (in each category) will receive a \$50 gift card

Second place winner (in each category) will receive a \$25 gift card.

The winners and their recipes will be featured in the Gujarati Samaj Newsletter.

Rules/Regulations and Registration:

1. To enter the competition, each participant must complete the registration form (printed below).
2. The registration requires a \$10 deposit (by check payable to Gujarati Samaj) for each entry. Upon participation completion, the deposit will be returned to the participants on the day of the event.
3. A registration received without a deposit will not be considered.
4. Each participant may register for up to 4 entries (items).
5. Sponsoring organizations reserves the right to limit the number of entries in any category. The entries will be accepted on a first come-first served basis.
6. Once your entry is accepted for the competition, you will receive an e-mail notification.

7. There is no cooking or warming facility at the event location. Each participant must bring pre-cooked/prepared food.
8. Participants must be 18 years or older.
9. In case of insufficient entries from the members of the sponsoring organizations, general entries from non-members may be accepted.
10. Please mail your entry forms with the deposit amount to: Arti Shah, 13704 Valley Oak Circle, Rockville, MD 20850 so as to reach us by **April 20, 2010**.
11. The organizing committee's decision (based on the rating by the judges) shall be final.
12. The office bearers of the sponsoring organizations are not eligible to contest.

What to Bring:

On the day of the event, each participant must bring two plates of food for each entry. One plate is for the evaluation of presentation and the second plate is for the taste sampling by the judges. The second plate should contain a minimum of 15 pieces/samples.

Contacts: For any questions on "Taste of Gujarat" cooking competition, please call:
Arti Shah (301) 838-9778 or Mira Sheth (703) 471-0345.

"TASTE OF GUJARAT" - REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Membership: Gujarati Samaj of Metropolitan Washington/Gujarati Samaj of Baltimore/Saurashtra Patel Cultural Samaj of Washington DC (please circle one).

Name of the Item/s:

Please mail your entry forms with the deposit amount of \$10 payable to Gujarati Samaj of Baltimore to:
Arti Shah, 13704 Valley Oak Circle, Rockville, MD 20850 so as to reach us by **April 20, 2010**.



Gujarat Golden Jubilee Celebration

Sponsored by:

Gujarati Samaj of Washington, Gujarati Samaj of Baltimore, Saurashtra Patel Cultural Samaj of DC
Cultural Program/Performances

Saturday May 8, 2010

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Eleanor Roosevelt High School, 7601 Hanover Parkway, Greenbelt, MD 20770



www.dcsamaj.org; www.gsbaltimore.org; www.spcs.org; www.gujaratdaydc.com; www.gujaratdaybaltimore.com

REGISTRATION FORM FOR CULTURAL PROGRAM / PERFORMANCES

Name of Item: _____

Coordinator's Name: _____
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Number of Participant(s): _____ Age of participant(s): _____

Names of participant(s):

Description of your item: _____

Please Note: Dance and Music entrees will be accepted on 'first submitted, first accepted' basis. To accommodate more participants, priority will be given to group performances showcasing Gujarat's folk- music/dance/cultural heritage in **Gujarati language**. Participants below 5-years of age are not allowed. For dancers: Please copy your music on the audio CD that must contain only the performance item. The audio CD must be handed over to the coordinator 30 minutes prior to commencement of the program. The program will start at 1:00 p.m. For safety, please bring 2 copies of audio CD. For vocal/instrumental performers: Please bring your instrument(s) and accompaniment (Tabla, Harmonium, Keyboard, Guitar, Rhythm box, etc.). The organizers will not provide accompanying music/instrument. Only **20** entrees will be accepted. Please submit your entry today! This is your opportunity to be proud of your heritage and share your talent with other fellow Gujaratis! **Halo halo ne entry melo!!** We look forward to receiving your entry. Thank you.

Please email the completed registration form by April 20, 2010 to: Jay Joshi; jayjoshi@comcast.net;
Phones: 301-947-0930 and 240-271-3481



Gujarat Golden Jubilee Celebration

Sponsored by:

Gujarati Samaj of Washington, Gujarati Samaj of Baltimore, Saurashtra Patel Cultural Samaj of DC
Activities and Competition Information

Saturday May 8, 2010

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Eleanor Roosevelt High School, 7601 Hanover Parkway, Greenbelt, MD 20770



www.dcsamaj.org; www.gsbaltimore.org; www.spcs.org; www.gujaratdaydc.com



RANGOLI COMPETITION REGISTRATION FORM

Come join us in celebrating the state of Gujarat's 50th Birthday
May 8, 2010



- Doors open at 1:00 pm on Saturday.
- Rangoli competition will start at 2:30 PM and the judging will take place at 4:00 p.m.
- To register, please complete the Rangoli Competition Form.
- Form must be submitted no later than April 20, 2010.

Criteria:

Each entry will be judged on two factors: Presentation and Theme (presentation 50 points, theme 50 points).

Prizes:

First place winner will receive a \$50 gift card.

Second place winner will receive a \$25 gift card.

The winners and the picture of the winning Rangoli will be featured in the Gujarati Samaj Newsletter.

Rules/Regulations and Registration:

1. The team should comprise of a maximum of two participants.
2. Participants will create a Rangoli keeping in mind a theme of their choice.
3. The colors of Rangoli, as well as other materials, if required, according to their selected themes must be brought by the participants. A white poster board 2 ft by 2 ft will be provided to each competitor.
4. Rangoli must be handmade and no tools will be allowed.
5. The maximum time duration will be 1.5 hours and the Rangoli area per team will be 2 ft by 2 ft.
6. Entries will be accepted on first come basis. First 10 entries are allowed for participation.
7. Participants must be 12 years or older.
8. The organizing committee's decision (based on the rating by the judges) shall be final.
9. The office bearers of the sponsoring organizations are not eligible to participate in the competition.

Participant Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ **Email:** _____

Theme: _____

Membership: Gujarati Samaj of Metropolitan Washington/Gujarati Samaj of Baltimore/Saurashtra Patel Cultural Samaj of Washington DC (please circle one).

Mail your entry forms with the deposit amount of \$10 payable to Gujarati Samaj of Baltimore by April 20, 2010 to: Priti Parikh, 2485 Lewis Lane, Finksburg, MD 21048

\$10 deposit will be refunded to all competitors if they participate in the Rangoli competition on Saturday, May 8, 2010 at 2:30 PM.



Swarnim Gujarat Celebration

Sponsored by:

Gujarati Samaj of Metropolitan Washington (GSMW), 10410 Broadfield Court, Potomac, MD 20854
Gujarati Samaj of Baltimore (GSB), P.O. Box 687, Owings Mills, MD 21117
Saurashtra Patel Cultural Samaj of Washington, DC (SPCS), 13549 Currey Lane, Chantilly, VA 20151

With support of Gujarati Mitra Mandal, Mangal Mandir, Jain Society, Gujarati Literary Academy



www.dcsamaj.org; www.gsbaltimore.org; www.spcs.org www.gujaratdaydc.com

Sponsor Reservation Form

50th Anniversary of State of Gujarat Celebration

Venue: Eleanor Roosevelt High School, 7601 Hanover Parkway, Greenbelt, MD 20770

Saturday, May 08, 2010 Time: 1 PM to Midnight

Organization/Company: _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ - _____ - _____ Cell: _____ - _____ - _____

Email: _____

A. \$5,000 – Sponsorship for Evening Grand Finale Event

Platinum Package

Ten VIP tickets for Grand Finale

Display of Company name and logo on the premises and on the website

Recognition on stage with a presentation of sponsorship plaque

B. Souvenir Advertisement

Souvenir Gold Package

☐ \$1,500 Front Inside – Color

☐ \$1,000 Back Inside – Color

☐ \$2,500 Back Page – Color

Two VIP tickets for Grand Finale

Display of Company name and logo on the website

Recognition on stage for Gold Package sponsor

Souvenir Silver Package

☐ \$500 Full Page Glossy – B&W

☐ \$300 Half Page Glossy – B&W

☐ \$200 Quarter Page Glossy – B&W

Two regular tickets for Grand Finale

Email your camera ready copy before April 15th to: G50Souvenir@GoogleGroups.Com

C. ☐ \$1,000 Sponsorship for Cultural Program and Performances

☐ \$500 Sponsorship for Activities and Competitions

Two VIP tickets for Grand Finale

Display of Company name and logo on the website

Recognition on stage and acknowledgment in Souvenir (listing of First & Last Name, City, State)*

D. \$100 Individual Family Sponsorship

Two regular tickets for Grand Finale

Acknowledgment (listing of First & Last Name, City, State)*

* Acknowledgment in Souvenir - for paid sponsorship by April 15, 2010

Please complete and return with your payment made out to Gujarati Samaj of Baltimore

Please send your payment to reach us by April 15, 2010.

Mail to: Kanu Patel, 8658 Wheatfield Way, Ellicott City, MD 21043

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Lunch Buffet:	Monday - Sunday 11.30 - 2.30pm Monday - Thursday & Sunday 5.00 - 10.00pm
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॥ॐ Bhur Bhuvah Swah Tat Saviturvarenyam Bhargo Devasya
Dheemahi Dhiyo Yo Nah Prachodayat ॥



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Retreat Dates: Sunday, July 11th through Friday, July 16th 2010

Sunday, July 11th - 3:00 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Monday –Thursday - 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Friday July 16th - 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Retreat activities will include: Yoga, meditation, small classes, discussion groups, interactive learning, debates, picnic, field trip(s), sports activities, competitions, cultural show, Garba night and many more exciting events throughout the whole week.

Venue: Best Western Conference Center, 5625 O'Donnell Street, Baltimore, MD, 21224

Retreat fee for entire five days: \$ 220.00 (includes accommodation, meals, material and activities fee)

Special Baltimore and surrounding area discount: If you would like to attend the retreat but prefer to travel from home daily, you may do so for the duration of the week at a discounted rate of **\$140.00** (for all 6 days, including meals activities and material). Daily rate **\$75.00** per day.

Term and Conditions: Participants must be at least **18 years of age**, must leave in the evening. It is a onetime, non-refundable fee. If you are absent on any of the day(s), no money will be refunded.

Please make your check(s) payable to **Gayatri Pariwar USA**.

If you would like to participate in the event, please fill out the information below and mail your form and check(s) to **Gayatri Pariwar USA, 12416 Dancrest Drive, Clarksburg, MD 20871**

For all other information, please visit website listed below or contact Sujal Mistry at:

E-mail: mistry.sujal@gmail.com

Phone#: 240-277-3664

Participant's information (Special Baltimore and Surrounding Area Discount Form ONLY).

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Middle Initial: _____ DOB: _____ Gender: M F (Please circle one)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone # _____

Please specify any medical conditions, medication, allergies or special assistance required at the camp:

Emergency Contact: Name _____ Phone # _____

Signature _____ **Date:** _____

For all camp information, official flyer, and registration forms, please visit camp website

www.awgpyouth.org

આપણી કિંમત કેટલી ?

રતિભાઈ પટેલ
આસ્તીઝન, વર્તનીઆ

“આપણી કિંમત કેટલી ?” આમ જુઓ તો આ પ્રશ્ન વાકિવાત ધ્યાને છે, કારણકે, એક તો આનો આપણે કદી વિચાર કર્યો નથી અને બીજું, આવો પ્રશ્ન કોઈએ ઉભો કર્યો નથી અથવા પૂછ્યો નથી. “આપણી કિંમત કેટલી ?” એમ જ્યારે પ્રશ્ન કરીએ છીએ ત્યારે આપણે સેની વાત કરીએ છીએ એ જાણવું જરૂરી છે. આપણે માનવી “સામાજિક પ્રાણીઓ” છીએ એમ વારંવાર કહેવામાં આવ્યું છે, એટલે આપણી તુલના આ સામાજિક અર્થકણમાં સામાન્ય રીતે કરવામાં આવે છે. એટલે તો “એનું સમાજમાં શું માન છે” એવું અવારનવાર સોભળવામાં આવે છે. “આપણી કિંમત કેટલી ?” એ પ્રશ્ન આમ આપણા જીવન દરમિયાન આપણું સમાજમાં શું માન અથવા કિંમત છે એ અનુસંધાણમાં ઉભેલાવો છે, આપણા જીવનની “સામાજિક કિંમત”ના અર્થમાં ઉધીચાવો છે, જીવનની સામાજિક સાર્વજિકતાના સંબંધમાં પૂછાયો છે.

ખરું પૂછે તો, આપણી પોતાની કોઈ કિંમત નથી. પણ આપણે આપણા જીવન દરમિયાન કેવા પ્રકારના (Quality) તથા કેટલા પ્રમાણમાં (Quantity) સુવિચાર, સુવાણીનો સંચય કર્યો છે, અને એ પછી એનો ઉપયોગ કરી કેવા પ્રકારનું વર્તન કર્યું છે એની જ કિંમત થાય છે. વિચાર, વાણી અને વર્તન એ આપણા માનવજીવનના કિંમતિ અંગો છે. અને આ ત્રણજ આપણી તુલના કરવામાં અગત્યનો ભાગ ભજવે છે. આપણા પોતાના જીવન દરમિયાન આપણા વાણી, વિચાર અને વર્તનથી જીવનને કેટલું સ્થિતિસ્થ તથા સાર્થક બનાવીએ છીએ એના પ્રમાણમાં આપણી કિંમત અંકાય છે. સુવિચાર, સુવાણી તથા સદ્વર્તન (સતકાર્ય) એ આપણા અણમોહ ધરેણાં, ઝવેસત છે. માનવ જીવનમાં જો વિચાર, વાણી તથા વર્તન ના ફોલ તો માનવજીવન જડ બને, અને

જડતાની કિંમત કેવી રીતે ફોઈ શકે! સુવિચાર, સુવાણી અને સદ્વર્તન એ માનવજીવનની ચેતના છે, અને ખરું પૂછે તો, ચેતનાની જ કિંમત ફોઈ શકે, જડતાની નહીં. ચિંતન, ચેતન અને ચલન એજ માનવજીવનની ચંચલતા, ચિનગારી.

ઉદાહરણ તરીકે, ઘરેણા રાખવાની પેટીની વાત કરીએ. આમ જુઓ તો, ઘરેણાની ખાંધી (Jewelry Box) પેટીની કિંમત કોડીની છે, અથવા બિલકુલ નથી, પછી ભલેને એ પેટી ગમે તેટલી સુંદર ફોલ. પણ એજ પેટીમાં ઘરેણાં મૂકીએ ત્યારે કિંમત ઘણી વધી જાય છે. ફજારો રૂપિયાના ઘરેણાં મૂકીએ તો ફજારોની અને લાખોના ઘરેણાં મૂકીએ ત્યારે લાખોની કિંમત થઈ જાય છે. આ પ્રમાણની (Quantity) વાત થઈ. એજ પ્રમાણે, કેવા પ્રકારના, કેવા કક્ષાના (Quality) ઘરેણાં મૂકીએ છીએ એ પણ અગત્યનું છે. સોના-ચોંદી અથવા ફીરા-મોતીના ઘરેણાં મૂકીએ તો એની કિંમત લાખોની થાય. પણ, નકલદારી, બનાવટી “સિલ્વર પ્લેટ્સ” અથવા નિકલ-જસતના ઘરેણાં પેટીમાં મૂકીએ તો એની કિંમત કોડીની થાય. આવી જસત- નિકલના બનાવટી ઘરેણાંની પેટીને બફાર રસ્તામાં મૂકીએ તો ચોર પણ કદાચ પાછી મૂકી જાય, કારણકે એ જાણે છે કે એની કિંમત કોઈ નથી. સોના-ચોંદી, ફીરા-મોતીના ઘરેણાંવાળી પેટીને તો બેન્કની તિજોરીમાં સાચવવી પડે છે. બેન્કની તિજોરીમાં મૂકેલી ઘરેણાંની પેટી એક ત્રીજો મુદ્દો, ત્રીજું પાસું બફાર લાવે છે, અને એ છે એની ઉપયોગીતા. ઘરેણાંને ફક્ત બેન્કની તિજોરીમાં મૂકી રાખીએ તો એની સાચા અર્થમાં કિંમત નહીં થાય. ઘરેણાંની સાચી કિંમત તો ત્યારે જ અંકાય કે જ્યારે એ ઘરેણાંનો અવારનવાર ઉપયોગ થાય અને શુભપ્રસંગ પડેલવામાં આવે,

ઉપયોગ થતા અને ઉપયોગીતા જણાતા કિંમત થાય.

આપણા માનવજીવન નું પણ આ ઘરેણાંની પેટી જેવું છે. જેમ ખાલી પેટીની કિંમત કોડી છે, એમ ખાલી જીવનની વિચાર, વાણી અને વર્તન વિનાના જીવનની-કિંમત કોડીની છે. ઘરેણાંની પેટીની માફક, આપણા જીવનની સાચી કિંમત તો ત્યારે જ થાય છે કે આપણે આપણા જીવનમાં શું અને કેવું અને કેટલું મૂકીએ છીએ એની પર નક્કી થાય છે, તથા શું, કેવું અને કેટલું સાચવીએ છીએ એની પર જીવનની કિંમત થાય છે. પેટીમાં જેમ સોના-ચાંદી કે ફીસ-મોતીના ઘરેણાં મૂકીએ અને પેટીની કિંમત વધે છે એમ જીવનમાં ઉંચા, ઉમદા વિચારો તથા ઉંચા સત્કાર્થો રૂપી ઝવેરાત મૂકીએ ત્યારે જ જીવનની ખરી કિંમત અંકાય અને વધે. સુવિચાર, સુવાણી તથા સદ્વર્તન (સત્કાર્થ) એ જ માનવજીવનના અણમોઘ ઘરેણાં છે. એટલે તો સ્વામી વિવેકાનંદે વારંવાર કહ્યું છે કે તમારા મન મસ્તકને ઉંચા વિચારોથી ભરી દો, કાસ્ટકે ઉંચા વિચારોમાંથી જ મહાનકાર્યની ઉત્પત્તિ, સર્જન થાય છે. મહાન કાર્ય, સત્કાર્ય એ માનવજીવનના કિર્તિસ્મરણ છે. ફક્ત નામ-નામના વધારવાથી જીવનની કિંમત થતી નથી પણ કામ-સત્કામ થી કિંમત થાય છે, વધે છે. સમ્બાઈ, પ્રમાણિકતા, નૈતિકતા, પરમાર્થકતા એ સોના-ચાંદી, ફીસ-મોતીના ઘરેણાં છે. અપમાણિકતા, જુઠાણુ, બુઝ્બાઈ, અદેખાઈ, ધિક્કાર વિગેરે નિકલ-જસતના નકલી ઘરેણાં છે. જીવનમાં પદવીઓ કે ઈલકાબો કે સંપત્તિ મેળવીએ પણ એમાં સમ્બાઈ, પ્રમાણિકતાના ઘરેણાં ના ફોજ તો ફક્ત પદવી, ઈલકાબોથી ભરેલાં જીવનની કિંમત કોડી છે. "સિલ્વર પ્લેટેડ"ની માફક "નેઈમ પ્લેટેડ" નકલી કાર્યો કરીએ તો નિકલ-જસતના ઘરેણાં જેટલી જીવનની કિંમત થાય.

માનવજીવનની કિંમત સાચા અર્થમાં કેવો રીતે વધે ? સૌથી પહેલાં, મનને ઉંચા, ઉમદા વિચારોથી ભરી દેવું જરૂરી છે. આ ઉમદા

વિચારોને સુવાણી આપી એ દ્વારા સદ્વર્તન, સત્કાર્યોમાં પરિવર્તન કરવું એ અગત્યનું છે. આમ વિચારીએ તો, આપણા જીવનની કિંમત જરૂરી વધારી શકાય. પહેલું કામ એ સેવાકાર્ય-દુબિચાર, પીડીતોના દુઃખમાં ભાગ લઈ એમના દુઃખ દુર કરવા એ સેવા-સાચી સેવા.

આ એક સામાજિક કાર્ય છે. બીજું કામ, ધર્મ અને ધર્મને લગતા કામો કરવા, અને ત્રીજું કામ એ ભગવાનનું કામ. સામાજિક, ધાર્મિક તથા આધ્યાત્મિક કામ. આમ, સુવિચારો, સુવાણી તથા સદ્વર્તન-સત્કાર્યોનું ઝવેરાત જો જીવનપેટીમાં મૂકીએ, સાચવીએ તથા એનો જનકલ્યાણ માટે ઉપયોગ કરીએ તો આપણા આ માનવ-જીવનની કિંમત વધી જાય. જીવનને પાપરક્ષિત, પુત્રશાળી, પરોપકારી, પરમાત્મામય બનાવવાથી જીવનની કિંમત વધારી શકાય છે. જીવનમાં કરેલા સત્કાર્યો, પરોપકારો જ માનવજીવનની સુંગધ ફેલાવે છે, તથા સાચા કિર્તિસ્મરણ બને છે, સાચા અર્થમાં તીર્થધામ બને છે. સુવિચારો તથા સુવાણી દ્વારા સામાજિક, ધાર્મિક તથા આધ્યાત્મિક સત્કાર્યો કરી શકીએ એ બધા તીર્થધામ-તીર્થક્ષેત્ર. જીવનમાં સત્કાર્યો દ્વારા જીવનક્ષેત્રને ઉત્તમ, ઉચ્ચ બનાવીએ તથા એ દ્વારા જીવનદીવડાને પ્રકાશિત કરીએ. મહાત્મા ગાંધી તથા વિનોબા ભાવે આધુનિક જમાનાના વુગ-પુરુષો છે, અને એમણે એમના સુવિચાર, સુવાણી અને સદ્વર્તન-સત્કાર્યોથી એમની "જીવનપેટી"ની કિંમત અણમોઘ બનાવી શક્યા, અને જનકલ્યાણના કાર્યો દ્વારા પોતાના જીવનને જિવંત {અમર} બનાવી શક્યા. આજ માનવીની-આપણી સાચી કિંમત !

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Gujarati Samaj of Baltimore

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Management & Team Building Training	March 06, 2010
Dinner & Drama – Chitkaar	April 10, 2010
Vraj Trip	April 25, 2010
50 Years' Celebration of Gujarat Statehood	May 08, 2010
Graduation (High School and College)	June or July
Picnic	August
Navratri	October
Diwali.....	October or early November
General Body Meeting.....	TBD

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