

---

---

# **THE KASHMIRI PANDIT INTERNATIONAL**

## **Newsletter of Kashmiri Overseas Association, Inc.**

---

---

E-mail : [koausa@koausa.org](mailto:koausa@koausa.org)

website: <http://www.koausa.org>

No: 36

February, 1999

### **President's Column**

These last two years as President has been the most challenging as well rewarding experience for me. The support of the KOA Board and the general membership has been remarkable and I am thankful for this support. Reflecting on 1998 year, for KOA it has been a year of achievements with some disappointments. Two Community Outreach meetings were held, one in NJ and second in Northern California. A summary report on CA meeting is provided in this newsletter. Both these meetings provided an excellent platform for exchange of information between KOA and its members. People who attended these meetings have suggested for continuation of such meetings on annual basis. First time in KOA's history, the 1998 KOA Calendar was published with the joint sponsorship of Canada and Europe KP organization. We are looking forward to more coordinated effort with these organizations. Our Kpnet and Web activity continued to be on the top of our members preference list. We launched free matrimonial services on the web and have been receiving about half a dozen every week from all over the world. Provide educational assistance to 155 students in India and sponsored over 100 children in refugee camps. Over 400 people attended KOA's 1998 camp at Hershey, PA. First time, we had elections for Chapter President in Northern California. KOA received \$10,000 donation from NFIA. KPI, the newsletter has been mailed to over 700 members and we are very active on the web regarding exchange of information. Also, our local chapters have held at least four to five functions this year. These are some of the achievements, I feel privileged to be part of. My disappointments have been insignificant and have provided guidance in promoting KOA with our community worldwide. I have received e-mails and post mail from various members appreciating efforts of our Board, Chapter Presidents, and the Executive Committee. I want to thank each one of them who took time to send mail and provide encouragement.

I thought after my first term as KOA President will be over, I can get on other things. Was I wrong! Many members were successful in making me to accept the nominations for second term. As all of you know, Nomination/Election Committee sent out request for nominations for KOA President and four Board of Directors. Report from this committee is published in this newsletter. I have been the only person who accepted nomination for the President of KOA, therefore, I will continue to be the President of KOA for next two years. I very much appreciate this support and thank each and every one for trusting me with this responsibility.

Let me introduce you our new Secretary, Subodh Atal who has been actively writing about our issues. I have known Subodh from his childhood and has always found him sincere, dedicated, helpful, and respectful. Subodh Atal will also be our KPI, newsletter Editor. Vijay Dhar will continue to be the Vice-President while as Shana Mattoo in addition to being Treasurer has also taken responsibility of Zone 4 Director. Vijay Kaul of NY replaces Nirmal Mattoo of NY as Zone 1 Director, Deepak Ganju of FL replaces Sidarth Ganju of GA as Zone 6 Director, and Suman Hukku continues to be Zone 8 Director. I welcome all these new members to the KOA board and congratulate them for joining the organization.

Please join me in thanking Shibam Warikoo, Chairperson Nomination/Election Committee and his team for doing such a timely, efficient and excellent job in undertaking nomination/election process of the organization. I personally appreciate them for having contributed their time and resources for completing this process.

I will be travelling to India from January 7 through February 15, 1998 and during this time Vijay Dhar Vice-President will act as President of KOA.

As always, I would like to remind members to please renew your membership with KOA by paying your membership dues.

## **Lalit Wanchoo**

### **1998 Nomination/Election Report**

In November 1998 KPI, KOA's newsletter, nomination notification for KOA President and four Board Members was mailed to all of the members in USA irrespective of the dues status. Closing date of the nominations was post marked December 18, 1998. Committee waited up to 24 December and reviewed all the mail that was post marked by the due date. Following is the summary of these nominations:

Total of 14 members sent nominations

President -

Only one person was nominated: Lalit Wanchoo

Director:

One person nominated for Zone 1: Vijay Kaul, NY

One person nominated for Zone 4 : Shana Mattoo, MD

One person nominated for Zone 6 : Deepak Ganju, FL

Nobody was nominated for Zone 8.

Nominated members were individually contacted for their acceptance and all of them accepted the nomination. Since there is only one candidate for each position, therefore, there will be no elections and all of the above mentioned members stand elected to the position they have nominated for. Suman Hukku, Zone 8 Director will continue as Director.

Shiban Warikoo  
Chairperson, Nomination/Election Committee

## **Tri-State Activities Calendar**

As you bring home new calendars, please take time to mark the dates for the following events for tri-state member (NJ, NY, & PA):

February 20:Herath  
March 20:Navreh  
July 4 (weekend):Annual camp  
August 14:Picnic  
November 6:Diwali

As always, we need volunteers to help us out. Please come forward with ideas and suggestions.

For information contact:  
Sunita Dhar: (973)-731-5959  
Rohit Dhar: (973)-628-1152

With best regards  
KOA Tri-State Chapter Organizers

## **KOA Community Outreach Meeting, December 7, 1998 Cupertino, CA**

After a successful meeting in New Jersey in Jan 98, Kashmiri Overseas Association held it's second KOA Outreach Meeting for 1998 in the City of Cupertino in Northern California on Dec 5, 1998. About 70 members representing all sections of our community attended the meeting.

It was a great success in being able to provide a direct interface between the members scattered all over the US with their community leadership. It also provided a forum for generating ideas for new directions for KOA consistent with its charter. Sunil and I thank all the members who were able to come to the meeting and also to our KOA President Lalit Wanchoo for having initiated this series of Outreach Meetings.

Agenda and the summary of the meeting that lasted for about four hours is as follows:  
Agenda

4.35 to 4.45 PM - Introduction Remarks by Vijay Dhar -- Zone 9 KOA Director & Sunil Dhar Northern CA KOA Chapter President  
4.45 to 5.30 PM - KOA Outlook -- Lalit Wanchoo - President  
5.30 to 6.20 PM - Community Perspectives -- Pushpa Dhar, Vinod Moza,Tara Choudhary & Sh. Brij Kishan Saraf (KOA Zone 9 residents)  
6.20 to 6.40 PM - Kashmir Shavisim Fellowship -- Vijay Dhar (of Mill Valley KOA Zone 9 resident )  
6.40 to 6.50 PM - Community Perspectives (Cont.) -- Mohan Bhan (KOA Zone 9

resident)

6.50 to 7.15 PM - Break

7.15 to 7.35 PM - Community Perspectives (Cont.) -- Sanjay Dhar (KOA Zone 9 resident)

7.35 to 8.20 PM - Open Form of Q&A

Summary:

Introductions

The meeting was chaired by Lalit Wanchoo and began with introductions by Vijay Dhar, Director KOA zone 9 and Sunil Dhar, President KOA Northern California Chapter. Vijay provided the background about the outreach program and appealed to the members to participate with passion to help generate programs to preserve our cultural identity. Sunil referred to the role of the Silicon Valley in making Internet possible from the grains of sand and emphasized the need for Silicon Valley members to play a befitting role in the community affairs.

Combining this thought with what Sh B.K. Saraf said later, KP's of the Silicon Valley have a role in building of 7 bridges (in reference to the 7 bridges of Srinagar connecting KP's across Vitasta) between the 7 continents which have become the home to Kashmiri Pandits.

Kpnet and KOA website is a vehicle that KP's from Silicon Valley can nurture and evolve further.

KOA Outlook

Lalit Wanchoo President of KOA outlined the purpose of the meeting and provided comprehensive review on the KOA structure and its charter. Lalit emphasized the change of the leadership, support of the membership, and enthusiasm and eagerness of volunteers as the key points for the 20 years of success of the organization. Lalit provided details of the various programs that KOA has been supporting. The broad categories of these are: Educational Assistance, Sponsor A Child, Medical Assistance, Refugee School (Udhampur), Financial Assistance, Family Support Group, Annual Camp, Youth Internship, Internet (Web & KPnet), Newsletter (KPI), Calendar, Directory, Cultural/Social/Religious (Speakers/Singers/Publications), and Chapter Level Activities. In addition past programs that included Construction of A Refugee School-\$6,000, Purchase of Medical Van - \$18,000, Children Nutritional Support - \$5,000, and Women Vocational Training - \$2,000 were also highlighted. Lalit discussed in detail the summary of the last meeting in New Jersey in the area of membership, programs, and general issues and ended his presentation with the future direction of the organization.

Mrs. Pushpa Dhar:

1 Pushpaji pointed out that KOA should first ensure that the membership is expanded to cover most of the members. She estimated that right now only 25-30% of the families are members. This will help in getting them committed to the cause of the organization and also help raise funds for the programs.

2 Also we should have a system of earmarking funds for the local chapters.

3 Accountability and co-ordination should be built in between local and national level.

4 We should preserve the Kashmiri character in our festivals and get-togethers.

5 During our get-togethers we should organize activities to get children interested in our Kashmiri heritage and involve them in discussions.

6 Not let our empathy for camp dwellers to dilute.

7 A local directory should be published and updated regularly.

Mr. Vinod Moza

- As a new member to local community he appreciated the caring of the community for other members. This kind of caring has manifested itself in our caring for unfortunate folks back home.

- We have not done equally well in preserving our cultural identity and heritage. In the tradition of "Batta Gav Vangun" we have been too eager to adapt ourselves and lose our values, rituals and traditions. He read inspiring quotations from "Deep Impact", anthropological text's etc. and added sarcasm to his arguments to emphasize need for us to pass on what is left of our rituals and language to the future generations.

Miss Tara Choudhary

- Giving a very insightful speech from the perspective of a KP teenager growing up in US, Tara put our community's crisis in the context of the broader problem of extinction, of cultures, of traditions, of languages and of species.

- Tara highlighted the strengths of our traditions thus, "As Kashmiri Hindus, we have always had to co exist with other cultures. This quality is built into our system of beliefs and values. Our religion teaches us to live in harmony with nature. We worship the world around us. Our most revered religious symbols have to do with mountains, lakes, and rivers. This is unique in a world which is becoming increasingly uniform and where people are alienated from nature. We must learn to respect nature and all that comes from it, including people of other cultures".

- But she was candid in reposing the responsibility of keeping our identity alive upon ourselves. For this she asked all of us to live our culture, language and rituals in each and every KP home.

"The language must be spoken, the stories told over, the customs kept alive, followed respectfully and practiced with dedication, the traditions adhered to and the memories revived with love, every day."

- To quote her directly "The world will be poorer if there is no one to sing the Mahimna Path the way we sing it, play the Chakri, or sing Vanuwan on weddings".

- "Let us save our culture by living it in our daily lives. Let us do our bit."

Mr. B. K. Saraf

· From the perspective of a seasoned KP who has lived all his life in Kashmir (retired as Chief Engineer, Power Development, J&K) Mr. Saraf referred to the multiple incidences of exodus in the past, Mr. Saraf sees "present Diaspora is very disturbing and ominous. We have now been effectively uprooted, deprived of our personal space and oxygen that sustained our culture, heritage and customs. Now we find ourselves spread thin throughout the world and in imminent danger of finding our cultural moorings snapped and drifting rudderless"

· Taking inspiration from Jews, who maintained their identity for thousands of years by "their fierce, almost fanatical adherence to the modes and mores, religious and social traditions, and practices. They did not lose their faith in their cultural strength and it stood them in good stead and kept them bound together through their survival struggle into a successful emergence as a power to reckon with."

· The specific recommendations by Mr. Saraf were:

1. We must go beyond feasting at our cultural events and organize talks to disseminate our illustrious ancestors like Lal Ded, Arnimal, Master Zinda Kaul, Swami Lakshman Ji etc. to name only a few.
2. Bring books for children and sponsor comics like publications on Kashmiri Traditions to make an impression on the minds of the very young.
3. Women, who are community oriented by nature, should be given at least 50% representation in the KOA organization.
4. Organize world congresses & seminars to bring together KP intellectuals and commoners.
5. Encourage use of Kashmiri language at home as other communities do.
6. Increase the number of community activities on the west coast including camping, picnicking, hiking trips, etc. which involve children.
7. Facilitate marriages within the community by generating a database for eligible youngsters to use our internet & other media as "Virtual Manzimyours"
8. Help establish counseling services within the community to resolve ever increasing trends towards divorces.

Mr. Saraf's final remark was that we should harness Internet to build 7 bridges between the 7 continent where our community has spread thin. Preservation of our culture is a daunting task but doable.

Vijay K. Dhar, Kashmir Shaivism Fellowship, registered 501(c)(3) Federal and California Non-Profit Religious Organization.

Vijayji gave a powerful introduction to the profound heritage that KP's share in the form of Kashmir's unique contribution to Shaivism. He referred to his recent trip to Kashmir on behalf of Kashmir Shaivism Fellowship to purchase the land and properties near Ishbar in Srinagar, associated with the memory of Swami Lakshman Joo. The immediate and future aims of the fellowship are:

- Preserve and publish the teachings of Kashmir Shaivism, and provide fellowships to students of Swamiji.
- Publication of Self Realization in Kashmir Shaivism by John Hughes (Oral Teachings of

Swamiji) and Shiva Sutra.

- Video's on Bhagwat Gita and Parmartha Sara.

- Preserve original manuscripts of Abhinavagupta, Kshemendra etc. and publish on Internet.

- A Permanent Place of Worship.

Details about KSF can be found on [www.ksf.org](http://www.ksf.org) which is also linked to the KOA Web site.

Mohan Bhan

Mohan, who came to the event wearing a Phiran, quizzed the children about what he was wearing and also quizzed the rest of the audience about the strengths and weaknesses of our community. Mohan kept audience involved with his suggestions and remarks regarding the survival of the cultural/social values.

Sanjay Dhar:

- We must continue to mobilize and help the people still languishing in the camps back home.

- We must raise membership to \$100 to raise funds to more aggressively support rehabilitation work.

- Raise funds by working with the other communities.

- He also emphasized the need to use Kashmiri language at home.

Last session of the meeting was Question and answers which lasted for about an hour. Members asked questions regarding KOA programs, support for the refugees, and survival of culture. During the lectures, Lalitji rose at several occasions to clarify things, seek clarifications and also relate the suggestions with the ongoing activities of KOA.

Sunil rose and spoke in perfect Kashmiri, really worthy of appreciation as he has moved to North America when he was only 8 years old.

Vijay and Sunil pledged (in Kashmiri) that now onwards we will conduct all programs in Kashmiri. During the break we had Kehwa with Mathi and Chum-chum.

Some members remarked that the details about KOA activities were quite an eye-opener and wondered why such information is not disbursed on the KPnet. Lalit requested members to read their newsletter with more interest.

This was followed by several inputs and questions with active involvement of all those who were present. Some of that was related to need for KOA to work with KP organizations in India. Col. Kachroo, member of AIKS and visiting from Delhi provided valuable clarifications in this regard.

Lalit thanked Vijay and Sunil for organizing this meeting and appreciated presence of the members.

Meeting concluded with the vote of thanks by Vijay Dhar. If anybody is interested in the hard copy of the presentations please get in touch with me at following phone or email address.

Vijay Dhar (Zone 9 Director ) Ph: 408-252-4382, [vijaydhar@worldnet.att.net](mailto:vijaydhar@worldnet.att.net)

Sunil Dhar (Northern CA Chapter President) Ph: 510-656-4568  
email: [ddhar@home.com](mailto:ddhar@home.com)

## Matrimonials

-----  
Uncle, cardiologist, seeking a suitable match for a petite, pretty, 24 year old, 5'1" Kashmiri girl. Masters in English Literature from prestigious St. Stephens College in New Delhi, top of her class,  
and currently a successful freelance writer/producer for Indian television programs in English. Planning to relocate to the U.S. since whole family has settled here. If interested contact at (305) 8922988 after 9:00pm EST or contact online at [Shaykher@aol.com](mailto:Shaykher@aol.com).  
-----

Wanted a suitable boy for a charming 1970 born KP girl (Height 5Ft 3In). Done BA Hons Economics from St. Stephen's College, New Delhi. Currently working in a reputed garment export house.  
Family settled in Noida. Please correspond with tekni or Date of birth with time and place of birth on the following address:

Vijay Mohan Wazir  
B-14/259, Himgiri Aparments, Sector 34, Noida UP 201 303 India  
Phone: 91-118-574626  
Brother's email: [Ajay.Wazir@future.ca](mailto:Ajay.Wazir@future.ca)  
-----

Alliance invited for oct. 68 born 5' 10" kashmiri pandit boy, presently working as Consultant Audiologist and Speech Pathologist with one of the leading hospitals of Mumbai. Also privately practising with one of the renowned doctors in the field of ENT in India.  
Preference will be given to medico match.  
Please send full details on [bsatyan@hotmail.com](mailto:bsatyan@hotmail.com)  
-----

Marriage proposals invited for a KP boy 5'8"/born Feb 1968/MBA. Presently working as Business Analyst in Texas Instruments, Dallas, Texas.  
Born and raised in Srinagar and living in the US for the past 3 years. Parents living in Jammu.  
Please contact:  
Sudhir Wokhlu (brother) at (972) 889 -1873 or  
[sudhir@ti.com](mailto:sudhir@ti.com)

OR

Mr. M.K. Wokhlu

Tomal Jattan, Bohri Batta, Talab Tillo, Jammu, J&K, PIN 180002,  
India.

Phone : 650176

-----  
This ad is on behalf of a kashmiri friend of mine.

He is about 32, 5'8+", decent looking, PhD in Engineering, working for a large company in the US. He is an IIT graduate, with all his graduate

studies (MS & PhD) in US, from reputed universities. His parents are well educated and in India. He is very open minded, intelligent and affectionate person. A mix of east/west.

He values Indian/Kashmiri traditions but also the western

culture of self reliance and freedom of thought. His best match would be a person similar to him. He wishes to find someone intelligent, affectionate, open minded, but with Indian/Kashmiri values. Most importantly he wishes to find someone with whom he can "connect", have discussions on things, in essence be like friends.

He was married to a Kashmiri girl (from India) for a few years. That was an arranged marriage and was very miserable for him, as that marriage was pretty much doomed from the start. That marriage is

over. The girl is completely independent and there are no issues. This time he wishes to find the right girl himself, of course he wants all the family members also to be involved eventually.

Please write to: [melibran@hotmail.com](mailto:melibran@hotmail.com)

-----  
Alliance invited for a 36 years old KP, divorced with children, but children with mother. Well settled in USA, working as an Engineer. Any well-qualified, professional KP girl (30+ years),

divorced/widowed without children would be fine.

Contact: KOA at [koausa@koausa.org](mailto:koausa@koausa.org) with Tekni and biodata.

-----  
Wanted a bride for a 26year old Kp boy, a graduate in Computers. Presently doing his own succesful business. A good looking and nice homely KP girl required willing to settle in Ahmedabad.

Uteesh Dhar

E-Mail: [uteesh@hotmail.com](mailto:uteesh@hotmail.com)

A-403, Sarjan Towers

Memnagar

Ahmedabad-380052

Gujarat, India

### **KOA National Camp 1999: Last Camp of the Millennium**

Vaada Kia Tha Aapse, Pichle Saal Harshey Ke Rail Road Pe, Le Chalenga Aapko Kisi Doosre Dilkash Mode Pe, Iss Silsile Mein Yeh Daavatnama Hai Aap Ke Naam, Moodus Mein Betayega July 2,3, Aur 4 Ki Suhanee Sham.

I am pleased to inform you that KOA National Camp 1999 will be held at Sunrise Resort,

which is located in the town of Moodus, Connecticut, from Friday, July 2, to Monday, July 5, 1999. Sunrise Resort is a fun place for everyone. It is a summer place with about 400 acres set in the rolling countryside of rural Connecticut on the banks of the Salmon River. Some of the attractions are:

- ▶ Giant-size swimming pool for kids and adults
- ▶ Hot tubs and whirlpools
- ▶ Boating facilities that include canoes and rowboats on the river
- ▶ Tennis, basketball, and volleyball courts, and a huge softball field
- ▶ Separate play area for small children and a fun house for teenagers
- ▶ Horseshoes, miniature golf, and table tennis
- ▶ Horseback riding
- ▶ Walking trails and bike trails

In addition, Sunrise Resort's management plans and organizes many other activities. There are two main activity centers: the Pool Club House area on top of the hill, and the Dining Room area near the waterfront. We have reserved the whole camping area along with forty cottages and five motel-type rooms. Allotment will be strictly on a first-come-first-served basis. Sunrise is a very busy resort; once we have released any of the cottages or motel rooms, it will be almost impossible to get them back. Now let me tell you how and why we selected Sunrise Resort for KOA Camp. In the first week of August last year, I was informed by shri Lalit Wanchoo, president KOA, that I had been selected to organize the "1999 National Camp: Last Camp of the Millennium." I myself and everybody from the zone that I represent (Zone 2: MA, CT, RI, VT, NH, ME) feel honored to host this camp. This could be the biggest gathering of our community in this century and in fact the millennium, in this country. Fortunately for me, I have an excellent group of people in my zone; with their help I have organized a team which helps me with this enormous task. The first step was to formulate a site selection criteria, and we set ourselves a goal of selecting and finalizing the campsite by the middle of November. Location was very important for us. We were looking for a centrally located place with easy ground and air access, which would help in attracting more families from every part of the country (nearest airports to Sunrise Resort are Hartford, CT, and Providence, RI). With the number of families increasing every year, we needed a big and exclusive group area which is well separated from the rest of the campers and could accommodate at least one hundred families. One priority was to have a smooth, grassy, and reasonably open area to suit our needs. Since about 30 to 40 percent of our families prefer to stay in cabins or motel rooms, we were also looking for a campground with these facilities available on premises or within a five-mile radius. Other facilities which we were looking for included good restrooms, a swimming pool, and some recreational activities. With the criteria finalized, we decided to focus on three states, namely upstate New York, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. We put together a list of every major campground in these three states. We contacted each and every one of them on the phone. After getting some preliminary input, if it seemed that the campground met our needs, we visited it to get a firsthand feel of the real thing. From campgrounds in

upstate New York and Massachusetts, nothing materialized for one or more of the following four reasons: (i) the campground was not big enough for our purpose; (ii) it did not have a big area for group activity; (iii) there were too many seasonal sites that would interfere with us; and (iv) it did not want a big group. In Connecticut, we contacted about a hundred campgrounds and visited those that made it through the preliminary screening process. Three campgrounds made it to the final final list. Among those three, Sunrise Resort stood out as being the best of the best. For the last few years, the places where we have camped have had good facilities and other amenities, and now everybody has high expectations.

Sunrise Resort has everything to meet these high expectations. We have already camped there, they know us, and they know about our activities, and hence there will be no problems. They have added many new features since the last time we camped there. Sunrise Resort is a beautiful place with an excellent location and a very good layout. We have reserved an exclusive group area. To top it all, the owners gave us an excellent deal: Tent sites \$90 for 3-night stay/tent site/for 2 adults and their dependent children. XP \$5/night. Reservation form will be mailed with the next newsletter. Motel Rooms \$95/room for 2 adults/night; additional person (child or adult) shall be charged \$20/night + 12% tax (luxuriously furnished rooms with 2 double beds and bathroom).

Cottages \$55 for 2 adults/cottage/night; additional person (child or adult) shall be charged \$10/night; + 12% tax. The cottages have 1 double bed and 1 bathroom; a maximum of 2 additional cots shall be provided for each cottage

Reservations for motel rooms or cottages are to be made directly with Mr. Bob Johnson of Sunrise Resort at 1-800-225-9033 or 1-860-225-9033. You have to mention that you are a KOA member. The reservations are to be made by May 8, 1999, and paid in full at the time of reservation. Payments are refundable less \$10 processing fee until May 11, 1999; after that date, deposits for motels or cottages shall be nonrefundable unless Sunrise Resort is able to resell. Reservations for tent sites shall be made with me. People staying in cottages or motels need to inform me after making reservation with Sunrise Resort.

Currently, the organizing team is working on planning various activities for the camp. We promise to provide you with an exciting weekend with lots of interesting activities which would include educational sessions, discussions of problems facing our community in India as well as here, discourses on religion, hawan, sports, music and dance, and many other cultural activities. It is my experience that these camps serve to bring us all closer as a community, we get a chance to meet old friends and make new ones, and most important of all, our kids get a chance to interact with others and learn who we are.

I would like to see you as part of the fireworks at the Last Camp of the Millennium rather than watching fireworks at home. I hope to see you all there. For further information, I can be reached at (781) 893-4982 or via e-mail at either [skaul@ctps.org](mailto:skaul@ctps.org) or [skaul10576@aol.com](mailto:skaul10576@aol.com)

Sanjay Kaul  
Director, Zone 2

## **Zone 2 - Announcements**

Sanjay Kaul  
Director, Zone 2

Congratulations

1. Lalit and Rachna Koul on the birth of a baby girl, Megha.
2. Suresh and Sunita Kaul on the birth of a baby girl, Neha.
3. Ashok and Renu Kaul on the birth of a baby boy, Vishvesh.
4. Sandeep Sadhu and Bhavna Salman on their marriage in New Delhi.

## **KIN News**

For the last several years, Kashmir Information Network (KIN) has been active on the net in countering misinformation as well as lack of information on the Internet concerning the Kashmir issue. With the nuclear tests having turned the spotlight on Kashmir during the past year, it has become even more imperative that the misinformation regarding Kashmir be effectively countered. KIN has taken the lead in this matter and has established itself as one of the top Kashmir web sites. It has been repeatedly cited by BBC, MSNBC Online News and others and is ranked at or near the top by several web search engines.

New on KIN is the *Kashmir Terrorism Index*, which includes the *Kashmir Terrorism Bulletin*, providing a day-to-day account of the continuing misdeeds of Pakistan-supported Islamic mercenaries, and *Ethnic Cleansing Glimpses*, which details the effects of ethnic cleansing in the valley.

KIN URL:

<http://www.kashmir-information.com/>

Kashmir Terrorism Index URL:

<http://www.kashmir-information.com/Terrorism/>

The site is best currently viewed with version 4 browsers, especially Internet Explorer 4.

## **KOA Executive Committee:**

President Lalit Wanchoo, MD (301) 262-7743  
Vice-President Vijay Dhar, CA (408) 252-4382  
Secretary Subodh Atal, MD (410) 309-0841  
Treasurer Shana Mattoo, MD (301) 552-2844

**Directors:**

Zone 1: Vijay Kaul (518) 357-2747  
Zone 2: Sanjay Kaul (781) 893-4982  
Zone 3: Rohit Dhar (973) 628-1152  
Zone 4: Shana Mattoo (301) 552-2844  
Zone 5: Kong Posh Bhat (972) 527-6195  
Zone 6: Deepak Ganju (305) 654-9474  
Zone 7: Ameeta Bamzai (708) 369-1324  
Zone 8: Suman Hukku (810) 656-2542  
Zone 9: Vijay Dhar (408) 252-4382  
Zone 10: Renu Bhat-Hansen (818) 791-3307

**KPI Newsletter - Editorial Board:**

Subodh Atal, Lalit Wanchoo

**REMINDER:**

Please renew your KOA membership Annual Dues: \$30/family, \$15/single, \$15/senior couple, Life member: \$500

**APPEAL**

Please donate generously to KOA (donations are tax deductible)

**KPnet Subscription:**

koausa@koausa.org

**Websites:**

<http://www.koausa.org/>  
<http://www.kashmir-information.com/>

**KOA Address:**

4302 Rockport Lane Bowie, MD 20720