

# KOA Transformations





**Kashmiri Overseas Association, Inc.**

[www.koausa.org](http://www.koausa.org)

## **Program Director**



### **Rabinder Koul**

Born in Srinagar, Kashmir, India, Rabinder Koul lives with his wife Rajni in New Jersey. They have a son, Aditya. He has a Ph.D. degree in Theoretical Physics, and an MS degree in Mathematical Physics, both from Syracuse University, and an M. Tech degree from IIT Bombay. He works as a Portfolio Risk manager. His interests are Indian History, Darshana Shastra, Sanskrit, Mathematics, Physics, all things related to India (Bharat). Rabinder ji is involved with socio-political issues connected with India and Dharma, and is FACT President, WBF Executive Board, and member of KOA and IAKF.



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## History

**Transformations** is program that was initiated by Rakesh Kaul ji at New Jersey about five years back. The purpose of the program was to integrate community through common celebrations of at least one of the many festivals that Kashmiris across Kashmir celebrated together. The purpose was to celebrate that will join the community with common sharing of the celebrations but also to impart the knowledge about our Dharma traditions, rituals and knowledge about it.



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## Details

There are two parts to the **Transformations**:

**Knowledge Portion:** The knowledge portion of the celebration lasts about 2 days to 1.5 days depending upon the attendant interests and the number of topics we can arrange. The number of topics that are discussed in detail can be from two to four topics. All topics are related to Kashmiri cultural, Historical and Dharma. Some time we have also included comparative topics from scientific perspective and our traditional perspectives. The talks are interactive, with question and possible longer discussions. It all depends upon the audience there interests and how much they get involved. Some of the subjects we have covered in NJ are,

- Arts and crafts and statuary of Kashmir
- Genetic mapping and what it tells us about Kashmiris
- Gotra system
- Panchastavi Study
- ShivaRaatri and its deeper meanings and practices.



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## **Details**

**Jeyshta Ashtami Shri Maha RAjNya Homam:** This homam is performed in ShArda temple in NJ where eight to nine homa KundAs are available, so that all families can participate in the Homam. One of the main items is Homam on the chanting of MahaRjNya Sahasra NAma, that was acquired by NJ group after a great effort.



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## **KOA Transformations 7**

### **Jyeshtha Ashtami Havan**

- *Host:* Kashmiri Overseas Association (KOA)
- *When:* Saturday, May 21 to Sunday, May 22, 2016
- *Where:* Sringeri Vidya Bharati Foundation  
327 Cays Road Stroudsburg, PA 18360

- This year's highlight was to celebrate 1000 year anniversary of Abhnavagupta and perform the Jyeshtha Ashtami Havan.
- There was a special lecture/workshop by the world renowned Prof. Navjivan Rastogi, Former Professor & Head of the Department of Sanskrit, and Hony. Director, Abhinavagupta Institute of Aesthetics & Śaiva Philosophy, Lucknow University.



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## **KOA Transformations 7**



### **Prof. Navjivan Rastogi**

A 'made-in-Lucknow University' product Navjivan Rastogi is a Ph.D. in Sanskrit (1967) with throughout first divisions, gold medals, merit scholarships, postgraduate and research fellowships to his credit. Ever since his student days, he always remained versatile. He was Secretary of the historical Sanskrit Jnàna-varadhini Sabhà (1955-56), a rare honor for a first year undergraduate, to be followed by the Vice-Presidency of the same (1956-57).

After a temporary teaching stint during 1962-63, his academic career actually took off when he was asked to join the Abhinavagupta Institute of Aesthetics and Saiva Philosophy by the late Prof. K.C. Pandey on 5th August 1968, the very first day of the Institute's coming into being. It is worth recalling that Professors K.A.S. Iyer and K.C. Pandey were the scholars who brought the then Sanskrit Department on the international map. Prof. Pandey is known the world over for rediscovering the 10th century philosophical system, popularly known as Kashmir Saivism, systematizing it and presenting it to the world as constituting the metaphysical foundation of the Indian aesthetics, Indian philosophy of language and Indian theories of meaning providing a new paradigm for the reinterpretation and understanding of the whole tradition in the relative areas.



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## **Social Media**

**YAHOOGROUP:** <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/koahealthcare/info>

**TWITTER:** <http://twitter.com/KOAorg>

**YOUTUBE:** <http://www.youtube.com/user/sathyuk>

### **FACEBOOK PAGES:**

KOA: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/koausa>

Youth: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/koayouth>

Healthcare Network: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/koahealthcare>

Entrepreneurs: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/koaentrepreneurs>

### **LINKEDIN FOCUS GROUPS:**

KOA Healthcare Partners Focus Group: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8559527>

KOA Technology Focus Group: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8559541>

KOA Entrepreneur Focus Group: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8559545>

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## KOA Executive Committee and Board (Year 2016)

### Executive Committee



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**Sunil Fotedar**



**VICE-PRESIDENT**  
**Sudesh Saraf**  
Illinois



**SECRETARY**  
**Ajay Tikoo**  
New Jersey



**TREASURER**  
**Rajeev Kaul**  
New York

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**Anil Mattoo**  
Zone 1 Director



**Sudesh Kaul**  
Zone 2 Director



**Nirja Sadhu**  
Zone 3 Director



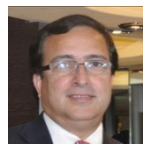
**Shakun Malik**  
Zone 4 Director



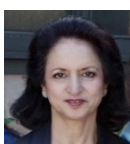
**Randhir Wokhlu**  
Zone 5 Director



**Suresh Sus**  
Zone 6 Director



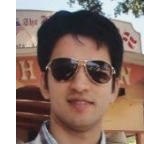
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Zone 7 Director



**Veena Kaul**  
Zone 8 Director



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Zone 9 Director



**Piyush Mattoo**  
Zone 10 Director