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CONNECTION

ISSUE 27 May 2013



National Convention & Trade Show

at Rosen Shingle Creek Resort, Orlando, Florida
July 11-13, 2013



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Visit us at

www.leuapatidarsamaj.com

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Jai Shri Krishna! Dear Members:

As I write this letter to the membership I am filled with a multitude of thoughts and great emotions. It is customary for the President of the association to address the membership and write a Presidential message. To me, LPS of USA is not just a community organization but a family. It is the community that has given me an identity and a support network when I have needed it. Therefore, rather than proclamations, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for providing the community where I, and many others, have found a place to belong, grow, and foster development in others new to the association and those in need within our community. Thank you all.

Through the years we have continued to evolve into a vibrant organization with a diversity of leaders, which is what I feel, is the most outstanding aspect of being a part of this community. Our membership includes some of the most experienced and respected group leaders in the country, as well as energetic and thoughtful. While the interest and membership in our community promoting LPS of USA has dwindled in the past, during my recent road trip journey to all the regional's across the country as well as internationally to England, Trinidad, Panama, Canada etc, I am proud to say we have been able to attract new members without force or hesitation and have attained many new faces in leadership positions on the Board as well. This is an achievement we share as members of LPS of USA and is an attestation to the welcoming atmosphere created by all of you. Our mission of promoting and preserving our culture and creating a vibrant community can only be achieved by all of us working together. We also owe a great deal of thanks to the dynamic LPS of USA leadership, including the Executive Committee, Board of Directors, Convention Chairs, Convention Committees and volunteers, who through their hard work are facilitating in making our mission a success.

During my tenure as President, the LPS of USA leadership and the Board have made it a priority to increase our membership and have worked to increase participation from members across the country. We have also increased youth representation and collaboration of creating a women's ambassador program which will allow our female membership to participate with the board as a special interest group without committing heavily yet make a difference. Furthermore, we are in process of completion of our upcoming new membership directory, issuance of our lifetime membership cards, raffle ticket sales for the LPS of USA Scholarship Foundation and LPS of USA operations capital to help fund the youth and other Samaj events for our membership, call center success for membership concerns and needs, virtual office implementation, the inception of a youth mentorship program, a revamp of our website, and a structured strategic plan and vision.

Last but not least, I cordially invite everyone to attend our spectacular LPS of USA National Convention in Orlando, Florida starting from July 11th thru July 13th, 2013 at the Rosen's Shingle Creek Resort. This convention will be an event not to be missed as there has been a vast amount of planning involved with an array of excellent activities from entertainment, cultural program, youth, women, and senior citizen sessions and the most importantly a mouth-watering extensive food menu. Moreover, we will be having one of the most unique Vendor Exhibit Trade Show with activities for all age groups including a fashion show. Please go online and register at www.lpsfusa.com for the convention and reserve your hotel rooms as soon as possible as rooms are going fast at the host hotel in Orlando, Florida and the special rate of \$99.00 per room will be available only for a limited time. This convention is where we will all come together to rejuvenate our grass roots, experience our bondage and network with each other to help preserve our heritage and culture for our future generations

As you can see as your President with the help of the board we have a very active agenda still ahead of us. We all are proud to volunteer our time and efforts to help for the betterment of our association.

I humbly thank all of you for allowing me to make this vital change for our association and hope you join me in to complete the remaining commitments with your support. Any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me any time.

Thank you and God bless!
Respects

Kirit Patidar (Gaam - Afva)
Jacksonville, FL
President
LPS of USA 2012-2013



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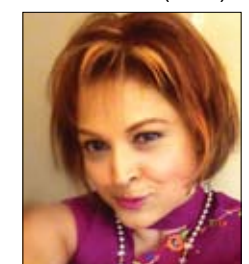
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Letter from the desk of the Publications Team

Respected Leuva Members and LPS Board of Directors,

JSK! HOWDY everyone!

"April showers bring May flowers"... at least that's what the old adage says... here at Leuva Connection we are looking forward to the end of a rainbow or at the very least an end to the torrents of rain and tornado sirens before finals week!

Before we all head off the brick roads on campus, albeit dodging the rain and skipping over (or in) puddles, and begin making plans for a wonderful summer, this month's issue is focused on "Don't waste your summer!" Even if you don't have a huge awesome vacation planned this summer, that is no excuse to not have fun. Buzz is out there! This summer it's going to get hotter & hotter in Orlando, FL; as preparations are underway to host

the 9th National LPS convention at the spectacular Rosen Shingle Creek Resort on July 11th, 12th, 13th. All we need from our Leuva brothers and sisters is to come on down and make sure to bring the entire family. We have fun packed days for everyone to kick back and enjoy the spectacular speakers, beautiful Bollywood entertainment and delicious food...

Most importantly, if you are serving on our LPS board please make sure to attend our last board meeting. We are in the process of making certain changes to the By-Laws and need a quorum to do so. That's it from us, enjoy the magazine and hope to see you all in July if not sooner.

We hope you all have a great time and stay safe. Don't forget to register

yourself for the convention & to reserve your hotel room! Go grab a refreshing lemonade and strap in – it's going to be a great **SUMMER**.

Thank you & God Bless!

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Letter from the CM Patel

Dear Members, members of the board of LPS Of USA, Trustees Of Foundation and Generous Donors.

In July of Last year an e-mail was floated around to board members and others Which in turn was spread and got multiplied several hundred times. This was again brought up in the Board meeting in San Antonio where I had an altercation with the writer of the e-mail where, there were Presence of several regular members beside the presence of board members.

The charges and accusations that were implied in the e-mail were not only baseless and unfounded but were also

targeted personally with certain agendas. I could have refuted those allegations paragraph by paragraph here in the Leuva Connection, however that is not me, nor is it healthy for our association. During the altercation in the board meeting I requested the board to grant me some time in their next board meeting which gracefully was granted unanimously. In the next board meeting which was held in Gatlinburg Tennessee I presented all the facts with all the evidences countering those accusations. After my presentation to the board, the board appointed a five member fact finding committee to thoroughly investigate and verify all the evidences.

After months of Investigation and through inquiry the fact finding committee reported the following -

'To the best of our ability, we have NOT found ANY irregularities in and to the extent of the paperwork provided to us by the LPS Foundation Inc'

I take great pride in serving Leuva Patidar samaj of USA with my Integrity.

C.M. Patel personally & on behalf all Foundation Trustees

Leuva Patidar Samaj Foundation Inc.

A Leuva Patidar Samaj of U.S.A. Inc. Company

Letter from the Convention Chair

JSK

As the convention - chair, I am honored and delighted to cordially invite everyone to our Leuva Patidar Samaj (LPS) of USA National Convention. This year's National convention will be held at Rosen Shingle Creek Resort in Orlando, Florida from July 11th thru July 13th 2013. This luxurious facility offers diverse amenities including nature trails, fishing, a sand volleyball court, a full-service spa, an 18-hole championship golf course, outdoor swimming pools, and lighted tennis courts. The site is conveniently close to Orlando International Airport (10 mi). In July, we can expect the weather in Orlando to be pleasantly warm. The city is renowned for its array of tourist attractions, including the newly opened Harry Potter Theme Park, as well as nearby SeaWorld Orlando, Walt Disney World, and Universal Orlando Resort. Come early! Stay late! Bring your family!

Our convention is one that will be remarkable as well as unforgettable as we all come together under one place and rediscover our grassroots and culture. This convention is very unique as every



Manhar (M.P) Rama, Convention Chair 2013

detail is planned to give you an extraordinary experience, whether this is your first time or your second time. It promises to be the most exciting, most inspiring, most motivational Convention ever. Each day will be filled with special events from

spectacular entertainment, dynamic speakers, an outstanding cultural program and Bhajan Sambelan from our own Leuva Community, as well as great Youth, Women, and Senior Citizen sessions. Moreover, a Vendor Trade Show that will have themes each day with a variety of activities on the tradeshow floor for all age groups as well as an amazing food menu that will be delicious & irresistible.

Please visit our website at www.lpsfusa.com and register for the National Convention in Orlando, Florida for July 11th thru 13th, 2013. Room rates and availability are limited so please register NOW.

Come with your family, come with your colleagues, or come with your friends. We look forward to sharing this extraordinary experience with you in Orlando, Florida. "SEE YOU SOON and don't MISS OUT ON THE FUN".

Respects,

Manhar (M.P) Rama,
 Convention Chair 2013
 Phone: 407-251-0065
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LPS 2013 NATIONAL CONVENTION & TRADE SHOW TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

July 11 – 13, 2013 Rosen Shingle Creek Resort, Orlando, Florida



July 11th 2013

8:00 a.m. - 03:00 p.m. Golf Tournament
1:00 p.m. - 07:00 p.m. Exhibitor Registration/Setup
1:00 p.m. - 07:00 p.m. Attendee Registration
6:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Welcome Reception and Entertainment

July 12th 2013

08:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Exhibitor Registration/Setup
08:00 a.m. - 05:00 p.m. Attendee Registration & Gala Seat Assignments
07:00 a.m. - 09:15 a.m. Continental Breakfast
09:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Opening General Session
12:30 p.m. - 06:00 p.m. Trade Show
12:30 p.m. - 02:30 p.m. Lunch in Gatlin C
02:30 p.m. - 04:45 p.m. Concurrent Educational Seminars
05:00 p.m. - 06:00 p.m. Community Social Hour
06:00 p.m. - 08:00 p.m. Dinner
08:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. Entertainment



July 13th 2013

07:00 a.m. - 09:15 a.m. Continental Breakfast
09:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Closing General Session
12:30 p.m. - 06:00 p.m. Trade Show
12:30 p.m. - 02:30 p.m. Lunch in In Gatlin C & Gala Seat Assignments
02:30 p.m. - 05:00 p.m. Social Meet and Greet
05:30 p.m. - 07:00 p.m. Gala Night Cocktail Reception
07:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. Gala Dinner & Awards Ceremony & Entertainment

HOTEL INFORMATION

Following is information on hotel and room rates for the LPS 2013 National Convention & Trade Show:

Rosen Shingle Creek Resort

Room Rates: Single/Double: \$99.00

(These rates are valid five (5) days pre and post LPS of USA 2013 Conference meeting dates and are based on availability. Complimentary self- parking and WIFI for all vendor partners staying at Rosen Shingle Creek Resort.)

One Bedroom Executive Suites \$299.00

Two Bedroom Executive Suite \$398.00

Address:

9939 Universal Boulevard, Orlando, Florida 32819
Ph: 407-996-9939 • Toll Free : 866-996-9939
www.RosenShingleCreek.com



TO MAKE RESERVATIONS.

Please ask for the LPS of USA group rate code: **"LPS OF USA 2013 Conference"**

The cutoff date for these rates is Wednesday, June 1st, 2013.

LPS of USA

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July 11, 2013

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July 13, 2013

2013 Membership Application

■ Use Application For New / Life / Renewal Of Membership.

■ Each Married Child Must
Fill Out Separate Form

■ Fees: \$60 1 year

\$100 2 years

\$1001 Life Time Membership

Mail Checks Payable To : LPS OF USA

9005 Overlook Blvd

Brentwood, TN 37027

FOR ASSOCIATION USE ONLY

Date Rec'd _____ APP ID: _____
Pmt Processed Date _____ Amount \$ _____
Approved by _____ Member: LIFE / ANNUAL /
Date Approved _____ BI-ANNUAL

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Payment Option:

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Amount Authorized: \$

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AE Disc Visa MC Other _____

Name On CC: _____

Credit Card #: _____

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Name: _____
First Middle Last

Address: _____

City State Zip

Cell #: _____

Email: _____

Father's
Name: _____
First Middle Last

Father's
Middle Name: _____

Village: _____

Mother's
Name: _____
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Mother's
Father's
Middle Name: _____

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Unmarried Children First Name Only

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Date of Birth Month/Day/Year

____ / ____ / ____
____ / ____ / ____
____ / ____ / ____
____ / ____ / ____

Email

Married Children First Name Only

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Disclaimer - Need Your Help!

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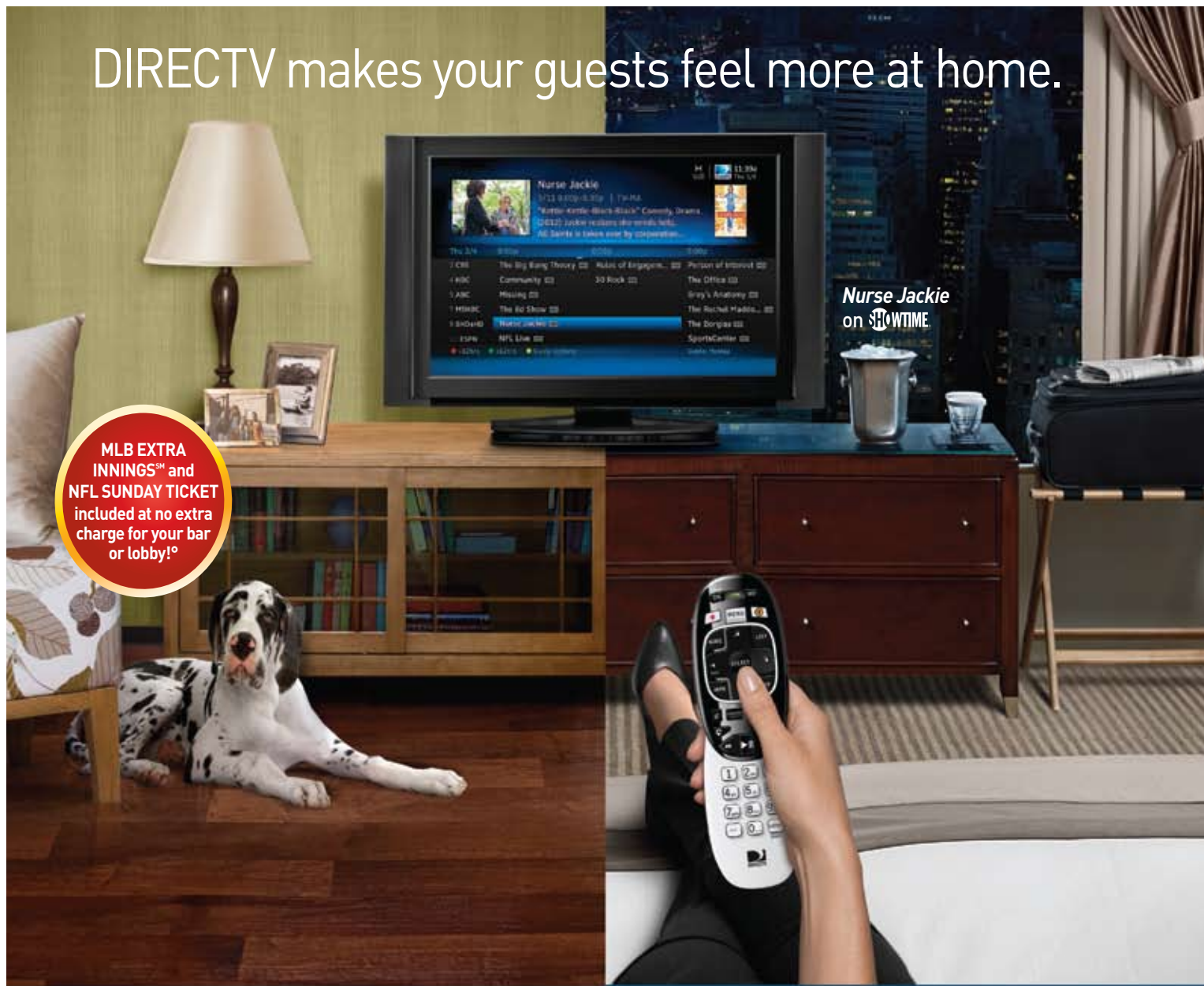
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Ages 10-17	\$AMT	AGE	Email Address
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Lifetime Member	\$99.00 per person	\$149.00 per person
Children ages 10-17	\$79.00 per person	\$129.00 per person
Senior Citizen (65 & Over)	\$99.00 per person	\$99.00 per person
Non-Member (Leuva Only)	\$189.00 per person	\$219.00 per person

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July 11th 2013

- Welcome Dinner and Entertainment
- Meet and mingle with fellow members

July 12th 2013

9:30 am - 12:00 pm Opening General Session

12:00pm - 2:30 pm Lunch & Trade Show/Youth Activities

2:30 pm - 5:00 pm Youth Seminars

- Ages 8-12 Fun Games & activities with lots of prizes!
- Ages 13-17 Ice breakers, Education Seminars & Motivational Speaker
- Ages 18-20 Networking Icebreakers
- Ages 21 & up Networking/Cultural Icebreakers

8:00 pm - 10:30pm Cultural Program "Leuva Sitare"

10:30pm - 1:00am Youth Party

- Ages 14-17 (Onsite Party)
- Ages 18 & up Theme Party: Hawaiian night

July 13th 2013

9:30 am - 12:30 pm Closing General Session

12:30 pm - 3:30 pm Youth Event All Ages

Fashion Show

- Tradeshow Scavenger Hunt
- Exciting interactive activities

3:45 pm - 5:00 pm

- Ages 8-12 Magic Show At Trade Show
- Ages 13-17 Peer to Peer Career Mentoring
- Ages 18 & up Motivational/Interactive Speaker

8:00 pm - 10pm Gala dinner with family

10Pm - 1:00am Youth Party

- Ages 14-17 (Onsite Party)
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Convention Experience From a young Leuva Perspective..

The Leuva Patidar National Convention is one that is much anticipated by the youth of this organization. Although over the years it has been given a bad name, it has good intentions which are achieved during the few days the young people are in fellowship. Through this convention one can expect to meet many new people who, even though they are from different walks of life, have one common ground—they're leuva. The national LPS convention is a great way for teens to network and establish new friendships that will last a lifetime.

I can personally say that I have benefited greatly from LPS conventions. They have allowed me to establish numerous valuable friendships over the years. During the 2009 convention in Nashville, I had the privilege of meeting many peers my age—most of which live in different states. These people include: the late Pooja Patel (Dallas, TX), Shivani Patel (Lafayette, LA), Sonali and Saajan Patidar (Jacksonville, FL), Preyesh Govin (Ruston, LA), Zarana Patel (Swansea, IL), Nathan Patel (Little Rock, AR), and Rajan Patel (Rock Hill, SC). All of the people mentioned above, with the exception of Pooja, are still kept in contact with today.



The new people I met introduced me to their friends, who in turn, introduced me to their own friends. I have been able to network all across the continental US thanks to LPS. The New Orleans convention in 2011 and the San Antonio mini convention in 2012 were no different. At both of these, I again was privileged to meet even more people and create many memories that I will never forget. My friends and I are all anticipating this upcoming convention in Orlando so that we can be united with each other again, meet new people, and make new memories that we will cherish forever.

As mentioned above The Leuva Patidar National Convention is an event that the leuva youth look forward to. It is an amazing opportunity for adults, teens, and children to communicate with one other and branch out to meet new people while learning about our heritage and culture. This organization is one whose sole purpose is to unite us and remind us of who we are and where we come from. I am confident that this convention will be no different than the others in doing so.

Written by:

Cayla Hari (Age 17; Southaven, MS)





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INFORMATION REQUIRED IN REGARDING TO YOUR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION:

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- (d) Three (3) letters of references
- (e) SAT, ACT or Equivalent score report
- (f) Achievements in community involvement or any other extracurricular activities
- (g) Two (2) passport size photographs
- (h) Proof of admission to a college or university is required prior to the award
- (i) One (1) high resolution (minimum 300 x 300 dpi) passport size photograph needs to be emailed at: lpsscholarship@yahoo.com

**Scholarship Application & Documents (Requested Above)
Must Be Mailed To:**

**Leuva Patidar Samaj Foundation, Inc.
ATTN: Indubhai H. Patel
336 Heritage Isle Way,
Bradenton, FL 34212**

LPS Website Updates....



Dear Leuva,

I hope you have registered for this year's Leuva Patidar Samaj national convention in Orlando from July 11th thru – 13th at Rosen Shingle Creek (Golf) resort. You may know that this is a dream destination for many on its own. The city has so much to offer for family entertainment including Disney, Universal, animals, shopping, and so much more. Just going there is considered a value family vacation. You may also know that the resort venue we have chosen for the convention is itself a dream destination. It features world class accommodations, a convention facility and premier golfing; all on site. However, my goal is to talk about my passion which will be unveiled at this year's convention. That passion and vision has culminated into what I believe is a fabulous technological achievement that by far no other samaj has and all others will be envious of the achievements of LPS.

Let me start by talking to you about how it came to be and what we are trying to achieve with our brand new (Wait for it....) WEBSITE! That's right a brand new out of the box WEBSITE with lots of bells and whistles to help us progress to the next level. We will fully reveal what it is during the convention, so you better show up or you will miss the chance to be a part of this leuva history. You may think the current website is the newbie; you are wrong. You will be the first to see the new site, but only AT THE CONVENTION!!!!

So now the why of creating this website. Leuvas have a tremendous work ethic which easily explains the success of leuvas in amassing wealth. However, this comes at the expense of self-sacrifice and the

sacrifice of spending time to pass on the values of our culture and heritage to our descendants. We can see manifestation of the latter sacrifice in a generation that is losing our language. A generation that is disconnecting with India and often is negative towards it and its values. A generation that is relying on substances to overcome anxieties, problems and a general lack of self-confidence. A generation that is afraid to parent with common sense values because they fear rebellion or separation from their children. A generation that is



willing to walk towards "American" values instead of "leuva" values because of "it's Desi" stereotype. And, a generation that is becoming impersonal as they adopt new technology such as group texting, twitter, face book, etc. On the flip side, we have generations who were part of the above, but now that they are parents they want to teach their children these old world values and gujarati yet have no resources to do so. Also, we have a generation of parents and marriage ready kids who shy away from marriage because there is no easy way of finding the right mates.

I noticed these things in my local samaj and similarly across the country. So I thought to myself "there has to be a better way". I grew up here since age four and due

to my parents deep roots in the formation and operation of our local samaj I felt that I could offer a vision that would reverse the degradation in our leuva samaj. I knew I had an understanding of both sides and the communication and technical skill sets to help. So last year, I presented to our board of LPS a plan for a revolutionary website to meet our needs. The board graciously allowed me to proceed and put much faith in me to accomplish this goal. I asked for and received a budget and now I have accomplished the goal using resources from India.

The website will feature basic things like how and why LPS was formed, our bylaws, and who makes up LPS. But more importantly it will be a protected social networking site for leuvas. A site where we can dynamically educate what it means to be leuva. A site where we can record the legacy and migration of leuva in USA. A site where are kids can safely interact with other leuvas. And, a site flexible enough to assist in whatever course future leuvas need. Of course, you have to show up to the convention or you'll miss it. Also, you will miss all the little benefits and ability to ask questions directly at our website booth.

To entice you further, I have uploaded the presentation I gave to the board at :

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yO_SPD46A5I&feature=youtu.be

View it, show it to other leuvas and comment on it. But more importantly start taking part in LPS so you can help decide the future of LPS. It begins by showing up to the convention regardless of whether you think it's for you or not.

Thank you very much,

Shailesh Patel (gaam - Isroli)
 (Tulsa, OK)

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Community round up..



LEUVA YOUTHS WITH PARENTS AT SKI RETREAT - CINCINNATI!!



In February, we hosted a highly successful Youth Ski Retreat near Cincinnati, OH. Thank you for all the volunteers and participants in making our 2nd Youth SKI event a big hit! We had over 80 SKIERS and TUBERS participate on a wonderful sunny Saturday afternoon at the Perfect North Slopes near Cincinnati, OH.

Over 150 members attended the event all together. Some of the youth even showed off their talents with great dance performances and 10 SKI Trophy Winners! A special thanks to the states, OH, TN, KY, and IN for their support, and those who traveled from afar to help make the event successful.

Also, thank you to our board members and supporters from the Cinci area who helped organize the event. Please visit our Facebook page for more photos. Our committee appreciates the opportunity and support in being able to bring our members excellent events over the past few years such as the Cruise, Camping, and Skiing. Thank you all again!



SKI Trophy Winners!



Expanding Our Roots and Keeping Our Culture Alive

Article By: Dipan Patel and Sneha Patel



An active and productive community is vital in today's society. We are responsible for ensuring the continuation of our tradition and culture for the future generations. The Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex's Leuva community is known as the Gujurati Cultural Society. Our GCS community center has become like a home to us; the Dallas Fort-Worth area has grown tremendously in the past two decades and thus, the GCS community has decided to build a new facility that can accommodate this growth. The new facility will be essential to our community because of the many religious and cultural celebrations that will be held there. The children of our community will have more appreciation and also be more aware of Indian our culture and traditions. Due to the tremendous amount of support from the Community this new facility will be state of the art and a place that will be useful for many generations.

Our DFW Youth group was very successful this past year. We began our year by visiting the Hindu Temple to recite the Hunuman Chalisa 108 times for a well, healthy and successful year. Our

strong, unified group has been involved in multiple community service events such as Mission Arlington, an organization which sole purpose is to give to the people. It's an annual tradition of the Youth Group to volunteer at Mission Arlington on Thanksgiving Day where we help deliver food baskets and hot meals to people in need. Additionally, our group makes frequent trips to the DFW Ekta Hindu Temple for any assistance that is needed. Both events taught the youth members about the impact they can make by giving to others and with these experiences they can vision improving conditions around them. We also donated toys to children in hospitals through the Toys for Tots drive. All of these events alleviated the community of others around us in need. Community service is best defined as helping to put a smile on somebody's face. Doing the most good possible is the best thing a person can do. Cultural and charitable activities have allowed the youth to grow and learn about the world around them.

In addition to these cultural and charitable events we also organize activities where the youth themselves can

seniors and wishing them a successful future, and inducting in the new Youth Board Members. Despite being oceans away from the land of India, we still connect with our homeland in the best ways we can.

We kicked off new year with the annual fundraiser, which was the car wash at our very own GCS hall. It was a great success, children came out to help with their parents and many adults generously donated to our youth group. The newly elected GCS youth presidents gave their speeches on the same day, discussing their achievements of the past year and setting the goals for this year.

The DFW GCS Youth was established to transfer knowledge of our culture by committing time to religious activities, community services, promoting discipline, and respecting our community. To accomplish this, we are dedicated in improving our education and strengthening the ability to challenge our minds in order to work harder for the future of our professions. Also, we strongly believe in remaining involved in community activities to achieve interaction within today's society. One can see that having an organization like this is vital in keeping roots strong and forever growing.

As the Youth Group thrives in keeping the culture alive as well as staying connected; the senior citizens and ladies group of the GCS community are not behind. The senior citizens took a trip last year in November touring and visiting many wonderful countries in Africa and Asia. The senior citizens got a chance to relive the young life. They visited many different monuments and historical places; they received a chance to see the broad cultures of the world. The GCS ladies committee has worked very hard this past year, from decorating the hall to cooking food for hundreds of people. These ladies sure have made things easier and events run more smoothly. To end their successful service they hosted their very own lock-in, where the ladies of our community gathered to have an enjoyable time. They played fun games ranging from playing cards to musical chairs. Their theme for that night was a Hawaiian Luau, where the ladies wore Hawaiian dresses. The lock in was successful; filled with laughter and gossip.

It's the cultural events and the unity of our community that has made this year very successful. All these events have impacted greatly on the children; they've learned so much. We hope to continue these traditions.



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એલપીએસ પ્રેસિડેન્ટનો પત્ર

તમામ વ્હાલા સભ્યોને જયશ્રી કૃષ્ણ:

આપ સહુને સંબોધીને આ પત્ર લખી રહ્યો છું ત્યારે લાગણીઓની સંવેદનાઓ તથા વિચારો પણ સાથે છે. સંસ્થાના પ્રમુખે દરેક સભ્યને સંબોધીને પત્ર લખવું ફરજિયાત છે અને હું પણ તે ફરજના નાતે પ્રમુખ તરીકે સંદેશો આપી રહ્યો છું. મારા માટે, એલપીએસ ઓફ યુએસએ એ માત્ર સામાજિક સંસ્થા કે સંગઠન જ નથી પરંતુ એક પરિવાર છે. તે એક સમાજ છે જેણે મને એક ઓળખ આપી છે અને મને જ્યારે જ્યારે જરૂર પડી છે ત્યારે મદદ પણ કરી છે. મને આ સંસ્થાની જવાબદારી સોંપવા તથા એ જવાબદારી હું સારી રીતે નિભાવી શકીશ તે માટે વિશ્વાસ રાખ્યો તે બદલ હું અહીં એ બાબતે આપ સહુ પ્રત્યે આભાર વ્યક્ત કરું છું. સમાજના વિકાસ માટે આપણે આવી એક મહત્વપૂર્ણ સંસ્થાનું ગઠન કરી શક્યા છીએ તે પણ એક નોંધપાત્ર બાબત છે અને આપણે સહુએ એ બાબતે ગર્વ છે. સંસ્થા આપણા સમાજના જરૂરિયાતમંદોને પણ ઉપયોગી થઈ રહી છે. આપ સહુનો આભાર.



આ ગૌરવપૂર્ણ સંસ્થા સાથે લીડર તરીકે એક વર્ષ ગાળ્યો તે દરમિયાન અનેક અનુભવ થયા અને સૌથી નોંધપાત્ર બાબત મારા માટે એ રહી કે આ સમાજનો એક હિસ્સો આપણે પણ છીએ તેની અનુભૂતિ અને ગર્વ લેવાય છે. આ સભ્યોમાં સમાજના સૌથી અનુભવી અને સન્માનપાત્ર વ્યક્તિઓ કે જેઓ સમાજના અગ્રણી પણ છે તેમનો સમાવેશ થાય છે જેઓ સક્ષમ વિચારક્ષમતા પણ ધરાવે છે. ભૂતકાળમાં પણ આપણા સમાજમાં એલપીએસ ઓફ યુએસએને આગળ લાવવા માટે અનેક સફળ પ્રયાસ થયા છે. તાજેતરમાં મારા કાર્યકાળ દરમિયાન પણ વૈશ્વિકસ્તરે અનેક સમાજ તથા સંસ્થાના વિકાસ માટે સંખ્યાબંધ સ્થળોની મુલાકાત લેવામાં આવી જેમાં ઈંગ્લેન્ડ, ત્રિનિદાદ, પનામા, કેનેડા વગેરેનો સમાવેશ થાય છે. મને એ બાબત જણાવતા ગર્વ થાય છે કે આપણે નવા સભ્ય પણ બનાવી શક્યા છીએ તથા તેની સાથે સાથે બોર્ડમાં પણ નવા ચહેરાઓને સમાવી શક્યા છીએ. આ એવી સફળતા છે કે જેને એલપીએસ ઓફ યુએસએના દરેક સભ્ય સાથે વહેંચવી જોઈએ તથા આપ સહુના તરફથી સર્જવામાં આવેલા એક ખાસ વાતાવરણને પણ આવકારવામાં પાછી પાની કરવા જેવું નથી. આપણું મિશન આપણી સંસ્કૃતિની જાળવણી કરવાની સાથે તેને પ્રોત્સાહ આપવાનું પણ છે. આપણે સહુને દર્શાવી દેવાનું છે કે એકસંપ થઈને આપણે ધારીએ તે પ્રમાણેની સફળતા મેળવી શકીએ છીએ અને તેમાં કોઈ બેમત નથી. આ પ્રસંગે આપણે આપણા અગ્રણી નેતાઓ પ્રત્યે પણ આભાર વ્યક્ત કરવું જોઈએ, જેમાં એક્ઝિક્યુટિવ કમીટી, બોર્ડ ઓફ ડિરેક્ટર્સ, કન્વેન્શન ચેર્સ, કન્વેન્શન કમીટી અને વોલ્યુન્ટીયર્સ કે જેમણે પોતાની મહેનતથી આપણા મિશનને સફળતા તરફ દોરી જવામાં આગળ પડતી ભૂમિકા ભજવી છે અને ખાસ યોગદાન પણ આપ્યું છે.

પ્રેસિડેન્ટ તરીકેના મારા કાર્યકાળ દરમિયાન, લીડરશિપ અને બોર્ડ દ્વારા મેમ્બરશિપ વધારવા માટે વિશેષ ધ્યાન આપવામાં આવ્યું અને સમગ્ર દેશમાંથી સભ્યો સંસ્થામાં સક્રિય ભાગ ભજવે તે માટે પણ પ્રયાસ થયા. સંસ્થામાં યુવાઓને પણ મહત્વપૂર્ણ સ્થાન આપવામાં આવ્યું તથા મહિલા સશક્તિકરણમાં માનીને આપણે વિમેન્સ એમ્બેસેડર પ્રોગ્રામ પણ અમલમાં મુક્યો જેને કારણે આપણી મહિલા સભ્યોને પણ બોર્ડ સાથે મળીને કામગીરી કરવાની તક મળી. આ ઉપરાંત, આવનારા સમયમાં આપણે આપણી મેમ્બરશિપ ડિરેક્ટરીનું કામ પૂર્ણ કરી શકીશું, આપણા લાઈફટાઈમ મેમ્બરશિપ કાર્ડનું વિતરણ કરી શકશું, એલપીએસ ઓફ યુએસએ સ્કોલરશિપ ફાઉન્ડેશન માટે રાફલ ટિકિટનું વેચાણ કરશું તથા યુવાઓ તથા અન્ય સમાજના સભ્યોની ઈવેન્ટ માટે પણ કામગીરી તથા ફંડ એકઠું કરી શકશું. સભ્યોને સહાયભૂત થવા માટે કોલ સેન્ટરની કામગીરી અસરકારક બનાવવા તરફ ધ્યાન અપાશે, વર્ચ્યુઅલ ઓફિસનો અમલ, આપણી વેબસાઈટને અસરકારક બનાવવા સહિતની અનેક વ્યૂહાત્મક કામગીરી પૂર્ણ કરવામાં આવશે.

આ ઉપરાંત, હું આપણી સંસ્થાના એલપીએસ ઓફ યુએસએ નેશનલ કન્વેન્શન કે જે ૧૧ જુલાઈથી ૧૩ જુલાઈ, ૨૦૧૩ સુધી ઓરલાન્ડો, ફ્લોરિડા ખાતેના રોઝેન્સ શિન્ગલ કીક રીસોર્ટસ ખાતે યોજાઈ રહ્યો છે તેમાં ભાગ લેવા તથા ઉપસ્થિત રહેવા માટે ભાવભીનુ આમંત્રણ આપુ છું. આ કાર્યક્રમને માણવા જેવો છે અને તેમાં હાજર રહેવાની તક ગુમાવવી ના જોઈએ કારણ કે આ કાર્યક્રમમાં મનોરંજન, સાંસ્કૃતિક, યુવા અને મહિલા તથા સિનિયર સિટીઝન માટેના અનેકવિધ કાર્યક્રમો યોજાશે. આ ઉપરાંત સ્વાદિષ્ટ વાનગીઓ પણ માણવા મળશે. આ ઉપરાંત સહુથી અગત્યનું એ છે કે આ પ્રસંગે યુનિક વેન્ડર એકિઝિટ ટ્રેડ શો યોજાશે જેમાં ફેશન શો સહિતના કાર્યક્રમ પણ થશે. મહેરબાની કરીને આપણી સંસ્થાની વેબસાઈટ દ્વારા કન્વેન્શન માટે તથા હોટેલ રૂમ માટે ઓનલાઈન બુકિંગ કરીને ઓરલાન્ડો, ફ્લોરિડા ખાતેની આપણી યજમાન હોટેલ ખાતે વહેલી તકે રૂમ ખાસ આકર્ષક ભાવે એટલે કે ૮૯.૦૦ ડોલર પ્રતિરૂમ બુક કરાવો આ ઓફર મર્યાદિત સમય માટે જ છે. આ કન્વેન્શનમાં એકઠા થઈને આપણે એકબીજા સાથે હળીમળી શકશું તથા આપણી સંસ્કૃતિ અને પરંપરાની જાળવણી તથા આવનારી પેઢી માટે વિચારણા કરી શકશું.

આ ઉપરાંત, બોર્ડ સાથે મળીને પ્રેસિડેન્ટને પણ વધારે કામ કરવાનું છે અને તે એજન્ડા પણ આપણી સમક્ષ છે. આપણે સહુને ગર્વ છે કે આપણે સહુ આપણી યથાશક્તિ સમય ફાળવીને સંસ્થાના વિકાસમાં સહભાગી બની રહ્યા છીએ.

હું આપ સહુનો આભારી છું કે આપે મારામાં વિશ્વાસ રાખીને સંગઠનમાં મહત્વના ફેરફાર કરવાની તક આપી અને મને આશા છે કે આપ સહુ પણ મારી સાથે સમાજ તથા સંસ્થાના સર્વાંગી વિકાસ માટે પ્રયત્નશીલ બનશો અને એકબીજાને સહકાર આપશો. જો આપને કોઈ મૂંઝવણ હોય કે કોઈ સૂચન કરવું હોય તો વિનાસંકોચે મને કોઈપણ સમયે સંપર્ક કરી શકો છો.

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