



Website: [www.kojain.com](http://www.kojain.com)

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**Region 9:** NY

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**Region 10:** CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT

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Jai Jinendra and Pranam to all my KOJAIN Community members,

Summer is here and it is time for lot of outdoor events and time to meet and catchup with friends and families at outdoor or other events like JAINA or temple anniversaries. Hopefully the summer would be pleasant for most of us, some of us in Arizona and Southwest are experiencing a very long streak of Hot days!!



KOJAIN community across all regions events and occasions to gather in past few months as you will see from this newsletter. KOJAIN meeting at JAINA was well attended and several regional picnics were held too. I also had chance to meet many KOJAIN community members in Toronto while attending JSOT Derasar Pratishtha and it was a great to meet our regional BOD Bhavesh Shah and Secretary Sagar Dedhia in person. Thanks to both I was able to connect with so many local KOJAIN community members.

Community support and participation makes each of the regional or national events or initiatives successful. Since we started the \$1000 scholarship for 3 deserving students, we have received more applications each year and we are also seeing increase in Loan applicants too. We have initiated youth teams to get our next generation of youth form community bond and an update on a very successful youth activity is in this newsletter. We request support and donations from community members for long term sustainability of all such events.

Updates to our ongoing initiatives like Host Family Program, Matrimonial and Directory are published too. This year too we are looking at over 70 students from India enrolled in universities across North America and our Host Family program provides that support most students value and allows them to build relationships within community. We are looking for families/host and volunteers who can help, please reach out to us via [hostfamily@kojain.com](mailto:hostfamily@kojain.com).

It is also the time for KOJAIN to elect the new committee that will lead and continue the various initiatives in the upcoming term for the years 2024 and 2025. We encourage everyone who has interest in supporting community activity and can spare few hours each month in keeping your regional community connected to join KOJAIN BOD or various initiatives. Please see details about upcoming elections in this newsletter.

We look forward to hearing from you so please send your views/reviews and articles to [newsletter@kojain.com](mailto:newsletter@kojain.com)

Jai Jinendra and Best regards,

Manish Mota



**KOJAIN Scholarship committee is excited to announce the recipients of the 2023 Merit Scholarship.**

Congratulations and best wishes for a bright future from KOJAIN.



Suvan Gangar (son of Amrish & Sejal Gangar) graduated from the Montgomery Blair High School as a straight A student. He co-authored a paper about reinforcement learning in the game NetHack as my Magnet program's research project. He played recreational and club soccer for over 10 years and ran Varsity track. He volunteered at the Stay Active program in a Title I elementary school, tutoring and playing sports with underprivileged students. He graduated from Pathshala after 10 years of learning. He loves playing football and chess with family and friends and being an assistant coach on his younger brother's soccer team. Starting this fall, he will be majoring in mechanical engineering at the University of Maryland.



Trisha Haria (daughter of Manish & Manisha Haria, IL) will attend the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to study Bioengineering on the Premed track. Her main goals are to become a doctor and to be at the forefront of medical innovation to best serve the communities that mean the most to her.



Kyra Shah (daughter of Ajit & Nirali Shah) will attend UCLA majoring in Human Biology and Society. After her undergraduate education, she plans to go on to medical school as she aspires to become a physician. Aside from academics, Kyra enjoys volunteering as she has served underprivileged populations at several COVID-19 vaccine clinics. She has further participated in the Shree Bidada Sarvodaya Trust in Kutch, India and hopes to continue serving patients who are in dire need of adequate access to healthcare. Additionally, Kyra has a strong passion for dance as she has completed her Arangetram in 2019 and was even captain of her dance/drill team in high school.



## Regional News: Region 1

The Kutchi families of **Arizona** had a spring get together at Shekhar and Leena Shah's home and enjoyed potluck style feast and get a great gathering. AZ kutchi community welcomed parent of Sonia Jain, Samji & Rekha Dedhia, and Hansa Gada who recently moved to AZ from Houston.





The SoCal Kutchi community celebrated summer with a picnic at the park. The event was a great opportunity for people to come together and enjoy the company of friends and family. There was plenty of food, games, and activities for everyone to enjoy. The picnic was a great success, and everyone had a wonderful time. For more pictures,

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/PVHcQJYuQccMsQUa7>



*In loving memory of*

**NAINA BIPIN GALA**

June 12, 1957 - June 30, 2023

Beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend. A beacon of joy and kindness to everyone around her. She will forever be in our hearts.



Potluck style Spring Picnic

The KOJAIN Northern California chapter, also known as KutchValley, hosted a potluck style spring picnic on Saturday, April 29th at Lake Cunningham Park in San Jose. The picnic was a huge success, with over 350 attendees from 120+ families representing about 20 different cities in the Bay Area.

The picnic was held in a large, spacious venue with plenty of shade. There was a wide variety of food and desserts available, including Indian, Mexican, American, and Chinese dishes. The kids had a blast playing games and blowing bubbles, while the adults enjoyed house and reels. In the evening, everyone enjoyed a delicious falooda with ice cream, tea, coffee, and watermelon. There was also plenty of medavo, and many people made new friendships over food.

The picnic was a great way for the KOJAIN Northern California chapter to come together and celebrate spring.

The organizers of the picnic would like to thank everyone who attended for making it such a success.





*"There is wisdom in climbing mountains... For they teach us how truly small we are." - Jeff Wheeler*

The DOBA (Desis of Bay Area) team of 8 which included **Deep and Rashmi Nishar** (Gaam - Bharudia) planned, trained and conquered EBC together in April. DOBA also means 'foolish person' in Gujarati - some of us are in our 50's and 60's and yet decided to take this on 🤪.

This was a once in a lifetime experience and one of the most beautiful treks we've done - after all its "Everest" and the best part is that Deep and I got to experience it together. Three months of focused training and years of regular hiking and fitness made this 10-day trek both doable and fun. Our group epitomized that age is just a number and its mind over matter when it comes to taking on physical challenges.

Our fantastic sherpas fed us lots of Daal Bhaat (local food), local Himalayan potatoes and hot ginger, lemon, and honey water to stay warm and ward off the dreaded Khumbu cough. The evenings ended with lots of fun and laughter over card games and checking our blood oxygen levels and heart rates to ensure that we were ready for the following day. When the climbs got steep, we broke out some jaunty Kishore Kumar tunes to put a pep in our step.

Big shout to fellow KV-ite Sneha Karani for fueling us with her homemade power bars; Dimple Dedhia and Prashant Shah helping us plant our community banner at 17,600 feet. You must experience this in person as pictures don't do any justice to these magnificent mountains.

The positive vibes from all our friends and family made this a tremendously enriching and fun experience for us.





## Regional News: Region 3

### Dallas (DFW) KOJAIN Community – Spring Picnic

About 125 KOJAIN community members from DFW area gathered for the Spring picnic on May 21, 2023, in Plano, TX to enjoy great food, weather and community bonding after almost 4 years. This was also opportunity for all the new families who have moved to Dallas recently to meet other KOJAIN community members and form new relationships and community bonding.



## Regional News: Region 7

### Achievement – Pratik Shah



**Dipti and Viraj shah** (North Carolina) are delighted to announce that, **Pratik Shah**, resident of Burlington, NJ, will finish his term as Co-Chair of the Young Jains of America (YJA) this September. Pratik served over 10,000 Jain youth across the country for the past year, hosting local and regional events focused on spirituality and community. Aside from this, Pratik also led initiatives centered around Jain education, service, and professionalism. In collaboration with his board of 15 other Jain youth, he secured Atlanta as the next host city for the 2024 YJA Convention and raised money through donations throughout the year. In the past, Pratik has also served YJA as the Northeast Regional Coordinator, Social Programming Committee Co-Lead, and Site Committee Co-Lead.

Please Join Bhanumati Kantilal Shah and Parivar in Congratulating Pratik.



Congratulations - Achievements & Awards

**Rita and Paresh Shah** are proud and with great honor want to introduce **Dr. Nirali Shah Desai** as she completed her residency in Ophthalmology. In celebration of this momentous occasion, we humbly ask for your blessings as Nirali starts her practice with Kaiser Permanente in San Francisco.

With great pride and happiness want to share the news – **Arvin and Jaya Shah's Jaya Rehabilitation Center** got JAINA award for Sadhu sadhavi Vaiyavachh and Humanitarian Services. Jaya Rehabilitation Institute & Research center is a 50 bed Rehab Center in Bidada (Kutch), easily accessible and barrier free. It is well equipped with advanced equipment & facilities under one roof with well qualified and experienced staff. The Center involves in early intervention, prevention, and management of all disabilities. Shree Bidada Sarvodaya Trust Sanchalit Jaya rehabilitation institute and research center is working since last 18 years for the empowerment of person with disability.

Jain Temple of Detroit celebrated 25 years with a 10-day Mahotsav from 7th July to 16th July. Many of the KOJAIN community members were the part of the organization team and the event was huge success.

- The chair of the entire 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary event was Arvin Shah.
- Core Committee had Jayaben Shah and Kavita Shah.
- Brochure Team – Rahul Haria
- Decoration Team - Dixita Shah
- Facility Management – Niru Maru
- Ghee Boli Team – Nisha Dedhia
- Finance Team – Chaitali Lalan
- Food Management – Bharti Doshi
- Marketing team - Mamata Maheshwari

KOJAIN Community sponsored Lunch at JCNJ

On May 21, 2023, about 25 Kutchi Families of NJ sponsored Lunch at Jain Center in NJ for all Pathshala students, parents and any attendees coming to temple on that day. This has been annual tradition to sponsor lunch and large number of Kutchi families participate in sponsoring and volunteering. Here are some pictures from the event.

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/gqQVCgCCLdrbPfLv5>

## Congratulations



**Bhumi Monika Sanjay Peer**-NJ (granddaughter of Vasumati Khimji Peer, Suthri and Damayanti Dinesh Lalka, Naliya) is a recent graduate of Stevens Institute of Technology, with a Bachelor of Engineering in Civil Engineering and high honors distinction. After graduation, Bhumi will be working as a field/office engineer for Kiewit, one of seven engineering and construction firms featured in the Fortune 500. Her family congratulates her for her incredible success and future endeavors.

## Congratulations – Aanya Shah

**Anaya Shah** has worked for two years as youth leader with Oscar Foundation, a global nonprofit organization that enables underprivileged girls and boys living in the slums in India to become role models within their communities.

Aanya's effort gave six students from slums of Mumbai a chance to visit New Jersey and play soccer and fundraise for their college education. Shah is the founder and executive director of the International Young Leaders Council, which is dedicated to raising funds and visibility for a variety of global issues by connecting with other organizations abroad

For more details: <https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/a-life-changing-tour-for-oscar-kids-in-usa/>

## Regional News: Region 10

### Connecticut Picnic

Kutchi friends and families from Connecticut had a fun-filled gathering of 25+ people at Sherwood Island State Park, CT on 3rd June 2023. A nice walk by the beach, lots of laughs and yummy picnic food made this medavo a great success!





## Boston Picnic

Boston Kutchis had their annual summer picnic on Sunday June 25th, at Blue Hills Reservation in Milton, MA. Everyone enjoyed the summer afternoon with ice breaker games, hiking, playing frisbee, badminton, cricket, football, kutchi quiz and some fun in the water. Enjoying each other's company and the delicious treats made by everyone made it a great kickoff for summer



Dr Shanti Kenia – Selfless service for a lifetime – by Neelam Maru, Regional Director



With great pride, I would like to congratulate our New England resident, **Dr. Shanti Kenia**, MD, FACC from Westfield, MA (Gaam - Wadala) for receiving a "Lifetime achievement" award. The award ceremony was held in Mumbai on April 30, 2023. under the banner of "Thousand Medicos Meet" jointly organized by Shree Bidada Sarvodaya Trust & Kutchi Medicos Association. Dr. Kenia is practicing as a cardiologist in MA for 40+ years and has generously volunteered to offer his medical services to Bidada Sarvodaya Trust for almost 30 years. In addition, he continues to offer his consulting at Maru Hospital, Mumbai and examines patients when possible, in Mumbai. Continuing his spirit to serve the community, Dr. Kenia helps patients in need, wherever possible. Thank You Dr. Kenia for being such a great source

of inspiration to our community.



During the YJA convention in 2022, Kutchi youth overflowed the room during the Kutchi meet-up, brimming with energy to continue their Kutchi initiatives. This energy catalyzed a group consisting of Reeya Vora, Sangeet Dharamsey, Jubin Shah, and Janak Shah, who spent 10 months planning the Kojain Youth Retreat. Thirty-five Kutchi Jain youths gathered in rural Chester, NY for the second-ever retreat. These Kutchi youth hailed from ten states, ranging in age from budding high schoolers to professionals. With a spacious yard, heated pool, and ample shared spaces, the house provided an ideal setting to forge unforgettable memories with new friends and connect over shared Kutchi heritage.

On the first day, many attendees didn't know each other and arrived after tiring commutes. To break the ice, we organized various activities to facilitate introductions and get acquainted. As people began to know each other, the initial fatigue was replaced with excitement, and the retreat was off to a great start. One of the retreat's highlights was the food, which always included filling Jain and vegan options. For the first dinner, we were graciously donated Chole, roti, and rice by Renu Vora and Kavita Gada from Connecticut. After this delicious meal, we had a welcome session where we discussed our motivations for attending the retreat and our respective gaams (ancestral villages), with Bidada and Devpur being the most popular ones. It was during this session that we realized the youth's desire to stay connected to Kutch and Kojain, as we want our generation and the next to maintain our mother tongue and community. Following the session, we distributed the wonderful custom-engraved Kutchi retreat sweatshirts and enjoyed a lively game of Kachuful (Judgement) with Boots's Masala Popcorn before settling in for the night.

The next morning, after a hearty breakfast, the group ventured to the nearby Heritage Trail for a pleasant nature walk. Picture 35 Kutchi youth walking together, occupying the entire width of the trail. Upon returning to the house, a large group assembled in a line to make masala sandwiches, and we had a fun-filled barbecue. We then moved on to the group's favorite activity, the Kutchi Art session. Anand and Umed Maru from Queens, NY, delivered an amazing presentation and demonstration on two Kutchi art forms: Lippan Kam and Ajrakh block printing. Lippan Kam is a Kutchi art form that utilizes mud/clay and mirrors to adorn a home's interior, while Ajrakh Block printing involves block prints used for textile decoration. Participants displayed their creativity by crafting intricate patterns or even incorporating the Air Jordan logo.

After the art session, we made use of the heated pool. Rain or shine, everyone jumped in and had a great time swimming. We then indulged in a pizza party, featuring a variety of pizzas ranging from white to margherita to eggplant parmigiana. Following the feast, we engaged in an amazing murder mystery game, organized by Kreena Vora from New York, NY. Each participant was assigned a character, and the objective was to determine the "murderer." People fully embraced their roles, leading to lively and playful debates.

The following morning, we had the honor of hosting Vivek Maru, the founder and CEO of the non-profit organization Namati, based in Washington, DC, as our keynote speaker. Vivek has dedicated the past 25 years to environmental and legal work in Kutch and globally. His impactful efforts in reforming environmental practices, such as in factories, have resulted in significant achievements. Vivek's story captivated the group, and his relatability as a US-born individual resonated with most attendees. This inspired everyone to find opportunities to volunteer remotely for organizations in Kutch, and the Kutchi Youth will collaborate with Vivek in the future to partner with such Kutchi organizations. If you're interested in volunteering, please email [janaksha@gmail.com](mailto:janaksha@gmail.com).

The next major event was the Kutchi Shark Tank, where participants were prompted to propose significant initiatives to sustain Kutchi culture in America over time. The winning group, "Kutchi EZ," proposed translating children's picture books into Kutchi, allowing children to absorb the language from an early age, along with creating audio supplements. It was



fascinating to see that all the groups' ideas aimed to preserve the language or organize group trips to Kutch. To explore the Jain aspect of our heritage, we conducted an ethical dilemmas session, where groups debated topics such as impossible vegan meat and having a pet at home from both Jain and personal perspectives. We then played "Capture the Gaam," a game of capture the flag, with all 35 attendees coming together in our spacious backyard. Since it was the last night, everyone was determined to bond. We enjoyed an amazing bonfire with vegan s'mores, a late-night swimming session, and a massive game of dumb charades. Some attendees stayed up the entire night playing games.

The next morning, we gathered for an amazing pancake breakfast, bidding heartfelt goodbyes to one another. We extend our gratitude to the donors who made this retreat possible. Countless hours were invested in planning, from transportation logistics to the day's schedule, food, and more. We're excited about the new friendships and energy that emerged from this event, as we've already announced the 2024 retreat planning committee on Instagram @kojainretreat2023.









## KOJAIN Meeting at JAINA



At the JAINA convention held in Lakeland, FL from June 30 to July 3, more than 100+ KOJAIN members attended KOJAIN gathering on July 1 afternoon and the feedback was very positive. The meeting was started with Navkar Mantra by Shri Narendrabhai Nandu, and Megh Nandu. **Vasant Nagda** (Treasurer KOJAIN) gave opening remarks and KOJAIN activities update and answered question from members about KOJAIN activities. Vijaybhai Chheda gave an update on Bidada trust activities. Ram Gada (JAINA North Regional VP) gave community update. Anil Shah (JAINA Southeast Regional VP) facilitated introduction of all members present. We thank our

own Hareeshbhai Shah (JAINA President) was helping with meeting coordination. Everyone enjoyed meeting old friends after few years and many medavos happened during JAINA and post JAINA by those staying over in FL for vacation.



We are approaching that time of the year again; we will have new batch of Kutchi students arriving in North America starting August. As you know KOJAIN Host Family Program volunteers are ready to help settle these kids by connecting with local host families.

How to get connected with KOJAIN host family program:

**Students:** If you are parent or the student who is coming to US we request you to get connected with KOJAIN host family program via sending an email at [hostfamily@kojain.com](mailto:hostfamily@kojain.com) with details of which city/state you are coming and also the name of the University.

**Become a host family:** If you live in North America and are willing to help the incoming students then we request you to also send email [hostfamily@kojain.com](mailto:hostfamily@kojain.com) with your contact details. With the changing times the needs of the students have changed and host family support has evolved to be more of a guidance and support during any emergency situations.

### Focus on Foreign Education – Update from KVOSS – By Lax Kenia, Mumbai

Every year many graduate students from KVO Samaj aspire for foreign education. Most of them for Post Graduate studies but some who can afford higher costs aspire for Undergraduate studies too. Some really want to pursue higher education in a chosen field but others do it for career goals, better job prospect, for the opportunity to explore foreign country, some for better looking Resume and better prospect for marriage.

Regardless of reason Total aspirational number post covid exceeds 100-150 students wanting to explore education overseas. Countries preferred by KVO students are USA, Canada, UK, Germany, Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, and Singapore etc. In most of these places kutchi people live and as such KVOSS tries to make aspirants life easy by sharing the Network of such residents.

On Saturday April 22,2023 Shree KVO seva samaj (KVOSS) held their annual session on foreign education to enlighten students and parents of current scenario, visa situation, job prospects in foreign countries, returning of KVO students due lack of job and worsening scenario of inflation, cost of tuition and stay overseas etc.

Visa situation in USA was highlighted by chief guest advocate Dr. Sudhir shah in his presentation. Dr. Ela Dedhia and I shared words of wisdom pointing out our many years of experience in the field and interaction with KVO students overseas as well as our counter parts in USA KOJAIN, UK, Canada and other countries. We shared our KVO resources such as WhatsApp groups of students from each year since 2016 host family system, KVO No interest education loans availability etc.

WE shared resources of the commercial educational loans but suggest them to refrain from saving one or two percent rates by offering your house or important assets as collateral. You may save small amount of interest expense but as in worst case scenario it may jeopardize your parent's lifestyle and livelihood. Bank and financial institution go out all the way to recover their funds, even to take over family assets making parents and grandparents life miserable. So be careful. Instead opt for NON COLATERAL LOAN OPTIONS.



Five KVO recent graduate panelists were selected to share their views on subject like college admission process, selection of country for education, Lifestyle in foreign country, education loan resources, initial adjustment in foreign country including caution on loneliness /Depression possibilities, 20 hours permissible job on campus versus hard work needed to cope up with studies. Personal security concern and the need to be street smart in new country was highly emphasized on. Use of alcohol and refrain from drug usage or watching child pornography being illegal and punishable by jail term was also highlighted. **KOJAIN's host family program and its dos and don'ts were emphasized** upon including wait till August month (near your departure dates) to communicate with Host family. Also do your sufficient research with Google map to understand geography of town you are going to study and living etc. Host families are also very busy in their life, as such do be selective in seeking help. Important message was GO for registered and recognized colleges rather than NEW or Unknown in studies and education. No one will offer job readily to graduate from unrecognized institutions.

The five panelists were:

- Sagar Jethalal Meghji Nisar....Devpur –Chembur
- Priyank Mukesh Talakshi Gala Desalpur-Ghatkopar
- Milay Girish Hemant Nanji Haria Devpur-Matunga
- Meet Girish kalyanji Vira Desalpur-Chinchpokli.
- Jainam Bhavesh Lalji Gala Gundala-Kopar Kherne

All did a great job with their preparation on a given topic and answering related questions from student and parents.

### KOJAIN Loan Program

As many of you know KOJAIN has been running the Loan program for many years. The goal of the loan program is to provide interest free financial assistance to need person in KOJAIN community and has mostly focus on students coming to study in North America.

This loan program was managed by KOJAIN Loan Program Committee which consists of Kalyanji Mota, Vijay Chheda, Dami Rambhia. Late Dr Chadradan Haria also served on this committee for long time. Kalyanji bhai recently tender his resignation after serving this committee for long time and Vijaybhai Chheda also expressed his desire to hand over this work to next generation.

KOJAIN BOD is in process of taking over the temporary management of this loan program and will be updating the members of this committee. If any community member is interest in serving the community by being part of this committee, please write to [admin@kojain.com](mailto:admin@kojain.com)

**KOJAIN BOD wants to thank Kalyanjibhai Mota for his long community service for this loan program as well as Vijaybhai Chheda and Damibhai Rambhia.**

## KOJAIN Elections

It is that time of the year again and it is time to elect new KOJAIN BOD that will serve the 2024-2025 term. Please see below announcement from the KOJAIN Election committee for nominations.

We have been successful in last few years to find new and enthusiastic community members to serve on the KOJAIN BOD, we urge everyone to come forward and be part of KOJAIN BOD representing your region.

Dear KOJAIN Members:

In accordance with the provisions of the constitution of KOJAIN, an Election Committee (EC) is constituted to conduct the election for electing the next Board of Directors for a period of two-year term, which will begin on **January 01, 2024** and end on **December 31, 2025**.

Enclosed is a nomination form for the election of various positions of the Board of Directors. In addition to electing a President, a Vice-President, a secretary, and a Treasurer; we need to elect eleven Regional Directors, one from each of the following regions:

<b>Region 1</b>	Arizona, Colorado, Hawaii, New Mexico, Southern California (South of 35 degree N Latitude), Utah, Mexico.
<b>Region 2</b>	Alaska, Idaho, Washington Montana, Nevada, Northern California (North of 35 degree N Latitude), Oregon, Wyoming.
<b>Region 3</b>	Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas.
<b>Region 4</b>	Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin.
<b>Region 5</b>	Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Tennessee.
<b>Region 6</b>	Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Western Pennsylvania (West of 77 degree Longitude), West Virginia.
<b>Region 7</b>	Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Washington (District of Columbia).
<b>Region 8</b>	Delaware, Eastern Pennsylvania (East of 77 degree longitude), New Jersey.
<b>Region 9</b>	New York.
<b>Region 10</b>	Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont.
<b>Region 11</b>	Canada

The current office holders are also eligible to be nominated for this election, with the condition that the officers shall not hold the same position for more than two (2) consecutive terms.

Those interested in serving on the Board of Directors for any one of the available positions for the term ending on **December 31, 2025** should have at least one such form completed and returned to Mr. Raj Shethia, Chairman of the EC. These forms could be sent through email as an attachment of completed scanned or photographed form, by **September 12, 2023**. The nomination forms received after this date shall not be considered valid. **The email address is [rajshethia@hotmail.com](mailto:rajshethia@hotmail.com)**

The election of Youth Representative Director is outside the scope of this EC.



A valid nomination must satisfy **all** of the following requirements (Ref. Article # 8.5.4):

- a. The nominee shall be a member of the KOJAIN in good standing on **July 1, 2023**.
- b. The nominee shall contest for only one position.
- c. The nominee for any officer's position shall be proposed by at least two (2) KOJAIN members who are in good standing on **July 1, 2023**.
- d. The Regional Director shall be a resident of the region from which s/he is contesting the election. The Regional Director nominee shall be proposed by at least two members of the same region from which s/he is contesting the election.
- e. Each nominee shall submit, in writing, his/her acceptance as a candidate to contest the election and serve, if elected.
- f. The nominee for the position of President must have served as a KOJAIN Director for a minimum of two (2) years.

If no election is required, then the EC will announce the names of the newly elected Board of Directors.

If there is more than one nomination for any of the post, following process and schedule will be applied to the best of our ability:

Applicants will be able to withdraw their nomination by requesting by email, to the Chairman of EC on or before **October 10, 2023**. If an election is required for any of the positions, the EC will prepare and mail out ballots, as well as the applicable election rules, to all the eligible voting members, by **October 31, 2023**.

Each contesting candidate may furnish a short (up to 200 words) biographical sketch including the record of his/her service to non-profit organizations, professional associations, etc. to the chairman of EC. Since EC will mail out this profile along with Ballot to electorates, it highly encourages contesting candidates to furnish the profile.

Exact number of copies of the profile to be supplied will be notified later to the contesting candidates. Any properly voted original ballot postmarked or received by the chairman of EC on or before **November 28, 2023** shall be considered valid for counting. The EC will conduct opening and counting of ballots on or about **December 07, 2023**.

**Online voting as an alternative option to mail in ballots is being evaluated and will be advised by mid October 2023.**

Location and time for opening and counting of ballots will be announced later to the candidates contesting the election. Contesting candidates may attend the ballot opening and counting in person or through their representatives. The EC shall tabulate and submit results of the election to the Board of Directors at the earliest possible date.

The newly-elected Board of Directors shall take over on **January 1, 2024**.

If you have any questions regarding KOJAIN elections, please feel free to contact the EC Chairman, or any member of the EC via email or telephone.

Sincerely,

**KOJAIN EC Members**

Raj Shethia – [rajshethia@hotmail.com](mailto:rajshethia@hotmail.com) (505-715-2966) - Chairman

Nimesh Chheda – [Nimesh.Chheda@gmail.com](mailto:Nimesh.Chheda@gmail.com) (410-245-0966)

Shanti Kenia – [kenya1@aol.com](mailto:kenya1@aol.com) (413-977-6590)

Jayanti Savla – [jsavla@qwestoffice.net](mailto:jsavla@qwestoffice.net) (602-708-8681)

# THE KACHCHHI OSWAL JAIN ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA (KOJAIN)

## INDIVIDUAL NOMINATION FORM

To: The KOJAIN Election Committee

We, the undersigned, would like to nominate, Mr / Mrs / Ms \_\_\_\_\_,  
for the position checked below (One Nominee per Form):

<input type="checkbox"/>	President	<input type="checkbox"/>	Secretary
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vice President	<input type="checkbox"/>	Treasurer
<input type="checkbox"/>	Regional Director for Region # _____		

- A nominee shall contest for one position only.
- A nominee for President must have served as a KOJAIN director for a minimum of two years.
- A Regional Director nominee and their co-sponsors must be residents of the region to be represented.

All nominees and sponsors must have no unpaid dues and must be voting members of KOJAIN as of July 1<sup>st</sup> of the election year.

### Co-Sponsor #1:

Name:	Signature/Date:
Telephone:	Email:
Address:	

### Co-Sponsor #2:

Name:	Signature/Date:
Telephone:	Email:
Address:	

### Nomination Acceptance

To: The KOJAIN Election Committee

I, Mr / Mrs / Ms \_\_\_\_\_ accept this nomination for the position  
of \_\_\_\_\_. If elected, I agree to serve in this capacity to the best of my ability  
for the advancement of the causes of KOJAIN.

### Nominee:

Signature:	Date:
Telephone:	Email:
Address:	

Please email scanned form as an attachment to: [rajshethia@hotmail.com](mailto:rajshethia@hotmail.com)



**Kulin Tarun Chheda**  
**Birthyear:** 1991  
**Height:** 5'8"  
**Parents:** Kamal & Tarun Damji Chheda  
**Village:** Ratadia (Ganesh)



I am a Group Portfolio Manager working on fixed income investing for Microsoft located in **Redmond, Washington**. I like to travel and explore new places, love networking and socializing, and enjoy playing and watching sports and strive to maintain a good balance between my personal and professional life.

Other interests include gardening, reading, watching movies/web series and cooking.

I have completed my bachelor's in computer engineering and a master's in mathematical finance (Boston University) with additional finance designations / certifications: CFA, FRM & CAIA. I am looking for a partner who is well read, ambitious and driven and preferably in the US or Canada.

[Kulinc@bu.edu](mailto:Kulinc@bu.edu)

**Nilay Vasant Chheda**  
**Birthyear:** 1990  
**Height:** 5'5"  
**Parents:** Ramila & Vasant Nagji Chheda  
**Village:** Mandvi



I am a software engineer working for Microsoft located in **Seattle, Washington**.

I have completed my bachelor's in information and communication technology and a Master of Science in computer science from University of Southern California.

[mit2nil@gmail.com](mailto:mit2nil@gmail.com)  
<https://linkedin.com/in/mit2nil>

**Daksh Shailesh Dharod**  
**Age:** 30  
**Parents:** Shailesh & Varsha Dharod  
**Village:** Patri



I'm an electrical engineer at AMD based in **Austin, TX**. I have completed my masters in ECE. I get to work on cutting-edge technology, and I'm always learning new things. In my spare time, I enjoy biking, hiking, and trying new food places with friends and family.

I'm looking for a girl who shares my values and interests, who is family-oriented, has a positive attitude, and is up for adventure. I'm also looking for someone who is intellectually stimulating and can challenge me to be a better person.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/dakshdharod/>  
[dakshdharod@gmail.com](mailto:dakshdharod@gmail.com)

Parents contact: +91-9867738944

**Rikhav Nilesh Dedhia**  
**Age:** 28  
**Parents:** Sangita & Nilesh Dedhia  
**Village:** Bhujpur



I completed my masters from University of New heaven and currently working as Software Engineer II at FactSet Research Systems, **West Heaven, Connecticut**.

I enjoy playing & watching sports, going on adventures, driving, trekking, playing video games, exploring new challenges in life. I love animals and nature.

I can cook nice food and have an interest to cook different cuisines. I like to keep healthy diet and keep myself active and fit

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/rikhav-dedhia>  
[dedhiarikhav158@gmail.com](mailto:dedhiarikhav158@gmail.com)

**Harsh Hiten Gala****Age:** 29**Parents:** Sonal & Hiten Gala, Mumbai**Village:** Pratapar

I have completed my MBBS followed by master's in public health. Currently working as Infection preventionist and Epidemiologist at University of Virginia Medical Center, **Charlottesville, VA.**

I follow Jainism, teachings of Shrimad Rajchandra and Shri Kanji Swami. I can mingle with any age group, I enjoy badminton, music among other things. I am looking for a partner should not be eating roots and well educated.

[harshgala23@gmail.com](mailto:harshgala23@gmail.com)

**Urmil Mahesh Maru****Age:** 30**Height:** 5'5"**Parents:** Chandrika & Mahesh Maru, Mumbai**Village:** Bidada

I have completed master's in information technology. I am currently working as Data Scientist at Lincoln Financial Group at **Charlotte, North Carolina.** I enjoy hiking, exploring new places and cuisines, trying out new activities, watching movies/TV shows, cooking, Gym, Sketching.

Contact: 516-849-8863 [urmil.maru.1992@gmail.com](mailto:urmil.maru.1992@gmail.com)

Parent's Contact +91 98337 80855

**Gaurav Nilesh Shah****Age:** 29**Parents:** Nita & Nilesh Anandji Shah (Nagda)**Village:** Kotdi Mahadevpuri

I have completed master's in financial engineering from NYU. I am currently working as VP at Citibank, New York and reside in Jersey City, NJ. I enjoy running, hiking, watching movies and spending time with family. Looking for well-educated partner who believes in shared culture and values.

[www.linkedin.com/in/gauravnshah/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/gauravnshah/)

[shahgaurav@live.com](mailto:shahgaurav@live.com)

**Hemen Narendra Shah****Age:** 27**Parents:** Dr. Trupti & Narendra Ramjibhai Waghjibhai Shah [Visaria]**Village:** Bhachau

I have completed master's in computer science from GA Tech. I am currently working as software engineer at LexisNexis at **Atlanta, GA.** I enjoy reading, photography, listening to music, puzzles, board games, computer games, going out with family and friends. Prefer USA based good Jain girl, IT Software Engineer Professional, Age 26 or less, Veg/Jain, Non-Smoker, Non-Drinker

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/hemen-shah-a6b2aa7b/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/hemen.shah.12>

**Mausam Shah****Age:** 24**Parents:** Kavita & Vijay Shah**Village:** Merau, Bidada

I am currently pursuing an MS in Marketing Intelligence at Fordham University, NYC. I enjoy exploring new restaurants and cafes, biking, fashion designing, and watching comedy and thriller shows, among other things. I also love playing table tennis, billiards, and board games. Ideally, I prefer someone between the ages 24-26 (1996-1998) who is patient, kind, ambitious, funny, and respectful. I am a vegetarian and would prefer someone who follows a similar diet.

E-mail: [contactmausamshah@gmail.com](mailto:contactmausamshah@gmail.com)

Parents' contacts: Kavita Shah - Call +1-669-338-9517

**Manshi Kiran Shah****Age:** 28**Parents:** Deepa & Kiran Shah**Village:** Bidada

I have completed master's in information management from University of Illinois Urbana Champaign. I am currently working technical program manager at Salesforce based in Jersey City, NJ. I enjoy reading, dancing, and traveling. I am looking for a partner who wants to travel the world, ambitious about the life we want to build, conscious about his health, understanding and supportive.

[shahmanshi03@gmail.com](mailto:shahmanshi03@gmail.com)

Parents: +919820158302 [shahkiran03@gmail.com](mailto:shahkiran03@gmail.com)





**Rajesh Shah****Age:** 44**Parents:** Lilavati &  
Laxmichand (Loius) Shah**Village:** Nagalpar

I have completed master's in computer science from Stanford. I am currently working as senior software engineer at large IT company in **Mountain View, CA** . I enjoy running, hiking, watching movies and spending time with family. Looking for well-educated partner who believes in shared culture and values.

I am a very soft-spoken person and I always care about others feelings. I would like some who has same respect for me and my family as I would have for her and her family. I am a fun loving and easygoing person with a blend of Eastern as well as Western cultures and I am looking for someone who is basically is a good human being with a great family value and a good sense of humor and someone who loves traveling. Above all she must be completely honest and trustworthy. I love traveling; movies and music and would like to travel the world with my partner.

[rlshah24@yahoo.com](mailto:rlshah24@yahoo.com)

**GRISHMA RAJESH BHEDA****Birthyear:** 1989**Height:** 5'4"**Parents:** Dr. Hina and Dr.  
Rajesh Bheda, Baroda**Village:** Bhujpur

I completed my master's in professional studies in Sustainable Interior Environments, New York School of Interior Design.

I am currently working as designer at MBH Architects, NYC and based in **Jersey City, NJ**.

I love reading, fiction & non-fiction, playing ping pong & badminton, and baking.

Contact Details: 91-9321953068 / [drbheda@gmail.com](mailto:drbheda@gmail.com)

If any eligible matrimonial candidate would like to become a member of KOJAIN Matrimonial WhatsApp group, please visit <https://kojain.com/matrimonial/> for signup details.