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Index

Sr. No.	Topics
1	President's Message
2	Region 1: Diwali
3	Region 2: CampKV, Graduation, Carnival Diwali
4	Region 4: Diwali
5	Region 10: Lake Outing, Summer Picnic, Paryushan, Navratri, Walkathon, Diwali etc.
6	Region 11: Navratri
7	KOJAIN Youth Meetup

President's Message

Jai Jinendra and Pranam to all my KOJAIN Community members,

It is that time of the year, festival season has kicked off and I hope you all get time to spend this festival season with your family and friends. For KOJAIN community, the season starts with spiritual elevation during Paryushan leading to faith and community bonding of Navratri to joyous celebrations of Diwali. I am sure we all are looking forward to Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays for family gathering or visiting India to meet family/friends.



In this newsletter you will see some glimpses of how KOJAIN community in various regions came together for Diwali celebrations as another major community event after summer picnics/gatherings. We are planning to have a community wide gathering of Holiday celebration during the first week of December to bring everyone together on a zoom call and have some entertainment program that can connect all generations of the community.

We are also actively working on launching KOJAIN community directory project that will provide an update to the community census. We collected the data in 2013 so almost after 10 years it is due, and I request everyone to let your KOJAIN family and friends in North America know about this upcoming effort. We will rely on you to forward this directory collection effort in your family and friends WhatsApp groups.

We are also launching a KOJAIN supported matrimonial WhatsApp group for candidates and their parents based on the feedback of running the matrimonial gathering of parents and singles for the last few months. We hope this platform provides instant updates and information for those who are looking for life partners in our community.

JAINA 2023 is being held in Lakeland, Florida from June 30-July 3 and we are planning to have a KOJAIN gathering during JAINA on June 30th afternoon. Please be on the lookout for exact details and we hope all KOJAIN members who are attending JAINA can meet and greet each other on the first day of JAINA and continue to meet on subsequent days strengthening the new and old relationships.

We look forward to hearing from you, so please send your views/reviews and articles to newsletter@kojain.com.

Jai Jinendra and Best regards,

Manish Mota

President | KOJAIN, 2022-23

Regional News: Region 1

❖ Diwali in Southern California

Saal Mubarak! The Kutchis in southern California celebrated Diwali with a lot of excitement and enthusiasm. The celebrations included medavo, kids' crafts, cultural programs, photo booth, community announcements, dinner and DJ dance party with garba and dandiya.

Everyone had a good time. Here's the photo album: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/mnh7hEYZaPKa6g7fA>
The community is planning a winter hike and spring picnic!



Regional News: Region 2

❖ Camp KV 2022 – Around the World with KV

KutchValley Camping 2022 was held from Aug 12 – 14, 2022 @ Caswell Memorial State Park. It was attended by **176** members out of which 20 were parents visiting from India. Theme of the **20th** year of group camping was "**Around the World with KV**". Enthusiastic KV campers/travelers decorated their campsite as different parts of world (Canada, Mexico, Thailand, Dubai, Africa, Iceland, London, Paris, Switzerland etc) along with entertaining presentations to represent their theme. Camping weekend was sprinkled with Campfire Games, Morning Cardio Workout, Splashing in Stanislaus River, well planned meals and snacks, endless medavo and giggles. On 14th, we celebrated the 75th year of India's Independence by dressing up in Tri color, Singing National Anthem, and other patriotic songs.

Summary Video of CampKV-2022 - "Around the World with KV" can be seen here [Camp KV 2022 - Around the World with KV - \(20th Annual Camping\)](#)





❖ Prerna's MBA graduation

Prerna Gosar, daughter of Mita and Bhavesh Gosar (Kutch Gaam - Vidh) residing in Fremont, California completed her MBA in Marketing and Management from University of Illinois at Chicago. Prerna completed her MBA with Honors along with working full time for Abbott Laboratories and will continue working as Program Manager for the Diabetes division at Abbott Laboratories. Family and friends extend their congratulations to Prerna on this achievement and wish her continued success.



❖ KV Carnival - Diwali Celebration

KutchValley (Kutchis in Silicon Valley, SF Bay Area) celebrated its 21st Diwali – “**KV Carnival**” event with a record-breaking number of **470+** attendees.

This year a pre-Diwali celebration was debuted by hosting a virtual mehendi night which was attended by 80+ members. On October 15th, a full day of Diwali festivities included a variety of Carnival games that brought a fun atmosphere to the Diwali festivities, an art booth where participants made Diya holders using CD and a health booth to promote a healthy lifestyle. After a lavish lunch, shaandar and dhamakedar performances by community members across all age groups rocked the pleasant fall afternoon at the Morgan Hill Downtown Amphitheater. Videos of all the performances can be found here - [KV Carnival Performances](#) . Diwali and mithai/nashta go hand in hand, with that in mind there was a Mithai/Nashta competition which brought out the talents of amazing chefs of KutchValley. The day ended with a DJ Hour, scrumptious snack along with hot beverages. Many KutchValley community members contributed their time and effort to make this event a huge success and memorable on various fronts.





Regional News: Region 4

❖ Chicago Diwali Celebration

Region 4 had a Diwali party in Chicago Illinois on Saturday Nov 5th. There were roughly **100** attendees, and we had a great time putting on a cultural program that included a kids dance, adult dance, a lazy adult dance and standup comedy. We also had an antakshri and played garba-Raas and did freestyle Bollywood dancing. Thanks to the Midwest admin team for putting together a successful event. Happy Diwali from our Kutchi family.



❖ Lake Outing

Every year in August, Nehal & Himanshu Gosar from Kingston, RI host a Lake party and welcome all Kutchis from CT, RI and MA. We get to enjoy lake activities, delicious variety of food brought by each family and games like tennis, badminton, volleyball etc. We appreciate all the efforts they put in planning for a fun-packed summer outing this year on August 6th.



❖ Summer Picnic

Boston Kutchis had their annual summer picnic on Sunday August 14th, at Blue Hills Reservation in Milton, MA. Everyone enjoyed medavo and games including hiking, playing frisbee, badminton, cricket, football and games with hula hoops, hot potato etc. Enjoying each other's company and the delicious treats made by everyone made it another fun summer day.



❖ Paryushan

Jain Centers in CT and Boston area celebrated Paryushan in-person this year and everyone in the community did Bhakti and took Labh in religious activities. Khub Khub Anumodana to all the Tapasvi who did 8 or more upvaas. May you progress further in your spiritual journey and continue to inspire others.





❖ Walkathon

Inspired by the idea of a Walkathon organized by the KutchValley of California. We organized two walkathons this season and had about 50 total attendees. First one was in Connecticut's finest state park, Sherwood Island in Westport, CT on September 17th. This also became the kickoff event for the CT KOJAIN WhatsApp group. It was fun to walk along the beautiful shoreline on a bright sunny day and meet CT families as well as visitors from DC and London. The second walkathon was in the Boston area at Horn Pond in Woburn, MA on September 30th. What a fun way to chit-chat with Kutchi friends and at the same time get your work out on a Sunday morning!



❖ Navratri Fundraiser

We celebrated Navratri on October 1st. Few of our Kutchi artists along with others from the Jain Center of Connecticut music group performed live music at the CT Hindu Cultural Center (HCC). Our Kutchi performers were Prakash Lapasia, Dipti Haria, Piyush Vora, Vishal Haria and Divyesh Pithdia along with Dinal Doshi and Charul Kothari. This was a fundraising event for HCC and was a very successful program.



❖ Artist Corner - Renu Vora, Stamford CT, (Moti Varandi)

This painting is called Happy and Peaceful World. She made this painting when the war between Russia and Ukraine started. Her vision for making this painting was that although each and every country is different in land, culture, food, lifestyle etc. But one thing everyone wants is peace and happiness. So, let's spread peace and happiness to each other and make the world a better place. This painting was exhibited in Ferguson library in Stamford CT till September 28, 2022, by Stamford Art Association. You can visit her website to see more paintings at www.renuarts.com



❖ Diwali & Raas-Garba

New England Kutchi's Celebrated Diwali & Raas Garba on Sunday on October 30th, 2022, at American Legion Hall, Bedford, MA. The Theme was: **Incredible India - Celebrate India & its Rich Cultural Diversity**.

We had a total of **107** people attending with families from Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut. Beautiful decorations portrayed India's cultural diversity in music, clothing and art. Cultural performances based on folk music and the mythological legends of Lord Krishna entertained the audience. We played a game where the audience gave impromptu presentations on 10 different states of India. It was great to see the creativity and enthusiasm by adults and children in the cultural craft competition.



❖ Navratri festivities

Every year members of KOJAIN Region 11, Canada go to some Navratri Raas-Garba event as a group. In the previous years (except for 2020 and 2021 where no events were organized), around **50-60** members showed up for such events.

On Oct 01, 2022, KOJAIN Canada partnered with Geetanjali Group for Navratri celebration. More than 110 members booked the tickets and we had to cap at that point since the event was all sold out. The event was in the central Greater Toronto Area, and we were fortunate to get tickets at discounted rates for bulk buying. The group enthusiasm was very high, and everyone was well dressed up for the event. Majority of the members danced tirelessly through the end of the event.

This year witnessed many Navratri events in the entire Canada region including sheri garba events (garba being played on street). The gap of two years presented us with excellent weather and people gracefully welcomed the opportunity.





❖ Virtual Rangoli Meetup by KOJAIN Youths

On October 16,2022, the KOJAIN Youth Committee hosted a virtual rangoli designing session to prepare for Diwali. Since powder rangoli colors can get messy and, they geared their event towards using an easier alternative - items found in their pantries. They used items such as rice, kidney beans, various daals and peas, and whatever else could be found in their pantries. At the beginning of the event, the group chose a simple design for everyone to mimic, but also add a bit of their own creative touches. Those who did not have many materials to use or lacked space to make the rangoli drew it instead. Everyone had a wonderful time relaxing together, making rangoli, and listening to some Bollywood beats. Pictured are a few of the rangolis made by Neesha Daulat, Sangeet Dharamsey, Nishit Savla, and Miloni Shah. To stay in touch with the Youth Committee follow them on Instagram @kutchi_youth or join the Facebook group Kutchi Youth.

If you would like to learn more or how to get involved, don't hesitate to contact us at youthkutchis@gmail.com

Join them on Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/kutchi_youth/





✦ **Make Each Day Your Masterpiece** ✦