



NEWSLETTER

Fall/Winter 2008 Newsletter

NIAASC

NATIONAL INDO-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

Office: 1824 Fairfax Street, Elmont, NY 11003 • **Mailing Address:** 7 Roberta Avenue, Farmingville, NY 11738
Web site: www.niaasc.org • **E-mail:** niaasc@aol.com • **Editors:** Rajeshwar Prasad and MK Ramasubramanian

BRIEF HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE: *The National Indo-American Association for Senior Citizens (NIAASC), initiated in 1998 and incorporated early 1999, is a nonprofit 501C3 organization. Its mission is to serve seniors through information, referral and advocacy services. NIAASC has organized 16 full-day conferences/workshops. It has also collaborated with other organizations in at least 15 conferences/workshops. Touching briefly activities between 2005 & 2008: **In 2005**, in February NIAASC highlighted its mission, objectives and activities at a conference in Artesia, California. In May it presented a paper at the National Federation of Indian Associations in New York; and in July it presented two papers at the North American Bengali Conference, also in New York. Both organizations celebrated their 25th anniversaries. At an event, organized by the Commissioner Sharon Mullan of the Nassau County Department of Senior Citizen Affairs, for the White House Conference on Aging held in December 2005 in Washington, NIAASC presented a paper at the Hofstra University in June 2005. **In 2006**, it organized Eleventh Workshop in June: "Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI)"; attended Two-Day Conference at the United Nations: "E-Technology Challenge and Opportunities: Empowering Graying Society" on June 19 & 20; one session on Elder Abuse was led by NIAASC representative. Attended One-Day conference on May 12 by Asian Americans/Asian Research Institute (AAARI) at Baruch College. NIAASC assisted in planning, and spoke or moderated in two sessions. Attended two-Day Conference sponsored by the United Way of Central Jersey on Successful Aging on July 22 & 23 in Sayreville, New Jersey. In October it had its 12th conference on Financial Planning and Management for Seniors; and How to Work Cooperatively Between Nonprofit and Public Sectors. **In 2007**, NIAASC organized the 13th & 14th conferences/workshops addressing issues of Single Senior, Bereavement Support System, Retirement Housing for Seniors of Indian Origin, with keynote Speech on "India's Contributions to World Civilizations. **In 2008** April it organized its 15th workshop on Home Health Care Services and Reverse Mortgage; it held its sixteenth conference on October 25, 2008,, details are in this newsletter.*

NIAASC publishes a periodical newsletter that is posted on its web site as well. It collaborates with different senior programs and provides technical and logistic support as and when needed.

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND NINTH ANNUAL MEETING

NIAASC held its sixteenth full day conference on Saturday, October 25, 2008 in Elmont. It also held its 9th annual meeting to elect Board members, and Board of Directors meeting to elect officers. The conference was held in collaboration with Indian American Kerala Center. About 100 people participated.

SPONSORS:

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

India Home Inc.
Shanti Niketan (A unit of Bharat Vilas)
Indo-American Senior Citizen Center of NY
India Association of Long Island
Association of Indians in America
Rajasthan Association of North America
Long Island Gujarati Cultural Society

Indian American Kerala Center (Collaborator)

INDIVIDUAL SPONSORS

Ashvin Doshi, MD, Samir K. Dutta, MD, Tara Kotecha
Satpal Malhotra, Satya Malhotra RN, Meena Modak,
P. Ramaswamy Mohan, Purabi Nandi, Aswhin Pandya, MD
Prem Prasad DSW, Rajeshwar Prasad,
MK Ramasubramanian, Nirmala Ramasubramanian
Asha Samant DDS, Arun Samant MD,
Chandrakant Shah, Avinash Suri and Sunil Uppal

MAJOR CORPORATE SPONSOR

NURSING HOMES AND ADULT DAY CARE CENTERS: *Contact Person: Mr. Mandeep Singh*
Huntington Village Rehab. & Nursing (631-427 0254); Nesconset Nursing Center (631-361-8800);
Islip Adult Day Care (631-234-0550); Middle Island Adult Day Care (631-924-0700)

CONFERENCE: (from page 1)

The morning session speaker was **Honorable Consul Sasi Kumar** from the Indian Consulate who spoke in details about the **Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI)**, outlining eligibility requirements, benefits of OCI and steps for enrollment for OCI. Presentation was followed by extensive Q & A session. The Kerala Center enrolled 10 participants for OCI online.

The afternoon session was “**A Dialogue Among Ongoing Senior Programs**” and 11 programs participated: India Home Inc, LI Gujarati Cultural Society, India Association of Long Island, United Hindu Cultural Council Senior Center, Jain Center of America, Indian American Kerala Center, Indo-American Senior Program of Wayne- New Jersey, Indo-American Senior Citizen Center of New York, Guru Gobind Singh Senior Forum, and Hindu Temple Society of North America.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

RAM T. GADHAVI: Spoke on “THE JOY OF OLD AGE”

Mr. Ram Gadhavi came to the United States for further education in 1968. He graduated with a Master degree in Mechanical Engineering from Brigham Young University (BYU) in Provo, Utah and then achieved an MBA from Boston College in Massachusetts. He was the first Indian engineer to serve as a Project Manager. Mr. Gadhavi was very active in community affairs in the NY/NJ area. He served as Chairman of the India Cultural Society of Wayne, which has built a Gandhi Mandir in Wayne under his leadership. The Independence Day parade started in 1981 in NYC was his brainchild. Currently, Mr. Gadhavi is the President of the Gujarati Literary Academy of North America.



In his eloquent and passionate presentation he enumerated positives of old age and focused on the rich cultural and traditional values the elders offer. He also underscored the importance of inter-generational dialogue and communication for a healthy and successful family growth.

HONOREES:

NIAASC bestows honors in three categories. This year it also recognized a well-known person from San Francisco, CA as a part of celebrating ten years of NIAASC existence.

PRAFUL SHAH: *Person directly involved in an Indian American senior program:*

Praful Shah born in 1923 graduated from high school in 1942. For twenty years till 1968 Praful worked in a limited company in labor management and related field. In 1968 he took steps to be an entrepreneur and started two factories; known as Geeta Cement Products. He also started cooperative societies in various ventures such as Milk Supply Cooperative, and he also carried on responsibilities as secretary of Small Industry Service Association. For almost twenty years he devoted himself in humanitarian work volunteering with agencies such as Indian Red Cross Society, Consumer Protection Association. He visited USA twice between 1990 and 98 and settled here in 1998. Within a short period he started working with the DEC (Dept. of Environment Conservation) of New York State under special provisions for senior citizens. Praful at age 85 is still working with DEC. In 2001 a study was conducted by the Penn State University under the direction of **Dr. Jyotsna Kalavar** to understand issues and concerns of senior citizens of Indian origin. Contact in connection with this study led Praful to launch a program for seniors in early 2003 under the Long Island Gujarati Cultural Society (LIGCS). He has been coordinating this program since then. In addition, he has worked with other senior programs in Long Island run by other organizations. He has been successful to procure a place for the LIGCS senior program from the Town Government. A life member of NIAASC, Praful tries to attend and participate in various programs. He has never considered his inability to drive as handicap for his mission to serve seniors. He has been an inspiration to seniors in the tri-state region.



UHCCSC members and Executive Director Chan Jamoona with IALI President Anila Midha and other officials - See writeup on next page



Praful Shah with plaque among friends and family/ Tribhovan Patel, President LIGCS presenting plaque

UNITED HINDU CULTURAL COUNCIL SENIOR CENTER: *An Ongoing Senior Program*

The United Hindu Cultural Council Senior Center was started in **Chan Jamoona's** living room in 1988 with (7) seven seniors and grew tremendously over a short period of time. When the program became too large to be accommodated in that venue, it was moved to 118-09 Sutter Avenue where it continues to exist. **Today the Center has over (1000) one thousand registrants. Its daily census ranges from 85 to 165 seniors.** The United Hindu Cultural Council (UHCC) of USA, North America is dedicated to promoting unity among all people in our diversified populations. The Center activities are heavily focused towards disease prevention, health maintenance and wellness programs, for example:

Walking Club; Cancer Prevention Education and other activities such as Mammograms ,PSA and Colorectal Cancer screening; Yoga, Meditation and Relaxation with Stress Management; Music, Singing, and Dancing; Poetry; Crime Prevention and Safety Education by New York Police Department and New York City Fire Department; Arts and Craft; Sightseeing trips to points of interest in NYC and beyond; Monthly Birthday parties; Games such as chess, dominoes, Chinese checkers, scrabble; Laughing club daily; Workshops on Health Promotion and Prevention around topics such as Diabetes, Heart Disease, High Blood Pressure and Cancer; Health fairs, annual flu shots, blood pressure checks, vision and hearing tests; screenings for cholesterol and diabetes; English as a second language; Nutrition Education, FAN Program; Case Assistance & Social Services: Individual & Group Counseling; Entitlements and benefit information and services; Translation services; Information and referrals, Medicare and Medicaid related case assistance; Other programs include: Intergenerational Program, Youth Programs, Student education and Community Service Hours, Work Experience Program, Title V Worker program, Research Projects

ANIMESH GOENKA: *Community Leadership category*

Mr. Animesh Goenka, after completing his Masters in Economics, immigrated to the United States in 1980. He is the president of Steelbro International Corporation, a company in steel business, which he founded in 1981. He has been socially active, since his young age. He became the President of AIA New York chapter (Association of Indians in America) in 1993. He initiated various charitable programs like Senior Citizen Center in Herrick's Community Center in Long Island, a 24-hour help line for new Indian immigrants and scholarship programs for Youth. He was the Co-Convener of the first Rajasthan International Convention held in New York in 2003. As a board member of RANA (Rajasthan Association of North America) he laid the foundation for Water Harvesting projects to provide drinking water in the drought hit villages of Rajasthan. In 2006, he established Heritage India Group, a non-profit organization, with a purpose to promote yoga and meditation as means of better health and alternative medicine. Presently, he is the President of National Executive Committee of Association of Indians in America (AIA- national) which has many chapters all across America. They are also working to promote Hindi in America among our second and third generation children to preserve our Indian culture and identity.



A section of the audience attending conference



The NIAASC editorial board wishes to acknowledge with gratitude and appreciation all who have either contributed for this newsletter or have provided resources for it.

**WELLS
FARGO**

HOME
MORTGAGE

There Is A Reason Wells Fargo Home Mortgage Is One Of The Nation's Leading Retail Mortgage Lenders

- Conventional and FHA loans
- Construction and renovation financing
- **PriorityBuyer**® preapproval
- Financing in all 50 states



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Equal Housing Lender

Mr. Majmundar with
L to R Prasad, Pandya
& Sasi Kumar



A Relaxing Moment:
Pandya, Majmundar & Chandubhai Patel



SPECIAL AWARD:

HARIKRISHNA MAJMUNDAR (*Special Recognition in celebrating NIAASC's ten years*)

Mr. Majmundar was born in 1919 in Gujarat, India. He got his degrees in the Arts, Law and Commerce, and enjoyed a distinguished career primarily in Bhaba Atomic Center. After retiring in 1977 he tutored students privately until 1985, when he came to USA. In California, he continued tutoring and also studying at the local community college. Mr. Majmundar has received many awards for his voluntary work. He was one of the founders of the Indo-Community Senior Center (later renamed as Indo-American Service Center) and worked as an Ex-Officio Director of the center. In 2000, Mr. Majmundar received the Tony Sykes Memorial Award from the California Assembly for outstanding work in the area of human relations in the county of Santa Clara. This award acknowledged his tireless work on behalf of elderly immigrants who needed help to understand the complex welfare system. In 2001 Mr. H.N. Varma, an Indian supreme court lawyer, wrote a biography of Mr. Majmundar entitled "An Exalted Indo-American" published in India. Mr. Majmundar wrote and published a book on welfare "Mapping the Maze" in 2003. His compassion for work and his desire to help community, particularly seniors, in USA has been documented in Indian weekly papers and magazines.

CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS HELD BY NIAASC

You can review the proceedings of these Conferences (except 9/26/98) by going over its web site. Names of speakers, panelists and moderators all appear in the proceedings. The web site goes by date. So please see the subject below and see the date conference was held. Click the date under Conferences/Workshops.

| DATE | TITLE (S) OF CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP |
|--------------------|---|
| September 26, 1998 | Problems and Issues Faced by Elders and Services available for elderly (specific issues and aspirations of Indian Americans); Entitlement programs, Long Term Care |
| April 29, 2000 | Medicare and Medicaid Basics; Issues and Services for Seniors, Unique Issues of Indian Seniors; Strategies for Developing Senior Citizen Centers. |
| November 11, 2000 | In-Family Conflicts and Compromises Faced by Immigrant Seniors |
| November 10, 2001 | Issues Related to Housing for Seniors including Assisted Living; Issues Related to Transportation, Medicaid and Respite Care for Seniors and their Families |
| November 02, 2002 | Elder Law and Its Implications to Seniors |
| April 26, 2003 | Advocacy Workshop: Crucial Points in Advocacy; Community Perspective in Advocacy |
| November 1, 2003 | Housing Opportunities for Seniors |
| August 22, 2004 | Brainstorming Session on "Planning, Development and Administration of Senior Housing Complexes." |
| October 30, 2004 | Social and Cultural Interventions and Elderly Abuse |
| October 29, 2005 | Interactive Discussion Among Ongoing Indo-American Senior Programs in NY/NJ/CT <i>How was the program developed? What kind of problems/difficulties it faced in the process? What are the current activities and future plans?</i> |
| June 11, 2006 | Overseas Citizenship of India |
| October 28, 2006 | Financial Planning and Management for Seniors, and How Public and Nonprofit Organizations can work cooperatively together for the benefit of seniors |
| April 29, 2007 | Issue of Single Seniors: Focus on Bereavement Support System Retirement Housing for Seniors of Indian Origin |
| October 27, 2007 | Single Seniors, Retirement Housing: Progress in Florida |
| April 19, 2008 | Home Health Care for Seniors, Reverse Mortgage |
| October 25, 2008 | Overseas Citizenship of India, A Dialogue Among Ongoing Senior Programs |

In addition to the above conferences and workshops, NIAASC has collaborated with a number of organizations in assisting in planning, development and implementation of their conferences. NIAASC also maintains an ongoing relationship with various ongoing senior programs.

Board of Directors 2009:

OFFICERS: **President:** M. K Ramasubramanian, (mkram38@hotmail.com) **Vice Presidents:** Meena Modak (Memodak@aol.com) and 2nd VP yet to be elected, **Secretary:** P. Ramaswamy Mohan (mohans49@yahoo.com)
Treasurer: Satpal Malhotra, (paul_malhotra@yahoo.com), Executive Director: Rajeshwar Prasad (prasadraj@aol.com)

MEMBERS: Jaya Bahadkar RN, Samir K. Dutta MD, Sampurna Jain, Annie Koshi Ph.D., Tara Kotecha, Ardaman Singh Madan, Satya Malhotra RN, Purabi Nandi, Ashwin Pandya MD, Chandubhai Patel, Asha Samant DDS, Ashok Satkalmi Ph.D., Chandrakant Shah, E. M. Stephen, and Avinash Suri

NEWS OF INTEREST:

NEW NIAASC OFFICERS:

AS OF JANUARY 1, 2009, MR. MK RAMASUBRAMANIAN TAKES OVER AS PRESIDENT OF NIAASC. MS. MEENA MODAK IS THE NEW VICE PRESIDENT; P. RAMASWAMY MOHAN CONTINUES AS SECRETARY AND MR. SATPAL MALHOTRA CONTINUES AS TREASURER. One VP position yet to be filled.

DATABASE DEVELOPMENT& COMMUNITY LIASON:

Starting 2009 NIAASC will augment its focus on developing a database and liaison and coordination with different community organizations and senior programs throughout USA. PLEASE LET US KNOW ABOUT THE ORGANIZATIONS AND SENIOR PROGRAMS in your area, state and region. Send an E-mail to NIAASC@AOL.COM. The information will help immensely seniors and their families in getting services in their local areas. NIAASC will coordinate these projects with the existing government entities known as AREA AGENCIES ON AGING.

NIRVANA BY THE BEACH ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY, Pompano Beach, Florida provides short-term recovery assistance or long-term care. Contact **Vibha Thacker** at (954) 317-0082.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR MEDICARE PREMIUM

You can apply for help from your state Medicare Savings Program (MSP). If you qualify, the state will pay your Part B premiums and you will also be automatically eligible for low-cost Medicare prescription drug coverage. Eligibility depends on your income and possibly your savings. If your income is low enough, an MSP may also pay your other out-of-pocket costs in Medicare – the Part A and Part B deductibles and co-payments for medical services. For eligibility, call Medicare at 800-633-4227 or go online to www.medicare.gov and click on “Find Helpful Phone Numbers and Web sites” under Search Tools. Source: AARP Bulletin

NEW ONLINE HELP FOR CAREGIVERS:

Caregivers now have a new one-stop resource, the Ask Medicare website, launched by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The site (www.medicare.gov/caregivers) includes information on navigating through Medicare, health care services, links to partner organizations that assist caregivers. Adapted from AARP Bulletin

NIAASC TOLL FREE TELEPHONE NUMBER:

NIAASC WILL NOT BE USING ITS TOLL FREE TELEPHONE NUMBER ANY MORE. PLEASE CONTACT NIAASC ON ITS WEB SITE: WWW.NIAASC.ORG. Appropriate telephone numbers and E-mail addresses appear on the Web site.

IALI HOLDS ITS 13TH SENIOR LUNCHEON:

The India Association of Long Island (IALI) held its 13th Senior Luncheon on August 24, 2008 in collaboration with NIAASC. The presentation on SOCIAL SECURITY, MEDICARE & DISABILITY by Allison Vercellone, SSA Claims Representative, was very interactive. NIAASC has collaborated with all senior luncheons arranged by IALI.

KERALA CENTER, GOPIO AND NIAASC ORGANIZE INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH GOVERNOR JACOB

The Indian American Kerala Center joined hands with the Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) and NIAASC for a reception and interactive session with former union minister and Meghalaya governor M.M Jacob in New York. Discussions included voting rights for Indian citizens living outside India, NRI representations in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha of Indian Parliament as well as in the legislative assemblies and closer interactions for NRI senior citizens with senior citizens in India. Kerala Center Founder Mr. E.M. Stephen said, “With a large number of Indian citizens living outside India, it is time that Indian Parliament adopts a constitutional amendment to give representation for NRIs in Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies.” Mr. Jacob suggested that GOPIO should reach out to the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs to recommend a constitutional amendment for direct appointment of NRIs to both houses of the Indian parliament as well as legislative assemblies. He appealed to the audience to participate actively in India’s development.



L to R: Satpal Malhotra, Prasad, Gov. Jacob, Satya Malhotra & E.M. Stephen

MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE TO NRI SENIORS:

NRI Today, a monthly magazine, carried an article in its July 2008 issue on Matters of Importance to NRI Seniors by Mr. Rajeshwar Prasad. The NRI Today web site is: www.nritoday.net.

NIAASC MEMBERSHIP & DONATION FORM

MISSION AND OBJECTIVES of NIAASC:

Mission of the National Indo-American Association for Senior Citizens (NIAASC) is to serve as the leading national information, referral and advocacy organization committed to the wellbeing and quality of life of Indo-Americans in their senior years. The objectives include: creating awareness of Indo-American senior issues and needs; providing information on issues and services; advocacy at the local, state and national levels on seniors' issues; forging collaborations with public and private service providers; providing advisory support to Indian community, business and professional groups in developing senior programs and services; educating the public through workshops, conferences and seminars to address senior issues; and working with Indian and other groups to collect and store information regarding senior issues and problems.

Membership Benefits with NIAASC

Membership is open to all Indo-Americans, agencies and organizations which subscribe to the objectives of the NIAASC. Members will benefit through:

- * A periodical newsletter on pertinent issues for seniors;
- * Information about services identified earlier;
- * Referral to service provider agencies in their communities;
- * Advocacy on behalf of seniors;
- * Job opportunity alerts for seniors;
- * Workshops, seminars and conferences to address issues affecting seniors.

NATIONAL INDO-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR SENIOR CITIZENS Inc. MEMBERSHIP / DONATION APPLICATION

Renewal _____ New Membership _____ (please check one)

Name:..... Telephone ()

Address:..... zip.....

Fax # () E-mail.....

Sex: Male:.... Female:.... **Age:** 50 years & older:.... Under 50 years:.... **Marital Status:** Married ... Single ...
If Single: Never Married ... Widowed ... Divorced ..

Please check one: Individual membership..... Organization membership.....

Please check one under category and one under membership fees:

Categories

Membership Fees

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Regular member (50 years and over): | \$10.00 per year | \$40.00 for 5 years..... | \$100.00 for Life |
| Members under 50 years (nonvoting): | \$10.00 per year..... | \$40.00 for 5 years..... | \$100.00 for Life |
| Not-for-profit organization..... | \$100.00 per year..... | \$400.00 for 5 years..... | |
| Other agencies/institutions..... | \$100.00 per year..... | \$400.00 for 5 years..... | |

I,....., have read the objectives of the Association and I shall subscribe to them:

I am interested in volunteering my services to NIAASC ----- Signature: -----

Any additional donation will be highly appreciated: Please check the donation amount:

\$50.00.....\$100.00.....\$200.00.....\$250.00.....Other (Please specify).....

Please make check payable to National Indo-American Association for Senior Citizens or NIAASC
and mail to: 7 Roberta Avenue, Farmingville NY 11738

EDITORIAL

As cited elsewhere in this Newsletter NIAASC has completed 10 years this year (2008) and this newsletter (as well as past issues) has highlighted some of the milestones scaled by the organization consistent with its objective of serving as an Information, Referral and Advocacy group for Senior Citizens of Indian origin. During this process the organization-- thanks to the support and interest shown by our members and readers - has gained National recognition for putting the spotlight on Seniors' issues--especially the relatively-new immigrants. This group has been growing in numbers consequent upon their children settling down in the US as Citizens. Having spent their working careers in India, these "new" citizens find it difficult to adjust to their new roles of "dependency" (not necessarily financial) and acculturation with the US way of life. NIAASC has been helping Senior Center organizations elsewhere in identifying Govt. programs of assistance and sources to go to for help and guidance. Obviously NIAASC's effectiveness in this task is directly linked to the feedback we receive from Senior Center organizations in the Country on the issues that confront THEIR constituents. NIAASC will continue to seek inputs from our Readers on happenings in their own "constituencies". **We would appreciate your feedback and also would like to use this forum/media to solicit contributions from YOU the Readers to strengthen our financial base.** We would like to assure our readers and members that this solicitation is not to underwrite any grandiose vision but simply to augment our current resources just enough to sustain the modest initiatives that we envisage for the year 2009 and beyond. Please go over the membership form and use it for donations. Your continued support to our efforts is very much appreciated.

*NIAASC WISHES YOU, THE READERS OF NEWSLETTER, YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS
HAPPY HOLIDAYS, AND A PROSPEROUS AND PEACEFUL NEW YEAR.*

*LET US JOIN HANDS TOGETHER TO ADDRESS ISSUES OF SENIORS IN THE USA. A COOPERATIVE AND
COLLABORATIVE APPROACH WILL HELP IN ACCOMPLISHING THIS MISSION. NIAASC IS
EXTENDING ITS HANDS TO SEEK YOUR COOPERATION AND COLLABORATION IN ITS TASKS AHEAD.*

National Indo-American Association
For Senior Citizens (NIAASC)
7 Roberta Avenue, Farmingville, NY 11738

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Fall/Winter 2008 Issue

Members of NIAASC deeply feel a sense of sorrow combined with frustration on the cowardly attack by terrorists on innocent people in Mumbai, India. We wish the appropriate authorities go deeper into the investigation of this tragedy and take expeditious action to punish those responsible within India and outside India.

We express our sympathy and condolences for the families and friends of those who lost their life and pray for the early and full recovery of the injured.