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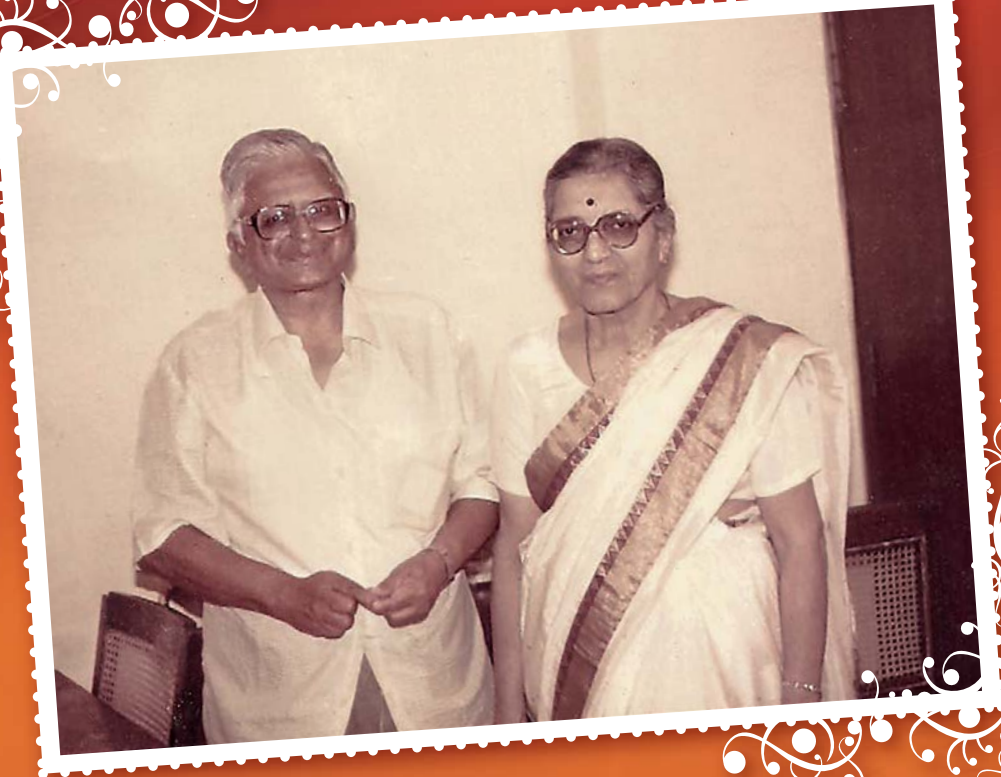
Vol. 92, No. 9, September 2011



Kanara Saraswat

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF KANARA SARASWAT ASSOCIATION

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- ❑ Letters, articles and poems are welcome. Letters should be brief, and articles should be about 800-1000 words. They will be edited for clarity and space.
- ❑ The selection of material for publication will be at the discretion of the Editorial Committee.
- ❑ The opinions expressed in the letters/articles are those of the authors and not necessarily those of KSA or the Editorial Committee.
- ❑ All matter meant for publication should be addressed only to the Editor c/o KSA Office / e-mail id given above.
- ❑ The deadline for letters, articles, poems, material for "Here and There", "Personalia", and other original contributions is the 12th of every month; the deadline for advertisements, classifieds and other paid insertions, is the 16th of every month. Matter received after these dates will be considered for the following month.

IN THIS ISSUE....

From the President's Desk	7
Letters to the Editor	9
Our Cover	
Nirmala and Sadanand: Work is Worship ... Ramdas Bhatkal	11
Sadanand Bhatkal – A Tribute... Gurunath S. Gokarn	13
Sadanand Ganpatrao Bhatkal - Bookman par excellence ... Raghunath Gokarn	15
Sadanand Bhatkal – A Visionary ... Pandurang Kumtha	21
मगेलो सदानंदु ... रमेश नाडकर्णी	23
A small Tribute to a Revered Couple ... Kalindi S Muzumdar	25
Nirmala Bhatkal – A Multi Faceted Personality ... Sadhana Kamat	27
Remembering Sadanand and Nirmala Bhatkal ... Frank F Conlon	29
Sadanand Bhatkal: A Tribute and a Memoir ... Ramesh Gangolli	31
Sadanand Bhatkal – A Man with many Achievements ... Satish R. Murdeshwar	32
प्रकाशकांतील भीष्मपितामह ... ज्योतिभास्कर जयंत साळगावकर	33
Story of a Sweet Tooth (Poem) ... Gurudas Gulwadi	35
KS Health Awareness Series -1 - Hernia ... Dr. Gurudutt Basrur	36
The Meaning of Marriage! ... Kuldeep Kalavar	39
Down Memory Lane: Treasures ! ... Shantha M. Sujir	41
Echoes of Fate (Poem) ... Preeti M. Andar	43
Ammama's Wisdom ... Vinita M Rao	43
The Young Viewpoint: Turning 30.... Hype Or Hope! ... Aseem Hattangadi	44
Are We Going To Dogs? - 2 ... Indukanth Ragade	45
Konkani Sourabh ... Compiled by Arun Ubhayakar	47
Sakura — Japanese Blossoms (Poem) ... Kumud Lajmi	47
Tumsa Nahin Dekha ... Anuja Kamat Mudur	48
Kiddies Corner: What I want to be (Poem) ... Mamasi Hosangady;	52
Visit to Longwood Garden ... Tanay Amit Gulwadi	53
Gifts ... Yashodhara Bhat	54
खुर्ची जिंदाबाद ... रेखा राव (कावळ)	55
'भावना' ... चित्रा शिराली	57
मगलें देवाकूड ... नलिनी संझगिरी	57
आषाढी एकादशी निमित्त ... नलिनी संझगिरी	59
कार्लतुलो सेवासप्ताह ... सुनंदा शिरूर, वेंगळूर	59
पुस्तक परीक्षण - पुस्तक पंदरीचे पांडुरंग ... नारायण शां. शिराली	60
उपासनी आश्रमातील सती देवीताई	62
Book Review: Worship - Essential For Puja (by Meera Sashital) ... Reviewed by V. Rajagopal Bhat	63
Birth Centenary Celebrations of flute legend the late Pt. Pannalal Ghosh ...Contributed by Pt. V. G. Kamad	63
Charity Programme by Saraswat Samaj UK ... Shashi Bailoor	64
Personalia	65
Here and There	65
Our Institutions	67
Classifieds	67
Domestic Tidings	68

KANARA SARASWAT ASSOCIATION

13/1-2, Association Building, Talamkiwadi, J.D. Marg, Mumbai 400 007
Tel No 23802263 / 23805655

KALA VIBHAG

The Kanara Saraswat Association is organizing a Painting Exhibition, from 5th November 2011 to 7th November 2011.

To participate, the artist has to submit his/her updated profile and a maximum of four images of recent works which he/she wishes to exhibit.

Last date of submission is 15th September 2011.

Please submit an application in the format (given on the facing page) to Hon. Secretary, Kala Vibhag at our office address or mail a scanned copy to admin@kanarasaraswat.in along with the details mentioned below on or before 15th Sept. 2011.

1. Art work in any art form, such as Paintings, Drawings, Sculptures, Ceramics, Metal, Enamel, Graphics etc will be accepted.
2. The approved size of the art work is minimum 12 x 12 inches and the maximum size should not exceed 48 x 48 inches.
3. Medium and size of the art works should be properly mentioned.
4. Images should be in 'jpg' format (600 x 900 pixels) (4 x 6 inches size)
5. Kindly mention the price quoted for the artwork

We look forward for your support and co-operation to make the event successful and memorable.

Regards,

Gurunath S. Gokarn

Hon.Secretary, Kala Vibhag

KANARA SARASWAT ASSOCIATION - KALA VIBHAG

13/1-2, Association Building, Talmakiwadi, J.D. Marg, Mumbai – 400 007

Tel No : 23802263 / 23805655

Application Form

1. Full Name of the Artist : _____

2. Address: _____

3. Contact Details: Tel.No. (Residence) _____

: Tel. No (Studio) _____

: Email Address _____

4. Date of Birth : _____

5. Educational Qualification

Sr.No.	Name of the Art College	Degree/Diploma	City/Sate	Year

6. Major Exhibitions in India/Abroad

Sr.No.	Name of the Art Gallery	Solo/Group	City/State	Year

7. The details of the artworks corresponding to the images attached:

Sr.No.	Title	Medium	Size in Inches	Price Rs.

NOTICE OF THE 99TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE KANARA SARASWAT ASSOCIATION (REGD)

Notice is hereby given that the 99th Annual General Meeting of the Kanara Saraswat Association will be held on Sunday 18th September 2011 at 10.00 a.m. in Shrimat Anandashram Hall, Talmakiwadi, Javji Dadaji Marg, Mumbai – 400 007 to transact the following business:

1. Reading of the notice convening the meeting.
2. Confirmation of the minutes of the 98th Annual General Meeting.
3. Adoption of the Committee's Report and Audited Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2011.
4. Election of President and Vice-President for the year 2011-2012 & 2012-2013.
5. To read Explanatory Notes on page number 10 to 14 of subject Annual Report and to Consider and, if thought fit, to pass with or without modifications, if any, the following Resolutions:

- a) "Resolved that the action of Managing Committee in pledging following Investments viz :
 - 1) Reserve Fund Investment of Rs. 34,51,617.65,
 - 2) Other Corpus Fund Investment of Rs. 12,84,746.49 and
 - 3) Corpus Fund Investment of Rs. 52,63,635.86 totaling Rs. 1,00,00,000 for the purpose of an Overdraft facility with Shamrao Vithal Co-operative Bank Limited for Hall Renovation is ratified."

"Further resolved that, this is subject to condition that the Managing Committee to disburse the interest received / receivable on the said investments earmarked under Corpus Fund/ Other Corpus Fund as per the mandate of the donor."

- b) "Resolved that the delay of 7 months in publishing the Minutes of the 98th Annual General Meeting held on 26th September 2010 in KS Magazine instead of 3 months of holding of Annual General Meeting."
- c) "Resolved that Policy on Transfer of Tenancy Rights in respect of Tenants of KSA, as described in detail on page number 12 and 13 of subject Report, be adopted for future guidance and action of Managing Committee of KSA."
- d) "Resolve that Managing Committee of Kanara Saraswat Association is hereby authorized to hold talks with The Talmakiwadi CHS Ltd (TCHS) and/or Tenants of KSA and/or any other appropriate Authorities for Redevelopment KSA Building without making any commitments.

Further Resolved that discussion held with such authorities in connection with Redevelopment should be apprised by the Managing Committee and reported to General Body for taking appropriate decision as per Rules & Regulations of KSA."

6. Declaration of the results of the elected 3 members on the Managing Committee.
7. Election of Honorary Auditors for the year 2011-2012.
8. Election of Statutory Auditors for the year 2011 – 2012.
9. Any other business that may be brought forward before the Managing Committee with the consent of at least 2/3 of the members as laid down in Rule No 36

Note: Members desiring to bring forward any questions are requested to give notice of the same in writing to the Hon. Secretary at least 7 days before the Meeting. The Annual Report and the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2011 will not be published in the "Kanara Saraswat" in view of the objection raised by the Postal Authorities. The Copies of the Report with the Statement of the Accounts will be posted separately and uploaded on Website www.kanarasaraswat.in for the benefit of Members.

By order of the Managing Committee
Shri Shivshankar Murdeshwar
Honorary Secretary

30th July 2011

एक अंकी नाटयोत्सव

SATURDAY 22ND OCTOBER 2011

- 5.00p.m. to 5.45 p.m. – Gokarnchi Bhadrakali (Sangeet Natak)
Presented by – Ramdas Gulvady
- 6.00 p.m. to 6.45 p.m. – Admission
Presented by Lata (Rao) Ullal, Chennai
- 7.00 p.m. to 7.45 p.m. – Vissaru Magalo Sansarantu
Presented By Saraswat Mitra Mandal, Dharwad
- 8.00 p.m.-8.45 p.m. – Kurttak Aylo Kassu
Presented by Matunga Mitra Mandal

SUNDAY 23RD OCTOBER 2011

- 5.00 p.m. to 5.45 p.m. – Puneri Misal
Presented by Jyothi Divgi, Pune
- 6.00 p.m. to 6.45 p.m. – Pavamma Gharchi Pavni
Presented by Canara Union, Arts Section, Bangalore
- 6.45p.m. to 7.00 p.m. – Aajchya Thalak Batmya (a 15min stand up show)
Presented by Sheela Shirali
- 7.00 p.m. to 7.45 p.m. – Major Chandrakant
Presented by KSA Kala Vibhag

The KSA Centenary Celebration Committee thanks all the artistes for their response and participation and looks forward to a grand festival of one-act plays.

*Raja Pandit, Dilip Sashital, Prof. Sadhana Kamat,
Shivshankar Murdeshwar, Bipin Nadkarni*

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APPEAL

The Talmakiwadi Co-operative Housing Society Ltd.

(Regd. No.B 227 dated 05.04.1941)

8 / 4, Talmakiwadi, Javji Dadaji Marg, Tardeo, Mumbai 400 007.

Telephone : 2380 1576 // E-mail : talmakiwadi@hotmail.com

The following individuals hold One share of TCHS of Rs.20/- and are not Tenant members of the society.

Reg. No.	Name of shareholder	Reg. No.	Name of shareholder
164	Ramabai Shankarnarayan Dhareshwar	286	Kalyanibai Umanath Karnad
185	Kamalabai Anant Kulkarni	334	Kamalakar Shivrao Gulvady
190	Pandurang Mahabaleshwar Balvalli	348	Madhukar Sheshgiri Kalbag
206	Prabhakar Madhavrao Hattangady	349	Taranath Sheshgiri Kalbag
224	Manjulabai Ganeshrao Bijur	373	Hemchandra Pandurang Kalle
250	Krishnabai Dattatreya Badakere	416	Shanker Anant Hejmadi
263	Vasant Dattatreya Nadkarni	508	Kumud Ramkrishna Kulkarni
286	Kalyanibai Umanath Karnad	542	Suvarna Uday Manjeshwar
334	Kamalakar Shivrao Gulvady	546	Prabhakar Ganpatrao Kulkarni

The General Body of TCHS held on 17 July 2011 has directed the Managing Committee to refund the share amount to all individual share-holders having one share who are not tenant members. The above listed members or their nominees are hence called upon to surrender their original share certificate to the Hon. Secretary of the Society on or before 15th October 2011 failing which the shares will be Null & Void.

Sd/-
SHYAM BALSEKAR
CHAIRMAN

Sd/-
PRASHANT K NADKARNI
HONORARY SECRETARY

APPEAL

HALL RENOVATION FUND

The Shrimat Anandashram Hall at Ground Floor and Shrimat Parijnanashram Hall at Mezzanine floor of KSA Building have been renovated during the year 2010-2011 incurring heavy expenditure. The Hall is beautified with modernized facilities to attract more occupancy of the hall and to generate income which will help the Association for its various social projects for the benefit of the community at large. We have taken overdraft against our FDR and it will take more time to adjust the overdraft than we had earlier anticipated. To overcome difficulties, we have decided to build up **Hall Renovation Fund** with generous help from our members and well-wishers. All donations will be individually acknowledged and also published in the KS magazine.

In addition to donation, we have decided to name Four Rooms in the two Halls in the name of the Donors or their dear ones, after receiving certain minimum Donations. The details are as under:

Room	Floor	Area	Min. Donations
1) Bride's Room	Ground	112.8	Rs 20 lacs
2) Groom's Room	Ground	89.12	Rs 15 lacs
3) Bride's Room	Upper	154.75	Rs 25 lacs
4) Groom's Room	Upper	157.50	Rs 25 lacs

We appeal to our donors to donate generously to the Hall Renovation Fund to enable us to contribute to the Welfare of Community in a more efficient manner. The donations are exempted under section 80-G of Income Tax act.



From the President's Desk....

The friendship day celebrated on August 7, 2011 has really made me nostalgic and I had to pen down my emotions on the most important and dearly held affiliation in my life.....friendship.

Friendship.....means different things to different people. Different minds, different outlook, different angles of thinking. But one thing that all of us will agree upon is that one can never know the true meaning of life without friendship.

Friends make your life worthwhile. They make problems seem trivial and each achievement monumental. Your happiness and success increase manifold in their presence while your failures are seen as funny learning experiences to be taken in your stride and simply move on in life. Friends are someone you can be yourself around, and never have to try and put on an act. You can let your hair down and be your absolute real self. They are buddies with whom you share your deepest secrets and laugh together at life's treasured moments. Friends know everything about you and still love you just the same!

I, for one, have always felt that the greatest privilege, respite and consolation of true friendship is that.... one has to explain nothing.

Friends drop their plans when you're in trouble and are ready to take on the world for you, if push comes to shove. They encourage your dreams and offer advice—but when you don't follow it, still respect and love you. No explanations asked! No excuses needed! No justifications sought!

No matter what happens, they will always be there because no one loves you like your best friends do. Friends are those considerate and indulgent creatures in whom we can confide and whose opinion we can value at once for its fairness and sincerity. Friendship is not something you learn through a syllabus. But if you haven't learned the meaning of friendship, you really haven't learned anything.

So, treasure your friends and value their place in your life because they are those souls who do not expect much from you except your love and loyalty. Hold on to them through thick and thin, and when the twilight of life dawns on you, you will cherish the memories of magic created together in childhood, youth or adult life because those would be the times when you were sans any make-up or mask and did what you did with your whole heart.

Treasure true friends if you are blessed with them, coz a rare kind of friendship comes once in a lifetime!

Happy Friendship Days.....*forever!*

Suresh S. Hemmady

A NEW BOOK BY **SHYAM AMLADI**
Anecdotes of a Confused American

Published by : Mind Melodies

An imprint of *Readworthy* Publications (P) Ltd., New Delhi



This light-hearted new book captures the various facets of American culture and family. It depicts – with wit and humour—events and episodes that perhaps are commonplace in an American family life but decidedly shape and define it—raising children, relationship with one’s spouse, neighbours, boss at work, friends, and of course the all-powerful government.

In this book, Shyam brings to life everyday characters with a decided flair and a twist of his own brand of wry humour. Seen through the eyes of a hapless but utterly optimistic American Garth, new characters come to life in each episode and cause heartaches for poor Garth—Nora, Garth’s smart wife; his rap-loving teenage daughter Cindy, the airline he flies, Doofus, renowned economists Getinbottom and Pennydrip whose obtuse, befuddling pronouncements are beyond his feeble comprehension and Nora’s guru Hannamanna who Garth is convinced is starving him to death! No wonder this lovable, impish American is CONFUSED !

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and Gourang Kundapur 26116394 at Vile Parle.
Also visit us at www.saifarms.netfirms.com**



Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor, I cannot help but recall Bhatkal Sadanandmam's magnanimity and perseverance. It was my secret hope to have him write the Foreword to my 'Childhood Daze'. Despite his ill health and varied commitments, he not only acceded to my plea, but produced, within a week, a perfect piece. I salute the Departed Soul for his kindness.

It is no surprise that the KSA has dedicated this issue of the Kanara Saraswat to the memory of Sadanandmam and Nirmalakka. Their passing is a great loss to our community in general and the KSA in particular; and to the realm of Printing and Publication.

Savitri Babulkar



Dear Editor : Subject: ADHYATHMA (Spirituality)

As urged in our *Shastras* the ultimate goal of every one of us, is /or should be the realization of the self. To give an additional help to sadhakas in their efforts to reach this goal, I have got printed a few copies of booklet 'Introduction to Adhyathma' including therein a few important aspects of the subject, extracted from authentic sources /books and write-ups. The booklet is available, free of cost, to those interested and who may kindly write to undersigned for the same, at E-104, Kanchanjanga Society, Shivanand Garden, PUNE 38 (tel 020-25384227) along with his full address to whom booklet shall be dispatched to ,on first comes first served, basis.

With humble services to our Sadhakas and seeking the Blessings of our Parama Sadgurus, Lord Bhavanishankara and Mata Shri Saraswati,

Gokarn Manohar Rao



Those interested in procuring the book may please contact Mr. Gokarn Manohar Rao at the above mentioned address.

Editor



Dear Editor : I grew up in Saraswat Colony in Santacruz, Mumbai. We had a dynamic Saraswat Club with a gymnasium and sports activities, with

about 40 children actively participating and a great gymnastic teacher. Sports competitions brought a frenzied competitive spirit between the participants from Bandra Club, Talmaki Wadi Club, The Kanara Club in Matunga, Vileparle Guruprasad , etc.

Such activities have significantly reduced. The younger generation is not keen to participate in such activities. It is not the fault of the youngsters. Today we have television and cable network for entertainment. There is a crazy pressure on children and parents. In those days expectations and goals were moderate and we did not dream of being millionaires at age 35. Life was simpler then....but better. Yet, it is worth trying to bring back the glory of the old days and demonstrate to the present generation, the fun of such competitions and participation in leisure activities, which go beyond the present-day narrowly focused view where only professional and financial progress is the sole aim in life. It will certainly make life more meaningful, fuller and richer.

I have a suggestion to make: Can we "oldies" who have organised and enjoyed the thrills of such events and competitions in the past, put our efforts together to encourage youngsters to participate, with an ambitious plan to hold a National level "Aamchi" tournament in Carrom, Table Tennis, Chess, Volley ball, Throw Ball, and also talent fields such as singing, dancing, mimicry etc.? We can stimulate the local clubs in all Aamchi areas where we belong and include others where pockets of Aamchis exist and hold local competitions. The final grand event will be when the winners representing each club will compete against each other for the National Title. We can request Kanara Saraswat Association to hold such an event under their prestigious patronage, and we all can chip in helping local committees organise the local events with our efforts and guidance. Such an event will probably be a FIRST in Aamchi community. It will

help to increase adherence, unity and fusion within our people, and may also provide a platform for increasing inter-aamchi weddings at a time when we are losing our sons and daughters to other communities leading to dwindling of our strength. I request opinions and advise on my thoughts.

Dr. Dileep Hemmady



Thank you Dr. Hemmady. The Managing Committee will definitely take up your suggestions and work towards holding such an event...

Editor



Dear Editor, It is indeed laudable that K.S.A. has decided to remember the celebrities who rendered selfless service to the community and also built up K.S.A., by highlighting their service. In this context, it is most befitting that K.S.A. chose to bestow this honour on Shripad Chikramane as the foremost among them in the article on his life in the last July issue of K S.

*Shivashankar Chickermame,
Bangalore*



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Nirmala and Sadanand: Work is Worship

RAMDAS BHATKAL, MUMBAI

Sadanand Bhatkal and his wife Nirmala, both took leave of us in July 2011. This was, perhaps a little more than a coincidence. They were truly devoted to each other and for 63 years of their married life they worked as a team.

Those who had the good fortune of knowing Ganpatrao Bhatkal would, even four decades after his death, remember what a tower of strength he was to members of his family, community and profession. Those too young to know him first hand would have heard about him and more importantly felt him through some of those close to him. Sadanand was an outstanding example of how the tradition of 'goodness and integrity' laid down by Ganpatrao was carried forward.

Popular Book Depot, later flowering as a publishing house into Popular Prakashan, is the precious gift of the family to the intellectual community. Established in 1924, Popular Book Depot developed as the leading bookshop all over India in just 25 years under the legendary Ganpatrao. Sadanand joined his father's business in 1944 after completing his studies (M.A. with Economics and Sociology plus LL.B.) from Bombay University. He had already proved his mettle with his three publications – '*Horizon*' a collection of articles with a Foreword by S.Radhakrishnan, '*Future of the Indian Youth*', a discourse and '*Nirmal and other Poems*', a collection of poems in English.

While his literary pursuits were held back for a while, he was to take the activities of his father a step forward. Over the next two decades Sadanand spread the bookselling activities to other centers. At one stage, Popular Book Depot had branches in Pune, Bangalore, Nagpur and Sangli and had also acquired Bombay Book Depot in Girgaum. This gave it a dominating presence in Maharashtra, for Marathi books as well.

'Popular' also developed other branches of the booktrade such as publishing, printing and distribution. The publishing division, Popular

Prakashan, is today one of the highly acclaimed and respected publishing houses in India and operates from Mumbai, Delhi and Kolkata.

While Ganpatrao had laid the foundation of trade organization in the city, Sadanand, along with his business colleagues, founded the all-India organization from Bombay. Later the Federation shifted to Delhi. It has played an important role in the growth of book industry in India. Sadanand also started and continued for over three decades a journal for the trade, *The Indian Publisher and Bookseller* which is the only source of information that mirrors important events relating to book trade during the formative period of independent India. This important step of spreading out at an all-India level was possible because of the active participation of Nirmala in all these business and personal activities. She had been an active freedom fighter and her college education was disrupted by the 1942 movement and later because of the transfer of her maternal uncle N.S. Mankikar, who had taken care of her education. She completed her graduation from Calcutta University in 1948 after her marriage to Sadanand.

Nirmala was an energetic woman and apart from taking responsibility of the Bhatkal household and assisting her husband, she participated in the activities of All-India Women's Council, Sevasadan and Saraswat Mahila Samaj and several other organizations.

There are many aspects of the role played by Sadanand and Nirmala in the growth of the Kanara Saraswat Association, particularly in its cultural and social activities. They also played an important role in updating Rao Bahadur S.S. Talmaki's work on Saraswat Families and Konkani Proverbs. Shamrao Vithal Co-operative Bank was at one stage treated as a Bhanap organization. Sadanand altered this parochial image and helped its growth towards a forward looking and modern business organization.

Sadanand was a restless soul and always looked to the horizon beyond. He had an inkling of the expanding role of Indian literature and book trade on the world stage. In 1952 he went to England along with Nirmala and made a thorough study of the book trade in U.K. The various steps that he took in developing trade organizations were inspired by this study. In 1955, he organized the first participation by Indian publishers at the Frankfurt International Book Fair. This gradually led to massive participation by a number of publishers and exchange of publishing rights between Indian publishers and authors and their counterparts abroad. In recognition of this he was invited as a special guest at the Fair in 1960's.

His scholarly work had taken back seat for a while. In 1959 he had the opportunity to attend a six-week programme conducted by Prof. Henry Kissinger at Harvard. There he could brush shoulders with scholars in social sciences and humanities from thirty other countries.

He found an outlet for his energies in the work he carried out for G.R. Bhatkal Foundation set up after Ganpatrao's demise. Very important lectures were organized in Mumbai, Delhi and Bangalore and these were edited by him and published as *Contemporary India*. More importantly he took on the challenging job of compiling and publishing a three volume Encyclopedia *Sankshipta Marathi Vangmaykosh*, a monumental work.

His casual writing in various journals could run into hundreds of pages. In his fading years he wrote a very significant work. *The Karnataka Saga: History of the Karnataka Printing Press*. This organization set up more than a century ago was brought to eminence by Mangeshrao Kulkarni. Though Mangeshrao was a distant relation of Sadanand, not much was known and it needed considerable research to collect the information and present it in a meaningful way.

Sadanand jocularly referred to himself as a miracle man. True, he was able to live a fruitful life for over 88 years, in spite of suffering from cancer and other serious maladies. His immense will power and determination enabled him to achieve things not easily achievable. His mere being there was a source of inspiration to a large number of friends

from his larger family, community and book people from around the globe.

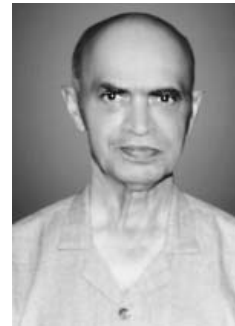
One of the major achievements of Nirmala and Sadanand was their being able to maintain a secular approach to life. To cite just two major examples, they chose to have a civil marriage way back in 1947 instead of the ritualistic vaidic marriage. Towards the end of their life they both wanted to leave this world without what to them were meaningless rituals. They consciously registered at the Grant Medical College and J.J. Hospital for 'Dehadan', so that their earthly remains would serve some purpose of education or research.

CENSUS ALERT

Members of Chitrapur Saraswat Community and Female Members Married Outside Community are requested to handover their Census Forms to volunteers or send directly to KSA Office immediately.

The Members who have not received Forms may visit our website www.kanarasaraswat.in and download the Form and mail to our email id - census@kanarasaraswat.in after filling it.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF



KRISHNA DATTATRAYA KUMTA
(1932 – 2011)

Retired SSP (P & T)

Left for his Heavenly Abode on
22nd July, 2011 at Vakola (Mumbai)

Deeply mourned by:

Wife Sumitra, Sons - Shrikant, Prashant,
Deepak, Daughters-in-Law - Nanda,
Surekha, Laxmi, Grand daughters-
Pragati and Gauri

Sadanand Bhatkal – A Tribute

GURUNATH S. GOKARN

When we are celebrating the Centenary Year of the Kanara Saraswat Association our thoughts naturally go back to remember those stalwarts who have made valuable contributions towards the progress of this premier institution. Sadanand Bhatkal is pre-eminent amongst them. He had prolonged and continued relationship with the Association during which at his suggestions and active participation the Association took major decisions and implemented them.

Even in his early twenties he was an active member of the Saraswat Students League, started in 1939 for organizing debates, visits to social institutions and small scale industries. It was later merged with the Kanara Saraswat Association as its Students Sub-Committee. He was also one of the principal organizers of the Saraswat Cultural Conference in 1942 which called for rational rethinking on many social problems of the community in those days.

Sadanand was elected as the President of the Kanara Saraswat Association in 1971 and was reelected for the second term in 1972. He was again elected President in 1986 and 1987. During all the terms of his Presidentship he organized various programmes to bring on platform of the Association personalities in different educational, social and cultural fields.

I came in close contact with him when he became President of the Association in 1971. My relationship with him since then has always remained intimate. I was then Secretary for Social gatherings. At that time we used to meet often to plan and execute social and cultural programmes, specially that being Diamond Jubilee year. He used to be creative and enthusiastic in holding these programmes.

He proposed formulating of an Arts Circle for giving encouragement to artists of all forms of arts – music, drama, paintings, handicrafts etc. and for holding regular programmes under the auspices of the association. He was of the view that with this step professionalism may develop among our artists. Being

himself a connoisseur of music he established “Kala Vibhag” devoted to promote these arts. Sadanand himself was sitar player. He arranged to hold the first Saraswat Sangeet Sammelan in 1971 and set the tradition and recently Fourteenth Saraswat Sangeet Sammelan was held.

As President he thought of Renovating the Anandashram Hall of the Association, as users of the Hall found that their needs had grown considerably. With the helpful advisor and Architect Radhakrishna Talgeri he initiated the plan of renovation of the Hall providing more space.

The Association had started the project of conducting the Chitrapur Saraswat Census in 1970 which continued in the Diamond Jubilee year when Sadanand became the President. His marathon work in guiding and conducting the Census work and bringing out the Chitrapur Saraswat Census Report and Directory 1971 alone deserves the highest praise and eternal gratitude of the community to him. With his contacts he could get the help of scholars in Demography to write the report.

His contribution towards Marathi and English literature is more distinguished. He had a wide circle of Marathi litterateurs and friends who were always in touch with him.

He had innovative ideas for every occasion. During his Presidentship he made the Diamond Jubilee memorable in more ways than one by implementing his unique ideas. It was his suggestion to present a programme “Saraswat Bhushan” bringing out the progress made by the community in different fields. This was a harmonious and beautiful blending of pantomime, drama, slide show projections, musical interludes all rolled into one presentation ably directed by versatile ladies. He did not stop at giving suggestions but he got the script prepared.

The Portrait Gallery of the “Founding Fathers” which is adorning the wall of Shrimat Anandashram Hall was also his brain child. He visualized a group

portrait and assigned the work to the famous artist P.G. Sirur. Most of the founder members were no more and he had to contact their nearest relatives to get their photographs.

Sadanand had high respect for S.S. Talmaki. He wanted to keep alive Talmaki's scholarly pioneering work. In 1991 he brought out a re-modelled second edition of Konkani Proverbs and Idioms, first published by Talmaki in two parts in the thirties, under the banner of Popular Book Depot. The book is now out of print. In 1997 at his initiative the Association launched the project of updating the Chitrapur Saraswat Family Trees, originally compiled by Talmaki about 100 years ago. This work is still being continued.

After the sad demise of Bhaskar U Kumble, the then Editor in 1979, Sadanand took over as Editor of KS and looked after the journal till 1987. He often used to contribute articles to the magazine. His knowledge of publishing improved the quality of the magazine. The readability increased. A change in the style in the editorials was noticed. The articles were

covered by apt illustrations. He personally took great interest in the art work such as headings, pictorial layouts. The contents in the magazine showed technical improvement with related topics devoted to art, science, medicine and literature.

While working on the editorial work of the magazine, myself and late Sadanand M Nadkarni (Sadu) spent many memorable days with Sadanand. Alas ! I miss both of them.

Sadanand was very fond of research. When he was the editor he went through past issues of Kanara Saraswat and republished some of the important articles, biographies which had appeared in those volumes. Studious, industrious by nature, he used to be busy with his research work in spite of failing health. His latest publication "The Karnataka Saga" is an example of his love for research. His health did not keep in tune with his mental alertness and varied interests. Age had caught up and sapped his strength considerably.

To such a great departed soul my humble *pranams*.

REMEMBRANCE Gurunandan L. Bhat



1-12-1922 to 7-9-2010

In fond and everlasting memory of a very gentle soul, ever smiling and always helpful to others, an epitome of goodness,

A loving husband, a doting father, grandfather and great grandfather,

A loyal friend and a quiet diligent worker who served his fellowmen in true cooperative spirit, in benign and gracious benevolence.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

*Affectionately remembered and greatly missed by
Vijaya, Vidya, Ramesh, Santosh, Vasanti and Abhishek*

Sadanand Ganpatrao Bhatkal - Bookman par excellence

RAGHUNATH GOKARN

In the passing away of Sadanand Ganpatrao Bhatkal on 26 July 2011 in Mumbai we have parted with a reputed public figure connected with the publishing world in India and many social organizations for over seven decades. After graduation in 1943 from Bombay University he joined in 1944, Popular Book Depot, the family business established by his father Ganpatrao Bhatkal. He did his post-graduation in sociology and economics in 1945 and LL.B in 1946. Thus began his lifelong journey in the book industry.

He thoroughly enjoyed this journey. His profession became his hobby. He was always enthusiastic and interested in intellectual, cultural and social activities. Because of his innate intelligence, inquisitive nature, eagerness to learn and deep involvement he soon grasped all the aspects of book selling, publishing and printing. In 1950 he launched a monthly magazine, *Indian Publisher and Bookseller*. Though treated as an organ of the book trade as a whole it was published at his own cost. This was the first Indian journal devoted entirely to the promotion of books. He and his wife Nirmala exclusively edited this magazine for over 25 years. He established intimate connections with booksellers and publishers from all over India and also with international publishers, many of whom remained his life long friends.

In a few years he built up a reputation as the most knowledgeable book man. In consultation with his father he expanded their publishing programme in English. Popular Book Depot began publishing textbooks in medicine, mathematics, natural sciences as well as in social sciences and humanities. He cultivated close friendships with many authors, particularly with Prof. G. S. Ghurye, Doyen of Indian Sociology and Prof. D.D. Kosambi, internationally known historian and mathematician. He took keen interest in printing and learnt many a lesson from his friend B.G.Dhawle, owner of Karnataka Printing Press. He was instrumental in producing a beautifully printed book, *Journey through Toyland*, by

Kamalabai Dongerkeri which received in the year of its inception the Central Government Award for printing and publishing. Many more awards were to follow.

After Independence the Central Government often used to invite Sadanand to serve on several Advisory Committees. He was appointed by the Central Government as a Trustee on the first Board of National Book Trust. His contribution in formulating its policies in the initial years was significant. He was a member of the National Book Development Board and Indian National Commission for Co-operation with UNESCO. He was the Chairman of the Books Panel of Export Promotion Council. He was connected with Bombay Booksellers' Association. He believed in co-operation among publishers and booksellers. He was also connected with the formation of the Federation of Indian Publishers' and Booksellers' Association of India and was later twice its President.

In 1955 he was the first Indian to take part in Frankfurt Book Fair and he was responsible for putting India on the map of the international publishing world. He was selected to participate in the Harvard International Seminar (Economics Section) conducted by Prof. Henry Kissinger in Harvard, U.S.A. in 1959 and was invited to take part in the Harvard International Seminar in Japan in 1960. He was an active participant in the UNESCO seminars held in India and Colombo. Through out his life he held a perennial interest in books and he used to keep himself up to date in all matters of bookselling and publishing. He was well-read in varied subjects. He had a good command over both Marathi and English and a felicity for writing.

A decade ago he designed, edited jointly with some scholars and published in Marathi a monumental work *Concise Encyclopaedia of Marathi Literature* in three volumes under the banner of G. R. Bhatkal Foundation which became a success and has gone in two reprints and will soon be reissued by Popular Prakashan. A year ago he wrote, his last

book, entitled *Karnataka Saga : History of Karnataka Printing Press*. It was my pleasure to associate with him in editing and helping him in producing this book. I know firsthand how much effort he took in gathering the information and writing this book. He was toying with the idea of writing a memoir of his contacts with leading Indian and foreign authors and publishers. Unfortunately his continued health problems did not allow him to concentrate on this work.

In memory of his father he established the G. R. Bhatkal Foundation. Under the auspices of this Foundation he used to arrange annual lecture series. The last one by Prof. Ramesh Gangolli on 'Music, Mathematics and the Brain' was held in last March in Mumbai.

Sadanand was a man bubbling with innovative ideas. It was amazing how he pursued these ideas with vigour and determination. He would not accept defeat. Even in his advanced age with many handicaps he would not give up. He would try to persuade others to take up these ideas. A few years ago he was thinking of compiling a Standard Marathi-Marathi Dictionary on the lines of Oxford English Dictionary and had prepared a scheme. He met many scholars in this connection but this idea remained unfulfilled. He had another idea of re-publishing 100 best books in Marathi. He had made a selection of these books and presented the scheme to an organisation.

Influenced by Mahatma Gandhi, Sadanand was liberal and progressive in his views. He was hospitable and charitable and used to go out of his way to help relatives and friends. Many a time his home was a place for the sick who were looked after well. Once he was travelling from Pune to Mumbai by car late at night when he found a stranger lying in a ditch after meeting with an accident. Sadanand immediately went to the spot and rescued the injured, took him to a nearby hospital for treatment and remained there till the next morning.

Sadanand had his likes and dislikes like all human beings. He liked to debate his views with others. Sometimes his insistence on sticking to his stand would cause displeasure. But he never held a grudge

against anyone.

He had a large circle of friends from all communities. He liked to invite people to his home for social interaction and discussions on a variety of topics. Inevitably there was tempting cuisine on the table. Sadanand was himself a connoisseur of food. He and Nirmalavahini loved to press the guests to have a full fill of the fare.

Nirmalavahini passed away after a prolonged illness three weeks before Sadanand left this world. They had happy relations and she was always by his side in all his activities. To me and my wife their departure is a personal loss.

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Geeta Ramchandra Karnad



06th July 1944-
19th July 2011

Generous and loving to the core,
Everlasting affection did she pour.
Eternally in the hearts of all will she
remain.

Touched we are to see the closed door,
As Almighty now has her in His Domain.

In Grief:

Ramchandra Shrinivas Karnad (Husband), Swati
(Daughter), Jayant and Prashant Kodikal (Brothers)
along with a vast number of
Friends and Relatives.

॥ ॐ श्री गुरुभ्यो नमः ॥ ॐ श्री भवानीशंकराय नमः ॥ ॐ श्री मात्रे नमः ॥ ॐ श्री साईश्वराय नमः ॥

Our four generations performed a प्रपौत्र शान्ति पूजा (पण्ती वाती) at the Sanatan Dharma Temple in San Jose, CA, USA, with gratitude to the Almighty and our revered Guru Param Poojya Shrimad Sadyojat Shankarashrama Swamiji, for the blessings bestowed upon our family and with prayers that the flow of grace may continue to enrich our lives in all spheres, always. This puja is performed by the great-grandparents to bless their great-grandchild.

Photo taken on the occasion of the Prapoutra Shanti Puja (Panati Vaati) performed on July 16, 2011 at the Sanatan Dharma Temple, San Jose, California, USA.



From left: Great-grandmother Kamala Masurkar, great grandfather Vasant Masurkar, aunty Avanti Kulkarni (seated), grandfather Ashok Kulkarni, grandmother Ranjana Kulkarni, mother Rucheeta Kulkarni with daughter baby Janani and father Vedant Kulkarni.

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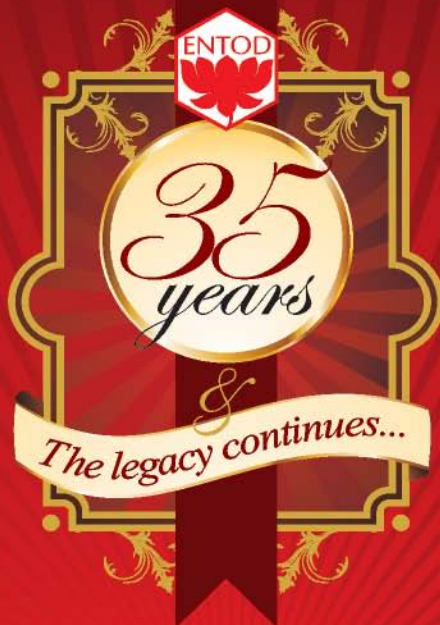
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Sadanand Bhatkal – A Visionary

PANDURANG KUMTHA, MUMBAI

Sadanand Bhatkal, my brother-in-law passed away peacefully after a cardiac attack on 26th July 20W11. He donated his body to J.J. Hospital-Anatomy Department for the study of Medical Students. He had no belief in the religious ceremonies that are generally done during these occasions. He believed in the Divine Presence, but he did not give much importance to the *Karm Kaand* etc. He had great belief in doing something for the welfare of the community. He was an active member of the KSA and did many laudable things during his Presidentship and advocated new activities like Kala Vibhag, the Saraswat Census Directory. He also arranged many music festivals with the active help of Gurunath Gokarn and his team. He wanted to build up a nice Library for KSA.

Sadanand and I, were both involved in the Book World and the promotion of the reading habit. He had great interest in publishing rather than book selling, whereas my interest was in Book selling. So after 3 years of training in Popular Book Depot, under Ganpatmam, I was put in charge of the Bombay Book Depot in 1948. Though I was fully involved in developing the Bombay Book Depot I was in contact with Sadanand and the Popular Book Depot. In the many new activities I started there, Sadanand gave me full support and gave many useful suggestions, which helped me to make them successful.

Sadanand joined as an active member of the Bombay Booksellers and Publishers Association and it was he who thought of having a monthly magazine "Book Traders Bulletin". This magazine was later considered to be the mouthpiece of the All India Federation of Booksellers and Publishers. Sadanand became the President of this Federation and edited this Magazine for over 25 years. The magazine was appreciated by all publishers and Booksellers as it

published many articles useful to the Book trade. It was his suggestion to expand the activities of Popular Book Depot and the Publishing activity. His interest in Sociology and Politics made him approach many outstanding Authors like Dr. Gurye, Dr. Sangwe, Dr. Kosambi and Dr. Desai, Kaka Kalelkar etc. Many books on Medicine were published. He was the first person to suggest participating in the Book Fair at Frankfurt. The Indian Government backed this activity which it still continues to do. He was involved in many international Seminars on Publishing and Bookselling.

During his early days he wrote books titled "Horizon" and "Future of the Indian Youth". His book on poetry named "Nirmal and other Poems" had lavish paintings by the famous artist Dalal. Recently he had written a book named "The Karnataka Saga", a story of a hundred year old Publishing House. In this he wrote the life story of Shri Mangeshrao Kulkarni, the architect of the Karnataka Publishing House, which was later taken up by Keshav Bhikaji Dhavale. His monumental work the Encyclopedia of Marathi literature (Sankshipt Marathi Kosh) in three volumes, has been well received by all people.

In all the activities of Bombay Book Depot that I implemented Sadanand took great interest and helped in all my new schemes. He was not only my brother in law but a friend too. After my retirement I used to meet him every alternate day and discuss many innovative schemes which he had in his mind. He had many ideas in his mind which he used to express till the last days before he was admitted to the Jaslok Hospital on 7th May 2001. His death was a shock to me. I could not believe the news as I felt he was improving after he was brought home in the first week of June. So many memories crop in my mind that I cannot put them down in this small article.

May his soul rest in peace.

Remembering Dada.....

Compiled by Sonali Hegde

Anand Panemanglor, universally and lovingly called *Dada*, is remembered on his 100th Birth Anniversary in August this year. I have compiled loving memories from his grand-children and son-in-law.



Though he has been gone for some 20 years now, the name *Dada* still brings back childhood memories of him sitting on his armchair in the verandah at his home "Deepak". When we would visit our *Dada* and *Ayee's* ghar* he would have a twinkle in his eyes as soon as he saw us; a travel-stained hug would provoke a "*shappa... humme ghani!!*" from him.

Col. Roshan Sharma (son-in-law) remembers him as a very quiet, composed, cool and lovable personality...

"His engineering education in U.K. laid the foundation for his forward looking attitude and his love for English classical music. In those years of 1970s-80s he had no problems with his children getting married out of religion or caste. These lines cannot be completed without mentioning his love for gardening, specially cactus for which he won many awards by the Cactus Society of India, Rotary Club and Friends of the Trees."

Nandita Rao remembers the cool evenings in the garden under the lovely Parijat tree laden with beautiful white flowers with orange stem...

"The radiogram in the living room would be switched on and *Dada* would play his favorites Western classical LPs. He would go and recline in his easy chair; shut his eyes and go into his own dream world. He would call us, in turns, and ask us to comb his sparse hair! He would say, it is itching and insist that there was an *oova*, head lice, that was bothering him!

Another thing I distinctly remember were the meal times. *Dada* would sit at the head of the table and the lunch was placed in the centre. Whenever *Dada* would want a refill or a second helping, he would point out to the *kadai* or the bowl and say, "*makka tain dee*", we would say, which one? Point out to all the things one by one, and he would say, "*oo thaiyn assa*" (that one right there!) . It was a guessing game!"

Geetanjali Gangolli remembers him calling out to *Ayee* "*magali darlingee khay asa?*"

Rajika Datta as a kid remembers the lovely holidays at "Deepak"... of getting up in the morning and picking the beautiful mogra flowers in a basket with *Dada* to make a garland for the puja.

Sherry Panemanglor remembers *Dada* in the afternoons lovingly tending to all his plants, talking to each one as if it were alive...

"I thought it was magical...I would stand near the balcony half expecting the plants to reply back to him. At the time, I was reading all these Enid Blyton books where everything was alive from teacups to plants; made me feel that *Dada* was part of that magical world! I was in awe of him."

* Our grandmother, Nalini Panemanglore was called *Ayee* by all of us.

मगेलो सदानंदु

रमेश नाडकर्णी

सदानंदु आणि हांव वट्टूचि वाड्डिले. मगेलो जन्मू १९२१ तुं आणि सदानंदा गेलो १९२२ तुं. हांवं गांवदेवी अलेक्झांड्रा रस्त्यारी सारस्वत को-ऑपरेटिव हौसिंग सोसायटींतुं आणि सदानंदु लॅबरनम रस्त्यारि मणीभुवन लागीचे वैडा विलासांतुं राबताले. सेंट कोलंबा स्कूलांतुं बिगारी वर्गांतुं वट्टू शिकताले. कडेरि मात्र आमकां विंग विंगड स्कूलांतुं घाल्ले. तरी परत विल्सन हायस्कूलांतुं वट्टू आयले. नंतर एल्फिन्स्टन कॉलेजांतुं, युनिव्हर्सिटी स्कूल ऑफ इकॉनॉमिक्सांतुं आणि लॉ कॉलेजांतुं वट्टू आशिशले.

सारस्वत महिला समाजाने सात्र चर्डवां खातीर बालक वृंद सुरु कर्ताचि, सारस्वत स्टूडंटस लीग आम्मी सुरु केल्लेलें तांतुं आणि नंतर एसोसिएशनांतुं स्टूडंटस सब कमिटींतुं आम्मी वट्टूचि आशिशले. एल्फिन्स्टन कॉलेजांतुं कॉवर्नटन सोशल सर्विस लीगाचे आम्मी दोगगइ सभासद आशिशले आणि एक वरस ताज्जे कमेटीरी काम केल्लें.

आम्मी लॉ कॉलेजांतुं आस्तना विजापुरांतुं होडू दुष्काळ पळ्ळेलो. तावळी दुष्काळांतुल्यांक सहाय्य कोर्चेखातीर पैशेवट्टू कोर्चे खातीर महात्मा गांधीने १९४२ तुं उपोषण केल्लेले तावळी ताक्का सहानुभूति म्हणु सरकारी वकीलीक राजिनाम दिल्लेले आ.ए. जहागिरदार आइलो. आम्मी विद्यार्थ्यांनी आमगेल्या पॉकेट मनींतुल्याने साध्य जाल्लेले तिल्ले दिल्ले. ताज्जे आभार मानतना तात्रे म्हळ्ळें की आम्मी विद्यार्थ्यांनि महात्मा गांधीने १९४२ ऑगस्टांतुं चले जाव सत्याग्रह सुरु केल्लेले तावळी स्कूल कॉलेजांतुं हरताळु कोर्नु देशभक्ती व्यक्त केल्लेली. त्याचि देशभक्तीचो भागु म्हणु आमचे पैकि कर्नाटकांतुले कॉणयी विद्यार्थी आसल्यारि तांनीं परीक्षाजावनु रजा सुरु जातचि विजापूर येव्नु फॅमिन रिलीफ कामांतु सहाय्य कोर्काज.

सदानंदु आणि हांवं आमगेली परीक्षा जातचि विजापूर वचुगेल आणि फॅमिनरिलीफ कमीटीचे ऑफिसांतुं वचचूनु आम्मी सांगिलें ते काम कोरूक आयल्याति म्हणु सांगलें. माक्का हरिजन सेवक संघाचे काका कारखानीसा सांगाती आणि सदानंदाक कुलकर्णी वकीला सांगाती वचाती म्हणु सांगलें.

दुष्काळा भागांतुं रस्ते दुरुस्त कोर्चे, तळें कोरूक खणचें वगैरे कामांतुं दुष्काळग्रस्त लोकांक मजूरी दिताले. शिवाय तांकां मुंबईचे मिल्सांतुल्याने पेटइलीं धोतरं, कापडं वांटतालीं. त्या मजूरा गेली यादी तयार कोर्ची आणि कोणाक पैशे दिल्ले आणि कपडे दिल्ले हाज्जी तांतुं नोंद कोर्चि. हें काम आमका

दिल्लें. तावळी ग्रामीण भागांतुली गरीबी प्रत्यक्ष पोळोंवचाक मेळ्ळी, आणि तांचे खातीर काम कोर्ची मौल्यवान अनुभव मेळ्ळो.

ताज्जे उप्रांते १९४३ तुं चित्रापूर सारस्वत युथ कल्चरल कॉन्फरन्सांतुं तात्रे पुढाकार घेतिलो. तावळी चर्चे खातीर विषय ठरोवंचे, ताजेरि चर्चा कोर्ची; ठराव तयार कोर्चे, ठरावांचेरि मतं मांडचों इत्यादिंतुं तागेलो सहभागु, तें कॉन्फरन्स यशस्वी जांवचाक अत्यंत महत्वाचो आशिशलो. ताज्जे नंतर ठरावांचे उद्देशांप्रमाणें कार्यक्रम कोर्चांतुंइ तागेलो मौल्यवान वांटो आशिशलो.

हांवं १९४७ तुं मुंबइसोणु एक वरस विजापूर विजय कॉलेजांतुं शिकोंवचें काम कोर्नु नंतर पुणे स्थायिक जाल्लों. ताज्जे नंतर सदानंदाने आणि हांवे वट्टूचि काम कोर्चे कम्मी जाल्लें.

शिक्षण पूर्ण जातचि तागेल्या बापसूने, गणपत माम्माने, सुरु केल्लेल्या पॉप्युलर बुक डेपों तु पुस्तक विक्री आणि पॉप्युलर प्रकाशनातर्फे पुस्तकांचें प्रकाशन होचि तागेलो व्यवसायु जाल्लों.

त्या धंद्याची जबाबदारी सांभाळताना तागेली सामाजिक कार्याची उमेदि कम्मी जायने. कॅनरा सारस्वत एसोसिएशनांतुलें तागेलें योगदान संस्मरणीय आस्स. ताक्का एसोसिएशनाचो प्रेसिडेंट ह्या हुद्दारि निवड कोर्नु बहुमान दिल्लो. ताज्जाकइ चड महत्वाचें म्हळयारि तागेल्या सूचनेप्रमाणें गरजू लोकांक सहाय्य कोर्चे खातीर सुरु केल्लेलो मेडिकल एमर्जन्स फंड. तेंचि तागेलें चिरस्मारक म्हणु माक्का दिस्ता. तागेल्याचि प्रोत्साहनाने तस्लोचि फंड पुणेच्या सारस्वत कल्चरल फोरमांतुं सुरु केल्ला.

शामराव विठ्ठल को-ऑपरेटिव बँकांतुंइ तात्रे अत्यंत महत्वाचें काम बोर्डाचो सभासद, वायस चॅरमन आणि चॅरमन म्हणु केल्लें.

ताक्का प्रोस्टेट ग्लँडाचे कॅन्सर जावनु तागेली प्रकृती बिघडलेली. त्या परिस्थितीतूँ तागेली काम कोर्चि उमेदी कम्मी जायनेशिल्ली. अर्धांग वायू जावनु मांड्रेक खिचवरेकइ तात्रे एक ना एक क्षेत्रांतुं काम केल्लें.

आत्तं सदानंदु आमचांतुं ना. जाल्यारि तागेलें सगळें जीवन आमका सर्वांक आदर्श आणि प्रेरणादायी आस्स अशि माक्का दिस्ता.

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A small Tribute to a Revered Couple

KALINDI S MUZUMDAR

The Saraswat Community has sadly lost an unforgettable luminous couple – Nirmalpachhi and Sadanandmam Bhatkal. It is indeed rare to find such cohesive and symbiotic relationship in a married couple.

Both Sadanandmam and Nirmalpachhi were Freedom Fighters. Nirmalpachhi, when at college at Dharwar, in the early forties, entered a court and ordered the judge to quit his post as Indians were capable of doing this job! Consequently she was imprisoned. This daring act of hers found its way in an article in a school text book in Kannada. Nirmalpachhi did not avail of any privileges granted to freedom fighters after Independence. She often stated that she joined the freedom movement on her own as she felt that it was her duty. Our family was in Dharwar at that time as we were evacuated from Mumbai during World War II. We were rather young to join the freedom movement but we joined the group where she used the charkha to spin yarn. Quite a few Saraswat Families were critical of Nirmalpachhi and feared that with such “stunts” she may not find a good husband! Fortunately this was proved wrong and all of us know she married one of the best eligible bachelors of our community.

Sadanandmam worked to expand the Popular Book Depot and made it multi-centric. He established the Popular Book Depot in Nagpur, Bangalore and Pune. He was the founder of Federation of Publishers and Book Sellers in India. He initiated it in Mumbai but later set it up in Delhi. The list of his achievements is endless. He was the Chairman of the Books Panel of Expert Promotion Council. He was recognized for his work by the UNESCO and conducted a journal – *Indian Publishers and Book Sellers* for over 25 years.

In the field of literature too, he made a name for himself. In his early days he published two books – “*Future of the Indian Youth*” and “*Nirmal and other poems*”. He edited “*Indian Writing Today*” – a journal in which Indian Literature was translated in English. Towards the end of his life he edited three volumes

of Encyclopedia of Marathi Literature. He also wrote the *History of Karnataka Press*.

Among the memories, achievements for the Saraswat Community, was the compilation of the book on Family Trees. He continued his father’s work in book selling through the Popular Book Depot.

Nirmalpachhi worked with him and was his partner in all his endeavours. She was the President of the Saraswat Mahila Samaj as also of The Kanara Saraswat Association. Additionally she was active in Women Graduate Union, Seva Sadan and Balkanji-Bari (NGO in Mumbai). In addition to all her activities, she looked after needy women, senior citizens of her family and our community.

This couple practiced Gandhiji’s principles of plain living and high thinking. Despite God given affluence they stuck to an austere way of life and set an example of a Karma Yogi, for all of us. Even in death they implemented the philosophy of the Bhagwad Gita and donated their bodies for medical research at the J.J. Hospital.

I bow my head in reverence to this couple.

Amazing facts from our Shastras

Professor Subhash Kak of Louisiana State University recently pointed out a remarkable statement by Sayana, a fourteenth century Indian scholar.

In his commentary on a hymn in the Rig Veda, the oldest and perhaps most mystical text ever composed in India, Sayana has this to say:

“With deep respect, I bow to the sun, who travels 2,202 yojanas in half a nimesha.”

A yojana is about nine American miles; a nimesha is 16/75 of a second. get out your calculators!

$2,202 \text{ yojanas} \times 9 \text{ miles} \times \frac{75}{8} \text{ nimeshas} = 185,794 \text{ m. p. s.}$

Basically, Sayana is saying that sunlight travels at 186,000 miles per second! How could a Vedic scholar who died in 1387 A. D. have known the correct figure for the speed of light?

If this was just a wild guess it’s the most amazing coincidence in the history of science! And Sayana was merely commenting on Rig Veda which was supposedly composed 9000 years ago !!



Lalitha A. Irde

26/06/1928 – 03/08/2011

Deeply Mourned By:
Irdes, Sajips, Relatives and Friends



Although you have left us alone,
the scent of your love remains so strong;

With sheer hard work and concern for all,
you turned your life into a melodious song;

You always lived such a noble life, never once
did you do any wrong;

God has taken you with him to the heavens,
for that is where you truly belong.



My Brother Hemant (A Tribute)

10th Aug 2011 was the most devastating birthday of my life, as I lost my dear brother Hemant that morning. 'Mr. Hemant Rao' as he was called by all those who knew him, was born to Ramdas & Vatsala Hattangadi on 17th March 1950 at Worli, Mumbai. He was extremely loving and generous, I remember my mother telling me of how he asked his nursery classmates to get big bags on his birthday so that he could give them lots of sweets. Even as a child he was good looking and multitalented. He played the guitar and mandolin with expertise, danced to Shammi Kapoor numbers, acted in a few Konkani plays. His sketch of a funeral procession (a very unlikely choice), won him the first prize in the State Board Intermediate Drawing examination.

A trendsetter in many ways, he was a member of one of the first Rock Bands in India called the 'Savages'. He played the lead guitar and as vocalist too. The 'Savages' won the 1967 edition of the Simla Beat Contest and the prestigious 'Sound Trophy' for 1968 in Mumbai, resulting in a recording deal with Polydor India Ltd. In the early 70's, he went to Dubai to give a performance and eventually decided to settle down there.

As an enterprising businessman, he made a name for himself in the packaging industry and also continued to help the needy. The number of people who came to visit him at the Breach Candy Hospital when he was ill, showed how much he was loved and admired. According to his friends, he had been a role model for many of them, a friend and guide to their children too. Even his servants worshipped him for his benevolent nature. He touched the life of everyone he met. A globetrotter and a linguist, who also spoke Arabic fluently, he loved our 'Amchi' delicacies. Married to Dolly Gupta, his daughters Meghna Shroff and Kalpana Narayan are both MBAs from Harvard Business School.

He went through a year long ordeal in the most positive way without a word of complaint. Just two years my senior, he was a pillar of strength for me. Ever smiling with a zest for life, that's how I want to remember him!

Shobha Marballi

Nirmala Bhatkal – A Multi Faceted Personality

SADHANA KAMAT, ANANDASHRAM, MUMBAI

When Nirmalpachhi Gulvady and Sadanand Bhatkalmam were married, we were in school. So we did not know Nirmala personally, but we had heard that she was very talented, not only was she well-versed in cooking, stitching etc, but knew carpentry too. This was so unusual that we always looked at her with 'wonder and awe'.

Later on, she conducted some classes ('Best out of waste') for children in our colony during the summer vacation and I remember how innovative she was with waste material like empty match boxes, old greeting cards etc. She also formed a group of senior citizens (ladies) who met in the garden every evening and conducted some interesting activities.

In 1980, we decided to visit my native place Ulal and Nirmala wanted to meet her uncle Shankar-bappa, a bachelor and a freedom fighter who lived alone in Sirsi / Siddhapur. My husband Narendra and Sadanand Bhatkal who had become friends then, must have exchanged notes. With the result, we all travelled in our car through North and South Kanara and returned via Goa. It was a wonderful experience and I came to know Nirmala at close quarters.

Our youngest daughter Anuja was with us and Nirmala used to pamper her, as she loved children. Even in our colony, as their flat was on the ground floor, thirsty kids used to visit them for drinking water and they used to get added bonus from Nirmala – home made laddoos, chivda etc. She loved plants and collected various rare specimens during her travel. In Pune, she had a beautiful garden with a small waterfall, a pond and a swing beside it, in her bungalow. She had a hobby of collecting stones and broken tree trunks of unusual shapes, which used to be displayed artistically in her house as if in shelves. A thin and long bottle-gourd (Dudhi) was hanging at her entrance door and there was a chain for you to pull, so that a small bell tinkled somewhere inside. A specially designed low Diwan in her hall had four wheels, so that its position could be changed. The walls were decorated with framed paintings and embroidery (by her mother and mother-in-law). Her

creativity could be witnessed everywhere.

She was a rationalist, did not practice religion or rituals, but was enthusiastic about festivals. She would prepare home made sweets for Ganesh Chaturthi or Diwali.

(The coloured photographs in "Rasachandrika" show her culinary expertise) The "Vayan-coconuts" on Tayee used to be decorated with pretty designs. She was a perfect home maker and knew various little secrets in enhancing the taste of food or in removing the stains on clothes etc. Her advice was 'whenever we invite guests, we must have at least one homemade dish'. As we get everything ready-made in Mumbai, I thought this homely touch was very important and needed to be practiced.

Nirmala had done her B.A. with Economics and Maths. Her motto 'Life is like a rider in Geometry. We are given "data" . Within that framework, we must try to solve the problem and rest only when we arrive at Q.E.D.' She was also trained in Nursery Education and Handicrafts.

A fire-brand freedom fighter she had to undergo imprisonment for a while during the movement. A true Gandhian, she preached and practiced "Plain living and high thinking". Often she used to quote Gandhiji "You have to live simply, so that others can simply live". She mostly wore Khadi, but her choice was quite sophisticated – an artistic blend of pastel shades with stripes and fine textures.

Nirmala was a stalwart of the Saraswat Mahila Samaj, worked diligently for several years and had the rare opportunity to be its President twice in her tenure. She was guided by other senior respected members like Sitabai Padbidri and Kalyanibai Samasi. Nirmala took initiative in displaying Kasturba's portrait on the Samaj wall and in holding Mother's Day programmes on her death anniversary. In any social catastrophe like floods, earthquakes or wars, she along with others would collect funds, for the victims. Once a year, she would guide the Samaj in buying the latest books for the library. Even in satisfying her daily needs like getting her clothes stitched or buying readymade snacks, she used to

make a special effort to oblige needy ladies involved in these cottage industries. She had a wide social perspective to all her activities, which she inherited from her "Kulaar" and imbibed in her "Saasar".

Nirmala was the second lady President of Kanara Saraswat Association (Smt. Kamla Dongerkery being the first). While working there, she introduced a mobile dispensary with doctors, visiting rural areas near Mumbai to serve the poor. Like Florence Nightingale, she was an expert in nursing the sick in her extended family. Working tirelessly without wasting a minute was her maxim.

Apart from K.S.A. and the Mahila Samaj she was also associated with All India Women's Council (worked on their Library Committee), Seva Sadan and other social institutions. She was one of the Directors of the Popular Book Depot and participated efficiently in the family-business.

Even before her last illness, whenever I met her, she used to enquire about the books that we read or other social activities. Such was her zest and enthusiasm for life.

Her memories will always be like a beacon of light on our paths.



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Remembering Sadanand and Nirmala Bhatkal

FRANK F. CONLON

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, SEATTLE

A foundational teaching of the ancient Greek philosopher Socrates may be summed up “the unexamined life is not worth living.” The Zen Buddhist attitude, in contrast, might be summed up “the un-lived life is not worth examining.” Those contradictory aphorisms came to my mind when I received e-mails informing first of the passing of Nirmala Bhatkal and then of her life’s partner Sadanand. Within the life-span of these two friends were to be found a summation of the finest qualities to be found in human life in this world—conscience, concern, care and commitment to the improvement of their world, their community and their family.

I first met Sadanand and Nirmala in January of 1966. The introduction came in Sadanand’s office “cabin” above the Popular Book Depot—for so long an iconic destination of book lovers and intellectuals of Bombay. I explained my interest in doing research on the Saraswat community’s historical career—Sadanand immediately grasped the potential significance of such a project and arranged for me to meet the officers of the Kanara Saraswat Association, as well as some members of the community, most particularly Dr. Gopal S. Hattiangdi. Since that time forward, I have continued to follow the developments of the Bhanaps with both deep interest and affection. Sadanand and Nirmala’s gracious welcome to the community was not unique—indeed everyone I had occasion to meet proved to be anxious to help and concerned that I gain access to the Saraswats’ history. Nonetheless, I always thought of the Bhatkals as emblems of important aspects of what I might call “Bhanap-ness.”

I am sure that other contributors to the Kanara Saraswat will have mentioned the many activities and services of Nirmala and Sadanand. At this distance, I can only add a small historical perspective which goes some distance toward explaining the nature of the lives which they lived.

Sadanand, of course, was a son of the late

Ganpatrao Bhatkal, founder of the Popular Book Depot—one of the early pioneers in the community to put aside the “service” orientation in favor of business. Sadanand grew up in a world of books at Popular and early on became an independent-minded critical thinker. He was an enthusiastic young nationalist during the 1930’s and embraced a forward-looking view that held “swaraj” would not be simply an end to British colonial rule. It should also provide a dawning of a new era of social and economic relations grounded in rationality, equality and justice. Over the years of his life, he never lost sight of those values.

It may be of interest to today’s younger Bhanaps to learn of Sadanand’s early forays into community affairs. He was among the organizers of the Chitrapur Saraswat Cultural Conference, held at Talmakiwadi on December 19 and 29, 1942. That month Sadanand wrote a short essay “I Shall Be Orthodox (KS, Dec.1942, p. 288) which opened:

“I am a youth, **both in body and mind**....I will join the conference and be orthodox. Once the youths with their deliberate opinions decide to achieve what their predecessors have been trying to do in the past, they will march ahead with a missionary zeal....Let there be no prejudices, no dogmas neither bias nor blind faith...Let us have a clear and dispassionate review of the problems.”

Sadanand was, I believe, the youngest member of the Working Committee and was an enthusiastic supporter of the conference’s resolutions which included rejection of communalism, promotion of education, enhancement of women’s status, exploration of new economic activities for Bhanaps, appreciation of H. H. Anandashram Swamiji’s recent statements on intercaste marriage among Brahmans, promotion of health and physical culture, condemnation of dowry, encouragement of widow marriage, etc.

This articulation of a highly progressive agenda was not without its critics, and, as is so often the

case in such activities, the immediate results were limited. For example, at the KSA Annual General Meeting on March 7, 1943, Sadanand and K. S. Khambadkone moved that the rules of the association be interpreted to permit “academic discussion, debates and articles for the *Kanara Saraswat* on political subjects” be within the scope of the KSA and be “actively encouraged to educate the members in the present day problems.” (KS 27-4 April 1943, p. 73). Although the well known Congressman R. S. Padbidri supported the motion, a more conservative spirit prevailed and the motion was ruled out of order.

Nonetheless Sadanand and his comrades were deeply concerned that the youths of the community realise their innate potential for promoting a better life for themselves, their families, their community and their world. In 1944 he published a small book ‘*The Horizon*’ of essays, poems and cartoons, which he dedicated to the youth of India. Two years later Sadanand published ‘*The Future of Indian Youth*’ (Baroda: Padmaja Publications) to offer his perspectives to a wider audience. Throughout his life Sadanand lived by his beliefs and, to recall his 1942 essay, he remained “a youth” in mind, if not body, virtually to his final months.

In March of 1947, the *Kanara Saraswat’s* Domestic Occurrences reported the marriage of Sadanand Ganpatrao Bhatkal with Miss Vimala Shantaram Gulvadi at Bombay on March 15. It was the commencement of a life partnership that endured for just over 64 years! Looking back across time, one may observe that it was indeed a match made in heaven. Nirmala (her new name taken at the wedding) was a highly intelligent, independent minded young woman with deep commitments to the highest human values. It may be recalled that Sadanand published a small book of poetry ‘*Nirmal and other poems : the rose and the fire*’ (Popular, 1947).

On September 6, 1942, an 18 year old Vimala Gulvadi, along with a friend Hema Shinolikar, entered and occupied the court hall of the district judge at Dharwad—planting the national flag on the judge’s table. This was during the Quit India Movement when many young Indians took action

against the Raj. Arrested and convicted, she spent two-and-a-half months in prison. Interestingly, she later learned that a young man from Bombay named Sadanand Bhatkal—inspired by her story—had attempted unsuccessfully to visit her in prison. She recalled years later “It was destiny that brought us together.”

Sadanand and Nirmala’s life together was one of hard work, diverse experiences and incessant action on deep commitments. They were noted for their activities in the Indian publishing industry—representing the trade at various world book fairs and publishing conferences. Nirmala was active in the All India Women’s Council and other social and cultural organizations. Both played active roles in the life of the *Kanara Saraswat* Association. Sadanand’s life of books did not end with the closure of the Popular Book Depot. About one year ago he completed a history of the Karnataka Printing Press—a major force in publication in western India.

When I last saw Sadanand and Nirmala in January 2011, she had already been stricken by her final illness; Sadanand was no longer very mobile, but his mind was sharp and we talked about things he hoped he’d have time to complete. Alas, fate had other plans and, as we know, both of these remarkable people left this world this past July. Still, I think their history, interwoven with the major political, social and cultural events of their world, their nation and their community, will remain as monuments of achievement and commitment. As I observed earlier, theirs were lives lived well and worth examining.

PHOTOGRAPHS IN KS

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Sadanand Bhatkal: A Tribute and a Memoir

RAMESH GANGOLLI

Sadanand Bhatkal was an inspiration to me (and I am sure several others of my age) as I was growing up in Anandashram. As I recall, the Bhatkal family moved into the C Block in the early forties, probably in 1941. I was then 6 years old. They lived in the flat just below the one in which I was brought up. He was several years my senior, but his younger brother Ramdas is my age, with whom I developed a friendship whose closeness has not diminished over the seven decades it has lasted. Sadanand was always Dada to us. After Gandhiji's earthshaking Quit India movement in 1942, Dada was among a group of young men who were active in the work of making other young people aware of the patriotic fire that was then raging in the country. Ramesh Nadkarni (who now lives in Pune) was a close friend of Dada's and he was a frequent visitor in the two or three years that followed. Although I was too young to realise fully the significance of what they said, the impression of total emotional involvement they created when they spoke made a deep impression on me.

Although there was always familial (and, should I say tribal?) affection between us, we were not friends at that time because of the difference in our ages, which was a barrier when I was so young and he was more than twice my age. (As I will recount, this fortunately changed when both of us were older, when the difference of a few years in age became immaterial.) After that early contact, as so often happens in our lives with respect to early connections, we drifted apart. I pursued my studies and my career, which took me abroad, at first temporarily (I thought), but then permanently. Sadanand inherited the responsibilities of the family business in which he was joined by Ramdas. They together nurtured and transmuted it into the fine publishing house that it is today. Several years later, when I began to visit India regularly, we renewed our connection. This time, the difference of 10 or 12 years in our ages did not matter, and we developed a friendship that is now, alas, at an end due to the

inevitable fact of death.

There are many admirable facets of his personality that one might write about. To me his most striking achievement was the conception and creation of the History of Marathi Literature (मराठी वाङ्मयाचा इतिहास) which was his *magnum opus*. This is a 6 volume work whose scope is unprecedented in world of letters as it applies to Marathi (and perhaps it is the only such work done for any Indian regional language). It is a historical encyclopedia of Marathi authors and their writings covering essentially the entire history of Marathi writing. The companion volume (मराठी संदर्भकोष) gives a wealth of information on the various contexts that occur in Marathi literature.

The work is of historic significance. Its conception and execution were daring, because it involved (a) getting a large number of well-known scholars to agree to contribute by writing pieces in their own specialities, (b) collating and compiling these pieces as they came in, (c) editing them so they would hang together stylistically, (d) cross referencing them, preparing indices etc. Quite the most trying aspect of this was repeatedly reminding and cajoling contributors who had promised to write articles, in good faith of course, but had not delivered them in time, due to press of other work or some other reason (most often due to personal tendencies towards procrastination, from which we all suffer). I spoke frequently with him during the years that he worked on this project and I have the greatest admiration for this superb achievement.

One of the most remarkable things about Sadanand's last years was the great equanimity with which he faced the tribulations of old age and the accompanying ills of the body. In spite of various ailments, he never lost his tranquil approach to life and did not allow any of those ailments to disturb his intellectual balance and purpose. Not only did he see the work cited above to its completion while beset with any number of physical ills, he was constantly thinking of new projects. For him the body was just

a mortal coil, liable to degradation, a mere wrapping for the mind. His attitude exemplified admirably the sentiment expressed in the Bhagavadgeeta, in the verse that begins with वासांसि जीर्णानि यथा विहाय

The last two years of his life were cruel. Sadanand had to see his beloved wife Nirmala suffer. This was a blow that visibly shook him. She had been not only a wonderful support for him, but had also contributed

significantly to the life of Saraswat society through her many interests and accomplishments, about which others have also written in this collection of tributes. Her passing just a few weeks before his must have been a great relief. I feel the loss created by their passing, but do not mourn it. It is an inevitable end to life, in their case magnificently redeemed by their work, which will survive long after them.

Sadanand Bhatkal – A Man with many Achievements

SATISH R.MURDESHWAR, PUNE.

Sadanand G.Bhatkal, popularly called as Sadanandmam by all, was an ever smiling man with zeal and enthusiasm. He had a passion for Social work and rendered great service not only to our community but to others as well. His contribution to the Kanara Saraswat Association, as President and his active interest in setting up the Holiday Home project at Nashik, the Health Centre at the KSA hall in Talmaki Wadi, and the “Udyog” a centre, which was purely run by needy women of our community are only a few of his areas of contribution to our social fabric. His contribution towards the preparation of The Family Tree Project of our community was immense.

Besides these Sadanandmam was a pioneer in establishing the Federation of Booksellers and Publishers of India in Delhi and worked very hard for the cause of the Publishing Industry at the Central Government level. In fact he was honoured by the Federation by including his name in the “Hall of Fame” in Delhi, eulogising his selfless service to the Publishing Industry in the country.

I had a closer interaction with him when I joined the Shamrao Vithal Bank in 1989. His passion and conviction for computerising banking operations was tremendous. He was a stickler for perfection and meticulous about the time frame for completion of the project in hand.

I would like to mention here an aspect of him which few people know - his passion for food! He had surveyed good restaurants in the city of

Mumbai and Pune and even in other parts of the Country and abroad. In fact when I was first transferred to Pune in 1971, Sadanandmam gave us the exact places in Pune where “Puneri Missal” or “Mastani Missal” was available. He was a great host and his Anandashram house kitchen was always packed with necessary ingredients for preparing his favourite dish “Missal”. He would feel bad if items like ‘Shev’ and ‘chaklis’ were not in store.

But for his recent illness and the paralytic attack in the month of May this year he would have taken active part even with a Walker in Centenary celebrations of the KSA which will be culminating in November. Such was his zest for life!

Sadanandman Bhatkal breathed his last on 26th July 2011. May his soul rest in peace.

Amazing facts from our Shastras

In fact the Puranas, encyclopedias of yogic lore thousands of years old, describe the birth of our solar system out of a “milk ocean,” the Milky Way. Through the will of the Creator, they tell us, a vortex shaped like a lotus arose from the navel of eternity. It was called Hiranya Garbha, the shining womb [womb here means the source, point of origin and not an anatomical reference] and it gradually coalesced into our world, but will perish some day billions of years hence when the sun expands to many times its present size, swallowing all life on earth. In the end, the Puranas say, the ashes of the earth will be blown into space by the cosmic wind. Today we know this is a scientifically accurate, if poetic, description of the fate of our planet!

प्रकाशकांतील भीष्मपितामह

ज्योतिर्भास्कर जयंत साळगावकर

ग्रंथप्रकाशनाच्या विषयांत स्वतःला झोकून दिल्यानंतर आणि तन-मन-धनाने ग्रंथप्रकाशनाच्या कार्यात एकरूप झाल्यानंतर माणूस किती मोठे कार्य करू शकतो त्याचा मूर्तिमंत आदर्श म्हणजे सदानंद भटकळ. भटकळांनी ग्रंथप्रकाशनाचा व्यवसाय धंदा म्हणून न करता धर्म म्हणून केला. लोकांपर्यंत चांगली पुस्तके जावीत, त्यांनी ती वाचावीत आणि आपण प्रकाशित केलेल्या पुस्तकांमुळे सर्वसामान्य वाचकांच्या ज्ञानात भर पडावी ही सदानंद भटकळ यांची तळमळ केवळ मराठी जगतात नव्हे, तर सर्व भारतातील ग्रंथप्रेमींच्या परिचयाची आहे. पुस्तकांचे मुद्रण, वितरण योग्य रीतीने व्हावे म्हणून भटकळ अतिशय दक्ष असत. आपण इतक्या मेहनतीने तयार केलेली मराठी पुस्तके खपविताना अनेक अडचणी येतात ही खंत सर्वसामान्य मराठी लेखक, प्रकाशकांप्रमाणे भटकळांनाही सलत असे. त्यांनी याविषयी बोलताना एकदा गमतीने म्हटले, 'आपण एक छोटे १५० पानांचे पुस्तक प्रसिद्ध करून, किंमत

रु. २०/- ठेवू आणि त्या पुस्तकात एक २० रुपयांची नोट ठेवून देऊ. मग तरी ते मराठी पुस्तक ग्राहक घेतात का ते पाहू.'

पुस्तके लोकांपर्यंत जावीत म्हणून भटकळांनी आजन्म खूप वेगवेगळ्या योजना राबविल्या. ६० वर्षांपूर्वी त्यांनी पॉप्युलर प्रकाशन आणि मे. केशव भिकाजी ढवळे या दोघांसह एकत्र येऊन 'नंदी पुस्तके' या नावाचा एक प्रकल्प हाती घेतला होता. तो मराठीबरोबरच हिंदी, कानडी, इंग्लिश अशा विविध भाषांमधून राबविला जात होता. पॉकेट बुक्सच्या धर्तीवर एक रुपयांत छोट्या आकाराचे ४८ ते ६४ पानांचे पुस्तक द्यावे अशी ती योजना होती. उत्कृष्ट लेखन, उत्कृष्ट निर्मिती, वितरणाची चोख व्यवस्था एवढे सगळे असूनही तो नंदी काही फारसा हलला नाही. त्यानंतर पुस्तके खपण्याची एखादी योजना समोर आली, की भटकळांचे तेजस्वी डोळे अधिकच लखलखत आणि त्या योजनेतील उणेपणा नेमका लक्षात आणून देत. भटकळांचे आपल्या व्यवसायावर इतके प्रेम होते, की या विषयांत जगभर चाललेल्या नवनव्या घडामोडींचा परामर्श ते घेत रहात. प्रकाशकांनी संघटित व्हावे, आपल्या अडीअडचणी एकमेकांच्या आणि शासनयंत्रणेच्या साह्याने सोडवाव्यात

यासाठी ते प्रयत्नशील असत. ग्रंथ प्रदर्शने भरवणे, वाचकांच्या मनात उत्सुकता आणि उत्कंठा निर्माण करण्यासाठी वेगवेगळ्या प्रकारे लोकांसमोर कार्यक्रम ठेवणे असे विविध उपक्रम त्यांच्या मनात सतत रेंगाळत. मे. केशव भिकाजी ढवळे या सुप्रसिद्ध प्रकाशन संस्थेची यशस्वी शंभरावी साजरी झाली, त्यावेळी भटकळांना झालेला आनंद अवर्णनीय होता. त्या निमित्ताने महाराष्ट्रातील मराठी प्रकाशकांची एक समिती स्थापन करून मे. ढवळे यांच्या नावाने ग्रंथनिर्मितीच्या क्षेत्रात पडद्याआड राहून मोलाची कामगिरी करणाऱ्या तंत्रज्ञांना आणि कार्यकुशल मंडळींना दर वर्षी ढवळे प्रकाशन संस्थेच्या नावाने उत्तेजनपर पारितोषिके द्यावीत अशी योजना त्यांनी मांडली. त्यासाठी निधी जमविला आणि मुद्रितशोधक, पानांची मांडणी करणारे, वितरण, विक्रेते अशांमधील गुणी ग्रंथप्रेमी लोकांना निवडून त्यांचे दर वर्षी सत्कार होतील अशी योजना प्रत्यक्षात आणली. त्यासाठी ते वयाच्या ऐंशी वर्षांनंतरही दुर्धर रोगाने व्याधीग्रस्त असताना लघवीसाठी लावलेल्या कॅथेटरची पिशवी पायाला बांधून अंगाभोवती लुंगीसारखे धोतर गुंडाळून हातात काठी, तर कधी वॉकर घेऊन सगळीकडे जातीनिशी जात, समितीच्या बैठका घेत. या बैठका कोणातरी सभासदांच्या कार्यालयात वा घरी होत. त्यानंतर एकदा मी भटकळांना म्हटले, 'प्रकृती बरोबर नसताना तुम्ही एवढे कष्ट का करता? यापेक्षा बैठका तुमच्या घरीच का घेत नाही? सगळे सभासद तुमच्या घरी येतील.' त्यानंतर एकदा भटकळांच्या गिरगावच्या घरी सभा झाली. त्यांच्या घरी तसे मनुष्यबळही कमी होते. पत्नीही आजारी. त्यामुळे त्यांनी फराळाची सर्व व्यवस्था बाहेरून केली होती. कुठला पदार्थ कुठे चांगला मिळतो तिथून तो आणला होता. घरी आलेल्या पाहुण्यांची उठबस व्यवस्थित व्हावी म्हणून भटकळ स्वतः तत्पर होते. बैठक घरी बोलावल्यामुळे त्यांना किती अवघडल्यासारखे झाले, त्याचा अंदाज आल्यामुळे मी खडू झालो. पण भटकळांचा उत्साह विशेष होता. शेवटचे काही महिने सोडता याच उत्साहाने ते निरंतर वावरले. असा ग्रंथप्रेमी-किंबहुना ग्रंथवेदा प्रकाशक क्वचितच जन्माला येतो.

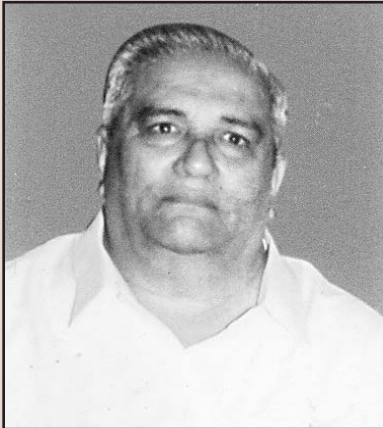
त्यांच्या आत्म्याला चिरशांती मिळो, ही सर्व ग्रंथप्रेमींच्यावतीने प्रार्थना!



Late Mrs. Shyamala Sitaram Shetty (nee Burde) – 67 years – most loving sister to late Mrs. Nirmala Satish Nadkarni, Girish and Satish Burde and sister-in-law to Amita (Shubhada) Satish Burde of Talmakiwadi, Mumbai, left for heavenly abode on Monday, 18th July 2011 at Mumbai, after a brief illness patiently borne.

Deeply mourned by relatives and friends.

SAD DEMISE



MANOHAR (DATTU) MUKUND TRIKANNAD

(12-11-1930 TO 03-08-2011)

Aged - 81 years,

left for heavenly abode on
03-08-2011 after a brief illness
at Dharwar

Missed by - Meera (Wife)
Children - Murli - Kisan - Kanchan
Daughters-in-law- Shoba - Jyoti
Son-in-law - Ravi Bantwal
Grand Children - Samarth - Amog - Aditya - Amol
Brothers - Pramanand, Satish, Dinesh, Girish and their Families
All Trikannad Cousins - All Pillar Family All Friends - Other Relatives

Story of a Sweet Tooth

By GURUDAS GULWADI, NEW JERSEY USA

Dipu was born in a good but poor family
In a small town, had an elder sister Valli
She was older by eight years and a bit
He was fat for his age but healthy and fit.

Dipu had a sweet tooth and he craved for it
Family could not afford, if relatives paid a
visit
Sweet would be in menu in a small
measure
Valli would signal Dipu denying second
pleasure.

Urge made him steal money without a
bother
To buy a candy, only to be caught by father
He even sneaked into a big wedding dinner
Friend leaked the act, Valli raised a banner.

Dipu wiser, switching to studies and sport
Got a degree and a good job in an air port
He soon fell in love with a daughter of a
physician

She was every thing he dreamt, but a
dietician!
Courtship to honeymoon diet recurring in
series
She was great cook but calories ruling the
curries
Dipu had his escapes: official visits but rare
They had a son brought up in love and care

Sweets were strictly rationed even on
occasion
If son wanted more, Dipu would gladly give
in
Life went on: a strait jacket of all disciplines
Dipu suddenly died one day when son in
teens

Guests surprised, sweets aplenty in death
ceremony
My dad loved sweets, the boy told in
deep agony.



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Hernia

There are many misconceptions about 'Hernia' in the minds of people. This article is an attempt on my part to create awareness, improve knowledge and dispel fears regarding the same -
Dr. Gurudutt Basrur, MS, FRCS

Introduction

The abdominal cavity is a virtual Pandora's Box, packed with organs like the stomach, 21 feet of small intestine, 12 feet of the large intestine, the liver, spleen and the omentum, which is a slimy, fatty fold of tissue covering, protecting and nourishing the intestines and organs. Muscle layers and an inner lining called the peritoneum, make a strong covering for the abdominal contents. Any weakness or defect in the muscle layers, augmented by prolonged rise in abdominal pressure (repeated coughing, sneezing, straining etc) can cause abdominal contents to protrude outwards at these weak points. This localised bulge is called a 'Hernia', and the contents are said to be in the 'Hernial Sac' (It differs from the generalised bulging of the abdomen, commonly called the 'paunch' or 'tummy', which may develop due to obesity, loss of muscle tone, gases etc)

The defect/weakness may be from birth (congenital) or may be acquired later in life due to age, malnutrition or a weak surgical scar. Straining for urination (micturition) and defecation, obesity and pregnancy, drastic weight loss, heavy exercise and weight lifting without proper guidance are some other causes which may aggravate the condition.

Types

Hernias are

a) **External and visible** as in Inguinal (above the Groin crease, commonly seen in men) and Femoral (below the Groin crease, common in females). The commonly used term 'Hernia' usually denotes these hernias.

b) **Internal and non visible** as in Diaphragmatic Hernia or Hiatus Hernia.

External : In early painless stages, the contents may protrude and go back into the abdominal cavity (reducible hernia), but in the course of time, the contents may tend to stay longer (due to sustained pressure) causing discomfort and dragging pain. At times they may fail to go back into the cavity (irreducible hernia). If not attended to, this may lead to entrapment (strangulation) of the contents leading even to gangrene. The latter condition is very painful, causes vomiting and fever, and may lead to peritonitis, septicemia, multi organ failure and sometimes death.

Internal : Diaphragmatic hernias develop due to a weakness in the diaphragm, the muscular sheet separating the abdominal cavity from the chest cavity. Here, the herniation causes pressure on the lower end of the food pipe (oesophagus) leading to hyperacidity, heartburn, regurgitation of food, belching etc.

Treatment

Surgery is the only treatment for most hernias. Surgery for diaphragmatic hernias is less frequent, more elaborate and is not dealt with in this article.

Conventional or open surgery for inguinal hernias entails repair of the defect and in adults, reinforcing the repair with a stainless steel mesh. This can be done under General Anaesthesia, Regional Anaesthesia (Spinal or Epidural) or under Local Anaesthesia as the situation demands. A cut is made in the skin at the site of the bulge. The layers of the abdominal wall are opened to identify and expose the hernial sac. The intestine or other



contents in the sac are identified, and pushed back into its proper position behind the muscle wall. The muscle wall is reinforced with stitches or synthetic mesh to complete the repair. The abdominal wall layers are then closed appropriately. If complications have occurred, the surgeon will check the viability of the herniated organ and remove it if necessary.

Laparoscopic Surgery, (aka endoscopic, key hole or minimal access surgery (MAS)) is a recent advance in the treatment of Hernia. This requires about three tiny incisions for the camera and instruments to be inserted, as opposed to traditional “open” surgery, which requires an incision large enough for the surgeon’s hands to be inserted into the patient. The laparoscope, which consists of a small video camera and light source, is inserted near the navel. Laparoscopic forceps / scissors / suturing instruments are inserted through the other small openings. The camera sends actual images to a TV monitor allowing the surgeon to “see” and ‘work’ inside the body. The surgeon fixes a polypropylene mesh to cover the defect from within. The mesh becomes a strong and permanent part of the abdominal wall as in the open surgery.

In children, mere closure of the muscle weakness at the hernial site is sufficient.

Early surgery can prevent discomfort, pain and complications mentioned earlier

Recent trend is to treat the patient with early, uncomplicated hernia as a day care case. Surgery takes about an hour. Liquid feeds are given after 6 hours and a light diet thereafter. Hospitalization may last for 6 hours to a day. Patients are able to return to routine work within a week or two, while intensive activities are prohibited for a longer period. Patients with complicated (irreducible or strangulated) hernias take longer for recovery.

Complications

In spite of the best care, there is always a small risk of complications such as surgical site infections, mesh rejection due to infection, nerve and blood vessel injuries, injury to nearby organs, and hernia recurrence. In the event of a rejection, the mesh will very likely need to be removed.

Prevention:

Best way to prevent Hernia is to improve and maintain tone of abdominal muscles by regular supervised exercise and yoga, good eating habits to prevent obesity and constipation (to avoid straining at defecation), identify and treat underlying causes of straining during micturition (rule out prostate enlargement), Avoid smoking and other causes of chronic cough.

It is important to be aware of the possibility of getting a hernia, identifying it if one gets it, and getting it treated at the earliest before any complications make matters worse.

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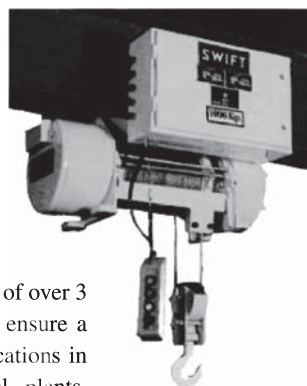
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The Meaning of Marriage!

KULDEEP KALAVAR, MUMBAI

A young aspirant went to a sage and requested him to initiate him as a sanyasi. The sage refused and told him to get married. Upset at being told thus the youth asked the sage "Sir, I came to you with the hope of evolving spiritually, but you order me to marry! Why do you punish me so?" The sage responded:

"Every person is born and dies alone. What is the difference between the individual at birth and at death? Observe his path through life.

By virtue of birth into a particular family he acquires "Rights" – A right to family assets viz: Surname, Wealth, Culture, Spiritual leanings, Blood relationships etc. These family assets enable him establish a foundation in life.

At birth he also arrives with positive and negative traits (Vasanas) in his personality. As he grows into a youth these traits develop and mature. His family members feel he is ready to embark on life's journey. Such long journeys are better done with a partner. Thus evolved the ritual of "Marriage". The institution of marriage permits two individuals to share lives together and evolve in body, mind and spirit. How does such evolution happen?

The law of nature works such that the person acquires a life partner who possesses traits that complement his own! If one partner is hot tempered, the other is cool. If one is emotional the other is rational. If one likes spicy food the other loves it less tempered! Each partner compensates for the other's deficiency thus enabling the couple to face life successfully as a team.

By virtue of marriage each partner accepts "Obligations". Two cultures come together – each trying to integrate with the other introducing turmoil and strain. New relationships, commitments are established between families. The couple are challenged at every level of their physical, mental and spiritual personalities to meet their obligations. Each partner contributes in the effort and moderates the other partner and together they mature and grow.

After some time the couple have offspring. By executing their duties enshrined in grahasthashrama

the couple learns to care, share, sacrifice, suffer, enjoy, and experience the full range of thoughts & emotions and mature in all aspects of body, mind and spirit.

The life cycle which started with one individual, grew to two, became three (or four) now begins to regress and proceed backward. The offspring get married, start their own cycles and leave the nest! Once again only two (husband & wife) remain. At this stage notice how their traits match each other! They think alike and understand each other so well that there is little need to talk – They pick up each other's thoughts too! They may even look like brother & sister! At this juncture there is little for each to gain from this association and mother nature and karma take over and one partner passes away leaving the other single once again. Young man - you have yet to experience all these aspects so go and get married!"

Remembrance

Raksha Bandhan



Krishna Vijay Gulwadi

(nee Naidu)

09/03/1932 - 15/06/2011

Akka

The thread that bound our souls in
the bond of abundant Love and Joy
Remembering the special tie we shared.
Missing you today and each day to come.

Chaitanya M Bhatkal

Deeply mourned by:

Gulwadis, Kalles, Bhatkals, Relatives and Friends

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Treasures !

SHANTHA M. SUJIR, GAMDEVI.

The word 'treasure' makes anyone very inquisitive to know what it is and where it is. The word 'treasure' itself triggers curiosity and gives pleasure. My husband M.R.Sujir and I, we were always interested in sight-seeing. When our daughter got married and sons secured good jobs, they insisted that we start our 'treasure hunt'- so in 1984 we started by seeing stone sculptures of India.

'Belur' in Karnataka is famous for stone sculpture of Jakkannachari with beautiful Bharatnatyam figures in different postures-'Mudraas' carved on the walls of the ChennaKeshava temple which was ruined by Moghuls. Many dancers and tourists visit the place just to learn the 'Mudraas'. The most stunning sculpture is the one outside the temple yard there is one huge tall stone pillar underneath which a thin paper can be passed. A few kilometers away is 'Hale beedu' where, in a big hall there are 4 well polished black stone pillars in which we can see our own reflections in different forms - 1.legs up and head down. *Sab kuch Ultaa Sulta* . 2. We can see the correct figure, color & designs of our dresses. 3. Magnified reflection. 'Bhoota kannadi' as it is known as. 4. Mis-shaped, ugly or unclear reflection.

In 'Hampi' at the ruined fort, the main front door is a huge stone carved one now lying on the ground. In the olden days when there were no cranes or electricity, it is surprising how they lifted and fixed such a huge stone door. Nearby there is one Vithoba temple with many stone pillars on both sides of the hall. On one of the pillars, we can hear the sounds of Taal (cymbals), Tipli, mridangam when we knock by knuckles at different places on the pillar. Tourist guides mention that Kanakadas & Purandardas sang bhajans in the hall. There is one similar type of stone pillar at 'Shri Suchindram' temple in Tamilnadu where the sounds can be heard much louder.

'Shravanabelagola' is of course famous for the statue of Gomateshwara Mahabali of 57 ft height in the open on the hilltop. In 'Somnathpur' (also in Karnataka), there is a ruined Shiva temple

with beautiful stone plantain trees at the entrance of the garbagruha. At the back side are carved figures in kamasutra postures. In 'Bijapur', the huge Golgumbaz (round dome) where even the click of the wrist watch echoes louder several times, so we can imagine when we shout what will happen.

In Maharashtra at 'Ajanta' the vegetable colour paintings on the walls of the big caves on top of the hill, have minute details and give a 2D or 3D effect. Like the stone ornaments which look like real gold & precious stones. At nearby 'Ellora' caves the huge stone carved figures of gods are in the open space both on the hilltop and below. Nearby the famous 'Aurangabad' fort is also worth visiting. In Ahmedabad the 'Hilataa Minaar' (the shaking pillars), where if the front minaret was slightly pushed, the other 2 used to shake also. But now they are not working.

At Agra the white marble 'Taj Mahal and Dayal baag Gurudwara' are well known and famous for the stone carvings of various beautiful floral designs & fruit trees. Besides these man-made stone treasures there are also natural wonders in stones like of 'Jwalamukhi Devi temple' of Kangra valley in Himachalpradesh where ever-burning bright flames emit out of the crevices of the rocks on the wall of the temple and from the 'havan kunda'. Another amazing place is the "Gowri Kundaa" near Kedarnath where hot water falls from the rocks in the midst of the icy Himalayan range. There are similar hot water kundaas at Yamunotri & Gangotri. Near Mumbai at 'Ganeshpuri' also there are 2 hot water springs in the ground.

Our joy was doubled as we had a double win on our treasures hunt! We could do both- visiting Tirtha kshetraas, Ashtavinayak , 12 Jyotirlingaas and all the sightseeing of different treasures of our beautiful and rich heritage.

Smt. Shantha Sujir passed away on July 31, 2011. We regret that we could not print this article earlier... Editor

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Echoes of Fate

Preeti M. Andar

The breeze weaves through the empty hallways,
Whistling past the crumbling walkways.
What secrets does this place hold?
A ruined fort so very old.

Are those footsteps I hear?
Tinkling in the shadows as I draw near.
"Is it her?" I ask...
The one whom Fate cruelly took to task.

The shrivelled bard crouching at the lake's shore,
Hears her laughter rippling like waves across the
marbled floor...
"She was the life of the palace", is his claim
"More vibrant than any legendary queen of past
fame."

The most celebrated beauty in the land,
Greatly loved by her kingdom so immensely
grand...
But Fate was watching, with her cold, shrewd eyes,
And War's gnarled fingers reached out, with dark,
resonating sighs.

Off a magnificent mirror the moonlight gleams,
Illuminating the courtyard, eerily bathing it in
beams...
I wonder what went through the queen's mind,
Not knowing what in her gloomy destiny she
would find.

The warriors of the kingdom made the last of their
valiant tries,
Alas, it wasn't enough in cruel Fate's blazing eyes.
The queen and the women burnt themselves alive
they say,
To save the dynasty's honour, come what may.

The victorious foreign army thundered into the
fort,
To find the famed jewel of this defeated court.
But her ashes were hidden in a secret place...
Only the memory would remain of her beautiful
face.

And today the fort stands high above the plains,
Within its crumbling core- a past of blood red
stains...
Along the age old flagstones I walk...
In the gossamer moonlight, her restless ghost
seems to talk.

I've never seen this place before,
And yet I feel like I've lived the lore
A deep nostalgia courses through my heart...
As I look across the deserted rampart.

Nothing can withstand time's ruthless fine...
No glowing pearls of love, no moments as sweet
as wine...
Only shadows now mask these crumbling walls...
In search of a glorious Beauty who once walked
these halls.

Ammama's Wisdom

VINITA M RAO (NEE KOLPE), USA

The year was 1962. We were blessed with a beautiful baby boy on April 26th. This was the biggest and most joyful event in Kolpe Venugopal Rao's family as it was their first grandchild.

My maternal grandmother, Kaushik Girijabai was at home, making all the arrangements prior to this date. She had handpicked the leaves of the fragrant flowers to prepare baby oil for massaging the newborn. For me, she had oils from bitter leaves to prevent any infection.

The masseuse hired by my grandmother was called Kameswari, an appropriate name for the excellent work she accomplished. She would come in the morning, around 9 a.m. and start oil massage for the baby. She was thorough as I could see that she

was following all the muscles in their appropriate origins and insertions. She also did some posturing of the arms and legs. I had no clue as to why she was doing that. Our child turned out to be healthy and vigorous in his development.

We came to Denver, Colorado, U.S.A. in 1964 and I took up the post of Occupational Therapist at the local Children's Hospital. The patients we treated were neurologically involved, hence had delayed development. My supervisor was topmost in the field of pediatric neuro-treatments. We followed a programme devised by Ms. Rood; hence called Rood Techniques. We would lay the child on its stomach and massage its back. This was what I was doing all

(Contd on page 44)

Turning 30.... Hype Or Hope!

BY ASEEM HATTANGADI, MUMBAI

Turning 30...is it something to actually be mortified about or is it an event that you actually look forward to? What's the big deal about it....why is such a huge hue and cry made about it?

It's just a number....it's all in the head some say! Well if you ask me, despite all the cliches and jargons, everyone at some point of time does have this little point of concern when it comes to discussing the precocious little number 30!! So let's see, what is soooo unnerving about turning 30, that ruffles a few feathers! A stray wrinkle on the face, a solitary strand of gray hair, a layer of sagging skin rearing it's ugly head when you least expect it.... BUT is this all that there is about turning 30????

If you ask me, turning 30 is that point in your life when you start introspecting on life and how better you can perform the tasks that you wish to take the plunge into....whether you want to take it head on or bide your time patiently, ensuring a smooth and successful panning out of what you have planned to do. It's the time in one's life where you ponder over whether you NEED to get married or WANT to get married if you haven't already, whether you should have a child and if you do, how do you plan on rearing your offspring, whether your career has reached it's dead end....it's a point of no return, or is it a sign of new things to come, whether you are financially well settled or are you starting afresh on investments, stocks, bond, mutual funds, etc, etc!!!!

Hitting your 30's is like a bottle of Shiraz or Sauvignon Blanc left to age and mature for a good many years, hence enriching and enhancing the taste! Just like how grapes release their true taste when crushed, similarly, people in their 30's perform better and have their mettle tested, under pressure. You are experienced, have been there, done that, have taken a fall but have propped yourself up, ideally know the rights from the wrongs and overall have a clear view of life.

Who says you can't look good when you hit your 30's? Who says you need to get a shot of botox for that solitary wrinkle that just popped up, or a tummy tuck for that stubborn paunch that just doesn't go away, or better yet hair weaving for that bald pate? It's all in the mind....you can be as young, as active and as full of zest as you wish to even during the 30's! In today's time and age, one cannot even recognize, let alone look their age, so what's the point in fussing over your age....live life kingsize, face 'the demons in your head' and get over it!!!!

30's, 40's, 50's....hell even folks in their 60's live life to the fullest! Just like Bryan Adams belted out his hit track '18 Till I Die', that's the attitude that you should live with till you kick the bucket!!!!

(Contd from page 43)

along. We would, then, bring the arms of the child across his chest. Little did I realize that we were following the same technique to break the strong abnormal asymmetrical tonic neck reflex so that the child could turn from its back to its stomach. All other treatments were similar to what Kameswari was doing.

The other valuable knowledge that I gained was that when our child was cranky and crying, my grandmother would sing "Dhol Dhol Dhola" rocking the baby, Vinay, back and forth; this calmed him. This has a great significance in that there is a diffuse nervous connection in the brain called the 'Reticular activating system', which calms the brain and body with gentle change in position. My maternal grandmother would sing many nursery rhymes "Yethe yethe bais re mhora, chara kha pani pi, bhur jaun ubbun ja'. The bringing of the index finger and thumb facilitates development of the pincer grasp.

I realized how rich our heritage was of bringing up a healthy human being!

We are proud of our Indian traditions. It is a blessing to have such knowledgable grandmothers!

Are We Going To Dogs? - 2

INDUKANTH RAGADE

In my last article (KS May 2011), I had raised the question whether an individual can help in changing the present apparently highly negative environment into a more positive one. The answer to this question by most people is a counter question-”What can a single person do? I am after all only a drop in the ocean”. This suggests that drops are of no consequence and so individuals are powerless to effect a change for the better. Are they really? Please do a simple experiment. Assuming that you get water from your tap all 24 hours, open it just a wee bit such that one drop falls every one second. Keep a bucket below it, note the time and let the bucket remain below the tap for 24 hours. What will you see in the bucket? *20 litres of water enough for a good normal bath!* How did these 20 litres collect there? By millions of water drops falling in the bucket over the 24 hours. Don’t we in our childhood learn the verse

Little drops of water, Little drops of sand
Make the mighty ocean, And the pleasant land

The process is simply one of cumulation and each drop can be termed **a cumulative drop!** Rain, after all, is nothing but a cumulation of millions and millions of individual water drops. Let us look at some other interesting and powerful types of drops.

What happens when a drop of Attar or a good scent is put in a room? It diffuses over the entire room and aromatizes it! We can call it **a diffusive drop.** Consider another type of drop: Put a drop of curds in a bucket full of milk. What happens? The entire milk turns into curds! We can term it as **a catalytic drop.**

Five decades ago, I was on the Grand Canyon in U.S.A. and saw, a kilometer down below, the narrow Colorado River, snaking its way through rock. I just wondered how rivers and streams have managed to flow forward miles and miles by cutting through rock. Years later I realized that it was by a process of millions and millions of water drops (small and large) hitting rock vertically and horizontally. These therefore are **persistent drops!** In Tamil, there is a saying, “Keep on hitting the grind-stone (Ragdo) and it will (eventually) move”! This is what the water drops of the river did in order to form a gorge through which it can flow. Yet another

variety of drop is **the nuclear drop.** The atoms in a drop of Uranium 233 have enough energy which can light an entire neighbourhood, when set in a chain reaction! Remember that huge trees grow from minute seeds.

You will have to agree therefore that each of the above drops has the capability to change the environment around it whose range is ultimately unlimited. Swami Vivekananda had in the 19th century said:” If you look at the moon and shake your fist at it, you have made an impact on the moon. Only, the instruments available today are not sensitive enough to sense it.” Therefore, to say that “I am after all a mere drop in the ocean and so what can I do” is only ducking the issue, ducking one’s responsibility and passing the buck. You have every opportunity to choose what kind of a drop you can be and exert the power that it gives you. You will also find as you go along that you may become another kind of drop and exert the power that comes with it. Self-belief is what one needs as the right path is not a rosy path all the way. If it were, we would all have become saints long back. And if a good number of us, particularly those who are economically comfortable, act on this self-belief, there will be a sea-change in environment.

Here is a Chinese philosopher’s advice:

If the world is to be brought to order,
My nation must first be changed
If my nation is to be changed, my hometown must be
made over
If my hometown is to be re-ordered, my family must
first be set right
If my family is to be regenerated, I myself must first
be!

Am I being comfortably theoretical and conceptual and all this has no relevance to the reality of today? No Sirs, not at all. If only you take the trouble to find out, you will see how in ancient, recent as well as in contemporary times, people fitting all these varieties of drops have acted and how much they have impacted on society positively. I will in my next article give concrete examples of such persons and also spell out the many things we, as individuals, can do without any opposition from anybody and which can impact

positively on the world around us. And if we go further, there will necessarily be impediments but we would by then have become stronger individually and collectively. The famous Greek scientist of yore, Archimedes had stated: "Give me a place to stand and I will weigh the Earth"! That is the kind of self-belief that one must have to think boldly and act.

Before I do so, I would also point out that very often, paradoxically, there is tremendous honesty and integrity in many activities which by themselves are not ethical. In the early seventies, terrylene saris were available in India but very costly. I used to then work in a chemical factory in a place called Atul in South Gujarat. Atul was just 25 miles from Daman, the small territory forming part of Goa. Smuggling of all kinds of goods was then rampant in that area and I used to be told that you could buy good terrylene saris in Daman at a good price. I never ventured to Daman. Once, some relatives on a visit were eager to buy a few and pressed me to take them there. Curious to know how smuggling operates, I agreed. My Gujarati colleagues in office gave me specific directions to reach a particular place which included that a thatched projecting roof would be in front and a jeep would also be stationed in front of this place. We took off one evening and at the check-post we were asked why we were going into Daman. I told them that the ladies wanted to buy some terrylene saris. 'How many' they asked. Two per lady, which is reasonable, I said. They waved us off with a smile. We did find the place with the jeep parked in front. When we entered, we saw nothing but a practically empty room with bars on all four sides on which samples bits of the sari designs were hanging. In a corner, there was a small table and a big Godrej cupboard. Once you made your choices, you indicated them to the assistants present. They disappeared and after a while, came back with a neat package in a brown paper or in a cardboard box. You paid the money and went out with the package. While our purchase was modest, I saw others buying goods worth many thousands of rupees. Not a single person got a bill or a receipt nor did anyone check the contents of his package. While returning, the chaps at the check-post smiled and just waved us off!

On reflection on this experience, I realized that the whole trade depended on total honesty on the part of the chaps involved. If any one in the chain was found to have been not honest, retribution was quick

and severe, as the whole chain would be in danger of collapsing. So, this honesty is a forced one, whereas the honesty that endures and impacts is one that is voluntary, one that is ready for impediments.

I had asked for responses for my previous article to know whether readers accepted my postulates and reasoning. Regrettably, there were only five responses and four of them were from septuagenarians. I saw not a single letter on the article in the subsequent issues including the June issue. I therefore decided to go ahead and extend my reasoning.

Talking about Mathematics and Music, Dr.Gangolli Ramesh (KS June) has pointed two similarities between the two: (page 30): "Neither activity can be done without getting involved in it. Both activities are risky in that they may not lead to success every time. They require the twin attitudes of (i) daring to act and (ii) willingness to accept setbacks and try again. I would submit these two similarities apply equally to Mathematics and Ethical Human Behaviour. Therefore, I am concluding this article with a simple mathematical problem for readers – young and old – to solve.

What is the biggest number you can produce from combining three 2s and using only the well-known mathematical symbols like +, -, x, /, !, \sum , $\sqrt{\quad}$, etc. *No other numbers can be used except three 2s.* As an example, $2+2+2=6$ whereas $2 \times 2 \times 2=8$, $(2^2)^2$ is 16. Using the place value principle, you can get 222. What about producing bigger numbers? More than one symbol can be used.

What is the relevance of this problem to the subject under discussion, you may ask. The relevance is to illustrate the latent scope that exists in producing a large number by strategically combining three 2s. If we consider the three 2s to represent three ordinary individuals and the different mathematical symbols to represent different strategies that they can employ, then by applying the right strategies, they can produce a huge impact just as applying appropriate mathematical symbols, three 2s can produce really huge number! I will elaborate on this after receiving responses. *Young readers are invited to attempt this problem even if they are not interested in the more serious subject of the article!*

(Responses to isragade@yahoo.com or B-9, Atandra, 25, Thirumalai Rd, T.Nagar, Chennai 600 017)

Konkani Sourabh

COMPILED BY ARUN UBHAYAKAR, MALLAPUR

What every Konkani should know about Konkani

1. First mention made by Al Masudi in 943 A.D. who called Konkani as Khemken and stated that the Konkani was the language spoken in the area stretched from Cambay to Chaul.

2. First stone carving of 1012 A.D. was found in Alibaug established by Bhayirju Shenoy- The Minister of Shilahar King 'Aparajit' has many Konkani words.

3. In 1290 A.D. Marco Polo describing 'Thana' noted that they had distinct language of their own which was none other than Konkani.

4. In the 'Gatha' of Namdev, he writes "Gavalane thakavilya Ek ek sangatini, Marathi, Kanadiya, ek Musalmani Konkani" this proves Konkani existed prior to Marathi.

5. Konkani was derived from ' Shourseni Prakrit' known as Apabhraṅsh. Renowned Konkani knowledgeable late. Shri Devaraya Baimdoor Igal was also of the opinion that Konkani's original form is Apabramsha Prakrit version.

6. The first All India Konkani Parishad was inaugurated in 1939 by Shrimat Anandashram Swamiji at Karwar

7. Shri Sumitra Mangesh Katre published his stupendous work 'Formation of Konkani' in 1942.

8. Goa became free from Portuguese rule in 1961 and later adopted Konkani as its official state language.

9. In 1975 Dr. Sunitikumar Chattarji, the National Professor declared that Konkani is an independent language and Kendriya Sahitya Academy gave its recognition.

10. On 20th August 1992, our Konkani was included in the 8th schedule of constitution of India. This day is celebrated as 'Konkani Manyata Diwas'.

11. World Konkani Convention was held in Mangalore from 16th to 22nd December 1995. Soon after that World Konkani Centre at Konkani Gaon, Shaktinagar, Mangalore was established.

12. In 2002 Vishwa Saraswat Sammelan was held

at Mangalore in which four Mathadipatis (Kavle, Kashi, Partagali & Chitrapur) graced this occasion. Over 10,000 Konkanis which included Hariyanvi, Kashmiri and Kachchi Saraswats attended this sammelan.

13. In 2007 Karnataka Government permitted to teach Konkani as third optional language from 6th to 10th Standard.

14. In Goa, Konkani is taught in the schools and more than 60% of the students opt for Konkani as the first language. Text books in Konkani from primary to Post Graduate level are available. About 6 students have got a Doctorate in Konkani and one IAS by opting Konkani as one of the subjects.

Sakura — Japanese Blossoms

Kumud Lajmi, Bangaluru

SAKURA, Japanese blossoms a lovely sight to behold
Delicate and dainty, bright and appealing all told
Pink and white blooms cover the entire tree
Captivatingly beautiful, swaying in gentle breeze

SAKURA, Japanese blossoms herald the Spring
After snowbound landscape certain joy they bring
Parks and countryside are agog with flowers
Families take snapshots amid the bowers

SAKURA, Japanese blossoms are enchanting in display
Just a couple of weeks to view this wonderful array
A burst of heavy showers washes petals away
Resting below the trees, petals carpet the way

SAKURA, Japanese blossoms are now a memory
Having charmed the surroundings admirably
Soon Spring will be back again with SAKURA in the air
Beautifying the landscape with blossoms fair

SAKURA, Japanese blossoms the nation's pride
Paintings, snapshots, films and poems guide
Such glory and elegance during the brief Spring
But a lifetime of memories of SAKURA's scene

Tumsa Nahin Dekha

ANUJA KAMAT MUDUR, BANGALORE

We were sharing a cup of tea with some friends on a quiet Sunday morning when the message from my brother-in-law flashed on my mobile phone screen: “Shammi Kapoor passes away!”

It took some moments for the impact of the message to hit me and I rushed to put the TV on. All the news channels had pictures of the hero and a commentary about his life. A few even carried pre-recorded interviews with Shammiji, interspersed with song sequences of his well-known movies. Although our heroes/heroines are not really a part of our close family/friend circles, when they leave this world, it is often like a personal loss to us – at least some of them. I suppose that’s because we identify with a number of roles they play on-screen, have major crushes on them, and immerse ourselves completely in their soul-rending music.

Talking about Shammi Kapoor, I have a personal story to share.

This was in the summer of 2009. I was in Bombay for my annual summer break. While going through some old books, I happened to glance upon a list of telephone numbers that my mother had – numbers of different celebrities living in Bombay. That’s where I found Shammi Kapoor’s number. Now, although I am fond of this superstar and his lovely songs, my sister Vibha is a diehard and a much bigger fan of his than I. Incidentally, it also happens to be her birthday in May. I don’t know what really made me think of it but I just felt that, may be, I could get her to meet Shammi Kapoor on her special day – a farfetched idea, but worth giving it a try!

With trembling fingers I dialled his number. The voice at the other end was a male voice but not that of our Star. I started with a humble “*Main Shammiji se baat kar sakti hoon?*” In reply to that, I was asked about my identity and whereabouts “*Mera naam Anuja hai.*” I was then asked to hold on, and his wife Neela Devi came on the line. When I told her the purpose of my call, she politely told me that he had gone for dialysis and that I should call again in a couple of days.

Wow! That was the first hurdle crossed. Thereafter,

it took me a couple or more calls before I was finally put on to the great Shammi Kapoor. When I put forth my request, he told me he was not in the practice of meeting his fans like that but he could give Vibha his blessings over the phone, if I so desired. I couldn’t control my joy and asked at what time I could call on her birthday. He gave me a choice between 11am and 5pm.

I thanked him and hung up (my heart bursting with excitement and a special thrill). Vibha’s birthday dawned, and I thought the 5pm time was more suitable. I told her somebody special was going to call her, but didn’t say who it was.

At 5pm sharp, I once again dialled the number and asked to speak to the great man. By now, I think every one in Shammiji’s house recognised this “Anuja” who wouldn’t give up. This time I got connected with Shammiji without too many questions. I got straight to the point and reminded him about his promise to wish my sister. I told him her name and quickly handed the phone to Vibha. The dynamic actor actually obliged. He wished her, blessed her. My dream of getting my sister in touch with someone she immensely liked was fulfilled – an unbelievable feat accomplished....!

Incidents like this make me think. You know, we are often under the impression that stars and superstars are all “high up there” – can’t be reached, can’t be touched. But no, I realised it wasn’t true. Right from the first call that I had made, they were all so polite. The maximum number of conversations that I had was with Neela Devi – always patient, extremely courteous, and very gentle; and that too, towards someone as insignificant as me. Although my wish was not fulfilled immediately, they gave me a time when I could call again and they always kept it. And finally, though Shammi Kapoor declined my request to meet in person he himself offered to talk over the phone. I was truly touched.

And now that he is no more, this will forever remain a special memory. So, wherever you are, Shammiji, it comes from our hearts to give it back to you: “*Yun to humne laakh haseen dekhein hain, tumsa nahin dekha!*”



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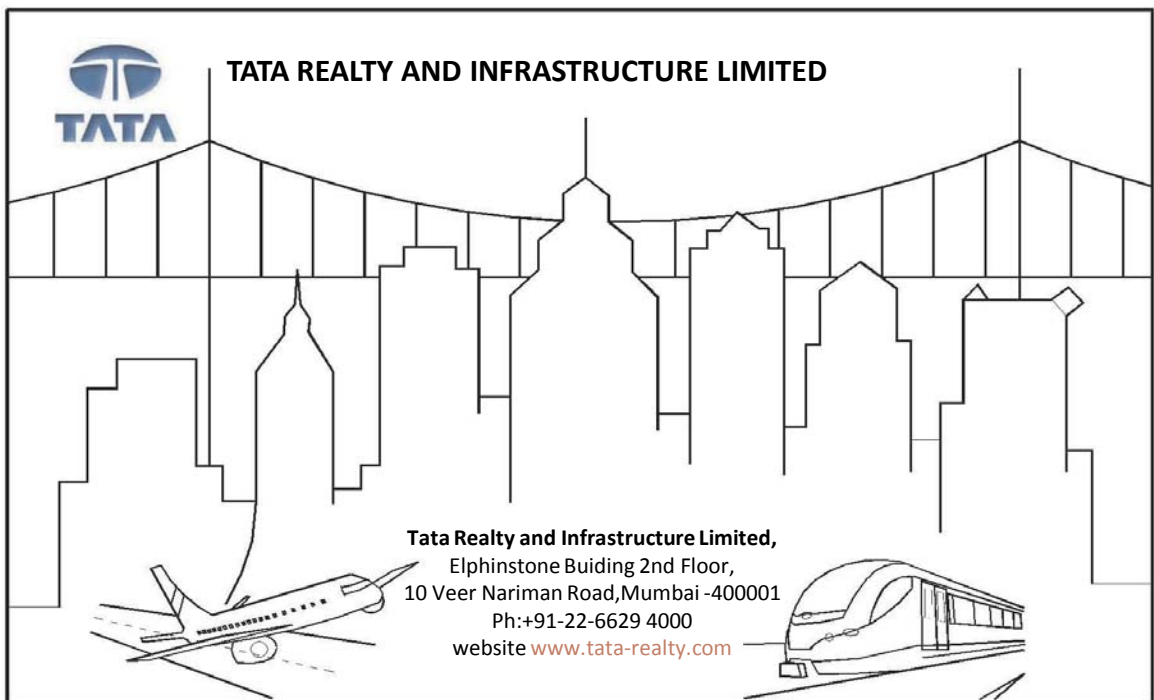
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What I Want to Be.....

I want to be a lawyer
And solve people's matters,



Or be a teacher,
And set tough exam papers,



I want to be a pilot
And fly my plane like a hornet,



Or be a scientist
And carry out millions of experiments,



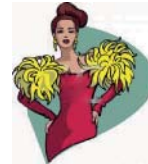
I don't think I can become a singer
Because I don't have a great voice,



But maybe I can become a dancer
And dance with some grace and joy.



I want to be an actress
And become very glamorous,



Or be an accountant
And invest wisely in the stock market,



I want to be a doctor
And give free treatment to the commoners,



But, most of all, its important to be a good human
And that is what I will always be!

Mansi Hosangady, 10 years



A note on the poem:

This poem is based on the frequent question I am asked especially by elders as to what I want to be when I grow up. While it is important to achieve and do well in life we cannot forget that we should be good human beings. This will do us wonders in life.

Kiddies Corner

Visit to Longwood Garden

BY TANAY AMIT GULWADI, AGE 10 YRS, NEW JERSEY, USA.

I had heard a lot about Longwood Garden from my school friends. I requested my parents that we should visit it in my summer vacation. They advised me to wait till my grand parents came from India. I became very happy when they landed in the USA. Finally the day arrived and we visited the garden on a Saturday in the middle of July 2011.

Longwood Garden is in Pennsylvania State in the USA. It is the biggest garden in the country. Its area is about 1050 acres. There are over 10000 varieties of trees, 20 out door gardens and 20 indoor gardens. The garden and its many facilities are maintained by a highly dedicated and professional staff of 400 people. There are many water fountains. There is also an auditorium to hold seminars and training programs and also an idea garden for people interested in horticulture.

The person responsible for this splendid garden is Mr. Pierre S. Du Pont [1870-1954]. He bought a 19th century arboretum over 100 years back and converted and enlarged it gradually into a spectacular garden. Mr. Du Pont was a graduate from MIT who first developed smokeless gun powder in the country together with an associate. He also worked with a steel company. He was a great lover of nature. He used to travel to Europe frequently and was greatly impressed by the beautiful gardens there. He implemented many of those lay out ideas and flower arrangements at Longwood.

We reached the place around 11 am and bought tickets. After entering the garden we first visited a show of fountains on a raised platform. There were many chairs occupied by a large number of visitors. We were highly amused by the dancing fountains synchronized with lively music. We then moved to a garden full of radiant flowers of many colors. There were marigolds, roses, esters to name a few. We walked on a nicely laid pathway and entered a three storied wooden tree house. This house commands a good view of a small lake. We took a lot of pictures.

Our next visit was the Du Pont house. It has magnificent display of so many black and white pictures of 19th and early 20th century. We read a lot of information on Mr. Pierre S. Du Pont and his wife and how they meticulously developed this vast area. Then we came across an Italian style garden with greens, colorful flowers and fountains. As we walked further in south west direction we heard a rousing sound of water flow. When we came to the scene, there was a grand view of the water gushing out from an opening looking like shape of an eye. Hence it is called the eye of water. This water eye supplies water to all the fountains in the garden. Veering around this eye along a slope we entered a stone chimes tower having some moss on it. Inside this tower one could ring a big chime. When we stepped out there appeared a magnificent view of water fall. This water fall is about 15 feet in height and is fed by the eye of water.

Just before lunch we stepped into an indoor fruits and vegetables garden. It had grapes, nectarines, figs, shrubs creepers and veils. After lunch in a nice restaurant within Longwood, we sat on iron and steel chairs in front of main building which also has a great garden within. From our seats one could see a few feet below a huge beautifully laid park. Just as we were enjoying the scene of dancing water fountains started. We watched the whole spectacle holding our breath. When the fountains stopped we reentered the main building and saw many ponds of water; each having its own grand display: one had lotus, another had lily, yet another had very large platter leaves.

Moving towards gate we saw topiary garden with magnificently shaped green bushes: some looked like giant frogs, some like camels, some like tall towers with cone shaped tops and the list goes on. By this time it was 5 pm. We were on our feet for almost 6 hours. I was getting tired though I enjoyed every minute. I told my elders so and we came out and headed home.

What we saw was only a part but enchanting. We missed lighting in the late evening which is held on selected week ends not alas on that Saturday. I wish to go there again and again in my vacations till I cover the entire Longwood Garden to store it in my memory for ever.

Gifts

YASHODHARA BHAT, MUMBAI

When we receive a printed invitation card, we react with mixed feelings. Foremost among these is happiness and a desire to share the joy with the host family. Soon after follows the nagging question as to what present to give on the occasion. A gift should be so chosen as to be welcomed, appreciated and used. It should also be within our budget.

Those who go abroad, generally leave behind bulky parcels of gifts. Some couples get the same item one too many times. They get rid of the extra ones by passing them on to someone else!

About a hundred years ago, it seems there was no need to plan a gift for a wedding. The tradition was to give a blouse piece (*Cholye Khanu*) to the bride and a *Shallo* to the groom. Later came cash presents but in small denominations, as little as Rs.2 and multiples of five. This was followed by the stainless steel era where infants were merely presented with a *Wati* and a tiny little spoon. Today, gift shops offer a wide choice.

A change came when some invitation cards carried a line, "No presents please". Invitees didn't take presents but only bouquets. The bouquets too must have posed a problem because we next saw: "No presents, not even bouquets, please".

It so happened that once the boy's party printed separate invitation cards with the cryptic message, "Only your presence, not presents". Unfortunately, the girl's father was not told about this. Had he known, he too would have done the same. The result was chaos. Some guests went empty handed, while some others pressed cash envelopes in the bride's hands furtively, as if bribing a clerk in a public office. The embarrassment of the bride can be well imagined.

A grandmother, living alone, was tired of dusting the number of art pieces she had got as gifts. So, when her grandson asked her what she would like to have as a birthday present, she replied, "Only a kiss my dear".

Considering all this, the Vietnamese custom of giving a plant and a pink chalk (the colour of happiness) seems to make a lot of sense.

My mother-in-law

Mother in law of Dr. Sonali Rohit Kotnis (nee Trasi) was appointed a member of the order



of the British Empire (MBE) in the Queen's Birthday Honour List on the 11th June 2011.

Jyotsna has worked at BBC Radio Northampton & has been the voice of

the Asian community in Northamptonshire for over 25 years. She is the producer/presenter of the magazine program which covers local and international news and information. The program covers a range of local issues that affect local people and communities in the county of Northamptonshire. Jyotsna has also worked as a journalist for the morning and mid-morning shows for many years.

Jyotsna was born in Mumbai to late Barrister Sham and Sudha Rangnekar. She was educated at Cathedral School, graduated from Elphinstone College and did post graduation in Journalism. She then married Architect Mr. Arun Kotnis (who is a chartered town planner and Architect and came to UK in 1970.) They have two sons, Rohit & Nikhil who are practicing doctors in UK.

Jyotsna's grandfather chief justice of Mumbai Justice Sajba Rangnekar was Knighted by King George in mid 1930. History has been repeated again.

The Ceremony for the honor is to take place at Buckingham Place shortly and she will be invited by her majesty the Queen to receive her medal.

By Dr. Sonali Rohit Kotnis - Daughter-in-law

खुर्ची जिंदाबाद

रेखा राव (कावळ)

राजकारणात खुर्चीसाठी किती हेवे-दावे, भांडणं होतात हे सर्वांचे परिचयाचे आहे. पण कधी कधी सामान्य माणसाला इच्छा नसताना 'चेअरमनशिप' पत्करावी लागते. कारण त्याचा नाईलाज असतो. माझ्याबाबतीत तसेच कांहीसं झालंय.

मी व शोभा शाळेपासूनच्या मैत्रिणी. एका बाकावर बसणाऱ्या. चिंचेच बुटूकसुद्धा एकमेकांत वाटून खाणाऱ्या. शाळा संपून कॉलेजात आलो. तर ती कुठला तरी कोर्स करायला बडोद्याला गेली. मी आजीजवळ राहायची. ती वारली. मग मी वडिलांजवळ आले. त्यांची फिरतीची नोकरी. गाव, कॉलेज बदलत बदलत मी कला शाखेची पदवी घेतली. मग रितीरिवाजाप्रमाणे माझे शुभमंगल झाले. संसार सुरू झाला. मुलं, शिक्षण, त्यांच्या नोकऱ्या, लग्न असे आयुष्याचे टप्पे पार करीत आजीसुद्धा झाले. आयुष्यात एक निवांतपणा आला. मग प्रवास, यात्रा, उत्सव, लेखन-वाचन यात वेळ जाऊ लागला. बऱ्याच वर्षांनी शिराली रथत्सोवाला गेले. तिथे अनेक नातेवाईक, मित्र-मैत्रिणींची भेट झाली. जुन्या आठवणींना उजाळा मिळाला. तिथे माझी व शोभीची अनेक वेळा समोरासमोर भेट झाली. पण आम्ही दोघींनी एकमेकांना ओळखले नाही. कसे ओळखणार? मी शेवग्याच्या शेंगाचा आकार टाकून भोपळ्याच्या आकारात प्रवेश केलेला. तर ती स्थूलपणातून चक्क काकडीसारखी सडसडीत बारीक झालेली. वयाप्रमाणे दोघीत तसे अनेक बदल झालेले. त्यामुळे एकमेकांना ओळखणं शक्य नव्हतं. नेहमीप्रमाणे दुपारच्या जेवणाच्या पंक्तीनंतर गप्पा रंगलेल्या. एकमेकींची ओळख, विचारपूस सुरू होती. ती पूर्वीची शोभा कोष्णीकर कळताच आम्ही आनंदाने एकमेकांना मिठी मारली. अनेक वर्षांच्या गप्पा साचलेल्या रथोत्सव संपेपर्यंत चालूच राहिल्या. मग मी तिच्या खोलीत स्थलांतर केले. ती लग्नानंतर नव्या मुंबईत राहते हे ऐकून फार बरे वाटले. दोघींची मुले सेटल झाल्याने आम्ही दोघींनी यापुढे एकत्र तीर्थयात्रा, प्रवास करायचा असे ठरविले. त्याप्रमाणे दोनदा हुबळी, कार्ल्याला व पुण्याला भेटलो. मग ती मुलाकडे ऑस्ट्रेलियाला गेली. मी मुलीकडे अमेरिकेला गेले. मध्ये बराच काळ लोटला. आमचा संपर्कच झाला नाही. मग अचानक एक दिवस तिचा फोन आला. म्हणाली,

“रेखा, आहेस कुठे तू? बरेच वेळा फोन केला. रिंग वाजत होती. पण कुणी उचलत नव्हतं. मग कळलं की तू अमेरिकेला गेलीस. सिंगापूर, मलेशियालाही जाऊन आलीस. पायाला नुसती चक्र लावलेली दिसतात.”

“अग, त्यालाही बरेच महिने झाले. बरं, तुला अचानक कशी काय आठवण झाली?”

“मागे आपलं ठरलं होतं ना तीर्थयात्रेला जायचं. आम्ही पाचजणी यात्राकंपनीने चारधामला जावं म्हणतो. तू येतेस का? म्हणजे त्याप्रमाणे बुकींग करू.”

“छेऽ गं. मी काय येते. आता चेअरमन झालेय नां.”

“व्वा, कशाची? हार्दिक अभिनंदन!”

“कशाची काय विचारतेस? आता खुर्चीशिवाय माझं पानही हालत नाही. सगळं वरच्या वर...”

“म्हणजे, मी नाही समजले.”

“अग, गुडघेदुखी सुरू झालेय. मांडी घालून खाली बसता येत नाही. बसले तर उठता येत नाही. पलंगाशिवाय झोपता येत नाही. पायच्या टेकडी चढताना त्रास होतो. अशा स्थितीत यात्रा काय करणार? गणपतीसारखं मखरात बसून जावं लागेल. त्यातून आमचा तिसरा मजला. बाहेर जाणंही कठीण झालंय. फार वैताग आलाय बघ.”

“अगं, तुमचं घर अजून रिडेव्हलपमेंटला गेलं नाही? तुमच्या बाजूला भराभर होतायत असं ऐकलं.”

“आमची सोसायटी म्हणजे समुद्र आहे. प्रत्येकाचं स्वतंत्र मत. त्यामुळे केवळ चर्चा, मिटिंगा होतात. निर्णय काहीच होत नाही. आम्ही 'वरती' जाण्यापूर्वी काही तरी होवो हीच प्रार्थना.”

“एवढी निराश नको होऊस. नक्कीच काहीतरी मार्ग निघेल. बी पॉझिटिव्ह. हल्ली मेडिकल सायन्स इतकं पुढे गेलंय की 'नीठ रिप्लेसमेंटसारखी उपचारपद्धती आलीय.”

“पटतंय मला. डॉक्टर म्हणाले, सध्या औषध-उपचार, व्यायाम याने फरक पडतो का ते पाहू. नाहीतर 'नी' रिप्लेसमेंटचा शेवटचा उपाय आहेच. पण तोपर्यंत ही 'चेअरमनशीप' सोडता येणार नाही. हे तितकेच खरे.”

“काळजी करू नकोस. सगळं व्यवस्थित होईल.”

“छे, छे. काळजी कसली? सध्या मात्र 'खुर्ची जिंदाबाद' बाकी पुढचे पुढे. तोपर्यंत फोनवर भेटू.” मी हसत फोन ठेवून दिला.

If we cannot love the person whom we see,
how can we love God, whom we cannot see.

– Mother Teresa



Shantaram V. Nadkarni
Founder of Radhakamal Engineers Pvt. Ltd.
(4th August 1911 – 4th August 2011)

शताब्दी अभिनंदन

मुक्ता नाडकर्णी

कै. शांताराम विश्वेश्वर नाडकर्णी, ते ह्या जगात नसले तरी त्यांची साथ, माया, विश्वास आणि जिद्द माझ्या सोबतच आहे. ह्या भावूक भावनेने यंदा त्यांचे शताब्दीचे वर्ष असल्याने त्यांच्या वाढदिवसाचे आचरण करित आहे.

जन्म ४ ऑगस्ट १९११ साली, उत्तर कन्नडातील कारवार जिल्ह्यातील हेगडे नावाच्या खेड्यात झाला. ते दोन वर्षांचे असताना पितृसुखाला मुकले. नंतर बंकिकोडल ह्या गांवी त्यांचे चौथीपर्यंत शिक्षण झाले. पुढच्या शिक्षणाची सोय नसल्याने ते पुण्यास कै. मंगेश नाडकर्णी ह्यांच्या घरी राहिले. त्यांच्या मायेच्या छत्राखाली, आश्रय मिळाल्याने हुशारी विद्वता आणि शिष्यवृत्ती मिळवून इलेक्ट्रीकल इंजिनियरची पदवी संपादन केली.

मुंबईत येऊन, मुंबई इलेक्ट्रीक कंपनीत नोकरी केली. कामाचा अनुभव घेतला. धाडसी, कष्टाळू, प्रामाणिक आणि जिद्द त्यांच्या अंगी असल्याने, अल्पशा भांडवलावर त्यांनी आपली स्वतःची “राधा-कमल” नावाची कंपनी उभारली. खेड्या-पाड्यात जाऊन वीज पुरवठ्याची कामे घेतली. मेहनत, कष्टामुळे कंपनी नावारुपाला येऊ लागली. मोठमोठ्या कंपनीची केबलस घालायची कामे मिळाली. भक्तिरुपी राधा आणि नेहमी विकसित होणाऱ्या कमल पुष्पाने नाव सार्थ केले. गिऱ्हाइकांचा विश्वास संपादन केला आणि कामात यशस्वी झाले. कंपनीत अनेक मानसन्मान मिळाले. उतार वयात वडिलोपार्जित थोडी फार बंकिकोडल जागा होती. तिथे जाऊन राहिले. तिथेही काही, थोड्या गावात सुधारणा केल्या. ८५ वर्षांचे होईपर्यंत कंपनी सांभाळली. मनाची उभारी असली तरी देह थकल्याने कामाचा ताण झेपत नसल्याने निवृत्त झाले. नेहमीच सकारात्मक विचारच असायचे. साग्रसंगीत जेवण जेवताना जो आनंद घ्यायचे तेवढीच तृप्तता मीठ भाकर खातानाहि खेड्यापाड्यात राहताना असायची. मलाही त्याच जिद्दीने राहायला शिकविले. आताही ते माझ्या सोबतच आहेत ह्याच श्रद्धानिष्ठेने मी माझ्या जीवनाची वाटचाल करित आहे. त्यांच्या आत्म्याला शांती समाधान मिळावे अशी हृदपूर्वक देवाकडे प्रार्थना.

‘भावना’

चित्रा शिराली (धारवाड)

‘मराठी पाऊल पडते पुढे’ कार्यक्रमात मलखांबाची कवायत पाहिली अन् ६०,६५ वर्षांमागची कॉलनी, व्यायामशाळा आठवली. ताडामाडाच्या झावळ्यात, जुहू चौपाटीच्या वेशीवर वसलेली टुमदार सारस्वत कॉलनी. ज्या मातीत दंगा, मस्ती करीत खेळलो, बागडलो ती बाल्यावस्था आठवली. भूतकाळातल्या गोड, कटू प्रसंगांची उजळणी करताना माझी मीच हरवले आणि भारावून माझ्या नातवंडांना त्याविषयी सांगू लागले.

६०,७० घरांची सारस्वत कॉलनी, कॉलनीच्या मध्यभागी भलं मोठं मैदान, पश्चिमेस मोकळी जागा. थोड्या अंतरावर टेकडीच्या पायथ्याशी आग्नी लोकांची शेती, त्यांच्या चंद्रमौळी झोपड्या खूपच सुरेख दिसायच्या. समुद्राच्या लाटांचा आवाज कॉलनीत ऐकू यायचा. जवळच समुद्राच्या भरतीचे पाणी मोकळं सोडण्याकरीता एक बांध बांधला होता. ते पाणी कॉलनीत शिरायचे, मोकळ्या जागेवर मैदानात आणि खुल्या जागेत कधी कधी खूप पाणी यायचे. त्यावेळी नाविक लहानश्या होड्या घेऊन मासे पकडायचे. पाणी परत गेलं की कोरड्या जागेवरच्या, नागमोडी पाऊल वाटेवरून, बांधावरून जुहू चौपाटीवर आम्ही जात असू. कॉलनीच्या मोकळ्या जागेत भाजीपाल्याचे ताटवे, केळीचे बन, फुलझाडे, मेंदीच्या पानाच्या झुडपांचे कुंपण होते. कॉलनीचा माळी रोज सकाळी लहानश्या परडीतून देवपुजेकरीता फुलं सर्वांच्या घरोघरी वाटायचा. सणावारी नारळ, केळी, हळदीची पाने मिळायची. कॉलनीत धर्मोत्सव तर आजही होताहेत. त्याकाळी दूरदर्शन नसल्याने धर्मोत्सव हेच आमचे मनोरंजन आणि करमणुकीचे कार्यक्रम असायचे. श्रीकृष्णजयंतीचा उत्सव ८ दिवस असायचा. श्री महाराज गजानन ते महाराज पड्डले ही भजनं आमच्या पिढीला आजही पूर्ण पाठ असावीत. कै. श्री. करंपाडी देव सुंदर गात आम्हा मुलांना मार्गदर्शन करायचे. श्री रामनवमी व श्रीदत्तजयंती पण साजरी व्हायची. महिला समाज श्रीगणेशोत्सव सादर करीत असे. हा उत्सव म्हणजे मनोरंजनाचे कार्यक्रम, काही स्पर्धा, संगीत, कीर्तन, भजन वगैरे. मी ८,९ वर्षांची असेन त्यावेळी स्वातंत्र्याची चळवळ असल्याने कॉलनीत सेवादलाची शाखा होती. रोज झेंडावंदन, काही खेळ, पहाटे प्रभात फेरी असायची. नंतर काही दिवसांनी व्यायाम शाळा सुरू झाली. डील, योगासन, देशी खेळ, डंबेल्स, बनाटी आणि लेझीम. लेझीमचा झांज, ढोलकीची लय आणि बासरीच्या गोड सुरात आम्ही मुलं, मुली धुंद होऊन पावलं टाकीत होतो.

स्वस्तिक समर्थ व्यायाम शाळा असे नाव होतं. मुलांच्या पथकाने, प्रजासत्ताक दिनाच्या दिवशी दिल्लीतही कार्यक्रम केला होता. फक्त मुलांकरीता मलखांब हा प्रकार होता. लहान मुलं इतके काही प्रकार करायचे की वार्षिकोत्सवात मलखांब, वेताचा मलखांब पाहून प्रेक्षक थक्क व्हायचे.

कै. श्री. शंकरराव राक्षेनी ह्या व्यायामशाळेकरीता सर्वस्व झोकून दिलं होतं. शिस्तीचे भोक्ते, दयाळू, प्रेमळ आणि मानी शिक्षक कॉलनीतल्या परिवारातलेच झाले होते. लेझीम, मलखांबाचे कार्यक्रम करण्यास आमंत्रण यायचे. फक्त मलखांबाची कवायत पाहून बालपणातल्या आठवणी, प्रसंग गोंजारीत माझी मीच हरवून गेले होते. हरवले ते गवसले का? गवसले ते हरवले का? कसं असत नाही. लहान वयात मोठं व्हावसं वाटतं आणि उतारवयात बालपणातल्या आठवणी कुरवाळीत बसतो. रसभरीत वर्णन करून सांगितलं खरं पण त्यांना खरंच वाटत नव्हतं. कारण त्यांनी आमची कॉलनी वेगळ्याच ठेवणीत पाहिली. खूप काही बदललेलं होतं. पण काही गोड आठवणी, भावना तश्याच ताज्या वाटतात.

मगलें देवाकूड

सान आशिल्लें मगलें देवाकूड
दिसतालें गोमटेंची
मगल्या देहाची दिवली केल्ली
तांतू प्रकाश हाडूक
दिवलींतु सगळे षट्‌रिपू घास्सून पुस्सुन ना केल्ले
तेल घाल्ले दिवलींतु प्रीतीचे
वाती केल्ली गर्वाची आणि भिजली तांतू
ज्ञानरूपी उष्णतेने पेटैली ज्योती
उजळलो प्रकाशू, देवाकूड चंद जाल्लें
सार्थक जाल्ले मगल्या देहाचें
आशा ना कस्ली उरली आत्तं
मायाममतेचो निवेद्य केल्लो देवाक
प्रसादू मेळ्ळो कृपेचो
आत्तं इतलेंची मागणें की
अनाथांगलें दुःख कोरका धूर
मंगल जावोती मगल्या भैरवीचे सूर

- नलिनी संझगिरी

कै. पांडुरंग मंगेशराव बळवळी - एक कर्मयोगी!

(जन्म : २० जुलै १९११ देवाज्ञा : ५ नोव्हेंबर १९९७) जन्मशताब्दी : २० जुलै, २०११

आषाढाचे घनदाट काळे मेघ दाटून येतात आणि मंद वाऱ्याबरोबर टाळमृदुंगाचे स्वर कानी घुमू लागतात. त्या वाऱ्यावर आलेले सूर शेट पंढरपूरी येण्याचे आमंत्रण देतात. कटेवरी हात, विटेवरी उभा अशा पांडुरंगाच्या दर्शनाला मन आतूर होते व पाऊले पंढरीची वाट चालू लागतात. देहभान विसरून भजनात दंगलेले वारकरी पाहिले की वाटते, देहाचे कष्ट विसरून हरि नामांत रंगलेले हे वारकरी खरोखरच संसारात असून मुक्त झाले की काय?



विठ्ठल मंदिरी जेव्हा नमस्कार करतो त्यावेळी आठवते ती... तशीच ताडमाड उंच, काळीसावळी आत्रुंची प्रेमळ मूर्ती... ही चैतन्यमूर्ति आज हयात नसल्यामुळे त्यांची जन्मशताब्दी साजरी करण्याचं भाग्य मात्र हुकलं. तरीही त्या निमित्ताने या कर्मयोग्याचे आपण पुण्यस्मरण करूया...

आत्रुंचा जन्म दि. २० जुलै १९११ रोजी कर्नाटकातल्या एका लहान गावात मंकीचित्तर येथे झाला. वडील श्री. मंगेशराव कायम देवध्यान व देवपूजेतच असायचे. मोठे काका श्री. सुब्बराय यांना दत्ताची सिद्धी प्राप्त होती. चुलतभाऊ श्री. भवानी शंकर हे अत्यंत हुशार आणि कुशाग्र बुद्धीचे होते. इंग्रजी आणि संस्कृतमध्ये पदवी घेतल्यानंतर त्यांची प्रेसिडन्सी ऑफ बॉम्बे मध्ये (Home Dept.) सुपरिटेन्डेंट म्हणून नियुक्ती झाली. पण अर्ध्यावरच त्यांना वैराग्य आलं आणि श्री. चैतन्य महाप्रभूंच्या स्मरणी ते वृंदावनला स्थिर झाले. श्री. मंगेशराव यांनी तर नवरात्रीतल्या नवमीच्या दिवशी तुळशीवृंदावनाच्या कट्ट्यावर देह ठेवला.

या पार्श्वभूमीत ती. आत्रुंवर दत्तप्रभूंचे आणि धार्मिक संस्कार झाले नसते तर नवलंच... त्यांनी सन १९३० मध्ये मॅट्रिकची परीक्षा दिल्यानंतर पुढची २५ ते ३० वर्षे अल्प मिळकतीत संसाराचे रहाटगाडगे चालवले. त्यात तालमकीवाडीतील दोन खोल्यांचा इवलासा संसार!! तरीही त्यांच्या आई श्रीमती लक्ष्मीबाई (पद्मावती आक्का) आणि पत्नी सौ. रुक्माबाई यांच्या अमूल्य सहकार्यामुळे येणाऱ्या जाणाऱ्या अगणित पाहुण्यांच्या आदरतिथ्यामध्ये कुठलीही कसूर झाली नाही.

गावाहून येणारी माणसे अगदी हक्काने इथेच पथारी पसरत. त्याकाळी पगार तो केवढा... पण त्यातही हातचे राखून न ठेवता प्रत्येकाला आपलं म्हणणं हे काही सोपे नव्हते. नातेवाइकांच्या प्रत्येक अडीअडचणीला धावून जाणारे व्यक्तिमत्त्व म्हणजे पांडुरंग... म्हणजेच आमचे आत्रुं!! घरी प्रेमळ आई व रुक्मीणीसारखी साजेसी बायको... जणू हे घर म्हणजे प्रति पंढरपूर!!

डोळ्यांसमोर तरळते ती त्यांची उंच भारदस्त सावळी मूर्ती...

चेहेऱ्यावर सदैव प्रसन्न व समाधानी भाव... त्यांच्या बरोबरीला सौ. रुक्माबाई सोज्जळ, देखणी, सात्त्विक अनुरूप भार्या... आत्रुंची राहणी अगदी साधी. धोतर, पांढरा शर्ट त्यावर राखाडी रंगाचा कोट आणि गांधी टोपी... आत्रुंची स्मरणशक्ती वाखाणण्यासारखीच. जणू काही कॉम्प्युटरच... त्यांना Bhanap Directory म्हणायचे, सारस्वत समाजातील बहुतेक लोकांशी त्यांचे व्हडसंबंध होते. या सर्वांची इत्यंभूत माहिती ते सांगू शकत.

आधी म्हटल्याप्रमाणे दत्तप्रभूंवर आत्रुंची अपार आत्यंतिक श्रद्धा, तालमकी वाडीतील दत्तमंदिर हे त्यांचं श्रद्धास्थान... रामनवमी व दत्तजयंती करता ऑफिस संपल्यानंतर ते विरारपर्यंत जाऊन वर्गणी गोळा करित असत. पालखी सोहळ्यात त्यांचा विशेष सहभाग आणि दांडगा उत्साह अवर्णनीय असायचा. हातात टाळ आणि मुखी 'दत्तात्रेया गुरु गोविंदा... दत्त दत्त जय परमानंदा' या नादासह पालखी बराच प्रवास करून यायची. चार्तुमासात ते उत्तमोत्तम कीर्तनकारांची कीर्तनं दत्तमंदिरात आयोजित करित असत.

सन १९७२ मध्ये सान्ताक्रुजला स्थलांतर केल्यानंतरही हा उपक्रम वाकोल्याच्या दत्तमंदिरात त्यांनी चालू ठेवला. त्या दत्तसेवेफलस्वरूपच की काय सेवानिवृत्तीच्या वेळी त्यांना श्री दत्तप्रभूंची पितळेची मूर्ती देऊन सन्मानित करण्यात आले. आज दत्तप्रभूंची पदकमलेही श्री स्वामी समर्थांच्या पादुका रूपाने घरात स्थायिक झाली आहेत.

त्यांना टी.व्ही. बघणे अजिबात आवडत नसे. मग ते टी.व्ही. कडे पाठ करून पलंगावर बसत व जप करित असत. पद्यासनात बसलेली त्यांची ती भव्य मूर्ती पाहून जणू अक्कलकोट स्वामींची मूर्तीच इथे बसली आहे असा भास होई. त्यांना संगीताची आवड होती. त्यामुळे मुलाला (पं. मोहन बळवळी) उत्तम तबलावादक बनविले. गणपती घरी आले की गाण्याचे छोटेखानी समारंभही होत. त्यांच्या मुखातही भजने असत, 'जग में सुंदर है दो नाम, सीताराम राधेश्याम' असे भजन ते नेहमी म्हणत. 'राधाकृष्ण जय कुंज विहारी, मुरलीधर गोवर्धनधारी । राधाकृष्ण जय कुंज विलासा, गोपी मानस राजहंसा ।' अशी काही दुर्मीळ नामस्मरणे ते नेहमी गात असत.

स्वतःच्या नातवावर देखील (स्वराधीश भरत बळवळी) संगीताचा योग्य संस्कार व्हावा म्हणून पं. भीमसेन जोशी, उस्ताद अमीर खां साहेब, विदुषी डॉ. प्रभा अत्रे, सौ. मालिनी राजुरकर यांच्या कॅसेट्स भरतला ऐकवण्याकडे त्यांचा कटाक्ष असे. गाण्याप्रमाणेच तळलेले, कुरकुरीत खाणे त्यांच्या फार आवडीचे. मिताहार घेणारे व

सुपारीच्या खांडाचेही व्यसन नसणारे आमचे आजू म्हणजे मूर्तिमंत पावित्र्यच...

माणसाचा जन्म मिळणे व हरिनामाने त्याचे सार्थक होणे किंवा जीवनाचे सोने होणे या उत्कीला अनुसरून आजूचे जीवन समृद्ध होते. हरिकृपेने सोनेही झाले. शेवटी ५ नोव्हेंबर १९९७ रोजी सर्वांची भेट घेऊन तृप्त मनाने अगदी पाच मिनिटातच त्यांनी वैकुंठाला

प्रयाण केले. सर्वांना प्रेमाने आपल्या सावलीत घेणारे, आधार देणारे, देवाप्रमाणे सदैव पाठीशी उभे राहणारे, अडीअडचणीला पाठीशी घालणारे हे आमचे आजूरूपी दैवत त्या पंढरपूरच्या विठ्ठलापेक्षा वेगळे आहे का?

श्रीमती मीरा हरिटे, श्रीमती मंगला प्र. कुलकर्णी
भरत बळवळी, मोहन बळवळी

आषाढी एकादशी निमित्त

पंढरिचो देवू तो विठ्ठल माक्का भेटलो
हात दोनी कुटारी दवर्नू भीमातीरारी राबिल्लो ॥१॥

जनायीगलें दळण दळूक
आणि तीगलें कांडण कांडूक
ओव्यो तिगल्यो श्रवण कोरूक
रात्रीं धांवनू येतालो ॥१॥

नाथागल्या घारा उद्दाक भरूक
कीर्तन करतना चिपळ्यो धरूक
दुष्टांनीं मारतना मार झेलूक
विटू दासू जावनू आयलो ॥२॥

सखूक मांयी मस्त छळता
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सजीव चेल्डूं घेवनू आयलो तो भगवंतू ॥४॥

काम, कर्तना ध्यान विटूलें
तोंडांतू नाम पांडुरंगाले
सार्थक जाल्लें ह्या जन्माचें
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ह्या सप्ताहाचो आनंद घेऊनू,
निरोप घ्यातना ब्याजारु पावताती ॥

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जीवनपट

माणसाचे आयुष्य हे एका सरळ रेषेत कधीच जात नसते. त्यामध्ये सुखदुःखाचे अनेक प्रसंग येत असतात. आजूबाजूची परिस्थिती, सभोवताली वावरणारे आप्तेष्ट, मित्रमंडळी, संपर्कात येणारी माणसे यांच्याबाबत येणाऱ्या अनुभवामुळे व्यक्तिमत्त्वाची एक विशिष्ट व वैयक्तिक जडण-घडण होत असते. बहुतेक माणसे परिस्थितीच्या लाटांमुळे हतबल होऊन प्रवाहपतित बनतात. परंतु काहीजण चाकोरीबाहेच्या क्षेत्रात जिद्दीने उभे राहून परिस्थितीशी मुकाबला करतात. सततचे प्रयत्न व अविचल ध्येयनिष्ठा यांच्या मदतीने ध्येयमार्गावर वाटचाल करतात व जीवनात यशस्वी होतात.

‘पांडुरंगशेट’ कुमठाचे आयुष्य हे दुसऱ्या प्रकारचे म्हणजे अपवादात्मक आहे. पुस्तक पंढरीचा वारकरी हे त्यांचे पुस्तक एक केवळ आत्मचरित्र नव्हे तर त्यांचा जीवनपट, ग्रंथविक्री, प्रकाशन व्यवसाय, वाचन-संस्कृतीचा प्रसार यांच्या भावचित्राचे रेखाटन आहे. स्वतःला विनम्रपणे ‘वारकरी’ म्हणताना, दरवर्षी आषाढी एकादशीला पंढरपूरच्या विठोबाचे दर्शनासाठी पायी चालणाऱ्या वारकऱ्याची खडतर वाटचाल त्यांना आठवली असेल. त्यांनी स्वतःचा जीवनपट स्वतः शब्दबद्ध केला आहे. पुस्तक प्रकाशन व विक्री या क्षेत्रातली ‘ही वेगळी वाट’ त्यांनी कशी चोखाळली याचे मनोज्ञ दर्शन वाचकांना घडविले आहे. आजवर अनेकांनी आत्मचरित्रे लिहिली आहेत. सहसा आत्मस्तुती करणे किंवा इतरांनी स्वतःवर केलेल्या अन्यायाला वाचा फोडणे ही बहुतेकांच्या लेखनामागची प्रेरणा असते. पण पांडुरंग कुमठा यांनी आपला जीवनपट अत्यंत प्रांजळपणे व तटस्थतेने, ओघवत्या भाषेत वाचकांसमोर मांडला आहे. त्यांना ओळखणाऱ्यांना सुद्धा त्यांच्या जीवनाच्या अनेक नूतन पैलूंचे दर्शन घडेल.

ते म्हणतात की त्यांच्या आयुष्यात तीन आघात झाले. वयाच्या ५ व्या वर्षी आईचे छत्र हरवले. वयाच्या १८ व्या वर्षी वडिलाचे निधन झाले व वडीलबंधू रामचंद्र याला धारवाड मुक्कामी देवाज्ञा झाली. हे तीनही आघात त्यांनी पचविले. एका मध्यमवर्गीय कुटुंबात वडील व भावांच्या सहवासात बैलहोंगल

(जिल्हा बेळगाव) येथे वाढले. पण त्या गावात माध्यमिक शिक्षणाची सोय नसल्याने बेळगावच्या बेननस्मिथ शाळेत व लिंगराज कॉलेजमध्ये शिक्षण घेतले. येथे जी.ए. कुलकर्णी सारखे जीवश्चकंठश्च व हयातभर मैत्री जपणारे मित्र सहाध्यायी म्हणून भेटले. इंग्रजी साहित्य व कन्नड हे विषय घेऊन पदवी परीक्षेत त्यांनी उच्च श्रेणी मिळविली. पुढे मुंबईला यऊन पोलिस खात्यात सी.आय.डी मध्ये नोकरी करता करता ते एम्.ए. पास झाले. त्यांनी इंग्रजी भाषेत संवेदनशीलतेने रचलेल्या दोन कविता या पुस्तकात दिल्या आहेत.

पुस्तक-व्यवसाय

‘मराठी पुस्तकांचे माहेरघर’ म्हणून ओळख असणाऱ्या बाँबे बुक डेपोमध्ये ते प्रथम ‘मॅनेजर’ या पदावर

१-४-१९४७ रोजी रुजू झाले व पुढे वर्किंग पार्टनर झाले. मराठीची ओळख जुजबी असूनही मराठी पुस्तकांची जबाबदारी घेतली व ती यशस्वी करून दाखविली.

श्री. गणपतराव भटकळ यांनी दिलेल्या संधीला व त्यांनी दाखविलेल्या विश्वासाला ते पात्र ठरले. त्यांची बहुतेक सर्व मराठी प्रकाशक व लेखक यांच्याशी मैत्री होती. या पुस्तकाचे लेखन त्यांनी मराठीतच केले आहे.

कोणताही व्यवसाय म्हटला की कल्पकता व उपक्रमशीलता यांना अग्रक्रम द्यावाच लागतो. अनेक यशस्वी प्रयोग बाँबे बुक डेपोने केले आहेत. मराठी माणसाचे पुस्तक विकत घेण्याचे औदासिन्य घालविण्यासाठी, पुस्तकाची आकर्षक मांडणी, शो-केसेस, प्रदर्शने, लेखकांचा सहभाग, पुस्तकांवर त्यांच्या स्वाक्षऱ्या, पुस्तक-विक्री व एकंदरीत वाचन-संस्कृतीचा प्रसार याकरिता त्यांनी सतत प्रयत्न केले. काही वैशिष्ट्यपूर्ण उपक्रम पुढीलप्रमाणे:

१) बालसाहित्य जत्रा, पुस्तक-हंडी (पुणे) उपस्थिती, दिनकरराव लोखंडे, सुधाकर प्रभू, अमरेंद्र गाडगीळ, भा.रा. भागवत.

२) पुस्तक पंढरी (१९६९-१९८०) उद्घाटक महाराष्ट्रकवी यशवंत ४००० ते ५००० सभासद.

३) “लेखक आपल्या भेटीलाठ- आचार्य अत्रे यांच्या हस्ते स्वाक्षरी उद्घाटन. सहभाग - गंगाधर गाडगीळ, वसंत कानेटकर, पु.ल. देशपांडे, श्री. ज. जोशी, ज्योत्सना देवधर, मंगेश पाडगांवकर, जयवंत दळवी (ठणठणपाळ).

४) ग्रंथप्रसार केंद्र- पॉप्युलर, मौज, मॅजेस्टिक, नवजीवन व्होरा व बाँबे बुक डेपो यांच्या संयुक्त विद्यमाने पुस्तक प्रदर्शन रत्नागिरीच्या पटवर्धन हायस्कूलमध्ये भरविण्यात आले व गावोगावी-महाराष्ट्रभर असे कार्यक्रम भरवण्याचे ठरले. हा उपक्रम ३ वर्षे चालला.

४) साहित्य-दिंडी (१९७२ ते १९९१) हा उपक्रम धार्मिक पुस्तकांकरिता दरवर्षी चातुर्मासात, साधारणपणे जुलैच्या अखेरपर्यंत भरविण्यात येत असे. पहिल्या वर्षीच्या उपक्रमात न. र. फाटक, रा. शं. वाळिंबे, स. कृ. देवधर, डॉ. प्र. न. जोशी इ. मान्यवरांनी भाग घेतला व स्वाक्ष्या दिल्या.

५) बाँबे बुक अवार्ड (१९७५) - ४०० हून अधिक, निवडक पुस्तकांची यादी व एक प्रश्नपत्रिका सर्व सभासदांना पाठविण्यात येत असे. निवड समिती उत्तरांची छाननी करून कोणत्या पुस्तकाला जास्त मते मिळाली आहेत अशा पुस्तकांच्या लेखनाला व लेखक आणि प्रकाशकाला स्मरणचिन्हे देण्यात आली. १९७५- थॅक यू मि. ग्लाड (अनिल बर्वे), १९७६- एक गाव एक पाणवठा (बाबा आढाव), १९७७- पिंगळावेळ (जी.ए. कुलकर्णी) व बॅरिस्टर (जयवंत दळवी) यांना विभागून, १९७८ क्लोराफॉर्म (डॉ. अरुण लिमये).

६) १९७७ साली पॉप्युलर प्रकाशनासोबत लंडन येथे बालसाहित्य जत्रा भरविण्यात आली. उद्घाटक: भारताचे इंग्लंडमधील उच्चाधिकारी श्री. नानासाहेब गोरे. विशेष उपस्थिती श्री. भीमसेन जोशी. दोन्ही दिवस मिळून ६०० ते ७०० रसिकांनी भाग घेतला.

मित्र-परिवार

त्यांचा मित्रपरिवार खूप मोठा होता. त्यामध्ये गंगाधर गाडगीळ, जयवंत दळवी, बालशंकर देशपांडे यासारखे लेखक, मो.ग. रांगणेकर यांच्यासारखे नाटककार, सोन्याबापू ढवळे, ग.पां. परचुरे, केशवराव व तुकारामशेट कोठावळे, ति.र. बाम यांच्यासारखे प्रकाशक होते.

ऋणानुबंध

या प्रकरणात त्यांनी तीन अप्रतिम व्यक्तिचित्रे रंगविली आहेत. भाली (भालचंद्र देवाजी रेगे), राखी-बंधू नवजीवन व्होरा, आणि अर्थातच जी.ए. कुलकर्णी. जी.ए.च्या बाबतीत थोडीशी पुनरुक्ती वाटली तरी ती मित्रप्रेमाचे प्रतीक आहे. ती मुळातून वाचण्याजोगी आहेत.

ग्रंथ-व्यवहार व ग्रंथविक्री

लेखकाने आपल्या ४३ वर्षांच्या प्रदीर्घ अनुभवाचा गोषवारा या भागात दिला आहे. हे विचारधन आहे. इ.स. १९७४ ते २००५ पर्यंत वेळोवेळी मांडलेले विचार मुलभूत स्वरूपाचे आहेत. बालवाङ्मय, वाचन-संस्कृती, व्यवसायातील अडीअडचणी, पुस्तकांच्या वाढत्या किंमती, पुस्तकविक्रीची पीछेहाट, प्रकाशकांच्या समस्या हे विषय आजचे ज्वलंत प्रश्न आहेत.

ज्या व्यवसायात शालेय किंवा विश्वविद्यालयीन शिक्षण मिळत नाही तेथे अनुभवाच्या शाळेतील तयार माहिती मिळविण्यासाठी व तंत्र शिकण्यासाठी हे भाग खूपच महत्त्वाचे आहेत. व्यवस्थापन, विक्री अशा विषयांचे जे अभ्यासक आहेत, त्यांना व्यवसायातील अडी-अडचणी समजून येतील व मार्गदर्शन होईल.

समारोप

लेखकाने श्री. गणपतराव भटकळ यांना प्रकाशन व ग्रंथविक्री क्षेत्रातील आदर्श मानले व कृतज्ञता व्यक्त केली आहे. तसेच घराची आघाडी सांभाळणारी त्यांची पत्नी मीरा यांनी दिलेल्या सहकार्यामुळे आपण यशस्वी झालो अशी दिलखुलास पावती त्यांनी दिली आहे.

आकर्षक मुखपृष्ठ व मलपृष्ठ, उत्कृष्ट छपाई, फोटो व पुस्तकाच्या विषयाची संगतवार मांडणी यामध्ये पॉप्युलर प्रकाशनाचा 'आपलेपणा' जाणवतो.

Amazing facts from our Shastras

Professor Kak points out yet another coincidence: The distance between the earth and the sun is approximately 108 times the sun's diameter. The diameter of the sun is about 108 times the earth's diameter. And the distance between the earth and the moon is 108 times the moon's diameter. "Could this be the reason the ancient sages considered 108 such a sacred number? If the microcosm (us) mirrors the macrocosm (the solar system), then maybe you could say there are 108 steps between our ordinary human awareness and the divine light at the center of our being. Each time we chant another mantra as our mala beads slip through our fingers, we are taking another step toward our own inner sun."

उपासनी आश्रमातील सती देवीताई

तत्कालीन धर्ममार्तंडांचा विरोध पत्करून महिलांसाठी वेदाध्ययन आणि यज्ञकर्मांचे दरवाजे खुले करून देण्याचे क्रांतीकार्य करणाऱ्या सद्गुरू उपासनी महाराजांच्या वाटचालीतील साक्षीदार सती देवीताई (वय ९०) यांचे १० जून २०११ रोजी सकाळी साडेसातच्या सुमारास वृद्धापकाळाने निधन झाले. सद्गुरूंच्या परमशिष्या सती गोदावरी माताजींच्या निधनानंतर त्या गेल्या २१ वर्षांपासून येथून जवळच असलेल्या साकुरी येथील उपासनी कन्याकुमारी स्थान आश्रमाची धुरा सांभाळीत होत्या. काही दिवसांपासून त्या आजारी होत्या.

त्यांचा पार्थिव आश्रमात ठेवण्यात आला होता. सकाळी नऊ वाजता साकुरी येथे त्यांच्या पार्थिवावर विधिवत अंत्यसंस्कार करण्यात आले. आपल्या बंधूंच्या हस्ते अंत्यसंस्कार केले जावेत, अशी त्यांची इच्छा होती. त्यासाठी त्यांचे बंधू बंगळूर येथून रात्री उशिरा आले होते.

सकाळी त्यांनी आश्रमातील नित्याची श्रीकृष्ण पूजा श्रवण केली. त्यानंतर काही वेळातच त्यांचे निधन झाले. त्यांच्या निधनाचे वृत्त समजताच परिसरातील भाविकांनी आश्रमाकडे धाव घेतली.

प्रसन्न आणि सात्विक व्यक्तिमत्त्व लाभलेल्या देवीताई

पंचक्रोशीत मनमिळाऊ स्वभावाच्या म्हणून परिचित होत्या. त्या रसाळ भाषेत प्रवचन व मंत्रपठण करित असत. गरजूंना मदत करण्यात पुढे असत. मराठी, संस्कृत, हिंदी, गुजराथी व इंग्रजी भाषा त्यांना अवगत होत्या.

साकुरीचे ग्रामस्थ व आश्रम यांच्यात समन्वय राहावा, यासाठी प्रयत्नशील असत. त्यांच्या शब्दाला मोठा मान होता. वयाच्या पंधराव्या वर्षी त्या सद्गुरूंच्या कन्या म्हणून आश्रमात दाखल झाल्या. आयुष्यभर त्यांनी सद्गुरूंचे विचार व यज्ञसंस्कृतीला वाहून घेतले. अमेरिकेत जाऊन यज्ञसंस्कृतीची महती सांगितली. गंगागीर महाराजांच्या सरला बेटचे महंत (कै.) नारायणगिरी महाराज, स्वातंत्र्य सैनिक व शाहीर जंगमस्वामी, तसेच प्रसिद्ध कीर्तनकार व प्रवचनकार आणि आश्रमाचा समन्वय घडवून आणण्यासाठी पुढाकार घेतला. आश्रमाचे कार्य लोकाभिमुख व्हावे, यासाठी त्या प्रयत्नशील असत.

दरम्यान, साईबाबांच्या आज्ञेवरून सद्गुरू उपासनी महाराजांनी शहराजवळील साकुरीत मुक्काम हलविला. तपसाधना केली. कन्यावृंद जमवून त्यांना यज्ञकर्मांचे धडे दिले. सती देवीताईंना ते कौतुकाने यज्ञदेवता असे संबोधित असत.

फॉर्म ची फॉर्म

जगांतु येत्ना येत्नाची फॉर्म,
जग सोडतनाई फॉर्म
म्हळ्यारी उबजनापडे फॉर्म, मरणानंतर फॉर्म
स्कूलांतु घालतना फॉर्म, स्कूल सोडतना फॉर्म
कॉलेजावतना फॉर्म आणि कॉलेज जायनापडे फॉर्म॥१॥

कामाक अर्ज करतना फॉर्म, काम सोळ्ळेरी फॉर्म
आमदानीचे फॉर्म आणि निवृत्तीचे थायी फॉर्म
व्हर्डीक करतना फॉर्म, घटस्फोट घेतल्यातरी फॉर्म
ह्या निर्गुण निराकार देवाने केल्याती नाना प्रकारांचे फॉर्म ॥२॥

चित्रगुप्त दवरता खंयी फॉर्म, यमाक दिल्यां उत्तम काम
कशशी दवरताती बा इतले कोटी कोटी जानांगले फॉर्म?
ह्या प्रश्नाचे उत्तर जाय जाल्यारी तुम्मी पेटयाती दुडवासांगाती फॉर्म!
ह्या जगांतु चोलका जाल्यारी शिक्काती भरूक सगळे फॉर्म ॥३॥

- सुमन तगगरसी, गांवदेवी

Book Review

Worship Essential For Puja

... By Meera Sashital

Published in India by Celestial Books



Meera Sashital has carved a niche for herself as a well-known Bhanap writer. Prior to authoring the above book, four interesting and informative books - Gems from Mythology, Rosary of Saints, Strewn Pearls and Moral Legends from the Epics and Puranas - have come out from her pen. The book under review is a most welcome addition.

In this book she has tried to explain the essentials or main items used in traditional worship. She has covered 30 items alphabetically - from Aarti to Vibhuti. All essentials are explained in a simple, lucid manner. You name an Upachaar and there it is alphabetically listed.

Shri M.V. Kamath, veteran journalist says in his Foreword, "the contemporary young Hindu needs to be re-acquainted with his parts and Sanatana dharma, with all that it implies. Part of that task has been boldly undertaken by Meera Sashital". I heartily endorse this observation. I would sincerely recommend this book as a "must read" to our Yuvadhara cadres, Prarthana Varga instructors as well as the lay elders.

Copies can be had from the address: E-23, Dattaguru C.H.S. Deonar Village Road, Deonar, Mumbai – 400 088 Tel No.: 25566389.

Reviewed by V. Rajagopal Bhat

Birth Centenary Celebrations of flute legend the late Pt. Pannalal Ghosh

CONTRIBUTED BY V.G. KARNAD

The Birth Centenary Celebrations of flute legend the late Pt. Pannalal Ghosh commenced at Pune on 24th July, 2011, at Bedekar Ganapati Temple Hall. A sequel to this was organized by the ARK Foundation and the Great Heritage Trust, Bangladesh, on 29th, 30th and 31st July, 2011. The audience comprised of approximately 500 invitees from Judiciary fraternity and connoisseurs of music. The artists who participated were Pt. V. G. Karnad, Pt. Nityanand Haldipur, Ms. Tullika Ghosh, Pt. Dhruva Ghosh, Ms. Ruchira Panda, Tawfique Nawaz, Tawquir Rashaad Nawaz.

The program commenced on 29th July, 2011, at 7.00 pm. Pt. Nityanand Haldipur gave an elaborate performance on flute in Raag Puriya and ended with a Pilloo Thumri. On the third and final day the second half and the concluding

segment was presented by Pt. V. G. Karnad, aged 86, a senior most disciple of late Pannababu ably assisted by his student Dr. Vishwas Kulkarni. Pt. Karnad commenced with Raag Hansadhwani followed by an elaborate Raag Yaman. Thereafter, Pt. Karnad, used the base flute made by his late Guru, for ragas like Darbari, Miyan Malhar, etc., and gave another detailed exposition in lower octave in Raag Miyan Malhar. Raag Bhatiyali, a popular folk lore of East Bengal was thereafter played. The finale of the program was with Raag Bhairavi.

The hospitality, love and respect that was shown to all the artists by Tawfique Nawaz and his wife Dr. Dipu Moni needs a special mention here.



At Bangladesh National Museum Auditorium, Dhaka on 31st July, 2011 : Left to right: Leo on Taanpura, Vishvas on flute, V.G. Karnad and Swarup on Tabla

Charity Programme by Saraswat Samaj UK

Reported by Shashi Bailoor

On Saturday the 25th June 2011, Saraswat Samaj UK made history by organising a very first Variety Entertainment programme in the annals of the 'Samaj' with the sole object of raising funds for a good cause, namely, 'Srivali Trust'. The programme was held in the White House Community Centre Hall in Hampton, Middlesex and was attended by about 90 people. Shri Praveen Kadle, who had rearranged dates of his visit to be able to attend the function, was the Chief Guest.



taf Malhotra on Tabla. Smt Monisha Bharadwaj then stole the show with a couple of Bharatnatyam items along with her talented students. She also performed a solo performance to one of Param Poojya Shreemat Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji's favourite Bhajans, 'पाहि पाहि गजानना . .' inviting the audience to join in singing and clapping. The entire hall reverberated with an enthusiastic response. Monisha's students then presented a couple of items to Bollywood songs which were all well received.

This brought up the last and most awaited item of the evening's entertainment programme, namely the 'Yakshagan' produced, directed and acted by Shri Kumar Kuntikanakamata. The theme was the Duel between Bheema (Shri Prabhuraj Ginimav) and Duryodhana (Shri Kuntikanakamata) using 'Gada' (गदा) with



Lord Krishna (Smt Shanta Ginimav) as an observer. The colourful costumes and equally charming make up of the artists were awesome. Vibrant performance by the two main characters acting to a musical narration made it a very interesting show.

Shashi Bailoor then delivered 'Vote of Thanks' with a special mention of sincere gratitude to Param Poojya Swamiji for His Blessings and a special message for the day. All the artists who had very kindly given charity performances were felicitated with presentation of a beautiful idol of Shree Saraswati Devi at the hands of Shri Praveen Kadle. A great evening of captivating entertainment drew to a close with recitation of Sabha Concluding Prayers.

Saraswat Samaj UK was able to raise £2199 from this event and wishes to thank all those who supported the event by their attendance and those who were generous with their donations.

The programme started with recitation of Sabha Opening prayers followed by welcoming address by Shri Venkatraman Sthalekar, President of Saraswat Samaj UK. Shri Praveen Kadle was requested to light the Deepa.

The first item of the evening's proceedings was screening of a special DVD of Param Poojya Shreemat Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji's Aashirvachan and a special message for the occasion. Shri Praveen Kadle then gave a brief talk on the activities of 'Srivali Trust'. The evening's entertainment started with Smt Akshita Kallianpur presenting her repertoire of 'Geet-mala' in her sweet voice accompanied by Shri Madhukar Kothare on Tabla and Shri Rishikesh Kardile on harmonium.

This was followed by Dr Smita Koppikar's melodious sitar recital. She presented Raga Rageshri with Aalap, Jor, Vilambit and Drut in Teental. She was ably accompanied on Tabla by Shri Madhukar Kothare.

After an intermission of an hour for Dinner the programme resumed with the main attraction, Shri Anand Sundaram on 'Mohan Veena'. He presented a couple of Gazals by Ghulam Ali and demonstrated the intricacies of the special instrument by playing a well known Hindi song 'पूछे ना कैसे मैने . . .' in Raga Ahir Bhairav. He was wonderfully accompanied by Shri Al-

Personalia

Mrs Vinaya Durgesh Haritay of Belgaum was installed as Secretary of Inner Wheel Club of Belgaum on 13th July 2011. She joined Inner Wheel Club of Belgaum four years ago and has been involved in their activities since then. She has bagged the 1st Prize at the District Level in the essay competition for her essay “Role of a woman as a multi-tasker”. She is an active social worker and spends time to help the down-trodden and needy people in and around Belgaum.



Pandit Nityanand Haldipur was honoured by the Sangeet Natak Kala Akademi at a function held in Delhi on 22nd July 2011 at Kamani Auditorium. The next evening he gave a performance at the Meghdoot 3 Auditorium.



Here and There

Bangalore : Gurupurnima was celebrated with Madiman Malinipachi delivering an educative talk on the topic of Guru Tatwa emphasizing the Guru Shishya Sambandha. This was followed by Guru Pujan and Ashtavadhan Seva. Vedvyasashtakam was also recited. Hirebet Sumanpachi's talk about the life and teachings of Pujya Gondavalekar Maharaj was very interesting. Mavinkurve Udayapachi held an illuminating session on Durga Ashtottar elaborating on the meanings of some of Devi's names. Sagar Sunandapachi delivered an erudite talk on the life and teachings of Swami Ramdas of Kanhangadh (Ramnagar). Amemba Shailapachi's Harikatha on Damaji Pant was very touching while Murdeshwar Shantalapachi held the

undiverted attention of the audience with her exposition on “Manachey Shloka”. On August 3rd Datta Avadhuth Maharaj of Hebbali Brahma Chaitanya Trust gave an inspiring talk on the significance of Ramnaam Japa the thirteen akshara tarak mantra . Datta Avadhut Maharaj was honored with shawl, fruits and garland by Tonse Raghuvver and Honnavar Umesh. Welcome address was by Vivekanand Kallianpur and the vote of thanks delivered by Karnad Rajgopal . Smt Sunanada Sagar ably conducted the day's proceedings. Madiman Malinipachi 's talk on Guru Bhakti Stotra was illuminating and Katre Dinkarmam's Talk on Guru Upasana was very informative.

We also had the opportunity to listen to the captivating flute recital by child artiste Gautam Hebbar, ably accompanied on Tabla by young Prithvish Kumble. Liling Bhajan sevas were offered by Ved Baindoor Chandrashekhar Bhat, Guruprasad Kalthod and group, Chitrapur Bhajan Mandali, Sangeeta Bhatkal, Meera Balsaver, Suniti Kumble, Bhakti Bhajan Mandali and Anand Bhajan Mandali.

Reported by Amit Kilpady

Belgaum : On 15th July 2011 members of the Belgaum Local Sabha celebrated Gurupurnima in the residence of President Durgesh R Haritay. After Ganesh vandana puja was offered to our Swamijis. Lalita Sahastranam was chanted by all. Bhajans were sung by ladies of Local Sabha. This was followed by pot luck lunch prepared by all the participating families.

Reported by Durgesh R Haritay

Chennai : The Saraswat Mahila Samaj, Chennai organized an evening full of a variety of Games, Music and a lot more, to chill out and have unlimited fun on 3rd July. The local Sabha held Devi Anusthan, Navaratri Nitya Path, Devi Pujan (Sadhana Panchakam) on the 8th July, Bhajans by Saraswat Mahila Samaj on account of Shayani Eka-dashi on 11th July. Guru Poornima was celebrated on the 15th July with Bhajans followed by Puja, Aarti and Prasad. 22nd July devotees assembled to participate in Sadhana Panchakam and on 24th July for Guru Pujan.

Prarthana classes are conducted every Sunday mornings by Smt. Archana Kapnadak and Smt. Kavita Savur.

Reported by Dr. Suresh Rao Hemmady

Goa : The Goa local Sabha met on 24th July 2011 at Shri Arun Mudbidri's residence, Mapusa, Goa. 18 members attended the Satsang. Apart from opening prayers, Shree Guru Paaduka Stotram and Shree Parijnanashram Trayodashi, Shiva Manas Pooja, Devi Nitya Paath, bhajans were some of the highlights of the Satsang. Shri Arun Mudbidri mam updated the laity with the minutes of the standing committee meeting, held at Gokarn. The Sabha ended with Shankar Narayan Geet and the Samapti Prarthana.

Reported by Sushama Arur

Mumbai, Dadar: The Annual General Body Meeting was held on Sunday 7th August 2011 and the following are the office bearers : President- Dr. Chaitanya Gulvady, Vice President- Mr. Arun Chandavar and Mr. Dinesh Tonse, Secretary- Mr. Sudip Kati, Jt. Secretaries- Mrs. Shobha Puthli and Mrs. Sona Chandavar, Treasurer- Mr. Dilip Puthli, Jt. Treasurer- Mr. Gautam Puthli.

13th August was celebrated as Sanskrit Day and the programme commenced with Math Prayers followed by entertainment programme in Sanskrit by the Prarthana children with Jokes, Dance, Songs, Subhashitas and Short Stories enacted by them and assisted by the Prarthana Teachers. The programme concluded with thanksgiving by Dr. Chaitanya Gulvady who spoke on the importance of Sanskrit and the important role played by Girvana Pratishtha and the children were applauded by one and all and encouraged to further continue their Sanskrit studies.

Reported by Shobha Puthli

Mumbai Goregaon : Activities from July to August 2011: Chanting of Ganpati Atharvashirsha on Sankashti was done by the Sadhakas. Gayatri Anushtan was performed by male Sadhakas. Ashadhi/Shayani Ekadashi was celebrated on 11th July at Masurashram, Pandurangwadi, Goregaon (E). The celebrations began with Bhajans by the Parijnanand Bhajan Mandal. This was followed by a talk on Sankalpa in Guru Poojan by Dr. Gajanan Mankikar, who came all the way from Pune to enlighten the Sadhakas. The talk was indeed an enriching and fulfilling experience for the 100 strong crowd gathered. The celebrations concluded with Aarti and Phalaar.

Reported by Pranav R Nagarkatti

Mumbai GrantRoad : 44 Vantiga Payers of the

Local Sabha attended the 79th AGM, held on the 26th June 2011 at the Smt. Indirabai Kallianpurkar Hall. 24 Members were elected to the Committee. This was followed by screening of a film on the visit of His Holiness Jagadguru Shankaracharya of Shringeri to Shirali on 23rd May 2011.

At the first meeting of the Committee on 7th July, the following office bearers were elected: Shri Mahesh Kalyanpur, President; Shri Dilip Sashital, Vice President; Shri Navin Bijur, Hon Secretary and Dr. Suneela Mavinkurve, Treasurer. Subsequently, due to personal problems. Shri Bijur requested to be relieved, and Shri Hemant Kombrabail has taken over as Secretary.

Samuhik Guru Poojan was performed on 15 July 2011, the occasion of Guru Poornima.

About 50 devotees attended the Sannikarsha Seva at Karla on 17 July 2011, apart from some devotees attending the Seve Saptaha from time to time. Gurupujan was performed on 17th August on the occasion of the Punyatithi of HH Shrimat Parijnanashram Swamiji III. We are happy to hear that various Sabhas have already started preparing for the annual Bhagvadgeeta Recitation Competition to be held in late November, this year.

Reported by Dr. Prakash Mavinkurve

Mumbai, Bandra-Khar : On 17th August 2011 the Samaradhana of H. H. Shrimat Parijnanashram Swamiji III was observed . On this occasion the CD of the visit of H.H. Jagadguru Shri Bharati Teerth Mahaswamigal of Shririgeri to Shri Chitrapur Math Shirali was shown at Shree Anandashram, Khar.

Reported by Gurunath Gokarn

Mumbai Santacruz : The Santacruz Sabha (Mumbai) had their 70th Annual General Meeting of Adult Vantiga Payers on Saturday, the 30th of July at 5:30 pm in Shrimat Anandashram Hall, Saraswat Colony, Santacruz (w). Immediately after the AGM , there was a video screening of Sringeri Jagadguru His Holiness Sri Bharati Tirtha Mahaswamigal's visit to Shri Chitrapur Math , Shirali , on 23rd May 2011.

In the second round of ' Sannikarsha ' at Karla, our Santacruz Sabha performed Sannikarasha Seva on 31st July 2011 in Karla. The devotees performed the Shri Shiva Pujana this time offering our love and devotion with respects in the Divine presence of Durga Parameshwari with Mother Nature in her awesome splendour too.

Reported by Kavita Karnad

Mumbai Thane : On July 4th and 25th Sadhakas performed Guru Poojan and Shiv Poojan respectively at Mulund centre. On July 31st AGM of the Thane local sabha was held at the Mulund. Office bearers elected are as mentioned below Shri. Divakar Pandit – President, Shri. Amit Nadkarni – Secretary, Shri. Srikar Baljekar – Treasurer.

Reported by Vaishali Koppikar

New Delhi : Members of Delhi Sabha met on the occasion of Gurupurnima at the Kavle Math on 15th July. The evening started with Sabha opening prayers, a melodious bhajan session led by Ameeta Shiroor, Shobhana Ullal and Nirmala Bondal followed by Shri Gurupaduka stotra and Shri Parijnan Treyodashi. Gurupujana was performed by 5 sabha members. Concluded the evening with mangalarti, Deepanamaskara and closing prayers. Members dispersed after prasada bhojana, 12 families participated.

Reported by Mamta Savkur

Saraswat Samaj UK : The Saraswat Samaj UK held its AGM and annual Satsang at South Oxhey near Watford on 16th July 2011. The Samaj president Mr V B Sthalekar extended a warm welcome to the assembled members and invited Mohan & Sharada Sajip to light the traditional Deepa.

The Satsang began with some Marathi and Kannada Bhajans sung by Aarati Kulkarni and Nimish Ubhayakar. The other participants were Dr Balkrishna Shenoy, Sunil and Surekha Kodical. They were ably supported on the harmonium and tabla by Ranjan Adur and Shashikant Bailoor.

The highlight of the evening was presentation of 'Jai Guru Parijnan' by the Shibirarthis from UK, namely Chandrakant, Sujata and Shashikant Bailoor, Jagdish, Neelam and Nimish Ubhayakar and Madhur, Devyani and Chirag Rao all of whom had attended the NRI Shibir at Shirali in December 2010. They showed photographs of Param Poojya Shrimat Parijnanashram Swamiji when he visited UK in 1979. This unique compilation was interspersed with narration of individual experiences and recitations of Rudram and Bhajans. The lively and very apt song 'I will follow You' from 'Sister Act' at the end was a climax to a beautiful programme which evoked fond memories of Swamiji's visit to the older members attending the Satsang.

The evening concluded after the singing of

Shankarnarayan Geet, Deep Namaskar, Mangalarati and partaking of the Prasad.

Reported by Arun Nagarkatti and Shashikant Bailoor

OUR INSTITUTIONS

The Saraswat Mahila Samaj Gamdevi: Monday 11th July 2011 was Ashadhi Ekadashi also referred to as Devshayani Ekadashi. It heralds the beginning of the holy months of the year. We celebrated this day with a programme on the life and times of 'Sant Namdev'.

The afternoon commenced on a serious note with a tribute being paid to the memory of Smt. Nirmala Bhatkal who had passed away on 5th July 2011. She was a dedicated worker of the Samaj and served the Samaj as President for two terms.

A devotional mood was set with Sant Namdev's compositions melodiously sung by Kalindi Kodial, Suman Kodial, Sharayu Bijurkar, Shyamala Yennemadi, Neeta Yaderi, Deepa Murdeshwar, Geeta Balse, Shaila Hemmady, Nirmala Nadkarni and Maya Maskeri. Smt. Sadhana Kamat gave the commentary, Smt Gita Yennemadi accompanied on the harmonium and Shri Arun Hattangadi on the Tabla.

Snacks were served in the memory of Smt. Varadabai Mulky, Smt. Lalita Yennemadi, Smt. Sumitra and Shri Krishnamurti Nadkarni.

Forthcoming programmes :

September 17 2011 at 5.30 p.m. at Shrimat Anandashram Hall, Talmaki Wadi – Foundation Day Celebration. Chief Guest – Smt. Mira G. Hattiangdi, Guest of Honour – Smt. Shalini Sirur. Natyasangeet by renowned theatre artiste Smt. Suvarnagouri (Kagal) Ghaisas

September 29th 2011 at 3.30 p.m. at Samaj Hall, Gamdevi – Annual General Meeting.

CLASSIFIEDS

MATRIMONIAL

Alliance invited for Chitrapur Saraswat boy 28, 5' 11", MBA, working as a Business Analyst / SAP with an US based Fortune 500 Energy Company in Australia. Email girl's Profile, Photo and Horoscope to sakg50@gmail.com/ 09930448560 (CL-4025)

Alliance invited for 43 years old GSB, widow, no issues, 5' 4", slim, attractive, well-settled in UK since 16 years; Looking for a groom, unmarried / widower / divorced, age 43-48, GSB / SB / Maharashtrian

Brahmin, well-settled in USA / UK / Canada only.
Reply to saffron_2011@yahoo.com (CL- 4026)

Alliance invited for Chitrapur Saraswat girl, smart, post-graduate, working abroad, height 5ft. 4 ½ inches, Age 26 years from Chitrapur Saraswat boy preferably post-graduate, working abroad. Interested please mail at lnlvishwa@gmail.com (CL-4017)

ENGAGEMENTS

KALBAG-MURDESHWAR: Sameer, son of Smt. Sheetal (nee Shobha Hattikudur) and Shri Ghanashyam Murlidhar Kalbag of Vile Parle, Mumbai to Prajakta, daughter of Smt. Sneha (nee Beena Hemmady) and Shri Gautam Shridhar Murdeshwar of Kothrud, Pune on 14th August, 2011 at Mumbai.

DIVGI-KUMTAKAR: Tejal, daughter of Jayashri and Mohan N Divgi (Pune) with Prashant, son of Mira and Anil M Kumtakar (Katni, M.P) on 18th August 2011 at Mumbai.

MANKIKAR-KINI: Amit, son of Smt Savita and Shri Arvind Mankikar of Bengaluru engaged to Sudha, daughter of Smt Sharada and Shri M. Devdas Kini of Manipal on 31st July, 2011 at Manipal. (CL-4024)

BIRTH

A son (Aryan) to Abhijeet and Karishma Upponi, brother to Ishaan on 25th July 2011 at Bahrain. Grandson to Deepak and Kanchan Upponi, Great grandson to Dattatraya (Gaju) and Lalita Upponi and Durga Murdeshwar, nephew to Anuprita and Vikram Honavar, cousin to Prithvika and Yashika.

Baby girl Pratyusha to Sneha Savkur and Pranav Savkur of Bangalore on 3.8.2011. Grand daughter to Prakash and Dr. Vasanthi Savkur and Sri. Jayanth and Anjani Ullal.

Daughter (Tanvi) to Priya (nee Kundapur) and Rajesh Savkur on July 17th, 2011 in New Jersey, USA. Grand daughter to Vasanti and (late) Satish Savkur, and Jaya and Prakash Kundapur, and great-grand daughter to Smt. Radhabai Haldipur.

PUROHIT

Hattangadi Prashant Bhat, B-17, Deepanjali CHS, BAF-Hira Nagar, Marve Road, Malad (West), Mumbai - 400095. Mobile No. 9820920671/9892614433.

Ved. Shri Gautam Nagesh Haldipur, qualified and trained in Shri Chitrapur Math, Shirali, is now residing in Dharwad for higher studies. Please contact for any Puja, Vrata, Dharmik Vidhies and Havans etc to his cell No.9972259999.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Bharat, Jyoti and Mohan P Balvalli have temporarily shifted for 1 1/2 to 2 years to: B-105, Dev Deveshwar

CHSL, 693, Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj Cross Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400 069. Tel : 9967603806

CANCELLATION - ENGAGEMENT

The engagement of Ashmeet (son of Sangeeta and Uday Balse - Mumbai) with Ankita (daughter of Anuya and Anil Chandavarkar - Pune) stands cancelled by mutual consent.

DOMESTIC TIDINGS

BIRTHS

We welcome the following new arrivals:

Feb 14 : A daughter (Varalika) to Atula and Vivek Shirur at Phoenix, Arizona, USA.

Jul 17 : A daughter (Tanvi) to Priya (nee Kundapur) and Rajesh Savkur in New Jersey, USA.

THREAD CEREMONY

We convey our blessings to the following Batus

May 5 : Samvit Sachidanand Mavinkurve at Shri Chitrapur Math, Shirali.

MARRIAGES

We congratulate the following and wish them a happy married life:

May 15 : Akshata Ajit Manelkar with Ashish Kumar Singh at Mumbai.

Jun 26 : Ankita Sanjay Kalle with Aditya Gajanan Chandavarkar (of Matunga) at Secunderabad.

(The error in the name is regretted - Aug 11 issue of KS)

OBITUARIES

We convey our deepest sympathy to the relatives of the following:

Jun 15 : Krishni Vijay Gulwadi (78) at Mumbai.

Jul 17 : Sulochana Vivek Mankikar (87) at Bandra, Mumbai.

Jul 22 : Krishna D. Kumta at Mumbai.

Jul 23 : Nadkarni Ramesh Mangesh at Mumbai.

Jul 24 : Suvarna Prakash Mirjankar (62) at Hubli

Jul 26 : Bhatkal Sadanand Ganpat (88) at Mumbai.

Jul 31 : Jayanti N. Moodbidri (72) at Goregaon, Mumbai.

Jul 31 : Shanta Mangesh Sujir at Mumbai.

Aug 2 : Hattangadi Jagannath Rao (92) at Kolkatta.

Aug 3 : Lalita Atmaram Irde (nee Tara Sajip) (83) at Andheri.

Aug 3 : Trikannad Manohar (Dattu) Mukund (81) at Dharwad.

Aug 10 : Hemant Ramdas Rao (Hattangadi).

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