



Volume: 23 EDITION : 1 April 2015

# કેન્દ્ર કલ્યાણ કેન્દ્ર સમાચાર



Email: [info@kendra.org.za](mailto:info@kendra.org.za) [www.kendra.org.za](http://www.kendra.org.za)

## KENDRA COMMITTEE



**Front sitting from left:** Mr. Jushvantrai Ranchod (M) Mr. Suren Kooverjee(T) Mr. Bachooabhai Soni(Patron) Jayendra Magjee (Deputy President) Mr. Jay Mavjee (President) Mr. Sudhir Pragjee(Past President) Mr. Ratilal Gordhan (Trustee) Mrs. Pushpaben Juta(Trustee) Mr. Devendra Narandas(Trustee)

**1st raw standing from left:** Mrs. Netal Patel (C.M) Mr. Percy Patel (Vice President, ) Mrs. Sunita Ramjee(C.M.) Mr. Dilip Popat (Sec.C.M.E) Mrs. Saroj Jamnadas (C.M.) Mr.Himat Jamnadas (E.M.C) Mrs. Dhunlaxmiben Desai (C.M) Mr. Harish Narsi (Trustee, C) Dhanlilaben Narsi (C.M) Dr. Ushaben Desai (C.M.)Mrs. Ekta Gandecha (C.) Mr. Rajen Bhikha(KGRH Manager) Mr. Dinesh Garach (E.M.C Treasurer) Mrs. Bharti Lakhani (Vice President E.M.C)

**2nd raw standing from left:** Dr. Sureh Parbhoo(C.M) Mr. Himendra Soni (C.M) Mr. Vinay Daya (C.M.) Mr. Mahesh Gandecha (Sec.C.M.E) Mr. Avnish Ramjee (C.M.) Mr. Jayprakash Magan(C.M.) Mr. Dhilian Kalyan (C.M.) Mr. Girish Valjee (C.M.) Mr. Ramnik Juta (General Manager) Mr. Samir Mistry (E.M.C Treasurer) Mr. Shanil Parbhoo (C.)

**Not in Picture:** Mr. Karsandas Manjee (Trustee) Dr. Prabakantbhai Patel (Trustee) Judge Chiman Patel (Trustee) Mr. Champak Soni (Trustee) Mr. Jaisookbhai Valjee(Trustee) Mrs. Asha Parekh (C.M.) Mr. Pravin Parekh (C.M.) Mr. Nischal Patel (C.M.) Mr. K. T. Soni (C.M) Mr. Vanmali Gosai (Patron)

Abbreviation: C=Cultural – M= Management E= Executive

## JUSHVANTRAI MAVJEE - PRESIDENT



**W**ith the State of the Nation Address behind us and the rumpus that followed it, I am glad that I will not be heckled whilst in the hot seat. 2015 is turning out to be very eventful. Everywhere you go, the favourite topic is load-shedding. The Joburg people have dinner — talking of the e-tolling issues. My friends in Cape-Town are all concerned with gangsterism, drugs and the fact that the Cape is the place to be.

Let me tell you about my term of office as the President of Kendra and the immense amount of time I already spend at all the various meetings and functions. Firstly, my sincerest gratitude in your confidence to offer me — the lead post at the Kendra.

I am in no illusion that there is a great deal of responsibility and the accountability that goes with it. The Kendra is a professional outfit that runs transparent and very efficient processes. I am fortunate that crisis management is not prevalent as all committees drive their respective mandates with precision and purpose.

From the humble beginnings of getting the three major Gujarati organizations together to form the Kendra, we have in our midst a dynamic organ of the community that boasts an asset base of over R150 million. We have to acknowledge and recognize the work that has gone into the assimilation of this asset. There aren't any community based organizations that can boast this type of result in such a short space of time. More-over-so, the fact that the base to work with — was just 2000 families and that we have provided venues to scores of societies to hold their religious, social and cultural functions. I am proud to hold this position and promise to take steps to promote the growth of Kendra whilst providing a centre for religious, social, cultural, youth and senior citizens events. I wish to encourage people with ideas to create and enhance community provisions and to come forward. Join our volunteer's club known as the Cultural Sub-Committee. Young people — please join the Cultural Sub-Committee.

A place that will develop your growth with group participation and enskill you to think "out of the box". Here, strategic planning takes place and your thinking will change and above all-you will enjoy the ride. So join in.

Time is ever on the move. Procrastination and saying "this is not the time" will envelop us with false security. Antiquated thinking and unnecessary wastage of time and resources will drag us slowly to death. Let's ask, "what's next"? Join me now — to take the Kendra another step — for I am certain we will enjoy this ride.

At present our Kendra Gardens Retirement Home houses 65 full time residents and 10 casual residents. We are in the process of planning an additional floor to the Retirement Centre.

I am also proud to say that the number of pupils in our Gujarati School have grown from strength to strength and it is heart warming to notice our Gujarati parents are lending a helping hand by introducing their children to our Gujarati culture.

I once again want to pay a special tribute to our Past President Mr Sudhir Pragjee who never ceases to amaze me with his unlimited energy and devotion to seva in making the Kendra what it is today. It gives

a great deal of comfort knowing that we have his full support and stellar leadership to take Kendra to even greater heights.

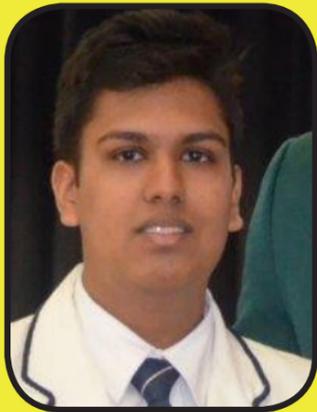
I would also like to pay tribute and thank Pushpaben Juta who is ever willing to assist us and lend a helping hand. Her advice has been an invaluable asset. A special thank you to Mr Ramnikbhai Juta and the Kendra staff for the wonderful work that they put in. We are also happy to have appointed Mr Rajen Bhikha as the Residence Manager of the Kendra Gardens and to assist Mr Juta. I bid him a warm welcome.

A special mention has to be made of the magnanimous support of the Kathiawad Hindu Seva Samaj as well as the Surat Hindu Association towards our buildings and cultural programmes. The Eastern Bridal Fair has been the largest donor towards our projects.

I want to conclude by thanking all the Committee Members for the help that they have given to me and ask for indulgence and forgiveness if by word or deed I may have occasioned umbrage or offence to anyone.

**Jai Shree Krishna  
Jushwantra Mavjee President Gujarati  
Gujarati Hindu Sanskriti Kendra**

## Matriculants



**Kashir Gopal**  
son of Jagdish and Bharti Gopal, achieved 7 A's and was placed 3rd in KZN. He has been accepted to study Business Science at the University of Cape Town



**Rhea Vallabh**  
daughter of Dipak & Harsheila  
Matriculated from Westville Girls' High with 2 distinctions.  
Studying: BCom Accounting at UKZN



**Nehal Harilal**  
Son of Chandresh and Harsha Harilal, achieved 7 distinctions & is currently studying at UKZN towards becoming a Chartered Accountant

## Graduates



**Arthi Daya CA(SA)**, daughter of Narendra & Virmati Daya obtained a Bachelor of Commerce Degree in Accounting & Finance, as well as Honours in Accounting & Finance at the University of Kwazulu-natal in 2011

**Sonal Naran**, Daughter of Dinkar and Vanita Naran. Graduated as a Dentist (BChD) at the University of Pretoria. Presently doing her community service in the South Coast of KwaZulu-Natal

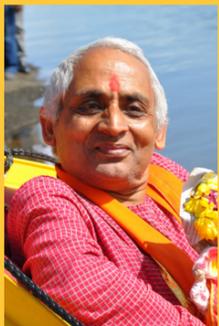


**Vishay Valjee**, son of Girish & Nita Valjee, passed the Chartered Accountants Board exams. He studied B.COMM at UCT. He is now working at Deloitte in Jhb

**Prasheen Gopal**, son of Jagdish and Bharti Gopal, graduated in Actuarial Science at the University of Cape Town



### FAREWELL TARUNBHAI PUROHIT



Tarunkumar Thakurlal Purohit was employed as a Priest at the Ekta Mandir from 2003 He performed the daily prayers in the temple and also served the needs of the community. His wife Gitaben and daughter Krishnaben voluntarily assisted in the temple and won the hearts of many devotees with their melodious singing. Tarunbhai played the harmonium and sang bhajans with a great deal of energy and enthralled the devotees. He has now joined his family in Johannesburg and we at the Kendra wish him well.

### WELCOME HEMANT VAIDYA



Hemantbhai Vaidya hails from Komrij, Surat. Hemantbhai has followed his father's footsteps as a priest who had given immense knowledge to Hemantbhai in the Hindu scriptures and rituals. Hemantbhai was an assistant priest in temples in Gauteng. He conducted the Sathnarain Katha, weddings and various other Hindu prayers in the Hindu calendar. He is a young, pleasant and dedicated priest.

We welcome him to Kendra and wish him a pleasant stay in Durban

## BREAKING NEWS - March 2015 THE SURAT HINDU ASSOCIATION

As 2015 unfolds and we move towards the cooler season, the Surat Hindu Association heats up to expand its services and provide greater value-adds for our community. There are so many things happening that we see a need to create a larger volunteer group- to assist. These are some of the noteworthy items :

1. The Association has partnered with **Isipingo Funeral Services** to provide a funeral service for our community. The service involves, picking up the body, storage, washing and dressing, transferring of the body to the home and /or to the crematorium. The cremation will be completed and they will facilitate the papers for cremation and final certificates. The Association will pick up the bill. As it will be difficult to assess "who is deserving", the Association has decided to offer everyone this service. We do appeal to those that have the financial capacity - to donate any amount affordable to the Association to continue to provide this much needed service.
  - 1.1. In the event of a family person passing away - kindly contact Rajesh Rana at our offices (031-3061027) or any of the officials to gear up the services of the Funeral Parlour.
  - 1.2. Thus far, we have facilitated 4 funerals with Isipingo Funeral Services who have provided outstanding support. The bereaved families have had a difficult task taken off their hands during these tough times.
2. **The Indigent Offering:-** we have now assisting ten deserving, needy community members with a monthly grant of R1300.
3. **The Surat Hindu Bursary Trust Fund:** The Association has a new sub-committee under the convenorship of Harish Narsi and already it has paid out the outstandings of 2014 and the financial aid for 2015 in the amount of R54,000. The Sub-Committee has set its sight on a sizable fund for the future. The deadline for the application for student financial aid for 2016 is 17th December 2015. There will be No exceptions on the deadline date.
4. **Bharat Hall Building:** The good news is that the Bharat hall Building has a new tenant in the form of a school.
5. **Sponsorships:** we are jointly with the Chinmaya Mission sponsoring two functions at the Kendra this year. One is between the 9th to the 13th March (Bliss of Krishna Leela) and the second is in August 2015

### FLAT FOR SALE MANJEE CENTRE

316 - 320 Grey street, Cnr Derby & Grey Streets  
135m<sup>2</sup> Flat, 2 Bedrooms, Lounge, Dining Area, 2 Baths and Jacuzzi, Storeroom.  
Grand views Royal Durban Golf Course and Kendra

ENQUIRIES 083 661 4013

### Kendra SMS Service

To receive an SMS for funerals,  
Kendra Functions etc...  
Contact: Jolene 031 309 1824



# Kendra Vidyalay 2014



PARENTS, EDUCATORS AND LEARNERS EXCURSION TO GANDHI SETTLEMENT



EXCURSION TO SHRI JUGGERNATH PURI TEMPLE

As is the scenario every year with the Kendra Vidyalay, last year was no exception. It was a very busy and eventful year.

## Events Hosted

- 1) The learners received Darshan from Santos
- 2) Sang beautifully at the 108 Hanuman Chalisa recitals at Kendra and a few of the children even rendered two melodious bhajans on live broadcast on Bhakti Sangeet on Lotus FM at the SABC Studios.
- 3) Every year learners and parents as well as Grand Parents are taken for an educational excursion. The choice of venue for 2014 was the Gandhi Settlement and the New Jaggernath Puri Temple, in Phoenix. There was an excellent turn out and everybody thoroughly enjoyed themselves.



SCHOOL OPEN DAY



EXTERNAL EXAMINATION AWARDEES  
Priya Moodley; Pradeep Rama; Akshay Mistry; Pooja Magan

## Education

Awards Day on the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2014 was a well received function with about 200 people attending and partaking in the scrumptious meal. This event showcased children's works in the form of Rangoli, Class projects and assignments. There was a colourful cultural programme made up of Gujarati poetry, plays and dances.

Talks on aspects of Hinduism, mantra recitals and a Havan was performed by the learners.

Guest of Honour - Revered Pravrajika Ishtprana Didi from the Shri Sarada Devi Ashram, graced the function and address the children on the importance of education.



LEARNERS AND EDUCATORS

Kendra Vidyalay is proud to announce that it is for the first time that the highest level in Hinduism known as Dharma Prakash or Essential Teachings of Hinduism was attempted at our institution. The schools very own first student is Amisha Madansein, who obtained a distinction. We congratulate her on this excellent achievement together with Indiraben Thakersee who did self study and is the first adult and a granny who also wrote these examinations and passed with a very good result.



AMISHA MADANSEIN



INDIRABEN THAKERSEE



ASHISH MAGAN

Our top achiever, for The Basic Teachings of Hinduism also known as Dharma Pravesh which is the Intermediate Level, is Pooja Magan. Her Mum Ashish Magan also attempted the same paper and together both mother and daughter, scored distinctions in this category.

We salute these ladies and challenge all parents and grandparents to follow suit and empower yourselves with our very beautiful and profound Hindu Dharma.

## Your Children can join Gujarati & Hinduism Classes

Friday 15:00 to 17:00  
Venue: Kendra, 5 John Zikhale Road, Durban  
Contact: Dhanlilabhen Narsi on 031 262 9966

*If you are interested in teaching kindly also contact the number above.*

## Kendra Business Forum - Youth Development

The Kendra Business Forum facilitated and sponsored the Dyna Training Course. Mr. Mahesh Gosai was chosen to do the course. He was grateful for the opportunity and has provided the following feedback on the course he attended.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. The course was very practical and dealt with challenges faced in the work place. Very good examples were used during team discussions that encapsulated the technical knowledge give to us by the tutors. | 3. Specific task were taught<br>3.1 Delegation of work to juniors<br>3.2. Dealing with emotional people.<br>3.3. Performance and Discipline.<br>3.4. Being a better leader. |
| 2. It taught us good time management skills which help me identify how other   | 4. Teamwork all the participants were very supportive and approachable.   |

## Dining At Kendra Gardens

Dine out at the Kendra Gardens for a family re-union, anniversaries, birthdays, or any other happy occasion. Sumptuous vegetarian dishes especially prepared by our India cooks and staff. Prior booking is essential.

Take away meals  
R 50 a tiffin

Meals eaten in the dining area  
R 60 per person

Tea & Coffee  
R 7 a cup

Contact: Ashmira Hira 031 362 1000

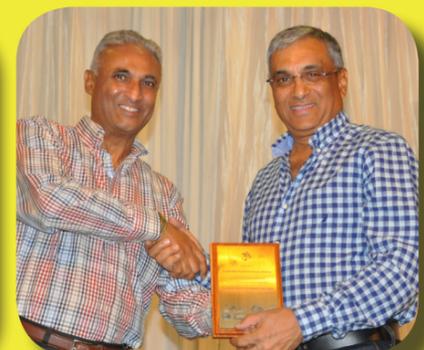
## Kendra Awards

Every year at the Gujarati New Year Get-together, the Kendra thanks members for their contribution to the community and honours them for the wonderful service rendered to the Kendra and the community at large.

**We salute them!**



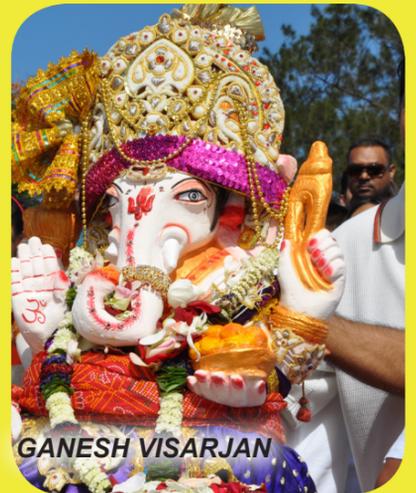
Mr. Harshadbhai Bhika receives an award from Mr. K. T. Manjee



Mr. Harishbhai Mehta receives an award from Mr. J. Magjee



In life, you will realize there is a role for everyone you meet. Some will test you, some will use you, some will love you, and some will teach you. But the ones who are truly important are the ones who bring out the best in you. They are the rare and amazing people who remind you why it's worth it.





EASTERN BRIDAL FAIR

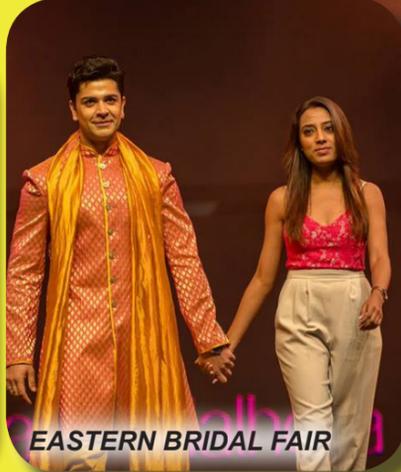
# 15TH ANNUAL Sunday Times eastern BRIDAL FAIR



EASTERN BRIDAL FAIR



EASTERN BRIDAL FAIR



EASTERN BRIDAL FAIR



NAVRATRI



NAVRATRI



NAVRATRI



NAVRATRI



MAIN YAJMAN NAVRATRI



MAHA AARTI



NAVRATRI



ANTAKHSHARI



NAVRATRI



NAVRATRI PUJARIS



DASHERA ANTAKSHARI



DIWALI SHOW



MAHASHIVRATRI



MAHASHIVRATRI



MAHASHIVRATRI

**“IDEAS DON'T WORK UNLESS YOU DO THE WORK.”**



## 12<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL RANGILI SHAAM

Venue: Kendra Main Hall • Date: Sat, 8<sup>th</sup> Aug 2015

Time: 3.30pm – 6.30pm • Supper will be served after the show

**We invite all the participant age group  
6 months – 75 yrs to be part of Rangili Shaam**

Contact: Sunita Bhoola: 082 888 0224 • Ekta Gandecha: 072 190 3635  
Mahesh Gandecha: 083 778 3645 or email: mahekta@mweb.co.za

## KENDRA BUSINESS FORUM ACTIVITIES

The Kendra Business Forum (KBF) has been in existence for the past 3 years. "One of the main aims of the KBF is to expose the broader community of Durban to interesting and renowned speakers who are experts in their field" said Harish Mehta, the Chairman of KBF.

Previous speakers include Moeletsi Mbeki (political commentator), Kumi Naidoo (Greenpeace), Ferial Haffjee (Mail & Guardian Editor), Alfred Ford (Ford Foundation of USA).

Last year we hosted Sizwe Nxedlana (Economist) who spoke on "the Current Economic Climate". The event was sponsored by First National Bank.

1. We also hosted Peter Bamkole from Nigeria (Enterprise Development). He spoke on "Reviving the Continent through Entrepreneurship and Business." This event was sponsored by Mercedes Benz.
2. This year KBF hosted Durban's own Dr Salim S. Abdool Karim (Medical Doctor and acclaimed researcher) who spoke on "Human Impact of HIV". This event was sponsored by Aspen Healthcare.
3. Future speakers include Judge Navanethem Pillay (United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights) on Wednesday, 15 April and Thuli Madonsela (Public Protector) on Thursday, 21 May.
4. We encourage and welcome people to these functions as it gives all an opportunity to hear directly from those famous, successful people who have their own interesting stories to share.



PETER-BAMKOLE



DR SALIM ABDOOL  
KARIM



JUDGE NAVANETHEM  
PILLAY

## GUJARATI FOLK DANCE TROUPE FROM INDIA



Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2015

Time: 7:00pm – 8:30pm

Venue: Kendra

**Entrance is free for all**

## Sunday Times eastern BRIDAL FAIR

If you are interested in modelling or dancing at this momentous event kindly e-mail your details to Ashmira Hira on [admin@easternbride.co.za](mailto:admin@easternbride.co.za) and we will contact you when auditions will be held in the month of **July 2015**.

**21, 22, 23 August 2015  
Durban Exhibition Centre.**

## Durban's United Recital of 108 Shri Hanuman Chalisa

Date: Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2015

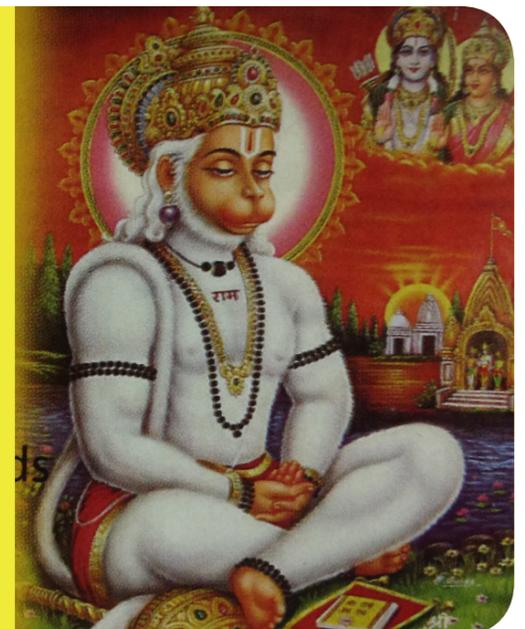
Venue: Ekta Mandir, Kendra Hall

Programme: Samuh Pooja: 5.30am to 6.30am

The Recital: 6.30am to 6pm

Maha Prasad (Meals): From 12noon onwards

**All are invited to join in the Recital  
of Shri Hanuman Chalisa**



# Letters to the Editor

## RANGILI SHAAM 2014

Schopenhauer regarded the *Hindus as deeper thinkers* than Europeans because their interpretation of the world was internal and intuitive, not external and intellectual. For intuition unites everything, the intellect divides everything. The Hindus saw that the "I" is a delusion, that the individual is merely phenomenal, and that the only reality is the Infinite One "That art Thou".

This statement came into mind when I start to pen my thoughts about the tireless and selfless work of the Kendra Committee that put together this spectacular show. I have attended Rangili Shaam for the past 5 years and this show just tends to grow bigger and better from professional dances to music maestros and natakas that touch the soul of every member of the audience.

This show embraces the rich and poor, young and old, despite race, colour or creed. It is the epitome of democracy that Kendra stands for: Ekta Mandir (one temple for all).

I have watched quietly as I take my children for practice (as they have been part of the show for the past couple years), the likes of Mahesh and Ekta Gandecha, Avinish and Sunita Ramjee, Nischal Patel, Himat and Saroj Jamnadas planning, organizing and implementing this wonderful show, working sometimes till the wee hours of the morning to ensure that each year is a resounding success.

2014 Rangili Shaam was a resounding success. One of the best I have been in years. This shows that every year there is improvement and critique from post mortem meetings were taken into account so that each year, the show becomes more innovative and creative to reach the height of perfection. The Programme Directors, Keina Mehta and Rayna Ramjee were so eloquent and graceful, capturing the attention of the crowd. Their choice of words, humor and the way they articulated themselves, assured the audience of a well-planned and organized show.

Dancers and singers from all age groups rocked the stage making the audience clap with zest. Grandparents and parents looked on proudly at their children performing on stage each thinking that their children's talent was inherited from them. I heard a grandfather say, "My grandchild is just like me. In my day I used to dance like him," to which the grandmother said, "Please, you could not dance at all. My grandson comes from my side of the family." The plays were soulful and we waited with baited breath as to what was going to happen to the old couple who wanted to divorce and live separately with each son.

Waiting in line to have dinner, the smells of the puri and potato saak wafting through the hallway, was an assault to the senses, making it well worth the wait. I looked around and saw people meeting old friends and relatives that they have not spoken to in ages.

All around me was musical laughter and friendly chatter that echoes Rangili Shaam's overall objective – that is to bring the community together in a world where our young tend to lean towards the western world, forgetting about our roots. Rangili Shaam brings young and old together, reminding us of our wonderful culture and heritage.

We Gujaratis form only a fractional percentage of Indians living in South Africa. It is through these types of shows that brings this community together – to enjoy our homegrown entertainers as well as to eat and pray together – As the famous saying goes – A family that eats together and prays together – stays together. The Kendra Committee through their annual events such as these aims to do just that – keep our family together.

Roshini Mehta

## GUJARATI SCHOOL EXCURSION

On 20th July 2014 the Kendra Gujarati School kids, along with their families went on their annual excursion. Everyone was very excited as the bus departed Kendra Hall at 8-30am. Within minutes the tupperwares were open and everyone started sharing and munching on tasty treats! First stop was the Mahatma Gandhi settlement in Phoenix. On arrival we were greeted by a renowned author and Gandhi expert -

Mr Rugbeer Kallideen. We were given an in depth explanation of Mahatma Gandhi's life, hardships and motivations whilst living here in South Africa. The seeds of his passive resistance philosophy were planted here and he educated and inspired with his Indian Opinion newspaper. It was here in South Africa, that the great man became known as Mahatma. We were all blessed to be walking (literally) in the footsteps

of Mahatma Gandhi as we explored the settlement. The next stop was the New Jagganath Puri (Hare Krishna) temple (also in Phoenix). On arrival, we were amazed at this beautiful structure and were given a warm welcome by the devotees. We attended a Satsang, in which our dear children and their Guru Vinaybhai did us proud by rendering the beautiful Kanuda bhajan.

We ended the day with a scrumptious lunch courtesy of our beloved Hare Krishna hosts. Over R1500 was raised on the bus as a donation to the Gandhi Settlement and Hare Krishna temple.

Thank you to the Dhanillaben and the educators for making this fabulous experience a possibility.

Ajay Jamnadas

## KENDRA WEEKLY PROGRAMME

Vedanta Classes	Monday	6pm - 7:15pm	Kendra Cultural Room
Music Classes	Tuesday & Saturday	5:30pm - 6:30pm 10am - 1pm	Kendra Conference Room
Samarpan Meditation	Tuesday	6:30pm - 7pm	Kendra Gardens Gym
Shiv Yog	Wednesday	7pm - 8pm	Kendra Conference Room
Sai Group Satsangs	Wednesday & Thursday	7pm - 8:30pm	Kendra Gardens Gym
Art of Living Satsangs & Bhajans	Thursday	7pm - 8pm	Kendra Temple
Kendra Gujarati & Hindu Dharma Classes	Friday	3pm - 5pm	Futura School
Kendra School Bhajans	Every Fortnight	5pm - 5:30pm	Futura School
Radhasoami Satsangs	Wednesday & Sunday	8pm - 9pm 11am - 12pm	Kendra Gardens Gym
Kendra Girl Guides	Friday	5:30pm - 6:30pm	Kendra Cultural Room
Art of Living - Kriya	Tuesday	7pm - 8:30pm	Kendra Conference Room
Natashwar Dance Academy	Saturday	8am - 1pm	Kendra Main Hall

## DIARISE THESE DATES

Judge Nevanethem Pillay	Wednesday	15 <sup>th</sup> April
Gujarati Folk Dance Troupe	Friday	22 <sup>th</sup> April
Hanuman Chalisa	Monday	27 <sup>th</sup> April
Thuli Madonsela : Protector	Thursday	21 May
Winter Warmth		June
Youth Movie & Game Night	Friday	10 <sup>th</sup> July
Youth Karaoke & Dance-off	Saturday	11 <sup>th</sup> July
Medical Day	Sunday	19 <sup>th</sup> July
Rangili Shaam	Saturday	8 <sup>th</sup> August
Bridal Fair	Fri, Sat, Sun	21-22-23 August
Raksha Bandhan	Saturday	29 <sup>th</sup> August
Krishna Janmashtami	Saturday	5 <sup>th</sup> September
Ganesh Chaturthi	Thursday	17 <sup>th</sup> September
Ganesh Visarjan (Blue Lagoon)	Sunday	20 <sup>th</sup> September
Pre-Navratri Bhajans	Sunday	11 <sup>th</sup> October
Navratri	Tuesday	13 <sup>th</sup> - 22 <sup>nd</sup> October
Maha Aarti/Durga Astami	Thursday	21 <sup>st</sup> October
Dasera	Saturday	23 <sup>rd</sup> October
Diwali / Chopda Pooja	Wednesday	11 <sup>th</sup> November
Gujarati New Year	Thursday	12 <sup>th</sup> November
Gujarati Classes Open Day	Monday	7 <sup>th</sup> December
Kendra Golf Day	Wednesday	16 December
Daily Aartis		Daily 18h30



## SUDHIR PRAGJEE'S PROFILE

Sudhir Pragjee, was one of the founder members when Kendra was constituted in January 1993. He also has been active on the Kendra Cultural Committee of the Kendra since 1994 to date. He has served on the Management committee and numerous other sub-committees since inception and was Deputy President for 8 years. He then served as President for 4 years and, in terms of the Constitution, retired last year. He continues to serve the Kendra as the Immediate Past President and remains on numerous committees. He was part of the core team that conceptualised and completed the Retirement Home Project.

Sudhir qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1975 and was a partner at the auditing firm of Mahomedy & Manjee until 1988.

He then joined Anant Singh as a Partner in Videovision Entertainment and has been there from 1988 to current. He has been involved in all aspects of the business as well as key projects such as the development of Pearls of Umhlanga, Cape Town Film Studios and Durban Film City.

He has also been the executive producer of over 60 feature films. The more notable ones are Sarafina, Cry The Beloved Country, Oscar nominated Yesterday, Mr Bones and more recently Mandela Long Walk To Freedom. Sudhir was also integrally involved in Amitabh Bachchan's "Jumma Chumma" concert as well as the "Now Or Never Concert" event at Kings Park. Other live productions, include Michael Jackson, Gloria Estefan, Shiamak Davar and Bombay Crush.

His previous and current directorships include the Videovision Group of Companies, Nufield Squash Centre, Mail & Guardian, Kagiso Media,

East Coast Radio (Chairman); Radio OFM (Chairman); Universal Lace (Chairman), Cape Town Radio; American Tower; Pearls of Umhlanga, Cape Town Film Studios; Durban Film City and Signature Cosmetics.

He was one of the founding Trustees and is Chairman of the non-profit organisation, "Into The Light Foundation" which has concluded in excess of 1,600 cataract operations from 2005 to date. The procedures are conducted on qualifying indigent patients at zero cost to the patient.

Sudhir also served on the committee of the Kathiawad Hindu Seva Samaj; KHYO Club; Arrows Squash Club; Natal Badminton Union (President); Durban Squash Rackets Association (Chairman); Independent Producers Organisation; South African Film & Television Organisation. He loves sport and has represented KZN in Badminton. He also played league squash and currently enjoys golf.

He loves travel with the family and friends and particularly enjoys going to major sporting events eg. Olympic Games, World Cup Soccer and World Cup Cricket. His passion is his family, Madhvi (wife), children Shivani (daughter), Akheel (son), Jayshika (daughter in law) as well as his 2 grandsons, Shekhar and Dhillin.

He attributes his life to the grace of God and his most wonderful parents, mom – Neelaben and late dad – Nanoobhai.

**Kendra is greatly indebted to Sudhir for his commitment, leadership and vision in leading the Kendra to such heights. He has joined, worked with and led the entire team with such enthusiasm and humility throughout the 22 years of the Kendra. He also plays a major role in the Education, Social Responsibility and Fundraising programmes at the Kendra. He has also been a convenor of the Bridal Fair Committee for the past 15 years.**

**We salute you Sudhir for all your fine qualities.**

### Youth Winter Holiday Events

- 10 July - Movie & Game night - Kendra Hall - Downstairs @ 7pm
- 11 July - Karaoke & Dance-off - Kendra Hall - Downstairs @ 7pm

**LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED AT ALL EVENTS**

### Gujarati Hindu Sanskruti Kendra Annual Medical Day

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July Kendra Ground Floor Hall

We would appreciate the help of people in the medical and alternative medical fields for their professional help on this day. Scholars & students are also welcome to offer their services.

We would also like people practising Physio-therapy to come and render their services

**VOLUNTEERS MAY CONTACT RAJEN BHIKHA ON 031 326 1076**

**ALL WELCOME**

## KENDRA GARDENS RETIREMENT HOME UPDATE

Our first resident, Mrs L. Poona took occupation at the Retirement Home in August 2011. We are pleased to announce that the retirement home now has 63 full-time residents towards a full capacity facility of 90 residents (we are now 70% full). With numerous applications and enquiries being entertained we expect the Home to be full by December this year. During December 2014, with the support of casual bookings we were at 100% capacity and had to turn away requests for accommodation.

All rooms now have air conditioners as well as televisions with DSTV. We have now started a program of maintenance to upgrade the facilities. The existing generator supports general lighting as well as the elevators we are now investigating additional possibilities that can make the experience of the residents even more comfortable. We have recruited two additional reception staff so that the front desk is staffed 24/7. The committee is pleased to announce that Rajen Bhikha has been appointed the manager of the Home

and he will support Ramnikbhai Jata, our efficient, long-serving general manager. Rajen has served as the Vice President of the Kendra for several years. The cleaning and kitchen staff have also been increased to serve the increasing needs.

Further positive news is that the outstanding balance of the interest-bearing loan from Bank of Baroda, which stood at R1,360,000 was settled in full in January 2015. This is largely due to the kind support of Surat Hindu Association, who granted Kendra an interest-free loan of R1,200,000 to assist with the liability. The support of the Surat Hindu Association is sincerely most appreciated. The loan is being repaid in 20 monthly instalments of R60,000 (which commenced in January 2015). We also place on record our thanks to Bank of Baroda who had provided a loan of R5 million during our time of need.

After 3½ years we have, for the first time, have had to reluctantly increase our residence rates.

With effect from 1 April 2015, the rates per month are in the Table below. This is due to increasing costs in operating the Home. The charge includes VAT, rent, cleaning, laundry, DSTV and 90 meals a month. Thus charge amounts to R173 per person per day for single room and R108 per person per day for a double room.

As the Home progresses, the committee is investigating the building of 7 additional rooms (4 doubles and 3 singles), above the front part of the buildings. This expansion is expected to be completed in the next 12 months. The additional 11 residents will take the capacity of the Home to 101 persons. Investigations are also under way to build a security wall between Kendra and St. Augustine School. Residents enjoy the comforts of fully airconditioned rooms that are fitted with flat screen TV's, sports, Indian Bouquet and MNet channels. Residents have formed a Havan group whereby they perform their weekly Havan every Tuesday. Residents formed a sewing group get-together weekly showcasing their talents and sharing ideas.

Residents make use of the City's People Mover Bus service to get into town, Sun Coast or Berea. All meals are prepared by our head chef and assistant chef from Rajasthan, India. Strict vegetarian meals care complemented of fresh "Indian" vegetables. Other varieties like pasta and pizzas are also included in the weekly menus for variety.

The residents are encouraged to join the different satsang groups that have services at the Home on different days throughout the week. Some residents make use of the mini gym and hairdresser facility while others go for a walk to the neighbouring Botanical Gardens. Wi-fi internet is also available

We, once again, would like to thank Paratma and the entire community for their support, which has brought us to this stage of our significant project.

Type of Room	Current	From 01/04/2015
Single	R 4,900	R 5,200
Double	R 5,900	R 6,500

**Service to Mankind is Service to God.**



**RAMNIKBHAI WELCOMES RAJEN BHIKHA**



**SOME OF OUR RESIDENTS OF THE HOME**