

Agrawal Association of America

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visit our website at
www.agrawal.org

Internship Opportunities Summer 2007

This section provides the information regarding upcoming internship opportunities for our young graduates. The interested candidates can go to the websites directly (provided below) and apply. Please contact AAA if you have any question.

- **Piping Technology Internship**
<http://www.pipingtech.com/>
Contact for information:
dawn@mail.pipingtech.com
- **White House Internship Program**
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/government/wh-intern.html>
- **MD Anderson Internship Program**
<http://www.mdanderson.org/>

Introducing Matrimonial Portal

Agrawal Association of North America is pleased to announce that now we will provide bio-data of marriageable Agrawal youth. Please send biodata of your marriageable youth as soon as possible at 3920 Oberlin, Houston, TX 77005 or Email at Info@agrawal.org.

Weddings & Anniversaries

Please mail, fax or email info regarding Wedding, Anniversaries and new weddings in your family.
www.agrawal.org

Birthdays and New Births

Please inform us of birthdays and new births in our community, we would like to include in this newsletter.

REMEMBER!!!!

Please send in any information or article you wish to get published in the next issue of the Agrawal Samachar Patrika by **March 1, 2007**

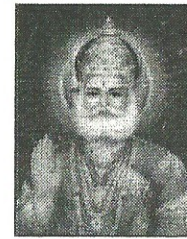
"...Dharmo Rakshati Rakshitah..." (Protect your Dharma and it will protect you)

Agrawal Association of America

Agrawal Samachar Patrika

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Agrawal Association America holds Diwali Mela



Maharaja Agrasen

Board of Directors

Anil & Mukta Aggarwal
Aehok & Prabha Garg
Bharat & Uma Aggarwal
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Manish & Manju Rungta
Manoj & Veenu Aggarwal
Rakesh & Shonali Aggarwal

Holi Picnic

Lots of fun, food, games,
and prizes for all ages.

When: March 17, 2007, 10 AM
Where: Eldridge Park in Sugar Land
(On Eldridge Rd. between
West Airport and Florence)

AAA Created the New York/
New Jersey Chapter in
December 2006.....

Details inside

Agrawal Association of America (AAA) organized the "Diwali Mela" at the Shri Radha Krishna Temple at 11625 Beechnut Street, Houston on October 28. It was a successful event with just over 250 people in attendance including 4 families from New Jersey, and couple of families from Mississippi and Vancouver, Canada. The organizing committee and volunteers planned for 2 months to stage this event, and their hard work paid off!

Chinese and Chatpali Chaat. After the Arti Last but not the least 3 door prizes were given and the first one was a 30 GB IPOD! The IPOD was won by Mr. Rajendra Agrawal. Everyone put in a concerted effort to bring about this fortuitous event.

AAA was pleased by the success of the event. The event gave an opportunity to follow Agrawal families in the region to meet each other and have



The attractions of this event included games like Musical Chair for adults and kids, shooting the basketball and football, dart game, pie eating contest, face painting, moonwalk and crawl ball, rings on the bottle. There were games for all age groups and everyone had a blast. People enjoyed Hansta Chetna booth that was managed by Rakesh Aggarwal. All the members had a chance to get a funny picture of themselves and about 150 pictures were taken.

A fun filled evening. Diwali Mela is AAA's one of the three annual events, the other two being Picnic after Holi and Agrawal Youth Camp in November for Agrawal kids between the age group of 7 and 15. AAA organizes these events to encourage Agrawals to have a support group for its members and their children while maintaining Agrawal tradition, unity and heritage.



There were 7 mouthwatering food stalls from different varieties such as North Indian, South Indian, Mexican,

Keep an eye out on their website, www.agrawal.org, as AAA continues in its effort to support the Agrawal community.

AAA - New York/ New Jersey Chapter

We are pleased to announce that a new AAA Chapter in New Jersey/New York area has been created in December 2006, and they are organizing their first "Holi Milan" on March 24th, 2007. AAA congratulates them. To contact their Board of Directors and further information visit their website: www.AgrawalSamajUSA.org or contact Sanjeev Agrawalla at 732-996-6712 or email him at sagarwalla@gmail.com. Any one visiting New Jersey during that time is cordially invited to the function. If you have friends or relatives in the New Jersey or New York area then please ask them to join the NJ chapter.

Some board members of NJ chapter of Agrawal Samaj visited Houston to attend Diwali function hosted by Agrawal Samaj members of Houston. The idea was to understand about the activities conducted by Houston and implement as many of those ideas in NJ. The NJ members were pleasantly surprised by the hospitality extended by the Houston members, the activities conducted by Houston and the help extended to the Agrawal community.

Editors

Dipak Agrawalla
Devi Rungta

Makar Sankranti

Mayank Agarwal

The Hindu religion consists of various festivals, which many people around the world celebrate. Diwali, Holi to name just a few. Makar Sankranti is a festival overlooked by many Indians, but actually in the Indian religion, Makar Sankranti is considered one of the most auspicious day for the Hindus. Makar Sankranti is celebrated in almost all parts of the country in countless cultural forms, with great devotion. Makar Sankranti is the day where people take dips in places like Ganga River and pray to Lord Sun. Makar Sankranti is celebrated every year on January 14th because this festival is based on the solar calendar.

Makar Sankranti is celebrated in many forms throughout India. It is celebrated with pomp in southern parts of the country, and in Punjab as Lohri. In North India people donate Khichri and other necessities to the needy people. In parts of Gujarat, many individuals celebrate this festival by flying beautiful kites in the skyline. People of Gujarat believe that by flying kites in the skyline, they are reaching up to God to bring them luck and prosperity.

Sankranti means to go from one place to another place or to change direction. Makar Sankranti is the day when the Sun begins its entry into the North Hemisphere, and thus it signifies an event wherein the Gods seem to remind their children that "Tamaso Ma Jyotir Gamaya". May you go higher & higher - to more & more light and never to darkness. Hindus believe that the Sun stands for Pratyaksha-Brahman, who symbolizes the blessings of one. When Hindus chant the Gayatri Mantra, Hindus are chanting to the Sun to bless them with intelligence and wisdom. The Sun is not only the God for the Hindus but also stands for knowledge and wisdom.

Though celebrated differently in many different forms in India, the festival of Makar Sankranti has one meaning, to get closer to God so God can bring knowledge and wisdom to one. Day by day many people are starting to understand the traditions of Makar Sankranti, and celebrating this auspicious festival on January 14th.

Agrawal Samellan Photo Booth

At this year's Samellan, everyone, young and old, family and friends, lined up to have their photo taken at the Photo Booth. You'll never see your fellow Agrawals the same way again!



See all the photographs online at: <http://tinyurl.com/ywmgqa>

Reliving the Moment

Deepali Agrawal

If only the time machine could take us back when we had the time of our lives... You guessed it right! That time was the AAA Youth Camp 2006.

This was the first time I was involved with the camp and after hearing about it from everyone, I waited anxiously for those few days of unlimited fun and knowledge to arrive. Finally, November 3rd came around, and it all began.

Two stretch excursion limousines arrived carrying our princes and princesses. The night began with several ice breakers followed by breaking up into three teams: Red, Blue, and Green. The battle between the teams started with the famous loved game of Pictionary. Kids were jumping with cheers and hooting all around while their team drew to win the battle.

Seeing the excitement, I couldn't wait for the morning!

The sun greeted us 8:30am with Dr. Prachi Garodia, Dr. Auntie, leading us through different Yoga postures. After breakfast, the older kids went with some counselors for challenge course where kids were paired up to do daring and exciting exercises 25-30 ft in the air such as walking on a tightrope, or climbing up ladders followed by some rock climbing. Meanwhile, the younger kids were with other counselors playing Kickball and other various games.

Lunch was prepared by the counselors with all the ingredients delivered from Subway. Then, we learnt about Maharaj Agrawal, his famous "one brick one rupee policy", and some of his famous descendants who have made Agrawals a proud community.



Following this class, the young "tigers" took over the challenge course where they learnt the meaning of teamwork and support while the older ones took some time off. They came back to a delicious Chipotle dinner, prepared by the Moms.

After dinner, around the roasting of marshmallows and with bodies covered with goosebumps, we were introduced to the ghosts of the night as scary stories were narrated. During the middle of the night, back in the cabins, some high schoolers came and wrapped a few counselors to their bed with plastic wrap! The next morning, one of the counselors had a prank just in hand. The high schoolers woke up with a pie of shaving cream in their faces! What real ghosts did they look in the morning!

Finally, the parents then came in to pick up the kids and eat a delicious brunch prepared by the Board of Directors while reliving the memories from the weekend.

It was a very memorable weekend. Now, I am only waiting for time to fly and take me to AAA Youth Camp 2007.

A very very Happy Birthday

Arjun Aggarwal

January 21

Krish Singal

March 14

Mehul Mittal

January 11

Priyanka Jain

January 1

Shivam Aggarwal

January 3

Shubhi Dhanuka

March 8

Supriya Aggarwal

February 22

Vansh Gupta

January 3

Vansh Gupta

February 2

Yash Agarwal

January 30

Sama Wellness: A Niche Business Model

At an Ayurvedic Lecture by Dr. Prachi Garodia, Shivani Gupta was inspired to follow a true ayurvedic lifestyle. But when she went to buy all the items needed to do that - a silver tongue cleaner, natural toothpaste, authentic massage oil, silver lota, organic spices, she found that these items were not easy to find. That's when she decided to start Sama Wellness, a niche company focused on products related to living the organic, ayurvedic, and green lifestyle.

Once Shivani and Anita, her mother, decided to start Sama, they started researching websites, web development and making a site that was professional and user-friendly. Once the website was made, they started researching organic products and selecting products for the site. Then they officially launched the website in April of 2006. Since then, they have been working with manufacturers to develop various Sama products including a line of high end, luxurious organic cotton baby clothes. These baby clothes will start selling in healthy food stores and baby stores starting in the spring of 2007.

Unlike conventional cotton which is one of the most heavily sprayed industries in the world, organic fibers (such as organic cotton) are not sprayed with harmful pesticides, fungicides, herbicides and chemical fertilizers, which in turn helps save our water, air and environment as a whole. Organic methods of agriculture are inherently better for our bodies, our homes, and our planet and for future generations. By raising awareness, **Sama Wellness** hopes to serve as an example to other businesses, and ultimately, help people throughout the world with both the information and the tools they need to live a healthy and natural lifestyle. You can visit their website at www.SamaWellness.com