

From the President's Desk

Dear Agrawal Association of America - Houston Members,

As the President of your association, it is my honour to wish you a very happy Deepavali. As a long time Board of Director and beginning my first year as President of the Agrawal Association of America - Houston, I notice that AAA has never been more relevant and important for those of us living in this community. I've come to think of Agrawal members as part of a larger family that grows together with a strong sense of heritage.

As many of you know, Agrawals (Agrawal, Agarwal, Aggarwal, Aggarwal) (Hindi: अंग्रवाल or अगरवाल) are a large community in India. Traditionally, the Agarwals have been a trading community, though in modern times, the Agarwals follow other professions as well. The legends of the Agrawals trace their origin to the Kashtriya king Agrasena, whose descendants became Vaishya due to their occupation.

When I first came to Houston, there were very few people of Indian Origin living here. There were only twenty or thirty families in the whole of Houston. However, the foundation of the Indian community, and the Agrawal community, has strengthened tenfold in a very successful and influential way. The changes around us -- whether technological, social, or economical -- require that we help our fellow members navigate through new and increasingly complex landscapes. Our terrific AAA community of professionals and organizers is a network which I trust when taking on new challenges and opportunities. Members of our community always have a giving nature when helping out one another. In many instances, we are responsible to maintain the culture and traditions that date centuries back in India for future generations.

I am proud of the achievements we have accomplished over the years, particularly in providing more opportunities and meaningful engagement of our members. In the years ahead, we will continue these initiatives and efforts with the goal of strengthening our connections and opportunities. The Agrawal Association of America continues to provide scholarships to merit-based students of Agrawal heritage. The foundation also provides financial assistance through zero interest loans for AAA families that wish to pursue higher education, but do not have the means. The biggest strength of our community is helping one another.

Although we had hopes of hosting the annual Diwali Sammelan and AAA Picnic

events this year, we have postponed; due to COVID-19 safety protocols. We will closely monitor the situation and keep you informed about our plans for 2022. COVID-19 has affected us in many ways and changed our lives over the last year. We encourage our members to reach out to neighbors, friends, and family who may have experienced loss or challenges during the pandemic. We thank you for remaining strong during a time of physical, mental and emotional challenge. If you wish to support families financially, we have included a donation button on the www.agrawalamerica.com home page for further contributions.

I would like to thank the Board of Directors for their contributions and support to the organization. I would also like to thank the Executive Committee for their dedication and efforts.

We encourage new members to join and participate for the betterment of the community. Together, we can continue to uphold our strong heritage and traditions as Agrawals through community support for ourselves and our children.

Best Regards

Sushila Agrawal, President, Agrawal Association of America - Houston

From the Treasurer's Desk

Dear Members.

Hari Agrawal here, a founding and board member of Agrawal association of America (AAA) since 1994. I'm also serving as treasurer for last several years. On this occasion of Deepavali, on behalf of association and all its members, I would like to wish you a very happy Diwali. May the season herald better times than we have experienced so far.

Sole purpose of creating AAA was to get to know each other belonging to the same heritage and decent. To help the lineage to gain strength by association. To seek friendships and relationships among similar family values and religious beliefs.

All the various purposes mentioned above have been beautifully served by AAA.

I feel very proud of being a founding member of AAA and I request and encourage to all non members of the Maharaja Agrasen decent to seek this wonderful opportunity to become members of this great organization.

Hari Agrawal

Treasurer, Agrawal Association of America

Past Events

Did you know that our association gives Scholarships to senior high school students, who are members of the association every year? Here are the

recipients of our last scholarships:



Anjali Aggarwal



Muskaan Bansal



Pranavi Gupta



Saloni Modi

We wish them well in their career.

Upcoming Events

Association always has a complimentary Diwali Bash and a Holi Bash every year, paid for by the generosity of our sponsors as well as member fees. Besides, every year, we have:

- Teej Ladies program.
- Youth camps

There are also various other activities that you can be part of:

- Regular Lunch meetup for families
- Regular Senior members Get-Together
- Matrimonial Group

Unfortunately, COVID has disrupted our plans. Please stay tuned for updates, as COVID situation improves. Do send an email to info@agrawalamaerica.com, or check our website http://agrawalamerica.com/for more information.

Sponsor Section

We would like to invite our association members to advertise in this section. The advertisement will be simply a small picture (about the size of our logo on top of the newsletter) and will provide a link to a web page for member. Any requests should be emailed to Editorial committee at newsletter@agrawalamerica.com

Showcase - Agrawal Samaj of Dallas Fort Worth

Are you planning to relocate? There may be an Agrawal Association in that city, who can provide you support while welcoming into a warm and friendly community. In this section, we would like to give some info on Agrawal Samaj of Dallas Fort Worth.

Similar to our association, this association has activities and you can find details on their <u>website</u>.

A few pictures from their recent outdoor gathering are attached.















Would you like to help?

Our association is run by volunteers and members. We would like to invite our association members to volunteer for the association activities. High school children can also earn volunteer hours for these activities.

If you would like to help, please send an email to newsletter@agrawalamerica.com

This newsletter is an attempt by some of our members to connect with the community. Current editorial committee consists of:

Dr Ritwick Agrawal

Mrs Varsha Goel

Mr Deepak Agarwal

You can reach any of them for suggestions/ideas by emailing newsletter@agrawalamerica.com







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