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Welcome to a new 2022

Dear Agrawal Association of America - Houston Members,

Wishing you a very very happy new year 2022.

As we recover from the pandemic and its variants that have kept us all away from each other, we are hoping that the new year brings cheer and joy to all our lives.

In order to build a stronger sense of community, on behalf of the association, we would like to give you a brief overview of the association. Some of us are new members of the association, and some have been members for years. Let us use this new year's first letter to know a bit more about our association, and some of its members. I hope you realise that the association is a little more than a Diwali get-together and a picnic.

Please also send us feedback and suggestions for the newsletter.

Thanks
The News Letter Editorial Committee
newsletter@agrawalamerica.com

A little bit on our association

Our Agrawal Association was established in 1997 and we are 25 years old this year!!!

Did you know that our association is a non-profit organization, and runs entirely by efforts of volunteers. The membership fees go part of the way to meeting the organization event costs. We rely heavily on donations from our sponsors. All paperwork, and events are planned, executed and taken care of by volunteer members from the community. Every event we organize, is solely the outcome of their imaginations and efforts.

The organization is overall led by the Board. They are generally the original founders of the association, and sponsor a lot of expenses of the association. However, arranging of events and various activities is taken care of by the Executive and various sub committees. Since members of the committees are volunteers, and as life moves on, we always need and appreciate more volunteers in the various committees. If you would like to volunteer for any committee, please send us an email (info@agrawalamerica.com) and we will get you involved.

Some of the more active committees and their activities are:

Youth Committee- takes care of all youth related activities like youth camps, youth night out, games during picnic and Diwali function.

IT Committee - Responsible for maintaining the member list, website and general communication.

Newsletter Committee - Responsible for setting up and sending this newsletter.

Decoration Committee - Responsible for decorating at various events

Cultural Committee – Responsible for cultural programs during different events

We also create committees for various events:

- Scholarship Committee
- Matrimonial Committee

Did you know that we also have our very own Romeo Club for senior citizens!! It is led by Shri Kishan Goyal ji. Please feel free to reach out for more information.

General Announcements

We have a brand new upgraded website: <http://agrawalamerica.com/>

Thanks a lot to Ruchi, Lalit Agrawal as well as IT team members.

Please check out the website, and let us know if you find improvement opportunities or broken links, send an email: it@agrawalamerica.com Team is still updating the content.

Did you know that our association also has a facebook group. Please join the group, and stay in touch with group members. Search for "[Agrawal Association of America](#)" facebook group and request to be member.

We also have two Whatsapp groups, where members regularly exchange tips and seek help. If you would like to join those groups, please send us an email: it@agrawalamerica.com

And lastly, you know someone who is not getting this newsletter:

- This newsletter is sent only to registered members of association, as registered on "agrawalamerica.com". So make sure you register for it.
- Check your spam. if it is going to spam, then you should add newsletter@agrawalamerica.com to your address book.
- Still dont see it, send us an email on newsletter@agrawalamerica.com and we will help.
- Do not want to see this newsletter? You can always unsubscribe by using the link at the bottom of the letter. However, we would appreciate, if you could tell us why.

Upcoming Events

Agrawal Picnic Bash at George Bush Park - Pavilion 3 on April 23rd. Please mark your calendars.

Event should start from 10 AM and will continue until 3 PM. Watch out for the upcoming flyer.

Shhh... Sometimes members stay back and play Holi!! You have been warned!!

Other event with dates pending announcement:

- Teej Ladies program
- Youth camps
- Diwali sammellan

Please note: All events are subject to Covid situation

Here are a few pictures from previous year's Agrawal Picnic. We hope that this year's picnic is even more grand!! Can you spot someone you know? If you would like to volunteer and make it better, please reply back.







Sponsor Section

It is believed that Goddess Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth had blessed Maharaja Agrasen that she will always be with his descendants.

In true tradition, did you know we have a lot of local Agrawal Ladies who run their own business. We encourage all members to engage them and support them grow their business.



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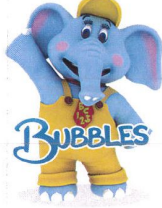


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Fun Corner

Did you know that Agrawal's have 18 Gotras (or is it Seventeen and a half?!!) Find all 18 hidden in this word puzzle below.

No cheating please!!

Search Agrawal GOTRA

C W O K C M A D H U K U L D L S F
Q Z J E K N G U G L J A J U N T E
L M K Q M U P P D I A L E W S L U
Y H L G R V C P R F A H A M W F O
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Y Y Y G A D N G F Q H B W C H E N
D I L L X S F O U Q M L L D L L G
M T A W A C C Y Y B A A T A T G T
U L G L W E I A H D D H G V K N A
S A N P A I H N N N H N N W A I R
V Y A V Y Q C I I Y A I J E V T E
A A M S F H B J W N Z R V Y J O N
T T S Q E B O F G M T V X W U Y U

Send us an email with your replies. First 10 people who get at least 15 correct, and all those members who get it all correct, will have their names published in the next newsletter.

Just reply back to this email with a picture of your solution.

Fun Fact:

All Agrawals have descended from Maharaja Agrasen, ruler of Agroha. He divided his kingdom in 18 sons, creating 18 lineages (Gotra). Agrasena proceeded to conduct 18 mahayajnas ("Great yajnas"). During one such yajna, Agrasena noticed that a horse that had been brought to be sacrificed, was trying hard to get away from the sacrificial altar. Seeing this Maharaj Agrasena was filled with compassion for the animal. The idea of ahimsa (non-violence) grabbed his mind. Therefore, he put a brake to his eighteenth yajna, announcing that no sacrifices will be made in his kingdom in name of yajnas. Thus, the eighteenth yajna wasn't completed and Agrasena had performed seventeen and a half yajnas. Hence it is also said that Agrawals have Seventeen and a half Gotras!!

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:

Mrs Varsha Goel

Dr Ritwick Agarwal

Mr Deepak Agarwal

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

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