



Sikh Gurdwara San Jose Newsletter

Message From S. Hardev Singh Takhar

President, Sikh Gurdwara San Jose Parbandhak Committee

**Guru Piari Sandh Sangat Ji,
Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa, Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh**

With Waheguru's grace and a strong support of the Sangat, I am excited to share with you achievements of various departments of the Gurdwara Sahib from recent past.

I am pleased to inform you that thanks to efforts of our Parbandhak committee and Sangat, section of Murrilo Avenue between Quimby road and Aborn road has now been renamed as Gurdwara Avenue by the City of San Jose. This is a recognition of the important role that Sikh Gurdwara and the Sikh community is playing in this city and beyond.

Being the magnificent Gurdwara in the country and the continent, we are also the first Gurdwara in the area to turn green and go solar. The Gurdwara now owns the solar system installed here; that meets all the electricity needs of the Gurdwara Sahib. Stainless steel utensils have eliminated the use of styrofoam in the langar hall. Recently charging stations for electric cars have been installed in the parking lot, making us "Green" leader among all the religious places in the city.

Dharmic Programs of the Gurdwara Sahib now feature the Ragis and Parcharaks of highest caliber anywhere in the world. Our special programs like celebration of first Prakash Utsav of Sri Guru Granth Sahib, which features a Conference on Sri Guru Granth Sahib and Nagar Keertan are great success. Young and old alike love the energy and spirit at the Hola Mohalla celebrations. The attendance at Bandhi Chordh Diwas and New Year Eve celebrations is setting new records every year. The annual Gurmat camp is a great success. This year over 350 students participated in the Gurmat camp.

Guru Nanak Khalsa School, a program of the Gurdwara Sahib is considered the best Sunday school and a model to follow by others. This year a record 39 students graduated from the school having completed a rigorous curriculum of learning Punjabi, Gurbani, Sikh History, Philosophy and learning to do path from Sri Guru Granth Sahib. Our first graduate in keertan has learned doing keertan in 24 ragas prescribed in Sri Guru Granth Sahib. At recently concluded Sri Hemkunt Foundation International Sikh Youth Symposium, our students won more awards than any other Gurdwara or school in USA or Europe. For their overall academic development, SAT classes have been running successfully in the Guru Nanak Khalsa School.

The Sikh Scouts of America and Cub Scouts programs are unique programs for Youth development. This year a program for Girl Scouts have been added. We have also hired a Gatka teacher to teach the Sikh Martial art to our young. We have now well designed Volleyball and Basket ball courts and our newly formed kabaddi team is already winning matches.

Our community giving activities have reached new heights. Our volunteers served over 4000 meals in homeless shelters, donated over 2500 blankets, 1000 tarps and 1000 raincoats to the homeless.

We have significantly increased our activities to build bridges with the evergreen neighborhood and the wider community. We participated in the Rose, white and Blue Parade and distributed over 8000 water bottles, sponsored the lighting of the Evergreen square & participated in cultural activities to celebrate cultural diversity.

contd.

First Nagar Keertan Leaving Gurdwara Sahib led by Panj Pyare



Decorated Float for Sri Guru Granth Sahib

Letter from S. Hardev Singh Takhar...contd.

We organized street cleaning and collection of e-waste and garbage by providing large size dumpsters. We actively participated in the day at the park event in Cunningham lake. We have hosted and participated in several breakfasts for Interfaith leaders.

The financial health of the Gurdwara Sahib is sound. We hired a new company Patel & Associates to do the Gurdwara Audit. A summary of income and expenses for 2015, and 2016 is given on page 7. The complete audited report is available on the Gurdwara Sahib website sanjosegurdwara.org under the financials tab.

Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee is working on several projects that will be visible in coming months. A state of the art playground for children is almost complete and now open for use. Some work on fence, benches, lighting and side walk is remaining. To beautify the main langar hall, a set of paintings from Sikh history and tradition are planned. Library has started functioning in a pilot mode. Survey has been completed for the Guru Nanak Pangdandi and design is under discussion. We are planning after school tutoring and home work help for the students. A computer lab is also planned. The Gurdwara Building, also needs a coat of paint and minor repairs. Gurdwara Sahib needs funds and dedicated volunteers to complete all these projects. I appeal to the Sangat to donate generously with money and time so that we can complete these projects in a reasonable time.

I pray to Waheguru for Chardikalaa of our Sangat and the communities all over the globe. May peace prevail on the earth.

Hardev Singh Takhar



Going Green: Car Charging Station Inauguration



Sikh Awareness Float From GNKS in Nagar Keertan



Langar Sewadars Play Most Important Role

Guru Nanak Khalsa School Graduation: 39 Students Participated in Charni Lagna Ceremony



Dharmic Programs

The Dharmic programs at the Gurdwara Sahib run daily from 4:00 AM until at least 9:00 PM.

San Jose Gurdwara Dharmic committee is always working hard to make sure that the caliber of Keertaniye and Kathaavachaks coming into this Gurdwara is at a world class level. Renowned Hazoori raagis and Kathaakars are invited year round for the Sangat to listen and engage with. Pictures of some of these are provided on the right. In addition Bhai Parpal Singh, Bhai Satvinder Singh and Harvinder Singh Delhi also delighted the sangat with Keertan.

Dharmic Committee has made sure that Parkash Utsav and Joyoti Jot Samana of Ten Guru Sahiban are celebrated along with other important days in Sikh History. Amrit Sanchar is conducted 3-4 times in a year. Dharmic Committee started a very successful Santhia class for teaching correct pronunciation of Gurbani. The committee has also installed computer screens in front of Main Hall to display Hukamnama in Punjabi and English daily.

In its effort to encourage and engage our teens and youth; the Gurdwara has started a bilingual (English-Punjabi) Keertan program on Sunday afternoons. It is typically from 2:00-3:00 PM. Once a month Gurbani Vichaar program which features interactive discussion on different aspects of Gurbani is organized in collaboration with Chardikalaa Foundation.

Many additional programs are being organized at the Gurdwara Sahib. Some of these are listed below,

1. Sarab Rog Ka Aukhad Naam - Rog Nivaran camps twice a year since 2014. Hundreds of devotees have been cured by these camps. The group meets every Saturday. Contd..

In Pictures

1. Giani Jaswinder Singh ex-Head Granthi Sri Darbar Sahib Amritsar carrying Sri Guru Granth Sahib to the decorated float for Nagar Keertan
2. Bhai Sahib Bhai Harjinder Singh Ji
3. Bhai Sahib Bhai Pinderpal Singh Ji
4. Sant Ranjit Singh Dhadrianwale
5. Bhai Tajwinder Singh, Hazoori Ragi Sri Darbar Sahib Amritsar
6. Giani Gurbax Singh Gulshan
7. Sant Anoop Singh Una Sahib Wale
8. Bhai Tejinder Singh Khanney Wale
9. Bhai Harcharan Singh, Hazoori Ragi Sri Darbar Sahib Amritsar



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Dharmic Programs Contd..

2. Blissful Living (Anandmai Jeevan) camps - The focus of these camps has been to bring peace and happiness in our family lives through improved relationships - may it be with spouses, children, in-laws and others - with application Guru's messages. Over 100 participants assemble at Amrit Vela (4:00 AM) everyday of the week long camp.

3. Sehaj Paaths - In our effort to make reading SGGS as a part of a Sikh's everyday routine we provided Sanchis to those who expressed interest in doing Sehaj Paaths. A joint Sehaj Paath Arambh ceremony (in Oct' 2016) and then Bhog ceremony (in Apr' 2017) was held at Gurdwara for a group of over 25.

4. Also organized a 3 day Simran program in collaboration with MySimran group. This samagam was attended by over 400 Sangat members from all over North America.

5. Every Friday night there is a 2 hour Simran program that is attended by many in Sangat.

Nagar Keertan. We organized our first ever Nagar Keertan last year. Over 10,000 Sangat members participated with great enthusiasm. Beautiful floats were prepared for Sri Guru Granth Sahib, Guru Nanak Khalsa School Keertan Groups, Gatka Groups and the Sangat. A group of young Sikhs on Motor Bikes from central valley added additional charm.

Hola Mohalla is very popular program with the Sangat, particularly the young. This program brings spirit of Chardikalaa through Gatka, Sports activities, Dhadi Varan, Pony rides and a variety of tasty foods.

Parbhat Pheries are now organized on important Gurupurabs. The response from the Sangat is enthusiastic even in cold weather and the early hours of the day

All these programs are possible with support of the Sangat and our hard working employees. We are thankful to all the volunteers who help us carry out these programs.

In Pictures

1. Sikh Scouts of America at the Nagar Keertan
2. Central Valley Sikh Bike riders at the Nagar Keertan
3. Parbhat Pheri in procession around Gurdwara Sahib
4. Gatka Groups procession at Hola Mohalla
5. Hurdles race for children at Hola Mohalla
6. Pony Rides at Hola Mohalla



Guru Nanak Khalsa School, San Jose

Guru Nanak Khalsa School is program of Sikh Gurdwara San Jose. Its mission is to promote excellence in the community through the Sikh values and teachings; emphasizing spirituality, truthfulness, hard work, charity and wisdom as keys to a fulfilling life.

The school completed 28th year of operation in June 2017 and has just begun its 29th academic year. Excellence is what it does promote. Thanks to the hard work of its volunteers, it is considered to be the best Sunday school among all Sikh Sunday schools in North America. Over 50 Sunday schools are following the curriculum developed at this school. There were over 700 students enrolled in the school in 2016-17.

The year marked many new achievements in its programs. In 2016-17 a record 39 students graduated by learning Gurumukhi language, Gurbani and Sikh History. They learned doing “ਪਾਠ” from Sri Guru Granth Sahib. The school also produced its first graduate in Keertan classes. Mansagar Kaur Learned to do Keertan in 24 Raags prescribed in Sri Guru Granth Sahib.

In recently concluded Sri Hemkunt Foundation International Youth Symposium in Sacramento, our students captured first position in 3 of the 5 age groups. In remaining two age groups we got the second and the third positions. In the keertan competition, at the northwest regional level, our school team in group I was placed first and group II team was placed second. At the International keertan darbar Josh Singh and Sukhamrit Singh from our school helped win the North west region teams in groups II and III win second positions. In Gurbani competition among the Bay area Gurdwaras, our students excelled by winning three 2nd positions and 2 third positions.

Our Sikh Scouts of America and Cub Scouts programs are unique among Gurdwaras in the USA. This year we have also added Girl Scouts program.

In our Keertan program we are adding a Sikh Orchestra called Sikh Heritage Symphony based on use of Sikh Heritage Musical instruments and Raags used in Sri guru Granth Sahib.

Our SAT preparation classes are running successfully. This year we are awarding scholarships to two students, who not only did well in their own SAT exams, but also helped coach other students. We like to add coaching classes in English and math at lower grade levels also.



In Pictures: 1. GNKS Students and parents at the Charni lagna ceremony. 2. Dr. Jasbir S. Kang gave the commencement speech at the Graduation day for GNKS. 3. Our first keertan graduate Mansagar Kaur. **Our Sri Hemkunt Foundation International Youth Symposium Winners:** 4. Harnoor Kaur, first position in group I; 5. Tavleen Kaur, second position in group II; 6. Geeta Kaur, First position in group III; 7. Tanvir Kaur, Third position in Group IV; 8. Sukhvir Singh, first position in group V



Above: Guru Nanak Khalsa School Jathaa that won the first position in the North West Region Sri Hemkunt Foundation Keertan Darbar performing at the International in Sacramento. From left to right : Tejot Kaur, Divleen Kaur, Guneet kaur, Tejus Singh and Qurban Singh. Jathaa was trained by Bhai Nirmal Singh

Langar Sewa

San Jose Gurdwara's kitchen is a state of the art facility. The Langar hall is used to serve hot meals 365 days of the year and round the clock.

The kitchen has been equipped with the best in class parshade/Roti making machine. This machine can make 4000 parshade per hour and is fit to serve a sangat of large numbers on Sundays and special celebrations.

The Langar team was able to overcome the challenge of waste. The trained staff and the Chefs of the kitchen work proactively with the committee to make these meals healthier, fresh and full of nutrition.

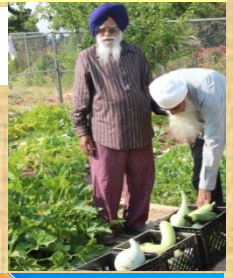
We also take pride in growing and preparing some of our seasonal vegetables fresh from our own vegetable garden at the Gurdwara Sahib.

On special celebrations popular food items like jalebis, bread pakoras, chole bhature, fresh cane juice, roasted corn are prepared fresh on site with help of sangat and add to the charm of celebrations.



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Our Marathon Runner



Left: Manjit Singh, 59 years, a member of Sikh Gurdwara San Jose, participated in marathons in Boston and Norway. Retired from VTA, Hobbies also include biking and hiking. Lives in San Jose with wife and 2 children

In Pictures (Above): 1. The Roti Machine. It can make upto 4000 chapatis/ hour 2. Our fresh vegetable garden 3. Mouth watering Jalebis 4 Fresh Bread pakoras being made 5. S. Dharam Singh does sewa with Tan, Man & Dhan. 5. Sn. Pritpal Kaur is regular sewadar for making Chapattis besides other sewa activities

**Financial Statement For
2015 and 2016**

Financial audit for the year 2016 has been completed by Patel & Associates LLP; CPA and is available on the Gurdwara Sahib website

<http://SanjoseGurdwara.org>

under the financials tab.

Statement of activities is given on the right. The difference in program services expenses between 2015 and 2016 is due to differences in categorization of expenses by the auditors for the two years.

Also see notes 7 & 9 below.

**SIKH GURDWARA - SAN JOSE
STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES
YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016 AND 2015**

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Unrestricted support and revenues:		
Contributions	\$ 2,030,950	\$ 2,060,581
Investment income, net	(143,322)	112,148
Special events revenue	194,194	42,452
Special events direct benefit costs	(140,064)	(57,757)
Rent income	<u>37,589</u>	<u>25,487</u>
Total unrestricted support and revenues	<u>1,979,347</u>	<u>2,182,911</u>
Expenses:		
Program Services:		
Path, kirtan, and katha	458,698	932,985
Khalsa school	98,584	421,906
Community kitchen (Langar)	<u>47,850</u>	<u>397,940</u>
Total program services	<u>605,132</u>	<u>1,752,831</u>
General and administrative	<u>1,669,427</u>	<u>820,285</u>
Total expenses	<u>2,274,559</u>	<u>2,573,116</u>
Changes in net assets	(295,212)	(390,205)
Unrestricted net assets, beginning of the year	<u>21,511,363</u>	<u>21,901,568</u>
Unrestricted net assets, end of the year	<u>\$ 21,216,151</u>	<u>\$ 21,511,363</u>

NOTE 7: PROMISSORY NOTE Sikh Gurdwara - San Jose vs Greenleaf-TNX Sikh Solar, LLC was resolved by agreeing to sell its 100% partnership interest with Solar Facility to Sikh Gurdwara-San Jose or assignee's for cash payment of \$1,050,000. Gurdwara decided to assign (for good legal reason) the purchase of Greenleaf-TNX Sikh Solar LLC. to Pritam Singh Grewal, Hardev S. Takhar and Bhupindar S. Dhillon and kept the original Power Purchase Agreement with Greenleaf in place. In addition, Gurdwara agreed to loan \$800,000 at 4% interest per year to Greenleaf TNX LLC with a due date of January 19, 2018. With \$250,000 additional capital from Pritam Singh Grewal, Hardev S. Takhar and Bhupindar S. Dhillon, settlement terms were met. Greenleaf-TNX Sikh Solar LLC name was subsequently changed to GDT Sikh Solar LLC with California Secretary of State per the settlement agreement.

Notes 7 and 9 pertain to purchase of the installed Solar System by the Gurdwara Sahib

NOTE 9: SUBSEQUENT EVENTS
GDT Sikh Solar LLC sold the Solar Facility (the Property) to Sikh Gurdwara-San Jose for purchase price of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) on July 05, 2017. Two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) was paid in cash to GDT Sikh Solar LLC, and eight hundred thousand dollars (\$800,000) outstanding principal balance of Promissory Note in favor of Sikh Gurdwara-San Jose (California) by Greenleaf-TNX Sikh Solar, LLC, currently known as GDT Sikh Solar LLC, was cancelled (paid in full).

Right: Gurdwara Committee follows a strict procedure for counting the Charawa and depositing into the bank. Every evening committee members count the charawa in the open. Sangat members are welcome to join in the sewa. After counting the amount is recorded in the Gurdwara receipt book and money put into the gurdwara Safe. Normally every Monday the finance committee members take all the cash and checks and deposit them in the Gurdwara account. Here parbandhak committee members (right to left) Dr. Balbir Bains, S. Hardev Singh Takhar, S. Sohan Singh Dhanota and S. Kirpal S. Atwal, are counting charawa with help of Sangat members including Rashpal S. Dosanjh, Adithia Singh, Barinder Singh and some others.

Sangat members can donate through cash, check, credit card, paypal or by regular direct deposit from their bank account. They can also donate by donating the stocks. Members are also encouraged to donate through their company's matching donation program.





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Sikh Gurdwara-San Jose

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The Sikh Gurdwara San Jose Parbandhak Committee Members (left) wish to thank all the Volunteers and Sangat members for their strong support. The projects described in this newsletter will not be possible without their support. Please volunteer, as we have much more to accomplish to take our community forward.

Recent Gurdwara News in Pictures



Murillo Avenue is now Gurdwara Avenue. San Jose Mayor Sam Licardo addressing the gathering at the Murillo Avenue name change ceremony



Left: A state of the Art Playground was inaugurated on August 27, 2017.
Right: Children enjoying musical instruments in the playground. This is a unique feature.