



Amroha International Society

This quarterly newsletter provides information about the latest activities of the Amroha International Society and shares the stories and news of its members.

A Quarterly Newsletter

Issue No. 11 - October 2009

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A new bi-annual newsletter to keep donors up to date

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Third AIS Cataract Camp

AIS funded its third Cataract Camp on 13 July 2009. Like the previous two camps held on 30 April 2008 and 4 January 2009, this one proved to be extremely needed and appreciated by sight-impaired people living in Amroha who otherwise would be unable to afford medical help.

This camp was attended by 110 people. Fourteen were taken to the Venu Eye Institute in New Delhi for the operation and returned to Amroha afterwards. The remaining patients were treated on the spot.

Here are some images of the camp



Patients registering for treatment



Venu Eye Institute doctor examining a patient



Patients having been operated on



A follow up visit to Amroha by the Venu Eye Institute doctors took place on 2 August, providing care to two patients.

EDITOR'S NOTE

I am writing this Newsletter in London where I am visiting my son and elder daughter, the latter of whom recently had a baby girl. Following the success of my power point presentations explaining the mission and projects of the AIS in Houston and Toronto, I am hoping to do the same presentation in London during my stay.

Both AIS major projects - the Cataract Camps and the AIS Scholarships - are now fully underway. The Camp on 13th July was again a great success and we are in the process of providing scholarships to worthy students for this academic year.

Many Amrohivis continue to excel in their fields. Notably, on 15th August, Independence Day, the President of India awarded Certificates of Honour to scholars in Sanskrit, Arabic and Persian. We are proud to have Prof S. M. Tariq Hasan from Amroha among these scholars (Persian). Congratulations to him.

The younger generation also continues to shine academically. Congratulations to Ada and Sheeraz Naqvi of London for doing well in their latest school and college results.

Many Amrohivis have been active in a variety of charity work. In particular, the charity work by Anjum Abbasi-Voight and Ather Siddiqui is commendable. See further in the newsletter for their story.

I invite you to participate in the "Discussion" on the AIS website. There are many interesting topics to participate in or you can add a new one. You are also welcome to put your family photos on the "Member's Gallery".

Ikram Naqvi



AIS Donor News

AIS will be commencing a biannual Newsletter called *AIS Donor News* for the AIS donors with more up to date information of our *charity* work.

AIS Scholarship Program

We are in the process of paying scholarships for our chosen students in the Aligarh Muslim University and Jamia Millia Islamia for this academic year.

Promotion of our scholarships is taking place for new applicants at present.

Member's gallery

Members are invited to put their family photos on the Member's Gallery of the AIS website.

You can also put your photo on your personal record.

AIS Website

The number of monthly hits on the AIS website continues to be over 6000. In September 2009, there were 6856 hits. Most hits were in Australia, India, UK, Canada and the US. Thanks for visiting. We are in the process of making some exciting changes in the website to make it easier to navigate and more enjoyable.

Membership

Our membership has now grown to 381 people representing 17 countries. It is also good to see an increase in the online registration.

See the bar chart on page 6 for geographical representation.

Discussion

You are invited to participate in the Discussion on the AIS website. There are many interesting topics already. You can add new topics also.

Amroha Directory 2009 launched in Karachi, Pakistan

The immigrants from the lovely-land of Amroha, who settled in Pakistan, found that they needed direct contact with the *biradry*.

Biradry persons, all over Pakistan, particularly in Karachi, made a remarkable effort to get in touch with the dispersed *biradry*, the result of which was the foundation of "Markaz Sadat-e-Amroha".

The foundation sought to establish contact and facilitate communication among the members of *biradry*. It did this by creating a computerized Directory, which would contain all the necessary records of the families and households. On 25 December 1999, the Directory 2000 was published and a large number of copies were circulated among *biradry* living in Pakistan and abroad.

The second edition of this directory, Directory 2005, was published on 15 February 2004. The latest edition was launched on 26 June 2009. This new edition contains the details of about 3000 families and runs to 1300 pages.

If you would like a copy of this Directory, please contact either Manzoor Hasnain Arzoo at arzoonaqvi@yahoo.com or S.Akhter Raza at asyed@iba.edu.pk



Syed Arif Hasan Rizvi



Syed Jamil Hasan Rizvi



Rizwana Bano Naqvi Rizvi

AIS helps connect a Canadian Amrohvi to his roots

Syed Arif Hasan Rizvi got more than he expected when he decided to email AIS

Syed Arif Hasan Rizvi a resident of Ottawa, Canada found the AIS website and contacted Ikram Naqvi, the Coordinator, with the following email:

4 October 2009

Asalaam Alaikum! I saw your email address on an Amroha web site.

I hope you can help me. My name is Syed Arif Hussain Rizvi. I was born/raised in Canada. My mom was from Amroha (born in 1936) and my dad from Moradabad (born in 1932). They have both passed away recently. I am flying to India in early November. I hope to see where they were born, went to school, etc. I have pictures of my mom's Imambarah in Amroha. I thought you might have some tips on how I can I track it down? Any help would be greatly appreciated. I have very little to go on, unfortunately. Many thanks!

On 5 October, Ikram Naqvi responded, asking if Arif could give a photo of the Imambarah and giving some friends details who could help the search

On 5 October, Arif responded:

AAwRwB, my brothers! It is so nice to hear from you, Al-Hamdu-lillah.

Although I was born in Montreal, Quebec, Canada in 1972, I now reside in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

I am attaching two pictures. One is a picture of my Umma-Jaan's Imambarah in Amroha and one is the reverse of the picture, which describes some names in Urdu. Unfortunately, I am not able to read it.

My Umma-Jaan's name was Rizwana Bano Naqvi (born in 1936). My Nani-Umma's name was Bano Naqvi. My Grandfather's name was Maharaja Naqvi (I'm not 100% of the spelling). My Papa-Jaan's name was Syed Jamil Hasan Rizvi, (born in 1932 in Moradabad).

They both arrived in Montreal, Quebec, Canada sometime in the 1960s. If you can help me decipher the names on the back of the picture, or if the Imambarah looks familiar, that would be wonderful!

Inshallah, I will arrive in Amroha on November 7th, 2009. I would very much love to see where my parents grew up. Any advice and/or help would be greatly appreciated!! Please keep in touch.

Sincerely,

Arif

On 5 October, Ikram Naqvi forwarded Arif's e-mail to Syed Hasan Hadi who is developing the Amroha Shugra in Canada (Family tree of Sadat-e-Amroha)

On 6 October, Hasan Hadi wrote to Arif:

My dear Arif,

Your email has been forwarded to me. My name is Hasan Hadi and Bashshan was in fact my cousin. I am in Canada since 1993 but fortunately I met her once when she came to Toronto in 2007 and visited our place. Your Grandfather's name was not Maharaja Naqvi but Mohajir Husain Naqvi and

the name of your Nani was Husain Bano but was known as Bibanno. The photograph you have sent was taken in front of a Tomb of our great grandfather Dad Ali. In this photograph, on the left of Bashshan is Retired Brigadier Muhammad Baqar who is my cousin and on his left I am sitting. This photograph was taken in 1939. Bashshan, Rizvan Bano, was about 3 years younger than me. You may visit the Family Tree of your Ammi, Nani Ammi and Grand father, Late Mohajir Husain at www.shahwilayat.tribalpages.com.

One of the step brothers of your late Mother, Bashshan was Late Syed Muhammad Taqi who was the Principal of Imamul Madaris Inter College of Amroha. His sons live in Mohalla Bagla and you may contact them directly when you arrive in Amroha. They are very nice people and I am sure they would be great help to you.

Apart from the sons of Syed Muhammad Taqi there are kids of Syed Muhammad Nabi the other son of your grandfather. Your grandfather had three wives. From the first wife he had Syed Muhammad Taqi. From the second one, he had Syed Muhammad Naqi who migrated to Pakistan in 1947 and the other one was Syed Muhammad Nabi whose kids live in Amroha and also a daughter Hamida Khatoon whose kids live in Mohalla Shafa-at Pota.

From the family tree of Sadat-e-Amroha you may pick up the names of all your cousins. I visited Amroha last year after about 50 years. I really enjoyed my visit and I would be visiting again next year. You may call me in Toronto on the phone and my mobile.

Give my love to your wife who happens to be the granddaughter of Khala Bibbi. Please also let me

Story continues on the next page

Continued from previous page

know the names of your kids and the name of your wife so that I may include those names in the proper place. You may send your photographs also to be uploaded in the proper place.

Yours sincerely

Hasan Hadi

On 8 October, Arif responded

My dear Uncle Hasan-Ji,

Asalaamu Alaikum, wa Rahmatullahi, wa Barakatoh!

It is by the grace of Allah swt, I have managed to establish contact with you. I must admit, when I first received your email, I nearly fell off my chair! As soon as I read "Bashshan", I knew this would be something special.

With the passing of our dear Umma-Jaan, whom my family and I adored to no end, I became acutely aware that I had not spent enough time learning about her past and our ancestral home, when she was still with us. Sometimes in life, we unfortunately wait too long to explore the things that matter most.

In any case, I had planned my trip to India for this fall and was really at a loss as to where to begin. After sending a few emails to Amroha community web-sites, I was immediately assisted by several

wonderful people, such as Uncle Ikram Husain Naqvi, to whom I am so indebted.

I am truly fascinated by the information you have provided. The Sadat-e-Amroha web-site is an incredible insight into our family history. I can only imagine the amount of work that went into this project. I spent hours and hours last night pouring over the family tree.

I saw the section with my parents and was hoping to clarify some minor details. My Umma-Jaan's name, to the best of my knowledge, was Rizwan Bano, although the site suggests Fatima as her middle name. According to our records, she was born in Amroha on April 18th, 1934 and passed away in Ottawa, Canada on January 28th, 2008. Regarding my Papa-Jaan, his full name was Syed Jamil Hasan Rizvi, although the site suggests Ahmed as his middle name. According to our records, he was born in Moradabad on June 16th, 1932 and passed away in Ottawa, Canada on March 13th, 2006. May Allah swt be pleased with them both.

I am providing two of my favourite pictures of them. I'm not sure what year they were taken in. Would you be so kind as to upload them to the web-site?

I am trying to put together pictures of my wife and other siblings, nieces, nephews, etc. In the meantime, since I noticed my name is now in the web-site, I am providing a picture of myself taken last summer, along with the following details: I was born in Montreal, Canada in 1972. I currently reside in Ottawa, Canada. My full name is Syed

Arif Hussain Rizvi. My wife is actually of French Canadian decent. She was born as Marie Laura Johanne Lavoie, but my parents pet-name for her was Jamila, named after my Dadi-Umma-Jaan.

Uncle Hasan-Ji, is there any possibility I could meet you in person before my trip in November? I am only a few hours drive away from Toronto. I have so much I'd like to talk to you about. I have many pictures I'd like to show you. Perhaps I could stop in for a short afternoon visit on a Saturday or Sunday this month? If this is not possible, then I will surely enjoy speaking with you on the phone.

Again, I praise Allah swt for the good fortune of finding you. Please do write back when you have time.

Sincerely,

Arif

NB - AIS thanks Arif and Hasan for kindly giving permission to publish their emails and photos for this story and wishes Arif all the best for his trip to Amroha.

See if you can find relatives on www.shahwilayat.tribalpages.com.

Qawwali in Houston

Another successful qawwali to celebrate Shawilyat day was held in Houston recently



News from AIS members

The latest news in the last quarter

Twin boys for Ali and Anita Naqvi

Congratulations are due to Ali and Anita Naqvi of Houston on the birth of their twin sons Shan Ahmad and Faizan Ali.

birth of their lovely daughter Mia Yasmin recently.



Independence Day Award

On 15th August, India's Independence Day, the President of India awarded Certificates of Honour to scholars in Sanskrit, Arabic and Persian. We are proud to have Prof S. M. Tariq Hasan from Amroha among these scholars

(Persian). Congratulations to him!

Canadian barbeque

The annual barbeque for members of the Sadate-Amroha Canada living in Toronto was held in Toronto recently. It was attended by over 150 people.

A website for the code generation

Hussain Naqvi of Houston has created a web based code Generation Tool (A website for code generation) for technical people to help them free of cost. The

user can go and generate different language codes just by 3 simple clicks.

The website name is www.code4green.com and the cause is also very simple : to add more trees on our blue planet. The website has already got around 200 users and generated approximately 5 million lines of code for them.

For further informaion please contact Hussain Naqvi on hussainnaqvi@gmail.com

Deaths

I am very sad to report recent death of my childhood friend Dr Syed Mehmood Naqvi, an outstanding geologist in Hyderabad, India. Mehmood received many awards including the prestigious Bhatnagar award. Condolences to his wife Rehana and family.

If you have news you wish to share with the AIS community, let us know so we can include it in our next newsletter.



Daughter for Zehra Naqvi-Ciscon and Scott Ciscon

Congratulations to Zehra and Scott Ciscon, of London, U.K., on the

Charitable activities by Amrohvis

Anjum Abbasi-Voight's charity (Rainbow) wins Covidien Grant

Covidien recently announced the award recipients of the second round Volunteer Incentive Program (VIP) grants. The Covidien VIP supports employees in their volunteer work in their local community by providing financial support to nonprofit organizations for specific projects in which our employees are personally involved.

Rainbows, an organization located in Illinois, provides programs and sessions to children ages 3-18 who are grieving a loss due to death, divorce or other life altering crisis. The age-appropriate curriculum includes the development and strengthening of problem-solving and coping skills through games, activities and writing in a journal.

With the assistance of the grant, the organization will have the ability to train volunteers and provide needed materials. Anjum Abbasi-Voight, Clinical Research Project Manager for the Boulder, Colorado site has been volunteering as a

Rainbows Group Facilitator for the past 12 years in different U.S. cities.

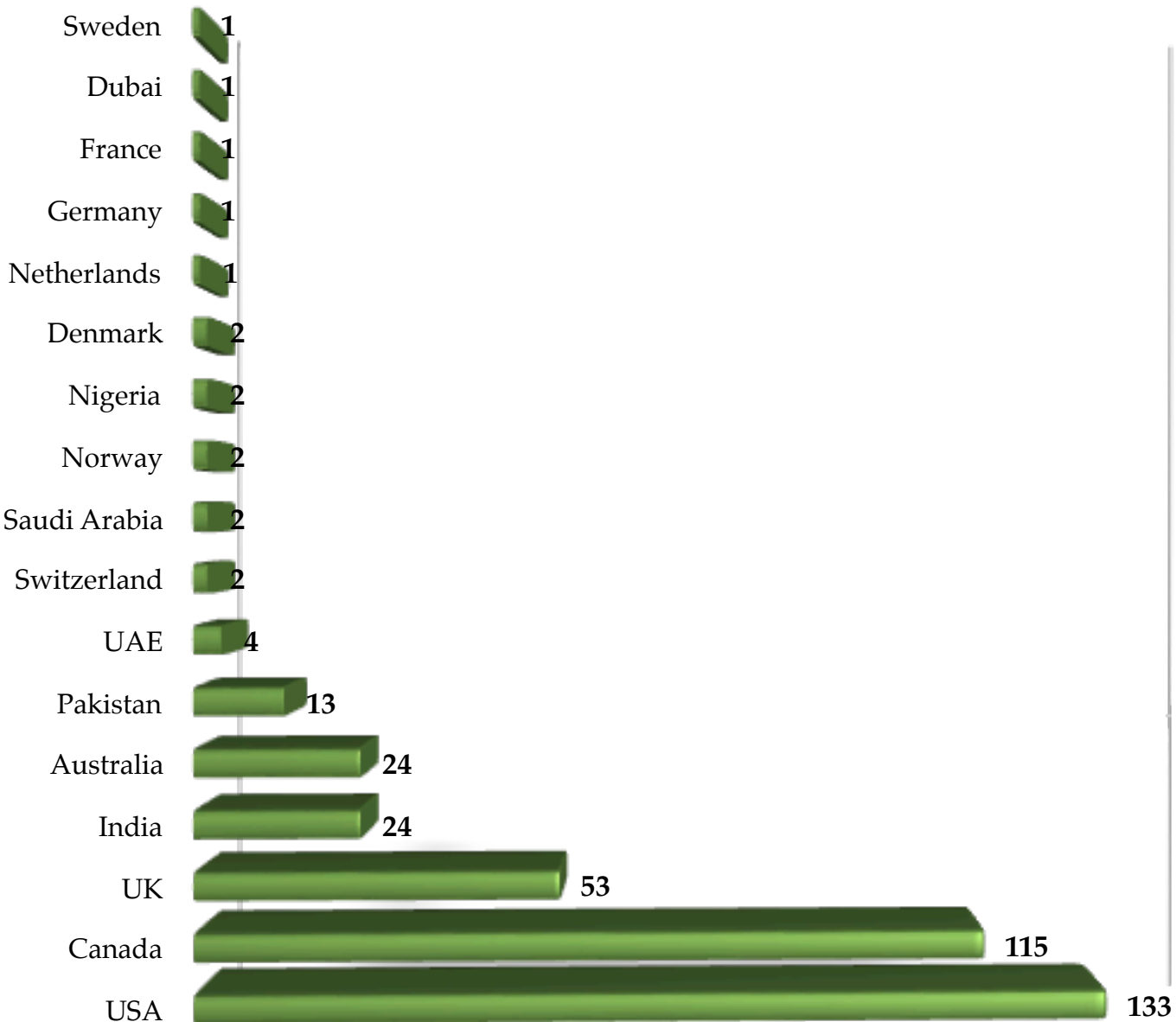
As a facilitator, Anjum works with a group of elementary school age children once a week and empowers them to understand their feelings, the life changes they are experiencing and to express themselves. Anjum says "With the younger children, I really try to focus on helping them realize new and different ways they can share emotions beyond just happy, sad or angry. This encourages them to talk to their trusted family members about how they are feeling through all the changes that are occurring within their family unit."

Athar Siddiqui climbs a mountain climb for charity

He writes, "I am going to do a mountain-climb for a charity that I support. This will be on the 8th August. I am not a mountaineer and I am not particularly fit - to climb the UK's highest mountain - and with no training, I am wondering what I am letting myself into (and I'm not a spring chicken either!)."

Where are AIS members?

This bar chart gives a view of where AIS members are currently living



Contact

You can [email](#) your suggestions and comments about the AIS to the Co-ordinator, Ikram Naqvi, using the [mail option on the AIS website](#).

Amroha International Society
www.amrohainternationalsociety.com/