



# *Amroha International Society*

*Amroha International Society was formed in 2003 to encourage communication amongst those with origins in Amroha and highlight vehicles through which charitable activities can be funded, carried out and monitored.*

[www.amrohainternationalsociety.com](http://www.amrohainternationalsociety.com)

## **NEWSLETTER (3) AUGUST 2007**

*This is the society's third newsletter in which we provide information to the Amroha community as we receive it. We encourage you to share your news.*

### **Note from the Editor**

Amroha International Society has made considerable progress in the past six months. Our new user friendly website is just about finished and we are pleased that so many members have already taken advantage of the many features the website offers. This has been particularly evident in the Discussion panel. To give you a taste, we have included some excerpts in this newsletter in the hope that more members will decide to share their ideas and thoughts on a range of issues of interest to members.

We are pleased to announce that we now have eighteen scholarship sponsors who have committed to help more poor Amroha students gain university degrees. This not only opens up the doors of opportunities to these individuals, but also helps to alleviate the poverty of their families and communities. The sponsorship form is on the website. AIS are currently in the process of receiving applications from students and have one student who will

receive AIS money to continue her studies. In co-operation with the Rotary Club of Amroha, AIS are organizing cataract operations clinics in Amroha in September, October and November this year.

Our membership continues to grow from 156 members in July to 209 at present. Fantastic growth by any measure. I had the pleasure of meeting many Amrohvis recently during my trip to the United States in San Diego, Dallas, Arlington, Philadelphia, Mount Laurel, Chicago and Houston in July. One of the highlights of the trip was the beautiful wedding of Askari and Zohra's daughters, Ailia in Houston on 27th of July which was attended by many Amrohvis from all over the USA, Canada and Pakistan. My travels have now taken me to London, UK, where I am staying with my family and where I hope to meet many other Amrohvis on this side of the Atlantic.

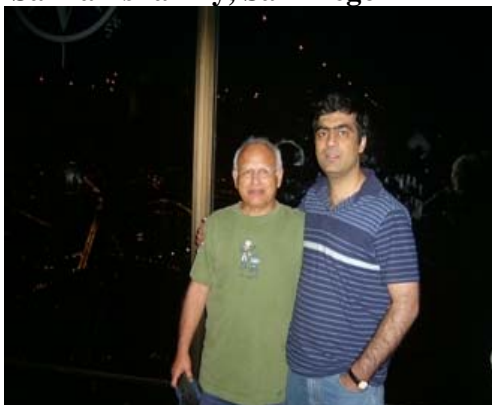
I have included some photographs of my journey so far.



**Salman's family, San Diego**



**Wasif's Family, Mount Laurel**



**Jimmy in Chicago**



**View from Sear's Tower**



**Ikram (L) with Mehmood and Anand (R), Houston July 2007**



**Ikram's Family in London  
From L to R Scott, Zehra, Amaan, Kamal, Aaliya and Sabiha July 2007**

### **AMROHA INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY (AIS) WEBSITE**

We are very excited about the new AIS website which now contains information on the reason for the society's inception, its educational and charitable activities, a membership directory, a facility to register and become a member, a discussion platform, a news section, information on role models and prominent people of Amroha, links to other sites of possible interest to the community and several

other topics. Membership of AIS allows one to take part in the discussion group, post comments, news, and post photographs. This can include photographs of your family, your visit to Amroha or other photographs which you may deem to be of interest to the global Amroha community.

**One of our goals is to make this an interactive site with participation from all members.**

Some members have been very active in discussing issues of interest, such as:

‘Do you face racism where you live? If so, how do you deal with it?’

‘What challenges have you faced in bringing up the next generation?’

‘Being the ‘next’ generation.’

‘Tell us your story.’ ‘Life in Amroha.’ ‘Amroha food.’ ‘Urdu poetry.’ ‘Values.’

‘Memories of Amroha.’ ‘Joke.’

Here are some excerpts of the discussion section of the website:

**Topic: Do you face racism where you live? If so how do you deal with it?**

*Anand Raj, (at 11:02PM Thursday 28th of June 2007, GMT):* “I do not believe that racism exists ... it's all in our minds. We find reasons to justify the failures and racism comes in very handy for every situation....”

**Topic: Being the ‘next’ generation.**

*Kamal Naqvi, (at 10:17AM Monday 11th of June 2007, GMT):* “The ‘next’ generation tag is a heavy one ... For me, the great advantage of being the ‘next’ generation in the ‘west’ is choice. The ability of each individual to choose, relatively unencumbered, from a long menu of cultural thoughts, activities and expectations. Of course, this means that there will occasionally be confusion, conflict and challenges. However, this is a good thing as your choices are tested. After all, life is meant to be a journey and in the end you have the potential to achieve a diverse, active, and unique lifestyle that is a mix of what YOU consider to be the best cultural attributes that you have experienced...”

*Yasmin Naqvi, (at 12:20PM Tuesday 12th of June 2007, GMT):* “...Because we are sometimes faced with competing interests, our choices become active statements about our identity.”

*Safia Khan, (at 11:30PM Saturday 30th of June 2007, GMT):* “...I as a next generation 'hybrid' feel very comfortable with my persona. I am thankful to my parents who with their hopes of a more comfortable life and spirit of adventure left home, relatives and friends to make a home in a culturally and religiously different land ...I feel I got the best of both worlds and as a result am very comfortable in both the western environment and the 'home' environment. ... However this does not apply to the 'next to next generation' which I am raising. ... There is a slow dilution of culture, language and values as each generation comes into being. After all Dada Shahvilayat spoke Persian and Arabic and his children spoke Urdu.”

Safia Khan, (at 6:57PM Monday 23rd of July 2007, GMT)

This may be of interest to our community. Feelings of the 'next generation'  
By Sahifa Akhter

“So, they packed us up and brought us here. Said their farewells and came to the land of opportunities to have what else, better opportunities of course. They came here without knowing the language, knowing the culture or knowing the customs. For them all this land represented was a way out.”

“For a long while my friends were all Asians. I watched many Indian movies and speak fluent Urdu. I have gone to Pakistan innumerable times and love it. I love the culture, and the customs. But I appreciate them as an outsider looking in. You see although I speak Urdu, I dream in English.”

**Topic: Urdu poetry**

Syeda Masood, (at 12:47AM Wednesday 13th of June 2007, GMT): “Ghalib is a genius. The ideas he represents in his poetry are very deep but unfortunately translations cannot do justice to Ghalib. My favorites are:

*Yun to tujh bin nahin koi mojoood*

*phir ye hangama aye khuda kia hai and*

*dil hee to hai na sang o khisht dard sey bhar na aye kyoon*

*royein gey ham hazar baar koi hamain satae kyoon*

Another nice one:

*tere vaadey par jiye ham to ye jan jhoot jana*

*key khushee sey mar na jate agar aitbar hota”*

**These comments in the discussion on the website are appreciated. AIS invite you to visit the website, read other comments and participate with additions to present topics or introduce new topics**

### **Suggestions for website**

AIS thanks Khalid Haque of San Diego for his suggestion that the website should have a facility to post relevant photographs of family and visits to Amroha. The photographs sent are very appropriate and have been included on the “Life in Amroha” page on the website.

### **Membership**

The society now consists of 209 members. If you know of any Amrohvis who may not yet be members and are interested to join please tell them to visit the website and register. We welcome new members and look forward to their active participation in the discussion group.



Please forward any suggestions for additions, modifications or comments on the website to [ikenaqvi@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ikenaqvi@yahoo.co.uk)

## **EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF AIS**

A major objective of AIS is to provide assistance to our underprivileged students in Amroha. AIS has twenty scholarships available for under privileged students who have completed high school or intermediate colleges and who wish to continue their education but are not able to, due to lack of funds.

The criteria for providing support are the following:

1. The monthly income of the family of the recipient should not be more than Rs 10,000.
2. The student's scores must be more than 60%.
3. The student will be able to provide evidence of enrolment in a three to four year program. We are very grateful to all Amroha community members who have donated so generously to the scholarship fund. The following people are new sponsors:

Syed Mehmood Hasan Naqvi – Houston

Raza Naqvi – Houston, Texas

Zulfiqar Naqvi – Houston, Texas

Dr S Johar Naqvi – West Hartford,

Wasif Naqvi – Mount Laurel, New Jersey

These sponsors join existing sponsors: Ikram and Jane Naqvi, Kamal and Sabiha Naqvi, Scott Ciscon and Zehra Naqvi-Ciscon, Yasmin Naqvi -Rache and Joel Rache, Qamar Abbasi, Anjum Abbasi-Voight and Noreen Abbasi, Firyal Khan, Askari and Zohra Naqvi, Catherine Gosden and Lainey Webster.

We thank them for their generosity and welcome other sponsors. The student sponsorship form and the Student Application form are available on the website.

### **Fundraising**

Several fundraising ideas have been discussed, these include the personal collection of a dollar a day and forwarding the collection to Ikram Naqvi as a donation to the scholarship fund on your birthday. Any new suggestions will be welcome.

Please visit [www.amrohainternationalsociety.com](http://www.amrohainternationalsociety.com) for a list of sponsors and further information.

## **AIS FIRST SCHOLARSHIP RECEIPIANT**

Our first scholarship winner is Samia Zakir daughter of Zakir Husain of Mohalla Danishmandan. He passed away some years ago.

Samia is in her third year at Chowdhry Charan Singh University in Meerut and is studying for a Bachelor of Computer Science (BCS) degree. Her performance so far has been excellent having obtained 73% marks in her second year.

**Congratulations Samia**

## **CHARITABLE AND HEALTH PROJECTS OF AIS**

Negotiations are underway with the Rotary Club of Amroha and Mr. M L Chatrath (President: Charath Charitable Medical & Educational Trust, Faridabad, India) to start providing a service in Amroha for cataract surgery. The service will be in place in the next few weeks.

## **NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD**

### **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

#### **Wedding in Houston**

About 800 people had the pleasure of attending Ailia and Farhan's wedding in the Hilton Hotel in Houston on the 27th of July 2007. Farhan is a doctor. His family is originally from Allahabad in India. Ailia is the daughter of Askari and Zohra Naqvi. The wedding was preceded by a Ratjaga on 22<sup>nd</sup> July and a Mehndi on 24<sup>th</sup> July. Askari's elder sister Shaheena and brother-in-law Jafer came from Pakistan. Many friends and relatives came from all over USA, Canada, and Australia.



Heartiest congratulations. to Askari, Zohra and family on this happy occasion.



Ailia and Ferhan's mehndi



Mehmood and family at the mehndi



Ikram, Mehmood and Askari at Ailia and Ferhan's shaadi July 2007

## Graduations

### Mount Laurel, New Jersey

Sara Naqvi daughter of Wasif (Chandan) and Kamni of Mount Laurel, New Jersey graduated from William Paterson University this summer. The family and friends celebrated with a musical evening. Following graduation she and some friends traveled in several European countries this summer. **Congratulations Sara!**

Sara writes "I am now working as an administrative assistant at a moving company. I am working there temporarily to get experience and hopefully in a few months I will be able to transfer into another company. I visited France (Paris), the Netherlands (Amsterdam), Germany (Berlin & Munich), Italy (Venice, Cinque Terrace, Florence, and Rome), Austria, Spain (Barcelona), Portugal (Porto, Lisbon, Cavioa) and went back to France again at the end of the trip.'



## Centennial, Colorado

**Congratulations** to Murteza Kamal and family for Murteza's graduation from high school. We wish him the best at college.

## Sadequain Foundation

### San Diego

The Foundation which has been formed by the family of Sadequain Naqvi is exhibiting his paintings in several cities this summer.

Exhibitions were held in San Francisco, July 15, 2007 and at the Pakistan Embassy, Washington DC; on August 14, 2007 (main event was to celebrate Pakistan Independence Day)



Salman and Riffi Naqvi with the Ambassador and wife in Washington DC.



Sadequain Foundation exhibition Washington DC

A third exhibition is scheduled for September 8, 2007 at Alient University, San Diego

### About The Sadequain Foundation

SADEQUAIN Foundation has been established to discover, preserve and promote Sadequain. The Foundation is actively researching to locate Sadequain's works so they could be documented and catalogued.

The Foundation is dedicated to support research on Sadequain leading to publications of papers and books. Currently the Foundation maintains a gallery in San Diego, California, USA. The Foundation has a collection of over 500 original works of Sadequain, which range in time from 1950s to a few days before his death in February 1987. The collection consists of the original manuscripts of his writings, letters, calligraphies, drawings, and a variety of paintings. SADEQUAIN Foundation will exhibit at appropriate venues, and market limited editions of select works. All revenues generated by the foundation will be invested in preserving and promoting his works.

Visit [www.sadequain.net](http://www.sadequain.net) for the website and further information Also visit [www.amrohainternationalsociety.com](http://www.amrohainternationalsociety.com) for Sadaquain's biography.

## Shahwilayat Day

### Houston

This was celebrated with a musical evening with speeches and qawwali at Farhath and Mehmood Naqvi's home. About 120 guests enjoyed the program.

### CANADA

1. Husain Rehan son of Sibte Yahya Naqvi Ambassador for Pakistan in Holland was solomnized on 9th June 2007.
2. Ali Naqvi son of Kazemain Sadiq Naqvi was married on 28th July 2007 in Karachi.
3. Valima of Nishat Fatima daughter of Ali Baqar Naqvi was held on 18th August 2007.

### UNITED KINGDOM

#### Visiting China

Faraz, elder son of Manzar Naqvi of Oxford, England is going to Yanta China to attend a three month course at the Martial Arts Academy. Faraz has recently graduated from high school with excellent grades in three Advanced Level General Certificate of Education subjects. These include Economics, History and English Literature. Faraz attended the Abingdon School in Abingdon, Oxfordshire. This is an independent day and boarding school for boys. It is at least the thirteenth oldest independent school in the United Kingdom. The school celebrated its 750th anniversary in 2006. Abingdon School is believed to have been founded prior to 1100 by the Benedictine Monks. The school currently has 812 pupils aged 11-18 of whom 126 are boarders. Abingdon is academically a strong school: the students regularly achieve good results and a significant number progress to the most prestigious universities, including a yearly average of more than 20 to Cambridge and Oxford. For further information on this school can be found at

[www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abingdon\\_School](http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abingdon_School)



The original school building on the current site, which houses the chapel, library, and School House, along with several dayboy houses and classrooms. The bell tower is still in use, and the fields in the foreground are used for playing rugby and cricket. Most of the school's buildings are to the right of the photographer.

**Congratulations to Faraz and his family and AIS looks forward to hearing more about his achievements.**



Brothers Kauser, Rehber, Manzar (Faraz's father) Qaiser and Ikram in London, August 2007

## Bollywood

Zehra Naqvi daughter of Jane and Ikram Naqvi (Australia) spent several days in Mumbai completing the filming of her latest film 'Goal'. A preview of the film is available at the following web address.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MsUXRhEYKhM>

## **BIRTHS**

Congratulations to Farhan and Noreen Naqvi (originally from Mohalla Bare Darbar) of London on the birth of their son Farzan on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2007.

*We look forward to your comments and participation in the activities of  
AMROHA INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY*