

Assemblyman Weprin holds Vigil to honor victims of Wisconsin Sikh Temple Shooting



The Candlelight Vigil

Assemblyman David Weprin (D-Fresh Meadows) held a candlelight vigil to commemorate all of the fallen victims who tragically lost their lives from the Wisconsin Sikh Temple shooting. The vigil was held on the one-year anniversary of the mass shooting incident. District Leader Dr. Taj Rajkumar (D Southern Queens), Public Advocate Candidate Reshma Saujani and the Sikh Cultural Society attended the vigil.

On August 5, 2012, Wade Michael Page killed six victims and wounded four people at a Sikh temple in Oak Creek, Wisconsin. Page committed suicide by shooting himself in the head after he was shot in the stomach

by a responding police officer. The six people killed included one woman: Paramjit Kaur, 41; and five men: Satwant Singh Kaleka, 65, the founder of the temple; Prakash Singh, 39, a priest; Sita Singh, 41; Ranjit Singh, 49; and Suveg Singh, 84. The incident was labeled as an act of domestic terrorism by the Joint Terrorism Task Force.

"Our hearts go out to all of the families and friends who have lost their loved ones from this tragedy. Mass violence and hate crimes against any group of people are intolerable and preventable. We are a nation that thrives because of our long standing commitment to diversity, religious tolerance and freedom" said Assemblyman Weprin.

SAADA launches First Days Project

Based in Philadelphia, the South Asian American Digital Archive (SAADA) is the only independent nonprofit organization in the nation working to document the rich histories of South Asians in the United States and ensuring that this community's stories are protected and preserved for future generations.

In 1959, 18-year old Tariq Abbas departed from Lahore and arrived in New York City, en route to

Dallas where he was admitted through the American Field Service foreign exchange program. Texas, he soon realized, wasn't exactly the America he imagined: "I only knew of New York ... I had no idea, no concept of what to expect or what I was going." In 1973, Mamata Misra left Mumbai for Maryland with her husband of six weeks, and came to her own conclusions about the country she had just adopted: "I realized that for days and months I would be meeting only strangers talking strange and it was up to me to make friends out of strangers and create familiarity out of the unfamiliar." These two snapshots form a part of the "First Days Project," a new initiative by the South Asian American Digital Archive (SAADA) to collect and share stories from South Asians about their first day in the U.S. An ambitious and interactive online exhibition, the First Days Project creates a platform for community members to upload and share the story of their first day in the U.S.

As Abbas and Misra's stories illustrate, the first day in a new country can be full of both excitement and anxiety, a sense of loss and gain, and a mixture of other emotions. It was with that in mind that SAADA Executive Director Samip Mallick began to imagine the First Days Project. "As the South Asian American community is starting to see its second and third generation in the U.S., it is

imperative to begin to document these stories and provide a way for generations to connect with each other," Mallick explains, "Through interviewing my parents about their first days I learned something new about their experiences, hopes and dreams when first arriving in this country."

With the First Days Project, SAADA continues its longstanding effort to showcase stories that reflect the diversity of the South Asian diaspora. According to the 2010 census, there are more than 3.4 million Americans of South Asian heritage, a growth in 81 percent between 2000 and 2010. In other words, 1 in every 100 Americans traces their heritage to South Asia, which includes India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Maldives. Yet there is also a critical danger in narratives of South Asian Americans being lost, particularly the ones left out of history books and not featured in the media. Stories like Tariq Abbas and Mamata Misra's underscore just how diverse and complex the lives of South Asians in the U.S. have been. The First Days Project reveals the intimate details of arrival that are often lost in the grand sweep of history.

"Often, members of our community don't feel as though they have a story to tell or that their story matters," Mallick mentions. "The First Days Project demonstrates how individual stories come together to tell a community's history. Each and every story adds to that tapestry."

First Day stories will be accepted through August 31, 2013 and can be submitted as video or audio (up to 3 minutes) or text (up to 300 words). It can be one's own story or an interview of a family member or a friend. No story is too big or too small. People can browse stories, learn more and submit stories at <http://www.saadigitalarchive.org/firstdays>

Star India, Superstar Amitabh Bachchan Creates Public Service Message for Flood-Hit Uttarakhand

India's leading media and entertainment conglomerate, Star India, has created a powerful public service message, featuring Indian cinema's biggest superstar Amitabh Bachchan, for sensitising and encouraging viewers to extend all possible support for the daunting task of rebuilding flood-ravaged hill-state Uttarakhand.

The narrative is a call to all countrymen from Amitabh Bachchan to stand united for Uttarakhand's cause. The Flash-floods this June had left the state in virtual paralysis, claiming scores of lives and rendering thousands homeless.

Bachchan, in his unique and compelling style, asked people to look at the adversity squarely in the eye and come together for humanity. His message ends with an emotional poem—"Karodon Aansoon Hain Toh Kya, Karodon Hum Bhi Toh Hain"—to instil hope in the people that all's not lost and that no challenge is big enough if we stand united.

The public service message, penned by noted advertising agency Ogilvy & Mather, will be aired on key channels of the Star India network.

"The task of rebuilding Uttarakhand is

gravely difficult but isn't an impossible one. Star India is humbled by Mr. Bachchan's gesture and truly believes in his call for unity. We hope that his message inspires one and all to come forward and extend their help for the cause," Uday Shankar, CEO, Star India said.

"We feel proud to have partnered with Star India, the Film & Television Producers Guild of India and FWICE to help make this happen. May the people of Uttarakhand find peace soon," Piyush Mishra, Executive Chairman & National Creative Director Ogilvy & Mather India, said.

Star India's initiative is an extension of its philosophy to use television as a tool to create awareness for the larger good of a society. This belief is reflected in the network's refreshing and inspiring content that instills a sense of hope in its viewers and persuades them to be the change they want to see around them.

Earlier this month, Star India had initiated focused campaigns featuring renowned artistes from the network's popular shows, urging its viewers to support Uttarakhand's cause by making generous donations.

Xoom Announces Money Transfer Service to NRE and NRO Bank Accounts in India

Xoom Corporation (NASDAQ: XOOM), a leading digital money transfer provider, has announced July 30 that NRIs (Non-Resident Indians) can now use Xoom's money transfer service to send bank deposits directly to their NRE (Non-Resident External) and NRO (Non-Resident Ordinary) bank accounts in India.

NRIs can now send bank deposits within four hours to recipients with NRE/NRO accounts, with great locked-in exchange rates.

"In a continued effort to provide superior services to our customers, Xoom now introduces bank deposits to NRE/NRO accounts, giving NRIs every reason to use Xoom," said Julian King, Senior Vice President of Marketing and Corporate Development for Xoom. "Plus, with our new App for Android and iOS devices, Xoom is committed to making money transfers easy and trustworthy for everyone."

"Xoom takes care of all your money transfer needs," said India's biggest superstar and Xoom brand ambassador Amitabh Bachchan. "No one gets your bank deposits to India faster than Xoom.com and now to

NRE and NRO accounts too!"

Bank deposits are processed in India through Xoom's partner Punjab National Bank. "We are pleased to partner with Xoom to provide NRIs a fast and easy way to send remittance to their NRE/NRO accounts, and other Rupee denominated Bank accounts in India," said Thyagarajan, GM IBD, Punjab National Bank.

With Xoom, customers can send money to all Rupee-denominated bank accounts in India, including NRE/NRO accounts within four hours, when sent during India bank processing hours. Service is available to all major banks in India including Punjab National Bank, ICICI, HDFC, SBI, Axis Bank, Citibank and many more. Customers can send up to \$2,999 per transaction.

Indian bank processing hours are generally Monday through Friday, 9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. (India Standard Time), and Saturday, 9:00 A.M. to Noon (India Standard Time). Individual bank branch operating and processing hours may vary. Customers can visit www.xoom.com/india for more information.

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