

# HAAS CONNECT

# HAAS

Newsletter Feb 2009  
Volume 1, Issue 2

## Latest news!

The year has begun and the time is flying fast. We wish you the very best for the year.

Since our last newsletter, we had our first event. It was the Satyanarayana Puja. We received good and positive feedback on how well the event was conducted. We would like to thank everyone who volunteered and participated in the event. Without you, the event would not have met with success. For those who were unable to make it, we hope to see you soon in near future HAAS events. The photos and video are posted on our website at [www.ourhaas.com](http://www.ourhaas.com)

### Financials:

Collection : \$960 (event fee + sponsor)  
Expenses : \$836.

At total of 84 attendees participated in the puja event.

### What's next? - The HAAS Picnic!!

If you have not already signed up for the picnic, then please do so. We will be having the picnic on **14<sup>th</sup> March** at Cullen Park, Phase II, Pavilion C. The costs for the picnic are as follows:

\$8 – Adult/youth  
\$5 – Kids 5-12 years of age  
Free: Children below 5 years of age

We plan lots of fun activities like:

- Kids sports
- Cricket
- Volleyball
- Konkani idol & Jr. Idol – Karaoke and/or singing with accompaniment
- Bingo
- Team / group sports like passing-the-parcel, tag, et al.

**Interested to volunteer?** We are looking for volunteers to conduct the kid's sports and to help with few logistics of the picnic. If you would like to volunteer, we would like to hear from you!!

We are looking for volunteers to help drive these initiatives.

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## Fund Raisers & Sponsors

We are looking for opportunities to raise funds. The funds will be utilized to purchase assets like wired microphones, wireless lapel microphones for our various events.

Maya Prabhu has volunteered to conduct yoga classes and contribute the monthly fees to HAAS. The monthly nominal fees for the Yoga classes are \$25.

Also, we are soliciting **sponsors** for our various events that are planned for the year. There are four events: *Summer Bash, Janmashtami, Diwali and Winter Bash*. Please let us know if you are interested to sponsor any events.

## Special Thanks!

Thanks to **Mrs Hema Kamath** – our first contributor to the newsletter. She has provided a very informative article on Wills (Pg 4).

## HAAS Picnic – March 14<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) - 10 am – 6:30 pm

*Cullen Park  
Phase II, Pavilion C.*

**18801 Saums Rd  
Houston, TX 77084**

HAAS Picnic is on **March 14<sup>th</sup> (SATURDAY) at 10 am.**  
The location is **Cullen Park, Phase II, Pavilion C.** located at **18801 Saums Rd, Houston, TX 77084.**

**Location is north of I-10 and off Barker Cypress Road.**

The date has been scheduled to coincide with the start of the spring breaks at most schools. We hope to see lots of kids and youth participating in this event.

**Entry Fee:**  
**\$8 – Youth/Adult**  
**\$5 – Kids 5-12 years of age**  
**Free: Children below 5 years of age**

*If you are lost getting to the park, please feel free to contact:*

**Chetan – 281.753.9132**  
**Gaurang – 281.650.5829**  
**Umesh – 832-816-6625**  
**Shanti – 832-858-7802**

Would you like to sing? We would love to hear you! Join us in Karaoke and general singing. This is open to all age groups

If you are interested to volunteer and help us out, please contact us. The more the merrier...

### Advertise here (\$25)

This spot will be used for an Advertisement. This can be Textual or can be an image. If there are any logos to be introduced, we will do our best to fit it in. This box is representative of the size of the advertisement.



**From North:**  
*Sam Houston Tollway South  
Exit I-10 West  
Exit Barker Cypress Rd*

**From South:**  
*Sam Houston Tollway North  
Exit I-10 West  
Exit Barker Cypress Rd*

**From Downtown:**  
*I-10 West  
Exit Barker Cypress Rd*

**Cullen Park  
Phase II, Pavilion C.  
18801 Saums Rd  
Houston, TX 77084**



## Sandwich Seva – Feb 28th (Saturday) – 8:30 to 11 am

Our enlightened spiritual Masters have said that “Manava Seva is Madhava Seva.” Selfless service to man is indeed service rendered to God.

All religions in the world have proclaimed the universal truth of service to humanity being one of the most effective paths of God realization. In our own humble attempt to follow these principles, HAAS would like to launch a community service project called the “Sandwich Seva” where volunteers will meet at a host family’s home on a Saturday morning, prepare lunch packets and deliver them to the Star of Hope and other Homeless Shelters in downtown Houston.

It is the HAAS committee’s hope that several Konkani families will actively participate in this project, especially those with school-going children and young adults. This Seva project would be a great way to introduce our younger generation to the simple and spiritually-uplifting pleasure of providing compassionate service to the less fortunate members of the Houston community.

The first Sandwich Seva will be conducted on **February 28<sup>th</sup>**, Saturday morning from 8:30 am

to approximately 11:00 am, at the home of **Jyothi and Satish Baliga of Katy**. We ask that families wishing to participate in the Seva send an email by **February 18<sup>th</sup>** to the HAAS coordinator Gaurang Haldipur at [gbhaldipur@aim.com](mailto:gbhaldipur@aim.com). Depending on the response received, we will prepare 75 to 100 lunch bags and distribute the work of buying food articles and supplies amongst the volunteer families. The following articles will be brought to the Seva by the MC team. :

1. Whole grain and white bread
2. Cheese slices
3. Peanut butter and grape jam
4. Luncheon meat slices or Veggie meat slices
5. Leaf lettuce and cucumbers
6. Mayonnaise, mustard and pickles
7. Apples
8. Assorted chips packets
9. Cheese and cracker packets
10. Water bottles (19 oz. size)
11. Sandwich bags, lunch sacks, napkins and large trash bags.

We request your participation through contribution towards the supplies and preparing the sandwiches.

The plan is to meet promptly at 8:30 am on Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at the Satish-Jyothi Baliga residence in Katy (address and phone number will be emailed separately to the volunteers). We will set up 3 to 4 work stations to prepare sandwiches and assemble the lunch packets. As stated above, the younger generation Konkans will be at the forefront preparing the lunches. At around 11 am, a group of 3-4 volunteers will drive to downtown Houston, intersection of Elysian and Collingsworth, and deliver the food packets to the shelters.

It is our hope that this project will receive the support of many of our HAAS families and we can continue this Seva on a regular basis, at least once every quarter (4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month). The host family will be rotated, based on the convenience of individual volunteers. If you would like to discuss this plan in more detail, please call **Gaurang Haldipur at 281-650-5829 (cell)**. Also, if you would like to volunteer for the first Seva, please be sure to send an email to the above address no later than February 18<sup>th</sup>

## WILLS – article contributed by Mrs Hema Kamath



Having been told that our Wills in Aberdeen would not be valid here in the US, we hummed and hawed about it for a whole year and eventually bit the bullet last week and started on the process! Here is what I have learnt on the 'journey'....

If someone dies 'intestate'; that is, without leaving a valid Will, the Courts decide where the person's property goes. This would entail a lot of legal expenses, court costs etc.

One could have one's Will drawn up with the help of an attorney for around \$1500. This may be the correct route for people who have specific needs or complicated Wills. Another option is to download a Will from the internet. Google will list many websites at a click of the mouse. You could also buy a CD on writing

your own Will or you could attend a class, like we did, through Leisure Learning. A practicing attorney runs the class over two evenings at the end of which we had a legal document. We were informed about a **Medical Power of Attorney** (A free form, reviewed for legality in your state, can be obtained from a local hospital), **Durable Power of Attorney** (a lasting or enduring power of attorney), **Living Will** (Health Care Directive), etc. Websites, some with free State-specific forms, abound the internet.

Wills that you have in other countries are valid for your property in those countries. The Will in the US, is for your assets in the US. A Court of Law in another country may accept your American Will, should you not have a valid Will in that

country.

The guardians and executors whom you appoint in your Will may live in another country and do not have to be US citizens.

This is not an exhaustive list. Each person should choose the option that is right for them, given their circumstances. Please do not hold me liable for any mistakes or misrepresentations. I am just a simple person and definitely not very rich in material wealth. Please do your own research, if you are interested. Stay safe.

Sources:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Advance\\_health\\_care\\_directive](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Advance_health_care_directive),  
Google, LLU Class Notes

Have you checked  
out our website?  
[www.ourhass.com](http://www.ourhass.com)

## Ideas?

HAAS has been created to preserve and promote our culture so that we can pass it on to our future generation.

We would like to hear from you on how we can make our organization work for your benefit.

If you have any ideas *for good events* to drive youth involvement, member involvement at all age levels – we would love to hear from you.

Also if you have feedback on *how we can improve*, we would like to hear from you.

**Chetan Bhat** – President: [chetan.bhat@yahoo.com](mailto:chetan.bhat@yahoo.com)

**Gaurang Haldipur** – Vice President: [gbhaldipur@aim.com](mailto:gbhaldipur@aim.com)

**Umesh Baliga** – Secretary: [baligau@msn.com](mailto:baligau@msn.com)

**Shanti Bhatt** – Treasurer: [shantibhatt\\_2005@yahoo.com](mailto:shantibhatt_2005@yahoo.com)

**Nikhil Baliga** – Asst Treasurer

**Ian Rao** – Youth Coordinator: [firebolt413@aol.com](mailto:firebolt413@aol.com)

## Houston Area Amchigele Samaj

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

HAAS has been formed to provide a common meeting ground for the Amchigele's residing in and around the Houston area.

Our mission is to

- Preserve and promote our culture, tradition and deep rooted heritage.
- Pass on the values and spirit of our culture to generations after us, and
- Provide an opportunity to network socially and professionally with other Amchigeles.

## Will anyone see your Advertisement?

## You Just Did! And it works!

Support our organization and advertise in the newsletter. The rates for the advertisement is as follows:

\$25 for quarter panel ad: 2 issues (spans over 4 months)

\$50 for quarter panel ad: 5 issues (spans over rest of the year)

\$50 for half page ad: 2 issues (spans over 4 months)

\$100 for half page ad: 5 issues (spans over rest of the year)