



Tejal Bhalani
Chairperson

Hello my fellow Gujaratis...Kem cho?

My name is Tejal and I am honored to have been elected as the current chairperson for the GSGA Council of Trustees. Thank you so much for your continued support of GSGA.

Born and raised in the beautiful state of Gujarat, India, I came to the United States at the age of 20 to follow my passion for Physical Therapy. Over the past two and half decades, my career in healthcare, in the Austin area, has been deeply fulfilling, allowing me the rewarding experience to serve the community and advocate for a holistic approach to well-being.

Implementing the same values and beliefs into my personal life and being involved with GSGA has offered me the priceless opportunity to give back, make a difference in our very own Gujarati community and stay connected with my roots, traditions, and culture.

As I think about the wisdom in these beautiful quotes-- "If we are to preserve culture, we must continue to create it," AND "A nation's culture resides in the hearts and soul of its people" --I feel a deep sense of purpose. Let's come together and build a strong, vibrant Gujarati community in the Greater Austin area, thereby creating a legacy for our future generations

#Loud&ProudHappyGujarati#



Binny Nanavati
Secretary

Jai Jinendra - Jai Shree Krishna - Jai Swaminarayan

My name is Binny Nanavati. *What's up? Majama?* Born in Palanpur, Gujarat, I was raised in the vibrant tapestry of New Jersey starting at the age of 7 before calling Austin home for the past 25 years with my husband and children. A dedicated Jain and lifelong vegetarian, I've always cherished our captivating, *tangy, sweet* and *spicy* Gujarati culture while embracing my diverse Indian American upbringing.

From dancing and volunteering at lively Garba/Navratri festivals to speaking at a variety of events to penning the award-winning “*108 Indian Home Remedies*” book - a heartfelt tribute to Gujarati grandmothers and mothers, I've found joy in celebrating our rich heritage.

My career has been dedicated to fostering inclusive workplaces and driving transformative change within leading corporations. I have embarked on a pretirement sabbatical with my husband, Sujal, exploring life's next chapter and giving back. Truly honored to contribute to the Council of Trustees and look forward to making a meaningful impact.

Jya Jya Vase Ek GUJARATI, Tya Tya Sadakal GUJARAT. Let's keep the Gujarati spirit alive! Get involved with GSGA (Gujarati Samaj of Greater Austin) in building a stronger Gujarati community. Together, *we can* achieve extraordinary things.

#JaiJaiGarviGujarat | #GujaratiCuisineRocks | #ProudIndianAmerican



Arjav Desai
Trustee Board Member

Howdy y'all

I am Arjav Desai. I was born and brought up in Dahod, a small town in Gujarat. I came to USA in 2004 and have been in Austin since 2017.

My journey with GSGA started as a volunteer for 2019 Navratri event and I have been an active member in various capacities since then. I have deep affection for our heritage and an itch to see that our next generation stays connected with "ગુજરાતી" /"Gujarati".

In my 20+ years of career as Software professional, working with people from countries and cultures across globe; I have realized the importance of cultural representation in various facets esp. in "આ અમે રિકાની ધરતી".

In addition to preservation/promotion of our culture through events/activities, I believe we must nurture the youth of our community to become leaders of tomorrow who are filled with "અસ્મિતા" /pride to carry on this "ગર્વ ગુજરાતી ગાથા" /"Garvi Gujarati Gatha".

And what better medium than Samaj to fulfill that - so I encourage and welcome all (young, adults and young-at-heart-adults) in re-creating our own Gujarat in Austin.

તો યા લો ... સાથે રમીએ, સાથે જમીએ; સાથે કરીએ સાચાં કામ ...

#જયજયગર્વગુજરાત#



Satyajeet Dodia
Trustee Board Member

Namaskar,

My name is Satyajeet Dodia. My wife Anita and I have lived in Austin since 1999 and our two sons grew up here. We were very happy to discover an active Gujarati Samaj here. My family and I have participated in various samaj activities and events over the years.

In 2004, I had the privilege of joining the executive committee, where I served in various roles until 2012. I have since volunteered in different capacities, and currently serve on the Trustee board.

Both my wife and I were born and raised in Nairobi, Kenya. I completed my undergraduate degree in computer science in India and then came to the United States in 1992 for further studies. I have worked in the IT industry for 33 years, with a focus on the Oracle platform and Learning Management Systems. I retired in 2023.

Growing up in Kenya, we were fortunate to be part of a close-knit Gujarati community that celebrated all our festivals including Diwali and 9 days of Navratri with late-night Raas Garba! However, here in the United States, we have to make a deliberate effort to introduce our children to Gujarati culture and instill in them a sense of pride in our heritage.

This is why it is so important that we have a strong, vibrant, and active Samaj. I invite you all to join me in this effort by participating in our activities and volunteering your time and skills.

#ProudGujarati#

Shamik Kacker
Trustee Board Member