



# MAHARASHTRA FOUNDATION

Social & Economic Justice for All

(NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations)

PO Box 2287, Church Street Station, New York, NY 10008-2287

<http://www.maharashtrafoundation.org>

महाराष्ट्र फाउंडेशन

September, 2013

**Year of Establishment:** 1978  
**Lead- Founder Member:**  
(Late) Mr. Yashwant Kanitkar

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#### Inside this issue:

<a href="#">Chief Guest &amp; guest speaker</a>	2
<a href="#">MF Annual Fund Raising Event</a>	3
<a href="#">व्यर्थ न हो बलिदान</a>	4
<a href="#">Projects for 2014</a>	5
<a href="#">Donors , NGOs and company List</a>	6
<a href="#">Pledge Card</a>	7
<a href="#">About Theatrix</a>	

Note: CTRL + Click to follow above e-links

Hello friends,

After the "Labor day" long week end, everything starts to feel different. The schools reopen and the family routines change. For Maharashtra Foundation also activities pick up around this time. After the Annual General Body meeting, new board members assume the responsibility. This year Punit Marathe completed her term as treasurer and opted to retire and Avinash Patil took over as new treasurer of Maharashtra Foundation. Avinash has been donor and supporter of Foundation for several years. He also was treasurer of BMM during 1999-2001 and has managed the treasurer's responsibility of BMM conventions. Shirish Gupte came on board once again to fill another vacant position. His addition to the board has brought with him tremendous knowledge and experience of working in community organizations. Vice President Sharayu Tulpule tendered her resignation after the AGM, the BoD very reluctantly had to accept it.

We all mourned the death of Dr. Narendra Dabholkar who was shot dead on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2013 in Pune. He was the founder of Maharashtra Andhashraddha Nirmulan Samiti. He was keynote speaker at Foundation's fund raising event in 2006. Hemant Naiknavare, a close friend and associate of Dr. Dabholkar will pay tribute to him at the fund raising event on October 26<sup>th</sup>.

Foundation's Annual Fund Raising Event will take place on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2013. The community gears up for this event. We have been fortunate that the Consul General of India in New York Mr. Dnyaneshwar Mulay has accepted our invitation to come as chief guest and keynote speaker. He is a well-known writer and a poet and has been instrumental for many socio educational projects. It will be indeed a great opportunity for all of us to listen to his thoughts. Ms. Chandrakala Bhargaw, president of Adarsh Mahila Griha Udyog, Latur will be guest speaker at the event. She has been involved in social service and social work for over 30 years. Her work has covered such diverse fields as women empowerment through social, legal, financial, and educational means, elimination of atrocities against women, gender sensitization and such.

We have invited Theatrix group to present an English play "Taconic Parkway" on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2013 for the fund raising event. As usual, this will be followed by dinner. Please join us in big numbers and support the new projects that Maharashtra Foundation will sponsor in 2014. For those not residing in NY/NJ area, I would request them to send their donations in time so that we can achieve our fund raising goals. I want to appeal to our donors all over North America to open their purses and their hearts and donate generously.

Thank you.

**- Shaila Vidwans**  
(President, Maharashtra Foundation)

## Chief Guest & Key note Speaker for MF Fund Raising Event – Oct. 26, 2013

### Dnyaneshwar Mulay, Consul General of



**India, New York**, is a career diplomat of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) since 1983. He has been recognized both nationally and internationally as a prominent thought leader, a diplomat, an author and a poet.

He has written over 15 books that have been translated in many languages. He has won many awards including the Maharashtra State and Hindi Sahitya Academy of Delhi. He has been instrumental for many socio educational projects including Balodyan, an orphanage in his native village and Dnyaneshwar Mulay Education Society in Pune which has embarked in the field of education with innovative concepts of global education. He joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1983 after serving briefly as the deputy collector in Pune.

A brilliant career diplomat, a much honored multilingual prolific writer and a celebrity in his own right, Mr. Dnyaneshwar Mulay has already become popular in the Indian American community and has conquered the hearts of the Indian American people who have great admiration for his scholarship and friendly disposition towards the community. He says that he would work to “communicate more and better” and create “goodwill within the Indian American community and with local government”. These views brought him to the hearts of the Indian American community.

### Guest Speaker: Chandrakala N Bhargaw

Ms. Chandrakala Bhargaw has been involved in social service and social work for over 30 years. Her work has covered such diverse fields as women empowerment (through social, legal, financial, and educational means), elimination of atrocities against women, gender sensitization, sustainable rural development along with implementation of economically and ecologically sound solutions and provides guidance to adolescents.



She has shared her extensive research in these fields through her book, numerous articles, over 2000 lectures, and various seminars and presentations. To raise awareness of these issues, she has also performed numerous hard-hitting plays and musicals. She was also one of the main architects of a ground – breaking legislation supporting women’s cause. This illustrious work has been recognized with prestigious awards and accolades for her.

She currently continues her work through various organizations in India mainly as the president of Adarsh Mahila Griha Udyog, Latur. She was selected as a member of the official delegation to represent Indian NGOs (Non Profit Organizations) at the Fourth International Women’s Conference (Beijing, China) in 1995. With the support of UNICEF, the program of bio-villages, is implemented to create awareness about organic farming, water purification, water management, vermin-composting, etc. As a charter president of Inner Wheel Club of Latur, district 313, organized free cancer detection camps for women and eye check-up camps for children with free surgeries as needed.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Youth Wellness Camp at Jnana Prabodhini, Harali

**Jan 12-15, 2014**

Maharashtra Foundation in partnership with Share and Care Foundation will conduct 4<sup>th</sup> Youth Wellness Camp at Jnana Prabodhini, Harali on January 12-15, 2014. Harali is a village near Solapur in Maharashtra. Approximately 300 students and children of the school and Anagnwadi located in village of Harali will be examined (medical and dental examination) during 4 days.

**Maharashtra Foundation is looking for Marathi speaking pediatricians, physicians and dentists interested in volunteering 4 days of their services while enjoying the beautiful surroundings of the village.**

For more information, please contact Shaila Vidwans (609 273 1408 email at shaila@vidwans.com.)

**2013  
FUND RAISING  
EVENT**



**Maharashtra Foundation**

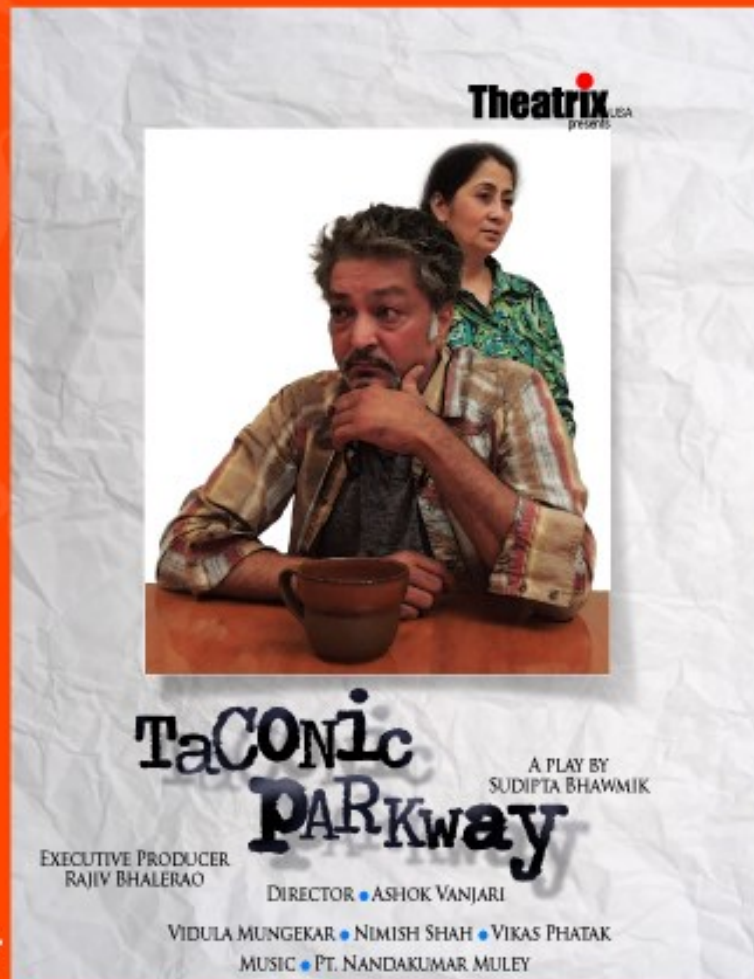
**Oct 26, 2013 at 3:00pm**

**Grover Middle School, WW-Plainsboro  
10 Southfield Road, West Windsor, NJ 08550**

**AN EVENING OF INSPIRATION ENTERTAINMENT AND FINE DINING..**

**Consul General of India  
Mr Dnyaneshwar Mulay**  
will be the chief guest.

Guest Speaker: Social Worker  
**Ms. Chandrakala Bhargaw**  
Adarsh Mahila Griha Udyog - Latur



**Ticket info:  
\$60 Play & Dinner  
\$40 for Play only**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL**

**SHAKUN**  
732.239.5622

**SUSHAMA**  
732.991.4200

**SHIRISH**  
908.534.4894

**SHAILA**  
609.273.1408



## व्यर्थ न हो बलिदान

शाळेत असताना वरील शीर्षकाचा निबंध हुतात्मा बाबू गेनू किंवा भगत सिंग यांच्यावर लिहिल्याचे आठवते. पण आपल्या माहितीतल्या व्यक्तीबद्दल असे लिहिण्याची वेळ येईल असे मला कधी वाटले नव्हते (आणि पुन्हा अशी वेळ कधी न येवो).

गोष्ट जानेवारी २०१३ ची. अटलांटाहून मुंबईला सुट्टीवर जाताजाता, डॉ. शुक्लांचे "विश्व चैतन्याची अनुभूती" वाचत गेलो. त्यात लोकांच्या अंधश्रद्धेला आव्हान देणारे म्हणून डॉ. नरेंद्र दाभोळकरांचा उल्लेख वाचला. जेव्हा शुक्लांसारखा एक शास्त्रज्ञ अध्यात्मिक होऊन आपल्या आळंदीमध्ये आलेल्या अनुभूती कथन करतो, तेव्हा खरंच कोणावर विश्वास ठेवावा असा मी विचार करित असताना आपण दाभोळकरांना त्यांची बाजू विचारू शकू का असे सहज मनांत आले होते. त्यानंतर चारच दिवसात महाराष्ट्र फाउंडेशनच्या वार्षिक-साहित्य-पुरस्कार समारंभाला मी पुण्यात गेलो असताना एक अतिशय साधी व्यक्ती आपल्या भोवतीच्या मुलांच्या गराड्यामध्ये शांतपणे बोलताना दिसली. ती व्यक्ती दुसरी, तिसरी कुणी नसून डॉ. नरेंद्र दाभोळकर आहेत हे मला कुणीतरी सांगितले. शाळेत असताना त्यांच्या अंधश्रद्धा निर्मूलन समिती (अंनिस) बद्दल खूप ऐकले होते, आणि टिक्हीवर बघितलेही होते. डॉ. दाभोळकरांची प्रत्यक्ष भेट झाल्यावर, मला माझ्या मनातील प्रश्न विचारल्यावाचून राहिले नाही. मला दाभोळकरांनी शांतपणे त्या गोष्टीबद्दल असं सांगितलं की, ती अनुभूती सर्वासमोर सिद्ध करता न आल्याने वैयक्तिक पातळीवर आलेला अनुभव आहे असे डॉक्टर शुक्ला व अंनिसने मान्य केले. So they agreed to disagree on each others' experiences and respect each other's opinion. पण एकाद्याला भेटल्यावर आपण भारावून जातो किंवा ती व्यक्ती एकदम आवडून जाते तसे झाले. बोलताना डॉ. नरेंद्र दाभोळकरांची संयतवृत्ती आणि संवादशीलता याचा अनुभव आल्यावाचून राहिला नाही. बस्स! एवढीच त्यांची आणि माझी ओळख. तरीही, जेव्हा २० ऑगस्टला दाभोळकरांवर झालेल्या भ्याड प्राणघातक हल्ल्याची बातमी ऐकली, तेव्हा मन एकदम सुन्न झाले. अंधश्रद्धा निर्मूलन आणि सामाजिक कार्यासाठी ह्यात वेचणाऱ्या माणसाचे जीवन काही माथेफिरुनी हे असे संपवावे?

डॉ. नरेंद्र दाभोळकरांचा जन्म सातारामध्ये १ नोव्हेंबर १९४५चा. क.ऑ.ऑ. शिक्षण आणि १२ वर्षे वैद्यकीय क्षेत्रात डॉक्टर म्हणून काम केल्यानंतर १९८० सालापासून त्यांनी स्वतःला सामाजिक चळवळीत झोकून दिले. ते साने गुरुजींचे शिष्य होते. साने गुरुजींच्या साधना ट्रस्टचे कार्यवाह आणि साधना साप्ताहिकाचे बरीच वर्षे संपादक होते. त्यांनी १९८९ मध्ये महाराष्ट्र अंधश्रद्धा निर्मूलन समितीची स्थापना केली आणि मानव जातीचे शोषण करणाऱ्या अंधश्रद्धा मोडून काढण्यासाठी सातत्याने प्रयत्न केले. बुवाबाजी, भानामती, करणी, भौंदूगिरी, भूतबाधा अशा सर्व गोष्टींना त्यांनी शास्त्रीय दृष्टीकोनातून आव्हान दिले.

आणि सतत लोकजागृती केली. डॉ. नरेंद्र दाभोळकरांचा देवधर्म किंवा श्रद्धेला विरोध नव्हता. पण कर्मकांड आणि श्रद्धेचे बाजारीकरण यातून निर्माण होणारे शोषण आणि पर्यायाने वाढणारी अंधश्रद्धा याला मात्र त्यांचा विरोध होता. अतिशय स्पष्ट विचार, चिकाटी आणि पुरोगामी विचारसरणी त्यांनी अवलंबलेली होती. ते कुठच्याही राजकीय पक्षाशी निगडीत नव्हते, आणि पैसा, सत्ता याचा त्यांनी कधीही हव्यास बाळगला नाही.

महाराष्ट्र फाउंडेशन (अमेरिका)चे ज्येष्ठ कार्यकर्ते सुनील देशमुख सांगतात - डॉ. दाभोळकरांसारखा Corporate CEO पेक्षा efficient सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता क्वचितच दिसतो. ते कधीही वाढलेली दाढी, झोळी अशा अवतारात वावरले नाहीत, पण वर्षाचे २००हून अधिक दिवस प्रत्येक जिल्हा व तालुका पातळीवर प्रवास करून त्यांनी तरुणांशी संवाद साधला. एकही इमारत नसतांना फक्त विचार प्रवर्तनातून आज अंधश्रद्धा निर्मूलन समितीच्या महाराष्ट्रभर १८० शाखा निर्माण झालेल्या आहेत. न्याय, नीती आणि निर्भयता ही त्यांची त्रिसूत्री होती. ते कायमचे रेल्वेच्या तिसऱ्या वर्गाने किंवा एस. टी. ने प्रवास करित. एवढा निर्मोही आणि निःस्वार्थी माणूस गांधीजी किंवा विनोबांनंतर सध्याच्या जगात क्वचितच सापडेल. १९९६मध्ये महाराष्ट्र फाउंडेशनने दाभोळकरांना अंधश्रद्धा निर्मूलनाच्या सामाजिक कार्याबद्दल, श्री ग. प्र. प्रधान ह्यांच्या हस्ते पुरस्काराने,



तसेच, २००५ साली "The most important social worker of the decade" अशा पुरस्काराने सन्मानित केले होते.

दाभोळकरांना खेळाचीही आवड होती. शिवाजी विद्यापीठाच्या कबड्डी संघाचे कप्तानपद त्यांनी भूषविले. महाराष्ट्र शासनाचा शिवछत्रपती युवा पुरस्कारही त्यांना प्रदान केला गेला होता.

२०१० साली डॉ. दाभोळकरांनी अंधश्रद्धा व काळी जादू (Black Magic) याविरुद्ध विधेयक प्रस्तावित केले होते. त्याला शासनाने काहीच दाद लागू दिली नव्हती. तरीही लोकशाहीवर ठाम विश्वास असणाऱ्या दाभोळकरांनी त्याचा संवादशीलरित्या पण चिकाटीने पाठपुरावा केला. परंतु शेवटी धर्मांध (fanatic) शक्तींनी एका विज्ञाननिष्ठ, पुरोगामी व विवेकशील विचारवंताची अखेर, हिंसेने केली. आज या हौतात्म्यामुळे डॉ. दाभोळकर हे महात्मा गांधी, मार्टिन ल्युथर किंग यांच्या पंक्तीत जाऊन बसले आहेत.

आज जो जनसमुदाय दाभोळकरांच्या हत्येच्या निषेधासाठी रस्त्यावर उतरलाय, त्यातून हे धडधडीतपणे सिद्ध झालेले आहे की गोळ्या घालून शरीर मरू शकते, पण विचार मरू शकत नाही. दाभोळकरांच्या मृत्यूची दखल घेऊन महाराष्ट्र राज्य शासनाने लगेच अंधश्रद्धा निर्मूलन आणि जादूटोणा विरोधी वटहुकूम (ordinance) जाहीर केला. अजूनही त्याचे विधानसभेत कायद्यात रूपांतर होणे बाकी आहे. हा कायदा लागू होणे आणि त्याला दाभोळकरांचे नाव देणे हीच या सच्च्या कार्यकर्त्याला खरी श्रद्धांजली ठरेल.

- वैभव साठे (अटलांटा, जॉर्जिया)  
(email: vasathe@me.com)

## MF Projects for Funding in 2014

Apart from the ear marked donations that Maharashtra Foundation disburses, Foundation also receives numerous proposals from the NGOs for funds for their projects. The members of the project committee review these projects and make recommendations. The members of the board of directors discuss the recommended projects and make final selection. This year we had more than 30 project proposals. Following projects will be funded in 2014.

**1. AtmaRaksha** – AtmaRaksha is an awareness program created to help individuals across age groups to deal with increasingly volatile social environment. This project is in partnership with Maharshi Vinod Siddhashram Sewa Mandal. A series of Self Awareness programs under the banner of **AtmaRaksha** are launched. Approximately 10000 students from 150 schools and colleges will be covered under the program. (\$8000)

**2. Think Maharashtra** - To build a platform to strengthen positive forces in society through networking and to channelize their energy to form pressure groups as required. Positive forces include individuals as well as organizations and both would be encouraged to participate in this platform. It may pave way to a cultural renaissance in Maharashtra. (\$5000)

**3. Library-In-A-Bag** – Pratham Book's proposal to introduce reading enrichment books in Maharashtra Schools. Equip 400 Maharashtra Foundation supported classrooms/schools with one library unit each. A library unit will contain 125 books in select Indian languages. (\$10,000)

**4. Envelop Punching Machine** – This project will be done with NGO partner RS AKSHAR Institute, Wai. This is for providing training and rehabilitation of mentally retarded adults.

The adults work in secured facility and produce medical packages. They can be trained to use the machines so the productivity will increase and they can earn more. (\$3000)

**5. Hearing Aid** – The NGO Vijay Shikshan Sanstha will be the partner in this project. Behind The Ear (BTE) digital programmable hearing aids are required for the children to reduce the background noise. It also helps the children to understand the speech better. The cost is approximately \$600 per student. Maharashtra Foundation will support 10 students. (\$6000)

**6. Fight Breast Cancer** – Maina Foundation which is a 501 c (3) organization is partnering with Maharashtra Foundation. The aim is to provide funds to more cancer patient in Tata Memorial Hospital - to increase the no of patients taken to Tata Memorial Hospital from 10 to 40. The cost is about \$500 per patient. Maharashtra Foundation will provide partial funding. (\$5000)

**7. Janavikas Pratitsthan project** - The project is mainly focused on Rural and Urban school dropout girls & boys. The budget is for 2 batches for 18 months and 40 candidates. Main aim of the program is to impart knowledge & skills of nursing assistant to the girls to get employment in various types of Nursing homes & hospitals. Maharashtra Foundation will provide partial funding. (\$5000)

**8. Youth Wellness Camp** – The camp is in its 4th year. It takes place at Jnana Prabodhini, Harali, About 300 school children and vocational school students are examined – medical, dental examination. This is in partnership with Share and Care Foundation (USA). The medical doctors and volunteers offer their services. (\$1000)

**9. Patient Assistant course** – This is a 10-month training program for the girls to become patient assistant. After the course these girls are able to earn Rs 5000-Rs 6000. Young ladies enter the program with hesitation and nervousness. But at the end of the completion, they are confident to go out and make earning. (\$2050)

\*\*\*

## Give Back to the Community

**International SEWA DAY** is a full day of community service. This year the SEWA day will be celebrated on OCTOBER 6, 2013. There will be a variety of projects, worldwide, all happening on the same day.

For more information, visit: [www.sewaday.org](http://www.sewaday.org)

### List of Donors who donated funds during 2013

Adya, Arun	Korde, Anup	Ranade, Vinayak
Aranake, Chandrashekhar & Shraddha	Korgaonkar, Sneha & Nitin	Randall Kempner
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Joshi, Abhijit	Patil, Bipin	Vinod, Hrishikesh - Arundhati
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Kamat, Durga	Ramabhadran, Rajani	Wells, Ellen M.
Kanitkar, Jayant	Ramanathan, Varsha	Zarapkar, Samir
KASAT, RAMESHWAR & CHAMPA	Ranade, Samir	

### List of NGOs receiving Funds during 2013

"Swa"-Roop Wardhinee	Investment in Man Trust	Parivartan
Abalashram, Bangalore	Jagruti Seva Sanstha	Pragat Shikshan Sanstha
Apne Aap Women's Collective	Jan Seva Foundation General	Sadhana Village
Aseema Charitable Trust	Janvikas Pratishthan	Shree Hanuman Vyayam Prasarak Mandal
Asiatic Society	Jnana Prabodhini- Solapur Harali	SOFOSH
CHAI Inc.	Jnana Prabodhini, Pune	Stree Mukti Sanghatana
Community Aid & Sponsorship Program CASP	Maharogi Sewa Samiti- Warora	Students Welfare Association, Pune
Connecticut Coalition against Domestic Violence	Maharshi Vinod Research Foundation	Swadhar IDWC
Door Step School	Maharshi Vinod Siddhashram Seva Mandal	Swadhar Kendra
Halo Medical Foundation	Malvan Education Society, Malvan	Vivekanand Kendra Kanyakumari
Harali Latur Famine Relief	Matrumandir	Yash Sneha Trust
Indian Cancer Society, Solapur	Nari Samta Manch	

### Does Your Company Match Your Charitable Donation? Check the companies below

Abbott Laboratories	C R Bard Foundation	New York Life
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AIG	IAC Foundation	Qualcomm
Avon	J P Morgan Chase	Quest Diagnostics
Andor Capital	Levi Strauss	UBS
Bank of america	Microsoft Giving Campaign	Wells Fargo
Bristol-Myers Squibb	Morgan Stanley	Yahoo



# Maharashtra Foundation - Pledge Card 2013

☐ Announce ☐ Anonymous

## Donor Details:

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Form of Payment:

☐ Check ☐ Pledge

☐ Matching from: \_\_\_\_\_

 Please make check payable to: **Maharashtra Foundation**

Please mail the check and pledge card to:

**Maharashtra Foundation**

PO Box 2287,

Church Street Station, New York, NY 10008-2287

Federal Tax I.D.# 22-2213611

United Way Agency Code: 011675

Maharashtra Foundation is a registered non-profit charitable organization tax exempt under section 501 (c) (3) of I.R.S. code

Note: Please fill out and send a pledge form with your donation since our auditor requires it to complete yearly financial audit.

## Donation Details:

A.Membership&Other	Amount	Number	Total=Amt*Number
Benefactor	\$5,000.00		\$
Patron	\$1,000.00		\$
Life	\$ 500.00		\$
Annual	\$ 20.00		\$
General Funds			\$

## B. MF Projects for the Year 2014

1.AtmaRaksha – Awareness Program : Maharshi Vinod Siddhashram Sewa Mandal	\$
2. Think Maharashtra	\$
3. Library-In-A-Bag: Pratham Books	\$
4. Envelop Punchig Machine: RS Akshar Institute, Wai	\$
5. Hearing Aid Project: Vijay Shikshan Sanstha	\$
6. Fight Breast Cancer: MAINA Foundation	\$
7. Janavikas Project: Janavikas Pratisthan	\$

## C. Other Organizations of Your Choice (Name and Address)

	\$
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Total Amount: (A+B+C) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## About Theatrix and Taconic Parkway .....



**Theatrix** is a not-for-profit cultural organization committed to nurture and enrich the heritage of performing arts from India in USA. The organization is led by veterans accomplished in the field of Theater, Television and Movies, as well as by people with a successful track record of theatrical productions and events. Theatrix is working to establish a movement that will provide a platform for the local talent to present high quality productions. Theatrix also aims to pass on its theatrical DNA to the next generation to revive Indian theatrical masterpieces, and encourage original theatrical creations.

The English Play opens with adulatory tones as an aging matinee idol from India is all set to savor the hospitality of an Indian couple living in New York. The enthusiasm of the husband and wife pleasantly embarrasses the guest. But unexpectedly cracks start appearing in the conversations. And through these cracks leaps a deep dark secret that is shattering to all. The ferocity of the experience leaves the star simply dumbfounded.

**Come and watch the play on \*October 26<sup>th</sup> .....**

(\* Maharashtra Foundation's Fund Raising Event,

Venue: Grover Middle School, WW-Plainsboro, 10-South field Rd, West Windsor, NJ )





**MAHARASHTRA FOUNDATION**

PO Box 2287, Church Street Station,  
New York, NY 10008-2287

TO:

**For us, it's all about you and your needs.**

**Prakash Velankar,**  
**ChFC**

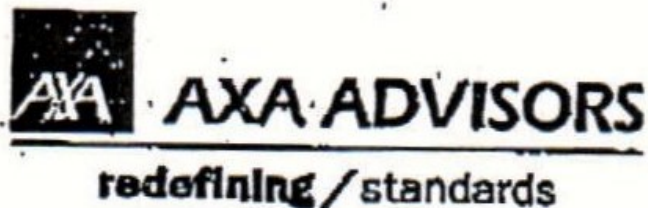
*Financial consultant*

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