



# 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>

February 2018 Newsletter

## EDITORIAL

**Year of Establishment: 1978**

**Lead- Founder Member:**

**(Late) Mr. Yeshwant Kanitkar**

Tax Exemption ID

Under IRS Section

501 (c)(3) 22-2213611

United Way NY, NJ, CT

Agency Code 011675

**MF Contact no: 201-426-1978**

**Board Of Directors:**

**President:** Ankush Karnik

**Vice President:**

Rajiv Bhalerao

**Secretary:** Snehal Vaze

**Treasurer:** Avinash Patil

**Co-Treasurer:** Rajiv Bhalerao

**Board Members:**

Shirish Gupte

Maneesha Kelkar

Anjali Limaye

Deepa Limaye

Vaibhav Sathe

Namaskar Everyone,

A very happy and prosperous new year to all from all of us at Maharashtra Foundation!

First, I would like to thank Shirish Gupte, the Board of Advisors, and the Board of Directors for entrusting me to take the organization to the next level by asking me to be the next president of Maharashtra Foundation. I am truly honored and hope to exceed expectations by further scaling the Maharashtra Foundation name and principles in my tenure.

We have a solid platform on which we are going to build this year.

A few things you will all see in the coming year is a facelift for Maharashtra Foundation. We are working on redesigning our website to not only make it more engaging, but also to make sure that the information is well organized and easier to get to. Additionally, we are going to make sure that all information can also be accessed using your mobile devices. There will be also other events that we will arrange.

If you are reading this newsletter on paper and did not receive it in your email, then we need your email. We are striving towards minimizing paper. You can visit our website [www.maharashtrafoundation.org](http://www.maharashtrafoundation.org) and provide us with your email, phone, and do make sure we also have your mailing address on file with us.

We had a very successful annual fundraiser in NJ on Dec 2, 2017 with over \$160K+ raised in one night and bringing our annual total to over \$600K+. We were also very fortunate to have Sam Pitroda as our keynote speaker along with a fantastic entertainment program. Stay tuned for this year's program information to be released in a few months.

I want to thank everyone who gave us the names of their children or young professionals contacts at the fundraiser event. We are reaching out to them, and will begin conversations with them. Over the course of this year, we expect to engage in more conversations, and leverage their knowledge, skills, and network to further the reach and expand on our projects in India, and initiate some projects here in our homeland.

On January 13, 2018 we hosted another very successful Literature and Social Service Awards ceremony in Pune, India. A detailed report of the event is included in this newsletter. As always, the event was house full and was attended by many people from here including Shobha Chitre, and Manjusha Naik, who is a volunteer with us. Check out some moments from the event on our Facebook page.

Many of you have asked about whether the organization that you are donating to is on our approved list, or about the timing of the disbursements. There is an article in this edition that addresses the approved list question. We will put out a detailed guidance on the disbursements, but in a nutshell the disbursement typically happens in the month following the receipt and processing of the donation. It is faster if the donation is sent to us electronically i.e. using PayPal via our website.

The non-profit landscape is also changing. There is more scrutiny on the funds that are transferred overseas, and it is necessary for organizations like us to conduct necessary due diligence and maintain a detailed record of transfers to maintain compliance with regulations. To that end, please note that we may reach out to you for assistance in helping us gather necessary information from NGOs in India.

Lastly, I look forward to getting your support this year and exceeding our prior goals. Please continue to reach out to any of the board members in case of any questions. We are here for you!

Ankush Karnik

President, Maharashtra Foundation

## The Maharashtra Foundation (MF) Annual Fundraiser 2017

The Maharashtra Foundation (MF) Annual Fundraiser '17 event was held on December 2, 2017 at the St. Demetrius Ukrainian Community Center in Carteret, New Jersey. This sold out event was well attended by about 220 MF members and donors, including many new attendees. Snehal Vaze and Deepa Limaye, from the Board of Directors were Masters of Ceremonies for the evening.

The program started with an Indian classical dance presentation called '*Awachita Parimalu*' produced by Indian Heritage and Cultural Association (IHCA-NJ), and performed by senior disciples of Kalanjali School of Arts (Guru Sudha Shekhar Devulapalli) and senior disciples of Archana Nrityalaya (Guru Archana Joglekar). It was an elegant presentation of classical dance revolving around the idea of the *Virahini*, a metaphor for a spiritual soul searching for God, or *Atma Paramatma*, as a woman waiting for her husband to return. The combination of beautiful Bharatnatyam and Kathak choreography and the carefully selected melodious music made this program a unique event to portray our rich cultural heritage.



## The Maharashtra Foundation (MF) Annual Fundraiser 2017



The dance program was followed by presentation of Annual Report on the various activities of Maharashtra Foundation by Ankush Karnik, President of Maharashtra Foundation, where he touched on four key points – Opportunity, Empowerment, Growth, and Dream. Ankush also recognized the Board of Directors and volunteers who provide year-round support. This year also marked an important time in MFs history, where Shirish Gupte, who had been the

President for the past few years, transitioned the Presidency to Ankush Karnik. Going forward MF intends to engage with younger generation and expand its footprint in India as well as here in the United States.

This was followed by cocktail hour, where attendees got an opportunity to mingle, network, and read about MF's new projects while enjoying cocktails and appetizers

sponsored by Thakar Financial, LLC (Raymond James Financial Services, Inc).



The Keynote Speaker for the event was Mr. Satyanarayan "Sam" Gangaram Pitroda, a telecom engineer, inventor, entrepreneur and policymaker; well known for revolutionizing the Indian telecommunication industry. Sam talked about how he connected with then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi because of not being able to make a simple international phone call while visiting India. How "improving the telecommunications in India" became his cause and passion, and how he gathered support from various administration. After getting some setbacks that even involved assassinations of two prominent world leaders, he remained focused and pursued his dreams to revolutionize the Indian telecom industry. He also emphasized that while donating money is certainly important, India also needs peoples' time to bring about change. Overall, it was an enlightening speech.



The Keynote speech was followed by the presentation of 2018 MF Projects by Maneesha Kelkar, and fundraising conducted by all Board of Directors. Over \$160,000 was raised during the event for donor's earmarked programs as well as for MF projects. The program concluded with a sumptuous dinner catered by Rajbhog that everyone complimented.

Niranjan Deo  
Board of Director, Marathi Vishwa  
Green Brook, NJ  
niranjanmdeo@gmail.com

## Is my organization on the approved list of Maharashtra Foundation?

This is the typical question we get from our donors. More so from donors who want to donate to a new charity, or from new donors who are donating for the first time through Maharashtra Foundation.

The answer to the question is, **“it depends”**.

Maharashtra Foundation does not have any approved list and it depends on the list of organizations published by the Government of India, and the United States government to ensure that we can disburse funds to the desired organization. Simply put, everyone wants to ensure that the funds are not used for terrorism or any related causes, and are in fact used for the intended purposes.

We therefore advise our donors to check the following lists before they donate to specific organizations, as we also check them at the time of disbursements. Lists that we check:

NGO must have the following if based in India:

1. FCRA: [https://fcraonline.nic.in/fc8\\_statewise.aspx](https://fcraonline.nic.in/fc8_statewise.aspx)
2. 80G: <https://www.incometaxindia.gov.in/Pages/utilities/exempted-institutions.aspx>

NGO must have the following if based in the United States:

1. Registered 501c3: <https://apps.irs.gov/app/eos/>

**IMPORTANT:** NGO must not appear on the list of sanctions published by Department of Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control. <https://sanctionssearch.ofac.treas.gov/>

It is more important to check the lists more frequently than ever, as in recent months we have seen FCRA registrations being revoked and reinstated for many NGOs in India. We are unable to disburse funds to the organization if they don't have a valid FCRA registration at the time of disbursement. It is possible that the organization may have had a valid FCRA when we received the donation, but lost their FCRA between receipt of donation and receipt of disbursement by the NGO. In this case we must wait until NGO regains its FCRA registration, or we must work with the donor to reallocate funds to another NGO with valid FCRA.

Finally, Maharashtra Foundation works with a range of NGOs that focus on many issues. However, per our charter and constitution we are unable to work with organizations that are religious or politically affiliated. Please feel free to reach out to us in case there are any questions.

Ankush Karnik

President, Maharashtra Foundation



## A Visit to Janaseva Foundation, Pune

IndiaRocks is a non-profit organization based in Sammamish, WA that has been raising funds for orphan children in India for the past few years. We have donated funds to Sindhutai Sapkal's Mamta Foundation, Saraswati Anath Shikshan Sanstha in the past that are working in Pune/PCMC metro area. My school friend Ashwini Jagtap gathered information about Janaseva Foundation, an NGO based on Pune, that is working on various projects for orphan children and we decided to help them this year.

On June 10th, IndiaRocks organized a fundraising program in Redmond, WA for Janaseva Foundation, with the help of Vaibhav Sathe from Maharashtra Foundation and Jayant Bhopatkar from Seattle. Their constant support and helping hands have given me a lot of encouragement. I wanted to raise a money to help the needy children in India. I decided to host a fundraising event with a program based on music and cultural dances followed by karaoke night. We received a huge response and appreciation that day. I lined up my vacation to Pune right after the event in Summer of 2017, and visiting Janaseva Foundation turned out to be the best part of my India trip.

**About Janaseva Foundation and Dr. Vinod Shah:** Dr. Shah is a renowned gastroenterologist, associated with many prominent hospitals in the city of Pune, teacher of medicine and honorary physician to the Governor of Maharashtra. His wife, Mrs. Meenatai Shah, is the driving force behind all this and she works tirelessly for the success of the foundation. The professional success did not blind him to the misery and agony of India's poor, sick and the powerless. The overpowering inner urge to be of service to people who needed it the most, got

the better of him and he founded the Janaseva Foundation on 15th January 1988. Janaseva Foundation is a registered trust working over 29 years for the poor, rural population, sick, old disabled destitute women and girls through its old age home, rural hospitals, mobile health units, eye hospitals, physiotherapy center, Daycare center, Destitute rehabilitation Center, Grooming Academy, Nursing school, Daycare Center Institute of Education and Research Center. Also, they have their own Destitute Rehabilitation Center at Katraj, where mainly orphans are given shelter. Janaseva van contacts the orphan from roads, bus, railway stations. They are given clothes, food, and medicines. Once they settle down, they find out their aptitude and accordingly send them to municipal schools for education and in-house



vocation training. At present they have 70 such orphans that live in the orphanage. The project that we decided to support is the expansion of the orphanage.

On our visit to Janaseva Foundation, Dr. Vinod Shah and Meenatai Shah welcomed us. The Foundation provides shelter to the aged and the children and make their life worth living by providing them with food, health, and other recreational facilities. But the stories behind these people coming to the foundation were heartbreaking.

Mr. Shubham Maheshwari, one of the managers took us around to see the facility. We started in the auditorium where we interacted with the children. We asked them to sing poems, songs, and a prayer Everyone welcomed us and there was pure joy in their eyes. One of the members showed us the drawing and

## A Visit to Janaseva Foundation, Pune


sketches and it was beautifully done. After that, we moved to the dining hall which was quite spacious and clean and before eating all the members prayed and then the food was distributed. We shared a meal with them. Later we visited the medical ward where the old and bedridden people are kept. There is also a recreational room where the kids gather every day to have some quality time. We interacted with the ladies and one of them was completely blind and she sang a very touching song. The whole ambiance was filled with love and warmth. Happiness is a state of mind. The people who live here are away from their families, yet they live their life with a smile on their face. If we would love our life with our heart and soul, it would love us back.

Janaseva Foundation has served the society for the past 27 years. Their main motto is "Service to man is Service to God and Service to Humanity is the best work of life". I saw that happening in so many ways. Meeting with them was great, inspirational and honor for my family.



I was privileged to learn so much from the visit to Janaseva Foundation and I am glad that I could support this amazing organization with the support of my friends in Seattle community, Seattle Maharashtra Mandal (SMM) and Maharashtra Foundation.

A visit to Janaseva Foundation, Pune  
-Arti Lotlikar, Sammamish, WA

 <b>Maharashtra Foundation - Pledge Card 2018</b>		Federal Tax ID # 22-2213611 United Way Agency Code: 011675	
<b>Donor Details:</b>		Name:	Signature:
<input type="checkbox"/> Announce	Address:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Anonymus	City:	State:	Zip:
	Phone: ( ) -	E-mail:	
<b>Form of Payment</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Online / Card <input type="checkbox"/> Pledge <input type="checkbox"/> Matching From:			
Please make check payable to: <b>Maharashtra Foundation.</b>			
Please mail the check and pledge card to: PO Box 2287, Church Street Station, New York, NY 10008-2287			
<b>Donation Details:</b>		Are you already MF Benefactor/Life/Patron member? Yes / No (Please Circle)	
<b>(A) Membership Amount</b>		<b>(C) MF Projects for the Year 2018</b>	
Benefactor	\$5,000 \$	1. Educate for Life: Project Hunar Ghar	\$
Patron	\$1,000 \$	2. MASUM: Adhar Gat	\$
Life	\$500 \$	3. Pragati Abhiyan	\$
Annual	\$20 \$	4. RSCD: Budget, Orders, Schemes, Services (BOSS) Course	\$
<b>(B) General Funds</b>	\$	5. Suhrud Mandal	\$
Maharashtra Foundation is a registered non-profit charitable organization tax exempt under section 501 (c) (3) of IRS Code Note: Please fill out and send a pledge form with your donation since MF auditor requires it to be completed yearly for financial audit.		6. Swami Vivekanand Vidya Pratishthan (SVVP): Utkarsh Balghar	\$
		7. Vanasthali Rural Development Center	\$
		8. Prakash Foundation: Project Prakash	\$
		9. Tathapi Trust: Let's talk Sexuality	\$
		<b>(D) Other organization of your choice (Name &amp; Address)</b>	\$
		<b>Total Amount (A + B + C + D)</b>	\$

## Summary of awards ceremony and youth day

मराठी साहित्य आणि महाराष्ट्रातील समाजकार्य या दोन क्षेत्रांत उल्लेखनीय व अनुकरणीय कार्य करणाऱ्या व्यक्तींना आणि संस्थांना पुरस्कार देऊन गौरव करणाऱ्या महाराष्ट्र फाउंडेशन (अमेरिका) चे पुरस्कार पाहतापाहता रोष्य महोत्सवाच्या उंबरठ्यावर येऊन ठेपले आहेत.

2017 या वर्षीचे एकूण नऊ पुरस्कार १३ जानेवारी २०१८ रोजी पुणे येथील अण्णा भाऊ साठे स्मारक सभागृहात झालेल्या सोहळ्यात वितरित करण्यात आले. या पुरस्काराचे हे २४ वे वर्ष होते. यंदा सोहळ्याचे स्थळ बदललेले असतानाही नेहमीच्याच दिमाखात आणि उत्साहात तो पार पडला. दुपारी २ ते ४ व सायंकाळी ५ ते ७.३० आशा दोन सत्रांत झालेल्या या कार्यक्रमास साधना ट्रस्टचे विश्वस्त व साधना साप्ताहिकाचे संपादक विनोद शिरसाठ यांनी कार्यक्रमाचे सूत्रसंचालन केले. केशव गोरे स्मारक ट्रस्टचे कार्यकारी विश्वस्त प्रमोद निगुडकर यांनी प्रमुख पाहुणे व महाराष्ट्र फाउंडेशनचे प्रतिनिधी यांचे स्वागत केले, तर हेमंत नाईकनवरे यांनी प्रास्ताविक केले.

या पुरस्कारांचे प्रवर्तक सुनील देशमुख यांनी पुरस्कार प्रदान करण्यामागील भूमिका मांडली. अमेरिकेत अनेक पुरोगामी उद्योजक असल्याचे त्यांनी आपल्या मनीषात सांगितले, समाजपरिवर्तन आणि न्याय्य समाजासाठी त्यांचे प्रयत्न महत्वाचे ठरतात, भारतात तसे प्रयत्न मोठ्या प्रमाणात होणे गरजेचे आहे, असे ते म्हणाले.

पुरस्कारांचे वितरण ख्यातनाम 'द हिंदू' या इंग्रजी दैनिकाचे माजी संपादक आणि 'द वायर' या वेबनियतकालिकाचे विद्यमान संपादक सिद्धार्थ वरदराजन यांच्या हस्ते झाले. त्यांच्यासकट सर्व नऊ पुरस्कारप्राप्त व्यक्तींची भाषणेही एका नवा दृष्टीकोन देऊन जाणारी होती.

वरदराजन यांनी देशात अलीकडे घडत असलेल्या सामाजिक-राजकीयदृष्ट्या गंभीर विषयांवर आपले विचार मांडले. नागरिकांनी आपल्या सदसत्त्विकबुद्धीला अनुसरून आपली पावले उचलायला हवीत, असेही ते म्हणाले. माध्यमांबद्दल बोलताना ते म्हणाले की, माध्यमांनी समाजाच्या समस्यांवर गांभीर्याने चर्चा घडवली पाहिजे. शिवाय, न्यायाची लढाई लढण्यात कसूर करायला नको. लोकशाहीची जपणूक करण्यासाठी आपण सर्वांनीच कटिबद्ध असायला हवे.

यंदा साहित्यातील जीवनगौरव ज्येष्ठ साहित्यिक डॉ. अनिल अवचट यांना प्रदान करण्यात आला. समोरच्याला आपलेसे करून घेण्याची त्यांची बोलण्याची नेहमीची शैली याही वेळी दिसून आली. ते त्यांच्या जडणघडणीविषयी आणि सामाजिक कार्य करताना त्यांना आलेल्या अनुभवांच्या विषयी बोलले. 'आपण खणत राहाव आणि एके दिवशी लोकांनी येऊन आपल्याला म्हणावं- अरे, रस्ता तयार झाला की !... माझा प्रवास असाच काहीसा नकळतपणे झाला आहे. साधे पाडे पाठ न होणारा, लसावी-मसावी सुद्धा न उमगणारा मी इथवर आलो, याचे माझेच मला आजही आश्चर्य वाटते. पण एक नक्की- मी एक वेडा माणूस आहे. ज्याचे वेड लागले तेच करत बसलो. समाजातील विविध घटकांची दुःख, त्यांच्या व्यथा पाहिल्या आणि मला माझ्या जगण्याची दिशा सापडली...' अशा अंतर्मुख करणाऱ्या त्यांच्या शब्दांनी उपस्थितांच्या मनाचा ठाव घेतला होता. समाजकार्य जीवनगौरव ज्येष्ठ स्वातंत्र्यसैनिक गंगाप्रसाद अग्रवाल (परभणी) यांना देण्यात आला. ते आजारपणामुळे येऊ न शकल्याने त्यांचा नातू विशाल याने हा पुरस्कार स्वीकारला. बेचाळीसची चळवळ, हैद्राबाद मुक्तीसंग्राम, भूदान आंदोलन इथपासून ते मराठावाड्याचा पाणीप्रश्न, शेतकऱ्यांच्या आत्महत्या, पर्यावरणाची समस्या अशा अनेक माध्यमांतून गांधीवादाची कास धरत, अवघे आयुष्य व्यतीत करणाऱ्या या तपस्वी माणसाची एक ध्वनिचित्रफीत या वेळी दाखविण्यात आली.

डॉ. नरेंद्र दाभोलकर स्मृतिप्रीत्यर्थ दिला जाणारा पुरस्कार, विद्यार्थ्यांमध्ये वैज्ञानिक दृष्टिकोन निर्माण करणारे अरविंद गुप्ता यांना देण्यात आला. मागील चार दशके ते विज्ञान प्रसार आणि समाज जागृतीचे कार्य करीत आहेत. 'कुणीतरी सांगतोय म्हणून कुठल्याही गोष्टीवर विश्वास ठेवू नका. ते आपल्या बुद्धीशी ताडून पाहा आणि मगच विश्वास ठेवा. अनुभवसिद्ध वैज्ञानिक दृष्टिकोन हाच आपल्या जीवनाचा मूलाधार असायला हवा. ज्ञानाची पिपासा आपल्यात मुळातच असते. तिला फक्त दिशा मिळावला हवी...' हे त्यांचे शब्द सभागृहाला लख्ख विचार देऊन गेले. अजित दळवी यांना 'समाजस्वास्थ्य' या नाटकाच्या लेखनासाठी रा. शं. दातार नाट्यपुरस्कार देण्यात आला. 'सगळ्यांच्या पोटात असलेले ओठावर आणणे कलावंतांचे काम आहे. समाजाला जे ऐकायचे नाही ते देखील सांगण्याचा अधिकार असणे म्हणजे स्वातंत्र्य होय,' असे ते म्हणाले.

यासोबतच, साहित्य विभागात दिग्दर्शिका सई परांजपे यांच्या 'सय : माझा कलाप्रवास' या आत्मकथनात्मक पुस्तकाला अपारंपरिक ग्रंथ पुरस्कार देण्यात आला. शेती हेच रोजचे जीवन असणाऱ्या आणि एका टप्प्यावर स्वतःच्या लेखनक्षमतांची जाणीव झाल्यावर आपल्या लेखनातून ग्रामीण स्त्रीजीवन आणि त्यांच्या आयुष्यातील समस्यांची धग मांडणाऱ्या कल्पना दुधाळ यांच्या 'धग असतेच आसपास' या काव्यसंग्रहाला ललित ग्रंथ पुरस्कार देण्यात आला. तर, समाजकार्य विभागात चेतना गाला सिन्हा (म्हसवड, सातारा) यांना असंगठित कष्टकऱ्यांसाठी गेली अनेक वर्षे केलेल्या कामासाठी, रुबिना पटेल (नागपूर) यांना मुस्लिम महिलांमध्ये केलेल्या प्रबोधनासाठी आणि अरुण जाधव (जामखेड, अहमदनगर) यांना भटकं विमुक्त, दलित या समाजघटकांसाठी केलेल्या संघर्षासाठी गौरविण्यात आले.

दरम्यान, 'शिवाजी अंडरग्राउंड इन भीमनगर मोहल्ला' या नाटकाच्या 'द रियल शिवाजी' या संकेतस्थळाचे उद्घाटन देखील यावेळी करण्यात आले.

मुंबई येथील 'केशव गोरे स्मारक ट्रस्ट'चे प्रमोद निगुडकर, महाराष्ट्र फाउंडेशनच्या शोभा चित्रे, व रवींद्र दातार हे अनुक्रमे पहिल्या व दुसऱ्या सत्रात विचारपीठावर उपस्थित होते. हमीद दाभोलकर यांनी आभार मानले.





**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>

*Thakar Financial, LLC is built on principles of strong work ethics, integrity and placing client's interest first. We strive to provide exceptional service to our clients and never forget that our success lies in the success of our clients.*



Girish Thakar, M.S., MBA, AWMA®,  
President, Registered Principal RJFS

We are proud to manage several **Maharashtra Foundation Donor Advised Funds since 1995.**

We are also proud to manage assets of many Non-Profit Organizations and High Net-worth Individuals like you.

We thank Maharashtra Foundation for the service provided to the Maharashtrian Community in US & India.

We look forward to many more years of working together

*For all your "Financial Health and Wealth" check-ups, and Philanthropic giving please contact us at 412-809-0990 or [girish.thakar@raymondjames.com](mailto:girish.thakar@raymondjames.com)*

**Thakar Financial, LLC**

2 Robinson Plaza, Suite 320, Pittsburgh, PA 15205

Tel: 412-809-0990 Fax: 412-809-0995

**RAYMOND JAMES®**

Securities offered through  
Raymond James Financial Services, Inc.  
Member FINRA/SIPC