



Ambedkar Times

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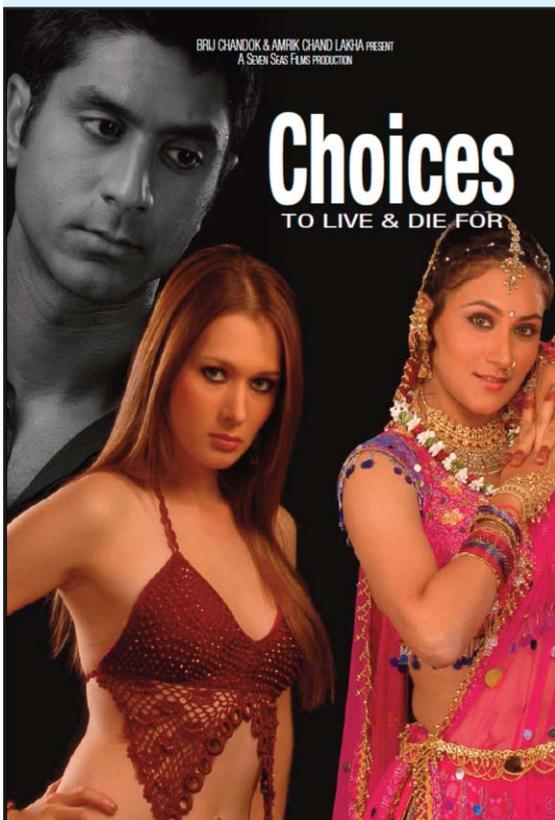
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"CHOICES TO LIVE AND DIE FOR" A STORY OF LOVE WITH NO BOUNDARIES



theme focuses on the commonality of people across cultural divides, and focuses on the blossoming romance between an Indian immigrant and an American woman on her luck, and their struggles to survive and provide for their loved ones.



Amrik Chand Lakha (Producer)



Brij Chandok (Producer)

Cultural divides lend itself to stormy and tumultuous relationships lived through accidental encounters and anchored by an unusual romance, the movie team is able to juggle right balance of stagecraft, story-telling and setting to give unexpected soaring flight to "Choices To Live and Die For."

Set in the City of San Francisco, the story of, Ajay, a struggling (Continued on next page)

At their core, human beings are driven by the same desires: love, security, care, and compassion. Whatever their upbringing, culture or traits, these common values are shared by everyone. The movie

'Valley Firsts' at Display at the Henry Madden Library, Fresno State



Pashaura Singh Dhillon

I attended a wonderful reception regarding an exhibition of 'Valley Firsts' that was held at the Henry Madden Library at the California State University Fresno (Fresno State) last night.

Honoring all the 'Firsts and inventions of the Valley region', the Dean of Library Services Fresno State Peter McDonald, sent an invitation to the Sikh American community for the reception, which was held in the Library last evening on Friday Sept. 13th at 6pm. It was a true gala



as the Americans call it and the giant library hall was fully packed with families and guests that were invited to attend. It was a beautiful show of diversity in play, a matter of real pride for the valley population!

One of the items in the exhibition highlighted, is the first Sikh American Gurduara in the United States in Stockton that was built in 1912. Associated with this historic Gurduara, you will notice that the (Continued on next page)

Punjabi Adbi Sangat literary society of Canada remembered SIRDAR KAPUR SINGH ON HIS 27th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Surrey (Jagjit Singh Takhar): The Punjabi Adbi Sangat literary society of Canada (Regd.) organized a grand function on August 18 at Newton Public Library to commemorate and celebrate the life and achievements of the great intellectual, thinker, writer, philosopher and National Professor of Sikhism, Sirdar Kapur Singh Ji. The function was attended by the prominent writers, scholars, personalities, thinkers and family members of Sirdar Kapur Singh Ji. The function commenced with the appointment of an honorary presiding board that included Society President Jaiteg Singh Anant, Daljit Singh Sandhu, Jagjit Singh Takhar and Joginder Singh Grewal. They were welcomed and presented



Jaiteg Singh Anant presenting the Sirdar Kapur Singh Yaadgari Award to Gurdev Singh Baath

with a bouquet of flowers. Two condolence resolutions were tabled at the onset of the function. Deep regret and sorrow on the demise of the Jathedar of Takhat Sri Anandpur Sahib, Bhai Tarlochan Singh Ji and a great scholar and writer Patwant Singh were condoled. The present dignitaries and audience maintained a silence of one minute and prayed for the peace of the departed souls. Jaiteg Singh Anant, the president and spirit of the Punjabi Adbi Sangat welcomed everyone present in the function with the great enthusiasm. He said that great persons like Sirdar Kapur Singh are very rare and once in a century.

(Continued on next page)

CALIFORNIA MEASURES FOR AWARENESS ABOUT SIKH AMERICANS



Onkar S. Bindra

Sacramento, CA - ACR 25 introduced by Assemblyman Wieckowski, was passed unanimously by both the Assembly and the Senate of California, and filed with the Secretary of State on September 9, 2013. This measure designated November 2013 as California Sikh American Awareness and Appreciation Month. It recognizes and acknowledges the significant contributions made by Californians of

Sikh heritage to the state, and afford all Californians the opportunity to understand, recognize, and appreciate the rich history and shared principles of Sikh Americans. This was much needed despite earlier such resolutions, namely ACR 97 by Assemblyman Perea for Nov. 2012, and ACR 181 by Assemblyman Logue for Nov. 2010. In spite of these resolutions and other efforts, 70% of Americans misidentify turban-wearers and 48% identify them as Muslims, This has been shown by a recent study conducted jointly by Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund, and

the Stanford University, Palo Alto. Thus, there is need to continue efforts for increasing Sikh awareness and appreciation. In this connection, two important steps taken in California deserve mention for the information of Sikhs in other states.

The first is the Senate Bill 1540, introduced by Senator Hancock. It was passed by the two houses, and was signed by Governor Jerry Brown on September 8, 2012. It says, "State Board (of Education) may consider the adoption of a revised curriculum framework and evaluation criteria for instructional

materials in history-social science." and goes on to say, "The department (of Education) shall conduct work necessary to revise the curriculum framework and evaluation criteria for instructional materials in history-social science only after it has completed work related to the development of curriculum frameworks for the common core academic contents standards pursuant to Section 60207."

A revised Framework with appropriate references to Sikh culture, faith and history is expected to be (Continued on next page)

Punjabi Adbi Sangat literary society of Canada remembered Sirdar Kapur Singh on his 27th death anniversary in a grand function

Jaiteg Singh Anant appreciated the immense contribution of Sirdar Kapur Singh Ji for the

gem of person who came to Lok Sabha and also said that he shall be remembered forever. Editor of Punjab

released by the prominent writer, Jaiteg Singh Anant. The first copy of the book was presented to the former

Singh Ji's books was the centre of attraction at the function. At the end, Sirdar Kapur Singh Ji's nephew Jogin-



Members of Sirdar Kapur Singhji's family.



Presiding board consisting of Jagjit Singh Takhar, Jaiteg Singh Anant, Daljit Singh Sandhu, Joginder Singh Grewal. Harkirat Singh Kulaar shedding light upon life of Sirdar Kapur Singh.



Jaiteg Singh Anant releasing the book of Gulbir Singh Batra, "Sikhs in Hong Kong" along with Daljit Singh Sandhu, Jagjit Singh Takhar and Kehar Singh Dhamrait.

KhalsaPanth and also said that he shall remain in the sweet memories and hearts of people for the time eternal. A renowned Sarangi master, Chamkaur Singh Sekhon filled the hearts of the audience by singing the poem of Sirdar Kapur Singh Ji. A well-known columnist Kehar Singh Dhamrait shed light upon the memories from Sirdar Kapur Singh Ji's life. Principal Malook Chand Kaler, Retd. Col. Gurdeep Singh, Bikar Singh Khosa, Principal Sarwan Singh Aujla, Daljit Singh Sandhu and Gurdish Kaur Grewal threw light upon the noble living and personality and great works of Sirdar Kapur Singh Ji. Story writer Anmol Kaur and Iqbal Singh Thiara together staged few dialogues from the famous book "Sachi Sakhi".

The former Lok Sabha member, Harbhajan Lakha talked about the great contribution of Sirdar Kapur Singh Ji in Sikh Philosophy. He appreciated that Sirdar Kapur Singh Ji was a



The august gathering present at the function.

Gaurdian, Harkirat Singh Kulaar said that there was a time when Sirdar Kapur Singh Ji, during his election campaign, refused to deal and accept the votes of the people addicted to drugs or alcoholism and unfortunately today the Akali Dal has won the elections with the help of these people which is highly criticisable in Sikh History.

In this function, the book "Sikhs in Honk Kong" written by S. Gulbir Singh Batra (Hong Kong) was

resident of Hong Kong Gurdev Singh Baath. Story Writer Shingar Singh Sandhu read a paper about the book. On this occasion, Gurdev Singh Baath was honoured by Jaiteg Singh Anant and Daljit Singh Sandhu on behalf of the Society for his great work of translating and distributing the Sikh history and literature in other languages such as Japanese, Korean, Chinese, and Vietnamese etc. for free.

He was presented a citation, dastaar, shawl, and a plaque. Former M.P (India) Harbhajan Lakha, Sirdar Kapur Singh Ji's niece Bibi Chintan Kaur. Principal Malook Chand, Anmol Kaur, Iqbal Singh Thiara were honoured with a bouquet of flowers and books. The exhibition of Sirdar Kapur

der Singh Grewal thanked all the august gathering of the day. He also thanked and appreciated Jaiteg Singh Anant and Punjabi Adbi Sangat for their great contribution in field of Punjabi Literature and Culture.

The function was graced by Dr. Baldev Singh Khera, Dr. Gurminder Sidhu, Charan Singh Viridi, Jarnail Singh Sandhu, Narinder Singh Gulati, Dr. Gurbachan Singh Kalsi, Kewal Singh Dhaliwal, Balwantsingh Sanghera, Harcharan Singh Punia, Hardeep Singh Baath, Avtar Singh Dhillon, Avtar Singh Sandhu, Journalist Harpreet Singh, Gyan Singh Sandhu and four nieces of Sirdar Kapur Singh Ji, Gurdeep Kaur Sandhu, Joginder Kaur Dhot, Rajwinder Kaur Takhar and Surinder Kaur Bhullar. The two and a half hour long function left an everlasting memory in hearts of the appreciators of Sirdar Kapur Singh Ji and lovers of Punjabi Maa Boli.

"Choices To Live and Die For"

Indian immigrant student meets with a down on her luck street walker that culminates into a monumental life journey for everyone involved. Amy, young mother of an 8-year-old daughter named Andy, struggles to make a living by becoming a street walker. She is manipulated by a vicious and abusive pimp and Ajay to rescue that paves the way for friendship that slowly turns into love. Ajay starts loving not just Amy but also helping her daughter.

The movie centers on Ajay and Amy, and their cultural integration, reconciling differences, and evolving family relations and emotions. It showcases their sacrifices to protect and support each other. "Choices To Live and Die For" depicts life's vicissitudes, twists & turns uncertainties and eventual compromises that must be made to sustain living in society. It depicts the resilience of unconditional love, self-sacrifice, forgiveness and gives people the strength to rise above one's self in protecting loved ones.

Cinematography and sets are beautifully done. Viewers are engaged so that there is never a dull moment. The actors do a great job showing the emotions that bring two people from completely different walks of lives together. The director Garvey Bedwal packs powerful emotional performances and the editing is riveting.

Producers Brij Chandok and Amrik Chand Lakha pooled their innovative ideas

and resources to produce Choices as a mainstream film that would find interest and acceptance not only with Indian and American audiences, but across a wide spectrum of immigrants from a variety of demographics and all age groups. This main stream feature film, "Choices To Live and Die For" was shot /filmed in San Francisco & Mumbai, with Hollywood & Bollywood cast.

After watching the movie, you are assured to make the right choices in your life. The movie is now available for download or to buy DVD:

www.sevenseasfilms.com

www.makeachoice.net

Movie Reviews:

"Movie was really good, and Elizabeth was exceptional."- Jayesh Parekh, Singapore, SONY Entertainment Television Founder. "Wow! It was good....NO, IT WAS VERY GOOD."- Narendra Jain, New Delhi, IIT Delhi Alumni

"It was a beautiful love story and an important message to young girls."- Donna Smyth, USA Movie Buff.

Cast: Elizabeth O'Brick (Amy), Frank Maharaj (Ajay), Ivy Gullickson, Ashton Blaise Whitty, Michael Platt, Paul Sappal, Christina Wood, Kanak Khanna, Nitin Jagdesh, Rekha Sahay, Nayasha, Garvey Bedwal

Director: Garvey Bedwal

Producers: Brij Chandok & Amrik Chand Lakha

CALIFORNIA MEASURES FOR AWARENESS

completed by mid 2014 The second is ACR 20, which was introduced jointly by Assemblymen Logue (R) and Perea (D), and passed unanimously by California's Assembly and Senate in May this year. This measure recognizes the need for inclusion of Sikhism in world religions, Eastern religions, Asian, and South Asian courses at all postsecondary educational institutions of California, and advises the concerned academic governing bodies, deans, and department chairs to include Sikhism in their institution's world religions, Eastern religions, Asian, and South Asian courses. Each institution of higher education (College or university) itself decides the courses offered and their contents. They have academic freedom. However, with a follow-up, hopefully, more and more universities and community colleges will include Sikhism in their relevant courses. This writer is very thankful to all who provided him the needed support during the process leading to the passage of the above measures. (osbindra@sbcglobal.net)

'Valley Firsts' at Display

Ghadar Party is specifically mentioned; the Ghadar Party that flew the first flag of Indian Independence at the Yugantar Ashram, San Francisco in 1913, when others were talking only of 'Home Rule in India' at that time. It is most likely that more about it will be added after the opening. Current description associated with the Stockton Gurduara picture is as follows:

"Opposition to British rule in their homeland brought many Sikhs into the Valley during the late nineteenth and early 20th centuries. They secured work in the railroad, lumber and agricultural industries,

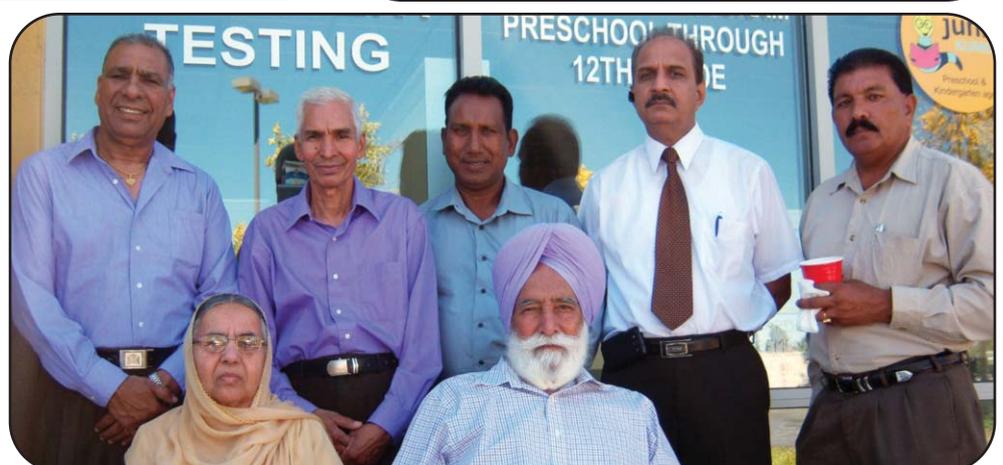
and soon established themselves in the Stockton area. It was here, in 1912, that two farmer-leaders (Baba Jawala Singh and Baba Waskaha Singh) built the first Sikh temple anywhere in the United States. This house of worship attracts south Asians from all over the world, and provided the cradle for the Ghadar (Revolution) Party, which advocated Indian independence decades before it was achieved. Its historical significance is such that South Grant Street, on which the temple sits, was renamed Sikh Temple Street in 2013. (Includes photo from its opening)".

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India Market's new location "India Market Sweets & Spices" opening ceremony pictures, (Sunday September 15, 2013)



Pictures by Prem K. Chumber (Ambedkar Times & Desh Doaba)

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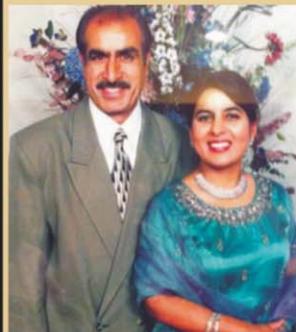
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ਖੁੱਲ੍ਹਾ ਕੱਪੜਾ, ਵਧੀਆ ਤੋਂ ਵਧੀਆ ਸਾਡੀਆਂ ਤੇ
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