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Sikh Gurdwara San Jose Newsletter

How the Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee Works

Dear Members of the Sikh Gurdwara San Jose,
Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa, Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh,

As you all know, the present building of the Gurdwara Sahib was inaugurated in 2011. This beautiful building and its size opened several opportunities for programs to help the Sikh community. With blessings of Waheguru and unwavering support of our sangat the Majuda committee with its 21 elected members and tall list of dedicated supporter sewadars have not only successfully started several new programs but also put the Gurdwara Sahib on a solid financial footing. This has only been possible with one collective goal of setting a benchmark in every area of Bay Area Sikh diaspora keeping the teachings of our Gurus at the forefront.

Many in sangat are not aware of how the Parbandhak committee works. In this newsletter we will provide some details of the working of the committee. As the elections for the Parbandhak committee has been announced, this will provide information to the prospective candidates on the various responsibilities and commitments needed to be a committee member.

Your 21 elected Majuda committee members are:

Bhupinder Singh Dhillon, Rajinder Singh Mangar, Gurinder Pal Singh, Pritam Singh Grewal, Sukhdev Singh Baniwal, Pritpal Kaur, Kirpal Singh Atwal, Hardev Singh Takhar, Dharam Singh, Surjit Singh Bains, Narinder Pal Singh, Sharanjit Kaur Bhandal, Gurbax Singh, Harjinder Singh Ladhar, Gurpreet Singh Sethi, Bahadur Singh Deol, Sohan Singh Dhanota, Kuldip Singh Shergill, Balbir Singh Bains, Narinder Kaur Meharu, Harparminder Singh Powar.

The committee is structured in two parts: the Executive **Committee** and the **Sub Committees** that manage different work areas. The subcommittees are specifically mentioned in the Gurdwara Bylaws Article IV, section A3 and can include members from the General Body/Sangat. In our Gurdwara Sahib, major work is done by the subcommittees overseen by the Parbandhak Committee. The subcommittees are empowered to take decisions relating to their domain. Over time these powers have been defined with conventions. Any significant new decision may need approval from the whole Parbandhak Committee. A joint meeting of the whole Parbandhak committee is held normally at least once every month, where the sub-committees can bring up the issues facing them and all members work together to arrive at a consensus solution. Every member carries equal voting rights in this meeting.

The executive committee consists of the following five office bearers:

Bhupindar Singh Dhillon, President; Gurinder Pal Singh, Vice President; Pritam Singh Grewal, General Secretary; Sohan Singh Dhanota, Chief Accounts officer; Rajinder Singh Mangar, Stage Secretary.

The executive committee members help the subcommittees, provide guidelines and often also lead their own subcommittee. They also often represent the Gurdwara Sahib to the outside organizations. These include both the religious and elected government bodies at the city, county, state and the national level.

Sub committees are defined based on the areas of expertise and to fulfill needs of the Gurdwara Sangat and to ensure smooth running of our religious institution. These sub committees and its elected members and volunteers from sangat are as follows:

1. Dharmic committee:

Dharam Singh, Rajinder Singh Mangar, Sukhdev Singh Baniwal (chair), Gurinder Pal Singh, Pritpal Kaur, Narinderpal Singh and Pritam Singh Grewal

Besides these Satinder Singh Mangar, Arun Singh and Gurdip Singh from Sangat are also members of this committee. The religious programs of the Gurdwara Sahib run from 4 AM until 9:00 PM every day, and these need careful planning to ensure quality and meeting needs of the sangat. The dharmic committee decides on the Ragi jatha and staff selection, Daily programs, Sunday programs, Special event programs, Wedding events, Birthday celebrations, Keertan and Path programs at homes, Cremations and Antim Ardas programs, Guest speaker hosting, 31 Raag Keertan darbar, Raen Sabhayi Keertan, Amrit Sanchar, Gurupurab celebrations, Parbhat Pheris, Special days like Bandhi Chord Divas (Diwali), the Sahibzade Shaheedi Week, New year eve and many more. Conferences are organized on special occasions. Dharmic committee also arranges the Karah Parshad preparation and distribution by the staff.



An independent group of 25+ volunteers led by Amritpal Singh Dhaliwal provide the sewa to do Rumala and Chandoa sewa for Sri Guru Granth Sahib. They make sure that the palki area is tastefully decorated following the Sikh Rehat Maryada. The dharmic committee oversees their functioning as needed.

LEFT: Padam Shri Bhai Sabib Bhai Harjinder Singh Ji jathaa doing Keertan on Vesakhi Day

Many Sangat members provide generous support for inviting well known Parcharaks and Ragis. Feedback and support provided by Jagmohan Singh Sahni and many others is very valuable.

Another group led by Arun Singh provides pre-wedding counselling to the prospective couples. Other participants in this effort are Balbir Singh, Zoraver Singh, Kamal Kaur and Sumit Singh Sethi. The program is well liked by the young prospective couples and other Gurdwaras are now initiating such programs.

2. Guru Nanak Khalsa School committee: Gurinder Pal Singh (chair), Narinderpal Singh, Rajinder Singh Mangar

Guru Nanak Khalsa School serves over 550 students and has a wide range of programs. These include Punjabi language, Gurmat and Gurbani teaching, Keertan training, Sikh Heritage Symphony, Boy and Girl scouts, Gurbani competition, Sri Hemkunt Foundation speech symposiums and keertan darbars and many more. A dedicated group of volunteers provide security for the children and the Gurdwara Sahib Sangat.

All these activities need many volunteers. There are around 120 volunteer teachers and sewadars that provide this sewa. There are several highly skilled members among them who group and regroup to provide leadership for different programs. Besides the Parbandhak committee members, notable contributors are Pushpinder Kaur, Arshinderpal Kaur, Leena Kaur Bedi, Gurumukh Singh Tiwana, Gurpreet Singh Saini, Simrit Singh Kamboe, Gurminder Singh, Akbal Singh Karlcut, Kuldeep Kaur Karlcut, Harshdeap Singh Keith, Surjit Singh Dheri, Kulveer S. Bhella, Harpreet Kaur Keith, Jyoti Kaur Bedi, Kuldeep Kaur Pahwa, Meena Kaur Chandok, Aneet Kaur Narang, Bandana Kaur, Ishmeet Kaur, and several others.

These activities are supported by an infrastructure committee of over 20+ members led by Gurpreet Singh Saini, Daljeet Singh, Satinder S. Mangar, Mandeep Singh, Sukhdev Singh, Gurpreet Singh (Sonu), Raminder S. Chandok that besides



ABOVE: GNKS students at Charni Lagna Ceremony, a part of Graduation. 38 students graduated this year.

providing class infrastructure support, prepare and serve refreshments to students and staff every Sunday. Their services are indispensable for the school. This group also participates enthusiastically in the special programs of the Gurdwara Sahib.

- 3. Special Religious Programs:** Pritpal Kaur, Rajinder Singh Mangar, Kirpal Singh Atwal, Pritam Singh Grewal, Narinder Kaur Meharu, Sohan Singh Dhanota

There are special religious programs that are not covered by the Dharmic Committee or the Guru Nanak Khalsa School. Examples are program for children like **Annual Gurmat camp, Sahibzade Remembrance Day, and Annual Khalsa Sikh Kids Day (on Vaisakhi)**. Volunteers who contribute to these programs are Arun Singh, Gurpreet Kaur (Mamta), Satinder Mangar, Amritpal Dhaliwal.



LEFT: Pre-wedding Class in session

Another program is **Annual Women's day**. This celebration is led by Pritpal Kaur, Gurpreet Kaur, Suneet Kaur and Meena Kaur Chandok.

Weekly Dastar training class: It is led by Harpreet Singh Saini & Harman Dhaliwal

Gurbani Samthiya for Adults, Teenagers & Small Kids - Led by Satinder Singh Mangar, Gurpreet Kaur (Mamta), Inderjeet Singh Ahluwalia.

Gender Equality Day: Our Gurdwara Sahib honors new born children (both boys and girls) and their parents on Lohri day. Gifts are given to the children. Lohri treats are distributed to the whole sangat. Kirpal Singh Atwal, Pritam Singh Grewal, Narinder Kaur Meharu and Sohan Singh Dhanota organize these.

- 4. Langar committee:** Kuldeep Singh Shergill, Harjinder Singh Ladhar (chair), Pritpal Kaur, Harparminder Singh, Gurbax Singh, Dharam Singh, Bahadur Singh Deol

The langar committee, supported by two langris and scores of volunteers serves nearly 10,000 meals every week. This number grows several fold on Gurupurabs and other special days. Duties of the committee members include daily menu planning, special event planning, pantry and equipment checks, food handling and safety checks, diet and healthy food programs etc.

Supporting and advisory roles under Langar committee: Kulwant Singh, Gurpreet Kaur, Surinder Singh Hans, Kildee Singh Mehta, Jaswinder Kaur Sahota, Darshan Kaur Gill, Manjit Singh Bhullar, Arun Singh, Satinder Singh Mangar, Mandeep Singh Saini, Amritpal Singh Dhaliwal, Kashmiri Lal, Santosh Kaur, Jagtar Singh Otal, Bhupinder Singh Mann, Kulwant Kaur Kulwinder Kaur Atkar and many others

5. Administrative committee:

Pritam Singh Grewal (chair), Kirpal Singh Atwal, Sohan Singh Dhanota, Balbir Singh Bains

The administrative committee provides support for collection of funds, accounting, managing bank accounts, mortgage, paying bills, payroll, distributing scholarships, office support, member registration, Gurdwara savings and investments, cleaning services etc.

The administrative committee is supported by Bill S.Bains CPA, Harinder Singh Anand, Surinder Singh Hansra, Bhupinder Singh Dhillon, Gurinder Pal Singh and Harjinder Singh Ladhar among a few others.

6. The Stage Management Committee:

Rajinder Singh Mangar (Chair), Pritam Singh Grewal

The stage management committee ensures that the Gurdwara stage is used only for issues related to Gurdwara programs. It communicates with sangat the programs, the speakers, Ragis, Parcharaks and other upcoming programs. Important announcements related to Gurdwara programs are also made.

The stage management committee is supported by Mohinder Singh Bajwa (head granthi), Arun Singh and Amritpal Singh Dhaliwal.

7. The Scholarship Committee: Gurinder Pal Singh (Chair), Sukhdev Singh Baniwal, Sharanjit Kaur Bhandal, Narinder Kaur Meharu, Kirpal Singh Atwal

The scholarship committee decides the policies, invites scholarship applications, interviews the candidates and selects the Scholarship candidates. Many Sangat members have provided generous support for the scholarships.

8. College Prep Program: Gurinder Pal Singh (Chair), Bhupinder Singh Dhillon

This is a relatively new program, started in 2022. This program is aimed at preparing the high schoolers in the community for college. The program aims to provide tutoring in English, Math, Natural Sciences & Computer Science. A New program on Robotics is under works and will be launched soon. Program of student counselling on career selection, extracurricular activities, college essay writing, campus visits, financial aid and other college admission matters is also being organized.

The academic operations are managed by Prof. Baltej Singh Mann, Roop Singh Dhillon, Davinder Singh, Pavnit Singh, Pushpinder Kaur, Amandeep Kaur Mangar, Nihal Singh, Harmoor Kaur and many other tutor volunteers. Administrative support is provided by Gurdev Singh Multani, Darleen Kaur and few others.

9. Public Relations/ Media: Sukhdev Singh Baniwal, Bhupinder Singh Dhillon (chair), Gurinder Pal Singh, Kirpal Singh Atwal

This committee works with the rest of the Parbandhak committee to send newsletters, Gurdwara Program Announcements, Advertising the programs on Social media, Gurdwara TVs and newspapers.

Supporting and advisory roles under PR/Media committee are performed by selected and dedicated sewadars: Arun Singh, Harbir Kaur Bhatia, Sheena Kaur Sawhney, Onkar Singh Sangha

10. Maintenance committee: Pritam Singh Grewal, Bahadur Singh Deol (chair), Surjit Singh Bains, Kuldeep Singh Shergill,

This sub-committee has huge tasks to maintain the building, utilities, repair of equipment, gardening, paving the parking lot and add needed improvements.

Supporting and advisory roles under Maintenance committee are performed by selected and dedicated sewadars; Paul Mahal, Mandeep Singh, Satinder Singh Mangar, Amritpal Singh Dhaliwal, Harpreet Singh Saini, Balbir Singh, Abhay Kaloti.

11. Special Events committee:

Kirpal Singh Atwal (chair), Surjit Singh Bains, Sukhdev Singh Bainiwal, Harjinder Singh Ladhar Harparminder Singh Powar, Narinder Kaur Meharu, Bahadur Singh Deol

This committee focuses on special events like Hola Mahalla, Bandhi Chord divas, Nagar keertan, 4th of July celebration, New year eve etc.



LEFT: Decorated Float Carrying Sri Guru Granth Sahib at the Nagar Keertan

Supporting and advisory roles under Special events committee are performed by dedicated sewadars: Khushvinder Singh, Onkar Singh Sangha, Jarnail Singh, Jasvir Singh, Harduman Singh Sanghera, Karnail Singh, Satinder Singh, Arun Singh, Balbir Singh, Harpreet Singh Saini, Amritpal Singh Dhaliwal, Jaswinder Singh Nijjer, Charan Bhandal, Bhupinder Singh Mann, Pritham Singh Sardar & GNKS infrastructure committee.

12. Activities committee:

Sukhdev Singh Bainiwal (chair), Gurpreet Singh Sethi, Sharanjit Kaur Bhandal, Gurbax Singh

5k walk, SJ Sharks, Basketball, Volleyball, Gatka Akhara, Homeless feeding, Sikh Heritage Nights at Sports events etc.

Supporting and advisory roles under Sports & Activities committee are performed by selected and dedicated sewadars: Charan Singh Bhandal, Jaswinder Singh Nijjar, Mangal Singh Bhandal, Jaswinder Singh Sohal, Balbir Singh and many other sewadars.

13. Construction committee:

Bhupinder Singh Dhillon, Surjit Singh Bains (chair), Pritam Singh Grewal, Gurpreet Singh Sethi

North Hall and South Hall second story extensions, New Solar System, EV charging stations etc.

Supporting and advisory roles under the Construction committee are performed by selected and dedicated sewadars: Jesse Singh Powar, Mandeep Singh and many other sewadars.

14. Security committee:

Bhupinder Singh Dhillon, Pritam Singh Grewal (chair), Bahadur Singh Deol, Kirpal Singh Atwal

Security planning for special events, security planning for weekends, Security planning for weekdays, training security volunteers, first responders etc.

Supporting and advisory roles under security committee are performed by selected and dedicated sewadars: Simrit Singh Kamboe, Jesse Singh Powar and many other sewadars.

15. Health & Wellness committee:

Dr. Harpreet Singh Pannu, Narinder Pal Singh (chair), Gurinder Pal Singh, Sukhdev Singh Bainiwal

Rog Nivaran programs, Yoga and meditation, Uninsured patients, Diagnosis and primary care, mental health, woman health issues, pandemic awareness & readiness.

Supporting and advisory roles under the Wellness committee are performed by selected and dedicated sewadars: Dr Gurpreet Kaur Padam, Dr Iqbal Kaur Nijjar, Dr. Nirmal Kaur Dhami, Dr. Preet Sabherwal, Navdeep Kaur.

16. Gurdwara Tour Arrangements: Sukhdev Singh Bainiwal (Chair), Gurinder Pal Singh, Narinderpal Singh, Kirpal Singh Atwal

Gurdwara Sahib gets many requests from outside groups to visit the gurdwara Sahib and learn about the Sikh religion and traditions. These are from other religious organizations, universities or schools. Depending upon their availability, different committee members conduct the tours. Recently Didar Singh Mundy from our Gurdwara Sahib has been providing many Gurdwara tours to other communities including school children.



ABOVE: Cresto Rey San Jose Jesuit High School Students Being Given A Tour By Didar Singh Mundy

17. Guru Nanak Farm committee: Dharam Singh Dhillon (Chair), Bahadur Singh Deol.

The support group includes Dharam Singh Bola, Mohan Singh Mangar Nirmal Singh Atwal, and Amarjit Singh. The group is growing fresh vegetables, medicinal plants and sugar cane. The supplies are used in the langar, and medicinal plants are available to the sangat.

18. Head Covers (Romals) Cleaning Committee: Kirpal Singh Atwal, Rajinder Singh Mangar (Chair).

Providing clean romals (scarves) to the non-turban wearing sangat or non-Sikh visitors to cover their heads is an important sewa this subcommittee provides. Harman Singh: his family and relatives, are supporting this effort by providing new romals all year round.

19. The Audio Visual and Technology Committee: Bahadur Singh Deol (Chair), Kirpal Singh Atwal

This committee provides audio, video and internet support everywhere in Gurdwara Sahib and related support for all the Gurdwara programs. Recently the group has upgraded the Audio system in the North Hall.

The committee is supported by Onkar Singh Sangha, Sanjiv Singh, Gurumukh Singh Tiwana, Amanjot Singh, Gurpreet Singh and many others.

20. The Senior Center: Bhupindar Singh Dhillon (Chair), Pritam Singh Grewal

This is the newest program of the Gurdwara Sahib. This activity focusses on senior health and wellbeing. There are 100 registered members, 30-35 participate each day. The members meet on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Program starts with Naam Simran in the main hall (11:00-11:30 AM), chair yoga in South hall (11:30-12:45 PM), Playing games and socialization (12:45-1:30 PM) followed by Langar (1:30-2:00 PM).



ABOVE: Chair Yoga Class for Seniors in Action

The program is made possible by efforts of founding member Navi Sekhon, Activities leader Amarjit Kaur Sekhon, and Salinderjit Singh. Participation is increasing as the community is getting information about the benefits.

As you see the Parbandhak committee is working in a very systematic manner to provide services to Sangat. The decision making is democratic with responsibilities spread over the subcommittees, actively involving sangat members. The real strength of the Parbandhak Committee and the Sangat was tested by the Covid Pandemic. The committee expanded the religious programs that were made available online to provide peace and solace for the Sangat.



A sangat member who made an online donation during pandemic wrote ***"we always listen to the kirtan and path on our phone. thank you for bringing such beautiful prayers in our homes"***

Special tent arrangements were made for onsite programs. Special health care was provided to staff members who got infected, food and grocery deliveries were arranged for those in the community who needed help, Special meals were delivered to the frontline staff in O'Connors Hospital, Santa Teresa Kaiser Hospital, El Camino Hospital and Santa Clara Kaiser hospital as a mark of gratitude. Meals were provided to the Police officers and they in turn distributed these to the homeless. Protective medical devices like masks and disinfecting hand lotions were distributed to the community.

LEFT: Covid Vaccination at Gurdwara Sahib

Vaccination arrangements for sangat and neighborhood were made at the Gurdwara Sahib. Despite shortfall in Gurdwara income, no staff members were laid off. Guidance was provided to community members to apply for government financial help. Not only did the Parbandhak Committee help the local community but also shipped ventilators to the Delhi Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee for its hospitals and to a hospital run by SGPC in Sri Amritsar Sahib. Special thanks are due to Sangat's on-line financial support to Gurdwara Sahib as well as to the staff for making this happen.

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The new building marked dawn of a New Era for the Gurdwara Sahib and the Sikh Community. The San Jose Sikh community now enjoys a place of pride in the region. The Gurdwara Parbandhak committee has used the new opportunities to provide more and improved services to Sangat and community at large. With Waheguru's grace, the Parbandhak Committee and the Sangat have added several new programs of high quality, and our Gurdwara Sahib is now looked upon as an exemplary institution. With the planned expansion of the building, the future looks even brighter!



Guru Nanak Khalsa School San Jose

Registration for 2025-26 is Now Open Online

After August 17, 2025 a late fee of \$100 Will Apply

Children 3.5 years or older on September 1, 2025 are eligible

Please Register at KhalSaSchool.us



Sikh Gurdwara San Jose College Prep Program

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OUR SOCIALS:

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