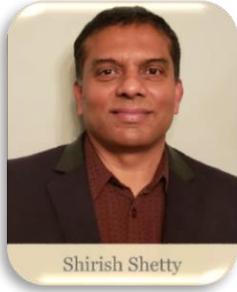


# BANAVANI

JULY 2021

GREETINGS FROM ATLANTA!

## President's Message



Dear BANA Members,

Great News. Our 2022 BANA Convention dates have been finalized. Atlanta will be hosting the convention from July 1st thru July 4th, 2022. I am hoping that all of you will attend in record numbers to experience southern hospitality.

The past few months have been eventful, as back home in India, the second wave of COVID did impact a lot of extended family of our BANA members. I sincerely pray for all the lost family of our members.

Meanwhile in the USA, life has started to normalize and we are all thankful for that. If this continues, we should have a great 2022 Convention at Atlanta.

We have recommended a COVID Charity (details are below), which is focused on helping rural folks in India and I am very encouraged that quite a few BANA members have donated generously to this organization. Please donate if you have not.

As we are turning the corner on COVID, I am personally seeing a lot of activities starting to open. I am sure that from here on, during the rest of 2021, our extended BANA community will have more social activities. Our next newsletter will hopefully have a lot more reportage of social activities from our various regions.

Best regards,  
Shirish Shetty

## **BANA Convention News**

It's official. The next BANA convention will be held in Atlanta, from 1st to 4th of July, 2022. The Executive Team in Atlanta is shifting into top gear, to get everything put in place, as early as possible. The team has already made visits to several possible venues for the event and the picnic. We have shortlisted the best options for both the convention venue and the picnic spot.

Watch this space for further details, as the arrangements unfold. Ladies, gentlemen and children, mark your calendars and start your engines.

## **COVID 19 relief charity in India**

After an exhaustive search, the Atlanta EC team identified the Centre for Wildlife Service as a worthy charity that all BANA members can make individual contributions to, as a means of helping India's efforts to deal with the COVID-19 crisis. They run a program called Adopt a Personal Healthcare Centre (PHC) in rural India. We hope you all read the letter sent out by BANA and proceeded to help out in any way you could. If you need more information about the organization, please check it out on our website, at [www.bana.org/covid](http://www.bana.org/covid).

# Regional News

## Atlanta

(Submitted by Shirish Shetty)

Congratulations to **Ayush Shetty**, son of Jagdish and Preeti Shetty of Atlanta, he made the Northview High School Varsity baseball team, as a freshman. He was selected to the 1st Team All Region (Pitcher). He also won the Best Defensive Player of the Year award for his pitching and fielding on the Varsity team. Congratulations and best wishes, Ayush.

**Shirish Shetty**, of Atlanta, GA, has been chosen as the Vice President of the newly formed All American Tulu Koota Association.

## Pittsburgh Area

(Submitted by [Rashmi Shetty](#))

Harish and Anupama Shetty, with their daughters Neha and Netra, from San Jose, CA have moved to Pittsburgh this summer. Anupama will start her fellowship at UPMC. Both daughters will be attending colleges on the east coast. Welcome to Pittsburgh.

## New England

(Submitted by Puja Rai Shetty, Regional Representative)

**Ajay Naik**, son of Chandrasekhar Naik and Archana Naik of CT, graduated from St. George's School, Newport, and is attending Brandeis University this fall.

**Akash Shetty**, son of KrishnaPrasad Shetty and Shalini Shetty, graduated from Franklin High School, MA. He will be attending the University of Southern California this fall

**Niyati N. Shetty**, daughter of Naveen Shetty and Surabhi Shetty, graduated from Westford Academy, Massachusetts and is attending Southern New Hampshire University this fall.

Raksha and Manoj Hegde joyfully announce the birth of their daughter **Siya Hegde**, on May 13, 2021 at 7.45 pm, in Shrewsbury, MA.



## Bay Area

(Submitted by Rajesh Shetty, Regional Representatives)

We hope everyone is doing well and enjoying the warm weather. While it seems like things are getting somewhat normal in comparison to 2020, we are not there yet. So, given the circumstances, we were not able to plan our usual summer picnic this year. Instead we decided to get together for a hike, since the Covid-19 restrictions are relaxed and the vaccination rate in the Bay Area is looking great. We were able to plan a virtual Diwali get-together last year, but it's been a year and a half since we came together as a group in-person. The intent behind the hike was to have an outdoor get-together for our Bunt community.

The Bay Area families supported the event in a big way. We had around 50 people join us for the hike. Going by the feedback we received, it seems like the event went well. The families enjoyed seeing each other in person after a long time. We are so glad we planned a hike event this summer. We just hope that we can get back to summer picnic next year.



## *Awards*

"Dean Dr. Shetty receives 2021 Presidents Award"

**Dr. Devdas Shetty**, Dean of the UDC School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS), was awarded the 2021 President's Award at the Black Engineers of the Year (BEYA) STEM Virtual Conference in February 2021.

Congratulations to Dr. Shetty for this recognition of his contributions to UDC.

See full article at:

<https://tinyurl.com/bana-congratulations-drshetty>

**Dr. Hemen Padhiar**, of Cumming, GA, won an award for Best of Forsyth County for Geriatric Medicine. Congratulations and best wishes for more awards in the future.

**Siddharth Shetty**, of Houston, TX, made it all the way to the semi-finals of the Kannada Kogile International singing contest. He placed in the top 15. Congratulations and better luck next year.

**Shirish Shetty**, of Atlanta, GA, will be representing Georgia, in the over 40s USTA (Tennis) Southeast Championship, to be held in Auburn, AL from August 13 – 15, 2021. Good luck and best wishes.

## *Weddings*

**Adheip Mally**, son of Namrata and Sujith Mally of Seattle, WA, married **Mitwa Patel**. The wedding was held at Tetherow Resort, OR, on June 5th, 2021. The young couple live in New York, NY. Congratulations and best wishes to the young couple.

**Kiran Shetty**, son of Ratnakar and Yolani Shetty of Pittsburgh, PA, married **Courtney Schreiber**, on July 1st at the Madison Hotel, Morristown, NJ. Congratulations and best wishes to the happy couple.

## Obituary



**Mrs. Sunitha Kumar**, 68, of Houston, TX, passed away on May 18, 2021 in Houston Texas. She was the daughter of B. Sadashiva Naik of Jogibettu Guthu and Sumathi Naik of Ulipady Guthu. She is survived by her husband, Vinodh Kumar, her children Vinitha Shenava (married to Rajesh), Shifali Shetty (married to Vidyasagar), and Sanjeev Kumar (married to Karishma); and her grandchildren (Riya and Eshaan Shenava; Akash and Arya Shetty; and Inaiya Shetty). May her soul rest in peace.

**Dr. B. Sheena Shetty**, passed away in Hyderabad on January 16th, 2021 in Hyderabad. He was the father of Balu Shetty, Pittsburgh, PA and Vinitha Shetty, New York. May his soul rest in peace.

**Mr. N Chandrasekhar Shetty**, passed away peacefully in his sleep at age 84 on June 3rd 2021 in Bangalore, India.

He is survived by his daughter & son-in-law Namrata & Sujith Mally, his son & daughter-in-law Suraj & Suparna Shetty and grandsons Adheip, Arman & Atharva and his brother & sisters in India.

He graduated with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Annamalai University, Chennai, India. He arrived in the US in 1964 and received his M.S. from the University of Detroit. He then obtained his PE in Chemical Engineering soon after. His wife Prathiba & daughter Namrata joined him in 1966.

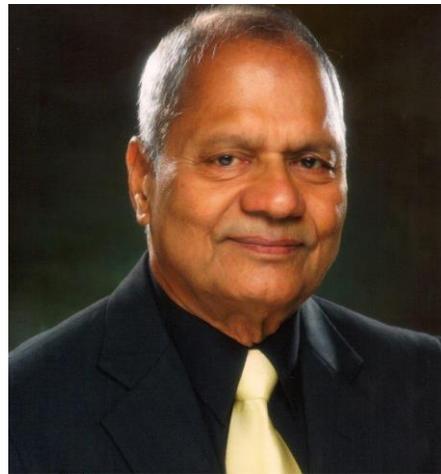
They lived in Philadelphia and for a short while in San Diego, CA where his son Suraj was born.

Being an entrepreneur at heart, he gave up a promising career in the US to return to India in 1972 to start his own chemical fabrication companies in Bangalore.

He was kind, compassionate and had a positive outlook on life. He would never hesitate to help someone if he could.

He loved his family and adored his grandchildren.

He will be missed dearly but he would want us to enjoy & celebrate every moment of life.



**Mr. Sanjiva Shetty**, father of Divya Hegde of Naperville, passed away on June 10th, 2021. May his soul rest in peace.

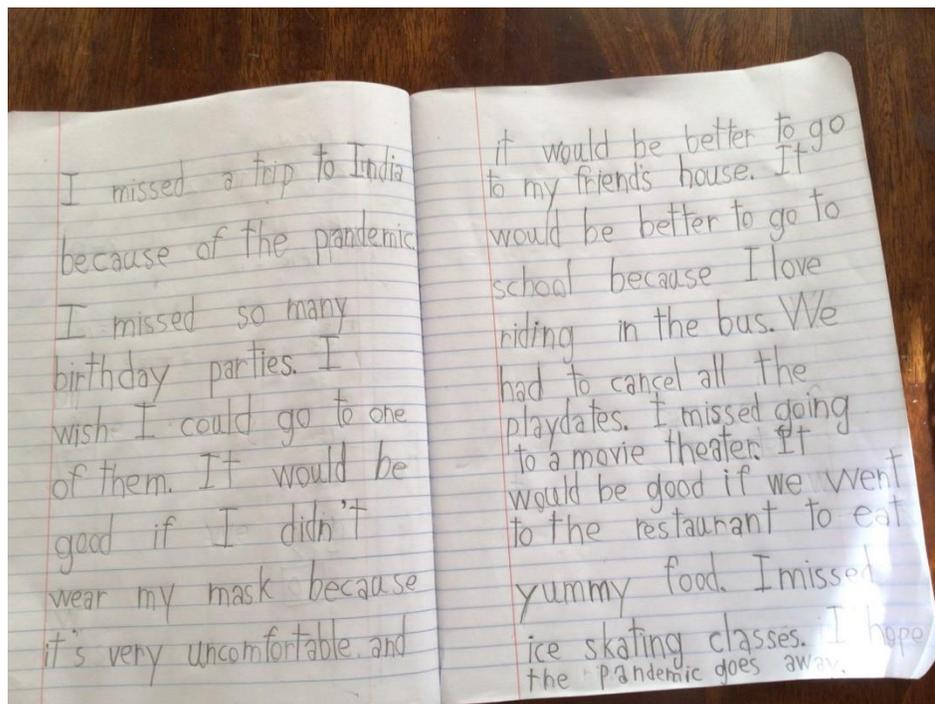


## Youth Initiatives

**Nia Shetty**, 11, of Houston, TX is turning into an ideal role model for all our young people. She has turned her avid love of reading into a shared experience, to encourage other children to read. She has her own popular Facebook and Instagram presence called [@niaspage2page](#). Channel 11 in Houston featured her as a Hero Next Door. She is also the Literacy Ambassador for the Houston non-profit, Birthday Bash Box. She champions book drives and organized a book club to benefit children. She does book reviews for the local county library. She also serves as a Junior Reviewer for a kids' book review site. So many achievements and she's still so young. Kudos Nia, and we hope you go from strength to strength. We urge our readers to visit her pages on Facebook and Instagram and give her a Follow.



**Anirudh Shetty**, 7, son of Sonia and Sujnan Shetty of Westborough, MA, wrote an essay that was featured in the Kids Reflect on COVID 19 selection, curated by [www.WBUR.org](http://www.WBUR.org) Boston's NPR station. It was an outstanding piece of writing, and he was given a special mention, despite his youth, because his lament about missed birthday parties spoke to everyone, adult and child, echoing all our feelings about the lost year.



## Bunts4BLM

The youth initiative, Bunts4BLM, has been steadily increasing their outreach. In the past year they have held 5 Chai and Conversation events, where all are welcome. Topics covered have ranged from Disparities in Health Care during Minority Health Month, to Mitigating Bias, to Reflections on 2020. They provide a forum for all views, in a respectful space. All discussions are open and completely apolitical. If you would like to be part of their activities, please follow them at their Facebook and Instagram pages, [@Bunts4BLM](#). Kudos to the young team and best wishes for the future.