



SANTA CLARA'S 12TH ANNUAL

SIKH AWARENESS AND APPRECIATION MONTH

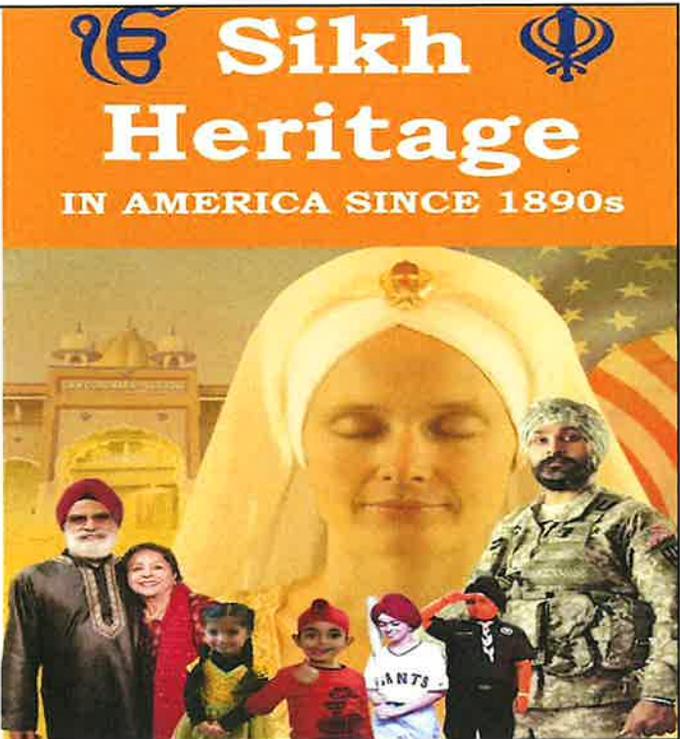
November, 2025

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SIKHS ARE GRASS ROOT COMMUNITY

SAAM Instituted In 2012
Sikhs are a **grass root** community of California and North America since the **1890s**.

Sikhs have made significant contributions to all aspects of industry, farming, trucking, science, the military, and more



Sikh Heritage
IN AMERICA SINCE 1890s

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POST MEETING MATERIAL

SIKHS IN AMERICA

PIONEERS



Sikh Emigration from the Punjab Region of South Asia



The first gurdwara in the United States was built in Stockton, CA, in 1912.



Dalip Singh Saund was the first Asian-American Congressman, elected in 1957.



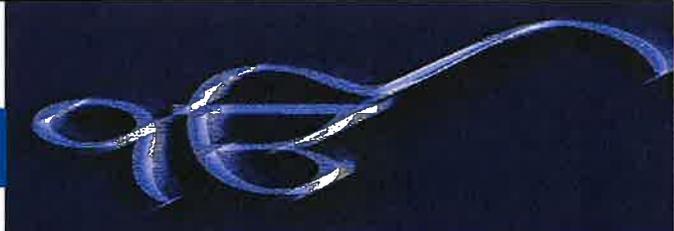
Sikh women built and fostered the Sikh community while also sharing the labor their husbands took on.



The first Sikhs came to the United States in the late 1800s to work as farmers and on railroads.

3

SIKH VALUES



Ik Onkar
One God



Naam Japna
Meditation on God



Vand Chakna
Sharing with Others



Kirat Karia
Earning an Honest Living



Equality



Fighting Injustice



Service

4

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The Sikh who holds over 100 Patents and also known as "Father of Fiber Optics"
Narinder Singh Kapany




First Doctor to arrive at Ground Zero site on 9/11 is a Sikh
avinderdeep Singh Nijher




First Asian American to be elected as member of United States Congress was a Sikh
Dalip Singh Saund




NCAA's first Sikh Basketball Player
Darsh Preet Singh




First Turbaned Pilot hired by a Commercial Airline in the United States
Arpinder Kaur




Most renowned and Grammy Nominated American Kirtan Singer who sings classical Sikh music and hymns
Snatami Kaur Khalsa




The oldest Marathon Runner is a Sikh: 104 years old and still running Marathons
Fauja Singh




Biggest Producer of Raisins in the World is a Sikh
Charanjit Singh Bath




5

**H
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1400s



1469



1492



1500s



1600s



1699



1706



1708





The eternal living Guru of the Sikhs is the **Guru Granth Sahib** (the sacred scriptures).



Sikhs live by a code of conduct

Making a commitment by joining the Khalsa (community of initiated Sikhs, known as **Amritdhari** Sikhs)

Amritdhari Sikhs have ultimate allegiance to the Sikh way of life.

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I D E N T I T Y

Amritdhari Sikhs maintain all five articles of faith.

Dastaar
The Sikh Turban

An article of faith that asserts the dignity and sovereignty of the wearer

Can be worn in different styles by men or women

Should not be touched without consent

The initiation ceremony (Amrit sanchaar) and rules are same for both genders.

Initiation ceremony can be done at any time in one's life.

Chunni
Long, sheer scarf worn by some Sikh women

Kesh
Uncut Hair

Kirpān
A sacred article of the Sikh religion, a ceremonial sword

Kachera
Underwear

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I D E N T I T Y

Gurdwara
A place of prayer, service and learning

Services in America are typically held on weekends.

Everyone is welcome in the gurdwara, regardless of gender, class, or religion!

Gurdwara means "door to Guru"

Nishaan Sahib
Triangular flag of the Sikh faith, featuring the Khanda

The Nishaan Sahib can be seen from afar so that anyone in need knows there is a gurdwara nearby that can provide shelter and nourishment

ਸਤਿ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਅਕਾਲ

Punjabi
Language spoken by 80+ million people, including many Sikhs living in the United States

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**BAY AREA
&
SANTA CLARA**

**PARADE OF
CHAMPIONS**

2025 THEME
'SPORTS ARE FOR EVERYONE'

Bay Area -Home of Thousands of Sikhs and their Families

Santa Clara

- Sikh Temple-Silicon Valley Gurdwara
- Khalsa School
- Provided 100,000s PPE, vaccines, and more during Covid
- Provided free supplies and groceries to 1000 households

