

Asha comes to America

by Asha Srivastav



My immigration story began in 1987. I was living in Mumbai in those days with my family. My Husband Prem was working with Indian Railways and was posted as Chief Personnel Officer in Central Railways zone. We were living in Railway's official residence in Colaba known as Badhwar Park.

I have two daughters, elder one is Anjali whom we call Bulbul and younger one is Malini whom we call Maina. My elder daughter did her BE degree in Computer Science from Regional Engineering College at Allahabad in 1987. After her studies she started working for Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) in Mumbai.

In December of 1987 Anjali married Jaideep who was doing his PhD at University of California at Berkeley. Anjali came to USA in January of 1988 and then Jaideep and Anjali moved to Minneapolis when Jaideep got the job at University of Minnesota as Faculty member in Computer Science department. Anjali also did her Masters in Computer Science from the U and started working in Honeywell.

In 1990 our younger daughter did her Architecture Degree from JJ College of Architecture Mumbai and wanted to pursue higher studies in USA. She got admitted to Masters program in Architecture in U of M and came here. In this process she was greatly helped by her elder sister Anjali.

In 1994 Malini and her class fellow Michael who is a Native of Minnesota decided to marry. They got married in August of 1994 in Gita Ashram as well as in Vinona at Michael's Parents home in front of the Registrar of Marriage. We had come here for two months to get Maina and Mike married.

We experienced a major change in our life when Anjali gave birth to our Granddaughter whom we call SHUBHI. The desire to be with our granddaughter was a major factor in our decision to come to USA.

We missed our children and granddaughter so much that we started the process of Migration when Prem retired in 1998. Anjali and Jaideep had become citizen by that time. We went to the immigration office in Minneapolis and were granted Green Card status then and there with Labor certification. After about 5 years we became citizens in 2006 . We have also acquired OCI status in India.

Today, we are so much blessed to have three lovely granddaughters. Now aged 22, 16 and 13 years.

Going back a little in our story (I got carried away), when we got the green card , the practical issues of living in USA came to the fore. The two most important issues were of Medical coverage and reducing dependence in our movement.

Fortunately, Prem got a job in Hennepin county Library which gave us the medical coverage. He is still working in the Library which could only happen in this country. (he is about 80 years old) but tries to behave as a young man with some funny results like twisted knee and sprained neck. And he also got Drivers License (after failing twice) which he brags as passing with flying colors. He does admit that a photo of Lord Hanuman on the dashboard of the car was very helpful!!(It distracted the examiner from noticing his mistakes)

I am, and have been, a homemaker and looking after my family gives me the happiness and purpose in life.

In short, this is our immigration story still unfolding and we are ready for further adventures as we age together!!