



## Kakelao 2015

Newsletter No. 2, May 2015

Yale Alumni Service Corps, Association of Yale Alumni, P.O. Box 209010, New Haven, CT 06520-9010

Dear YASC Participants:



Namaste! We are diving into the project planning phase of the trip preparation, and we have already been very inspired and excited by your energy and ideas. Included in this newsletter are details about project planning, a summary of our April 18<sup>th</sup> orientation session, links to enable you to meet other trip participants, information about a new pre-trip extension to Sri Lanka, more flight and luggage information, and a list of relevant books, videos, and other resources about India. You will even find a **contest** at the end of this newsletter! First, however, we would like to review **critical**

**travel information.** We trust that by now you have looked into airplane flights -- if not actually purchased your tickets -- and have determined the method by which you will seek your visa to India. Do not delay in these matters -- they are critical and, if not addressed, could result in your not being able to join us on the trip! All details about appropriate timing for your international flights and options for securing your visa are in newsletter #1, which you can find here: <http://goo.gl/DKdXVO>. For up-to-the-minute, official safety and health information about India, please refer to the State Department's website at <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/country/india.html>.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions.

Melissa, [melissa.kakelao2015@gmail.com](mailto:melissa.kakelao2015@gmail.com) and Najib, [kakelao2015@gmail.com](mailto:kakelao2015@gmail.com).

### Important action items!

- **Read** all the information in this newsletter!
- **Book** your international flight and **apply** for your visa!
- If you have not already done so, **submit** the following as soon as possible:
  - Your international flight information via the following link: <http://goo.gl/forms/Cct6SqvomB>
  - Signed release forms (attached) -- for each member of your party -- to Joao via email to [joao.aleixo@yale.edu](mailto:joao.aleixo@yale.edu) or fax to 203-432-0587.
  - Photos for our participant directory via email to Najib at [kakelao2015@gmail.com](mailto:kakelao2015@gmail.com).
- **Check** your passport. Does it expire within 6 months after date of arrival in India? If so, you might need to renew your passport before applying for your visa. Confirm this information now and consult with a travel expert if you have questions!
- **Review** the list in this newsletter of participants going on the extensions and **contact us** immediately if you see a mistake or if you would like to join the new pre-trip Sri Lanka extension.
- **Talk** with your doctor about immunizations and other medications -- including anti-malarials -- you might need for the trip.
- **Connect** with your project leaders if you haven't done so yet.

## **Project leaders and project planning!**

We have a terrific set of leaders for each of our projects, as listed below. Your project leaders will contact you about specifics for your projects – **please respond to them!** If you have not yet heard from the leader for the project(s) to which you have been assigned, please contact them directly.

**Medical:** Susie Wilson, [2susielou@comcast.net](mailto:2susielou@comcast.net)

**Business:** Jon Neiditz, [JNeiditz@kilpatricktownsend.com](mailto:JNeiditz@kilpatricktownsend.com)

### **Public Health:**

Maternal and Child Health: Janet Hardy, [janet.r.hardy@gmail.com](mailto:janet.r.hardy@gmail.com)

School Health Education: Morgan Hume, [morgan.hume@gmail.com](mailto:morgan.hume@gmail.com)

Water and Waste Management: Deborah Rose, [debrose@erols.com](mailto:debrose@erols.com)

**Morning Extended Arts:** Shelly Chou, [shellychou@gmail.com](mailto:shellychou@gmail.com)

**Morning Athletics:** Jamie Nicholson, [Jamie.nicholson@credit-suisse.com](mailto:Jamie.nicholson@credit-suisse.com), and Lance Leener, [lance.leener@att.net](mailto:lance.leener@att.net)

**Afternoon Primary School:** Pat Burt, [patwilel@hotmail.com](mailto:patwilel@hotmail.com), and Martha Nordt, [marthanordt@gmail.com](mailto:marthanordt@gmail.com)

**Afternoon Secondary School:** Andrew Garling, [agarlingmd@gmail.com](mailto:agarlingmd@gmail.com)

**Construction:** Gene Yoon, [gene.yoon@yale.edu](mailto:gene.yoon@yale.edu)

Keep in mind that the project leaders are, like you, volunteers, and they will be turning to you for assistance in (1) project planning and (2) securing supplies for the projects. Remember – being involved early on in crafting and shaping the scope and nature of the projects is a terrific way to prepare yourself for our work in the community.



## Orientation summary



We had a small but very spirited group at our orientation session in New Haven on April 18<sup>th</sup>. Below is a capsule summary of the key presentations from orientation day and a link to all the visual presentations:

- Puneet Batra, producer of the 2014 Kakelao trip, provided us with a pre-recorded slide show and commentary giving an **overview of India**.
- Shona Hemmady and Hun Wong, Yale undergraduates who interned for a month in Jodhpur and Kakelao helping prepare for last summer's trip, gave a presentation describing **daily life in Jodhpur and Kakelao**.
- We provided a PowerPoint presentation describing our **Indian partners** and giving a **summary of the 2014 projects**.
- We spent the afternoon in small groups discussing plans for the specific projects. Many project leaders were able to attend orientation, and we sent summaries of project-specific discussions to the project leaders who were not able to attend. Project leaders will share these discussions with their individual teams.

You can access the orientation documents on the following link: <http://goo.gl/5cy2p2>. For best viewing, use PowerPoint when opening the Orientation\_Projects document.

### **Meet the other YASC and AFS Participants!**

Please note that we have a **Facebook group** which started when we were planning the 2014 trip. If you would like to become a member of the group, click [here](#). If you are not able to access the group, send a message to Kathy Edersheim or Joao Aleixo on Facebook and they will add you. The AFS, RKK, and Veerni volunteers will also have access to this group and are likely to be quite active on the site, so this can be a fun way to get to know some of your fellow participants and volunteers. You might also enjoy looking at the photos and postings from last year's trip.



We are in the process of creating an online directory of all participants, which will include participants' contact information and photos. The directory will also include information about our AFS, RKK, and Veerni volunteers. However, we have received photos from less than half of you, so we are not yet able to distribute this directory. Please send your photos as soon as possible via email to Najib at [kakelao2015@gmail.com](mailto:kakelao2015@gmail.com).

## **The Nepal earthquake and a new Pre-trip Extension to Sri Lanka**

We are of course all very sad about the tragic earthquake in Nepal. We have been in touch with our partners in India and confirmed that none of them was directly affected by these events. However, we have had to cancel our planned pre-trip extension to Nepal. Nonetheless, Far Horizon has offered a very exciting alternate trip to Sri Lanka. The itinerary is attached; the cost of the trip is \$1,450 per person, double occupancy, with a \$400 single room supplement. If any of you who had not already been planning to go to Nepal is interested in joining the pre-trip to Sri Lanka, please contact Melissa and Najib no later than Wednesday, May 6th.

## **Reminder: When should you plan to arrive in and leave from New Delhi? What are the luggage restrictions on our internal flights?**

### **Beginning of the trip**

#### Arrival schedule

**If you are not going on the pre-trip extension to Sri Lanka**, please plan to arrive in New Delhi on July 30<sup>th</sup>. We have booked rooms for the night of July 30<sup>th</sup> at a hotel near the New Delhi airport. For those participants who arrive at 9am or later on July 30<sup>th</sup>, Far Horizon, our logistics partner, will provide transportation from the airport in New Delhi to the hotel – but only if you provide us with your flight details. Check-in at the hotel begins at 2pm; you might be able to access your room earlier than 2pm subject to availability.

**If you are going on the pre-trip extension to Sri Lanka**, please plan to arrive in Colombo by July 25<sup>th</sup>. For those participants who arrive in Colombo at 9am or later on July 25<sup>th</sup>, Far Horizon will provide transportation from the airport in Colombo to the hotel – but only if you provide us with your flight details. You will join the group in New Delhi on July 30<sup>th</sup>.

As we have described in the first newsletter, the internal flights we will be taking have **strict luggage weight restrictions**, so you will need to pack thoughtfully. Specifically, keep in mind that on the July 31<sup>st</sup> flight from New Delhi to Jodhpur, you will be able to check only one bag up to 15 kilograms (approximately 33 pounds) and carry on only one bag up to 7kg (approximately 15.4 pounds). Excess luggage will be sent via bus to Jodhpur; this bus will leave from the hotel at **6pm on July 30th**. Pack accordingly – or leave time to repack your suitcases as needed after your arrival. If you arrive at the hotel after 6pm on July 30<sup>th</sup> AND your luggage exceeds the limitations, you will likely be charged excess fees on the flight to Jodhpur, at the rate of INR 300 (roughly \$5) per excess kg.



## **End of the trip**

**If you are not going on the Golden Triangle extension**, the trip ends on August 9<sup>th</sup>. The flight from Jodhpur to New Delhi (with the same luggage restrictions as above but with no option to have excess baggage travel by bus) will get you into New Delhi in the early afternoon, in time for late night international flights. Please note that we are not providing any additional services (transport, hotel, sightseeing, etc.) upon arrival at the airport in New Delhi. Check-in for your international flights is permitted four hours before departure.

**If you are going on the Golden Triangle extension**, the trip ends August 13<sup>th</sup> in New Delhi, so you can plan to leave from New Delhi that night, and we will arrange for transport to the airport for late-night departures.

## **Additional services**

For participants arriving in New Delhi/Colombo earlier than the dates and times listed above or staying in New Delhi after the end of the service trip or Golden Triangle extension, if you would like to arrange additional services such as airport transfers, additional nights in the hotels, or sightseeing tours, you can contact our partners at Far Horizon: Raman Gulati at [raman@farhorizonindia.com](mailto:raman@farhorizonindia.com) and Pankaj Arora at [pankaj@farhorizonindia.com](mailto:pankaj@farhorizonindia.com). Please note that you will need to arrange payment for these additional services as they are not included in the cost of the trip.



**DON'T FORGET TO ARRANGE FOR YOUR VISA TO INDIA (AND SRI LANKA, IF GOING ON THE PRE-TRIP EXTENSION). See newsletter #1 for details.**

## EXTENSIONS

Below is a list of the participants going on the extensions to Sri Lanka and the Golden Triangle. Please check this list and let us know ASAP if we have made any mistakes.



### Sri Lanka Extension

Anne	Beidler
Carlton	Davis
Robert	Hazel
Wendy	Hoover
Aniya	Johnson
Jesse	Leener
Lance	Leener
Jon	Neiditz
Hannah	Neiditz
Qui-ee	Neiditz
Jamie	Nicholson
Martha	Nordt
Virginia	Tanzmann
Susie	Wilson



### Golden Triangle Extension

Mark	Addleman
Pat	Burt
Naomi	Cazeau
Christine	Chiocchio
Caitlin	Chiocchio
Andrea	Clark
James	Cowles
Katalena	Cowles
Gabriel	Cowles
Celia	Cowles
Carlton	Davis
Bob	Hazel
Wendy	Hoover
Morgan	Hume
Aniya	Johnson
Ann	Kennedy
Eran	Kornfeld
Nancy	Laverde
Philip	Laverde
Lily	Lee
Jesse	Leener
Lance	Leener
Raquel	Libman
Arikha	Moses
Alta	Moses McQuillen
Jamie	Nicholson
Martha	Nordt
George	Spanos
Virginia	Tanzmann
Emily	Torrance
Julie	van de Zande
Gene	Yoon

## Resources about India!

Do you want to learn more about the **culture, politics, and history** of India? Would you like to read **novels that take place in India**? Below are some recommended articles, books, documentaries, etc. These recommendations merely scratch the surface of resources but will give you a good starting point:

### Articles:

Recent news article on current political landscape: [Modi article in Globe and Mail](#)

National Geographic article on child marriages in Rajasthan:

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2011/06/child-brides/gorney-text/1>

### Books:

#### Fiction:

Suitable Boy, Vikram Seth

Shantaram, Gregory David Roberts

The Inheritance of Loss, Kiran Desai

The Namesake, Jhumpa Lahiri

An Obedient Father, Akhil Sharma

The God of Small Things, Arundhati Roy

The Argumentative Indian, Amartya Sen,

Passage to India. E.M. Forster.

Maximum City, Suketu Mehta.

Kim, Rudyard Kipling.

#### Non-fiction/Travelogues:

Behind the Beautiful Forevers, Katherine Boo (Present-day stories of a slum in Mumbai)

May You Be the Mother of a Hundred Sons, Elisabeth Bumiller (Travelogue, focus on women in India)

Discovery of India, Jawaharlal Nehru (History, Written by India's first Prime Minister)

We are Like That Only: Understanding the Logic of Consumer India, Rama Bijapurkar, (Business)

India: A Million Mutinies Now, V.S. Naipul (Travelogue)

Daughters of India, Art and Identity, Stephan P. Huyler (Art and entrepreneurship by women in rural Indian villages)

### Documentaries

<http://www.pbs.org/thestoryofindia/> (this is the series Puneet referenced in his video presentation)

## Bollywood!

Here are some videos of popular Bollywood songs:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ddfXcATO-r4>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vK5E\\_aeBGYA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vK5E_aeBGYA)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WyE4ebsm490>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nJZcbidTutE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XN1zrRspy7E>



## India Trivia Contest

Speaking of Bollywood...can you identify the two individuals in the photos below? The first person to email Melissa and Najib the correct answer will get special recognition in our next newsletter!



Attachments: Release forms  
Itinerary for Sri Lanka extension