

## SACRAMENTO SIKH TEMPLE

### SACRAMENTO SIKH TEMPLE HOSTS WOMEN OF THE WORLD

On October 24, 2012, the Sacramento Sikh Temple hosted the first program of the 2012-2013 year for the *Women of the World* interest group of the American Association of University Women, Sacramento. Leigh Stephens, Chairwoman of the interest group, organized the event in coordination with fellow member Vivian Counts and Harjit Kaur Grewal of the Shergill Law Firm. The program included a panel of Sikh women discussing their experiences and accomplishments as daughters, wives, mothers, students, professionals, activists, and spiritual beings. Attendees also joined in the Sikh tradition of 'langar', a communal meal at the Temple.

"We were humbled that such an esteemed organization would take an evening to learn more about Sikhs," said Harjit Grewal, attorney with the Shergill Law Firm. "As a community, we have learned that events like this are our best weapon in combating ignorance and encouraging collaboration."

"Education is like a great light that helps us see the benefits of unity. Knowledge tears down prejudice," said Leigh Stephens in explaining the reason that she reached out to the Sikh Community to organize this event.

"Although Sikh women have our own challenges, the evening helped remind us all that we have more that brings us together than keeps us apart," stated Goldy Shergill. This sentiment was echoed by Elk Grove School Board Member Bobbie Singh-Allen who said, "As a Sikh and as a woman, I am proud of my history and our traditions but as an American I am mindful that we need to do more to share our experiences with our neighbors."

The program featured the following panel of seven accomplished Sikh women:

- **Harjit Kaur Grewal**, an Associate Litigation Attorney at the Shergill Law Firm, which primarily practices personal injury and wrongful death. She is a member of the South Asian



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Bar Association of Sacramento and a member of the Women Lawyers of Sacramento. She is an active member of the Sacramento Sikh community through her work as a volunteer advocate for the Sikh Coalition and a volunteer Board Secretary for the Sacramento Valley Charter School.

- **Bobbie Singh Allen**, the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for the California Lodging Industry Association and the Elk Grove Unified School District Board of Education Trustee. Bobbie is also a proud mother of two children.
- **Goldy P. Shergill**, a graduate of UC Davis and has a Master's Degree in Educational Administration and Policy Studies from Sacramento State University. Goldy taught high school in Elk Grove Unified School District and was one of the founders of the Sacramento Valley Charter School. Goldy is also the proud mother of three adorable children and spends time with them as a volunteer Punjabi School Teacher at Sacramento Sikh Temple and as an Art Docent at their elementary school.
- **Simran Kaur**, who is the advocacy manager for The Sikh Coalition and an Editorial Board Member for *The Sikh American Women And Their Love Stories* project. Simran also sits on the Board of Directors for ACLU of Northern California and the Women's Building in San Francisco.
- **Meeta Kaur**, an amazing creative writer and editor for the *The Sikh American Women And Their Love Stories* project. Meeta is also a volunteer advocate for The Sikh Coalition and a strong community activist in the Bay Area. She is the proud mother of two adorable children.
- **Channpreet Singh**, a UC Davis Law student
- **Teghpreet Kaur**, a UC Davis undergraduate student.

American Association of University Women is an international organization of women and men whose purpose is to encourage and support education and legal equity for women and girls. Sacramento AAUW has about 250 members. There are several dozen interest groups within the organization. Women of the World (WOW) is one of those groups. About one half of AAUW members attend WOW. The mission of WOW is to educate members on the world cultures of women and to demonstrate the similarities of women's lives.

For more information about this program or future events, contact Harjit Kaur Grewal, 916 564 5781, [harjit@shergilllawfirm.com](mailto:harjit@shergilllawfirm.com)