

# UANA's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention

Saturday, July 24, 2004, Old Bridge, New Jersey



The 6th annual convention of UANA was held at Old Bridge, New Jersey on Saturday the July 24th, 2004. Nearly 350 people from across North America\_\_\_\_\_gathered to celebrate the convention.

The convention began with a homage to Late Shri. L.S. Adhikari, founding father of UANA who passed away earlier this year, by UANA's president Ajay Rawat. Subsequently a business meeting of the UANA board members, followed by a seminar on '**Building Communities and Initiatives**' was organized. The seminar focused on presentations about experiences of individuals and NGOs doing social work in Uttarakhand in the area of education, health and employment. The seminar also focused on ideas for strengthening the local North American Uttarakhandi community.

The evening session included an exhibition, and cultural program followed by dinner. The enthusiasm shown by young non-resident Uttarakhandis in the cultural program was tremendous and the ambiance created a home away from home. The cultural programs started with a religious song "*Jai Jwalpa Devi*". Dance performances by UANA members on famous folk songs "*Swargi Tara*", "*Kai Gaon Ki Holi Ye Baana*" and "*Bedu Pako Baara Maasa*" were the most appreciated by the audience.

UANA's Vice-President, Deepak Nautiyal, closed the convention by thanking all the volunteers, sponsor, patrons and participants.