



Dr. Harnish Vinaychandra Shah of Schaumburg

November 3, 1939 - March 11, 2026

Dr. Harnish Vinaychandra Shah, of Schaumburg, Illinois.

Dr. Shah passed away peacefully on March 11, 2026, at the age of 86, surrounded by his loved ones. He was born in 1939 in Kadi, India, the eldest of seven siblings, and from an early age demonstrated the intelligence and determination that would shape his life and career.

Born to a family of very modest means, he grew up without electricity, studying by the uneven flicker of kerosene lamps. He graduated from Baroda Medical College, after which he emigrated to the United States in 1964 to begin his postgraduate medical training. After completing his internship and residency in pediatrics in Philadelphia, he pursued advanced pediatric training at Boston Children's Hospital while publishing research on cystic fibrosis at Harvard Medical School.

Dr. Shah married his wife, Sonal, in 1967. Together they returned to India for several years before ultimately coming back to the United States in pursuit of greater opportunities for their immediate and extended families. They settled in Reading, Pennsylvania, where Dr. Shah served as Chief of Pediatrics for nearly 30 years at Community General Hospital, building a reputation as a deeply trusted physician and leader. He brought innovative approaches to medicine, such as enhancing the role of midwives in hospital and home

settings. He was known for solving difficult and complex cases, often serving as the community's last call before families were referred to larger medical centers far from home. Over the course of his career, he made lasting medical contributions related to the treatment of asthma in children.

Dr. Shah's life traced the arc of a changing world. He was born in India during the final years of British colonial rule and came of age in a newly independent nation. When he arrived in the United States in the 1960s, fewer than 15,000 Indian immigrants lived in the country. Through intellect, discipline, and extraordinary determination, he achieved the American Dream and enjoyed all that came with it. Yet he never saw that dream as his alone. Over the years, he and Sonal welcomed many friends, relatives, and young immigrants into their home to begin lives of their own in America. He felt a deep responsibility for those who followed him and took immense pride in their accomplishments.

All who met Dr. Shah will remember the quiet strength of his character and the high standards to which he held himself and others. Those who knew him well will also recall a man of refined and sometimes surprising tastes: a deep appreciation for classical music, landscapes, and above all gastronomy, where his palate was far ahead of its time. He maintained a lifelong fascination with investing, which he regarded as his only true hobby. Family and friends will remember his pride in personal appearance, an ability to take his daily nap on almost any available surface, and the wry, gentle humor that would appear unexpectedly in lighter moments.

He shared 59 years of marriage with his beloved wife, Sonal Shah. Together they built a life grounded in hard work, generosity, and devotion to family. He is survived by Sonal, his daughter Shefali (Manish), sons Sachin (Raj) and Neil (Agne), grandsons: Deven, Tej, Sid and granddaughters: Sarika, Kirina, and Layla. He serves as a continuing inspiration to all and will also be missed by his large extended family.

Family and friends are to gather for the visitation on Wednesday, March 18, 2026 from 10:30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M. The family will be sharing their words of remembrance from 11:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. at Morizzo Funeral Home, 2550 West Hassell Rd., (Northeast corner of Barrington Rd.), Hoffman Estates, IL. 60169. The family will be having a private cremation immediately after.

If you are unable to attend the visitation in person but would like to attend virtually please [CLICK HERE \(https://www.morizzofuneralhome.com/obituaries/harnish-shah/#!/PhotosVideos\)](https://www.morizzofuneralhome.com/obituaries/harnish-shah/#!/PhotosVideos) and click on the **WEBCASTING VIDEO** link. The livestream will start at approximately 10:30 A.M..

In lieu of flowers, in honor of Dr. Harnish Shah's memory, the family welcomes donations to Reading Hospital Foundation in support of the Children's Health Center (<https://host.nxt.blackbaud.com/donor-form/?svcid=renxt&formId=d8168da3-eb45-47d5-8e66-ce91397ff1d2&envid=p-O7RbtZJ5t0mCrQetFGv88Q&zone=usa>). Contributions may be also sent to P.O. Box 16052, Reading, PA 19612.

Interment will follow at Bohemian National Cemetery, 5255 N. Pulaski Rd. Chicago, IL 60630

The family has created this Life Tributes page to make it easy to share your memories, photos, and videos. For those of you that would have attended services and would like to express your condolences please click on the "Share A Memory" link above and you can leave a message. If you wish to send a Sympathy Card, please feel free to send it to Morizzo Funeral Home, 2550 Hassell Road, Hoffman Estates, Illinois, 60169 c/o the Family; we will gladly forward it on to the family.

For further information please contact the Morizzo Funeral Directors at

847.752.6444. Arrangements entrusted to Morizzo Funeral Home, Cremation Services and Cemetery Memorials, at 2550 West Hassell Road, (Northeast corner at Barrington Road), Hoffman Estates, Illinois 60169. Morizzo Memorials and Monuments (<https://www.morizzofuneralhome.com/monuments-and-headstones/memorials-monuments-and-headstones>).

Cemetery Details

Morizzo Family Funeral Home, Cremation Services and Cemetery Memorials

2550 Hassell Road

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Hoffman Estates, IL 60169

ross@morizzofuneralhome.com

<http://MorizzoFuneralHome.com>

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 18. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Morizzo Funeral Home
2550 Hassell Road
Hoffman Estates, IL 60169

Words of Remembrance

MAR 18. 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM (CT)

Morizzo Funeral Home
2550 Hassell Road
Hoffman Estates, IL 60169

Tribute Wall



“ *Morizzo Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Webcast in memory of Dr. Harnish Vinaychandra Shah of Schaumburg*



Morizzo Funeral Home & Cremation Services - March 13 at 05:29 PM

MG

Today we remember and honor the beautiful life of our beloved Hanishmama, who left us at the age of 86. He lived a life filled with wisdom, kindness, and quiet strength. Through the many years he was with us, he touched countless lives with his warmth, guidance, and unwavering love for his family.

Hanishmama was more than just a member of the family — he was a source of inspiration, a storyteller, and a pillar of values and tradition. His words carried wisdom, his presence brought comfort, and his blessings meant the world to those who knew him.

A life of 86 years is not just measured in time, but in the memories created, the lives touched, and the love shared. His legacy will live on through the lessons he taught us, the stories we will continue to tell, and the love he left behind.

Though our hearts are heavy with loss, we are grateful for the privilege of having him in our lives. His spirit will forever remain in our memories and in the values he instilled in us.

May his soul rest in eternal peace. Om Shanti,

*Jai Shri Krishna
With love from
Manali, Ritesh & Nirman*

Manali Gandhi - March 14 at 11:54 AM

RP

My name is Rohan and I was fortunate enough to have known him from the time ever since I was only a baby. I was his pediatric patient. My family and I were lucky enough to have known him.

Rohan Padiyar - March 18 at 12:45 PM

RS

Om shanti. Harnish bhai was 1st prince of Nandlal Dada to continue Nandlal dada legacy out of his two son Vinukaka (father of Harnishbhai) and Jitu bhai (my dad). As many has written correctly about his life line Nobel life how he had cherished. I would pray to God and seek blessings of my sonal bhabhi to give us strength and courage to continue torch of helping hand Harnish bhai had given to family and friends & community. I would humbly pray and request Shri ji Bawa to take him in his almighty abode . Om Shanti . Rakshen & Raju

Rakshen Shah - March 18 at 12:52 PM

CO

I viewed the service online. It was very touching service my prayers go out to the family of Dr. Shah. He was my pediatrician when I was a little girl in Reading. His office was on N. 5th St. he always had a smile on his face. Crystal

Crystal Olafsen - March 18 at 02:56 PM

CL

RIP DR Shaw 🙏 I knew him from working at CGH hospital and he was a very kind caring man. I hope his family can remember found memories always ❤️

Camilla Lassiter - March 21 at 05:45 PM

DP

“ We pray for heavenly and peaceful abode and let god give you all strength to bear this huge loss ! Om Shanti !

ओम असतो मा सद्गमय , तमसो मा ज्योतिर्गमय , मृत्युर्माप्नितंगमय ! शांती ! शांती ! शांती !

PATADIA PARIVAR
पाटडिया परिवार

dushyant patadia - April 22 at 12:44 PM

CE

“ I used to work at CGH in Maternity, which includes the New Born Nursery. I am saddened to hear of Dr Shah's passing. He was such a nice person and a good Doctor. I remember when his son was born at Community General. He was so proud of his little newborn. Condolences to his family.

Claudia Schoener Eberly - March 22 at 07:08 PM

KS

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



Kulin Shah - March 22 at 09:16 AM

DJ

“ My daughters born in 1972 & 1976 were pediatric patients of Dr Shahs. I thought he was the best. My wife had a very hard time understanding him. I built a really good relationship with him as a result.

Years later I was an EMT on an emergency call in a home where a toddler went down a half flight of steps in a walker. Upon arrival the mother acknowledged she had also called the child's doctor. While I was examining the child the phone rang and mom answered and said the ambulance is here now. The doctor asked to speak with the attendant. I took the phone and immediately recognized his voice. He identified himself as did I and he remembered my name. He asked about my assessment of the child and asked if it was one of my girls would I take her to the hospital. I said I saw nothing to warrant it and he responded that I should tell mom and dad to watch their child but that he felt the toddler would be fine based on my assessment and observations. He knew me and trusted my opinion. He was a fantastic doctor that I recommended many times. Dr Shah rest in peace. You will be missed by many.

Don Raifsnider Jr - March 21 at 10:00 PM

HC

“ Dr. Shah was an angel on this earth. I was severely premature and I am positive I'm alive because of his care from my birth until I was a teen. He was caring, gentle and gifted.

Hilarie Condrack - March 21 at 08:22 PM

CR

“ Dr Shah was one of a kind , friendly,professional and always treated everyone with respectHis patients and the staff loved to spend time with him as he was always one to take time to talk and converse about anything that came up....He will be missed and the medical profession lost a great human being

Casimer Lencheski RN,CNOR - March 21 at 07:17 PM

JR

“ Dr Shah was my daughter’s doctor from about 1974 until she graduated. Her case was difficult and he never gave up. We appreciated everything he did for us

Jean Reed - March 21 at 07:15 PM

JM

“ Dr. Shah was my children's Pediatrician. He listened to every concern and My oldest was one of his first patients. Later she developed Ulcerative Colitis and he took care of her. He would call me at home to check on her. He was a wonderful Pediatrician. May he rest peacefully.

Jeanne Miller - March 21 at 05:47 PM

LH

Dr.Shah was a wonderful man and doctor. Not only was he my doctor he also took care of my son after birth. Kind soul gone to soon. I will always have fond memories of visiting him.

Lisa Haas - March 21 at 05:55 PM

JL

I knew Dr. Shaw at a community General Hospital first working as a nursery nurse and having many interactions with him and he was the ultimate RH infuser. He always had a quiet, assuring, personal talk with patients with children that had problems. He was a very positive healer and could relax any anxiety in a set of parents. I left the nursery and then joined the community general outpatient clinic there I work with him very closely with the lead poisoning program of running Pennsylvania, and all the other problems that are faced by the under surge in the community. He was a quiet, gentle, intelligent soul, who was never ruffled and was always so kind.

Joanne Loeper - March 21 at 06:31 PM

RS

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Rakshen Shah - March 20 at 12:13 AM

RS

Harnishbhai (our) Grand father Shri late Nandlal and Harnish bhai (our) pujya Ba Mahalaxmi

Rakshen Shah - March 20 at 12:15 AM

RS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Rakshen Shah - March 19 at 07:56 PM

RS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Rakshen Shah - March 19 at 07:46 PM

RS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Rakshen Shah - March 19 at 06:27 PM

CS

“ *I remember my Masa, Dr. Harnish Shah, as a man of discipline, honesty, and unwavering principles. While growing up, he seemed strict, but with time I came to understand that his strength of character shaped not only his own life, but the lives of so many around him.*

My Masi and Masa played a pivotal role in helping many families come to the United States. I am thankful for his guidance when I first came here during my college days—his advice gave me the confidence to stay, complete my engineering, and build my future in this country.

As a doctor, he dedicated his life to caring for children, touching countless families through his skill and compassion. I remember his simple, practical tips for managing common childhood illnesses, which helped us greatly while raising our own children—we never hesitated to reach out to him for advice. What I admired most was his deep love and trust in Masi, and the quiet dignity with which he lived every day.

We pray that his soul attains peace and continues to guide us through the values he lived by.

Jai Shree Krishna...Chetan

Chetan Shah - March 19 at 05:17 PM

RS

“ Harnish bhai and my late husband Dinesh Shah were friends from India . I know Harnish bhai and Sonal for more than 50 years. I have very sweet and memorable memories of him. He was always calm, pleasant and caring to me. He gave me confidence and encouragement after my husband passed away. By the way my late husband had his last phone conversations with Harnish bhai. They both enjoyed. May God bless his soul and both friends now enjoy each other in heaven



Rekha Shah - March 18 at 12:24 PM

MR

“My name is Michelle, and I feel incredibly fortunate to have been chosen to care for Dr. Harnish Shah, whom we lovingly called “Uncle.” The first time I met him and his wife, I immediately felt blessed because I could sense in my heart that they were truly wonderful people, and I was right.

As I continued working with them and caring for Uncle, that feeling only grew stronger. Going to their home never felt like work, it felt like a second home because of the warmth and kindness they showed me. Auntie Sonal and Uncle Harnish treated me like family, and the longer I was with them, the more I grew to love and appreciate them.

Uncle Shah was the most humble, positive, and kind person I have ever met in my life. Every time he spoke to me or offered advice, it came straight from the heart. He cared deeply, he listened, and he always greeted us with a beautiful smile... even when he wasn't feeling well.

I will never forget him, and I am always proud to share my journey of caring for Uncle Harnish with my family.

May he rest in peace. We will miss him more than words can express.

We love you so much, Uncle.

Michelle Reyes - March 18 at 11:51 AM

PB

“ Anil and I send our heartfelt condolences to Sonal and family. Although we are aware that no one has the ability to reverse what is inevitable and is totally beyond our control, but still experiences grief and sadness. What we can do, however is find solace from scriptures where we are reminded that the soul is immortal, and merely moves on from one life to another, and excessive grieving only causes pain to the family and other loved ones. I quote from Gita: "Enduring grief involves understanding the immortality of the soul (Atman) and the inevitability of death. Krishna teaches that the soul is never born nor dies, making mourning over the body's transformation irrational. True wisdom lies in accepting death as a transition, not an end, and detaching from attachment."

Pushpa Bharani

Pushpa Bharani - March 18 at 11:36 AM

PR

“ I'd like to take a moment to remember and honor Harnish fua. who meant so much to our family.

When we first came to the US , everything was new and uncertain. He didn't just welcome us — he made space for us in his home. It gave us a soft landing, a sense of belonging, and the confidence to begin a new chapter.

He was a pediatrician by profession, but to us, he was so much more than a doctor. He had a natural warmth, a calm presence, and a way of making people feel cared for.

I still remember the first investment advice he gave me. It wasn't just about money — it was about thinking long-term, being patient, and making thoughtful decisions. That guidance stayed with me, and it continues to influence me even today.

He was truly a great soul — kind, wise, and quietly impactful. The kind of person who left a lasting mark on everyone he helped. We will always be grateful for what he did for us, and we will carry his values forward.

May his soul rest in peace.

*Jay Shri Krishna.
Prathit, Siddhi & Vihaan*

Prathit - March 18 at 11:11 AM

NS

Harnishbhai was like my elder brother and always guided and supported me from the first time I met him. Sonalbhabhi was his true strength throughout.

Both Harnishbhai and Sonalbhabhi had inspired me to be the best I can.

Most importantly Harnishbhai, Bhabhi, Shefali and Sachin were instrumental in Suhasini and my wedding.

I do not have enough words to share my gratitude to Harnishbhai and Bhabhi. Fortunate to have them in my life and our family.

*With all the respect,
Nitin and Suhasini Shah*

Nitin Shah - March 18 at 08:50 PM



“ 136 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Morizzo Funeral Home & Cremation Services - March 17 at 02:25 PM

VJ

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



VARSHA JAMBUDI - March 15 at 11:22 PM

VJ

“With a very heavy heart, we remember and pay tribute to Dr. Harnishbhai Shah, a truly wonderful human being whose kindness and generosity touched the lives of so many people.

Harnishbhai was a person with an incredibly warm heart and a beautiful soul. He always welcomed everyone with a gentle smile, kind words, and genuine care. His humble nature and compassionate spirit made people feel comfortable and valued in his presence. He believed deeply in helping others, and he never hesitated to extend his support whenever someone needed guidance, encouragement, or help.

What made Harnishbhai truly special was not only his wisdom and achievements but also the goodness in his heart. He lived his life with sincerity, kindness, and a strong sense of humanity. Many people were fortunate to receive his guidance, kindness, and encouragement, and those memories will remain with us forever.

Through these photos, we remember the beautiful moments, the smiles, and the warmth he shared with everyone around him. Each memory reminds us of the wonderful person he was and the positive impact he made on so many lives.

Although he is no longer with us physically, the values he lived by—kindness, humility, generosity, and love for others—will continue to inspire all of us. His life was a blessing to many, and his absence will be deeply felt.

May God grant his noble soul eternal peace and give strength, comfort, and courage to his beloved family during this very difficult time.

Harnishbhai will always remain in our hearts, our memories, and our prayers. He will be deeply missed but never forgotten.

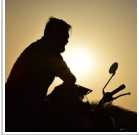
VARSHA JAMBUDI - March 15 at 06:27 PM

VJ

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



VARSHA JAMBUDI - March 15 at 06:22 PM



“ There are some people whose lives quietly become a blessing for everyone around them. My Mamaji, Dr. Harnish Vinaychandra Shah, was one of those rare souls.

For me, he was not only my eldest maternal uncle, he was someone I always looked up to with immense respect and admiration. His life journey from humble beginnings in Kadi to becoming a respected pediatrician in the United States was nothing short of extraordinary. But what made him truly special was not just his success, but the way he used that success to help others.

Mamaji had a very large heart. Over the years, he helped countless people, family, relatives, friends, and even those who were not closely connected to him. Many people found support in him during difficult times. Sometimes it was guidance, sometimes encouragement, and many times it was financial help given quietly, without ever expecting recognition or gratitude in return. That kind of generosity is rare, and it speaks volumes about the kind of person he was.

To many people, he was more than a doctor, he was someone they trusted with their children's lives and their family's well-being. The number of lives he touched, both through his medical care and his kindness, is something that cannot truly be measured.

Growing up, hearing stories about his discipline, intelligence, and achievements always inspired me. Yet what stayed with me the most was his sense of responsibility toward others. He believed that when life gives you opportunities, you should create opportunities for others too. And he lived that belief every single day.

Today, while we mourn his loss, we also celebrate a life that was deeply meaningful. A life of hard work, compassion, generosity, and quiet strength.

Mamaji may no longer be physically among us, but the values he

lived by, kindness, dignity, helping others, and caring for family, will continue to live on through all of us who were fortunate enough to know him. He will always remain an inspiration in my life.

May his noble soul rest in eternal peace.

*With deep love and respect,
Ravi Adalja*

R Adalja - March 14 at 03:56 AM

DS

Dr Shah I knew Dr Shah from Community General Hospital. He was a kind, compassionate, dedicated man with a heart of love & healing for his patients. God Bless. Debra Strunk

Debra Strunk - March 15 at 08:33 AM

KS

With sadness & a heavy heart I write this tribute to my cherished friend Harnish of many years. I met him when we entered medical school (MS University Medical School) in 1959 in Baroda. Harnish was from Kadi & lived in Baroda with his aunt while in medical school but spent a lot of time at my house. I have fond memories of him when we'd meet in the evening at the entrance to the street of my residence. We used to cycle a lot & rode to Lal Baug, about 2.5 miles from my house almost daily. Along with Harnish & other friends Dinu Shah, AS Shah, PC Shah we spent much time discussing life & politics. Over & above this routine we'd take a long ride of about 12 miles to Ajwa Lake on weekends to just hang out & have fun. Perhaps 3 or 4 times a year we'd venture out on our bikes to Pavagar, about 25 miles away for hiking and an overnight stay.

In the last year of med school, I floated the idea of going to America to HV & we decided to give it a try. It required a lot of studying for all the entrance exams but ultimately, we both succeeded. Harnish preceded me in arriving at St. Luke's Hospital in Philadelphia by one week for our internships. At the end of that year, I moved away but he stayed in Philadelphia, moving to Hanneman Hospital but we still remained good friends. We traveled to the west coast for an extended road trip in 1966 with Harnish having done all the detailed planning for routing, lodging, & sight-seeing. And I was in Philadelphia visiting friends with my fiancée on that happy day when his bride Sonal arrived from India and we met her for the first time.

Harnish and Sonal returned to India for a while and then came back to America at the Boston Children's Medical Center. We were then able to resume our friendship. Harnish & Sonal relocated to Reading, PA where he opened his Pediatric Practice. We continued our contact off and on with in person visits & phone calls. I will definitely miss his kind, "soft" voice and very quick & dry humor. May his noble soul rest in eternal peace.

Kulin Shah, MD, FACS

Kulin Shah - March 22 at 09:12 AM