

SS Sat Jagat Singh Khalsa

Brooklyn, NY, USA

Candidate Statement

Personal Information

Name:	Sat Jagat Singh Khalsa
City & State/Country:	Brooklyn, NY USA
Name of Spouse:	GuruSurya Kaur Khalsa
Occupation:	Home Improvement Contractor
Length of Participation in 3HO/Sikh Dharma:	49 years
Length of time as an Ordained Minister of Sikh Dharma:	21 years
Are you a KRI certified teacher or trainer? If so, what is your certification level and when did you acquire your certification?	Yes Level 1 I was certified about 20 years ago
Ashram Communities lived in:	Buffalo and Brooklyn
3HO/Sikh Dharma Community Positions:	Member and Secretary of the 3HO Board of Trustees

Questionnaire

1. Why do you feel called to serve on the SSSC Board?

The Global Sangat is my extended family. It has always given me and my family love and support. Serving on the SSSC Board is a way for me to support my global family.

2. What relevant areas of experience and expertise qualify you for this position and will make you an asset to the board?

In my business I work to create safe, efficient, cost effective, cozy and beautiful homes. We are successful because there is trust between and among all parties, me, my employees, customers, subcontractors, and suppliers and design professionals. I have learned to listen and deliver on our commitments.

My wife and I have had a Yoga Studio in our home since 1992. (We closed earlier this year due to Covid.)

We serve our community with Kundalini Yoga and meditation. We hosted monthly chanting to Guru Ram Das and cooked and served food to our community. We have hosted a monthly Gurdwara in our home and prepared and served langar. I have learned and experienced the great blessing of Seva and Sangat.

For many many years I have been one of the managers of our kitchens at winter and summer solstice. At each event 50-100 people from all over the world gather to work together in the kitchen to prepare and serve food with love. All of us become very saintly for those 8 -10 days. We call on Guru Ram Das and we create the blessing of group consciousness. We see and feel the tremendous power we have when we serve together with grace and humility.

3. Please summarize your prior and current service to the Dharma. If you have served in leadership positions please note them.

Since 2013 I have been a member and Secretary of the 3HO Board of Trustees.
I am a member of the Khalsa Council
I am the treasurer of Sikh Dharma of New York
I am the vice president of the Hari Simran Foundation

4. Please describe your experience of the Siri Singh Sahib as a teacher and your experience of his teachings.

a) Please describe how your personal sadhana and spiritual discipline support you to keep up.

I am grateful to the SSS as a teacher and for his teachings. He helped me to understand Seva and he taught me to smile.

I do my sadhana and I read from the Guru and I practice Bana, Bani, Simran, and Seva and I am sure that all helps me to keep up. I can't fully explain it, but I feel that my spiritual practice coerces the rest of my life to align with it.

5. Please describe what the Siri Singh Sahib's saying means to you: "If you cannot see God in all, you cannot see God at all." In practical terms:

- a) How would you apply this saying in your day to day service on the board?
- b) How would apply this perspective to help our community and organizations move forward together?

We are a global, diverse, multicultural Sangat. I need to seek to understand and respect everyone.

Kundalini Yoga and the Guru's Shabd have touched the hearts of people worldwide. Every person so inspired adopts different tools to support their journey through this life. Some people do yoga, some meditate, some wear the full Bana of a Sikh of the Guru, and there are lots of different combinations. My job is not to judge. My job is to serve and inspire the God within all my fellow humans.

6. What do you understand the Role of the SSSC to be? How do you see the SSSC carrying out that role on a:

- a) Practical level
- b) Spiritual level

To start off I think thus far the SSSC has done a great job in helping our organizations to grow and prosper since its inception.

The SSSC needs to periodically assess each for profit and nonprofit entity to be sure their actions are in line with their missions. SSSC needs to work to assure the long-term funding of the nonprofits.

I think SSSC needs to change its name to Serving the Sadh Sangat Corporation to more fully reflect its mission.

7. As an SSSC Trustee you are accountable to the Sangat. Describe:

- a) How you would like to build and enhance the relationship between the Sangat and the SSSC?
- b) How you will personally deal with the pressure of accountability while maintaining your spirit of service?
- c) How do you traditionally respond in a crisis or high tension situation?

- a) I think each SSSC member really needs to do their best to reach out to as many people as possible to check the pulse of the community and address concerns. I am looking forward to working with the compassionate reconciliation program. It is an excellent idea.
Perhaps each trustee can write a monthly report to the Sangat on a rotating basis so the Sangat can have an appraisal of SSSC work from a different perspective every month.
- b) Do Sadhana, play the piano, play golf, do Sitali Breath
- c) I try to remember to pray for the highest good

8. The SSSC practices inclusion, transparency, and accountability.

- a) What experience do you have incorporating these practices into your personal and professional life, and
- b) How would you incorporate them into our Organizations?

- a) We have opened the doors of our home, yoga studio, gurdwara and GRD Construction, my company, to people of all races, ethnicities and sexual orientation. I really try to be dependable. I am working on transparency.
- b) We need to permit same sex marriage in our affiliated Gurdwaras. We need to promote diversity on our subsidiary boards.

9. How do you see the 3HO/Sikh Dharma family of Nonprofit and For-profit organizations serving humanity in these times?

- a) What do you see as the three (3) greatest challenges facing the Dharma (Sikh Dharma-3HO and the family of For-profit and Nonprofit entities)? What would you do as a Trustee to overcome these challenges?
- b) What skills, tools, and techniques can you bring to the SSSC Board of Trustees to help us move toward the vision you described above?

Building and maintaining trust is always a challenge and it becomes more of a challenge in difficult times. Now we have the challenge and duty of caring for people of all ages who were harmed by the SSS and harmed by those of us who had unquestioning faith in him. This Seva will help to rebuild trust.

The pandemic is an obvious challenge to everything. Through our organizations and as individuals we must extend our hearts to each other in every way possible at a social distance. We have proven technics and practices to share that will help everyone.

Polarization has permeated all parts of our lives from the pandemic to politics and to how we are relating the actions of Yogi Bhajan. We **must** do Seva, to serve everyone and see the God in all.

SSSC is a relatively large Board. Such a Board is not well served by repetitive and long-winded statements. I will do my best to listen attentively. I am content to have my position stated by others. I will do my best to clearly and concisely and effectively state my position when needed.

10. Board service regularly requires 10 to 20 hours per month (or more) in evening and weekend board and committee meetings. These meetings are generally held at 8:00 pm Eastern time (20:00 hours). In addition, there are three Face-to-Face meetings per year (two in New Mexico following the International Khalsa Council Meetings (end of April and end of September) and a third in January or February in Los Angeles or one of our Ashram communities). The Face-to-Face meetings are two days in April and September and three days in January/February. *Note: One day of each Face-to-Face meeting period is always on Monday.*

- a. Can you fulfill these requirements?
- b. If so how will you balance these requirements with your other personal and professional responsibilities?
- c. What do you anticipate being the most difficult part of serving as a Trustee on the SSSC Board?

- a) Yes
- b) I set my own schedule in my business and its ok with my wife
- c) I know Board work can be slow and I hope I do not lose patience.

11. Are you related by blood or marriage to an officer, director, employee, or paid contractor of any of the constituent organizations (nonprofit or for-profit) including all subsidiaries?

- a. If yes, to whom are you related, how are you related to them, and what is their position?

No