

Mr. Joginder Singh



*Mr. Joginder Singh*  
September 10, 1925 – March 19, 2023

A Library Activist and community volunteer, it is with a heavy heart we share that Joginder Singh has passed away.

Joginder Singh lived in Maryland since the mid-1980s and remained active to strengthen the local county's library system. He volunteered for over 30 years on the Library Board, Library Advisory Committee, and Upcounty Advisory Board of Montgomery County, Maryland, a suburb of Washington, DC.

He was intricately involved in the planning of the brand-new Germantown Library as the population and demand for library services increased in that part of the state. At the time of its construction, this library was planned as a state-of-the-art example of the future of Montgomery County Libraries. Joginder Singh also had the desire to include several books on the Sikh faith. In the wake of 9/11, Sikhs have faced hate and prejudice due to widespread ignorance. He was enthusiastic and passionate about sharing knowledge with others, and partnered with Guru Gobind Singh Foundation, a spiritual Sikh center based in Rockville, Maryland to support this initiative.

Resilient at the age of 97, Joginder Singh was a man who was passionate about family and had a desire to live life to its fullest. He was born in Lahore District (now in Pakistan) on September 10<sup>th</sup>, 1925 in the village Lehna Singhwala, which still exists today, founded by his grandfather Subedar Major (Hon. Captain) Sardar Bahadur Sardar Lehna Singh, OBI. He was committed to Sikhi (faith), Waheguru (God), his family, friends, library profession, and colleagues – he was a devoted Sikh, son, brother, husband, father, uncle, grandfather, great-grandfather, and great-great-grandfather, amongst countless other roles and relations he had in his life.

At the time of the Partition of India in 1947, he migrated from Lahore to Delhi. His love for libraries started during his tenure at the Central Institute of Education, Delhi, where he served between April 1949 to February 1951. When UNESCO initiated the Pilot Project of the Delhi Public Library, Joginder Singh was selected to serve with their Library Consultant. His interest in reading and education developed at a young age and he earned his Bachelor's and Master's while raising a family.

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In 1951, he joined the United States Information Agency (now the U.S. Department of State's Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Sections) in New Delhi, India. Joginder Singh worked for the American Library, New Delhi for 32 years – the last 10 years as the Library's Director. He was recognized in 1967 with his first Meritorious Honor Award by the USIA. The Economic Times on November 15, 1981, and the Times of India on January 11, 1982, commended Joginder Singh's professionalism, leadership qualities, and valuable service provided by the American Library, New Delhi to its patrons. At the time of his retirement in 1983, he received his second Meritorious Honor Award from the USIA.

After his retirement, he started his volunteer work, when he was asked by the President of the Indian Library Association to serve as Library Consultant at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration in Mussoorie, India, between 1984 and 1987, to revive their Library which had burned down in a fire. In 1985, he compiled and edited the Fourth Edition of the *Indian Library Directory*, published by the Indian Library Association under a grant from the Government of India's Department of Culture, Ministry of Human Resources Development.

In the mid-1980s, Joginder Singh immigrated to the United States with his wife, Mrs. Surjan Kaur, and his children. He started his volunteer work in the U.S. first with the Public School System, followed by his appointment to the Montgomery County Library Board in 1994, where he served as a Member, Vice Chair, and Chair for about six years. In 1999, he was appointed as a Member of the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board for two three-year terms. He continued to serve as a Member and Chair of the Germantown (Montgomery County) Library Advisory Committee. In May 2007, Joginder Singh's volunteer work was recognized by the Maryland Library Association with an "Outstanding Volunteer Award" which was presented to him at the Association's Annual Conference in Ocean City, Maryland, USA.

Joginder Singh was named a "Library Superhero" by the Friends of the Library, Montgomery County, Maryland, USA in recognition of his support to the Montgomery County Libraries. A "READ" poster photographing him with one of his favorite books, *The Poetry of Robert Frost*, was created and was on display in all of the Montgomery County Libraries. Until 2022, he continued serving on the Gaithersburg Library Advisory Committee (Gaithersburg, Maryland, USA).

Through it all, he credited his accomplishments to his supporting late wife, Mrs. Surjan Kaur, and his family. He shared with his grandkids that his mantra to success was being "consistent, persistent, and insistent".

He was 97 years young and was married for 75 years to his wife, Late Mrs. Surjan Kaur, who passed away in 2021. He is survived by his Children, Grandchildren, Great Grandchildren, and Great-great Grandchild.

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