



RESIDENT OF THE MONTH

Kanta Patel

Kanta was born in Nairobi, Kenya, though her roots trace back to India. Her father had moved to Kenya as a young man to work on the railroad. By the time she was born, he was running a general store in the town of Kikuyu. Due to rising tensions and safety concerns, the family relocated to Nairobi, where her father later assisted the military with radiator repairs.

Kanta was the third of four children, with an older sister and brother and a younger sister. She attended Cambridge Overseas School, earning her high school certificate in 1958, and then pursued teacher training at the Government Teachers Training College in Nairobi, completing her certification by 1960. She taught at the City Primary School for six years and also served as a Girl Scout leader for her students.

In 1963, she married Pulkit Patel, a childhood neighbor whose family had known hers for years. Theirs was an arranged marriage, and Pulkit moved from India to Kenya to be with her. Their first daughter, Bina, was born in 1964. Pulkit began an internship at Nyeri, worked in a Aga Khan hospital there then in a private clinic, the family eventually decided to pursue broader opportunities in America. With a 20-month-old Bina in tow, they boarded a Greyhound bus from New York to Wichita, Kansas, in 1966.

IN THIS ISSUE

GET TO KNOW KANTA

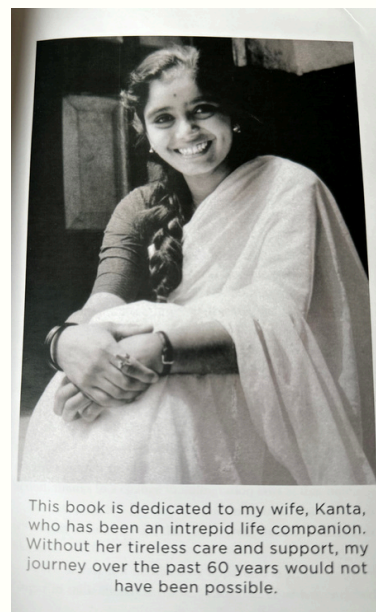
EDUCATION, PROFESSION & FAMIY

WHY WESTMINSTER?



Kanta trained and worked as a histologist at Saint Francis Hospital, while Pulkit completed his surgical residency in Kansas City. Once he finished he began his specialty in urology, the family relocated to Terre Haute, Indiana, in 1971, where Pulkit became the first Indian surgeon in the city. Over the years, Kanta and Pulkit became a welcoming presence in the local medical and Indian communities, helping other Indian doctors acclimate to life in Terre Haute. They even bought a church in Pimento and transformed it into the India Ecumenical Center, a shared space for all religions to worship, which operated for 12 years. Kanta balanced her roles as a wife, mother, and professional with grace. After her twin daughters, Sujata and Sarita, were born in 1973, she later returned to work as a histologist at Union Hospital for 20 years. Kanta also participated in ten half marathons during her time in Indiana. Her dedication to community life extended beyond work: she was a Girl Scout leader, a member of the Roadrunners of Terre Haute, the Newcomers Club, the Medical Alliance, and the Indian Association of Terre Haute. Her influence is clearly reflected in the lives of her daughters, all three are now child and adolescent psychiatrists practicing in California. Bina serves as the Director of Stanford's Mental Health Clinic, Sujata also practices at Stanford's clinic, and Sarita is a psychiatrist at a mental health clinic in Palo Alto being an advocate for uninsured members of the community.

Kanta has four beloved adult grandchildren and spent 26 years living in Idle Creek before moving to Westminster Village after Pulkit's passing. His book, *My Life's Journey from India to Indiana*, is proudly housed in our library. Her move to Westminster was not a sudden decision—Pulkit helped choose Westminster Village for her, believing it would be the perfect fit. He knew she would be well cared for, close to the community she's so active in, and have the freedom to travel and visit her daughters and extended family, knowing her home base was secure and supportive. Here at Westminster, Kanta enjoys exercise, the variety of activities, and the peace of mind that comes with knowing everything is taken care of. She loves inviting friends to brunch and musical performances, hoping they too will consider calling Westminster home. Kanta Patel's life has been one of compassion, courage, and community. We are honored to have her as part of ours.



DEDICATION
FROM DR
PULKIT
PATEL'S
BOOK.
AVAILBALE
IN THE WV
LIBRARY.