

## PROFILE

### Sikh Team Use Multi-Media Approach to Educate Community on Religion and Chiropractic Services

You don't have to wear a three piece suit to be a Chamber member, or be a physician to have the title "doctor" in front of your name. Those are just some of the stereotypes we grow to accept.

Dr. Pritam Singh Khalsa and Siri Pritam Kaur Khalsa break most of the stereotypes of the business and healthcare world. How do they break them?

How many healthcare providers have a Masters Degree in Civil Engineering, post graduate work in anthropology and linguistics and speak two languages fluently? Dr. Khalsa does.

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**No one would call the Khalsas stereotypical Sikhs.**

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How many office managers take over running the family business at age 15, immigrate to France at 18 and the United States at 20, own their own business at age 24, and speak three languages fluently? Siri Pritam Kaur Khalsa does.

How many healthcare providers wear orthodox Sikh clothing and include the teaching of yoga in their non-invasive treatment package? The Khalsas do.

You may have seen them in town or on Channel 5. They are both tall, very Caucasian and dress in white... the universal color of healing. His red hair is covered by a white turban, but you can't miss the flaming beard. No one would call the Khalsas stereotypical Sikhs.

The unsterotypical Dr. Khalsa and his wife founded and practice at the Khalsa Chiropractic Life Center on Live Oak Boulevard in Yuba City. He practices chiropractic and she manages the office and teaches yoga classes.

Dr. Khalsa's clinic is one of more than a dozen chiropractic offices in the Yuba-Sutter area. He opened the clinic three years ago following his graduation from Life Chiropractic College West in Hayward. He was 43 years old... not the



*Dr. Pritam Khalsa and Siri Pritam Kaur Khalsa*

typical age to graduate.

But then he took a more circuitous route than most healthcare providers, including his peers, take. The road included several career changes, religious conversion, a name change and a Spartan lifestyle. His wife and children shared part of the transition with him, making transitions and sacrifices of their own.

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**"The prevailing culture discourages lifetime commitment to almost anything,"**  
Khalsa said.

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Dr. Khalsa grew up in Oklahoma as Pat Pyeatt. Pat Pyeatt worked in the oil-fields as a teenager and college student, earning a Master of Science Degree in Civil Engineering right on schedule.

Six years in Latin America followed. He volunteered his engineering skills in rural cooperatives, did anthropological and linguistic research, while studying philosophy and anthropology at various Latin American universities. He didn't forget religion during the 60's. He was a worker in a seminary in Chile. He abandoned the seminary after becoming disenchanted with Western religion and began the search for something to take its place.

He looked for it in construction work... in religion and in an ashram in Marin County.

Gisela Gehret was born in West Germany. Her father was a butcher, and at 15 she took over management of the meat business. Three years later she immigrated to France and at age 20 she immigrated

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