

**Karen Denard Goldman's
American Public Health Association
Mohan Singh Award Acceptance Song**
November, 1998

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**Karen Denard Goldman's
Society for Public Health Education
Health Education Mentor Award Acceptance Poem**
November, 2006

Mohan

sung to the tune of "Mame!"

Who is our Master, Mentor, and Sage? Mohan!
Whose books of maxims are all the rage? Mohan!
Whose sane and sound suggestions are sacred for their sweet simplicity?
Whose works and wonders never cease thanks to all of our complicity?

Who comes to us in visions and dreams? Mohan!
Who reminds us work's more fun than it seems? Mohan!
Who came, who saw, who conquered the stodginess of "fed" bureaucracies?
Whose faithful followers are found in Canada, "The States", and overseas?

Who put Hyderabad back on the map? Mohan!
Who gives our profession its sizzle and snap? Mohan!
Whose quips and commentaries in the face of crises help us to go on?
If you seek a truth or a maxim...
Just pray, write, e-mail, or fax him!
True believers need only to ask him...Mohan!

'Twas the Night Before SOPHE

Based on Clement Moore's "'Twas the Night Before Christmas"

'Twas the night before SOPHE – I was down to the wire;
No remarks had I written – my situation was dire.
Essays and mid-terms were stuffed in my purse
While my suitcase sat empty – I was starting to curse.
My Bobby lay lonely, bereft in our bed
All thoughts of our snuggling, once iffy, now dead.
I paced in my p.j.s. I wracked my stressed brain:
Had I booked a hotel? Bought a seat on the train?

When all of a sudden, I felt a warm glow
I sensed a strong aura – a hot flash? Oh, no!
Away to the window I flew in a sweat,
Pushed open the window; gulped all the air I could get.
The moon on the skyline of New York below
Gave the luster of mid-day to the City below.
When what to my shock and delight do I hear
But a voice oh so soothing, so calm, kind, and clear.
With a hint of the cynic, and an ironic ring
I knew in a moment it was...Mohan Singh.

More rapid than transit, good counsel he gave
He taught by example how real mentors behave:

“Thank A. Taub, G. Shimmel, M. Hamburg, N. Galli,

J. Tyler, S. Olson, D. Ramsey – don’t dally!

Thank Lieberman, Gitlin, Clark, Morris, ‘n Bloom,

B. Cissel and others right there in the room

Who have been treasured mentors, who’ve helped you to grow.

Thank them all, thank them all, thank them all so!

Then briefly, like Coolidge – no remarks too wide-ranging! –

Describe what’s required and how mentoring’s changing.

Explain how the world spinning ‘round at warp speed

Has altered the nature of mentoring, indeed!

It’s changed in a twinkling – just show them the proof

Of the new working world and that working world truth.

“Encourage more mentors. Though it’s all turned around,

The concept’s still solid – it’s vital – so sound.

Mentors aren’t old bosses who “adopt” their mentees.

No regular meetings. Action plans? Oh, puh-leeze!

They no longer lobby or help clear the way

To promote mentees at work – ooh la, la, that’s passé.

By age 34 “kids” have worked at nine jobs,

Three careers – work’s fast paced, no one now just hob nobs.

Like consultants on call, a mentor is there

Ad hoc, just-in time, any way, any where.

At a restaurant, café, on-line, in a park,

When it starts to get light out – when it’s long after dark.

Tell a mentor-to-be, don’t fear failure, rejection.

Even Telemachus’s Mentor gave less than perfection.

In fact, remind all how the goddess Athena

Appeared dressed up as Mentor with advice that was keener.”

With a wink of his eye and a twist of his head,

Mohan gave me to know I had nothing to dread.

I knew what I’d say, so went back to my packing,

*Clear that without *being* a mentor my life would be lacking...*

The treasure of friendships through life’s joys and strife

The trust and the faith that connects you for life,

The chance to give back, the thrill of still growing,

Helping others along; without being all-knowing.

To my mentors, my thanks; to Mohan a bow.

If you aren’t a mentor, consider being one now.

And if you’ve ever been mentored, you’ve enjoyed the reward.

The way to say thank you – start paying it forward.