



CHINMAYA MISSION CHICAGO

BADRI - A School of Vedantic Studies

Monthly Newsletter – June 2021



Chinmaya

Wisdom Quote

“Actions are the louder expression of thought. The quality of thought is ordered by the nature of our inner belief and faith.” – Swami Chinmayananda

Gurudev’s Message



Gurudev extolled karma yoga as the most ideal of paths for the active members of today’s society. “The secret of action,” he said, “is to get established in equanimity, renouncing all egocentric attachments and forgetting to worry over our successes and failures.” When you set your selfish desires aside and act in the world, the mind is calmed, and the personality layers are purified of ego sediments from the past.

The very action in which you are now employed can be ‘transformed into a process of self-unfoldment, yielding joy and fulfillment in life,’ he said. What transforms mere labor into fulfilling, inspiring way of life is considering action as not what you do, but how you do it; that is, acting without the motivation of personal gain. “The attitude needs to change,” he said, “not the work itself.”

Thus purified, the mind is ready to understand the essential message of Vedanta: Tat-Tvam-Asi (‘That Thou Art’): That wondrous, divine Being whom you have all along regarded as being outside yourself and beyond reach is the very essence of your own true nature. Shorn of ego and desire, you become God-man. Gurudev’s mission is to have us realize that God-man in each one of us.

[Click here to watch a short film on Gurudev](#) [YouTube]

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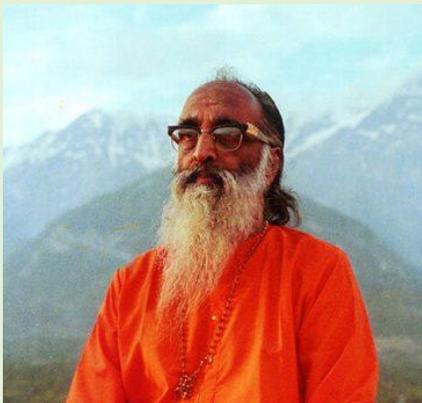
[Seva Updates](#)

Upcoming Events -

- [E-BV National Summer Camp](#) [Virtual]: 6/14 – 7/30 – Mon to Fri – 10 am – 12 noon CST
- [SAT/ ACT Classes](#): 6/6 – 7/17 On Saturdays @ 11:30 am – 2:30 pm
- Monthly Bhajan [Virtual]: 6/12 @ 6 pm at the residence of Lakshmi & Shashi Narasimhan
- Gratitude & Graduation Ceremony: Sunday, 6/13 @ 10 am [Virtual]
- Sri Rudram Chanting @ Badri Shrine: 6/19 @ 5:30 – 6:30 pm
- Guruji’s Birthday/ Paduka Puja: Wednesday 6/30 @ 6:30 pm
- [Annual Vedic Heritage Summer Camp](#) [Virtual]: 8/4 – 8/13 @ 10 am – 12 noon & 1 – 2 pm

Highlights from Previous Month

The month of May every year has always been very special to Chinmaya Mission as we celebrate our Pujya Gurudev's Jayanti in addition to a grand celebration of Mother' day.



This year particularly was even more special as it marked the **105th year of Pujya Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda's Jayanti**. On this special occasion the global Chinmaya Mission family celebrated a first-of-its-kind Online Geeta Jnana Yajna by the Master himself. This was a golden opportunity for all to study an entire chapter (7) of the Bhagavad Geeta from a teacher who lived every word of it. The lectures by Pujya Gurudev on Bhagavad Geeta were broadcasted on the [YouTube Chinmaya Channel](#) every day from May 8-25, 2021.

Pujya Gurudev's Jayanti at our center was celebrated on **May 08**, by performing the Paduka puja by our own **Swami Sharanananda ji**. Balavihar children presented the melodious composition - **Tapovan Shatkam** in addition to the balavihar alumni sharing their reminiscences with the enlightened **Master Gurudev** and the profound impacts of His teachings in their own lives.

May 02, 2021, marked **Hanuman Jayanti** and was celebrated online at our center by the **Vyasa group** Bala Vihar kids.

This year, the **Mother's Day celebration on 9th May**, was done virtually with only a few families being present in the shrine at the Badri center. This was a beautiful online program put forward by the teachers under the support and guidance of our **Swami Sharanananda ji**. The program was started by invoking the blessings of **Goddess Durga** and **Pujya Gurudev**, followed with the **Matru puja**.



Our **Swamiji's message** to all the kids on the occasion of **Mother's Day** was very meaningful and heartwarming as he quoted the meaning of #17 verse from Chapter #9 of the Bhagavad Geeta, wherein Lord Krishna says he is the mother, father and the supporter for the whole universe. Swamiji also explained to the kids as to how every 'Mother' is a representative of the 'Divine Mother'. This was followed by rendition of devotional songs by the Yamunotri center and Badri center. A skillfully made video panel of moms who tackled the pandemic this past year in their respective roles; professional and personal was shown to all the members of the Chinmaya family. This was followed by a wonderfully choreographed, "NirityaSamarpan: Dance on Devi' program by the Bala Vihar kids and students of Smt. Hema Rajagopalan and Smt. Janaki Anandavalli.

The grand finale every year for the **Mother's Day celebration** has always been the food stalls set up and food cooked by all the dads. However, this year due to the pandemic, this event was concluded by a virtual cooking show put together by a few of the mission dads to all the members of the Chinmaya family. Although this year's celebration of Mother's Day similar to last year was very different, it nevertheless got joy to all the members to sit back and enjoy from the premise of their homes.



Online **StotraYagna** was organized as part of the **Adi Shankaracharya Jayanti** from May 15 – 31, 2021. This was an online offering of stotras by the children and adults of the mission posted on Facebook.

Balavihar Corner

Highlight of Previous Month

On **May 2nd**, Bala Vihar Kids celebrated the **Birth of their beloved mighty Hanuman**, divine companion of Lord Rama. Kids performed in skits to depict virtues of Hanuman through recitation of '**Hanuman Chalisa**', devotional hymn in praise of Hanuman.

[Click here to watch the Badri Hanuman Jayanthi Balavihar program on YouTube](#)

On **May 8th**, **105th Jayanti of Pujya Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda** was celebrated by performing **Paduka puja**, a rare and blessed opportunity for all. Balavihar kids presented the melodious composition Tapovanshatakam. Balavihar alumni shared reminiscences with enlightened master Gurudev and profound impacts of His teachings in their own lives.

Parag Merai shared how His teachings have molded him to incorporate and internalize small pieces of His wisdom into his character. Interactions with Him had lasting impacts in his life to motivate him to continue doing Seva. He remembered Gurudev's immense presence, radiant happiness, deep joyous smile that had the magic effect to decimate all petty squabbles he was involved in just before entering His room. He narrated an experience when Gurudev threw an apple to his camcorder to bring his attention back to current proceedings. Parag recognizes that incident as an awakening moment in his life.

He learnt it was the greatness of beloved Gurudev, who knew what was needed at that moment for the development of a student and Guru met the student where the student was and helped him get back on track.

Dinesh Pillai feels **Gurudev** has never left him and continues to feel His immense presence around all the time. Being a **Chinmaya Balavihar** alumni, he shared he feels a greater sense of responsibility, greater sense of respect for others. He is a pediatrician by profession and works in DC inner city on purpose to be able to serve underprivileged kids. He does this with conviction because he thinks that is the right thing to do and he attributes his clarity in thought to Gurudev's teachings and blessings. He has embarked on this seva journey to pay his respects to Gurudev. He also shared a fascinating life experience about how he was instrumental in consoling his dad when he was heartbroken after Gurudev's demise. He shared how he reinforced his Vedantic interpretations of what he had learnt from his dad to comfort him in those difficult times.

What can be more befitting endorsement to Balavihar teachings? These memories from **Balavihar alumni** speak volumes.

[Click here to watch the Balavihar Gurudev Jayanthi program at Badri on YouTube](#)

On **May 9th**, Badri center Balavihar children paid their respects to their mothers in a ceremony known as **Matru Puja**. Mothers and children assembled in their homes because of the unprecedented COVID situation. The puja was performed under guidance of the **Swamiji**. At the end of the elaborate ceremony, kids recited **Ashothara stotram** as an offering to all mothers.

[Click here to watch the Mother's Day program at Badri on YouTube](#)

In HIS Loving Memory –

I had the fortune of spending the **Mahashivarathri** during 1992 with **Gurudev** at **Sidhabari ashram**. This was a day of fasting and I spent most of my morning in HIS company engaged in contemplative discussions. To take a break, Gurudev suggested we walk over to the temple. As we were walking towards the temple, we were passing the ashram dining hall. Gurudev turned to me and reminded that it's a fasting day and I am not to eat anything. As we reached the front of the dining hall, Gurudev brought my attention to a board that is displayed on the main door on which it was written - **What you get is what you deserve; not what you desire**. This has remained a very profound message all my life henceforth. – *Shri Shankerji*

Badri Programs

<https://mychinmaya.org/virtual-satsanga-and-e-study-groups/>

- **Swaranjali** (For Balavihar Children)
- **Stuti Vandana** (For Balavihar Children)
- **Geeta Chanting** (For Everyone)
- **Vedic Chanting** (For Everyone)
- **Sri Rudram Chanting** (For Everyone)
- **Sanskrit language** classes (For Everyone)
- **Adult Study Groups** (Registration required)
- **Vishnu Sahasranamam** (For Everyone)
- **ACT/ SAT Classes** (Registration required)

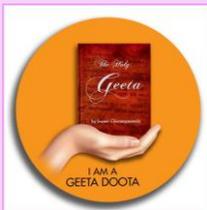
Seva Updates: Covid Vaccination Camp

Several volunteers (including doctors) from **Chinmaya Mission Chicago** worked with **Prism Labs** (which has a contract with the state of IL to administer the COVID Pfizer vaccines) to vaccinate people on April 18th and May 9th at the Manav Seva Mandir, Bensenville, IL. A total of 275 people were vaccinated on each of the days (04/18 & 05/09) with several of them getting their first and second doses of the **COVID vaccine**. This was a very satisfying and a humbling experience during these tough pandemic times for all the volunteers at the mission.

Updates from around the world -

- [E-BV National Youth Camp](#) (Tulsi Ramayana) - June 14 - July 30, 2021 [Virtual]
 - This is an Online Camp organized for anyone from KG Balavihar to Sethukaris i.e. 45 years.
- [Vedanta Sadhaka Course](#) (1 year) - Starting on 15 Oct 2021 [In Person]
 - This is offered at Chinmaya International Foundation for anyone between 35 – 65 years of age.
- [Leadership & Management lessons from Ramayana](#) - June 1 - 6, 2021 [Virtual]
 - This is a virtual yagna conducted by Swami Ramakrishnananda
- [Chinmaya Mahasamadhi Family Camp](#) - July 29 - Aug 2, 2021 [Virtual]
 - For the 2nd year in succession, the Mahasamadhi Camp will be virtual this year too.
- [Valmiki Ramayana](#) – June 5, 2021– March 22, 2022 [Virtual] – Sw. Ramakrishnananda
- [A Study of Vedic Suktas – 1](#) – June 11 – June 20, 2021 [Virtual]
 - This is offered by Chinmaya Vishwavidyapeeth for all individuals, desirous to learn the most ancient literature in the world, the Rigveda, and learn more about the Vedic deities

Geeta Doota Program



Get one for your home. Bring Geeta into your life

138 **The Holy Geeta** books distributed.

[Click here to](#)

Get a Free Copy of The Holy Geeta

Support India to battle COVID-19

The devastating second wave of COVID-19 has left India in a state of a deadly crisis.

Chinmaya Mission Chicago have started 'Help India COVID-19' Campaign and is seeking your support.

DONATE

Attention Balavihar Children:

You can contribute articles or sketches/ paintings or YouTube links of any Bhajans/ Chanting that will be published in this Newsletter. Email your contributions to cmc.publicity20@gmail.com by mentioning 'Newsletter' in the email subject.

CHINMAYA MISSION CHICAGO ♦ CHINMAYA MISSION DALLAS/FT WORTH
 CHINMAYA MISSION NW INDIANA ♦ CHINMAYA MISSION AUSTIN

jointly present

ONLINE CAMP for Pre-K to Grade 12 students

Lessons for Life

STORIES & VALUES FROM *SRIMAD BHAGAVATAM*

Love, Learning, and Laughter

AUGUST 4 - 13, 2021

CAMP SCHEDULE & ACTIVITIES

10 am - Noon	Yoga, Bhajans & Lessons / Values from Bhagavatam
Noon - 1 pm	Lunch Break
1 pm - 2 pm	Vedic Chanting, Games, and STEAM (Science, Tech., Engg., Arts, & Math) Workshops <i>(Classes taught by sevaks/ sevikas/ youth volunteers)</i>

CAMP FACULTY

- Swami Sharanananda - CM Chicago • Brahmachari Hari Chaitanya - CM Dallas
- Brahmacharini Akalka - CM Trinidad & Tobago • Brahmacharini Shuchita Chaitanya - CM Austin
- Brahmacharini Krithika Chaitanya - CM Trinidad & Tobago • Brahmacharini Stuti Chaitanya - CM Columbus
- Smt. Nirmita Dholakia - CM Chicago/ NorthWest Indiana • Smt. Geeta Raghu - CM Atlanta
- Sri Dhiren Khatri - CM Chicago

Register at www.mychinmaya.org/camp

FEES: \$100 per child (Small Class Sizes)

Suchi Achar (630) 204 1805 Rajul Bhalala (847) 302 2383 Sarvesh Sharma (214) 235 8409
 Deepak Chande (708) 253 3570 Rita Patel (773) 339 7482 Padmini Makkam (219) 808 3431