

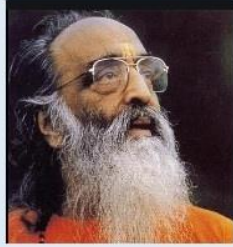


CHINMAYA MISSION CHICAGO

BADRI - A School of Vedantic Studies



Monthly Newsletter – August 2021



Chinmaya

Wisdom Quote

“Not to do what you feel like doing is Freedom.” – Swami Chinmayananda

Swamiji’s Message



His Creation

Look around the home and see the appliances, furniture and the hundred other things that we have collected over the years. We bought everything with a purpose in mind; some are used every day and some add to the decor. Similarly, everything and every being in this world has a purpose. Through the incredibly intelligent design God has come up with, He not only makes sure each of us is the beneficiary but works through us in a manner where we can journey together, as in an airplane. With the absence of even the tiniest of bacteria, our life would be different. If there was no fermentation, there would be no yogurt, dosa or dhokla. Imagine that! God's creation has every being seamlessly interlocked - humans need oxygen to survive, the plants want carbon dioxide. What they reject, we take and what we reject, they take. What a creation! What a design! – **Swami Ishwarananda (LA Center)**

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Upcoming Events -

- **Mahasamadhi Aradhana Pooja** @ Badri: 3rd August (Tuesday) @ 6 – 7 pm – Available on Zoom and YouTube
- **Annual Vedic Heritage Summer Camp** [Online]: 8/4 – 8/13 @ 10 am – 12 noon & 1 – 2 pm
- **Naperville India Day** – Chinmaya Mission Booth: 8/9 from 11 am – 7 pm @ Downtown Naperville
- **Monthly Bhajan** [Virtual]: 8/14 @ 6 pm hosted by Akhila & Venkat Palli family – Available on Zoom and YouTube
- **Monthly Vedic Group Chanting** @ Badri Shrine: 8/28 (Saturday) @ 5 – 6:30 pm – Available on YouTube
- **Krishna Jayanthi Puja & Celebration**
 - On Sunday, 8/29 – Balavihar programs @ 11 am
 - On Monday, 8/30 – Puja at the Shrine @ 6 pm

*[Chinmaya Mission Chicago YouTube Channel](#) [Subscribe]

Bala Vihar Registration Open

'In-person' sessions on both Saturday & Sunday – Limiting number of students in each class for each session – Register early – Visit <https://mychinmaya.org/balavihar/>

Highlights from Previous Month

During the month of July, we had fewer activities as it was a lean summer period. Keeping up with our Badri tradition, we held some of our regular events with the same rigor and enthusiasm that our devotees always bring up when the tasks are for HIM.

1. **Bhajan Sandhya**

The monthly Bhajan Sandhya, held on the 2nd Saturday of the month was this time held at Suchi & Ram Achar's home on 10th July 2021 at 6 pm. Suchi Achar's parents also participated along with Ram & Suchi's children – Karthik and Malini.



2. **Monthly Vedic Chanting**

[\[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dPcijZSuHb4\]](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dPcijZSuHb4)

Continuing with the tradition that we started last month, on the last Saturday of this month also we conducted Vedic Chanting at our Badri Shrine.



3. Swami Sharanananda ji's Birthday Celebration

[\[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ugkgn_uhJP8\]](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ugkgn_uhJP8)

A Guru Paduka pooja was performed to celebrate our Swamiji's birthday under the guidance of Gurukkal.



4. Guru Poornima Celebration

[\[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fdbxnalbehg\]](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fdbxnalbehg)

On 15th July Guru Paduka Pooja was performed and Guru Ashtothara was chanted to celebrate Guru Poornima. This was performed at Yamunotri center jointly by the three Chicago centers. As a part of the celebration, there were bhajans sung by groups from all the three centers.



Bala Vihar Corner

E-BV Summer Camp 2021

During this summer month of July, the major Bala Vihar activity was the National Children's camp that was based on stories and values from Ramayana. The camp started on 14th June and ended on 30th July. Each class had a little more than 200 children and their active participation added to the energy and enthusiasm of the sessions.

Most days, the camp started with a yoga session, followed by a value based story filled with interesting anecdotes and finally ending with an activity which will either be vedic chanting, Ramayan singing, workshop, Art & Crafts etc depending on the day of the week. The children had a very enriching experience and are looking forward to the Srimad Bhagavatham themed camp that is starting on Wednesday, August 4th.



Badri Bala Vihar Graduation – Voice of the Graduates

We continue to share the voice of our graduates on some of the questions that many of us have the urge to ask them. Going by our plan, we share the feedback from two of the graduates as we did in our last Newsletter. We will continue to share the rest of the students' feedback in our subsequent newsletters. All these children will be moving on to join the CHYK group and continue their

Anjana Thiruvikkare:

1. *When did you start or at what age did you start coming to CM Balavihar?*

I started coming to Chinmaya Mission when I was very young. First, I came with my parents, and then I started Balavihar classes when I was around 6.

2. *Why did you come to BV?*

At first, I was coming because my parents took me. However, I came to enjoy going, especially to see my friends and hear stories like the Ramayana and the Mahabharata.

3. *What inspired you to continue the BV classes till 12th grade?*

I continued coming back to Chinmaya Mission because I loved learning about the values and lessons that could be applied to my everyday life. As I grew up, I had more complicated events to navigate and Balavihar really aided me in that.

4. *Did you at any time contemplate quitting BV?*

Yes, I did contemplate that during high school especially when I got busy due to high school work and extracurricular activities. However, my parents were adamant about me continuing, so I kept coming and now I am glad that I did.

5. *How do you think attending the mission BV classes and all the other activities at the mission shaped your thoughts while growing up?*

I think they helped me gain a better outlook at life and look at the things I go through from different perspectives. They also helped how I treat others, especially since we learned so much about discriminating between right and wrong in Balavihar. I find myself coming back to the stories we learned about to understand how to navigate through certain problems.

6. *Will you be continuing as a CHYK member in the future?*

Yes, I will be. There are so many Chinmaya Mission centers in the Dallas area, and I am excited to explore them.

Gowri Salem:

1. *When did you start or at what age did you start coming to CM Balavihar?*

I had turned 4 and my parents took me to Balavihar right away!

2. *Why did you come to BV?*

Initially, I came due to my parents. But soon, I enjoyed coming to learn the stories, chant shlokas and sing bhajans, and most of all, to meet friends. Now, of course, I come because I want to learn about Hindu values and culture because I know their value.

3. *What inspired you to continue the BV classes till 12th grade?*

Mission has become part of our life. I was curious about Hindu culture and puranas. Staying connected to Mission helps me with managing stress. Having Swamiji and teachers as role models has really helped me stay grounded. Following values can get hard without the Satsang that mission provides.

4. *Did you at any time contemplate quitting BV?*

Never. It became a comfortable routine that I looked forward to.

5. *How do you think attending the mission BV classes and all the other activities at the mission shaped your thoughts while growing up?*

It has always helped me be self-aware of my thoughts, words and actions, and stay calm in tense situations. I have also learnt not to put too much importance on temporary pleasures.

6. *Will you be continuing as a CHYK member in the future?*

Yes, I attended the CHYK workshop on Jul 10th and look forward to continuing as a CHYK in the future!

In HIS Loving Memory –

During the early 80s in India there was a new initiative tried in some select hotels. Much like how in the US Hotels we find a copy of the Holy Bible in every room, in these select hotels in India also Chinmaya Mission decided to place a copy of **The Holy Geeta** in every room.

Much to the surprise of the Mission, after a few days it was reported that people were stealing **The Holy Geeta** as books were frequently missing from the hotel rooms. This was brought to Gurudev's attention, and HE promptly replied, "***This is one stealing that we shall promote***".

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)

Updates from around the world -

- [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.
- [Mantra Sadhana Retreat](#) – Nov 7, 2021 – Jan 1, 2022 [In Person]
 - Eight weeks of Japa/ Purascharana under the guidance of Swamini Vimalananda ji.
- [Guided Meditation based on Nirvana Shatakam](#) – Starting on September 4, 2021 by Pujya Swami Swaroopananda
 - Every Saturday for 60 mins that includes 30 mins discourse, 15 mins meditation and 15 mins of Q&A
- [Valmiki Ramayana](#) – June 5, 2021– Mar 22, 2022 [Virtual] – Swami Ramakrishnananda
 - Discourse and Analysis of Ramayana in three parts with the fragrance of Kamban and Kalidasan
- [Chinmaya Naada Bindu Online Singing Competition](#) – Guna Gaaun Main
 - For ages 6 and above (Except Professional Singers and teachers) – Registration Open

Badri 'Seva' Update -

- Parking Lot Cleanup - 10 July 8 am - 12 noon & 24 July 8 am - 11 am

A group of volunteers came together on two different Saturdays to trim the weeds that are growing all over the parking lot and the approach road to the shrine from Kingery highway. Along all the cracks on the asphalt, there were crab grass and weeds that grew. These had to be trimmed down, the debris blown away to make the place clean and then weed control to be sprayed so that they don't come up again this season. Twelve of our volunteers came together to get the task accomplished over two weekends.

The 10th July activity gained greater significance as it happened to be the last activity that our dear Badri Narayan devotee Niranjan Choksiji was participating. He has since relocated his residence to Florida a few days back. After a partial clearing of weeds, the volunteers were treated to a sumptuous brunch with a great array of foods. On 24th July, the rest of the parking lot was also cleared the same way.



Swami Sharananandaji's Weekly Program Schedule

Program Name	Details
Saddarshanam	Sunday/ 8 – 8:45 am
Bhagavad Gita – Chapter-wise Summary	Sunday / 9 – 9:30 am
Viveka Choodamani	Tuesday/ 7 –8 pm
Mandukya Upanishad	Wed/ 7 – 8:15 pm
Tattvabodha	Saturday/ 8 – 9 am

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