

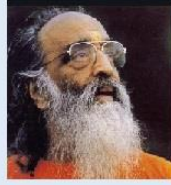


# CHINMAYA MISSION CHICAGO

## BADRI - A School of Vedantic Studies



Monthly Newsletter – September 2021



# Chinmaya

### Wisdom Quote

*"To love and to be loved is the greatest happiness." – Swami Chinmayananda*

### Swamiji's Message



Spiritual evolution requires the tender care and development of the two main aspects of the human psyche: head and heart. Pujya Gurudev used to say that this is balanced growth. The stories of Valmiki ji and Veda Vyaas indicate this important message.

Ved Vyaasa ji wrote Mahabharata and still felt incomplete. Narada ji advised him to write Bhagavatam to bring about a feeling of completeness and contentment to his being. Upon the completion to the Bhagavatam he experienced wholeness. Vaalmiki ji, Adikavi, wrote the voluminous Ramayana. He had to reincarnate as Tulasidasji and write Ramacharitamanas to bring completion and contentment to his heart. In

both cases, the former work is from an intellectual (head) standpoint and the latter work is from a devotional (heart) standpoint. Their efforts point to Gurudev's central teaching: we must develop both head and heart to bring a rounded personality and only then is true contentment and joy experienced. The two sages demonstrated this.

Let us strive also to bring about this balance in our own personality and enjoy contentment and bliss. We have studied Upanishads and Gita. Let us take a resolve to study Bhagavatam and Ramacharitamanas to develop the rich emotion of love in order to experience fullness and completion in our spiritual evolution. – **Swami Prakashananda**

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#### Upcoming Events -

- **Monthly Bhajan [Virtual]:** 9/10 @ 6 pm hosted by Reema & Sumit Seth family – Available on Zoom and YouTube
- **Balavihar Inauguration Day** – 9/12 @ 10 am – Badri Shrine – Available on YouTube
- **CVV Crowdfunding Fundraises** – Start date: 9/9
- **Ganesh Chaturthi Puja** – 9/9 @ 6:30 pm – Badri Shrine – Available on YouTube
- **Monthly Vedic Group Chanting @ Badri Shrine:** 9/25 (Saturday) @ 5 – 6:30 pm – Available on YouTube

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

# Bala Vihar (Virtual) Registration Open

Bala Vihar sessions starting on Sept 12<sup>th</sup> are going to be virtual using Zoom until further notice.

Registration is still open. Visit <https://mychinmaya.org/balavihar/>

All mission activities will continue on Zoom until further notice.

## Highlights from Previous Month

During the month of August, we continued to have fewer activities as it was still a part of the 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month was this time held at Akila & Venkat Palli's home on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2021 at 6 pm. Continuing the tradition of this event, all the stotrams were chanted by Bala Vihar children and for the Bhajans, the host family joined them in singing a few Bhajans too.



### 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, on 28<sup>th</sup> August, the last Saturday of the month also we conducted Vedic Chanting at our Badri Shrine. This was live telecast on YouTube Chinmaya Mission Chicago channel.



### 3. Mahasamadhi Aradhana Pooja

[\[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B3Ucyvj73Qo\]](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B3Ucyvj73Qo)

Swamiji performed the Guru Paduka Pooja along with a few devotees who were present in the Shrine. As a part of this Bala Vihar children chanted Guru Ashtotharam and Guru Paduka Stotram. The Puja was shared via Zoom and on the Badri Youtube channel.



### 4. Shri Krishna Janmashtami Puja

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

On 30<sup>th</sup> August, Shri Krishna Janmashtami Puja was performed at our Badri shrine and Shri Krishna Ashtothara was chanted by our Bala Vihar children to celebrate the occasion. As a part of the celebration, there were also bhajans sung various Chinmaya family members. The celebration concluded with a short talk by Swamiji.





## 5. Naperville India Day Celebration

>> Booth Participation - 8th August (11 am - 7 pm.)

We participated in the Naperville India Day celebration that was organized by the Indian community to commemorate the Indian Independence day. We reserved a booth and set it up to showcase and walk through our Bala Vihar activities. The booth was setup by 10 am and shortly thereafter we started seeing people walking by and stopping at our booth with questions. As the day progressed, we witnessed a healthy number of eager parents and grandparents stopping by to gather more information about the Bala Vihar program and other Chinmaya Mission activities. In all we were able to collect the contact information from 53 families and are following up with them.



## Bala Vihar Corner

### Bhagavatham Summer Camp 2021

During this mid-summer month of August, the only major Bala Vihar activity was the Regional Children's camp based on stories and values from Shrimad Bhagavatham. The camp started on 4<sup>th</sup> August and ended on 13<sup>th</sup> August. Each class had around 30 - 40 children and their active participation added to the energy and enthusiasm of the sessions. The dedicated and energetic teachers could provide a closer attention to each of the participants given the manageable class strength.

Most days, the camp started with a yoga session, followed by a value-based story filled with interesting anecdotes and the morning session ended with a learning a new stotram. In the afternoon there was an hour of activities including Vedic Chanting and STEM & Games. The children had a very enriching experience and are looking forward to the start of the new Bala Vihar session from September 12<sup>th</sup>.



### In HIS Loving Memory –

This happened during the year 1981, when **Pujya Gurudev's** first **Geeta Gyana Yajna** in the Chicagoland area was organized at Schaumburg High School and this event was co-sponsored by the **Hindu Temple of Greater Chicago** (HTGC/ Lemont Temple). HIS practice was to always pass the '**Guru dakshina**' to the temple as a donation. Ashok ji was the Chinmaya Mission treasurer then and was entrusted to write the check at the end of the discourse. While writing the amount in words, there was a small scratch on one of the words, which seemed quite insignificant. Before handing over the envelope **Pujya Gurudev** took a quick peek inside the envelope and in the fleeting second, his attention caught the scratch on one of the words written on the check. HE looked at everyone and without pulling up anyone in particular, gave a lengthy lecture on doing every task the best way possible giving importance to its finest detail and not making compromises. This was a great lesson in clearly understanding how everyone have to perform at their best in the true spirit of 'karma yoga', however small the task be or the mistake be. Powerful lessons for life based on everyday incidents from our Pujya Gurudev.

### 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 Kampan and Kalidasan

### Swami Sharananandaji's Weekly Program Schedule

Program Name	Details
<b>Saddarshanam</b>	Sunday/ 8 – 8:45 am
<b>Bhagavad Gita – Chapter-wise Summary</b>	Sunday / 9:30 – 10:00 am
<b>Viveka Choodamani</b>	Tuesday/ 7 –8 pm
<b>Mandukya Upanishad</b>	Wed/ 7 – 8:15 pm
<b>Tattvabodha</b>	Saturday/ 8 – 9 am

### Chinmaya Vishwa Vidyapeeth (CVV) Crowd Funding – Become an Ambassador

<https://crowdfunding.cvv.ac.in/usambassador/>

Puja Gurudev, Swami Chinmayananda, the enlightened master and visionary always had the vision to bring the ancient wisdom to modern life. He spent over 40 years of his life to enlighten the humanity about the need to live a life of selfless service for personal growth and for the prosperity of the society.

He also saw the need for a higher learning institution that integrated Indian knowledge systems with modern technology and educational approaches. In 2016, on his Birth Centenary year, Chinmaya Vishwavidyapeeth (CVV) - the Chinmaya University, the crown jewel of Chinmaya Mission, was born.

To make the Chinmaya University as a Global Project of Chinmaya Mission, and to strengthen its financial resources, the Chinmaya centers in India, UK and Australia have successfully launched the One Knowledge, One World crowdfunding campaign. Now it is Chinmaya Mission West that has taken up to do the same with all North American centers. You, as an ardent devotee of Puja Gurudev and Chinmaya Mission can play a vital role in this.

We request you to become a Chinmaya Ambassador!

Acting as Chinmaya Ambassador, you will reach out to friends, colleagues, family members to help build awareness and raise funds for CVV.

We understand that you may be unfamiliar and want to learn more about CVV. Please watch below video encapsulates the spirit and vision of CVV.

### Chinmaya Vishwa Vidyapeeth – An Overview

Simply, CVV is working to create values, share the vision of the Rishis, sculpt new leaders with knowledge of Indian heritage to selflessly serve society.

Our crowdfunding campaign commences September 9, 2021 (Ganesha Chaturthi). Please become an Ambassador today! We can, we must bring Gurudev's vision to reality.

**Contact: Anand Ram** for more information / 630.440.8148/ [anand.ram.anand@gmail.com](mailto:anand.ram.anand@gmail.com)




## Chinmaya International Residential School (CRIS) – Admissions Open

### [Detailed Information](#)

With the blessings of Gurudev and the support of our well-wishers, CIRS is doing very well and having good number of NRI students.


Currently CIRS is accepting applications from NRI students for the 2022-23 academic year. Please see the attached flier below in this email for details. Please write to [admissions@cirschool.org](mailto:admissions@cirschool.org) for further details.



**Celebrating 25 Years of Commitment** C.I.R.S






<b>CBSE Classes V - IX &amp; XI and IB DIPLOMA</b> <b>Registration Open</b> for the academic year 2022- 2023	<b>ENTRANCE EXAMINATION</b> India - countrywide : 31 Oct, 2021 Overseas : 5 Nov, 2021
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