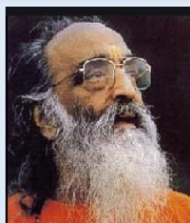




CHINMAYA MISSION CHICAGO

BADRI - A School of Vedantic Studies

Monthly Newsletter – August 2023



Chinmaya

Wisdom Quote

"If I rest, I rust" – Swami Chinmayananda

A Tribute To Our Guru

A Remembrance Message



There are many saints and sages in the history of India. There are also many gurus. But visionaries are only a few. Pujya Sri Swami Chinmayananda was not only a sage of modern times, not only a guru but also a great visionary, whose work touched not only India but the whole world.

From time to time, the world witnesses birth of a Yuga Purusha who comes for the purpose of leading the suffering humanity to the path of Dharma. And we are the blessed ones who have had the great fortune of being under the direct guidance of this Guru Sri Chinmayananda, a great Gnani who carved for us the ideal model of Karma Yogi sweetened with endless Bhakti. Those who met him will never forget the glow of Chinmaya (Pure consciousness) that He carried around everywhere at all times.

H.H. Swami Chinmayananda is a world-renowned authority of the scriptures of India, especially Bhagavad Gita and the Upanishads. He was born in 1916 and attained Mahasamadhi in 1993. He worked relentlessly for about 40 years to bring about spiritual revival in India and abroad. His unique style and logical approach to explaining complex spiritual and moral ideas is appealing to all young and old. His was the life of selfless service to others.

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Upcoming Events -

- **Bhagavatha Saptah** – 8/4 – 8/11
 - By Dr Medasani Mohan
- **Vishnu Sahasranamam**: 8/6 @ 9:30 am
- **Monthly Bhajan**: 8/12 @ 6 – 7:30 pm
 - Host: Smt Deepa & Shri Rajesh Salem
- **Br Soham Chaitanya ji's Talk** - 8/15 – 8/17
 - 7 – 9 pm at Badri
 - Shiva Sankalpa Suktam-Divinizing the Mind
- **Fun Fair & Open House** – 8/19 @ 10 am
- **Onam Celebration** – 8/20 @ 11:00 am
 - Cultural Programs – Kerala Feast
- **Group Vedic Chanting** - 7/26 @ 9:00 am

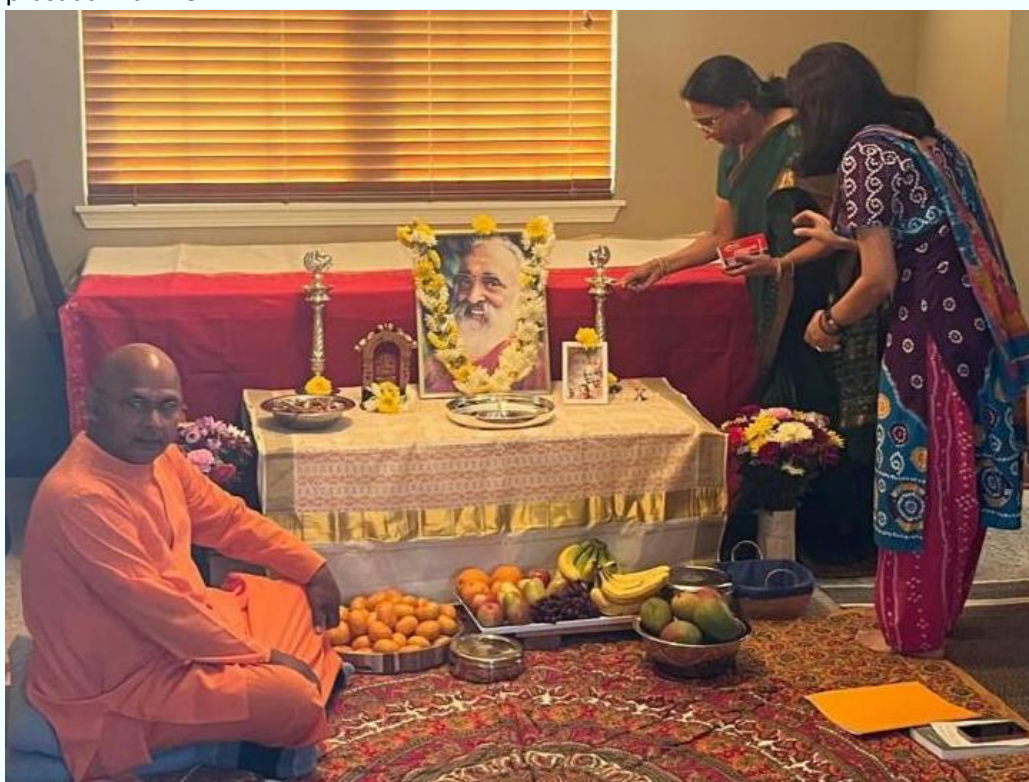
Bala Vihar Registration (23-24) Starting Soon

Highlights from Previous Month

The month of July which usually witnesses a dwindling attendance during the Sunday programs, will always gain momentum as the month progresses, focused on the much-awaited Annual Mahasamadhi Aradhana Camp starting around the end of July and culminating on 3rd August. This month also saw our beloved Swamiji passing by his birth anniversary on 15th of July. At the starting of the month we, at the mission also celebrated Guru Purnima on 3rd July. We also had our regular monthly activities of Vishnu Sahasranamam Chanting and monthly group Vedic Chanting conducted.

1. Bhajan Sandhya

The June month's Bhajan Sandhya was hosted by Smt Usha & Shri Ramesh Turuvikere at their home. The evening was well attended by the Badri family as several participants sang the Bhajans after all the shlokas were chanted. The event as always practiced, ended with the chanting of Nirvana Shatakam and Aarthi, followed by the distribution of prasadam dinner.



2. Monthly Vedic Chanting

This month also our Monthly Group chanting of Vedic mantras and suktams was conducted on the third Sunday of the month as we had the Mahasamadhi camp on the last Sunday. Anyone willing to join the chanting or listening to an hour of Vedic chants, can join the group who conduct this on the last Sunday of every month at our Badri Shrine.

3. Vishnu Sahasranamam Chanting

The first Sunday of the month coincided with the US Independence Day long weekend. Hence the monthly chanting of Vishnu Sahasranamam was conducted on the following Sunday, i.e. 9th July. There was a good participation and the chanting reverberated through the shrine as everyone chanted in unison at the same pace. The session concluded with the chanting of Narayana Suktam. We are seeing a great level of interest among devotees in participating in this monthly chanting.

4. Guru Purnima Celebration

The auspicious day of Guru Purnima is celebrated every year at Badri by performing a Guru Paduka Puja. This year also the same tradition was followed on Monday, 3rd July. Arrangements were made for all the devotees to also join and perform the puja. As our Swamiji had a prior commitment, this year the Puja was conducted by Smt Jyoti ji Shah. During the evening, the Guru Ashtothara was chanted as a part of the Puja, followed by a few melodious bhajans.

Smt Jyoti ji shared a great message on the importance of a Guru in our life and as a part of the message mentioned the below precious information.

Though the term Guru is very commonly used now a days, they fall under four types. The first one is an Upadhyay (उपाध्याय) or a lecturer. He comes to the class, gives a beautiful speech & leaves. The second one is an Adhyapakah (अध्यापक) - teaches the students & makes sure that the students understand & grasp the subject matter. Then comes the Acharya (आचार्य) who explains the scriptures & then the Guru (गुरु), who dispels our ignorance and leads us from darkness to light.



30th Mahasamadhi Aradhana Camp

The much-awaited Mahasamadhi Aradhana camp, that is conducted at different centers every year and this year Chicago was chosen as the fortunate center, began on Saturday, 29th July afternoon, in a grand manner.

The ceremonial 'Pothi Yathra' started at 5 pm from the foyer of the grand Watford Banquet and Conference Center, at Elmhurst. It was accompanied by Chenda Melam, the traditional percussion instruments ensemble from Kerala. We were fortunate to have Swami Swaroopananda ji, Swami Shantananda ji, Swami Sharananda ji, Swami Ishwarananda ji, Swami Aparijitananda ji, Swamini Shivapriyananda ji, Br. Hari Chaitanya ji, Brni. Stuthi Chaitanya ji and Brni Shubhani Chaitanya ji along with Shri Dhiren Khatri ji, Smt Nirmita Dholakia ji, Smt Jyoti Shah ji, from Chicago and Shri Venkatesh Chaitanya ji from Peoria.



With the grand inauguration, the 5 day event that followed was filled with activities that included enriching discourses, intriguing satsang, bhajans & vedic chanting, cultural events and various other activities for Balavihar children and CHYKs. For the next four days, everybody's day started with a yoga and meditation session. This was followed by a rejuvenating talk by Swami Shantananda ji on Bhagavath Geeta Chapter 17, Shradha Traya Vibhaga Yoga. Also during the morning and evening, everyone were blessed to be hearing a discourse on Kathopanishad by Pujya Swamiji Swaroopananda that compelled the listeners to contemplate on the philosophical depths of the conversation between Nachiketa and Lord Yamadharma Raja. During the afternoon, after the long lunch break, all camp participants had the opportunity to listen to the refreshing talk of Swami Ishwarananda ji and participate in a Q&A with him. Swami Sharanananda ji and Swami Aparijitananda ji spent their time with Balavihar children and CHYKs respectively. Great food and enthralling cultural programs perfectly punctuated the Camp.

On the concluding day, a grand Guru Paduka Puja was performed in which all the participants participated along with the chanting of Vishnu Sahasranamam and Vedic Suktams.



Badri Weekly Class Schedule



Chinmaya Mission Chicago
Badri



Weekly Class Schedule

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Geeta Chanting	9:15 – 9:45 am 12:00 – 12:30 pm	7:00 – 8:00 pm *					
Sanskrit Classes	7:15 – 8:30 pm *	6:00 – 7:00 pm *			7:00 – 8:00 pm *		
Stuti Vandana			6:00 – 6:30 pm * 6:30 – 7:00 pm *				
Swaranjali (Bhajans)	12:30 – 1:00 pm			7:00 – 8:00 pm *			
Vedic Chanting	9:15 – 9:45 am 7:30 – 8:00 pm *				7:30 – 8:00 pm * 8:00 – 9:00 pm *		
Vishnu Sahasranamam	6:00 – 7:00 pm *						
Yoga							9:30 – 10:30 am

* - Online Classes – Please check website for details – <http://mychinmaya.org>

	Contacts	Please check website for registration and zoom information
Geeta Chanting	Ramesh Turuvekere : rameshrt@gmail.com Sudha Gouthama : sudhagouth@yahoo.com	http://mychinmaya.org/gita-chanting
Sanskrit	Venkat Palli : vsp410@gmail.com	https://mychinmaya.org/sanskrit-classes/
Stuti Vandana	Suchi Achar : suchiram@hotmail.com	https://mychinmaya.org/activities/stuti-vandana/
Swaranjali (Bhajans)	Pavithra Anand : pavithra.anand@gmail.com Raman Mahadevan : ramdevan23@gmail.com	https://mychinmaya.org/activities/swaranjali-2/
Vedic Chanting	Sunil Narayanan : pnsunil@outlook.com Sashi Narasimhan : laksharag@gmail.com	https://mychinmaya.org/activities/vedic-chanting/
Vishnu Sahasranamam	Sudha Gouthama : sudhagouth@yahoo.com Sini Narayanan : sini_athul@yahoo.com Venkat Palli : vsp410@gmail.com	
Yoga	Shila Sanghani : shilaom@gmail.com	https://mychinmaya.org/activities/yoga-meditation/

Swami Sharananandaji's Weekly Program Schedule

Program Name	Details
Saddarshanam (on Zoom)	Sunday/ 8:00 – 8:45 am
Bhagavad Gita Discourse (In-person at Shrine)	Sunday / 10 – 10:30 am
Viveka Choodamani (on Zoom)	Tuesday/ 7 – 8 pm
Mandukya Upanishad (on Zoom)	Wed/ 7 – 8 pm
Drik Drishya Viveka (on Zoom)	Saturday/ 8 – 9 am

Updates from around the world -

- [Swadhyaya Series of Self Learning](#) – Online learning with access to materials
- [CIF – Courses](#) available this month
 - Online mode only | Registration required
- [Puja Vidhanam Course](#)
 - 1 month in-person/ English
 - Swami Sharadananda Sarasvathi
 - Basic and Advanced level courses available
 - 12 Aug – 10 Sept 2023 @ Adi Shankara Nilayam



Swami Chinmayananda: Anecdote - 7

A POLICE OFFICER'S INTERACTION WITH GURUDEV

At the Chinmaya Birth Centenary Celebrations in Cochin in May 2015, Dr Alexander Jacob, a senior IPS officer has narrated one of his interactions with Pujya Gurudev.

"In 1991, I was in Trivandrum. Ten professors from Harvard University, including the head of the department of philosophy, were visiting Kerala. The Kerala Govt. appointed me as a special officer to attend on those ten professors to give them glimpses of Kerala culture. One evening, I asked them if they would like to listen to a lecture by one of our famous sannyasis, Swami Chinmayananda. They said they would listen for 15 minutes and then leave. Immediately, I called the organizers and reserved 11 seats in the front row. Swamiji spoke for one and a half hours – one of the most fantastic speeches I have ever heard in my life. It was a wonderful exposition of Indian philosophy and the Bhagavad Gita. At the end of 15 minutes, I asked the professors whether they would like to move, but they said they wanted to hear the whole speech. At the end of the talk to my utter surprise, the head of the philosophy department bowed down to Swamiji and touched his feet. He had never heard such a brilliant exposition of the Bhagavad Gita".

"Of all the spiritual leaders I have met in my life, the greatest was Swami Chinmayananda ji. I was a Christian, a police officer in uniform, and yet I became an admirer of Swami ji and was greatly influenced by his teachings, to the extent I became completely different to what I was. For that change and transformation in my life, I bow my head in reverence to Swami Chinmayananda ji."



Gurudev's Remembrance contd...

He is the author of numerous books; each one is a masterpiece, dealing with the philosophical principles behind the religion. He made the mysterious and elusive vedantic principles easily understandable for common people. He is the founder of Chinmaya Mission,

through which the work that he initiated and which was so dear to him, is carried out in the form of spreading the message of vedanta, and overseeing numerous cultural, educational and social service activities in the service of mankind.

The Upanishads, Gita and innumerable spiritual texts, use the most fascinating and powerful words to "describe" the indescribable Brahman. Every one of these words also describes Pujya Gurudev, Swami Chinmayananda. Brahma vid brahmaiva bhavati – the knower of Brahman is verily Brahman. How can one ever "describe" Him better than these great scriptures? Yet we will try. Sri Dakshinamurty Stotram and Updesha Saram describe the Lord as ashtamurti – eight-faceted divinity. For us, Pujya Gurudev is indeed the Lord Himself. So we will look at eight facets of Pujya Gurudev through which He manifested himself in His life and work.

He was a peerless personality. Even though the guru is the supreme Self, still he has an individuality and a personality that attracts devotees and disciples towards Him. He blesses them with knowledge and devotion. Pujya Gurudev had a such a peerless personality that He could interact with anyone with a uniqueness that inspired them to greater heights.

He was an epitome of evolution. He was a perfect jivanmukta purusha – a person liberated while living. We find many verses in our scriptures in praise of such an enlightened soul. One such characteristic that comes to mind is that the enlightened person is one who is free from worry over the past, anxiety for the future and is totally detached and objective in dealing with the present. Gurudev Himself used to speak about such a person as someone like a mirror, "A mirror accepts everything, rejects nothing, reflects everything, but keeps nothing". Indeed, He was that jivanmukta purusha.

He was a cosmic charmer. His presence and the power of his presence were most appealing. It spoke more than His words and taught more than His lectures. Just to be with Him was a great joy and an experience in itself. No one was immune to His cosmic charm. He was a matchless role model. His greatness went beyond His presence and that He revealed in every little thing. In big things every one shows off, but Gurudev revealed His greatness even in small things. For instance, when He would sit down for a meal with the devotees, He would ensure that everyone was served with a meal, only then He would say the prayers and start the meal.

He was a magnificent mentor. Anyone who came in close contact with him had the great fortune of learning from Him. With every word with every step there would be something to learn. One could just watch in fascination as He would illustrate a learning point either through His speech or His actions. Even when He was silent one could learn something!

He was a divine disciplinarian. Discipline was one thing that He loved. Not only was He Himself a very disciplined person, but He also enforced it on others. The beauty of His discipline was that it was not dry or harsh, but was accompanied with compassion. For instance, once during a Gita Jnana Yajna some of the brahmacharis skipped the meditation class. That day He ordered, "The brahmacharis will not be given

lunch today,” but at teatime, they were given special upama along with the tea. Thus He always punctuated discipline with compassion.

He was a vast visionary. His vast vision for the mission was essentially two-fold. The first aspect was external, relating to activities and projects, while the other was internal, the unfoldment of the personalities of the members while undertaking those projects. The outer activities started by Him have expanded, grown and benefited the society; the inner unfoldment by itself is subjective, and each seeker continuously looks within to see where they are in their journey with the inspiration Gurudev has given provided them. In this way thousands of lives have been transformed through the internal as well as the external guidance given by Pujya Gurudev.

He was a lamp of love. Anyone who came in contact with Him served Him, feels extremely blessed. The most striking quality was His unconditional love for that made Him forgive many of His devotees many a time and through that forgiveness brought them even closer to Him and His vision. He was, is and ever will be an akhanda jyoti of love, light, devotion and knowledge, a perfectly integrated personality who will forever bless humanity.

This is our Pujya Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda and may His blessings be ever upon all of us so that we may serve the world as the Lord’s manifestation.

Hari Om!

= In Loving Memory =



(Late) Smt Sarala Gupta

Left for the Lord’s abode on 9th July 2023

Bala Vihar Open House and Fun Fair at Badri on

Saturday, 19th August 2023 at 11 am – 3 pm.

**FUN FAIR &
OPEN HOUSE**



August 19 | 11 am - 3 pm

AT BADRI

**Bala Vihar Enquiry
& Registration**

Fun & Games



Chinmaya Mission Chicago

A School of Vedantic Studies

Badri * Yamunotri * Gangotri



Enthralling Musical Extravaganza

Saturday, September 30, 2023 * 7 pm

VENUE: Badri - 115080 Kingery Hwy, Willowbrook, IL 60527



JANAB HASSAN HAIDER KHAN
SHEHNAI

PT. SUBHEN CHATTERJEE
TABLA

VIDUSHI MITA NAG
SITAR

DONATION: VIP, \$100, \$50, \$35

Reserve Tickets at <https://www.mychinmaya.org/concert>

Box dinner offered before the concert (5 pm - 7 pm)

Shanker Pillai (630) 886 6442 | Ashok Dholakia (708) 602 3901 | Rajul Bhalala (847) 302 2383 | Ashok Bhatia (847) 347 829 9099 | Sujata Patnaik (630) 544 1044 | Sujata Chande (708) 253 3571
Uma Iyer (630) 715 6889 | Siva Ramamurthy (630) 258 2960



Onam @ Badri

20th August 2023 @ 11 am

Save the Date

Cultural Programs | Kerala Feast | Narayaneeyam

Badri Expansion – Models & Plans





Om Tat Sat