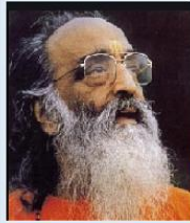




CHINMAYA MISSION CHICAGO

BADRI - A School of Vedantic Studies

Monthly Newsletter – November 2023



Chinmaya



Wisdom Quote

"Only when man understands his own individual insignificance, in the context of the total Universe, then true prayer can rise up from him almost involuntarily." – Swami Chinmayananda

Swamiji's Message



We collect things because our hearts are empty. – Chinmaya

What is an empty heart?

An empty heart is a heart devoid of love for God. Such a heart is ruled by the ego. An ego-ruled heart is a brooding ground for all vices in life.

A young American soldier used to attend Sadhu Vaswani's Gita class at Karachi regularly. He was stationed at Mauripur, about 10 miles away from Karachi. In spite of that, every Saturday he would make this distance by jeep or otherwise and always

managed to reach the class on time.

One Saturday evening he was absent. When he came on the following Saturday, others asked him the reason for his absence.

He said, "A set of new weapons had arrived from the States and I had to test them. This kept me busy till late in the night. And much against my wishes, I had to remain absent from the Gita class."

Then turning to Vaswani, he asked with a grim face, "Master! Do you think these weapons of war will save humanity?"

Sadhu Vaswani replied, "In wisdom, not in weapons of war, is the hope of this broken, bleeding world. And wisdom is of the heart."

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Upcoming Events -

- **Vishnu Sahasranamam:** 11/5 @ 9:15 am
- **Monthly Bhajan:** 11/11 @ 6 – 7:30 pm
 - Host: Smt Sujatha & Shri Gyana Patnaik
 - At Badri Shrine
- **Deepavali** – 11/18 @ 6 pm
 - Puja, Cultural & Fireworks @ Shrine
- **Badri Blood Drive** – 11/12; 9 -1:30 pm @ Shrine
- **Group Vedic Chanting** – 11/26 @ 9 am

Annual Fundraising Banquet 2023

 *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* 

Saturday, 2nd December 2023, 5:00 pm

Waterford Banquet & Conference Center, Elmhurst.

Highlights from Previous Month

The month of October has great relevance to all the Badri family members as the Badri Narayana Murthi Sthapana day falls during this month and so does the devotional and celebratory occasion of Navaratri. As the culmination of the nine day festival, happened to be a weekday, we also had the respective Bala Vihar celebration over the weekends. We also had our regular monthly activities of Vishnu Sahasranamam Chanting and monthly group Vedic Chanting as planned.

1. Bhajan Sandhya

The June month's Bhajan Sandhya was hosted by Smt Bharati Kunte at our Badri Shrine. The evening was well attended by several Badri families along with several of the host family's friends and 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

We had our Monthly Group chanting of Vedic mantras and suktams on the last Sunday of the month. Anyone willing to join the chanting or listening to an hour of Vedic chants, can join the group who meet on the last Sunday of every month at our Badri Shrine.

3. Vishnu Sahasranamam Chanting

The first Sunday of the month always starts with the revibrating chant of Vishnu Sahasranamam at our Badri Narayana's shrine. We had a good participation and the session concluded with the chanting of Narayana Suktam. The Vishnu Sahasranamam group is getting geared up for the occasion of Vaikunta Ekadashi coming up in December as there will be great celebrations involving chanting and Puja.

4. NAVARATRI CELEBRATION

The nine day festival which concludes with Vijaya Dasami is celebrated in a great way at Badri. As the 9th day ends on a Tuesday, the Raas Garba celebration was planned on the following Saturday and the Bala Vihar cultural program celebration the following Sunday as a part of the Bala Vihar concluding session.

For the Saturday Raas Garba, there was a great participation from various members of the Badri family. The evening started with an Aarthi and a sumptuous dinner that included a wide variety of cuisines. After the dinner, the grand celebration of Navratri with Dandiya dance and music started and went on into the evening. The celebrations were wound up by 9 am bringing another memorable Navratri to a closure.



5. Badri Narayanan Murthi Sthapana Day Celebration

This is one of the most awaited day for all the Badri family members as it commemorates the installation or Sthapana of our most beloved Badri Narayana Murti. This also happened to be the 30th anniversary of the murti Sthapana.

The anniversary fell on a Sunday and the celebrations started very early at 7:30 am with a Homam at the Tapovan Hall. Several devotees sponsored Kalasas and participated in the Havan. On conclusion of the Havan, the Kalasas were carried to the Shrine with great pomp and show to the accompaniment of Chenda Melam, which is the traditional percussion instrument set from Kerala Temples. On reaching the Shrine, the celebrations continued with an Abhishekam and Archana. There were also vedic mantras chanted and bhajans sang. The celebrations ended with an Aarthi and a grand lunch prasadam.



Badri Bala Vihar Programs – Stuti Vandana

There are several programs available for Bala Vihar children in addition to the enriching classes conducted. Among these programs, Stuti Vandana provides an opportunity for children to learn a long list of Stotrams, certain chapters of Bhagavath Gita, some of the Vedic Suktams and many more. The list is divided into two – Stuti Vandana I and II. On completion of each one, the child is honored by receiving a plaque that will have all the medals earned embedded along with the name and accomplishment highlighted.

Here our gifted children **Vishnu** and **Shivani** are receiving the Plaque from our **Swamiji**.



Experiences with Gurudev

Once after a lecture series on the last day when Gurudakshina was being offered, a devotee, to show his gratitude wrote a note to Pujya Gurudev to thank him for "bringing back into our lives some of the poetry that was lost somewhere over the years".

To his surprise and great joy, he received by post a reply from Pujya Gurudev stating "the poetry of existence was never lost. In the serene quiet within, we can recapture the floating tunes of the Lord's flute in our hearts."

When we cry out or write to the Lord or our Guru with true devotion, humility and surrender, he Never fails to reply and reward us. Even though we have not loved him or remembered him previously. Sometimes His grace is a shower of blessings and at other times His generosity is an avalanche that sweeps us off our feet!

The reply from Gurudev served like a catalyst to delve into the scriptures and study Vedanta, the devotee was set on the path, thus began his quest.

Why Japa?

"Mind is a monkey riding on the donkey of the body in the circus of life..." ~ Swami Chinmayananda

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 Yoga	6:00 – 7:00 pm *						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)	Monday/ 7:30 – 8:30 pm

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
- [Chinmaya Viboothi](#) – Summary of Events
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1nYbe5AEqRM>



CHINMAYA MISSION CHICAGO

Badri - A School of Vedantic Studies

118080 Kingery Hwy, Willowbrook, IL 60527 | www.mychinmaya.org



Deepavali Celebrations

Saturday • November 18, 2023 • 6 pm

PROGRAM

Presided by Swami Sharanananda

6:00 pm - 6:30 pm

Lakshmi Puja

6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Cultural Program

7:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Dinner followed by Fireworks

Sujata Patnaik (630) 544 1044 | Deepa Salem (630) 200 1134 | Deepak Chande (708) 253 3570



Diwali

FOOD DRIVE

Service to Humanity is Service to Divinity

Oct 29, 2023 - Nov 19, 2023

Chinmaya Mission Chicago is participating in
Sewa Diwali - a joint initiative of Dharma Communities



Drop off food items at CMC Badri
Sundays - 9 am - 1 pm



Donate non-expired/non-perishable food items
(no glass containers)

ITEMS WILL BE DONATED TO LOCAL SHELTERS AND KITCHENS



Banquet



CHINMAYA MISSION CHICAGO

Badri • Yamunotri • Gangotri



ANNUAL FUNDRAISING BANQUET

Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam

Presided by

SWAMI SHARANANANDA



SWAMI APARAJITANANDA

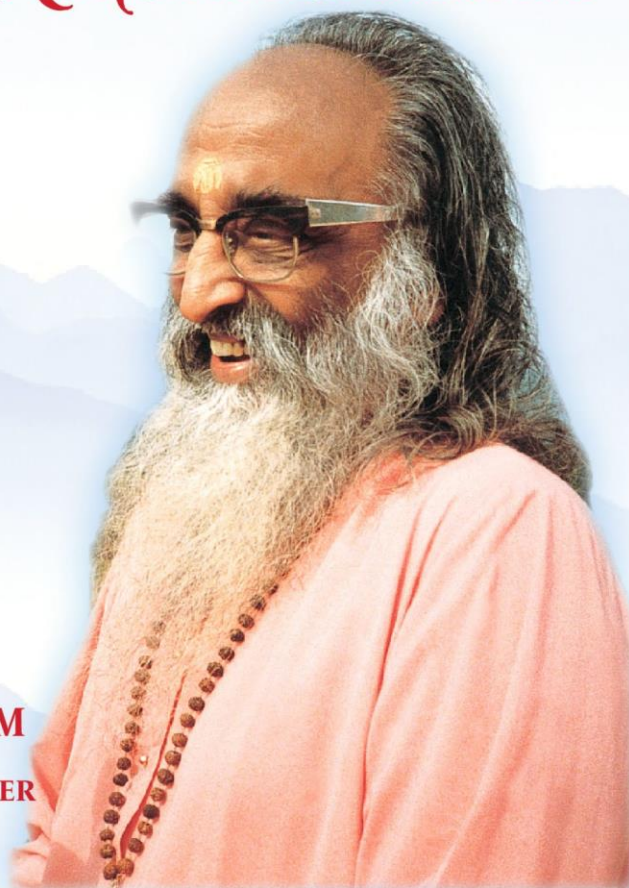


SHRI DHIREN KHATRI

SATURDAY • DECEMBER 2, 2023 • 5 PM

WATERFORD BANQUET & CONFERENCE CENTER

933 South Riverside Drive, Elmhurst, IL 60126



Donation: \$60/ person

Register at www.mychinmaya.org/banquet

Childcare available at \$20/child (5 - 10 years) | Includes Dinner & Magic Show • Reservation Required

Shanker Pillai (630) 886 6442 • Rajul Bhalala (847) 302 2383 • Ashok Dholakia (708) 602 3901 • Ashok Bhatia (847) 680 4735

Deepak Chande (708) 253 3570 • Shiven Shah (646) 732 5900 • Nitish Kanabar (312) 721 7092

Blood Drive

Turn a new leaf
Fall into giving

**SUNDAY
NOVEMBER**

12

9:00 AM - 1:30 PM

Helpful tip:
Make sure to eat a healthy
meal and drink plenty of
water before donating.



**HELP US SAVE LIVES THIS NOVEMBER.
PLEASE SIGN UP TO DONATE BLOOD!**

THIS BLOOD DRIVE IS SPONSORED BY CHINMAYA MISSION AND WILL TAKE PLACE ON THE BUS PARKED AT 115080 KINGERY, WILLOWBROOK

To make an appointment, visit www.versiti.org/IL, scan the QR Code below or call/text Camille from Versiti at 847-305-9998.

Appointments encouraged; walk-ins welcome! Photo ID required.

Give blood, get noodles! Receive a coupon for a buy one, get one half off an entrée from Noodles & Company, while supplies last. -PLUS- All attempting donors will be entered for a chance to win 1 of 3 DIY project prizes valued at \$2500.*

*NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. IL, IN, and WI residents only, 18+. Ends 11/15/21. One drawing three (3) winners. Enter by blood donation or online. See Official Rules and online entry form at www.versiti.org/IL. Sponsor: Versiti, Inc., 633 N. 18th St., Milwaukee, WI 53233.



Swamiji's Message contd...

All the wars and destructions, crimes and bloodsheds, scams and corruptions, rapes and murders that we witness in the world come from one source – an empty heart.

True education makes our hearts contented and fulfilled. Such a fulfilled heart finds joy not in hoarding and aggrandizing, but in giving, loving and sharing.

In the recently concluded Tokyo Olympics, an incident happened which touched the hearts of millions all over the world.

The scene was the final of men's high jump. Italy's Gianmarco Tamberi was facing Qatar's Mutaz Essa Barshim in the final. Both of them jumped 2.37 meters and were on par. Olympic officials gave three more attempts to each of them, but they were unable to reach more than 2.37 meters.

One more attempt was given to two both of them. But Tamberi withdrew from the last attempt due to a serious leg injury. This was the moment when there was no other opponent in front of Barshim, the moment when he could have easily approached the gold alone.

Barshim approached the official, "If I withdraw from the final attempt, can we share the gold between the two of us?"

The official checked the rules of the game and said, "Yes. If you withdraw, then the gold will be shared between the two of you."

Barshim then had nothing to think about. He announced his withdrawal from the last attempt. Seeing this, the Italian opponent Tamberi was in tears! He ran and hugged Barshim, unable to express his joy and gratitude.

Empty hearts grumble and complain, fight and die miserably. Fulfilled hearts cooperate and adjust, share and celebrate.

Manikavachakar was one of the greatest saints of Tamil Nadu. He was a saint, poet and scholar. One day he was caught unaware by a sudden downpour of rain. As he was trying to find some shelter, he noticed a short length of dry floor on the raised veranda of a house. The inmates of the house were fast asleep behind the closed doors. He was happy that by God's grace he had found a place to rest. He rested his head on his arm and stretched his legs and fell asleep.

He was aroused from sleep by the noise of hurried footsteps on the veranda. He saw a man fully drenched. Manikavachakar welcomed him and said, "Please come, sir. We may not be able to lie down, but we have enough space to sit. We shall sit and softly sing bhajans."

After few minutes another man came running into the veranda. Manikavachakar greeted him and said, "Please come, sir. We may not be able to sit, but there is enough standing space for three. Let us stand and spend the night chanting the Divine Name."

No doubt there is a joy in conquering others, in proving oneself superior, and in taking revenge. But these are meant for the egoistic empty hearts. The wise ones never revel in these inferior base joys. Their ways are of service and surrender.

Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel became the Deputy Prime Minister when Jawaharlal Nehru was appointed the Prime Minister of India. Patel was a true Gandhian and so was his daughter, Maniben.

One day, Mahavir Tyagi, a family friend of Patel, happened to visit Patel's home. He saw Maniben engaged in household chores. She wore an old Khadi Sari patched up here and there. Mahavir Tyagi could not bear to see the daughter of the Deputy Prime Minister of India dressed thus and engaged in household chores.

He said, "Daughter, you should not be miserly like this. You are supposed to live like a princess. Don't you think your way of living, dressing and behaving will be a disgrace on your father's status?"

Maniben smiled and replied calmly, "Tyagiji, why should I bring a bad name to my father? I feel neither sad nor humiliated to wear this Sari with some patches because it is made out of yarn spun by myself. There is nothing wrong if a woman does her own household work. It is her duty. She must learn to live with the minimum and serve the maximum. I am proud of my father who has taught these important values of life."

Tyagi became silent not knowing what to advise. Maniben continued, "Tyagiji, true happiness in life comes not from political power or luxurious lifestyle, but from a joyous heart. Be humble, love all, serve all, and be ever content – these are the sure ways to experience this joy of the heart. See how Bapuji (Gandhiji) and father live these principles in their day-to-day life and inspire millions to walk this path! We also must follow their footsteps if we want to experience true fulfilment in our lives."

As Mahavir Tyagi sat there wondering at her simplicity, wisdom and maturity, Maniben, with her usual smile on her face, hurried into the inner apartments to busy herself with the household chores.

When Maniben went in, Dr Susheela Nayar who was watching all these happenings, spoke to Tyagi, "Sir! You don't seem to have understood Maniben. She is a Karma Yogi who considers her work as worship. Right from morning till evening she keeps herself busy. She cleanses the vessels, washes the clothes of all members of the family, cooks food for all and whenever she finds time, she will be at her spinning wheel. She not only spins yarn but also makes and stitches dresses for all. She does not waste anything. When her Sari is torn to pieces, she will patch up two dhotis of her father and wear them. She is a living example of 'simple living and high thinking' which Gandhiji has taught all of us."

Blessed indeed are they who have learnt this art of maintaining a joyful heart amidst the ups and downs of life.

A lady, who was over 90 years old, after the departure of her beloved husband, and having no children and no one in the family to care for her, decided to move to a nursing home.

After arriving at the nursing home, she had to wait patiently in the lobby for hours before getting her room allotted. Finally, the room was ready, and an attendant led the lady to her room. As they were walking along the veranda, the attendant gave a verbal description of the tiny space that she was meant to occupy.

"O so beautiful! So nice! I love it." The lady expressed with great enthusiasm.

"Madam, you haven't even seen the room yet!" The attendant remarked smilingly.

"Well, my joy has nothing to do with the room," the lady replied.

To the confused attendant, the lady replied, “Whether I like my room or not, doesn’t depend on the size of the room or how the furniture is arranged. It entirely depends on how I arrange my mind. Happiness is something you can decide ahead of time. And I have already decided to love my room, to love the people around me, to love my life. It is a decision that I make every morning when I wake up. You know what, the greatest asset we all have is the power to choose how we feel.”

The lady continued speaking, as the attendant listened attentively with her mouth wide open.

“I can spend my entire day in bed thinking of the pain I am in, focusing on the parts of my body that no longer work... or I can get out of bed and be thankful for those body-parts that do work.

“I can brood on what I lack in life and become miserable. Or I can think of all that the Lord has blessed me with and be happy. I have decided to be happy...”

The choice is ours – to complain or to be grateful, to hate or to love, to be disturbed or to be peaceful, to have an empty heart or to have a fulfilled one.

May we make the right choice and live well.

O M T A T S A T