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His Holiness Swami Tapovanam

The best way to generate true devotion is through association with the knowers of Truth (satsanga).

Source: Ishvara Darshan

His Holiness Swami Chinmayananda

The great Vedanta Masters kick their disciple children and send them out because the knowledge they seek is something to think on, find out, and realize alone. . . . [yet] faith and utter devotion to the Guru are necessary . . . sans faith in the teacher, the student is a wayfarer—entirely blind, completely deaf, and sadly paralyzed.

Source: Chinmaya Labhari

His Holiness Swami Tejomayananda

Without knowing and dealing with the root cause [of delusion], we struggle to eliminate the symptoms without much success. The Guru, by the knowledge of our true Nature, destroys this ignorance. Grateful, indeed, are we for this great task that he achieves so gracefully.

Source: Tattva Vivekah

Click here for Pujya Guruji’s Itinerary
Stone, plant, animal, and human—everything is a combination of matter and Spirit. In human beings, the Spirit expresses to the maximum degree because of the subtlety, the sophistication of the equipments. In the animal the Spirit expresses less; in the stone, least. Not that Consciousness is not there; the Divine is everywhere within, without, everywhere. But in the stone, the mind and intellect are not present, and therefore expression is minimal. In the plant are the beginnings of mind, and therefore, some subtle expression is possible. In an animal, much more expression is present because the mind is fully developed, and the beginnings of a rational intellect are evident.

In the human, the intellect is highly developed, and therefore, Divinity shines through. The grosser and denser the intellect, the smaller the amount of Divinity that comes through. The subtler the intellect, the greater the Divinity that comes through. Until, at last, when the intellect is transcended, there is only infinite Divinity.

Words cannot describe this infinite Divinity. Words can only point out the direction in which we must turn our attention. This ultimate experience nobody can give us, nor can we gain it vicariously. It must be a direct Awakening, a direct personal experience. And the person who experiences it, experiences it. Meaning, those who have not yet experienced it, have no idea at all. They only hear blabber—words, words, words.

Play of Consciousness in Matter

When the supreme Lord, the Ruler, the Controller, the Proprietor, is in the sense organs, both the mind and the intellect function. If He is absent, neither sense organs, nor mind, nor intellect, function. The Enlivener of all matter is called the Lord. My sense organs—eyes, ears, nose, tongue, skin—function when I am alive; your eyes, ears, nose, tongue, skin function when you are alive. The plant that functions is alive. When He is there, everything goes on. When He is not, everything decays, going back to the five elements from which it came. The body goes back to mud. For years nothing has happened to your body because the Lord has dwelled in it and everything has functioned beautifully.

And this mighty Spark, this Presence, this divine Touch is the same in a worm, in a plant, in an animal, in a human, in a saint, or in a sinner. That Consciousness is one and the same in everything, everywhere. The play of Consciousness in matter is called Life. If Consciousness withdraws from it, matter collapses. So all we are seeing now is the play of Consciousness. This supreme Lord who dwells, who revels, in all names and forms, is that because of which the grass is green; that because of which the flower bursts from the plant; that because of which you walk, run, think, do, feel; that without which I am as much mud as the dead butterfly, or flower, or tree, or leaf. The mud is thrilled into activity because of the touch of this mysterious Power, the supreme Lord.

Consciousness is equally present in everybody; one person is not more conscious than another. No, Consciousness is the same everywhere, but the smaller the ego or the less the selfishness, the greater the Divinity that shines through. Thus, in the case of the selfless sage, be he glorified or insulted, he remains the same. He will not even try to pluck a flower, let alone raise a little finger to destroy another individual. Why? How can he destroy that beauty, the Lord’s manifestation?
Love becomes his very breath of existence, his very language of expression.

The Changeless and the Changeable

In all perishing material, in all decay, in all death, in all changes, Consciousness is that which never changes. It is the Changeless in us that remains changeless in the midst of all change, that which remains immutable in the midst of all mutations, that which remains whole in the midst of all breakings, and that which is un-decaying in us in the midst of all decay. The world around is constantly changing. The body is constantly changing, now healthy, now unhealthy. Are not our minds changing? Have not our ideas and ideals changed? In all that which is changeless? That which is the same in childhood, the same in youth, the same in middle age, the same in old age. Before we were here, It was there; when we die, It shall be there. What is that Changeless in the midst of all our changes? That must be I, who am witnessing all of these changes.

I am standing on the balcony, watching the traffic go by. After some time, someone asks me, “What are you doing?”

“I’ve gone west,” I answer.

“How? A car went west; you didn’t go. You were the observer. You witnessed the car; you saw it going.”

The one who witnesses the passing is himself unaffected by any change. Similarly, on the balcony of the personality, who is the entity who stays on and watches the entire procession of all happenings in life? It is the changeless entity, Consciousness.

I was conscious of my small body, of my mother and father, of my dependence on them, of their giving me milk, of my entire childhood experience. Then my thoughts changed; my mind changed; I was conscious of them. Then came new environments, new experiences, good and bad, and I was conscious of them. Then, in middle age came success and failure, and I was conscious of them. And in old age came pain and agony, and I was conscious of them, too. Even on my deathbed I was conscious.

I was present at birth, during childhood, middle age, old age, and in death. I was constantly there. But the parade and drama of life changed from scene to scene. When an unfortunate thing happened, I called myself unfortunate—my mistake. Then, when happiness came, I thought myself to be happy. But I am neither a happy person nor an unhappy person. Happiness and unhappiness parade in front of me. I am there; I am watching.

Thus, to detach in order to watch, the drama is my entertainment. The Lord, who is really my Self, never projected this world to become a slave to it. I, in my infinite wisdom and beauty and loneliness, staying in my infinitude, thought, “Hey, this is boring. Let me project.” Okay! I can, because I have infinite powers in me. I projected the world, and then, after having projected the world, I don’t know how to come out of it. I suffer.

The dream is projected by my own mind. I then identify with the dream and become a dreamer, and suffer the sorrows and joys of the dream until I wake up. Similarly, I started this game of life, and now I am caught up in it and don’t know how to come out of it, because coming out of it seems very painful, agonizing.

The person who recognizes or comes to apprehend this game, apprehends the Truth. The one who comes to experience It, experiences Reality. What is to be experienced? That the One who is common in everyone, in every existent thing, the play of that One is everywhere. Naturally, therefore, His play also includes me. Around this changeless center, all changes are taking place. When I thus come to discriminate between matter and spirit, between knowledge, an understanding arises—a discovery takes place that ends all my suffering.

We, too, have to think whether our thoughts are arising from the individual vasanas or from identification with the Lord Himself, the divine Source. This is why it is said that if we are in doubt and don’t know what to do, and even after consulting the scriptures the doubt or confusion remains, then go to a mahapurusha, and whatever that person says will be right for you. At that time, whatever comes in that mahapurusha’s mind is what is to be done. This is “buddhir-buddhimatam-asmi.”

These are such beautiful and powerful statements: Buddhitr-buddhimatam-asmi; tejjas-tejasvinam-abahum; balam balavatam-asmi. Bhagavan says, “I am the strength of the strong (Shree) of the strong, the might of the mighty—the might that is devoid of attachment and desire. It suddenly struck me one day—when I heard in an abhanga or bhajan, “Nirbal ke baltram suni re maine (the Lord is the strength of the weak),”—who is the strength of the strong? See, Bhagavan is the strength for, and of, the weak, but he is also the strength of the strong. But the strong and mighty usually think it is their strength. Ravana was mighty, but he thought it was his own strength. All the time he said, “O this strength of mine! These 20 bhanjas (arms)! I have conquered all!” And when Hanumanji went before him after destroying him, Adibhoktrana, Ravana asked on whose strength did you destroy all this? Hanumanji replied that he has only one source strength, not many, and that source is the Lord alone. He chided Ravana, saying that by a mere fraction of the Lord’s strength so much was destroyed, and all the time you are boasting that you have conquered this and conquered that. You think it is your strength, but it is not.

See the difference when a person thinks, “It is my might.” Even pehalvans (body builders) are proud of their strength, but suppose one paralytic attack or stroke befalls them, just see what happens. I tell you, even a fly sitting on his nose he can’t remove and drive away; he can’t lift his hand. Meri taqat . . . all boasting will go away instantaneously. Keval nirbal ka bala Bhagavan nahin hain; balavon ke bala bhi Bhagavan hain.

Thereafter, wherever you look, only Bhagavan’s glory will be seen. And then you will realize etavari-aya mahima ato jayagamusha purushadalaya viohra-bhustani tripadayamrtaam divi. What you are seeing everywhere is only a glimpse of Bhagavan’s mahima (glory, vibhuti); Bhagavan is much more. Bhagavan ko kaun jaane? Bhagavan only. (Who can know God? God alone.) Only when Bhagavan Himself reveals Himself to a person will that person know this. This is called teja in tejas-tejasvinam-abahum. Once we understand that all the sweetness we see in the Lord’s glory, we clearly see that the teja of the Sun is Bhagavan’s, and there is no doubt about it.

These are called vibhutis of the Lord, and in Chinmaya Mission, whatever we are doing and whatever we are achieving, is our Pujya Gurudev’s vibhuti. It is all his teja alone that is functioning, and as long as we all remain tuned to that, everything will be fine. This teja must be remembered.

I was very lucky I got this name. Swamiji [Pujya Gurudev] wrote to me once, before he gave me sannyasa diksha, that this is the time I will be giving you sannyasa. He said, “If you have some name in your mind for yourself that you want tell me,” but then he said, “Tejomaya comes to my mind.” This teja is his teja.

Chinmaya Mission Houston’s ashram is Chinmaya Prabha. Bha means to shine and prabha is prakshita bha, or an exalted shine. A prakshabali is an aura or glow of light that
is generally placed just behind the murtis of the Lord, as you often see in temples. In simple understanding, it is only ornamental, a decorative piece. The arch-shape of the prabhavali signifies the arch of the Lord’s throne. And this Lord is the lord of not only one universe, but countless universes; he is ananta-koti-brabhmanda-nayakha. Thus, the Lord signifies power, and seated on throne, He is the crowned King of all. His simhasana, or throne, can be a ravanir kalpitam-asanam, studded with precious gems.

The enthroned king’s power is also called prabha, for it is related to prabhavali, which means prowess, might, or influence. A Presidential election candidate first aspirates and gets elected, but he has no power until he formally takes the oath of office. Only then is he called the President; until then he is only the President Elect. And once he becomes the President, once he gets the power and authority, his glow changes, isn’t it? His persona changes, his role changes. From candidate to winner to the election to winning the election to taking the oath of office, to exercising the power of office—the glow keeps changing. So many people have put their trust and faith in such a person, so this person has a new glow altogether. This is called prabha; this is called prabhavali. When he starts interacting with many dignitaries and taking decisions as the country’s leader, more and more people recognize him, more and more countries recognize him. Like this, his prabhavali also goes on increasing.

If I open a shop and nobody visits, then what will happen? I will have to close it down in one day perhaps. So it depends on how many people come, how many visit your website, how much marketing you get in the media, etc. With television channel companies, advertisers want to know, in a place where daily puja is offered, even that face of the Lord appears different there; this is everyone’s experience. So, when you buy a murti from the market, you buy only a statue. And when you go to get a statue, you go on negotiating with the vendor. But once that murti is installed, it becomes priceless. This priceless-ness is also prabha.

This is why I said that a person who lives a life of devotion and dedication, moral and ethical values, such a person who has spiritual aspirations becomes different. For example, you can touch an ordinary wire, but suppose an electric current is passing through it—it then try. Here the power of that so-called ordinary wire will be known as soon as you touch it. This is why so much mantra ischvarana, and the bringing of the waters from all holy rivers, the enthroned king’s power is also called prabhavali. There is a Pauranik story about the asura-face that is in the center of the prabhavali arch. There was an asura whose name was Jalandhar. And he was married to Vrinda. But with his asura-vrtti, he suddenly had a desire for Parvati Devi. Height of foolishness! He thought, “I want Parvati, like Ravana wanted Sita.” What your desire is you don’t even understand. So, arrogantly, he called Rahu to be his messenger and said, “You go to Lord Shiva immediately and tell him to give Parvati!”

Vah, vah, vah! Rahu went to Lord Shiva and said, “I am the messenger of Jalandhar and he has said you please give Parvati Devi to him.”

Lord Shiva got so furious. And you know when Lord Shiva gets furious, from any part of his body some being can come out! Like Virabhadra did when He pulled out one hair from His head. Blem! Virabhadra came! Here, only by his fiery look, a being came forth—terrible in form. Lord Shiva said, “Finish this Rahu! He has come here so foolishly!”

But Rahu was very clever. He had heard that Lord Shiva is ashutoosh (quickly pleased). So, immediately he fell at his feet. “Vah! Vah! Vah! Vah! Vah! Vah!”

Lord Shiva looked at him and said, “You eat yourself,” so he started swallowing himself. When he continued, aisakarte karte, only his face remained. The Lord was very pleased with his devotion and dedication to do whatever the Lord says, so He said, “Bai! Now stop! Like this, your face will ever remain above me.”

That face is called Kirtimukha. Kirti means fame, glory. Mukham means face. Therefore, Kirtimukha remains in all prabhavalis. Like this, Bhagavan put His servant above Himself. In Shrimad Bhagavatam, He says, “Aham bhakta paradinah.” Bhagavan says everyone thinks that I am the supreme Lord, but my devotees are higher than me; I remain under their control—bhakta paradinah.

to be continued
Chinmaya Vibhooti invites you to a rare and historic event to mark the consecration and Maha Kumbhابhishekam of Pranav Ganesh Mandir 20th to 26th January 2012

The majestic Pranav Ganesh Mandir will dominate the mountains and valley surrounding Chinmaya Vibhooti for generations to come. Come and witness the most sacred and noble service of Devalaya Arpada that is considered to be a once-in-a-lifetime spiritual experience. Be here and be a part of history. And also participate in any of the sevas and help create history.

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20th to 23rd January
Bilingual Camp by Pujya Guruji Swami Tejomayananda and other Acharyas on Ganapati Atharvasirsha (English and Hindi)

With special classes and activities for children, connecting them to our dearest sweetest Lord Ganesha

Event donation (20th to 26th January): ₹ 2500 or US $ 70 per person over 12 years, ₹ 2000 or US $ 50 per child (4 years to 11 years)

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24th to 26th January - Pujas
Leading up to the grand occasion of Sahasra-Kalasha Maha Kumbhabhishekam and Pranapratishtha of Lord Ganesh on the auspicious occasion of Shri Ganesh Jayanti on 26th January 2012

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REFLECTIONS

Gratitude
by Pujya Guruji Swami Tejomayananda
Transcription of a talk, September 2007, Mumbai

Today, I will tell you the meaning of krtajnata, or gratitude, to Pujya Gurudev. Through that, his charitra and his work can be understood in a different way. I had written this krtajnata many years ago. When it was written for the first time, I had the chance of reciting that in his presence, because that day he arrived in Mumbai and there was a public meeting of our Mission.

I bow down to my Sadguru. The name is indicated: Chinmayam devam. He is Brahmand vibravaram, the world’s best among the knowers of Brahman. For any adhyatmik, spiritual teacher, the most endearing quality there is, is karunamayam, their compassionate nature. They are shrotriyas, brahmanishthas, but they are compassionate teachers. Sometimes, one’s compassion remains limited; generally, in ordinary people, it is limited to near and dear ones, but here it is samasta-jana kalyane, the one who remains ever engaged in the welfare of all people. There are no bars or restrictions. Ignorant people would keep asking why does Swamiji go to America? They would think it is for some fun or an outing, but masters go there because people are there—seekers are there. So, wherever seekers and people are, for those who seek knowledge or other kind of help, masters go for that purpose everywhere.

The Substratum of My Life
by Acharya Shanker Pillai

For me, there is nothing beyond Pujya Gurudev. He is my master and eternal guide. He alone is the source of my inspiration and energy in my life. In everything I do, He is ever present.

In 1956, in Kerala, Swami Chinmayananda was giving a 21-day discourse on Bhagavad Gita, for the silver jubilee celebrations of my college, where I was a second-year student. For all those days, I was posted as an orderly at the house where Swamiji was hosted. I would see him so closely every day, the tall, imposing personality, with black locks of hair, piercing eyes, sharp nose, and a golden face, walking tall and square. How would I ever even dream that he would become my Gurudev! Ten years later, I would stand on the terrace of my office building at Charni Road Station in Bombay, and listen to his thundering lectures from afar, streaming from the open grounds near Marine Drive maidan.

I was only a young, ignorant youth, never able to understand the infinite nature of the person I had the opportunity to become close to, but, I now believe that the seeds of my love for him were planted in my bosom in 1955 itself. And I also believe he must have already taken me in.

Another 10 years went by and I would remember him now and then, and would sometimes desire to see him.

In 1977, in Chicago, I was discussing the formation of small religious organization with some friends. One of them suggested that we would invite Swami Chinmayananda for its inauguration. I could not resist and jumped on the suggestion. This friend found out Swamiji’s contact information and it was my job to contact him with the official invitation. This was just for a one-evening talk. I still remember. He replied, “I shall come. You will pay my airfare and nothing else. The topic will be, “View, Spiritual.”

This was Swami Chinmayananda’s very first visit to Chicago. Swamiji left after the lecture. My mind was constantly longing to see him again. I felt like I never wanted to leave him. Three years later, as fate would have it, I received a call from someone I never knew, asking me if I would be interested in joining a committee that was being formed to invite Swami Chinmayananda...
All the publicity and video recording was my primary responsibility. Sitting right in front of him, I listened to him all the 10 days, Bhagavad Gita Chapter 3, about which I knew nothing. This was an unforgettable experience and it exploded my mind. I never left him ever since. I decided to stay on the path he opened, continuing the work in the same way it would happen. That committee, with whoever was left in it, subsequently became Chinmaya Mission Chicago.

From 1977, the first meeting with him in Chicago, until now, he has been my inspiration on a daily basis. I spend more time on the Mission than I do on anything in my personal life. And I am emotionally connected and supported by him.

I remember one time, Gurudev and I were sitting together in Gurudev’s room. It was about 4:30 in the morning, at the Allendale camp in 1991. We all knew his health had been failing. I asked Gurudev that the organization and how we should proceed if Gurudev is not there to guide us. He said to me, “Strand by strand, the rope has snapped, Gurudev is not there to guide us. He said to me, “You keep working. Not go to waste. It is Narayana’s work.” He looked at me and said, “You keep working. Tapovan’s grace will support your work.”

I hope that Swaminiji enjoyed her stay here as much as we enjoyed her company, and I know that everyone in the Ottawa community looks forward to her return next year.

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In the evening lectures, Amma spoke about one’s duties in life. She had also talked desire, goals, and how we are driven to do what we do every day, whether for ourselves or for the betterment of others.

The lectures, the movie, and the interactions made me wonder about my own life in many ways. Will I enjoy the field I have chosen to be in? Is this really what I want to be doing for the rest of my life? Through the days spent with Swaminiji, I learned that life is not always about the usual things like work, but also our family lives and how we serve our community. As the Chinmaya Mission pledge says, we must strive to “live honestly, a noble life of sacrifice and service.”

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**a dialogue**

**anonymous**

**student:** it is me who is so wishy-washy.

**teacher:** who? mind or you?

**student:** it is me who is so wishy-washy.

**teacher:** you are never ever touched by the known. to the light, what difference does it make that there are people in the room or no one? i am the knower of both, people and no people. i am the knower of loneliness and the love of others. “other” has no entry in to me—thoughts or people. i was, am, and will remain, drashta.

**student:** i am not reflecting enough because right now this statement about being knower does not feel freeing. it feels like, “so what,” because the i is so wrapped up in mind. this alertness—it’s tough.

**teacher:** reflection is in the mind. to be a seer is your nature. not because of thinking you are the seer.

**student:** yes, i know. but to reflect even, i must to get to that state of alertness.

**teacher:** and then what? to be what are you not is tough. to be is to be.

**student:** but perhaps alertness will take me away from identifying with mind.

**teacher:** so what if the mind says, “whatever.” of this frustration, too, you are the seer. like you in the room seeing the tornado and its effects outside on the roads.

**student:** yes.

**teacher:** so, too, you are the seer of the violent, frustrated mind, and its effects, its thoughts.

**student:** yes. if i act based on this mind i see, i am remain not bound? actions then, whatever they may be, are prarabdha finishing off?

**teacher:** you never act. you are the knower of the body, senses, and mind that act. they dare to act in your presence.

**student:** but then why are we warned so much against developing new vasanas?

**teacher:** developing vasanas or giving them up is essential for the one who has no proper viveka of atma and anatma. for one who has kartha bhava, it is said to reduce the vasana. for the one who knows ‘i am the knower,’ why should the knower try to bring change in the known?

**student:** i know what you say when you say it, but i can’t say it myself. it always comes out jumbled. the beauty of clarity in your expressions has always amazed me. your atma vibhava is a direct path.

**teacher:** when desire arises in me, and i struggle to think to follow or not follow, i am not a viveka, and so must follow dharma, right?

**student:** the desire arises in whom? and who knows it arising? they arise in mind and you are the knower. they cannot arise by themselves, just as water cannot become hot without heat of the fire. but when water is hot and boiling, the water molecule and heat have neither exchanged their dharma nor do they have entry in each other. because of the association, it may appear that the water is hot, but never ever water becomes heat nor heat, water. in the same way, mind thinks in my presence, but never ever i become mind nor mind becomes me. never ever can jada and chetan exchange their nature.

so what if the mind appears to changing? it is, as long as it has my association. but once i know that i never ever had gotten affected by the mind, nor will ever, then why even desire to change the mind? let there be tornado or heat or rains, i know i am the knower and never part of the mind parade.

**student:** very freeing.

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**In Everyday Life**

by Bharat Bhaga

Even in casual conversation, Amma (as we all fondly called her) taught life lessons. We watched October Sky from scratch, after being inspired by the launch of the first Russian satellite, Sputnik. The movie also examined the science of life to a degree, showing how perseverance leads to success.

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**And He Is**

by Anjali Madhok

He is an orange-clad being, positively glowing with the endless wealth of understanding.

He is complex simplicity that can erase my frustrations.

His dense, wholehearted words can be strung together and wrapped around one’s body like a cloak.

He embodies a boundless amount of love that we all try to grasp just a fraction of.

He is the forgotten dreams, the swirling array of ideas I cannot fathom.

He is the ultimate combination of compassion and discipline, woven together with strands of courage.

I sit upon the ground and breathe in the cool earth, and wonder where the winds will carry us.
Chinmaya Birth Centenary Celebrations

He Did It
Swami Chinmayananda, A Legacy

Mananam's first Chinmaya Birth Centenary commemorative issue, in its series of 12 issues, is now available.

He Did It: Swami Chinmayananda, A Legacy is an invaluable source of inspiration for all and a must-have for every Chinmaya Mission family around the world. The book is only $25 and contains over 475 pages, and includes original letters and rare, exquisite photographs. Purchase it online now: chinmayapublications.org.

Subscribe Now: publications@chinmayamission.org
Unto Him, our beloved Pujya Gurudev, we pay homage by pledging to work tirelessly and selflessly to fulfill the vision He burned into our hearts and minds. While He was still physically with us, He showed—lovingly, zealously, without ever a care for His own comfort or convenience—what a difference one selfless human being can make in transforming the consciousness of humanity. The service He rendered to the cause of cultural and spiritual upliftment of humankind is immeasurable. Through His Gita Jnana Yajnas, Chinmaya Mission centers, educational institutions, and social service projects of ever-increasing breadth and depth, He provided inspiring fields for people to work in selflessly in the service of others. And while doing so, He never ceased reminding us of the ineffable beauty and strength at the divine core of our being.

Pujya Gurudev truly fulfilled His life. It is now up to us—His devotees and disciples, admirers and followers—to do our share in continuing those projects that He started but could not complete in His lifetime. . . . Our greatest homage unto Him is to pledge that we shall strive hard, with all devotion and dedication, and to the best of our ability, to fulfill His vision and mission.

I recall a time when I was with Pujya Gurudev at the Chinmaya Mission center at Washington, D.C. The Mission members and devotees were in an excited mood, some prostrating before Him, some singing, some talking to Him. An atmosphere of joy prevailed. A young girl approached me and asked, “Who is this Swamiji and what makes Him different from others? What has He done or achieved? Why are all these people prostrating before Him?”

Probably she was at such a function for the first time in her young life. I told her that He was the Swamiji who had fully unfolded His personality, just as a bud unfolds to blossom into a flower. By the act of opening up, the flower spreads its fragrance in all directions, and the bees gather around it.

The sun, moon, stars, and everything else in Nature add beauty, life, and energy to this world just by being there. In the same way, a realized soul inspires people by His mere presence alone. In such a soul’s presence, people are inspired to work in a spirit of dedication and devotion. Thus, more important than doing and achieving, is simply being your natural self, as pure Consciousness and Bliss. In the world we may be applauded for our achievements, but we are respected for what we are. Pujya Gurudev earned not only respect, but also deep reverence, by the simple act of emanating the essence of His radiant Self to all.

Pujya Gurudev was and is the heart and soul of Chinmaya Mission. The Mission that began as one small study class, under His guidance and inspiration, has now assumed international dimensions, with hundreds of Mission centers growing around the globe. One of Pujya Gurudev’s great gifts was His ability to inspire children, young people, and adults equally—and to sustain their enthusiasm and inspiration to lend their hearts and minds to the many tasks at hand. That enthusiasm and dedication to His vision are, to this day, rippling through the many Mission centers around the world as they continue to mount new programs and sustain those already established.

Institutions and organizations founded by individuals generally flourish during
their lifetimes. Once the founder departs from the scene, his or her organization either gains more vitality or disintegrates in time. It all depends on whether the followers have appreciated the vision of their leader. When the vision is clear and followed consistently, the organization grows even after the founder’s departure. If the organization has centered around a personality cult, and people have become attached to an individual, it is very possible that the organization will disintegrate after the passing of its leader.

Param Pujya Gurudev was fully aware of this fact. He therefore constantly emphasized that His devotees and disciples understand His vision clearly. The greatest contribution of Pujya Gurudev was that He made people thoroughly aware of his vision—the liberating spiritual knowledge of Vedanta—and that He created love for this knowledge in their hearts. He motivated them to study the scriptures in great depth—on their own, in study groups, in Vedanta classes, and in schools of Vedanta, such as the Sandeepany institutes He Himself founded in various parts of the world. And He urged all those who had undergone in-depth study themselves to pass the Vedantic knowledge onto others, creating a magnificent guru-shishya-parampara movement that is now circling the globe, with Sandeepany-trained teachers bringing the vision of Vedanta to ever-growing audiences.

This is our great and blessed opportunity to pay homage to the Teacher who knew only one way to love—by working selflessly for the good of all others. Let us follow His example and continue the stream of loving work He began, in whatever way we know how, whether by teaching children, leading study groups, giving jnana yajnas, working on publications, serving in hospitals, helping the underprivileged, training medical practitioners, administering and organizing Mission projects, or performing any one of a myriad social service activities. As He kept reminding us all, not only with words but through every action of his life, “Work is love made visible.”

Every morning we offer prayers to the sun, knowing that it fills us with living energy. While the sun and the moon sustain our life, our life gains meaning and purpose only when we come to know our true Self. So, when a Guru comes into our life, by the grace of God, He is like the sun that dispels our dark ignorance. Pujya Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda is such a Guru who brightened our life with the glorious gift of true Knowledge.

To celebrate 100 years of the birth of a Guru like Pujya Gurudev is a rare privilege. It is a great opportunity to express our humble gratitude to the one who has opened our eyes to the highest Truth. It is a time to re-inspire ourselves with Gurudev’s message, to continue living with his vision in Chinmaya Mission. Indeed, it is not a mere need to celebrate; it is a must to celebrate the birth centenary of the enlightened Master.

- Acharya Gaurang Nanavaty, CM Houston

Pujya Gurudev is our Idol and Ideal. “We Can!” and “We Must!” follow our Ideal! The Chinmaya Mission Pledge, dictated by Pujya Gurudev himself, is the guiding light to follow our Ideal. We must celebrate the significance of this Pledge in his birth centenary celebrations.

- Swami Dheerananda, CM Washington, DC

I feel that we are all truly blessed to have even been alive in the same era as our beloved Pujya Gurudev. Those of us who were touched by his divine grace are even more fortunate. The birth of this mahapurusha has led to the upliftment of mankind, and has transformed people to be positive contributors to society. We look forward to the grand birth centenary celebrations with eagerness, delight, and devotion to his lotus feet.

- Acharya Sharada Kumar, CM Ann Arbor

Let us remember and revere our beloved Gurudev, a personification of 100% inspiration, 100% of the time, the mahapurusha who selflessly and lovingly served all of us more than 100% to enlighten and improve us physically, mentally, intellectually, and spiritually. To show our continued gratitude, let us all cherish his divine presence, grace, and blessings each day of our life, through our smile, spiritual sadhana, and service. May we celebrate his 100th birth anniversary in all the divine and noble grandeur each year, from now onward, culminating in 2016 and beyond!

- Brahmachari Krishna Moorthy, CM New York

The spiritual, strategic, and social intensity of Pujya Gurudev leaves no room for doubt that he was a manifestation of Bhagavan. And every day since Balakrishnan Menon was transformed to Swami Chinmayananda is a celebration, for the teachings imparted by this rishi have transformed hundreds of millions to live more joyfully. Still, for our sake, the world over is preparing to remember and relive the life of Pujya Gurudev for his birth centenary. He gave his best and now we have to do the same.

- Acharya Vivek Gupta, CM Niagara
Pujya Gurudev was one such mahatma who was also a visionary. His presence on this earth I found all these in his presence, and I continue to enjoy his presence within me. All talents manifest Abundance dawns Joy wells up without any reason Sorrow diminishes Knowledge flourishes

found your Guru: said a real Satguru, in whose presence you feel the following, is when you know you have for all my shortcomings, and slowly and steadily, helped me reach where I am now. It is Shri Gurudev, for me, was my father and mother put together. My mentor put up with me with what I have is my purushartha,” and “What I have is His gift to me, and what I do with what I have is my Gift to Him.” Every encounter is now heartily welcomed as His gift stamped with His immeasurable love. To be able to give back a gift worthy of Him is my prayerful offering. Pujya Gurudev’s greatest gift is this life itself and making it worth living is our least gift that we can return. Let us become a flute in His hands, Gurudev said, so that divine music can flow through us endlessly.

- Acharya K. Sadananda, CM Washington D.C.

We were lucky to be with Pujya Gurudev a few times. We were with him in 1991 at Piercy, during the Bhagavad Gita marathon camp, and got to see him up close. Pujya Gurudev is a legend. It is amazing all the things he accomplished in such a short time. He mobilized and inspired innumerable people all over the world. Whatever we do to honor him is less, but in order to remember the good work by a great person, it is important to celebrate these big milestones. It is to show our appreciation as well as to educate others about the Mission and his work. The 50th anniversary of the Chinmaya Movement in 2001 was truly grand and everyone was reminiscing about Pujya Gurudev. He has touched so many people that it will be electrifying to again have many people gathering for the centenary celebrations in 2015.

- Acharyas P.B. and Aśha Ghate, CM Dallas-Fort Worth

Knowledge flourishes Sorrow diminishes Joy wells up without any reason Abundance dawns All talents manifest

I found all these in his presence, and I continue to enjoy his presence within me.

- Swami Shantananda, CM Princeton

Mahatmas are incarnations of the Lord that guide the humanity on the path of dharma and moksha. There are many mahatmas, but only a few play the role of visionaries who leave the world with a legacy that lives on even after the mahatma’s physical passing. Pujya Gurudev was such a mahatma who was also a visionary. His presence on this earth purified many through his life and teachings, and his vision, continue to help seekers grow even now. The birth centenary of such a master is indeed a great occasion of celebration. On Guru Purnima day, we remember the divine sage Veda Vyasa; the great teacher and missionary, Adi Shankaracharya; and the holy tradition of Guru and shishya. On this day, we re dedicate ourselves to work for the vision of Pujya Gurudev and offer ourselves at the feet of our beloved Pujya Guruji, who tirelessly continues the traditions and work of the master.

- Brahmachari Prabodh Chaitanya, CM San Jose

There are two related quotes of Gurudev that I constantly remember whenever I find myself in situations that are pleasurable or painful: “What I have is prarabda, and what I do with what I have is purushartha,” and “What I have is His gift to me, and what I do with what I have is my Gift to Him.” Every encounter is now heartily welcomed as His gift stamped with His immeasurable love. To be able to give back a gift worthy of Him is my prayerful offering. Pujya Gurudev’s greatest gift is this life itself and making it worth living is our least gift that we can return. Let us become a flute in His hands, Gurudev said, so that divine music can flow through us endlessly.

Pujya Gurudev came down to uplift us, as Shri Krishna Himself, giving us Gita and Upanishad pravachans as long as the instrument of his physical body was present. Even after passing of the physical manifestation, see how his grace continues, with the glory of the Mission touching greater heights than ever through his precisely chosen instrument, Pujya Guruji. Like the shhitaprajna purusha in Gita Chapter 2, he is ascharyavat in ever so many ways. And we are like Arjuna, who, on seeing Shri Krishna’s vishva-rupa, was wonderstruck and speechless.

I am sure that many of us have experienced how Pujya Gurudev has revealed what he said: “Whenever you want me, look deep into your heart, and I will be there.” Let us thus remember and glorify him in ever so many ways, as Bhakta Prahlada did when he taught us that divine music can flow through us endlessly.

Pujya Gurudev is a legend. It is amazing all the things he accomplished in such a short time. He mobilized and inspired innumerable people all over the world. Whatever we do to honor him is less, but in order to remember the good work by a great person, it is important to celebrate these big milestones. It is to show our appreciation as well as to educate others about the Mission and his work. The 50th anniversary of the Chinmaya Movement in 2001 was truly grand and everyone was reminiscing about Pujya Gurudev. He has touched so many people that it will be electrifying to again have many people gathering for the centenary celebrations in 2015.

- Acharyas P.B. and Aśha Ghate, CM Dallas-Fort Worth

Shri Gurudev, for me, was my father and mother put together. My mentor put up with me for all my shortcomings, and slowly and steadily, helped me reach where I am now. It is said a real Satguru, in whose presence you feel the following, is when you know you have found your Guru:

- Acharyas P.B. and Aśha Ghate, CM Dallas-Fort Worth

Knowledge flourishes Sorrow diminishes Joy wells up without any reason Abundance dawns All talents manifest

I found all these in his presence, and I continue to enjoy his presence within me.

- Swami Shantananda, CM Princeton

Far across the universe, a small star explodes into a massive supernova, lighting up trillions upon trillions of miles of darkness. Like that star, Gurudev, who I have never seen, provides light for the hearts and minds of all humanity, requiring only that one look up to one’s highest attainable values. I see his luminescence reflected in many earnest disciples, but the polestar was already gone when I looked to that quadrant of the sky.

- Brahmachari Eric, CM Piercy

Our experience with Gurudev was in 1989. Though it appeared like an accidental meeting during a family camp, looking back, I can see the divine hand in it. The attraction was instantaneous and has continued to grow in spite of Gurudev’s mahasamadhi in 1993. He has continued to bless us through Swami Tejomayanandaji and in other ways. The birth centenary of Gurudev in 2015-16 will act as a boost to our spiritual sadhana. We plan to attend the celebrations and intensify our sadhana through study groups and personal study.

- Acharyas G.V. and Geetha Raghu, CM Atlanta

We feel grateful to Guruji for reminding us to remember, every day and every moment, the grace of our Gurudev! When we practice guru-smaran for these five years, it will indeed be in our soul forever. The best way to invoke the blessings of the divine Self is to remember the divine Incarnation in our lives—Gurudev!

- Acharya Vilasini Balakrishnan, CM Washington, DC
I am grateful to the Lord Almighty to have brought me under the influence of such a great master, an ocean of love, an all-loving living God-man on earth! Physically, He is not with us. But, every moment in my life is filled with his thoughts. I do not miss him, not even for one moment.

I hope and pray that May 2015-2016 becomes a year of a worldwide festival for all centers and all devotees of Pujya Gurudev, celebrating his glory and vibhuti in our lives. He is the greatest gift of God to all of us. To think that we shared time with such a mighty God-man on earth who showered his love and blessings on all of us!

- Acharya Shanker Pillai, CM Chicago

The impact Pujya Gurudev has on this generation is immeasurable. He continues to guide us today and will mold the lives of generations to come with the treasure trove and legacy he has left behind. One can see him in the smile of a Bala Vihar child and in the self-assured glance of a CHYK member. For those who were directly blessed by his grace, it is impossible to count their blessings and words are inadequate to describe their experience. Gurudev’s birth centenary will be a fitting tribute to the spiritual master and his legacy, celebrated both individually within, and collectively together.

- Acharya Vinod Chattopadhyay, CM Rio Grande

Pujya Gurudev’s birth centenary celebrations will be a blessed opportunity to work together in order to glorify and make better known the greatness of Pujya Gurudev and his monumental work—the work of a divine avatar in re-establishing dharma and bringing in the light of Truth to a world clouded in darkness. Gurudev himself was a thunderbolt of Light and Truth. And we, as his Chinmaya family, headed by our beloved Pujya Gurudev, have the most fortunate opportunity to become his willing instruments. By spreading the rain-shower of his love and Vedantic knowledge to more and more people, we ourselves will become transformed, stronger and more unified within ourselves and spreading the rain-shower of his love and Vedantic knowledge to more and more people.

Pujya Gurudev spontaneously replied—“I keep trouble under the table and work on it.” His every word is full of deep message. Once someone expressed her concern that Pujya Gurudev was inhaling snuff during public discourses, which was not good for the children. Pujya Gurudev told her—“You have come up to the nose; try to go beyond”.

Pujya Gurudev was one with Brahman. So these kinds of statements were so natural to Him. We are really blessed to have the opportunity to serve Him through the Mission.

- Swami Sharanananda, CM Chicago

The Guru is considered as the embodiment of Lord Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva. The Guru’s form is the basis of meditation; the Guru’s feet are the basis of worship; the Guru’s words are the basis of mantra; and the Guru’s grace is the basis of enlightenment.

The word guru means “remover of darkness.” Thus, Guru Purnima is the day of eradicating ignorance and illuminating our lives with knowledge. On this day, the Guru can inspire us to overcome our limitations and conjure a life of wonderful possibilities. The full moon (purnima) represents enlightenment, which is the full flowering of Consciousness. Guru Purnima is the full moon that falls during July/August and is of greatest light. It is a time when all divine Teachers shower blessings on the earth, providing increased energy for our spiritual awakening.

The day after the mahasamadhi in 1993, I received the last letter from Shri Gurudev with his Guru Purnima message: “Greetings of Guru Purnima to all those who are in Adi Sankara Nilayam! May Sri Tapovanam’s blessings be upon us all!” Every moment Gurudev remembers his Guru. Let us also do the same.

- Swami Siddhananda, CM Philadelphia

Regarding a Guru’s heart Gurudev has said, “A Guru must have inexhaustible, irresistible flow of compassion to lift the spirits of the disciple!” This is the purnatva of the Guru’s heart. As on a full moon night the brilliance of the Sun is made available to us by the moon, so is the compassionate heart of Guru that bestows us a glimpse of Brahman while we grope in the dark night of ignorance. On the auspicious Guru Purnima occasion our hearts should reverently bow down to Pujya Gurudev whose compassionate grace alone can truly lift our waned spirits!

- Swami Ishwarananda, CM Los Angeles

On the pursuit to be free begin by observing what is not worth pursuing in life... then reaching a Guru you develop a strong mind to discard fascination for the ephemeral... ‘Mind your senses’ Guru would instruct first ‘sanitize your mind’ is next and ‘engage in the inner quietude... to stabilize and bear all sorrows in rise and fall. Only on developing infinite patience with faults of you and others

Guru would introduce God within to you... faith in Him grows proportional to your trust on Guru whose every word is for your contemplation deep with composed mind, you develop intense love for God within while you seek Him alone. Final adventure is when Guru introduces you to God... for, without the familiar face of Guru, would God ever know you?

- Swami Ishwarananda, CM Los Angeles

Only on developing infinite patience...
The Chinmaya International Foundation (CIF), founded by Pujya Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda in 1989, is a Centre for Sanskrit Research and Indology. CIF offers valuable Home Study Courses for studying Vedanta and Sanskrit. Certificate of completion will be awarded for those who successfully complete the Study Courses.

I Foundation Vedanta Course
Aim: To provide the basics of Vedanta and empower the student to apply the teachings in daily life. To give the right vision and equip the individual to face the challenges of life with ease and dexterity.
Duration: 12 months
Scheme: 24 lessons and 12 questionnaires
Course fee: INR 1000 / US$100
Options: Online/Postal mode of study

I Advanced Vedanta Course
Aim: To give an in-depth understanding of the important Vedantic concepts dealt with in the prakarana granthas such as Vivekachudamani, Atma Bodha, Tatva Bodha, Vyaka Vritti and Panchadasi.
Duration: 12 months
Scheme: 24 lessons and 24 questionnaires
Course fee: INR 2000 / US$100
Options: Online/Postal mode of study

Easy Sanskrit Learning Course
Aim: The Course gives the basics of Sanskrit Grammar without burdening the student with too many details. The course is a stepping stone for learning the divine language Sanskrit and will serve as a window for all those who want to have a peep into the priceless tradition, culture and philosophy of India.

There are two learning options:
1. Easy Sanskrit Online Course
Duration: 15 months
Scheme: 13 modules
Course fee: INR 1500/US$150

2. Easy Sanskrit Self-Study Kit
Includes: Textbook, Workbook and Interactive CD
Price: INR 1000 / US$75
Order online @ www.chinfo.org

Advanced Sanskrit Course
Aim: This course is meant for those who have already some basic introduction to Sanskrit and seek to delve deeper into the language.
Duration: above 20 months (the course can be self-paced)
Scheme: 40 lessons @ 2 lessons a month
Course fee: INR 1500 / US$200
Options: Postal mode of study

Ways to Promote the CIF Home Study Courses at Your Center/City
• Every other month or so, request time to speak about the offerings and benefits of the Courses to the weekly assembly
• Request time during Jnana Yajnas and Camps to speak about the offerings and benefits of the Courses
• Encourage all Bala Vihar Sevaks to take up the Foundation Vedanta Course and/or the Easy Sanskrit Course
• The local Acharya or Senior Members can conduct Discussion Groups to facilitate and motivate the completion of these Courses
• Encourage all Study Group Sevaks to take up the Advanced Vedanta Course to help them serve better
• Where Sanskrit is being offered, encourage the usage of the Easy Sanskrit Self Study Kit as the primary Course material or complementary Course material
• Ensure that CIF posters are prevalent in the Center and venues where other activities are taking place (i.e. conference rooms for Jnana Yajnas, on tables for walkathons, etc.)
• Ensure there are ample brochures in the Center and venues where other activities are taking place (i.e. conference rooms for Jnana Yajnas, on tables for walkathons, etc.)
• Put a link for CIF onto your local website
• Include CIF materials in your print and online Newsletters
• Encourage members to visit Chinmaya International Foundation when visiting Bharat...
New Releases from Chinmaya Publications

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Balvihar Magazine

Chinmaya Udghosh

An international children’s magazine with the right mix of values, fun and humor filled with Hindu culture.
To learn more, click here.

An International Magazine for Youth by Chinmaya Yuva Kendra (CHYK) with inspirational articles and much more.
To learn more, click here.
Experience the joy of Gurukula living
Learn the fundamentals of Vedanta
Learn Sanskrit
Learn how to conduct and be firmly grounded in spiritual practices
Celebrate auspicious occasions like Holi and Shivaratri

Dharma Sevak Course
Chinmaya Mission Trinidad

Course Acharya:
Swamini Vimalananda
Assisted by: Swami Prapashananda

February 1st to March 11th 2012

News

Pujya Guruji on the Speaking Tree

Chinmaya Mission is pleased to announce that the writings and messages of Pujya Guruji Swami Tejomayananda will now be available on the Speaking Tree, a spiritual networking portal. Expect to find practical tips for living and thought-provoking blog and wall posts through this portal. Enjoy Guruji’s videos that bring out the singular message of Vedanta. In addition, find out when Guruji will be visiting your city, in the Upcoming Events section. Visit www.speakingtree.in/swamitejomayandana. Log in. Follow. Grow.

Swamini Umananda Visits CM Ottawa

Swamini Umananda (CM France) visited CM Ottawa for a week in May 2011, to conduct a series of wellness workshops in French, a Ramayana jnana yajna in English, and weekend classes on meditation. Her friendliness in all sessions put the listeners at ease for open dialogue and questions. The CM Ottawa Family looks forward to her visit next year.

Mindful Living by Charles Goulet (translated from French)

“The Art of Mindful Living” was the topic of the series of discourses presented by Swamini Umananda in three morning sessions at the headquarters of Canada’s National Capital Commission.

In the first session, she described in different ways how modern life causes people to live their lives in a disconnected fashion. She then invited the participants to bring their attention to the present moment, to the actions we take, to realize there are numerous situations wherein we act or think automatically, without reflecting.

In the second session, she broached the topic of the fluidity of life, of harmony, where everything seems simple and natural, and where we have a feeling of lightness of being. This helps us in seeing the importance of focusing on the inner Self. She said what hinders us in understanding this is the excessive importance we give to our individual personality and personal desires. When we put aside our personal wants, an ‘opening’ emerges, which allows inner awakening to the fluidity of life.

Swaminiji’s last session focused on meditation not only in terms of spiritual goals (which is of course important to reach for on a daily basis), but also as a way of life.

A Medley of Meditation Techniques by Anu Ram

Swaminiji presented a medley of meditation techniques in the silence of the early morning of May 22. She taught us how to first relax the body, focus on breathing, and then remain as the witness of the silence. This was followed by an hour of yoga exercises. We discovered how various muscles can be challenged and how healthy one feels thereafter.

After a nutritious breakfast, we set out for an hour of nature walk, which Swaminiji said is another kind of meditation.

We were instructed to avoid talking to each other and observe Nature with a sense of...
awareness, to be in the present throughout the walk. And so, we walked in unison with the silence of the woods, the chirping of the birds, the perfect breeze, the trees that canopied the woods, and a few friendly deer.

Once we returned, Swaminiji explained meditation as a way of life. She defined meditation as the art of bringing the mind from its usual wanderings and letting it abide in holy, blissful Presence.

For one’s sitting meditation to be successful, one’s way of life has to be perfected. Swaminiji gave the following pointers:

- **Satsanga**, study of scriptures, and **karma yoga** help us quieten the mind.
- Every action has to be done with full attention, by never getting lost in the past or the future. This will bring us to the core of our being immediately.
- Love service, or dedication to a higher cause will develop an inner connection to the holy Presence.
- It is important to practice being aware of everything, such as doing or not doing, one’s breathing, and one’s thoughts.

Swaminiji encouraged us with humor that being aware that we are not aware of things is itself a big development. The day concluded with another guided sitting meditation. The peace and joy carried home was invaluable.

**Happy Living Camp at CM LA**

There were smiling faces galore at CM LA’s Chinmaya Rameshwaram ashram for the Happy Living Family Camp conducted by resident acharya Swami Ishwarananda, May 28-29, 2011. The theme, based on four humorous video talks given by Pujya Guruji Swami Tejomayananda, centered around four main points: “Take charge. Perform to potential. Workable tips. Harmony in human relationships.” Pujya Guruji’s talks were based on his book, *Jivan Sutrani: Tips for Happy Living*.

Swaminiji explained that the idea for the camp had emerged from his observance of the connection between the CM motto and the U.S. Declaration of Independence, which states “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness” among the unalienable rights of man. His discussions intrigued camp attendees, who participated with enthusiasm. Each of the lighthearted and profound videos was followed by Swamiji’s exposition on key points. After each class and discussion, attendees had an interactive workshop. The ashram corridors were filled with the laughter of 75 adults, 12 youth, and children, all of whom participated wholeheartedly throughout the camp.

A unique session of “laugh time” began with one minute of laughter. While most camp attendees began to do so consciously, it soon produced spontaneous “laugh aloud” moments. This was followed by groups of attendees narrating jokes for the entire camp. Swamiji concluded each day with a question and answer session.

**Upanayanam at CM Austin**

Twelve young initiates sat with their families and friends by their side in the Saraswati Vidya Mandir at Chinmaya Vatika, the home of Chinmaya Mission Austin. The previous day, the families had spent the day at the ashram, understanding the 16 *samskaras* in Hinduism, as taught by resident acharya, Brahmachari Girish Chaitanya.

On the blessed and auspicious day of March 20, 2011, eight boys and four girls, including four sets of siblings, undertook the *upanayanam* *samskara* as enjoined in *Tanjur Veda*. This was the first time CM Austin had organized such an event. The initiates were: Anjana Mittal, Rachala Polisety, Anushka Saini, Rajatkal Polisety, Sriram Mittal, Avinav Saini, Ritvik Maryala, Kavin Maryala, Siddharth Rao, Sameer Chennakeshu, Arunachalam Natesan, and Shakti Shrima.

Young Voices Chant *Gita*

*by* Vidya Iyer

CM Houston’s Bhagavad *Gita* Chanting Competition commemorated Shri Chinmayan Jayanthi Day and was held at the Chinmaya Prabha ashram on May 7, 2011. This year’s focus was *Gita*, Chapter 9 and featured 138 participating children, who ranged from ages 3 to 18 years.

The children were classified into four groups based on grade levels, and the largest group was grades 8-5. It is notable that participation at the youngest pre-k grade level doubled since last year—12 children between ages of 3 and 5 chanted this year.

It was quite amazing to note stories that all of a sudden, instead of arguing in the car, children were chanting the *Gita*! While playing, they were chanting completely unaware. Younger children used the power of listening to learn more verses because of their older sibling’s preparation. Other members in the household began to learn as well and soon enough, the whole house was immersed in *Gita* study.
Chinmaya Naada Bindu
(Gurukul for Indian Performing Arts)

Monsoon Dance Intensive '11

with
Ramaa Bharadva

Director, Dance - Chinmaya Naada Bindu

A 3-week Bharatanatyam immersion-training program for an extraordinary experience of Gurukul learning in the spiritual serenity of an Ashram atmosphere.

August 1 to 21, 2011

at Chinmaya Vibhooti

All Post Kolwan, Taluka Mulshi,
Dist Pune - 412108, India

Embraced by the spiritual serenity of an Ashram atmosphere in the coolness of India’s spectacular monsoons, experience an immersion training through a comprehensive daily schedule designed by Ramaa Bharadva to aid in the development of a total dancer... featuring:

- Strengthening Bharatanatyam technique through exercises exploring body, space & energy, developing performance strength and refining rhythm
- Repertoire class (mastering a choreographed dance of “Fire” sessions at sunrise, yoga, meditation & pranayama)
- Vedic Chanting
- Introductory Sanskrit
- Introductory music
- Dance theory
- Field trip to Utara Chidambram Nataraja temple (Satara)
- Final showcase performance

Additional experiences

Morning & evening discourses by visiting Acharyas - rituals at our Hanuman temple - guided hikes onto the Sahyadri mountains - ongoing Ashram lectures & events - impromptu performances.

Student eligibility

Age: Minimum 15 years - in good physical fitness to endure a rigorous schedule.

Students with 3 to 5 years of Bharatanatyam training

Those wishing to get back to Bharatanatyam after a gap

Dancers wishing to strengthen their performance skills and/or experience a Gurukul learning atmosphere.

Donation

US $660 (or equivalent) - Boarding (shared room) & 3 meals for 22 days (July 31 to Aug 21) + lessons & field trip.

Students from India please write to us for cost in INR

How to apply

1) A letter of intent with following information:
- Name and address
- Dance training history (if of years) & if class/practice hours a week
- Why you wish to attend the intensive at Chinmaya Naada Bindu
- An online link to your format or informal performance (optional)

Email to cnb@chinmayamission.com with Cc: ramaabharadva@yahoo.com

2) Registration - Deadline July 15, 2011 (see Registration Form)

Contact for information

Chinmaya Naada Bindu (Ramaa Bharadva)

At Post Kolwan, Taluka Mulshi,
Dist Pune - 412108, Maharashtra, India

+91 96042 49102

Email: cnb@chinmayamission.com

We welcome you into our sacred home...

Chinmaya Naada Bindu - Gurukul for Indian Performing Arts

Faculty

Dance Ramaa Bharadva - Director, Dance - Chinmaya Naada Bindu

A renowned dance choreographer and acclaimed writer/communicator, Ramaa Bharadva is a winner of multiple Lester Horton Dance Awards in California for choreography and performance. She was awarded the Directors Award from California Arts Council for her contributions to the Arts in the State of California and was selected as one of 21 exceptional South Asian women living in the U.S., whose lives and stories are presented in the book “Spices in the Melting Pot” released in 2005. A tireless advocate of multicultural education, she served on the dance faculty of Pomona College and Orange Coast College and was visiting professor of dance at several educational institutions in the U.S. Her outreach programs have reached over 15,000 children in the U.S. After 31 years of a successful dance career in the United States Ramaa returned to India in 2009 and now serves as Director of Dance at Chinmaya Naada Bindu.

Music Pramodini Rao - Director, Chinmaya Naada Bindu

(assisted by Shoba Iyer)

A graduate of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan’s music Vidarbha course, Pramodini Rao is currently a disciple of Vilas Kashalkar. A versatile performer and composer, her music has been heard all over India, notably on TV. Pramodini has conducted numerous performances in India and abroad and has received the title of ‘Shringar’ from All India Radio and State Radio, as well as a special award from the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. She has also received the title of ‘Senior Felicitation’ for her contribution to music.

Sanskrit & Vedic Chanting Swami Ramankrishnananda

The architects of the highly successful Easy Sanskrit Courses, Swami Ramankrishnananda’s meticulously developed pedagogy is complemented by his humorous and spontaneously creative teaching style. A favorite among the youth and adults alike, his Easy Sanskrit Course has been approved by Indira Gandhi National Open University through Chinmaya International Foundation and is currently being translated into Spanish, Chinese and German.
The village of Calcutta in Trinidad was treated to a mass of color and festivity as the students of Chinmaya Vidyalayas marched to the ashram, with balloons flying and streamers flowing in the Caribbean breeze. The procession was led by Brahmacari Hameera, and included a beautiful portrait of Pujya Gurudev with the title, “Celebrating the Birth of a Saint,” and the chanting of “Jaya Jagadisha Hare.”

In the devotional program held at the ashram’s Vidya Mandir, students offered readings from Pujya Gurudev’s works, a short biography, guru kirtans and bhajans, and a song medley. The film clip on Pujya Gurudev showed how thousands upon thousands have gotten inspired to come on the spiritual path and to see their child giving his best as an offering for Pujya Gurudev’s birthday.

Indeed, the judges’ job was difficult, since all the children excelled. The winners were: Uma Kamath, Ayush Manoj, and Yashwanth Arora in Group 1; Bhavya Kethireddipalli, Aarushi Das, Charvi Negandhi, and Avaneesh Joshi in Group 2; Shreyas Ganesh, Nidhi Wunnava, and Amogh Pandey in Group 3; and Ravi Rao, and Krishna Narra in Group 4.

Each participant received a small gift in recognition of his diligence and dedication. By the Lord’s grace, as children discover the joy of the Gita every year, the building of a strong foundation for a great future based on eternal ancient wisdom continues.
to contribute and raise awareness.” CMA raised $2,501 for CORD.

Swami Shantananda (CM Princeton) conducted *jnana yajnas* on *Bhagavad Gita*, Chapter 13 and *Parusha Suktam* in Atlanta, April 25-29, 2011. The *Gita yajna* was held at the Global Mall in Norcross and the morning *yajna* on *Parusha Suktam* was held at a residence in Tucker.

**CM Princeton and Philadelphia’s Family Camp**

*by Krishna Gotur (Grade 7)*

Of the many fun-filled activities that Chinmaya Mission offers around the world, the Memorial Day Camp conducted by CM Princeton and CM Philadelphia is one of the best. This three-day camp offers many indoor and outdoor activities and a plethora of dining options. This camp is a must for any fun-loving, Chinmaya family.

This year, our *acharyas* picked an especially intriguing topic for the camp: “Serve 2 Deserve: The Spirit of Seva.” Seva in its simplest form is whole-hearted service to anyone, anywhere, without question or order. Seva requires a sense of gratitude and humility, and throughout one’s camp experience, one could see so many outstanding examples.

A newcomer to this camp, it was refreshing and inspiring to see the many activities available. Mornings would always begin with Vedic chanting classes and meditation sessions, followed by yoga classes, *Guru Paduka Puja*, and spiritual classes and *satsang* sessions.

Vigi Sham said, “It felt good being here. The yoga classes were relaxing and stimulating. It created a warm and friendly atmosphere. The *satsangs* with the Swamijis were especially interesting.”

Aside from the spiritual classes, this camp offered zip lining, boating, rock climbing, swimming, basketball, volleyball, tennis, cricket, movies, campfires, and a variety of other games and activities.

“The activities are amazing. I liked the zip line and cricket the best,” said Suraj Manikandan (grade 5).

One of the most enjoyable parts of the camp was the food. Swami Shantananda said that the quality of the food was directly proportional to the amount of people at the camp. With a split menu for adults and kids, everyone enjoyed all the options.

Many campers left with a higher sense of service and involvement, ready to come back next year.

CM Kansas City held its first CORD Walkathon at Heritage Park in Olathe, Kansas on April 24, 2011. The goal for this year’s walkathon was to create awareness for CORD, raise funds, and provide an opportunity for Chinmaya family members to interact with each other in a fun setting. Despite unfavorable weather conditions, around 80 families (250 people) participated in the event and raised $3,600.

Unmindful of the cold and windy conditions, the five-mile walk began at 10 a.m. after a short prayer. Once the walk started, the young volunteers set a brisk pace, making the adult volunteers sweat to keep pace with them.

Following the walk, the stage was set for a variety of fun games—Krishna Candy Walk; Ravana Knockdown: Good, Bad, and Ugly; Mahabharata Tug-of-War between teachers and parents; and kite flying. The event concluded at noon after a picnic lunch.

**CM Bakersfield Youth Camp**

*by Sudha Bhatt*

Chinmaya Mission Bakersfield held its 7th Annual Summer Youth Camp at the Chinmaya Gokul ashram, June 6-11. This year’s camp, attended by 40 children, ages 4-13 years, was a great success. The children learned about “The Glory of Divine Mother” as well as the significance and symbolism of *Navaratri*. The camp was conducted by
Swami Sharanananda (CM Chicago), who was assisted by trained sevika of CM Bakersfield. Each day began at 8:30 a.m. with opening prayers, followed by two classroom sessions and a juice break. There was a yoga class daily for children grades 3 and up. After an appealing lunch, the children gathered in the shrine to learn bhajans and Vedic chanting. The afternoons were spent on arts and crafts, sports and games, and preparation of items for the cultural program.

CM Bakerfield’s summer camp would be incomplete without a “Fun Day,” during which the children enjoyed a water slide, popcorn, and snow cone machines. The children also made bracelets and took turns in breaking a piñata in the shape of Mother Lakshmi’s golden kalasha, which was filled with gold coins of chocolate and party favors.

Senior students took part in an extempore speech competition, wherein they received a random topic and spoke on it for two minutes. Three judges heard each child speak twice, and then identified the First, Second and Third Prize winners.

All the campers took a one-hour quiz on the camp theme, and First and Second Prize winners were selected from three grade groups. The children also enjoyed a Jeopardy game on the camp theme, where even the youngest children (pre-k and kg group) knew a lot of answers. It took a tiebreaker to determine the First and Second Place winning teams, each member of which received an idol of Mother Saraswati.

The week culminated with a cultural show and graduation ceremony where the children demonstrated to their family and friends their understanding of the material learned over the week. Some of the items presented included skits and a dance. A five-minute video presentation gave parents a glimpse of the camp’s week-long activities and events. Senior students also presented a funny skit with a role-play of Swamiji and other camp sevika.

The week’s activities were facilitated by 10-12 dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers, who coordinated registration, food, snacks, arts and crafts, cleaning, and the cultural program. The most valuable help came from two college-bound CHYK volunteers who attended all the days and worked with the children on every activity.

Glimpse of Ramayana

Report submitted by CM Ottawa

CM Ottawa celebrated its annual open house on May 8, 2011 in Britannia Park, by the Ottawa River. In the pavilion, the fully-packed hall was buzzing with children entering in striking costumes, eager audience members settling in, vibrant display stalls of Chinmaya Publications and more, and the audio-visual team making their final preparations. The
stage was radiant with Pujya Gurudev’s smiling picture. The evening’s theme was “A Glimpse of the Ramayana,” wherein the children brought out the beauty of values in action, as shown by Ramayana characters. The program was a loving offering to our Pujya Gurudev and all mothers, as May 8 marked Shri Chinmaya Jayanti and Mother’s Day.

The program commenced with a Chinmaya Bala Vihar song in Hindi as all the children marched into the hall. The tiny tots walked in dressed up as little Hanumans with beautiful long tails. Indeed, the monkeys of the Ramayana days would have longed for such decorations on their tails!

The opening song’s profound meaning provided a fitting prelude for the program to come. After the Chinmaya Mission Pledge and prayers, the children presented Ramayana sequences full of emotion and devotion as Shri Rama became Vanavasi Rama.

The children brought out various flavors of devotion, unique to each devotee, through the stories of Guha, Kevata, Bharata, and Shabari. Nava-vidha bhakti was beautifully presented in simple words.

The entertaining youth play entitled, “Practical Days,” focused on how Ramayana teachings apply to modern day challenges.

One of the crowning moments in this year’s graduation was when graduate Dev Gandhi spoke about his father graduating from Bala Vihar in 1985 and seeing an entire generation guided by the wisdom of the Bala Vihar tradition. Each graduating student’s sustained interest in a distant culture, while growing up in another country, felt like a renewal of faith for all. Indeed, this was part of the grand vision of Pujya Gurudev when he started the Bala Vihar wing of Chinmaya Mission as early as 1955. He saw children as the architects of a future world, filled with strong character and spiritual values.

Chinmaya Mission Houston (CMH) proudly celebrated the graduation of 30 Bala Vihar students on June 12 in a special ceremony that honored both their scholastic achievements and their committed learning of Hindu scriptures and Indian culture.

The grand finale was a dance on a melodious chanting of Shri Hanuman Chalisa. The program ended with a sumptuous dinner.

All the children gave outstanding performances. The costumes, makeup, and props exhibited the creativity and artistic expertise of the parents. Everyone gave their best in various ways, with a sense of family unity. Vasudhaiva kutumbakam echoed in the hearts of all.

CMH’s Bala Vihar Graduation

by Uma Aggarwal

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One of the crowning moments in this year’s graduation was when graduate Dev Gandhi spoke about his father graduating from Bala Vihar in 1985 and seeing an entire generation guided by the wisdom of the Bala Vihar tradition. Each graduating student’s sustained interest in a distant culture, while growing up in another country, felt like a renewal of faith for all. Indeed, this was part of the grand vision of Pujya Gurudev when he started the Bala Vihar wing of Chinmaya Mission as early as 1955. He saw children as the architects of a future world, filled with strong character and spiritual values.

CMH’s graduation ceremony commenced on June 12 with Acharya Gaurang Nanavaty’s discourse on Shikshavalli of Taittiriya Upanishad. He reiterated the wisdom of the Upanishadic commencement address, addressing specifically the graduating students who would now be stepping into the working world. He elaborated on the true meaning of the famous verse, satyam vada, or “Speak the truth.” He said seeing the One in all should be the ideal of every graduate. He emphasized performing one’s duties, working diligently, and making a commitment to keep up scriptural studies.

The slideshow presentation featured each graduate, his accomplishments, selected college, years in Bala Vihar, favorite memory, and favorite quote. Each student lit a lamp symbolizing the passing of knowledge from teacher to student, and received a plaque from Acharya Gaurangi.

At CM Dallas-Fort Worth’s Chinmaya Chitrakoot Ashram Each student recounted his Bala Vihar experience in his unique way. Srinidhi Rao made the audience laugh with a self-made favorite quote: “Take action to get action!” Priyanka Mehta quoted Oscar Wilde: “Be yourself. Everyone is already taken.” Nipun Marwaha quoted Albert Einstein’s “Logic will get you from A to B, but imagination will get you everywhere.” Many graduates this year had attended Chinmaya Bala Vihar for 12-14 years, and had unforgettable memories, such as lock- in-s, Holi, Chinmaya Camp celebrations, and teaching younger Bala Vihar kids.

The memorable program concluded with a cake-cutting ceremony and the graduates served lunch to their Bala Vihar teachers to show their gratitude. As in prior years, the CMH Family felt joyful and confident about
Upcoming CHYK Camps

Jul. 29- Aug. 3, Chicago: Mind and Beyond  708-657-6372
Aug. 12-14, Washington DC: All You Need Is Love  301-300-9909
Aug. 26-28, Boston: Efficiency through Spirituality  508-369-6174


Text: Taittiriya Upanishad, Chapter 2

Topics: How and why did creation take place, Understanding the creative power of our own thought, Discovering the Self by utilizing the body, mind, and intellect to its full potential, while experiencing worldly success and fulfillment in the process

To register or get details, visit www.globalchykcamp.com or www.chinmayamission.org.

As is tradition every year, interested CHYKs are welcome to register for a yet another weeklong spiritual journey, guided by Swami Swaroopananda. The post-camp journey in 2012 will begin with a flight to the Himalayan ranges and culminate at the holy abode of Pujya Gurudev in Sidhbari, India.

Jan. 1: Coimbatore to Delhi, visit Chinmaya Chetna, stay at Delhi
Jan. 2: Travel to Amritsar by bus, visit Wagah border and Jallianwala Bagh, stay at Amritsar
Jan. 3: Visit Golden Temple, bus to Sidhbari
Jan. 4: Sidhbari
Jan. 5: Visit Dharamshala and McLeod Ganj
Jan. 6: Sidhbari
Jan. 7: Depart Sidhbari for Delhi by bus

Cost: US$450/person (includes all air/bus travel Jan. 1-7, includes all lodging/boarding)
Registration Deadline: June 30, after which costs are subject to change
To register, e-mail your name, age, and country of residence to: jitinkapoor@gmail.com
With immense joy, we announce the move of Chinmaya Shivalaya as we continue to grow and offer more services to our large and diverse community.

We are blessed to have Guruji, H.H. Swami Tejomayananda to inaugurate the new ashram. We would like to extend a warm invitation to you and your congregation to participate in all the inauguration programs. Please advise us of the participation from your center so our hospitality team will be ready to welcome you. Please contact the coordinator Ranu Ramraj, ranuramraj@gmail.com

Please note these dates in your calendar

July 29, 2011    8.00am – 1.00pm
Reinstallation of Lord Shiva’s Moorti in the new location

August 5, 2011  7.00pm – 9.00pm
Inauguration ceremony presided by Swami Tejomayananda, followed by dinner

August 6, 2011  10.00am – 12.00 noon
An auspicious and rare opportunity to invoke the grace of Shri Ram and Hanumanji, with Pujya Guruji, the spiritual master and Hanumanji’s Bhakta, singing Hanuman Chalisa in seven different ragas interspaced with anecdotes of Hanumanji.
We invite sponsorships for this special occasion. Suggested offering of $1001.00 in support of Chinmaya Mission Toronto

Our new address:  8832 The Gore Road
Brampton, ON

For information please visit www.chinmayatoronto.org

CORD USA Service Visit

A service visit to CORD centers is an opportunity for high school students to travel to India and volunteer their time serving the under-served. This year’s participants from across the USA went to Sidhbari in Himachal Pradesh, India, to help with CORD’s integrated rural development and women’s empowerment program. Read their experiences: cordusa2011.blogspot.com/

For more information about CORD USA and volunteering opportunities, visit cordusa.org.