



Chinmaya Mission Niagara (Canada)

www.chinmayaniagara.org
5743 Valley Way
Niagara Falls Ontario L2E 1X7
905 356 4451

Newsletter
Fall 2008

Announcements!

It is with great honour that Chinmaya Mission Niagara announces that Vivekji has been given the title of Acharya by Swami Tejomayananda (Head of Chinmaya Mission Worldwide) and the Board of Directors of Chinmaya Mission West. This comes as no surprise as he has already completely devoted himself to serving the Niagara community and those across North America. May he be blessed by one and all so that he may continue to raise spiritual awareness wherever he goes.

Insights

This past year we have been extremely busy with our new center. Our children's classes, adult study groups, yoga sessions, and sanskrit classes were all a huge success! Keeping the needs of the community in mind, we are ever ready to evolve. This year we will be welcoming a new group of Bala Vihar Teachers. What is most amazing is that all are members of our Niagara Community who are committing themselves to teaching our young. Along the same lines, our teachers will be following a freshly created yet time-tested curriculum which the Chinmaya Mission has been using for decades to guide tens of thousands of children across the world. We hope these changes will bring our families closer and promote religious and spiritual awareness throughout the community.

Recent Events

Our first celebration of 2008 was on the most auspicious occasion of Mahashivratri. We started the program with Lord Shiva's puja and followed this with 5 ½ hours of the 'Om Namah Shivaya' akhanda nama japa. At midnight when Lord Shiva manifested, we performed the Maha Aarti.

To welcome the spring season we celebrated Holi on a huge scale with huge numbers of devotees.



Chinmaya Dhara was brimming with colourful excitement as the children from Chinmaya Hamilton showed the capacity audience what Lord Krishna's true form is. Following this play our Bala Vihar put on a power point presentation of how Holi is celebrated across Bharat. Finally, refreshments were served and everyone shifted outside to sing and dance and play with coloured powders. At the end we all looked as one large, beautiful family!



In April, Niagara was blessed with Swami Shantananda's annual jnana yajna. A jnana yajna is the highest form of sacrifice where one offers one's ignorance into the fire of knowledge. Swamiji guided us to do so by expounding upon Shankaracharya's Sadhana Panchakam in the morning and Srimad Bhagavad Gita - Chapter 6 in the evening.

Hanuman Jayanti was celebrated at Chinmaya Dhara in a one day Bala

Vihar Camp. The theme of the Camp was Hanuman – The Superman. Kids and teachers alike learned from each other and played many games all in the name of Hanumanji.

To honour a vital link in the Guru Parampara, on May 8th Acharya Vivekji performed a Paduka Puja for Pujya Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda at our center. Thousands of devotees around the world join to rejoice on Chinmaya Jayanti or also known as Seva Day and we in Niagara were no different.

For Mother's Day all of our children sat at the feet of their mothers with puja thali on hand. They worshipped their mothers under the instruction of Acharya Vivekji. Moreover, Madhini, the teacher for our youngest kids, elaborately decorated Devi and alongside the children, sang bhajans in praise of their mothers. The occasion was enjoyed by all, especially the fathers!

Chinmaya Mission Niagara's Bala Vihar year was complete with our Annual Father's Day Picnic at Queenston Heights Park. This year we also honoured three Bala Vihar students who are now graduating onto the Yuva Kendra program. We wish Arjun Gupta, Bharat Bhaga, and Nikhil Wadhwa the best in their journey forward and return home.

Satsangatve nissangatvam: through the association with holy persons does dispassion arise. With this in mind, Chinmaya Dhara welcomed Swami Ishwarananda from our Los Angeles center for Satsang in July. Swamiji explained that the difference between spirituality and religion is that the former is the essence and the latter the process. He also shared that to be truly integrated we must know the essence before engaging in the process.

Knowing that the Bala Vihar Program would be taught by new teachers, we invited Laxmi Sukumarji to train our



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new faces and to refresh our experienced ones. Laxmiji has been teaching Bala Vihar for the last 20 years in San Jose and San Diego. She has been appointed by Swami Tejomayananda to inspire Bala Vihar teachers, educate sevaks, and make parents aware of how important it is that they participate in the Bala Vihar Program as a family.

Carrying on with the theme of our community members giving back to the community, at the end of July our very own Dr. Chidam Yegappan passionately and precisely opened up Patanjali's Yoga Sutras to a diverse crowd at Chinmaya Dhara.

August 3rd, 1993 was when Swami Chinmayananda attained Mahasamadhi. On this day we all take time to reflect on how this Great Master and his visionary Mission has changed our lives. Without his Chinmaya Mission peace would still be a mystery to us all. This day is also known as Sadhana Day and so we gathered to read and watch Gurudev's commentaries and then

concluded with meditation and Aarti. It was 15 years ago that Swami Chinmayananda was invited to represent Hinduism at the World's Parliament of Religions in Chicago as Swami Vivekananda had been 100 years earlier.

Our Gratitude

We want to express our deep gratitude to Swamini Shivapriyananda of our Toronto center for her presence at Swami Shantananda's yajna, our Teacher Training Seminar, and for numerous other occasions. We are also thankful to the many many devotees of Chinmaya Mission Toronto, Hamilton, and Buffalo who repeatedly have participated and supported our diverse children's and adult programs. We look forward to us growing even closer in the coming year!



We Are Growing!

As the activities at Chinmaya Dhara continue to grow so is the involvement of Acharya Vivekji in the surrounding community. This year he will continue to travel to Toronto every Monday evening to teach university students and young professionals. On Wednesday evenings, he finds himself in Buffalo to teach adults. These classes are in addition to the Thursday evening and Sunday morning classes in Niagara. This past year Acharya Vivekji has also been invited to teach at Bala Vihar Camps in Toronto, Chicago, and Washington DC. Please visit www.chinmayaniagara.org for Vivekji's itinerary.

Mark Your Calendars

- Orientation Day on September 14
- Acharya Gaurangji's lecture series from November 11 – 14, 2008
- Br. Aparnaji's Bala Vihar Camp from February 19 – 21, 2009

Chinmaya Mission Toronto and Chinmaya Mission Niagara present

Mahasamadhi Family Camp 2009



The Essence of Srimad Bhagavatam

by Pujya Guruji Swami Tejomayananda

July 29 to August 3, 2009

In the heart of the wondrous Niagara Region

"There is nothing that you need to know about life that is not in Srimad Bhagavatam"
- Swami Tejomayananda



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Ganesh Chaturthi Celebration



Chinmaya Mission Niagara...

Invites you to participate in our Ganesh Puja and Orientation for the beginning of our 2008 – 2009 program.

The goal of this Orientation is to inform and empower you, the parents, as to what our Mission is and what takes place on a typical Bala Vihar Day. We will talk about what our goal is, some rules and guidelines, what a typical day encompasses, what our syllabus is, what activities are offered and how you as a parent can get involved. You also have an opportunity to meet and talk with the teachers. Please plan to attend the very important event.

**This celebration will be taking place on
Sunday September 14, 2008 from 10:30am – 12:00pm**

Program

10:30am-10:45am - Ganesh and Guru Bhajans
10:45am-11:15am - Ganesh Puja
11:15am-11:45am – Orientation with Teachers
11:45am-12:00pm – Aarti & Prasad, and collecting of Ganeshas for visarjina

Venue:

Chinmaya Dhara
5743 Valley Way
Niagara Falls, Ontario
L2E 1X7
P: 905 356 4451

Directions:

From QEW take Hwy. 420.
First traffic light, take left onto Stanley Avenue.
First traffic light, take left onto Valley Way.
The center is on the right within a block.
(Also known as Canadian Legion Building)



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Calander for 2008 - 2009

2008		2009 (cont.)	
September 3:	Ganesh Chaturthi	March 1, 8, 29:	Regular Classes
September 14:	Ganesh Puja and Orientation	March 11:	Holi
September 21, 28:	Regular Classes	March 14:	Holi Celebration
September 30 - October 8:	Navratri Period	March 15, 22:	Spring Holidays
October 2:	Gandhi Jayanti	April 5, 19:	Regular Classes
October 5, 19, 26:	Regular Classes	April 12:	Easter Holiday
October 9:	Vijaya Dashami/Dashera	April 14:	Ramanavami
October 12:	Thanksgiving Holiday	April 20:	Hanuman Jayanti
October 27:	Deepavali	April 26:	Hanuman Jayanti Celebration
November 2:	Deepavali Celebration	May 3, 10, 24, 31:	Regular Classes
November 9, 16, 23, 30:	Regular Classes	May 8:	Swami Chinmayananda Jayanti Celebration
December 7, 14:	Regular Classes	May 10:	Mother's Day Celebration
December 8:	Gita Jayanti / Tapovan Jayanti	May 17:	Victoria Day Holiday
December 21, 28:	Winter Holidays	June 7:	Last Day of Classes
		June 14:	Graduation and Father's Day Celebration
		June 21:	Summer Holidays
		June 30:	Swami Tejomayananda Jayanti
		July 29 – August 3:	Mahasamadhi Camp in Niagara
		August 3:	Swami Chinmayananda Mahasamadhi Celebration
		August 15:	Independence Day
2009			
January 4:	Winter Holidays		
January 11, 18, 25:	Regular Classes		
January 26:	Republic Day		
February 1, 8, 22,	Regular Classes		
February 15:	Family Day Holiday		
February 23:	Mahashivratri Celebration		

ALL ARE UNCONDITIONALLY WELCOME!!!

SUNDAY PROGRAM (Commencing September 14, 2008)

TIME	ADULT	YUVA KENDRA	VIVEKA	VAIRAGYA	SHAMA	DAMA
10:30am-12:00pm	Srimad Bhagavad Gita - Chapter 1 & 2	Srimad Bhagavad Gita - Chapter 1 & 2	Hindu Culture	Srimad Bhagavatam	Intro to Srimad Bhagavatam	ABC of Vedanta

THURSDAY PROGRAM (Commencing September 18, 2008)

TIME	OPEN TO ALL
7:30pm - 8:45pm	Discussion Group on Vivekachudamani
8:45pm - 9:00pm	Guided Meditation