



Arise ! Awake ! Stop not, till the goal is reached.

November—December

2011

Om Namo Narayana

Om Namo Narayana



"Disciple: Can the effect of karma be made null and void? The Scriptures say that knowledge alone can destroy Karma. Still one must reap the result of Prarabdha Karma (karma that has started giving the results).

Mother: Karma alone is responsible for our misery and happiness. Even the Master (Sri Ramakrishna) had to suffer from the effect of Karma (i.e. ulcer in his throat that he said came from the curse of his brother)...The result of Karma is inevitable. But by repeating the Name of God, you can lessen the intensity. If you were destined to have a wound as wide as a ploughshare, you will get a pin-prick at least. The effect of karma can be counteracted to a great extent by Japa and austerities. This was the case with King Suratha. He had worshipped the Goddess by slaughtering a lakh of goats. Later on, these hundred thousand goats killed the king with one stroke of the sword; he did not have to be born a hundred thousand times. That was because he had worshipped the Divine Mother. Chanting God's holy Name lessens the intensity of Karmic effects.

Disciple: Is the effect of karma destroyed by austerities and Japa?

Mother: Why not? It is good to do the right kind of work. One feels happy in doing good and one suffers by doing evil."

The Gospel of The Holy Mother", recorded by Her Devotee-Children, Sri Ramakrishna Math, Chennai, pp. 132-133..

Badarikashrama Diary

September is a wonderful, joyous month for everyone. The Bay Area weather is warm, students are settled in school, and sacred deities are worshipped. Ganesha, our God of Consciousness and Beginnings, began the festivities. Sri Ganesha Homa was conducted by our Brahmacharya, Vishnu Chaitanya with a large number of devotees. Following the homa, the afternoon's function began with Bharatanatyam by junior and senior dancers of K.P. and Katherine Kuniraman's Kalanjali, Dances of India. Five dancers performed pieces on Ganesha, Shiva, a jatiswaram and a tillana. With superb choreography, the dancers showed-off their fine caliber under the tutelage of the Kuniramans. Dancers included Ruthri and Anavi Subramanyam, Radhika Roach, Mathangi Sankaran, and Ahalya Prakash. Next, Mekala Hoskote changed the pace with a performance of Odissi Dance perfectly illustrating the similarities and differences between the two dance forms. The afternoon closed with musical offerings by the students of Kalpagam Kaushik, accompanied on the Keyboard by Varun and on the mridangam by Akshay Venkateshwara. Kalpagam sang some bhajans with her senior students. It was a joyful end to the Ganesha festival. On the 18th, in the weekly Sunday Service, we had a unique guest speaker by the name of Ariosto Coelho. An integral artist, psychotherapist, and author, Coelho talked about his artwork in a talk entitled "Mandalas in Harmony". He has integrated his Goan cultural heritage, his ancestral Hindu background and his experiences with Christianity in his art focusing on mandalas. He augmented his spirited talk with a video presentation and his original



Dancers
Ganesha
Festival

Kalanjali,
Dances of
India

Nataraja
School of
Dance





“Mandalas
In Harmony”
Talk by
Ariosto
Coelho

paintings. He also focused on the young people present engaging them with questions and answers. September ended with the beginning of Navaratri Celebrations. Daily early-morning Sri Durga Saptasati Patha was recited. At 10:30 am, Sri Durga-Homa was conducted by Vishnuji with many people attending daily offering to the Divine Mother, Durga.

On October 1st, Mataki Chowki was celebrated by many loving devotees. On Astami, evening puja was followed by garba. The last day, Sri Vijayadashmi Homa was performed on October 6th, followed by garba with a large attendance.

Following Navaratri, daily devotees came to the mandir to observe Petru Paksha, honoring their relatives who have passed away. The ashrama overflowed with donations.

Donations also arrived daily for the Second Annual Flea Market held as a benefit for our Madihalli Vidyashala in the Karnataka ashrama. On Saturday the 15th, many people from all over the neighborhood came to see what was available. Food plates were available with many takers. Mehndi was painted on many willing hands by Mehndi, granddaughter of Meena Datta. The Arabic Dance performed by Monica Sawyer and Ellie of the Ashiana Dance Troop, wowed the audience. A delightful, creative, puppet show was done by Ankita and Sankalpa, two talented young children who were tutored by Srikant Hemmady. They also presented a number of clever magic tricks bringing laughter to all. Though sales were good, many items remained, and Mangala put them in the street for free where they miraculously disappeared.

Mahatma Gandhi Peace Prayer Day was organized on the 16th. The event began with a Peace March in the neighborhood around the ashrama. A large puppet, about 8 feet tall, of Mahatma Gandhi was the star of the march. Many students of Balasamskara Kendra were able to ride on him as we marched through the streets being greeted by claps, peace signs and honks by the passers-by and the neighbors.

The puppet is the creation of Jes Richardson, a peace activist, founder of Bridge of Hearts, a world peace organization, and an educator. He, his students, and others created the puppet in 2003 and it has been all over California promoting Gandhi’s message of peace and non-violence. After the march, Richardson gave a talk and video presentation about his trips to Iran, where he is working to bring peaceful relationships between his students and Iranian people. His presentation was very informative for everyone. The top prize of the Art Competition was awarded to Sujan Bobba for his outstanding water color of Mahatma Gandhi when fasting. After his talk, Asha Sharma, an educator, and author of “An American in Gandhi’s India” and “An American in Khadi” also shared her experiences. Her grandfather, Satyananda Stokes, is the subject of her books. He lived in India for many years and was also associated with Mahatma Gandhi and the Independence Movement. She also showed slides of the time-period prior to Independence and the work of her grandfather with the farmers in Himachl Pradesh talking about his earlier missionary work and his embracing of Hinduism. Following the talks, over 30 artists took the floor and gave a most engaging performance of Vashundhara “Ode to Mother Earth” written by Rita Sahai. Rita unable to be with her students due to some other pressing commitments, had beforehand arranged all the details.



Led by her senior student, Vivek, the group gave a stupendous presentation of Rita’s original composition focusing on the seasonal changes of the earth in a number of compelling ragas. It ended with Vande Mataram. On tabla was Jerry Barr, on viola and violin was Rachel, on harmonium was Jennifer, and on the bass was Bishu Chatterjee.

October came to a marvelous close with the celebrations of Deepavali. Sri Lakshmi Puja on the 26th was followed by a function on Sunday, October 30th. It began with Sri Lakshmi Homa conducted by Vishnu. Then there was an incredible concert by Shubanghi Sakalkhar. She thrilled the devotees with her precious voice singing Khayals in Bimpali, a Bandish in Rag Sri, a Marati Abhanga and a surprise Bhagyada Lakshmi in Kannada by Purandaradasa. After the children all brought deepas to the altar, and aarati, all partook of a delicious mahaprasad.



Mahatama Gandhi Puppet, Balasamskara Kendra, Vishnu, parents

Events @ Madihalli

On September 1st, Sri Ganesha and Sri Gouri Pooja was performed at our Madihalli ashrama in Karnataka. Ashrama devotees, the hostel students, and school teachers brought the Sri Ganesha Murthi to the ashrama and decorated the mantapa with flowers. Swamiji conducted the pooja, led bhajans and told about the meaning of the festival. After three days, the Ganesha murthi was immersed in the lake. Later a Teachers' Orientation Camp was held on the 10th and the 11th in the presence of Omkaranandaji. On the 10th, the invo



Founder's Day, lighting The lamp, Swamiji, Dr. Prakash, devotees

ocation was sung by the teachers of the Vidyashala led by principal, Smt. Jyothi Dixit. Welcome speech was given by Sri Ashok Kumar, lecturer, Sheshadripuram College, Bangalore. Sri Srinivas, teacher at the Vidyashala was the anchor for the event. The inaugural address was given by Prof. G.B. Shivaraju who spoke about the importance of the camp to rejuvenate the teachers and give importance to value based education. Next Sri Shankaralingegowda, the presiding officer, emphasized the importance of the role of teachers, giving examples from history. Srimat Swami Sathyeshanandaji Maharaj, Ramakrishna Ashrama, Mysore, noted that teachers are in a responsible position to transform society. He also mentioned that though teachers are often paid less, they have an opportunity to serve humanity and bring out the Godliness within us. Sri Woody P. Krishna, Honorable Secretary of Sheshadripuram Educational Trust, Bangalore, continued, commenting that the present education should enable students with the quality of questioning. Students should live locally but think universally, he said.

The Turuvekere BEO, Sri Rangadhamaiah said the ashrama was doing the job in education that the government was supposed to do. Srimat Swami Omkaranandaji Maharaj concluded by blessing the participants to collect the valuable gems given by the masters and stressed the importance of social awareness. Prof. Srinivas was honored and all adjourned for lunch.



Sri Sankaralingegowda, Swamijis, guests, Teacher's Orientation



Teacher's Orientation Camp, guests, teachers

The second session began with a lecture by Mathaji Thyagamahee, Sri Sharada Ashrama, Challakere. She talked about the role of the teacher in molding a responsible citizen and giving support to the child through their own behavior. In the afternoon session Prof. Suresh Kulakarni, resource person from Dharwad, spoke about numerous ways of teaching through activities mixed with humor. Sri C.C. Rao gave the vote of thanks.

Earlier in September, Swamiji attend the Teacher's Day Programme at Kalpatharu College in Mayasandra. The Navaratri festival from the end of September to early October had daily Sri Durga Saptahashati, Sri Lalitha Sahasranama, kirtan, and bhajans. The last day, Vijayadasami had a Sri Durga Homa, with pooja and prasada. Gandhi Jayanti was celebrated on October 2nd, Sunday, by the children of the Vidyashala, Smt. Kumudini Balaram, and teachers Sri Srinivas and Smt Seema Parveen addressed the children and guests.

October 9th was Founder's Day, honoring the founder of Bada-



Mataji Thyagamahi, Swamiji, guests, Orientation Camp

rikashrama, Srimat Swami Omkaranandaji Maharaj; the day also his birthday. Devotees from Bangalore, Mysore and nearby villages participated. Dr. Prakash, Prof. G.B. Shivaraju, Sri Dayananda Sagar, Bangalore and other devotees talked about the Ashrama activities. Sharad Poornima was observed on the 11th followed later in the month by the Deepavali festival including puja and lighting of the deepas.

During these two months, Swamiji attended many functions and was busy with the ashrama work. He gave guidance to the teachers, and looked after the welfare of children. Trustees meetings were held in Madihalli and Bangalore. On the 30th, a parent-meeting was held discussing the progress of the Vidyashala students. Swamiji also spent time preparing for his return to the San Leandro Ashrama. He will return on November 3, 2011. He is looking forward to seeing everyone in California.

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Dated Material

CALENDAR

NOV., 2011

- Sat. 5th 2:30 pm Sri Sundarkhanda Ramayana of Tulasidas Goswami
Sun. 6th. 11:00 am **Sri Satyanarayana Swami Puja & Katha, conducted by
Srimat Swami Omkaranandaji Maharaj**
Sun. 13th 11:00 am Sri Ramanama Sankirtana & Meditation
Sat. 19th 11:00 am Sri Mataki Chowki
Sun. 20th 11:00 am **Carnatic Vocal Concert by Pingali Surya
Prabhakararao, accompanied by Sirisha Pingali***
Thurs. 24th 3:00 pm **Thanksgiving Dinner & Concert by Srikhant Chary ***
Sun. 27th 11:00 am **Sri Lalitha Sahasranama, music by Suman Shah,
Santoor, Sargam Shah, Tabla**

DEC., 2011

- Sat. 3rd 2:30 pm Sri Sundarkhanda Ramayana of Tulasidas Gowswami
Sun. 4th 11:00 am **Sri Bhagavad Gita Jayanti**, panel discussion on the
Influence of Gita in devotees lives
Sun. 11th 10:30 am **108 Samuhika Sri Satyanarayana Swami Puja & Katha***
Sat. 17th 8:00 pm Sri Mataki Chowki
Sun. 18th 2:30 pm **Sri Sharada Devi Jayanti, talk, music ***
Sun. 25th 3:00 pm **Christmas Dinner & Concert by Rita Sahai***
Sat. 31st 10:00 am **Sri Akanda Ramayana by Tulasidas Gowswami***
Sun. Jan 1st 1:00 pm **Aarati & Mahaprasad***

*** Events in November, December, 2011**

Sun., Nov. 20th, 2011 Carnatic Vocal Concert

Pingali Surya Prabhakararao, well known Carnatic vocalist on tour from India, All India Radio artist, composer, author. Accompanied by Sirisha Pingali, mridangam & violin tba

Thurs., Nov. 24, 2011 3:00 pm —Thanksgiving Celebration

Thanks giving Dinner & Veena concert by Srikhant Chary,
With Priyanka Chary, veena & Karthik Gopalrathnam, mridangam

Sun., Dec. 11th, 2011 10:30 am 108 Samuhika Sri Satyanarayana Swami Puja & Katha

Conducted by Srimat Swami Omkaranandaji Maharaj, bhajans by Rita Sahai & Students,
all sponsors sit with kolasha and samagree provided by ashrama,
to sponsor call ashrama staff

Sun. Dec. 18th, 2011 Sri Sharada Devi Jayanti

Talk by Pravrajika Anantaprana, Vedanta Society, S.F.
Music by Deepali Ghatge Deglurkar

Sun. Dec. 25th, 2011 Christmas Dinner & Concert

Vocal Concert by Rita Sahai followed by vegetarian dinner

Sat. Dec. 31st-2011 10:00 am to Sun. Jan. 1st, 2012 1:00 pm

Welcome in New Year with Sri Akanda Ramayana

BALASAMSKARA KENDRA

Classes for children are held every Sunday at 10:30 am. Bay Area parents who want to actively participate in the cultural and spiritual education of their children conceived the school. The curriculum includes Hindi classes, Sanskrit Mantras, and explanations of puja, rituals, symbolism of Gods and Goddesses and Indian festivals. Story telling familiarizes our children with our ancient culture and epics. Children find it a lot of fun and look forward to every session. We encourage all of you to bring your children from the ages of 5—15 to our school. Please call the ashrama staff for more information or Anita Bajaj at 510-553-1123. The school is free and everyone is welcome.

INDIA CENTER

Our Indian center is located in Madihalli, which is about 75 miles west of Bangalore. It is located in rolling hills, surrounded by fruit orchards and other trees. Over the last 25 years the ashrama has flourished and covers a lush 60 acres with abundant facilities for the comfort of our residents and guests. The ashrama serves the surrounding community with a school, health and humanitarian needs. Swamiji has been spending time to build up our vidyashala and increase the facilities. He sincerely hopes that you will take the opportunity to visit our ashrama during your next visit to India.

Badarikashrama

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