

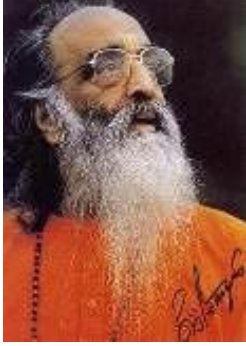


# Chinmaya Pradipika

CMSD Quarterly Newsletter



Oct 2016, No. 20



## The Master Speaks:

*Ganesa is born, the very replica of the Lord of the Universal Mother's Heart. He is naturally the most auspicious representation of the Supreme, at once a symbol of immaculate spiritual experience and an altar of perfection to be invoked for all success.*

**- Swami Chinmayananda**

## In this issue of Chinmaya Pradīpikā

The highlights of this issue are *Guru Pūrṇimā* celebrations, the 23rd Chinmaya *Mahāsamādhi Ārādhana* Day, the Thirteenth Annual summer Youth camp and *Jñāna yajña* with Swamini Radhikananda-ji, Pujya Guruji's birthday and a special *satsaṅga* with Dr. S.N Subbarao.

CMSD also celebrated *Śrī Kṛṣṇa Janmāṣṭamī* and *Gaṇeśa Caturthī* with special *pūjā*-s.

The opening day of CMSD's 2016-17 session was filled with great energy and enthusiasm in the children and adults.

## IN THIS ISSUE

Swamini Radhikanadaji's visit .....	2
CMSD 13 <sup>th</sup> Summer Camp .....	2
Pujya Guruji's birthday.....	8
<i>Guru Pūrṇimā</i> .....	9
Chinmaya <i>Ārādhana</i> day.....	10
Second CMSD Alumni Meet .....	12
<i>Satsaṅga</i> with Dr. Subbarao .....	13
<i>Śrī Kṛṣṇa Janmāṣṭamī</i> .....	15
<i>Gaṇeśa Caturthī</i> .....	16
CMSD 2016-17 session begins .....	17
New CMSD members speak.....	18



## Swamini Radhikanadaji's visit and CMSD Summer Camp 2016

CMSD was blessed by the presence of Swamini Radhikananda –ji this summer. Swamini-ji conducted the thirteenth summer youth camp along with Lakshmiiji from June 27<sup>th</sup> to July 2<sup>nd</sup> on the topic- “**Nature, My Teacher**”, based on the book *Śrī Rāma’s Reveries in Nature* by Pujya Guruji Swami Tejomayananda. Swamini-ji also inspired the adults with talks on July 1<sup>st</sup> and July 3<sup>rd</sup> on “**Gaining strength through life’s challenges**” and “**Sharing our gifts with others to help them come up higher**”.



**Swamini Radhikananda** -ji was also here to celebrate Pujya Guruji’s birthday where she mesmerized the audience with *bhajans* and songs.

During the camp, children learned about different values from nature as well as how to implement these values in their life. Swamini Radhikananda ji’s presence made this camp very special for the children and adults.

Every camp day morning started with prayers, followed by singing devotional songs with Swamini Radhikananda-ji. Classes on the camp theme for grades 6-10 were taught by Swaminiji and Lakshmi auntie taught the children in the younger classes. They were ably assisted in many capacities by the Bala Vihar Sevika-s: **Hema Pandya, Faith Prasad, Smita Bhatia** and **Kousalya Koya**. All food arrangements were meticulously coordinated by **Hema Subburaman** and **Lavanya Prem**.



Before lunch, it was time for Yoga stretches followed by chanting of Chapter 15 Bhagavad Gita. In the afternoon, the children did art projects based on what they learned that day. The final project was a Calendar made with the teachings from Nature covered during the entire camp.



Children also went on a nature walk when they quietly observed everything around them in nature. No camp is complete without playing games. Children enjoyed the games such as Knockout, Four regions etc.

The final hour of the day was the favorite time of all with Swamini ji to sing songs as she played on the guitar. **Rahul Iyengar** and **Aditya Mavalankar** played along on the tabla. Each camp day concluded with *ārati* and prayers.

- Hema Pandya



## Bala Vihar Children write about their camp experience

All the camp attendees enjoyed the learning experience, music, games and the food prepared lovingly by the camp *sevika*-s. *Āditya-Hṛdayam* was taught by Lakshmi auntie during morning prayers.

“The theme of camp this year was “Nature My Teacher.” We learned about different things in nature- twenty-two gurus - and how everything can teach us something. ... **Swamini Amma** told us funny stories, which made everyone laugh... My favorite guru was the lotus, because it rises out of muddy waters and due to the waxy petals, everything slides off of it. I learned from this, that if I am around bad company, I should not let them affect my mind. .... I think that putting together the presentation was the best part overall, because I got a deeper understanding of the guru-s and saying them out loud made me better comprehend them. The arts and crafts were also fun. My favorite art project was the self-watering pot. We cut up old Gatorade bottles and sewed a string through a hole which we made on the cap. On top of that was the plant. The cotton string would absorb the water and then bring it up to the roots of the plant. Overall, camp was a good learning experience for me.”

- **Amoolya Chandrabhatta** (8th grade)

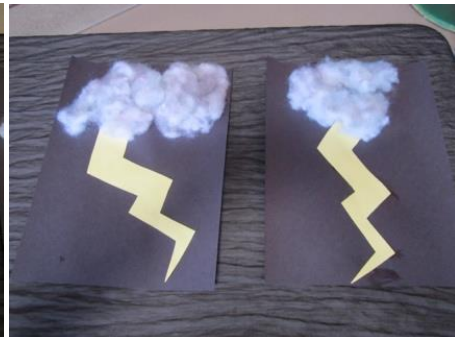
“This year, during camp, I learned about some of the nature guru-s that *Śrī Rāma* saw during the monsoon season. The most important lesson I learned this year was that everyone is the same and to never give up. My favorite guru was the mountain, because it was not only about never giving in to problems, but using those challenges to make myself better. I tried to do that before, but I did not feel as certain as I do now.... I also enjoyed learning interactively with Swamini Radhikananda, with games during learning. Overall, this was one of my favorite camps.

- **Harini Rangarajan** (8th grade)

“I learned about how *Rāma* said what he learnt about from nature and applied to his life. I learnt a lot of nature gurus like mountain, river, lotus, moon, and a lot about clouds. .... My favorite guru was the mountain because it endured difficult experiences and came out better from its obstacles.... I also liked the story about Caesar the Donkey. It was inspiring. I also enjoyed bowling with balls and cups in class... overall, it was a really great camp.

- **Sri Jayanth Rangarajan** (7th grade)









## Discourses by Swamini Radhikananda-ji

- A write-up by *Sumathi Iyengar*

In the first part of the *Jñāna yajña*, Swamini Radhikananda ji addressed the topic "**Ascending the mountain - Gaining strength through life's challenges**". We face many adversities in life.

Divinizing them is to view them as our opportunity to grow to our full potential. Vision gives direction and motivation to our actions. Gurudev's intense desire to gain knowledge of the Truth motivated him to walk the treacherous terrains of Uttarkashi in the bitter cold, not once but twice. The obstacles did not deter him. Most often, our obstacles are in our own mind. Bigger the obstacle, greater the destiny one can achieve by overcoming it. "Climbing the mountain" of adversity is only possible by viewing it not as an obstacle that hinders, but rather as the opportunity for growth towards that highest potential.

I was really looking forward to the second part of Swamini Amma's talk on the topic "**Descending the mountain – Sharing our gifts to help others come up higher**". More often than not, we find ourselves unable or even not willing to give to the world, what we know we can. Most often, it is a fear of failure or that our action may be judged. Swamini Ji struck at that core problem that deters us from being our best. **God does not call the qualified, she said; He qualifies the called.** When we put forth our best effort, God's grace comes into action. We must take each step with faith and the Lord will even make good on our mistakes. Every obstacle is to mold us into that divine Self. We must never make little of our gifts. With the God-given gifts within us, it is necessary to "descend the mountain", that is consider ourselves a part of the totality and perform actions to benefit totality. Swamini Amma gave examples of Puja Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda, and other great saints in Christian, Judaic and Islamic Faiths who literally and metaphorically descended the mountains and shared their vision with the masses uplifting them. Gurudev through His brilliant initiatives of *Gita Jñāna yajña* -s spread the supreme knowledge of *Vedanta*, not for a moment stopped by any obstacles. This is true of great Masters St. Francis, the divine Master Sri Adi Shankaracharya and Sri Ramana Maharishi.

Swamini Rādhikananda's *Jñāna yajña* was inspiring with her heartfelt songs of the Lord and tunes on the guitar. She shared her divine message to stand up to adversities by practicing divine qualities of conviction, kindness, truthfulness and straight-forwardness with unflinching faith in the Lord.



## Pujya Guruji Swami Tejomayananda Jayanti

On June 30<sup>th</sup> CMSD celebrated the 66<sup>th</sup> birthday of our beloved Pujya Guruj. *Guru-Pādukā Pūjā* was performed by Lakshmi auntie and Swaminiji, followed by Bhajans and songs by Swamini Rādhikananda.



This was a particularly special celebration to have Swamini amma present, as she is the direct disciple and an ardent devotee of our beloved Pujya Guruji.



## Guru Purnima celebrations

"Masters cannot be comprehended by the intellect. They are deeper than that".

With this glorious message from our Pujya Gurudev in our hearts, the auspicious occasion of *Guru Pūrṇimā* was eagerly awaited by one and all at *Chinmaya Jyoti*. The celebrations at the ashram began with *Guru-Pādukā Pūjā*. As the evening progressed, the beautiful full moon rose in the sky, covering the ashram with its glorious light. Everyone present could sense the special nature of the occasion and the privilege of being able to pay our respects to the *Guru-Śiṣya paramparā*. After the completion of the *Guru Pādukā Pūjā*, **Chinmaya Dhvani** choir group as well as other *Sevak-s* and *Sevikā-s* offered their devotion and respects in the form of melodious *bhajan-s* in honor of our Gurus. From the soulful "*Guru Brahma rūpa jāno*" to the meditative "*Guru Maharāj Guru Jai Jai*" as well as other wonderful *bhajan-s* and songs, it was a truly blessed celebration. This was followed by partaking the *prasādam* under the beautiful moonlight, prepared by the CMSD family and served by the *Sevak-s* and *Sevika-s*. It was a privilege to be a part of the *Guru Pūrṇimā* celebrations at the Ashram. It was a day to express our immense gratitude and heartfelt love towards our Pujya Gurudev. All were inspired to continue to follow HIS teachings and continue to be in HIS service.



## Gurudev's Mahāsamādhi Ārādhana Day

Chinmaya Mahāsamādhi Ārādhana Day was observed with a Pādūkā pūjā by members of CMSD with great śraddhā. All dressed in traditional Kerala style clothes.

San Diego is a very important place for CM devotees worldwide as our beloved Pujya Gurudev left his Jyoti here twenty-three years ago on Aug 3, 1993 at 5.45 PM.

The **Chinmaya Jyoti** lamp was lit at 5:45 PM, the exact time of Pujya Gurudev's Mahāsamādhi in San Diego 23 years ago. Following this, the *Guru Pādūkā pūjā* was performed with the chanting of the *aṣṭottara-śata-nāmāvali* and 108 *jyoti-arcana*. According to CMSD tradition, 108 *jyoti-s* with Gurudev's OM signature were lit by the *sevika-s* dressed in Kerala sarees. It was a very moving experience.

The celebration culminated with a dance to the song "O Cinmaya..", renewed pledge and sumptuous *mahā prasādam* partaken by all.







## Second CMSD Alumni Meet

Five CMSD CHYK members met with Lakshmi auntie and Sukumar Uncle for the second Alumni meet during the weekend of August 13-14. After morning prayers, they discussed and brainstormed ideas on how to tackle challenges and problems they face in college, with topics covered in the Bala Vihar classes.

“..With the guidance of **Sukumar Uncle**, we also went over case studies of real world situations and the best course of action to take in order to attain the greatest peace. Overall, I enjoyed the 2nd annual CMSD alumni gathering because it gave me a chance to deliberate with other informed minds about real world topics that relate to what we learned in Bala Vihar.”

- **Priya Garcia**





## Satsanga with Dr. Subbarao

“Great souls are like flowers. They are all different, they choose different fields of work and different methods in interacting with the world around them. Yet, their fragrance is there for all who come closer to them. And when in their satsanga, it is hard not to get inspired by each and everything they do.



**Dr Subbarao ji** is one such personality and CMSD members were fortunate to get an opportunity to spend an evening in his Satsanga on August 16<sup>th</sup>. It was a joy beyond expression listening to him and enjoying the beautiful songs authored by him in so many languages. In the modern day world, unfortunately, the messages of all the great religions have been misinterpreted by human kind due to our own false notions and incomplete knowledge. Time and again, this has led to more conflicts, and various great religions, instead of becoming a

source of love and humanity, have become the cause of conflicts. In such a world, a true understanding of what religions mean becomes ever so important. In just a few sentences, Dr SubbaRao explained with such eloquence, how all the great religions of the world have the same message in their essence – “Know thyself. Know your own mind”, and one shall know the meaning of all the religions. In his words, echoed the same sentiments, as propagated by our own Gurudev!!

Dr Subbarao recollected a real life incident, in which some ardent Hinduism followers were prevented from entering a temple due to misplaced notions of Race.

How beautifully, without creating any conflict, he showed the true meaning of Hinduism by travelling long distance to the temple, but doing Puja outside the temple.



Stressing the need of identifying with the whole world in an age where the world has shrunk due to technological advances in communication and Air Travel, he gave a very simple but very powerful chant of “**Jai Jagat**”, and just in a small two-word slogan his message transcends the whole of humanity. What greater example of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* in action, could there be! Added to this, his songs, with verses

composed in so many languages truly help us all to see how all of us are essentially the same.

Throughout his talk, it was evident that by his work and daily life, he is truly living the Motto of our own Chinmaya Mission: “To give maximum happiness to the maximum number for the maximum time”. The biggest service, we all can do to such a Mahatma is listening to them and reflecting on their message. I really feel very fortunate and grateful to be associated with



Chinmaya Mission San Diego, where we get the fortune of such Sat-sangs....”

**-Ashok Bhatia**





## Festival celebrations at CMSD

### Śrī Kṛṣṇa Janmāṣṭamī Celebrations

On Aug 25<sup>th</sup>, CMSD celebrated *Śrī Kṛṣṇa Janmāṣṭamī* with *Śrī Kṛṣṇa aṣṭottara pūjā*, *stotram* and *bhajan-s* followed by *ārati* and *prasādam*.



Devotees joined in the *pūjā* and sang songs in praise of the Lord. All had an opportunity to cradle baby *Kṛṣṇa* having celebrated His birth. All of *Śrī Kṛṣṇa's* favorite goodies –butter, misri, sweets- were offered in *naivedyam* and partaken joyously by the devotees.



## Śrī Gaṇeśa Caturthī

On September 5<sup>th</sup> CMSD celebrated Śrī Gaṇeśa Caturthī with aṣṭottara pūjā, stotram, bhajans followed by āraṭi and prasādam.

Bala Vihar children made Gaṇeśa clay idols and performed the pūjā for the idols under the guidance of Ranga Sampath.

Swaroopā and Raja Kalva performed the Aṣṭottara śatanāma arcanā on this auspicious day with fresh flowers and 108 modaka-s.





## CMSD Bala Vihar 2016-17 session commences

“To help children Learn with Fun; To delight like the Moon and shine like the Sun.”



CMSD Shishu Vihar, Bala Vihar and Adult study sessions on Sundays commenced on August 21, 2016.

The special feature this year was the return to the collective Assembly in the courtyard with all children, teachers and parents. Children sang their favorite song “**Gaṇapati, Gaṇapati..**” with actions and also the **Bala Vihar theme song**. Summer camp attendees reminded everyone of the purpose of Bala Vihar by singing the **Eighteen Ity-s** song by Swami Sivananda.

After the Assembly, the children dispersed to their respective classrooms with their Bala Vihar *Sevak-s* and *Sevikā-s* while the adults gathered in Pranava Nilayam to start the year off with video discourses on the “Logic of Spirituality” by Pujya Gurudev.

Colorful Indian clothes, a lot of enthusiasm, bright smiles and cheerful *Harih Om s* filled the ashram with renewed energy on this first day of CMSD Sunday School. All were ready for yet another year of learning, laughter and *sevā*.

## New CMSD Members speak about their first day at CMSD

CMSD extends a hearty welcome to all new families joining this year.

Anvi really enjoyed her first day in the Bala Vihar. She was super excited dressing up today to come to class. Thank you for the wonderful experience she is having.

- Srinī Mowa

Kimaya had a wonderful first day in Chinmaya Mission and looks forward to coming here every Sunday.

-Kinjal sarhde

Vishruti had a good sec of first few classes and looks forward to coming to Chinmaya Misssion every Sunday.

- Srilekha

Shyam has a very positive experience. We parents along with him love attending the Bala Vihar class every Sunday and look forward to learning all about our heritage, culture and religion.

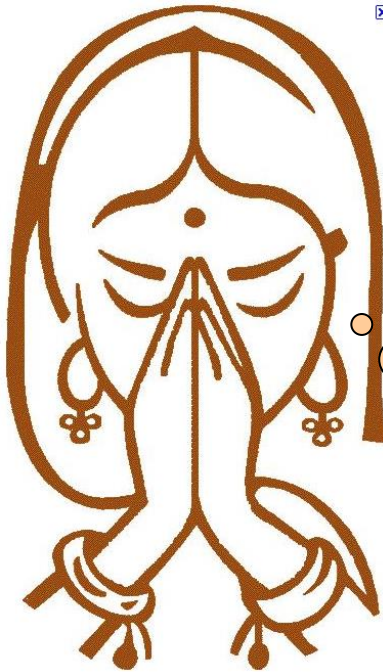
-Archana Krishnamurthy

Sushil had a great time and was very excited all week and looking forward for his next class.

--Kishore Ram

Chinmaya Mission was recommended by our friends. So far the first 2 classes have provided us an introduction to the culture and values by prayers, slokas & lectures.

- Archana



*Lord Ganesa is the abode of all achievements, accomplishments and powers. If we have control over ourselves, possess faith and knowledge, we too can become the abode of all success.*

**-Swami Tejomayananda**

