



LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

Love 7 Sevalaya's News Letter - February 2013 Serve 11 Price-Re.1

Dear Friends,

What a great life! We are celebrating the 150th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda - of a man who died at the age of 39, whose influence on the world and youth has not died down even after more than 100 years of his death! If you read his writings, you can feel his presence in every word he has written. It gives us a feeling as if Swamiji comes out of the book, stands in front of us pointing his fingers towards us and speaking in a loud and bold voice. People who say that books are inanimate objects have not touched Swamiji's books yet! His books, pictures and statues are all proof that he is still living.

Hundreds of thousands of people all over the world have been inspired by Swamiji and are carrying on a lot of good work. Like an expert sculptor turning stone into a beautiful statue, many ordinary people have been transformed by Swamiji's writings and have performed great acts. But did Swamiji have a smooth ride when he was alive and carrying out his activities?

Pratap Chandra Majumdar was a resident of Kolkata and had met Sri Rama Krishna Paramahansa many times. He used to give religious lectures and Swamiji as young Naren had attended his lectures. Once, Naren took part in a play, and his role was that of a monk and the play was performed in front of Majumdar. After the historic address of Swamiji in the Parliament of Religions at Chicago, Swamiji became famous all over USA, and the news slowly reached Kolkata. Many felt happy that a young lad from their town had gone and stormed USA with the spiritual ideas of India. But Majumdar was not happy.

He was jealous that a very junior boy, who used to sit in a corner and listen to his lectures, is a celebrity now in USA. He started talking ill of Swamiji - some of his comments were - Vivekananda only acted as a monk in a street play and he is actually not a monk! If he is a real Hindu monk how did he cross the seas? A traditional monk should not cross the waters and travel abroad.

Some vested interests in America didn't like Swamiji's success in the west as he broke the negative image of India which these vested interests had so carefully created after years of hard work. A very clear positive image of India was emerging in the west, after Swamiji's visit. The land of snakes and elephants and coolies and superstitions was emerging as a land of glowing spirituality, thanks to the work of Swamiji. Majumdar got in touch with those vested interests and started spreading false allegations against Swamiji. As the allegations were "juicy news", the American press didn't bother to check if they were true, but simply published them and tried to tarnish the image of Swamiji. In fact some people believed this news and kept away from Swamiji!

Where is Majumdar today? Did anyone celebrate his 150th birth anniversary? Did he succeed in preventing the great work of Swamiji?

"Even if thousand hands join together, they will not be able to hide the shining sun" - so goes one of the Tamil movie songs.

Thanks & Regards

Murali



V. Muralidharan receiving "Outstanding Environmentalist" Award at the hands of Mr. V.P. Kalairajan, Hon'ble MLA, T. Nagar and Justice S. Jagadeesan, Former Judge of High Court of Madras



Mr. Sathyan, Inspector of Police, Thiruninravur distributing the Prizes sponsored by MTS Telecom for academic toppers

Administration

Mr. N.Jagannathan & Ms. A.Kalaiyarasi attended the 3 day Finance workshop for partner NGOs conducted by VIBHA- US based funding Agency, at Bangalore from 17/01/2013 to 19/01/2013.

Public Relations

Sevalaya organized a programme to celebrate Sevalaya's Silver Jubilee year and Swami Vivekananda's 150th Birth Anniversary at Kumararani Meena Muthiah College of Arts and Science on 11/01/2013. 75 students participated in the program. Mrs.Bhuvaneswari Muralidharan, Hony. Correspondent spoke on the journey of Sevalaya. Mr. T. S. Venkataramani, Hony. Co-ordinator spoke to the students about the essence of Swami Vivekananda's Karma Yoga. Mr. Pavendan and Ms. Duhara, students of the college spoke on Swami Vivekananda.

Mr. V.Muralidharan participated in the Bhogi Awareness Programme on 12/01/2013- Bhogi Varumaiyai Pokki- (Bhogi Remover of Poverty) organized by Exnora International, urging people to donate the usable things which they do not want to their less fortunate brethren. **Worshipful Mayor of Chennai Mr. Saidai. S.Duraiswami was the chief guest.**

Mr. V.Muralidharan participated in the meeting of the National Alliance of Senior Citizen's Association of India as its South Zone Secretary on 12/01/2013.

"Outstanding environmentalist award" was presented to Mr. V. Muralidharan by **Mr. V. P. Kalai Rajan MLA of T. Nagar and Justice S. Jagadeesan, Former Judge of the High Court of Madras** on 20/01/2013 at a function organized by Exnora International.

Mr. V.Muralidharan participated at the preparatory meeting Hindu Spiritual and Service Fair on 20/01/2013 at Sri Ramakrishna Mutt, Mylapore. The Fair will be held from 19/02/2013 to 24/02/2013 at A.M. Jain College, Meenambakkam.

Mr. V.Muralidharan participated in the meeting of Gandhians demanding Total Prohibition, organized by Gandhi Study Centre at Thakkar Bapa Vidyalaya on 29/01/2013.

Mr. V. Muralidharan participated in the meeting organized by National Alliance of Senior Citizen's Association of India on 31/01/2013 to honor the contributors to the book "Elders well being". Dr. T. S. Sridhar, IAS, Addl. Chief Secretary, Govt. of Tamil Nadu was the Chief Guest.

Bharathi Team

Functions

100 students of Chennai & Thiruvallur District participated in the Maths Talent Test conducted by Sevalaya to commemorate the birth Anniversary of Mathematics genius Srinivasa Ramanujan. The function was celebrated



on 09/01/2013. Professor P. R. Vittal, Former principal, RKM Vivekananda College was the Chief Guest and he distributed prizes to the toppers in the Maths Talent Test.

Swami Vivekananda 150th Jayanthi was celebrated on 23/01/2013. Swami Atma Gnanandaji Maharaj of Sri Ramakrishna Mutt, Mylapore was the Chief guest. 1500 students from all over Tamil Nadu participated in the free State level open book examination conducted by Sevalaya. The Chief Guest distributed prizes to the state toppers. Sevalaya students presented a colourful cultural program.

The 64th Republic Day was celebrated on 26/01/2013. **Mr. K. Sathiyam (Inspector of Police, Thiruninravur)** hoisted the National flag. The students of Sevalaya presented cultural programme. The highlight of the cultural events was the juggling of balls and Diabolo tricks by Sevalaya students. The students were trained by the German volunteer Ms. Rosa. The students also sang a song "Don't Worry; Be Happy" with Rosa on the guitar.

A Blood Donation Camp was also organized by Sevalaya in association with the Indian Red Cross Society in which the staff, trustees, alumni, and NSS students of Magna Engineering College who were camping at Sevalaya donated blood. 66 units of blood were collected.

The Farewell party for the outgoing XII standard students was hosted on the day. Mr. V. Muralidharan, Managing Trustee spoke to the alumni and the present students. He invited the alumni to visit the campus more often and get involved in the activities of Sevalaya. XI Std students presented an entertainment show. The event culminated with lighting of candles by all with prayers for good results and best wishes to all the students past and present.

Visits

Mr. Rajeev along with 4 students from Std IX participated in the trip arranged by TERI to Grundfos where they learnt about the methods practiced to conserve Energy in Green building and about different methods to be adopted to minimize water wastage and conserve the existing resources of this precious commodity.

Students of Guru Nanak College accompanied by their Counselor Ms. Samantha presented an entertainment show for students of Sevalaya and the counselor had a session with the girls of Std IX on 18/01/2013.

Students of Chennai Public school taught Origami to std VIII students on 19/01/2013.

Training

On 19/01/2013, Ms. Sheeba, English teacher and Mr. Kumar, Social Science teacher of SBOA Matriculation Hr. Sec School took classes for students of Sevalaya and the classes were observed by staff of Sevalaya. The teachers learnt how English learning could be made more effective through activities and how to incorporate a lot of relevant GK with the content in Social Science. Ms. Selvi, Counselor of SBOA Mat. Hr. Sec School held a session for a few students.