

Featuring:



Pujya  
Swamij's  
Travel  
Abroad to  
the USA



Release of the  
Encyclopedia  
of Hinduism



Events at  
Parmarth



# PARMARTH

H.H. SWAMI CHIDANAND  
SARASWATIJI

SEPTEMBER 2013 NEWSLETTER



# Table of Contents

<b>Pujya Swamiji's Travels Abroad</b>	<b>3</b>
Los Angeles	4
Ojai	5
Malibu	7
San Diego	9
Guru Purnima in Louisville	11
Montreal	14
Manav Seva Mandir, Chicago	16
Wright Institute, Chicago	18
New York City	19
Krishna Janmasthanmi in Pittsburgh	21
Release of the Encyclopedia of Hinduism	23
<b>Recent Events At Parmarth</b>	<b>25</b>
Shri Anna Hazare Shibhir	26
Guru Purnima	27
Distribution and Surveys of the Villages in Laksar	28
GAP meets with His Excellency Governor of UP	29
Gomti Clean-up and Tree Plantation in Lucknow	30
Tree Plantation with Hon'ble DM of Haridwar	32
Lions' Club International	33
"Green" Raksha Bandhan	34
Janmasthanmi Bhagwat Katha	35
<b>Special Announcements</b>	<b>36</b>
Project Hope	36
Ganga Rights Campaign	37
Ganga Action Parivar	40
Volunteer With Us!	41
By God's Grace - Pujya Swamiji's Biography	42
<b>Links</b>	<b>43</b>

# PUJYA SWAMIJI'S TRAVELS TO USA

Whenever Pujya Swamiji travels abroad, His presence is requested at innumerable events, functions and ceremonies. While He is unable to accept most invitations, due to time constraints, He does grace many special events and functions. A few of these are captured here in these next pages. Wherever He goes, His divine presence and wisdom not only inspire those present, but bring light and upliftment to all.





## Los Angeles

Pujya Swamiji arrived into the United States on the 10th of July and gave His first program at Exhale Spa in Los Angeles, hosted by Shiva Rea. It was a beautiful event, filled with kirtan, discourse, question-answer and meditation. The theme was “Let it Go” and it focused on flowing with the Divine Flow of the universe. As Pujya Swamiji said, “The theme for our lives needs to be ‘May Thy Will be Done’ not ‘May My Will be Done.’”

Raoul Goff, the head of Mandala publishing, brought the first complete volume of the international edition of the Encyclopedia of Hinduism to show Pujya Swamiji. All 11 volumes were officially launched on August 25-26, but by July 10, the first volume was in Raoul’s hands and he came to LA from the San Francisco area to have Pujya Swamiji bless the first printed volume.



*[Click here to watch video of Pujya Swamiji's and Sadhvi Bhagawati's talk.](#)*

# Ojai

Pujya Swamiji traveled to Ojai Valley, a beautiful sacred valley outside of Los Angeles, where a small, spiritually-inclined community lives. He gave a beautiful satsang on Living in Peace Not Pieces to an overflowing hall.



Also in Ojai Pujya Swamiji had lengthy meetings with Dastan Khalli the head of CalEarth, regarding plans for the reconstruction of the homes and schools devastated in the Uttarakhand Flood disaster.





Also, serendipitously, the wedding of famous yoga teacher Saul David Raye and Harmony Raye took place on this day and so Pujya Swamiji was able to bless Saul and Harmony on the occasion of their sacred union.





## Malibu

The organization of Bhaktifest who host several beautiful festivals each year in USA – filled with kirtan, yoga, meditation, spiritual discourse, etc. – organized a special satsang program in memory of those who lost their lives in the tragic flooding.





After the discourses and question-answer, Pujya Swamiji led prayers on the banks of the Pacific Ocean for all the lost souls. Kirtan was led by Dave Stringer, Govinda Das and Cooper Madison.







## San Diego

From LA Pujya Swamiji traveled to San Diego where Laura Plumb and Bhava Ram, heads of Deep Yoga, organized a beautiful program at the Seaside Center for Spiritual Living. The event was dedicated to the memory of those who lost their lives in the tragic Uttarakhand flooding.





Laura and Bhava have formed, under Pujya Swamiji's inspiration and direction, Ganga Yoga – a form of yoga that is built upon the teachings and message of Mother Ganga and also which connects people around the world to this holy and sacred source of life.

*Click here to watch video of Pujya Swamiji's talk.*



While Pujya Swamiji was in San Diego, He also had a detailed meeting with Arvin and Eva Patel and Chak Man of China who will all be helping Project Hope ([www.projecthope-india.org](http://www.projecthope-india.org)) to bring green, eco-friendly and sustainable construction technology to the reconstruction of areas devastated in the Uttarakhand floods.

# Guru Purnima in Louisville



The sacred event of Guru Purnima was celebrated in Louisville, Kentucky at the Hindu Temple.

*[Click here to watch video from this celebration.](#)*



# Guru Purnima in Louisville



The next morning a sacred Guru Puja was held at the home of Jayshreeben and Dr. Rajanbhai Amin where devotees offered flowers, and the flower of their hearts, at Pujya Swamiji's holy feet.



Devotees offer flowers and garlands to Pujya Swamiji



# Louisville



The honourable Mayor of Louisville, Mr. Greg Fisher also attended, and presented Pujya Swamiji with a “Key” to the City of Louisville. In his speech, Mr. Fischer said that the people of Louisville feel so blessed that Pujya Swamiji visits them and graces their city with His presence. So they presented Pujya Swamiji with the official “Key” of the City so that it could be Pujya Swamiji’s second home. The Mayor told Pujya Swamiji: “We want you to know how important you are to the City of Louisville. Whenever you come here you inspire so, so many people. We would be very happy to make you an honorary citizen of Louisville.”

Mayor Fisher also brought a special Proclamation from the Government of the State of Kentucky stating that the 20th July would forever be proclaimed as the Day of the Encyclopedia of Hinduism, as it was on that day that the set of the international edition was unveiled in Louisville. Pujya Swamiji gifted Mayor Fisher with a set for the City Library.





## Montreal

Pujya Swamiji traveled to Montreal where He and Pujya Sri Sri Ravi Shankarji spent the day of the 22nd July (the actual date of Guru Purnima) together at a beautiful celebration at the Art of Living ashram near Montreal. There were several beautiful programs over the full day and they spent a divine day in each other's company.







## Chicago

Pujya Swamiji graced the event of the Manav Seva Mandir's Patotsav (anniversary) celebration with His presence, the last weekend of July. On Saturday evening a special satsang/discourse was organized on the theme of "The Eternal Message of Sanatan Dharma."

*[Click here to watch video of Pujya Swamiji's talk.](#)*







On Sunday evening the final Patotsav puja and celebration took place with a special discourse on the meaning of “Patotsav” and how to have a true patotsav in our lives.

*[Click here to watch video of Pujya Swamiji's talk.](#)*





## Wright Institute - Chicago

---

While in Chicago, Pujya Swamiji also graced the Wright Center of Transformational living, led by by Drs. Bob and Judith Wright, with His presence. A wonderful, intimate satsang and question-answer session was held on the theme of Enlightenment.

*[Click here to watch video of Pujya Swamiji's talk.](#)*



## New York City

Puya Swamiji led a special program in New York City at the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan with the theme of “Heart of Compassion: Cultivating Compassion for Ourselves and Our Planet.” The event was held in memory and honor of the victims of the Uttarakhand flooding and included special prayers for the departed souls and for those left behind, devastated. The Uttaranchal Association

of North America also attended. Divine, devotional singer Snatam Kaur filled the room with the sacred sound of her kirtan, and brought a beautiful, sublime energy to the program. Golden Bridge Yoga and Satya Jewelry co-organized the program which concluded with a lively question-answer session in which young children took the lead in asking compelling questions about God and the universe.





# Krishna Janmasthanmi in Pittsburgh



Pujya Swamiji spent Janmasthanmi in Pittsburgh, at the Hindu Jain Temple, of which He is one of the main founders and which was the first Hindu-Jain temple when it opened in 1984 ([\*Click here to download the beautiful book on the Hindu Jain Temple\*](#)). The community was so, so happy to have Him back home with them on this sacred occasion.

# Krishna Janmashthami in Pittsburgh



# Release of the Encyclopedia of Hinduism



Sunday evening the 25th August and Monday morning the 26th August marked a historic moment in the spiritual and cultural history of India: the official launch of the international edition of the Encyclopedia of Hinduism. The launch ceremony was organized and hosted by the University of South Carolina, Columbia, USA and was graced by the presence of numerous scholars, dignitaries, university officials and more.

*[Click here to see the full special newsletter covering this historic event.](#)*



# Release of the Encyclopedia of Hinduism



Several “soft” launches of the Encyclopedia of Hinduism were held before the official launch at the University of South Carolina, including in **Louisville on July 21st** and the **Manav Seva Mandir in Chicago on July 27th**.





# EVENTS AT PARMARTH

Every day the holy waters of Mother Ganga and the sacred atmosphere and othe ashram attract innumerable visitors and pilgrims to Parmarth Niketan. From the daily Ganga Aarti, to spiritual holidays, to various retreats organized at the ashram, revered saints, leaders, industrialists, celebrities and devoted pilgrims of every age, every culture, every religion and every walk of life come daily to the ashram to bathe in the waters of Mother Ganga and be in the holy environment of the Himalayas.



# Shri Anna Hazare Shibhir

Social Leader Shri Anna Hazareji led a several day training camp at Parmarth Niketan, Rishikesh. Hundreds of youth from around the country came together to learn ways from Shri Annaji to be strong, positive leaders of the movement toward transparency and anti-corruption. Pujya Swamiji also addressed the gathering and explained that “It is important to remember we are not anti anyone. We must not be negative. Rather we must model the positive way of being, the corruption-free way of living. We must be models. As Mahatma Gandhi said, ‘You must be the change you want to see in the world.’” you can add also that Annaji spoke about how in his life first he was inspired by Swami Vivekananda and now he is so inspired by Pujya Swamiji “Un se prerna milta hai.”





## Guru Purnima

Guru Purnima was celebrated on July 22nd, a day which also marked the 48th Nirvana Mahotsav celebrations of Pujya Swami Shukdevanandji Maharaj, the founder of Parmarth. For five days, a Shri Ramacharitra Manas Paath was performed, as well as special yagnas, pujas, bhandaras and bhajans on the morning of Guru Purnima.

# Distribution and Surveys of the Villages in Laksar

From 6-14th August, Project Hope volunteers surveyed, set-up medical camps and distributed much needed relief materials to the villages in the area of Laksar.

Many hectares of farm land in these villages have been submerged by heavy flooding, washing away entire farm lands, people's livelihoods and disconnecting them from connectivity to their nearby city to receive ration material and fulfill their basic daily needs.

With waterborne illness and skin disease running rampant, water purification Shudhu tablets were distributed by Project Hope volunteers. Medical camps were carried out in these villages and essential ration and animal food supply were provided to families who had lost their source of livelihood and whose livestock were struggling to survive.





## Ganga Action Parivar meets with His Excellency Governor of UP

On August 12th, a special meeting with His Excellency the Governor of Uttar Pradesh Shri BL Joshiji was held at the Governor House in Lucknow. The meeting was blessed by Pujya Swamiji and led by Shri Ram Mahesh Mishraji, dedicated member of Ganga Action Parivar and Programme Director of Parmarth Niketan, in which rishikumars and GAP volunteers led a prayer for world peace and environmental preservation.

His Excellency Shri BL Joshiji shared how Pujya Swamiji and GAP have truly inspired him and how Pujya Swamiji's vision and leadership have been pivotal in raising collective consciousness and bringing all together in Lucknow, as well as all over the nation and the world. He pledged to serve the mission of preserving and protecting Mother Ganga and the environment in his capacity as Governor.





## Gomti Clean-up and Tree Plantation in Lucknow

On August 13th, thousands of students and youth from many of Lucknow's schools and universities gathered on the banks of the River Gomti to form a human chain, symbolizing unity between different faiths and backgrounds and their joined commitment to restore a free-flowing and unpolluted River Gomti, their city's main source of fresh water.

The gathering was organized and hosted by Lok Adhikar Mandal and supported by Lucknow University, NSS and NCC Scouts, Ganga Action Parivar and many other governmental and non-governmental organizations.

Pujya Swamiji was supposed to grace the occasion with His presence, but due to programs in USA He was unable to make it. A large team of GAP however traveled to Lucknow to take part in the programs.





The students were addressed by Respected Maulana Dr. Kalbe Sadqji, Justice Kamleshwar Nathji, Justice SC Vermaji, Padamshree Prakash Singhji, and many other revered and eminent leaders, who congratulated them on being examples for the world and encouraged them to utilize the power of their youth to bring about positive change and preserve the environment.

A clean-up of Gomti's banks was conducted by the youth, and plans were discussed to hold clean-ups once a month, with members of the NSS and NCC scouts adopting small stretches of the river and taking responsibility to keep it clean and green.

The programme was followed by a tree plantation programme where members of GAP, Lok Adhikar Manch and the Hon'ble DM of Lucknow planted a tree in the honour of Pujya Swamiji and His vision for a clean and green Gomti and a clean and green India.



# Tree Plantation with Hon'ble DM of Haridwar

On August 14th, Inspired by GAP's "Green Pilgrimage" initiative, the Hon'ble DM of Haridwar Ms. Nidhi Pandey and BHEL-Haridwar invited GAP to join as one team with them in making Haridwar clean and green. This kick-off of the Haridwar Green Drive was also a follow-up to a meeting held between the DM and GAP on August 8th.

The tree plantation was held in the large campus of BHEL, a corporation that has for many decades utilized their corporate social responsibility to support important environmental initiatives to protect Mother Earth and Mother Ganga.

A short meeting was held after the plantation to discuss future plans for sustaining the green movement. Members of the community, local ashrams and media joined to share their suggestions with the Hon'ble DM.

Plans were also discussed with the DFO-HW to do more plantations along the peripheries of Haridwar to prevent man and animal conflict and to encourage social forestation, beautification and long-term maintenance and care of the planted trees.





# Lions' Club International

---

On the 18th of August 60 officers of Lions' Club International visited Parmarth to attend the Ganga Aarti, led by Lions' Club International Vice President Shri Naresh Agrawal.





## “Green” Raksha Bandhan

This year the Rishikumars of the Parmarth Gurukul celebrated a “green” raksha bandhan when, in addition to performing traditional pujas and ceremonies, they also planted trees in the ashram and tied rakhi around the ashram’s trees, symbolizing that they will care for the trees and Mother Earth as manifestations of the Divine Feminine.



# Janmashthami Bhagwat Katha

From August 25th-31st, kathakar Shri Chetan Bhai Sata of Dwarka gave Bhagwat Katha at Parmarth, during the week surrounding Krishna Janmashthami. Over 150 yattris participated in the daily program of katha and bhajan.



## Special Announcements

# PROJECT HOPE

To learn about our relief and rehabilitation efforts, and to learn how you can help, please visit [www.projecthope-india.org](http://www.projecthope-india.org).

Upon seeing the massive amount of devastation caused by the June Uttarakhand floods and subsequent landslides, Pujya Swamiji, the Founder and inspiration behind Project Hope, without wasting any time, geared into action.

Project Hope has brought together various organizations, NGOs, administration, dedicated volunteers and doctors as one team with one theme—serving to facilitate rescue efforts, provide relief to pilgrims and local residents and finally to help bring long-term rehabilitation and reconstruction of some of the most severely affected regions.



# GANGA RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

To add your name to the petition, please visit [www.gangaaction.org](http://www.gangaaction.org).

The National Ganga Rights Movement, which is being spearheaded by Ganga Action Parivar, is advocating for a National Ganga Rights Act to protect and restore one of the world's most precious and beloved river systems.

Mother Ganga is polluted by nearly 3 billion litres of sewage and chemical waste every day. Her rights are being violated, and in turn, our rights to clean water are being violated. People are getting sick. Children are dying. It's time we say no more. Ganga has the right to flow in Her clean, pristine form. Ganga's Rights are Our Rights.



Present environmental laws, which regulate the amount of allowable harm that may occur to ecosystems, have not proven adequate to protect India's National River, which also sustains the lives of some 500 million Indians. The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act of 1974, for example, calls for substantial jail time and fines for repeated polluters, yet pollution levels within the Ganga have grown progressively worse.

The proposed National Ganga Rights Act takes its precedence from other nations. Rights have been bestowed upon nature within the Constitution of Ecuador, have been granted to the Whanganui River in New Zealand, have been recognised for Mother Earth in Bolivia, and have been mandated within municipalities including Pittsburgh, USA.

The Act is necessary because laws decreeing the rights of nature also grant legal authority to residents and governments to enforce and defend those rights. These laws change the status of ecosystems from being regarded as property to being treated as rights-bearing entities.

# Special Announcements



Says Pujya Swamiji, Founder of Ganga Action Parivar, "If Ganga dies, India dies. If Ganga thrives, India thrives. In violating Her, we are violating basic human rights, and we are putting at risk the bright futures our children so greatly deserve. Now is the time for action. Let us all stand up and say, it's time for the National Ganga Rights Act."

The National Ganga Rights Act is proposed with the purposes of establishing, securing, and defending the inalienable and inherent rights of the Ganga River, its tributaries, and watershed, and the rights of the people of India to a healthy, thriving river basin. Further, the Act establishes the rights of the people of India and their governments to defend and enforce the rights of the Ganga.

*To add your name to the petition, please visit*  
[www.gangaaction.org](http://www.gangaaction.org).



# Special Announcements



# GANGA ACTION PARIVAR

*Clean Ganga, Green Ganga, Serve Ganga.*



Officially launched in April of 2010 by the hands of Pujya Swamiji, H.H. the Dalai Lama and numerous other saints and dignitaries, Ganga Action Parivar is a global family of professionals, environmental engineers, scientists, activists, government leaders and devoted volunteers from all across the world dedicated to serving Mother Ganga. It is a sincere effort to provide effective and sustainable solutions for the millions of people whose lives depends on the purity of the river.

GAP is working in numerous areas - from “Grand Plan” scale to “Ground Plan” scale - to address the many issues that face Ganga and her tributaries, such as creating solid waste and wastewater management programs, building toilets, planting trees, cleaning and beautifying holy pilgrimage sites, spreading awareness on how to be eco-friendly, creating alternative environmentally-friendly energy plans, and so much more. GAP’s projects have been blessed and supported by saints, scholars, yogis, economists, scientists, environmentalists and agriculturalists, among many others.

Log-on to [www.gangaaction.org](http://www.gangaaction.org) to learn more about Ganga, about the issues, and about the programs and projects GAP is working on. Interact and share your ideas, and find out how you can truly help no matter where you are in the world! Together as a family, we can restore, protect and maintain a free-flowing and unpolluted Ganga!



## VOLUNTEER WITH US!

Parmarth Niketan is happy to announce a 3-month (minimum) residential service program for those interested in engaging themselves in seva (selfless service)!

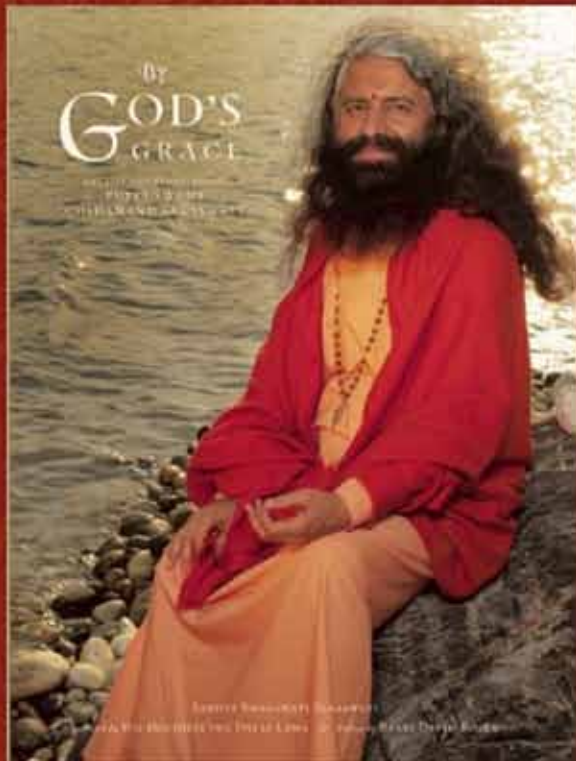
Volunteer in Parmarth and Ganga Action Parivar's numerous projects to restore and protect Ma Ganga, save the girl child, help animals, and much more. As our projects grow, so has our need for professional, inspiring, and productive volunteers who can work with us in our mission to achieve a greener, cleaner, and safer tomorrow for all humanity.

If you would like to get involved and volunteer in any one of our projects, please download our Volunteer Application Packet and send us your application.

[\*Click here to download the Volunteer Application Packet.\*](#)



# Special Announcements



## BY GOD'S GRACE

*The Life & Teachings of Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati*

A gorgeous coffee table biography of Pujya Swamiji has been published entitled *By God's Grace*. Upon its release, this book held the NUMBER ONE position as a best-seller in Amazon.com's Hinduism section, out of a total of over 17,000 books!

It is a nearly 300 page coffee table book filled with exquisite photos of Ganga, the Himalayas, and all of the saints and world leaders with whom Pujya Swamiji has spent the first 60 years of His life. However, it is more than just a beautiful beautiful book. It also tells the inspiring, uplifting and transformative stories of Pujya Swamiji's whole life — from meeting His Guru at the tender age of eight, to His youth filled with intense sadhana in the Himalayan forests and jungles, including standing on one leg for 11 hours a day.

*By God's Grace* then goes on to beautifully describe Pujya Swamiji's arrival into Rishikesh and choice to stay there, followed by the

history of His life at Parmarth Niketan, first as a young student and then as head of one of India's largest spiritual institutions. You will read about His travels around the world, touching and teaching people of all religions, all cultures and all walks of life. The book further details Pujya Swamiji's unparalleled projects and achievements including the eleven volume Encyclopedia of Hinduism, the construction of three ashrams in the sacred land of Lake Mansarovar and Mt. Kailash in Tibet, widespread tsunami relief work and now an unprecedented project to clean, preserve and protect the 2500 kilometer divine Ganga.

Lastly, even though for those blessed to know Him, we all understand that His life is His message, the book also includes special "teaching" sections in between the chronological chapters. Each special teaching spread takes one of Pujya Swamiji's most fundamental teachings and shares it, in His own words, through His own voice, on gorgeously illustrated pages.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama has written the foreword and shares His own thoughts and experiences with Pujya Swamiji.

This book is perfect for personal reading and for gracing the top of your coffee table, and it is also the perfect gift for any friend or loved one who, whether they know Pujya Swamiji personally or not, is looking for a glimpse into the life of one of history's truest, wisest, deepest, funniest and most down-to-earth spiritual leaders.

Laugh, cry, look at yourself and your life in a brand new way.

**Please visit [www.bygodsgracebook.org](http://www.bygodsgracebook.org) for more information about the book and how to order.**



# Links

Please visit us on the web for videos and music from Parmarth Niketan, as well as information on upcoming programs and seva opportunities.



# Links

Thanks to Bhakti Sagar,  
you can now watch videos of Pujya Swamiji online!  
Click on the videos below to watch...



Enlightenment:  
Living in the Light



Special Guru Purnima  
Discourse



The Heart of  
Compassion



Let It Go: Finding Freedom  
in the Divine Flow



Patotsav



A Divine Life - Pujya Swamiji's  
60th Birthday Film

...and click here to see even more videos online!