

COMMUNITY

Chinmaya Mission's benefit banquet on August 20

Chicago: Swami Tejomayananda, head of Chinmaya Mission Worldwide, will be visiting Chicago next week for a benefit event on August 20 at 6:30 p.m. A special banquet will be held at the Stonegate Banquet Center, 2401 W. Higgins Rd, Hoffman Estates, IL, according to a press note issued by the mission.

It says that being a benefit event, the banquet is for registrants and invitees. All are welcome to register and attend the banquet. Swamiji will address an audience of community philanthropists and members, who understand the value of Chinmaya Mission and its contribution to the society. The principal theme of Swamiji's address will be, "Vedas' Vision of Peace, Prosperity and Happiness." It will be followed by dinner, with Swamiji.

Chinmaya Mission was founded in India by devotees of Pujya Swami Chinmayananda in 1953, "to provide to individuals, from any background, the wisdom of Vedanta and the practical means for spiritual growth and happiness, enabling them to become positive contributors to society."

After Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda attained Mahasamadhi in 1993, the Mission has been administered by the Central Chinmaya Mission Trust and headed by Swami Tejomayananda. Out of the 36 vibrant centers in the USA, the Mission in Chicago, with two major centers, Badri in the west and south-west and Yamunotri in the north and north-west has played a signif-

icant role in catering to the cultural and spiritual needs of the community. Mission activities are guided by the resident Acharya Swami Sharanananda and Acharya Shanker Pillai.

There are several trained and devoted *sevakas* and *sevikas* of the Mission, assisting the

acharyas in carrying out mission's programs at various levels.

Swami Sharanananda has also taken responsibility for the activities of the Mission, in the near by Indiana region, under Chinmaya Mission NW Indiana.

The core activities of the Mission include weekly *Bala Vihar* for youth, from grades Pre-school-12, adult

study groups and various activities for college students and young professionals. Over 950 children from 500 families attend the weekly activities and over 300 children attend the summer youth camps held at the mission centers in Chicago. The curriculum for all these programs is geared towards fostering value-based living from the wisdom of *Vedanta*.

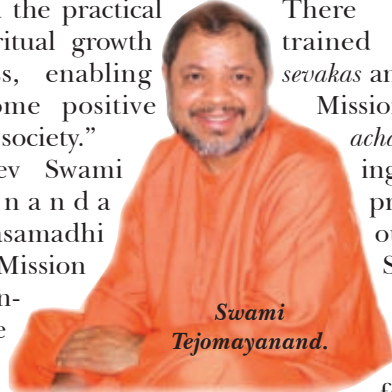
These programs are offered to children and adults at an age-appropriate manner, through the medium of stories, instructional classes, chanting and *bhajans*, discourses and group discussions. Periodic retreats and discourses by visiting *acharyas*, from other mission centers, add even more to the benefit of the members of our community. Various festivals

are celebrated to impart the cultural traditions to children and adults.

In addition to the weekly activities, Chinmaya Mission extends itself in organizing inter-faith events, bringing together different religious groups for mutual discussions and understanding. SAT, Continental Math League, Math Counts, various languages, Sanskrit, dance, music and yoga classes are also conducted by renowned teachers in the Chicagoland area at Chinmaya Mission centers.

For further details, please visit our website at www.chinmaya-chicago.org or www.chinmaya-yamunotri.org.

To attend and support this event, please RSVP to Acharya Shanker Pillai at (630) 789-6607 or Rajul Bhalala at (847) 302-2383.



Swami Tejomayananda.

Wheeling Temple hosts reception to Lalji Maharaj

By GIRISH PATEL

Wheeling, IL: Shri Swaminarayan Temple here organized and celebrated with great joy and enthusiasm various divine programs during the long awaited arrival of Bhavi Acharya of Shree

Maharaj was given a grand reception and welcome as per the religious traditions of Shri Swaminarayan Sampraday, with music, dance and fireworks. This was followed by discourses by Santos and P.P. Shri Lalji Maharaj, fol-

lowed by the *Aarti* and *Mahaprasad*. On August 1, more than 650 *Haribhaktos* attended P.P. Lalji Maharaj's program at the temple. All the programs were web-cast live in the USA and in India.

Laxminarayan Dev Vadtal Gadi P.P. 108 Shree Lalji Maharaj Shree Nrigendra-prasadji Maharaj at the temple during July 28-August 1.

On July 31, a grand divine welcome was carried out in the temple for his arrival by over 350 *Haribhaktos* of the temple and organized a divine *Shobhayatra*, and P.P. Shri Lalji

On both the days P.P. Shri Lalji Maharaj along with P.P. Santos gave *Prasad* to all *Haribhaktos* in the dining hall of the temple.

P.P. Shri Lalji Maharaj would be visiting various Vadtal Chapters in various cities for the propagation of the Shri Swaminarayan Bhagawan's teachings.

Jain Society celebrates 17th anniversary

By VIPUL SHAH

Bartlett, IL: Jain Society of Metropolitan Chicago (JSMC) celebrated the 17th anniversary of Jain Temple (Deräsar) here for five days from July 7 to July 11. It was a milestone event as it was the first anniversary of the temple after its expansion and reno-

addressed the gathering with his opening remarks and spoke about the future plans of the JSMC.

The highlight of the event was a grand procession of *Bhaktāmar Maha Mantra* followed by unveiling ceremony of renovated marble *Upāshrayā*. *Upāshrayā* is a

Gurudev Shri Jinchandraji. The entire Jain Sangh of Chicago including all sects of Jainism participated in the holy event with joy and pride.

Bhaktāmar Maha Pujan was conducted by Shri Narendrabhai Nandu and his group.

On last day of the event a sacred Vidhi of Bhagawan



Wheeling Swaminarayan Temple welcomed Shree Lalji Maharaj Shree Nrigendra prasadj Maharaj.



Left: *Bhaktāmar Maha Mantra Poojan Vidhi*; Right: Devotees performing *Maha Aarti*.



— All Photos by Asian Community News Services USA.

vation as part of its *Pratishtha* in 2009.

This auspicious ceremony was blessed by Munishri Jinchandraji Maharaj of Tithal, Gujarat. A well-known *Vidhikār* of Mumbai, India, Shri Narendrabhai Nandu, opened the event by *Maha Aarti*. Illinois State Representative of Dist. 55 Randy Ramey and Dr. Dipak Jain, former Dean of Kellogg School of Management, inaugurated the event by lighting a traditional oil lamp. Dr. Jain gave an inspiring speech on humanity and education. Munishri Jinchandraji Maharaj's speech on the subject of *Baikta Apaavao Mauikta* (liberation through devotion) was very impressive. JSMC chairman. Prabodh Vaidya

place of worship and meditation (*Sādhanā*). Jainism's two most sacred *Maha Mantras* — *Navakār Mantra* and *Bhaktāmar Mantra* are carved



L-R: Dr. Mukesh Doshi (Board of Trustees, JSMC), Muni Shri Jinchandraji Maharaj (Gurudev), and Prabodh Vaidya (chairman, JSMC).

on a marble and a granite stone in the *Upāshrayā*. These *Maha Mantras* were unveiled with the blessings of

Deri Dedication was conducted by Shri Narendrabhai Nandu followed by 18 *Abhishek Pujan*.

In all, about 1,200 Jains from around the Chicago attended the five-day event. JSMC president Atul Shah expressed his gratitude to all those, who attended the event and helped raise \$750,000 in pledges through various donations and sponsorships.

The JSMC Mela 2010 will be held on August 15 to celebrate India's Independence Day and Temple's 17th Anniversary. The major attraction at the mela will be a vendor fair, a fun fair, games, and live entertainment. For more information, please visit JSMC Web site - www.jsmcnline.org.



Youns girls carrying *Kumbh* as part of the celebration.