

Gurudarshanam

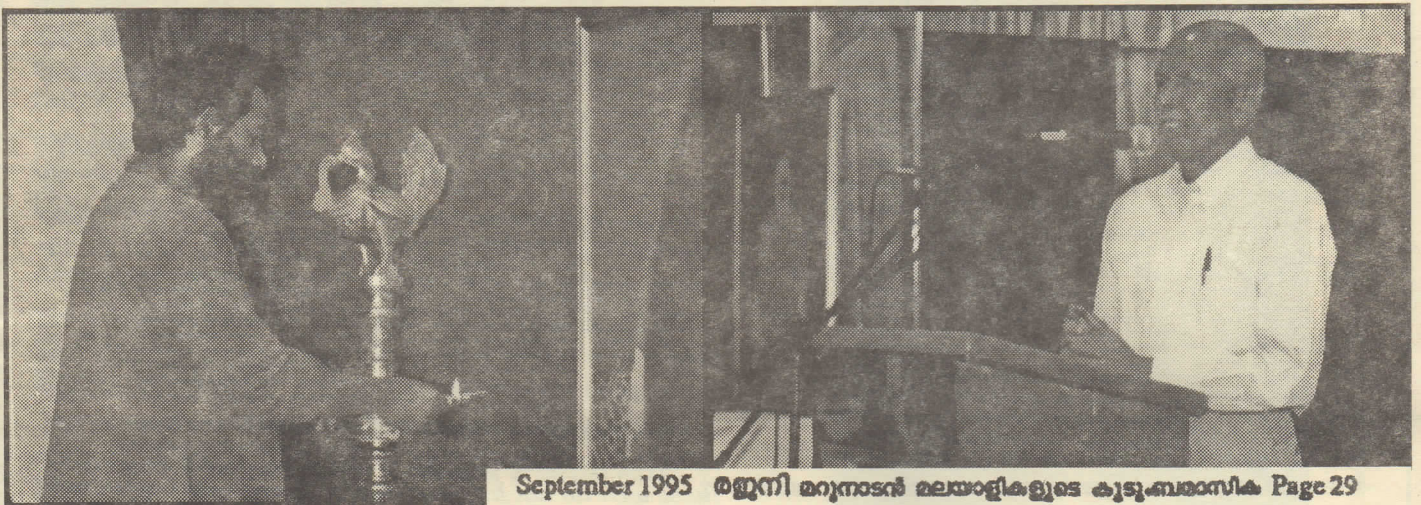


Vol. V. No. 1

DECEMBER 1995

INDIA MONITOR, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1995

Immortal Light Of Universal Love



September 1995 മമ്മൂന്നി മന്യനാടൻ മലയാളികളുടെ കൂടുമ്പരസിക Page 29

INDIA ABROAD

Sree Narayana Conven

Sree Narayana Association North America organized the National Sree Narayana Convention

ശ്രീനാരായണഗുരുവിന്റെ

അമരചൈതന്യം അമേരിക്കയിൽ

മമ്മൂന്നി ലേഖകൻ



അമേരിക്കയിലെ പെൻസിൽ വാനിയോ സ്റ്റേറ്റിൽ മനോഹരമായ പൊക്കാനോ മലകൾ. അവയിടയിലാണ് 'ഔണ്ട് എയറി ലോഡ്ജ്' (Mount Airy Lodge) ആധുനിക സുഖസൗകര്യങ്ങളോടുകൂടിയ ഒരു ഹോട്ടൽ. സുഖകരമായി അതിലെത്തുന്നു. ഇവിടെയാണ് അതിൽ മുഴുകുന്ന ആളുകൾ വന്നുചേരുന്ന ആ ലോഡ്ജിൽ ഇരുന്നെ

സെപ്റ്റംബർ 1,2,3 എന്നീ തീയതികളിൽ ആ മലയാളികളിൽ പണ്ട് സഹൃദയപൂർവ്വം വടക്കെ അമേരിക്കയിലെ ശ്രീനാരായണ അസോസിയേഷൻ (Sree Narayana Association of North America, Inc.) എന്ന സംഘടനയാണ്. അമേരിക്കയുടെ വിവിധഭാഗങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നായി ധാരാളം മലയാളികൾ കൂടുമ്പരസരമേ. ആ പടങ്ങളിൽ പങ്കെടുക്കുന്നു. വിശ്വമത

കു. വന്നുചേർന്നിരുന്നു. സാധി സമാന്തരം, പ്രൊഫ. എ.കെ. സാന്നിധ്യം വരാൻ ആ വിശിഷ്ടാതിഥികൾ.

സെപ്റ്റംബർ ഒന്നാംതീയതി കുന്നമമ്മൂന്നി കണ്ടിൻഷൻ ആയി. അമേരിക്കയിൽ ആദ്യമായി കഴിയുന്ന ശ്രീനാരായണ കണ്ടിൻഷൻ അതിഥികളെയും പ്രതിനിധികളെയും സന്ദർശനം ചെയ്തുകൊണ്ട് ശ്രീനാരായണ അസോസിയേഷൻ പ്രസിഡൻ്റ് അന്നു പലമാർക്കാട്

SEPTEMBER 22, 1995 NEWS INDIA-TIMES PAGE 27

Narayanites' National Convention Held

POCONO, Pennsylvania: The immortal light of universal love preached by Sree Narayana Guru was rededicated by Sree Narayana Association of North America

both explained the teachings of Sree Narayana Guru. Seminars and symposia were held on Sree Narayana Guru's life

teachings and their impact on the community. The importance of the convention and the implications of it were explained by the president

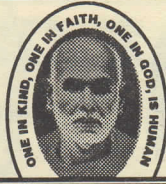
of Sree Narayana Association of North America, Udayabhana. The general secretary of the association, Gopinatha Panicker, proposed a vote of thanks. Highlight of the

The convention ended with fine variety entertainment program presented by the participants.

The aim of Sree Naraya

Monthly Newsletter of the Sree Narayana Association of North America, P.O. Box 471, Glen Oaks, New York 11004, U.S.A.





PRESIDENT
Prabhakaran Udayabhanu
(516) 242-3977

VICE PRESIDENT
A. Venugopal
(516) 775-4175

GENERAL SECRETARY
Gopinatha Panicker
(718) 343-7755

JT. SECRETARY
Prasannakumari Ramankutty
(718) 347-3870

TREASURER
Govindan K. Janardhanan
(914) 472-0444

ASSISTANT TREASURER
K.P. Balan
(718) 983-6827

MEMBERS
Prasanna Babu
(718) 816-9812

V. Krishnankutty
(516) 669-1053

S.S. Prakash
(718) 370-3007

Kala Madhu
(718) 648-5987

N.S. Rajeevan
(718) 347-8124

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

CHAIRMAN
Dr. Raju K. Pullarkat
(718) 698-6213

MEMBERS
Govindan K. Janardhanan
(914) 472-0444

Vilasini Madhu
(718) 615-1023

Gopinatha Panicker
(718) 343-3966

Upendra Panicker
(718) 720-3966

Lalitha Radhakrishnan
(914) 937-6794

C.M. Sathyanathan
(516) 587-9473

Prabhakaran Udayabhanu
(516) 242-3977

K. Velayudhan
(516) 957-4781

AUDITORS
N. Damanan
(718) 347-2852

Sujatha Somarajan
(718) 464-1854

Editorial Note

A Humble Steady Step

Almost all of us left our native land in search of a better life. For the vast majority of us, the driving force has been the yearning for a bright future for our children, born and yet to be born. But, many did not realize that the term "bright" in this context will have different shallow shades.

We did not know what was in store for us in this land of "affluence and opportunities." We all had many hopes and aspirations.

We found ourselves, suddenly, in the midst of cross purposes and cross currents, drifting away from our moorings; wives, husbands, children, and others all alike. Each one is busy and burnt out in the vagaries of life, some real and many unreal and imaginary.

We watch the glorification of violence, immorality, indulgence, and indiscretion on the TV and video. We witness the same and worse madness in the day-to-day life. The style and scenario are tempting even to the astute adults, let alone to the budding young people.

We think, and we are told, that we have to have a via media or a mix of both of our culture and heritage and the western ways of life and culture. Why? Can't we stick to our principles, values, and ethics? Do we have to sacrifice our sagacious way of life and belief to impress those who do not know or care to know and understand the pristine purity of our cherished morals and values?

We hear and see that whatever makes one "happy and comfortable" is acceptable and tolerable. That is how the mesmerism of materialism is flourishing unbound. Interestingly, every thing is done under the garb of liberty, freedom of expression, and individual rights.

How close or far away are we in relation to our dreams about life? Do we have the courage and serenity to make an honest evaluation and channel our efforts to make life for us and others meaningful and purposeful, spiritually and materially?

Fortunately for us, we have the fountain of knowledge and practical wisdom of immortal hermit Sree Narayana Guru to draw upon for solace and comfort.

We hope and pray that Gurudarshanam will be coming in your way, every month, discussing these matters and much more. Please do write and let us know what do you want us to deal with and write. Let us share our thoughts and noble deeds to spread Sree Narayana Guru's words of love, equality, unity, and understanding.

Dr. Nanu M. Kandiyil

Message from Chairman

Board of Trustees

Dear friends:

During the past couple of years, our Association has seen a phenomenal growth. Having members from many different parts of the United States, our Association has become a true national organization. The spectacular success of the first National Sree Narayana Convention in early September has further strengthened the national character of the Association. The need to revive our Newsletter to keep in touch with all the members and well wishers has been felt for some time. With this issue of Gurudarshanam we are fulfilling that desire.

We hope to provide a forum for discourse and discussion for our members.

I take this opportunity to invite every one to contribute to the publication with news, ideas, and suggestions.

Sincerely,
Raju Pullarkat

We invite readers' contributions to Gurudarshanam. Articles, opinions, and ideas, on Sree Narayana philosophy, teaching, and related matters are welcome.

We also invite news items on birthdays, marriages, anniversaries, business activities, and such other matters.

We invite our women and youth members to contribute. We will have exclusive "Ladies Corner" and "Youth Corner" in Gurudarshanam for them.

We hope to publish regular columns from Prof. M.K. Sanu and Swami Sookshmananda in our coming issues.

Our Address:

GURUDARSHANAM
P.O. Box 471,
Glen Oaks, N.Y. 11004

Publication of the contributions are subject to the approval of the Publication Committee. Unpublished materials will be returned only if a self-addressed and stamped envelope is enclosed.

A Humble New Direction for Our Future

We have ventured into a new way of preserving our identity and culture for the future of our community by way of organizing the First National Sree Narayana Convention. The word convention may not be the right term. This was not a convention, where we compare with other communities. This was a family get together, more so than a convention. Our aim was not to define or redefine the word convention but to learn and understand about ourselves and our spiritual leader.

From the opinion and statements made by our participants and guests, I have very strong reason to believe that our primary objective was well attained with the blessings of Narayana Guru. Our honorable guests were truly great souls. The wisdom and energy they transformed in us shall be of great help for us for the future projects and day to day functions.

This was a first, not only for us, but for all the Sree Narayanites outside of Kerala. We were not perfect. We could have made a lot of improvements with our resources and limitations. We should analyze and make amendments and find avenues for improvements and put them to use in the future.

Time was a major factor in our scheme of operations. We had to put in a lot of time to plan, prepare, coordinate, practice, and execute the work. Most of it was done wisely, and some of it not so. However, the talents combined with hard work paid off handsomely.

Our talents and ability may be limited when considered on an individual basis. But when we put them together in an organized way, with an aim which is noble and just, and nourish it with our dedication and hard work, we can do a lot. We proved it at Mount Airy Lodge at Pocono. The skeptics and the Judas' have failed. It is not important who is at the helm of the action. But it is important to know what we can achieve when we unite.

Let us think before we plan. Estimate the positive and the negative to the community before each and every decision. After the deci-

sion, plan and execute. Let us look for positive results for the community and not for individuals. When a plan is executed and the results are positive and productive the people at the helm may be rewarded with name and fame. By the same token, they will undoubtedly be blamed for the failures. These are the by products of any and every democratic process. Let our actions be generative of positive results.

My sincere thanks to each and every Sree Narayanite of this country. I thank you for your presence and prayers. I thank all the members of Sree Narayana Association of North America for all the hard work. I thank all the members of the advisory council, and the Board of Trustees for their advice and guidance. Above all, I thank you for your blessings.

I am very grateful to the younger generation for being an example of excellent, disciplined and honorable conduct. You have showed that we can trust you with responsibility. I salute you all.

Now let us be on the march. We know that we can do a lot with our cooperation and dedicated hard work. Let us not rest on the glory of this success. Let us plan for the future and get into action. We have a lot of distance to cover. This is the time to set our next goal and work for that, with all our ability.

Every action should be judged by its intentions, not by its results. If the intention is right the result will be rewarding. This is not a KURUKSHETRA. But it is a DHAR-MASHKETRA. We have to separate good from bad, the ripe from the rotten. We have to keep our values of truth and honesty. But we don't have to annihilate or intimidate any one. Let us follow the message of the *universal love* of Guru, our spiritual guiding light, in all our actions.

**LET THE BLESSINGS
OF GURU BE WITH US ALL**

P. Udayabhanu
President

Receptions to Distinguished Guests

DR. S. SANTHAKUMAR

The renowned psychiatrist and author Dr. (Prof.) S. Santhakumar was given a warm reception by the Association at Temple B' Nai, Elmont, New York on July 30, 1995. He was visiting the U.S. to attend a professional Psychiatric Conference. Addressing the devotees Dr. S. Santhakumar narrated his experience in foreign countries. He exhorted the devotees to hold the traditions and values of our society. He urged them to always think of our people in the homeland and do whatever is possible to help them. Dr. Nanu M. Kandiyil introduced Dr. Santhakumar. Mr. P. Udayabhanu welcomed the distinguished guest.

MR. B. C. JOJO

Kerala Kaumudi's Chief of News Bureau Mr. B.C. Jojo was accorded a warm reception on July 15, 1995 at Mugal Palace, Queens, New York. Addressing the enthusiastic audience Mr. Jojo explained how Kerala Kaumudi has been instrumental in helping the community and propagating Sree Narayana Philosophy. He thanked the Association for its work in this direction. He also thanked the Association for honoring him.

Messrs P. Udayabhanu, N.S. Thampi, Sasi Divakaran, and K.P. Radhakrishnan spoke and welcomed Mr. Jojo.

Gurudeva Samadhi

Gurudeva Samadhi was observed by the Association on Sept. 22, 1995. A large gathering attended at Kerala Cultural Center Queens, New York. Prayers were offered by the devotees. Messrs P. Udayabhanu and N.S. Thampi spoke remembering Sree Narayana Guru.

NOTICE

Henceforth the information and invitation to the Association's monthly prayer service will be published in Gurudarshanam. No separate invitation will be issued. We hope this will be welcome.

Gopinatha Panicker
Secretary

Sree Narayana Guru

By Swami Sookshmananda

Sree Narayana Guru was born on 20th August 1854 at Vayalvaram house in Chempazhanthy a village about fifteen kilometer north of Trivandrum, the Capital city of Kerala State. His father was Madan Asan a village school teacher, and mother was Kutty Amma. As a young child, Nanu, as he was then called, was a rebel in religions matters. He kept company with people belonging to lower castes. He ate fruit meant for the deities before the pooja itself! He studied the basic lessons in Sanskrit and occupied himself in agriculture and cattle-grazing. Very often he spent his time alone. By the time he was eighteen, he had become a devotee of God. He visited the Tamil book depots in Trivandrum and studied the religious literature in that language. His mother died before he was eighteen years old.

At the age of twenty-one he went to Puthupally near Kayamkulam and continued his Sanskrit education under Kummanpalli Raman Pillai Asan at Varanapally. After finishing studies, he returned to Chempazhanthy and started teaching village children. He came to be known as Nanu Guru. By then he was becoming more and more introverted and other worldly. Noticing these traits his uncle got him married according to the local custom without involving Nanu directly. Nanu's father died when he was thirty years old.

Soon Nanu left his home and his wife, with whom he had no relationship at all. He started roaming about in forests and secluded places both in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. He became a friend of Chattambi Swami who later became the spiritual Guru of the Nair community in Kerala. Nanu also practiced Hatha Yoga under Thycand Ayyavu who was working in the office of the British Resident in Trivandrum. He took to the life of a wandering monk and practiced Tapas in the Maruthuvemalla hills near Nagarcoil.

Finally, he settled down at Aruvippuram by about 1884. His name began to spread among people and he came to be respected as "Gurudevan." In 1888 he installed a temple for Siva at Aruvippuram. He simply took a stone from the river Neyyar and using it as a pedestal installed another stone to represent Siva. On the walls of the temple he got written the following message:

"This is an exemplary place where all people live like brothers without difference of caste and without religious animosity."

This was an epoch-making event, since temple could be installed in those days only by high-caste

Hindus. The centenary of this bold challenge by Gurudevan was celebrated all over Indians in 1988.

This incident of installation of Siva was the inauguration of the historic activities of Gurudevan. After the successful culmination of this, he took a lot of effective and useful actions for the sake of everybody.

Along with this installation of auspicious deities he insisted on the importance of knowledge. The concrete expression of this is given in many temples erected by him. Modern educational institutions are seen by the side of the temple itself. Besides, in some temples instead of installing a conventional idol, he installed a lamp, or an important message the truth, Dharma, compassion, Shanthi or a mirror with the Mantra Ohm printed thereon.

Another major event after Anuvippuram installation, was the formation of SNDP Yogam in 1903. Unless they were not organized as a community they could not progress — this was the inspiration behind the formation of SNDP yogam.

Gurudevan settled at Sivagiri, Varkala on the seacoast about 50 kilometers north of Trivandrum in 1904. He started a mutt for sanyasins.

"We are here not to argue and win but to enlighten and be enlightened." We got this famous slogan through the all religions conference which was the first of its kind in India, organized in Alwaye in 1924.

By this time Gurudevan's fame spread far and wide. Ravindra Nath Tagore visited him in 1924. The poet has recorded that no where else could we meet a person of the spiritual stature of Gurudevan. In 1926 Mahatma Gandhi visited Gurudevan and had fruitful dialogue with him. He has stated that it was his good fortune to meet a great saint like Gurudevan.

Gurudevan attained Mahasamadhi on Sept. 20, 1928 at Sivagiri, the headquarters where he spent major portion of his life and carried out all his activities. His work and legacy are still continuing at Sivagiri headquarters.

Gurudevan has not written much, but what he wrote was penetrating. The central idea of his philosophy and his message was that there is One God.

There is no your God and my God, only one God — and this our God is the one God of Gurudevan. This is known as oneness in the Advaita philosophy.

It has to be comprehensive theoretically and practically and if it is properly implemented, we may rightly realize that it is difficult to live in this cosmos without the feeling of Oneness.

ANNUAL GENERAL BODY *and* ELECTION NEWS

Annual General Body Meeting:

The annual general body meeting of Sree Narayana Association of North America will be held on January 28th 1996 at Temple B'Nai 471 Elmont Road, Elmont, New York.

Election For 1996-1997

The Board of Trustee's has nominated an Election Committee consisting of Dr. Raju Pullarkat as Chairman, K. Velayudhan and U. Panicker as members. The election will be held on January 28, 1996 at Temple B'Nai, 471 Elmont Road, Elmont, New York for the following officers:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| (1) President | (2) Vice President |
| (3) General Secretary | (4) Joint Secretary |
| (5) Treasurer | (6) Assistant Treasurer |
| (7) Five Committee Members | (8) Two Trustees |

Official Notice will be mailed out to the members by the Secretary

Youth Forum Office Bearers 1995

President	— Bindu Balachandran
Secretary	— Bindu Balan
Treasurer	— Anuradha Bhutt

Youth Corner

In order to recognize and congratulate graduates of this year, a special function was organized on August 20, 1995 at Mogul Palace, Queens, New York.

Swami Sookshmananda from Sivagiri was the chief guest. Dr. Raju Pullarkat welcomed the chief guest and the large gathering. Swami Sookshmananda congratulated the graduates and their parents and emphasized the importance of education. Dr. Ranjit Pullarkat, M.D. who was the Key Note speaker, exhorted the graduates and others to strive hard to achieve their life's set goal. Swami Sookshmananda presented Association's insignia plaque to each of them. Messrs N.S. Thampi, Ashokan Vengassery, P. Udayabhanu, Vinay Raj, Dr. N. Chandra Guptan, M.D., Dr. Nanu M. Kandiyil, and Ms. Archana Thampi also congratulated the graduates and encouraged them to hold on to our values and principles.

The graduates and others expressed their gratitude and thanks to the Association and to all those who helped them in their education and pursuit in life.

Class of 1995

The following were the graduates:

Mr. Ajay Ayyappan

Graduated from Bronx High School of Science.

Ms. Leena Appu

Graduated from Susan E. Wagner High School.

Mr. Biju Balan

Graduated from Susan E. Wagner High School.

Mr. Sibu Janardhanan

Graduated from Iona Preparatory High School.

Ms. Bindhu Mohan

Graduated from Flushing High School.

Ms. Bindu G. Nair

Graduated from Francis Lewis High School.

Mr. Sandeep Ponnappan

Graduated from Longwood High School.

Mr. Vasant K. Velayudhan

Graduated from Copiague High School.

Asha Sasi

Master's in Civil Engineering from the City University of New York.

The following were also recognized and congratulated for their exceptional performance in education and related fields:

Ms. Lynn Venugopal

Participation in the first place award winning delegation at the International Model United Nations held at Hague, Switzerland in 1995

Ms. Leatha Udayabhanu

Exceptionally high scores in the PSAT 1520, and SAT, 1580, out of possible 1600.

Mr. Sibu Janardhanan

Participation in the National Youth Leadership forum and achievement in Eagle Scouts.

Ms. Pauline Nava Kandiyil

Promotion from 10th grade to 12th grade.



Kumari Babitha Haridas
speaking at the convention

A FUND RAISING

While the interesting programs of the First National Convention were in progress a fund raising effort was initiated by Mr. V.A. Balakrishnan of 9740 NW 3rd street, Pembroke Pines, Florida, at the instance of Prof. M.K. Sanu. This was for the benefit of Sree Narayana Vidyapeetam, Thripunitura. Prof. Sanu appealed for generous contribution.

Sree Narayana Vidyapeetam, which is situated in the municipal town of Thripunitura in the Grater Cochin Development Area, "has now become a place of attraction to all — poor and rich — irrespective of cast, creed or religion, whose prime motive is excellence in the field of education, culture and personality development."

Contributions totaling \$1247.00 were collected. The amount along with list of contributors was presented to Prof. Sanu on September 16, 1995 for onward transmission to Vidyapeetam, the receipt of which has been acknowledged by the Vidyapeetam.

It is gratifying that Sree Narayana Association of North America has been of some help to Sree Narayana Vidyapeetam.

Felicitations to Mr. Vinay Raj

A Special function was organized on August 20, 1995 at Mogul Palace, Queens, New York. At this function Mr. Vinay Raj, a valuable member of the Association was felicitated prior to his moving to Florida. Mr. Vinay Raj has been associated with the Association for a long time. He taught Mahabharatam to the children as part of Association's Youth Forum activities.

Mr. Vinay Raj was presented a portrait of Sree Narayana Guru by Mr. P. Udayabhanu. All the above speakers at the function thanked Mr. Vinay Raj for his dedicated contribution to the Association and wished him all the best.

*Sree Narayana Association
of North America
Wish all Devotees and
Well Wishers
A Happy, Healthy
and Prosperous
New Year 1996*

SREE NARAYANA ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA, INC.

P.O. BOX 471, GLEN OAKS, NEW YORK 11004, U.S.A.

