

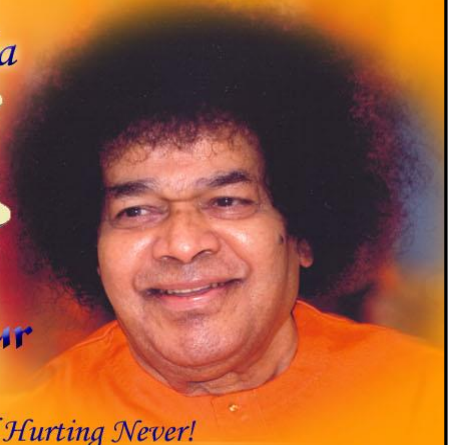
Aum Sri Sai Ram

Pranams at the Lotus Feet of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba

Chicago Sai WATCH

Dear Swami, please help us to watch and control our Words, Actions, Thoughts, Character and Heart

So that we realize our inherent Divinity by Loving All, Serving All, Helping Ever, and Hurting Never!



Upcoming Events!

Friday, September 4th - Monday, September 7th, Regional Sai Retreat

Guest Speakers:

Dr. Phil Gosselin, Chair, Zone 1, Sri Sathya Sai International Organization
Mr. Leonardo Gutter, Member Prashanthi council
Mr. Ravi Mariwalla, Alum of Sri Sathya Sai University
Dr. Suresh Sharma, Alum of Sri Sathya Sai University
Dr. Keki M Mistry, Senior Trustee, Sri Sathya Sai Trust of Maharashtra, India

Venue: JCYS Camp Henry Horner, 26710 W. Nippersink Road, Ingleside, IL

Sunday, September 20th – Ganesh Chaturthi Celebrations

Time: 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM **Venue:** Longfellow Center, Oak Park, IL



Love All , Serve All

Date	Calendar of Events
09/05 – Saturday	05:00 PM – 08:00 PM: Dinner Service Project at Northside Housing Men's Shelter (on Lawrence Ave.) 06:00 PM – 08:00 PM: Dinner Service Project at Sarah's Circle Women's Shelter (on N. Sheridan Road)
09/12 – Saturday (YA Service)	06:00 AM – 08:00 AM: Breakfast Service at Northside Housing Men's Shelter (on Lawrence Ave.)
09/13 – Sunday	10:00AM – 11:00AM: Bingo with Nursing Home Residents (on North Ave., Oak Park)
09/19 – Saturday	05:00 PM – 08:00 PM: Dinner Service Project at Northside Housing Men's Shelter (on Lawrence Ave.) 07:00 PM – 10:30 PM: Dinner Service Project at Jesus People USA Men's Shelter (on Kenmore Ave.)
09/26 – Saturday	06:00 AM – 08:00 AM: Breakfast Service at Northside Housing Men's Shelter (on Lawrence Ave.)
	<p>Sunday Center Schedule:</p> <p>09:00 AM – 09:30 AM: Center Setup 09:30 AM – 10:25 AM: Study Circle (Current Topic – "What is Love?" - Study Guide of Collection of Swami's Quotes from His Discourses) 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM: Devotional Singing</p> <p>Ongoing service projects on Sundays:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grocery collection and food items delivery for Mother's House (North Avenue, Oak Park) Sandwich preparation & delivery for residents of Northside Housing Men's Shelter (Lawrence Ave.)



Vidya Vahini – Need for Spirituality



The world situation

World problems are now assuming stranger forms and larger proportions. They are no longer individual or local. They are global, affecting all mankind. On one side, science and technology are advancing with cosmic developments. Through plastics, electronics, and computer technologies, the wonder has reached even greater heights. On the other side, mankind is afflicted with recurring political and economic crises; national, provincial, religious, racial, and caste rivalries; narrow loyalties and outbursts of disturbance in student campuses. These have spread indiscipline and licentiousness all over the world.

This is an unbalanced and mutually contradictory situation. What really is its cause? Does it lie in the frightening decline that religion and morals have sustained in the human mind? Mankind has within its reach many means and methods through which it can earn wisdom and peace! It can secure invaluable guidance from the *Vedas* and sacred texts (sastras), the *Brahma Sutra*, the *Bible*, the *Koran*, the *Zend Avesta*, the *Granth Saheb*, and other holy texts whose number exceeds thousand. There is no dearth in this land, Bharath (India), of heads of monasteries and religious orders, exponents of spiritual doctrines and disciplines, scholars and venerable elders. They too are propagating and publishing on a massive scale. Nevertheless, people's minds are degenerating in the ethical, spiritual, and religious fields of life, continuously and with great speed. What is the reason for this downfall?

People have now become more vicious than ever. Much more than in past ages, they utilise their intelligence and skill to indulge in cruelty. People relish and revel in inflicting pain on others so much that, as history reveals, 15,000 wars have been waged during the last 5,500 years. There are still no signs that this horrid pastime will terminate! The impending atomic war threatens to destroy the entire human race. What exactly is the cause of all this anxiety and fear?

The remedy lies in holiness

It is clear that the beast in people is still predominant. It has not yet been overcome. Only when this is achieved can we, our country, and the world attain peace and joy. Hatred, envy, greed, desire for pompous display and for comparison and competition with others—these evil traits have to be uprooted. These traits are vitiating not only the generality of men but even ascetics, monks, heads of religious institutions, and pundits. Among these, envy and greed have grown wild. When these masters and preceptors, who project themselves as embodiments of ideals, exhibit such low qualities, how can they set the world right? They can only intensify the pollution.

What the world needs today is neither a new order, a new education, a new system, a new society, nor a new religion. The remedy lies in a mind, in a heart filled with holiness. Holiness must take root and grow in the minds and hearts of youth everywhere, of boys and girls and of children. The good and Godly must endeavor to promote this task as the one great spiritual discipline (sadhana) that they have to undertake.

Success in this task can be achieved only through knowledge of Brahman (Brahma-vidya). But today, people have deep faith only in acquisition and accumulation. They cannot give up or renounce. They have no faith in truth. They are attracted by falsehood; they find truth to be an obstacle. Therefore, they are unable to realize that death is the happy consummation of a glorious life. They die in anxiety and misery. People pronounce the words truth, nonviolence, righteousness, and love ceaselessly, parrot-like. They proclaim that there is no religion higher than truth. But the wonder is that the one thing they have no desire to possess is truth!

People yearn to know all things, but they don't yearn to know the truth. Above all, they don't evince the least desire to know the truth of their own self. They don't turn attention in that direction. Even if they do, it is only to justify fears and prejudices. Therefore, the primary task of people is to discard weakness and tendency to hurt.

The truth is not in the material world

That which is not found at the beginning or at the end, but is manifest only in the interval, the middle period, cannot be really real. It is apparent truth (Mithya), not eternal truth (Sathya). The cosmos did not exist before it emerged, nor can it exist after it is submerged (Pralaya). What is evident in between can only be apparent truth, temporary and limited truth. It cannot be the unchanging truth.

People have to explore the value and validity of every object in the universe along these lines. The body, for example, was not there before birth, and it is not here after death. Like a pot made of clay, it exists as pot with that form and name for some time and later resumes its clay nature. The pot is but clay, with a form and a name added to it by artificial means. Whatever the objects, everything in the universe is inexorably subject to the impact of time, and it has to face death and destruction. The tree and the soil, the house and the body, the king and the kingdom—each has to suffer the same consummation.

People ignore the means of becoming aware of the immortal in them. They are enamored of the knowledge that is concerned with the phenomenal world. Those who yield to this facile temptation are like the ones who desert the garden of heaven and rush into the jungle of poisonous vegetation. They turn away from the original (the bimba), the Atma. They are fascinated by the image (the prathi-bimba), the visible, the observable phenomena (the drisya). By this attitude, they proclaim themselves to be only ignoramuses, not knowers or seekers of truth.

Knowledge of Atma can give happiness

One should know that not even an iota of genuine happiness is derivable from the "three worlds", the three "divisions of time", and the "three levels of consciousness in daily life" (wakefulness, dream, sleep). Only the foolish seek to satisfy themselves from the limited counterfeit happiness through worldly activities. The wise know better. Those who bypass the luscious bunches of sweet grapes and run toward bushes of thorns are "camels". They cannot be classified under other species.

- Excerpts from Vidya Vahini



EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON GOD'S GRACE



Embodiments of Love!

In this world, there are millions of educated people. Right from a child to an old man, everyone is interested in reading books and acquiring knowledge. But what is the use of acquiring bookish knowledge? It cannot come to your rescue when you are faced with problems in life. At the most, it helps you to eke out a livelihood.

First and foremost, understand the fundamental principle of life. Beings are many, but the divine principle in them is one and the same. Hence, recognize the principle of divinity that is present in all in the form of the Atma. The Atma is the Adhara (support) and the body is the Adheya (that which is supported). Recognize the Atma as the fundamental basis of your life and everything else will be taken care of.

Serve your Parents and Society

Right from a pauper to a millionaire, everybody wants his children to be well educated. Parents are prepared to spend any amount of money to provide education to their children even if they have to resort to borrowing. In spite of the great hardship borne by the parents in educating them, the children do not have any gratitude towards their parents. They do not introspect: Who is responsible for all my development? Who has made me what I am today? Under these circumstances, we should enquire into the real purpose of education. People think that their education would ensure for them a highly respectable position in society. But the fact is, they lack wisdom in spite of their high academic achievements. We may study a number of books and master various branches of knowledge, but all this does not provide peace and happiness to us. All the knowledge that we acquire from books can take care of only our worldly needs. Modern parents want their children to pursue only job-oriented education. But, what is the use of that education which does not bring about transformation in children? Neither are the children themselves benefited by this education nor are they able to render any help to their parents. Acquisition of education merely inflates their ego. Humility is the hallmark of true education. If a man lacks Viveka (discrimination) and Vinaya (humility), all his education is of no value. You should understand that your education is meant for the welfare and progress of society. But, in what way is society benefited by the educated people today? Actually, they are learning many things from society and deriving so many benefits from it. However, these so-called educated people lack even that much power of discrimination which is found in uneducated people. Then why should they become egoistic? There is hardly any humility in students today. They show no respect towards their elders nor do they render any service to society. What is the use of their education if they do not respect elders and serve society? In fact, they lead an artificial life. Their walking, talking, reading, writing, everything becomes artificial. If this is the result of education, then why should one go to college at all?

Acquire the Knowledge of the Self

Every student must enquire within himself: "What for am I going to college? What am I supposed to do?" Only when he conducts self-enquiry can he understand the true meaning of education

Mere bookish knowledge is not true education. It is mere transfer of information from Pustaka (book) to Mastaka (head) and from Mastaka to Pustaka without any real learning. They are wasting their time in the pursuit of bookish knowledge instead of acquiring practical knowledge. No doubt there is a lot of information in Pustaka, but what purpose does it serve if the Mastaka is filled with mud? You cannot derive any worthwhile results from such an education. The same was explained by the Chief Guest (Justice M.N. Venkatachaliah who spoke earlier) in his address. "Though all people learn and study, what is the ultimate result out of this?" he questioned. People spend thousands of rupees for acquiring education. What is the role the educated people play in society today? Do they contribute for peace in society? Do they try to bring about transformation in people in the community? No. In fact, they are unable to inculcate discipline even in their own children. Most children pretend to be well behaved and humble in the presence of their parents, but they behave like rowdies once they step out of their houses.

Students should strive to earn a good name in society. Today's education is limited to gathering information about the outer world. It does not prepare the students to turn inward and listen to their inner voice. One should acquire Atma Prabodha (Atmic knowledge). That is true education. Without awareness of the Self, all our knowledge is useless. Why should one acquire such knowledge? People today are interested only in exhibiting their power and position; they do not make any effort to cleanse their mind and heart. This is the result of modern education. People today have learnt to speak sweet words, but they do not translate their words into action.

Put your Knowledge into Practice

Mere reading of Granthas (books) is not important. You should assimilate their Gandha (essence). That is true education. People read a number of books, but what is the use? They merely quote from them what others have said. Is this what you are supposed to learn? You should listen to the voice of your heart. True knowledge is latent in everyone. Acquire this inner knowledge and share it with others. But hardly anybody thinks on these lines today.

Put into practice at least one or two principles that you have learnt. Set an example to others by your ideal conduct. There are many learned men. But, do they practise what they have learnt? They appear to be 'chief' (men of eminence), but in their conduct they are 'cheap'. The end of education is character. We should consider character as our very life-breath. Education without character is useless like half-cooked rice. We should first practise at least one or two principles ourselves; only then should we venture to preach to others.

- Excerpts from Bhagavan's discourse during International conference on Education - 2005



Give Up at least One Bad Habit



A wicked man once went to a Guru for initiation into spiritual life. The Guru asked him to give up at least one of his bad habits; he gave up uttering falsehood. That night, when he went to the Royal Palace to commit theft, he found on the terrace another person, who said, he too was a thief. He too announced that he was a thief and both broke into the treasury and divided among themselves the diamonds found there. The other person was none other than the king; he pretended to be a thief and he knew where the keys of the treasury were. While the diamonds were shared, the honest thief felt pity for the king of the realm who was losing his entire stock; he asked his companion to leave one diamond behind in the safe. And, it was done. Next morning, when it was discovered that the treasury was looted, the Minister was sent by the King (who had acted as thief the previous night) to assess the loss. The Minister found a diamond that had missed the eyes of the thieves. He quietly transferred it to his own pocket and reported at court that all the diamonds were gone! The King had got from the honest thief his address the previous night while they parted company, with their separate bags. So he sent for him and when he stood in court before the King, he confessed that all but one of the diamonds were stolen by him and his unknown associate. The diamond was discovered in the pocket of the Minister and the King dismissed him for the lie. The honest thief was appointed Minister instead, and he gave up his other evil habits too and pleased his Guru, by his fame as a virtuous administrator.

Devotional Activities in Chicago and Suburbs

Activity	Time	Venue	Contact
Every Monday – Bhajans	07:00 pm to 08:00 pm	Aurora (Shirdi Mandir)	630-854-2004
Every Wednesday – Bhajans	07:30 pm to 08:30 pm	Hoffman Estates	847-519-1631
Every Friday – Bhajans	08:00 pm to 09:00 pm	Oak Brook	630-655-1718
1st Thursday of the Month – Bhajans	07:30 pm to 08:30 pm	Hoffman Estates	847-695-7110
1st Saturday of the Month – Bhajans	03:30 pm to 04:30 pm	Glenview	847-729-2779 / 773-510-5936
Saturday, Sep 19 th – Padhuka Puja	10:30 am to 12:30 pm	Bolingbrook	630-819-9081
Wednesday, Sep 23 rd – 23 rd Bhajans	07:30 pm to 08:30 pm	Schaumburg	847-471-2593

For more information, please contact any of the Center Officers

Role	Name	Phone	e-mail
President:	Ram Katuri	847-664-0564	Ram.Katuri.Chicago@gmail.com
Vice-President:	Prasad Aduri	847-204-8444	P_Aduri@yahoo.com
Devotion Coordinator:	Rama Raghuraman	815-790-9421	RamaRaghu310@gmail.com
Education Coordinator:	Jayashree Tatavarti	608-216-5005	Vr4SaiRam@gmail.com
Service Coordinator:	Vithal Mirmira	630-888-1513	MKSVithal999@yahoo.com
Bookstore & Library Coordinator:	Suriya Sastri	630-842-9214	SSastri@hotmail.com
Study Circle Coordinator:	Sridhar Ramaswamy	847-508-9786	SridharRam24@yahoo.com
YA Male Representative:	Biswas Pradhan	617-888-5190	Biswas.Pradhan5@gmail.com
YA Female Representative:	Haritha Krishnamurthy	773-710-9567	Hari.Krishy@gmail.com