

Newsletter



NEWS FROM THE SKSST YUVAK MANDAL

EDITOR'S COMMENT

With the blessings of Lord Shree Swaminarayan, His Holiness Acharya Shree Tejendraprasadji Maharaj, and Bhuj Mahant Purani Swami Hariswarupdasji, the first issue of the SKS Swaminarayan Temple East London Yuvak Mandal's June 2003 issue of the Newsletter was well received by many who read it. Over 300 copies of the first issue were distributed to many devotees, including those at Temples in Willesden, Harrow, Woolwich, Edgware, Cardiff, Bolton, Oldham, Leicester, and Ram Mandir (Woolwich).

We hope that the same will happen with this second issue, and will also be widely distributed and read.

We also hope that the many activities that have taken place since the last newsletter (described in this latest issue), will make everyone read such materials published by SKS Swaminarayan Temple East London from time to time.

Anyone who wants to join the editorial team is welcome and can contact our team at newsletter@SwaminarayanMandir.org.uk.

Special thanks goes to Vinay, Sajni & Diya Parbat Kerai for the support and sponsorship of this newsletter issue.

Dinesh Hirani & Jayna Shivji Raghvani

Compilers/Editors

SKS Swaminarayan Temple East London Yuvak Mandal

Hindola

This year hindola started on Tuesday 15th July 2003 (Samvat 2059 Ashadh Vad 2) and ending on Thursday 14th August 2003 (Samvat 2059 Shrawan Vad 2)

Hindola Utsav is celebrated with great love, devotion (bhakti) and festivity in the Temples for one whole month. The chal (mobile) murti of the Harikrishna Maharaj is placed in a hindola and swayed to and fro with a string.

It first originated in the garden of Vrindavan 5000 years ago where the Gopis swayed Lord Krishna on a decorated swing. Ever since, to experience the divine joy of swaying the mighty Lord in a hindola, the hindola festival became the focus of devotion.

Once in Vadtal, a decorative twelve-door hindola was tied to two mango trees, and the devotees swayed the Lord to and fro. Nishkulanad Swami constructed this particular hindolo in Vadtal. In response to their devotion, the Lord, while standing in the hindola, appeared in twelve divine forms and blessed the devotees.

The hindola festival is celebrated with joy and enthusiasm at all Swaminarayan Temples across the world. Saints and devotees of all ages spend great time and effort to produce hindolas of a variety of colours, shapes and forms. The hindolas can be made from variety of things, e.g. beads, fruits, flowers, dry fruits, beans, and rakhis. These days hindolas are made with coins/notes, mobile phones, computer disks and gadgets, etc.

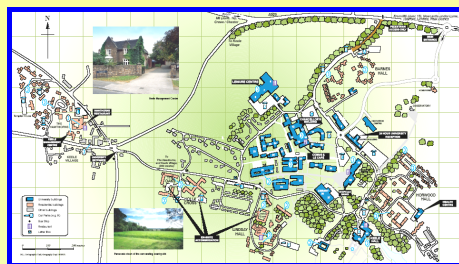
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SWAMINARAYAN SHIBIR

The first ever Shibir has been arranged by SKS Swaminarayan Temple, East London Yuvak Mandal.

Venue:

The Keele University, Keele Conference Park, Darwin Building, Keele, Staffordshire, ST5 5BG



Dates:

29th, 30th & 31st August and 1st September 2003 (Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday)

All devotees are welcome irrespective of their age

For **adults** there will be Vachanamrut discourses, bhajan/kirtan, mansipuja & meditation, yoga, questions & answers, video vision, and many more activities.

For **youngsters** there will be a choice for them to either join the adults or join special sports activities, such as, cricket, football, khoos, kabadee, tug-of-war, musical chairs, and other sports.

All arrangements have already been made. Transportation to and from dedicated pick-up points in East London and Harrow, breakfast/lunch/dinner and accommodation. Devotees from outside London from Bolton, Luton, Cardiff, Oldham, Leicester and many more cities will be attending this Shibir,



Snapshot of Westminister Theatre where many of the Shibir activities will take place. Saints will be sitting on the stage with the male devotees directly in front and the female devotees on the first floor balcony in the same theatre room. There will be video vision and VCD programmes, which will be seen on a large stage screen as can be seen on the snapshot above.

This event has been organised in close collaboration with Saints from Shree Swaminarayan Gurukul Rajkot. There will be 10 saints from all age groups with saints as young as 20 years of age. The benefits gained by attending this Shibir are enormous, and will maintain the awareness and true virtues of the Swaminarayan Sampraday among the youths. It will create an opportunity for all devotees to get away from their stressful daily lives and enhance their spiritual lives to accomplish ultimate salvation.



Snapshot of a typical dining room, where attendees of the Shibir will be seated in groups. And don't worry, the food will be pure vegetarian and cooked by Kutchees with the full time task of cooking.

Bookings will be charged a one-off fee as follows to cover the costs of expenses of the full four days.

£160.00 for Adults of age 19 and over

£95.00 for youngsters of age 6 to 18

Kids of the age of 5 and under are FREE

NB: Kids under the age of 10 must be accompanied by a parent or suitable guardian

Also note that for those who want to attend only the Saturday and Sunday schedule then this is also available at a special fee of £110.00 for adults and £65.00 for kids to cover for accommodation and food for two nights.

Please note that there are only limited places for this special event. Therefore, your applications must reach us in good time. Photocopies of the forms already issued will also be accepted. Upon receipt of your applications we will treat these on the merits of 'first-come first-served' basis due to the limited places available.

For more details and application forms please contact any one of the following:-

Lalji Vekaria (07973 210622), **Vipul Patel** (07946 844361), **Haris Bhudia** (07930 262379), **Dinesh Hirani** (07956 855854), **Manesh Hirani** (07976 105385), or **Pulkit Korat** (07931 346769)

Please Note

Rajkot Gurukul Saints will be staying at SKS Swaminarayan Temple, East London from Monday 25th August to Sunday 14th September 2003

Special message from YM: Be there and support this special event arranged for your personal gain – you will only regret it later!

YM Presentations

You may have heard, attended or taken part in the recently held Yuvak Mandal (YM) presentations (given in English). They have been very successful from the comments we've had so far.

These have taken place in the Temple every two weeks on Saturdays from 7:15pm to 9:15pm, which also includes a buffet dinner for all attendees and parents. Anyone under the age of 18 is welcome, but parents and other interested individuals can join in too.



To-date we have given five presentations each an hour long, on the following topics:-

- 1) How To Behave in the Temple on Arrival, by Dinesh Hirani
- 2) Shikshapatri – The Basics, by Pulkit Korat
- 3) Daily Morning Puja, by Lalji Vekaria
- 4) Non-violence, by Vipul Patel
- 5) Aarti: - The Meaning, by Dhanu Varsani

Each of the presentations were well received by the audience of all ages. The main aim of these presentations is to enhance the understanding of Swaminarayan Sampraday mainly to today's youths.

All presentations are interactive and questions & answers are part of the routine. We

use the best tools, such as, computer technology and projectors to make the presentations interesting and informative with both text and pictures.

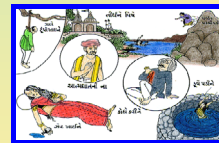


Because of its successes YM will be carrying on to arrange and give more presentations. See 'Key Events Diary' of this newsletter for more dates and topics, including presenter names.

Some of the highlights of the presentations are summarised by pictures used for digital slide presentations as follows:-



Topic: HOW TO BEHAVE IN A MANDIR ON ARRIVAL



Topic: NON-VIOLENCE

Special message from YM is to invite every youth and request their attendance to believe the above content

Summer's Day

On Saturday 2nd August 2003 from 10:30am until 7:00pm a Summer's Day was organised by East London Yuvak Mandal for the first time in West Ham Park.



Devotees from 5 years to 60 years of age took part on this bright summer's day. Games for both boys/girls and men/women were arranged so that everyone could take part and enjoy the day out. Many different games were organised.

Games such as, cricket, football, rounders, kho, etc. were played on the day. Some were mixed and the others were non-mixed. Boys/men preferred playing cricket and football, and girls/women preferred kho and rounders.

It is unbelievable, but older women also staged traditional raas in the park. Well over 100 devotees took part.

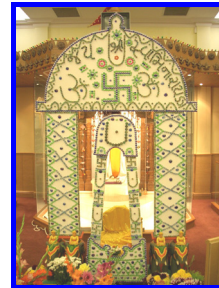
Some of the highlights of a very successful day out are shown in the following pictures.



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This year the hindola festivity at East London Temple have been in great vivid colours and materials.

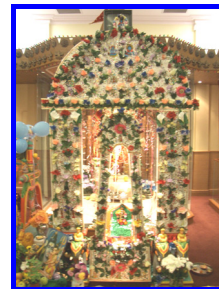
Some of East London Temple's hindola pictures are as shown below:-



Marbles Hindola



Grains Hindola



Flowers Hindola



Rakhi Hindola

KEY EVENTS DIARY (2003)

After the success of the five presentations so far, Yuvak Mandal has arranged further similar sessions again mainly in English. Times will be 7:00pm – 8:30pm and thereafter evening dinner **Students from Sahajanand School and anyone under the age of 18 years** are invited to each of these events:-

Saturday 23rd August: The Wonders of Attitude by Vipul Patel

Saturday 13th September: Lord Shree Swaminarayan – The Supreme God by YM Group

Saturday 4th October: No Intoxicants – Onions, Garlic, etc. by Jayna Raghvani

Saturday 25th October: Ekadashi – The Meaning and Basics by Dhanji Bhudia

Saturday 15th November: Shikshapatri Slokas 1 to 6 by Aarti Patel

Saturday 6th December: Lord Swaminarayan Parchas by Dharmesh Patel & Rajesh Hirani

Parents are advised to collect their children from the Temple premises at 9:00pm on each of the above dates.

Sunday 17th August: Nag Panchmi

Monday 18th – Sunday 24th August: SKSS Temple, East London annual celebrations

Wednesday 20th August: Shree Krishna Janmashtami Fast

Saturday 23rd August: Aja Ekadashi Fast

Thursday 27th August: Shiva Puja Ends

29th August – 1st September: Swaminarayan Shibir (Camp) by SKSST (EL) YM.

Sunday 31st August: Ganesh Chotha

Monday 1st September: Rushi Panchmi

Thursday 4th September: Shree Hari Jaynti

Saturday 6th September: Parivartni Ekadashi Fast & Sahajanand School begins

Sunday 7th September: Vaman Jaynti

Wednesday 15th September: Mukuttotsav Punam

Monday 22nd September: Indirai Ekadashi Fast

Friday 26th September: Navaratri begins

Thursday 2nd October: Sarasvati

Saturday 4th October: Shree Hari Jaynti

Sunday 5th October: Vijaydashmi

Monday 6th October: Pasankusa Ekadashi Fast

SKS Swaminarayan Temple, East London was established in year 1987 as a sacred place of worship. It's intentions are to promote the Swaminarayan Fellowship and to advance the understanding and knowledge of the religious education of the youths in the community. For more details of issues in this newsletter, please contact by e-mailing to newsletter@SwaminarayanMandir.org.uk. For more information on the Temple in East London visit www.SwaminarayanMandir.org.uk.

Shree Kutch Satsang Swaminarayan Temple East London
(Under Shree Nar-Narayan Dev Temple Bhuj Kutch India)

Swaminarayan House
22-24 Shaftesbury Road Forest Gate London E7 8PD
Telephone: +44 (0)20 8470 9375
Facsimile: +44 (0)20 8470 9405
Registered Charity Number: 295655

