

## DIWALI MELA HICKSVILLE, NEW YORK (OCT - 2019)

With the grace of Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj, NY-CT Branch had the third consecutive opportunity to take part in the annual Hicksville, New York **Diwali Mela**, on **Sunday, October 13th, 2019**. Hicksville Diwali Mela is an enormous event that provides a medium for various vendors to showcase their sample line as well as NGOs to promote their ideology. Due to the grand and eclectic nature of the event, a great number of crowd is drawn to this event and hence makes it a wonderful platform to share the teachings of the Mission with fellow beings.



Oneness booth by Sant Nirankari mission stood out from far and wide as it glowed with its canopy embellished with soft serene banners. Portion of the booth was dedicated to publication wing of the Mission presenting the wealth of information, that is from the introduction of the Mission to its worldwide reach in arenas surpassing all humane aspects of life. Main attractions included documentary/slideshow, portraying the socioeconomic leaps the Mission has



making over the last several decades, **a free henna tattoo and a free face-painting station.** As bystanders queued up to enjoy the free henna tattoo and face-painting services, this presented ample opportunity for the volunteers of the Mission to strike up a conversation with the individuals.

During one such interaction, a lady from Afganistan showed keen interest in the philosophy of the Mission. Gauging her curiosity, volunteer saint drew analogies from Quran and simply uncovered the congruency in the underlying message, all the sages and saints of the past delivered. The Afghan woman was further intrigued and sought further details about the Mission and was delighted to learn that the Mission traced its root back to British India, present day Pakistan.



There was another incident when an estranged devotee sister stumbled across the booth. For the past couple of years, the sister had been deprived of the company of saints, satsang, as she could not establish a contact with the local devotees. But her worries evaporated at once as she was reunited with her spiritual extended family. Similarly, a young saint from Hyderabad was drawn to the booth as he

heard the hallmark hymns of the Mission. Immersed in complete awe, the young saint approached the booth and the rest could be witnessed in the tears of joy! Yet another eager soul curious about the various initiatives of the Mission, inquired about the involvement of the youth. The woman candidly expressed her concern regarding her young teenage daughter. A big sigh of relief and reassurance were quite evident on the woman's face when the volunteer shared the role and the active involvement of the youth in the Mission.

The lady at once gestured her daughter to come forth and introduced her to the volunteers. Impressed beyond her expectations, the woman insisted to exchange contacts to get her daughter enrolled in the Mission's activities.



In addition to the influx of locals, **Hicksville council members** too attended the event and made a point to visit the SNM booth. **Mr. Arnold W. Drucker, Nassau County Legislature** had nothing but great praises for the endeavor the Mission has taken on. They were especially inspired by the fact that over one million units of blood has been donated since the initiation of this cause. Truth needs no proof, as the volunteer saint was humbly sharing the contribution of the Mission, a clip of the blood donation hallmark spread across the flat screen! Volunteers of the Mission graciously extended an open invitation to the council members and urged



that the volunteers of the Mission are ever ready to assist in all volunteering projects whether it is tree plantations, cleanliness drives, soup kitchen, food drives etc. The offer to form such partnership was warmly accepted by the members of the council.



The highlight of the event none other than the **performance by the little innocent members of the Bal Sangat**. The crowd was completely taken by the innocence coupled with the will to serve selflessly, as the children marched ahead carrying the banners of the Mission. The performance was equally mesmerizing and drew crowd from beyond the point of the coverage.

Volunteers of the NY-CT Branch express immense gratitude towards Satguru Mata Sudiksha ji Maharaj for granting such an auspicious opportunity to help become an instrument in the fulfillment of the divine will.