

Diwali Mela in Hicksville NY (Oct 2016)

There may be hundreds of moons in orbit, thousands of suns on the horizon and endless array of stars lining the sky, still the darkness of ignorance shall continue to reign over human mind as the luminosity of the shape bearing entities is no match to the enigmatic opaqueness of the form-free entity. How is it then such daunting darkness can ever be overcome? Immaterial of how dense the darkness of ignorance may be, though when met with an even lonely spark bearing the shapeless property, darkness of such nature is bound to succumb to its mortality.



This so called spark is the light of knowledge, just as ignorance bears no shape, no form, yet strongly grips our faculty, knowledge of the truth too is an understanding that once attained, liberates one from the tentacles of baseless routines and rituals. The battle between the light and the darkness of the mind has been there since day one. It is for this sole reason, spiritual mentors have been roaming the planet to illuminate the darkness stricken souls. It is with this very subject that prompts us to the occasion of Diwali. With the divine grace of Satguru Mata Savinder Hardev ji Maharaj, New York Branch hosted a booth at the annual Diwali Mela held on the 16th of October in township of Hicksville. Occasions of this nature present a great platform to help introduce and promote the philosophy of the Mission to the local community. Volunteers of the branch began prepping for the event weeks in advance, encouraging one and all to become part of such cause. In

the midst of the hustling and bustling crowded atmosphere, **Nirankari Mission's booth stood out emitting soft serene white glow.** Banners voicing Baba Hardev Singh ji Maharaj ji's life transforming quotes, were the main ambiance. Mission's publication wing was yet another key part of the booth showcasing various literature, hymns cd and numerous related material. Team of veteran devotees was allocated to interact with eager individuals approaching the booth. A mini documentary with brief intervals of melodious oneness song were the backdrop of the event and played a major role in drawing the crowd. **The awe inspiring lyrics and the engaging rhythm** of the Oneness hymn had one individual in particular completely mesmerized.



The individual was so touched by the music that he expressed his curiosity to learn more about the Mission and what it stands for, not to mention his encore request. The person was further impressed to learn that the Oneness song was written and composed by the young devotees of the Mission. **There was yet another heart warming scenario when a young women** recognizing the caption on the volunteer outfit, approached the booth **and with tears welling up in her eyes. She shared that her grandparents used to recite "Tuhi Nirankar" when she was a little girl.** With comforting and reassuring memories of her childhood, the young woman insisted to be incorporated in to the local chapter listing and showed keen interest to revive her faith.

Towards the evening part of the festival, young volunteers of the New York Branch attempted to spread the message of the Mission via soft cultural

itinerary. It included a group song, kawali and the concluding feature was a crowd inviting sufi hymn.



Devotees of the New York Branch as well as neighboring states, attended the event in great number and further boosted the morale. Devotees of the New York Branch, express immense gratitude towards Satguru Mata Savinder



Hardev ji Maharaj for such wonderful opportunities and humbly seek blessings to continue to become an instrument in fulfilling the divine will.