



SANT NIRANKARI MISSION

(UNIVERSAL BROTHERHOOD)

WASHINGTON DC METROPOLITAN AREA SPIRITUAL CENTER

MANAV EKTA DIWAS – HUMAN UNITY DAY

APRIL 2015

Each year, the Sant Nirankari Mission observes *Manav Ekta Divas* or Human Unity Day, all over the world, in memory of Baba Gurbachan Singh Ji Maharaj, who sacrificed his life on April 24, 1980, for the noble cause of truth, non-violence, tolerance and human unity. As a tribute to Baba Gurbachan Singh Ji and many of his devotees who also sacrificed their lives to uphold these ideals, a Human Unity Day is celebrated with blood drives and other charitable services at the Mission's Centers all around the world.



On Saturday, April 25, 2015, the Sant Nirankari Mission, Washington, DC Chapter, organized the commemorative annual blood drive at its local center in Chantilly, Virginia. Over 50 participants – members of the local Chapter and community members alike - eagerly volunteered to donate. With the help and support of Inova Blood Donor Services, a total of 34 units of blood were successfully collected, more than double the amount collected in previous years.

One of the key highlights this year for the first time was that, in tandem with the annual blood drive, a free Health Fair was also held at the local center. Ten (10) physicians from the GWAPI (Greater Washington Area Physicians of Indian Origin) (with specialties including internal medicine, gynecology, dermatology, and gastroenterology), three (3) registered nurses, and two (2) physical therapists donated their services and offered free consultations and medical advice to the local community. These services included general health screenings for blood sugar, blood pressure and weight; the physicians also provided advice in response to specific health complaints within their respective fields, free of charge.



"Blood should flow in veins and not in drains." ~Nirankari Baba Hardev Singh Ji Maharaj



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The following day, on April 26, 2015, over 150 members of the Washington, DC Chapter along with their family and friends came together at the center for a special service in observance of *Manav Ekta Divas (Human Unity day)*. Attendees shared their thoughts on sacrifice, unity, humanity, tolerance, and love for all. The youngsters of the Washington DC Chapter also prepared and performed a group song on this special occasion.



Last but not least, the attendees had the opportunity to hear the final discourse by His Holiness Satguru Baba Hardev Singh Ji Maharaj, via internet video, who spoke of the teachings that the prophets have given to the mankind. But in return the world, fanatics and misguided people gave them pain, misery and hatred. While suffering the atrocities, the true prophets continued to make sacrifices to keep the humanity alive. Baba Gurbachan Singh Ji also continued to give love to all without any regard to cast creed or faith. He emphasized simple marriages, to do away with the dowry system to alleviate unbearable burdens on families. He also emphasized many other reforms, including stopping violence on women, empowerment of women and youth, etc.

It was a truly blissful event and the Sant Nirankari Mission, Washington DC Center, is extremely grateful for the support and involvement of the many health care professionals from GWAPI, Inova Blood Donor Services, and the community for making this event a beautiful demonstration of humanity joining together to spread the message of peace and serve a greater good.

“In reality, there is only one religion - the religion of humanism and love” ~ Baba Hardev Singh Ji

Humbly Submitted by: Ananya Michera & Ritika Thohan
SNM Washington DC
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