



NEWSLETTER

Sewa International - New Jersey and New York

January 2020



Happy Republic Day - January 26, 2020

India celebrated its 71st Republic Day this year.



Sewa Central Jersey - Radha Gopinath Temple Sewa

Radha Gopinath Temple Edison, January 01, 2020

On the first day of the new decade, January 1st, 2020, the Edison chapter of Sewa went to Radha Gopinath Temple to help with one of their big events, the New Year Program. The SEWA leads volunteered in 2 batches. During the second half of the program, the leads helped with the distribution and serving of the Prasad/food to the 200+ devotees. All the leads felt it was a great way to start the new year by doing Sewa at Radha Gopinath Temple.

Radha Gopinath Temple Edison, January 05, 2020

On the auspicious occasion of **Vaikuntha Ekadashi**, 9 leads from Sewa Central Jersey went to serve 200 + people.

Radha Gopinath Temple Edison, January 19, 2020

On the 19th of January the leads of Sewa Central Jersey with full devotion served 200+ devotees of Radha Gopinath Mandir. The leads served the dishes with passion and later helped with cleaning up the dining hall and mopping.



Radha Gopinath Temple Edison, January 26, 2020

SEWA Leads of The Central NJ Chapter helped serve lunch to many devotees at the Radha Gopinath Mandir. Four leads served varieties of Prasad/food to the devotees with enthusiasm. Afterwards, the Leads assisted in cleaning up of the dining hall and mopping.



Sewa Central Jersey - Hands of Hope

James Episcopal Church Edison, January 04, 2020

On January 4, 2020, Sewa Central Jersey, Edison chapter leads took part in the first 'Hands of Hope' event of 2020 at St. James Episcopal Church, Edison NJ. There were over 100 needy people who were waiting in a long line to collect their two weeks of food ration. Many of these people were senior citizens who were not able to carry their food packages themselves to their respective vehicles hence SEWA leads assisted the people to carry their food packages to their respective cars. The work of the leads was greatly appreciated by the senior citizens as well as the staff of the 'Hands of Hope' Food Pantry.

James Episcopal Church Edison, January 18, 2020

On this Saturday, in spite of inclement weather, members of various volunteering organizations including Sewa Central Jersey leads met at the St. James Episcopal Church to participate in the 'Hands of Hope' event there. 4 members of Sewa Central Jersey made it despite the terrible weather. It required lot of dedication and grit for volunteers to show up and volunteer in such weather conditions.



Sewa Central Jersey - Share a Meal

Nanak Naam Jahaj Gurudwara, Jersey City, January 24, 2020

4 leads along with their parents participated in this event, which required driving to Jersey City. The event was a Langar, the Sikh term for "community kitchen," where a free meal—always vegetarian—is served to all visitors, regardless of race, caste, economic status, gender, or ethnicity, especially the needy. Volunteers helped cut iceberg lettuce, broccoli, onions, and many other vegetables, washed the dishes, and helped transfer bananas from the van to the Langar. After the preparation day on Friday, Saturday and Sunday were all about the actual cooking and serving.



Sewa Central Jersey - Voter Registration Drive

Chesterfield, Jan11, 2020

Sewa Central NJ, Chesterfield volunteers helped the Chesterfield township with registering the new voters. The registrants included the new citizens and teens who will be completing 18 years by November 2020.



Sewa Central Jersey - Open Space Cleanup

Bordentown City , Jan11, 2020

Central Jersey Sewa volunteers from Chesterfield joined Bordentown City Deputy Mayor and the green team in litter clean up of the Thorntown Creek area. This area was ignored for a decade and desperately needed a cleanup. In spite of freezing temperatures, volunteers worked for 3 hours in cleaning up the area and removed 25+ bags of litter and 15+ tires. It required lot of dedication and grit for volunteers to show up and volunteer in such weather conditions.



Sewa Central Jersey - MLK Day of Service

MacAfee Road School, Somerset , Jan11, 2020

Chesterfield Sewa team participated in Jersey Cares MLK Day of Service at MacAfee Road Elementary School, Somerset. The volunteers helped with painting various national flags, ceiling tiles and prepared giggle bags. A total of 54 Sewa volunteers participated in this event.



Sewa Central Jersey - Introduction to Vedic Mathematics

Chesterfield , Jan25, 2020

Chesterfield Sewa team had their first speaker series of the year with Ram KamathJi on Vedic Mathematics. The session gave a lot of details on the history of Vedic Mathematics & basic techniques on addition, subtraction, multiplication & division. The goal of this session was to give a basic introduction to Vedic Mathematics to teen volunteers and encourage them to do more study on this topic.



Sewa North Jersey - Chapter Meeting for Planning

Parsippany , Jan11, 2020

North Jersey Chapter first monthly meeting of 2020 was conducted on 01/11/2020, from 3pm to 5pm. It was held at Parulji and Ketanji's home in Parsippany, NJ. The members discussed the following: 1.)Sewa Milan feedback and lessons learned 2.) LEAD 2020 registration 3.) 2020 Major events and 1st quarter tasks.



Sewa North Jersey - Sanatan Mandir Parking

Parsippany , Jan13, 2020

6 Sewa volunteers helped parking at Sanatan Mandir, which faced heavy traffic due to celebrations of Lohri. It was lot of fun as they met lots of friends and after the Sewa went inside the temple for Darshan, and had sumptuous Prasadam.



Parsippany , Jan14, 2020

3 Sewa volunteers helped parking at Sanatan Mandir, which faced heavy traffic due to celebrations of Makar Sankranti.

Sewa North Jersey - Soup Kitchen

Morristown, Jan26, 2020

Volunteers dropped off 60 pounds of food donation at the Morristown Soup kitchen facility as part of the monthly food donations.



Obituary

Sewa family mourns the untimely and sudden demise of Atlanta chapter president Pratapji and his wife Mayuriji. On December 6th, both wife and husband suffered severe injuries due to a volcanic eruption, while they were on a vacation in New Zealand. On Dec 22nd Mayuriji and on Jan 28th, 2020 Pratapji succumbed to the injuries. They leave behind their 11 year old son and 6 year old twin daughters.

Pratapji, 49, was an entrepreneur who was well-known in the Indian American community in Atlanta for his philanthropy and social service. His unmatched exuberance and unconditional love for everyone around him will forever be missed. Mayuriji has been known as a super mom who loved cooking food from different cultures. May their souls rest in peace.

Om Shanti

Upcoming Events Feb 2020:

- ◆ Lead 2020 Inaugural Function - Feb 08
- ◆ 911 Dispatch Center Visit - Feb 01 & Feb 08
- ◆ Kutumbh Prabhodan - Feb 15
- ◆ Veteran Home - Feb 8 & Feb 22
- ◆ Sewa for Temple - Feb 9, Feb 16 & Feb 23
- ◆ Kiddie Keep Well Camp - Feb 15
- ◆ Hands of Hope - Feb 15

Communication Channels



Please add yourself to North Jersey Volunteers WhatsApp group at following link

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/0qAhEyU3v99DGfe5IV9pPf>

Please visit our Chapter Website, Facebook and Instagram pages:

<https://sewausa.org/Chapter/NewJersey>

<https://www.facebook.com/SewaNorthNJ>

<https://www.instagram.com/sewanorthjersey>

<https://www.instagram.com/centraljerseysewa>

<https://www.facebook.com/centraljersey.sewa>

This month's thought:

Makar Sankranti marks the beginning of an auspicious phase in Indian culture. It marks the transition of **sun** in- to the zodiac sign of Makar (Capricorn), which is the holy phase of transition. It is a traditional welcome of longer days and sun's journey to the northern hemisphere. All over India, people celebrate this in different forms as Lohri, Pongal, Bihu etc.

May you be showered upon by the Blessings of the Sun God and your life be filled with eternal sunshine of Happiness.

Om Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah