

Matru Mandali – USA



Matru Mandali-USA (MM-DYCUSA) is included under the umbrella organization of Datta Yoga Center-USA consisting mainly of ladies. However, participation in activities and projects of MM-DYCUSA is not restricted to ladies alone. The women's wing under the title of "Sri Jayalakshmi Mata Matru Mandali" exists throughout India and worldwide.

Matrumandali-USA was formally inaugurated as a branch of DYC-USA by Sri Ganapati Sachchidananda Swamiji on August 17, 2003, in New Jersey. His Holiness decided to designate the person leading the organization as "Mother of the Year."

Aim of Matru Mandali-USA

MM – DYCUSA (Matru Mandali – USA) aims at complementing and supplementing the activities conducted by DYCUSA. Emphasis is placed on performing Seva to the community at large based upon what Sri Swamiji often says, "Maanava Seva is Madhava Seva" philosophy and also encourage spiritual activities/projects.

Scope of Activities

MM-DYCUSA has unlimited scope to engage in various projects. Each Center is encouraged to use its discretion and successfully conduct the activities.

Following are some of the ideas generated by ladies from different Centers and implemented since MM-DYCUSA's inception:

- Initiate Satsang group and develop a Center where none exists.
- Conduct Samuhik (group) chanting of Lalitha Sahasranama, perform Kuk Kum Archana, Anagha Vratam, etc.
- Provide information about community resources and services, such as preliminary referrals for legal advice, medical and educational assistance.
- Donate food to Soup Kitchen homeless.
- Take up special projects during Christmas such as donation of toys, clothes, gift packages food, etc. to the needy (foster homes, orphanages, Senior Citizen's Homes, terminally ill children in the hospitals, etc).
- Link women to home-based business activities.
- Organize seminars and programs to spread awareness on health/self development and empowerment.
- Offer information to battered women to seek refuge and shelter.
- Provide free medical services such as diabetes and blood pressure check up.
- Help women with information about jobs, training programs, resume writing, and English tutoring.
- Assist the local schools in their "big Brother," and "Big sister," program.
- Conduct vegetarian cooking classes, teach how to make garlands, draw Rangoli, etc.
- Take up projects for marketing home made and hand made products.
- Conduct spiritual camps such as Yoga and Meditation camps from time to time.

Highlights of Matru Mandali – DYCUSA Activities:

2003:

- Fifteen ladies from Dallas Satsang group jointly sponsored a room for the Amma Vodi project in Hyderabad.
- Bala Datta school was started under the auspices of MM-DYCUSA in Dallas. However, it is advised by His Holiness that all Bala Datta schools should come under DYCUSA.
- Satsangh Centers all over USA had been busy conducting regular Bhajans, discourses, Lalitha Sahasra Namam, Anagha Vratam, Homas, and monthly food donation to the homeless. New Satsang Centers have been established in Atlanta, Arizona, Mississippi, North Carolina, Massachusetts, and Nebraska.
- Special Christmas projects were undertaken by various Centers as well individuals where Center did not exist. These projects involved donation of toys to the children in the hospital, food to the homeless, gift packages to Senior Citizen Homes; “Akhand” (continuous) Bhajans for nine hours; and special Homa and Pujas during the week of Christmas. Since 2004 it has become a tradition for some Centers to continue these activities.

2004:

- The first Spiritual Camp, July 3-6, 2004, coinciding with Guru Purnima Day was a very successful event with approximately 100 adults and children participating in it. The Camp focused on detail explanation of Sri Chakra by Datta Yogi Raju of Chicago. Highlight of the Camp was the video message sent by Sadguru Deva blessing the participants.
- Bala Datta schools developed special creative and entertaining sessions for the children which were thoroughly enjoyed by them. Fireworks celebrating the Independence Day and bonfire with roasting of marshmallows were an exciting event for both adults and children. Children were busy with fun-filled creative projects such as talent show, trail walk focusing on education on nature, yoga lessons, Anthakshari including the adults, painting, etc. The idea of creating volunteer corps of Bal Datta Sevaks was discussed. The children were presented orange colored sash to identify them as Sevaks. The children and youth helping children’s activities were given certificates indicating their participation. The Camp having coincided with Guru Purnima on Friday, July 3, Guru puja was performed on Friday evening as well as on Saturday morning.
- The Camp demonstrated the true spirit of team work by Datta devotees by providing voluntary assistance in cooking, cleaning, accommodation, registration, pujas, flower garlands, serving of food, power-point presentation, video tape, transportation, music to assist the presentation, and other tasks.
- Since then Sri Swamiji blessed the MM-DYCUSA to conduct all future Yoga classes by Kaliji and Meditation Retreats by Datta Yogi Raju under the auspices of MM-DYCUSA. This involves informing the participants of Yoga and Meditation camps about Jaya Lakshmi Mata projects in India and distribution of Mathrumandali flyers. Use of funds raised from these activities by local Centers is the discretion of the local Centers. Since 2004 Kaliji and Datta Yogi Raju have been busy conducting yoga lessons and Meditation Camps at different Centers.
- A unique event, Priests Appreciation Day was celebrated in Baton Rouge to felicitate dedicated services rendered by the two priests to the local and national community. Plaques were presented to the priests. The participants expressed interest in continuing it as an annual event
- Twenty participants including children and adults recited Shata Shloki Ramayanam without the use of the book in the presence of Sri Swamiji. Swamiji was very pleased with their performance.

2005:

- A major activity was the celebration of Guru Purnima Day at DRC. This Day was a sight to see. This was the first time ever that persons other than Prasadji or Bala Swamy got the opportunity to perform Pratyaksha Paada Puja in USA to His Holiness. President of DYCUUSA and his wife were blessed to have this rare opportunity. Selected devotees were blessed worship His Holiness with Abharanas (jewelry) and actually put them on Dear Appaji. Live Indian musical instruments were played by the musicians from Canada.
- A great spiritual Sadhana was the Parayanam of Lalitha Sahasra Namam by approximately 250 devotees. It became successful beyond imagination. Although the goal was set to a minimum of 9 laks, it exceeded 103 laks. It is one more testimony of how Swamiji's blessings work. Devotees from Canada, Germany, and Switzerland also participated. Special Prasadam blessed by Sri Swamiji brought from Mysore was distributed to the participants. The Yagnam culminated on Dassera day by conducting Dashaakshari, Panchaakshari Saha Lalitha Homa by Shankar Manchi Shastri in Baton Rouge Temple on behalf of all the participants.

2006:

- A "Special Event program" was conducted on Nov. 4-5, 2006, at Baton Rouge with the blessings of Param Pujya Ganapathi Sachchidananda Swamiji. The Event started with Lakshaarchana for Swamiji by chanting of "Om Sri Ganapathi Sachchidanadaaya Namah" for His health and longevity. Most of the attendees felt the Presence of His Holiness. Swamiji delivered message of unity among religions on the phone. The above Event was followed by Anagha Vratam by the group and the day culminated with the celebration of Srinivasa Kalyanam. The Kalyanam was full of spiritual rejoicing when devotees began dancing in ecstasy.
- The next day, Sunday, devotees got immersed in observing the Ekaadashah Abhishekahm for Lord Shiva since it was Kaarthik Maasa. In the evening, Satyanarayana Vratam was performed, being Purnima day. Again, the Puja was attended by almost 100 people. Devotees also performed Puja for the Moon and offered Deepa Danam to both the priests.
- Another project was the performance 108 Anaghashtami Vratam and devotees from all the Centers participated in making it successful. Special Prasadam was distributed to the participants.

2007:

- Having successfully complete 108 Anaghashtami Vratams in 2006, some devotees suggested taking up 1008 Vratams as another spiritual Sadhana. Realizing their enthusiasm MM-DYCUUSA decided to take up Sahasra Anaghashtami Vratam project from July 2006-May 2007 culminating in 1401 Vratams during Swamiji's birthday in May, 2007. More than 200 devotees from USA, India, Middle East, and Europe participated in this Sadhana and exceeded the goal of 1008.
- Let us continue to work together with DYCU's mission in view:
"Sahanava vatu,
Shanau Bhunaktau,
Saha Virya Karva Vahai,
Tejasvina Vadhitamastu Ma Vidhvisha Vaihit.....".