

MGMNT Celebrated Gandhi Jayanthi in Dallas, TX

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Mahatma Gandhi Memorial of North Texas (MGMNT) celebrated Gandhiji's 147th birthday on October 2nd at Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Plaza in Irving (Dallas), TX with hundreds of people participating in "Gandhi Peace Walk" led by IANT. It was a quite scenic event to watch as children, men and women wore white dress and white caps. Mrs. Archana Prasad, Great Granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi along with her husband Mr. Hari Prasad attended as Chief Guests of Honor. Mrs. Shabnam Modgil, MGMNT Director welcomed the gathering and reminded everyone that United Nations declared October 2nd as International Day of Non-violence. Mr. Rao Kalvala, MGMNT Secretary briefed about the hard work and approval process of having this largest Gandhi memorial

in USA and thanked City of Irving and the community. Mrs. Indu Reddy Mandadi, MGMNT Co-chair stated having Gandhi Peace Walk at Gandhi Memorial is a unique and many other communities may not have this kind of opportunity. She thanked India Association of North Texas volunteers and MGMNT leadership for making all the needed arrangements for this meaningful walk.

Dr. Prasad Thotakura, MGMNT Chair reiterated the essence of Gandhi's life in spreading peace all over the world, emphasizing fighting, conflicts & wars are not solutions for any crisis but only negotiation is. Dr. Thotakura thanked Mrs. Archana Prasad for gracing the occasion to celebrate Gandhiji's birthday in Dallas though she has many choices & places to attend. Archana while addressing the crowd shared her vision and experience of working for Gandhi Institute, Memphis, TN that was founded by her father Mr. Arun Gandhi. She thanked Dr. Prasad Thotakura, Chairman & his team for building the beautiful and the largest Gandhi Memorial in USA. MGMNT Board and Chief guests released about 10 white doves in symbol of spreading Peace across the globe. Hundreds of community members walked around the lake after warmup session by Yoga coordinator Mr. Vijay. All community members paid tribute to Gandhi by offering flowers. IANT secretary B.N. thanked his team members Salman Farshori, Bhima Penta and other volunteers, FunAsiA for providing Breakfast, Police Department and City of Irving Officials for making all the needed arrangements at the event.

MGMNT hosted a complete vegetarian, non-alcoholic

Gandhi Banquet on the same evening where Mrs. Archana Prasad attended as a key note speaker. Mrs. Shabnam Modgil in her opening remarks expressed her joy and pleasure to celebrate Gandhi's Birthday with Gandhi Family members. Mr. Rao Kalvala, MGMNT secretary thanked all donors and community members for their unconditional support in realizing the dream of the community. He further requested the community to actively involve in the second phase of the project.

Dr. Prasad Thotakura, Chairman MGMNT stated that today's Banquet theme is –"Peace, Non-violence & Harmony" Dr. Thotakura reminded the great saying "Peace begins with a Smile." A smile can lit up a room so imagine what a world of smiles can do. Emotions, Anger, Frustration & Pride are obstacles to a person striving to keep on a nonviolent path. Dr. Thotakura emphasized Gandhi's quote– "Anger is the enemy of nonviolence and Pride is a monster that swallows it up." "Happiness is when- what you think, what you say and what you do are in harmony."

Mrs. Archana Prasad in her key note highlighted the principles and philosophies of Gandhi and challenges in maintaining her Gandhi legacy. She mentioned almost all Gandhi family members are engaging in several community service activities all over the globe. She particularly mentioned about the noble work of Gandhiforchildren.org doing in supporting needy children. The Chief Guest of Honor Mrs. Archana Prasad has released MGMNT Special souvenir. Mrs. Kalpana Bhatia released "Gandhi Memorial – DFW-TX" App which

is available currently in Google Play store. MGMNT funded scholarships to UT Dallas students. MGMNT also sponsored UT Arlington students to attend Gandhi Conference in New Delhi, India at the end of May. One of the students Ms. Fatima Hirsi thanked MGMNT for sponsoring and shared her trip experiences in visiting India for the first time. MGMNT conducted Essay writing competitions on “The Relevance of Mahatma Gandhi’s non-violence in today’s world” topic. Archana Prasad awarded the winners– Senior Category – 1. Mr. Anshu Jain 2. Ms. Irene Ameena 3. Ms. Tayyaba Ali; Junior Category – 1. Ms. Arja Singh 2. Ms. Ameena Sikka 3. Ms. Ashrithaa Adhibhatla.

Dr. Thotakura read the proclamation from the City of Irving Mayor Beth Van Duyne declaring October 2nd as “Gandhi Day” in Irving. MGMNT Board felicitated Chief Guest of Honor Mrs. Archana Prasad with Distinguished Public Service Award and Mr. Hari Prasad with a token of appreciation. MGMNT Co-chair, Mrs. Indu Mandadi briefed MGMNT activities in her closing remarks. MGMNT Co-chair Mr. Piyush Patel thanked chief guests for attending, community for supporting, media for covering, Park Plaza Tower for hosting and scores of volunteers for making needed arrangements. Gandhi Birthday celebrations ended with a sumptuous dinner.

For more information on MGMNT activities, please visit www.mgmnt.org (<http://www.mgmnt.org/>) or contact Board of Directors–

Dr. Prasad Thotakura, Mr. Piyush Patel, Mrs. Indu Reddy Mandadi, Mr. Rao Kalvala, Mr. Salman Farshori, Mr. Taiyab Kundawala, Mrs. Shabnam Modgil, Mr. Jack Godhwani,

Mr. John Hammond.

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