

Veerashaiva Samaja of North America (VSNA)

34th Annual Convention, July 2nd & 3rd of 2011

Hosted by: VSNA – New England Chapter

International Daasoha (Charity) Day

Date: July 4th 2011

Concept: Daasoha or Charity is one of core values of Basavanna's teachings. We invite everyone to participate in Daasoha and experience "the joy of sharing". We need a dedicated day to create awareness and spread the importance of Daasoha. Hence we have decided to declare July 4th as International Daasoha Day (**IDD**).



Basava Baton (Jyothi): To welcome the grand opening of "Daasoha Day" we have created a concept of virtual Basava Baton (Jyothi) which will travel from **Kudala Sangama, Karnataka, India to Boston, MA USA from Oct 2nd 2010 on Gandhi Jayanthi day to July 4th 2011 Daasoha Day.**



Since physically carrying Basava Jyothi around world is nearly impossible we ask all of you to participate by carrying the virtual Basava Jyothi for a specific period of time in your heart and at your home and passing it on to the next person. Just as Basavanna's Vachanas which help the person following it and inturn the society based on it, we want Basava Jyothi to help the participant in more ways than one and in turn help the environment we depend on and the society we live in.

We want all of you to participate in carrying Basava Baton by giving up something from your daily routine. It is about "consuming less". Basava Jyothi would benefit us at different levels.

- Benefits at Physical/Personal Level by "Consuming Less".
 - We invite all participants to "Consume Less" , by skipping 1 or 2 meals in a day, or by substituing our regular intake with light fruits and salad for day(s)/week.
 - We may consume less of corbonated drinks, smoking, or any other not necessary consumption for a specific period of time.
 - We can skip eating sugar or products made of sugar for a specific period of time (a week/month etc).
 - We may consume less TV. Substitite that with more time with family and friends.
 - These are just examples and we all can come up with our own list of items to "Consume Less" that are not necessary for our sustainance.
 - The Journal of American Medical Association indicates "In 2007-2008, the prevalence of obesity was 32.2% among adult men and 35.5% among adult women".
 - "Childhood obesity has more than tripled in the past 30 years to 19.6% in 2008" - CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention)
- Benefits at Environment Level by "Consuming Less"
 - We invite participants to consume less of environmentally unsafe products like Plastic bottles, consume less of gas by taking public transportation where applicable, encourage organic way of life where possible.
 - These are just examples and we all can come up with our own list of items that are harmful for our environment and consume less of them.
 - We all understand that our "civilization" makes it harder for us to be 100% environmentally safe. As a society, we are re-engineering our life styles to be in better harmony with environment and we all want to contribute in our own small ways.
 - 60,000,000 - The number of plastic bottles thrown into U.S. landfills each day.
- Benefits at Societal Level
 - We tend to forget that things have a beginning and ending. It is very common for us to take what we have for granted. Imagine for a minute that everyone we ever knew ceases to exists and we are alone. Assume for a minute that the supreme power that we

may believe in, does not matter what belief system we follow, appears in front of us and asks us to name three people that we want to bring back to existence in our place. Pause, whatever may be our roles in our societies, we all would have at least 3 people that we would want to give up everything for. Now, let us ask these 3 people if there are improvements we can make in our life styles, for them. If so, let us start to change from within. Change from within is the most simple, yet most powerful change and people whom we can give up everything for, can trigger this in us. When the constituent parts change for the better, the whole (Society) is eventually going to change for the better.

- It does not matter whether the change is big or small, but what matters is the change itself.

When you participate at any of the three levels and feel happy about yourself, proud of your local community, we request you to donate an amount (or kind) in value to your benefits. It is hard to quantify happiness, but we want you to experience the joy of sharing, by giving generously to our needy brothers and sisters of our local communities. You can donate a dollar amount to our "Daasoha" fund and our volunteers will engage with in the local community to perform "Daasoha" on the last Saturday of every month.

Why are we starting on October, 2nd ?

October 2nd, is the birthday (Jayanti) of Mahatma Gandhi. Mahatma Gandhi was born on October 2nd, 1869. He stood for simple, sustainable life style and universalistic values. What better day to start our "Daasoha" campaign ?.

Why are we calling July, 4th as Daasoha Day ?

Daasoha or Charity is one of core values of Basavanna's teachings. USA is one of the most compassionate countries in the world and is in the forefront of charitable efforts, in several geographical regions, helping the needy. What better day to designate as "Daasoha Day" ?

On Daasoha Day: We ask everyone who believes in Basavanna's core principles to do "Daasoha" or charity work, in the field of your choice. Few examples are Feeding Hunger, Volunteering in community activities, donate Blood, help in school projects, support Seniors, Mentor Youth, fight against Drugs, Donate Cloths/Food/Money/Time, etc. There are no geographical barriers as each one of you either as a team or individually participate in your local community giving and the whole world will be joining hands with you to help make a small change. Collectively we show to the world & celebrate the Daasoha concept.

To sign up/to see Basava Baton path /more info www.vsnaconvention.com/DaasohaDay

 Daasohaday@gmail.com  860-648-0302

Your Ref #:

Sign Up: If you're interested in carrying virtual **Basava Baton (Jyothi)** please fill the form and email it to our volunteers @ Daasohaday@gmail.com

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Country: _____

Date you would like to carry Basava Baton: _____

Person whom you would like to dedicate your Daasoha to: _____

Briefly Explain how you are "Consuming Less": _____

I would like to repeat this every month: _____