



World Sikh Council – America Region (WSC-AR)

P.O. Box 3635, Columbus, Ohio 43210, USA

Phone: 614-210-0591, Fax: 419-535-6794

E-mail: contact@worldsikhcouncil.org, Website: www.worldsikhcouncil.org

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Member Gurdwaras:

1. Gurdwara Sahib Fremont, Fremont, CA
2. Guru Nanak Sikh Mission, Livingston, CA
3. Sikh Gurdwara of LA, North Hollywood, CA
4. Sikh Gurdwara Riverside, Riverside, CA
5. Colorado Singh Sabha, Denver, CO
6. Guru Singh Sabha of Augusta, Augusta, GA
7. Sikh Study Circle of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA
8. Sikh Religious Society of Chicago, Palatine, IL
9. Sikh Society of South, New Orleans, LA
10. Sikh Gurdwara of Michigan, Rochester Hills, MI
11. Sikh Society of Michigan, Madison Heights, MI
12. Sikh Gurdwara of North Carolina, Durham, NC
13. Garden State Sikh Association, Bridgewater, NJ
14. Siri Guru Singh Sabha, Glenrock, NJ
15. Sikh Cultural Society Inc., Richmond Hills, NY
16. Sikh Cultural & Edu. Society of Western NY, Buffalo, NY
17. Sikh Religious Society of Dayton, Dayton, OH
18. Guru Nanak Found. of Greater Cleveland, Richfield, OH
19. Guru Gobind Singh Sikh Society, Bedford, OH
20. Guru Nanak Religious Soc. of Central Ohio, Columbus, OH
21. Tristate Sikh Cultural Society, Monroeville, PA
22. Mid South Sikh Sabha, Memphis, TN
23. Sikh Center of Gulf Coast, Houston, TX
24. Siri Guru Singh Sabha, Richardson, TX
25. Sikh Gurdwara of North Texas, Garland, TX
26. Singh Sabha Gurdwara, Fairfax, VA
27. Sikh Association of Central Virginia, VA
28. Sikh Religious Society of Wisconsin, Brookfield, WI

Other Sikh Institution Members:

1. Siri Guru Granth Sahib Found., Anaheim, CA
3. Sikhs Serving America, Topeka, KS
3. Sikh Youth Federation of North America, White Plains, NY
4. Sikh Coalition, New York, NY
5. Sikh Educational & Religious Foundation, Dublin, OH
6. Sikh Youth Federation of USA, Toledo, OH
7. Academy of Guru Granth Studies, Arlington, TX

Contact: Dr. Tarunjit Singh, Secretary General
614-210-0591, contact@worldsikhcouncil.org

Sikh Community Celebrates 400th Anniversary of Installation of Granth Sahib on September 4-5, 2004 in Chicago

Sikhs from New Jersey to California and Louisiana to Michigan joined the Sikhs in Chicago at the Palatine Gurdwara Sahib on September 4 and 5, 2004 to celebrate and commemorate the 400th anniversary of the installation of Granth Sahib.

Sikhs across the globe are celebrating this historic occasion. In the US, the World Sikh Council - America Region (WSC-AR), the Sikh Religious Society of Chicago, and Gurdwaras of the Midwest region jointly organized the celebrations.

"The Sikh faith, which began in South Asia, is spread all across the globe today. The Sikh diaspora is pleased to celebrate this auspicious occasion by rededicating itself to live up to the principles of our faith, and at the same time work towards instilling Sikhi Spirit with promise, hope, and conviction into our future generations" said Mr. Kuldeep Singh, Chairman of WSC-AR.

On September 1, 1604, Siri Guru Arjan Sahib formally installed the Granth Sahib (a compilation of Gurbani up to that time) at Siri Harmandar Sahib, Amristar in the South Asian region of Punjab. Later, the bani of Siri Guru Tegh Bahadar Sahib was added and in 1708 Siri Guru Gobind Singh Sahib bestowed guruship on the Granth Sahib. Since then, Sikhs refer to it as Siri Guru Granth Sahib and consider it to be the divine word of God.

On Saturday morning, a crowd of about 500 gathered in Palatine, Illinois, to kick-off the weekend celebrations with a traditional Ardaas (supplication). A jubilant Nagar Kirtan (prayerful procession) led by several local and national dignitaries wound its way through the surrounding neighborhood, culminating in several addresses by the dignitaries at the city's Town Square Gazebo. The speakers included the Chairman of WSC-AR, the President of the Sikh Religious Society of Chicago, Mayor Rita Mullins of Palatine, Hoffman Estates President Mr. William MacLeod, and Asian liaison representatives of US Senator Richard Durbin and Governor Rod Blagojevich.

Following the Nagar Kirtan, several hundred assembled at the Palatine Gurdwara Sahib for a seminar on the "The Message of Siri Guru Granth Sahib." Several notable scholars presented their topical papers. Mr. Rabinder Singh, of Westbury, New York, discussed issues relating to Naam Simran and Siri Guru Granth Sahib. Mr. Kuldip Singh, of Kalamazoo, Illinois, spoke on Pathways to Peace: The Wisdom of Listening and Power of Commitment. Dr. Ranbir Singh, of Tracy, California, expounded on the divinity of Siri Guru Granth Sahib. Dr. Balwant Singh, from Amritsar, India, presented the major themes covered in Siri Guru Granth Sahib. The seminar was punctuated with lively discussion and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

On Sunday morning, Kirtan (congregational prayers) with many famous Kirtanias (singers specializing in Sikh religious music) and youth groups was held and continued till late in the afternoon. The girl youth group included Tanveer Kaur, Gulreen Kaur, and Jasleen Kaur of Toronto, Canada, as well as Tejdeep Kaur of Toledo, Ohio. The boy youth group included Jagdeep Singh and Jasmeet Singh of Guelph, Canada. The adult Kirtanias included Mr. Avtar Singh, Mr. Kultar Singh, Mr. Gurmukh Singh, and Mr. Bhagat Singh of India, Mr. Mohinder Singh of Chicago, and Mr. Harbhajan Singh of Florida.

WSC-AR is a representative and elected body of Sikh Gurdwaras and institutions in the United States. Its members include 28 Gurdwaras (Sikh places of worship) and 7 other Sikh institutions across the nation.

Note - Photos of the celebrations in jpeg format, suitable for publication by the media, can be obtained by e-mailing contact@worldsikhcouncil.org.