



Dharma Civilization Foundation

A Registered 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization

VOLUME II ISSUE IV

NEWSLETTER APR 2013

Vision

Enshrine the globally applicable, multi-dimensional, multi-facted value system of "Dharma" as a critically important paradigm for sustainability, harmonious living and all round well-being of the planet.

Recent Key Initiatives:

1. Swami Vivekananda Visiting Faculty in Hindu Studies at USC.
2. Dharma Civilization Foundation Endowed Chair in Hindu Studies at USC.
3. Swami Vivekananda Fellowship in Dharma Studies at UCI.
4. DCF has established the Center for Dharma Studies at Claremont Lincoln University.

All donations are tax exempt. For support, and information contact us at :
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Swami Vivekananda Conference and Event at USC

In this year of celebrations of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Vivekananda, there will be many events, mostly in India, to mark the occasion. However Vivekananda's influence in the West and the study of his teachings in higher education has largely diminished over time. In the academic sphere, notably his legacy is associated more often with politics than with philosophy.

In order to address this absence, **Dharma Civilization Foundation** is funding a major Academic Conference on Swami Vivekananda, at the University of Southern California (USC), sponsored by the USC School of Religion and organized by Prof. Rita D. Sherma, the Swami Vivekananda Visiting Professor at the USC. The organizing committee consists of Prof. Duncan Williams, Chair of the USC School of Religion; Dean of Religious Life Prof. Varun Soni, and Prof. James McHugh. Prof. Shiva Bajpai, and Dr. Manohar Shinde, President and Chairman of DCF,



Swami Vivekananda academic conference in October at USC, funded by DCF

respectively, and members of the DCF Board are on the Conference Advisory Committee.

The conference will focus on Ethical and Theological Perspectives on Swami Vivekananda; his Position and Influence in the Nineteenth Century Hindu Renaissance; Ethics of Pluralism; his Pioneering Philosophy of Service as a Spiritual Path, and other themes. The conference will be concluded by Indian musical

and dance events. This event will take place on **October 18th-19th, 2013**, at the **USC Davidson Conference Center**, 3415 S. Figueroa St. Los Angeles, CA 90089. We hope you will honor the living memory of Swami Vivekananda and come to the event. Swami Vivekananda is known for certain contributions that profoundly shaped the perspective of intellectuals in India and the West. These insights included the necessity of: equal respect for all religions; advocacy and service for the poor and dispossessed; championing of women's rights to education and leadership; and a call to spiritual liberation for the world and national liberty for India. Vivekananda's vision was far ahead

of his time, and many of the causes that he championed are yet to be fulfilled in India or abroad. His pioneering philosophy of active, compassionate, world engagement as lived spiritual practice is vital for our time in order for a biospheric future to be viable. Caring for all life, as the paramount form of worship for persons of all faiths, has now become normative as the standard for engaged spirituality. His ground-breaking *dharmic* ethics of *seva* as *sadhana* is vital for our time. Vivekananda's transreligious vision of service, however, was a novel idea for its time. The grounding of the above idea in philosophy has endowed it with a moral imperative and endurance that, if dynamically transmitted in the idiom of our times, may catalyze true transformation.

DCF's Upcoming Quarterly Meet on April 20th

DCF is holding its **Quarterly Meeting on Saturday, April 20th**. DCF trustees and some prominent guests are flying to Los Angeles to attend this meeting. DCF will discuss its progress report, and upcoming initiatives with its donors, and well wishers.

DCF Trustees will also be holding dinner meetings with University of Southern California (USC) & Claremont Lincoln University (CLU) authorities to strengthen ties further.

धारणाद्धर्ममित्याहुः धर्मो धारयते प्रजाः ।

यस्याद्धारणसंयुक्तं स धर्म इति निश्चयः ॥ -Mahabharata, Karnaparva

The word "dharma" is derived from verb "dhaaraNa". it is "dharma" which holds society together. Hence if something is able to hold people together, no doubt it is dharma.