

Hari Om Mandir celebrates Lohri

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CHICAGO: A massive crowd of devotees and participants thronged the Hari Om Mandir in Medinah, a Chicago northside suburb on 12 January to celebrate the Lohri in the traditional north Indian style.

The special meal of the season - Makki Ki Roti, Saag, Lassi and Gur Wale Chawal along with this, the traditional items like Bhugga, Popcorn, Rewari, Moongphali, Khajoor

and Chirvara was distributed.

Another attraction was a beautiful village set up of Punjab which depicts the authentic culture and ambience of the festival. Charkha, chakki, yogurt matki, hand cart full of peanuts, rickshaws, a cart laden with the harvested crop, manjis, pirhi were some of the everyday items in the streets of a Punjab's village were displayed in this HOM village.

Men with Dhols and women in their Giddha was also depicted. Random cows, dogs, a Chullah and a kettle of hot tea, completed the entire visual!

The dinner was followed with all coming to sing and dance. Mona & Deepak Sharma along with Usha Verma, Shama Sharma, Veerpal, Pooja, Parveen, Nidhi etc. joined in singing beautiful Punjabi Folk Songs. A Group of Young Girls led by Neha Sobti performed the traditional Folk Dance of Punjab - "Giddha" followed by "Jaggo" - another traditional ritual of Punjab.

House of Spices partnered with Hari Om Mandir this year besides donating \$1000/- and Makki Ka Atta to the Mandir, on this occasion.

Last but not least, the Lohri Bonfire was lighted, and people gathered around to offer the Prasad items to the Holy God of Fire. As the "Sunder Mundiye" Lohri Song echoed



Hari Om Mandir Celebrates Lohri Traditional North Indian Style



Performers - Traditional Folk Dance of Punjab - "Giddha"



Traditional Folk Dance of Punjab - "Giddha"

to the beat of Ajay Ghai's Dhol, everybody - young and old - was seen dancing and enjoying.

Ind-Am painter Lakshmi Shankarreddy creating art for a good cause

Lakshmi Shankarreddy is a fine artist from the San Francisco Bay Area. She grew up in India and currently lives in northern California.

Her parents, both doctors, encouraged her from her childhood to draw, paint and create.

She loves to paint and continues to be a professional and practising artist. Lakshmi's artworks have been exhibited in art shows in USA and India.

Press has widely published her art shows.

She is known for her oil paintings which have her distinctive contemporary touch with a soft impressionist style. She is also an inspiring art educator, having taught art workshops in the USA and India. She has been conducting 'Creating Art for a good cause' Art show fundraisers for nonprofit organizations.

She has been teaching fine art to children, Teens and Adults for the past 29 years. In her own words "I am

continuously inspired by the beauty of nature and to make Art. Art is my passion and an essential part of my life. There has never been anything else I wanted to be or do.

My muses are many - Kindness, Compassion, Nature, United States of America, India, Indian mythology, food, festivals, family and friends. I am delighted to share my art and inspiration with you."

https://www.instagram.com/lakshmishankarreddy_artist/

www.lakshmiartworkshop.com
Lakshmi art workshop - creating art for a good cause and art education

Lakshmi Shankarreddy has been teaching art classes at Lakshmi's Art Workshop, an award-winning art school in Union City, San Francisco Bay Area and conducting art show

fundraisers for nonprofit organizations - 'Creating art for a good cause' thus inspiring and encouraging budding artists and students to create and share art for a useful purpose.

2013: Student Art Show



Lakshmi Shankarreddy

Fundraiser for Colorful Minds, CA
2015: Student Art Show
Fundraiser for Small Steps Foundation, CA

2017: Exhibition of Art Cards - Art show fundraiser for Lucille

Packard Children Hospital Stanford CA

2019: Lakshmi's Art Workshop has been awarded Best of 2019, Art School, Union City CA.

Lakshmi Shankarreddy started Lakshmi's Art Workshop with the purpose of teaching art, mainly visual arts in all its manifestations, beginning with children's art classes, summer art camps to courses in Drawing, Painting, Art Portfolio prep for Teens and Oil painting classes for Adults.

Lakshmi's Art Workshop conducts art classes and summer art camps which are designed to bring out the creative talent in children apart from imparting skills; the emphasis is on the very free expression of ideas through art lessons, specially designed projects and art appreciation. Children are introduced to freehand,

model, memory, geometric and perspective drawing. They are encouraged to choose their manner of expression and learn to create art using various mediums like pencil art, charcoal, oil pastels, ink sketches, watercolor painting, acrylic painting, oil painting, clay art, collage making, mixed media, printmaking and art history.

Art opportunities: Lakshmi's Art Workshop provides art opportunities for students and budding artists, a platform to display their artworks through art shows, art show fundraisers for nonprofit organizations and teaching opportunities for selected advance level students to assist in the classroom and summer camps.

Artist Lakshmi Shankarreddy conducts Lakshmi's Art Workshop

In 2019, Lakshmi's art workshop was awarded Best of 2019, Art School, Union City CA.