

2008 SIKH YOUTH GURMAT RETREAT

TOPICS AND MODERATORS

Workshops:

1. Concept of Guru in Sikh religion - Sardar Amarjit Singh (Buffalo, New York)

- "Who is Guru Nanak Dev Jee's Guru"
- Overview of Sidh Gosht
- Role of Guru in our lives
- Shabad to be discussed: " Kavan Mool Kavan Mutt Velaa....."
- Tie in the 300th anniversary of the Guru Granth Sahib Jee to this Shabad

2. Questions/Answers Session - Sunaina Kaur (Los Angeles, California)

- Similar to an "in the hot seat" discussion or Panel type discussion on various topics - could potentially poll the attendees earlier in the weekend re: topics they want to discuss

3. "Cultural oppression" in the Sikh way of life - Sardar Satpreet Singh (Tampa, Florida)

- Discuss cultural practices that are "in conflict" and are "infiltrating" into Sikh traditions and discipline
- Examples may include: practice of rakhri, diwali, shangrand, "needing to have a son" etc.
- should be an interactive (and diplomatic) in bringing to light some practices that have now undermined Sikh philosophy

4. Role of Khalsa Panth and a Sikh - Sardar Kuldeep Singh (Toledo, Ohio)

- Role of a Sikh in Khalsa Panth
- Role of Khalsa Panth
- How do we contribute to the Panth here in North America
- How to keep motivated

Seminars:

1. "How a few can make a difference" - The Singh Sabha Movement – Sardar Sartaz Singh (Boca Raton, Florida)

- Focus on how grassroots movements have had significant impact in Sikhism
- Draw parallels to other successful grassroots movements - i.e.: Rosa Parks and the civil rights movement.

2. Importance of keeping Sikh identity: Sardar Princy Singh (Seattle, Washington)

- What is the Sikh identity?
- How does the inner character of a Sikh compare to that of the external Saroop?
- What is the importance in preserving the Sikh identity?
- How do we instill/feel pride in the Sikh identity?

3. Profiles of *Jeevanwaley* Gursikhs – Sardar Mandeep Singh (Fort Lauderdale, Florida)

- Short bios on Gursikhs living in recent times
- Provide inspiration that Gursikhi jeevan is not something of the past, but can be achieved even now.
- Some individuals include: Bhai Akali Kaur Singh, Bhai Sahib Singh, Bhai Vir Singh, Bhagat Puran Singh, Bhai Joginder Singh, Mata Sahib Kaur and Mata Bhag Kaur
- Also stress that "Sant Siphai" or saintly warrior has many connotations - not just the brave Sikh on the physical battlefield, but a warrior in life's challenges as well.

4. Bhai Gurdaas Jee and his Baanee - Bhai Mohan Singh (Tampa, Florida)

- Who is Bhai Gurdaas Jee
- Why his baanee is called "key to Guru Granth Sahib"
- Importance of his Vaars & Kabitts
- Translation of Bhai Gurdas Jee's following Shabad:

"Pichal raatee jaagnaa naam daan ishnaan drirhaeay"