

Bringing religion of love

Vithal C Nadkarni,

Her forefathers had lived in Sindh from the days of the Harappan trade with Mesopotamia. After Partition her family moved to [India](#) for keeps. “All we had were the clothes on our backs,” the matriarch reminisces, “not to forget the Granth Sahib snatched from our abandoned ancestral home.”

In course of time, the family regained its former splendour, and managed to install the Holy Book in a puja room of a posh seaside flat in Mumbai. To the great contentment of the matriarch, several uninterrupted recitals (akhand path) of the Sri Guru Granth Sahib had been organised.

“Over those two days and nights, when the sacred bani is recited without pause, the atmosphere at home is surcharged with reverence just like it used to be in the balmy days at Sukkur and Shikarpur,” she reminisces.

Such stories of return and rejuvenation have been repeated many times over, across many cultures and communities around the globe. Consider the example of the early travails and persecution suffered by the Sikhs. Today, millions of them around the world were happily celebrating the 300th anniversary of the consecration of Sri Guru Granth Sahib

Sikhs celebrate 300th anniversary



Amanjit Singh

Sharing their faith: Religious leaders, from left, Heather Hennessey pastor of First Christian Church, Sikh leader Amanjit Singh and Islamic Centre leader Abu Bakr H. Salauddin take turns explaining the differences and similarities of their beliefs to worshipers at the Sikh Centre.

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Three hundred years ago this month, Guru Gobind Singh, the 10th living Guru of the Sikh religion, declared that everything he and the nine previous Gurus knew about God and living a holy life were contained in the collected 1,430 pages of writings on the faith.

These holy scriptures, which for Sikhs equate to the Christian Bible, are now known as the Sri Guru Granth Sahib, explained Amarjit Singh, spiritual leader for The Sikh Centre in Anderson.

Worldwide, Sikhs are celebrating the 300th anniversary of the granting of Guru status on faith's holy scriptures.

Not to be left out, Shasta County's Sikh adherents have been planning since July for this auspicious tercentenary celebration, Amarjit Singh said.

"In India, we would not celebrate in this way, but in America we need to attract people more directly," he said.

A fun day of cultural sharing is being planned at The Sikh Centre, 5400 Sikh Centre Dr., in Anderson. To reach the center, take Deschutes Road east of Interstate 5 to Corner Road.

The public is invited to join in the celebration by forming a large 300 on the center's parking lot. A helicopter will then take photographers aloft to take pictures of the gathered crowd with the center's golden dome in the background, Singh said.

Punjabi snacks and a free meal will also be available throughout the event, which is scheduled to take place from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 24.

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