

American Hindu Association

(A registered tax exempt, Non-profit organization)



HINDU CONNECTIONS

April, 2008

Happy Ugadhi & Hindu New Year to all.

Shivaratri was celebrated in a traditional manner

on Sunday March 16, 2008 at Sherwood Community Center. The function started at 4 pm with traditional puja of the Shivalingam and performing of Abhishekam of the Shivalingam. The ceremonies were concluded with offering



Archana and performing Arati of Lord Shiva. All present participated in performing Abhishekam, Archana and Arati. The rituals were graciously conducted by the Madison Priest. The formal ceremonies were followed by melodious



Bhajans presented impromptu by devotees. The entire atmosphere was charged with spiritual gaiety and Bhakti. The event concluded with sharing of Prasad brought by participants. The spread was a sumptuous feast in

itself. All attendees left with a feeling of spiritual contentment.

Protest Against Government Control of Hindu Temples

<http://www.organiser.org/dynamic/modules.php?name=Content&pa=showpage&pid=229&page=30>
ANDHRA PRADESH, INDIA, March 17, 2008: Recently, on January 25, ten thousand Hindus gathered at Tirupati to show their opposition to the governmental control of temples.

For years, Hindus had been watching how the government of Andhra Pradesh had been taking over management of their temples, and then selling thousands of acres of land that belonged to these temples, thus leaving them with little or no economic basis. This was being done without the permission of the local Hindu community. The endowments department, whose duty is the preservation of old temples, had turned a blind eye to these activities and encroachments. Furthermore, about 34,000 temples had been taken over for government control. Only 18 per cent of the revenue of these temples is said to be given back for temple purposes, while the remaining 82 per cent is used for other things by the government at their discretion.

Due to public demand, about 30,000 temples have been given back, but those that had the largest economic income were kept by the government. To make the government more aware of the Hindu community's outrage and demand for change, a huge public forum was arranged on January 25 in Tirupati. Several Hindu leaders addressed the thousands present. They all emphasized the need for Hindus everywhere to be strong enough to preserve and protect their tradition, starting with their temples.

Cremation Actually Results in Less Carbon Emissions than Burial

<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,33355502-2702,00.html>

THE AUSTRALIAN, March 11, 2008: South Australia's largest cemetery commissioned a study into the environmental impacts of cremations and burials. The study found it was better for people to be cremated, compared with the long-term impact of burials, even though four times as much carbon dioxide was produced during the initial cremation process.

"On the day that a cremation or burial takes place, the volume of carbon dioxide produced is higher for cremation than for burial," Centennial Park chief executive Bryan Elliott said. "The report found that each cremation at Centennial Park generates approximately 160kg (352 pounds) of carbon dioxide equivalent. "Each burial at Centennial Park generates approximately 39kg (86 pounds) of CO₂. "However, when the long-term environmental footprint is considered, burials at Centennial Park have a 10 per cent greater impact than cremations. "This is because we must look after the gravesite for a number of years by watering and mowing the surrounding lawn area and maintaining the concrete beam on which the headstone is placed.

HPP note: For those who like to know these things, driving a midsize car 1,000 miles a month produces 19.45 pounds of CO₂/day. Therefore, your cremation will produce the same amount of CO₂ as driving your car for no more than 18 days.

Upcoming Community Events.

AHA Sunderkand Path 2008

Venue: Body in Balance

6333 Odana Rd, Madison WI 53719

Date: Sunday, April 20th 2008

Time: 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM

MATA Ugadi Celebrations 2008 - Happy Ugaadi

Venue: Verena Performance Arts Center

300 Richard Street, Verena WI 53593

Date: Saturday, April 12th 2008

Time: 5:00 PM

Contact: Badri L @ 608-467-1598

ART OF LIVING ~ WWW.ARTOFLIVING.ORG Basic Part 1 Course

Dates: April 15th -21st, 2008

Venue: UW-Madison

Weekdays: 6:30 - 9:00 pm Weekends: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Contact: Bipin K. @ 520-730-4374 ~ bkarun@gmail.com

KBRE 2008 - A Quiz for Kids to Popularize Hindu Epic

RAMAYAN www.balagokulam.org/contest ~ For details en K.B.R.F

please call Krishnamurthy Wonninani at 303-952-4025 or email

contest@balagokulam.org

Online exam starting from April 13th 2008

SPELLING / VOCABULARY / MATH / ESSAY / GEOGRAPHY BEE CONTESTS

Registration Deadline is 12th April 2008

Contests

Dates: 26th & 27th April 2008. Those who are interested to register please register online at the website www.northsouth.org Contact: M. S. Rao @ 608-273-8690

Penny Earned - Penny Saved

<http://www.goodsearch.com/?charityid=814594>

What if American Hindu Association earned a penny every time you searched the Internet? Or how about if a percentage of every purchase you made online went to support our cause? Well, now it can! Good Search.com is a new Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine, get quality search results from Yahoo, and watch the donations add up! Good Shop.com is a new online shopping mall which donates up to 37 percent of each purchase to your favorite cause! Hundreds of great stores including Amazon, Target, Gap, Best Buy, ebay, Macy's and Barnes & Noble have teamed up with Good Shop and every time you place an order, you'll be supporting your favorite cause. Just go to <http://www.goodsearch.com/?charityid=814594> and be sure to enter American Hindu Association as the charity you want to support. And, be sure to spread the word!

GEMS FROM THE BHAGVAD GEETA

This is a series of extracts from the Sri Bhagavad Gita (The Divine Song). The Bhagavad Gita is said to be the essence of all the Vedas and Upanishads. It's teachings are as relevant today as they were when the Lord, Sri Krishna, expounded to prince Arjuna on the sacred battle field of Kurukshetra thousands of years ago. While it is impossible to do justice to a profound work such as this in a newsletter, in each edition we present a few randomly chosen set of couplets and their brief meaning. We hope you find it helpful in finding a balance between your material and spiritual journey.

Ch4: Couplet # 5

sri-bhagavan uvaca

bahuni me vyatitani janmani tava carjuna

tany aham veda sarvani na tvam vettha parantapa

The Personality of Godhead said: Many, many births both you and I have passed. I can remember all of them, but you cannot, O subduer of the enemy!

Ch4: Couplet # 6

ajo 'pi sann avyayatma bhutanam isvaro 'pi san

prakritim svam adhisthaya sambhavamy atma-mayaya

Although I am unborn and My transcendental body never deteriorates, and although I am the Lord of all living entities, I still appear in every millennium in My original transcendental form.

Ch4: Couplet # 7

yada yada hi dharmasya glanir bhavati bhārata

abhyutthanam adharmasya tadatmanam srajamy aham

Whenever and wherever there is a decline in religious practice, O descendant of Bharata, and a predominant rise of irreligion—at that time I descend Myself.

Ch4: Couplet # 8

paritrānaya sadhunam vinasaya ca duskṛitam

dharmā-samsthāpanarthaya sambhavāmi yuge yuge

To deliver the pious and to annihilate the miscreants, as well as to reestablish the principles of religion, I Myself appear, millennium after millennium.

Ch4: Couplet #9

janma karma ca me divyam evam yo vetti tattvatah

tyaktva deham punar janma naiti mam eti so 'rjuna

One who knows the transcendental nature of My appearance and activities does not, upon leaving the body, take his birth again in this material world, but attains My eternal abode, O Arjuna.

Ch4: Couplet # 10

vita-raga-bhaya-krodha man-maya mam upasritah

bahavo jnana-tapasa puta mad-bhavam agatah

Being freed from attachment, fear and anger, being fully absorbed in Me and taking refuge in Me, many, many persons in the past became purified by knowledge of Me—and thus they all attained transcendental love for Me.

Ch4: Couplet # 11

ye yatha mam prapadyante tams tathaiva bhajamy aham

mama vartmanuvartante manushyah partha sarvasah

As all surrender unto Me, I reward them accordingly. Everyone follows My path in all respects, O son of Pritha.

Ch4: Couplet # 12

kanksantah karmanam siddhim yajanta iha devatah

ksipram hi manuse loka siddhir bhavati karma-ja

Men in this world desire success in fruitive activities, and therefore they worship the demigods. Quickly, of course, men get results from fruitive work in this world.

If there is one place on the face of earth where all the dreams of living men have found a home from the very earliest days when man began the dream of existence, it is India.

French scholar Romain Rolland

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