

American Hindu Association

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HINDU CONNECTIONS

August, 2007

Sri Krishna Janmashtami Puja and Abhishekam



American Hindu Association cordially invites you & your family for a Celebration of Sri Krishna Janmashtami Puja and Abhishekam will be conducted by Priest.

Date: September 9, 2007*

Venue: Shorewood Community Center
901 Swarthmore Ct. Madison, WI 53705

Program: 4:00 - 6:00 PM: Puja and Abhishekam of all 3" tall brass Sri Krishna idols (Madhubarkam, Milk, Yogurt, Ghee, Honey, Sugar, Panchamirth Abhishekams) by Priest.

Water Abhishekam of above idols by individuals/families: Sponsorship \$31. Each sponsor will get one of the Sri Krishna idols after abishegam for doing the archana. Necessary Archana materials will be provided by AHA. Sponsor may take their Sri Krishna idol home.

Mantrapushpam - Bhajans / Songs

6:00 – 8:00 PM: Potluck Dinner - (Bring your own choice of vegetarian food to share with others)

For Abhishekam & Archana sponsorship, please contact the following persons:

Rita :	848-9046	Rathinam:	206-0652
Balachandran:	848-6780	Rao:	827-0643
Amit:	772-0858	Kanthan:	273-8341

For food information, please contact:

Ragini: 845-6608 Bahee: 234-8634

Devotees interested in helping with this function are encouraged to bring flowers pooja and fruits for distribution as Prasad. *Sri Krishna Jayanthi is actually on Tuesday the 4th of September 2007. As that is a weekday, and priest is not available that day, AHA is celebrating the event on September 9, 2007.

Enlightening discourses by Siddhesvari Devi Ji

August 12th through 18th in Madison ~ organized by American Hindu Association
Siddheshvari Devi ji (Didi ji) of Radha Madhav Society

takes us through a very exciting journey into the scriptures and reveals the gems of the Hindu philosophy through the Vedas, Puranas, Geeta and Ramayana along with other scriptures. Her one-week long satsangh and bhajan proved very beneficial to the community who attended this event. Topics of her satsangh included recognizing and controlling our desire, two elements of desire, greed and anger, affecting human live, finding a guru, importance of gurus, controlling our mind, Bhakti meditation, mind and soul, importance of human life, unconditional happiness from God, love and devotion for Radha-Krishna and much more. Highly structured Didi ji's speech and discussion on all these topics helped other in understanding of value of life and love for God. With a great success of one week satsangh ended on August 18th.

Why do we light a lamp?

In almost every Indian home a lamp is lit daily before the altar of the Lord. In some houses it is lit at dawn, in some, twice a day – at dawn and dusk – and in a few it is maintained continuously - Akhanda Deepa. All auspicious functions commence with the lighting of the lamp, which is often maintained right through the occasion.

Light symbolizes knowledge, and darkness - ignorance. The Lord is the "Knowledge Principle" (Chaitanya) who is the source, the enlivener and the illuminator of all knowledge. Hence light is worshiped as the Lord himself.

Knowledge removes ignorance just as light removes darkness. Also knowledge is a lasting inner wealth by which all outer achievement can be accomplished. Hence we light the lamp to bow down to knowledge as the greatest of all forms of wealth.

Why not light a bulb or tube light? That too would remove darkness. But the traditional oil lamp has a further spiritual significance. The oil or ghee in the lamp symbolizes our vaasanas or negative tendencies and the wick, the ego. When lit by spiritual knowledge, the vaasanas get slowly exhausted and the ego too finally perishes. The flame of a lamp always burns upwards. Similarly we should acquire such knowledge as to take us towards higher ideals.

Whilst lighting the lamp we thus pray:

Deepajyothi parabrahma Deepa sarva tamopahaha
Deepena saadhyate saram Sandhyaadeepo Namostute

I prostrate to the dawn/dusk lamp; whose light is the Knowledge Principle (the Supreme Lord), which removes the darkness of ignorance and by which all can be achieved in life.

Swami Chinmayananda

LESONS ON LIFE

There was a man who had four sons. He wanted his sons to learn not to judge things too quickly. So he sent them each on a quest, in turn, to go and look at a pear tree that was a great distance away. The first son went in the winter, the second in the spring, the third in summer and the youngest son in the fall. When they had all gone and come back, he called them together to describe what they had seen.

The first son said that the tree was ugly, bent, and twisted. The second son said no, it was covered with green buds and full of promise. The third son disagreed; he said it was laden with blossoms that smelled so sweet and looked so beautiful, it was the most graceful thing he had ever seen. The last son disagreed with all of them; he said it was ripe and drooping with fruit, full of life and fulfillment.

The man then explained to his sons that they were all right, because they had each seen but only one season in the tree's life.

He told them that you cannot judge a tree, or a person, by only one season, and that the essence of who they are and the pleasure, joy, and love that come from that life can only be measured at the end, when all the seasons are up. If you give up when it's winter, you will miss the promise of your spring, the beauty of your summer, fulfillment of your fall.

Moral lessons: Don't let the pain of one season destroy the joy of all the rest. Don't judge life by one difficult season. Persevere through the difficult patches and better times are sure to come some time later .

A Popular Beverage - Mango Lassi by Shobhan Bantwal

1 cup plain low-fat or non-fat yogurt
1 cup canned mango pulp (sold in Indian stores)
2 cups water, Sugar if needed and Pinch of salt

Blend all the ingredients in a blender until very smooth. Serve with ice cubes and garnished with fresh sliced mango and a sprig of mint. This makes a very refreshing and healthy drink. Note: Strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, peaches or bananas can be used in place of mango. Makes 4 servings.

American Hindu Association

Disclaimer: Views of readers/column writers are that of their own and not of the AHA www.americanhindu.net

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