

American Hindu Association

(A registered tax exempt, Non-profit organization)



HINDU CONNECTIONS

February, 2007

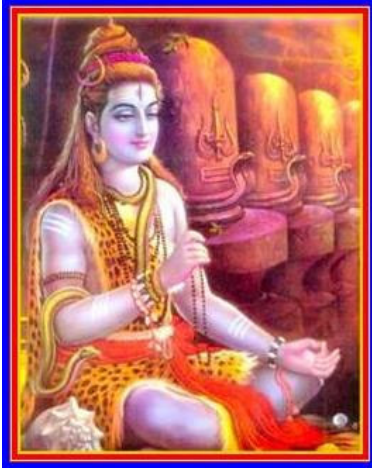
Sundarkand Path ~ April 8, 2007

You and your family are cordially invited to attend this special program.

Venue: Body & Balance (6333 Odana Road, Madison)

Program: 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM

Shivaratri Celebrations.



Shivaratri was celebrated in a traditional manner on Sunday February 18, 2007 at Body In Balance Yoga Center. The function started at 3:30pm with traditional puja of the Shivalingam, followed by chanting of Rudram, and performing of Abhishekam of the Shivalingam with milk, rosewater and Panchamritham. The ceremonies were concluded with offering

Archana and performing Aarati of Lord Shiva. All present participated in performing Abhishekam, Archana and Aarati. The rituals were graciously conducted by Dr. Balachandran. The formal ceremonies were followed by melodious Bhajans presented impromptu by devotees and a brief informal talk on the glory of lord Shiva by Mr. Amit Mangar. 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 spiritual contentment.

Volunteer at the St Vincent de Paul Food Pantry.

When: First Saturday of each Month

Location: 1302 Culmen Street (off Fish Hatchery Rd, opposite to the BP gas station)

Time: 8:00 or 10:00 am shift

From 8-10 am, you could help stock shelves and clean produce to be put out for their customers. From 10-12 noon, you could host families by taking them through the pantry, while tallying the points for the food items they pick.

We need about 10 to 12 people to make this commitment and feel good at the end of the day. If you have middle age or teenage kids, this would be a good opportunity to build up volunteer hours for their school. It also gives

young kids, a good insight of how difficult life can be otherwise. Those who are interested or have any questions please call Ragini at 845-6608 or e-mail her at sathaa@tds.net

Japan's Hindu linkages still alive

http://www.rxpgnews.com/india/Japans-Hindu-linkages-still-alive_15985.shtml

One can also see the influence of the Indian epic Ramayana in the traditional Japanese dance forms of 'Bugaku' and 'Gigaku'. By IANS, New Delhi, Feb 17 - Apart from the widely known fact that Buddhism in Japan has its origin in India, not many probably know that so many Hindu deities surround the life of a Japanese.

Speaking at a lecture titled 'Hindu Gods and Goddesses rooted to Japan' here Friday, Lokesh Chandra, the director of International Academy of Indian Culture, highlighted how deeply Indian religion and culture has influenced Japanese culture and tradition over the past centuries. He said that many temples across Japan are full of Hindu deities. Chandra said Japanese couples who desire to have a beautiful daughter pray to goddess 'Saraswati' even to this day. Saraswati is also believed as the patroness of writers and painters.

'In ancient times, Japanese generals prayed to Saraswati to be victorious in war,' Chandra told the gathering which was also attended by the Japanese Ambassador to India Yasukuni Enoki and his wife. Year 2007 is being celebrated as Japan-India Friendship Year to commemorate the 50th year of the cultural agreement between the two countries.

According to Chandra, who has travelled to Japan many times to study the country's culture and tradition, Saraswati is also worshipped as the 'goddesses of kitchen'. Many traditional Japanese plays are dedicated to the Indian deity. Sharing a trivia he said how in 1934, a Japanese woman had a vision that she was the incarnation of goddess Saraswati and started writing in Sanskrit, a language she never heard of.

There is a suburban district in Tokyo named Kichijo, which traces its roots to 'Lakshmi', the Hindu goddess of wealth. Lakshmi was propagated to China along with Buddhism in the ancient time, to be known as Kichijo in its Chinese form and then reached Japan as a Buddhist goddess.

Chandra also spoke extensively about how Sanskrit language has influenced traditional Japanese calligraphy. The Indian text was introduced into Japanese society many centuries ago. Japanese monks had to study Sanskrit in order to master Buddhism from original Indian scriptures and textbooks.

Lord Ganesha in Japan symbolises the joy of life that arises from the power rooted in the virtues of wisdom and compassion.

Young Japanese worship Ganesha to win in love whereas the old worship the deity to get success in business. There are roughly 100 temples dedicated to Ganesha in Japan, Chandra added. An 11th century Ganesha temple is the oldest among them.

Together with Hindu gods and goddess, ancient Japanese society was also introduced to Indian dance forms and musical instruments. A typical example is the 'Biwa', which actually had its origin from the Indian 'Veena'. One of Japan's largest lake is also known as Lake Biwa.

One can also see the influence of the Indian epic Ramayana in the traditional Japanese dance forms of 'Bugaku' and 'Gigaku'. The yearlong cultural celebration was kicked off here last week that was attended by former Japanese prime minister Yoshiro Mori among others.

A Hindu girl fed up with Hindu girls! - Nidhi Bhatia
www.americanhindu.net/Hindu_girl.doc

I am a Hindu girl, an extremely proud Hindu girl that takes pride in the preservation of my self-respect and dignity. So, that means following a moral Hindu path. An easy escape route for some Hindus is that their parents never taught them about their culture and religion, so they can't be blamed for anything they do. I brought this excuse for many years, and blamed the parents. Then I thought about myself, and how I could also have taken refuge in this excuse. But how is it that I grew up to respect my religion and respect myself? I now think that everybody is responsible for their own actions, and there is no use blaming your parents or anyone else.

My local Mandir (in Slough) was one of the first places that I saw certain Hindu girls who walked with a desperate sway and a desperate glare in their eyes, For more information, visit "source" above.

American Hindu Association

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

NEWVILLE TRAVEL CENTER

Hwy 59 & I - 90 (Exit 163)

Mobile Gas Station

Gasoline & Diesel Fuel

Pumps OPEN 24 Hours a DAY GAS

U SAVE

2801 University Ave, Madison, WI 53705

Gasoline Fuel

Pay at the Pump / OPEN 24 Hrs

"Always low Gas Price, ALWAYS"

BOMBAY BAZAAR

Fashions of India & Tibet

(Asian Spices, Groceries, Gifts & Movies)

Fast Food, Puja Items & Phone Cards

753 S. Gammon Rd, Madison, WI 53719

Fresh Vegetables & Sweets Every Wednesdays

Ph: 608-270-9822 Fax: 608-270-9833

(Next to Woodman's West & Associate Bank)

www.BombayBazaarmadison.com

OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

HIMAL CHULI

(Fine Indian, Nepal & Tibet Cuisine)

318 State St, Madison WI 53703

(608) 251 - 9225

Weekdays 11a.m. - 9p.m.

Saturdays 11a.m. - 10p.m.

Sundays 12 Noon - 9p.m.

INDIA HOUSE

(Spices, Groceries, Gifts & Movies)

805-B, S. Gammon Rd, Madison WI 53719

Visit The Lowest Priced Quality Grocery

Fresh Produce & Movie Store in Madison

Ph: 608-268-0240 Fax: 608-268-0241

(Near Woodman's West & African Market)

www.indiahouse-madison.com

OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

INDIA DARBAR RESTAURANT

6119 Odana Rd, Madison WI 53719

Authentic North & South Cuisine

Dine In ~ Carry-Out ~ Delivery ~ Catering

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

Lunch Buffet: 11:30AM - 3PM Dinner 5-10PM

Phone: (608) 274-1788 ~ Fax (608)-274-1021

10% OFF-For Dinner Only

Valid until 12/31/2006

www.indiadarbar.com

(Present coupon to redeem discount)

TAJ INDIAN RESTAURANT

1256 S. Park St, Madison, WI 53715

Ph: 608-268-0772 Fax: 608-268-0774

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

LUNCH BUFFET 11:30am-3pm

DINNER

Sunday-Thrusday 5pm to 10pm

Friday & Saturday 5pm to 10:30pm

www.TheTajIndianRestaurant.com