

American Hindu Association

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HINDU CONNECTIONS

Shivaratri was celebrated on 2/22/2009



Jan & Feb, 2009



Shivaratri was celebrated in a traditional manner on Sunday February 22, 2009 at Hindu Temple and Cultural Center of Wisconsin 2138 S Fish Hatchery Rd, Fitchburg, WI 53575. The function started at 10 am 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 Priest Raghuchandra Bhatt. 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.

2008 INCOME STATEMENT (Un-audited)

INCOME

PUJA	\$ 1,801.00
INTEREST	802.29
DONATION	6,089.80
ADVERTISEMENT	428.00
*BALAGOKULAM	200.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$9,321.09

EXPENSE

DISASTER RELIEF	\$4,000.00
DONATION	250.00
FESTIVALS	179.80
TV PROGRAM	693.76
OFFICE EXPENSE	733.76
RENT- AHA	139.00
RENT-BALAGOKULAM	265.74
SNOW REMOVAL	300.00
FEE(DOR, DFI & ETC)	152.00
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$6,714.06

NET INCOME (OR LOSE)	\$ 2,607.03
BEGINNING BALANCE	\$57,287.96
ENDING BALANCE	\$59,894.99

*BALAGOKULAM ACCOUNT:

TOTAL COLLECETION	\$620.00
EXPENSES	(\$181.56)
CASH DEPOSIT IN BANK	(\$200.00)

REMAINING BALANCE \$238.44

THE REMAINING BALANCE IS WITH A BALAGOKULAM COORDINATOR IN A PETTY CASH.

*I am smaller than the smallest atom, yet I am also the largest and most expanded. I am the vast universe – magnificent and amazing! I am the Ancient one, the (Parama) Purusha, the supreme ruler. I am effulgent and of auspicious form.
--- Kaivalya Upanishad,
Description of the Absolute Unmanifest Reality.*

Laptop handed over - A memorable event

Arun Marathe, Kothrud, PUNE

A typical Pune Auto Rickshaw Driver Dinkar Salunkhe, Babu-Uncle as he is called by the school kids he pools back and forth every day. His remaining day goes inhaling gas fumes pooling passengers on chaotic Pune roads. He hardly meets both ends



making around Rs.7000/-. Dinkar has two children, Chaitrali-18, Chetan-17 who are very well behaved, humble. Chaitrali holds ambition to make career in Computers. Bapukaka can hardly afford her college fees of around Rs. 20,000/- a year plus text books, college accessories, cloths. Her tuition for first year are paid with loan. When this story was made known to Madison, WI, AHA community immediately came forward to help. We decided to look for donating a laptop to Chaitrali to help her in her BCS (Bachelor in Computer Science) laboratory practical studies. A laptop was immediately rushed to Chaitrali in Pune via a parent Mr. Dyaneshwar Bankhele who was visiting his son who lives in Madison, WI. Chaitrali, Babu-uncle and his family members want to convey their sincere and heartfelt gratitude to the anonymous donor and the entire Madison, WI community.

Appreciate what you have ~ Didi Ji

To appreciate what you have, you must understand the nature of desire. While the body gets older and older, worldly desire in the mind continues to get younger and younger. Desire leads us to believe that once it is fulfilled, all happiness will come our way. Indeed; fleeting happiness is experienced once we get what we want. However, many more desires soon come knocking at the mind's door, demanding to be fulfilled. Fulfilling a desire is like scratching an itch. You do experience temporary relief, but the relief soon turns into a burning sensation. We do not ever seem to have enough. Our possessions seem small and

trivial in comparison to the property of others. The fact is that if you have a roof over your head, a bed to sleep in, and food to eat, you are richer than most people in the world. No matter how small and ordinary your house may be; no matter how much debt you may be in; no matter how rough life may be for you, there are millions whose life is much tougher than your own. If your mind tells you that what you have is not enough, make it a point to visit an orphanage, a hospital, or a shelter. Soon, everything will be put into perspective, and you will realize that what you have is a lot more than most people in the world.

SIGNIFICANCE OF LORD SIVA by Jayaram V

<http://www.hinduwebsite.com/siva/sivaintrod.asp>

Of all the Hindu Gods none appealed to the emotions of a Hindu mind as much as Lord Shiva, the dweller of the mountains and the bearer of the trident, who with His third eye symbolizes the all knowing awareness of the very Brahman. Although universally acknowledged as one of the trinity gods of Hinduism, to His followers, He is Maheswara, representing the Trinity all by Himself, His different aspects manifesting themselves as the creator, preserver and destroyer of the worlds He creates. In the Mahabharata we come across several references to Him. Both Arjuna and Krishna worshipped Him and obtained favors from Him. In the Ramayana too we come across several references to Him. Sage Valmiki depicted Ravana, the demon king and chief villain of the epic, as a great devotee and daily worshipper of Lord Shiva. It is believed that worship of His icons was widely prevalent as early as 2nd or 3rd Century B.C.,.

With the popularity of Saivism a great deal of literature grew around Him, which came to be recognized as Agama literature. So great was His popularity and fame that Agama literature was placed on equal footing to even the Vedas by His followers. He is known by many names and titles. As a god of anger, He is Rudra, the Red One, feared by one and all. As Kailaspathi, He is the Lord of Kailash, His Abode in the Himalayas. As Purusha, He is Iswara Himself. As the Lord of the beings, He is known as Pasupathinath. As the husband of Uma, the Mother Goddess, He is known as Umaphathi or Parvathipathi.

As the bearer of the sacred river Ganges, He is known as Ganagadhar. Because of His matted hair, He is dearly called as Jatadhari, by His ascetic followers. As a perfect being He is Siddheshwar. With His Trident in His hands, He became popular as heroic and fearless Trisuladhari. As the world teacher, He was eulogized as Dakshinamurthi by Adi Shankara in his famous book, "Hymns to Dakshinamurthi".

To the connoisseurs of art, He is well known as Nararaja, master of all dance forms. As the perfect Yogi, He is credited with the source of all knowledge concerning the various yogas. Such was His prowess and divinity, that Lord Vishnu in His incarnations as Rama and Krishna, worshipped Him with great reverence. He was dearer not only to gods but also to demons. Many demons like Ravana and Bhasmasur

were His ardent followers, to whom He gave several boons out of His unbound love and in the process invited great trouble for Himself and for others. Ever willing to help those who are in distress, He saved the worlds and all the gods by partaking Halahal during the churning of the oceans.

Because of His close association with Vishnu, He is also known as Hari Har. Combining in Himself both the male and female aspects of creation, He earned the popular name of Ardhanariswara. As rider of the Bull Nandi, He is known to the world as Nandiswara. Loved by His children Ganesha and Skanda, and followed by His dutiful wife Parvathi, He became a symbol of ideal householder to His devotees despite of His well known image as an introvert and an ideal ascetic.

His names are endless. So does His popularity. Even as early as the 2nd Century A.D., His fame spread beyond the boundaries of the Indian Subcontinent and spread to Central Asia. As the Hindu culture spread to far east, temples were built in His Honor in many places like Java, Champa (Indo-China), Kambhoja (present day Cambodia) and in the adjoining areas of the now south east Asian countries. Some of these temples were built there as early as 5th Century A.D.

Join the AHA~ Hindu Temple and Cultural Center of Wisconsin E Mail List.

What is the best way to obtain the most current and up-to-date information about pujas and cultural events at the AHA~ Hindu Temple and Cultural Center of Wisconsin? Join the Temple's E Mail List. By joining the E Mail List, you will receive an e mail once a week containing current information about religious and cultural events at the temple. The e mail list is only used to convey information about the temple. It is not shared with any other organization or group. In order to join the list, go to the AHA web site (www.americanhindu.net). Locate "Join AHA Mailing List" just below the AHA Activities on the main page. Click and join the Google E group. <http://groups.google.com/group/AHA-Madison>

GEMS FROM THE BHAGVAD GEETA

Ch6: Couplet # 6

*bandhur atmatmanas tasya yenatmaivatmana jitah
anatmanas tu satrutve vartetatmaiva satru-vat*

His own self is his friend who has conquered his self by himself as he has understood himself through cogitation and wisdom. But one who don't believe in self and consider his self as his enemy, his self then behaves as his enemy.

Ch6: Couplet # 7

*jitatmanah prashantasya paramatma samahitah
sitosna-sukha-duhkhesu tatha manapamanayoh*

The wholly calm minded person who has conquered the self is in constant connection with the Supreme Soul. To such a man cold and heat, happiness and sorrow, honor and dishonor are all the same.

Ch6: Couplet # 8

*jnana-vijnana-trptatma kuta-stho vijitendriyah
yukta ity ucyate yogi sama-lostrasma-kancanah*

A person whose mind is contented because of knowledge and science, who has subdued his senses, and to whom clod, stone, and gold are same, and who is satisfied with what he is earning, is said to be established in self-realization and is called a Yogi [the religious mystic]

Ch6: Couplet # 9

*suhrn-mitravy-udasina- madhyastha-dvesya-bandhusu
sadhuv api ca papesu sama-buddhir visisyate*

The person, devoted to God, who regards well wishers, friends, enemy, neutrals, intermediaries, hateful, relatives, pious and sinners with an equal mind, surpasses Supreme.

Ch6: Couplet # 10

*yogi yunjita satatam atmanam rahasi sthitah
ekaki yata-cittatma nirasir aparigraha*

A Yogi who wants to concentrate in God should restrain his mind, live alone in a private and quite place, should free him from the bondage of desires and feelings of possessions, and should constantly meditate and concentrate in God.

Mr. Amit Mangar ~ Editor
American Hindu Association

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