

American Hindu Association

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HINDU CONNECTIONS

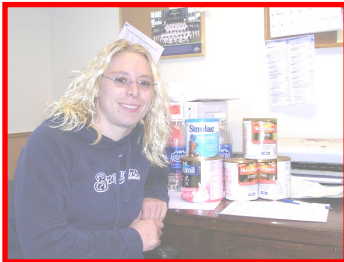
November, 2006

Interfaith Awareness Week Declared by Wisconsin Governor

www.americanhindu.net

MADISON, WISCONSIN, U.S.A., December 6, 2006: The Governor of Wisconsin has declared the week of December 10-16 as "Interfaith Awareness Week," with the main purpose of the celebration to develop awareness and establish mutual understanding and respect among religions. The American Hindu Association, along with other faith groups, is participating. The inaugurating events will be on Tuesday, December 12 from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. in the Rotunda of the State Capital. Wisconsin's Governor, the County Executive and the Mayor of Madison will send their proclamation on the inauguration day. Exhibits from all faiths, including the Hindu Association, will be on display. In addition, AHA will present a brief introduction of Hinduism. Readers may contact "source" above for additional information.

Thank -You Note from Society of St. Vincent de Paul



The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul extends its thanks to the American Hindu Association for the many hours AHA members have been volunteering at the Society's Food Pantry in Madison. On each first Saturday of the month for the past several months, AHA members have been working to stock shelves with food before the pantry opens at 10 a.m. and have then served as hosts who guide clients through the pantry as they choose food between 10 a.m. to noon.

St. Vincent de Paul also thanks AHA and its members for the generous donation of infant formula to the pantry (see photo). It is through the generosity of community-minded donors and volunteers, such as AHA's members, that St. Vincent de Paul's Food Pantry – the largest and busiest pantry facility in Dane County – is able to offer nutrition to Madison-area neighbors in need.

St. Vincent de Paul's Food Pantry typically helps between 50 and 100 families a day – more than 25,000 clients per year – and provided about \$850,000 worth of food to low-income people during the past 12 months. The St. Vincent de Paul Service Center that houses the pantry also provides direct assistance to those families and individuals seeking help with utilities and rent, prescriptions, clothing, furniture, bedding and other household necessities. Goods

such as furniture, bedding and clothing are given to people in need directly by St. Vincent de Paul's thrift stores through vouchers the Service Center provides to clients.

Members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul seek to grow spiritually by providing person-to-person services to people who are in need, suffering or forgotten. Sales of donated goods at five Madison-area thrift stores help fund the mission of service of the Society in Dane County. A nonprofit, tax-exempt charitable organization, the Society operates programs that provide housing for men, women and children in Madison. These and all other services provided by the Society are offered without regard for the religious affiliation or beliefs of those assisted.

Sincerely,
Ernie Stetenfeld - Director of Community Relations
District Council of Madison Inc.
Society of St. Vincent de Paul

DO HINDUS HAVE BIBLES? Srikar Adibhatla Age-12

The answer is yes. Actually they have 4 main bibles called 'Vedas'

1. Rig Veda,
2. Sama Veda
3. Yajur Veda, and
4. Adurva Vedas. And on top of that they're are scriptures called 'Upanishads'. They are 108 Upanishads preaching from Brahma (The creator)
5. The great epic Mahabharatha is called the Panchama Veda i.e., the Fifth Veda.
6. Bhagavad Gita forms part of the Mahabharatha. It is the most precious of the gems of Hindu scriptures.

IT'S STRANGE ISN'T IT ?

Remember: People will forget what you said...
People will forget what you did...
But people will never forget how you made them feel...

Isn't it strange how a 20 rupee note seems like such a large amount when you donate it to temple, but such a small amount when you go shopping?

Isn't it strange how 2 hours seem so long when you're at Temple, and how short they seem when you're watching a good movie?

Isn't it strange that you can't find a word to say when you're praying, but you have no trouble thinking what to talk about with a friend?

Isn't it strange how difficult and boring it is to read one chapter of the Bhagwad Gita, but how easy it is to read 100 pages of a popular novel?

Isn't it strange how everyone wants front-row-tickets to concerts or games, but they do whatever is possible to sit at the last row in Jagran?

Isn't it strange how we need to know about an event for Temple 2-3 weeks before the day so we can include it in our agenda, but we can adjust it for other events in the last minute?

Isn't it strange how difficult it is to learn a fact about God to share it with others, but how easy it is to learn, understand, extend and repeat gossip?

Isn't it strange how we believe everything that magazines and newspapers say, but we question the words in the Bhagwad Gita?

Isn't it strange how everyone wants a place in heaven, but they don't want to believe, do, or say anything to get there?

Isn't it strange how we send jokes in e-mails and they are forwarded right away, but when we are going to send messages about God, we think about it twice before we share it with others?

What is "Karma"? www.americanhindu.net/hindu.doc

Karma is the result of thoughts, words and deeds that stay with us birth after birth until we live out their consequences – as you sow, so you reap. The law of Karma can be considered as a universal law of cause and effect.

Karma refers to both "act" (or action) as well as "results of thought, word and deed." In the context of rebirth, Karma refers to the latter – the idea of cause and effect. Any thought, word or deed, that is not performed dispassionately with no interest in the results, yields Karma. Well-intentioned acts yield positive Karma (or Punya) and ill-intentioned acts yield negative Karma (Paapa). Such consequences have to be lived out.

Is Hinduism the right name for this religion? How did it get its name? www.americanhindu.net/hindu.doc

Hinduism is not the name given to their religion by the Hindus. It is thought the Persian pronunciation of Sindhu, the river, as Hindu, and calling the people of that region Hindus made their religion Hinduism for the westerners. Hindus call it Sanaatana Dharma or the Eternal Truth.

Hinduism is a name that was given to the religion practiced by those ancient people who lived in the banks of the river Sindhu, later called Indus, and pronounced Hindu by the Persians. And that gave the name Hindustaan or land of the Hindus. Hindus themselves do not attribute a name to their religion – especially unlike other religions there is no founder for this faith. It could be called the VAIDDIKA DHARMA or Vedic Religion as based on the Vedas. Sometimes it is referred to as the Eternal Truth or SANAATANA DHARMA.

But what is in a name as long as it serves recognition? So, indeed the practitioners of this faith are Hindus and the faith is called Hinduism.

American Hindu Association

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