

American Hindu Association

(A registered tax exempt, Non- profit organization)



HINDU CONNECTIONS

Sundar Kanda Puja on November 20, 2008

Ramcharitmanas is popularly known as Tulsi Ramayan. It narrates the divine story of Ram. The fifth chapter of Tulsi Ramayana, Sundar Kand, tells the story of pure devotion of Hanuman. Sundarkand commences with Hanuman's departure for Lanka in search of Sita, and ends with Ram and his army's preparation to reach Lanka. This entire episode is called sundar or beautiful because every act described in it is auspicious, elevating the human mind and promoting right human values.

Program: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Venue: 2138 S Fish Hatchery Rd, Fitchburg, WI 53575

Food: Lunch will be served after puja

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

Direction: Click here - www.youtube.com/whindu1

Take South Fish Hatchery Rd ~ Pass Hwy PD, Lacy Rd, Irish Lane, Whalen Rd, Branson Rd and then left turn to 2138 S Fish Hatchery Rd.

AHA ~ Diwali Celebration - 2008



Diwali is one of the most widely celebrated and peaceful festivals of Hindus. This festival has a very deep spiritual meaning symbolizing the light as a guiding source that displaces the darkness. Just like a deepa (Light) illuminates our surroundings, enabling us to observe objects, similarly divine knowledge (Gyana) displaces our ignorance and shows us ultimate reality. The American Hindu Association celebrated the Deepawali festival with a special Lakshmi-Ganesh Puja conducted by Priests on Saturday November 1, 2008 at Shorewood Community Center, 901 Swarthmore Court, Madison, WI 53705

November, 2008



started with the worship of Lord Ganesha and Goddess Laxmi. During the worship

ceremony AHA Members chanted the prayer and sloka of Lord Ganesha. A number of bhajans were sung to adore the beauty and elegance of Ganesha and Laxmi. At the end all devotees stood in front of the altar and sang an Aarati. Finally, Prasad was distributed to all. A



large number of Hindus from Madison and the surrounding communities participated in the program. During the cultural program, individuals and Bala Gokulam group performed beautiful religious dances.

Utah Governor Keeps Lights On For Diwali www.sltrib.com

UTAH, USA, November 7, 2008: The smells of paneer pakora and stuffed okra filled the Governor's Mansion on Friday night as Gov. Jon Huntsman Jr. invited many from Utah's Indian community to celebrate Diwali with him and his family. It all happens because two years ago, the Huntsmans adopted a daughter, Asha, from India. He told the crowd gathered that he was proud to welcome the Indian community into the "house of the people."

"In Hinduism, there is something beyond the physical body," Huntsman told the crowd of about 125 seated around tables in the mansion's ballroom. "Just as we celebrate the birth of the body, tonight, we celebrate the inner goodness of humanity." This is the fourth year Huntsman has held a Diwali celebration in the mansion.

For Anima Varma, who lives in Ogden, the event was recognition of her cultural community. "This sets a very good example for our community, and it helps young kids get interested in participating," she said. "It makes us feel, as minorities, that we belong in the community." she said. Caru Das, a priest at Sri Sri Radha Krishna Temple in Spanish Fork, chanted part of the ritual blessing for the goddess Lakshmi and translated religious verses into English. He also led the group in a chant of "Om shanti," which is meant to bring peace.

GEMS FROM THE BHAGVAD GEETA

This is a series of extracts from the Sri Bhagavada Geeta (The Divine Song). The Bhagavada Geeta 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 it enriches your life and helps you find a balance between your material and spiritual journey.

Ch6: Couplet # 1

sri-bhagavan uvaca

*anasritah karma-phalam karyam karma karoti yah
sa sannyasi ca yogi ca na niragnir na cakriyah*

Lord Krishna said: One who performs action without being attached to its fruits is an ascetic and a religious performer of purification of mind (Karam Yogi). One who has stopped performing any actions, who don't lights up the sacred fire and don't perform his duty, is neither an ascetic nor a Karam Yogi.

Ch6: Couplet # 2

*yam sannyasam iti prahur yogam tam viddhi pandava
na hy asannyasta-sankalpo yogi bhavati kascana*

O Son of Pandu! To whom the people say renunciation, you know him same as Karam Yoga because no human being can ever come to be a Yogi without renouncing the desires for sense gratification. Only after abandoning the fruits of actions one becomes a Karam Yogi.

Ch6: Couplet # 3

*aruruksor muner yogam karma karanam ucyate
yogarudhasya tasyaiva samah karanam ucyate*

For the meditative, pious and religious person (hermit/muni) who wants to reach the highest state of Karamyoga, action is said to be the means. For the same person when he elevates in Yoga, tranquility of mind is all the means of God-consciousness.

Ch6: Couplet # 4

*yada hi nondriyarthesu na karmasv anusajjate
sarva-sankalpa-sannyasi yogarudhas tadocyate*

When that considerate person don't have any attachment to the sense objects and the actions and has renounced the desires, then is said to be elevated in Yoga (and is called Yogarudha). To control one's mind and to remain with tranquil mind are also signs

of Yogarudha. The state of a Yogarudha is similar to a steady minded person.

Ch6: Couplet # 5

*uddhared atmanatmanam natmanam avasadayet
atmaiva hy atmano bandhur atmaiva ripur atmanah*
Such an ascetic should liberate himself with his own self and should not degrade himself. Definitely, he himself is his friend and and he himself is his enemy.

Daily Inspiration

In the midst of great joy do not promise anyone anything. In the midst of great anger do not answer anyone's letter.
Chinese Proverb

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