



American Hindu Association

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## HINDU CONNECTIONS

October, 2009

### Skanda Sashti Festival on October 24th 2009

Reporter Dr Jagan Iyengar

AHA ~ Hindu Temple and Cultural Center at 2138 Fish Hatchery visualized the Skanda Sashti to be celebrated around Deepavali day on October 17<sup>th</sup>. October 18<sup>th</sup> the Skanda Sashti worship started with devotees



coordinating the worship and the chanting of various shlokams and the Gayathri Mantrams for various Gods and also Vedas. Temple had the opportunity to get a priest Prabhakaran Namboodiri from Tuesday

October 20<sup>th</sup> evening and the functions were coordinated by Dr Jagan throughout the week with more devotees attending each successive days (October 18-23). Each day witnessed Skanda Sashti chanting Subhramanya ashtotharam chanting and Sri Suktham and Purusha Suktham and the Arti for Murugan carried out. On October 24<sup>th</sup> Priest Prabhakaran Namboodiri conducted the Pooja for worship at the Temple with all worship for Ganapathi, Subhramanya, Goddess Parvati, Shiva and in depth pooja for Skandha.(also Muruga). "Kavadi" was taken for Muruga on this occasion and then the priest performed the abhishekams for Subhramanya with Milk and then holy water. Alankaram was done for the Gods and then Sri Suktham was chanted by priest and Subhramanya ashtotharam was chanted. Subhramanya songs were sung by ladies. Then with Mantra Pushpam was offered to Gods with chanting Mantra Pushpam by the devotees and the priest. Subhramanya Arti was taken. A feast was offered to attendees by the AHA devotees and volunteers. The festival was attended by AHA devotees and it was a grand festival for the AHA Temple. The Temple premises will be blessed by similar festivals in future. We thank all the devotees for participating and helping the festival on 24<sup>th</sup> October. We also thank the following sponsors for October 24<sup>th</sup> Skanda Shasti festival celebration.

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Please Click the link below for more pictures:  
<http://picasaweb.google.com/AmericanHinduAssociation/SkanthaShastiKavasam?authkey=Gv1sRgCPWlwlje1o6HvAE&feat=directlink>

**Happy Diwali to you and your family ,  
Happy Deepavali to one and all and Many Best  
Wishes From our AHA Family and Friends**

Reporter Dr Jagan Iyengar

AHA celebrated Deepavali on October 17<sup>th</sup> at the temple on a grand scale with Lakshmi pooja, Saraswathi shlokams, Ganapathi Shlokams. Devotees attended this occasion and had great worship. The meals were served with great hospitality by AHA members and volunteers. AHA Temple remained open

for Worship and Priest did the Poojas with Vishnu sahasra namam and Lakshmi Asthotharam and the Lakshmi Pooja on october 18th in the morning (10am to 12noon) and also in the evening 5pm to 7pm. The Lakshmi Pooja and the recital of 108 names of goddess Lakshmi by members were conducted in a traditional devotional style with Laksnmi gayathri and also chanting of vedas and Vedic hymns, "Aano Bhadrah Krathavo yanthu Vishwathaha" (Rig Veda . It transaltes to " Let Noble thoughts come to us from every source").



Description of Deepavali - A row of lamps, part of the Deepavali observance. Deepavali, Festival of Lights Observed by Religiously by Hindus. Celebrations Decorating homes with lights, Fireworks, distributing sweets and gifts. Significance --Celebration of the victory of good over evil; the uplifting of spiritual darkness. Date Decided by the lunar calendar.

### 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.

#### Ch7: Couplet # 8

*raso 'ham apsu kaunteya prabhasmi sasi-suryayoh  
pranavah sarva-vedesu shabdah khe paurusam nrsu*  
O son of Kunti! I am the taste of water, the radiance of the moon and the sun; in all Vedas, I am the sacred syllable Om, sound in ether and valor in man.

#### Ch7: Couplet # 9

*punyo gandhah prithivyam ca tejas casmi vibhavasau  
jivanam sarva-bhutesu tapas casmi tapasvisu*  
I am the pure fragrance of the earth, and luster in fire. I am the life in all living beings and austerity in all ascetics.

#### Ch7: Couplet # 10

*bijam mam sarva-bhutanam viddhi partha sanatanam  
buddhir buddhimatam asmi tejas tejasvinam aham*  
O Partha! Know Me as the primeval seed of all beings. I am the intelligence in the intelligent, and dignity of the dignified.

#### Ch7: Couplet # 11

*balam balavatam caham kama-raga-vivarjitam  
dharmaviruddho bhutesu kamo 'smi bharatarsabha*  
I am the strength of the strong without desire and bias. O Arjuna! In all beings, I am the desire that is not contrary to the religious scriptures.

#### Ch7: Couplet # 12

*ye caiva sattvika bhava rajadas tamadas ca ye  
matta eveti tan viddhi na tv aham tesu te mayi*  
The disposition of all the beings is born of sattva (goodness), rajas (passion) or tamas (ignorance), know all of them to be evolved from me. I am not in them but they are in Me.

Amit Mangar ~ Editor American Hindu Association

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