

# American Hindu Association

(A registered tax exempt, Non-profit organization)



## HINDU CONNECTIONS

**September, 2007**

### Deepawali Puaja and Celebration:

American Hindu Association cordially invites you & your family to a Celebration of Deepawali on November 4, 2007. Puja Conducted by Priest

Time: 4:00 PM

Venue: Shorewood Community Center

901 Swarthmore Court, Madison, WI 53705

Potluck Dinner and Free Program

### SRI KRISHNA JANMASTAMI ~ September 9, 2007:



On September 9, 2007, the American Hindu Association (AHA) organized the Sri Krishna Janmashtami Pooja for the Madison area Hindu community at the Shorewood Community Center. The Pooja was officiated by Pandit Raghuchandra Bhatt who performed all the rituals in a traditional manner. Traditional abhishekam of small brass statues of Lord Krishna was performed with water, milk and panchamritham. The sponsor of the pooja performed the abhishekam of the statues under the guidance of the priest. These idols were then taken by each sponsor after the ceremonies were over. Later some of the devotees presented bhajans and arati. After the main event, everyone finally enjoyed a delicious home-cooked prasada feast in a spirit of sharing. The masters of ceremonies were Dr. Balachandran and Mr. Amit Mangar.

### Invoke Goddess's Blessings During Navaratri

From: Arindam Thapar

|| Om Sree Durgadevayey Namah ||  
Greetings on Navaratri!

'Navaratri' is the festival of worship of the Goddess of Shakti. It is this period of nine days, when the Goddess fought the Demon 'Mahishashura' over nine days and nights and killed him on the tenth day. Performing of 'Garba' and the 'Dandiya' are forms of worship of the Goddess through the medium of dance. Let us celebrate Navaratri according to the science of Spirituality and avoid mal-practices.

### Hindu Teaching in Madison - August 12<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>

Once again we are fortunate enough to have Didiji come and share her wisdom with us, only this time it was a full weekend with presentations by the children, songs, and a video of Shri Maharaja Ji's darshan. The emphasis was on exposing the children to the essence of Hinduism, a heritage that must be kept alive, full as it is of all systems, philosophies & practices. Hinduism is as enriching as it is profound. And the children also had plenty of time for games and fun, but fun that also taught them more about their tradition. We hope to see Didiji again sometime in the future, and we are grateful for the lessons and that they will make a difference in their lives. AHA's roving reporter, One in the light, Dennis Murray .

### Income Statement for Krishna Janmastami Puja

Revenue	\$1108.00
Expense	<u>420.98</u>
Total Income	<u>\$ 687.02</u>

### Celebrating the Scientific Spirit of Hinduism

[www.americanhindu.net/Celebrating\\_the\\_Scientific\\_Spirit\\_of\\_Hinduism.doc](http://www.americanhindu.net/Celebrating_the_Scientific_Spirit_of_Hinduism.doc)

Even though many misconceptions about Hinduism exist in the world, with it often being portrayed as a religion of blind belief, outdated customs and social problems, most sincere individuals who have looked deeper into Hinduism have been appreciative and amazed at the philosophic sophistication, poetic beauty and tolerant spirit in this the world's most ancient religion. The following are quotes of several scholars intellectuals of relatively modern times speaking about Hinduism, with particular emphasis on Hinduism's scientific temperament:

"Religious faith in the case of the Hindus has never been allowed to run counter to scientific laws, moreover the former is never made a condition for the knowledge they teach." Romain Rolland (1866-1944), French Nobel laureate, professor of the history of music at the Sorbonne and thinker.

"Hinduism has proven much more open than any other religion to new ideas, scientific thought, and social experimentation. Many concepts like reincarnation, meditation, yoga and others have found worldwide acceptance. It would not be surprising to find Hinduism the dominant religion of the twenty-first century." Klaus L. Klostermaier, Professor Religious Studies at the University of Manitoba.

"The Hindu religion is the only one of the world's great faiths dedicated to the idea that the Cosmos itself undergoes an immense, indeed an infinite, number of deaths and rebirths. It is the only religion in which the time scales correspond, to those of modern scientific cosmology. Its cycles run from our ordinary day and night to a day and night of Brahma, 8.64 billion years long. Longer than the age of the Earth or the Sun and about half the time since the Big Bang. And there are much longer time scales still." Dr Carl Sagan, (1934-1996) famous astrophysicist

"In the morning I bathe my intellect in the stupendous and cosmogonical philosophy of the Bhagavad Gita in comparison with which our modern world and its literature seem puny and trivial." Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862) American Philosopher, Unitarian, social critic, transcendentalist and writer.

"The Hindu genius is a love for abstraction and, at the same time, a passion for the concrete image. At times it is rich, at others prolix. It has created the most lucid and the most instinctive art. It is abstract and realistic, sexual and intellectual, pedantic and sublime. It lives between extremes, it embraces the extremes, rooted in the earth and drawn to an invisible beyond." Octavio Paz (1914-1998) was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1990 ..... For the full article, please go to the link "source" above.

**American Hindu Association**

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

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