

American Hindu Association

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HINDU CONNECTIONS

September, 2009

HAPPY GANESH CHATHURTHI Gift to AHA Mandir

Reporter ~ Dr. JVR Iyengar

The beautiful Lamp donated to the AHA mandir at the Ganesh Festival during August 23-31 2009. It is a beautiful gesture done by dennis , who attended the functions during the Poojas and also during Havan.



The symbolism of a lamp denotes permanence, austerity, prosperity, peacefulness, and meditative and reflective aspects of Hinduism. Hindu denotes Humanity, Individuality, Nationality, Divinity, and Universality (hence HINDU). The lamp will be used in th proposed temple during all pujas and homams and Kalyan Utsavams during future years. It is fitting gift to the proposed

Temple auspices and AHA Board would dedicate this with recognition to donor **Sri. Dennis Murray.**

Vinyaka Puja & Havan (Homam) Ceremonies at AHA Temple grounds on Aug 29, 2009

Reporter ~ Dr. JVR Iyengar

The presiding priest officiated the proceedings in an excellent manner. He was methodical, and illustrated the stages of the Homam to the audience. Homam is done to propitiate the Gods with performing holy butter, holy rice, and chanting God,s name for every offering. It was a joy to watch these proceedings. The Ganapathi Homam was recited in a traditional manner on the AHA Mandir grounds outside on the lawn with a tent. The program started around 3:30 PM and lasted for 3 hours. Mr Amit introduced the Poojas (Prayers). His young and energetic presence inspired the audience in attendance. The Homam was done with fervour and energy and Bhakthi. The Purna Ahuthi (concluding offering) was beautifully done by the priest. He added the extra dimesion and gave meaning to "Gayathri."

The Arati for Ganesha was sung with devotion by everyone in attendance. Then The "Managala Arti" with Jaya Jagdishvara Hare... was beutifully rendered by everyone. Then the blessings of God Ganesha was observed. Bhajans (songs) were sung by some members and chanted by the audience. The program



concluded with a meal sponsored by MVS Corporation and given with great hospitality by AHA Volunteers. The audience had opportunity to socialize and talk with one another after the function concluded. The program lasted for about 3 hours. We wish AHA many more programs and functions and we wish them great success and sustained audience and worship for many years.

Devi Navaraatri Celebrations

Reporter ~ Dr. JVR Iyengar

On September 27th Sunday AHA temple observed "Sri Saraswathi Pooja" in a traditional manner. The program was conducted by Dr Jagan Iyengar with the pooja sponsorship by Rathinam Vembu and his wife Shakthi iyer, and able assistance by Shanmuga and his wife Roopa. Dr. Jagan began the Pooja with invoking blessings of Sri Vinayaka and other gods by reciting the Vedas and offering Gayathri for each gods and goddesses. Special shlokams for Saraswathi was recited and given blessings to Saraswathi. Then Dr Jagan recited Rig Veda to communicate the holy occassion. The functiobn included an elaborate chanting of Saraswathi Ashtothara and the Saraswathi ashtothara (108) Namavali by Dr Jagan. Dr jagan also recited the Sri Laksmi Astothara and then recited Lakshmi

Astakam. After a short break of 10 minutes, a group of ladies recited Lalitha ashtotharam with the help of Lalitha balachander. Then Dr Jagan recited the Vishnu Sahasra Namam (1008) shlokams from Sri Mahabharatham. Then Dr Jagan gave the essence of Sri Vishnu sahasra Namam with few shlokams in Sanskrit and explanations in English. After the shlokams were recited Bhajans were sung by audience with enthusiasm. The function had the enthusiastic attendance and concluded with a grand food provided by sponsoring of Vembu and Mrs Vembu. The food was served to devotees with the help of AHA volunteers. The function was held approximately for 4 hours and lead to a great success of Navarathri celebrations.

I thank AHA for the opportunity to write the editorial for AHA Newsletter representing the 9 days of Nava rathri functions and 10th day of Vijaya Dhasami on September 28th 2009. I also thank the special help rendered by Rathinam Kumar and his wife and Shanmuga and his wife Roopa during Saraswathi Pooja celebrations on September 27 2009.

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 # 1

*sri-bhagavan uvaca
mayy asakta-manah partha yogam yunjan mad-
asrayah
asamsayam samagram mam yatha jnasyasi tac chrnu*
The Supreme Personality of Godhead said:
Listen from me how, with your mind attached to me, staying in my refuge, practicing Yoga and staying free from any doubts, you can know Me in full. Now hear, O Son of Pritha! How by practicing yoga in full consciousness of Me, with mind attached to Me, you can know Me in full, free from doubt.

Ch7: Couplet # 2

*jnam te 'ham sa-vijnanam idam vaksyamy asesatah
yaj jnatva neha bhuyo 'nyaj jnatavyam avasisyate*
I will now tell you the knowledge of the Divine philosophy gained through experience. After having known this, nothing further will remain for you to know.

Ch7: Couplet # 3

*manushyanam sahasresu kascid yatati siddhaye
yatatam api siddhanam kascin mam vetti tattvatah*
Among thousands of men, one seldom strives for perfection, and and out of those who have perfected, one seldom knows Me in reality.

Ch7: Couplet # 4

*bhumir apo 'nalo vayuh kham mano buddhir eva ca
ahankara itiyam me bhinna prakritir astadha*
Earth, water, fire, air, ether, mind, intelligence and ego are the eight types of My nature and these are the constituents used for the creation of the world.

Ch7: Couplet # 5

*apareyam itas tv anyam prakritim viddhi me param
jiva-bhutam maha-baho yayedam dharyate jagat*
These eight types of my nature is my lower (lifeless) nature . Besides these, know O mighty armed, there is another superior energy (conscious) of mine, the life-element, by which this universe is sustained.

Ch7: Couplet # 6

*etad-yonini bhutani sarvanity upadharaya
aham krtsnasya jagatah prabhavah pralayas tatha*
You know for certain that all creatures have evolved from these two natures. Similarly, I am the reason for the creation and the final destruction of the world.

Ch7: Couplet # 7

*mattah parataram nanyat kincid asti dhananjaya
mayi sarvam idam protam sutre mani-gana iva*
O Conqueror of Wealth! There is nothing superior to me, there is nothing which is eminent than Me. As beads are strung on the thread, this whole world passes through me.

Amit Mangar ~ Editor American Hindu Association

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