

Hindu Temple & Cultural Center of Wisconsin

2138 South Fish Hatchery Rd, Fitchburg, WI 53575



Rathyatra Festival July 18, 2015



American Hindu Association

Phone: (608) 234-8634

Email: contact.aha@aha-svtemple.org

Website: www.aha-svtemple.org

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Welcome Message from Chairman of The Board of Trustees

Dear Fellow Devotees,

I would like to welcome you all to our 4th Annual Rathayatra Festival. Join us as we celebrate the festival with the Jagannath Puri Rathayatra Puja followed by cultural activities that are fun for all ages. This event was very successful in the past 3 years, with each year having increased support from the community. I encourage you all to come attend and experience the joy of this celebration along with us.

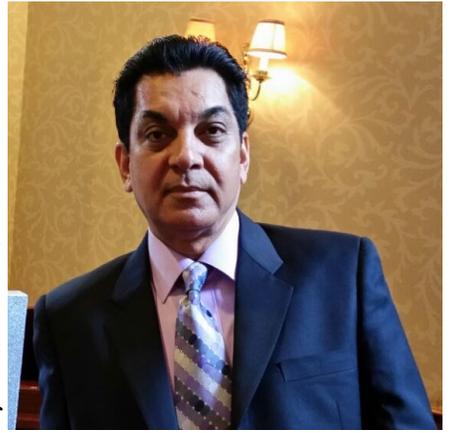
On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the executive committee of the American Hindu Association, I would like to thank you all for actively participating in activities and supporting us throughout the years. Your continued support is the reason we have been able to start building such a noble institution where the community can gather to share ideas and develop remarkable and lasting friendships. We still have so much to accomplish together, but I am confident that we will reach any goal that we strive for.

As you may have experienced when visiting the temple, we have completed Phase I of our project and a physical structure now stands on the grounds of our temple. I am proud to announce that we will now be focusing our attention on Phase II of the project, which entails raising funds for the construction of the interior of the Shiva Vishnu Temple of Madison. Every event that we host brings us closer and closer to our goal. All of this would not have been possible without the generous donations from the community and the combined effort of members and volunteers.

My vision for the upcoming future for the temple is to finish the next phase in the project and have the entire community involved in the process. I am proud to be a part of such a welcoming organization that has taught me how to work together to achieve an interest that benefits a whole community.

Once again, a warm welcome to you all and thank you again for the tremendous support you all have given to the temple. I hope you enjoy the celebration.

Mahesh K. Sharma



Message from Chairman of the 2015 Rathayatra Organizing Committee

I am extremely blessed to be part of the volunteering team for staging the Jagannatha Rathayatra and India festival 2015. The team has worked tirelessly for last several weeks to bring up the festival to this current level. This is the 4th year since we started the Festival in the temple and it has become the most popular function of the temple. The day coincides with the day of Shreegundicha Jatra of Lord Jagannatha at Puri, Odisha when the God comes out with his brother and sister to meet his devotees while traveling to his aunt's place. This year is very significant due to the Nabakalebara Rupa of Lord Jagannatha, a year when the God is re-born. The abode of the God, Puri of Odisha and the entire state and country is celebrating this occasion with immense pleasure, great devotion and reverence. AHA has made a great effort to bring this festival to all of you. While we have made all efforts to showcase the Indian culture, food and fun, we want to celebrate this with religious fervor and create an atmosphere by repeating the name of the God that reverberates from the earth to the sky so that everybody forgets the worldly thoughts and be immersed in the thoughts of God. Please enjoy the day and be blessed.



Dr. Subash Das

Jai Jagannatha



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***Welcome Message from the
President of American Hindu Association***



On behalf of the American Hindu Association, I would like to welcome you all to our 4th Annual Rathyatra Festival at our temple. The Jagannathpuri Rathyatra puja and the accompanying Mela activities has become a landmark summer event for Madison and the surrounding community and I would like to thank the community for making this such a success for us all.

We hope that you all will have a wonderful time at the event and also have an opportunity to taste mouthwatering dishes from all corners of India and have a chance to participate in various fun and cultural activities. We have a very good line up of cultural programs featuring our young and young-at-heart performers from the community.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our sponsors and well wishers for all your support and look forward to an enjoyable day with you all.

Narend Reddy

AHA 2015 Rathyatra Festival Program				
Time	Puja	Official Program	Cultural Programs	Food and Other Stalls
8:00 to 8:30	Surya Puja, Dwarapal Puja, & Mangal Arti		Kirtans	Open
9:00 to 9:30	Abakas & Bal Bhog			
10:00 to 10:30	Procession			
10:30 to 10:45	Bastra & Puspa Pradan	Welcome & Introductions, Address by Chief Guest		
10:45 to 11:00				
11:00 to 11:15				
11:15	CheraPahanra (Brooming)		Kirtans	
11:15 to 12:00	Chariot Pulling - First Phase			
12:00 to 12:15	Public Archana- Session I			
12:15 to 12:30				
12:30 to 12:45			Dance & Music	
12:45 to 1:45	Chariot Pulling - Second phase			
1:45 to 2:00	Public Archana - Session II			
2:00 to 2:30				
2:15 to 2:30				

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June 25, 2015

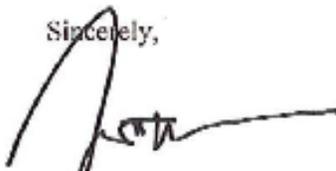
Greetings!

On behalf of the citizens of Wisconsin, I would like to officially welcome members of the American Hindu Association and guests to the Fourth Annual Hindu Chariot Festival on the Shiva Vishnu Temple grounds in Fitchburg.

This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and to learn more about the Hindu culture. It is also a great time to sample different foods from India made by local chefs, and to take part in some of the unique activities.

I would like to thank the organizers for coordinating this event, and to wish everyone the best of luck in the future!

Sincerely,



Scott Walker
Governor



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Message from Secretary of American Hindu Association

*Prior to the launch of the Chariot Festival and India Festival in Madison, WI, in 2009 the temple property was being visited by many devotees, including us. When I was asked by few people, like Mr. Rathnam Kumar Vembu and Mrs. Lalita Balachandran, where I am from, the immediate reaction to my answer was, “**WOW, the famous RathYatra.**” This struck a chord in my brain, and I proudly replied “Yes.” The rest is all a dream come true for the community. With the installation of deities in January of 2012, to the celebration of our upcoming 4th festival, history is made. This unique festival has been growing in numbers every year from 300 to 500 to 700, and I have no doubt the living GODs, JAGANNATHA’s Triad, will be swinging on the roads of Fitchburg and Madison with grand celebrations in the future. It has surely been a pleasure working with everyone and enjoying the festival with big smiles and blessings.*

Dr. Bikash Pattnaik

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Wishes all the very best for the 2015
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Mission:

- Preserve our rich literary & cultural heritage through academic research, documentation & publications.
- Protect our dharma against all attempts at Distortion & Appropriation of our identity & culture, through research-intensive rebuttals.
- Defend our dharma against Persecution & Proselytisation, Discrimination & Appeasement through active advocacy & legal means.
- Promote dharmic thought and studies in the public space through publications, conferences & media.
- Create exhaustive archives of facts, data, reports, analyses and scholarship.
- Network with like minded institutions, scholars, writers, activists and intellectuals.

Collaborate with us:

- Support scholars and research
- Groom the next generation of writers, intellectuals and scholars
- Build an ecosystem of scholars, intellectuals, speakers and writers engaged in dharmic discourse
- Sponsor events and campaigns



United States Senate
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515



July 2015

Dear American Hindu Association Members:

I am pleased to recognize the Fourth Annual Hindu Chariot Festival and Fun Fair. This public festival celebrates the cultural history of Hinduism and the vibrancy of the Hindu community in the greater Madison area.

As a strong supporter of programs and events designed to preserve and enrich the diverse fabric of our community, I applaud the Association's efforts to honor the Hindu community's traditions, personal heritage, and religious observances.

Cultural events such as these are wonderful opportunities to celebrate our collective diversity and acknowledge ties to our past and present, as well as ensure a more connected future.

I commend the American Hindu Association for its demonstrated work in support of the Hindu community in Wisconsin and for strengthening our community as a whole.

Best wishes for a successful and inspiring festival.

Sincerely,

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Message from
Mayor of Fitchburg
Mr. Steve Arnold



I am pleased that the 4th Annual Rathyatra and India Festival is being held in Fitchburg where families from across southern Wisconsin and beyond can come together to enjoy educational and social activities along with great food and conversation in a beautiful spiritual setting



Celebrating what makes this community feel like home



Events like this remind us just how important our local communities are. Our communities are like home away from home. Little by little we can do a lot.

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Rath Yatra at Puri

The Jagannath triad are usually worshiped in the sanctum of the temple at Puri, but once during the month of Asadha (Rainy Season of Orissa, usually falling in month of June or July), they are brought out onto the Bada Danda (main street of Puri) and travel (3 km) to the Shri Gundicha Temple, in huge chariots (ratha), allowing the public to have darśana (Holy view). This festival is known as Rath Yatra, meaning the journey (yatra) of the chariots (ratha). The Rathas are huge wheeled wooden structures, which are built a new every year and are pulled by the devotees. The chariot for Jagannath is approximately 45 feet high and 35 feet square and takes about 2 months to construct. The artists and painters of Puri decorate the cars and paint flower petals and other designs on the wheels, the wood-carved charioteer and horses, and the inverted lotuses on the wall behind the throne. The huge chariots of Jagannath pulled during Rath Yatra is the etymological origin of the English word Juggernaut. The Ratha-Yatra is also termed as the Shri Gundicha yatra.



The most significant ritual associated with the Ratha-Yatra is the chhera pahara." During the festival, the Gajapati King wears the outfit of a sweeper and sweeps all around the deities and chariots in the Chera Pahara (sweeping with water) ritual. The Gajapati King cleanses the road before the chariots with a gold-handled broom and sprinkles sandalwood water and powder with utmost devotion. As per the custom, although the Gajapati King has been considered the most exalted person in the Kalingan kingdom, he still renders the menial service to Jagannath. This ritual signified that under the lordship of Jagannath, there is no distinction between the powerful sovereign Gajapati King and the most humble devotee.

Chera pahara is held on two days, on the first day of the Ratha Yatra, when the deities are taken to garden house at Mausi Maa Temple and again on the last day of the festival, when the deities are ceremoniously brought back to the Shri Mandir. As per another ritual, when the deities are taken out from the Shri Mandir to the Chariots in *Pahandi vijay*.

In the Ratha Yatra, the three deities are taken from the Jagannath Temple in the chariots to the Gundicha Temple, where they stay for nine days. Thereafter, the deities again ride the chariots back to Shri Mandir in *bahuda yatra*. On the way back, the three chariots halt at the Mausi Maa Temple and the deities are offered *Poda Pitha*, a kind of baked cake which are generally consumed.

The observance of the Rath Yatra of Jagannath dates back to the period of the Puranas. Vivid descriptions of this festival are found in Brahma Purana, Padma Purana, and Skanda Purana. Kapila Samhita also refers to Rath Yatra. In Moghul period also, King Ramsingh of Jaipur, Rajasthan has been described as organizing the Rath Yatra in the 18th Century. In Orissa, Kings of Mayurbhanj and Parlakhemundi were organizing the Rath Yatra, though the grandest festival in terms of scale and popularity takes place at Puri. Moreover, the ruling Ganga dynasty instituted the Rath Yatra at the completion of the great temple around 1150 AD. This festival was one of those Hindu festivals that was reported to the Western world very early.

International Jagannath Rath Yatra

The Ratha Yatra festival has become a common sight in most major cities of the world since 1968 through the ISKCON Hare Krishna movement. Its leader A.C Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada successfully transplanted the festival which now happens on an annual basis in places all over the world in over 100 cities including Dublin, Belfast, Birmingham, London, Bath, Melbourne, Montreal, Paris, New York, Singapore, Toronto, Antwerp, Kuala Lumpur, Los Angeles (celebrated in coastal Venice, CA), Mexico, and many other places including Madison WI.



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Message from the Founder of American Hindu Association

Dear Members of the Community,

I want to welcome you to the American Hindu Association, a non-profit organization for the Community. On July 4, 1997, my family members joined together at 2637 Stevens St, Madison and agreed there was an urgent need for a Hindu Association dedicated to individuals and Families in Dane county. Now, eighteen years later, hundreds of families have joined in our efforts to build a Community Center in Dane County, Wisconsin.

Since the beginning of the Association, we have conducted several educational programs of Balavihar and Balagokulam for our young kids, and have launched several programs for youth and adults too. AHA continues to listen to the needs of our community and develop resources to help resolve any issues. All of the programs that you have read about on our website have been created for our community.

AHA has helped educate countless children in Hinduism and has supported numerous fellowships. Today, because many others have shared a common vision, we have been able to accomplish a great deal and much more needs to be done on behalf of our community. We encourage you to join in our efforts by becoming involved in AHA, whether as a consumer of our services, a volunteer or a philanthropic donor.

Welcome to AHA, I wish that for myself, and I wish that for every one. I hope you will be our supporter and ally in the change we all wish to see in the world.

Sincerely,



**Bahee Sathasivam
Founder of American Hindu Association
Board of Director and Trustee**



Heartiest wishes from Randeep & Roopak Talwar
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**We wish the American Hindu Community
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Cultural Center Project - Construction Status

as of: 07/12/15



	Stages of Construction				
	Stage 1 (\$37,000)	Stage 2 (\$250,000)	Stage 3 (\$230,000)	Stage 4 (250,000)	Stages 5 & 6
Cumulative Budget	\$37,000	\$287,000	\$517,000	\$767,000	Future
Present Status	Complete	Complete	Complete	Bid Planning	
Cumulative Cost (Actual)	\$ 37,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 174,869		
Project Funding		Funded	\$ 476,100	➔ \$ 290,900	Needed from Community

Legend

Phase 1	Stage 1	Site Clearing, Site Engineering, Building Design and Permitting - Complete
	Stage 2	Site Preparation, Footings & Main Floor - Complete
	Stage 3	Temple Structure and External Finish - Complete
	Stage 4	Temple Main Level Finishing including Electrical/Mechanicals - Bid Planning
Phase 2	Stage 5	Finish Basement, Balance Electrical/Mechanicals
	Stage 6	Sealed Car Park & Driveway, Landscaping

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AHA's



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Gala Dinner



Sunday Puja



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**Rath Yatra
2014**



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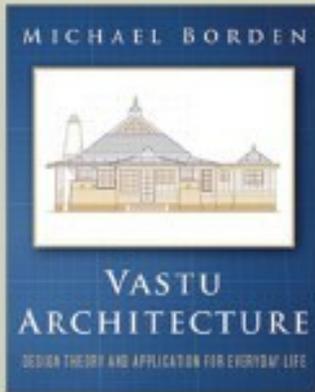
Anwar A. Zaidi

Wishing Everyone a Happy 4th Rathyatra and India Festival

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Best wishes to the organizers of 2015 Rathyatra and India Festival

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AROUND TOWN | FITCHBURG

Around Town: Hundreds of Hindus and others flock to Fitchburg for Chariot Festival

JUNE 29, 2014 4:00 PM • BY [SAMARA KALK DERBY](#) | [WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL](#)

FITCHBURG — During the Madison Hindu community's Chariot Festival Sunday, celebrants pulled an ornate chariot around the grounds of its Fitchburg temple.

Narend Reddy, president of the American Hindu Association, based in Fitchburg, envisions the festival growing so big that one day local celebrants will pull the makeshift temple-like chariot, called a rath, out on the streets of Madison.

"In other places, they pull it out in the road, street by street. In India and places like Chicago, New York and Houston they pull the chariot out in the city streets," Reddy said.

"My dream is that one day (the celebration) becomes big enough to take it to the streets of Madison. We want to make it a summertime event for the city."

Sunday, and for the two years prior, the festival has been confined to the American Hindu Association Shiva Vishnu Temple in Fitchburg, a 7-acre property the association purchased in 2009 at 2138 S. Fish Hatchery Road.

Last year's event drew 450 people, while this year's festivities brought in about 750 from all over the area, said Bikash Pattnaik, one of the festival's founders.

Pattnaik said close to 1,000 Hindu families live in Madison.

Ten years ago there were only about 200 families, added Srinivasa Rao, an association trustee, noting that a lot of Indians come to Madison to work jobs in the information technology and computer software fields. Or they come here to attend UW-Madison.

Hinduism is the biggest religion in India, with more than 80 percent of the population identifying as Hindu.

In India, the Chariot Festival is called Rathayatra, which Rao said is one of his country's important festivals, with each region celebrating in its own way.



"Every day is a festival — 365 days we have celebration," said Bahee Sathasivam, who founded the association.

The Chariot Festival celebrates the deity of Jagannath (reincarnation of Lord Vishnu/Lord Krishna), who is worshipped along with his older brother Balabhadra and sister Subhadra.

Food from local Indian restaurants including Minerva, Haveli, Maharaja, Swagat and Taj was for sale at the festival, along with Indian clothing and jewelry. A program included speeches, music and dance.

Proceeds from the event are going toward the construction of a 7,000-square-foot community center and temple on the property, which will be used for prayer, educational instruction, yoga, meditation, cultural activities, weddings and other functions.

Construction is set to start next month.

Currently, the temple's members worship in a three-bedroom house that sits on the property, but the space no longer meets the growing community's needs.

Rao said his main goal in establishing the temple and community center is to teach Indian children important Hindu values before they become teenagers.

"Hindu is not a religion," he said. "We call it a way of life."

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American Hindu Association

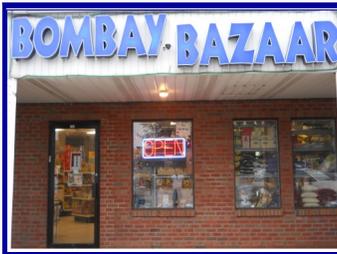
The American Hindu Association (AHA) is a non-profit Hindu cultural and heritage organization founded in July of 1997 to serve the greater Madison area community under Section 501 (C) (3) of United States Inland Revenue Service Tax code. The devotees of AHA, who are currently residents of greater Madison area, migrated from various places around the world including Canada, Fiji Islands, Guyana, India, Malaysia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, United Kingdom, and other parts of the United States. The AHA is funded primarily from community and devotee donations.

Our Vision

A well respected and supported organization that provides leadership and opportunities for members of the Hindu community of greater Madison in preserving, espousing and enhancing our cultural, religious, educational, societal, and other heritage related needs.

Our Mission

- 1. Providing services to devotees of all ages in order to promote and enhance the awareness of principles and practices of Hinduism through activities such as regular prayers, recitals, and public discourses by scholars and invited guests.*
- 2. Sponsoring and organizing religious festivals and cultural events for all sections of the Indian community to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to celebrate such occasions as done in their respective home countries.*
- 3. Promoting and providing yoga, meditation and other educational activities to support personal and spiritual growth of devotees.*
- 4. Developing, supporting and implementing appropriate devotee activities in support of local, regional, and national community based services and programs.*



Adv. Page 39



Adv. Page 14



Adv. Page 22



Adv. Page 16

AHA thanks these local businesses for their generous support of the 4th Annual Rathyatra Festival through Anna Daatha



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American Hindu Association Bala Vihar Program

AHA is proud to offer Bala Vihar classes for children of every age every Sunday from 10am to 11:15am at the Temple. It is a wonderful opportunity for kids and youth to learn and practice our Hindu way of life, develop social and spiritual awareness as well as leadership skills in a fun and enjoyable environment.

AHA's Bala Vihar Program Goals are:

- To facilitate our children to appreciate, learn and practice Hindu way of life.
- Instill pride and confidence in our children about their identity.
- Raise Hindu awareness in the society around.
- Develop social awareness and leadership skills among our children.



Bala Vihar is the place where a seemingly ordinary cowherd boy Krishna blossomed in to a divine incarnation. It is here where his magical days of childhood were spent and his powers came to be recognized. At AHA we believe that every child has that spark of divinity within. Bala Vihar is a forum for children from our community to discover and manifest that divinity. It will enable our Hindu children in US to appreciate their cultural roots, learn Hindu values in an enjoyable manner while making friends. They will also develop a sense of Seva – Service to mankind and our society. Children will have lots of fun while they learn. Activities are planned for their physical, intellectual, social and spiritual development.

Weekly Activities: Games, Yoga, Vedas, Stories, Bhajans, Shlokas, Mantras, Sanskrit, Bhagvad Gita, Arts and Crafts.

Kathak Dance by Natalia Hildner: Students learn our beautiful Hindu stories through the art of Kathak. This includes basic knowledge on expression, movement, and rhythm. Great spiritual leaders of India such as Swami Vivekanda and Rabindranath Tagore believed that music and dance have the tremendous power of bringing harmony to the mind, heart, and body. Come join us once a week to explore the joy and magic of dance with Bhajans, Brajbasha poetry, and much more!



Festivals: Hindu Festivals like Ganesh Pooja, Holi, Janmashtami, and Shivaratri are celebrated with a special focus on children from Bala Vihar's participation. Children perform the pooja themselves and explain the meaning behind the festivals.

Camps: We conduct annual Bala Vihar camps. A time to explore, enjoy and make friends.

Community Service: Sewa or service is the best way for us to realize the divinity in all and serve the needy. Children from Bala Vihar classes are encouraged to visit elderly people in hospitals and/or participate in any appropriate activities such as volunteering, etc.

Space dedicated to many AHA Volunteers

*“What is the essence of life?
To serve others and to do GOOD.”*

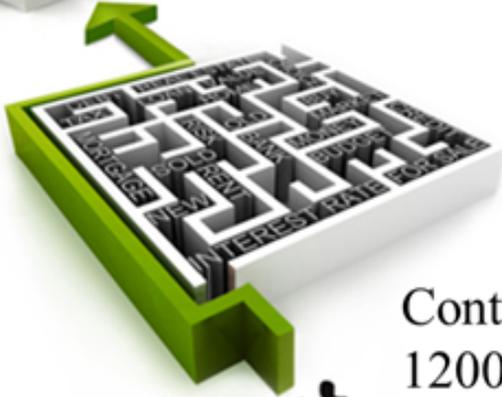
Aristotle 384-322 BC



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2015 Rathyatra Festival Organizers

Committee	Volunteers
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Puja	Pt. Madahavan Bhattar, Sugantha Seshadri, Lalitha Balachandran, Manoranjan Shao, Rashmikanta Ratha
Souvenir / Publicity	Sonilpa Mahapatra, Akshita Pattnaik, Narisha Reddy
Chariot/ Decorations	Abhishek Guha, Debiprasad Dutta, Shakti Choudhury, Anurag Das, Anubhav Das
Cultural	Asita Dutta. Dinesh Joshi, Raka Bandyo. Meghna Datta
Stalls/Tents	LR Rao, Pawan Shahi, Akash Pattnaik, Tapas Sadangi
Food Stalls	Vinita Pittala, Vijay Sharma, Usha Datta, Usha Shankar, Jhansi Prabhakaran, Raju Tara, Chandramu Chetty, Nira Manoharan, Anu Manoharan, Saku Selva
Facilities	Ajit Mahapatra, Dinesh Behera, Raju Bale-Tarre, George Manoharan, Vikram Ramesh
Prasad	Nibedita Pattnaik, Asita Dutta, Trupti Guha, Pallavi Mandapaka, Chiranya Sahoo, Arpita Chaudhury, Ananya Mohanty, Mahesweta Kar, Manaswini Swain
Kids funfair	Vasundhara Iyer, Vijay Sharma, Saurav Das

This list also includes AHA Trustees, Board Members and several other volunteers

ANNA DAATHA GROUP

Food is our common ground, a universal experience. No festival or celebration is complete without good food. All our great volunteers have contributed to the awesome food preparations for this festival. Our local Indian restaurants have shared delicacies for our food stalls & grocery stores like, Bombay Bazaar, Swagat Groceries, Namaste & India House have extended their generous support by giving the materials needed to prepare the food. A BIG THANK YOU to all for your generous support. May lord Jagannath shower his blessings on you & your family for your seva.

“Anna Daatha Sukhibavah!”

Food Stall No.	Dish Served	Food Stall Volunteers
1 & 2	Dosa, Samber, Pongal, Vada, Idli, Pulliothara, Curdrice, Veg. Biryani.	<p><i>We appreciate the contribution of many volunteers more than ever.</i></p> <p><i>AHA Thanks All Volunteers!!!</i></p>
3	Panipuri	
4	Chole Bhatura	
5	Tikki, Samosa, Chaat, Jalebi & Pakora	
6	Malpua & Kheer	
7	Water Soda Paan, Ice Cream, Mango Lassi	

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Tue-Thu: 5:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Fri-Sat: 5:00 pm - 10:30 pm
Sun: 5:00 pm - 9:30 pm

Monday Closed

Gana

The AHA Newsletter

April 2015

Volume 1, Issue 1

Contributors:

Akshita Pattnaik & Meghna Datta

If you are a teen interested in contributing to the AHA newsletter, please contact

gana_editors@svtemple.org

or sign up at the temple.

Kids Korner

AHA Bala Vihar:

Sundays 10:00-11:15am,

Taught by Ms. Vasundhara Iyer for kids of every age.

No prior knowledge required.

Goals of AHA Bala Vihar

1) *Raise Hindu awareness in the society around.*

2) *Instill pride and confidence in our children about their identity.*

3) *Develop social awareness and leadership skills among our children.*

4) *To facilitate our children to appreciate, learn and practice Hindu way of life.*

Kids Korner continued on Page 3

AHA Introduces

Gana The AHA Newsletter

Gana was an idea first conceived in late 2014, when AHA board members began thinking about a monthly newsletter to inform members of the community of upcoming events, happenings at the temple, and general news regarding the Indian community in Madison. Later, it was suggested that *Gana* become a newsletter run by teens in the community as a way to get more teens involved in the temple.

Meghna Datta, age fourteen, and Akshita Pattnaik, age twelve are the current contributors and editors of the newsletter and newsletters, but as *Gana* establishes itself it is hoped that many teens will be interested in contributing articles and news regarding the Dane County Indian community.

Puja Sponsorships: To request a puja sponsorship at the temple or your home, visit our website <http://aha-svtemple.org/puja-services/puja-sponsorship-form/>

For more information on the American Hindu Association and our events, visit our website <http://aha-svtemple.org/>.

What is Kids Korner

Kids Korner is a part of this newsletter dedicated to the creativity of kids 11 and under.

Every month, Gana will feature stories, poems, editorials, cartoons or drawings submitted by children ages 4-10 pertaining to the theme of the month-

April's theme is 'Earth and the Environment'.

Original works can be emailed to gana_editors@svtemple.org. Top stories and drawings will be recognized and published in the next newsletter! Please include the child's name, age, parent's name and contact information at the BOTTOM of the submission. The deadline to be featured in May's newsletter is May 15.

Kids Korner will also include a trivia question, quiz, or some interactive activity. Answers to these will also be featured in the next newsletter.

This month's TRIVIA!

Who are Hanuman's parents?

AHA Celebrated Holi with Joy and Color at the Holi Utsav

On March 7th 2015, AHA hosted a festive and colorful Holi Utsav celebration at the Fitchburg Community Center in Fitchburg. The celebration was free to the public and included a delicious lunch provided by local volunteers and live music by the band Sangamam. We conducted an interview with Sravan Muppuru, a Sangamam band member. The questions asked were both about the Holi Utsav and Sangamam:

Q: *How did you feel about the Holi program?*

A: The event seemed to be well planned and organized. Great participation from the community with lot of enthusiasm and joy.

Q: *Would you like to perform for AHA again?*

A: Yes, we really appreciate the opportunity to perform in the Holi event and will be thrilled to perform again.

Q: *What is the main focus of Sangamam?*

A: Entertainment and Fun - As Indians most of us enjoy listening to Indian Cinema music and having a 'live' band will give the community an opportunity to listen and cherish their favorite songs.

Q: *How was the name Sangamam chosen, and what does it mean?*

A: When this band was formed we noticed the diversity in the group. Each one of us belongs to a different state in India and some of us just neighboring countries. Sangamam meaning 'Confluence with the ocean or any other source of entity', Music brought us this harmony in our diverse group and hence Sangamam.



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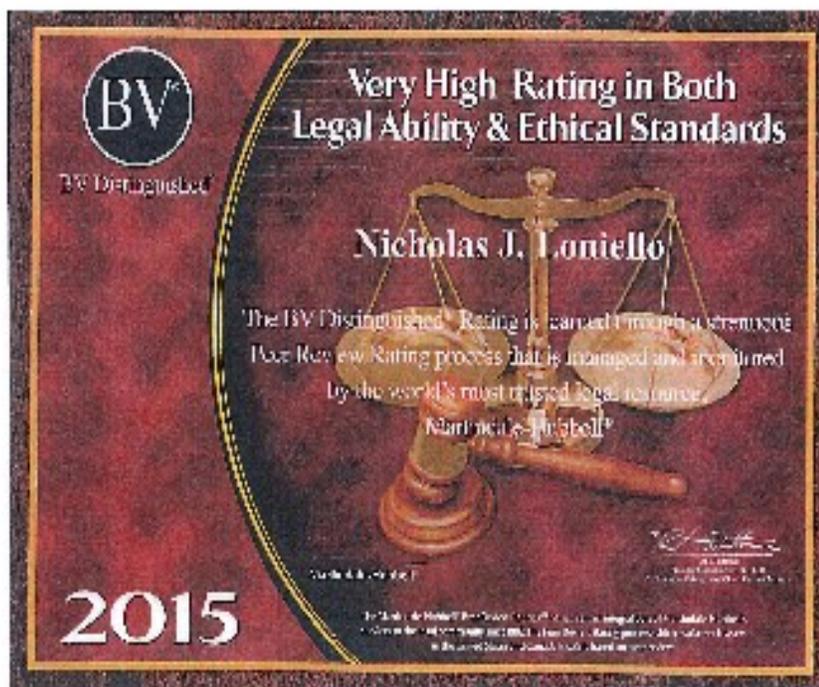
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