



Hindu Vishwa Newsletter

An official Newsletter of Vishwa Hindu Parishad of America
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Chaitra-Āshādhā Vikram Samvat 2069, Kaliyuga 5114

YOUTH CONFERENCE: SWAMI VIVEKANANDA'S MESSAGE OF SUSTAINABLE LIVING

"Manifest the divinity within you, and everything will be harmoniously arranged around it." Swami Vivekananda

Boston, March 31, 2012. Over 150 people of all ages came together at MassBay to discuss the essential message of Sustainable Living on Swami Vivekananda's 150th birth anniversary.

The essence of the conference was: how to live responsibly with our fellow men on our small but seemingly vast earth. Robert Tracy says of his experience: "I grasped onto some of the more empowering ideas: condemn none; help others; uphold your own ideals; listen to your soul; be yourself; our power comes forth from within."

The morning session began with Deep prajwalan and bhajans sung by Bal Vihar children. The essential message of Swamiji's words on Sustainable Living was addressed by the keynote speaker Sri Nitin Puri of ISKCON. Two youth speakers gave their views on Swamiji's message. Attendees included MassBay students and faculty, leaders and members of the local Hindu community. MassBay President Dr. John O'Donnell addressed conferees with a few words from his own experience.

The afternoon session included several speakers, a cultural program, recognizing teachers from the community for their devotion to teaching and bringing out the best in their students. Dr. Mahesh Mehta spoke about Swami Vivekananda's visit to the USA a century ago. The finale to the afternoon program was the reenactment of Swamiji's 1893 Chicago address by a High School student dressed in orange robe and headwear. The auditorium reverberated with Swamiji's words with all leaving the conference mulling their importance in their minds.

FIRST HINDU MANDIR PRIESTS CONFERENCE

Over 32 Pandits and 40 adult and youth delegates representing more than 20 Mandirs (Temples) and Hindu organizations from across the county participated in the First Annual Hindu Mandir Pandits (Priests) Conference (HMPC) held on April 27-28, 2012 hosted by The Hindu Jain Temple (HJT) & Sri Venkateswara Temple (SVT) of Pittsburgh, PA and organized by World Hindu Council of America (VHPA) and other Hindu institutions. The Theme of the conference was 'Role of Pandits in Sustaining Dharma in America'. The objective of the HMPC is sustainability and advancement of Sanatan Dharma by making the modes of worship meaningful and relevant. Delegates ranged in ages from teenagers. to those in their seventies and came from a variety of backgrounds.

The conference began with chanting of Ganesh Atharvashirsha by all the Pandits, filling the HJT Praasaad (hall) with divine vibrations. Krishna Sharma, Chairperson of HJT and GG Hegde, Chairperson of SVT welcomed the delegates. In his keynote address, Pandit Roopnauth Sharma of Canada said that the mandir belongs to the devotees who come there, and proposed to accomplish this by making the Pandit a key figure in the sustaining of spiritual and cultural element of North American Hindu society.

Sessions included a variety of topics relevant to the Mandirs, Pandits and Youth. Bhakti Mehta of Coalition of Hindu Youth (CHY) and Harishwer Balasubramani of SV Temple youth group jointly said, "Having a level of comfort between Pandits and youth will create a home in our mandirs." During his speech Pandit Ram Hardwar of NY drew applause by quoting, "In Hindu dharma we don't have GOD. We have BRAHMAN, we have ISHWAR. Let us use the words that have a meaning for us." Sadasivanatha Palaniswami of Kauai's Hindu Monastery (Hinduism Today) presented the Hindu Jain Temple youth group with rudraksha beads to plant them on temple ground.

In her parting thoughts Swamini Svatmavidyananda of Arshavidya Gurukul said, "Doctors and healers, for example, cannot say that they have clients, and neither can teachers. Likewise, the priests also do not have customers. Themselves being in service of Ishvar, they serve other devotees."

In the concluding session, the delegates agreed on two resolutions: to establish a Hindu Mandir Pandit Sabha (a think tank) to facilitate communications and knowledge exchange; and to formulate an exchange program for Pandits to observe and learn from operation and spiritual activities of other Temples.

REPORT ON VHPA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

The meeting was held at Allen Town, Pennsylvania on April 21-22, 2012 at the residence of Vikas Maheshwari with 22 EB members in attendance.

The following topics were discussed on Saturday: HAVAN, HWN, BVN, Inter-organizational relations, Publications, Website, Media & PR, SAC, Youth Seva and the World Hindu Congress. The evening started with a variety of cultural program and concluded with dinner and a lively discourse on Hindu Diasporas and Hinduism. Swamijee mentioned that the biggest issue facing Hindus was their lack of identity, since there are several definitions of Hindus floating around confusing the general Hindu population. Therefore, VHPA must make it a priority to define Hindu religion in a simple way that every Hindu can identify with.

Following Sunday morning discussion on Finance, National Program in 2013 and HMEC, the group went to the Anupam Mission temple, where they saw a movie of the Mission volunteers helping impoverished people of Gujarat. The group was treated to a delicious lunch by Anupam Mission volunteers.

SECOND 9/11 HINDU TEMPLES NATIONAL BLOOD DRIVE: A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

“The goal is participation of 100 temples and 5000 units of blood on a single day.” –Dr. Jindal, National Project Chairman

Hindu-Americans across North America will mark the 11th anniversary of 9/11 by donating blood at their places of worship. This will be second time that such an ambitious project is held at various Hindu mandirs (temples) in North America. This effort is being coordinated by the HMEC (Hindu Mandir Executives' Conference (www.myhmec.org), network of approximately 600 temples in North America, and agencies such as the American Red Cross which will collect the blood. The HMEC and leaders of the Indian-American community are making an appeal to the temples to join this movement.

Hindus are a diverse community originally from India and other countries around the world. They form the majority of 3 million Indian-Americans in the USA. According to the U.S. National Institutes of Health, nearly 14 million units of whole blood and red cells are required every year. Some patients of Asian descent require a closer blood match than that provided by the ABO positive/negative blood types. For this reason, it is extremely important to increase the number of available blood donors from the Asian communities. 5% of the total eligible population in the US gives blood. However, less than 1% of the Asian community donates blood.

Highlights of the first Hindu Temples National Blood Drive (2011)

- ❖ 2500 units of blood and bone marrow have been donated. Each unit of blood saves 3 lives.
- ❖ 79 Hindu mandirs across North America participated.
- ❖ Indian-American Student Unions of various colleges and universities organized blood drives in college campuses.
- ❖ SEVA International USA, organized blood donation drives in various locations around the US.
- ❖ Many Indian-owned business also participated.
- ❖ Participated in bone marrow drives to save the life of Amit Gupta (<http://amitguptaneedsyou.com/>), who received a successful bone marrow transplant. Finding a suitable bone marrow donor for South Asians is an ongoing challenge.

For further information, please contact:

Rahul M. Jindal, MD, PhD, MBA,
Director, HMEC National Blood Drive
Washington, DC jindalr@msn.com Tel: 718-916-9241

An Update on Support-A-Child Project

I visited Bharat in Jan/Feb 2012. I had opportunity to meet SAC coordinator Shri Lohia in Kolkota and Arvind Brahmabhatt ji, Shri Koteswar and Laxman ji of VHP main Karyalaya New Delhi. Arvind Brahmabhatt ji is Sewa Pramukh of VHP. They accepted our request of making website of SAC Bharat, getting us the CD's /DVD's of their hostels/schools twice a year and You tubes. Let's hope to get the full support from Bharat to reach the 1000 children goal in 2012.

By Dec 2011, we have 817 children supported by VHPA. Kindly continue spreading the word about this great program among your mandirs, friends and children. **A Boston family donated their car that fetched \$4500 for SAC.**

For further information and online donation, please visit the website sac.vhp-america.org

Submitted by: Renu Gupta, Director SAC
nishved@yahoo.com Phone: 513-860-1151

VHPA DONATES \$10,000 FOR FIJI FLOOD VICTIMS

To date VHP of America has received approximately \$1000 from various donors to help the victims and their families who were affected by the floods in Fiji.

VHPA is working with Jay Dayal, President of VHP of Fiji with a goal of to raise \$75,000 through various Hindu organizations. According to Jay Dayal Ji that if Hindus do not step forward to help the victims, other religious organizations will jump in and start helping the Hindus with an agenda for conversion to their religion, thus destroying our own cultural values in Fiji as it has happened in other countries including our motherland. Please visit www.vhp-america.org web site and donate whatever you can. It is our duty to extend our hand to our brothers and sisters in Fiji. For further information, please contact: Shri Girish Gandhi E-mail: karnavati45@gmail.com Phone: 561-244-5813

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Submitted by: Rahul Sharma rahuulchandraa@gmail.com

Q1. Which of the following is not one of the Vedic Samskaras?

- A. Karma
- B. Vivah (Marriage)
- C. Anthyeshthi (last rites of person)
- D. Naama Karana (naming ceremony)

Q2. Which of the following is/are Vedic God/Goddess?

- A. Indra
- B. Agni (Fire)
- C. Varuna (Water God)
- D. All of the above.

Q3. Which of the following is/are pillar(s) of Practical Hinduism?

- A. Temple Worship (covering Pilgrimage, Charity)
- B. Scripture (Study, Prayers, Dance, Meditations)
- C. Master (Wearing of marks, code of conduct, atonement)
- D. All of the above

Q4. Match the following

A	Worship and faith related to: Shiva	1	Ganesha
B	Worship and faith related to: Vishnu	2	Kartikeya
C	Worship and faith related to: Shakti-mother goddess	3	Saivism
D	Worship and faith related to: Surya	4	Vaishnavism
E	Worship and faith related to: Vinayaka	5	Sun God
F	Worship and faith related to: Skanda	6	Shakti-ism

Answers:

Q1 –A; Q2 –D; Q3 –D; Q4 - (A-3, B-4, C-6, D-5, E-1, F-2)

Hindu Women's Conference
Sunday, June 24, 2012 (9AM – 6PM)
New Dorp High School, Staten Island, NY

The NY/NJ chapters have planned an exciting historic Hindu Women's Conference. Please share it with others and plan to attend. Please contact one of the following for further information and/or if you know of good speakers for the conference:
ilasukhadia@hotmail.com, (718)-981-0572;
mano.mishra@gmail.com, (718)-816-7919;
prajnavandana@gmail.com, (732)-762-5464



Photo: 2012 Youth Conference (Details on page 1)

The Mayor of Marlborough and the Governor of Massachusetts declared May 19, 2012 to be Hindu Heritage Day for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Springfield Kirtan Mandli Celebration

April 8th, 2012. The Springfield (Bhutani) Kirtan Mandli held the second anniversary program of kirtan/bhajan. The environment was rich with jubilation and unparalleled enthusiasm. Two years ago the weekly Kirtans was started with only three Bhutani families, which has now grown to three hours of bi-weekly celebration (Sundays) attended by several families. **The Springfield Kirtan Mandli** also gave birth to the **Westfield Kirtan Mandli**, which has continued on a weekly basis (Saturdays) over a year with more than twenty Bhutani families. This was day of joint celebration. The day started with chanting and recitals by three Panditji, HariVinod Adhikari, Vishnu Khatiwada and a Panditji from Connecticut. Narayan Adhikari and other elders performed the puja. Kirtan started after over three hours of reading of Hindu scriptures. The Westfield Kirtan Mandli and the Springfield Kirtan Mandli took turns in singing **Nepali bhajans** and it soon became a competition. People got so involved with the musical extravaganza that included dances also, that it went well past lunch time. The event concluded with hot lunch consisting of samosas, shabji, sweet, fruit, puris, etc. made by volunteers. Everyone enjoyed this delightful event that also brought participants closer to each other. Submitted by: Vijay Dalal vijayvdalal@gmail.com

BAL VIHAR CULTURAL PROGRAM

Bal Vihar of Atlanta, Georgia recently presented its annual cultural program, a colorful extravaganza of dance and drama, based on the timeless epic, "Ramayan". The purpose of this theme was to familiarize the students with the values and principles that Shri Ram symbolizes. The 5-hour program started with Ganesh vandana, and Deep prajwalan by VHPA Atlanta chapter president Kusum Khurana. About 200 students, grades pre-K through 12, from Cobb and Gwinnett branches of Balvihar enacted the life of Shri Ram, from His birth to coronation in 16 episodes. The students brought to life various characters, through their costumes, acting and rendering of dialogues in fluently spoken Hindi, and sang verses from Ramcharitmanas. The stage settings and props were handmade by the volunteers. The sound, light and stage were managed by the former graduates of Balvihar. The 2012 graduates emceed the entire program with recitation from Tulsidas' Ramayan flawlessly.

VHPA Atlanta Chapter Donates \$1001 to Georgia Tech Foundation

Georgia Institute of Technology (GT) is introducing Hindi as a full fledged four credit course starting fall of 2012. Atlanta Bal Vihar along with Hindu Yuva at GT has launched a fund drive to raise the \$10,000 necessary for this purpose. Also, Bal Vihar along with Seva and Ekal are organizing "Hansi ke Thahake" on May 25th to raise more funds for this cause.

BAL VIHAR HINDI SCHOOL (VHPA)

STARTALK CAMP (JUNE 1 – 10, 2012)

One of the very few recipients of the federal grant for Hindi program in 2012, Bal Vihar (Atlanta) is organizing STARTALK Hindi Camp in June as it has done for the last three years. Discover India through Startalk Camp, to be held at Berkmer High School, Lilburn, GA, is a summer program for 100 middle and high school students. An integral component of the Startalk program is learning language through participation in a variety of cultural activities. The program follows a thematic curriculum that is carefully designed with enriched content and student-centered real life performance-based activities. As sub-theme, there are lessons with meaningful activities related to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). These innovative activities make students aware of India's contribution to the modern world. This is an action oriented program through arts & crafts, sports, reading, listening and story-telling. The real-life interactive communication is taken to a higher level. The camp begins daily at 9 AM with Yoga and ends at 6 PM with dance. It's a total immersion program where the target language and culture prevails. For further information, please contact Mrs. Manju Tiwari at 770-962-2669, E-mail: msrtiwari@gmail.com <http://www.balvihar.org>

MICHIGAN CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

- VHPA and Hindu Sevak Sangh have adopted a 2-1/2 mile stretch of Highway in Farmington, Michigan. The volunteers keep it clean. The City has recognized this service by installing a sign board in the heart of down town Farmington.
- The chapter has successfully completed this year's Ekal Vidyalaya Fundraising. Pop, Pizza and Fruits were served during the event.
- VHPA is helping our Bharatiya Temple recruiting volunteers for Pran Praktisha of new temple. It will be a whole week grand affair. After that VHPA will be helping Swami Dayanand Saraswati for fund raising for Dhankar Eye Hospital.

Contact Chapter President: Arjun Soorya arjun410@comcast.net

Vedic Heritage Youth Camps 2012

Conducted by Chinmaya Mission, Chicago

Badri Youth Camp - July 16th - 22nd, 2012

Yamunotri Youth Camp - June 18th - 24th, 2012

For further details: <https://mychinmaya.org>

22nd ANNUAL ARYA MAHASAMMELAN

July 26th - July 29th 2012

For further information, please contact: Vishrut Arya at mahasammelan@gmail.com Phone: 347-770-2792

<http://www.aryasamaj.com/ams>

CONDOLENCES

VHPA sadly announces the passing away of **Dr Asha Chopra** on 7th April, 2012. Dr. Chopra was an active member and a strong supporter of VHPA Irvine Chapter. She had been suffering from cancer, and finally decided to embrace the Hospice care for the last two weeks before departing for her heavenly abode.

Mrs. Sheela Kene, President of Orange County Chapter of VHPA said that she has lost a good friend, and the Vishwa Hindu Parishad of America, Irvine chapter has lost a great supporter and life-member. We send our deepest sympathy and prayers to her mother Smt. Vimala Chopra, son Rahul and daughter Aarti, and all family members.

May the Lord Almighty grant eternal peace to the departed soul and strength to the family and friends to bear her loss.

Dates to remember May - December 2012			
June 21	Lord Jagannath Rath Yatra, Puri	October 15	Pitr-paksha Ends
June 24	Hindu Women's Conference	October 16	Navaratri Begins
July 03	Guru Purnima	October 21	Durga Puja Begins
July 4	US Independence Day	October 23	Navaratri Ends
July 11	Summer Camps/VHP Family Conf.	October 24	Vijaya Dashmi/Dussehra
July 24	Nag Panchami	October 26-28	Governing Council Meeting
August 02	Raksha-bandhan	October 29	Shard Purnima
August 10	Krishna Janmastami	November 02/03	Karwa Chauth
August 15	Independence Day of India	November 12	Dhan Teras
August 17-18	HMEC-2012	November 13	Diwali
August 29	Onam	November 15	Guajarati Vikram Samvat New Year
September 19	Ganesh Chaturthi	November 15	Bhai Dooj
September 30	Pitr-paksha Begins	November 28	Kartik Purnima/ Guru Nanak Jayanti

Ekal Vidyalaya – One Teacher School

\$1 a day can make the difference in lives of 30 children. Non-formal primary education is provided to the Vanvasi (tribal) children from ages 5 to 14 years. Children learn reading, writing, arithmetic and social behavior. Please support a school for one year with a donation of only \$365 to:

Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation USA,
15455 Empanada Drive, Houston, TX 77083.
(281) 933-6169. Email: ramesh@ekalvidya.org.

Support a Child

A project of VHPA since 1985, this program provides safe home, education and basic medical care to young needy children, in vanvasi (tribal) areas of Bharat. It costs \$250 per year per child. You will get a picture and details of the child's progress. Please send tax-deductible contribution to:

Support a child - VHP of America,
P.O. Box 441505, Houston, TX 77244
E-mail: vp_seva@vhp-america.org
Tel. 281-496-5676

Donate a Car to VHPA

"Donate-A-Car" for any VHPA cause (e.g. "Support-A-Child", "Ashraya", or other VHPA projects.) SAC project has received \$4500 from a car that was donated by a VHPA member. Another VHPA member donated a car for the Ashraya project to help a Bhutani family.

To donate your car, contact: Kaushik Patel
at: ck8288@comcast.net Phone: 508-977-9397

SEVENTH ANNUAL HINDU MANDIR

EXECUTIVES' CONFERENCE

August 17-18, 2012

August 19, 2012 – India Parade
FREMONT/SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

Seventh HMEC will be held on August 17-18 followed by the annual Hindu Mela/parade on August 19. The conference will be hosted by Fremont Hindu Temple and 25 Co-hosts.

For further details, please visit: www.myhmec.org

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