



SHRI SURYA NARAYAN MANDIR

Youth Group Newsletter



January, 2010

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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH GURUJI

Roshan: Guruji, What is Jhandi? (I know it is a puja but the person wants to know why it is not mentioned in the BG or Ramayan.)

Guruji: Jhandi is a word we use in Guyana to mean Pooja (normally Hanumanji Pooja). The word jhandi is a variation of the hindi word Jhanda meaning flag. This word Jhandi, therefore, has evolved over the years because every time we would do Hanuman Ji pooja we will raise a flag. So we would say I am inviting you to my Jhandi meaning Hanuman Ji pooja. Therefore, you would not find this language in our Shastras.

Roshan: Guruji, What is the significance of the puja (Jhandi) flags?

Guruji: The flag is a visual representation of the Deity worshipped. In the same way that the flag of USA represents the country and everything that it represents, the flags raised during pooja and placed in our yards represents the various deities worshipped. Simply the red flag of Hanuman Ji represents the Lord himself and all his shakti is present within it. The red color of the flag of Hanuman Ji represents courage and fearlessness. In the same way that the flag of Hanumanji was placed on the chariot of Arjuna during the Mahabharata war bringing him victory, the flags in front of our yards will bring us victory.

Rohan: Guruji, My Jhandi flags are in the back of my home since this faces the Eastern direction. I wanted to make sure this was the appropriate place to put them and if not should I relocate them to the front of the home.

Guruji: Ideally, the flag should be placed in front of the home or building as well as towards the eastern side of the property. However, this is not always possible. In these

cases (where the front of the building is not east) there seems to be a divide in opinion as to where the flag should be placed. Some say east and others say in front of the building. Since the flag is a symbol of the deity and also acts as a reminder/source of blessing to the devotees on a daily basis I would suggest that the flag should always be kept in front of our homes. This way as you leave and return home you are always reminded of the lords presence and his grace. Whenever you perform your next puja at home and erect another flag. I would suggest that it be placed in front of your home.

Rohan: Guruji, What is the proper way of disposing of the old & tattered Jhandi flags/bamboo?

Guruji: This is a major problem we are experiencing here in NY. The old flags should be removed only when you have replaced it with a new one. Do not leave the old ones there to look like a bundle of old clothing. We were always told that the best place to dispose of old flags is in running water such as a river or the ocean. This, however, is not possible here in the city. My recommendation is to recycle the old bamboo in your yard for misc. gardening etc and then dispose of it in the regular garbage. The old flags can be buried in a hole in the rear of



Guruji, Pt. Ram
Hardwar

January Birthdays

Devan Oodal: 1/10

Purushottam Shivecharan 1/14

Vijay Sosiah 1/22

Avinash Bisram 1/23

Reshma Oodal 1/26

GURUJI'S QUOTE OF THE MONTH

It is a crime to take away a man's food

It is a crime to take away a man's clothing

It is a crime to take away a man's home

But the greatest of all crimes is to take away a man's religion

VASANT PANCHAMI

BY: AJAY PERSAUD

The festival of Vasant Panchami is celebrated in North India in late January. It marks the end of winter and the first day of spring. The name of the festival means the fifth day of spring because it falls on the fifth day of the bright half of the month of Magha. In some parts of India the festival is known as Saraswati Puja. People visit the mandir and perform puja to Mother Saraswati, goddess of the arts, learning, and wisdom. This is also a good day for children to begin their education. Many Hindus wear bright yellow clothes on the day of Saraswati Puja because yellow is the color of spring. Also on the day of Vasant Panchami the planting of Holika is performed. On January of 2010 on the day of the twentieth Vasant Panchami is celebrated so it very important for children to attend mandir in order to gain knowledge and receive blessings from the Mother. Some people feed Brahmanas on

this day. Pitri-Tarpan (ancestor worship) is done on this day as well as the god of love (Kamdev) being worshipped on this day.



Quote from SSNM President Amar Persaud

“It was a historic day for Shri Surya Narayan Mandir on 11/29/2009 when **Surya Narayan Seva Outreach Sang** was formed by our spiritual leader Pt Ram Hardwar.”

Bhagavad Gita Quote

Non-envious, friendly and compassionate towards all beings, free from ideas of passion and ego-consciousness, sympathetic in pain and pleasure, forgiving, always contented, contemplative, self-controlled, of firm conviction, with his mind and intellect dedicated to Me -such a devotee is dear to Me.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHESS

BY: JAYA L. HARIPRASAD

Chess actually started up in India way back in the 6th century. Then, it wasn't called chess but 'Chaturanga', which in Sanskrit means “having 4 limbs”. These 4 limbs symbolize an army. In India in the 6th century, the four limbs of the army are the elephants, chariots, horsemen, foot soldiers. The elephants are the present day bishops, the chariots are the rooks, the horsemen are the knights, and finally the foot soldiers are the Pawns. Each side also has a general, the King, and his advisor, the Queen. Now a days, though, the Queens is the strongest player and the King must be protected and save from attacks from the opponent. Chess or Chaturanga is a kind of like a battle game. The game is all about strategy, figuring out how to get the opponents King, while defending theirs. Life is in a way like a chess board. You've got to plan ahead and choose your moves carefully.

SSNM Chess Club

The Shri Surya Narayan Mandir Chess Club meets every Sunday at 1 pm after services for social and competitive games. There will be a yearly competition and prizes will be awarded.

1st Prize - \$100 & Trophy 2nd Prize - \$40 3rd Prize - \$20

We are on the web at:

www.shrisuryanarayanmandir.org

Surya Veer Sang Classes

Every Friday 7-8:30pm

Kirtan

Every Sunday 9-9:30am

Seva

Every Saturday

(more details to follow)

