

## Arsha Vidya Gurukulam's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in a three-day special event August 19-21



We had the privilege of celebrating Arsha Vidya Gurukulam's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in a three-day special event August 19-21.

The opening day of festivities began with a fine presentation of the musical Nadan Caritam by a group of young South Jersey music students. The day concluded with a brilliant Carnatic vocal music concert by Maharajpuram Ramachandran.

On the second day, over a hundred devotees took part in the Sri Dakshinamurti laksarcana japam. A cultural program by young adults and audio/video presentations about the gurukulam took place in the afternoon. Young Carnatic vocalist Sharada Sashidhar delighted the audience with her melodious voice. In the evening, the event tent was filled for Padma Vibhusan Pandit Jasraji's incredible concert.



Over 800 people attended the final day which commenced with a scintillating Bharatnatyam performance by the very talented Rukmini Vijayakumar.

Dignitaries who graced the occasion were Mr. Vijay Nambiar, Chief of Staff, Secretary General of the U.N. and Mr. Bawa Jain, Secretary General, World Council of Religious Leaders and his wife Hanna. Lorna O'Farrell presented a plaque to Pujya Swamiji on behalf of State Representatives Rosemary Brown and Mario Scavello.

We were blessed with the presence of Swami Vidadatmananda, Swami Tattvavidananda, Swami Pratyagbodhanada and Swami Tadatmananda. The Swamijis and guests offered felicitations to Pujya Swamiji.

Five books were released on the occasion:

*Swami Dayananda - Contributions & Writings* by Sheela Balaji

*Gita Home-Study Course* – 9 volumes

*Sraddha Mantra Pushpam* by Swami Tattvavidananda

*Breaking India* by Rajiv Malhotra

*The Age of Ananda – Conscious Evolution to the life Divine* by Kumar S. Sharma

The highlight of the day was Pujya Swami Dayanandaji keynote address on: *“There is nothing equal to knowledge”*.

The talk was followed by a banquet lunch and the event concluded with a question and answer session with Swami Sri Vidadatmanada.

The advertisements, page sponsorships and donations from generous participants, were a vital fundraising source for the gurukulam and its various activities. AVG thanks all of them for the same and look forward to their continued support in the years to come.

*Report by Anand Gupta*