

Arsha Vidya Gurukulam, Saylorsburg celebrates Silver Jubilee



The Arsha Vidya Gurukulam (AVG) located in Saylorsburg, PA has become a home away from home for hundreds of members of the Hindu community from across the country. On Friday, August 19, 2011, the Gurukulam initiated its 3-day celebration for the silver jubilee of its existence. The institution of Vedanta and Sanskrit was established in 1986 by Pujya Sri Swami Dayananda Saraswati in order to provide people of all ages and backgrounds the opportunity to study Hindu religious texts in English.

The celebration included various dance and vocal performances. The first of the series was a Carnatic vocal performance by Sri Maharajapuram Ramachandran. Ramachandran exhibited an exemplary flexibility in his voice. Pujya Sri Swami Dayananda Saraswati remained in awe throughout the entire performance and Ramachandran ended the night by

performing some of Swamiji's own compositions including "Bho Shambho".

The following day saw a number of events including a talk by Pujya Sri Swami Dayananda Saraswati, a Dakshinamurthy Mula Mantra Japam, a performance by the AVG Youth Group, a Carnatic vocal concert by Sharada Shashidhar, and a Hindustani vocal concert by none other than renowned vocalist Padma Vibhushan Sangeet Martand Pandit Jasraj. All the performances were outstanding. Swamiji's satsangs were enlightening as they are very well known to be and the Japam was very well executed with the help of many volunteers. The AVG Youth Group worked under the guidance of Smt. Savithri Mani to put on a patriotic spectacular that touched the hearts of many members of the audience.

Sharada Shashidhar also impressed many with her sweet voice and exceptional grasp over swaras at the tender age of twelve.



The day ended with an amazing performance by Pandit Jasraj that left many speechless. Though a large number of people in the audience had heard Jasraj perform before, all agreed that he sounded even better than usual during this performance. Pujya Swamiji, also impressed with Jasraj's performance, spoke a few words to thank the maestro for making the event special.

The final day began with dance performances by the nimble Rukmini Vijayakumar. Her expressions were

breathtaking and she succeeded in involving the audience in her dances to the fullest. Her performances were followed by the annual book release and Q&A sessions with Swami Vidadatmananda ji. Present in the audience were distinguished members of society including Secretary General of the World Council of Religious Leaders, Mr. Bawa Jain.

By *Nupur Joshi*
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"BE A GOOD SPORTSMAN"



It is easy for a good sportsman to become a *sadhu*. The sportsman's mind is ready to take the result of the game gladly. This is possible only by a detached mind. He has the large-heartedness to appreciate the opponent's merits. When the bowler bowls well, the batsman plays the ball with a happy note, "a good ball". When the batsman hits a ball to the boundary, all the players including the bowler say "a good shot". A *sadhu* has this quality of being happy with whatever he gets and with whatever he has".

Pujya Swamiji
April 1968