

Arsh Vidya Gurukulam Celebrates Its 26th Anniversary Day

The 26th Anniversary of the Gurukulam was held in Saylorsburg PA on August 19, 2012.

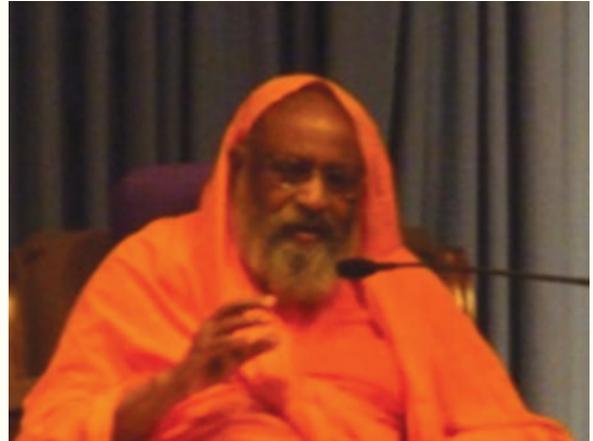
Approximately one thousand people gathered to celebrate this function, which took place under beautiful, sunny skies.

Two huge tents were erected, one for the ceremony and the other for dining. Parking was regulated carefully on the premises. Outside the tents, tables were arranged for snacks and drinks available during the function. A banquet lunch prepared by the Gurukulam Kitchen was served on well-arranged tables in the tent. Programs and games for children were provided on the Gurukulam grounds and babysitting was also available. There were outdoor stalls for books, souvenirs and gifts.

The program started at 9:30 AM. Dr. Vandana Pradeep anchored the program as Master of Ceremonies.

Arsha Kula Bhushanam Sri Maharajapuram S. Ramchandranji inaugurated the ceremony with a Ganesa prayer followed by Pujya Swamiji's composition.

Pandit Mukesh Desaiji followed with an Indian Classical Music concert. He was accompanied by Aditya Narayan Banerjee on tabla and Jai Gandhi on flute. Panditji sang beautiful bhajans and a composition of Pujya Swamiji. The audience joined him with the Har Har Govinda bhajan.



Vandanaji announced the ongoing programs at the Gurukulam that included the yoga, music, Astrology Ayurvedic classes and Vedanta Retreats.

Mr. Deven Sharma, the chief guest and the former president of Standards and Poor's delivered the guest address. In his speech he said that he took over the Standard and Poor's organization in the year 2007. Mr. Sharma said it was easier to do things with courage than with fear. There were conflicting choices. A choice may not be

in the best interest of one individual but it should be in the best interest of all. The aim should focus on what you can do for others, and then it becomes easy to make decisions. "Therefore, do something that brings more freedom and happiness to all", he said.

Mr. Sharma was followed by New Jersey Assemblyman Upendra Chivakula. In his address Mr. Chivakula said that he had been a legislator for the last ten years and that meant being in a position where you could bring about a change.

The following books were released during the functions:

"Seeking Enlightenment" by Catherine Morrison

"Vivekananda: His Gospel of Man-making" by Swami Jyotirmayananda

"Yoga Sadhana" by Stanford Melancon and Susan Lalji

"Indian Origin of Ancient Civilization" by Niranjana Shah

"Vaidika Sukta Manjari" by Swami Tattvavidananda Saraswati

"Tattvabodha" by Pujya Swami Dayanand Saraswati

Pujya Swamiji commended the books and honored the writers.

Mr. Piyush Shah, the treasurer of the Gurukulam, addressed the gathering. Mr. Shah said that the main purpose of the Gurukulam was to teach 'Self Knowledge' to all. He further said that several buildings were repaired and renovated and a new Auditorium was likely to be



built with community support. He said that the major donation to the Gurukulam came from the book store and the Yoga Studio.

State Representative Ms. Lorna O'Farrell along with Representatives Rosemary M.

Brown and Mario M Scavello acknowledged Arsha Vidya Gurukulam as a Center of Vedantic Teaching.

The following persons were acknowledged:

All Members of the Board of the Gurukulam

Suzanne McCool, County Commissioner of the Monroe County

Swamy Jyotirmayananda

Keshavananda

Bava Jain

Rajayashri Khandelwal

Dr. Ron Harris

Mani Shankar

Raghu Nandan

Mrs. Anjali Sharma

Vandanaji then spoke about Pujya Swamiji, as a foremost authority on Vedanta, and requested him to address the gathering.

Pujya Swamiji in his speech said he never asked questions such as: what is God? or where is God? The Vedic vision of God is that He is in everything and everywhere. The creator and the creation are not separate. This is not a belief. Belief is subject to correction and change. This means belief can be wrong. There is nothing like one God or many Gods. All that is here is *only* God. It is all 'Idam Sarvam'. It is an equation. The equation is Jagat is Iswara. You see the Jagat, the manifest universe. It is not a matter of

belief. The jagat is a manifestation of Iswara. Everything is given to us. The Universe is given. The human being which includes the body, the mind and senses is given. The biological order, the psychological order and every emotion are manifestation of Iswara. You are given to be a human being. Dharma is also a manifestation of Iswara. It is given. Music, dance, the languages are all given to you.

Therefore all creation is the creator. They are not separate. Pujya Swamiji concluded his talk by saying "this is the knowledge that the Gurukulam teaches you".

It may be noted that the Gurukulam will make available a full transcript of Pujya Swamiji's speech.

Vandana Pradeep thanked all the staff and specifically the visitors for their participation. She thanked the volunteer coordinator, Mr. Raj Kuppuswamy, and all other volunteers who tirelessly helped to make the 26th Anniversary a grand success.

Pujya Swamiji acknowledged M.C. Vandana for her eloquence in conducting the proceedings of the ceremony.

Satsang with Pujya Swamiji followed. Pujya Swamiji answered all the questions from the gathering in a span of two and a half hours, once again showing Pujya Swamiji's love for students and devotees.

The program ended at 5:30 PM.

"Report by
Arvind Bagat"