

Bhargava Sanskriti



April 2009 – Bhargava Sabha of North America, Inc. – TriState Area

Namaskar

Greetings to all,

In the year 2006, our Bhargava Community organized a spectacular event which not only made us realize how fortunate we all are to have a wonderful extended family but also how much talent and creativity flows within our blood.

At that time, a newsletter was published which provided details about the Bhargava Conference. We have now made an attempt towards using this newsletter as a tool for bringing our family closer by enabling various family members to share their area of expertise with the rest of us. The newsletter will also feature happenings within the community, articles for children and the youth and news from India pertaining to the Bhargava Community. Families are welcome to share any personal achievements and milestones in the newsletter which will be published every quarter.

We need your help in making this newsletter a success, please feel free to contribute your thoughts and suggestions. Articles contributed by any member of your family, whether it be a grandparent or a young budding writer will be featured in upcoming issues.

We hope you enjoy this first quarterly issue and we look forward to hearing from you soon. For comments, suggestions or to send us your articles, please email us at tristatebhargava@gmail.com. If you no longer wish to receive emails from us, please let us know.

Neera Bhargava, New Jersey

Birthdays / Anniversaries

Wishing a very Happy Birthday to the following members of our Bhargava Community, may the year bring them a lot of happiness and good health:

April - Sachin (Marlboro, NJ)
Gopal Narain (Marlboro, NJ)
Radha Krishna (Marlboro, NJ)
Neena (Ocean City, NJ)



June - Ajay (Woodbridge, CT)
Shruti (Woodbury, NY)
Tripti (Basking Ridge, NJ)
Mrs. Shyama (Fishkill, NJ)
Ritija (Schwenksville, PA)

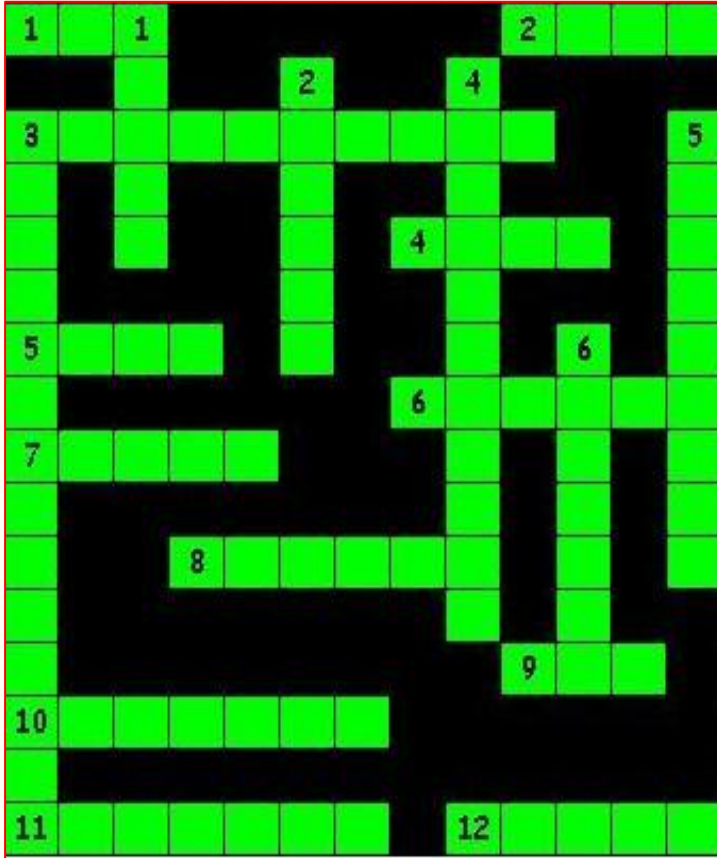


May - Nilima (Ocean, NJ)
Ashok (Cheshire, CT)
Kanupriya (Plainsboro, NJ)



Please note that this information is derived from our current database. If you would like your birthdays and anniversaries to be acknowledged, please do send us that information so that we can include it in future publications.

Hamare Vrat aur Tyohaar..... Holi



Across

1. Bonfires are very common to symbolize this festival. In hindi, fire is known as this.
2. In fact, on the days of Holi, you can get away with almost anything by saying ____ na mano, Holi hai !
3. An ancient name for this festival of India
4. There are at least three legends that are directly associated with the festival of colors: the Holika-Hiranyakashipu-Prahlad episode, Lord Shiva's killing of ____ deva, and the story of the ogress Dhundhi.
5. Holi is connected to this form of Lord Vishnu, which means part man, ie, ____ and part Lion i.e Simhan
6. Famous delicacy made during this festival with coconut, dry fruits, and mawa shaped like the haf moon.
7. People dress up in bright colorful dresses such as yellow and stage a number of cultural programs involving group choreography, songs and dance followed by playing Holi with this powder used to make different colors.
8. Holi is also called by this name. It is an annual festival celebrated on the day after the full moon in the Hindu month of Phalguna (early March).
9. Holi ke din dil ____ jaate hain, Rangon main rang ____ jaate hain
10. Mother of Lord Krishna, to whom all the gopis would complain about her sons pranks.
11. Holika who had the boon of not being burnt by fire, was instructed to sit with her nephew on a fire pit to kill this child, however the aunt was charred to death, but the child survived. Thus 'Holi' is celebrated to commemorate the victory of virtue over evil.
12. Rang _____, the famous Amitabh rendered song based on this festival.

Down

1. The most famous and auspicious color used in this festival.
2. Like Diwali is known as the festival of lights, Holi is known as the festival of _____.
3. Mythology says that there once existed a mighty demon king by this name, who wished that everybody in his kingdom should worship him.
4. In Bengal, at Vishwa Bharti University, Rabindranath Tagore founded the tradition of celebrating Holi as the 'Spring Festival' known as this
5. The lovable pranks of Krishna where he applied color on Radha and other gopis using these water jets gained acceptance and popularity. So much so that it evolved as a tradition and later, a full-fledged festival.
6. Originally parched grains were used to perform hawana (a fire ritual). Those who participated in the ritual smeared on their foreheads, this sacred ash retained after the havana, to keep away evil.



Across: 1-Aag, 2-Bura, 3-Holikotsav, 4-Kama, 5-Nara, 6-Guljya, 7-Abeer, 8-Phagva, 9-Mil, 10-Yashoda, 11-Prahlad, 12-Barse
Down: 1-Gulal, 2-Colors, 3-Hiranyakashyap, 4-BasantUtsav, 5-Pichkaris, 6-Vibhuti

Answers

Bharat Darshan

SWAMINARAYAN AKSHARDHAM TEMPLE



India, is a country known and recognized for its religious wealth and beliefs. We, as Indians bestow all our faith in our deities. Any part of this heritage rich country, epitomizes our centuries old culture and tradition. As parents, we understand and want to bring this religious bliss into our lives and those of our children, just as we inherited them from our parents, with unparalleled faith and undisputed power.

Amongst, the many temples in India, a new jewel has sparkled in the outskirts of our capital. Just a few years ago, we heard the buzz about a charitable effort to make the **Swaminarayan Akshardham** temple. This dream became a reality on November 6th, 2005 with the colossal devotional efforts of 11,000 artisans and BAPS volunteers in just five years. It is one of the biggest and most intricate religious places of worship ever constructed. Combining several completely different and contrasting architectural styles of the Hindu temple architecture of northern India - Rajasthani, Orrisan, Gujarati, Mughal and Jain -- the Akshardham Monument is entirely constructed of marble and the red-sandstone that Delhi is famous for, and that so many of her monuments are constructed of.

For the first time ever, the world witnessed the heritage of India in all its facets, insights and beauty at the **Swaminarayan Akshardham** through its mandir, an expansive temple built without steel, a fusion of pink stone and pure white marble, where pink stone symbolizes bhakti in eternal bloom and white marble that of absolute purity and eternal peace. Standing on 234 ornately carved pillars, 9 intricately decorated domes, 20 quadrangled shikars and a spectacular Gajendra Pith, this mandir is nothing short of a breathtaking spectacle!! Exhibitions and displays of thousands of statues and literature, verdant gardens spanning miles of serene greenery, relax, nourish and enrich the mind and the soul. Attractions like the boat rides, musical fountains, big screen tv depicting the journey of a 11 year old vedic, the Hall of Values narrating ancients words of wisdom that stand true to the test of time even today.

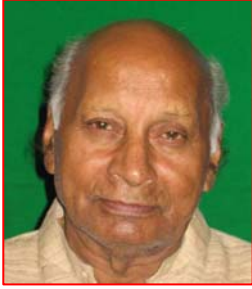
“Akshardham means the eternal, divine abode of the supreme God, the abode of eternal values and virtues of Akshar as defined in the Vedas and Upanishads where divine bhakti, purity and peace forever pervades. The Akshardham experience is an enlightening journey through India’s glorious art, values and contributions for the progress, happiness and harmony of mankind”

This temple is open to visitors at no cost all year round from Tuesday to Sunday and closed on Mondays. The other attractions are priced reasonably and have scheduled timings. No electronic items such as cameras or mobile phones are allowed. No pets or food is allowed. The temple serves pure vegetarian food for all the devotees. Parking and wheelchair facilities are available on site.

It is the one of the wonders of the modern world, and the wonders of modern India. The next time, you plan a visit to the capital or to our world renowned Taj Mahal, do not forget Akshardham is only a few hours away but definitely worth a trip for the mind and the soul !

NOTE : References and Information derived from www.akshardham.com

Community News



Our deepest condolences to Rakesh and Meenakshi Bhargava of Long Island, NY on the loss of Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava, a six consecutive term Member of Parliament from Jaipur who passed away on March 8th 2009. India has lost a great leader and the Bhargava community has lost a great well wisher. Those who attended the Bhargava Convention in New Jersey in 2006 may remember meeting him and would not easily forget his humility in spite of his stature.

Following are two URLs covering the nations and the Bhargava community's homage to him.

http://bhargavasamajglobal.com/download/BhargaaPatrikaMarch2009_1stCover&Page9-12.pdf

http://bhargavasamajglobal.com/download/BhargaaPatrikaMarch2009_Textpage3-8_13-17.pdf

Heartiest congratulations to Anju Bhargava of New Jersey on her appointment to President Obama's Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. This is a council of advisers to the President on issues relating to the Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships including social service provision, community development, social change and relevant public policy issues. The President's Council will form Taskforces in order to study in depth key topics and make recommendations to the President, White House staff and members of government. Council membership is a one-year term.



More details can be found from this URL: <http://www.anjubhargava.com/shitehousepressrelease>



Congratulations to Dr. Kashyap Bhargava, father of Arti Goyal of Pennsylvania. He was recently awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Indian Prosthodontic Society for his vast experience in clinical teaching, research and numerous scientific publications. He is also a founding member of the Society.

Congratulations to Dr. Manjul Bhargava of Princeton, NJ on winning India Abroad's Face of the Future award. This is a new award created by India Abroad to recognize and honor those individuals whose promise for the future exceeds even their remarkable achievements of the present. Manjul is one of the youngest tenured professor of Mathematics at Princeton University

A video link of Manjul accepting the award can be seen at the following URL:



<http://ishare.rediff.com/video/news-and-politics/india-abroad-face-of-the-future-award-manjul-bhargava/591018>

Kids Corner

Letter Holder

Material:-

- 5 inch foam disc
- 2 old cd's
- Paint
- Ribbon
- Stickers, foam pieces or any other decorative material

Directions:

- Make two slit 1 inch away from the edge of the cd.
- Paint the foam piece with acrylic paint/spray paint.
- To give a different look just wrap a ribbon around the sides.
- On the shiny side, be creative and decorate.
- To cover the other side of the cd glue colored paper or paint with acrylic paint, make sure to top coat with a glossy varnish to seal the paint
- Gently slide in the cds into the slits.



**A great gift for Mothers Day
or Fathers Day.**



CD Card

Use the shiny side of the cd to write the message with a permanent marker.



Candle Display

- Paint on one sides and decorate them with glitter, mirrors, stickers and ribbons, etc.
- You can also use cd's shiny side up to sit small pillar or votive candles. The reflection off the cd's is great for centerpieces on buffet tables, especially during the holidays

The Duckies

*As they walked into our hearts with their tiny webbed feet,
Every morning we would watched them and greet.
Day after day they'd come and eat the seeds,
Using their feet to step on our weeds.
Mommy duck would stand and look over her babies,
She would protect them like one strong lady.
Each day and afternoon they came waddling about,
Even after weeks this remained their route.
Each of the ducks began to grow,*

*They matured, developed and no longer stayed low.
Mommy was lost in this family's crowd,
She refrained from standing so high and proud.
The ducks grew so fast and time flew by,
We looked out the window and let out a sigh.
Our duck family is no longer seen,
But we wait each morning eager and keen.
The days of last summer have now long past,
Yet in our hearts, these memories will forever last.*

Esha Bhargava, New Jersey

Kids Kitchen

CHOCOLATE RICE KRISPY SQUARES

Preparation & cooking time: 10 min

3 cups of Jumbo Multi grain rice krispies cereal.

8 oz- large size Marshmallows

1/2 cup chocolate chips morsels



Microwave the marshmallows in a large bowl for 45 to 55 seconds or till they melt. Mix in the rice krispies cereal and chocolate chip with a wooden spoon. It will be hard so you might need help from your mom or dad in mixing. After mixing set it in a glass tray to cool. then cut into small pieces or you can also make them into balls. Make sure to wet your hand so that it doesn't stick.

Enjoy with your friends and family.

Gharelu Nuske

Ways to get rid of onion smell from your hands

Toothpaste - Use white toothpaste, not the clear gel-type ones. Place a small, pea-sized amount of toothpaste on your palm, and vigorously rub and wash your hands with it. Rinse well to remove the minty smell from your hands.

Baking soda - Ordinary baking soda is a very versatile cleaning and odor removal tool. To remove the odors that stick to your hands, you can make a paste out of baking soda and a small amount of water. Rub the baking soda all over your hands, and rinse them well with cold water.

Stainless steel - Simply rub your fingers on anything stainless steel (the smooth blade of your kitchen cleaver, sharpening rod, or the side of a pan). The smell is gone quickly and efficiently and no mess to clean up. Try it, you'll be glad you found this secret.

Salt:- Wash your hands with salt.

Fresh squeezed lemon juice:-cut a lemon in half and rub it on your hands

Kya Kehna!

ASTRONOMER:

When you rearrange the letters:

MOON STARER

SLOT MACHINES:

When you rearrange the letters:

CASH LOST IN ME

A DECIMAL POINT:

When you rearrange the letters:

IM A DOT IN PLACE

THE EYES:

When you rearrange the letters:

THEY SEE

ELECTION RESULTS:

When you rearrange the letters:

LIES - LET'S RECOUNT

THE EARTHQUAKES:

When you rearrange the letters:

THAT QUEER SHAKE

THE MORSE CODE:

When you rearrange the letters:

HERE COME DOTS

SNOOZE ALARMS:

When you rearrange the letters:

ALAS! NO MORE Z 'S

ELEVEN PLUS TWO:

When you rearrange the letters:

TWELVE PLUS ONE

Save the Planet

Learn the Facts

Why is bottled water waste a concern? Here are just a few reasons...

Americans used 50 billion water bottles in 2006 and sent 38 billion water bottles to landfills, the equivalent of 912 million gallons of oil. If laid end to end, that's enough bottles to travel from the Earth to the Moon and back 10 times.⁵ If placed in a landfill or littered, those bottles could take up to 1,000 years to biodegrade.

The energy we waste using bottled water would be enough to power 190,000 homes.

In 2006, the average American used 167 disposable water bottles, but only recycled 38.

Americans used about 50 billion plastic water bottles in 2006. However, the U.S.'s recycling rate for plastic is only 23 percent, which means 38 billion water bottles — more than \$1 billion worth of plastic — are wasted each year.

Ditching bottled water keeps Mother Earth and your wallet green.

One Brita pitcher filter can effectively replace as much as 300 standard 16.9-ounce bottles. So you can get great-tasting water without so much waste. Talk about refreshing.

The average Brita pitcher filters 240 gallons of water a year for about 19 cents a day.⁷ Put in perspective, to get the same amount of water from bottled water would require 1,818 16.9-ounce water bottles a year.

For about \$10 each, you can purchase a 16-ounce or 32-ounce Nalgene bottle, saving you hundreds of dollars a year on bottled water.

Hydration at its best — carry the water you need and reduce your impact on the environment — one Nalgene bottle can last for decades, making it easy to stop buying single-serve bottled water to fulfill your everyday hydration needs.

Many people drink bottled water because they believe it to be of a higher quality, cleaner and better-tasting, but that's not necessarily true.

In the United States, 24 percent of bottled water sold is either Pepsi's Aquafina (13 percent of the market) or Coke's Dasani (11 percent of the market). Both brands are bottled, purified municipal water.

If you don't like the taste of your tap water, try Brita. Nine out of 10 consumers say "Brita clearly tastes better," according to an in-home usage study. They preferred the taste of Brita water — filtered through pitchers — to tap.

Dr. Gina Solomon, a senior scientist at the Natural Resources Defense Council, an environmental advocacy group, told The New York Times that "there is no reason to believe that bottled water is safer than tap water."

In the U.S., public water is regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which requires multiple daily tests for bacteria and makes results available to the public. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which regulates bottled water, only requires weekly testing and does not share its findings with the EPA or the public..