

GUJARATI CULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA
 46560 Fremont Blvd #109
 Fremont, CA 94538

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YATRA BUS



Date: Saturday, June 11, 2011
 Time: 7:30 am – 8:00 pm
 Pick up & drop off: Fremont Temple
 Info.: Chandresh Patel 510-668-1533

Details with form inside the newsletter



A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION, ESTABLISHED 1979 · TAX ID# 94-2691175 · 46560 FREMONT BLVD. #109, FREMONT, CA 94538

Letter 3, April 2011

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Nilesh Patel

Vijay Patel

Greetings Members,

It's hard to believe that it is spring already, but what a winter we have had! It is time to forget about all the rain and start looking forward to the summer with all the exciting events that will follow. We are looking forward to bring more enjoyable events.

YATRA BUS

Our next upcoming event will be Yatra bus on Saturday, June 11, 2011. Yatra Bus is a religious day trip, organized by GCA, to visit various temples around the bay area. Please find the form for Yatra bus in this newsletter. If you would like to participate in the program, please submit your completed form by May 30, 2011.

Date: Saturday, June 11, 2011

Time: 7:30 am – 8:00 pm

Pick up & drop off: Fremont Temple – 3676 Delaware Drive, Fremont, CA 94539

If anyone is interested in volunteering to get community service hours, please contact us at gcabayarea@yahoo.com. Please check our website for further updates and contact us at gcabayarea@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

We have positions open in the GCA board. If you are interested in participating and serving in more actively in GCA activities please send an email to gcabayarea@yahoo.com. We will welcome your help with any aspects of event management or organizational management.

Please feel free to contact us should you have any additional questions.

Regards,
 GCA Board



EVENTS CALENDAR 2011

YATRA BUS11-JUN
 CULTURAL PROGRAM.....7-MAY
 PICNIC16-JUL
 NAVRATRI 24, 30SEP
 NAVRATRI 1,7,8 OCT.
 EVENT DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

ગઝલ - એહમદ હુસેન 'અહેમદ'

Posted On March 19, 2011 @ 6:55 am In ગઝલ

એવું નથી કે એની ઈનાયત રહી નથી,
 અમનેય બંદગીની આદત રહી નથી.

નિર્જન જગાએ હોય કે લોકોની ભીડમાં,
 નારી, હવે તું ક્યાંય સલામત રહી નથી.

ઠારી નરકની આગને, બાળી દે સ્વર્ગને,
 મતલબ સિવાય કોઈ ઈબાદત રહી નથી.

અદલ નકલ છે એની ખુશબૂથી તરબતર,
 ફૂલો સમાન કિન્તુ નજાકત રહી નથી.

દદડી ગઈ છે લાગણી અશ્રુની ધારમાં,
 પાસે હતી જે દિલની વિરાસત રહી નથી.

પડતી દશાના ખેલને આંખોથી જોઈ લે,
 ખંડેર છે ત્યાં ભવ્ય ઈમારત રહી નથી.

'એહમદ' હૃદયને એટલે નાથી શક્યો નથી,
 મારી મનોદશા પણ યથાવત્ રહી નથી.



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“We are responsible for what we are, and whatever we wish ourselves to be, we have the power to make ourselves. If what we are now has been the result of our own past actions, it certainly follows that whatever we wish to be in future can be produced by our present actions; so we have to know how to act.”
 Swami Vivekananda

The goal of mankind is knowledge ... Now this knowledge is inherent in man. No knowledge comes from outside: it is all inside. What we say a man ‘knows’, should, in strict psychological language, be what he ‘discovers’ or ‘unveils’; what man ‘learns’ is really what he discovers by taking the cover off his own soul, which is a mine of infinite knowledge.”
 Swami Vivekananda

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Meaning of Ram Navami Message of Lord Rama



Ram Navami is the birthday of Bhagwan Shri Rama. On this beautiful birthday of Bhagwan Rama, let us ask ourselves the meaning of his birth. What lessons do we learn from the Ramayan, from the glorious example of Bhagwan Rama's life?

Bhagwan Rama exemplified the perfect person; he showed us how to embody the divine on Earth, how to live our lives in accordance with dharma and the divine principles.

The story of the Ramayan is a classic, eternal, universal message of dharma versus adharma, of deva versus demon.

Ravana was a brahmin; he was a great vedic scholar who wrote numerous works on scriptural philosophy. He was powerful, dynamic, and beautiful in appearance. As the brilliant, handsome king of Lanka he had everything one would need to be happy and peaceful. Yet, what made him a demon? He was arrogant, egoistic, greedy and lustful. His insatiable desires led him to crave more and more power, more and more money, and more and more beautiful ladies to fulfill his every whim.

Covetous desires can never be fulfilled, and the ceaseless quest for them brings only frustration. Therefore, regardless of how smart we are, how rich we are, or how beautiful we are, we are demons if our hearts are filled with anger and greed. This is, in essence, the difference between Bhagwan Rama and Ravana. Both were kings; both were learned in the scriptures; both were charismatic; both were beautiful. What makes Rama a god and Ravana a demon?

There is one main difference: Bhagwan Rama's heart overflowed with love, generosity, humility, and a sense of duty. Ravana's heart, in contrast, was filled with avarice, hatred, and egoism. Under Bhagwan Rama's divine touch, the animals became his devotees and his divine helpers. Under Ravana's touch, even humans became animals.

But we ask, how to be like Bhagwan Rama? How to be godly and peaceful and righteous? How to win the "war of Lanka" within ourselves? Bhagwan Rama has given us the perfect example through his life and his actions. The way to attain divinity, the way to be "perfect," the way to be in peace instead of pieces, is to follow his clear example.

Bhagwan Rama's primary message is: fulfill your duty without any selfish motives; put other people before yourself. When he was exiled to the forest, Bhagwan Rama did not complain, "but that's not fair." He did not fight back in anger. Rather, he helped his father fulfill a promise; he lived according to his duty as a son and as a future king. He did not once think about himself, his own comforts, his own "rights." Rather, he abided by his dharma and his duty.

Ravana's ego led to his own demise, first the demise of his spirit and heart and then the demise of his body. He thought he was the one who ran everything. He thought that he was the "doer" of it all. On the other hand, Bhagwan Rama was always humble, and he never took credit for anything. Even after he victoriously slew Ravana, he reported it to Sitaji only as, "and this is where Ravana died."

As we celebrate this holiday, as we revel in Bhagwan Rama's birth, let us ask ourselves, "Has the Rama taken birth inside us? Has the good in our hearts taken birth?" Ram Navami is not only a holiday about Bhagwan Rama. It is a holy day, about examining ourselves. Life is so short. We never know when the end will come. For how long do we want to let Ravana live in us? For how long do we want to be controlled by Ravana? We must give birth today to Bhagwan Rama in our hearts.

May God bless you all. In the service of God and humanity,

Swami Chidanand Saraswati

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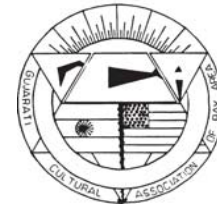
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G. C. A. CELEBRATES PARENTS DAY-YATRA BUS



- DATE:** June 18, 2011
TIME: 7: 30 AM to 8:00 PM
AGE LIMIT: 45 years and above - GCA members will be given priority.
PICK UP & DROP OFF: Fremont Temple - 3676 Delaware Drive, Fremont, CA 94539
DIRECTION: From 880- exit East Auto Mall - left on Fremont Blvd. - right Delaware Drive.
From 680 exit West Auto Mall, right on Fremont Blvd. and right on Delaware
COST: \$25.00 per person - GCA member
\$30.00 per person - Non-member. **Please make check payable to G.C.A**
No refund, please - however you may substitute your seat
MAIL TO: Chandresh Patel (510-668-1533)
3248 Neal Terrace, Fremont, CA. 94538
DEADLINE: May 30, 2011
TEMPLES: * Hindu Temple Fremont * Shiva Temple -Concord
* Brahma Kumari Ashram S F * Hindu Temple San Bruno
* A. P. Swaminarayan Milpitas & SF * Shiv-Vishnu Temple Livermore
* Hare Krishna Temple Berkeley * **This time we may take you Sacramento, Yuba City, Colusa Saibaba darshan.**
* Jain Temple Milpitas



Note: Above mentioned temples are planned - actual schedule is subject to change

RESERVATION FORM

Member's Name: First _____ Last _____
Membership # _____ Phone # _____
Attendees: (1) _____ (2) _____
(3) _____ (4) _____
Total Paid: \$ _____ Cash or Check # _____ Emergency Contact # _____

All tours and other activities arranged for or by the GCA are for the convenience and pleasure of the members and their guests who desire to participate. The GCA does not assume any responsibilities - the well being safety of the attendees and any property damage. I have read and fully understood the terms of this liability release.

PLEASE DO NOT FORGET TO BRING YOUR MEDICATION

Print Name _____ Signature _____ Date _____



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