

Newsletter From Ramana's Garden

November 24 2006

Dusshera play

For thousands of years, it has been a sacred tradition for youth to represent the Ramayana on the celebration of Navrati, a festival honoring goddess Durga.

This year, religious leaders through all India expressed concern that in our modern age this tradition of representing the story has been lost. They predicted that if the destruction of the demon by light was not being reenacted as it had been, the evil forces would again gain dominance in the world. Who knows????

On the eve of Dusshera the Ramana children's presentation was received with tremendous appreciation by religious elders, all the village children, and villagers alike. As Ram's whirling disk of light brought an end to the evil demon, Ravana, the crowd left the huge tent in the wee hours of the morning content that light had once again prevailed over darkness.

All children did a great job in rehearsing the play and a lot of traditional folk dances, Ramana's kids were simply the best and that's why they won the first price!!

On the next night, called Dusshera evening, we all went to the Ganga beach, where they set an effigy of the demon Ravana on fire. Hidden inside were thousands of firecrackers and he was engulfed in an inferno of flame and exploding lights.

Leapnow

This month a group of twenty-seven American youths (from the Leapnow program) stayed a week sharing with us at Ramana's Garden and a week in Ambiya Mountain Paradise. They had a fantastic week with us at Ramana's Garden. The group helped us with the preparations for the Dusshera play and on the big night they were the backstage crew to assist the children during the performance. The rest of the week they did their own creative activities with the kids, such as making jewelry, crafts, and playing ballgames on the Ganga beach. Ramu made his debut as Yoga Instructor for the group, a biggggg stretch for everyone.

We discovered they were fabulous cooks, so they prepared dinner together with the kids for us every night! In Satsang they taught the children new songs; it became one big Celebration... It was beautiful to see how our children gave the American youth so much positive energy. Both our children and the youth enjoyed their visit a lot.



The youth spent also a week in Ambiya Mountain Paradise. In the Himalayas they enjoyed nature's silence and peace with meditation, Yoga and Reiki. They took long walks through the forest, visited our Primary school in Hoonkal delighting the children with creative gifts, and worked hard in the garden, planting our first crop in our new greenhouse.

Ambiya Paradise Healing Retreat

Sixteen friends from Israel came for a Reiki Retreat in the Mountain Center. Evenings found us singing round a roaring fire and dancing under the full moon in the middle of the forest.

Junior High

Currently our children study at Ramana's Garden in Primary English medium NCERT standard, which is the highest standard of education offered in India. Ramana's Garden is a unique school to offer this education free of charge to prospect less children. Other schools in India offer this quality of education, but these are expensive private schools, which makes it impossible for Ramana's children to continue this standard of education outside.

Ramana's Garden offers this high standard education only through the 5th class. The 5th class certificate is not enough to obtain a well-paid job. If the children have the chance to continue education through 8th class in Junior High at Ramana's Garden, they will be better qualified for a well-paid job, or to continue studies in High school.



If we can provide the children with good prospects for the future, they will be the generation who break the vicious cycle of poverty and the caste system of oppression. Right now we are building Junior High down over the existing Primary classrooms and the existing children's dorms. The Junior high will consist of several classrooms, a library, a science lab and an art room.

Ramana's Garden Gallery café

The hottest news from Ramana's Garden: Our Hot-Cross Buns!!! We have a new oven!

The first Leapnow group donated the funds to build a wood burning brick oven. This means we have hot cross buns, fresh croissants, and brown bread every morning at breakfast! We are very happy with this gift and the only thing lacking now is a Gallery Café where we can share these delicacies with all our friends over a view of Ganga. The perfect place for our little artisans to showcase their fantastic creative arts. We are hoping for donations so we can realize this dream! And as usual Prabhavati has already started the construction on credit... We are planning for a



fantastic Christmas Eve Party there round the fire.

Comings and Goings

Welcome! To our newest Special Friend, Ram, born to proud parents Tyagan and Cara in Washington D.C.

Farewell to one of our oldest Special Friends Salvador Rivas from Madrid. He kept his little friend Rohit's photo near his bed in the hospital and his last request was that all money for flowers be send instead to Ramana's Kids.

Thanksgiving Message from Prabhavati

I wish you all enough!!

I wish you enough sun to keep your attitude bright.

I wish you enough rain to appreciate the sun more.

I wish you enough happiness to keep your spirit alive.

I wish you enough pain so that the smallest joys in life appear much bigger.

I wish you enough gain to satisfy your wanting.

I wish you enough loss to appreciate all that you possess.

I wish you enough hellos to get you through the final good-bye.

They say it takes a minute to find a special person, an hour to appreciate them, a day to love them, but then an entire life to forget them. On this day of Thanksgiving we want to thank all of you for being that special person in our lives