

Balaji Temple Celebrates World Peace Prayer

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ALVISO, Calif. — The Balaji Temple here celebrated World Peace Prayer Apr. 5 with religious chanting, Sri Ganesha and Hanuman Abhishekam, followed by Sri Hanuman Chalisa (100 times) and concluding with Sri Ganesha Homa.

The Balaji Temple is in the process of forming a Hindu Temple and Vedic Cultural Center on the peninsula in the heart of Silicon Valley where people can come together to study and worship, regardless of their different backgrounds. Their aim is to promote a feeling of universal love and unity among all people.



The World Peace Prayer event at the Balaji Temple.

Sri Narayana Swamiji, the main force behind the Balaji Temple, along with his devotees presented a Hanuman ratha yatra, a colorfully decorated small temple on wheels with Lord Hanuman majestically sitting inside.

The event began with the light-

ing of lamps by the vice mayor of San Jose, Dave Cortese, along with Swamiji. Cortese spoke about how the world community of faith, that includes all religions, believes in a greater good and have never given up on the idea of peace, regardless of turbulent



The classical ensemble performing at the Balaji Temple.

events. He stressed that this kind of a peace event was more relevant in today's times that ever before.

Swamiji spoke of how love and peace go together. He mentioned that detachment allows inner peace to blossom and then one's

outer peace can also bloom. He also said that every person should be selfless in whatever service they provide to mankind.

On the occasion, Swamiji and Cortese unveiled and released two books: a World Peace Prayer booklet and the new Balaji Temple Prayer book, which was compiled by Swamiji, edited by volunteers and donated by Chitra and K. Sridharan.

Following the religious part of the ceremony, two Indian classical music performances were presented. Classical singer Anupama Chandratreya from Cupertino was accompanied by Satish Tare on tabla and Satish on violin in her rendition of Raag Jog and two bandishes (songs), including "Sajan more ghar aaye."

Pandit Habib Khan and his 25-member orchestra conducted the second performance with tabla, sitar, harmonium and some vocal performers.

The temple committee took a few moments to honor some devotees who have been involved in the temple's growth, before the program ended with a maha prasadam/dinner provided by Cupertino Bakery.