

Come Celebrate!

GURU PURNIMA and Ganesh Kalash

with
The Sambodh Society, Inc.
and an
Open Invitation to Join
The Ganesh Kalash Program



offered through the grace of

H.H. Swami Bodhananda Saraswati

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

7:30 p.m.

at the
Sambodh Society Center

6363 N. 24th Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49004
Ph: (269) 327-3774

Also *After August 1, 2007*: (269) 492-0544

SambodhSociety@Sambodh.com

Please RSVP by Phone or Email

WHAT IS GURU PURNIMA?

On Guru Purnima, Hindus all over the world gather, on this full moon day in July, to honor the lineage of gurus from time immemorial back unto Lord Shiva himself. This day of reverence honors the birth of Sri Veda Vyasa, a saint from India who is credited with having compiled the *Vedas*, India's holy scriptures. Similarly, on Guru Purnima, we honor all our gurus who have, through their love and grace, taught to us the scriptures, and through that teaching, imparted spiritual wisdom and practices that enhance our lives. (One can include their spiritual teachers from any tradition.) At the end of the function, we both culminate and re-inaugurate our annual Ganesh Kalasha program, with the giving of a Ganesh *mantra* and a *kalasha** by Swami Bodhananda with the express purpose of mutually benefiting both the participant and the growing needs of our organization, The Sambodh Center for Human Excellence, in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

GANESHA KALASHA PROGRAM

Swami Bodhananda first introduced this Ganesh Kalasha program in Kalamazoo area in 2001. Since then, we have consistently had 10-12 couples and/or individuals participating every year.

In 2007, with the use of our new center, we would like to increase participation to at least 51 couples or individuals. This program will help to generate spiritual vibrations increasing both the mental and spiritual wellbeing of the participant, their families and also the communities in which they live. Receiving the kalash with the blessings of Swami Bodhananda is should not be understood as taking Lord Ganesh as your Ishta Devata, your Chosen Deity. It is a blessing for a specific purpose or sankalpa.

Lord Ganesha is revered with devotion by millions. Ganesha is especially worshipped as the remover of obstacles – thereby allowing health, happiness and prosperity to flow into the lives of his worshippers. Lord Ganesha was Swami Bodhananda's *ishta devata* (chosen deity) as a youth, so it has special significance on this day for Swamiji's devotees, friends, and for those who appreciate his mission and teaching of Vedanta.

After the Guru Purnima service, at the end of the function, Swami Bodhananda will bless and energize each *kalasha* and present one to those desirous of taking part in the Ganesh Kalash program. We will also provide a printed copy of the mantra to be recited daily and a picture of Lord Ganesha. Swamiji will give the mantra to individuals and they, in turn, are requested to chant the Ganesh mantra 3 times every day for the period of one year (generally from Guru Purnima to Guru Purnima). This is not considered *guru diksha* (initiation), but a *mantra* given for the express purpose of the function. After chanting, they are asked to place a mantra-blessed offering of \$1 into the kalasha. Of course, any amount may be offered on a daily basis. And on special occasions (e.g. a birthday, remembrance of someone special, etc.) one may feel like donating something more.

Again, at the end of one year, we gather for Guru Purnima, and, as indicated above, the kalashas are opened and the offerings given. All proceeds collected shall be used for the Sambodh Center for Human Excellence, a project of the Sambodh Society. Currently, in Kalamazoo, we are in the midst of a building project, and the funds will go towards that. Receipts will be given for the amount collected.

Participants reap the dual benefit of charity and, greater well being in daily life through consistent and mindful spiritual practice empowered with *mantra*. Hurdles may dissolve and one's auspicious desires may be fulfilled during the course of this special sadhana.

Light refreshments will be served following the worship and distribution of the kalashas.

If you know of others whom you feel would like to be a part of this program and project, please invite them to attend.

If you cannot attend on this date, but would like to be involved please arrange for another time to meet with Swamiji.

Thank you.

RSVP and Messages: Ruth @ (269) 327-3774
And After August 1, 2007, also (269) 492-0544
SambodhSociety@Sambodh.com

The Sambodh Society, Inc. is a tax exempt non-profit religious organization for the teaching of Vedanta and Meditation.

*'Kalasha' refers to the clay pot in which the devotees offerings are given