



## An Expression...

A few weeks ago, around 7:00AM in the morning, I was dropping my son off at the school. We saw a deer running frantically on the side walk and the grassy area of the side walk...going back and forth, not knowing which direction to run. It appeared terrified by the noise of the cars and the general morning din and bustle. I think it was lost and his family/group had moved to a safer zone before the sun came out and the day got brighter. The poor chap was pretty confused. I prayed to the lord for him to get to his home safely.

While I was returning, after dropping my son off, I saw the deer sitting under a tree on the opposite side of the road. He must have gotten tired and perhaps given up the quest for a while. A few minutes later, after leaving my car home, I began my walk just like every other day, and went on the same path where I had seen the deer sitting. He was not there. I hoped that he reached his destination and was safe. I didn't see any accidents on the road

involving a deer so; I guess it all was ended well!!

This incident made me realize that each one of us is like this deer. Often in our modern life we run from things to things, objects to objects.... when things don't go as per our plan we go haywire. We often act fearful, sometimes frantic. This fear of the unknown, fear of abandonment, fear of rejection, fear of not having enough, fear of not being enough, fear of future – all these fears and more keep us trapped.

In the above situation, when the Deer sat under the tree, probably resting or surrendering, the quietness and reflection gave him courage and wisdom, which helped him go back on the track and ultimately to his safety net.

When the great saint Mira bai's husband sent poison, she drank it with joy, because she truly believed the Lord sent it. The poison turned into nectar. Such is the glory of total surrender. The Vaishnav Sampradaya describes the six factors of surrender:

- Entertain favorable thoughts

- Renounce unfavorable thoughts
- Have firm faith that God will protect
- Seek refuge in the Lord
- Submit completely to the Lord's mercy
- Express total helplessness

Our quest is to connect not only to our soul but also to the world, creating a life of meaning. Often people think of disappearing to a cabin in the woods attempting to live a life separate from chaos - in peace and simplicity. But where would be the challenge to grow and blossom into the wonderful people we are meant to be?

No, the answer is not in hiding ourselves in solitaire but to discover our uniqueness, share our gifts with the world, and live a happy, limitless and fulfilling life.

*Phalguni Kikani*

## ..Lost & Found

- Titan Men's Watch
- 1 American Diamond Earring

***Please Contact the Front Desk***



# Newsletter ~ Vallabh Vidya Mandir ~



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## ..Important

NO Classes on

**November 11th** (Diwali) &

**November 25<sup>th</sup>** (Thanksgiving)

Questions :

[kikanis@earthlink.net](mailto:kikanis@earthlink.net)

## The March is On..

Many may wonder whatever happened to our Playground project. Did we reach our goal of raising \$60,000? Is the playground equipment ordered? When is it going to be installed? The following report will attempt to answer many such questions.

Yes. We did reach our goal of raising \$60,000. A total of 98 families pledged to contribute \$60,003. A complete list of contributors is posted on VVM Bulletin Board. An analysis of the contributions is provided in tabular form (see next page). As one would notice bulk of the financial support (77%) has come from non-VVM supporters. Many of those supporters feel that we should not install the playground equipment

until VPSS installs the fence and gates for the complex. This will help control unauthorized use and will provide greater protection. This is the reason we have not ordered the playground equipment. Funds raised are parked with the bank in form of Certificate of Deposit.

Most of the families who pledged also made the payment to fulfill their pledges. Those who have yet not honored their pledges are requested to do so now. All the contributions made are deductible as Charitable Contribution for income tax purpose. Official receipts will be issued shortly.

If anyone has any further questions about the Playground Project, please direct them to Sureshbhai Patel (832-603-1850).

*Sureshbhai Patel*

## ..One More

### *Chess Club*

*Classes will be held on  
November 4<sup>th</sup> only*

(at 1 PM)

Bring your own Chess Board

Free for VVM Students  
(Ages 8 & Up)

## VVM Picnic 2007



## Serve Your Community

VPSS/VVM youth group is participating and volunteering in the City Wide Club Holiday Event. The 29<sup>TH</sup> Annual Feast of Sharing Big Feast will serve



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thousands of less fortunate men, women and especially children on **Thanksgiving Day**, Thursday, **November 22, 2007**, with hot holiday meals, food baskets, clothing, job and educational opportunities.

Your volunteer support is needed for this massive event to collect and sort clothes, canned goods, prepare the food lines, arrange toys, food service and other areas. We need **volunteers to arrive at the designated time on Thanksgiving Day, November**

**22, 2007 for Orientation** and set up of the Convention Center. All Volunteer will **sign in** at the **Registration Table** and receive a **Volunteer Badge**.

For information please contact **Mansi Mehta** at - [mansimehta1@yahoo.com](mailto:mansimehta1@yahoo.com)

## ..Important

If you are not receiving my e-mail, please send an e-mail to

[kikanis@earthlink.net](mailto:kikanis@earthlink.net)

*Phalguni Kikani*

## Seminar...

*Strong Families – by ESCAPE Family Resource*

(Tailored to Strengthen Families and Shape Happy childhood)

By  
**Ms. Urmila Kumar**  
(Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> 10 AM Sharp)

## Contributions Made for the Playground

Families	Category	\$ Pledged	% of Total
8	Great Grand Benefactors (\$2,001+)	\$21,667	36%
21	Grand Benefactors (\$1,001)	\$21,871	36%
12	Benefactors (\$501)	\$6,212	10%
23	Patrons (\$251)	\$5,873	10%
11	Students / Parents (\$101 - \$251)	\$2,260	4%
23	Miscellaneous (\$101 or less)	\$2,120	4%
98	TOTAL	\$60,003	100%

Families	Category	\$ Pledged	% of Total
2	VVM Administrators	\$1,703	3%
11	VVM Teachers / Staff	\$5,809	10%
29	VVM Students / Parents	\$6,126	10%
56	Non VVM Supporters	\$46,365	77%
98	TOTAL	\$60,003	100%