

# City Of Suwanee Honors Viswayogi Viswamjee Maharaj

BY MAHADEV DESAI

Atlanta: The City of Suwanee Mayor Dave Williams hosted a warm welcome reception for Sri Sri Sri Viswayogi Viswamjee Maharaj who is on a U.S. tour and is currently in Atlanta, at the Suwanee City Hall, Suwanee, Georgia.

Prior to Swamiji's arrival, Narayana Murthy, from Jacksonville, Florida, who is an ardent disciple of Swamiji for number of years and also one of the coordinators of his visits to U.S.gave a brief background of Swamiji's early career, his mission and goal and his ceaseless efforts in spreading message of universal integration, peace, love and brotherhood and in helping the poor and needy, to the Mayor Williams.

The Mayor and the venerable Swamiji with a flowing white beard, and clad in orange silk dress greeted each other and sat down on a sofa. Swamiji, born in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, is a spiritual humanist, an embodiment of the divine and unconditional love. Dr.Sreeni Gangasani; Madhavi Gangasani; Narayana Murthy;Uma Maheswar Reddy, Srikanthi Vantipalli;City Manager Marvin Allen; Public Information Officer Lynne De Wilde;media representatives Kailash Khandelwal

and Mahadev Desai listened as Swamiji and the Mayor engaged in a lighthearted conversation in which the Swamiji shared some nuggets of spiri-

tual wisdom his work in spreading the message of love and peace. "Let us also

which are for different major faiths and the eighth for non-believers. Under the guidance of Swamiji, since 1998, medical camps provided free medical services to the poor and the needy in the rural areas. A world-class, multi-specialty charitable hospital- Viswayogi Institute of Medical Science VIMS - Mother & Child Care Hospital was inaugurated on April 3rd 2008, by Former President of India, Hon. Dr. Abdul Kalaam, who is also VIMS' Honorary Chair. VIMS is now providing quality service free of cost to the needy. So far, the medical camps and VIMS have provided free medical services to over 28,000 poor and needy people.

The Mayor thanked Swamiji for his interesting and highly informative words of wisdom and presented him with a commemorative plaque conferring honorary citizenship of City of Suwanee on the Swamiji. Swamiji graciously reciprocated by draping a shawl on the Mayor William's shoulders and presenting him with a framed Certificate conferring 'The Distinguished Service Award'

Swamiji led the gathering into singing an uplifting devotional song. The reception concluded with the Mayor thanking the Swamiji saying, "We appreciate all your good work and good friendship. We share your ideals and values and will remember your words of sound advice."

Dr Sreeni Gangasani, a well known and respected Cardiologist commented, "My wife Madhavi and I enjoyed the reception ceremony. He is doing a wonderful service to the humanity by spreading his message of universal integration and world peace. I would love to volunteer my services in the VIMS hospital run by Swamiji in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh during my visits to India."



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Swamiji who is no stranger to the U.S. said that he regards the world as his home and coming to the U.S. from India is like moving from one room into another in a home. He further compared the world to a human body and said that the U.S.is like its head because it is a magnet for all intellectuals in the world. He said he enjoys coming to the U.S.to meet his devotees who have settled in different parts of the country. Swamiji stressed that change must begin with the individual first. "Self discipline, self control, avoiding blind pur-

make the mother planet an abode of peace. Natural calamities are caused by an imbalance in the ratio of five elements-earth, water, fire, air and space. Similarly human body also falls prey to killer diseases like cancer, stroke, and heart disease; so let us all strive to prevent pollution of the environment and take care of our bodies through healthy lifestyle. I feel honored to be invited to address the World Youth Conference on climate change' he added.

Swamiji informed the gathering of Viswanagar, an 18 acre spiritual abode established in 1991, 10 miles from Guntur, Andhra Pradesh. It has Viswamandiram, with eight entrances, seven of

## Fulton County High School Senior Awarded NKK Annual Scholarship

BY JYOTHSNA HEGDE



Atlanta: Meet Akshata Shirahatti, a senior at North View High School with a 4.0 GPA. And that is just one of her various accomplishments. Although Akshata comes across as a simple girl next door, she is a highly determined, disciplined and diligent young woman. When she was awarded the Annual Scholarship Award at the Nrupatunga Kannada Koota Rajyotsava celebrations this year, Dr. Ramaswamy ran out time and words trying to list her achievements.

Akshata is the proud recipient of the National Merit Commended Award at the National level and several other honors and awards.

Akshata has also obtained the AP Scholar with Distinction Award from College Board by taking 12 AP Classes throughout high school. Her SAT score is a shining 2350.

Along with her exemplary scholastic success, Akshata also finds time for extra curricular activities. She has been the President of Beta Club in Grade 12, while being part of the club through grades 9 through 11. She is part of several other clubs and is into Indian classical dance. Akshata has also clocked in 320 hours of Community Service at Atlanta Community Food Bank, Tutoring through Tutors in Action Network, Volunteering through Beta Club, FBLA, NHS, and NSHS and Mentoring at Wilson Creek Elementary through Science Force.

The proud daughter of Mrs. Parimala and Mr. Bharatish Shirahatti, Akshata's dream designation is to be a Pediatrician. "It integrates both my passion for science as well as helping others" she tells us.

## Visiting Swamiji Graces Rudra Homa

BY MAHADEV DESAI

Atlanta: His Holiness Sri Sri Sri Viswayogi Viswamjee Maharaj who is on his annual U.S. tour and currently in Atlanta graced the spiritually suffused and joyous Rudra Homa at the North America Shirdi Sai Temple of Atlanta, in Suwanee,

Georgia on November 8. The Homa was guided by Dr.Mukundji Hanumante from New Orleans. Swamiji not only actively participated in the rituals, but at the end, enlightened the devotees with a spiritual discourse.

A huge Yagasala (canopy) was erected adjacent to the temple, under which attractive and art-

fully decorated homa-kundas were constructed. The priests, conducted homas chanting vedic shlokas, in front of the consecrated fires

The devotees, who participated in the Homa rituals as well as those who observed the uplifting Homa, offered their prayers, sought the blessings of Swamiji, enjoyed the colorful event and relished the delicious maha-prasadam. Among the 30 couples and over 250 devotees who either participated in the homa or sat observing the rituals were Sri B.Krishna Mohan, Dr.Ravi Sarma and his wife Seshu Sarma, Dr.Sujatha Reddy and her husband Mohan Reddy, Dr.Sreeni Gangasani and his wife Madhavi Gangasani.

Dr.Mukundji Hanumante, a well respected and admired devotee and philanthropist, and also a scholar who has written several spiritual books including 'Glimpses of Divinity' and 'The Eternal Friend' said that he felt truly honored and blessed to be in the presence of Swamiji. He thanked all for attending and participating in the Homa and requested Swamiji to say a few words.

Swamiji is known for his selfless service, compassion and unreserved love for all. Swamiji, born in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, is a spiritual humanist, an embodiment of the divine and unconditional love. He spreads the message of universal integration, peace, love and fraternity and in helping the poor and neglected members of the community. Swamiji oversees the Viswayogi

