

Diwali Celebration by Brahma Kumaris Los Angeles

Date: October 28, 2017

Time: 6:30pm – 9:00pm

Venue: Westside Jewish Community Center

Brahma Kumaris Los Angeles hosted the Annual Diwali public program which was attended by more than 170 guests including Interfaith representatives from 8 different faiths.

The event was held at the Westside Jewish Community Center near the Los Angeles Center. The guests were welcomed with traditional diwali flower rangoli, lights and live music.



The program started with the Brother Vivek Kashyap, welcoming everyone and giving a brief description about the festival of lights which is celebrated with great zeal and enthusiasm in India.



The first highlight of the event was the Yakshagana dance performance, a form of dance with a rich blend of both classical and folk, with its origins from Karnataka, India. The performance was filled with vibrant music, energetic dancing, music bands, towering headdresses and glittering costumes.



The program followed with a live musical performance by professional artists Bob Bates (Inner-City Artes Artistic Director) and Arthur Kegerris (music composer). Bob Bates played the Karo (a traditional African instrument) and Arthur played the acoustic bass accompanied by Frank the pianist.



Next was a spiritual talk by Sister Dianne from Seal Beach center. She shared some insights on the spiritual meaning of Diwali. She described the way the festival is celebrated in India and explained the spiritual significance of the rituals performed during Diwali.





After the talk, the interfaith leaders from 8 different faiths were invited for the candle lighting ceremony. Sister Gita from the Los Angeles Center welcomed each guest on stage with cardamom garlands.



After igniting the candles, the interfaith leaders spoke about the significance of light according to their faith and traditions.



Sister Vino from Los Angeles Center shared gifts to all the interfaith leaders before they returned to their seats.



After candle lighting, Sister Elizabeth from Anubhuti Retreat Center gave a meditation commentary with live music in the background played by the musicians and then she sung a song for the audience, at the end while Sister Gita gave drishti to audience.



The event concluded with the guests receiving a special Diwali gifts on stage from Sister Gita and delicious food served by the mothers of Brahma Kumaris Los Angeles.

