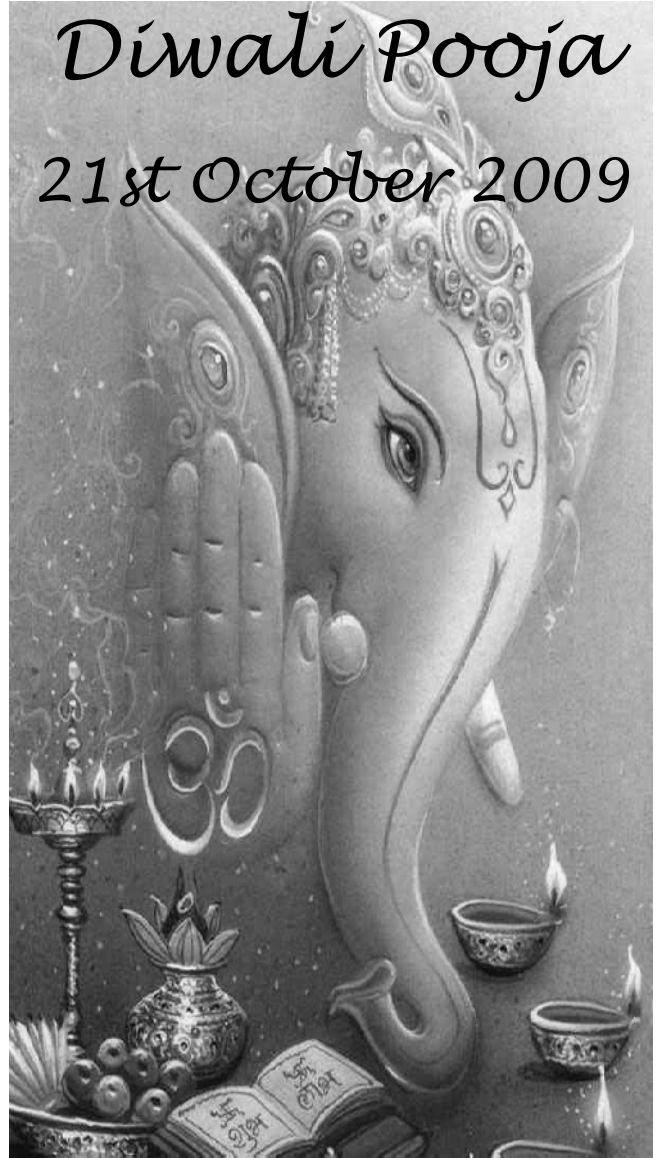




# *Diwali Pooja*

*21st October 2009*



## *Programme*

*6:30-7:30 = Pooja*

*7:30-7:45 = Bhajans*

*7:45-9:00 = Dinner*

*9:30 = Entertainment*

*10:00 = Sparklers*



### Significance of Diwali:

Diwali, the festival of light, marks an important time in the Hindu calendar and is dedicated to a number of Gods and Goddesses.

The festival runs over five days; Dhan Teras, Naraka Chaturdasi, Lakshmi Puja, Govardhan Puja and Bhaiduj.

Lakshmi is the Goddess of wealth and prosperity. It is believed that she visits everyone on Diwali and brings prosperity and peace. On the night of Diwali 'Lakshmi Pujan' is performed in the evening alongside 'Ganesh Pujan'; Lord Ganesh is honoured at the beginning of all auspicious activities. An assortment of traditional sweets are offered and devotional songs are sung. In Hindu society and culture, wealth is seen as a positive notion and not a corruptive contrivance used to harm others. However, what is corruptive is one's attitude towards it. Therefore, as well as praying for wealth and prosperity in the coming year, Hindus pray for the right mindset so that they may use what they have been blessed with appropriately.



### Entertainment

As well as the popular Diwali story of Lord Rama's return from exile, Diwali also marks other occasions where goodness and light have prevailed over ignorance and darkness. Examples include the killing of the demon Naraka by Lord Krishna and the destruction of King Bali's ego by Vamana Avatar. So after the appetizing meal, look forward to entertainment provided especially by the CUHCS committee members while we try to highlight some of the legends related to this glorious day.

### Fireworks

It is the custom in Hindu homes to decorate houses and streets with lamps and light the night sky with fireworks during Diwali. What is the significance of lighting a lamp? To Hindus, darkness represents ignorance whereas light is a metaphor for knowledge. It is through this light that the beauty of our world can be revealed and experienced. Most civilizations recognize the importance of light as a gift of God and as a symbol of whatever is positive in our world.

So lets be true to the spirit of both Diwali and Cambridge and dispel ignorance from this world by lighting some sparklers!

**HAPPY DIWALI !!!!**