



Spring 3-15-2004

## Media Advisory

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March 15, 2004

**Contact:** ErinWetherille (309) 556-3181

## *Media Advisory*

- Event:** *University Chapel Hour and Illinois Wesleyan Hindu Student Association and faculty to present: "Hindu Puja"*
- Date:** March 31 (Wednesday)
- Time:** 11 a.m.
- Location:** Evelyn Chapel, Illinois Wesleyan University  
1301 N. Park St., Bloomington
- Background:** Puja is one aspect of Bhakti yoga, one of the three paths chosen by men to achieve spiritual union with Brahman (the Supreme Soul) in the Hindu religion. In a Puja, the Supreme Soul is visualized by images of gods and goddesses while the image of the deity faces east, towards the sun. Hindus do not worship the image but consider it as a symbol of God.
- Program:** Students from the Illinois Wesleyan Hindu Student Association and IWU Professor and Chair of Physics Narendra Jaggi and Adjunct Assistant Professor of Chemistry Ram Mohan will lead this celebration.
- In a Puja, a worshipper adorns his or her forehead with red powder (kumkum) because this spot is considered the place of mind concentration. Then lamps are lit before the image of the deity to symbolize dispelling of ignorance and illumination of the mind with knowledge. Water is sipped and sprinkled to suggest purification of one's physical self and flowers are offered to denote offering one's soul to the deity. Food, incense, camphor, and bells are also used in the ceremony.
- Contact:** For more information, contact Illinois Wesleyan Chaplain Dennis E. Groh at 309/556-3005.