RELIGION AND CULTURE [SHRI TULSI MANDIR]

By Rashma J.
SOC 100, BMCC
Prof. Remi Alapo
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Location

103-24 111 Street Richmond Hill NY 11419



Musical Instruments







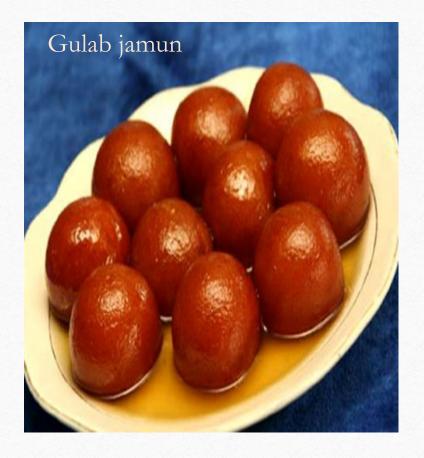
Harmonium

Dholak

Tabla













Sari Lehenga Salwar kameez

References

Shri Tulsi Mandir – Pandit Lakhram

<u>Indianmusicalinstruments</u> – www.amazon.com

Indianclothing – www.sareeka.com

Summary

The Shri Tulsi Mandir is a place of worship for Hindus. It is located at 103-24 111 Street, Richmond Hill, NY 11419. The mission for the members of the Tulsi Mandir is to restore the way of thinking, way of worship and way of life for Hindus. They believe to restore any culture, one has to look for its behavior and language. Hence, they have knowledgeable members that are volunteering to teach children and young adults to play various musical instruments such as harmonium, tabla and dholak. Some days the children are being taught the language, Hindi and they also learn to sing devotional songs (Bhajans) in that language. By volunteering to perform these services, they are preventing the children from being involved in any deviant behavior.

They also help to instill values and knowledge into these children by teaching the religious scriptures. Parents are very happy to know that their children are being educated about their culture. They are also at peace knowing that their children are in a safe environment. Another advantage for the parents is that they don't have to spend money to send their children to musical schools. The mandir has weekly services on Fridays at 8pm to 10:30pm and on Sundays at 9am to 11:30am. At the services held, the pandit/priest explains and recites various prayers and parts of the Bhagavad Gita. The Bhagavad Gita is a holy book that is used in Hinduism. They sing religious songs and distribute sweetmeats and sometimes vegetarian food at the end of the service. The executive members charge a fee to those who desire to use the mandir for traditional weddings.

I feel very calm, relax and peaceful whenever I visit this mandir. It helps me to be able to communicate and socialize with respectable and cultural people. Also, I enjoy wearing Indian clothing such as sari, lehenga and salwar kameez.