



आराधना

Website: www.cincinnatiemple.com
Phone: 528-3714
Email: hindusociety@fuse.net

ARADHANA

Magh, Vikram Samvat 2062, February 2006

A Publication of the **Hindu Society of Greater Cincinnati**
Devdham of North America

Happy Vasant Panchami and Maha Shivratri



Ma Saraswati

Ma Saraswati

Saraswati is the Goddess of learning, knowledge, and wisdom. The Sanskrit word sara means "essence" and swa means "self." Thus Saraswati means "the essence of the self." Saraswati is represented in Hindu mythology as the divine consort of Lord Brahma, the Creator of the universe. Since knowledge is necessary for creation, Saraswati symbolizes the creative power of Brahma. Goddess Saraswati is worshipped by all persons interested in knowledge, especially students, teachers, scholars, and scientists.

In Her popular images and pictures, Goddess Saraswati is generally depicted with four arms (some pictures may show only two arms), wearing a white sari and seated on a white lotus. She holds a book and a rosary in Her rear two hands, while the front two hands are engaged in the playing of a veena. Her right leg is shown slightly pushing against Her left leg. She uses a swan as Her vehicle. There is a peacock by Her side gazing at Her. This symbolism illustrates the following spiritual ideas:

The lotus is a symbol of the Supreme Reality, and a white lotus also denotes supreme knowledge. By sitting on a lotus, Saraswati signifies that She is Herself rooted in the Supreme Reality, and symbolizes supreme knowledge. The white color symbolizes purity and knowledge. The white sari that the Goddess is wearing denotes that She is the embodiment of pure knowledge.

The four arms denote Her omnipresence and omnipotence. The two front arms indicate Her activity in the physical world and the two back arms signify Her presence in the spiritual world. The four hands represent the four elements of the inner personality. The mind (manas) is represented by the front right hand, the intellect (buddhi) by the front left hand, the conditioned consciousness (chitta) by the rear left hand, and the ego (ahankara) by the rear right hand. The left side of the body symbolizes the qualities of the heart and the right side symbolizes activities of the mind and intellect. A book in the rear left hand signifies that knowledge acquired must be used with love and kindness to promote prosperity of mankind.

(continued on page 16)

Community Dinner

Community Dinner has been cancelled until further notice. For more information contact:

Priests 528-3714 Debnath ji 528-3714
Bharat Vala 891-2240 Laxmi Srivastava 474-0533

Sunder Kand Path is held on every 3rd Sunday of the month from 10:30 A. M. .

Shri Ganesh Atharvshirsha Path is held on every 4th Sunday of the month. Please see details on Page 4.

Balaji Abhishekam is held on every 4th Saturday of the month from 10:30AM. Detail on page 4

Murugan Abhishekam Please see details on Page 4

Shiv Mahima Stotra is held on every Monday evening at 7:00 pm.

Shri Hanuman Chalisa is held on every Tuesday evening at 7:00 pm.

Vishnu Sahasranama Prayana is held on every Thursday at 7:00 pm. Please see details on Page 4.

Satya Narayan Puja will be held every month on Purnima (Full Moon) Day.

Upcoming Events at the Temple

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Maha Shivratri &		
Maha Shivratri Celebration	Feb. 26th	Page 5
Holika Dahan	March 14th	Page 5
Holi Celebration	March 18th	Page 5

Note: If you or someone you know, is not receiving ARADHANA, or if you need a change in address, please contact Mr. Mohan Chopra at 859-331-2416

Deadline for submission of articles and advertisements for the next issue is February 10, 2006

SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS AT THE TEMPLE

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2006

President:
Raj Bodalia 583-0184
V. President:
Asit Saha 489-5720
Secretary:
Prem Garg 232-5333
Treasurer:
Ramesh Sondhi 232-6454

Committee Chairpersons:

Membership & Fundraising:
Anil Jindal 271-7171

Communications:

Renu Kotwal 583-9589

Puja & Religious Activities:

Swarna Choudhary 232-2343

Property Management & Maintenance:

Arvind Patel 791-0855

Cultural Activities:

Ramesh Dayal 474-4051

Religious Education & Youth Activities:

Manju Gupta 232-3331

Long Range Planning:

Jitu Patel 459-8900

Youth Member:

Surabhi Sharma 232-9991

RELIGIOUS DISCOURSE

Sundays 12:15 - 12:45 PM

First Sunday : Upanishads
Second Sunday : Children Program
Third Sunday : Sunder Kand Path
Fourth Sunday : Shri Ganesh

Atharvshirsha Path

Fifth Sunday : Open (please suggest)

Members of the community are invited to speak on topics related to Hindu religion, Philosophy, culture, reformation, Gurus, self-preservation, etc. If you would like to talk or like to suggest someone who may be interested, please call Kiran Dayal at 474-4051.

SPONSORS FOR SUNDAY PUJA

Devotees are requested to sit-in Sunday Pujas as well as bring Prasad and Lunch. You may wish to use this occasion to celebrate important events such as wedding anniversaries, birthdays, ishta devata puja, graduation, and other memorable days. Events can be hosted by individuals, families, groups of families or organizations. Please reserve your Sunday of choice ASAP by putting your name and phone-no in the calendar at the temple and call Kiran Dayal 474 - 4051

TEMPLE DAILY SCHEDULE

Monday - Friday : 9:00AM-12:00 Noon
5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Saturday, Sunday
& US Holidays 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM

SPECIAL PROGRAM ON WEEKENDS

9:15 - 9:30 A.M. Suprabhatam
9:30 - 11:00 A.M. Daily puja of Temple Deity
11:00 - 11:30 A.M. Sponsored Puja
11:30 - 12:15 A.M. Bhajan
12:15 - 12:45 P.M. Religious discourse
12:45-1:00 P.M. Birthday and Anniversary puja and announcement
1:00 P.M. Aarti

SHIVA MAHIMA STOTRA

Monday Evenings, 7 PM

HANUMAN CHALISA

Tuesday Evenings, 7 PM

VISHNU SAHASRANAM PARAAAYAN

Thursday : 7:00 PM

SRI VENKATESHWARA PUJA

Friday Evenings, 7 PM

MURAGAN ABHISHEKAM

Every 2nd Saturday

SUNDARKAND PATH

Every 3rd Sunday of the February
10:30 -1:00 PM

Please Donate Generously for your Temple

2006 POOJA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

To participate in/ sponsor please contact a Pooja Committee member

Swarna Choudhary (Chairperson):	232-2343
B.C. Sharma (Priest)	751-2974
K.C. Sharma (Priest)	528-4921
Sri. Debnath Sivachar (Priest)	528-4831
Sunita Garg	232-5333
Sunila Kumar	528-6189
Meena Karamchandani	683-9454
Suchitra Mishra	573-9775
Kalpna Srivastava	233-9184
Jyoti Desai	745-0876
Rani Dhamija	984-5777
Padma Veluri	859-344-9211
Anuradha Kulkarni	271-2749
Sangita Patel	791-0855
Anju Saha	474-3922
Uma Sanguai	793-9384
Bhaskara Rao	867-8591
Karthik	290-1814
Murlee	573-0550
Purabi Dey	688-1721
Madhu Sharma	232-9991
Meena Sondhi	232-6454
Amita Gupta	336-8782

1. **Archana** performed during temple hours by sponsorship. No Archana on Sundays between 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
2. **Outside pujas** and other religious services will be conducted by appointment only. To **schedule** please contact Puja Committee chairperson at least one week in advance.
3. If you would like to bring **food and prasad** in the temple, please contact Puja Committee chairperson or Meena Sondhi at 232-6454

Important Notice:

Your Temple needs

1. Sponsors for flower \$50/week
2. Sponsors for Sunday puja
3. Your temple needs your support

Temple Manager's Committees

Laxmi S. Srivastava- Temple Manager 474-0533

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Office Manager
Mr. Mohan Chopra | 8. Financial Data
Ramesh Sondhi |
| 2. I/C Swami Lectures
Vinay Kumar | Raj Bodalia |
| Laxmi S. Srivastava | Mohan Chopra |
| Devdas Mukerjee | Laxmi S. Srivastava |
| 3. Temple Data Base
Nandkumar Khemchandani | 9. I/C Temple Web site
Bharat Vala |
| Mohan Chopra | Anand Narayana |
| Laxmi S. Srivastava | Khush Karamchandani |
| 4. Anniversary & Birthday Data
Raj & Shakuntla Agarwal | Laxmi S. Srivastava |
| 5. E-mail Data
Pradeep Goyal | 10. Consultants
V. Rao Bhamidipati |
| Nandkumar Khemchandani | Prem Garg |
| 6. Membership & Gift Shop
Yashpal Agarwal | Anil Jindal |
| A.C. Sekhar | 11. I/C Temple Calendar
Meena Mehta |
| Meena Sondhi | Ashwin Mehta |
| 7. Computer Technical Support
Sreedhar Suvarana | Dave |
| | 12. I/C Volunteer Services
Vijay Kumar |
| | Laxmi S. Srivastava |

Priests:

Pundit B C Sharma 751-2974

Acharya Kailash Sharma 528-4921

Sri Debnath Sivachar 528-4831

Attny:

Aronoff, Rosen & Hunt 241-0400

Temple Mgr.:

Laxmi Srivastava 474-0533

Accountant: Open

Editor: Renu Kotwal 583-9589

Editor's email:

renukotwal@hotmail.com

Sanskrit & Hindi Classes

In The Temple

Every Friday - 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

If you need help to read GEETA or any of your

favorite stotra .

Please Call.

Aachary Kailash Sharma

Home 528-4921

Temple 528-3714

Email- kailashsharma@netzero.com

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Hindu Temple of Greater Cincinnati, 4920 Klatte Road, Cincinnati, OH-45244, PH:(513)528-3714

IMPORTANT EVENTS

February, 2006

2/01/06	Wed.	Magh Shukla
2/02/06	Thurs.	Vasant Panchami
2/05/06	Sun.	Vasant Panchami Celebra- -tion; Bhishma Ashtami
2/08/06	Wed.	Jaya Ekadashi
2/10/06	Fri.	Pradosh
2/11/06	Sat.	Shri Murugan Pooja
2/12/06	Mon.	Purnima
2/14/06	Tue.	Magh/Phalgun; Krishna
2/16/06	Thurs.	Chaturthi Vrat
2/19/06	Sun.	Sundarkand Path
2/21/06	Tue.	Ashtami
2/24/06	Fri.	Vijaya Ekadashi
2/25/06	Sat.	Shri Balaji Pooja; Pradosh
2/26/06	Sun.	MahaShivratri & its Celebration
2/28/06	Tue.	Amavasya (New Moon)

March, 2006

3/01/06	Wed.	Phalgun Shukla
3/07/06	Tue.	Holastak begins
3/10/06	Fri.	Amalaki Ekadashi
3/11/06	Sat.	Shri Murugan Pooja
3/12/06	Sun.	Pradosh
3/14/06	Tue.	Holi Festival Holika Dahan Ponguniotram Purnima (Full Moon)
3/15/06	Wed.	Rang Holi Phalgun/Chaitra Krishna
3/18/06	Sat.	Holi Celebration Chaturthi Vrat
3/19/06	Sun.	Sundarkand Path
3/22/06	Wed.	Ashtami
3/25/06	Sat.	Shri Balaji Pooja Palmochini Ekadashi

Puja Committee Announcement:

- A group of dedicated devotees for each deity are nominated to help puja committee to coordinate and celebrate different puja activities. Their names and phone numbers are listed on page 2. Special thanks to all hard working devotees. If you have any question or suggestion about temple activities, please call Swarna Choudhury at 232-2343 or any of the Puja Committee members on page 2.
- To schedule a Puja or to rent a temple hall (lower level) please contact Puja Committee chairperson Swarna Choudhury at 232-2343

RATES FOR PUJA & PRIEST SERVICES

SERVICE	IN TEMPLE	OUTSIDE TEMPLE
Abhishekam (All Deities)	\$101.00	---
Aksharabhyas	\$51.00	\$101.00
Anna-Prashanam	\$51.00	\$101.00
Ashtoththaram (108) Archana	\$11.00	---
AyushyaHomam/B'day Celebration	\$51.00	\$101.00
Ground Breaking Ceremony	---	\$101.00
Griha Pravesha	---	\$101.00
Kalayana Uthsava (Lord Ram/ Sita)	\$101.00	---
Kesh Khandan (Churakaran)	\$51.00	\$101.00
Nam-Karan	\$51.00	\$101.00
Navagraha Puja	\$51.00	\$101.00
Nischitartham (Engagement)	\$101.00	\$151.00
Nitya (1 Day) Kainkaryam (Seva)	\$101.00	---
Poolangi Seva (With Flowers)- (Only During Off Winter Season)	\$101.00	---
Sahasranama (1008) Archana	\$51.00	---
Sathyanarayana Puja	\$51.00	\$101.00
Seemantham	\$51.00	\$101.00
Devi Jagaran	\$75.00	\$101.00
Akhand Ramayan Paath	----	\$101.00
Shashti Poorthi (60th B'day Celeb.)	\$71.00	\$101.00
Anniversary celebration	\$101.00	\$151.00
Suprabhat Seva	\$21.00	---
Unjal (Swing) Seva	\$31.00	---
Upakarma (thread changing)	\$21.00	---
Upanayam/Brahmopadesham/ Thread Ceremony	\$151.00	\$251.00
Vahan Pooja	\$31.00	----
Yearly Shradham (Barkhi)	\$51.00	\$101.00
Wedding	\$251.00	\$351.00

PUJA RATE CHANGE BEGINNING Oct. 1, 2005:

1. Rates for Mata Ki Chauki performed at another temple will be 15% of the money collected at the temple or a minimum of \$ 501.00.
2. Pujas performed by priests outside the temple will be rated according to the number of pujas performed.

Rates are subject to change without notice. Rates for pujas not on the list and requiring less than 4 hours of priest's time will normally be \$51 if performed inside the temple and \$101 if performed outside of temple (e.g. at home). Rates of Pujas out of Greater Cincinnati will be \$100.00 more than the rates of outside puja within greater Cincinnati area.

Temple Rental: Lower Floor Only

	Full day	1/2 day
M-Th. (except holidays)	\$301	\$151
Fri., Sat & Holidays	\$501	\$351
<u>Sunday after 3PM only</u>		\$351

Note: For half day select one of the two.

8:00 AM - 2 PM OR 4PM - 11 PM

Temple rental applies to all private reservations for those events/pujas that are performed by private parties and not announced in the temple.

Security/ Cleaning deposit: \$151 required. This deposit will be forfeited if the basement hall bathrooms and kitchen area are not cleaned by the party renting the place.

NOTE: To schedule a Puja or to rent a temple hall (lower level) please contact puja Committee chairperson only.

Vishnu Sahasranama Parayana

Visnu Sahasranama Parayana (chanting) now takes place every Thursday at 7 pm in the temple. Please join us for the chanting.

For more information, please contact one of the following:

Srinivas Mirle 894-8954 Shailaja Setty 761-7619
Jaya Reddy 231-3120 Suri Hanumanthanna 661-8733
Koti Sreekrishna 954-4179.

ABHISHEKAM/KALYANOTSAVAM FOR LORD SRI VENKATESWARA

On 4th Saturday of each month at 10:30 A.M. To sponsor please call:

Andn Kondu 481-4119 Bhavani Megeda 779-4582
Sudha Avasarala 573-6010 Padma Veluri 859-344-9211
Sri Debnath Sivachar 528-4831

Shri Ganesh Puja & Shri Ganesh Atharvshirsha Path

Every 4th Sunday of the month

**This puja is dedicated to each month's
Sankashti Chaturthi to Lord Ganesh.**

PRAVACHAN BY Acharya Kailash Sharma

Every First and Second Sunday of the Month

12:15 pm to 12:45 pm

First Sunday UPANISHAD
Second Sunday BHAGWAD GITA

Murugan Pooja

Monthly Abhishekham 2nd Sat. 4.30 P.M. to 7.30 P.M.

Sponsors are needed for poojas (\$21) & abhishekams (\$101).

Please contact

Sri Debnath Sivachar (528-4831)

CHESS-Children's Hindu Education And SatSang

Classes are held every Sunday from 11:00 AM at the Temple on Lower Level. Everyone should come by 10:50 A.M. The class starts at 11:00 A.M.

Schedule:

11:00 - 11:05 : Starting Prarthana (5min.)

11:05 - 11:15 : Surya Namaskar (10 min.)

11:15 - 11:30 : 2 shlokas with meaning (15 min.)

Before starting shlokas 1 min. meditation.

11:30 - 11:45 : Games (15 min.)

11:45 - 12:15 : Story and Snack time (30 min.)

12:15 - 12:35 : Kotiji's class (20 min.)

12:45 -- Everyone should go for Aarti.

The class is divided into two groups for shlokas.

One Group is 4 years to 8 years.

One groups is 8 years to 12 years.

Please enroll your child now for the year 2006. To get application form and general instruction call Manju Gupta, Chairperson at 232-3331

**FOR FURTHER DETAILS AND INFORMATION CONTACT
Manju Gupta Chairperson 232 - 3331**

Email guptama2003@yahoo.com

*ON THE SECOND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH THERE IS A SPECIAL
PROGRAM UPSTAIRS FROM 12:30 TO 1:00 PM*

BALVIHAR at the temple is starting a children's library which will be open every Sunday from 1:00 P.M. to 1:30 P.M. Children can borrow the books from the library. Donations of books, CDs, DVDs or money are welcome. For further information contact Manju Gupta at 232-3331.

Sundar Kand Path

On every 3rd Sunday of the month
at 10:30 A.M.

For details, please call Swarna Choudhury at 232 2343 or the Priests at 528-3714

Satya Narayan Katha On

Purnima on February 12th at 6:30 P.M.

Sponsors needed (\$51.00)

Please call Swarna Choudhury at 232-2343

Upcoming Events

Shri Navgrah Abhishek & Pooja

February 4th, 2006 at 4:00 P.M.

Please call temple priests at 528-3714, or Swarna Choudhary at 232-2343 for information.

Vasant Panchami Celebration

On Sunday Feb. 5th 2006

10:30 A.M. To 1:00 P.M.

Program

10:30 to 11:30	Saraswati Devi Puja
11:30 to 11:45	Vidyarambha Puja (For Children)
11:45 to 12:00	Pushpanjali Offerings
12:00 to 1:00	Bahjans , Pravachan & Aarti
1:00 pm	Prasad (Lunch)

This Event is sponsored by Agrani Bengali Association
For Details please call Anju Shaha at 474-3922, or Poorby Dey at 688-1721, or Swarna Choudhury at 232-2343, or the temple at 513-528-3714

Shri Satya Narayan Puja

On Purnima (Full Moon)

Sun. Feb. 12th, 2006 at 5:30 P.M.

Need Sponsors for Puja.

Sponsorship \$51.00

Please call Swarna Choudhary at 232-2343
or the temple at 528-3714, for details.

Holika Dahan

On
March 14th Tuesday
at 7:30pm after Aarti

Please note The Hanuman Chalisa Path will begin at 6:30 P.M.

HOLI CELEBRATION

on
Sat. March 18th. Details to follow

Vasant Navratri Puja & Kalash Sthapana

On March 30th Thursday at 6 P.M.

During Navratri, from March 30th to April 5th, everyday there will be Chandi Path

(Durga Sapt Shati) & Durga Ji Pujan.

Sponsors needed for path & Puja with donation of \$51.00.

For details please call Swarna Choudhury at 232-2343, or Acharya Kailash Sharma 304-0126, or Temple 528-3714

MAHA SHIVARATRI PUJA CELEBRATION

On Sunday, Feb. 26th, 2006

Program

5 P.M. to 4 A.M. (All Night) Puja

First Puja

5 P.M. to 6 P.M.	Shivabhishek
6 P.M. to 6:30 P.M.	Puja Thali offering (Archan)**
6:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M.	Shiv Mahimnah Path Bahjans & Children's program
7:30 P.M.	Aarti Followed by Prasad (Dinner)

(Bahjans & Chanting will continue up to next puja)

Second Puja

9:30 P.M. to 10:30 P.M.	Shivabhishek *
10:30 P.M. to 11:30 P.M.	Shiva Shahashranama Path, Mahimnah Path & Bhajans
11:30 P.M.	Arti & Prasad

Third Puja

12:30 A.M. to 1:30 A.M.	Shivabhishek *
1:30 A.M. to 2:00 A.M.	Shiv Mahimnah Path Arti & Prasad

Fourth Puja

2:30 A.M. to 3:30 A.M.	Shivabhishek *
3:30 A.M. to 4:00 A.M.	Shiva Mahimnah Path, Arti & Prasad

We Need sponsors

Sponsorship

* **Shivabhishek \$101.00.**

** **Puja Thali \$21.00 with Ganga jal & Milk**

Please sponsor Abhishek for lord Shiva on this auspicious day.

We also request devotees to bring only very small amount of milk for offering due to big collection of milk which we can not offer on same night. Please donate money instead of milk or dry nuts for prasada. Thanks

For details please call- Janak Dave 859-371-9645, or Krishna Mankala 513-398-9322, or Swarna Choudhury (513) 232-2343, or Sangita Patel 791-0855, or the temple priests at 513-528-3714

Navgrah Puja

Every first Saturday of the Month

4 P.M. to 5:30 P.M.

Sponsors needed for Puja \$51.00

For Details please call Swarna Choudhury 232-2343, Devnathanji 528-4831, or Temple 528-3714

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**MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL ON THIS HAPPY OCCASION
& BRING HAPPINESS, LONG LIFE AND PROSPERITY IN
YEAR 2006**

Marriage Anniversaries (February)*

Mr. & Mrs. Rajesh & Renu Gulati
Mr. & Mrs. Raman & Bageshree Srinivasan
Mr. & Mrs. Upendra & Saroj Bhatt
Mr. & Mrs. Sunil & Kalpana Srivastava
Mr. & Mrs. Srinivasan & Savitha Venkataramani
Mr. & Mrs. Padma & Devineni Srinivasa
Mr. & Mrs. Som & Nalini Tandon
Mr. & Mrs. Sathya & Srilakshmi Pisati
Mr. & Mrs. Vijay & Savita Upadhyaya
Mr. & Mrs. Harbinder & Harpreet Pordal
Mr. & Mrs. Amit & Juhi Shukla
Mr. & Mrs. Ashok & Ramya Krishnamurthy
Mr. & Mrs. Gopi & Oormila Kovilam
Mr. & Mrs. Kavi & Rekha Shanker
Mr. & Mrs. Rishi & Shikha Bhatnagar
Mr. & Mrs. Bhagwati Sharma & Sudesh Rani
Mr. & Mrs. Krishna & Sri Valli Terala
Mr. & Mrs. Devanshu & Toral Trivedi
Mr. & Mrs. Premanand Nayak & Suneethi P.
Mr. & Mrs. Shiva & Sailaja Kumar
Mr. & Mrs. Harish & Urmil Gupta
Mr. & Mrs. Kailash & Jyoti Sharma
Mr. & Mrs. Jagdish & Kiran Bhatia
Mr. & Mrs. Sudhendra & Poornima Galgali
Mr. & Mrs. Vardhan & Rupal Upadhyaya
Mr. & Mrs. Rajbir Minhas & Renu Kotwal
Mr. & Mrs. Raghuram & Gayathri Tadepalli
Mr. & Mrs. Asvin & Usha Mandadi
Mr. & Mrs. Rishi & Himani Ranjan



Birthday Anniversaries (February)**

Jaya Srinivasan	Aditya Rengan
Shreya Chopra	Leenata Maddiwar
Rahul Chobey	Sudesh Sharma
Karthik Ramani	Ravindra Rengan
Raksha Bhatara	Arya Kode
Anuradha Bhoomready	Manju Gupta
Felicia Kruse	Barendra Mallik
Amrit Narayan	Surbhi Sharma
Anshika Khare	Suresh Padya
Krystina Bodalia	Raghuram Tadepalli
Arun Bhardwaj	Mangala Nemade
Ashaali Divekar	Ruhi Gulati
Madhu Nawani	Rita Kumar
Lalita Duggal	Kiran Nanavati
Pradeep Ambe	Sojanya Prasad
Neha Bhoomready	Lilan Stenley



Sahik Naik	Nakulan Balasubramaniam
P. Vishwanathan	Sidharth Sharma
Ajit Dixit	Ram Jindal
Amit Shukla	Tarakad Natarajan T.V.N.
Sathvik Reddy	Aditya Chaudhury
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Mangala Nemade	Sanjeev Pathak
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**Hindu Society of Greater Cincinnati
Minutes of the General Body Meeting
Sunday December 4, 2005**

Executive Council members present: Vijay Sharma, Asit Saha, Ramesh Sondhi, Arvind Patel, Manju Gupta, Renu Kotwal, Anil Jindal, and Prem Garg.
Community members present--17

Secretary opened the meeting with a warm welcome to all those present at the meeting. Agenda items were read as published. No new agenda items were added from the floor. EC members introduced themselves.

1--President's Report: President started by welcoming every one to the meeting. He gave an overview of the accomplishments during the year 2005.

a---A new house has been purchased, primarily to provide a second access route to the temple property. This was in the works for almost 10 years. Master Plan approved by general body about 10 years ago was contingent upon this purchase and now can move forward as the time and resources permit.

b---North, South and East Wings of the temple have been completed.

c---The Temple has been newly painted, both on the inside as well as outside.

d---The community is working together again. He mentioned the cultural festivals such as Dewali and Garbha being held at one place rather than separately.

e---The occupancy permit has been issued by the county and received by the secretary. It will be placed in the temple office.

f---President also praised many unsung heroes who keep on volunteering their time without any expectations for recognition.

He said that he is leaving with sweet memories and will continue to be involved.

2--Treasurer's Report: Treasurer distributed an Income and Expense Report. This report covered a period from January 1, 2005 through November 30, 2005.

Total Income----- 363,517.00

Expenses-----227,454.00

Special Projects-----Donations-----\$43,952.00

Expenses-----\$116,217.00

No project is started unless funds are available to complete the project.

3--Secretary's Report: Secretary stated that as indicated by the president a number of things have been accomplished, however, a lot needs to be done. Existing volunteers are doing a good job; however, temple needs new volunteers. The involvement of new people is very important for the long term welfare of the temple. Volunteers are needed in many areas.

Constitution needs to be changed for both substance and clarification

1--Board of Trustees was approved by the executive council and details are being worked out by a committee for approval by the general membership of Hindu Society in 2006. This will require a constitutional amendment.

2--quorum requirement are difficult to meet if not impossible. This requirement needs to be reviewed and changed if approved by the General membership.

3--Clarification of certain items: Are executive council members allowed to serve three years or four years continuously without a break in service?

4--Long range Planning Committee Report--The President read a letter from the chair person, who was out of the country.

A new community Center (CC) has been proposed to be build at the Hindu Temple complex consisting of about 20,000 square feet area.. Estimated seating capacity is more than 900 people.

Estimated cost is \$ 1.2 million. Initial fund raising drive is expected to generate about \$ 200,000 to \$ 400, 000 and the rest will be borrowed. Chair Person of Long Range Committee (Jitu Bhai Patel) will lead the efforts to build the Community Center.

A detailed analysis of the community Center project is needed. This will require a more detailed plan preparation, cost estimates, site selection, approval from the county; negotiations with a bank for a loan Etc; to accomplish this work will cost money.

Thus it was duly proposed by Mr. Laxmi Srivastava and seconded by Mr. Amar Sharma that EC should spend funds to perform detailed analysis with the help of professionals.

The larger community will be kept advised as the details become available Via Hindu Society news letter (Aradhana) and/or special news letter. The project is expected to come for approval before the General body towards the end of March.

5--Elections for the new EC members were conducted. All EC members were elected unopposed as follows:

President-----Raj Bodalia

Vice President-----Asit Saha

Secretary-----Prem Garg

Treasurer-----Ramesh Sondhi

Membership and Fund Raising-----Anil jindal

Communications-----Renu Kotwal

Puja & religious Activities-----Swarna Choudhury

Property Management and Maintenance-----Arvind Patel

Cultural Activities-----Rameshwar Dayal

Religious Education & Youth Activities-----Manju Gupta

Long Range Planning-----Jitu Patel

Youth member-----Surbhi Sharma

5---Some people asked general questions and made comments which are summarized as follows:

Q---what is the location of the new house purchased by the Hindu Society.

A---Address of the house is in the office for those who want to check it.

Q---How many EC members attended all twelve EC meetings?

A---If Quorum is present then an issue is decided. If quorum is not present then the issue is postponed until later.

Q---How do you decide type of membership when a person donates money to the temple?

A---At the present time it is decided by the office manager. He makes a judgment.

Comments: Can not make voluntary decision on membership, need to develop a system.

Q---Who is responsible for membership and how many members do you have?

A---Membership and fundraising Chairperson is responsible for the membership and he keeps track of it.

Membership and Fundraising chair person does not have a key to the office and access to the computer at this time.

Arrangements will be made.

Statement----Promote membership.

Respectfully Submitted

Prem Garg

Secretary

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Notice of Upcoming General Body Meeting

This is to inform all members of the Hindu Society of Greater Cincinnati that a General Body Meeting will be held on Sunday, April 2, 2006 at the Hindu Temple of Greater Cincinnati from 11:00 AM until 12:30 PM at the Hindu Temple of Greater Cincinnati. The main purpose of this meeting is to discuss Community Center and seek approval from the larger community. The community Center project details as authorized, in a General body meeting on December 4, 2005, are being developed. These details will be presented at the General body Meeting. After discussion approval from the membership will be requested.

(continued from page 1)

Ma Saraswati

The rosary signifies concentration, meditation, and contemplation, leading to samadhi, or union with God. A rosary in the rear right hand representing ego conveys that true knowledge acquired with love and devotion melts the ego and results in liberation (moksha) of the seeker from the bondage to the physical world.

The Goddess is shown playing a musical instrument that is held in Her front hands, which denote mind and intellect. This symbol conveys that the seeker must tune his mind and intellect in order to live in perfect harmony with the world. Such harmonious living enables the individual to utilize acquired knowledge for the welfare of all mankind.

Two swans are depicted on the left side of the Goddess. A swan is said to have a sensitive beak that enables it to distinguish pure milk from a mixture of milk and water. A swan, therefore, symbolizes the power of discrimination, or the ability to discriminate between right and wrong or good and bad. Saraswati uses the swan as Her carrier. This indicates that one must acquire and apply knowledge with discrimination for the good of mankind. Knowledge that is dominated by ego can destroy the world.

A peacock is sitting next to Saraswati and is anxiously waiting to serve as Her vehicle. A peacock depicts unpredictable behavior as its moods can be influenced by the changes in the weather. Saraswati is using a swan as a vehicle and not the peacock. This signifies that one should overcome fear, indecision, and fickleness in order to acquire true knowledge.

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