



आरधना

A Publication of the Hindu Society of Greater Cincinnati

Devdham of North America

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

Phalgun/Chaitra,
Vikram Samvat, 2063;
March 2007

Aradhana



Happy Holi



Shri Ram Navami

Acharya Kailash Sharma

Mangal Bhavan AmangalHari, Drawahu so Dhashratha ajir vihari.

Ramnavami or the birthday of Lord Rama falls on the 9th day of the bright fortnight of the month of Chaitra (March-April). Rama was the Lord Hari Himself, incarnate on earth for the destruction of Ravana. Lord Rama was the prince of the Ikshvaku race. He was virtuous and of manly strength. He was the Lord of the mind and the senses. Brave and valiant, He was yet gentle and modest. He was a sage in counsel, kind and sweet in speech, and most courteous and handsome in appearance. He was the master of all the divine weapons, and a great warrior. Ever devoted to the good and prosperity of His kingdom and His subjects, He was a defender of the weak and the protector of the righteous. Endowed with numerous wondrous powers of the mind, He was well versed in all sciences—in military science as well as the science of the Self. Lord Rama was the best of men with a sterling character. He was the very image of love. He was an ideal son, an ideal brother, an ideal husband, an ideal friend and an ideal king. He can be taken to embody all the highest ideals of man. He led the ideal life of a householder to teach the tenets of righteousness to humanity. He ruled His people so well that it came to be known as Ram-Rajya, which meant the rule of righteousness, the rule that bestows happiness and prosperity on all. The noblest lesson embodied in the Ramayana is the supreme importance of righteousness in the life of every human being. Righteousness is the spiritual spark of life. Cultivation of righteousness is the process of unfoldment of the latent divinity in man. The glorious incarnation of the Supreme Being in the form of Lord Rama has exemplified the path of righteousness. Let mankind follow His footsteps and practice the ideals cherished by Him, for it is only thus that there can be everlasting peace, prosperity. Sri Rama is not simply a good and a great person, but God Himself. Rama was the son of King Dasaratha of Ayodhya, but He is also the divine omnipresent, omnipotent and omniscient God. The destruction of the ten-headed Ravana signifies the annihilation of the mind or the ten senses. Worship of Lord Rama is worship of the all-pervading Godhead Himself. Devotion to Lord Rama is a great purifier of the heart. From devotion arises knowledge. From knowledge comes the realization of the pure Self. Knowing this perfectly, one goes to the Supreme Abode and merges in the Supreme Self. Without first developing devotion to Rama who is the Self, who lives in the hearts of all beings, who is all bliss and who is peerless, how can man cross the ocean of worldly life which has sorrow, pain and misery for its waves? The Lord is extremely fond of those who have surrendered themselves to Him. He has given this promise in the Ramayana: "To anyone who once takes shelter under me and solicits I bestow fearlessness from all beings. This is my vow". **Mam pan sar-nagat bhayaHari.** Even a great sinner who is full of evil qualities and who is fond of other people's wealth, is freed from all kinds of faults that pertain to worldly life if only he remembers the Lord always.

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Lord Ram, Sita, Lakshman (Lord Ram's Younger Brother)

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

Shri Ganesh Atharvshirsha Path is held on every 4th Sunday of the month.

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

Murugan Abhishekam Please see details inside.

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.

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

Navgrah Puja every first Saturday of a month at 4:30 P.M.

Upcomming Event Details

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Detailed article on Holi (Festival Of Color)

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Significance of Holi

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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 March 10th, 2007

SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS AT THE TEMPLE

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2007

President:
Raj Bodalia 583-0184
V. President:
Rameshwar Dayal 474-4051
Secretary:
Siva Shivaganesan
Treasurer:
Amar Sharma 742-5725

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS:

Membership & Fundraising:
Anil Jindal 271-7171
Communications:
Meena Mehta : 574-6763
Aashish Shah: 942-8264
Puja Committee
Bobbha Chaudhary 984-6074
Property Management & Maintenance:
Prem Garg 232-5333
Cultural Activities:
Jyoti Desai 745-0876
Religious Education & Youth Activities:
Nandini Kallapur
Long Range Planning:
Jitu Patel 459-8900
Youth Member:
Surabhi Sharma 807-5081

Priests:

Acharya Kailash Sharma 770-0705
Sri Devnathan Sivachar 528-4831
Sri V. Thirumalachari 528-3957
Attorney:
Aronoff, Rosen & Hunt 241-0400
Temple Mgr.:
Laxmi Srivastava 474-0533
Accountant: Open
Editor: Meena Mehta 574-6763
email: minaash@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 770-0705
Temple 528-3714

Email- acharyaksharma@yahoo.com

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 Bobba Chaudhary at 513-984-6074

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 calling Bobba Chaudhary at (513) 984-6074

TEMPLE 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

Important Notice:

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

**Please Donate Generously for
your Temple**

**"A man is great by deeds,
not by Birth."**

Chanakya quotes
(Indian politician, strategist and writer, 350 BC-275BC)

2007 POOJA COMMITTEE &

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

MEMBERS

To participate in/ sponsor please contact a Pooja Committee chairperson & member.

Babba Chaudhary: 984-6074

K.C. Sharma(Priest) 770-0705

Sri. Devnath Sivachar(Priest) 528-4831

Sri. V. Thirumalachari (Priest) 523-3714

Seeking for new Puja Committee Members so
Please volunteer and
call Bobba Chaudhary .

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 .
4. Cancellations of puja should be done 3 days in advance or else the full fee for the puja will be charged

Temple Manager's Committees

Laxmi S. Srivastava- Temple Manager 474-0533

1. Office Manager
Mr. Mohan Chopra

2. I/C Swami Lectures
Vinay Kumar
Laxmi S. Srivastava
Devdas Mukerjee

3. Temple Data Base
Nandkumar Khemchandani
Mohan Chopra
Laxmi S. Srivastava

4. Anniversary & Birthday Data
Raj & Shakuntla Agarwal

5. E-mail Data
Pradeep Goyal
Nandkumar Khemchandani

6. Membership & Gift Shop
Yashpal Agarwal
A.C. Sekhar
Meena Sondhi
7. Computer Technical Support
Sreedhar Suvarana

8. Financial Data

Ramesh Sondhi
Raj Bodalia
Mohan Chopra
Laxmi S. Srivastava

9. I/C Temple Web site

Bharat Vala
Anand Narayana
Khush Karamchandani
Laxmi S. Srivastava

10. Consultants

V. Rao Bhamidipati
Prem Garg
Anil Jindal

11. I/C Temple Calendar

K.C. Sharma (Priest)
Meena Mehta
Ashwin Mehta
Janak Dave

12. I/C Volunter Services

Vijay Kumar
Laxmi S. Srivastava

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Important Events

March 2007

03/03/07	Purnima,Ponguniotram, Holika Dahan
03/04/07	Phalgun / Chaitra Krishan pritipad
03/08/07	Ashtami
03/15/17	Ekadashi (Papmochini)
03/18/07	Amavasya New moon
03/19/07	Yugadi, Gudi Padava, Vikram Samvatsat 2064 begins.
03/26/07	Ashtami
03/27/07	Shri Ram Navami
03/29/07	Ekadashi (Kamada)
03/30/07	Pradosh
03/31/07	Panguni Uttaram

Puja Committee Announcement:

A group of dedicated devotees for each deity are nominated to help puja committee to coordinate and celebrate different puja activities. We need members for 2007 committee so, please call Baba Chaudhury.

If you have any question or suggestion about temple activities, please call Babba Chaudhury at 984-6074

To schedule a Puja or to rent a temple hall (lower level) please contact Puja Committee Chairperson Babba Chaudhury at 984-6074

Continue from Page :1

He attains purity and goes to the supreme abode of the Lord. The Name of Lord Rama is the greatest purifier of the heart. It wipes away all one's sins. Not only this, but it wipes away the sinful tendencies as well. The Name is sweeter than the sweetest of objects. It is the haven of peace. It is the very life of pure souls. It is the purifier of all purifying agencies. It quenches the consuming fire of worldly desires. It awakens the knowledge of God. It bathes the aspirant in the, ocean of divine bliss. Glory to Sri Rama and His Name

Bhaya kubhaya alakh Aalashu , Nam Japat mangal dishi dashahu

Ram-Nam burns ignorance, passion and sin. With or without knowledge, correctly or incorrectly, when the word "Rama" is pronounced it showers a rain of good upon the devotee. Sri Rama is Brahman who takes one across the ocean of worldly existence. Rama is one in across whom the Yogis sport, that is, the Self within.

Lord Shiva tells His consort Parvati: "This Ram-Nam is equal to the Lord's thousand Names, or repetition of the Mantra a thousand times".

Shri Ram Ram Rameti Rame Ramay manoramey, sahasra Naam tat-tulyam Shri Ram Naan Varanane,

Ramnavmi is one of the most important festival. Temples are decorated and the image of Lord Rama is richly adorned. The holy Ramayana is read in the temples. At Ayodhya, the birthplace of Sri Rama, a big fair is held on this day. I wish a very happy Shri Rama Navami to all our Temple devotees.

|| Jai Siya Ram ||

New puja rates will be in effect from 1st March 2007.

-Bobba Chaudhuary
Puja Cammittee Chair Person

RATES FOR PUJA & PRIEST SERVICES

SERVICE	IN	OUTSIDE
	TEMPLE	TEMPLE
Abhishekam (All Deities)	\$101.00	---
Aksharabhyas	\$101.00	\$151.00
Anna-Prashanam	\$101.00	\$151.00
Ashtoththaram (108) Archana	\$21.00	---
AyushyaHomam/B'day Celebration	\$101.00	\$151.00
Ground Breaking Ceremony	---	\$151.00
Griha Pravesh	---	\$151.00
Kalayana Uthsava (Lord Ram/ Sita)	\$121.00	- --
Kesh Khandan (Churakaran)	\$101.00	\$151.00
Nam-Karan	\$101.00	\$151.00
Navagraha Puja	\$101.00	\$151.00
Nischitartham (Engagement)	\$151.00	\$251.00
Nitya (1 Day) Kaikaryam (Seva)	\$101.00	---
Poolangi Seva (With Flowers)- (Only During Off Winter Season)	\$101.00	---
Sahasranama (1008) Archana	\$51.00	---
Sathyanarayana Puja	\$101.00	\$151.00
Seemantham	\$101.00	\$151.00
Devi Jagaran	\$75.00	\$101.00
Akhand Ramayan Paath	-----	\$151.00
Shashti Poorthi (60th B'day Celeb.)	\$101.00	\$151.00
Anniversary celebration	\$101.00	\$151.00
Suprabhat Seva	\$21.00	---
Unjal (Swing) Seva	\$31.00	---
Upakarma (thread changing)	\$51.00	---
Upanayam/Brahmopadesham/ Thread Ceremony	\$151.00	\$251.00
Vahan Pooja	\$51.00	---
Yearly Shradham (Barkhi)	\$101.00	\$151.00
Wedding	\$301.00	\$501.00

SPECIAL PUJA RATE

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.
3. 32 Cents/Miles for Travel expanse to the Priest to perform puja at your home.

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.

Events at the Temple

Navgrah Puja

Every first Saturday of the Month
March 3rd Saturday ,4 P.M. to 5:30 P.M.
Sponsors needed for Puja \$51.00
For Details please call
Bobba Chaudhury 984-6074
Devnathanji 528-4831, or Temple priest at 528-3714

Murugan Puja

Monthly Abhishekham 2nd Sat. 4.30 P.M. to 7.30 P.M.
March 10th 2007 Saturday, 4:30pm
Sponsors are needed for poojas (\$21) & abhishekams (\$101).
Please contact
Bobba Choudhary 984-6074.
Temple 528-3714 Sri Devnathan Shivachariar 528-4831

Satya Narayan Puja

On Purnima (full moon day) at 6:30 P.M.
March 3rd Saturday , 5:30 PM
Sponsorship \$ 51.00
To sponsor puja, please call Babba Chaudhury 984-6074
Temple priests : 528-3714

Sundar Kand Path

Monthly 3rd Sunday of the month at 10:30 A.M
March 18th Sunday , 10:30 AM
Sponsors needed please call. Bobba Choudhary 984-6074.
Acharya Kailash 770-0705 Temple 528-3714 for details

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.

For more information & Sponsor the pooja please call .

Anuradha Kulkarni	271-2749 Uma Sangvai	793-9384
Kiran Dayal	474-4051 Temple	528-3714

ABHISHEKAM/KALYANOTSAVAM FOR LORD SRI VENKATESWARA

On 4th Saturday of each month .
March 24th Saturday, 9 AM

To sponsor please call any of the following:

Andn Kondu	481-4119 Bhavani Megeda	779-4582
Sudha Avasarala	573-6010 Padma Veluri	859-344-9211
Thirumalachari 528-3957		

Vishnu Sahasranama Parayana

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

For more information, please contact the priests at 528-3714

CALENDAR 2007

The New Calendar for the year 2007 is being put together by our team and it will be mailed out soon to HSGC patrons.
Theme for this Calendar is **"NavDurga Shakti and Her 9 Forms."**
Look forward to receive it in your mail around New Year's time.
Meena Mehta c.c.c.

Bhagavad - Geeta Class

For children and parents
(Presented by CHESS Balvihar)

⇒ Bhagavad-Gita is the manifest quintessence of all the teachings of the Vedic scriptures. - Adi Sankara

⇒ The Bhagavad-Gita is the most systematic statement of spiritual evolution of endowing value to mankind. *It is one of the most clear and comprehensive summaries of perennial philosophy ever revealed; Its enduring value is subject not only to India but to all of humanity.* -Aldous Huxley

Join us in understanding and appreciating the timeless wisdom of the Bhagavad-Geeta.

When: Fourth Sunday of the month, 11am to 12:45pm

Where: The Hindu Temple

Taught by: Sri Koti Sreekrishna, an eminent authority on the Geeta
Notes with transliteration guide (Sanskrit to English) provided.

Contact:

Manju Gupta 232 - 3331

Nandini Kallapur 321- 1513 Vasanta Vemuri 232- 5767

Soundarya Lahari Lessons

Mrs. Rajani Raghu has offered to teach "Soundarya Lahari" to interested devotees. Class is scheduled for the first Sunday of the month at 11am, at the Temple. Class will begin in March.

About "Soundarya Lahari:

"Soundarya Lahari "containing about 100 slokas written by Sri Adi Sankaracharya. The slokas are in praise of Goddess Lalitha Devi and are meant to be sung based on particular ragas.
Contact: Nandini Kallapur - 321-1513

Important Dates for April 2007

04/01/07	Hanuman Jayanti (Sunderkand path)
04/02/07	Satya Narayan Puja Purnima Full moon
04/08/07	Mahavir jayanti Celebration
04/15/07	Tamil New year
04/22/07	Shri Vallabhacharya Jayanti Celebration
April 26, 27, 28, Venkateshwar Special (Samvatsarotsava) Puja	
04/29/07	Shri Jagannath ji puja

Upcoming Events

Holika Dahan

(Burning of Holi fire)

On

March 3rd Saturday 2007 7:30pm

For details please call

Babba Choudhary (513) 984-6074 or Temple 513-528-3714.

Holi Celebration & Cultural Program

March 10th, 2007.

Cultural program will starts @ 4:00 PM

Followed by Aarti.

Food will be served with some nominal Charge.

Vasant (Chaitra) NavRatri

Kalash Sthapana

On

March 19th Monday 6:00 pm

March 19th to 26th During NavRatri every day

CHANDI PATH & Shri Durga Puja

10 am to 12 noon

Sponsorship for Chandi path & Puja \$51.00

Please call. Bobba Choudhary 984-6074.

Acharya Kailash Sharma 770-0705 or Temple 528-3714
for details.

Durga Ashtami Puja & Havan

On

March 26th Monday 6pm

Sponsorship \$51.00 for Havan

Please call. Bobba Choudhary 984-6074.

Acharya Kailash 770-0705 or Temple 528-3714 for details.

MATA KI CHOUKI

ON

MARCH 17th 2007 4 pm to 8 pm

Sponsored By :

Mahesh, Sunita, Naman & Namisha Rakheja

For details please call Temple 513-528-3714

Note : April's Mata Ki Chouki is sponsored by
Acharya Kailash & Jyoti Sharma & family,
Date will be announced later on.

The Celebration of Shri Ram Navami AKHAND RAMAYAN PATH

(Shri Ramcharit Manas)

Begins On March 24th

11:00 am Shri Ram Puja

11:30 am Ramayana Path Starts

We need volunteers to read Ramayana.

Please call

Kiran Dayal 474-4051 or Acharya Kailash 770-0705
to give your time and names to make schedule.

AKHAND RAMAYAN PATH

Ends On

March 25th Sunday 12:30 pm

Event is sponsored by

Shri Rameshwar & Kiran Dayal

&

their family.

Shri Ram Navami Puja

On

March 27th Tuesday 6 pm

Please call Temple 528-3714 for details.

Some Important Dates:

Mahavir Jayanti Celebration April 8th

Tamil New Year Celebration April 15th

**Shri Mahavir Jayanti
Celebration** April 8th

**Shri Vallabhacharya Jayanti
Celebration** April 22nd

**Temple's 10th Anniversary
Celebration** May 20th

Graduation Havan June 10th

Rath Yatra Celebration July 22nd

**Nand Mahotsava
Celebration** Sept. 9th

More information and details to follow

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Kathy Gregory, a proud sponsor of the Mela Festival, is generously donating a portion of her net commissions from property sales made to supporters of the Hindu Society of Greater Cincinnati.

All you have to do is state that you would like to support the Hindu Society of Greater Cincinnati and, upon completion of a property sale through Kathy Gregory, she will donate an amount equal to 10% of her net commission to the Hindu Society of Greater Cincinnati. (And it won't cost you a dime!)

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Minutes from EC & General Body Meeting On Dec 3rd 2006

Executive Council Meeting minutes December 3, 2006

Members present: Raj Bodalia, Anil Jindal, Swarna Choudhury, Renu Kotwal, Manju Gupta, Rameshwar Dayal, Jitu Patel and Prem Garg.

1. Minutes of November 5, 2006 EC meeting approved.
2. Decoration of Deities with embroidered cloth imported from India was approved with the understanding that this decoration will last only until Garbha Griha is made for each Deity.
3. Flower fund for Shri Jagan Nath Ji was approved.
4. Pooja Committee Chair was recognized for very hard work and dedication.
5. Discussed Constitution amendment for quorum requirements and Board of Directors.
6. Amendments to the Constitution will be presented to the General Body for approval with due process as defined in the Constitution.

Respectfully Submitted by Prem Garg, Secretary

General Body Meeting Sunday December 3, 2006

Secretary opened the meeting by welcoming every one. Agenda as published in Aradhana was read. No additional agenda items from the floor were requested.

Announcement: General Body Meeting Scheduled on December 17, 2006 has been cancelled. Pooja and Arti will be done at regular time.

President's Report:

President welcomed every one and thanked all EC members. He gave an overview of the accomplishments during the year 2006 and told every one that it was a success. All items targeted in 2006 have been completed except for one item.

- * Financial Audit of the temple has not been done. Even though the accounting is very clear and clean a financial audit should be done.
- * President appreciated Pooja Committee work and recognized Pooja Committee chairperson.
- * Holy, Ram Naumi, Dewali and Navratari were all great success.
- * Mela Function without any publicity was a great success.
- * Contract with a Heating and Air conditioning company and a security system company was signed.
- * In 2007 we will be looking into a new publishing company for Aradhana.
- * President said that very soon a new structure like a Board of Trustees (BOT) shall be proposed to the General Body for approval. He then asked Jayant Patel to give an overview of the proposal.

Jayant Patel explained the new proposal to add Board of Trustees. He stated that along with BOT, Quorum required to pass constitutional amendment will also be reviewed and changes requested for approval. Petition to amend the constitution will be mailed to all members when it is ready.

Treasurer's Report—As of October 30, 2006 Income was \$ 311,000.00 and Expenses were \$ 250,000.00

Secretary's Report:

Secretary reviewed some of the major decisions of 2006 as follows:

- * EC Approved a new class of membership called trustees. If approved by General membership of the Hindu Society, members of the Board of Trustees shall be elected from this class of membership.
- * Approved Community Center Project, however, approval from General membership is pending. General Body approved the project in concept only.
- * General Body approved a Road Project from Barge Salt Run Road to the temple on temple property.
- * Community out reach program of Hindu Society is Week. A number of individuals are making a good effort, however, those efforts need to be focused and formalized.
- * Public Relations need to be strengthened.

Election Commission:

Mohan Chopra read the slate of candidates. Without any opposition or nomination from the floor all candidates were elected to serve in 2007 as follows:

President	Raj Bodalia	Religious and Pooja	Bobba Choudhury
Vice President	Rameshwar Dayal	Long Range Planning	Jitu Patel
Secretary	Siva Ganeshan	Religious Education and Youth Activities	Nandini Kallapur
Treasurer	Amar Sharma	Property management and Maintenance	Prem Garg
Fund raising	Anil Jindal	Youth Member	Surbhi Sharma
Cultural Committee	Jyoti Desai		

Secretary thanked every one for attending the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted by Prem Garg, Secretary

Holi (Festival of Colours)

HOLI HAI... Come holi and the streets will reverberate with the chants of Holi hai...Colours will fill the atmosphere as people throw abeer and gulal in the air showing great joy and mirth in the arrival of this Spring Festival. Holi marks the end of the winter gloom and rejoices in the bloom of the spring time. It is the best time and season to celebrate; Holi provides this opportunity and people take every advantage of it. Days before Holi, the markets get flooded with the colours of every hues. This aptly sets the mood of the people till the actual day of Holi. It is such a colourful and joyous sight to watch huge piles of bright red, magenta, pink, green and blue every where on the streets. Buying those colours seems as you are bringing joys and colour to your home and into your life. Children take special delight in the festival and demand every colour in loads. They have so many plans in their mind. They have to be the first to apply colour to Mama, Papa, siblings and a big bunch of friends in their colony. Nobody could miss being coloured by them and of course, they need colour for that. These days it is easy to buy colours from the market but still some people do take up the task of making colours at home, usually from flowers of **tesu** and **palash**. These home made colours, have a special fragrance of love in them.

The other option is to buy gulal which comes in bright shades of pink, magenta, red, yellow and green. '**Abeer**' is made of small crystals or paper like chips of mica. This is mixed with the gulal for a rich shine. Mischievous ones, however, go for silver and gold paints on which no colour could be applied. Whatever be the choice of colour, nobody remains in their original texture at the end of the play. And everybody takes delight looking at the other. Really, the other name of the festival is FUN. And, it is not just children, but the young and the old alike who take delight in this joyous festival of colours. Seniors too, move in their toils. Their enthusiasm is at times greater than that of their children as they forget the bars of age and follow their hearts. To youth, holi gives a chance to explore the heights of their enthusiasm as they climb the human pyramids to break the pot of buttermilk and to express their love to their beloved by applying colour.

For, Holi knows no bars, everybody feels it is their right to enjoy and enjoy they do. Songs, dance, drinks, food everything goes in excess when it is time for Holi. It can be said, "Life turns Colourful" when it is time for Holi

Tradition of Holi

The colourful festival of Holi is celebrated by different names in this vast and culturally diverse country. The traditions followed for the festival varies a little and at times a lot as one moves from one state to other studying the various facets of the festival and getting behind the various colours of it. Nowhere it is celebrated with so much charm and enthusiasm as in Mathura, Vrindavan, Barsana and Nandgaon - the places associated with the birth and childhood of Lord Krishna. At Barsana Holi assumes the name of **Lathmaar Holi**. Here, women of Barsana give a tough time to men of Nandgaon as they come to play Holi with them. Women drag the unlucky captives, beat them, dress them in a female attire - yet all is in the spirit of Holi. Women of Haryana, specifically the bhabhis too get an upper hand on the day as they get a social sanction to beat their devars and take a sweet revenge for all the mischiefs they have played on them. This revengeful tradition is called the **Dulandi Holi**. The most enjoyable tradition of Holi, of course, apart from the play of colours is the tradition of **breaking the pot**. It is celebrated with much fan fair in the states of Maharashtra and Gujarat. Here a pot of buttermilk is hung high on the streets. Men form a huge human pyramid and one on the top breaks the pot with his head. All this while women keep singing Holi folk songs and throwing buckets and buckets of water. The tradition has its roots in the mischievous nature of Lord Krishna who was so fond of butter milk that he used to steal it from every accessible house in the village. To hide the butter from young Krishna, womenfolk used to hang it high. All in vain!

Holi is celebrated in the most dignified manner in the state of Bengal. At Vishwa Bharti University, founded by Rabindranath Tagore founded the tradition of celebrating Holi as '**Basant Utsav**' or '**Spring Festival**'. Students decorate the campus with intricate rangolis and carry out prabhat pheris in the morning. Clad in a traditional attire young boys and girls sing songs composed by Gurudev and present an enchanting view to the onlookers who gather in large number here. In other parts of Bengal, Holi is celebrated as Dol Yatra where the idols of Radha and Krishna are placed on a decorated palanquin and taken out in a procession.

For Sikhs, Holi calls for the display of their physical strength and military prowess as they gather at Anandpur Sahib a day after Holi to celebrate **Hola Mohalla**. The tradition was started by the tenth and last guru of Sikh religion, Guru Gobind Singh ji and is being religiously carried forward. In the north east, Manipuris celebrate the festival in a colourful manner for six continuous days. Here, the centuries old **Yaosang Festival** of Manipur amalgated with Holi with the introduction of Vaishnavism in the eighteenth century. The highlight of the festival here is a special Manipuri dance, called '**Thabal Chongba**'.

Well, there are many-many more ways in which Holi is celebrated. Different states, different cities and different villages have come out with their unique and innovative styles of playing Holi. It may not be possible to describe all of them at one place. What is noteworthy though is the fact that the spirit of Holi remains the same throughout. It is the festival which generates the spirit of brotherhood and bring people close - and this is what matters most than anything else. What enhances the spirit of Holi though is the tradition of consuming the intoxicating bhang. It is generally consumed with thandai or as pakoras. People go high on it and enjoy the festival to the hilt. Other Holi delicacies include gujiya, mathri, malpua, puranpoli, dahi badas, etc. After a frenzied play of colours people love to gorge them up.

Continue Page 9

Significance of Holi

In spite of being such a colourful and gay festival, there are various aspects of Holi which makes it so significant for our lives. Though they might not be so apparent but a closer look and a little thought will reveal the significance of Holi in more ways than meets the eyes. Ranging from socio-cultural, religious to biological there is every reason why we must heartily enjoy the festival and cherish the reasons for its celebrations. So when, its time for Holi, please don't hold yourself back and enjoy the festival to the hilt by participating with full enthusiasm in every small tradition related to the festival.

Mythological Significance

Holi gets us close to our religion and our mythology as it is essentially the celebration of various legends associated with the festival. Foremost is the legend of **Prahlad and Hiranyakshyap**. The legend says there once lived a devil and powerful king, Hiranyakshyap who considered himself a god and wanted everybody to worship him. To his great ire, his son, Prahlad began to worship, Lord Vishnu. To get rid of his son, Hiranyakshyap asked his sister, Holika to enter a blazing fire with Prahlad in her lap, as she had a boon to enter fire unscathed. Legend has it that Prahlad was saved for his extreme devotion for the lord while Holika paid a price for her sinister desire. The tradition of burning Holika or the 'Holika dahan' comes mainly from this legend. Holi also celebrates the legend of **Radha and Krishna** which describes the extreme delight, Krishna took in applying colour on Radha and other gopis. This prank of Krishna later, became a trend and a part of the Holi festivities. Mythology also states that Holi is the celebration of death of **Ogress Pootana** who tried to kill infant, Krishna by feeding poisonous milk to it. Another legend of Holi which is extremely popular in Southern India is that of **Lord Shiva and Kaamadeva**. According to the legend, people in south celebrate the sacrifice of Lord of Passion Kaamadeva who risked his life to revoke Lord Shiva from meditation and save the world. Also, popular is the legend of Ogress Dhundhi who used to trouble children in the kingdom of Raghu and was ultimately chased away by the pranks of the children on the day of Holi. Showing their belief in the legend, children till date play pranks and hurl abuses at the time of Holika Dahan.

Cultural Significance

Celebration of the various legends associated with Holi reassure the people of the power of the truth as the moral of all these legends is the ultimate victory of good over evil. The legend of Hiranyakashyap and Prahlad also points to the fact that extreme devotion to god pays as god always takes his true devotee in his shelter. All these legends help the people to follow a good conduct in their lives and believe in the virtue of being truthful. This is extremely important in the modern day society when so many people resort to evil practices for small gains and torture one who is honest. Holi helps the people to believe in the virtue of being truthful and honest and also to fight away the evil. Besides, holi is celebrated at a time of the year when the fields are in full bloom and people are expecting a good harvest. This gives a people a good reason to rejoice, make merry and submerge themselves in the spirit of Holi.

Social Significance

Holi helps to bring the society together and strengthen the secular fabric of our country. For, the festival is celebrated by non-Hindus also as everybody like to be a part of such a colourful and joyous festival. Also, the tradition of the Holi is that even the enemies turn friends on Holi and forget any feeling of hardship that may be present. Besides, on this day people do not differentiate between the rich and poor and everybody celebrate the festival together with a spirit of bonhomie and brotherhood. In the evening people visit friends and relatives and exchange gifts, sweets and greetings. This helps in revitalising relationships and strengthening emotional bonds between people.

Biological Significance

It is interesting to note that the festival of Holi is significant for our lives and body in many other ways than providing joy and fun. We also need to thank our forefathers who started the trend of celebrating Holi at such a scientifically accurate time. And, also for incorporating so much fun in the festival. As Holi comes at a time of the year when people have a tendency to feel sleepy and lazy. This is natural for the body to experience some tardiness due to the change from the cold to the heat in the atmosphere. To counteract this tardiness of the body, people sing loudly or even speak loudly. Their movements are brisk and their music is loud. All of this helps to rejuvenate the system of the human body. Besides, the colours when sprayed on the body have a great impact on it. Biologists believe the liquid dye or Abeer penetrates the body and enters into the pores. It has the effect of strengthening the ions in the body and adds health and beauty to it. There is yet another scientific reason for celebrating the Holi, this however pertains to the tradition of Holika Dahan. The mutation period of winter and spring, induces the growth of bacteria in the atmosphere as well as in the body. When Holika is burnt, temperature rises to about 145 degrees Fahrenheit. Following the tradition when people perform Parikrama (circumambulation or going around) around the fire, the heat from the fire kills the bacteria in the body thus, cleansing it. The way Holi is celebrated in south, the festival also promotes good health. For, the day after the burning of Holika people put ash (Vibhuti) on their forehead and they would mix Chandan (sandalpaste) with the young leaves and flowers of the Mango tree and consume it to promote good health. Some also believe that play with colours help to promote good health as colours are said to have great impact on our body and our health. Western-Physicians and doctors believe that for a healthy body, colours too have an important place besides the other vital elements. Deficiency of a particular colour in our body causes ailment, which can be cured only after supplementing the body with that particular colour. People also clean-up their houses on Holi which helps in clearing up the dust and mess in the house and get rid of mosquitoes and other pests. A clean house generally makes the residents feel good and generate positive energies.

Holi Hai!!!!!!!!!!!!

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Mr. & Mrs. Rajesh & Sheela Bodalia
Mr. & Mrs. Bharat & Manisha Kalyan
Mr. & Mrs. Kumar & Shanti Nagarajan
Mr. & Mrs. Tushar & Rasila Parikh
Mr. & Mrs. Bipin & Kailas Sheth
Mr. & Mrs. Manish & Anisha Srivastava



Birthday Anniversaries (March)**

Mrs. Summi Ahuja
Mr. Harish Bhradwaj
Ms. Rajesh Bhola
Ms. Sitadevi Bobba
Ms. Maya Candadia
Mr. Yoesh Chavda
Ms. Babita Choudhury
Mr. Chandan Gupta
Mr. Vijay Natarajan
Ms. Pinal Patel
Mrs. Suchitra Raghvan
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*(celebrated on the first Sunday of each month)

** (celebrated on second Sunday of each month in temple)

Thought Of the Month:

"The fragrance of flowers spreads only
in the direction of the wind. But the
goodness of a person spreads in all
direction."

Chanakya quotes (Indian politician, strategist and writer, 350 BC-275BC)

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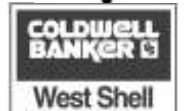


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Minutes of Executive Council Meeting January 7, 2007

Members Present: Raj Bodalia, Rameshwar Dayal, Prem Garg, Amar Sharma, Surbhi Sharma, Jyoti Desai, Meena Mehta, Anil Jindal and Jitu Patel Others Present: Aashish Shah

- * Sudden death of Head Priest Sh. B. C. Sharma was felt by all and a moment of silence was observed.
- * President opened the meeting by welcoming every one to the first EC meeting of 2007. Members introduced themselves.
- * Minutes of December 3, 2006 General Body Meeting and December 3, 2007 Executive Council meeting were approved.
- * Aashish Shah will work with Meena Mehta on the Communications Committee .
- * Income and expenditure targets for 2007 were discussed and agreed.
- * Petition drive to amend the constitution was discussed.
- * Garbha Griha work is in progress for completion in 2007.
- * A volunteer who is well versed in Hindu Religion and Culture is needed for speaking engagements as requested from time to time by the larger community.
- * Discussed Aradhana printing cost and the necessity of Aradhana to be self sustaining in cost.
- * Maintenance repair chair person was authorized to use judgment in getting smaller raids done without approval of EC every time, however, all major repairs (more than \$ 2000) to be approved by EC.
- * **Approved \$ 25,000.00 from operating money (deposited from Mata Ki Chowki which was dedicated for loan reduction) be paid to reduce mortgage balance.**
- * Approved that a new priest selection committee of community persons be formed to hire a new priest. President to serve as EC liaison with the priest selection committee. Members of EC should send their nomination recommendations to the president.
- * Discussed major activities / events/ celebrations in 2007 at the temple. In the future programs for three months shall be published in Aradhana.



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Subha Ki Dhoop... Ye Dhoop Ek Safar
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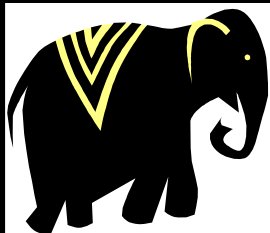
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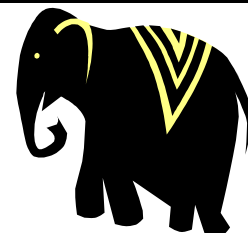
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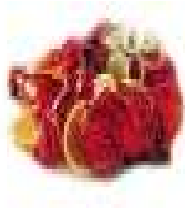
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Directions to Hindu Temple

From I-275 take Exit 63A (32West) - drive approximately 1/4 mile - turn right onto OLD 74 - turn left at the first Traffic light onto Summerside Road. After approximately one mile turn right onto Klatte Road. Temple is at the end of Klatte Road. **From UC:** Take E McMillan to Columbia Pkwy to Beechmont Ave to Route 32 East (to Batavia). Turn left on Old SR -74. Follow instructions above from Summerside to Klatte Rd. (Phone No. for the Temple - 528-3714)



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