



आराधना

Aradhana

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

Ashwin/Kartik
Vikram Samvat, 2063/2064
November 2007

Happy Diwali

Website: www.cincinnatiemple.com
Email: hindusociety@fuse.net
Phone: 513-528-3714



Diwali Celebration

Five Days Of Diwali

Diwali is a festival of joy, splendor, brightness and happiness. It is the festival of lights and is celebrated with great enthusiasm by all Indians all over the world. The uniqueness of this festival is its harmony of five varied philosophies, with each day to a special thought or ideal. People celebrate each of its five days of festivities with true understanding, it will uplift and enrich the lives.

First Day : Dhanteras

Dhanteras marks the first day of five-days-long Diwali Festival. Dhanteras Festival, also known as **Dhantrayodashi** or **Dhanwantari Triodasi**, falls on the auspicious thirteenth lunar day of Krishna Paksha in the Hindu month of Kartik (October/November). In the word Dhanteras, "Dhan" stands for wealth. On Dhanteras Goddess Laxmi is worshiped to provide prosperity and well being. Hence Dhan Teras holds a lot more significance for the business community.

Dhanteras Legends

A very interesting story about Dhanteras Festival says that once the sixteen year old son of King Hima. was doomed to die by a snake-bite on the fourth day of his marriage as per his horoscope. On that particular fourth day of his marriage his young wife did not allow him to sleep. She laid all the ornaments and lots of gold and silver coins in a big heap at the entrance of her husband's boudoir and lighted innumerable lamps all over the place. And she went on telling stories and singing songs.

When Yama, the god of Death arrived there in the guise of a Serpent his eyes got blinded by that dazzle of those brilliant lights and he could not enter the Prince's chamber. So he climbed on top of the heap of the ornaments and coins and sat there whole night listening to the melodious songs. In the morning he quietly went away. Thus the young wife saved her husband from the clutches of death. Since then this day of Dhanteras came to be known as the day of **"Yamadeepdaan"** and lamps are kept burning throughout the night in reverential adoration to Yam, the god of Death. According to another popular legend, when the gods and demons churned the ocean for Amrit or nectar, Dhanavantri (the physician of the gods and an incarnation of Vishnu) emerged carrying a jar of the elixir on the day of Dhanteras.

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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 November 10th, 2007

HSGC TEMPLE INFORMATION

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2007

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Siva Shivaganesan 563-2901
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Amar Sharma 742-5725

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Pooja Committee:
Bobba Choudhary 984-6074
Communications/Editor:
Meena Mehta 574-6763
email: minaash@hotmail.com

Member:
Aashish Shah 942-8264
email: aashish.shah@yahoo.com

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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

Sanskrit & Hindi Classes In The Temple

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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 Sug-
gest)

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 Pooja

Devotees are requested to sit-in Sunday Pooja
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 pooja, 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 pooja of
Temple Deities
11 :00 - 11:30 A.M Sponsored Pooja
11 : 30 - 12:15 A.M Bhajan
12 : 15 -12:45 P.M. Religious discourse
12:45-1:00 P.M. Birthday and
Anniversary pooja
and announcement
1 : 00 P.M. Aarti

Please Donate Generously for your Temple

Your Temple needs

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

2007 POOJA COMMITTEE & RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES MEMBERS

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

Bobba Choudhary: 984-6074
Acharya Kailash. Sharma 770-0705
Pandit Devnath Sivachar 528-4831
Pandit V. Thirumalachari 528-3957
Hindu Temple: 528-3714

Madhu Sharma 232-9991
Kiran Dayal 474-4051
Suchitra Mishra 573-9775
Rani Dhameja 984-5777
Sameer Rao 793-5821
Meena Karamchandani 683-9454
Kalpana Srivastava 233-9184
Uma Sanguai 793-9384
Muralee 573-0550
Minati Bhattacharya 272-0361
Vasundhra Dasari 777-3353
Anee Deka 336-9554
Manju Gupta 232-3331

Temple Manager's Committees

Laxmi S. Srivastava- Temple Manager 474-0533

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1. Office Manager
Mr. Mohan Chopra</p> <p>2. I/C Swami Lectures
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Vinay Kumar
Devdas Mukerjee
Meena Mehta
Bobba Choudhary</p> <p>3. Temple Data Base
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Pradeep Goyal
Nandkumar Khemchandani</p> <p>6. Membership & Gift Shop
Madhu Sharma
Meena Sondhi</p> | <p>7. Computer Tech Support
Sreedhar Suvarana
Aashish Shah</p> <p>8. Financial Data
Amar Sharma
Raj Bodalia
Laxmi S. Srivastava</p> <p>9. I/C Temple Web site
Bharat Vala
Anand Narayana
Khush Karamchandani
Laxmi S. Srivastava</p> <p>10. I/C Temple Calendar
Meena Mehta
K.C. Sharma (Priest)
Ashvin Mehta
Janak Dave</p> <p>11. I/C Volunter Services
Vijay Kumar
Laxmi S. Srivastava</p> |
|---|--|

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Pooja Information

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Pooja Committee Announcement:

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

1. **Archana** performed during temple hours by sponsorship. No Archana on Sundays between 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
2. **Outside poojas** and other religious services will be conducted by appointment only.
3. To **schedule any poojas** please contact Pooja Committee chairperson at least one week in advance.
4. If you would like to bring **food and prasad** in the temple, Please contact Pooja Committee chairperson .
5. **Cancellations** of pooja should be done 3 days in advance or else the full fee for the pooja will be charged

RATES FOR POOJA & PRIEST SERVICES |

Effective March 2007

SERVICE	IN	OUTSIDE
	TEMPLE	TEMPLE
Abhishekam (All Deities)	\$101.00	Aksharabhyas
	\$101.00	\$151.00
Anna-Prashanam	\$101.00	\$151.00
Ashtottharam (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 Pooja	\$101.00	\$151.00
Nischitartham (Engagement)	\$151.00	\$251.00
Nitya (1 Day) Kainkaryam (Seva)	\$101.00	---
Poolangi Seva (With Flowers)- (Only During Off Winter Season)	\$101.00	---
Sahasranama (1008) Archana	\$51.00	---
Sathyanarayana Pooja	\$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 POOJA RATE

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.

1. Poojas performed by priests outside the temple will be rated according to the number of poojas performed.
2. 40 Cents/Miles for Travel expanse to the Priest to perform pooja at your home.

Rates are subject to change without notice. Rates of Poojas out of Greater Cincinnati will be \$100.00 more than the rates of outside pooja 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/poojas 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 Pooja or to rent a temple hall (lower level) please contact pooja Committee chairperson only.

Regular Weekly & Monthly Events at the Temple

Monthly Navgrah Pooja

Every first Saturday of the Month
November 3rd Saturday 3 pm to 5:30 pm
Sponsors needed for Pooja \$51.00
For Details please call
Bobbha Choudhary: 984-6074
Sri Devnathanji: 528-4831 Temple priests: 528-3714

Monthly Murugan Abhishekham /Pooja

Every second Saturday of the Month
November 10th Saturday 10.30am to 1:00pm
Sponsored by Murugan Group.
Please contact Bobba Choudhary :984-6074.
Sri Devnathanji: 528-4831 Temple priests: 528-3714

Monthly Satya Narayan Pooja

On Every Purnima of the Month
November 24th Saturday 5:30 pm to 8:00pm
Sponsorship \$ 51.00
To sponsor pooja please call Bobba Choudhary: 984-6074
Temple priests: 528-3714

Monthly Sundar Kand Path

November 18th Sunday 10:30 am
Sponsored by Sanat & Deepa Bhatt
Bobbha Choudhary: 984-6074 Acharya Kailashji: 770-0705

Monthly Shri Ganesh Pooja & Shri Ganesh Atharvshirsha Path

Every 4th Sunday of the month: November 25th Sunday

This pooja 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 Priests: 528-3714

Monthly ABHISHEKAM/KALYANOTSAVAM FOR LORD SRI VENKATESWARA

On 4th Saturday of each month from 10:30 AM-12:30PM.
To sponsor and details please call any of the following:
Anand Konda: 481-4119 Vasundhara Dasari: 777-3353
Suseela Paturi: 867-8591 Vicheta Pemmaraju: 398-9833
Sailaja Gannamraj: 697-1412 Usha Indrakanti: 583-5995

Weekly Vishnu Sahastranama Parayana

Vishnu Sahastranama Parayana (chanting) will now take place
every Thursday at 7:00 pm in the temple.
Please join us for the chanting.

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

Weekly Hanuman Chalisa Path

Every Tuesday at 6:30pm
To sponsor pooja please call Bobba Choudhary: 984-6074
Temple priests: 528-3714

Weekly Shiv Mahiman Stotram

Every Monday at 6:30pm

Bhagavad - Geeta Class

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- ⇒ 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,

Notes with transliteration guide (Sanskrit to English) provided.

Contact

Manju Gupta: 232 - 3331 Vasanta Vemuri: 232- 5767



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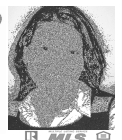
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Upcoming Events at the Temple

November 2007 Attractions

Nov. 7	Dhan Teras. Account Book Poojan
Nov. 8	Narak Chaturdashi/Kali Chaudash
Nov. 9	Deepawali. MahaLaxmi Pooja. See Page 5
Nov. 10	HSGC/ANKUR Deepawali Celebration. See page 17
Nov. 11	Bhaidoj. Shri Chitrugupta Pooja and Celebration
Nov. 15	Skand Sashti Vrat
Nov. 18	Sundarkand Path, Gopa Ashtami
Nov. 21	Prabodhini Ekadashi
Nov. 23	Vaikunth Chaturdashi
Nov. 24	Shri SatyaNarayan Pooja
Nov. 25	ShriNathaji Govardhan Pooja & Annakoot Mahotsav

For details see page 5

December 2007 Highlights

Dec. 1	Navgrah Pooja
Dec. 5	Utpatti Ekadashi
Dec. 8	Shri Murugan Pooja
Dec. 16	Sundarkand Path
Dec. 20	Mokshda Ekadashi: Geeta Jayanti
Dec. 22	Shri Balaji Pooja
Dec23	Geeta Jayanti Celebration
	Shri Ganesh Pooja
	Shri Dattatray Jayanti
Dec. 24	Shri SatyaNarayan Pooja



Mata ki Chouki

Nov 3rd Saturday 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Sponsored By: Srivastava Family

For More Details Call Temple 528-3714

Shri Chitrugupta Pooja

On Sunday Nov. 11th 11am to 1 pm

Sponsored by-

Tri State Chitrugupta Pariwaar.

Please call

Kiran Dayal 474-4051.

Kalpna Srivastava 233-9184.

Bobba Choudary 984-6074

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ELECTION 2008

General election for Executive Council 2008 will be held on second Sunday December 9, 2007.

Following are the Election Committee Commissioners.

Ambikaipakan Balasubramaniam: 513-204-0213

Mohan Chopra: 859-331-2416

Raneshwar Gupta: 513-232-3331

Deepawali Mahalaxmi Puja



Nov. 9th Friday Evening

6:30 to 7:30	Shri Ganesh-Laxmi Puja
	Shri Suktam & Laxmi Stotra path
7:30 pm	Aarti & Prasad
8:00 pm	Fire Crackers after Aarti.

Puja is sponsored by:

Dr. Bharat & Sudha Agrawal and

Mr. Bobba & Rani Choudary.

We also need sponsors for the puja.

Devotees may join with family for the puja.

Sponsorship for Puja: \$101.00.

For more details call

Bobba Choudary 984-6074. Acharya Kailash 652-5382,

Shri Devanathan 528-4831,

Temple 513- 528-3714

Annakut & Goverdhan Puja



विक्रम संवत् २०६४ न॥ नूतन वर्षाभिर्नन्दन - जय श्रीकृष्ण ॥

अन्नकुट महोत्सव

Celebration

On November 25, 2007 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Program:

10:00 AM to 11:30 AM	: Goverdhan Puja and Abhishek
11:30 AM to 12:00 PM	Annakut- Annapurna Stotramn /
	Yamunaji Ni Aarti, Annakut Darshan Opens.
12:00 PM to 1:00 PM	Bhajans, Kirtan,
1:00 PM to 1:30 PM	Aarti, Parikrama.
1:30 PM	MAHA PRASHAD
	Sponsored by: Shreenathji Group

For More details Contact:

Meena Mehta: 574-6763, Jyoti Desai 745-0876

Pushpa Shah 755-1789, Vasu Shah: 942-8264,

Meena Shah 7339357, Nayana Parikh: 923-9173,

Minal Patel : 234-0569 Kokila Parikh: 942-8288

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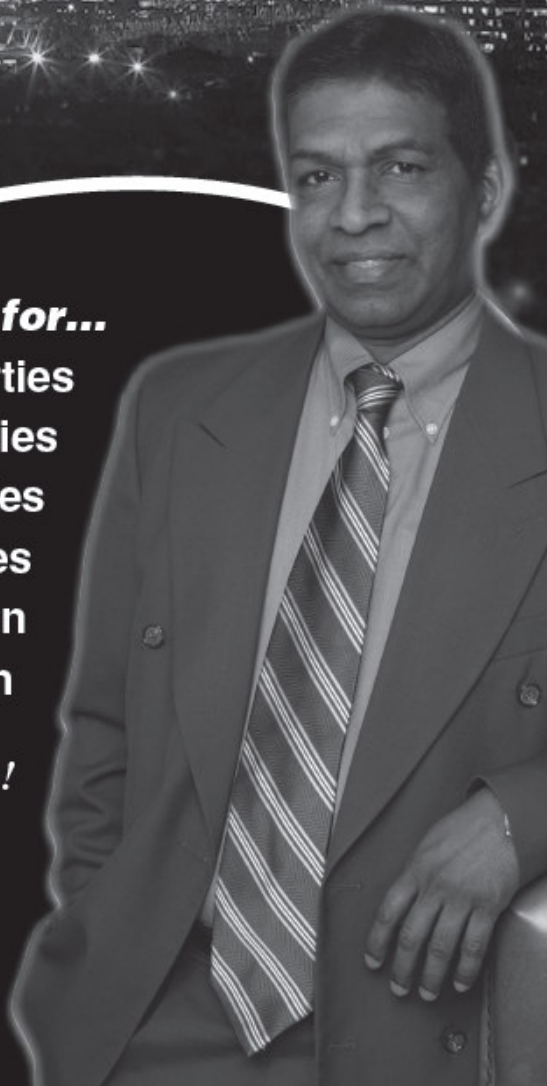
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Second Day : Choti Diwali / Narak Chaturdasi/Kali Choudash

The day before Diwali is celebrated as **Chhoti Diwali / Narak Chaturdasi** or 'small Diwali'. It is Diwali on a smaller scale, with fewer lights lit and fewer crackers burst. The morning after Choti Diwali, the women of the house make beautiful, colored rangoli in the doorway and courtyard. Tiny footprints made out of rice paste are a special feature of the rangolis made for Diwali. In Hindu homes, Chhoti Diwali celebrations involve a ritual puja to Goddess Lakshmi and also to Rama in the evening. Songs in honor of the god are sung and aarti is performed.

Legends behind Chhoti Diwali/ Narak Chaturdasi / Kali Choudash

The story goes that the demon king **Narakasur** ruler of Pragjyotishpur (a province to the South of Nepal) after defeating Lord Indra had snatched away the magnificent earrings of Aditi, the Mother Goddess (the ruler of **Suraloka** and a relative of **Satyabhama, Lord Krishna's wife**) and imprisoned sixteen thousand daughters of the gods and saints in his harem. On coming to know about this, Satyabhama was enraged by Narakasura's malevolence towards women, and she appealed to Krishna to give her the golden chance to destroy Narakasura. The legend also says that Narakasura was given a curse that he would be killed by a woman. Krishna granted **Satyabhama** a boon to fight with Narakasura. With Krishna as the charioteer, Satyabhama entered the battle field. During the war, Krishna swooned for a while, a preordained divinely act adopted to empower Satyabhama to kill the demon. After Narakasura was beheaded, the imprisoned women were released, and Krishna accepted to marry them. So on the day previous to Narakachaturdashi, Lord Krishna's divine intervention led to the killing of the demon, Narakasura and liberation of the imprisoned damsels as well as recovery of the precious earrings of **Aditi**. As a symbol of that victory Lord Krishna smeared his forehead with the demon king's blood. Krishna returned home in the very early morning of the Narakachaturdashi day. The womenfolk massaged scented oil to his body and gave him a good bath to wash away the filth from his body. Since then the custom of taking bath before sunrise on this day has become a traditional practice specially in Maharashtra. It is interesting to note that **Bhudevi**, mother of the slain **Narakasura**, declared that his death should not be a day of mourning but an occasion to celebrate and rejoice. Since then, Deepavali is being celebrated by people every year with joyous celebrations with lot of fun and frolic, and fire works. In South India that victory of the divine over the mundane is celebrated in a very peculiar way. People wake up before sunrise prepare a paste by mixing Kumkum in oil, symbolizing blood and after breaking a bitter fruit that represents the head of the demon King that was smashed by Krishna, apply that mixture on their foreheads. Then they have an oil bath using sandalwood paste. In Maharashtra also, traditional early baths with oil and **"Uptan"** (paste) of gram flour and fragrant powders are a 'must'. All through the ritual of baths, deafening sounds of crackers and fireworks are there in order that the children enjoy bathing. Afterward steamed vermicelli with milk and sugar or puffed rice with curd is served.

Third Day : Diwali /Lakshmi Puja

The third day of the festival of Diwali is the most important day of **Lakshmi-puja** and is entirely devoted to the propitiation of Goddess Lakshmi. On this very day sun enters his second course and passes Libra which is represented by the balance or scale. Hence, this design of Libra is believed to have suggested the balancing of account books and their closing. Despite the fact that this day falls on an amavasya day it is regarded as the most auspicious. The day of Lakshmi-Puja falls on the dark night of **Amavasya**. The strains of joyous sounds of bells and drums float from the temples as man is invoking Goddess Laxmi in a wondrous holy "pouring-in" of his heart. All of a sudden that impenetrable darkness is pierced by innumerable rays of light for just a moment and the next moment a blaze of light descends down to earth from heaven as golden-footed Deep-Lakshmi alights on earth in all her celestial glory amidst chantings of Vedic hymns. A sublime light of knowledge dawns upon humanity and this self enlightenment is expressed through the twinkling lamps that illuminate the palaces of the wealthy as well as the lowly abodes of the poor. It is believed that on this day Lakshmi walks through the green fields and loiters through the bye-lanes and showers her blessings on man for plenty and prosperity. Lakshmi Pooja, or the worship of the goddess of wealth, is the main event on Diwali in North and West India. It is extremely important to keep the house spotlessly clean and pure on Diwali. Goddess Lakshmi likes cleanliness, and she will visit the cleanest house first. This is also the reason why the broom is worshiped on this day with offerings of haldi and kumkum (turmeric and vermillion). Lamps are lit in the evening to welcome the goddess. They are believed to light up Her path. Lakshmi Puja consists of a combined puja of five deities: **Ganesha** is worshiped at the beginning of every auspicious act as **Vighnaharta**; Goddess Lakshmi is worshiped in her three forms - **Mahalakshmi** (the goddess of wealth and money), **Mahasaraswati** (the goddess of books and learning), and **Mahakali**; Kuber (the treasurer of the gods) is also worshiped.

Fourth Day : New Year/ Padwa & Goverdhan Puja

The day following the Amavasya is **"Kartik Shuddh Padwa"** and it is only on this day that the King Bali would come out of Pathal Loka and rule Bhulok as per the boon given by Lord Vishnu. Hence, it is also known as **"Bali Padyami"**. This day also marks the coronation of **King Vikramaditya** and Vikram-Samvat was started from this Padwa day, So this also known as Hindu Calendar **NEW YEAR** starts.

Gudi Padwa is symbolic of love and devotion between the wife and husband. On this day newly-married daughters with their husbands are invited for special meals and given presents. In olden days brothers went to fetch their sisters from their in-laws home for this important day.

Govardhan-Puja

Govardhan-Puja is also performed in the North on this day. Govardhan is a small hillock in Braj, near Mathura and on this day of Diwali people of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar build cowdung, hillocks, decorate them with flowers and then worship them. This festival is in commemoration of the lifting of **Mount Govardhan** by Krishna. As per Vishnu-Puran the people of Gokul used to celebrate a festival in honor of Lord Indra and worshiped him after the end of every monsoon season but one particular year the young Krishna stopped them from offering prayers to **Lord Indra** who in terrific anger sent a deluge to submerge Gokul. People were afraid that the downpour was a result of their neglect of Indra. But Krishna assured them that no harm would befall them. He lifted Mount Govardhan with his little finger and sheltered men and beasts from the rain. This gave him the epithet **Govardhandhari**. After this, Indra accepted the supremacy of Krishna.

This day is also observed as **Annakoot** meaning mountain of food. Pious people keep awake the whole night and cook fifty-six or 108 different types of food for the bhog (the offering of food) to Krishna. In temples specially in Mathura and Nathadwara, the deities are given milkbath, dressed in shining attires with ornaments of dazzling diamonds, pearls, rubies and other precious stones. After the prayers and traditional worship innumerable varieties of delicious sweets are ceremoniously raised in the form of a mountain before the deities as "**Bhog**" and then the devotees approach the Mountain of Food and take Prasad from it.

N.B. In our temple, there is celebration of Govardhan Puja and Annakoot is on

Nov 25th 2007 , Sunday Between 9:00 am to 1:00 PM

Fifth Day : Bhai Duj/ Bhaiya Duj/ Bhai dooj

The fifth day of Deepavali or Diwali is celebrated as Bhaiya Dooj, popularly know as Bhai Dooj. The name itself denotes the day of the festival i.e it falls on Dooj, the second day after the new moon. This day Yamaraj went to his sister's house who put an auspicious mark on his forehead for his welfare. Thus, on this day sisters perform puja for their brothers safety and well being. Brothers in return give gifts to their sisters as a token of love.

Another version is after killing Narakasur, Lord Krishna, went to his sister Subhadra who welcomed him in the traditional way by showing him a light and putting on his forehead a tilak of her sisterly protection. Another myth behind this begins as when Bhagawan Mahavir found nirvana, his brother Raja Nandivardhan was distressed because he missed him and was comforted by his sister Sudarshana. Since then, women have been revered during this festival.

The festival of Diwali is not complete without "Bhaiyya-Duj" in the Hindi-speaking belt, "Bhav-Bij" in the Marathi-speaking communities, "Bhai Phota" to the Bengalees and in Nepal by the name of "Bhai-Tika".

Diwali is a personal, people-oriented festival when enmities are forgotten; families and friends meet, enjoy and establish a word of closeness. Reflecting this essence, Bhai dooj has its own importance in continuing to maintain the love between brothers and sisters for it is the day of food-sharing, gift-giving and reaching out to the inner most depths of the hearts.

As a festival of light and beauty it encourages artistic expressions through home-decorations stage-plays, elocution competitions singing and dancing programmes, making gift items and making delectable sweets thereby discovering new talents of younger people. As a result innumerable communities with varying cultures and customs mingle together to make Bhai Dooj celebrations a very happy occasion for all.

दिवाली की शुभ कामनाएँ

Compiled By: Aashish Shah

Hindu Society of Greater Cincinnati

Minutes of August 26, 2007 Executive Council Meeting

Member Present: Raj Bodalia, Prem Garg, Amar Sharma, Anil Jindal, Meena Mehta, Bobba Choudary, and Siva Sivaganesan.

Meeting started at 10:00 AM

Anil Jindal reported on Mela arrangements. It was agreed that President will send an invitation to County Commissioners.

EC approved a budget of \$5,000 for Chitragupta and Vijathasami Havans.

Prem Garg agreed to install suggestion boxes.

Prem Garg reported on the arrangements for Hindu Awareness week. President will officially invite speakers to participate at their own expense. President will also invite county dignitaries.

Election and general body meeting will take place on Dec. 9, 2007. It was reported that Mohan Chopra, Ambikaipakan Balasubramaniam, and Raneshwar Gupta agreed to serve as election commissioners.



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When: Hinduism represents over 5000 years of development in the Indian sub-continent. Hindu time scale spans >Trillions of years. Always there (eternal).
Number: ~ 2 million Hindus in the US; ~ 1 Billion total.
Founder: No single founder. Directly taught by God to some seekers (Example: The Bhagavadgita) and revealed indirectly to several other seekers (Example: The Vedas).
Scriptures: Vedas, Upanishads, Bhagavadgita
Secondary Scriptures: Ramayana, Mahabharata, Puranas, Itihasas, Dharma Sutras, etc.

A-E-I-O-U-Y of H-I-N-D-U-I-S-M

"AnO bhadraH kratavO yantu vishvatah" (R-g Veda):
Let noble thoughts come to us from everywhere.

"Ekam sat, vipraH bahudhA vadanti" (R-g Veda):
Truth is one, the learned speak of it in numerous ways.

"Isha avAsyam idagam sarvam, yat kincha jagatyAm jagat, itEna tyaktEna bhunjItA, mA gridhah kasyasviddhanam" (Isha upanishad):

God permeates everything in this ever changing universe; enjoy your share with detachment, don't be greedy after someone else's share (For example, we just enjoy looking at the Grand Canyon or the Himalays, without thinking that we should own it! This is enjoying life with detachment. We are at Hopi point in Grand Canyon to see sunset. Many like us are also there. Some of them may have a better spot than us. We just enjoy the sunset from whatever spot we have. We shouldn't stand there envying others, or plotting to knock them down to grab that spot! This is enjoying our share without greed or envy).

"Om iti brahma, Om itIdagam sarvam" (taittiriya Upanishad): Om is God, Om is everything [Om is the wOmb of everything! Om represents our birth (spring), growth (summer), letting go (autumn/fall), and immortality (the silence of winter)].

"UddarEt Atmana Atmanam, Atmanam avasAdayEt, Atma Eva hi AtmanO bandhuh, Atma Eva ripuh Atmanah" (Bhagavadgita):

Elevate your self by your own effort, never put your self down, (because) you are your best friend (and) you are your worst enemy [A man can with-stand a lot as long as he can stand-himself. Self-help is the best help. Be your friend first! The worst loneliness is not to be comfortable with yourself!].

"YopAm Ayatanam vEda, AyatanavAn bhavati" (Krishna Yajur Veda):

One who realizes the sustaining power of Lord, he indeed is in good hands (Compare this to the Christian belief: If you believe that Jesus died for your sins, you will be saved).

"H" for harmony: Hinduism respects all religions and thus aspires for mutual tolerance and respect (This does not mean that all religions are same- a common misconception among many Hindus). It does not encourage hate (intolerant of intolerance!) or actively seek converts. It emphasizes conduct more than creed. It has the capacity to assimilate all the faiths and the Philosophies.

"I" for Incarnation (Avataar): God descends to Earth in any form and under any sky as may be needed to uphold DHARMA (righteousness). There is no space, time, form or numerical limitation to an avataar.

"N" for nonviolence (Ahimsa). Hinduism recognizes that life supports life. One should avoid causing unnecessary injury (in thoughts, words or deeds) to one-self or other fellow beings including other life forms. Vegetarianism is a desired outcome, but never a prerequisite to be a Hindu.

"D" for Dharma (righteousness). Always support what is right. This is a necessity: Dharma is the basis of harmonious life. If we don't support Dharma, it is as if like chopping branches of the tree (of life) we are taking shade under.

"U" for Unity of existence. Everything and all beings are inter connected or inter related and are essentially the manifestation or extension of the one Supreme Being (God). The world is one big family.

"I" for Inherent Value. God is Omnipresent & Omnipotent. Both the manifest & the un-manifest are a projection of God. They are supported, directed & controlled by God as well. The God can be worshipped in any 'Form' or 'No Form'. Just as the Flag is a symbol of a Nation, an Idol for the Hindu is symbolic of the God. A Hindu worships the God enshrined in the idol.

"S" for Supreme Reality (Brahman, another name for God; not to be confused with Brahma or Brahmin). Supreme Reality is both formless and with form, impersonal and personal, transcendent and immanent. The Supreme Reality is known by many names.

"M" for Moksha & Mantra. Dharma (Virtue), Artha (Material prosperity), Kama (pleasures) & Moksha (liberation from cycles of birth & death, harmonious union with God) are the goals of life. The secondary objectives (Artha & Kama) are sandwiched between the primary objectives of (Dharma & Moksha). Adherence to one's own inherent talents (attitudes & aptitudes) in achieving these goals is suggested. Moksha is the ultimate goal of Hindu life. There are numerous paths and innumerable opportunities. It can happen by one way or the other and in one life or the other. The various paths for Moksha include: karma yoga-selfless good deeds; gnaana yoga-knowledge of God; bhakti Yoga-faith or devotion; prapatti (sharNaagati) yoga-total surrender; raaja yoga-control of body, mind and intellect; mantra Yoga-union with God through repetition of a Mantra, etc.

Mantra is a sacred word or a verse used for prayer. The most sacred Mantra of Hinduism is Aum/Om.

"sarvE bhavantu suKhinah sarvE santu niraamayaah" (May all be happy, may all be healthy).

"sarvE bhadraaNi pashyantu ma-kashchit dhuhkha-bhaag bhavEt" (May all prosper, may none suffer).

"Om shaantih shaantih shaantihi" (Om peace, peace, peace; peace in all our 3 realms (Surroundings, body and mind).

Koti Sreekrishna (tatachar@aol.com)

Minutes of Sept. 23, 2007 General Body Meeting

Secretary opened the meeting at 10:30 am set the agenda for the meeting.

President Raj Bodalia spoke first. In his speech, he

- commended the pooja committee chair Bobba Choudary for his hard work and accomplishments, including the addition of two major pooja festivals, despite having only two priests in the temple.
- informed about the new guidelines for priests now in place; about \$100, 000 lifetime insurance that is now offered to priests, and about the one-time severance package offered to Panditji B. C. Sharma's family.
- informed that offers have been made to two priests now in India, and that they have scheduled visa interviews.
- talked about the Hindu Awareness Day, a first-time event being planned for Oct. 6.
- expressed overall satisfaction about the status and progress of the temple, that the temple is holding more festivals and its finances are stronger than before.
- He expressed regret that the petition drive for change in constitution is still short of the required 25% signatures.

Treasurer gave his report of the temple budget for 1/1/2007 through 8/31/2007. Total income and expenditures during the period was \$236,600 and \$210,750. Non-routine expenses were reported to be \$67, 260.

Secretary reported about the accomplishments of various committees. He talked about the completion of Barg Salt Run Road project; about new pooja festivals such as Rath yatra, Sita Ram Kalyana, and Nand Mahotsav; about success of the Mela and Anniversary celebrations this year; about the new practice of treasurer submitting monthly report at every EC meeting; about the Hindu Awareness day being planned for the first time at the temple; and about the new and improved face of Aradhana which also now pays for itself. He also suggested that each year the secretary ought to compile the year's meeting minutes and make it available at the temple for future reference. Jittu Patel, the long range planning committee chair and the project chair for the cultural center project, spoke about the arrangements underway for the community center project. He reported that the first phase of the project, the road project, is complete, and the second phase to be completed involves getting zoning and planning approval from the Union township trustees. He said of the need to designate part of the zone as for-profit and the rest as non-profit, and reported that the plan is ready for submission.

Secretary announced that the nomination of Laxmi Srivastava as the chair of the retirement community project was approved by the EC, and called for a vote on the same by the general body present at the meeting. Those present at the meeting unanimously approved the appointment of Laxmi Srivastava as the chair of the retirement community project.

Laxmi Srivastava thanked for the show of confidence in him expressed by the appointment. He pledged to appoint a committee consisting of people with valuable experience with temple projects and building projects in Cincinnati, and gave a brief about the project.

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Dr. Mrs. Tripta Desai has published a booklet which is a follow-up to her main book WOMEN IN INDIA, published earlier. Booklet deals with Dr. Desai's personal and **on the spot work with NGOs (Non Government Organizations). She traveled with the NGOs to the field sites in places** like Udaipur, Rajasthan and Ahmadabad, Gujarat to observe on her own the work being done with reference to women and children in rural areas and in tribal areas. Following NGOs are covered in the booklet-

1. **AIWC** or All India Women Conference created in 1925 and recognized as a pivot organization by the United Nations in the work of women and children.
2. **CWDS** or Centre for Women Development Studies in Delhi which carries on original research on women to be included in India's Five Year Plans. CWDS also has established pilot projects in the poverty-stricken areas of West Bengal to implement the results of its research findings.
3. **SEWA** or Self-Employed Women Association headquartered in Ahmadabad, Gujarat was founded in 1970's by a lady who wanted to help poor women involved in low-income and in unorganized sector of the Indian economy. It has mushroomed into a huge organization winning foreign donors.
4. **SEVA MANDIR** located in Udaipur, Rajasthan, has taken up the cause of tribal people in Udaipur district. Their work is stupendous, again having a list of foreign donors.
5. **UNITED NATIONS**- It has funded a number of projects to find out the cause of the lower status of women in some areas located in U.P. NGOs involved in this research have shown an awareness of what needs to be done at the village level to upgrade the status of women.

The cost of the booklet is \$15 and may be purchased by calling 859 572 5287 in the History Department of Northern Ky. University. WOMEN IN INDIA book is also available at the cost of \$20.

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

For Executive Council 2008

The term of the Current Executive Council expires on December 31, 2007, and the elections for the 2008 Executive Council will be conducted during the General Body Meeting on Sunday, December 9th, 2007 at 12.00 Noon. The Election Commission invites nominations for the following positions:

- **President**
- **Vice-President**
- **Secretary**
- **Treasurer**

Nominations are also invited for the positions of Chairpersons for the following committees:

- **Religious Education and Youth Activities**
- **Puja and Religious Activities**
- **Communications**
- **Membership and Fund Raising**
- **Property Management & Maintenance**
- **Cultural**

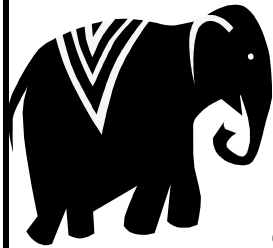
Nomination ballot can be obtained from Mr. Mohan Chopra. The ballot should be returned to Mr. Chopra by December 8, 2007. All nominations must include the following information:

- **Candidate's name and Phone number.**
- **Name and Phone number of the person proposing.**
- **Name and Phone number of the person seconding.**

Nominations can be submitted on plain paper, or phoned in to any members of the Election Commission. All candidates must be dues-paying members of the Hindu Society of Greater Cincinnati and in good standing for at least 12 months prior to Dec, 1, 2007. The person nominating and seconding should be also be a bonafied paid member of the Society. For the position of the President, a candidate must have actively served the Hindu Society of the Greater Cincinnati in an executive capacity for at least one year. In addition, the Youth Group is requested to nominate a Youth representative (22 year Max) to serve on the Executive Council. This nomination must be endorsed by at least ten youth members.

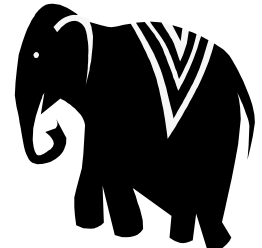
HSGC Election Commission:

Mr. Mohan Chopra, Chairperson	859-331-2416
Mr. Raneshwar Gupta	513-232-2343
Mr. Ambikaipakan Balasubramaniam	513-794-0141



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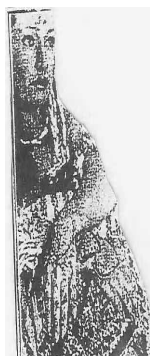
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