



आराधना

Aradhana

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

Phalgun/Chaitra

Vikram Samvat, 2065

March 2009

HAPPY HOLI

HAPPY CHAITRA NAVRATRAS

Website: www.cincinnati temple.com

Email: hindusociety@fuse.net

Phone: (513) 528-3714



STORIES OF HOLI

The Legend of Holika and Prahlad

There was once a demon king by the name of Hiranyakashyap who won over the kingdom of earth. He was so egoistic that he commanded everybody in his kingdom to worship only him. But to his great disappointment, his son, Prahlad became an ardent devotee of Lord Naarayana and refused to worship his father.

Hiranyakashyap tried several ways to kill his son Prahlad but Lord Vishnu saved him every time. Finally, he asked his sister, Holika to enter a blazing fire with Prahlad in her lap. For, Hiranyakashyap knew that Holika had a boon, whereby, she could enter the fire unscathed. Treacherously, Holika coaxed young Prahlad to sit in her lap and she herself took her seat in a blazing fire. The legend has it that Holika had to pay the price of her sinister desire by her life. Holika was not aware that the boon worked only when she entered the fire alone. Prahlad, who kept chanting the name of Lord Naarayana all this while, came

Thus, Holi derives its name from Holika. And, is celebrated as a festival of victory of good over evil. Holi is also celebrated as the triumph of a devotee. As the legend depicts that anybody, howsoever strong, cannot harm a true devotee. And, those who dare torture a true devotee of god shall be reduced to ashes.

Thought For The Day

When you pray for God's guidance, it may be different from your preference...Trust Him

Legend Of Radha and Krishna

Krishna is known to be very playful and mischievous. The story goes that as a child, Krishna was extremely jealous of Radha's fair complexion since he himself was very dark.

One day, Krishna complained to his mother Yashoda about the injustice of nature which made Radha so fair and he so dark. To pacify the crying young Krishna, the doting mother asked him to go and color Radha's face in whichever color he wanted. In a mischievous mood, naughty Krishna heeded the advice of mother Yashoda and applied color on her beloved Radha's face; Making her one like himself.

Well, there is also a legend to explain Krishna's dark complexion. It so happened that once a demon attempted to kill infant Krishna by giving him poisoned milk. Because of which Krishna turned blue. But Krishna did not die and the demon shriveled up into ashes.

The beautiful scene of Krishna's prank in which he played color with Radha and other gopis has been made alive in myriad forms in a number of paintings and murals.

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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 or Geeta Mehan at (513)754-0400.

Deadline for submission of articles and advertisements for the next issue is March 10, 2009

TEMPLE INFORMATION

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2008

President:

Meena Mehta (513) 574-6763

Vice President:

Krutarth Jain (513) 884 1259

Secretary:

Siva Shivaganeshan (513) 563-2901

Treasurer:

Amar Sharma (513) 777-5771

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Pooja Committee:

Amita Gupta (Chair):(513) 336-8782

Kiran Dayal (Cochair):(513)474-4051

Communications/Editor:

Geeta Mehan (513) 754-0400

email: mehan101@gmail.com

Membership & Fundraising:

Raneshwar Gupta (513)232-3331

Property Management & Maintenance:

Shiv Sharma (513) 459-9520

Cultural Activities:

Jyoti Desai (513) 745-0876

Religious Education & Youth Activities:

Anisha Singh (513) 469-7432

Long Range Planning:

Laxmi S. Srivastava (513) 474-0533

Youth Member: Open

Priests:

Senior Priest:

Acharya Kailash Sharma 770-0705

Acharya Chakreshwar Sharma

528-0901

Pandit Srinath Bhattar 528-3714

Attorney:

Aronoff, Rosen & Hunt 241-0400

Temple Manager:

Laxmi Srivastava 474-0533

Accountant: Open

RELIGIOUS DISCOURSE

Sundays 12:15 - 12:45 PM

First Sunday :

Upanishads

Second Sunday :

Children Program

Third Sunday :

Sunder Kand Path

Fourth Sunday :

Shri Ganesh

Fifth Sunday :

Atharvshirsha Path

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 Amita Gupta at 513- 336-8782 **PONSORS 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

2009 POOJA COMMITTEE & RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

MEMBERS

Amita Gupta (Chairperson):	336 -8782
Kiran Dayal (Cochairperson):	474-4051
Acharya Kailash Sharma	770-0705
Acharya Chakreshwar Sharma	528-0901
Pandit Srinath Bhattar	528-3714
Swarna Chaudhary	232-2343
Madhu Sharma	232-9991
Meena Karamchandani	683-9454
Meena Sondhi	831-9788
Sameer Rao	793-5821
Kalpna Srivastava	233-9184
Uma Sanguai	793-9384
Muralee	573-0550
Vasundhra Dasari	777-3353
Sangita Patel	791-0855
Minati Bhattacharya	272-0361
Manju Gupta	232-3331
Anju Saha	474-3922
Purbi Dey	688-1721
Sulbha Midha	573-7012

Temple Manager's Committees

Laxmi S. Srivastava- Temple Manager 474-0533

1. Office Manager

Mohan Chopra

2. I/C Swami Lectures

Laxmi S. Srivastava
Vinay Kumar
Devdas Mukerjee
Meena Mehta
Bobba Choudhary

3. Temple Data Base

Nandkumar Khemchandani
Mohan Chopra
Laxmi S. Srivastava

4. Anniversary & Birth-day Data

Raj Agarwal
Shakuntala Agarwall

5 E-mail .Data

Pradeep Goyal
Nandkumar Khemchandani

6. Membership & Gift Shop

Madhu Sharma
Meena Sondhi

7. . Computer Tech Support

Sreedhar Suvarana
Aashish Shah

8. Financial Data

Amar Sharma
Raj Bodalia
Laxmi S. Srivastava

9. I/C Temple Web site

Bharat Vala
Debasis Dey
Jayesh Thakkar
Krutarth Jain
Pritesh Dhope
Laxmi S. Srivastava

10. I/C Temple Calendar

Meena Mehta
Ashvin Mehta
Acharya Kailash Sharma

11. Volunter Services

Rajan Odayar
Kedarnath Nambori
Dilip Patel
Vijay Kumar Sharma
Laxmi S. Srivastava

12. Temple Photographer

Krutarth Jain
Naba Mishra
Hetel Patel

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Pooja Information

RATES FOR POOJA & PRIEST SERVICES |

SERVICE	IN TEMPLE	OUTSIDE 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 Celebra.	\$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
Naam-Karan	\$101.00	\$151.00
Navagraha Pooja	\$101.00	\$151.00
Nischitartham (Engagement)	\$151.00	\$251.00
Baby Shower Pooja		\$151.00
Nitya (1 Day) Kainkaryam (Seva)	\$101.00	—
Poolangi Seva (With Flowers)- (Only During Off Winter Season)	\$101.00	—
Regular Archana	\$11.00	—
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.

- Poojas performed by priests outside the temple will be rated according to the number of poojas performed.
- 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

	Fullday	Halfday
Monday -Thursday (except holidays)	\$301	\$151
Friday, Saturday & Holidays	\$501	\$351
<u>Sunday after 3PM only</u>	—	\$351

Note: For half day select one of the two:

8:00 AM to 2:00 PM **OR** 4:00PM to 11:00 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.

Pooja Committee Announcement:

To schedule a Pooja or to rent a temple hall (lower level)
please contact Amita Gupta at 336-8782

If you have any question or suggestion about temple activities contact Amita Gupta at 336-8782, any EC Members or Temple at 528-3714.

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



Special Celebration

Ram Navami Celebration

Sita-Ram Kalyanam Festival

On

Saturday, April 4, 10:00am



For Details Please call Temple: 528-3714,
Acharya Kailash Sharma: 770-0705,
Pandit Srinath Bhattar 813-484-1016,
Acharya Chakreshwar Sharma 528-0901

Regular Weekly & Monthly Events at the Temple

Monthly Navgrah Pooja

Every first Saturday of the Month

March 7th, Saturday 3 pm to 5:30 pm

Sponsors needed for Pooja \$51.00

For Details please call

Amita Gupta: 336-8782; Temple priests: 528-3714

Monthly Murugan Abhishekham /Pooja

Every second Saturday of the Month

March 14th, Saturday 4.00pm

Sponsored by Murugan Group.

Amita Gupta: 336-8782; Temple priests: 528-3714



Monthly Satya Narayan Pooja

On Every Purnima of the Month

March 10, Tuesday at 6:30 pm

Sponsorship \$ 51.00

To sponsor pooja please call Amita Gupta: 36-8782

Monthly SundarKand Path

March 15th, Sunday 10:30 am

Amita Gupta: 336-8782; Acharya Kailash: 770-0705

Temple Priests: 528-3714

Monthly Shri Ganesh Pooja & Shri Ganesh Atharvshirsha Path

Every 4th Sunday of the month: March 28th, Sunday 10:30AM

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

Amita Gupta: 336-8782 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: 481-8591; Surendra Hanumanthanna: 661-8733

Pandit Sri Srinadh Bhattar: 528-3714

Weekly Shiv Mahiman Stotram

Every Monday at 6:30pm

Weekly Hanuman Chalisa Path

Every Tuesday at 6:30pm

To sponsor pooja please call Amita Gupta: 336-8782

Temple priests: 528-3714

Weekly Vishnu Sahasranaam Parayana

Vishnu Sahasranaama 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 Temple priest s: 528-3714

Weekly Venkateswar Pooja

Every Friday at 6:30pm

To sponsor pooja please call Amita Gupta: 336-8782

Temple priests: 528-3714

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

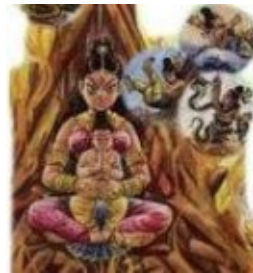
Where: The Hindu Temple

Taught by: Sri Koti Sreekrishna,

Notes with transliteration guide (Sanskrit to English) provided.

Contact

Anisha Singh: 469 - 7432; Vasanta Vemuri: 232- 5767



Holika Dahan

March 10th, Tuesday

7:30pm After Aarti.

.Pizza and soda will be available at nominal cost after program

Chaitra (Vasant) NavRatri Celebration From March 27th Friday to April 3rd Friday

Kalash Sthapana: March 27th Friday 6:00 pm

CHANDI PATH & Shri Durga Pooja Everyday

March 27th to April 3rd

10:00 am to 12:00 noon and

5:00pm to 6:00pm

Durga Ashtami Puja & Havan

Thursday April 2nd 6:00pm

Sponsorship for Chandi path, Puja & Havan \$51.00

Please call Amita Gupta: 336-8782, Kiran Dayal: 474-4051

Acharya Kailash Sharma: 770-0705 or Temple: 528-3714



Durga Ashtami Havan

April 2nd 6pm

Sponsorship \$51.00.

Call Temple for details 528-3714

Upcoming Events at the Temple

March 2009 Events

10th, Tues: Holi festival-Holika dahan 7:30pm
 10th, Tues: Sri Satya Narayan Puja 6:30pm
 11th, Wed: Rang Holi
14th, Sat: Holi cultural program 4:30-6:30pm
 27th, Fri: Chaitra Navratri, Kalash Sthapana
 Yugadi, Telagu New Year
 Vikram Samvat 2066 begins (North)
 Shalivan Samvat 1931 begins: Gudi
 Padava
 28th, Sat: Akhand Ramayan Path begins 11:30am
 29th, Sun: Akhand Ramayan path ends 1pm



Navratri Kalash Sthapana

March 27th Friday 6pm
 Sponsorship \$51.00
 Call Temple for details 528-3714

Shri Ram Navami Puja

Shri Ram – Abhishek April 3rd 11:30am
 Sponsorship \$101.00 Call Temple
 For details call Temple 528-3714

April 2009 Events

2nd April: Ashtami Havan 6:00pm
 3rd April: Ram Navami: Shri Ram Abhishek
 11:30am
 4th April: Shri Sita Ram Kalyanam (Wedding)
 10:00am-1:00pm
 9th April: Shri Hanuman Jayanti Puja &
 Sunderkand Path 5:00-8:00pm
 14th April: Tamil New Year 2041 begins
 18th April: Thyagaraja/Purandaradasa
 Festival 9:am-12:30pm
 19th April: Tamil New Year 2041 Celebration
 10:00am-12:30pm
 21st April: Vallabhacharya Jayanti, Varuthini Ekadashi
 26th April: Vallabhacharya Jayanti Celebration
 27th April: Parshuram Jayanti: Akshya Tritiya
 28th April: Ramanujacharya Jayanti
 29th April: Shankaracharya Jayanti
 Matsya Jayanti: The 1st Incarna-
 tion of Lord Vishnu
 NOTE: There will be no Sunderkand Path
 On Sunday, April 12



AKHAND RAMAYAN PATH

(Ram Charit Manas)

March 28th & 29th Sat./ Sunday
 11:30am to 12:30 pm next
 day (24hours)

Sponsorship :- \$251.00 Ramayan Path,
 \$101.00 Sunderkand & Shri Ram Vivah,
 \$21.00 Archana.

We need volunteers to read Ramayana.
 Please call Temple (513)528-3714. Kiran
 Dayal 474-4051. Amita Gupta 336-8782
 to

give your name & time.

Event is sponsored by: Shri Rameshwar
 & Kiran Dayal and their family.



Shri Sita Rama Kalyanam (Wedding)

April 4th 10am to 1pm Sponsorship
 \$116.00 Kalyanam, \$21.00 Archana,
 \$1016.00 Pramukh Yajman (Main Sponsor)
 Event is sponsored by TARANGINI Telgu associa-
 tion of Cincinnati.



Tamil New Year

April 19th Sunday
 10am to 12:30pm
 Muragan Abhishek 10:30 am
 Sponsorship \$101.00.



Shri Hanuman Jayanti Puja & Celebration

April 9th Thursday 2009 5-8pm
 Sunderkand path 6:45pm
 Aarti & Prasad (dinner) 8:00pm
 Sponsorship \$101.00
 Please note. There will be no Sunderkand path
 on Sunday April 12th

TEMPLE'S
12th ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL KUMBHA CELEBRATION



May 15th, 16th & 17th Fri, Sat. & Sunday

We need sponsors, Volunteers to make this event successful.

Details are coming up in next month issue.

Additional missed out GARLANDS Sponsors FOR Deities for 2009

Lord Jagannath

Jagannath Devotees

Lord Murugan

Murugan Devotees

**Speech, Physical and Occupational Therapists and their Assistants
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Therapy Staff is a nation-wide recruiting and staffing company servicing the Healthcare Industry. Our headquarters are in Northville, Michigan. We have placed thousands of therapists in Ohio and across the United States. Therapy Staff contracts to hundreds of healthcare facilities across the nation. We are always hiring qualified therapists at competitive salaries. We offer full-time, part-time, travel and contingent opportunities in a variety of clinical settings.

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Jami Ahlers – Ohio District Manager – jahlers@therapystaff.com

Caroline Dues – Ohio Staffing Specialist – cdues@therapystaff.com

www.therapystaff.com

Synopsis of Morari Bapu's Katha (Cincinnati, 2008)... DAY 5



Returning to Donation – daan, being the main feature of Dharma in Kaliyug, Bapu said that ingredients of Dharma are obscure and numerous. Tulsidas at various places has equated “dharma” with Truth, mercy or kindness, non-violence, benevolence and service. Janak embodies all these aspects of Dharma, but Bapu wanted to discuss the basic and most important aspect as witnessed in life of Janak. Bapu reverted to the visit of Vishwamitra to Mithila and mentioned all the events, dhanush bhang, exchange of garlands and the impending marriage. When Dashratha started from Ayodhya with the bridegroom party, Janak got all the rivers in their path bridged. Bapu interpreted this action as the bridges of understanding and brotherhood because Ramayana is not a test of History and Bapu never bothers about the historical content of Ramayana. For Bapu Rama is not merely Dasharathi Ram but Ram is eternal and all pervading “Brahma”, unaffected by time and space. For Bapu, Ramayana is not mere history nor a mere Epic poetry. To him Ramayana is an idea oriented granth and should be interpreted as ideas implied in narrator or indicated subtly by narration because we have to discover reality lying beneath actualities. Rama is Dharm Setu and Janak is keen on building bridges, implying “setu bandh” to unite distant areas, different sects and communities and people. Bapu regretted that today religion is being used as an agony and excused to divided sects and societies. Instead of lightning lamps we are setting fire to houses. This is not enlightenment, it is sheer terror, sheer atrocities. Bapu then picked up a series of questions that were no questions at all. A series of statements from Muslim/Hindu sect popular in Gujarat perverted and polluted the age old traditions and historical facts. This sect claims that after visiting their temples, there is no need for pilgrimage to four holiest centers of Hindus: it is claimed that their founder gurus did for superior bob then Shankaracharya in propagating sanathan dharma their rath yatra is far better than the one at Jagannath Puri.

Bapu was intensely agitated from within but he tried to keep his cool and refuted the statements with as much politeness as he could muster, but he squirmed within and his agony, his suppressed fury were quite palpable to be seen and felt.

I must be excused, but I want to digress from my maryada and my discipline. Bapu you are an Ajaat Shtru and you would be kind and generous even to the evil doers. But I beg to treat such Aatataayees are enemies and those who spread such idiotic blasphemies ought to get condign punishments for spreading untruths misleading innocent masses. and malignant insult cultural heritage of India. Not to fight such evils is to encourage them and all who keeps silence when a crime is being committed are partners in that crime. The Swami who fasted on seeing a female baby showed he asked how was he born. He stayed in a female womb, he came out of a female genital and he was nourished by her blood. But true as Bapu said all debate with idiots is a waste of time. Bapu pitied them.

Even Karma – actions – would not lead to realization of divine. In fact Geeta has advised not to begin nay activity on our own. One should not run behind actions and people.

contd on next page

The four centers of Hindu Pilgrimage, said Bapu, are not only holy but are the world famous centers of scenic beauty of nature in all its impressive majesty. Swami Ram-tirth viewed divine craftsmanship in charming body of a prostitute whose physicality was mere viewing window for him. To compare "Sahajaananda" with Shankaracharya is to compare OKRA with BANAYAN TREE and can be done only by those who are totally ignorant of oceanic depth of his scholarship, his profound intellectualism, the rhythmic beauty of his prose and his poetic genius. A few pieces of his Philosophic poems were presented to the audience. Bapu was confident that these sects are mere bubbles and would disappear as quickly as they have been formed. They have no confidence in their own scriptures and misguide people by polluting Maanas and Bhagwat. But a few straws will not break the Himalayas of Sanatan Dharma which is eternal and self evident. Bapu felt that true is an organized conspiracy to demograde Hindu religion and Indian Culture.

Janak was a Dharma Yogi and his Dharma was to build bridges across all divisions and sects and individuals. Bapu contrasted the characters and qualities of Dasharatha and Janak. Dashratha is Dehvaadi (bodily), had a son, his approach to life was full of desires (sa-kaam) and he was a taker. Janak is Videhi (bodiless), had a daughter and had cultivated a Nishkaam approach by becoming a giver. Tulsidas brought them together because constructing bridges and uniting people is the greatest need of today. Bapu gave a sootra "Ek Bano. Nek Bano". Unite and be sincere.

Name of Dasharatha was interpreted by Bapu as one who is fully immersed in life and enjoys it with all the ten (dash) senses, but with balance (vivek). Dashratha was the embodiment of "bhed" while Janak represented "a-bhed" as he was tyaag-waadi while Dashratha was bhogwaadi. Tulsidas implies that Janak ploughed buddhi which is land using meditation (vichar) and attained peace personified by Sita.

But when Ram and Lakshman arrived in Mithila, even such a videhi as Janak and entire Mithila were impressed by them and were converted into Bhaktas, adoring Rama and getting devoted to him because Rama always said yes to life and to whatever happened.

In contrast to Rama who is described as an abode of Aanand – (Ram sahaaj Aanand Nidhaan), Bapu referred to Nihilism of Buddha who believed that everything is transitory and everywhere there is misery and suffering. With great respect and love for Buddha, Bapu differs from Buddha's negative philosophy. True is suffering in life true is also happiness in life. There is course of happiness, true is a remedy for happiness and happiness does lead us to salvation. As Cosho Rajnish used to say Aanand (bliss) is to go beyond, to transcend both happiness and misery. That is not why Rama was not elated when he was expelled/sent to forest. True renunciation, should not be out of suffering or happiness but it should be a product of bliss and Bapu gave the example of Manu and shatroopa.

Contd on next page...

Tulsidas has given so many causes for sorrow. It might be due to karma, due to kaal, misery may be due to divine will (Ishwar) but Bapu feels that most of our sufferings are due to our own swabhav (human nature). That can be changed and improved only by sat-sang. Sat-sang will give us a balanced view of life. Buddha explained intense happiness and extreme misery in his life and gave us the principle of Golden mean. The balance between the two extremes is needed because as Tulsidas says every person is full of good and bad, full of Goona and Dosha. Bapu pointed out that even in Ayodhya, there are Mantharas and even in Lanka there are Vibhishanas and said Bapu, we should never overlook our roots, our life would grow and become full of flowers.

During Katha Bapu was in a reminiscent mood and told us he used to explain Rama Katha even to the trees and he has a firm faith that saints are born when the world needs them most. Bapu was happy that traits of sainthood are found everywhere and he referred to a Riksha driver who took Bapu to his destination and felt that he had done his Haj or to a person in Siberia who refused to betray the trust of fellow prisoner even when he died of starvations. Bapu advised that we must face the problems of the world ourselves and not expect any Lord Shiva to come and save us from miseries.

Bapu firmly believes that misconceptions and false definition of vairagya is responsible for all the misunderstanding about true religion and therefore religion today has become a big business collecting crowds and rejecting all the innocent pleasure of life. He said Bhakti is impossible without intense emotional attachment and quoted Tulsidas who wanted to love Rama with an intense sexual passions and of a philanderer and inordinate possessiveness of a miser for his property.

But Tulsidas has synthesized both the aspects of Hindu philosophy about sa-guna and nirguna nature of godhood. Tulsidas says that he accepts both keeping Nirguna (Grahma) in his heart and sa-guna – (Ram) in his eyesight. Bapu insisted that we should not dry up the emotions and attachments under the misconceptions about self control because Bhakti is impossible without intense emotional involvement.

He was asked about fasting by Parviti and by Manu in Ramayana and he said that Manu was restored to full body strength and Parvati attained her goal of getting Shiva as her husband. Bapu was happy that listeners raise questions and doubts because doubts (sanshaya) is the beginning that leads to real knowledge.



Minutes of EC Meeting, Jan. 11, 2009

Present: Meena Mehta, Krutarth Jain, Siva Sivaganesan, Amar Sharma, Amita Gupta, Jyoti Desai, Laxmi Srivastava, Shiv Sharma, Anisha Singh

Introduction:

President Meena Mehta started the meeting by welcoming the members, and asking each member to give a brief self-introduction. President asked the committee chairs to designate a co-chair, and to form a committee, to help with their duties. President announced that if a co-chair is to represent the committee chair at an EC meeting, the secretary has to be notified of such arrangement.

Goals and Objectives

President gave a list of objectives for the year 2009. The list included, among other items, plans to hold four General Body meetings in the year 2009, to hold fundraising events, to maintain a record of membership and publish it in Aradhana, and to assess the feasibility of an audit of accounts. President asked each EC member to attend at least 10 EC meetings. Laxmi Srivastava, Meena Mehta, and Siva Sivaganesan together will maintain the membership directory.

Appointment of Religious Education and Youth Activity Chair

EC voted in favor of appointing Anisha Singh as Religious Education and Youth Activity Chair Committee. Anisha Singh proposed to change the name of Sunday school to Indian Heritage Class. EC voted to approve the change.

Appointment of Special Project Account Manager

President proposed the appointment of Raj Bodalia as the Special Project Account Manager for 2009. EC voted to approve the appointment of Raj Bodalia for the position.

Letter to Attorney Steve Hunt

It was approved that a letter be sent to the Temple Attorney Steve Hunt asking him to continue his work as Temple Attorney. It was agreed that the letter will be signed by the President and the Chairs of the Community Center Project and the Retirement Community project.

Twenty Fourth Annual Thyagaraja/Purandaradasa Festival

Great men appear from time to time as if sent by God for the purpose of elevating humanity, Saint Thyagaraja was one such extraordinary personality born to teach humanity the path of salvation through Music and Ramabakthi. His contribution to the cultural growth of India is unique. He was a practical philosopher and dedicated his entire life to the practice of NADOPASA. He had composed several Kritis in various ragas. His songs are filled with an intimate devotion to Rama, revealing his deep understanding of the tenets of the Vedas and Upanishads.

Purandara Dasa is famous among the Haridasas of Karnataka; foremost among the talented carnatic composers. He earned a lot of wealth, but eventually gave away all his wealth to become a devotee of Sri Hari. He practiced the principle contained in the popular saying "we must swim across suffering and win victory over it". He earned the well-deserved praise-'Among the devotees of Hari, Purandara Dasa is the greatest'(from his preceptor Sri Vyaasa Teertha).

A day-long celebration of these great composers of carnatic music will be held at

The Hindu Temple, Cincinnati

On April 18, 2009 (Saturday)

Group Pancharatna Singing 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Individual Singing 11:00 – 12:30 PM

12:30 PM Lunch – Individual Singing Continues Until 4:30pm

All are Welcome; Lunch will be served

For further details contact:

Usha Raghavan (513-489-9655) - Sundari Magge (513-831-3500) - Koti Sreekrishna (513-459-0314)

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Hindu Society of Greater Cincinnati announces the beginning of Indian Heritage Classes

From Sunday, March 22, 2009

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various forms of God worshiped in Hinduism,
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performing art.**

**Location- Hindu Temple of Greater Cincinnati,
4920 Klatte Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45244**

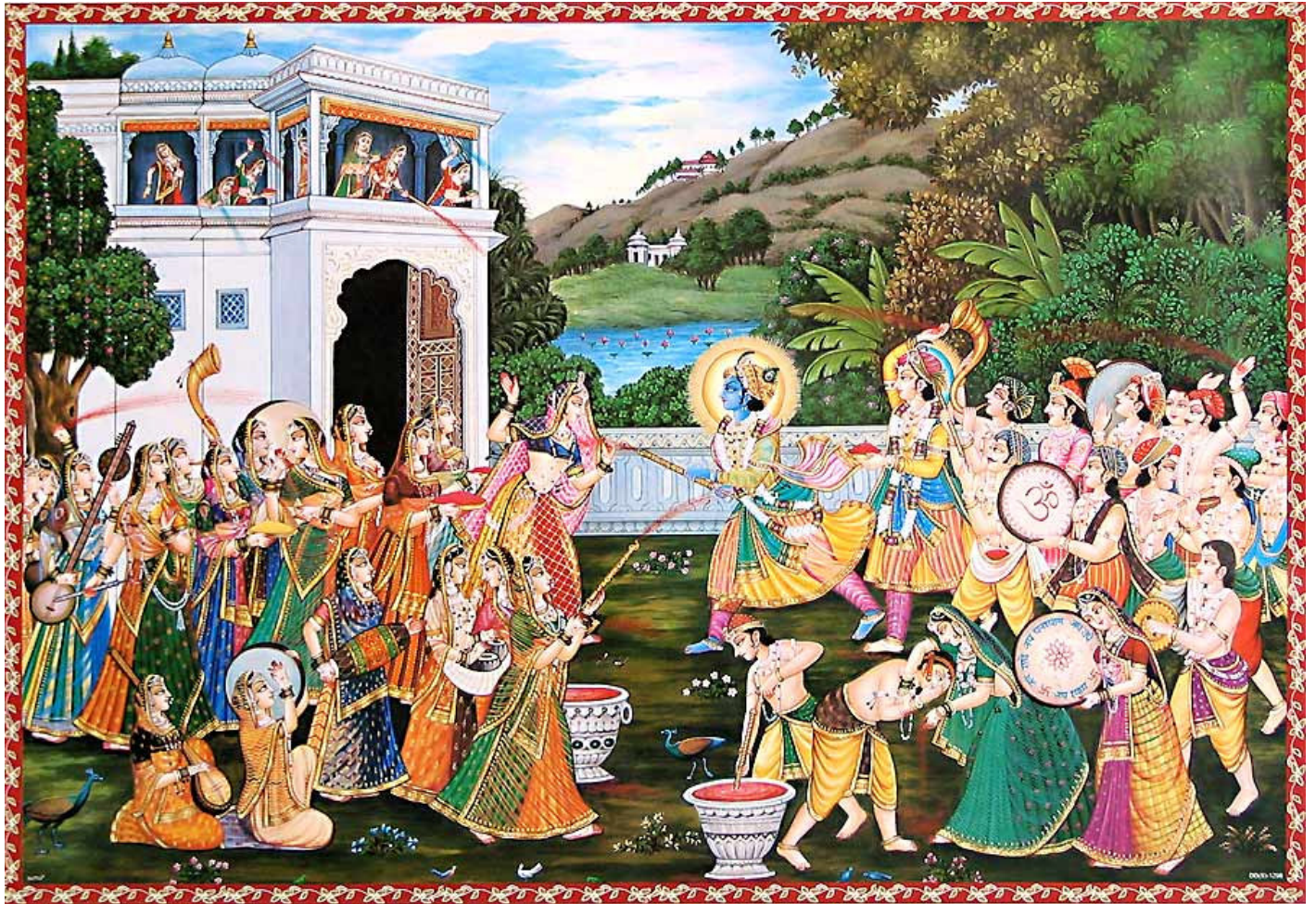
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Time- 11:30 AM -1:00 PM every other Sunday

**Enrollment is free for members of HSGC.
Registration forms will be available at the temple from February 1st.**

**Contact: Anisha Singh, Chairperson, Religious Education & Youth Activities
singhanisha@hotmail.com or 513.503.2824**

HINDU SOCIETY OF GREATER CINCINNATI
Celebrates Holi Festival, The Festival of Colors
With Cultural Program



*Aaj Birajmen Holi Re Rasiya, Holi Re Rasiya Barjori Re Rasiya
Kanha Ke Hath Kanak Pichakari , Radha Sang Holi Khele Re Rasiya
Aaj Kanha Holi Khele Re.....*

On March 14th, Saturday 2009

4:30pm to 6:30pm

At the Hindu Temple of Greater Cincinnati

We are inviting your participation in the Holi cultural program

Total number of entries will be 20. So act quick and Email your entry by 6th March to:

Jyoti Desai at Jyotidesai1@yahoo.com

Anisha Singh at singhanisha@hotmail.com

Children under five years of age are not allowed to participate

After Holi Program, Pizza and Sodas will be available at a nominal cost

We encourage you to select *Holi* or *Krishna* song for your entry. It will be given first preference.

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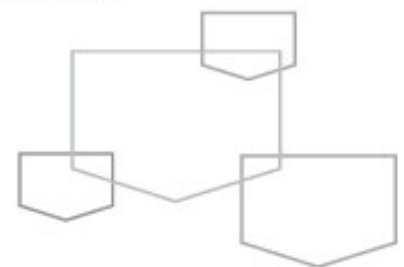
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Cont'd from page 1
Holi Celebrations

Somehow, the lovable prank of Krishna where he applied color on Radha and other gopis using water jets called **pichkaris** gained acceptance and popularity. So much so that it evolved as a tradition and later, a full-fledged festival. Till date, use of colors and pichkaris is rampant in Holi. Lovers long to apply color on their beloveds face and express their affection for each other.

This legend is wonderfully brought alive each year all over India, particularly in Mathura, Vrindavan, Barsana and Nandgaon- the places associated with Krishna and Radha.

In fact, the entire country gets drenched in the color waters when it is time for Holi and celebrate the immortal love of Krishna and Radha.

Chaitra Navratras

Navratri is celebrated twice in a year. As per Astrology there are two major solar influences each year. The seasons are determined by the two directions in which the sun appears to be moving. So one is when Sun is crossing Equator and moving towards south direction which is called "Visaragakaal" or "Dakshinayana". The sun is not very harsh in this season, and more moisture is released in the atmosphere. The other is when Sun is crossing Equator and moving towards north direction which is called "Aadanakaal" or "Uttarayana". The sun is stronger in this phase, and tends to absorb the moisture from the atmosphere. One is the start of the winter season and the other is the start of the summer season in the Northern Hemisphere.

The beginning of summer season and the beginning of winter season are two very important junctions of climatic and solar influences. The bodies and minds of people undergo a considerable change on account of the changes in nature. These two periods are taken as sacred opportunities for the [worship](#) of the Divine Mother or Maa Shakti. So both the seasons are chosen for celebrating Navratras. Ram Navratri is celebrated in Chaitra Month (the first month of the year according to Hindu Calendar, beginning on 22 March (or 21 March in leap years) and ending on 20 April) and the Durga Navratri in Ashvin or Aswayuja (seventh month of the year according to Hindu calendar, beginning on 23 September and ending on 22 October.). Lord Rama is worshipped during Ramnavmi, and the Divine Goddess Mother Durga is worshipped during Navratri.

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II PRAYER II

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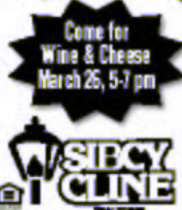
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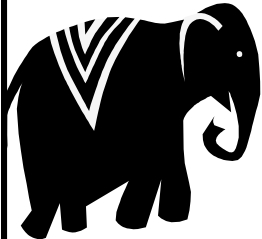
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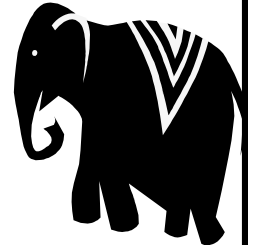
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