





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

Paush/Magh Vikram Samvat, 2066 January 2010



Website www.cincinnatitemple.com
Email: hindusociety@fuse.net

Phone: (513)528-3714

### OUR TEMPLE: A COMMUNITY PRIDE AND A WONDERFUL RESOURCE BY DR. J. K. Bhattacharjee, Oxford,OH

Why we need a Temple- First generation Indian immigrants in the USA have established their professional identity in diverse work environments. However, most immigrant families left behind their respective home, regional, cultural environment and are searching for the comfort of traditional cultural and religious identity as well as a support group. Hindu temples in the USA have taken up the broad responsibility to preserve and promote the cultural and religious heritage of Hindu Indian immigrants in a more inclusive manner than practiced back home, in particular region or temple.

For example, Diwali, Holi, Pongal, Annakoot, Navratri are among many festivals celebrated in a traditional manner at most temples. Immigrant families from all Indian regions take an active part in these celebrations and develop mutual respect, admiration and friendship for each other.

Hindu temples, therefore, have played an important role in breaking down cultural barriers and regional stereotypes. Among immigrants, these temples have also cultivated volunteerism, philanthropy, support for temples and local charitable projects. Most temples offer inclusive religious rites such as Abhishekam, Ganesh Chaturthi, Mohashivrathri, Homa, recitations from various scriptures, along with Satyanarayan puja, Saraswati puja, Ramnavmi, marriages, and Shraddha kriya. Members of different communities work together as devotees, volunteers and sponsors, thanks to the leadership and outreach efforts of temple authorities. Uniqueness of our Temple- The dedicated and thoughtful founding members of our Hindu Temple of Greater Cincinnati have established the Temple on a 100 acres of prime land after much deliberation and search for a large site appropriate for the future expansion to meet various needs of our growing community. They accomplished it without the burden of a large bank loan. After the construction of the temple building, they installed 12 deities of the same size and highest aesthetic quality on the same platform, saluting the principle of equality and inclusiveness. Subsequently, four more deities were added following the completion of the temple expansion. No deity was installed as an after thought.

Out temple, like our Hindu religion, has given <u>prominence to "female deities"</u> such as Goddess Durga ,Goddess Saraswati, and Goddess Laxmi just as to Lord Shiva, Lord Ganesh and Lord Venkateswara . Only in our temple, we have installed the most authentic, prominent, unifying <u>Vedic symbol "OM"</u> in the center. We have three highly qualified and devoted Priests. They have years of religious education and experience to perform various pujas and conduct religious

discourses. Thanks to their efforts, more than 1000 devotees took part in recent Ganesh chaturthi celebration and more than 1500 at the Diwali celebration. The Temple is more than just a place of weekend worship. It is a place of peace, prayer, meditation, religious education and cultural enrichment. It is open to the devotees and visitors seven days a week. A volunteer executive committee and various support committees plan and manage daily temple activities.

Unity in diversity -- Our temple practices complete equality of worship and religious service. Any and all devotees are encouraged to sponsor and perform any puja in the temple and bring cooked prasad for all devotees and priests. Priests also conduct marriage ceremonies in the temple without ever probing anybody about the regional or even religious backgrounds of the families involved.

Contd on page 12

If you or someone you know, is not receiving ARADHANA, or if you need a change of address, please contact

Mohan Chopra at 859-331-2416 or N.K.Khemchandani :kumar.khemchandani@ge.com / 324-1886

Deadline for submission of articles for next Aradhana is Jan 10

#### TEMPLE INFORMATION

#### **EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2010**

#### President:

Krutarth Jain (513) 884 1259

Vice President: A. Balasubramaniam

Secretary: Deepak Dixit

**Treasurer:** Prasad Megada (Chair)

Amar Sharma (co-chair) 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: mehangeeta@gmail.com

Membership & Fundraising:

Raneshwar Gupta (513)232-3331

Property Management & Maintenance:

Shiv Sharma (513) 459-9520 **Cultural Activities:** 

Sulbha Midha (Chair) 513-573-7012

Rima Ajbani Co chair 513- 398-0772 Sapna Chellath(vice Cochair)289-2975

**Religious Education & Youth Activities:** 

Anisha Singh (513) 469-7432

Long Range Planning

Laxmi S. Srivastava (513) 474-0533

Fund Raising: Raneshwar Gupta

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 Saturday : 1008 Gayatri Jaap Second Sunday : ChildrenProgram

Third Sunday: Sunder Kand Path

Fourth Sunday: Shri Ganesh

Atharvshirsha Path

Fifth Sunday : Jagannath Puja

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

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 & calling Amita Gupta (513) 336-8782 or Meena Sondhi 513-831-9788

### 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

### Your Temple needs

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

#### 2010 POOJA COMMITTEE & RELIGIOUS ACTIVI-TIES MEMBERS

Amita Gupta (Chairperson): 336 -8782 Kiran Dayal (Co-chairperson): 474-4051 770-0705 Acharya Kailash Sharma 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 Kalpana 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 Suchitra Mishra 573-9775 336-6843 Rajan Odayar

### 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 & Birthday Data

Raj Agarwal Shakuntala Agarwall 5 E-mail .Data Pradeep Goyal Nandkumar Khemchandani 6. Gift Shop Meena Sondhi Madhu Sharma

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 Krutarth Jain Laxmi S. Srivastava

### 10. I/C Temple Calendar

Meena Mehta Ashvin Mehta

Achaya Kailash Sharma

#### 11. Volunter Services

Rajan Odayar Kedarnath Nambori Dilip Patel Vijay Kumar Sharma

### Laxmi S. Srivastava 12. Temple Photographers

Krutarth Jain Naba Mishra Hetal Patel Dilip Patel (I/C)

#### 13. Mela Commitee

Anil Jindal Jyoti Desai

Raneshwar Gupta (Fund Raising Chairperson) Krutarth Jain ( President)

<u>Aradhana is Published Monthly</u>. <u>Circulation</u>: Approx. 1600 Families. <u>Advertising Rate</u>: Full Page \$250; Half Page \$125; Quarter Page \$80. and one eighth page \$40. A 10% discount is given for 12 consecutive repetitions of the same advertisement. <u>Hindu Society of Greater Cincinnati</u> is a non-profit organization that caters to the needs of a large community. The views expressed by individual authors in Aradhana are their own and may not reflect the policies of **HSGC**.

### **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)-	\$101.00	
(Only During Off Winter Season)		
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/	\$151.00	\$251.00
Thread Ceremony		
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.
- 2. 40 Cents/Miles for Travel expense to the Priest to per form pooja at your home.

Rates are subject to change without notice. <u>Rates of Poojas</u> out of <u>Greater Cincinnati will be \$100.00 more than the rates of outside pooja within greater Cincinnati area.</u>

### Temple Rental: Lower Floor Only

	Full day	Half day
Monday -Thursday	\$301	\$151
(except holidays)		
Friday, Saturday & Holidays	\$501	\$351
Sunday after 3PM only	_	\$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.

- 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.

### FOR ALL TEMPLE RENTALS



### **CALL**



### TEMPLE RENTAL COMMITTEE

Pooja Comm. Chair: Amita Gupta, 513-336-8782

Siva Sivaganeshan, 513-563-2901

Raneshwar Gupta, 513-232-3331

Property Management: Shiv Sharma 513-459-9520

Panditji 513-528-3714

Community Member: Open

### Regular Weekly & Monthly Events at the Temple

### **Monthly Navgrah Pooja** Every first Saturday of the Month Jan 2

Sponsors needed for Pooja \$51.00 For Details call

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

### **Monthly Murugan Abhishekham / Pooja**Every second Saturday of the Month

Jan 9 , Saturday 4.00pm **Sponsor Murugan Group.** Amita Gupta: 336-8782; Temple priests: 528-3714

### Monthly Satya Narayan Pooja

On Every Purnima of the Month 6:30 pm

#### Sponsorship \$ 51.00

To sponsor pooja call Amita Gupta: 336-8782 Temple priests: 528-3714

### Monthly Shri Ganesh Pooja & Shri Ganesh Atharvshirsha Path

Every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month 10:30AM This pooja is dedicated to each month's

<u>Sankashti Chaturthi</u> to Lord Ganesh.For more information & **Sponsor the pooja please call** 

### Monthly ABHISHEKAM/KALYANOTSAVAM FOR LORD SRI VENKATESWARAOn Dec 26

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 call Amita Gupta: 336-8782 or Temple priests: 528-3714

### **Weekly Vishnu Sahasranaam Parayana**

Vishnu Sahasranaama Parayana (chanting) will now take place Every Thursday at 7:00 pm . 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

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### Hindu Society of Greater Cincinnati Membership Information

If you are not already a member of HSGC please join today and participate in all temple activities and enjoy all the festivities. This year HSGC has inaugurated a new, ELITE Membership\* at midlevel as seen below.

The membership donations are as follows:

Receive 'Aradhana' Annually: \$21.00 (Suggested donation)

Annual Individual Membership: \$51.00 Annual Family Membership: \$101.00

Life Membership: \$1001.00 (One year spread, two checks)

\*Elite Membership: \$5001.00 (Three year spread, three checks)

Patron: \$10,000.00 (Three year spread, three checks)

Membership Forms are available at the Gift Shop in the Temple.

Please also use the form to update your address. If you know someone who has moved out of town let us know. We would appreciate it. For more information please call temple at (513) 528-3714

or Any member of Executive Council (See pg 2 for all names and phone numbers)

### January 2010 EVENTS

January 1<sup>st</sup> Friday New year Ganpati Puja & Havan (Homa) 11am Sponsorship, \$101.00, \$31.00, \$21.00

January 2 Sat. Mata Ki Chowki 4 to 8pm Sponsored by- Prem Shankar & Kiran Verma &family.

Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. Navgrah Puja 3pm Sponsorship \$51.00

Janury 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun. Pravachan by- Acharya kailash Sharma 12pm to 1pm

Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> Sat. 1008 Gayatri Japa 9:30amto 1pm .Everyone welcome

Jan. 10 Sun. Sunderkand Path 10:30am Sponsored by. Arvind & Sangita Patel

Due to Makar Sankranti celebration on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday sunderkand path is moved to

Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> Sun at its regular time.

Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday Makar Sankranti/ Thai Pongal Celebration Muragan Abhishekam 10:30am to 12:30pm Sponsorship \$101.00, Archana \$21.00 Sponsored by – Muragan Devotees

Jan 20<sup>th</sup> Wed. Saraswati Puja 7pm Sponsorship \$51.00

Jan.23<sup>rd</sup> Sat. Venkateshwar Abhishekam 10am to 1pm Sponsorship \$51.00

Jan. 24<sup>th</sup> Sun Vasant Panchami Celebration 11am to 1pm Sponsored by – Agrani Bengali Group.

Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> Friday Satya Narayn Puja on Purnima 6:30pm Sponsorship \$51.00

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### Feb. 2010

Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> Sat. Navgrah Puja 3pm

Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> Sun. Pravachan By- Acharya kailash Sharma 12pm to 1pm

Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> Friday Maha ShivRatri Puja (All night) 6pm-4 am Sponsorship \$251.00, \$101.00, \$21.00

Feb 13<sup>th</sup> Sat. 1008 Gayatri japa 9:30am to 1pm (Everyone welcome)

Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> Sat. Muragan Abhishekam 4pm to 6:30pm Sponsorship \$101.00

Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> Sun. Sunderkand Path 10:30am to 1pm Sponsors needed.

Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> Mon Holashtak begins.

Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> Sat. Venkateshwar Kalyanam 10am to 1pm Sponsorship \$51.00

Feb. 28th Sun. Holika Dahan 7 pm

Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> Sun. Ganesh Puja & Atarvashirsha Path 11am

Feb. 28th Sun. Satya Narayan Puja on Purnima 5pm Sponsorship \$51.00

### Long Range Planning - Progress Up-date 2009

2009 was a very good year; we completed the following projects which were started earlier: Steps going down stairs to the temple were completely covered. This provides protection from rain and snow and also additional security.

Entrance of the main temple was beautifully finished. This gives a clean look and also water proofs the building, preventing water leaking to the floor down stairs.

**Best News of the Year:** On October 19, 2009 after re-appealing the previous decision of the Zoning Board we finally got approval/permit for constructing the "Yagna Shala" which we believe is a unique addition to our temple which does not exist at any temple in this country. Now we can do havan, marriage ceremony etc. without worrying about bad weather. Drawing and details will be published in January, 2010 Aradhana.

**Future Needs:** We need to start constructing a new gravel road from Barg Salt Road gate to the temple. This is a step necessary to move the projects of Retirement Homes and Community Hall etc.

We need your generous help to generate seed money of about \$200,000 to get the project started. Details will be published later in Aradhana. *Again*, we need your generous donation to start this project. Please send your check to HSGC.

Wish you all a happy, healthy, prosperous New Year and may "GOD" bless all of us.

Laxmi S. Srivastava	
and Committee Members	
Long Range Planning	
	 Non-Profit Tax ID# 31-1017997
Full Name:	
Address:	
Amount of Donation:	
Memo of the check please v	write "Seed Money" and mail to the following:
Treasurer, Hindu Temple, 49	920 Klatte Road, Cincinnati, OH 45244.

### PLEASE WELCOME EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR 2010

1. PRESIDENT Krutarth Jain

2. VICE PRESIDENT A. Balasubramaniam

3. SECRETARY Deepak Dixit

4. TREASURER Prasad Megada

Co-Treasurer Amar Sharma

5. POOJA COMMITTEE Amita Gupta

Co- Chair Kiran Dayal

6. COMMUNICATIONS/Editor Geeta Mehan

7 CULTURAL CHAIR Sulbha Midha

Rima Ajbani (Co chair ) (513) 398-0772

Sapna Chellath (vice Co chair) (513) 289-2975

8. LONG RANGE Laxmi S. Srivastava

9. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Anisha Singh

10. FUNDRAISING Chair Raneshwar Gupta

11.. MAINTENANCE Shiv Sharma

12. YOUTH MEMBER OPEN

### 

### IMPORTANT ANOUNCEMENT

## Membership Directory Form on Page 11 is NOT the same as Temple Membership Form. Being a Member will NOT automatically get you in the Directory.

Membership Directory is in the process of being compiled and will be published in February or March of 2010....depending on how soon the signed forms are received back. You may make copies of the form from this issue, if you or your friends do not have the form.

Volunteers are also needed to accomplish this task. If you can devote even a couple of hours a week, we would love to hear from you.

Advertisements can be booked now in order to ensure a spot. Once the project gains momentum, space cannot be guaranteed.

If you are a creative, undiscovered artist, we would welcome ideas for the Cover of the Directory.

This form can also be downloaded from the Temple Website.

For further information, you may contact

Geeta Mehan 754-0400 OR Raneshwar Gupta 232-3331

### **EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENT: YOGA CLASSES COMING UP**

We are very fortunate to have recruited Krista to teach Yoga at the Temple. Krista Absalon began her study of yoga in 1995 while working towards her graduate degree in Cellular Biology and Anatomy. She has studied and trained in many different styles of yoga including lyengar, Vinyasa Flow, Viniyoga, and Astanga. She made the choice to become a yoga teacher in 2000 and hold a 300 hour Yoga Alliance certification. Her personal teaching method is tend of these various styles with a concentration on body alignment, breathing and balancing effort with relaxation.

It is proposed that classes would be held on the 2nd Sun of each month from 11am

For Further Info and to sign up, please contact Raneshwar Gupta 513-232-3331



### I LOVE INDIA

By Manav Dev Midha Age-9 yrs

Today my Mom asked me to write an article on India. I wondered what to write about, because India is such an interesting country. I decided to write about population first. Do you know how many people are in India right now? There are **1,166,079,217 people in India.** India has the second largest population in the world.

### 

- --What games came from India? Chess and Parcheesi came from India.
- --What number is essential for all types of math? 0 was invented in India by AryaBhatta.
  - -- The world's first University was established in Takshila in India in 700 B.C.
- --In the 17<sup>th</sup> century, India was the **richest** country in the world and until 1896 India was the only source of **Diamonds** in the world.
- --How many languages do you speak? Well in India people speak about 15 principal languages, and 22 officially recognized languages. Indian teachers teach lessons in about 58 different languages.
- \_Sanskrit is a historical Indo-Aryan language & is declared Classical Language of India.
  - \_Classical Indian dances are some of the most beautiful dances in the whole world.
  - Yoga was invented in India. The basic concept is to improve posture and body health.

### • Wonders of India

• The **Taj Mahal** was made from pure marble in the memory of King Shahjahan's wife. It took 20,000 people to build and it is one of the Seven Wonder of India.

Indian Film Industry (Bollywood) makes more movies per year than any other entertainment industry in the world.

So with all these fun facts I want to wish you all a very Happy New Year.

### PROUD TO BE A HINDU

After a study of some forty years and more of the great religions of the world, I find none so perfect, none so scientific, none so philosophical and none so spiritual than the great religion known by the name of Hinduism. Make no mistake, without Hinduism, India has no future. Hinduism is the soil into which India's roots are stuck and torn out of that she will inevitably wither as a tree torn out from its place. And if Hindus do not maintain Hinduism who shall save it? If India's own children do not cling to her faith who shall guard it? India alone can save India and India and Hinduism are one. – MRS. ANNIE BESANT (Theosophist)

When we read in the valuable production of those great Oriental scholars...those of a Jones, a Wilkings, a Colebrooke, or a Halhed, - we uniformly discover in the Hindus a nation, whose polished manners are the result of a mild disposition and an extensive benevolence. ... ALEXANDER HAMILTON(First US Secretary of Treasury )

"Hinduism is like the Ganga,, pure and unsullied at its source but taking in its course the impurities in the way. Even like the Ganga it is beneficent in its total effect. It takes a provincial form in every province, but the inner substance is retained everywhere".....". I am a Hindu because it is Hinduism which makes the world worth living. I am a Hindu hence I Love not only human beings, but all living beings... "I call myself a Sanatani Hindu, because I believe in the Vedas, the Upanishads, the Puranas, and all that goes by the name of Hindu scripture, and therefore in avataras and rebirth, puja." MAHATMA GANDHI

"In the history of the world, Hinduism is the only religion, that exhibits a complete independence and freedom of the human mind, its full confidence in its own powers. Hinduism is freedom, especially the freedom in thinking about God." -- S. RADHAKRISHNAN

"I do profoundly believe that India needs to be able to say with pride, "Yes, our civilization has a Hindu base to it." "The genius of Hinduism, and the very reason of its survival for so long, was that it does not stand up and fight.".....It changes and adapts and modernizes and its absorbs and that is the scientific and proper way of going about it as well." — MARK TULLY (BBC Correspondent in India)

"India has two million gods, and worships them all." "In religion all other countries are paupers; India is the only millionaire." - MARK TWAIN

'The apparent multiplication of gods is bewildering at the first glance, but you soon discover that they are the same GOD. There is always one uttermost God who defies personification. This makes Hinduism the most tolerant religion in the world, because its one transcendent God includes all possible gods. In fact Hinduism is so elastic and so subtle that the most profound Methodist, and crudest idolater, are equally at home with it.— GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

In the family of religions, Hinduism is the wise old all-knowing mother. Its sacred books, the Vedas, claim, 'Truth is one, but sages call it by different names.' If only Islam, and all the rest of the monotheistic 'book' religions, had learned that lesson, all the horror of history's religious wars could have been avoided. Which other religion has its God say, as Krishna does in the Bhagavad Gita, 'All paths lead to me.'R.C. ZAEHNER, Spalding Professor, Oxford University

"In Hinduism, tolerance is not simply a matter of policy but an article of faith....Hindu kings actually welcomed with open arms Christian missionaries and Muslim fakirs and Buddhist monks for a free exchange of ideas. One great Hindu king, Ashoka, in fact changed his religion to Buddhism and propagated Buddhism throughout India." - H.G. WELLS

The doctrines of Hinduism were never reduced to a set of formal creeds and Hindu religion has always been willing to receive new experiences and to incorporate new knowledge. "... "Indian history has been distinguished throughout by a tendency towards toleration. Other peoples' faith have been preserved, other people's customs respected; and not only preserved and respected, but assimilated. Such toleration is a very rare thing in the history of mankind, as rare as it is invaluable. C.E.M. JOAD

"To speak of Hindu fundamentalism, is a contradiction in terms, it does not exist. Hinduism is not this kind of religion. .....The older I get, the more Hindu I become..." Sir V. S. Naipaul. Nobel-Laurete

"Hinduism will spread not so much through the gurus and swamis, who attract a certain number of people looking for a new commitment and a quasi-monastic life-style, but it will spread mainly through the work of intellectuals and writers, who have found certain Hindu ideas convincing and who identify them with their personal beliefs. A fair number of leading physicists and biologists have found parallels between modern science and Hindu ideas. An increasing number of creative scientists will come from a Hindu background, will consciously, and unconsciously blend their scientific and their religious ideas. All of us may be already much more Hindu than we think." Prof. KLAUS KLOSERMAIER

"We owe a lot to the Indians, who taught us how to count, without which no worthwhile scientific discovery could have been made." EINSTEIN

"The unity and continuity of Vedanta are reflected in the unity and continuity of wave mechanics. In 1925, the world view of physics was a model of a great machine composed of separable interacting material particles. During the next few years, Schrodinger and Heisenberg and their followers created a universe based on super imposed inseparable waves of probability amplitudes. This new view would be entirely consistent with the Vedantic concept of All in One. -ERWIN SHRODINGER

"It is already becoming clear that a chapter which had a Western beginning will have to have an Indian ending if it is not to end in selfdestruction of the human race. At this supremely dangerous moment in human history, the only way of salvation is the ancient Hindu way. Here we have the attitude and spirit that can make it possible for the human race to grow together into a single family."

#### - SIR ARNOLD TOYNBEE (Historian)

"The Hindus have discoveredthat the absolute can only be realized, or thought of, or stated through the relative, and the images, crosses, and crescents are simply so many symbols — so many pegs to hang spiritual ideas on. It is not that this help is necessary for everyone, but those that do not need it have no right to say that it is wrong. Nor is it compulsory in Hinduism .... The Hindus have their faults, but mark this, they are always for punishing their own bodies, and never for cutting the throats of their neighbors. If the Hindu fanatic burns himself on the pyre, he never lights the fire of Inquisition. SHASHI THAROOR, Minister for External Affairs

### WE ARE ALL HINDUS NOW

By Lisa Miller | NEWSWEEK Published Aug 15, 2009

America is not a Christian nation. We are, it is true, a nation founded by Christians, and according to a 2008 survey, 76 percent of us continue to identify as Christian (still, that's the lowest percentage in American history). Of course, we are not a Hindu—or Muslim, or Jewish, or Wiccan—nation, either. A million-plus Hindus live in the United States, a fraction of the billion who live on Earth. But recent poll data show that conceptually, at least, we are slowly becoming more like Hindus and less like traditional Christians in the ways we think about God, our selves, each other, and eternity.

The Rig Veda, the most ancient Hindu scripture, says this: "Truth is One, but the sages speak of it by many names." A Hindu believes there are many paths to God. Jesus is one way, the Qur'an is another, yoga practice is a third. None is better than any other; all are equal. The most traditional, conservative Christians have not been taught to think like this. They learn in Sunday school that their religion is true, and others are false. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the father except through me."

Americans are no longer buying it. According to a 2008 Pew Forum survey, 65 percent of us believe that "many religions can lead to eternal life"—including 37 percent of white evangelicals, the group most likely to believe that salvation is theirs alone. Also, the number of people who seek spiritual truth outside church is growing. Thirty percent of Americans call themselves "spiritual, not religious," according to a 2009 NEWSWEEK Poll, up from 24 percent in 2005. Stephen Prothero, religion professor at Boston University, has long framed the American propensity for "the divine-deli-cafeteria religion" as "very much in the spirit of Hinduism. You're not picking and choosing from different religions, because they're all the same," he says. "It isn't about orthodoxy. It's about whatever works. If going to yoga works, great—and if going to Catholic mass works, great. And if going to Catholic mass plus the yoga plus the Buddhist retreat works, that's great, too."

Then there's the question of what happens when you die. Christians traditionally believe that bodies and souls are sacred, that together they comprise the "self," and that at the end of time they will be reunited in the Resurrection. You need both, in other words, and you need them forever. Hindus believe no such thing. At death, the body burns on a pyre, while the spirit—where identity resides—escapes. In reincarnation, central to Hinduism, selves come back to earth again and again in different bodies. So here is another way in which Americans are becoming more Hindu: 24 percent of Americans say they believe in reincarnation, according to a 2008 Harris poll. So agnostic are we about the ultimate fates of our bodies that we're burning them—like Hindus—after death. More than a third of Americans now choose cremation, according to the Cremation Association of North America, up from 6 percent in 1975. "I do think the more spiritual role of religion tends to deemphasize some of the more starkly literal interpretations of the Resurrection," agrees Diana Eck, professor of comparative religion at Harvard. So let us all say "om."

Recommended by :Prof. Rama Rao Pappu,

Professor of Philosophy and Comparative Religion, Miami University, Oxford, OH.

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### Significance of Yagya Shaala

### Hall for conducting Vedic Fire Worship

The foremost Hindu Scriptures are the Vedas written in Sanskrit. Vedic worship is primarily "Fire Worship". It is known by many names, Yagya, Yagna, Homa, Havan.

Fire in the form of heat, light, warmth, energy or calories, is one of the five fundamental elements to originate, form and sustain life on earth. Therefore it is considered sacred and divine. The other four fundamental elements are: Water, Air, Earth and Space (Aakaash).

For the Yagna or Havan ceremony the sacred fire (Agni) is established in an enclosed altar, typically a square shaped pit called kund. Sacred Fire is both a Deity (Agni Devata) as well as the vehicle who delivers the offerings made to the other Deities. Deities to be worshiped are invoked in the sacred fire and offerings, typically Ghee (clarified butter), herbs (Havan Samagri), Samidh (small twigs of Peepal tree), almonds, cashew nuts, puffed rice, cooked food, coconut, cloth, coins, etc. are offered accompanied by specific mantras from the Vedas.

The combination of the powerful energy of the fire and the mantras create auspicious and purifying vibrations which are beneficial to the surrounding and to all who perform and attend the Yagna. The smoke that rises from the Yagna contains a powerful healing energy and as it rises up it purifies the atmosphere, both physically and subtly, encouraging a peaceful environment and gentle weather. Even the damaging effects of natural catastrophes can be reduced through the positive energy and vibrations created by performing the Yagnas.

The energetic vibrations that are invoked during a traditional Vedic fire ceremony represent the most powerful presence of the Divine on Earth. The element of fire is associated with the upward motion of the divine energy and is considered to be the most powerful purifying element. Every kind of negative karma (actions) can be purified by the sacred Havan fire, due to divine grace.

Every Hindu ritual (birthday, wedding, Upanayanam, house warming, anniversaries, final rites, etc.) are all performed with Fire as the witness. Thus, Fire altar is an inseparable part of Hindu way of worship and of all Hindu ceremonies.

Typically in Fire Worship, the main Fire altar is in the center and other four alters are on four sides of the main-central alter in four directions, north, east, south and west and devotees sit on all the four sides of each alter and make offerings to the fire.

The foremost Hindu Scriptures Vedas describe the "Fire Worship" in detail and indicates its positive impact on physical and mental health, safety and success, peace and prosperity as well as spiritual uplifting of not only an individuals but of the community at large.

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### Contd from Page 1

Unity in diversity -- Our temple practices complete equality of worship and religious service. Any and all devotees are encouraged to sponsor and perform any puja in the temple and bring cooked prasad for all devotees and priests. Priests also conduct marriage ceremonies in the temple without ever probing anybody about the regional or even religious backgrounds of the families involved. Devotees also accept such inclusiveness without hesitation. Most major ceremonies and observances are done on weekends at the convenience of participants as opposed to the specific date and time prescribed by the priest or relatives back home.

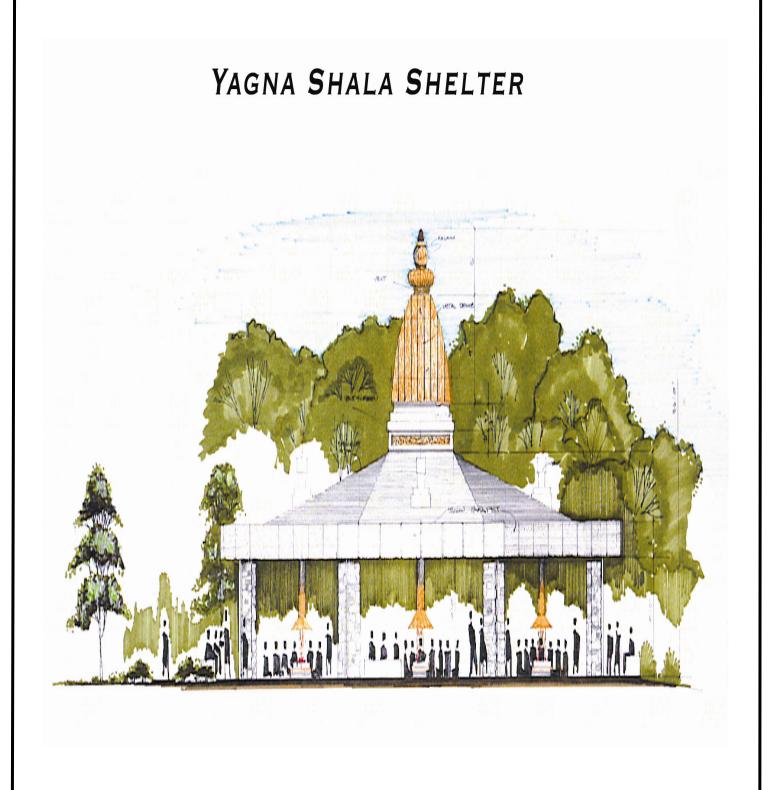
Such flexibility, equality, inclusiveness and freedom of religious practice are essential ingredients in preserving and promoting cultural bonding and an understanding of our religious heritage in the second and subsequent generations of Indian Americans.

Our temple is an essential and wonderful community resource and all community members should take pride and support its activities generously.

J.K.Bhattacharjee

Oxford, OH 513-523-8958

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### A BEAUTIFUL STORY

A nurse took the tired, anxious serviceman to the bedside.

Your son is here," she said to the old man.

She had to repeat the words several times before the patient's eyes opened.

Heavily sedated because of the pain of his heart attack, he dimly saw the young uniformed

Marine standing outside the oxygen tent. He reached out his hand. The Marine wrapped his toughened fingers around the old man's limp ones, squeezing a message of love and encouragement.

The nurse brought a chair so that the Marine could sit beside the bed. All through the night the

Young Marine sat there in the poorly lighted ward, holding the old man's hand and offering him words of love and strength. Occasionally, the nurse suggested that the Marine move away and rest awhile.

He refused.

Whenever the nurse came into the ward, the Marine was oblivious of her and of the night noises of the hospital - the clanking of the oxygen tank, the laughter of the night staff members exchanging greetings, the cries and moans of the other patients.

Now and then she heard him say a few gentle words. The dying man said nothing, only held tightly to his son all through the night.

Along towards dawn, the old man died. The Marine released the now lifeless hand he had been holding and went to tell the nurse. While she did what she had to do, he waited.

Finally, she returned. She started to offer words of sympathy, but the Marine interrupted her.

"Who was that man?" he asked.

The nurse was startled, "He was your father," she answered.

"No, he wasn't," the Marine, replied. "I never saw him before in my life."

"Then why didn't you say something when I took you to him?"

"I knew right away there had been a mistake, but I also knew he needed his son, and his son just

Wasn't here. When I realized that he was too sick to tell whether or not I was his son, knowing how much he needed me, I stayed."

The next time someone needs you ... Just be there. Stay.

### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

WE ARE NOT HUMAN BEINGS GOING THROUGH A TEMPORARY SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE.

WE ARE SPIRITUAL BEINGS GOING THROUGH A TEMPORARY HUMAN EXPERIENCE.



Contributed by Geeta Mehan

# Birthdays and Anniversaries for the Month of January

### Happy Anniversary

Amar & Usha Sharma, Nandkumar & Rani Khemchandani, Vijay & Madhu Sharma, Dilip & Vilas Patel, Arun & Sudha Mehta, Anand & Pratima Narayana, Niranjan & Nivedita Ramji, Vijaya & Younus Samadi, Mahendra Jain, Malay & Amita Srivastava, Kedar & Bina Verma

### Happy Birthday

Prabha Batra, Vivek Surya Bhamidipati, Niharika Bhatnagar, Rishi Bhatnagar, Gautham Bhoomready, Sagoree Chatterjee, Vinoo Cholera, Nithya Devanathan, Suvomita Ghosh, Siddharth Goyal, Babu Gupta, Govind Gupta, Raneshwar Gupta, Ravi Hasandka, Nutan Kamat, Vikas Kothari, Rahul Kukreti, Yash Kumar, Arun Mehan, Vidya Nagarajan, Mahesh Naik, Maureen Nanavati, Naresh Nayak, Child 1 Patel, T.M. Rajkumar, Eshwar Ramdas, Rohit Rao, Younas Samadi, Balu Sekar, Rekha Shankar, Sonal Shankar, Ashwini Sharma, Pankaj Sharma, Seema Sharma, Sheela Agarwal, Amit Srivastava, Rhea Srivastava, Pooja Vadin, Bharat Vela, Anush Venkatesan, Ashish Verma, Subodh Wadhwa

- \*(Celebrated on the first Sunday of each month in the temple.)
- \*\*(Celebrated on the second Sunday of each month in the temple.)

If you would like to include your name in the above lists, please call Raj or Shakuntala at 513-733-1537.

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#### (2) If you have any type of Meijer Card or Account follow this:

Go to the website and update your Membership

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<u>Directions to HinduTemple</u>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)



Arun Lai Financial Consultant AXA Advisors, LLC 4000 Smith Road, Suite 300 Cincinnati, OH 45209

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