आराधना

Aradhana

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

Magh/Phalgun
Vikram Samvat, 2067
February 2011

Happy Vasant Panchami

Website www.cincinnatitemple.com
Email: hindusociety@fuse.net
Phone: (513) 528-3714

Vasant Panchmi Celebration

Sunday Feb. 13th 2011

Time : 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM

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

Event is sponsored by – Agrani Bengali group of tri state

For details please call Anju Saha 513-474-3922, Kiran Dayal 474-4051, Temple 528-3714

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 Nandkumar Khemchandani: asiindian@aol.com/ 513-779-1043

Aradhana (past and present) is also available at temple website: www.cincinnatitemple.com

Deadline for submission of articles for next Aradhana is February 10

TEMPLE INFORMATION

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2011

President
Krutarth Jain (513) 884-1259
krutarthjain@yahoo.com

Vice President
Ambikaipakan Balasubramaniam
(513) 204-0213

Secretary:
Deepak Dixit (513) 769-3556

Treasurer:
Prasad Megada (Chair) (513)779-4582

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Pooja Committee:
Kiran Dayal(Chair): 513-474-4051

Communications/Editor:
Geeta Mehan (513) 754-0400
email: mehangeeta@gmail.com

Membership & Fundraising:
Raneshwar Gupta (513) 232-3331

Property Management & Maintenance:
Dilip Patel 513-947-0861

Cultural Activities:
Asit Saha (Chair) (513)

Religious Education & Youth Activities:
Anisha Singh (513) 469-7432

Long Range Planning
Laxmi S. Srivastava (513) 474-0533
Raj Bodalia Chair, Special Activities
Youth Member: Open

Priests:
Acharya Kailash Sharma, Senior Priest
(513) 770-0705
Acharya Chakreshwar Sharma
(513) 528-0901
Pandit Srinath Bhattar
(513) 528-3714
Attorney: Aronoff, Rosen & Hunt
(513) 241-0400
Temple Manager: Laxmi Srivastava
Accountant: Open

RELIGIOUS DISCOURSE

Sundays 12:15 - 12:45 PM

First Sunday : Upanishads

Second Saturday : 1008 Gayatri Jaap
Second Sunday : Children Program

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 contact Kiran Dayal.

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, group 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 pooja committee members Kiran Dayal or Meena Sondhi.

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 announcements

Please Donate Generously

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

2011 POOJA COMMITTEE & RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES MEMBERS

Kiran Dayal(Acting-Chair):	474-4051
Amita Gupta (Co-Chair):	336-8782
Acharya Kailash Sharma	770-0705
Acharya Chakreshwar Sharma	528-0901
Pandit Srinath Bhattar	528-3714
Swarna Chaudhary	232-2343
Sangita Patel	791-0855
Meena Sondhi	831-9788
Manju Gupta	232-3331
Anju Saha	474-3922
Meena Karamchandani	683-9454
Kalpana Srivastava	233-9184
Muralee	573-0550
Vasundhra Dasari	777-3353
Suchitra Mishra	573-9775
Rajan Odayar	336-6843
Vilas Patel	947-0861

TREASURER COMMITTEE

Prasad Megade (Chair)	779-4582
Amar Sharma (Co-chair)	777-5771

Temple Manager's Committees

LaxmiS.Srivastava, Temple Mgr474-0533

1.Office Manager
Mohan Chopra

2. I/C Swami Lectures
Vinay Kumar
Devdas Mukerjee
Meena Mehta
Bobba Choudhary

3. Temple Data Base
Nandkumar Khemchandani
Raj Bodalia
Krutarth Jain(President)
Meena Mehta

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
Aashish Shah

8. Financial Data
Amar Sharma,
Raj Bodalia
Laxmi S. Srivastava

9. I/C Temple Web site
Bharat Vala
Debasis Dey
Krutarth Jain

10. I/C Temple Calendar
Meena Mehta
Ashvin Mehta
Achaya Kailash Sharma

11. Volunter Services
Rajan Odayar
Kedarnath Nambori
Dilip Patel
Vijay Kumar Sharma

12. Temple Photographers
Naba Mishra
Dilip Patel (I/C)

13. Mela Committee
Anil Jindal
Jyoti Desai
Raneshwar Gupta
(Fund Raising Chairperson)
Krutarth Jain
(President)

Aradhana is Published Monthly . Circulation: Approx. 1600 Families. Advertising Rate: Full Page $300; Half Page $150; Quarter Page $100. and one eighth page $50. A 10% discount is given for 12 consecutive repetitions of the same advertisement. **Hindu Society of Greater Cincinnati (HSGC)** 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|

SERVICES	IN TEMPLE	OUTSIDE TEMPLE
Abhishekam (All Deities)	$101.00	—
Aksharabhyas	$101.00	$151.00
Anna-Prashanam	$101.00	$151.00
Ashta Prakari Pooja*	$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.

1. Poojas performed by priests outside the temple will be rated according to the number of poojas performed.
2. 50 Cents/Miles for Travel expense 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.*

C H E C K O U T
http://newbhagavadgita.blogspot.com/2010/04/shock-treatment-in-bhagavad-gita.html

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.

POOJA SAMAGRI

For convenience of Devotees, Temple can now provide Pooja Samagri for all inside and outside Poojas.
Donation for Puja Samagri is as follows
$ 21 for any Pooja
$ 31 for any Pooja including Havan/Hom
For more details please contact
Amita Gupta 513-336-8782
Kiran Dayal 513-474-4051

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

SUNDERKAND CD (sung by **Acharya Kailash Sharma**)
AVAILABLE in Temple Gift Shop for **$ 10.**
The money raised will go to temple.

Regular Weekly & Monthly Events at the Temple

Monthly Navgrah Pooja Every first Saturday of the Month Feb 5
Sponsors needed for Pooja $51.00
For Details call
Kiran Dayal at 474-4051;Temple priests:528-3714

Monthly Murugan Abhishekham /Pooja
Every second Saturday of the Month
Feb 12, Saturday 4.00pm **Sponsor Murugan Group.**
Kiran Dayal 474-4051; Temple priests: 528-3714

Monthly Satya Narayan Pooja
On Every Purnima of the Month
6:30 pm
Sponsorship $ 51.00
To sponsor pooja call Kiran Dayal 474-4051
Temple priests: 528-3714

Monthly Shri Ganesh Pooja & Shri Ganesh Atharvshirsha Path

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

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

Jyoti Divekar : 204-8037 Mangal Nemade : 234-8373
Kiran Dayal :474-4051 **Temple Priests:528-3714**

Monthly ABHISHEKAM/KALYANOTSAVAM FOR LORD SRI VENKATESWARA
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

1008 Gayatri Jap
Second Saturday of each month at 9.30AM

For details please contact temple priest 528-3714 or Kiran Dayal 474-4051

Weekly Shiv Mahiman Stotram

Every Monday at 6:30 pm

Weekly Hanuman Chalisa Path

Every Tuesday at 6:30 pm

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 Kiran Dayal 474-4051; Temple priests: 528-3714

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 listed 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)

Membership and Fundraising Chair is Raneshwar Gupta 513-232-3331

Feb. 2011

Feb.5th Sat. Navgrah Puja 3pm Sponsorship $51.00

Feb. 8th Tues. Vasant Panchami Saraswati Puja 10 am & 6pm (actual day)
Sponsorship $51.00

Feb. 12th Sat. 1008 Gayatri Japa 9:30am

Feb. 12th Sat. Murugan Abhishekam 4pm Sponsorship $101.00

Feb. 13th Sun. Vasant Panchami Celebration 10:30am to 1pm Sponsored by- Agrani

Feb. 18th Fri. Purnima Satya Narayan Puja 6:30pm Sponsorship $51.00

Feb. 20th Sun. Sunderkand Path 10:30am

Feb. 26th Sat. Venkateshwara Kalyanam 10am Sponsorship $51.00

Feb. 27th Sun. Ganesh Puja & Atharvashirsh path 11am .Sponsored by -Triveni

MARCH 2011

March 2nd Wed. Maha Shiva Ratri Puja all night 6pm to 4am
Sponsorship $251, $101,$21

March 5th Sat. Navgrah Puja 3pm Sponsorship -$51.00

March 12th Sat 1008 Gayatri Japa everyone welcome

March 12th Sat. Muragan Abhishekam 4pm Sponsorship $101.00

March 13th Sun. Halashtak Begins

March 18th Fri Pangkuni Uththiram

March 19th Sat. . Holika Dahan 7:30pm (Correction from Temple calendar 18th to 19th)

March 19th Sat. Purnima Satya narayan puja 5:30pm Sponsorship$51.00

March 26th Sat. Holi Celebration Cultural Program

March 26th Sat. Venkateshwar Abhishekam 10am Sponsorship $51.00

March 27th Sun. Ganesh Puja & Athrvashirsha Path 11am

Please Mark your Calendar for MAHA SHIVRATRI PUJA CELEBRATION
March 2nd Wed. 2011 All night puja .

The world is a ten star Guest House

This world is a mirage, an illusion of your mind. It is a magical wonderland where you derive what you want and expect out of it. It does not produce sorrow and grief. It gives back pure experiences, only, like a mirror reflecting back into your face. Unfortunately you extract total misery from it, because your mind projects it. It is termed mental projection. It is your own creation. **Your mind makes life a sad affair.** Since the mind has extraordinary powers, both positive and negative, you end up with extraordinary sufferings, sorrows, and grief. You are grieving over trifles and things that do not deserve grief.

The haves are unhappy with all the comforts, while the have not's are equally unhappy without those comforts. A house is up for sale. The seller wants to get rid of it. The buyer wants to own it. Both parties are happy with one deal, the same house. This phenomena is true in our relationships too. First we want each other badly and madly. After a couple of years we get tired of each other and want to divorce our partners, get new ones, or continue to live together hating the other like sour lemons for various reasons.

You come into this world as a love product of two loving people. **You are the most wanted guest entering a ten star facility, the planet Earth, your temporary Guest House.** You do not bring a truck load of supplies for your long 90 years of stay here. You come with just a carry on baggage of your physical body knowing well that you will be taken care of. **Everything is provided for your comfort and enjoyment in this magnificent guest house much in abundance exceeding your requirements**.

Seven gigantic **oceans of water** have been strategically positioned for your hydration needs. Some oceans are ice capped and some are boiling hot waters near the equator. This differential helps move the waters around and churn up the marine life. **Rich top soil has been deposited on land , irrigated by overflowing rivers** to facilitate the crops of fruits and vegetables, herbs and trees, woods and forests. It can sustain billions of people for hundreds of years if used carefully maintaining the ecological balance. The spherical guest house is specially enveloped with diluted oxygen for hundreds of kilometers deep into the sky and hermetically sealed with a super sensitive ozone layer, to divert the harmful radiations coming from the sun, prevent the nitrogen and oxygen from escaping into the space beyond. Don't breathe like a miser, taking shallow breaths resulting in toxic blood levels...**do deep breathing.**

The all powerful sun has been located millions of kilometers away from us for a very good reason. The highly toxic rays, ultra violet, infra red, and others radiations are very harmful for our bodies and health. However we do require heat and light for nourishing all life on our planet and to get our most needed dose of vitamin D. Explore the colorful gardens of Eden, the virgin rain forests over crowded with beautiful birds, exotic plants, and interesting creatures coexisting very peacefully**. A life time is too short to enjoy all that this guest house has to offer to us. ..live with a sense of gratitude.**

The fundamental problem for all mankind can be summed up in one word: IGNORANCE of the functioning of this Universe. We scream on top of our voices, "All is not well with me". We live in a state of not accepting ourselves as we are, thus wanting to be different from who we are. The agony and dilemma of choices. .... dozens of likes and dislikes ruins our true sense of perception of the Universe and all that is happening in it to us. **Love yourself as you are**.

We become seekers, seeking, desiring, wanting, a never ending wanting. We are conditioned to be beggars of happiness. We come to believe blindly in many things out of fear and clouded judgments. A belief is a judgment prior to gaining knowledge and subject to verification by inquiry. Since we have no mindset of inquiry and inclination to verify, we continue to hold on to our baseless beliefs till death. The darkness of ignorance can be removed by the light of knowledge of self – Who we really are???. **It is important to be wise than to be otherwise.**

We are pure Awareness, which is limitless, formless, all pervasive, timeless, actionless and self effulgent. We are complete, totally liberated and perpetually happy beings. We are joyful beings at peace with ourselves and happily doing what ever must be done. This miraculous secret is concealed very intricately inside us and it can be unraveled only by ourselves, with our own effort and lots of hard work.

The king of all secrets is **THAT THOU ART**. That – what you seek outside of yourself. Thou meaning you the self and Art implying you already are. You already have what you seek. It is so simple yet terribly complex and complicated to comprehend and implement. It is impossible and erroneous to want something when it is already present inside you. Hence a big mistake and illegitimate action of seeking, wanting and desiring.

We are fusion of Mind and Awareness which results in an explosive brilliance and effulgence. **We are cosmic awareness**, subtle matter, the cause, absolute, real, and eternal. We are the subject which can not be negated. We are not the object which we often think and believe we are.

Our true nature is joyful. Our bodies can not tolerate any foreign stuff. It has to be expelled as quickly as possible - A dust particle in your eye or a worm in your stomach. The same is true for sorrow and grief. It is alien to our nature and is contradictory. In love we are one. The flame of love fuses two into one. The other is totally accepted for the time being, no division. But in a fight, and hate we are separate from the other. We are two and the other must be annihilated.

Contd on page 7

Contd from page 6

The world is a ten star Guest House

The second part of the king of secrets is the universal laws of nature and how they work. The **cosmic laws of nature are impartial and they never fail**. These laws can be understood but not changed or altered. Our actions in this world are rewarded by the application of these cosmic laws. The rewards of our actions can be diluted, delayed and handed down in the next life or another future life. It is in no hurry and very patient. Today we perform actions with expectations of big rewards, but when we see the rewards not forth coming we get disappointed, frustrated and angry. Our reactions and attitudes towards the rewards of our actions is another big mistake and part of the fundamental problem of mankind.

The secret is to go on performing your actions without any attachment to the rewards. Just be a witness to the action and not an unconscious doer of action. Another aspect to this business of payment for actions is to accept the fruits what ever they are, very gracefully like a "Prasad" – a gift from heavens. The meaning of Prasad is, "absence of sorrow". **Bear in mind that many times there may not be any fruit at all immediately.**

When your stay of 90 years or less in this guest house is over, **you have to leave just as you came, empty handed, with no baggage at all**. All your riches and wealth do not go with you. They belong to this earth and must be recycled again and again. This time you do not take your carryon baggage even, of your old diseased worn out body with you. The benevolent earth takes care of your body and disposes it off very efficiently to the various elements of nature.
A miser is a person who leaves this world without knowing the truth about himself – for he has not used this vast wealth of human intellect to inquire into the purpose of life and enhance it by adding value to it.

You are not alone in this guest house. You share it equally with many more guests just like yourself who may look different and speak strange languages. Therefore you must take extra care to leave the ten star resort in good condition for others to enjoy it after you leave. Please do not pollute and defile the marvelous resources of this planet. Also bear in mind that there is no charge for your lodging here, and no bills to pay for boarding, and all that you consumed so shamelessly and wasted so wantonly. So how do you expect to pay back?. You can not. You have nothing of your own to give. You lived off the guest house gratis. The only currency that is accepted by the benevolent host is the currency of Gratitude. An attitude of thankfulness is enough to please the host. Therefore **be humble and grateful throughout the entire duration of your stay in the beautiful Guest House**. See you again in your next life friend.

JOIN KROGER AND MEIJER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM

The Hindu Society of Greater Cincinnati is now, a partner with Kroger and Meijer in their Community Rewards Program to get the advantage of their good will of community support. They will donate from about 2% to 4% of the total amount we spend as a community to the HSGC.

HERE IS HOW YOU JOIN KROGER

We have prepaid Kroger cards. You simply, buy the card from us and use it every time, to shop in Kroger for your groceries and you automatically, donate some percent of your grocery bill to your Temple without any additional cost to you. The card you get can be directly, recharged in the store thus it will be a permanent card for you. Help your Temple to help yourself.

Join Meijer Two Ways

(1) If you do not have any type of Meijer card follow this:
With Meijer one has to fill out the Application Form on their Website.
Go to the website: www.Meijer.Com/Rewards
Join for Meijer community Rewards or Meijer Credit Card
Fill out the Application Form
Enter the **HSGC Code No. 964616** ;Complete the form
Meijer will send you a Special Card of Community Rewards Program.
(2) If you have any type of Meijer Card or Account follow this:
Go to the website and update your Membership
Follow further Instructions
Enter HSGC Code No. 964616 on Item 2, Option A; Submit.
Both these ways Meijer will directly reward the HSGC.
Please go ahead and enroll in this program and donate to your Temple without any cost to you at all.
Raneshwar Gupta at 513:232:3331 and Meena Mehta at 513:574:6763.

Don't forget to re-charge your Kroger Cards that have been used up.

Continue to benefit your Temple at NO COST TO YOU

REGISTRATION FORM FOR COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

NAME : _____

SPOUSE NAME: _____

CHILDREN'S Names 1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

Address : _____

_____

_____

Phone No. : ( ) - -

E-Mail (optional) _____

Signature: _____

Send this form only if you wish your name and above information to be published in Member Directory.

If you do not send the form duly signed, you will not be included in the Directory.

The Directory will be available to all.

Email form to cinti.communitydirectory@gmail.com

OR Mail form to

Geeta Mehan
6663 Heritage Club Dr.
Mason, OH 45040
513-754-0400

OR

Raneshwar Gupta
6338 Turpin Hill Dr
Cincinnati,OH 45244
513-232-3331

The Essential Principles of Hinduism can be summarized as A-E-I-O-U-Y of H-I-N-D-U-I-S-M

Koti Sreekrishna

Hinduism represents over 5000 years of development in the Indian sub-continent. Hindu time scale spans trillions of years. It was always there (eternal). Number of Hindus in the US is about 2.6 million and total number is over 800 million.

There is no single founder. Directly taught by God to some seekers (Example: The Bhagavadgita) and revealed indirectly to several other seekers (Example: The Vedic seers).

Primary scriptures are Vedas, Upanishads, Brahmasutra and Bhagavadgita. Secondary Scriptures are numerous; they include Ramayana, Mahabharata, Puranas, Itihasas, Dharma Sutras, etc.

The essential principles of Hinduism can be summarized as A-E-I-O-U-Y of H-I-N-D-U-I-S-M

"**A**nO bhadrAh kratavO yantu vishvatah" (R~g Veda): Let noble thoughts come to us from everywhere.

"**E**kam sat, viprAh bahudhA vadanti" (R~g Veda): Truth is One; sages speak of it in numerous ways.

"**I**sha avAsyam idagam sarvam, yat kincha jagatyAm jagat, tEna 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).

"**O**m iti brahma, Om itIdagam sarvam" (taittireeya 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)].

"**U**ddarEt 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 [We see parallels to this in the words of Mark Twain- 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!].

"**Y**opAm 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 limitations 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 all life forms. Some Hindu sects stress vegetarianism, but on the whole it is not a prerequisite to be a Hindu. Attitude of gratitude (to Almighty) with which we take food is more important!

"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 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) are the goals of life. The secondary objectives (Artha & Kama) are sandwiched between the primary objectives of (Dharma & Moksha). Adherence to swadharma [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). If you like to discuss further, please contact: Koti Sreekrishna (tatachar@aol.com).

Shri Hanuman Chalisa Path

108 Times Recitation on Dec 4, 2010

HSGC – Executive Council
Meeting Minutes– October 3, 2010

Present: Krutarth Jain(President), Deepak Dixit (Secretary), Prasad Megada (Treasurer), Laxmi Srivastava (Temple Manager), Raneshwar Gupta (Fundraising Committee Chair), Kiran Dayal (Pooja Committee Co-chair), Shiv Sharma (Maintenance Committee Chair)

Absent: Ambikaipakan Balasubramaniam (Vice President)
Sulbha Midha (Cultural Committee Chair)
Anisha Singh (Religious Education Committee Chair)
Geeta Mehan (Editor – Aradhana)

Minutes:

Four new carpets ($200 each) will be acquired as we often run into a shortage of carpets for larger programs.
Additional 50 chairs will be acquired for upstairs as many of the attendees are handicapped.
There need to be very clear set of instructions and guidelines for use of kitchen. Krutarth Jain and Laxmi Srivastava will develop the instructions and signboards for display in the kitchen.
Another gas line in the kitchen may also be considered for safer operation in the kitchen.
Shiv Sharma will look into the consumption of paper products since it has doubled over last year.
The temple has received a technical approval for the Barg Salt Road entrance from Clermont County. Approval is still needed from the Union Township.
An advisory board of past presidents will be constituted to make recommendations on various issues such as financial, legal, and immigration as many issues have a long history and need past perspective. There are a total of 7 past presidents.
Common contact phone numbers and calling trees will be determined in order to respond to emergencies.
Deepak Dixit will investigate use of web based email and document management. This will make the record keeping more secure. Deepak Dixit will investigate it.
The executive committee appreciated the hard work done by the cultural committee for conducting a very successful event "Naach-Sitare." The committee is considering making this an annual event. The committee will also ensure that this event does not interfere with other major temple events such as the annual mela.
Amar Sharma will function as the treasurer during the absence of Prasad Megada who will be visiting India from Oct 17th to mid-December.
The Pooja committee will acquire sweets for up to $2,000 for Diwali. Sponsorship for this will solicited by the Pooja committee.

Essence of Hinduism

There is no shortage of quantity when we think of the Hindu scriptures. Whatever remaining of the Vedas itself is voluminous far beyond any other scripture of the world. Just to give an example, chanting of one branch (Taittiriya shAkha) of one Veda (Krishna Yajur Veda), non stop, at the speed of arrow shot from a bow, takes 38 hours! Mahabharata epic alone is 15 times longer than the Bible! Add to that Valmiki Ramayana, Jaimini Ramayana, Adhyatma Ramayana, 18 Puranas, 6 darshanas, 108 Upanishads and not even thinking of mile long commentaries in Sanskrit by revered Acharyas for every line! We haven't even considered works of latter day saints in numerous regional languages including Sanskrit! We also have whole set of sect-specific scriptures. It takes a whole life time just to study the texts of Alvars, Ramanuja and Vedanta Deshika for Vdakalai Iyengars sects, who probably constitute less than 1% of Hindus! It is simply mind boggling. However, it was summarized in 2 lines by Vyasa (son of sage Parashara and fisher girl Matsyagandha. He is the most prolific author and editor of the Hindu scriptures; Vyasa organized the Vedas; author of Brahma sutras, Mahabharata, and the Puranas). After compiling literally millions of lines in chaste Sanskrit, Vyasa summarized his knowledge of Sanatana Dharma in 2 simple lines and said in 2 simpler lines that he has done so!

shlO-kA-rdhE-na pra-va-kSHyA-mi

ya-du-ktam gra-ntha kO-Ti-bhih|

pa-rO-pa-kA-ra pu-NyA-ya

pA-pA-ya pa-ra-pee-Dha-nam ||

"I will tell you in two lines

What is said in 10 million Books.

To help others is good

To hurt others is sin."

Of course, I do realize that people are not happy with 2-line summary of our thousands of years of religious heritage. Thus, I have a 2 column version as well, entitled: **AEIOUY of HINDUISM.**

Of course, it is all relative isn't it. It takes 10 years non-stop, to read the human genome sequence written using simple four letters A, T, G and C. While we can marvel at deciphering it, it also reminds us that have still a long way to go even to understand secret of life. Perhaps, we can summarize it in two simple statements: Life goes on. Live every day, as if it is your last day,

One day you will be right for sure!

Koti Sreekrishna

(tatachar@aol.com)

A Forum for Bringing Domestic Violence Issues in the Asian Community to the Forefront

Asian Community Alliance,Inc. in collaboration with the Hindu Society of Greater Cincinnati will hold a Forum to bring the issue of Domestic Violence in Asian Communities to the forefront. The forum will educate & raise awareness in the community on this sensitive topic . Victims of family violence turn first to those closest to them – extended family , friends , & neighbors before they reach out to a service provider . Hence it is very important that the community is aware of area resources to help the victim when they come for assistance . The forum will engage participants in a discussion to identify concerns& challenges in the community & what resources need to be in place to assist & support individuals who seek help . The forum will also educate members on the local service providers .

The session will be held on a Saturday , 12th of February , from 10.00 AM – 12 .30 PM.
Location : 5181 Natorp Boulevard, Suite 113, Mason, OH 45040
For more information, please call Geeta Mehan 513-754-0400 or Raneshwar Gupta 513-232-3331

BE A PART OF THE TEMPLE HISTORY

ADOPT A PART OF THE NEW ROAD

Good news, we finally got the permit to build a road from the Barg Salt Road gate to the temple parking lot. First, it will help to give us a better access to the temple providing an access from a bigger two lane road. No more worries on how to pass on Klatte Road when two cars are coming. Second, most important is that it will give us a good chance to develop other projects such as retirement homes, Religious Cultural and Educational Center. This center will have a main hall to provide enough space for big functions like Navaratri Festival, Musical Concerts and Religious National conferences. The proposed road has been divided into 20 equal parts. Each part will be identified by a light pole bearing the name of the family, any deity name or any organization name etc.

Guide Lines on How to Adopt the Road

Anyone who is interested in adopting the road must pay at least
$ 15,000 (fifteen thousands) by March 31, 2011,
Balance $20,000 by June 30th, 2011.

Selection of the road (numbered 1 thru 20) will be on first come first basis.

Plaque will read some thing like "Mr. X" -------Marg
Adopted by"X" Family or Group or Group of devotees. This plaque will be installed on a light pole.

For adopting the road and more information, please contact one of the following:

Laxmi Shanker Srivastava – (513) 474-0533.
Krutarth Jain (513) 884-1259
Raneshwar Gupta (513) 232-3331

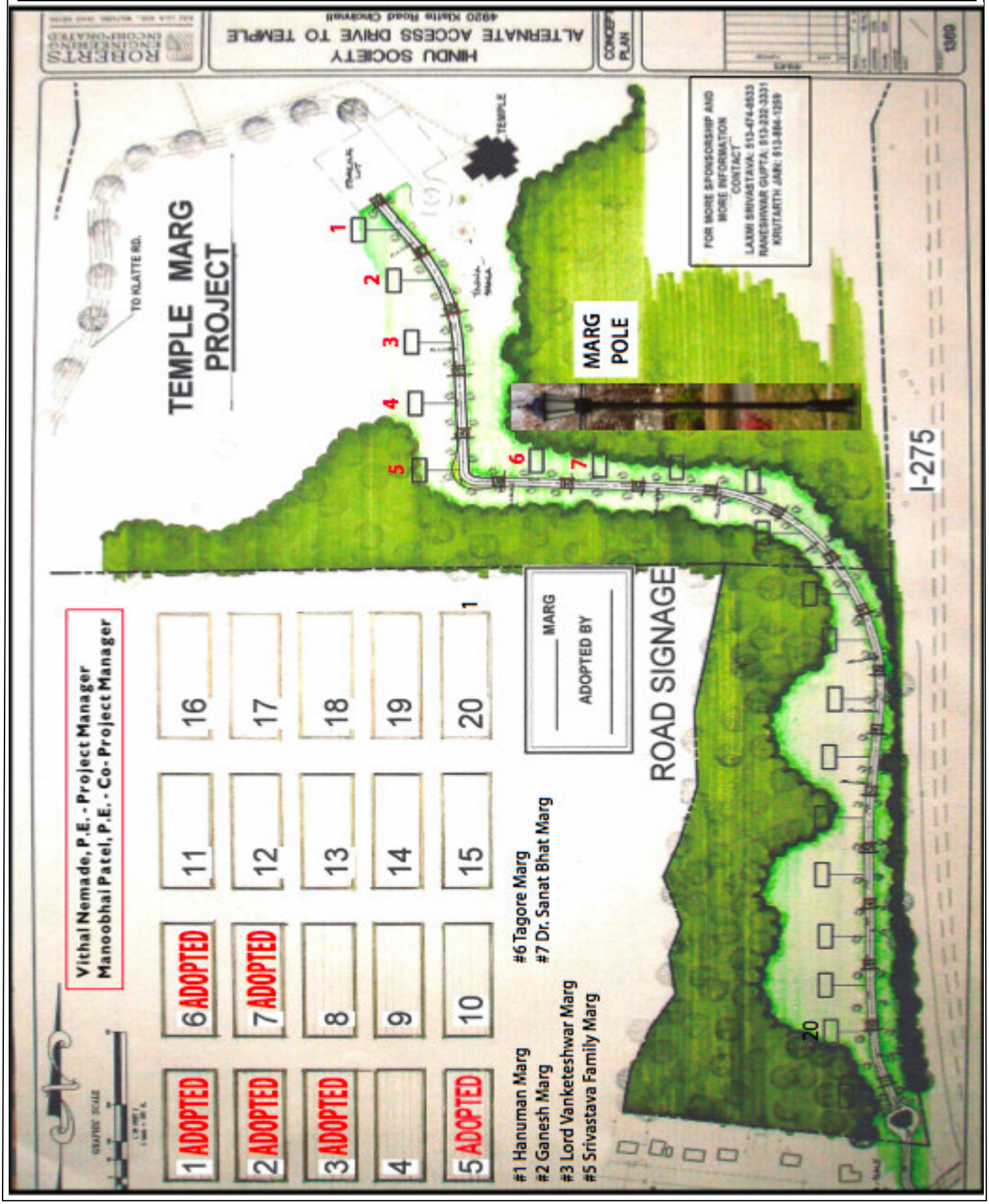
Let's recognize the members of the Long Range Planning Committee who worked very hard for more than a year with Robert Enginnering Co. to achieve this.

Laxmi Shanker Srivastava - Chairperson
Vitthal Nemade , PE
Munoo Patel , PE
Jitu Patel
Krutarth Jain
Bobba Choudary
Raneshwar Gupta

LOOK AT THE MAP ON PAGE 12 AND SEE WHICH PART OF THE ROAD YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADOPT RIGHT NOW IS THE RIGHT TIME !!!!!

Section 1, 2, 3 and 5, 6 and 7 are already spoken for.

ADOPT A SECTION OF THE NEW ROAD AND BE A PART OF TEMPLE HISTORY



Birthdays and Anniversaries for the Month of February

Happy Anniversary *

Jagdish Bhatia & Kiran, Premanand Nayak & Suneethi, Rajesh Gulati & Renu, Harbinder Pordal & Harpreet,

Oormila Kovilam & Gopi, Kavi Shankar & Rekha, Kailash Sharma & Jyoti, Raman Srinivasan & Bageshree

Sunil Srivastava & Kalpana, Raghuram Tadepalli & Gayathri, Som Tandon & Nalini, Srinivasan Venkataramani & Savitha , Devanshu Trivedi & Toral, Kishore Kasturi & Pratibha, Tushar Manek & Vishakha, Sudesh Sharma, Manoj Singh & Tanuja

Happy Birthday**

Pradeeep Ambe, Nakulan Balasubramaniam, Vandana Bhardwaj, Raksha Bhatara, Neha Bhoomready, Krystina Bodalia, Aditya Chaudhury, Ashaali Divekar, Ajit Dixit, Lalita Duggal, Ruhi Gulati, Manju Gupta, Ram Jindal, Anshika Khare, Arya Kode, Felicia Kruse, Rita Kumar, Leenata Maddiwar, Sahik Naik, Kiran Nanavati, Amrit Narayan, Tarakad Natarajan T.V.N., Madhu Nawani, Mangala Nemade, Suresh Padya, Sathvik Reddy, Sidharth Sharma, Sudesh Sharma, Surbhi Sharma,

Jaya Srinivasan, Vinita Srivastava, Raghuram Tadepalli, Satish Patel, Avishi Chaturvedi

*(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.

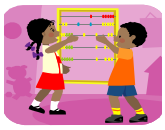
APPEAL REGARDING ROAD REPAIR

Dear Devotees,

As you are already aware, due to the severe weather we had this past winter, both sides of the Temple road conditions have deteriorated & need immediate repair and attention. This project requires patching up the holes and thick blacktop from the main gate all the way to the back of the Temple where the dumpster is on both sides of the road. We want to start this repair project as soon as possible. As you know it will require around $50,000. We want all members and devotees to share the cost. Please donate generously for this project as it is for the safety of all of us. The sooner we start the process, the cheaper the overall repair cost will be. Any checks from $100.00 to $500.00 for this project will be greatly appreciated. Please be sure to mention on the check that it is for the road project. Also, we welcome any help or advice on this issue. For any further details or questions, please contact the undersigned.

Raneshwar K. Gupta

Membership and Fundraising Chairperson 513-232-3331



INDIAN HERITAGE CLASS

The Hindu Temple of Greater Cincinnati runs Indian Heritage Class for kids at the temple premises every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month from 11.30 am to 1.00 pm. The classes run during the school year from September to May and are open to all kids 5 yrs and older.

The objective of this class is to make the Hindu-Americans kids aware and proud of their Indian Heritage and the rich philosophies of Hindu religion. The goals are to educate the kids about India, Hindu values/culture, Hindu festivals and their significance, Hindu Gods/Goddesses, Hindu mythology stories and how to apply the principles learned in the current times.

The class format is as follows- the class begins with a devotional song, followed by formal religious teaching for 45 minutes. Kids then enjoy 10 min snack break and then play a game related to the subject taught. The class concludes with Yoga. The kids then go upstairs for aarti.

Various subjects have been covered over the last 1 ½ yr, including learning about India, some of the Hindu festivals, Ramayana, Krishna Leela. The theme for this session is 'HINDUISM-CONCEPTS, TRUTHS AND VALUES'. The kids so far have learned about the 'CONCEPT OF ONE GOD' & 'HINDU VALUES'. The other topics that will be covered this session are 'FORMS OF GOD', 'RELIGIOUS SYMBOLS', 'ATMAN & LAW OF KARMA'.

To register your child in the class, please send your email to the Anisha Singh, the Religious educational and youth activity chairperson at singhanisha@hotmail.com.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT : PRIEST SUPPORT AVAILABLE

If you have a loved one in hospital and would like to have Pandit ji come and pray with the patient / family, you can can turn to the Temple for support. You may call the Puja Acting Chair Kiran Dayal 474-4051

Buy Raj Minocha's Book of Poetry: *Petals in the Wind*

Suggested Donation: $5.00 & up The book can be purchased from the Gift Shop located at main entrance to the Hindu Temple.

As most of the Indian community of Greater Cincinnati knows, Late Raj Minocha was affectionately called the Poet-Laureate of Cincinnati. His poetry book, *Petals in the Wind*, was very enthusiastically received when it came out in 2008. His poetry was so popular that everybody asked him to write and recite a poem for a birthday, graduation, engagement, or wedding. And he was too gracious to say no. With his elegant poetry he touched many a souls in Cincinnati.

To give you an idea of how great his poetry is, let me quote the following stanza from his book:

Blowing in the wind each poem is a petal, Swirling at random, somewhere to settle,

Settling your way, maybe in your lap, Bringing fragrance in life, latent powers to tap!

Although numerous copies of *Petals in the Wind* have already been sold, many more are still available. So far, Raj and Krishna Minocha have donated the entire proceeds from the sale of his book to the Hindu Temple. You can buy the book and enjoy Rajji's great poetry. All the money from the sale of the book will go to the Hindu Temple Y. Datta

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MAHA SHIVA-RATRI PUJA
March 2nd Wednesday 2011

6 pm to 4 am (All Night) Puja

First Puja

6 pm to 7 pm Shivabhishek

6:30 to 7:30 Puja Thali offering (Archana) Path**

7:30 to 8:00 Shiv Mahimnah Path, Bhajans

8:00 pm Aarti Followed by Prasad (Dinner)

Second Puja

9:30 pm to 10:30 pm Shivabhishek

10:30 pm to 11:30 pm Shiva Shashranam

Shiva Mahima Path and Bhajans

11:30 pm Arti and Prasad

Third Puja

12:30am to 1:30 am Shivabhishek*

1:30am to 2:00 am Shiv Mahimnah PathArti & Prasad

Fourth Puja

2:30 am to 3:30 am Shvabhishek

3:30 am to 4 am Shiva Mahimah Path, Arti and Prasad

We Need sponsors. Sponsorship:* Shivabhishek.: $101.00. ,All Night 4 times Puja: $251.00 Puja Thali: $21.00 with Ganga jal & Milk**

Please sponsor one of the Abhishek for lord Shiva on this auspicious day.

We also request devotees to bring only very small amount of milk for offering, due to large collection of milk, which we cannot offer on same night. Please donate money or dry nuts instead of milk

For Details Please call Kiran Dayal 474-4051,Janak Dave: 859-371-9645, Acharya Kailashji 652-5382, Temple 528-3714.

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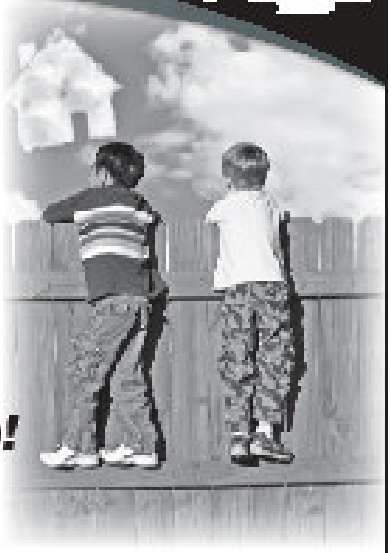

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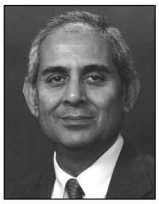

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