



# आराधना

*Aradhana*

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

Paush / Magh

Vikram Samvat, 2069

January, 2013



Happy New Year 2013,  
Indian Republic Day



<http://www.cincinnati temple.com>

Email: [hindusociety@fuse.net](mailto:hindusociety@fuse.net)

Phone: (513) 528-3714

## NEW YEAR CELEBRATION Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday 2013



11am Ganpati Havan / Homam

12:30pm Aarti

3pm Mata Ki Chouki

7:30pm Aarti

Sponsorship for Ganpati Havan \$51.00

Archana \$21.00

Event Sponsors Needed.

Please call Sangita Patel 791-0855,

Temple 528-3714

## MATA KI CHOUKI Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday 2013



3pm Devi Durga Puja

4pm First Aarti

4:15 Mata Bhajans /Bheten

7:00 Tuesday Hanuman Chalisa

7:30pm BHOG , AARTI ,  
Prasad & dinner

Sponsored by- Dr. Prem Shankar,  
Kiran Verma & their family.

**WISHING EVERYONE A VERY HAPPY & PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!**

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](mailto:asiindian@aol.com) / 513-779-1043

Aradhana (past and present) is also available at temple website: [www.cincinnati temple.com](http://www.cincinnati temple.com)

Deadline for submission of articles for next Aradhana is January 10th

# TEMPLE INFORMATION

## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2012

### **President**

Deepak Dixit (513) 400-4258  
dndixit@hotmail.com

### **Vice President**

Ambikaipakan Balasubramaniam  
(513) 204-0213  
balasua@yahoo.com

### **Secretary:**

Pradeep Gupta (513) 342-2005  
pguptamail@gmail.com

### **Treasurer:**

Prasad Megada (Chair) (513) 779-4582  
prasadmegada@yahoo.com

## COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

### **Pooja Committee:**

Kiran Dayal( Chair): (513) 474-4051  
kdayal2@yahoo.com

### **Communications/Editor:**

Sandeep Gupta (513) 336-8782  
sandeep.guptas@gmail.com

### **Membership & Fundraising:**

Manish Srivastava (513) 503-2825  
mansriva@hotmail.com

### **Property Management & Maintenance:**

Rakesh Patel (513) 892-1830  
rockypatel1968@yahoo.com

### **Cultural Activities:**

Asit B. Saha (Chair) (513) 489-5720  
absaha09@gmail.com

### **Religious Education & Youth Activities:**

Vinit Rastogi (513) 398-3216  
rastogivk@gmail.com

### **Long Range Planning**

Jeetu Patel (513) 836-0606  
jpatel5@live.com

### **Youth Member:**

Mahima Devarajan (513)-646-9311  
arcubedgd@yahoo.com

### **Priests:**

Acharya Kailash Sharma, Chief Priest  
(513) 770-0705  
Acharya Chakreshwar Sharma  
(513) 528-0901  
Pandit Srinath Bhattar  
(513) 488-2986

### **Religious Counselor**

Dr. Koti Sreekrishna (513)-290-3064  
tatachar@aol.com

## 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

**1:00 P.M.— Aarti**

**Attorney:** Aronoff, Rosen & Hunt  
(513) 241-0400

**Accountant:** Open

## 2012 POOJA COMMITTEE & RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES MEMBERS

|                             |              |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Sangita Patel (Chair)       | 791-0855     |
| Kiran Dayal (Co-Chair)      | 474-4051     |
| Amita Gupta (Co-Chair)      | 336-8782     |
| Swarna Choudhury (Co-Chair) | 232-2343     |
| Acharya Kailash Sharma      | 770-0705     |
| Acharya Chakreshwar Sharma  | 528-0901     |
| Pandit Srinath Bhattar      | 528-3714     |
| Meena Sondhi                | 831-9788     |
| Meena Karamchandani         | 683-9454     |
| Kalpna Srivastava           | 233-9184     |
| Muralee                     | 573-0550     |
| Vasundhra Dasari            | 777-3353     |
| Suchitra Mishra             | 573-9775     |
| Rajan Odayar                | 336-6843     |
| Vilas Patel                 | 947-0861     |
| Triveni Dave                | 859-371-9645 |
| Mangal Nemade               | 234-8373     |
| Purabi Dey                  | 688-1721     |

### TREASURER Co- Chair

Amar Sharma 777-5771

## Temple Manager's Committees

**LaxmiS.Srivastava, Temple Mgr 474-0533**  
**Raj Bodalia, ,Chair Special Activities583-0184**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>1.Office Manager</b><br>Mohan Chopra  | <b>9. I/C Temple Web site</b><br>Bharat Vala  |
| <b>2. I/C Swami Lectures</b><br>Vinay Kumar<br>Meena Mehta<br>Koti Sreekrishna           | <b>Sudhakar Vinod</b>   |
| <b>3. Temple Data Base</b><br>Nandkumar Khemchandani<br>Raj Bodalia<br>Meena Mehta       | <b>10. I/C Temple Calendar</b><br>Meena Mehta<br>Ashvin Mehta<br>Achaya Kailash Sharma      |
| <b>4. Anniversary &amp; Birthday Data</b><br>Raj Agarwal<br>Shakuntala Agarwall          | <b>11. Volunter Services</b><br>Rajan Odayar<br>Kedarnath Nambori<br>Dilip Patel            |
| <b>5. E-mail .Data</b><br>Pradeep Goyal<br>Nandkumar Khemchandani                        | <b>Vijay Kumar Sharma</b>   |
| <b>6. Gift Shop</b><br>Meena Sondhi<br>Madhu Sharma                                      | <b>12. Temple Photographers</b><br>L. Ram Kumar<br>Naba Mishra<br>VG Ramaswamy              |
| <b>7.Security (ADT)</b><br>Meena Mehta<br>Vinay Kumar<br>Ramesh Sondhi<br>Kailash Sharma | <b>13. Mela Committee</b><br>Anil Jindal<br>Jyoti Desai<br>Raneshwar Gupta<br>Krutarth Jain |
| <b>8. Financial Data</b><br>Amar Sharma<br>Raj Bodalia<br>Laxmi S. Srivastava            |   |

### Please Donate Generously

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

**Aradhana is Published Monthly . Circulation:** Approx. 1750 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<br>TEMPLE | OUTSIDE<br>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)-<br>(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/<br>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.

### **CHECK-OUT**

<http://newbhagavadgita.blogspot.com/2010/04/shock-treatment-in-bhagavad-gita.html>

### Temple Rental: Lower Floor Only

|                                       | Full day       | Half day |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|----------|
| Monday -Thursday<br>(except holidays) | \$301          | \$151    |
| Friday, Saturday & Holidays           | \$501          | \$351    |
| <b>Sunday after 3PM only</b>          | — <b>\$351</b> |          |

**Note:** For half day select one of the two:

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

**USE OF KITCHEN \$ 51**

**Use of Paper Supplies (PS) \$ 101**

**Use of Kitchen and PS \$125**

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 please contact Pooja Committee :**

**Kiran Dayal 474-4051 or to rent a temple hall (lower level)**

**Raneshwar Gupta 232-3331**

### **Pooja Committee Announcement:**

To schedule a Pooja **or to rent a temple hall (lower level)** please contact Kiran Dayal 513-474-4051 **or to rent a temple hall (lower level)** Raneshwar Gupta 232-3331

If you have any question or suggestion about temple activities contact Kiran Dayal 513-474-4051, 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/Homam

For more details please contact

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  
Sponsors needed for Pooja \$51.00

For Details call

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



### Monthly Murugan Abhishekham / Pooja

Every second Sat of the Month  
Sat 4pm Sponsor Murugan Group. 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: 488-2986

### 1008 Gayatri Jap

Second Saturday of each month at 9.30AM  
For details please contact temple priest 528-3714 or  
Kiran Dayal 474-4051



### 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



### Weekly Shiv Mahlman Stotram

Every Monday at 6:30 pm



### Weekly Hanuman Chalisa Path

Every Tuesday at 6:30 p m To sponsor call Kiran Dayal  
474-4051 or Temple Priests 528-3714

### 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

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

### Weekly Vishnu Sahasranaam Parayana

Vishnu Sahasranaama Parayana (chanting) will now take place  
Every Thursday at 7:00 pm . Please join us for the chanting.  
Please contact Ganesh Sundaresan 513-752-4025

### Weekly Venkateswar Pooja

Every Friday at 6:30pm

To sponsor pooja please call Kiran Dayal 474-4051;

Temple priests: 528-3714

### SAI BHAJAN

Every First Sat. of month 6pm to 7:30pm



For more details please call Dr. Ganesh 857-719-1500 ,  
Rajan 331-2058.

### PURUSHOTTAM NAAM STOTRA PARAYAN

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. of each month  
6pm to 7:30pm



For details please call Mina Mehta 574-6763

## UPDATES FROM DEC 2012 to JAN 2013

**MAKAR SANKRANTI CELEBRATION DATE CHANGED** from Jan 20<sup>th</sup> Sun. to Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> Sun

**SUNDER KAND PATH** CHANGED FROM Jan . 13<sup>th</sup> TO Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>

**MATA KI CHOUKI** CHANGED JAN 5<sup>th</sup> Sat. to Jan 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday 3pm to 7:pm  
followed by Hanuman Chalisa Path



## JANUARY 2013 EVENTS

|     |                  |      |   |
|-----|------------------|------|---|
| Jan | 1 <sup>st</sup>  | Tue. | New Year Havan 11am   |
| Jan | 1 <sup>st</sup>  | Tue. | <b>Mata Ki Chouki</b> 3pm to 7pm<br>Sponsored by- Dr. Prem Sankar & Kiran Verma ,family   |
| Jan | 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Sat. | <b>Sai Bhajans</b> 6pm  |
| Jan | 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Sat. | Navgrah Puja 3pm Sponsorship \$51.00  |
| Jan | 12 <sup>th</sup> | Sat. | 1008 Gayatri japa & Homa 9:30am   |
| Jan | 13 <sup>th</sup> | Sun. | <b>Makar Sankranti/Pongal Celebration, Murgan Abhishekam</b> 10am, Event Sponsored by Murgan devotees. No Abhisekam on Sat Jan 12th |
| Jan | 13 <sup>th</sup> | Sun. | <b>Lohri Celebration</b> , 6:00pm<br>Event Sponsor Needed, Call Rani Dhamija 984-5777   |
| Jan | 14 <sup>th</sup> | Mon. | <b>Makar Sankranti/Pongal /Uttarayan</b>  |
| Jan | 20 <sup>th</sup> | Sun. | Sunderkand Path 10:30am<br>Sponsored by Sangita & Arvind Patel, Dilip & Vilas Patel   |
| Jan | 26 <sup>th</sup> | Sat. | Purnima Satya Narayan Puja 6:30pm Sponsorship \$51 Puja Samagri will be provided, Please bring Fruits,Prasad, and 1 coconut.        |
| Jan | 26 <sup>th</sup> | Sat. | Venkateshwara Abhishekam 10am Sponsorship \$51.00   |
| Jan | 27 <sup>th</sup> | Sun  | Ganesh Puja/Atharvashirsh Path 11am   |

## FEBRUARY 2013 EVENTS

|      |                  |      |  |
|------|------------------|------|--|
| Feb. | 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | Sat  | Navgrah Puja 3pm Sponsorship \$51.00   |
| Feb  | 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | Sat. | Sai Bhajans 6pm  |
| Feb. | 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Sat  | 1008 Gayatri japa & Homa 9:30am  |
| Feb. | 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Sat. | Murgan Abhishekam 4pm Sponsorship \$101.00   |
| Feb. | 10 <sup>th</sup> | Sun. | Sunderkand Path 10:30am, Schedule changed from 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun to 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun.<br>Pannaben Patel, Paresh & Sarla Majmumdar |
| Feb. | 15 <sup>th</sup> | Fri. | Vasant Panchami puja 10am (actual Day)   |
| Feb. | 17 <sup>th</sup> | Sun  | Vasant Panchami Celebration 10:30am<br>Event Sponsored by -Agrani.   |
| Feb. | 23 <sup>rd</sup> | Sat. | Venkateshwar Kalyanam 10am Sponsorship\$51   |
| Feb. | 24 <sup>th</sup> | Sun  | Ganesh Puja & Atharvashirsh Path 11am  |
| Feb. | 25 <sup>th</sup> | Mon. | Purnima Satya Narayan Puja 6:30pm<br>Sponsorship \$51 Puja Samagri will be provided, Please bring Fruits,Prasad, and 1 coconut.        |



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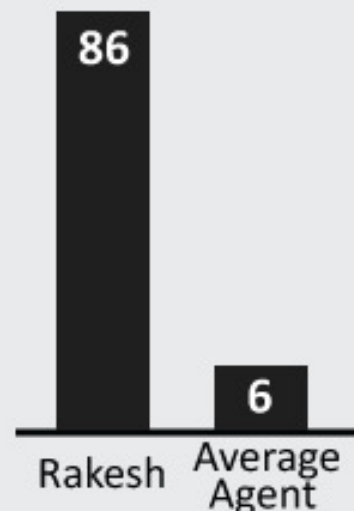
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# MAKAR SANKRANTI CELEBRATION

Jan 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday

10am to 1:00pm



10 am Muragan Abhishekam

12pm Archanas

1pm Aarti Followed by Lunch Prasad

Event Sponsored by Murgan devotees

Sponsorship \$ 101 Abhishekam , \$21 Archana

For More Details please call Pt.Srinath Bhattar 488-2986,  
Sangita Patel 791-0855, Temple 528-3714.

## Lohri Celebration

Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday . 6pm Bonfire



Event Sponsors needed.

For details please call Rani Dhamija 984 -5777.

Acharya Kailashji 652 5382. Sangita Patel 791-0855.

Temple 513 528 3714.

Lohri is an agricultural festival, filled with merry-making. It is celebrated in the state of Punjab on the 13th of January, which falls one day before Makar Sankranti. While Lohri is essentially a Punjab festival, it is celebrated in some other states of North India as well. Lohri is celebrated to denote the last day of the coldest days of winter. The festival of Lohri is celebrated outdoors. As it is usually very cold on the 13th of January, a bonfire is lit, and friends and relatives gather around. If there has been a happy occasion in the family, like the birth of a child or a marriage, Lohri is celebrated with much greater gusto. The happy family usually hosts a party to celebrate the first Lohri of the new child or couple. Singing and dancing form an intrinsic part of the celebrations. People wear their brightest clothes and come to dance the *bhangra* and *gidda* to the beat of the *dhol*. Punjabi songs are sung, and everybody rejoices prayers are made to Agni, the God of Fire, and Prasad is distributed. The prasad comprises of five main things: til, gazak, gur, moongphali (peanuts), and phuliya or popcorn. An offering is also made of this Prasad to the sacred fire. Lohri is celebrated throughout the country in different forms, as a harvest festival. It is called Pongal in the South, Bhugali Bihu in Assam, Bhogi in Andhra Pradesh and Sankranti in the central part of the country. Modes of celebrating Lohri are also different, but the message conveyed by the festival, that of setting aside differences and rejoicing by celebrating the end of the harvest season and the chilly winter is the same.

## Vasant Panchmi Celebration

Sunday Feb. 17th 2013

10:30am - 1pm



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 & AartiPrasad ( Lunch)

Event is sponsored by- Agrani Bengali Association .

For Details Please call Sangita Patel 791-0855, Anju Saha 474 3922, Temple: 513-528-3714.



# Murugan Kalyanam





**PLEASE WELCOME THE HINDU SOCIETY OF GREATER CINCINNATI  
2013 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

**INCOMING**

**OUTGOING**

**PRESIDENT**

Jitu Bhai Patel

Deepak Dixit

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Vinod Sudhakar

Ambi Balasubramaniam

**SECRETARY**

M. Muraleetharan

Pradeep Gupta

**TREASURER**

Amar Sharma

Prasad Megada

**2013 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

**Pooja Committee**

Sangita Patel

Kiran Dayal

**Cultural Committee**

Asit Saha

**Fundraising**

Manish Srivastava

**Maintenance**

Rakesh Patel

**Long Range Planning**

Laxmi Srivastava

Jitu Bhai Patel

**Religious Education**

Vinit Rastogi

**Communications/  
Aradhana Editor**

Geeta Mehan

Sandeep Gupta

**Youth Representative**

Mahima Devarajan

**SNOW**

(By Krish Gupta, 5th Grade)

White fluff fell from the sky,  
it formed a blanket on the ground.

The blanket fell apart in my hands,  
and the inside was too cold to lay down.

I found it made a man,  
With coal eyes, a carrot nose, a raisin mouth and stick hands  
In the morning it was gone,  
And the grass was crying for the man.

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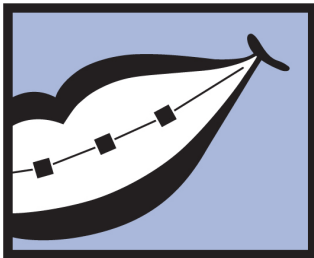
- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| ⇒ Accounting             | ⇒ Business Acquisition                        |
| ⇒ Payroll taxes          | ⇒ Loans: Business or Residential              |
| ⇒ Business tax Returns   | ⇒ IRS or State Audits Financial Consultations |
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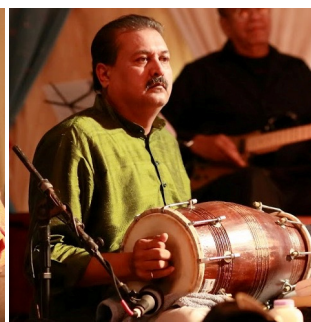
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 तुम क्या प्यास बुझाओगी किसी की ,  
 बरसाती नदी का मैला पानी ,  
 तुम तो स्वयं घट घट प्यासी घूम रही हो ।  
 झूठी पहचान ओढ़ रही हो ,  
 सही पहचान खो रही हो ।  
 भागीरथी - जान्हवी ,,,,तुम बनो गंगा की धारा,  
 तुम रहो इतनी गहरी कि ,  
 पत्थर भी तैरने लगें ।  
 तुम बनो इतनी चौड़ी कि ,  
 पाट पाट को निहारने लगे ।  
 तुम बनो इतनी पावन कि ,  
 नदी नाले तुममें मिलकर गंगा जल बनने लगें ।  
 तुम रहो अनुशासित अपना कूल ना तोड़ो ,  
 तुम रहो मर्यादित अपना घर ना छोड़ो ,  
 तुम तो हो प्राणदायिनी ,  
 अपनी सही पहचान स्वयं बनाओ ।  
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# Anuradha Paudwal Concert





## EDITOR'S NOTE

Namashkar to All Devotees,

First of all, I would like to wish all our readers a **VERY HAPPY & PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!** May 2013 bring you closer to fulfilling your dreams!



I have been the editor of Aradhana for a year and now its time for me to move on. I enjoyed every minute of dedicating my time to God. My work and family commitments have increased, thereby leaving very little time for Aradhana. I am still going to volunteer at the temple, whenever I visit.

**Once a Volunteer, Always a volunteer!**

In last, I would like to Thank each of you, who appreciated my work and for the new look I gave to Aradhana!

- Sandeep Gupta

## COLORED ARADHANA

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## Hindu Rituals and Routines and why do we follow them?

Paraphrased from:

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/103846498/Swami-Chinmayananda-Hindu-Rituals-and-Routines>

### Why do we wear marks (tilak, bindi, and the like) on the forehead?



Religious forehead mark invokes a feeling of sanctity in the wearer and others. It is applied with the prayer – "May I remember the Lord. May this pious feeling pervade all my activities. May I be righteous." Even when we temporarily forget this prayerful attitude the mark on another reminds us of our resolve. The mark is thus a blessing of the Lord and a protection against wrong tendencies and forces. Its form and color vary according to one's religious sect and/or the Deity being worshipped. The forehead mark covers the spot between the eyebrows, which is the region yogis focus on during meditation. That is the position of the so called "third eye" with which we are to see the God within us (as per HH Ranga Priya Swami).

The entire body emanates energy in the form of electromagnetic waves – the forehead and the subtle spot between the eyebrows especially so. That is why worry generates heat and causes a headache. The forehead mark prevents energy drain. Sometimes the entire forehead is covered with chandan or bhasma. Using plastic reusable "stick bindis" is not very beneficial, other than for the purpose of decoration.

### Why do we not touch papers, books and people with the feet?

Knowledge is sacred. So it must be given respect at all times. Nowadays we separate subjects as religious and secular. But in ancient India every subject – secular or religious – was considered divine and taught by the guru in the *gurukula*. The custom of not stepping on educational tools is a frequent reminder of the high position accorded to knowledge in our culture. From an early age, this wisdom fosters in us a deep reverence for books and education. This is also the reason why we worship books during Saraswathi Pooja (Saraswathi is the Goddess of Learning) and also during festivals like Vasant Panchami. Here is a common prayer chanted prior to beginning the studies:

*Saraswati namasthubhyam Varade kaama roopini  
Vidyaarambham karishyaami Sidhirbhavatu me sadaa*

O' Saraswati, the giver of Boons and fulfiller of wishes,  
I prostrate to You before starting my studies. May I always succeed.

### Why is touching another person with the feet is considered bad?

Man is regarded as the most beautiful, living breathing temple of the Lord! Therefore touching another with the feet is akin to disrespecting the divinity within him or her. This calls for an immediate apology, which is offered with reverence and humility.

### Why do we apply the holy ash?

The ash of any burnt object is not regarded as holy ash. Bhasma (the holy ash) is the ash from havan (Homa or Yajna), the sacred fire ceremony. Special wood (Samidh) or havan samagri along with ghee and other items like almond, coconut, specially prepared food items are offered to fire for delivering to the Deity being invoked. Or the deity is worshipped by pouring ash as abhisheka and is then distributed as bhasma. Bhasma is generally applied on the forehead. Some apply it on certain parts of the body like the upper arms, chest etc. Some ascetics rub it all over the body. Many consume a pinch of it, each time they receive it.

Bhasma means, "that by which our sins are destroyed and the Lord is remembered". *Bha* implies *bhartsanam* ("to destroy") and *sma* implies *smaranam* ("to remember"). The application of bhasma therefore signifies destruction of the evil and remembrance of the divine. Bhasma is called *vibhuti* (which means "glory") as it gives glory to one who applies it.



Homa (offering of oblations into the fire with sacred chants) signifies the offering or surrender of the ego and egocentric desires into the flame of knowledge or a noble and selfless cause. The consequent ash signifies the purity of the mind, which results from such actions. Also the fire of knowledge burns the oblation and wood signifying ignorance and inertia respectively. The ash we apply indicates that we should burn false identification with the body and become free of the limitations of birth and death.

Bhasma is specially associated with Lord Shiva who applies it all over His body. Shiva devotees apply bhasma as a tripundra. When applied with a red spot at the center, the mark symbolizes Shiva-Shakti (the unity of energy and matter that creates the entire seen and unseen universe). Bhasma is used in many ayurvedic medicines. The famous *Mrityunjaya mantra* is to be chanted while applying ash on the forehead.

*Tryambakam yajamahe Sugandhim pushtivardhanam | Urvaa rukamiva bhandhanaan Mrityor muksheeyamaa amrutaat||*

We worship The Three-Eyed Lord Shiva who nourishes and spread fragrance in our lives. May He free us from death and grant us eternal life as effortlessly as the ripe cucumber detaches from its stem.

### Why do offer food to the Lord before eating it?

We make an offering of food to the Lord and later partake of it as *prasaada* – a holy gift from the Lord. In our daily ritualistic worship (pooja) also we offer *naivedyam* (food) to the Lord. What we receive in life as a result of our actions is really belongs to Lord alone. We acknowledge this through the act of offering food to God. This is exemplified by the Hindi words "*tera tujko arpan*" – I offer what is Yours to You. Knowing this, our entire attitude to food and the act of eating changes. The food offered will naturally be pure and the best. We share what we get with others before consuming it. We do not demand, complain or criticise the quality of the food we get. We eat it with cheerful acceptance (*prasaada buddhi*).

Before we partake of our daily meals we first sprinkle water around the plate as an act of purification. Five morsels of food are placed on the side of the plate acknowledging the debt owed by us to the Divine forces (devta runa), our ancestors (pitru runa), the sages (*rishi runa*), our fellow beings (*manushya runa*) and other living beings (*bhuta runa*). Thereafter the Lord, the life force, is offered the food invoking the five vital breaths with the following chants: *praanaaya swaahaa, apaanaaya swaahaa, vyaanaaya swaahaa, udaanaaya swaahaa, samaanaaya swaahaa, brahmane swaahaa*

After offering the food thus, it is eaten as *prasaada* – blessed /sanctified food.

.....To be continued

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**Gen A/C**

| Items                             | TOTAL \$<br>JAN-Nov<br>2012 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                   |                             |
| Aradhana Publication              | 31009.53                    |
| Bank Charges (safe deposit vault) | 111.90                      |
| Calendar                          | 4743.00                     |
| Canopy                            | 0.00                        |
| <b>Festival Expense</b>           | 0.00                        |
| Anniversary                       | 0.00                        |
| Diwali                            | 3407.57                     |
| Mela                              | 17902.01                    |
| Navratri                          | 1841.00                     |
| Ram Kalyanam                      | 0.00                        |
| Rath Yatra                        | 162.00                      |
| Janmastami                        | 200.00                      |
| Ganesh Chaturthi                  | 200.00                      |
| Vekateswara Abhishekam            | 500.00                      |
| Murugan Abhishekam                | 2280.00                     |
| Cultural Activities               | 2726.77                     |
| Gift Shop                         | 518.50                      |
| Flowers                           | 11338.18                    |
| Havan Shala                       | 703.55                      |
| Kroger Card                       | 0.00                        |
| Mortgage                          | 46687.30                    |
| Office Expenses                   | 5134.41                     |
| Property Insurance                | 4050.75                     |
| Property Tax                      | 10154.66                    |
| Library Project                   | 1465.77                     |

|                                   |                  |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Repair &amp; Maintenance</b>   |                  |
| Grass Cutting & Lawn Care         | 6518.62          |
| Pest Control                      | 614.56           |
| Repair & Maintenance - Unassigned | 56052.30         |
| Snow Removal                      | 600.00           |
| Temple Cleaning                   | 15640.00         |
| Security ADT                      | 10355.28         |
| Membership                        | 601.00           |
| <b>Supplies</b>                   |                  |
| Paper Products                    | 7675.51          |
| Food                              | 7133.63          |
| Pooja                             | 4093.86          |
| Temple Supplies                   | 4489.85          |
| <b>Utilities</b>                  |                  |
| Garbage Removal                   | 1294.37          |
| Gas & Electric                    | 27650.09         |
| Telephone Bill                    | 1643.52          |
| Water & Sewer                     | 1444.68          |
| <b>Wages and Salaries</b>         |                  |
| Bonus                             | 6962.00          |
| City Income Tax                   | 0.00             |
| Federal Income Tax                | 12907.58         |
| Health Care                       | 38946.60         |
| Housing Allowance                 | 0.00             |
| Life Insurance                    | 383.00           |
| Net Pay                           | 37304.75         |
| State Income Tax                  | 924.00           |
| Zoning                            | 0.00             |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>             | <b>388372.10</b> |



# TEMPLE INCOME - JANUARY—NOVEMBER 2012

## Gen A/C

| Items                   | TOTAL \$<br>Jan-Nov 2012 |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Gen Donations           | 105102.34                |
| Membership              | 949.00                   |
| <b>Pooja Income</b>     | 0.00                     |
| Archana                 | 8281.00                  |
| Mata ki Chowki          | 35700.00                 |
| Outside Pooja           | 37734.00                 |
| Satyanarayana Katha     | 407.00                   |
| Special Pooja & Archana | 31812.00                 |
| Havanshala              | 1225.00                  |
| Advertisement Aradhana  | 22090.00                 |
| Calendar Sale           | 60.00                    |

|                                 |                  |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Festivals Income</b>         | 0.00             |
| New Year Celebration            | 3480.00          |
| Anniversary                     | 11816.00         |
| Chitrugupta Yagna               | 0.00             |
| Diwali                          | 0.00             |
| Ganesh Chaturthi                | 3587.00          |
| Hanuman Jayanti                 | 2039.00          |
| Janmasthami                     | 2198.59          |
| Maha Shivratri                  | 12156.00         |
| Mela                            | 30127.00         |
| Nand Mahotsav                   | 983.00           |
| Navaratri                       | 13675.46         |
| Ram Navmi                       | 2152.00          |
| Ramayan Path                    | 3062.00          |
| Rath Yatra                      | 152.00           |
| Saraswati Pooja                 | 1095.00          |
| Venkateshwara (Balaji) Kalyanam | 4765.00          |
| Murugan Abhishekam              | 14244.00         |
| Gift Shop                       | 603.00           |
| Hall Rent + Paper Products      | 2256.00          |
| Kroger Card                     | 971.00           |
| Flowers                         | 9028.00          |
| Bhajan Sandhya                  | 491.00           |
| Cultural Activities             | 5730.00          |
| Insurance Claims/Tax Refunds    | 0.00             |
| <b>TOTAL DEPOSITS</b>           | <b>367971.39</b> |

### Update from President

Namaskar,

The new Executive Committee has been elected and will assume charge from January, 2013. The new executive committee consists of some very experienced and dedicated people whose commitment to the temple is second to none. We are very fortunate to have such talented and capable people at the helm. The new president of the executive committee will be Jitu Bhai Patel. I have had the honor of serving with Jitu Bhai on the executive committee last year. I have tremendous respect for Jitu Bhai and I feel very confident that he will serve the temple with utmost dedication and passion.

We celebrated the Navratri and Dussehra with great enthusiasm this year. The Dandiya/Garba dances at the Cincinnati Mills Mall received tremendous response. The joint HSGC-Ankur Gujarati Samaj program to celebrate Diwali at Mason Junior High School was also a very successful event that was completely sold out. It featured great cultural programs and great food. The Laxmi Poojan at the temple was extremely well-attended event. We had over 1,600 devotees coming to the temple that evening. Children and adults alike enjoyed fireworks at the temple. The success of this event proves that with proper planning, we can manage large events with total discipline and precision. I want to thank the lead organizers and volunteers of these events for their leadership and dedication to the temple.

The much awaited 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the temple was celebrated on December 15<sup>th</sup> at the Atrium Hotel. We had a lovely evening featuring Smt. Anuradha Paudwal. The event was flawless. We had an awesome dinner from the Tandoor Restaurant. We had free babysitting along with face-painting and clown to keep the children entertained. The music concert by Anuradha ji was absolutely spell-binding. She regaled the audience with marvelous movie songs and devotional songs as well as songs from many regional languages. The audience was also extremely responsive. Anuradha ji loved the Cincinnati audience. She commented that she had not seen such an elite audience that was so responsive and fun-loving. Although the final numbers are not in, this event succeeded in its immediate objective of raising significant funds for the Marg project of the temple. By the grace of god, our temple seems to be on an upward trajectory. We have had two major fund-raising concerts this year, we had many large events at the temple with more than 1,000 people in attendance, and we had a huge turnout at the joint Mela/Naach-Sitare event and so on. I sense a very positive and upbeat mood in our community and that is very heartening.

There are many ambitious programs being considered for the temple. The master plan is being drawn up. Jitu Bhai will communicate the plans to all in the near future. Please take interest in the new proposals and support the new plans as and when details are provided. Also, the temple is not the responsibility of just the executive committee. It is a collective responsibility of us all. Please consider helping the temple by attending the events, providing financial support and by being volunteers.

Please join me in welcoming the new executive committee. With our support, they will be successful in their mission and that is how our temple will thrive.

Sincerely,

Deepak Dixit  
President, HSGC



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## **Easy Steps for Enrollment: (takes less than 5 minutes)**

1. Visit [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com) and select "Register" unless you already have an account. Sign up for a Kroger rewards account by entering your Kroger Plus card number or your primary phone number.
2. Confirm your registration through your email account.
3. Sign in to Kroger Community Rewards website (the link on the confirmation email will take you there). Proceed to Edit "My Account;" enter your Kroger Card Number and confirm personal information
4. Click to "Community Rewards" at the bottom of the page and type in our NPO number **81567**. Select "Hindu Society of Greater Cincinnati."

Congratulations! Now a portion of every shopping trip you make will go towards our wonderful Temple. Remember to swipe your registered Kroger Plus Card or use the phone number that is related to your card when shopping to benefit the Temple.

**Once you are enrolled and when you make purchases at Kroger, you will see at the bottom of each paid receipt, "At your request, Kroger is donating to the Hindu Society of Greater Cincinnati".**

Please contact Raneshwar Gupta (Kroger Coordinator) at 513-232-3331 or Manish Srivastava (Fund Raising Chair) at 513-503-2825 if you have further questions/concerns.

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

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