

# PUSHPANJALI



**NEWSLETTER**

**Vol – 21 #1 April 2011**

**Hindu Temple of St. Louis**

725, Weidman Road, St. Louis, MO – 63011

Call: 636.230.3300

[www.hindutemplestlouis.org](http://www.hindutemplestlouis.org)



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## Temple Staff

Manager : Satish Babu

Priests : Shri Deevi Srinivas, Shri Rameshwar Dass, Shri Vedantam  
Sharma, Shri A. Ramakrishna Rao, Shri C. Janardhana Charyulu.

Resident Shilpi : Arumugam Chinniahkonar, Custodian : Rup

Dhimal. Part-time help : Premalatha Ganeshraj (Accounts),

Sushmitha (Library), Ranga (Kitchen)

Education Committee plans to bring learned speakers for lecture at Hindu Temple of St. Louis. This is the first of the 'Lecture Series' planned for this year.

**MESSAGE OF UPANISHADS**  
**BY**  
**SWAMI CHETANANANDA**



**APRIL 24, 2011 (Sunday) at 5PM**  
**Hindu Temple Basement**

Swami Chetanananda is a monk of the Ramakrishna Order, is head of the Vedanta Society in St. Louis, and has written, edited, and translated many books on Sri Ramakrishna, Vivekananda, and Vedanta. We encourage the students and youth to come and participate and learn the message of Upanishads, the quintessence of Vedas.



**HEALTH FAIR**



**SATURDAY, MAY 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2011 FROM 9 AM TO 2 PM**

**FREE AND OPEN TO PUBLIC**

**AT MAHATMA GANDHI CENTER**

**717 WEIDMAN ROAD, ST. LOUIS, MO 63011**

**ORGANIZED BY**

**THE HINDU TEMPLE OF ST. LOUIS AND GANDHI CENTER**

**St Anthony's Medical Center sponsors: Basic laboratory screening for Anemia, blood test to screen for cholesterol, triglyceride levels, blood glucose (must be fasting for at least 8 hours prior to blood test). Screening for prostate cancer. (PSA for males age 50 and above)**

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**Health Fair Provides the following and many more -**

- General health checkup for both men and women.
  - Consultation, screening and education for Diabetes, Heart Disease, Allergy, Lung Disease, Sleep Problems, Women's Health and Mental Health.
  - Vision screening and consultation.
  - Orthopedic consultation and Osteoporosis screening (Bone Densitometry).
  - Dental screening and education.
  - Mammogram coupons.
  - Blood Drive: Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center in St Louis.
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**For further information, please contact:**

**Dr. Ghosh, 314-997-7809; Dr. Naidu 314-229-8761;**

**Drs. Manepalli 314-452-4282 and Dr. Pai 314-439-8020**

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**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The general body this year was more eventful than several others due to the presence of youngsters that outnumbered the veterans. Several interesting points and comment came out of the members.. Usually it appears as though that the points raised by the members are forgotten or ignored. I would like to change that view by concisely summarizing the events and giving assurance that both EC and BOT are aware and would like to act on them. As I would not like meetings to be tense which may result in emotional exchanges, I generally make some jovial comments that would diffuse possible tensions for which I convey my apologies,

1. Regarding the North/South extensions, we hope to do the bhoomi pooja soon, provided the final drawings and permits are finalized.
2. Balvihar is a separate entity. Your donations to Balvihar do not translate into the donation to the Hindu temple.
3. Regarding acquiring the house and land on the west end of our new land, the cost quoted by the owner is too much. We have hired an independent real estate agent to asses its value.
4. Regarding hiring a new Tamil priest, right now it is not just matter of expense, immediately after the General Body meeting I checked with

the treasurer. The work for the 6<sup>th</sup> priest is too little to justify additional unaffordable expense.

5. Regarding comments made on the differential payments and pressure to sign the contract imposed on the priests, EC members explained the situation and said they will look into this in the coming year.
6. Concerning the life membership of those who would pay \$1500 in two years instead of one year, following the general body meeting, EC has considered this request. As this would involve an amendment to the constitution, it was decided that the money given to raffle will be applied towards membership of the temple.
7. The education committee decided that there will be one lecture every alternate month from the local individual(s) and four lectures in a year from outside scholars. Kindly make it a point to attend, so that it will encourage the education committee to continue this series.
8. Regarding length of the meeting after a couple of hours, the members should understand that they are given a chance to express their opinion once a year. I think both EC and BOT members have an obligation to take the questions and comments from every one.
9. There is a comment that only a few people control the temple, and make decisions : All cannot always be involved in making decisions. Office bearers or their representatives would have certain responsibilities and rights to act on behalf of the members.

Vijaya Kumar Buddhiraju, Chair - Board of Trustees.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Hindu religion is ancient, open and diverse where we worship the different incarnations of God. As a result our rituals and pujas are different. Our diversity of rituals and languages puts a responsibility on us to be tolerant and respectful of each other's different puja styles and accommodate other's needs. This tolerance and respect adds to our good Karma.

Temple is "Devasathanam" and is also called Mandir or (Man-dhir) which means a place where our mind gets peace from daily stressful events when we sit at the lotus feet of God. We want every event and visit to this temple, for each devotee, to be pleasurable and satisfying. Our team of dedicated and talented priests, manager, employees and volunteers do their best to provide the facilities and services. Temple management tries its best to schedule events, private pujas and accommodate every one's needs but sometimes there are some conflicts and we request your cooperation and understanding.

Our objective is to make this temple beautiful, provide good facilities and good services. We ask your support, participation in the temple events and inputs. Please feel free to drop your suggestions in the suggestion box or email to us and we will work hard to fulfill your expectations.

Puran Luthra, President – Executive Committee.

### **PUJA COMMITTEE REPORT : Chair – Ayyaqari Rao**

Several hundred devotees attended the Ganesha Puja on New Year's Day of '2011'. Archana was performed by the priests all through the day for blessing the devotees' with health, prosperity and devotional virtue. Devotees were provided with Prasadam and the New Calendars. Makara Sankranti was celebrated with Goda Kalyanam and Murugan abhishekam was performed for Sri Murugan on Thai Poesam. During February for the annual Utsavam (Ceremonial procession of the Utsava Moorti) for Ratha Saptami devotees enthusiastically carried the pallaki with Sri Suryanarayana Swami on their shoulders. Almost twice the number of devotees, compared to last year, attended Maha Shivaratri celebrations on March 2nd, which was performed with four Rudrabhishekams. The first one started at 9 am and the main Mahanyasam was performed at the Shiva shrine and on a special stage in the central worship hall at 6 pm.



Many devotees stayed in the temple for jagaran of the night with bhajans. The celebration ended with the 4 am Laghunyasam which was followed by Mallikarjuna Suprabhatam. Classical devotional dances of 'Nataraja Aradhana' on March 5<sup>th</sup> were the fitting finale of the grand celebration of this year's Mahashivaratri.

**Please note the following guidelines which have been in practice for the last few years.**

- Devotees are requested **NOT** to pour **OIL** on the Navagraha deities as it is a safety hazard to the devotees who are performing pradakshin (circumambulation). Any oil to be offered to Navagrahas should be given to the priests, who will offer it at the appropriate time in abhishekams.
- We want to bring it to the attention of devotees that names of sponsors of major pujas/abhishekams are being read by a priest while sankalpam and the initial Ganesha puja is being performed by another priest.
- All major festivals will have two bhajans performed by devotees before aarati. Any devotee wanting to participate should contact the Puja Committee Chair.

**Why do we do arati?**

At the end of any puja for a God/Goddess, an arati is offered in a clockwise motion along with the ringing of the bell and by reciting the mantrapushpam. It is the one of last steps (upacharas) of the puja ritual and is usually done with an oil lamp or with camphor being lit. The illumination reveals the splendorous details of the deity being worshipped and brings our wandering mind back. As we light up the God/Goddess with the flame of the arati, we turn our attention to the very source of all light which symbolizes knowledge and life. In addition, symbolically the camphor arati represents how our innermost desires and ego can be completely vanished with the presence of the God/Goddess just like the camphor burning without a trace. In the case of an-oil lamp arati, the flame is intended to reveal to us our own divinity and the 'flame of knowledge'. The touching of the eyes and head after touching the arati flame is meant to bless us with divine vision and noble and beautiful thoughts.

**Shloka on Sri Rama:**

**RAMAAYA/RAMABHADRAYA//  
RAAMACHANDRAYA/VEDHASE//  
RAGHUNATHAYA/NAATHAYA//  
SEETHAAYAHA PATHAYE NAMAHA//**



**Meaning:** I am offering my humble salutations to Lord Rama, who is being addressed as:  
Rama by his father, King Dasaradha:  
Ramabhadra by the learned ministers of the kingdom of Ayodhya: Ramachandra by his friends:  
Vedhase by all the Rishis:  
Raghunatha by the people of Ayodhya because Lord Rama belongs to Raghu Vamsa:  
Naatha by his beloved wife, Seetha: and  
Seethaayaha Pathi by the people of Janakapuri:  
For such Lord Rama, I am offering my prayers and salutations.

### **RAMANAVAMI - Priest Shrinivasa Deevi**

Ramnavami or the birthday of Lord Rama falls on the 9th day of the bright fortnight of the month of Chaitra (March-April). Ramnavami is one of the most important festivals of the Hindus, particularly the Vaishnava sect of the Hindus. On this auspicious day, devotees repeat the name of Rama with every breath and vow to lead a righteous life. People pray to attain the final beatitude of life through intense devotion towards Rama and invoke him for his blessings and protection.

It is an extremely colorful ceremony, highly inspiring and instructive too. Temples are decorated and the image of Lord Rama is richly adorned. The holy 'Ramayana' is read in the temples. In Ayodhya the birthplace of Sri Rama, a big fair is held on this day. In temples and at pious gatherings the learned narrate the thrilling episodes of the 'Ramayana'. The devotees chant the holy name of Rama and celebrate the wedding of Rama with Sita on this day.

- The sacred Mantras "Om Sri Ramaya Namah" or "Om Sri Ram Jai Ram Jai Jai Ram" are chanted.
- Devotees read the whole of the Ramayana during this festival.
- Devotees greet one another with "Sri Ram" or "Jai Ram-ji-ki".
- On Ramnavami, a grand worship of Lord Rama is organized in the gorgeously decorated temple. All the Vedic rituals including Laksharchana are performed.

### **Operation Food Search – Youth Group**

On a blistery March morning, four Indian youth stumble out of a Toyota Camry and placed plastic bags on several front doors in the city of Ballwin. These dedicated Hindu Temple Youth Group members were playing their role in Operation Food Search.

For several years now the Hindu Temple Youth Group has been traveling to different neighborhoods in the Ballwin area, asking the populace to donate any canned goods for the homeless population. It's a one-week process where the Youth Group members spread the mission to the surrounding people in Ballwin. A week after the bags are given to the people, the Youth members trek the same path and see if any gracious citizens donated canned goods for the homeless.

This isn't the only act of philanthropy the Hindu Temple Youth Group participates in. Every month the Youth members make Cheese Sandwiches and Minestrone Soup for the homeless to consume as well. The homeless praise the exotic taste of the soup and sandwiches and enjoy the media on which it is served on, in the Youth Group's case, large banana leaves. Every May, the Youth helps several local physicians to conduct free medical exams at the Gandhi Center. The Youth members get to experience a "hospital setting", help out physicians perform minor procedures, and help the fellow populace of St. Louis and their medical issues.

If you are travelling in the Ballwin area around this time of year, and see several Indian youth enjoying themselves, carrying canned goods and chortling at each other's jokes, you'll now know they are only doing an act of kindness. After all, giving back is the best present anyone can give.

Youth volunteers of Hindu Temple of St Louis raised \$ 601.00 on Republic Day Celebration at MGC. Thank you for your generous donation we sent the money to Sunset hills City Municipal Center towards the funds to help Sunset hills tornado victims.

### **OPERATION COMMITTEE : Chair – Prasanna Ayer**

The Operations Committee is responsible for general maintenance and operations of the temple.

We have hired a full-time custodian as of Feb 2011 for regular upkeep and maintenance of the temple and to also assist with temple kitchen activities. Large number of devotees visited temple during Maha Shivarathri and stayed the night. We made security arrangements for the devotees during the night. We are also planning for additional parking, traffic and security arrangements as required for some of the major festivals coming up in April.

## **PRASADAM COMMITTEE : Chair – Nagendra Prasad Bokka**

We would like to let the devotees know that whatever prasadam is prepared in the temple is made without onions and garlic. We request the devotees to prepare prasadam accordingly. We appreciate your cooperation.

We are accepting Groceries as donations to the temple kitchen. Devotees can donate the following items:

- 1) Rice : Long Grain, Sona Masoori and Idly Rice
- 2) Dals : Moong dal, Toor dal, Urad Dal, Fried Chenna Dal
- 3) Oil: Canola or Peanut oil,4) Peanuts,5) Unsalted Butter.

### **UPCOMING TEMPLE FESTIVALS & EVENTS**

Additional parking, security help will be arranged on Chandramana Ugadi and Sriramanavami. Please check the website for updated announcements. ([www.hindutemplestlouis.org](http://www.hindutemplestlouis.org)).

CHANDRAMANA UGADI	April 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday 6.30 PM Ganesha Pooja,Panchanga Sraavanam (TEMPLE OPEN ALL DAY)
SRIRAMANAVAMI	April 12 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday 6.30 PM Sri Rama Kalyanam (TEMPLE OPEN ALL DAY)
SOURAMANA UGADI	April 14 <sup>th</sup> Thursday 6.30 PM Ganesha Pooja,Panchanga Sraavanam
SATYANARAYANA POOJA	April 17 <sup>th</sup> Sunday 6.30 PM
SANI TRAYODASI	April 30 <sup>th</sup> Saturday 11.00 AM
MOTHER'S DAY	May 8 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Kanyaka Prameshwari Pooja – 11 AM Sankara Jayanthi Acharya Jayanthi – 6.30 PM
TYAGARAJA ARADHANA	May 14 <sup>th</sup> Saturday 11 AM Pradosham Rudrabhishekam – 6.45 PM
HANUMAN JAYANTHI	May 26 <sup>th</sup> Thursday 6.30 PM
VAIKASI VISHAKAM	June 13 <sup>th</sup> Monday Kavadi/Murugan Abhishekam – 6.30 PM Pradosham Rudrabhishekam – 5.15 PM
SATYANARAYANA POOJA	June 14 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday 7PM

## Temple Hours

Monday-Friday	9AM – 12:00 noon, 5PM - 8PM
Week-ends & major Festivals	9AM – 8 PM
Daily Services	9:00AM – Nitya Pooja

## Other scheduled Services

Sunday, Monday	Rudra Abhishekam
Tuesday	Parvathi Abhishekam
	Durga Puja
	Hanumaan Puja
	Ramayan Paath
Wednesday	Dattatreya Abhishekam
Thursday	Shri Saibaba Abhishekam & Sai bhajans
Friday	Shri Mahalakshmi Abhishekam
Saturday:	Shri Venkateswara Subrabhatham
	Balaji Abhishekam
	Vishnu Sahasranamam

## First Saturday of Every Month

Poolangi seva of Shri Venkateswara

## Second Saturday of the Month

Ayyappa Abhishekam

## Fourth Sunday of Every Month

Navagraha Abhishekam

## Every Chaturthi

Ganesha Abhishekam

## Shukla Trayodasi Pradosham

Rudra Abhishekam

## Every Krittika Nakshatram

Murgan Abhishekam

## Punarvasu Nakshatram

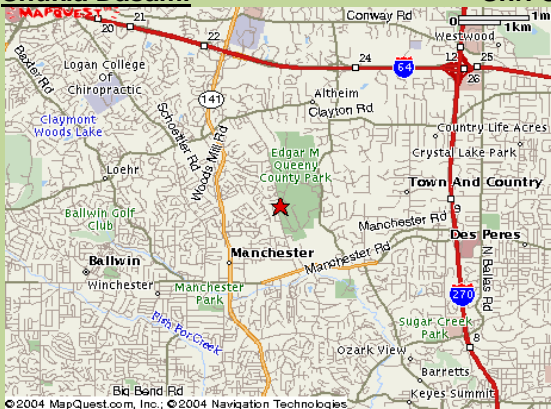
Shri Rama Abhishekam

## Every Rohini Nakshatram

Shri Krishna Abhishekam

## Shukla Dasami

Shri Sai Vratam



**From I-64**

**Take 270 south,  
Manchester Rd  
west, right on  
Weidman Rd,**

**From I-44**

**Take 270 North,  
Manchester Rd  
west, right on  
Weidman Rd,**



## **The Hindu Temple of St. Louis**

**725 Weidman Rd, St. Louis, MO, 63011, USA.**

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