

PUSHPANJALI



Newsletter

Vol 18 - #1 January 2009

The Hindu Temple of St. Louis

725 Weidman Road

Ballwin MO 63011

WWW.HINDUTEMPLESTLOUIS.ORG

Phone : (636)230-3300

Krishna Reddy (Chairman), Jiwan Singla (Vice Chairman)
Vijay Kumar Buddhiraju, Ashwin Patel, G.V. Naidu, Sharad Parikh
Ramadevi Devabhatkuni*, Naina Choksi*, Vishnuvardhana Rao
Patibandala* (*members elected this year for six year term)

Executive Committee

President : Mike Sateesha Vice President : Puran Luthra
Secretary : Shanker Subramanian Joint Secretary : Sumathi Rao
Treasurer : Pattabhi Madippatti Joint Treasurer : Sumathi Rao
Members:

Venkat Darmavarapu, Sendil Rathinasabapathy, Dewan Prasad

Committees

Operations

Rajyalakshmi Naidu (Chair)

Ramarao Kaza, Prasad B, Prasanna Sridharan, G.V.Naidu, Singla J,
Sendil Rathinasabapathy, Pattabhi Madippatti, Puran Luthra, Dandamudi
B. Prasad, V.R.Patibandla, Malathi Reddy

Food

Sendil Rathinasabapathy (Chair)

Sharmila Sendilkumar, Nagendra Prasad, Malathi Reddy, Swarnali,
Venkat Dharmavarapu, Ramarao Kaza, Prasanna Sridharan,
Rajyalakshmi Naidu, Prasad Kavali, Sreekanth Naidu, Anjali Mehta,
Laxami Bandi, Padmasai, Haridas Kartha.

Pooja

Venkat Darmavarapu (Chair)

Smt. Nayana Choksi, Kasinadhuni R. Shankar, Jaghan Yamuna,
Rajyalakshmi Naidu, Sharad Parikh, Chitra Subramanian, M. K.
Sateesha, Devabhaktuni, Sreenivasan Rajagopalan, Shankar
Subramanian, Anjali Mehta, Padmasai, Vijayalakshmi Buddhiraju, Malathi
Reddy, Chandra Nadindla.

Publications

Sateesha (Chair)

Sendil Rathinasabapathy, Malathi Reddy, Prasanna Sridharan, Puran
Luthra, Ajit Vasudevan, Sreenivasan Rajagopalan.

Library

Shanker Subramanian (Chair)

Sendil Rathinasabapathy

Cultural

Dewan Prasad (Chair)

Suguna Sateesha, Mythili Bharadwaj, Chandra Bharadwaj, Puran Luthra,
Rao Ayyagari, K.K Sankaran, Vijay Kumar Buddhiraju, G.V. Naidu, Pankaj
Shah

Fund Raising

Ashwin Patel (Chair)

G.V.Naidu, Sharad Parikh, Krishna Reddy, Sendil Rathinasabapathy

Temple Staff

Manager: Satish Babu

Priests: Shri Deevi Srinivas, Shri Rameshwar Dass, Shri Vedantam
Sarma, Shri A. Ramakrishna Rao, Shri C. Janardhana Chary

Custodian : Arumugam, Part-time Help: Annapurna Uppalapati(Library),
Premalatha Ganeshraj (Accounts).

GENERAL BODY MEETING AND ELECTIONS FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

TIME : Sunday, February 1st 2009 (First Sunday of February) at 1.00 PM

Elections for three vacant positions in the Executive Committee for the period of three years from 2009 to 2012 will be conducted during the General Body Meeting. Update of temple activities and other important items will be discussed at the meeting. Please plan to attend the meeting.

Per Article VI, Section 1 of the By-Laws of the temple, the following members have been appointed to the Election Committee:

1. Dr. Dandamudi – Chairperson,
2. Vadalamani,
3. J. Shah

Mail-in nominations for the three vacant positions must be received by 5.00 p.m on January 23 2009. Nominees for the Executive Committee must be voting members in good standing for at least two preceding years and should have served for at least 12 months in any committee of the temple in the preceding two years. Each candidate should be nominated by a voting member in good standing and seconded by a voting member in good standing. Voting members in good standing are those who are life members or who have donated membership fees \$300.00 or more during the period from January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008. Nominations should be mailed to:

Dr Babu R. Dandamudi,
725, Hindu Temple of St. Louis,
Ballwin, MO 63011

NOMINATION FORM

I hereby nominate the following member for the Executive Committee of the Hindu temple of Saint Louis for a three year term 2009-2012

Name of Nominee _____
Address of
Nominee _____
Telephone # _____ Signature _____
Nominated by : Name _____ Signature _____
Address _____ Telephone # _____
Seconded by : Name _____ Signature _____
Address _____ Telephone # _____

APPEAL TO TEMPLE DEVOTEES

Dear Devotees and Friends,

As we approach the holiday season, we reflect upon another wondrous year passing us by. We truly thank you for all your generosity in supporting our temple this year.

Mahakumbhabhishekam

Next year is a very important time for our Temple. We will be celebrating 'Mahakumbhabhishekam' (the 12th Anniversary of the formal inauguration of the temple) from September 30th to October 4th, 2009. You may remember that the Hindu Temple of St. Louis was formally inaugurated on July 6, 1998. It was a memorable occasion for our community with Pranaprathisthapana of our Istadevatas and Kumbhabhishekam celebrations. Next year, we plan to perform similar celebrations on a fairly large scale. It will be a unique opportunity for community members to participate in and support such an event. Further details will be forthcoming and will be published in our Temple newsletters.

Endowment Trust Fund

There are many ways to provide support to the Temple. We established an Endowment Trust Fund two years ago. Our Temple can only survive with the generosity and support of our community. If you are interested and able, please consider donating a small percentage of your funds through your wills for the future sustenance of the temple. Such donations can serve to help sustain the Temple and ensure that it remains healthy and accessible to our children and beyond.

Land Purchase

We are pleased to inform you that the Temple recently reached an agreement in principle with Meramec Valley Bank to purchase 4.354 acres of the land adjacent to the Temple and Mahatma Gandhi Center (on the south side). As you know this has been a long cherished desire of the community to add additional space, and it has taken almost two decades to realize our goal.

During every major function at the Temple and Mahatma Gandhi Center we faced parking and other space problems. As the community is growing the situation is becoming more challenging with each passing year. Due to simple lack of space many potentially desirable activities like classes for our Youth, Yoga, Meditation, and Music Lessons are being forsaken. In addition to ritualistic activities at the Temple, we have an

obligation to concentrate on imparting knowledge of our religion, culture to our younger generations.

The Temple has signed a sales contract with Meramec Valley Bank to purchase the additional land for one million two hundred thousand (\$1,200,000) dollars. We are taking a loan of nine hundred thousand dollars (\$900,000) from the bank to help pay for the purchase.

We are certainly aware that the world economy is passing through unprecedented financial turbulence. We understand that many in our community are being affected financially and otherwise. The Temple is here to provide support to you during times like this as well as times of prosperity which will inevitably return. As we continue to grow our Temple and prepare it for the future, please consider helping the temple in our time of need as much as possible before the year end. Any small donation will go a long way toward making sure we are healthy and productive for many years.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year. May God bless you.

Sincerely,
Ashwin Patel
Chairman,
Fund Raising committee

S. Krishna Reddy
Chairman,
Board of Trustees



WISHING YOU VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR - 2009

KRISHNA JANMASHTAMI

August 23rd Saturday temple celebrated Krishna Janmashtami. Devotees attended pooja at 7PM and got divine blessings. Temple was opened until midnight for Bhajans.

GANESH CHATHURTHI

September 3rd Wednesday Ganesh Chaturthi was celebrated in the temple. There were two poojas at 5PM and 7.30 PM. Special arrangements for parking in queen park and shuttle services were arranged. More than 1000 devotees attended the pooja.

NAVARATHRI CELEBRATIONS

Devi Navarathri Celebrations started on September 29th Monday. All ten days Devi was blessing the devotees with special alangarnas, temple arranged SriChakra pooja everyday evening. Few of those pictures are here.



Devi as Annapoorani.





Devi as Shri Lakshmi



Devi as Shri Durga

Saraswathi pooja for children and Aksharabyasam was celebrated on October 6th Monday. More than 50 children with their parents started their studies with Devi's blessings.



Durgashtami Utsavam was on October 7th Tuesday. Devi was taken for Utsavam inside the temple and special poojas were held.

Karvachauth Pooja was celebrated on October 17, 2008.



DEEPAVALI

Deepavali was celebrated with Dhanalakshmi Pooja on October 28th Tuesday. Two pujas performed at 5PM and 7.30 PM.



SAI HOMAM

Sai homam was celebrated on October 9th 2008



SKANDA SHASTI

On the occasion of Skanda Shasti, temple arranged a Valli Kalyanam on November 3rd Monday.



Devotees in large numbers attended Valli Kalyanam and received the blessing of Lord Muruga.



KARTIKASOMAVARAM

Kartika Somararams are celebrated with special poojas for Lord Shiva. Mahajyotilingarchana, Samuhika Rudrabhishekam, Manayasapoorvaka Rudhrabhishekam are performed.



Devotees performed abhishekam for Lingam.



From the Fund Raising Committee

Fund Raising dinner was held on Oct 11th. we had raised \$ 11,000 + with minimum attendance. We enthusiastically acknowledge and thank our donors & volunteers who help us to make this event successful. Our special thanks to Food committee, Youth & Volunteer committee, Fund Raising Committee. Hindu Temple wants to extend its appreciation to the following businesses who contributed to the temple's annual fundraising efforts for past so many years.

India Palace, priya Indian cuisine, & Seema Enterprises. As we approach the holiday season, we reflect upon another wonderful year passing us by. We truly thank you for all your generosity in supporting our temple this year. Looking forward for same support for coming year.

From By-Laws Sub Committee

After initial discussions the by-laws sub-committee recommended the following changes to be incorporated into the Temple Policies and Procedures document:

1. Article IV, Section 7, Paragraph 4.

Delete the sentence " He/she is responsible for asset management of the corporation." Basically removes asset management responsibilities from secretary of Board of Trustees. With this change the Asset Management Committee will function like other Temple Committees.

2. Article VI, Section 2

Change Election date

1st Sunday of February to Last Sunday of February

From the Pooja Committee Chairperson

We had very eventful year. Every Pooja was attended by the large number of Devotees. I must thank all the Devotees, who made the all events a grand success. I also thank the all Priests for doing excellent job as usual.

I have to thank all the volunteers who made the beautiful Garlands to all through the year and especially during the festival times. They really worked hard to make the functions beautiful. At the same token I have to thank volunteers who make Laddus all through the year.

As a Pooja committee chairperson without all of volunteers and my executive members this year we couldn't have performed all the poojas, because as you know Dasara and Deepavali are attend by more than 1000 devotees.

I hope every body's cooperation will continue and we will have another grand successful year.

From the Food Committee Chairperson

In the last three months, Ganesh chaturthi, Vijaya Dasami and Deepavali had record number of devotees turn out in the temple. Kitchen served more than 1300 prasadam plates for each of these festivals. Kitchen served prasadam on all nine days of Navarathri, Karthika Somavaras, Skanda Shasti.

Laddu's are made by volunteers every other Wednesdays in the temple kitchen. Saturdays and Sundays temple has food sales between 10AM to 2PM. All donations goes to temple.

On this occasion I would like to thank all the volunteers who work in the kitchen on Sundays, Saturdays and Wednesdays for laddu, and all other festival days. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to devotees who sponsored food during festival days.

From the Operations Committee Chairperson

Operations committee maintain our facilities, manage temple functions, assists pooja committee by providing updated facility. This year we have taken building improvement tasks, helped regulating traffic on festivals, and have maintained building.

We are in the process of providing emergency lighting system to cope up with power failure, improved parking lot lights, improving security(CCTV) system. In the coming year more improvements are planned and we request devotees to support the temple by generous donation.

I thank all the volunteers for their help, and appeal devotees to send us suggestions and help maintain this temple.

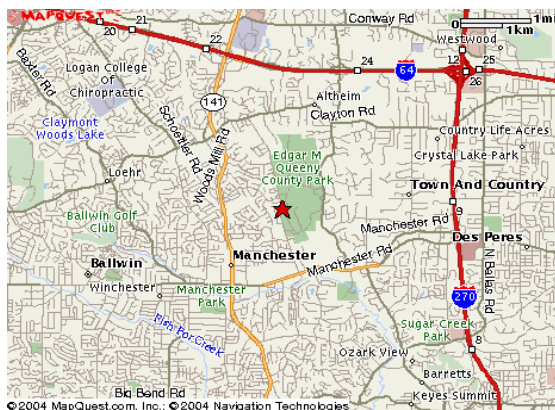
Temple Hours

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

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
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

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