



PLEASE NOTE THE SCHEDULES

Monday Through Thursday: 9 am to 12 noon
and 6 pm to 8 pm
Friday, Weekends & Holidays: 9 am to 8 pm

PASCHIMAVANI

DIRECTIONS

From Freeway 580 in Livermore:
Exit North Vasco Road, left on Scenic Ave,
Left on Arrowhead Avenue

NEWS FROM THE HINDU COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL CENTER, LIVERMORE
VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT <http://www.livermoretemple.org>

SHIVA-VISHNU TEMPLE

OM NAMAH SHIVAYA

TELEPHONE (925) 449-6255 FAX (925) 455-0404

OM NAMO NARAYANAYA

HCCC CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

Dear Devotees:

Our organization has once again successfully completed the annual elections process to choose new board and executive members. On behalf of the HCCC and the board of directors, I would like to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude for the services rendered by the outgoing board and the executive committee members. On behalf of the organization I would like to extend our welcome to the newly elected three board members and one EC member "welcome aboard".

I mentioned in my previous column that our present chief priest Sri. Rompicharla Srinivasacharu will be retiring at the end of March 2006. A gala retirement party with Veda Pathanam and cultural program function is at our temple. Please participate in this function with your family and friends to show our appreciation to this priest for the services he rendered to the HCCC and the temple over the past two decades.

Sri Rama Navami function is scheduled for April 6th and 9th, the details of which are given in this Pachima Vani. We are expecting a large number of devotees to attend Sri Rama Navami celebrations. Please participate in the function with your family by becoming a sponsor.

By this time either by word of mouth or by virtue of reading a local Indian Newspaper, you may be aware that the Pachaka/Archaka (religious cook) Gopala Krishna Machar at our Temple has filed a lawsuit against the HCCC/ Temple with some allegations. It is unfortunate that he has chosen this path.

Even after he has filed a lawsuit against the Temple, HCCC management has engaged members from the community and well wishers for both sides with a mandate to resolve this matter in a reasonable and compassionate manner that will be fair to both sides. Unfortunately these efforts were not successful. HCCC has no other choice than to follow the legal path in order to protect our Temple, which has been serving for more than 20 years, the religious, social and cultural needs of many thousands of devotees. How this matter unfolds in the future, we will keep you apprised.

Om Namah Shivaya | Om Namo Venkatesaya ||

Jagannadham Akella
Chairman, HCCC Board of Directors

Board of Directors has elected Sri. Jagannadham Akella to serve as Chairman of HCCC for the second year. They have elected Sri. Ben Venkatas to serve as the President of Exec Committee and Sri. Krishna Chander as Corporate Secretary of HCCC. The status of other Management Team members is as follows:

Management Team		
Board of Directors	Status	
Amrit Duneja	Continuing	Shankar Narasimhan Incoming
Bala Mani	Continuing	Shiv Kumar Mehta Outgoing
Ben Venkatas	Incoming	Suresh Upadhyayula Continuing
Jagannadham Akella	Continuing	Executive Committee Status
Krishna Chander	Incoming	Boda Rao Outgoing
Krishna Reddy	Outgoing	Chittaranjan Mallipeddi Outgoing
Lingagoud Memula	Continuing	Debasis Bagchi Outgoing
S Visweswaran	Outgoing	Dr. Kamala Shankar Continuing
Sambasiva Rao Gullapalli	Continuing	Kesavan Sri Kumar Outgoing
		Laxmikant Joshi Outgoing
		Mohan Rao Outgoing
		Ram Nagulapalli Outgoing
		Shankar Bathwal Incoming
		Sreeram Madabhushi Continuing
		Sridar Pootheri Continuing
		Srinivas Lingutla Outgoing
		Srinivas Malladi Continuing
		Usha Ramaswamy Continuing
		Vidya Ananth Outgoing
		Vinay Kalleth Continuing



PLANNED SPECIAL EVENTS

DATE/DAY	EVENTS	TIME	ACTIVITIES
April 1st/Sat	1st Sat of the Month	11:00 AM 12 Noon 6:30 PM	Swarna Alamkaram for Shiva Balaji Vastra Samarpanam Kartikeya Abhishekam and Archana
Apr 2nd/Sun	Krittika	6:30 PM	Sri Krishna Pooja
Apr 3rd/Mon	Rohini	6:30 PM	Kartikeya Sahasranama Archana
Apr 5th/Wed	Shasti	6:30 PM	Sri Rama Abhishekam
Apr 6th/Thur	Punarvasu	6:30 PM	Detailed Program at the End
Apr 8th/Sat	Sri Rama Navami 2nd Sat of the Month	10:00 AM 11:00 AM 6:30 PM	Balaji Sahasra kalasa Abhishekam Muttangi Alamkaram for Shiva Balaji Bhoga Murthy Abhishekam
Apr 9th/Sun	Ekadasi		Detailed Program at the End
Apr 10th/Mon	Sri Rama Navami Weekend Function	6:30 PM	Shiva Abhishekam
Apr 11th/Tue	Pradosham	6:30 PM	Mahalakshmi Sahasranama Archana and Utsavam
	Panguni Uttiram	7:30 PM 8:30 PM	Gadya Traya Parayanam, Satumurai & Sethe seva Ekanta Seva
Apr 12th/Wed	Poornima	6:30 PM	Sri Lalita Sahasranama Parayanam
Apr 13th/Thur	Tamil New Year Bhisaki, Vishu	6:30 PM	Panchanga Sravanam in Tamil
Apr 14th/Fri	Swathi	6:30 PM	Sri Narasimha Swamy Abhishekam
Apr 15th/Sat	3rd Sat of the Month	11:00 AM 11:00 AM	Rajatha Alamkaram for Shiva Tiruppavada Seva for Balaji
Apr 16th/Sun	3rd Sun of the Month	11:00 AM	Bilwa Dala Archana for Shiva
	Sankatahara Chathurthi	6:30 PM	Ganesha Abhishekam
Apr 21st/Fri	Sravana	6:30 PM	Balaji Sahasranama Archana
Apr 22nd/Sat	4th Sat of the Month	12 Noon	Pushpa Seva for Balaji
Apr 23rd/Sun	Ekadasi	6:30 PM	Balaji Bhoga Murthy Abhishekam
Apr 25th/Tue	Pradosham & Masa Shivaratri	6:30 PM	108 Kalasha Abhishekam for Shiva
Apr 29th/Sat	Akshaya Tritiya	6:30 PM	Chandana Abhisheka for Narasimha Swamy
	Krittika	6:30 PM	Kartikeya Abhisheka and Archana
	Basava Jayanthi		
Apr 30th/Sun	Last Sun of the Month	4:30 PM	Kala Bhairava Abhishekam
	Rohini	6:30 PM	Sri Krishna Pooja
May 1st/Mon	Sri Adi Shankara Jayanthi	6:30 PM	Sri Adi Shankara Pooja
May 2nd/Tue	Sri Ramanuja Jayanthi	6:30 PM	Sri Ramanuja Satmura
	Shasti	6:30 PM	Kartikeya Sahasranama Archana
May 3rd/Wed	Punarvasu	6:30 PM	Sri Rama Abhisheka
May 6th/Sat	1st Sat of the Month	11:00 AM 12 Noon	Swarna Alamkaram for Shiva Balaji Vastra Samarpana
May 7th/Sun	Vasavi Jayanthi	11:00 AM	Sri Vasavi Kanyakaparameshwari Pooja
May 8th/Mon	Ekadasi	6:30 PM	Balaji Bhoga Murthy Abhishekam
May 10th/Wed	Pradosham	6:30 PM	Shiva Abhishekam
May 12th/Fri	Sri Narasimha Jayanthi		Detailed Program at the End
	Poornima	6:30 PM	Sri Lalita Sahasranama Parayanam
May 13th/Sat	2nd Sat of the Month	10:00 AM 11:00 AM	Balaji Sahasra kalasa Abhishekam Muttangi Alamkaram for Shiva
	Annamacharya Jayanthi		
May 14th/Sun	Meenakshi Kalyanam	2:00 PM	Lord Meenakshi Sundareshwara Swamy Kalyanam
May 16th/Tue	Sankatahara Chathurthi	6:30 PM	Ganesha Abhishekam
May 18th/Thur	Sravana	6:30 PM	Balaji Sahasranama Archana
May 20th/Sat	3rd Sat of the Month	11:00 AM 11:00 AM	Rajatha Alamkaram for Shiva Tiruppavada Seva for Balaji
May 21st/ Sun	Hanuman Jayanthi		Detailed Program at the End
May 23rd/Tue	Ekadasi	6:30 PM	Balaji Bhoga Murthy Abhishekam
May 24th/ Wed	Pradosham	6:30 PM	Shiva Abhishekam
May 25th/Thur	Masa Shivaratri	6:30 PM	108 Kalasha Abhishekam for Shiva
May 26th/Fri	Krittika	6:30 PM	Kartikeya Abhishekam and Archana
May 27th/Sat	4th Sat of the Month	12 Noon	Pushpa Seva for Balaji
	Rohini	6:30 PM	Sri Krishna Pooja
May 28th/Sun	Last Sun of the Month	4:30 PM	Kala Bhairava Abhishekam
May 29th/Mon	Memorial Day (Weekend Timing)		Temple Opens from 9:00AM To 8:00PM
May 30th/Tue	Punarvasu	6:30 PM	Sri Rama Abhishekam
Jun 1st / Thur	Shasti	6:30 PM	Kartikeya Sahasranama Archana

YOGA VASISHTA

(Excerpts from Swami Venkatesananda's 'The Supreme Yoga', A new translation of Yoga Vasishtha)

Sage Vasishtha continued to Lord Sri Rama:

I shall now describe the tree known as Samadhana (equanimity) that grows in the forest known as the heart of the wise.

Its seed is a turning away from 'the world', whether this is caused naturally or otherwise by the experience of sorrow. Mind is a field. It is ploughed by right action, the right feeling waters it day and night, and the practice of Pranayama nourishes it. On this field known as the mind, the seed known as Samadhi (turning away from the world) falls of its own accord when one is alone in the forest known as wisdom. The wise man should endeavor constantly to keep this seed of meditation watered and nourished by intelligent methods.

One should seek the company of the wise who are one's own real well-wishers and who are pure and friendly. Then one should water the seed of Samadhi or meditation by means of hearing, reflecting on and contemplating the scriptures, which bring about total inner emptiness and which are full of wisdom, pure and cool like nectar. Being aware of the precious seed of meditation or Samadhi that has fallen in the field of one's mind, the wise man should carefully cherish and nourish it by means of austerities, charity, etc.

When this seed begins to sprout, it should be further protected by peace and contentment. At the same time, one should guard it against the birds of desire, attachment to family, pride, greed, etc., with the help of contentment. With the broom of right and loving action the dirt of Rajasic restlessness must be swept away, whereas the darkness of Tamasic ignorance must be driven away by the light of right understanding. The lightning known as pride of wealth and the thunderstorm known as pursuit of pleasure strike the field and devastate it. These should be prevented with the trident of magnanimity, compassion, Japa, austerity, self-control and contemplation upon the significance of the Pranava (OM).

If it is thus protected, this seed grows into wisdom. With it the entire field of the mind shines beautifully. The sprout grows two leaves. One is known as study of scriptures and the other is Satsanga (company of the men of wisdom). Soon it will grow the bark known as contentment with the sap known as dispassion or non-coloring of mind. Fed by the rain of scriptural wisdom, it will soon grow into a tree. Then it is not easily swayed even when it is shaken by the monkeys known as Raga-Dwesa (attraction and aversion). Then there arise in it the branches known as pure knowledge that reach-out far and wide. Clarity of vision, truthfulness,

PLANNED SPECIAL EVENTS

DATE/DAY	EVENTS	TIME	ACTIVITIES
Jun 3rd / Sat	1st Sat of the Month	11:00 AM 12 Noon	Swarna Alamkaram for Shiva Balaji Vastra Samarpana
Jun 1st/Thur	Shasti	6:30 PM	Kartikeya Sahasranama Archana
Jun 3rd/Sat	1st Sat of the Month	11:00 AM 12 Noon	Swarna Alamkaram for Shiva Balaji Vastra Samarpana
Jun 7th/Wed	Ekadasi	6:30 PM	Balaji Bhoga Murthy Abhishekam
Jun 8th /Thur	Pradosham	6:30 PM	Shiva Abhishekam
	Swathi	6:30 PM	Sri Narasimha Swamy Abhishekam
Jun 9th/Fri	Vaikasi Vishakam	5:30 PM	Shanka Pooja
		6:30 PM	Shanka Abhisheka for Lord Kartikeya Swamy
Jun 10th/Sat	2nd Sat of the Month	10:00 AM	Balaji Sahasra kalasa Abhishekam
	Jyesta Abhisheka for Balaji	11:00 AM 4:30 PM	Muttangi Alamkaram for Shiva Jyesta Abhisheka Homa
		6:30 PM	Jyesta Abhishekam for Lord Balaji
	Poomima	6:30 PM	Sri Lalita Sahasranama Parayanam
Jun 11th/Sun	Murugan Kalyanam	3:30 PM	Sri Kartikeya Swamy kalyanam
Jun 14th/Wed	Sankatahara Chathurthi	6:30 PM	Ganesha Abhishekam
Jun 15th/Thur	Sravana	6:30 PM	Balaji Sahasranama Archana
Jun 17th/Sat	3rd Sat of the Month	11:00 AM	Rajatha Alamkaram for Shiva
		11:00 AM	Tiruppavada Seva for Balaji
Jun 18th/Sun	3rd Sun of the Month	11:00 AM	Bilwa Dala Archana for Shiva
Jun 21st/Wed	Ekadasi	6:30 PM	Balaji Bhoga Murthy Abhisheka
Jun 22nd/Thur	Pradosham	6:30 PM	Shiva Abhishekam
	Krittika	6:30 PM	Kartikeya Abhishekam and Archana
Jun 23rd/Fri	Rohini	6:30 PM	Sri Krishna Pooja
	Masa Shivaratri	6:30 PM	108 Kalasha Abhishekam for Shiva
Jun 24th/Sat	4th Sat of the Month	12 Noon	Pushpa Seva for Balaji
Jun 25th/Sun	Last Sun of the Month	4:30 PM	Kala Bhairava Abhishekam
Jun 26th/Mon	Punarvasu	6:30 PM	Sri Rama Abhishekam

SRI RAMA NAVAMI

DATE/DAY	TIME	EVENTS
Thur, March 29th thru Thur, April 6th	8:00 am – 12 Noon 6:15 pm – 7:00 pm 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Srimad Ramayana Parayanam Sri Rama Sahasranama Archana Ramayana Pravachan by Temple Priests (except Mar 29th and April 6th)
Thur, April 6th	10:00 am 7:00 pm	Sri Rama Sadhakshari Homa & Nama karan Samskara Homa Sri Seetha Rama Kalyanotsavam
Sat, April 8th	11:00 am – 6:00 pm	Youth Cultural Program in Assembly Hall (HCCC Youth & Education)
Sun, April 9th	8:00 am 8:30 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 12:00 Noon 1:00 pm 1:30 pm 3:00 pm 6:00 pm 7:00 pm 7:15 pm 8:00 pm	Suprabhatam for Shiva, Balaji and Rama Abhisheka for Ganesha, Shiva, Karthikeya and Anjaneya Sita-Rama Edurukola Utsavam Sita-Rama Kalyanam Sumuhurtam Akshataropanam & Aseerwahanam Rama Sankeertanam Sri Rama Pattabishekam Hanumantha Vaha Utsavam with Rama Sankeertana Chekka Bhajana Mangala Harathi Kalyana Bhojana Balaji Ekanta Seva

SRI NARASIMHA JAYANTHI

May 12th / Friday	
5:00PM	Sri Narasimha Swamy Moola Mantra Homa
6:30PM	Sri Narasimha Swamy Abhisheka & Sahasranama Archana
8:00PM	Balaji Ekanta Seva
SRI HANUMAN JAYANTHI	
May 21st / Sunday	
10:00AM	Sundara Kanda Homam
6:00PM	Anjaneya Swamy Abhisheka
7:00PM	Sahasra Nagavalli Dala and Sahasra Kadali Phala Archana
8:00PM	Theertha Prasada & Balaji Ekanta Seva

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courage, unclouded understanding, equanimity, peace, friendliness, compassion, fame, etc., are its other branches that arise when one is fully established in Dhyana or meditation.

The tree of meditation casts a cool shade in which all desires and cravings come to an end and all the burning distress ceases. Meditation expands the shade of self-control that promotes steadiness of the mind.

A deer known as the mind, which had been wandering in the wilderness of countless concepts, notions and prejudices and which somehow finds the right path, takes shelter under this tree. This deer is pursued by its many enemies who covet its hide or covering. The mind hides itself in thorny bushes known as the body to save itself. All this effort wears out its energies. Running hither and thither in the forest of Samsara, harassed by the winds known as Vasanas or latent tendencies and scorched by the heat of ego-sense, the deer is afflicted by interminable distress.

This deer is not easily satisfied with what it gets. Its cravings multiply and it continues to go out far in search of satisfaction of those cravings. It gets attached to the many pleasure-centers known as wife, children, etc., and it wears itself out in looking after them. It is caught in the net of wealth, etc., and it struggles to free itself. In this struggle it falls down again and again and injures itself. Borne down by the current of craving, it is carried far away. It is haunted and hunted by innumerable ailments. It is also trapped by the different sense-experiences. It is bewildered by its alternate rise to the heavenly regions and its fall into the hell. It is crushed and wounded by stones and rocks known as mental modifications and evil qualities. To remedy all these, it conjures up by its own intellect various codes of conduct, which prove ineffectual. It has no knowledge of the Self or the Infinite Consciousness.

This deer known as the mind is made insensible by the poisonous exhalation of the snake known as world-

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF 2005-06 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

Youth & Education

Youth & Education provides proficient forum and source for devotees to constructively spend time in community activities. This year we had the Graduation puja, Bhagawad Gita discussions, Youth Forum, Summer Visual and Performing Art Festival, Ganesha puja, and Cultural program by children. All the events were a tremendous joy to be in. Literature and Poetry was introduced into the youth programs in addition to religious and cultural activities. Bhagawad gita discussion was very interesting. Youth Forum discussion of books by Indian authors was introduced this year for the first time and it has helped all the Youth to go thru the Books before we all met to discuss about the inner meaning and real intent of the authors. There was a healthy discussion with lot of the youth expressing their ideas and interpreting it in their own views with the help of moderators. Devotees enjoyed getting the blessings of Goddess Saraswathi on their graduation from one grade to another. Lot's of people will make it next year to receive the blessings of the Goddess of enlightenment so that we all do the best we can in our academic year.

Then came the summer festival! This was a very pleasant event with a special focus on the children below 12 years and above 12 years divided into two groups. There were art and craft booths as well as poetry and dance. All the children were vibrating with full of energy while participating and everyone enjoyed every minute of the program. Parents and the visitors were surprised to see the wonderful and great painting of deities the kids had drawn in their BalaJyothi classes which was wonderfully displayed on the large flats making it more appealing.

The most exciting part was the encouragement by Dr. Kamala Shankar by passing on treats and certificates to all the participating children. While the memories of the last event were still fresh, this year again we had a wonderful Ganesha puja and cultural program by children. This event is getting better and better each year. There were more than 120 kids, each of them having the Ganesha idol and Puja material in front of them and performing puja step-by-step on their own at the directions of Temple priest, who explained very clearly the purpose of each of the acts while doing the puja. Devotees were happy to know the reasons of the puja, and each of the kids had received divine blessings because of their dedication and interest with which they performed the puja. After the puja we had a wonderful sloka recitation and a play by Bala Jyothi kids. It was nice to listen to the kids recite the slokas. For the kids who recited a sloka with much devotion to God, they received a fruit and a Ganesha storybook by none other than Shri Ganesh ji Himself, (if you wondering who this Ganesha-claus is, it was none other than our Dr. Kamala Shankar with Shri Ganesha's costume). We hope to see many more kids participate next year too.

Then, on October 2nd, many Bala Jyoti kids participated in setting up the Kolu for Navarathri and this was a fun project. Shiva Keshava Yagna event on 10-31-05 youth program was wonderful with kids dressed up like many Gods and it was like a mini Hindu Halloween . Bhajan by Balvikas kids was Melodious. Pancha Veena recital by Dr. Akilesh Sista and other Youth was another memorable event.

Annual Children's day program 11-2005 , was a Phenomenal success with about 200 Children participating in activity center, sloka recitation and performing dances Representing various Indian States.

Religious activities, classes, Culture activities, Literature, Art and Poetry were all given importance in 2005 Y & E program.

Human Services

- 1) Raised more than \$100,000 for the Tsunami victims----
 - a) A phase I project was executed (a volunteer went to one of the affected sites in Tamil Nadu, served them using Money from HCCC Tsunami funds) Tsunami site.
 - b) Phase II was also executed in 2005: accepted applications from various NGO's and finally selected three for three different categories, namely (housing, mobile health clinic and school). Funding was also provided for them.
 - c) Phase III: Monitoring the execution..... ongoing
 - 2) HCCC has agreed to donate \$50,000 towards Katrina Relief.
 - 3) Conducted the Grant-In-Aid program and donated \$18,500 to other local non-profit and needy organizations.
 - 4) Conducted the Health Fair and was very successful.
 - 5) Donated \$500 towards local Thanksgiving Dinner and also a number of volunteers donated their time. We also gave away blankets worth of \$1,000 to the needy.
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Information Services

IT hired a new vendor to maintain the system in 2005 and was able to lower the IT spending as regular maintenance work was done with no major changes on the system. In 2006, we have plans to replace the aging hardware to meet the growing demands of temple devotee database. These fixes would be good for the next four to five years.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF 2005-06 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES Continued

Publicity

- Compressed the average size of online PV from 20 MB to 0.5 MB, so that devotees can easily download the PDF version from the Temple website any-time, from anywhere.
- Sought the interest of devotees to receive printed PV, collected feedbacks and reduced the printing of PV from 11,000 to 2,000; and reduced mailing from 10,000 to mere 40. These save \$3,700 every quarter.
- By sending out mass emails consistently every week (at least 45 times last year), made it a dependable source of news/info for the devotees – brought the subscription up from 17,000 to 20,000 in one year.
- Saved at least \$25,000 compared to previous year budget, by not sending out unnecessary advertisements in local news papers/magazines. But maintained/improved devotee participation by regular mass emails, posters and web postings.
- Gave prompt and timely publicity to at least 100 events (Religious, Cultural, Y&E, HS, etc.,) by creating eye-catching pretty and professional quality flyers in PDF, posting on the web site and linking into mass email – resulting in higher community awareness and revenue for HCCC.
- Released 4 PVs and a Calendar for the year.
 - Eliminated unnecessary calendar info from PV and improved article quality in PV.
 - Tactfully included all events info from 4PVs to Calendar.
 - Manually entered panchanga data for entire year, into Temple website.

Cultural

The temple is a forum for many young/budding artists from the Bay Area and other parts of California to perform and bring out their talent and at the same time entertain devotees. We had the fantastic opportunity to present a number of free cultural activities in the temple premises throughout last year. The year's activities started with a melodious North Indian Musical Afternoon performed by students of Shri Habib Khan. Throughout the year we had a number of music and dance festivals, a grand Garba event, Annamacharya Festival and a fundraiser for the Tsunami disaster. During the ShivaKesava Maha Yajna, we had several cultural programs in the auditorium.

We had the privilege to host visiting artists from India by cosponsoring an event with South India Fine Arts and also cosponsored events with local music and dance schools. We are so glad that each of the events was very well participated and received by the devotee mass.

Religious

Religious segment got the most help from different members of EC and Board, to accomplish the following:

The five days Shiva-Keshava Maha Yajna (SKY) was architected and lead by chief priest Pdt. Rompicharla Srinivasacharyulu, consisting of Ganapthi Homam, Rudra Homam, Astakshari Homam, Lakshmi Yagam, Chandi Yagam, Sudarsana Yagam, Vishnu Yagam, Samoohika Sahasra Nama archana, Samoohika Homam by devotees, and Samoohika Satyanarayana Vratam. Eleven resident Rithviks and eleven visiting rithviks, conducted Yajna, and several hundreds of devotees enthusiastically participated in various segments. Nadashwaram team was invited from Pittsburgh Temple and two shilpis were invited to build Yaga Saala. SKY has generated about \$165K in revenue while the expenses totaled to about \$85K.

Successful celebration and greater participation from devotees during festival days of New Year, Ugadi, Sri Ramanavami, Janmashtami, and Maha Shivarathri due to each function matching with weekend days.

Successful celebration and greater participation from devotees during the multi-day and weekend festivals of Vasavi Jayanthi, Ganesha Chaturthi, Goda Kalyanam, Dhanurmasa Pooja, Pavithrotsavam, Anniversary celebrations, Vishnu Brahmotsavam and Shiva Brahmotsavam. It was great to see new devotee coordinators leading these functions for the first time.

Samprokshana were performed for Utsava Vighras of Lord Shiva, Sankaracharya, Ramanujacharya, and Vikhanasacharya and for abharanas such as Mutyalahara, Shiva abharana, and Gaja Vahana for Ayyappa swamy. Several other abharanas were donated by devotees and also several others in the making.

Sanctum responsibilities on Shiva side had been reorganized to the following: Pdt. Chintapalli Sharma to take care of Ganesha and Kanaka Durga Sanctums, Pdt. Nageshwara Shastry to take care of Shiva Sanctum, Pdt. Chandramouli to take care of Parvathi and Muruga Sanctums, and Pdt. Kannan to take care of Navagraha and KalaBhairava sanctums.

Youth Music Festival on Maha Shivarathri Day

On Feb 25, 2006, on the auspicious Maha shivarathri day, over 200 kids were performing and singing the glory of GOD from 9am to 5pm, there was also dance on Shiva by Jyoti's students.

The stage was beautifully decorated with multi language banners. Padma Chari and Rajgopal Kowligi were the main volunteers. All four Youth volunteers: Dhanya , Siddarth Priya and Sreevidya worked long hours and handled everything very wonderfully. Youth also did presentations on various classical composers and a booklet with information was distributed.



TITHING - SECRETS OF PROSPERITY - GIVING CAN MAKE YOU RICH

Maheswara said (to Parvathi) in the Mahabharata Anusasana Parva, Section CXLI:

The householder should always make gifts according to the measure of his power. He should also perform sacrifices frequently after the same manner. Indeed, he who wishes to achieve his own good should always achieve meritorious acts. The householder should acquire wealth by righteous means. The wealth thus acquired should be carefully divided into three portions, keeping the requirements of righteousness in view. With one of those portions he should accomplish all acts of righteousness. With another he should seek to gratify his cravings for pleasure. The third portion he should lay out for increasing.

(The following are extracts from the writings of Catherine Ponder)

The Universal Law: "By making gifts one simply increases one's wealth." (Mahabharata, Anusasana Parva, Section LVII); "Give and it shall be given unto you" (Luke, 6:38); works whether you want it to or not. Giving can make you rich for when you systematically give, you open the way to systematically receive. But when you do not give, you stagnate, dam up, and close many channels to your prosperity. Perhaps you are thinking, "But I do give every cent I can find to pay the bills and to keep going financially." Yet there is another kind of giving you must know about and practice in order to prosper. When you practice this other type of giving, putting it first in your financial affairs, then divine order will come into your finances. You will find yourself prospered in both expected and unexpected ways. Your money will begin to go further, and other financial surprises will come forth so that it becomes easier and easier for you to pay the bills and 'get ahead financially'. The ancients, who knew the wisdom of the ages, understood the nature of universal substance out of which all wealth is created. They knew that by consistently giving, you move on universal substance, forming a vacuum which substance then rushes to fill with new supply. That is the nature of substance: it abhors a vacuum and always rushes to fill it. Giving in order to make room to receive is a scientific method that always works to prosper those who use it consistently. It can work for you too! (The air we breathe fills the lungs. If we do not give out stale air, if we do not make room to receive fresh air, if we do not create the vacuum by expelling the stale air, then the supply of new fresh air cannot rush in.) The Hebrews, one of the wealthiest groups the world has ever known, credit their wealth over the centuries to their use of this prosperity idea: you will be made rich by giving.

Tithing - The magic number of increase: How can you practice the other kind of giving constructively, so as to avoid giving destructively? The ancients believed that the number 'ten' was the magic number of increase, and they invoked this magic number by regularly giving one-tenth of all channels of income to their religious leaders. Later, the Hebrews were commanded by Jehovah to give a tithe (or one-tenth) of all channels of income to their priests and temples. This included giving a tenth of their gold, silver, jewels, land, cattle, sheep, goats, camels, and other flocks; a tenth of all fruit, wine, grain, oil and other crops; a tenth of all financial income and all financial assets. Ten is still the magic number of increase!

My experience with this prosperity law: Although I had often heard tithing mentioned in church for many years, I had not realized it was a prosperity law for my personal benefit. I assumed it was the church minister's way of trying to raise money to support the church. As a \$25 a week secretary, desperately struggling to find any prosperity law that would work, I read Dr. L.E.Meyer's fascinating booklet, 'As You Tithe So You Prosper'. This booklet contains many thrilling stories of people in every walk of life who have prospered through consistent tithing, and I began to think seriously about the subject. I also remembered that my own parents had been much more prosperous after they began to tithe. One of the stories in Dr. Meyer's booklet that especially interested me was this one: 'He who said that he found it necessary to tithe in order to get out of debt voiced a truth that has become evident to thousands. A man who was \$10,000 in debt, with his credit gone and a wife and four children for whom to provide, took a job as a day laborer in a mill and with his family was compelled to live in a tent. He met two Divinity students who convinced him that if he wanted to again prosper, he should tithe. The same week that he began tithing the company offered him one of its houses in which to live. Within a year, he was promoted to foreman. Ten years later, he was free from debt, the owner of a large lumber company, owner of his own home, which was large and beautifully furnished, and owner of a large car, an airplane and other things on a similar scale. He attributes his success to first recognizing his debt to God and faithfully tithing of his income.'

Upon receiving my paycheck and depositing it, the first check I always wrote was the tithe check. This act gave me a feeling of protection and security. By putting God first financially, I assumed my own needs would be met; and always they have been, sometimes in the most amazing ways. The week I began to tithe was truly the turning point for me financially! Soon I began receiving pay raises, so that my income doubled and later tripled its original amount. It has continued to steadily rise over the years as I have continued to tithe faithfully. My husband and I tithe two-tenths or 20% of our gross incomes, and we look forward to bigger giving as our prosperity consciousness continues to expand. I have been much healthier since I began tithing. Having had an underweight, nervous, anaemic childhood, it was great blessing to finally be freed of ill health. I have found that I am able to produce much more work in a much shorter

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length of time than previously. Whenever I hear of loss, theft, accident, illness and high emotional and financial costs that usually accompany these experiences, I cannot help thinking: 'It's too bad those persons do not tithe. They would be protected from such negative and unhappy experiences if they did!' By giving voluntarily a tenth of my gross income to spiritual work, I have been saved from being forced to give many times that amount to the negative experiences of life such as illness, accidents, thefts, etc. I am grateful that I learned this lesson early. It is one of the most valuable success secrets that I can point out to you. To be sure, there is nothing wrong with the prosperity practice of consistent savings, which I had in mind during that experience many years ago. The Babylonians' great success secret for their riches was that they tithed one-tenth and saved one-tenth of their income. It is still a fine prosperity practice. The Rockefeller family has often mentioned their use of this idea. However, if you have a choice between tithing and saving, be sure to put first thing first, by beginning to tithe first. That act will insure your growing prosperity, so that consistent savings will then naturally follow. The practice of tithing, both ancient and modern, proves it to be the best financial investment you can make.

Where you give is important: A merchant once questioned tithing as a prosperity law because he had long been tithing, but his business was no longer prosperous. He was asked, 'Where do you tithe?' This man replied: 'I tithe to my wife's church. I no longer attend that church because I find greater inspiration in another church, which I now attend. However, my wife insists that I still tithe to her church.' It was pointed out that one should tithe where one is receiving spiritual help and inspiration. To tithe to an organization which does not directly help or inspire you holds little blessing either for you or for the organization, because no spiritual contact has been made between the giver and the receiver. It was suggested that this man tithe to the church from which he was receiving guidance and inspiration; that he do this on a six months' trial basis. As he did, he discovered that many things began clearing up in his financial affairs, as well as in other phases of his life. Furthermore, his wife seemed to respect him in his tithing decision. Regular, consistent tithing of a tenth of all channels of your gross income (before taxes and other deductions) to the religious leader or spiritual organization which inspires and uplifts you, is still one of the surest ways to permanent, satisfying prosperity. You may be thinking, 'Yes, but I am already tithing to the church where I receive inspiration and still I am not prosperous.' Then check your attitudes to determine why you are tithing and whether you completely release your tithe after giving it. Make no mental demands upon those who receive your tithe. A gift with reservations is not a gift. It is really a bribe. There is another subtle attitude to check when tithing: Do you tithe simply because you think it is expected of you, but not freely and joyously? By tithing in the right attitude, you substitute faith in God's power to supply your needs for the old fear that you must hold tight to every penny or live in lack.

Charity giving is not tithing: Many people have the mistaken idea that giving to a needy person is tithing, but it is not. Giving to the needy is often the worst thing you can do for them, since it keeps them from developing their own prosperity consciousness. Until they do develop a prosperous state of mind, they will continue to be in need, no matter how much you do for them. The greatest thing you can offer the poor is to introduce them to prosperous thinking. Your tithe is not properly used for yourself, relatives, friends, or charitable purposes. If one wishes to give to those channels, it should be a gift over and above the tenth which one gives directly to spiritual work. The prosperity law of tithing as practiced by all the ancient civilizations, was that the tithe went always to the religious leaders and temples, to those in the Lord's work. Some people give only to civic, cultural, educational, or charity causes instead of to religious organizations. It is fine to give for these purposes if you feel so led, but your first tenth should go to religious causes which uplift and inspire you, or to people in religious work who are an inspiration to you. All other giving is to be commended, but is secondary to direct tithing to the Lord's work.

Rich results of consistent giving: People sometimes say, 'I do not tithe regularly but I give large amounts occasionally to god's work.' It does more good to tithe regularly smaller amounts than giving large amounts spasmodically. Just as it is necessary to breathe out regularly in order to receive fresh air into the lungs, so it is necessary to give regularly if you wish to receive regularly. This is a giving universe. You have to constantly give in order to constantly receive, because the universe is constantly giving to you. If you do not balance the act of receiving by giving voluntarily in some good and happy way, the universe will force you to give in some unhappy way. But give you must!

Remember this exciting truth as you tithe: You are joining ranks with millionaires of all times. You are becoming attuned to that same rich consciousness which can lead to rich results! It has been said that the person who begins tithing will have at least six surprises: He will be surprised at the amount of money he has to give for the Lord's work. He will be surprised at the deepening of his own prosperity consciousness as well as his spiritual life. He will be surprised at the ease with which he can meet his financial obligations. He will be surprised at how easily he can go from one tenth to larger giving. He will be surprised at the wisdom and good judgment this gives him in using the remaining nine-tenths of his income. He will be surprised at himself for not adopting the tithing plan sooner! I would like to add one thing the tither should not be surprised about: He may find himself a millionaire.

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ly pleasure and craving for such pleasure it is burnt by the fire of anger. It is dried up by worries and anxieties. The tiger known as poverty pursues it. It falls into the pit of attachment. Its heart is broken by the frustration of its own pride.

At some stage, this deer turns away from all this and seeks the refuge of some tree already described (the tree of meditation) and there it shines brightly. Supreme peace or bliss is not attained in any other condition excepting the unconditioned state of Consciousness, and this is attained only in the shade of the tree known as Samadhi or meditation.

Thus having obtained rest, the deer (mind) delights itself there and does not seek to go elsewhere. After some time, the tree known as meditation or Samadhi begins to yield its fruit, which is the revelation of the Supreme Self. The mind-deer beholds that fruit above itself on the tree of meditation. Thereupon it abandons all other pursuits and climbs that tree to taste its fruits. Having ascended that tree, the mind-deer abandons the worldly thought patterns and it does not contemplate upon the baser life again. Even as the snake abandons its slough, this mind-deer abandons its previous habits so that it might ascend the tree of meditation. Whenever memory of its own past arises, it laughs aloud, "How was it that I remained such a fool till now!" Having discarded greed etc., it rests on that tree like an emperor.

SHANTI MANTRAS

<p>Om sarveshaam swastir bhavatu Sarveshaam shantir bhavatu Sarveshaam poornam bhavatu Sarveshaam mangalam bhavatu Sarve bhavantu sukhinah Sarve santu niraamayaaah Sarve bhadraani pashyantu Maakaschit dukkha bhaag bhavet</p>	<p>Meaning: That (pure consciousness) is full (perfect); this (the manifest universe of matter; of names and forms being maya) is full. This fullness has been projected from that fullness. When this fullness merges in that fullness, all that remains is fullness. - Peace invocation - Isa Upanishad</p>	<p>Meaning: May He protect us both (teacher and the taught)! May He cause us both to enjoy the bliss of Mukti (liberation)! May we both exert to discover the true meaning of the sacred scriptures! May our studies be fruitful! May we never quarrel with each other! Let there be threefold peace.</p>
<p>Meaning: Auspiciousness (swasti) be unto all; peace (shanti) be unto all; fullness (poornam) be unto all; prosperity (mangalam) be unto all. May all be happy! (sukhinah) May all be free from disabilities! (niraamayaaah) May all look (pashyantu) to the good of others! May none suffer from sorrow! (dukkha)</p>	<p>Om sham no mitrah sham varunah sham no bhavatvaryaamaa Sham na indro brihaspatih sham no vishnururukramah Namo brahmane namaste vaayo twameva pratyaksham Brahmaasi twameva pratyaksham brahma vadishyaami Tanmaamavatu tadvaktaaramavatu Avatu maam avatu vaktaram. Om shantih shantih shantih!</p>	<p>Om bhadram karnebhil shrunuyaama devaah Bhadram pashyemaakshabhiriyajatraah Sthirai rangastushtu vaamsastanoobhil Vyashema devahitam yadaayuh Swasti na indro vridhashravaah Swasti nah pooshaa vishwa vedaah Swasti nastaarkshyo arishtanemih Swasti no brihaspatir dadhaatu. Om shantih, shantih, shantih!</p>
<p>Om asato maa satgamaya Tamaso maa jyotir gamaya Mrityor maa amritam gamaya Meaning: Lead us from the unreal to the Real From darkness to Light From death to Immortality</p>	<p>Meaning: May Mitra, Varuna and Aryama be good to us! May Indra and Brihaspati and Vishnu of great strides be good to us! Prostrations unto Brahman! (Supreme Reality). Prostrations to Thee, O Vayu! Thou art the visible Brahman. I shall proclaim Thee as the visible Brahman. I shall call Thee the just and the True. May He protect the teacher and me! May he protect the teacher! Om peace, peace, peace!</p>	<p>Meaning: Om, O worshipful ones, may our ears hear what is good and auspicious! May we see what is auspicious! May we sing your praise, live our allotted span of life in perfect health and strength! May Indra (who is) extolled in the scriptures, Pushan, the all-knowing Trakshya, who saves from all harm, and Brihaspati who protects our spiritual lustre, vouchsafe prosperity in our study of the scriptures and the practice of the truths contained therein! Om peace, peace, peace!</p>
<p>Om poornamadah poornamidam Poornaat poornamudachyate Poornasya poornamaadaya Poornamevaavashishyate</p>	<p>Om saha naavavatu sahanau bhunaktu Saha veeryam karavaavahai Tejasvi naavadheetamastu maa vidvishaavahai Om shantih shantih shantih</p>	



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PASCHIMAVANI

APR-MAY-JUN-2006

NEWSLETTER DESIGNED BY:
Kulvinder Kaur
PRINTED BY:
Capitol Printing