

**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

PASCHIMAVANTI

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

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER: A SUMMER OF CELEBRATION

Dear Devotees,

It is a time of celebration at the Shiva Vishnu Temple and the Hindu Community and Cultural Center. Twenty One years ago, in July 1986, this temple was started in Livermore, California. Every July, HCCC observes its Anniversary Day. This year is no exception, we observe it on July 14th and 15th, 2007.

Coincidentally, this year is also the 30th Anniversary of the incorporation of HCCC as a non-profit organization.

We have come a long way in these 21 years. Today, this Temple is a structure of beauty and preeminence in the Bay Area. It has authenticity, a unique sampradaya and is managed in a democratic way. It holds annual elections and follows a written constitution. It has policies and procedures and discussions among its priests, staff and elected officials to maintain its robustness and quality in the community.

Shiva Vishnu Temple, with its majestic Gopurums and awesome Inner Shrines, is a work of art. Students of architecture are also visiting this temple. The Temple attracts thousands of devotees from the Bay Area. It serves all who come to seek Him.

HCCC is continually evolving, and has expanded beyond the basic religious program. It has other programs, such as Human Services, Cultural and Youth & Education programs. It has expanded its timings, has adjusted its schedule for long weekends and attends to all who visit it on its most popular event: New Year's Day. Its AnnaDana (food donation) effort is another way to satisfy devotees visiting on weekends. It has a library whose collection is growing by leaps and bounds. It has built an assembly hall to accommodate devotee weddings and cultural events.

Though 21 years may look like a long road traveled, there are miles to go. The Temple achieved its glory through its strong devotee base, the many well wishers, its tireless volunteers, its dedicated staff and many others. Going forward, we plan to enhance the temple to accommodate the needs of the growing population in the Bay Area. With Mahakumbhabhishekam around the corner in 3 years from now, we continue to count on the patronage and support from one and all.

Thank you for making Shiva Vishnu Temple what it is today. Come join us in reaching another major milestone in 2010.

Krishna Chander

Chairman of the Board, HCCC

UPCOMING EVENT

SANSKRIT CAMP TO BE HELD ON AUGUST 4, 2007

"Youth & Education" is planning to conduct a one day spoken Sanskrit Camp Event on Aug 4th. Pandit Narendra Khapre along with volunteers from Samskrita Bharati will be conducting this one day camp on spoken Sanskrit. To register, please send email to sanskritcamp@yahoo.com

PLANNED SPECIAL EVENTS

DATE/DAY	EVENTS	TIME	ACTIVITIES
July 2nd Mon	Sravana	6:30PM	Balaji Sahasranama Archana
July 3rd Tue	SamkathaHara Chathurthi	6:30PM	Ganesha Abhisheka and Gakara Ganapathy SNA
July 4th Wed	Independence Day		Temple Opens From 9:00AM to 8:00PM (Weekend Timings)
July 7th Sat	1st Saturday of the Month	11:00AM 12:00Noon	Swarna Alamkara for Lord Shiva Vastra Samarpanam for Lord Balaji
July 10th Tue	Ekadasi	6:30PM	Balaji Bhoga Murthy Abhisheka
	Krittika	6:30PM	Kartikeya Abhisheka and Archana
July 11th Wed	Pradosham	6:30PM	Shiva Abhisheka
	Rohini	6:30PM	Sri Krishna Pooja
July 12th Thur	Masa Shivaratri	6:30PM	108 Kalashabhisheka for Shiva
July 14th Sat	21st Anniversary Day 1 Punarvasu	6:30PM	Detailed Program at the end Sri Rama Abhisheka
July 15th Sun	21st Anniversary Day 2 3rd Sunday of the Month	11:00 AM	Detailed Program at the end Bilwa Dhala Archana for Shiva
July 16th Mon	Dakshinayana Punya Kala		Sun Enters Kataka 14:15
July 19th Thur	Sashti	6:30PM	Kartikeya Sahasranama Archana
July 21st Sat	3rd Saturday of the Month	11:00AM 11:00AM	Rajatha Kavacha Alamkaram for Lord Shiva Tiruppavadai Seva for lord Balaji
July 22nd Sun	Swathi	6:30PM	Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Abhisheka
July 25th Wed	Ekadasi	6:30PM	Balaji Bhoga Murthy Abhisheka
July 27th Fri	Pradosham	6:30PM	Shiva Abhisheka
July 28th Sat	4th Saturday of the Month GURU POORNIMA	12:00Noon	Pushpa Seva for Balaji Detailed Program at the end
July 30th Mon	Poornima Sravana	6:30PM 6:30PM	Lalitha Sahasranama Parayana Balaji Sahasranama Archana
Aug 1st Wed	Samkathahara Chathurthi	6:30 PM	Ganesha Abhisheka and Gakara Ganapathy SNA
Aug 6th Mon	Aadi Krittika	6:00 PM	108 Kalasha Abhishekam for Karthikeya Mayura Vahana Seva for Karhikeya
Aug 7th Tue	Rohini	6:30 PM	Sri Krishna Puja
Aug 8th Wed	Ekadasi	6:30 PM	Balaji Bhoga Murthy Abhisheka
Aug 9th Thur	Pradosham	6:30PM	Shiva Abhisheka
Aug 10th Fri	Masa Shivaratri	6:30PM	108 Kalashabhisheka for Shiva
	Punarvasu	6:30PM	Rama Abhisheka
Aug 11th Sat	2nd Saturday of the Month	11.00AM 11.00AM	Muttangi Alamkara for Shiva Tomala Seva for Balaji
Aug 14th Tue	Aadi Pooram		Detailed Program at the end
Aug 17th Fri	Pavithrothsavam, Day 1		Detailed Program at the end
Aug 18th Sat	3rd Saturday of the Month Pavithrothsavam, Day 2 Sashti	11:00AM 6:30PM	Rajatha Kavacha alankara for Lord Shiva Kartikeya Sahasranama Archana
Aug 19th Sun	3rd Sunday of the Month Pavithrothsavam, Day 3 Swathi	11.00AM 11.00AM	Bilwa Dhala Archana for Shiva Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Abhisheka
Aug 24th Fri	Ekadasi Varlakshmi Vratam	6:30PM 10:00AM	Balaji Bhoga Murthy Abhisheka MahaLakshmi Abhisheka and Sathumurai
		7:00PM	Vara Lakshmi Vratam by Ladies
Aug 25th Sat	4th Saturday of the Month Pradosham	12.00 Noon 6:30PM	Pushpa seva for Balaji Shiva Abhisheka
21 Day Ganesha Abhishekam Starts (GAS*) Chanting for 21 times at 6.30PM			
Aug 26th Sun	Sravana	6:30PM	Balaji Sahasranama Archana
	Rig Upakarma	7:00AM	Upakarma in A.Hall
Aug 27th Mon	Poornima	6:30PM	Lalitha Sahasranama Parayana
	Yajur Upakarma	7:00AM & 9:00AM	Two batches in Assembly Hall
	Lunar Eclipse	25.51 to 29.23	
	Vikhanasa Jayanthi	6:30PM	Vikhanasa Maharishi Pooja
Aug 28th Tue	Gayathri Japam		
Aug 30th Thur	SamkathaHara Chathurthi	6:30PM	Ganesha Abhisheka and Gakara Ganapathy SNA

PLANNED SPECIAL EVENTS

DATE/DAY	EVENTS	TIME	ACTIVITIES
Sept 1st Sat	1st Saturday of the Month Raghavendra Swamy Aradhana	11:00AM 12:00Noon	Swarna alankara for Lord Shiva Vastara Samarpanam for lord Balaji Week end Function in Assembly Hall
Sept 3th Mon	Labor day Krittika Rohini Gokulashtami Sri Krishna Janmashtami	6:30 PM 6:00 PM 7:30 PM 11:30 PM	Temple Timings 9:00AM to 12:00AM (Weekend Timings) Sri Karthikeya Abhisheka and Archana Sri Krishna Abhisheka and Puja Bhagavad Gita Parayana Sri Krishna Janma Kala Puja
Sept 6th Thur	Ekadasi Punarvasu	6:30PM 6:30PM	Balaji Bhoga Murthy Abhisheka Sri Rama abhisheka
Sept 8th Sat	2nd Saturday of the Month Pradosham Sri Krishna Janmashtami	11:00AM 11:00AM 6:30PM	Tomala Seva for Balaji Muttangi alankara for Lord Shiva Shiva Abhisheka
Sept 9th Sun	Masa Shivaratri	6:30Pm	Weekend Function Detailed Program at the End 108 Kalasha Abhisheka for Shiva
Sept 10th Mon	Solar Eclipse		Not Visible here
Sept 13th Thur	Sama Veda Upakarma		Upon Devotee Request
Sept 14th Fri	Swarna Gowri Vratam	6:00PM	Gowri Pooja by ladies
21 Day Ganesha Abhisheka Ends			
Sep 15th Sat	Ganesha Chathurthi 3rd Saturday of the Month Swathi	10:00AM 10:00AM 8:00AM	Detailed program at the End Rajatha alankara for Shiva Tiruppavadai seva for Balaji Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Abhisheka
Sep 16th Sun	3rd Sunday of the Month	11:00AM	Bilwa Dala Archana for Shiva
Sep 17th Mon	Shukla Sashti	6:30PM	Karthikeya Sahasranama Archana
Sep 21st Fri	Vishnu Brahmotsavam Day 1	Adhika Maasa	Detailed Program at the end
Sep 22nd Sat	Vishnu Brahmotsavam Day 2		
Sep 23rd Sun	Vishnu Brahmotsavam Day 3 Sravana Ganesha Visarjanam		Visarjana in San francisco Pier 39
Sept 24th Mon	Pradosham	6:30Pm	Shiva Abhisheka
Sept 25th Tues	Anantha Chathurdasi Poornima	11:00AM 6:30PM	Dwara Anantha Abhisheka Sri Lalita Sahasranama parayana
Sept 26th Wed	Mahalaya Paksha Begins		
Sept 29th Sat	Sankatahara Chathurthi	6:30PM	Ganesha Abhisheka
Sept 30th Sun	Krittika	6:30PM	Sri Karthikeya Abhisheka and Archana

21ST ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS - 2007

DATE/DAY	TIME	EVENTS
July 14th Sat	10:00AM 11:30 AM 12:30PM 6:30PM	Balaji Sahasra Kalasha Abhisheka Thomala seva Sathumurai Treetha prasadam Balaji Unjal and Sahasra Deepa Alamkara Seva
July 15th Sun	8:00AM 8:30AM 10:00AM 11:00AM 12:30PM 6:30PM	Shiva -Vishnu suprabhatam Ganapati & Murgrant abhisakam Shiva Sahasra Kalasha Puja Shiva Sahasra Kalasha Abhisheka Shiva Bilvadhala Archana Shiva Unjal and Sahasra Deepa Alamkara Seva

GURU POORNIMA

DATE/DAY	TIME	EVENTS
July 28th Sat	8:00 AM 9:00 AM 10:00 AM 11:30 AM 2:30 PM 4:00 PM	Shiva & Vishnu Suprabhatam Shiva & Vishnu Abhisheka Navagraha Abhishekam Samuhika Satya Narayana Puja (In Temple) Samuhika Satya Narayana Puja (In Jain Temple, Milpitas, South Bay) Samuhika Satya Narayana Puja (In Temple)
Maha Ganapati Sahasramodaka Homa		
Aug 4th	12:00PM 1:00PM 3:00PM	Sankalpam & Kalashastapana Sahasramodaka ganapati Homam Purnahuti & Theertha Prasadam

ANDAL AADI POORAM

DATE/DAY	TIME	EVENTS
Aug 14th Tue	10:00AM	Abhishekam and Sathumurai
	6:30PM	Thiru Veedhi Utsavam
	8:30PM	Nachiyar Thirumozhi, Sathumurai, Theertha and Prasadam

PAVITROTSAVAM

6:00PM	Samkalpam Deeksha and Amkurarpanam
7:00AM	Suprabatham for Shiva and Vishnu
7:30AM	Balaji Abhisheka
10:00AM	Archana and Arathi
11:00AM	Balaji Utsava Murthy Abhishekam
12:00 Noon	Pavitra Adhivasa and Homam
3:30PM	Balaji Sahasranama Archana by Sponsors
5:00PM	Pavitra Mantapa alankara and Meru Pooja
6:00PM	Maha Shanti Pooja
8:00PM	Ekanta Seva
8:00AM	Suprabatham for Shiva and Vishnu
8:30AM	Nitya Homam
9:30AM	Pavitra Abhisheka
11:00AM	Special alankara, Pavitra Samarpana and Satmura
12:00	Noon Maha Poornahuti
4:00PM	Shanti Kalyanam, Deekshah Visarjanam and Asheervachanam

SRI KRISHNA JANMA ASHTAMI WEEKEND FUNCTION

Aug 8th Sat	6:30PM	Geeta Recital
	7:00PM	Children s Program on Sri Krishna Leela
	9:00PM	Bhajans by Rattan and Uma Naidu
	10:00PM	Bhajans by Meenu Purii and Vikas Singh
	11:30PM	Sri Krishna Janma Kala Pooja, Arati & Prasadam

Dinner will be Served in the Assembly Hall from 7:00Pm to 11:00PM

GANESHA CHATHURTHI PROGRAM

Sep 15th Sat	Temple Opens at 7:00AM	
	7:00AM	Shiva and Vishnu Suprabatham
	8:00AM	Balaji, Shiva and Navagraha & Laxmi Narshima Abhishekas
	9:00AM	Ganesha Abhisheka and Pushpa alankara
	11:30AM	Vara Siddhi Vinayaka Vratam
	12:45 PM	Arathi, Theertha Prasadam
	4:00PM	Sahasra Modaka Homa and Poornahuti
	6:00PM	Mooshika Vahana Seva
	7:00PM	Sayamkala Archana
	7:30-8:30PM	Varsidhi Vinayaka Vratam, Arati, Mantrapushpam and Astavadana Seva
	9:00PM	Theertha and Prasada
	9:30PM	Ekanta Seva
	9 Days Special alankara for Ganesha	
	Sep 16th Sun	6:30-8:00pm
Sep 17th Mon	6:30-8:00pm	Rajatha Alankara & Sahasranama Archana
Sep 18th Tue	6:30-8:00pm	Chandana Alankara & SNA

GANESHA CHATHURTHI PROGRAM Continued

DATE/DAY	TIME	EVENTS
Sep 18th Tue	6:30-8:00pm	Chandana Alankara & Sahasranama-Archana
Sep 19th Wed	6:30-8:00pm	Vibhooti Alankara & Sahasranama-Archana
Sep 20th Thur	6:30-8:00pm	Navaneetha Alankara(Butter) & SNA
Sep 21st Fri	6:30-8:00pm	Shankambari Alankara & Archana
Sep 22nd Sat	6:30-8:00pm	Sahasranama & Archana
Sep 23rd Sun	6:30-8:00pm	Ganesha Visarjanam

ADHIKA MASA VISHNU BRAHMOTSAVAM

Sep 21st Fri	7:00PM	Samkalpam ,Deeksha and Amkurarpanam
	9:00PM	Dhwaja Arohana
	9:30PM	Ekanta Seva
Sept 22nd Sat	7:00AM	Shiva and Vishnu Suprabatham
	8:00AM	Agni Prathishta
	9:00AM	Nitya Homa ,Bali and Satmura
	9:30AM	Nava Kumbha Sthapana
	10:00Am	Balaji Abhisheka
	12:30PM	Satmura ,Theertha Prasadam
	1:00PM	Dwiguna Aradhana and Alaya Bali
Sept 23rd Sun	5:00PM	Sesha Vahana seva for Balaji
	6:00PM	Sayamkala Archana and Naivedyam
	7:00PM	Alaya Bali and Satmura
	8:00PM	Ekanta Seva
	8:00AM	Shiva and Vishnu Suprabatham
	9:00AM	Nitya Homa ,Bali and Satmura
	10:00AM	Garuda Utsavam
	11:00AM	Choorna Abhisheka
	1:00PM	Avabrida Snamam
	2:00PM	Poornahuti
5:00PM	Hanumanta Vahana Seva	
7:00PM	Mouna Bali	
7:30PM	Dhwaja Avarohana & Rashtra Asheervachanam	
8:30PM	Ekanta Seva	

Graduation Saraswathi Puja held on June 9, 2007

Last month, Youth & Education conducted the Graduation Saraswathi Puja. Pandit Chintapalli Venkata Sharma performed the puja to Goddess Saraswathi. He also explained the significance of the puja. We had about 30 graduates – among them one participant had graduated with a Ph.D and another one, with an M.Sc. The program started with bhajans on Goddess Saraswathi by students of Sridevi Iyengar. Dr. Giri spoke to the graduates and Punal Bhavsar also spoke about his college experience. Special thanks go to all the volunteers – Mrs. Padmaja Madhusudan, Mrs. Dharini Baskaran, HS chair Mr. Anand Gundu and Y& E board liaison, Dr. Shankar.



HUMAN SERVICES ACTIVITIES-GRADUATION AWARDS

a) The Livermore high school gave away the ShivaVishnu Scholarship Awards to two very deserving candidates, the presenter for the first Award was Dr Dharwar Parimalachar.

Who echoed the various temple and the human services activities, the Award was given to:-

Catherine Braun has maintained a 4.0 GPA during her four years at Livermore High School. Outside of the classroom, Catherine spends her time volunteering at her church, with the Livermore Rotary, at the Arroyo Seco Elementary School Computer lab, and with a variety of Livermore High School events. She has also served as the Varsity Volleyball Team Captain, a Community Service Commissioner, her Junior and Senior Class Representative, and as an active participant in her leadership class. Planning to pursue a degree in business, Catherine will be attending Santa Clara University where she plans to continue her outreach to diverse populations and clubs through community service opportunities. It is with great pleasure that we present Catherine with the Hindu Community and Cultural Center/Shiva Vishnu Scholarship.

b) The second Award at the Granada High School was presented by Dr Kamala Shankar ,she did let the audience know the various services the temple offers including the Grants in Aid program , the Award was given to :-

Juliet Kellogg is an extremely accomplished young lady earning a 3.9 GPA while also volunteering her time with many different organizations including the Livermore READ program, where students work with adult English learners tutoring them to help increase their ability to read and speak English.

She helped organize the Ronald McDonald House Triathlon to raise money for children with cancer. Working with the Livermore chapter of Habitat for Humanity she helped build a home for a low income Livermore family. She also volunteered her time handing out food at the St. Vincent de Paul food bank to families in our Community.

Juliet was chosen to be one of six state officers in the Alameda County Youth Leadership, her charge was to maintain communications throughout the state's fifty-two chapters. She also wrote and edited for the official state publication, Future Horizons.

As Juliet stated in her essay, "Harmony is defined as the simultaneous combination of tones, especially when blended into chords pleasing to the ear.

The sweet sound of harmony cannot be achieved when everyone is singing the same note. In today's diversified society, everyone, especially young adults, should work to appreciate and understand other cultures, ethnicities, religions, and genders. It is not until mutual respect among all different groups is achieved that we can progress and enrich our society as a whole. After all, when harmony is achieved, love is achieved, and with love, nothing is impossible."

c) Veterans Hospital Donation for the Memorial Day:

The volunteers and the Recipients' at the VA hospital expressed their gratitude and thanks to the ShivaVishnu temple for the gracious donation of the items required by them. The Human Services motto of Service to Man is Service to God was truly felt on this day. The temple did touch many Veterans' life on this day 24th May thru their gracious donation, hope we keep up this great tradition for years to come. The items included CD-Radio-Clock Boom Boxes , MicroWave , T shirts ,Music CD's and lot of personnel hygiene items.

d) Bone Marrow Drive:

This humanitarian drive at the temple was done in association with AADP , we had over 300 interested people while we received 273 qualified donors ,the drive was done very professionally and we thank all the donors and volunteers for helping with the drive. We do hope this drive would find the match for all those who need a transplant. We would like to carry on similar drive during our upcoming Health Fair as well and expect to increase the South Asian community database.

Your's faithfully,

Anand Gundu, Human Services –Chair

PROGRAMS CONDUCTED BY YOUTH & EDUCATION IN MARCH AND APRIL 2007

We started this year with a children's program for Rama Navami. The program started with the students of Sridevi Iyengar singing "Suddha Brahma". The following was the teacher's comment: Thank you so much for giving a chance for our kids to do Sangeetha Seva yesterday. The program was very well organized and the gift to the kids was so appropriate and also will serve as an impetus to participate more often. We all stayed for as long a time we could and we should commend you on the fine job you are doing. I do understand the various situations that arise being the coordinator of such programs and appreciate your time and effort." About 50 children participated in various activities – chanting Rama slokas, singing songs on Rama and narrating stories from the Ramayana. There was one participant who had come dressed like Hanuman and narrated a small story, which was simply adorable. A special thanks to all the dedicated volunteers who helped with the event – Y&E Board Liaison, Dr. Shankar, HS Chair, Mr. Anand Gundu, Mrs. Abirami Ravishankar, Mrs. Padmaja Madhusudan, Mrs. Sunitha Krishnakumar, Mrs. Parvathy and the MC's for the event, Ms. Meghna and Ms. Pankhuri.

Spelling & Math Bee conducted on April 14, 2007

On April 14, 2007, Y&E, in association with the North South Foundation, Chicago conducted the annual Math & Spelling Bee. About 75 children participated in the Math Bee, Junior and Senior Spelling Bee. The youngest to participate was 5 years old. Prizes were given to the winners and were sponsored by Mr. Sridhar Gummadi. The coordinator, Mr. Anand Gundu and the technical coordinator, Mr. Shiva Gunda did an outstanding job in conducting the competition. All the judges – Mrs. Parvathi, Mr. Rama Tiruveedhula, Mrs. Jyothi Gundu, Ms. Khalindi Oza, Chetan Mrutunjaya who volunteered also did an outstanding job. Kudos to all the pronouncers – Mr. Adnan Zubair, Ms. Aparajitha Vadlamannati and Ms. Anuja Oza. Thanks go to Mr. Kiran Dasari for patiently and beautifully writing all the certificates for the participants, winners and the volunteers.

VOLUNTEERS ARE OUR VALUED ASSET

We Need Everyone

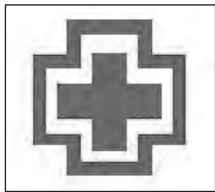
Please contact the following if you like to coordinate a Religious function at the Temple

H. K. Narayan at 510-648-0642 ; Srinivasa Malladi at 408-203-4418

Please communicate with the front office if you like to volunteer your time in the activities related to Cultural Events, Human Services, Youth & Education, Publicity, Maintenance and Anna daana Programs. Provide your Name, Phone Number, and E-Mail Address at the front desk and let us know how you want to serve the Temple.

HCCC Human Service & its Volunteering Physicians will be conducting

HEALTH FAIR



**At Livermore temple on
Saturday, 25th August, 2007
From 10:00 am to 4:00 pm**



1232 Arrowhead Ave., Livermore, CA, 94551

Free medical advice on:

• Women's health	• Cardiology	• Psychiatry
• Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation	• Physical and Occupational therapy	• Diseases of Stomach, Intestine and Liver
• General Medicine	• Urology, Nephrology	• Lung Diseases
• Chiropractic	• Skin Diseases	• Allergy and Asthama
• Nutrition & Diet	• Childrens Diseases	• Eye Diseases
• Dental Hygiene	• Orthopedics	• Alternative medicine

Free evaluation on:

• Blood Pressure	• Blood Sugar	• Cholesterol	• Bone Density
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Bone-Marrow Donor Registration

Serve God by Serving Humanity

For more information,

email Human Services Chair anand_gundu@yahoo.com (or) call the temple.

GANESHA TATTVA

Written by Pdt. Chintanapalli Sharma & Translated by Pdt. Nageshwar Subramaniam

Sri Ganeshaaya Namah!

Vighna-Vinashine Shiva-Sutaaya Varada-Murthaye Namah!

The Pranava mantra Om is the highest comprehension of saguna-brahman as well as the only comprehension of nirguna-brahman. It is also the primal source of all mantras. Ganapathi is said to be the manifestation of the Pranava itself. The Veda-shastras, the Itihasa-puranas all sing the glory of Ganapathi, who is beyond the comprehensions of space and time, who removes the fear of agyana, and provides the devotee with the Gyana of immortal knowledge.

According to the Sruthi, even the four-faced creator Brahma, is said to have prayed to Ganapathi before the creation of the world. That unmanifested Ganapathi, took the avatara as the son of Uma and Maheshwara, was appointed as the leader of Ganas by all the demi-gods to save the world from obstacles.

All the devotees who perform upaasana, homa, archana, abhisekha, alankaara-darshana and pray to Ganesha during the Ganesha-Chaturthi will be bestowed with His grace. According the Ganesha-Atharvasirsha Upanishad, Ganapathi provides knowledge for seekers of knowledge, Issues for the issueless, wealth for the seeker of wealth and salvation for the seekers of salvation.

Alankaara Darshana Phalam

Obtainment of all material desires will be provided to the devotees who do a darshan of Ganesha in pushpa-alankaara. Wealth will be provided to the devotees who do a darshan of Ganesha in suvarna-alankaara. The removal of suffering and the obtainment of desires will be provided to the devotees who do a darshan of Ganesha in rajatha-alankaara. Strength of the body and health will be provided to the devotees who do a darshan of Ganesha in chandana-alankaara. Fear of untimely death and increase of lifespan will be provided to the devotees who do a darshan of Ganesha in vibhuthi-alankaara. Increase of livestock and timely seasonal rains will be provided to the devotees who do a darshan of Ganesha in navaneetha-alankaara. Fertility of the land will be provided to the devotees who do a darshan of Ganesha in shakambari-alankaara.

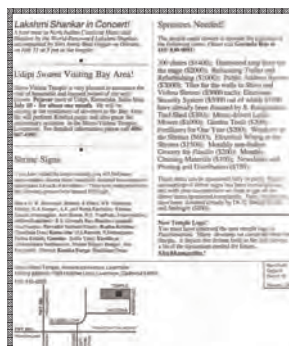
THIS DAY 20 YEARS BACK...

This day, twenty years back brings me back memories about HCCC. We had just completed one year after the Kumbhbhishekam and consecration of Livermore Temple; a collective effort by Bay area Hindus after a struggle of nine years. The year was also a year of learning and a first for all the committee members, devotees and the priests. None of us knew how to manage a temple. There was no infrastructure, no roof and no neighborhood, no fence as it exists today. Temple was in the middle of nowhere, evenings used to be dark, Sanctums were shivering in winter, hot in summer and pouring all round in the rainy season. There was no Abharna, or Thiruvachi and the deities were decorated only with flowers. Yet, during the first year all the major religious events were celebrated, from Ganesh Chaturthi, Janmastmai, Sknda Shasti, Vaikunta Ekadasi to Shivrathri and also visits by many Swamijis including Pujia Swamiji from Udipi Pejavar Mutt. Many of us will also remember the small tent in front of Shiva Sanctum during Shivarathri and taking Sancalpa for Skanda Shasti in pouring rain. The braving priests, Pandit Ravichandran and Pandit Srinivasacharylu stayed in the cold, heat and in scary dark evenings alone in the Sanctum and set the spiritual tone of the Temple. From Day one Suprabhatam for Balaji started at the stroke of nine.

On the first anniversary day, this day 20 years back, the temple performed the Chara Prathistha of Utsavamurthis, along with a cultural program by the famous Hindustani Vocalist Lakshmi Shankar arranged by Late Shiela Shastry in the big semi-permanent tent at the back, the site of present Assembly hall. The temple was also graced by Pujia Swami Dayananda on this day.

We have come a long way and we all should be proud of our accomplishments and where we are after 21 years. We should look forward to the next 20 years of growth prosperity and friendship.

-By Dr. K. Venkateswaran



HINDUISM – A BRIEF OVERVIEW

By *Dr.Dharwar Parimalachar*

“You are what your deep desire is, As is your desire, so is your will,
As is your will, so is your deed, As is your deed,so is your destiny”

(Brihadaranyak Upanishad 4.4.5)

Hinduism has been described as the oldest religion of the world. Our venerable, brilliant ancestors not only explored the Truth behind our existence, but more essentially, created a set of rules for man's fruitful life on earth. However, Hinduism does not seem to have a starting point in history, nor does it have a founder nor a book of rules unlike in other religions. The origin of Vedas is equally unknown, except that most of the scriptures were passed by word of mouth. But yet the clarity, the sum and substance of the Vedas is amazing to say the least, and, despite its complexity, it has survived, sustained and imperishable even in the wake of profound forces of annihilation, which India has passed through over the past several thousand years. This is what makes the natural history of Hinduism very interesting.

In ancient India, from time immemorial, the Vedas formed the educational system and covered virtually all spheres of life, be it spiritual, scientific, medical, mathematical or environmental. It was this wealth of knowledge which was instrumental in changing the attitude of the people in society, which, over a period of time became a practice of Hinduism, not only as a religion, but even more as a culture in the society. Today, Hinduism is a way of life, applied in practice for all stages of life of man, from womb to tomb. The Hindu principles are monumental pillars which strongly support the Hindu religious belief, giving birth to the qualities of unparalleled tolerance, compassion, interdependence and reverence for life on earth. It is small wonder, therefore, that the Hindu concept of life fascinates a lot of people in the rest of the world today. According to Carl Sagan, the well known astronomer, the Hindu philosophy on the creation and dissolution of the Cosmos is the only philosophy that comes closest to the scientific idea that the Cosmos itself undergoes deaths and rebirths.

Hinduism teaches us that all events occur for a reason. In Gita, Lord Krishna tells Arjuna that what is destined will certainly happen. But destiny does not release one from performing his prescribed duty. As someone nicely gave an example: “Your duty is to run in hopes of catching your train. Destiny is the difference between actually catching or missing it.”

“ There was once the Mahabharat	Desire and ego and ignorance
A war the like of none has seen	Are our enemies that make us sin
Arjuna the mighty slew all his foes	But the words of the Lord are with us
For with him the Supreme Lord had been	To help us fight the battle within”



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