



e-Jagriti



Official Publication of The Hindu Temple and Heritage Hall of Toledo

Volume 1 February 2004

www.ToledoTemple.org

Temple Hours

Tuesday - Friday : 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Saturday & Sunday : 9:00 am to 2:00 pm
Arati : Daily 7:00 pm



Temple Address

The Hindu Temple of Toledo,
4336 King Road,
Sylvania OH 43560. Ph /Fax: 419-843-4440

Tax ID #34-1370076

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Executive Committee

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Jiwan Gupta

Board of Trustees

Chairman:

Bhawna Bhatia

Vice Chairman

Arvind Shah

Secretary

Rasesh Shah

Upcoming Celebrations

Mahashivaratri (Actual)

February 18th Wednesday

Shiva Puja & Abhishekam: 10.00 am
Arti: Noon
Rudrabhishekam: 5.30 pm
Arti: 7.00 pm
Shiva Stotra Recitation: 7.15 pm
Bhajans & Kirtan: 8.00 pm
Arti: 9.30 pm

Mahashivaratri (Celebration)

February 22nd Sunday

Shiva Puja & Abhishekam: 10:45 am
(sharp)
Bhajans & Kirtan: Noon
Arti: 12:30 pm
Lunch: 12:45 pm

Puja Coordinators:

Manju Gupta: 419-535-5598

Bina Laungani: 419-824-9771

Holi (Celebration)

March 7th Sunday

Puja : 11.00 am (sharp)
Bhajans & Kirtan: Noon
Arti: 12:30 pm
Lunch: 12:45 pm

**Puja Coordinators: Rajesh Laungani 419-824-9771
Rajiv Saraiya 419-389-5994**

Ugadi (Celebration)

March 21st Sunday

Puja : 11.00 am sharp
Bhajans & Kirtan: Noon
Arti: 12:30 pm
Lunch: 12:45 pm

**Puja Coordinators: Jayanth Bekal: 419-841-4710
M. Raghunathan: 419-353-8194**

Chaitra Navaratri

Sun Mar.21 thru Tue Mar. 30

Every evening after arti, Devistotram
recitation 7:15—8:00 pm

Sri Hanuman Jayanthi (Celeb)

April 04th Sunday

Sundarkand Recitation: 9.00 am
Puja: 11 am sharp
Arti: 12:30 pm
Lunch: 12:45 pm

Puja Coordinator: Rajesh Laungani

Sri Rama Navami (Celebration)

Mar 27th Sat—Mar 28th Sunday

Akhand Ramayan Path begins Saturday
March 27th at 9:00 am and ends Sunday
Mar 28th at 10:00 am

Rama Raksha Stotra: 10:00 am
Puja: 10:45 am
Bhajan: 11:45 am
Arti: 12:15 pm
Lunch: 12:30 pm

**Puja Coordinator: Ajit Jaggi (419-841-3109)
Rashmi Agnihotri (829-7980)**

Sri Mahavir Jayanthi (Celeb)

April 25th Sunday

Snaatra Puja: 11 am sharp
Bhajans & Kirtan: Noon
Arti: 12:30 pm
Lunch: 12:45 pm

**Puja Coordinator: Pushpa Shah (419-843-5359)
Sangeeta Mehta 419-885-0051**

President's Page

Feb 1, 2004

From the President,

Dear Devotees, Friends and Supporters of the Hindu Temple of Toledo:

On behalf of the Temple Executive Committee, I warmly welcome you to participate in and contribute to the many activities and programs for the year 2004. The year is a very special one. It makes the 15th Anniversary of the Temple, an important milestone. You, the devotees and well wishers of our temple have contributed to the growth of the Temple and its activities in the past and I ask for your continued and increased support for 2004. This is YOUR TEMPLE and HERITAGE HALL.

Please get involved.

We want to celebrate the 15th Anniversary on a grand scale along with the Festival of India scheduled for Aug 13, 14 and 15. Mark your calendars. We seek your invaluable inputs and participation in as many ways as you can.

One of the themes the Temple Executive Committee is working on is open communication. We need to hear from you and we need to communicate to you. We are planning to accomplish this through Jagriti, a suggestion box, announcement on Sundays, the website of the Temple, email and regular mail. The Executive Committee chairs and members of the various committees are listed in this edition. You can contact most of the Executive Committee and chairs of the committees by phone and email.

The Temple runs on your generous contributions, physical and financial. Please renew your memberships as soon as you can. Please bring in new members. Please donate your time by volunteering for activities of the Temple.

To continue to do what we did last year and to make it even better for 2004, we need to enhance the revenues for the Temple. The Executive Committee and the Membership Committee are working diligently, but the results depend on YOU, the devotees. You can help the Temple by sponsoring pujas on the various festival days, by bringing in more members, by making donations etc.

In the coming months you will hear from us on some of the new initiatives we are planning. For starters, YOGA classes have been started from Feb. 4, 2004. A one day visit to Ganges Retreat in Michigan is being planned for May. Plans are afoot for a Heritage Hall Seminar Series to disseminate information and knowledge to our community on issues like health, nutrition, etc. All in all, 2004, the Fifteenth Anniversary year promises to be bright and exciting.

I would like to thank Panditji Anant Kumar Dixit, Jiwan Gupta, the Executive committee, chairs and members of the various committees, M. F. Patel and the Board of Trustees for 2003, for the splendid work they did. I extend my welcome to the incoming Chairperson Bhawana Bhatia and the Board of Trustees for 2004 and look forward to work with them for the programs of the Temple.

Finally my committees and I look forward to working with you all for the greater good and glory of our Temple.

May God bless you all.

Hari Om.

Subba Rao

Get involved and help your temple by signing up today and Sponsoring Pujas and Sunday Lunches.

Sankranthi Celebrations

By Sukeshini Raghuvver

In South India, Hemantha Rithu, or winter, runs from mid-December to mid-February. Dhamrurasam ends around January 13th, which coincides with Boghi. The next day, the sun starts its northward migration from the tropic of Capricorn to the tropic of Cancer. This migration is called Makara Sankramanam, or Uttarayana Punyakalam (holy time). This is the beginning of a new Solar year.

Makara Sankramanam is celebrated as the Sankranthi festival in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, and as Pongal in Tamil Nadu. It is celebrated as Lohiri in the north. This falls at the end of the harvest season, hence it is also celebrated as the harvest festival.

This celebration depicts discarding the old and bringing in the new in the new year. Houses are cleaned from top to bottom. Mango leaves adorn the doors and fresh designs (Rangoli, Muggulu, or Kolam) decorate the courtyards.

Bhogi is the first day when bonfires are set as all the old things from the household are thrown into the fire. It is also believed that Indra bestows his blessings on all the hard working farmers.

Andhra Pradesh:

The main sights of the Sankranthi celebrations are Muggulu (Rangoli), Gobbillu, Bhogi Mantalu (bonfires), Bommala Koluva (displays of dolls), Hari Dasulu, and Gangiredduli. On Bhogi day, the main focus is on young children. Children are showered with soaked gram and fruits, as well as berries and copper coins. It is believed that when the elders bless the children this way, it wards off or removes any evil eyes from the children. The next day, importance is given to newly married daughters and sons-in-law. A feast is enjoyed by the entire family. The third day is for cattle. Those who helped in farming are honored. Cattle are washed and decorated. Servants, including farmhands, are given gifts of new clothes. Children invite friends and family for their doll display.

Karnataka:

The first day begins with prayers in the household. Offerings are made of sweet and hot pongal (rice and lentils cooked together). Also, mixtures of sesame seeds, peanuts, dried coconut, and jaggery are offered. These are then distributed to friends and neighbors by the ladies who dress in their finest clothes. Cattle are once again honored by feeding them sugar cane.

Tamil Nadu:

The first day of Sankranthi is also the first day of Thai. This is the day when mother nature and the sun are revered. Sweet rice is cooked out in the sun in brightly decorated earthen pots. Offerings are made to the sun god. The next day is called Mattu Pongal, mattu meaning cattle. Cows are decorated and honored. Bull fights are part of the celebrations. Sisters pray for the welfare and prosperity of their brothers. Colorful bird feed balls are offered to the birds. The last day is Kanumu Pongal, where families hold small picnics for fun, and feast on spicy tamarind and yogurt rice.

In some parts, chariot festivals are held. The chariots then become symbolic of life.

The chariot is our body.

Charioteer is our intellect.

Road is our desires.

The rope is sensual attachment.

Goal is Moksha.

We should be able to steer our bodies by our intellect to avoid the road of desires and sensual attachments in order to finally attain Moksha, liberation, or salvation.

Wishing one and all a very happy Pongal. Peace be to all.

Announcements and Events

HERITAGE HALL SEMINARS

This year we are planning a series of seminars for the benefit of our community. These will be informative and educational in nature and should contribute to the enrichment of our day-to-day life. Professionals from our own community as well as scholars, artists and other noteworthy people will be invited to lead, speak and participate in these seminars. These seminars will be spaced approximately six weeks apart. The seminars will deal with medical, nutritional, financial planning, interfaith and religious topics. Please mark your calendars. For further details and changes visit www.ToledoTemple.org

Topic: "Depression Along the Life Cycle".

Moderator: Dr. Arun Patel

Date: Thursday April 1, 2004 at The Hindu Temple of Toledo (visit www.ToledoTemple.org for time)

Topic: "Heart Disease in South Asian Community. Dealing and Coping with it."

Moderator: Dr. Gopinath Upamaka

Date: Saturday, June 5, 2004 at The Hindu Temple of Toledo (visit www.ToledoTemple.org for time)

MULTIFAITH COUNCIL

The Third Annual Multifaith Banquet will be held Thursday evening 3/4/2004 at the Islamic Center in Perrysburg. For more information, please contact Bindu Mistry (419 841 1808) or Multifaith Council (419-475-6535). Please attend the banquet and make our community's presence felt. Detailed information and a downloadable form can be found at www.ToledoTemple.org

Habitat Build 2004 Project. We have participated in the past years. Looking for participants for a workshop and participation in the habitat project. The tentative schedule for the project is May/June. We will appreciate if our community members can volunteer at the workshop or help with food and construction work etc for the habitat project. For more information contact Arvind Shah at arvindakshah@hotmail.com

FROM THE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMNT COMMITTEE.....

Fund Raising Lunch for underprivileged children.

In honor of Mother's Day this year, the Community Involvement Committee will be cooking and serving lunch on Sunday May 9, to raise funds for the underprivileged children. Our community has been very supportive of such things. Please lend your generous support. Volunteers are needed. Please contact Jayalata Patel and Leena Jhunjhunwala, Co-Chairs of the Committee. The Committee plans collection of School Supplies at Festival time in August.

YOGA CLASSES

Yoga classes have started. The classes meet every Wednesday at 6:30 PM. Depending on interest from our community membership, classes may be held on Saturday mornings also. Jo Ann Van Sparrentak is our instructor. Please make use of this splendid opportunity.

GANGES RETREAT TRIP

Planned for around May 15-16, 2004. More details will be posted shortly on the web site at www.ToledoTemple.org. Your contacts are Raj Joshi (419-691-8370) and Arvind Shah (419-241-3891).

BALAVIHAR

For the 4th year, Balavihar classes are currently taught at The Hindu Temple and Heritage Hall of Toledo. Balavihar is a forum through which children learn about many aspects of the Hindu culture and philosophy. Classes are taught every Friday from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. For more information contact Seema Jani at 419-534-2931. Benefits of Balavihar and what is taught is posted on the temple web site www.ToledoTemple.org

Message from our Board Chairperson

Dear friends and members of the community

Greetings for the New Year

I thank you for giving me the honor and privilege of being the Chairwoman of the Board of Trustees. I am looking forward to this year. We have an excellent Executive Committee headed by Dr. Subba Rao. I wish them good luck for the coming year.

In the last fifteen years, we have made great progress. Culturally we have become more diverse, religiously more strong (under the guidance of Pandit Dixitji), socially more cohesive and financially more sound. The temple has undergone a big expansion and we have made a new house for our priest. We have to thank all of you for your generous contributions, time and effort. The community's support has been commendable. We have a few goals this year.....renovation of the temple interior and existing bathrooms and the kitchen area. I would like to see more involvement of our children and youth in the temple activities on a daily basis. I want them to be proud of our religion and our heritage.

I hope each one of us will cooperate and actively participate in the various activities of the temple. We have an excellent community. We can strive for a progressive, eventful and a peaceful year.

Thanks,

Sincerely yours,
Bhawna Bhatia. M.D.

Message from our Panditji

Dear Devotees,

As we progress toward the year 2004, we would like to wish you peace and harmony, success, prosperity and good health for the New Year.

A lot of work has been done under the leadership of Dr. Jiwan Gupta, Dr. Steve Jindal and Dr. M.F. Patel. We would like to thank each of the year 2003-all the committee members for their ideas, hard work, and dedication. Their efforts were instrumental in last year's very successful results.

We welcome Dr. Subba Rao and his committees and wish them all the success. As you know this year we will be celebrating Temple's 15th Anniversary. Dr. Rao and his committees are working hard to make this event successful. I have had an opportunity to watch Temple's inauguration cassette. In that event I have noticed that the whole community was involved. I urge each and every devotee from our community to participate in this celebration and seek the Lord's blessings.

We would like to thank all members, donors, volunteers and devotees for the continued support of the temple. It is this support that keeps our temple a vibrant and thriving place that it is.

May God Bless you all.

At your Service
Anantkumar Dixit

Announcements and Events (more)

If you have any news or other information you would like to share with the rest of the community please e-mail to Kavya Chillapalli at kavyachillapalli@yahoo.com or give to Panditji.

PRESENTATION ON ZEN BUDDHISM BY JAY CHIKYO—SUNDAY FEBRUARY 29TH

On February 29th from 11:30 to 12:30 pm, the head instructor of Shobu Aikido of Ohio, Jay Chikyo Weik Sensei, will be presenting a demonstration of Aikido - the Art of Peace. Aikido is a modern non-violent and non-competitive martial art that has its roots in the Samurai warrior arts of feudal Japan. Morihei Ueshiba, the founder of Aikido, said that a warrior's mind and body must be permeated with enlightened wisdom and deep calm. Deeply influenced by Zen Buddhism, Aikido is used for spiritual development as well as self defense. For more information please visit the schools website www.toledoaikido.com.

DISCOURSE BY ISKCON—SUNDAY MARCH 14TH

Devotees from ISKCON, Detroit, Michigan will be conducting Bhajans, Kirtans and Discourses on Sunday March 14th at the temple between 11:00 am and 12:30 Pm. Please plan to attend..

HANUMAN JAYANTHI CELEBRATION—SUNDAY APRIL 4TH

Sundarkand recitation by Ramayan Mandali from Bharatiya Temple, Columbus, OH
The mandali will sing Sundarkand in various melodious ragas. This will be their 3rd visit to our temple.
Recitation begins at 9:00am

Congratulations to Kimi Shah (KG student), daughter of Ramesh & Dipika Shah. Kimi won the first Prize in coloring contest sponsored by Sylvania Township Firefighters during Fire Safety Week. Kimi goes to Sylvania Franciscan Academy. Kimi received a pizza party for 10 at Major Magic's and a \$100 savings bond.

Congratulations also go to the following parents and best wishes to their new borns:

Parents

Vikas and Kirti Surati
Rakesh and Priti Mistry
Resha(daughter of Jagdish and Shobha Patel) and Prakash Naiak
Dr. Kesari and Candace Sarikonda
Dr. Viswas and Arti Mashalkar
Ashok and Shobha Jinka
Nikhil(son of Drs. Pratap and Kiron Torsekar)and Shelly
(daughter of Drs. Satish and Rama Sood) Torsekar
Ramesh and Sowjanya Godi

New Born Child

Yadev
Twinkle
Simaran
Maya Leela
Sneha
Anika
Aliya

Juhitha

Condolences

The members of the Hindu Temple community offer their sincere and heartfelt condolences to the following for the death of their beloved family member.

Sasidhar and Srikant Varanasi - **Mother**
Ramakrishna Puligandla & family -**Wife Janaki**
Saumin and Tejinder Singh -**Mother (in India)**

Have You Paid Your Membership Dues Yet?

If you have not paid your dues for the year yet, please hurry up and send in a check today. Operating your temple of worship incurs an expense of \$10,000 per month on an average. The temple depends on you and your contributions as well as contributions of your friends to defray these operating expenses.

If you are new to the community or have never become a member, we ask you to seriously consider becoming a paid member. This is the year to take that important step. The Hindu Temple and Heritage Hall of Toledo will be celebrating yet another milestone.....fulfilling **15 years** of spiritual religious and social needs to the communities in and around Toledo.

Please provide your e-mail address

Membership Benefits

You, as a paid member will help defray the operating costs of the temple. In addition, you will also benefit from the following:

1. Receive information in the mail thru Jagriti about religious and cultural activities in the temple.
2. Membership Directory with your name and address included.
3. Use of temple facilities for a discounted charge.
4. Vote to elect your temple executive committee for the following year.

Please fill-in the information below and mail this form along with a check to the temple address provided below. *Please make sure you include your e-mail address when you return the form.

- I am a new member. (\$150) I am a renewing general member. (\$150)
- I am a renewing board member. (\$250)
- I'd like to become a member, but have a few questions. Call me at Ph. #:

Your Name:

Spouse's Name:

Children's Names

Address:

City: **State:** **Zip:**

Phone (Home) **Phone (Mobile)**

E-Mail Address*:

(If you do not have an e-mail address and need assistance in setting one up, please call Sravan Medapati at 419-283-8407)

Mail this completed form along with a check for \$150 to The Hindu Temple, 4336 King Road, Sylvania, OH 43560. Checks must be made payable to Hindu Temple of Toledo.

**Should you have any questions , Please call your membership Chair for 2004
Siva Chillapalli at 419-392-5085**



Jagriti

The Hindu Temple of Toledo
4336 King Road
Sylvania, OH 43560

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