

VOLUME 1

JANUARY -FEBRUARY 2005

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Hindu Temple of Toledo
4336 KING ROAD
SYLVANIA OH 43560
(419) 843-4440

Board of Trustees:

Chairman:
Arvind Shah

Vice-Chair Person:
Rashesh Shah

Secretary:
Sujata Hedge

Priest:
Anant Kumar Dixit

Executive Committee:

President:
Vijay Mahajan

Vice-President:
Ajit Jaggi

Treasurers:
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Leena Bhojraj
Paramita Mukherjee

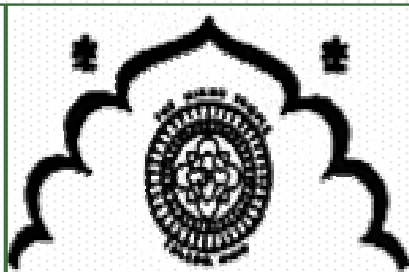
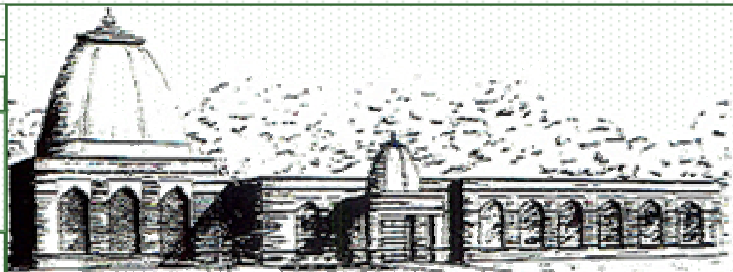
Secretary:
Leena Jhunjunwala

President-Elect:
Sudarshan Jetley

Past President:
Subba Rao

Editors:
Ravitej Katragadda
Andy Johar
Parth Pitroda
Ram Ramanujan
Paramita Mukherjee

Temple Hours:
Arati: Daily 7:00p.m.
Tuesdays—Fridays:
5:00p.m.—8:00p.m.
Saturdays & Sundays:
9:a.m.—2:00p.m.



Jagriti Online

www.toledotemple.org

Official Publication of Hindu Temple & Heritage Hall of Toledo

Upcoming Events 2005 - Contd on Pg 3

Vasant Panchami Celebration (February 13th Sunday)

11:00 a.m. (sharp) **Saraswati Puja**
12:00 noon **Bhajan/ Kirtan**
12:30 p.m. **Arti**
12:45 p.m. **Lunch**

Coordinators: Paramita & Sumit Mukherjee
419-882-0764

Maha Shivratri Celebration (March 6th Sunday)

11:00 a.m. (sharp) **Shiva Puja/Abhishekam**
12:00 noon **Bhajan/ Kirtan**
12:30 p.m. **Arti**
12:45 p.m. **Lunch**

Coordinators: Ajit Jaggi 419-841-3109
Neeru Jetley 419-874-0690

Maha Shivratri Actual (March 8th Tuesday)

5:00 p.m.(sharp) **Hanuman Chalisa**
6:00 p.m. **Shiva Puja/Abhishekam**
7:00 p.m. **Arti**
7:15 p.m. **Mrityunjay Mantra**
7:30 p.m. **Stotra Recitation**
8:00 p.m. **Bhajan/Kirtan**
10:00 p.m. **Arti**

11:00 a.m. (sharp) **Puja**
12:00 noon **Bhajan/Kirtan**
12:30 p.m. **Arti**
12:45 p.m. **Lunch**

Coordinators: Sapana Reddy 419-824-0925
Seema Jani 419-534-2931

Holi Celebration (March 27th Sunday)

Calendar of Events Year 2005

Contd on Pg 3

Vasant Panchami
Saraswati Puja 13th February
MahaShivaratri 6th March
Holi 27th March
Ugadi / Gudipadava 10th April
Sri Ram Navami 17th April
Sri Hanuman Jayanti 24th April
Sri Mahaveer Jayanti 1st May
Mata Ki Chauki 4th May
Havan 15th May
Graduation Day 5th June
Guru Purnima 21st July
Temple 13th Anniversary 5th-7th August
Rakshabandhan/Rakhi 19th August
Krishna Janmastami 27th August
Sri Ganesh Chaturthi 11th September

Ugadi Celebration Kalyan Utsavam

By Satyanarayanacharyalu
from Memphis
(April 10th Sunday)

10:30 a.m. (sharp) **Puja/Kalyan Utsavam**
12:15 p.m. **Bhajan/Kirtan**
12:30 p.m. **Arti**
12:45 p.m. **Lunch**

Coordinators:

Sukeshini Raghuveer
419-865-8103

Leena Jhunjunwala
419-535-0970

MESSAGE FROM THE DESK OF OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

I would like to thank the board of the Hindu Temple and our community at large for giving me the opportunity to serve as the president of the executive committee of the Hindu Temple of Toledo. I consider it a great privilege and honor to provide the community with all my services to the best of my ability. Not only will I work to ensure open communication between myself and the rest of the Toledo community, but also seek to make temple events enjoyable to all those involved.

While I consider it a great privilege to serve as president, I must thank Ajit Jaggi, Leena Jhunjhunwala, Sudarshan Jetley, Vinita Singhania, Leena Bhojraj, and Paramita Mukherjee for agreeing to take charge of the various responsibilities essential to a productive executive committee. Additionally, I would like to recognize the hard work and effort exhibited by Subba Rao and the other committee members for their exceptional job last year and their ability to make our Temple run smoothly and efficiently. I am confident that with hard work we will continue the tradition of excellence that we have all come to expect.

In an effort to ensure a productive year, I also welcome the new leadership of the Board of Trustees and look forward to working together with Arvind Shah, Rashesh Shah, and Sujata Hegde to ensure our communities' needs are met. With a proactive outlook we will work to promote and advance the social image of the Hindu Temple.

The Hindu Temple is a large body involved in numerous functions seeking to serve the interests of both the Hindu community and the citizens of Toledo. Members of the executive committee by themselves cannot carry out these necessary responsibilities by themselves. With this in mind, it is crucial to seek the aid of the entire Hindu community to get involved in making this year one of the best years ever. Therefore, I would like to make a plea to all members of the Hindu Temple in volunteering to serve on various subcommittees of the executive committee to make this year as enjoyable and successful as possible. Through such involvement, I can assure to the community that the proceedings and business of the executive committee will always open to every member of the Hindu Temple and invite all those interested in attending meetings as our humble guests.

I would also like to recognize and congratulate the Hindu Temple family, especially the Youth Group, for a moving gesture in their successful fund raising event for the Tsunami victims. I am sure this event will prove to be greatly appreciated by the unfortunate individuals involved in this natural disaster.

Once again, the members of the new executive committee thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve you this year. We all look forward to a very successful and enjoyable year. Jai mata di.

Yours Truly,
Vijay Mahajan MD

Calendar of Events Year 2005 **Continued from Pg 1**

Navaratri (Dandia Raas)	8 th October
Vijaya Dasami (Durga Puja)	9 th October
Deepavali	1 st November
Annakoot (Govardhan Puja)	5 th November
Havan	4 th December

Also look out for:

Discourses by Swami Pratyagbodhanandji

(from Arsh Vidya Gurukulam, Pennsylvania)

May 19th to 22nd. Detailed program to follow

Co ordinators:

Neeraja & Steve Jindal 419-531-5757

The current Executive Body urges the community people to use their Freedom of Speech rights and express their suggestions and thoughts in the form of letters to the Executive committee. Please drop your suggestions/letters in the suggestion box placed outside the Library in front of the glass window. The Executive members will definitely go through the letters and invite those people to express their viewpoints in the Executive Committee meetings which is held every two weeks. The next meeting will be held on Feb 20th 2005—Sunday at the Temple premises.

Hinduism: Roots and Meaning - By Our Own Panditji

1. What does "Hindu" mean?

The word Hindu is not very old as it does not appear in Hindu scriptures. There are many interesting stories about its origin. Many historians believe early Hindu civilization developed along the banks of the river Sindhu in India (now in Pakistan). The most popular theory is that the word Hindu is a distorted version of the word Sindhu. It is believed the ancient Persians, who lived on the other side of the river Sindhu, pronounced the letter 'S' as 'H'. Hence, the word Sindhu became Hindu, and the Persians referred to the ancient Indians living on the opposite side of the Sindhu River as Hindus. However, a Sanskrit verse in the ancient Hindu writings, Birhanaradi Purana, contradicts the Persian origin theory. According to this verse, the word Hindu is a combination of the first letter "Hi" of Himalayas and the last compound letter "ndu" of the word Bindu. It refers to India as Hindustan, a country living between the Himalayan Mountains and Bindu Sarover (Cape Commorin Sea).

2. What was the original name of Hinduism?

Hinduism was originally known as Dharma. It is also called Sanatan Dharma. The word Sanatan means eternal.

3. What is the meaning of "Dharma"?

In the English language, there is no single word, which describes the true and complete meaning of Dharma, although it is usually translated as religion. Dharma comes from the Sanskrit word "Dhr" which literally means to hold or to sustain. Virtues, beliefs, moral obligations, ethical laws, codes of behavior, traditions and righteous actions that sustain human life in peace and harmony are all aspects of Dharma.

4. How old is Hinduism?

Hinduism is the world's oldest religion. It predates recorded history. Hinduism is the first religion of humankind.

5. Who founded Hinduism?

Hinduism has no founder. It does not owe its existence to a specific prophet. It is based on divine revelations experienced by a series of sages, called Rishis, while they were in intense meditation. The divine knowledge received by the Rishis is contained in the four sacred books called the Vedas. The word Veda means knowledge, as the Vedas are the root and fountainhead of all knowledge. That is why Hinduism is also known as Vedic

Upcoming Events 2005 — Continued from Pg 1

Sri RamNavami Celebration (April 17th Sunday)	Sri Hanuman Jayanthi Celebration (April 24th Sunday)	Mata Ki Chauki Celebration (May 14th Saturday)
10.00a.m. Akhand Ramayan Conclusion	9.00a.m. Satya Narayan Katha	3:30 p.m. Puja
11:00 a.m. Puja	10.00a.m. Hanuman Chalisa Recitation 11 Times	4:00 p.m. Mataki Chauki
12:00 noon Bhajan/Kirtan	11:30 a.m. Sarjerao Deshmukh (Lec.)	7:30 p.m. Arti
12:30 p.m. Arti	12:00 noon Bhajan/Kirtan	8:00 p.m. Dinner
12:45 p.m. Lunch	12:30 p.m. Arti	Coordinators:
Coordinators:	12:45 p.m. Lunch	Ajay Mahajan: 419-535-1693
Neena Goel 419-8415279	Coordinators:	Manju Gupta 419-535-5598
Rashmi Agnihotri 419-829-7980	Rohit Trivedi 419-865-3340	Neeru Jetley 419-874-0690
	Munish Shah 419-829-4443	

"RAMAYAN - A Fact or Fiction"

Sarjerao Deshmukh would be presenting his book at our temple on **Sunday, April 24, 2005** during our Hanuman Jayanti Celebration starting at **11:30 AM**.

The author has shown significant Indian connections that exist outside India. The book deals with ancient studies. It does not deal with the characters in *Ramayana* nor has it anything to do with the *Ram Janma-bhumi* issue.

The book reviews various types of evidence required to prove the hypothesis. For the reasons stated in the book, the author relies more on alternate evidence such as cultural, linguistic, and philosophical. The author makes use of hard evidence in combination with the soft and offers a conclusion.

There are significant - cultural, philosophical and linguistic - Indic connections to the hoards of Central Asia, Jewish and pre-Islamic Arabic people, Dynastic Egypt, Kingdom of Kush in Africa, Greek Civilization, and ultimately with the ancient Celtic and pre-Celtic Peoples of Ireland and Scotland. All such connections in their respective cultures are isolated or fragmented events while in India they can be explained as a cohesive theme.

This work is just a stepping stone. It's a beginning. Floodgates of cross-cultural data are yet to open. This book is a 10-years effort in making.

Following are some of the quotes on the book:

"This book validates not only Ramayana but Mahabharata as well."

Dr. Ravindra Bhat,
Vice Chancellor, Health University

"I feel that the book is a timely arrival in India."

Swami Dayananda Saraswati,
Arsha Vidya Pitham, Saylorsburg, Pa (USA), Coimbtore, TN (India)

Sarjerao is married with two children and was born and brought up in the Princely City of Baroda. He is an UT engineering college alumni and currently lives in New Jersey. He has DEE (Gold Medal), BSEE/MSEE from UT and has worked in Nuclear Power Industry for 26 years. He is very much interested in Indian History & Philosophy and Poetry. He has written poems in Marathi, Hindi and English.

Community News

Congratulations:

Congratulations to Binesh Patel son of Drs. M.F. Patel and Jaylata Patel, on his engagement with Amrita Singh on January 2005

Miscellaneous

We are sincerely thankful for your contribution to the Hindu Temple of Toledo in the past and look forward to your continued active support in the coming years. The temple is dependent on devotees like you. Please send your tax-deductible annual membership dues of \$150.00 donation for the year 2005. Thank you for your valuable seva to your own Temple.

Hindu Temple is pleased to announce following services (yearly subscriptions to pujas) for the year 2005.

Devotees can sponsor the following services on a yearly basis and receive blessings. Services will be performed in your name and gotra, and prasadam will sent to you.

Poornima Satyanarayn Poojas (12)	\$ 300.00
Abhishekam to Venkateshwara (1st Saturday each month) (12)	\$ 500.00
Every Ekadashi Vishnusahasranama Archana (24)	\$ 500.00

Devotees can sponsor a puja on Birthdays, Wedding Anniversaries, Death Anniversaries of your loved one's.

Gotram:

Name: _____ Birth Star: _____ Date: _____
Name: _____ Birth Star: _____ Date: _____
Name: _____ Birth Star: _____ Date: _____
Name: _____ Birth Star: _____ Date: _____

Suggested Donation: \$31.00 (per puja)

Home Phone No. _____

Punditji will perform a puja and archana in your name on given date. If you wish you can come to the temple on that day during temple hours and receive prasadam or we will mail you prasadam.

Community News

New arrivals

Congratulations to the following couples for being blessed with new borns:

Atul & Rashmi Agnihotri	Kayshov
Arun & Bharti Kumar	Anshul
Umesh & Poonam Gupta	Anish
Paresh & Bela Patel	Arya
Preeti Jaggi (Daughter of Ajit & Vicka Jaggi) & Craig Hofmeister	Anika

Condolences:

The Temple devotees convey sincere condolences to following families and pray for the departed souls:

Rekha Trivedi (Tremore-Holland) and family, on her mother's death in Toledo.

Sanjay Shah, Shilpa Parikh and their family members, on their mother's recent death in India.

Darshana Parikh and her family members, on her father's demise in USA.

The editors request members of the temple and community to provide information and articles of relevance and interest, to be published in Jagriti.

The Hindu Temple Organizes Tsunami Fund Raiser Cultural Event

The dinner and cultural program sponsored by the Hindu Temple Youth Group on Saturday January 29th to help raise money for tsunami relief efforts in South Asia was a rousing success. Approximately 400 people attended the event. The function was so popular that it drew the attention of local news channel, 13 ABC, who featured it on multiple broadcasts that weekend. Attendees enjoyed their choice of Indian and American cuisine, all donated by local businesses. After dinner Pandit Anant Dixit began the program with an inspirational prayer for all of the victims of the disaster. The prayer was followed by a few words from youth group treasurer and master of ceremonies for the evening, Anit Jindal. The cultural program that followed consisted of ten dances all performed by various members of the community. The performances ranged from the classical slower songs, such as Thirishirangirian, to more upbeat modern stylings, such as Pretty Woman. The dances were capped off with an energetic Bhangra performed by a group of young devotees. The night fittingly concluded in a moment of generosity. Panditji presented the Hindu Temple Youth Group with a check for \$100.00 on behalf of a group of young Hindu children who had received the check for their participation in a different function at the Toledo Art Museum.

The Hindu Temple Youth Group would like to extend an enthusiastic thank you to all of those that attended the event. Also the youth group would like to thank all of the businesses that donated time and goods in order to make the event possible: Reddy Food & Spices, Krishna Groceries, Deepam India, Quizno's Subs, Short Stop, Tandoor Cuisine of India, Avva's Kitchen/Indian Cuisine, Indian Jewel of Toledo, US Food Services, Toledo Printing, Lucas County Senior Nutrition, and Carey Nursing and Rehab. Special thanks also go out to all of those who helped put on the event, including Sudhir Rao, Jayashree Reddy, Uma Vora, and Savita Jindal. Because of the generosity and support of the community the function was able to generate nearly \$9,000 for the cause.

Anit Jindal, (Hindu Temple Youth Group Treasurer)

The Executive Committee is looking for volunteers to support the following committees. Interested individuals please contact the President, Dr. Vijay Mahajan @ 419-535-1693 or Panditji @ 419-843-4440.

Religious– Management of most of the religious functions

Membership– To recruit new members and regularly touch base with the old. We will need a V.P. and a Chair person.

Facilities– Maintenance of the temple in general.

Festival- This committee comes into action in August annually and the meetings will be held in February and March.

Cultural- This committee's primary responsibility would be during Diwali time and Festival time.

Audio & Visual– Please contact Sudhir Rao or Sirish Shah.

Education- This group will be working along side Punditji to teach the youth of Toledo about the history of Hinduism.

Volunteer– For greater involvement in the community.

Hospitality- This committee head by Mrs. Ajay Mahajan. This committee is responsible for the Sunday Poojas/lunches.

Fundraising– Help raise funds for your Temple.

Your Ad could be inserted here

Advertising Rates

Business Card Size	1 Issue	\$50.00
¼ Page	1 Issue	\$100.00
½ Page	1 Issue	\$200.00
Full Page	1 Issue	\$300.00

For further information Please call Temple
@ 419-843-4440



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