



# ANJALI



***Maha Shivaratri Celebration-Monday,  
March 7, 2016***

***Maha Rudra Yagna-Saturday, May 21 &  
Sunday, May 22, 2016***

***Look inside for  
Programs  
Temple News  
Articles  
Youth Page  
and More***

Bi-Annual Newsletter of Bharatiya Hindu Temple  
Volume 31, Number 1 – 2016  
[www.columbushindutemple.org](http://www.columbushindutemple.org)  
[bht@bhtohio.org](mailto:bht@bhtohio.org) | (740) 369-0717

Temple Hours:  
Weekdays: 9 AM–12 PM and 6 PM–9 PM  
Weekends: 9 AM–9 PM







## Temple Programs at a Glance

**Note:** Timings of all programs are accurate at the time of printing this Anjali. For the latest changes, please refer to the Temple website at [www.columbushindutemple.org](http://www.columbushindutemple.org)

### MARCH

Sundarkand Ramayan Path	5	10:00AM
Shri Shiva Abhishekam (Pradosham)	6	7:00 PM
Maha Shivaratri Celebrations (Temple open day and night)	7	6:00 PM
Shri Jagannath Puja	11	7:00 PM
Uma Maheshwara Kalyanam	12	5:00 PM
Shrinathji Satsang	13	3:30 PM
Shri Devi Puja and Bhajan	18	6:30 PM
Gurukul Admission Begins	18	See email
Shri Navagraha Abhishekam and Puja	19	4:00 PM
Shri Shiva Abhishekam (Pradosham)	20	7:00 PM
Shri Satyanarayana Puja and Katha & Holi Celebration	22	7:00 PM
Uttara Phalguni Maha Lakshmi Jayanti	23	7:00 PM
Shri Venkateshwara Abhishekam	26	10:30 AM
Shri Sankatahara Chaturthi	26	7:00 PM

### APRIL

Sundarkand Ramayan Path	2	10:00 AM
Shri Shiva Abhishekam (Soma Pradosham)	4	7:00 PM
Ugadi Celebration	7	6:30 PM
Shri Devi Puja and Bhajan	8	6:30 PM
Shri Navagraha Abhishekam and Puja	9	4:00 PM
Shrinathji Satsang	10	3:30 PM
Sauramana Ugadi and Swami Ayyappa Abhishekam	14	6:30 PM
Shri Rama Navami Celebration	15 & 16	10:30 AM
Shri Sita Rama Kalyanam	15	7:00 PM
Akhand Ramayan Path Begins	16	1:00 PM
Akhand Ramayan Path Ends	17	1:00 PM
Shri Shiva Abhishekam (Pradosham)	19	7:00 PM
Shri Satyanarayana Puja and Katha	21	7:00 PM
Shri Hanuman Jayanti Celebration	22	3:30 PM
Shri Venkateshwara Abhishekam	23	10:30 PM
Shri Jagannath Satsang	23	6:00 PM
Shri Sankatahara Chaturthi	25	7:00 PM
Shodash Naam Mantra Sankirtan	30	11:00 AM

## MAY

Shodash Naam Mantra Sankirtan Ends	1	11:00 AM
Shri Shiva Abhishekam (Pradosham)	4	7:00 PM
Sundarkand Ramayan Path	7	10:00 AM
Gurukul Cultural Program	7	10:00 AM
Shrinathji Satsang	8	3:30 PM
Akshaya Trutiya	8	7:00 PM
Shri Devi Puja and Bhajan	13	6:30 PM
Shri Navagraha Abhishekam and Puja	14	4:00 PM
Shri Jagannath Puja	14	7:00 PM
Gurukul Graduation	15	10:00 AM
Shri Shiva Abhishekam	18	7:00 PM
Shri Satyanarayana Puja and Katha	20	7:00 PM
Maha Rudra Yagna/Subramania Abhishekam	21	10:00 AM
Maha Rudra Yagna and Poornahuti	22	1:00 PM
Shri Sankatahara Chaturthi	25	7:00 PM
Shri Venkateshwara Abhishekam	28	10:30 AM

## JUNE

Shri Shiva Abhishekam	2	7:00 PM
Sundarkand Ramayan Path	4	10:00 AM
Shri Devi Puja and Bhajan	10	6:30 PM
S.V. Poolangi Seva & Kalyana Utsavam	11	10:30 AM
Shri Navagraha Abhishekam and Puja	11	4:00 PM
Shrinathji Satsang	12	3:30 PM
Shri Shiva Abhishekam	17	7:00 PM
Shri Venkateshwara Abhishekam	18	10:30 AM
BHT Youth Camp - Starts	18	See email
Shri Satyanarayana Puja & Katha	19	7:00 PM
Shri Sankatahara Chaturthi	23	7:00 PM
Shri Jagannath Snana Yatra	25	10:30 AM
BHT Youth Camp - Ends	25	See email



*You are invited*



**Shri Radha Krishna Vasudev Maha Yagna**

**August 11-14, 2016**



## Program Details: March-June 2016

**Note:** Annual programs take place once per year and take precedence over weekly programs. Please check Temple's weekly email for updates.

### Weekly



#### ❖ Shri Hanuman Chalisa Recitation

Every Tuesday at 7:30 PM

Coordinator(s): Premananda and Madhava Naidu,  
Anshu Garg, Kaviraj Punetha, and Shailendra Garg  
614-406-9282

#### ❖ Shri Venkateshwara Seva

Every Saturday

9:00 AM      Suprabhatam

9:25 AM      Shri Vishnu Sahasranama

9:50 AM      Shri Govind Namavali

### Bi-Weekly



#### ❖ Shri Shiva Abhishekam (Pradosham)

March 6 and 20; April 4 and 19; May 4 and 18 and June 2 and 17

*Note: There is special Shivaratri celebration on March 6. See page 6 for details.*

7:00 PM      Rudrabhishekam with Vedic chanting

7:45 PM      Alankar and Bhajans

8:30 PM      Ashtotharam and Aarati, followed by Prasadam

Sponsorship: Yajaman \$151, Puja Sponsor \$25 and up  
Coordinator(s): Vishu Chandramouleeswaran 614-352-5726  
Mahaprasadam Sponsors: Temple is looking for sponsors.

### Monthly



#### ❖ Sundarkand Ramayan Path

Generally, first Saturday of every month  
March 5, April 2, May 7 and June 4

10:00 AM      Shri Hanuman and Shri Ramayan Puja

10:30 PM      Recitation of Sundarkand Ramayan Path

1:00 PM      Aarati, followed by Mahaprasadam

Sponsorship: Yajaman \$151, Puja Sponsor \$25 and up

Coordinator(s): Amarendra Mishra 614-764-4019

Mahaprasadam Sponsors: Temple is looking for sponsors.



#### ❖ Shri Navagraha Abhishekam and Puja

Saturdays - March 19, April 9, May 14 and June 11

4:00 PM      Sankalpam, Shri Ganesh Puja and Devata Avahanam

4:15 PM      Navagraha Abhishekam

5:00 PM      Alankar and Bhajans

5:30 PM      Archana, Mantrapushpam and Aarati, followed by Prasadam

Sponsorship: Yajaman \$151, Puja Sponsor \$25 and up

Coordinator(s): Iyyappan Bose 201-315-5638



### ❖ **Shrinathji Satsang**

Sundays - March 13, April 10, May 8 and June 12

3:30 PM Shrinathji Puja followed by Satsang

6:00 PM Aarati, followed by Mahaprasadam

Sponsorship: Satsang Sponsor \$51, Puja Sponsor \$25 and up  
Coordinator(s): Mira Shah 740-657-8825, Hetal Shah  
614-523-1359, and Prashant Desai 740-881-4183

Mahaprasadam Sponsors: Temple is looking for sponsors.



### ❖ **Shri Devi Puja and Bhajan**

Fridays – March 18, April 8, May 13 and June 10

6:30 PM Puja performed by Sponsors

7:00 PM Lalitha Sahasranama Parayanam

7:30 PM Bhajans and Kirtan

8:30 PM Aarati, followed by Mahaprasadam

Sponsorship: Yajaman \$151, Puja Sponsor \$25 and up  
Coordinator(s): Anup Kapoor 614-266-2160 and Shivani  
Kumar 614-441-8855

Mahaprasadam Sponsors: Temple is looking for sponsors



### ❖ **Shri Venkateshwara Abhishekam**

Saturdays - March 26, April 23, May 28 and June 18

10:30 AM Shri Venkateshwara Abhishekam and Vedic  
Chanting

11:45 AM Shri Vishnu Sahasranama and Bhajans

12:30 PM Archana and Mantrapushpam

1:00 PM Aarati, followed by Mahaprasadam

Sponsorship: Yajaman \$151, Puja Sponsor \$25 and up  
Coordinator(s): Sarath Kumar Chatla 614-787-6731, Radhika  
& Vinod Dega 614-873-7475, and Parimala Jonnada  
614-929-9708

Mahaprasadam Sponsors: Temple is looking for sponsors.



### ❖ **Shri Satyanarayana Puja and Katha**

March 22, April 21, May 20 and June 19

7:00 PM Puja for Shri Satyanarayana Katha

7:45 PM Shri Satyanarayana Katha

8:30 PM Aarati, followed by Mahaprasadam

Sponsorship: Yajaman \$151, Puja Sponsor \$25 and up  
Coordinator(s): Manoj Sinha 614-389-2900 and Sarath Kumar  
Chatla 614-707-4459

Mahaprasadam Sponsors: Temple is looking for sponsors .



### ❖ **Sankatahara Chaturthi**

March 26, April 25, May 25 and June 23

7:00 PM Sankalpam and Ganesha Puja

7:15 PM Abhishekam

7:45 PM Bhajans

7:45 PM Aarati and Prasadam

Sponsorship: Yajaman \$151, Puja Sponsor \$25 and up  
Coordinator(s): Jayarama Rao 614-323-2152 and Manish Singh  
614-923-4421

Mahaprasadam Sponsors: Temple is looking for sponsors.



## TEMPLE MEMBERSHIP- *Time to renew!*

### *Why should I become a member?*

Membership is an investment into our culture and traditions that we are very proud of. When you become a member you make a commitment to the community whose mission and values supports that of yours. Your commitment to the Temple and to the community with Hindu values unites us as Hindus. Institutions like ours preserve the values and transmit them to the next generation. The Temple stands by its members in times of crisis and adds to the celebration during joyful occasions.

### *How do I become a Temple member?*

All devotees who wish to become Temple members must fill a Membership Form and pay the required fees. You can obtain this form from our front desk or from our website: [www.columbushindutemple.org](http://www.columbushindutemple.org)>Temple Services Guide>Temple Membership Guide>Membership Form. Existing members, please renew your membership during their next visit to the temple.

### *What are the different types of memberships?*

There are two types of membership:

Annual (valid from January 1st to December 31st): The annual membership has three levels— Student (\$25), Individual (\$75) and Family membership (\$120).

Life Membership (does not expire): The Life Membership (known as permanent membership) has four levels- Life (\$2,500), Donors (\$5,000), Patrons (\$7,500) and Benefactors (10,000). Life membership is payable in five years or less. You may easily convert from an annual membership to permanent membership by contacting a Temple volunteer or priest during your next visit to the Temple.

### *How is the membership donation amount used?*

Membership dues defray Temple's operating cost and help pay for programs and upkeep of the facilities. To pay for the

Temple employees, which include the five learned priests and one religious cook. We added two new priests in 2014 and hired an additional religious cook in 2015. The membership amount enables the Temple to function debt-free while expanding its infrastructure through the construction of Yagnashala, additional parking lot and walkways, installation of additional light poles, fence and signage and purchase of new house. Also the activities of Gurukul, maintenance of an industrial size kitchen, scheduled repairs and replacements are supported through donations and dues. It also helps in expanding our services for our growing Hindu population in Central Ohio.

### *What are the benefits of membership?*

- Temple membership is tax free
- Members receive discount on the use of Temple facilities, on Gurukul camps, field trips and other Temple programs.
- They also get priority in scheduling Temple services.
- Temple members are regularly updated about the Temple and its ongoing and future events via email and through the Temple's biannual publication, Anjali.
- Only Temple Members are eligible to serve on the Temple Management and participate in the Board of Trustees' election.
- The Temple offers educational services exclusively to its members through, Gurukul. The classes are free of cost to the Temple members, subject to availability. One of the primary reasons for our existence is to inculcate good values in children, teach them about our cultural heritage and groom them into compassionate and successful individuals. The Gurukul program offers classes in Hindu dharma, languages, academics, fine arts and yoga. We also train students to succeed in various scholastic competitions. Our classes are one of the best offered in the Mid-West.

## March



### ❖ Mahashivaratri Celebration (A 3-day Program)

Sunday, March 6: **Mahanyasam and Rudrabhishekam**

- 2:30 PM Devotees, Yajamans and Sponsors are invited to perform Bhagavad-Anugna, Sankalpam, Shri Ganapati Puja, Raksha Bandhanam, 108 Kalasha Sthapanam, Punyaha Vachanam, Devata Aavahanam Puja
- 3:00 PM Mahanyasam Parayanam
- 4:00 PM Rudrabhishekam with Vedic chanting (11 Times Rudram Chanting)
- 7:45 PM Alankar and Bhajans
- 8:15 PM Rudra Trishati and Ashtotharam
- 8:30 PM Mantrapushpam, Aarati, followed by Mahaprasadam

Coordinator(s): Ravi Mereddi 330-354-1965

Monday, March 7: **Mahashivaratri Celebration (Actual day)**

*Note: The Temple will OPEN at 9 AM and will remain open the whole day until 6 AM the next day. Temple has extended this service to ensure devotees can come any time on Monday and perform Abhishekam until 10PM and/or participate (or attend) Rudram recitation. Children are encouraged.*

#### MORNING:

- 10:00 AM Sankalpam, Shri Ganesh Puja, Punyaha-Vachanam, and Kalasha Puja
- 11:00 AM Rudra Homam, followed by Poornahuti
- 12:00 PM Aarati, followed by Prasadam

#### EVENING:

- 6:30 PM Cultural Programs
- 9:30 PM Sankalpam, Shri Ganesh Puja, Punyaha-Vachanam, Kalash Puja, Rudra Abhishekam by priests, followed by Bhajan and Kirtan during Alankar
- 11:30 PM Lingod-Bhava Darshanam, Archana
- 12:00 AM Aarati and Prasadam
- 1:00 AM Ganapati Prarthana, Ekadasha Rudram Parayanam Start
- 6:00 AM Ekadasha Rudram Parayanam Complete, Aarati and Prasadam

Coordinator(s):

Shrine Management: Ravi Mereddi 330-354-1965 and Milind Mahale 614-791-9913

Cultural Programs: Ashok Saraswat 614-799-1532

Parayanam/Recitation: Ravi Mereddi 330-354-1965

Decoration: Ravi Mereddi and Arindam Guha 614-787-3579



### ❖ Uma Maheshwara Kalyanam

Saturday, March 12

- 5:00 PM Ganapati Puja, Punyaha Vachanam, Raksha Bandhanam, and Sankalpam for Yajamans and Sponsors
- 6:00 PM Vivaha Prakaranam and Kanyadanam
- 6:30 PM Mangalya Dharanam and Akshataropanam
- 7:00 PM Archana, Mantrapushpam,
- 7:30 PM Aarati, followed by Mahaprasadam

Coordinator(s): Abilash Mungamuru 614-664-1534 and Bangalore Shankar 614-792-2921

**Sponsorship:** Mahashivaratri celebration is a 3-day event this year and Yajamans and Sponsors are invited for all three days. Devotees can become Yajaman for any one of the above programs by donating \$151, or they can donate \$351 to become Pramukh Yajaman for all three days. Devotees can become a Sponsor for any one of the programs by donating \$25, or they can become Pramukh Sponsor for all programs by donating \$101. If you wish to become Yajaman/Sponsor and cannot attend the program(s) due to unavoidable circumstances, please let our priests know. They will perform Puja on your behalf and mail you the Prasadam.

Mahaprasadam Sponsors: Temple is looking for sponsors.





### ❖ **Shri Jagannath Puja**

Friday, March 11

7:00 PM Shri Jagannath Puja

8:30 PM Aarati and Prasadam

Sponsorship: Yajaman \$151, Puja Sponsor \$25 and up  
Coordinator(s): Saswata Mohapatra 614-312-2233 and  
Subrat Bishoyi 412-608-5859  
Mahaprasadam Sponsors: Temple is looking for sponsors.



### ❖ **Holi Celebration**

Tuesday, March 22

7:00 PM Shri Satyanarayan Puja and Holika Puja

7:45 PM Story of Holika and Prahalad and Aarati

8:00 PM Holika Dahan and Mahaprasadam

Sponsorship: Yajaman \$151, Puja Sponsor \$25 and up  
Coordinator(s): Ashok Saraswat 614-799-1532, Shailendra  
Garg 614-406-9282, and Manish Thakur 614-288-7347.  
Mahaprasadam Sponsors: Temple is looking for sponsors

### ❖ **Holi Milan**

Saturday, March 26

Holi Milan will be celebrated in the Sanskrit Bhavan from 3:00- 5:30 PM. This will be a cultural program where people will have the opportunity to showcase their talent, sing bhajans and kirtans, and enjoy Holi as it is celebrated in different parts of India. Sweets and light refreshments will be available during the program.

Coordinator(s): Amarendra Mishra 614-764-4019 and  
Ashok Saraswat 614-799-1532



### ❖ **Uttara Phalguni Mahalakshmi Jayanti**

Wednesday, March 23

7:00 PM Maha Lakshmi Puja

8:00 PM Archana and Aarati, followed by  
Mahaprasadam

Sponsorship: Yajaman \$151, Puja Sponsor \$25 and up  
Coordinator(s): Sudha Ganesan 614-855-8192, Sarath  
Kumar Chatla 614-707-4459, and Parimala Jonnada  
614-929-9708

Mahaprasadam Sponsors: Temple is looking for sponsors.



### **Yagnashala Available**

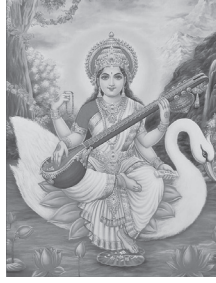
Devotees can rent the 80'X60' Temple Yagnashala, accommodating up to 300 people, for \$151 for 4 hours to celebrate birthdays, picnics, graduation, anniversaries or any other special occasion. The celebration can be extended for more than 4 hours for an additional charge of \$25/hour. The beautiful view of the pond and the cool, refreshing breeze make it a perfect place to enjoy the summer with family and friends. The Temple provides spacious picnic benches and can cater delicious, vegetarian, saatvik (no onion/ garlic) food for an additional charge. Temple provides a variety of food options that you can buy at a reasonable cost. The Yagnashala has a nice kitchen area, generous serving countertop, fridge, microwave and electrical outlets. Eggless cake and soft drinks can be brought from outside. For booking, call the Temple at 740-369- 0717.

## SARASWATI PUJA

सरस्वति नमस्तुभ्यं वरदे कामरूपिणि ।

विद्यारम्भं करिष्यामि सिद्धिर्भवतु मे सदा ॥५॥

As 'Diwali' - the festival of light - is to Maa Lakshmi, goddess of wealth and prosperity, and 'Navaratri' is to Maa Durga, goddess of power and valor, Vasant Panchami is to Maa Saraswati, the goddess of learning, wisdom, knowledge, fine arts, refinement, science and technology. Vasant Panchami, also known as Saraswati Puja, is celebrated every year on the 5th day of the bright fortnight of the lunar month of Magha, which falls during January-February. People worship Goddess Saraswati to attain enlightenment through knowledge and to rid themselves of lethargy, sluggishness and ignorance.



**Symbolism:** Draped in a white sari, a symbol of purity and peace, and seated on a white lotus, depicting the absolute truth, Maa Saraswati is a picture of elegance and grace. Her four arms represent the four elements of the inner personality-mind, intellect, consciousness and ego. The hands hold a book, a rosary, and a veena- representing knowledge, power of meditation, and perfection of all arts and sciences, respectively. The swan, Maa Saraswati's vehicle, is said to have a sensitive beak that enables it to distinguish pure milk from a mixture of milk and water. A swan, therefore, symbolizes the power of discrimination between right and wrong. The peacock which is anxiously waiting to serve as Her vehicle depicts unpredictable behavior as its mood can fluctuate due to changes in weather. Maa Saraswati does not use the peacock as its vehicle to show that overcoming indecision and fickle-mindedness is key to attaining true knowledge.

**History and Significance:** It is believed that Goddess Saraswati emerged from Brahma's mouth riding a swan to bring order into the world, which earlier existed in a state of

chaos. Through the power of Goddess Saraswati, things began to take shape and the cosmos acquired a structure: the sky dotted with stars rose to form the heavens; the sea sank into the abyss below, and the earth stood in between. The sun rose and set, the moon waxed and waned, the tide flowed and ebbed. Seasons changed, seeds germinated, plants bloomed and withered, animals migrated and reproduced as randomness gave way to the rhythm of life. As Brahma's consort, Maa Saraswati provides the power to execute what Brahma conceives with his creative intelligence. The Goddess of knowledge and learning is said to have invented Sanskrit, the language of the Brahmins, of scriptures and scholars. Saraswati puja is performed to commemorate the birth of Maa Saraswati and pay obeisance to her. Some say that Saraswati Puja owes its origin to a story in the Brahma Vaivarta Purana where Lord Krishna granted a boon to Maa Saraswati that she would always be worshipped on Vasant Panchami.

According to another popular belief, the origins of this festival lie in the Aryan period. Aryans came and settled in India through Khyber Pass, crossing the Saraswati River among many others. Being a primitive civilization, most of their development took place along the banks of the River Saraswati. Thus, River Saraswati began to be associated with fertility and knowledge. It is then that the day began to be celebrated.

In today's times, the festival is celebrated by farmers as the harbinger of the spring season when the bloom of mustard flowers bedeck the fields in a brilliant yellow.

**Rituals and Traditions:** Following an early morning bath, a Kalasha is established after



worshipping Lord Ganesha, Lord Vishnu, Lord Shiva and the Sun God to invoke Goddess Saraswati. The idol of Maa Saraswati is then adorned with a yellow sari and bright palash flowers are offered while chanting the sacred mantras from the Vedas (see link 2 below for the mantras). After the puja and pushpanjali, colored powder is thrown in the air. This ritual is observed both in Temples and educational institutions. On this day, children are initiated to learn the alphabet and are often taught to write their first words. This ritual of initiating education for children is known as Akshar-Abhyasam or Vidya-Arambham Praasana. Older students clean their pens and inkwells but abstain from reading or writing on this day. Cultural programs, poetic and musical gatherings are also staged on this day. In Bengal, idols of Maa Saraswati are carried in a procession and immersed in the holy Ganga.

Celebrants usually wear yellow garments and eat sweet saffron rice and yellow sweets. There is also a custom of ancestor worship, known as 'Pitri-Tarpan' in many parts of India during Vasant Panchami.

At the Bharatiya Hindu Temple, every year a special program is arranged for children on the occasion of Vasant Panchami, wherein children themselves perform Saraswati Puja by worshipping their books, chanting mantras and following a step-by-step demonstration of rituals by the priests. The priests and Gurukul teachers explain the meaning and significance of this Puja and celebration to all the children and motivate them to take the path of learning for a successful future. This year, the celebration of Saraswati Puja at the Temple was held on February 12th.

#### References:

1. <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/whitehindu/2014/09/saraswati-everything-you-need-to-know/>
2. [http://www.greenmesg.org/mantras\\_slokas/devi\\_saraswati-ya\\_kundendu.php](http://www.greenmesg.org/mantras_slokas/devi_saraswati-ya_kundendu.php)
3. <http://www.koausa.org/Gods/God10.html>
4. <http://hinduism.about.com/od/festivalsholidays/p/vasantpanchami.htm>
5. <http://www.lotussculpture.com/sarasvati.html>



## Temple News

### Temple Constitution Amended

This year the Bharatiya Hindu Temple amended its Constitution to better address the needs of the present times and to provide added flexibility and clarity on matters of operation and decision-making. Out of the 212 ballots returned by Temple members, 150 were unanimously in favor of all the 19 proposed amendments. This exceeded the required two-thirds majority of 142 votes to pass any amendment. The Board believes that the updated constitution will help the Temple function more smoothly and effectively.

### Gurukul Students Help the Needy

Gurukul students initiated a food and toy drive this holiday season. They donated the collected canned food and toys to the local food bank and the fire station, respectively. Temple appreciates the effort of Gurukul teachers in instilling a sense of belonging and community engagement among the students.

### Volunteers Honored

On August 15, 2015, the Temple hosted its 3rd Annual Volunteer Appreciation Program to honor the contributions of those who form its backbone. With India's Independence Day as the theme, the evening consisted of dinner, games and an award ceremony. The awards for "Outstanding Volunteer" were presented to Sudha Madhusudan and Padma Jonnada in recognition of their sincere involvement in the Garland Committee. The two received plaudits for coming to the Temple even during severe weather conditions and never once failing to make garlands for the deities.

**April**



❖ **Ugadi Celebration  
(Vasant Navaratri Begins)**

Thursday, April 7

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| 6:30 PM | Vishwaksena Puja and Upachara Puja<br>All Utsav Murtis will be placed in the<br>Arddha Mandapam |
| 7:15 PM | Sahasranama Archana   |
| 8:00 PM | Panchanga Sravanam  |
| 8:30 PM | Mantrapushpam and Aarati, followed by<br>Mahaprasadam   |

Sponsorship: Yajaman \$151, Puja Sponsor \$25 and up  
Coordinator(s): Nageswara Rao Manne 614-775-9899  
Sreenivas Polina 614-933-9507, and Ravi Vanguri  
614-575-9968

Mahaprasadam Sponsors: Temple is looking for sponsors



❖ **Sauramana Ugadi and Ayyappa Abhishekam**

Tuesday, April 14

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| 6:30 PM | Sankalpam, Aavahanam, and Puja               |
| 7:00 PM | Swami Abhishekam and Vedic Chanting          |
| 8:00 PM | Alankar and Padi Bhajans                     |
| 8:15 PM | Lighting of lamps on 18 steps and<br>Archana |
| 8:30 PM | Aarati, followed by Mahaprasadam             |

Sponsorship: Yajaman \$151, Puja Sponsor \$25 and up  
Coordinator (s): Iyyapan Bose 201-315-5638, Vishu  
Chandramaouleeswaran 614-352-5726, and Ravi Mereddi  
330-354-1965

Mahaprasadam Sponsors: Temple is looking for sponsors



❖ **Shri Rama Navami Grand Celebration  
A 3-day Event**

Friday, April 15/ Saturday, April 16/Sunday, April 17

**MORNING-** April 15 & April 16

- |          |                                  |
|----------|----------------------------------|
| 10:30 AM | Shri Rama Abhishekam Puja        |
| 12:00 PM | Ram Janmotsava                   |
| 12:30 PM | Aarati, followed by Mahaprasadam |

Sponsorship: Yajaman \$151, Puja Sponsor \$25 and up

Coordinators(s): April 15: Shailendra Garg 614-406-9282  
and Ashok Saraswat 614-799-1532; April 16: Amarendra  
Mishra 614-764-4019 and Manish Thakur 614-288-7347

Mahaprasadam Sponsors: April 15: Vandana and Satish  
Barapatre family; April 16: Sheetal and Nirmal Bajoria  
family



❖ **Shri Sita Rama Kalyanam**

Friday, April 15

**EVENING**

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| 7:00 PM | Dhanurbhangam by Shri Rama (Boys<br>dressed up as Shri Rama) |
| 7:30 PM | Vishwaksena Puja and Punyahavachanam                         |
| 8:00 PM | Vivaha Prakaranam and Cultural Programs                      |
| 8:30 PM | Aarati, followed by Mahaprasadam                             |

Sponsorship: Yajaman \$151, Puja Sponsor \$25 and up  
Coordinator(s): Sarath Kumar Chatla 614-707-4459,  
Raghavendra Kariyanna 703-328-6998, and Radhakrishna  
Iyengar 614-865-9160

Mahaprasadam Sponsors: Temple is looking for sponsors





### ❖ Akhand Ramayan Path

Saturday, April 16- Sunday, April 17

The Akhand Ramayan Path will begin on April 16 at 1:00 PM and conclude the next day on April 17 at 1:00 PM. The Temple invites everyone to join the recitation. Prasadam will be available throughout the recitation. Ramayana will be available in many languages.

Sponsorship: Yajaman \$151, Puja Sponsor \$25 and up

Coordinator(s): Amarendra Mishra 614-764-4019 and Vijay Bhatt 614-766-9128

Mahaprasadam Sponsors: Temple is looking for sponsors



### ❖ Shri Hanuman Jayanti Celebration

Friday, April 22

This year Hanuman Jayanti will be celebrated by reciting Shri Hanuman Chalisa 51 times. The program will begin at 3:30 PM. Hanuman Chalisa will be available in several languages, therefore you are invited with your family, especially children, to participate in the recitation.

3:30 PM Hanuman Chalisa 51 times

5:30 PM Hanuman Jayanti Celebration

8:30 PM Aarati, followed by Mahaprasadam

Sponsorship: Yajaman \$151, Puja Sponsor \$25 and up

Coordinator(s): Shailendra Garg 614-406-9282

Mahaprasadam Sponsors: Savita and Shyam Mayadev



### ❖ Shri Jagannath Satsang

Saturday, April 23

6:00 PM Shri Ganesh and Shri Jagannath Puja

6:30 PM Bhajans and Sankirtan

8:00 PM Aarati, followed by Mahaprasadam

Sponsorship: Satsang Sponsor \$151, Puja Sponsor \$25 and up

Coordinator(s): Liza Bhuyan 614-439-8901, Pooja Vyas

804-868-5833, Kumud Mohanty 920-562-0674, and Parbin

Patra 612-801-5373

Mahaprasadam Sponsors: Temple is looking for sponsors



### ❖ Shodash Naam Mantra Sankirtan

Saturday, April 30 - Sunday, May 1

Recitation of Maha Mantra "Hare Krishna Hare Krishna, Krishna Krishna Hare Hare; Hare Rama Hare Ram, Ram Ram Hare Hare" will begin on April 30 at 11:00 AM and end the next day on May 1 at 11:00 AM.

This is a great opportunity for all children, especially Gurukul students to chant the names of Lord Krishna and Lord Rama without elaborate memorization.

Sponsorship: Yajaman \$151, Puja Sponsor \$25 and up

Coordinator(s): Satya Pattanaik 614-408-8596, Ashok

Saraswat 614-799-1532, Amarendra Mishra 614-764-4019,

Manasa, Meghana, and Lalitha Nandigam 614-256-3378

Mahaprasadam Sponsors: Temple is looking for sponsors

## Religious Service Charges

*Charges for Private religious services within 60 miles radius from the Temple are:*

Services	Temple	Home
Archana	\$11	N/A
Ayusha Homam	\$151	\$151
Abhishekam for Utsav Murti	\$101	N/A
Abhishekam for Main Murti	\$151	N/A
Annaprasan	\$51	\$151
Bhoomi Puja	N/A	\$151
Engagement Ceremony	\$101	\$151
Gruha Pravesh (Vastu Shanti)	N/A	\$201
Kalyanotsava	\$151	\$151
Lakshmi Puja / Puja for Business (Office)	N/A	\$151
Mundan Sanskar	\$51	\$151
Nakshtra/Navagraha Shanti	\$101	\$151
Navagraha Abhishekam	\$151	N/A
Namkaran Sanskar	\$51	\$151
Ramayan / Sundarkand Path	\$151	\$201
Seemantham (Baby Shower)	\$151	\$151
Sahasranam Puja for any Deity	\$51	\$151
Shastipurty Shanti	\$151	\$201
Shraddham / Tarpan	\$51	\$151
Satyanarayan Puja /Katha	\$151	\$151
Trishati Puja	\$51	N/A
Upanayanam / Yagyopaveet Sanskar	\$151	\$201
Vahan Puja	\$31	\$151
Vahan Puja and Archana	\$51	\$151
Vedic Homam / Puja	\$151	\$151
Vidyarambh /Saraswati Puja	\$51	\$151
Wedding (Pre-Wedding Puja, Per Puja, Per day)	\$101	\$151
Wedding (Only Wedding)	\$351	\$451
Wedding Bundle (Wedding, Mandap, Microphone)	\$501	N/A
Wedding Mandap (Max. 3 days)	\$151	\$251
Funeral (in afternoons only) No charge for members	N/A.	\$251

**Executive Committee approval is required** for the following Services:

- (1) Between 60 to 99 miles: \$150 + Puja Charge(s)
- (2) Between 100 to 180 miles: \$250 + Puja Charge(s)
- (3) Beyond 180 miles and/or Out of State: \$250 per day + Puja Charge(s) + Priest's transportation.

NOTE: Temple humbly requests devotees to begin the Puja on scheduled time and not hold the priests beyond the completion of their religious services. Any such delay is subject to \$51/hr in addition to the service charges above as it disrupts the schedule and appointment times of the other devotees.



## Why Maha Rudram?

Followers of Sanatana Dharma place emphasis on the Supreme Being or Para Brahman. We worship this Para Brahman as Vishnu, Shiva, Rudra, Shakti, Ganapati, and by other names and manifestations, and offer prayers as prescribed in the Vedas. Shri Rudram, also known as Shri Rudraprashnam, is a hymn offered to the Para Brahman, visualized as Rudra-Shiva. Rudra is considered as a deity who teaches the supreme knowledge to all and whose energy flows in everything. Shri Rudram, consisting of Namakam and Chamakam, occurs in the Taittiriya Samhita of Krishna Yajurveda. It is also found in Rigveda and Samaveda. The greatness of Shri Rudram is beautifully explained in the following verse:

*vidyasu shrutirutkrsha rudraikadashini shrutau  
tatra pancakshari tasyam shiva ityaksharadvayam*

Meaning: Among the sources of learning, the Vedas are supreme; in the Vedas, Rudra Ekadashi is supreme; in the Rudra Ekadashi, the Pancakshari mantra Namashshivaya is supreme; in the Namashshivaya mantra, the two syllables Shiva stand supreme.

Various Puranas proclaim: "By reciting Veda once, he becomes pure on that day; but by reciting Rudram, the very next moment he gets purified." Yet another verse declares: "Where a devout reciter of the Rudram lives, be it in a village or town, that place will be free from disease, drought, thefts, and other ills." Vayu Purana even extends its greatness and significance in a famous verse and says:

*chamakam namakam caiva purushasuktam tathaiva ca  
nityam trayam prayunjano brahmaloke mahiyete*

Meaning: A person reciting and applying daily the Chamakam, Namakam, and Purusha Suktam is honored in the Brahma loka.

Reciting the entire Shri Rudram (11 anuvakas of Namakam once, followed by 11 anuvakas of Chamakam), is the most common method practiced in day-to-day worship. Reciting Namakam 11 times followed by one anuvaka of Chamakam for each Namakam recitation is known as Rudraikadashini (Ekadasha Rudram). Eleven Rudraikadashini make one Laghu Rudram (121 times recitation). Eleven Laghu Rudrams make one Maha Rudram (1,331 times recitation). This is accomplished by having 121 devotees chanting Shri Rudram 11 times. The Shri Rudram chanting is preceded by Mahanyasa to purify and prepare the devotee for worship. Two questions come to the contemplative mind at this point.



First, why do we repeat the mantras of Shri Rudram so many times? Second, why are the recitations in multiples of eleven? One reason for repetition is that, in spite of teachings, we continue to do the same and perhaps even more mistakes. Every time we chant Shri Rudram, we hope that Lord Shiva in His kindness will neutralize our mistakes. Another reason is: where you have a great respect for a particular entity, you can repeat. Sage Vyasa in Brahmasutra 4.1.1 gives yet another reason: The repetition of hearing, reflection, and meditation on Absolute

Brahman is mandated by our Shastras. When we contemplate on Brahman we will never be able to understand Him in entirety by chanting once; therefore repetition is required. What is the significance of the number 11? There are 11 loci for our experience of pleasure and pain. We have five sense organs with which we acquire knowledge, five organs of action with which we interact with the world, and one emotional faculty (our mind). All these 11 are causes of happiness and pain. In the cosmos, these 11 loci are present as five elements (panca-bhutas), five subtle elements (panca-tanmatras), and the cosmic law or Rta. These 11 loci in the cosmos should come together in harmony with the 11 loci of our own personality. Therefore the number 11.

At our Temple, the first-ever Maha Rudra Yagna in Ohio was conducted last year. In the months following this event, efforts were made to help devotees participate more fully in chanting of Shri Rudram and participation in Shiva Abhishekams by assembling and distributing recitation material. Owing to these efforts, the Temple has seen a large attendance the Pradosham Pujas. We hope that the turnout at the Temple's Maha Rudra Yagna, scheduled from May 21-22, 2016, will be equally large. The Maha Rudra Yagna is a true form of Japa Yagna. In Bhagavad Gita 10.25, Lord Krishna proclaims Japa Yagna to be his favorite type of Yagna. We are conducting this Japa Yagna for the benefit and prosperity of the entire community. In the tenth anuvaka of Shri Rudram, we chant:

*yatha nah shamasad dvipade catushpade, vishvam  
pushtam grame asmin-anaturam*

Meaning: May there be happiness for our children, grandchildren, and other human beings. May there be happiness for our animals like cows. Moreover, may all the life in this village (or city) be happy and without any afflictions.

(Based in part on documents from the April 2013 Maha Rudram documents of The Bharatiya Temple of Metropolitan Detroit and in part on a talk by Shri Aswath at our Temple's Maha Rudram in May 2015)

## May

### ❖ Gurukul Cultural Program

Saturday, May 7

Program will begin at 10:00 AM in the Sanskrit Bhavan. Education Committee will send emails to parents and teachers with details.



### ❖ Akshaya Trutiya (Ratha Puja)

Sunday, May 8

7:00 PM Ratha Puja  
8:30 PM Aarati, followed by Mahaprasadam

Sponsorship: Yajaman \$151, Puja Sponsor \$25 and up  
Coordinator(s): Surit Maharana 740-548-5648 and  
Arindam Guha 614-787-3579

Mahaprasadam Sponsors: Temple is looking for sponsors



### ❖ Shri Jagannath Puja

Saturday, May 14

7:00 PM Shri Jagannath Puja  
8:00 PM Aarati and Prasadam

Sponsorship: Yajaman \$151, Puja Sponsor \$25 and up  
Coordinator(s): Saswata Mohapatra 614-312-2233 and  
Subrat Bishoyi 412-608-5859  
Mahaprasadam Sponsors: Temple is looking for sponsors.



### ❖ Gurukul Graduation

Sunday, May 17

10:00 AM Invocation, Shri Ganesh Puja, and Devi  
Saraswati Puja  
10:15 AM Distribution of Certificates  
12:00 PM Aarati, followed by Mahaprasadam

Coordinator(s): Education Committee

Mahaprasadam Sponsors: Temple is looking for sponsors



### ❖ Maha Rudra Yagna

Saturday, May 21-Sunday, May 22

Saturday, May 21: **MORNING**

7:00 AM Suprabhatham  
7:30 AM Shri Ganapati Puja  
7:45 AM Punyahavachanam  
8:00 AM Raksha Bandhanam, Akhanda Sthapana  
8:15 AM Kalasha Sthapana  
8:30 AM Mahanyasam  
9:00 AM Maharudra Japam and Subramania Abhishekam  
12:30 PM Mantra Pushpam  
12:45 PM Chaturveda Svasti  
1:00 PM Teertha Prasada Viniyogam

Saturday, May 21: **EVENING**

5:30 PM Shri Rudra Kramarchana and Shri Rudra  
Trishati Archana  
6:30 PM Shri Lalita Sahasranama Kumkum Archana  
8:15 PM Mantra Pushpam  
8:30 PM Aarati and Teertha Prasada Viniyogam

Sunday, May 22: **MORNING**

7:30 AM Guru Prarthana and Shri Ganapati Puja  
8:00 AM Shri Maha Rudra Yagnam  
11:30 AM Poornahuti  
12:15 PM Kalasha Udvaasana  
12:30 PM Kalasha Abhishekam to  
1:30 PM Shri Somanatheshwara Aasheervachanam  
2:00 PM Teertha Prasada Viniyogam

Coordinator(s): Raman Anantaraman 614-389-3288,  
Sudha Ganesan 614-928-4337, Ravi Mereddi 330-354-1965,  
Abhilash Mungamuru 614-348-1975, Srinivas Pandrangi  
614-806-8643, Venkat Punugu 614-749-9827, Jayarama Rao  
614-323-9152, and Balachandran Srinivasan 614-634-1017,  
Mahaprasadam Sponsors: Temple is looking for sponsors





### ❖ **Shri Subramania Abhishekam**

Saturday, May 21

- 10:00 AM Sankalpam and Shri Ganesh Puja
- 10:15 AM Kalasha Sthapanam and Devata Aavahanam
- 10:25 AM Shodashopachara Puja
- 10:30 AM Abhishekam with Rudram, Chamakam, Subramanya Sooktam, Purusha Sooktam, Shanti Panchakam, and Ghosha Shanti Vachanam
- 11:00 AM Bhajan by devotees (during Alankar), Mantrapushpam, Chaturveda Seva, and Stotra Seva
- 12:00 PM Maha Deeparadhana and Aarati, followed by Mahaprasadam

Sponsorship: Yajaman \$151, Puja Sponsor \$25 and up  
Coordinator(s): Iyyappan Bose 201-315-5638, Balachandran Srinivasan 614-634-1017, and Alagappan Kanakasabhapathy 614-408-8396

Mahaprasadam Sponsors: Temple is looking for sponsors

## *June*



### ❖ **Shri Venkateshwara Poolangi Seva and Kalyana Utsavam**

Saturday, June 11

- 10:30 AM Pushpa Padhati and Pushpa- Alankar Darshan
- 11:30 AM Tiruppavada Seva
- 12:00 PM Shri Shrinivas Gadyam
- 12:30 PM Cultural Program
- 1:00 PM Aarati, followed by Mahaprasadam

Sponsorship: Yajaman \$151, Puja Sponsor \$25 and up  
Coordinator(s): Sarath Kumar Chatla Kumar 614-707-4459, Raghavendra Kariyanna 703-328-6998  
Radhakrishna Iyengar 614-865-9160

Mahaprasadam Sponsors: Radhika & Vinod Dega



### **BHT Youth Camp**

Saturday, June 18 - Saturday June 25

## Great Minds, Greater Legacy: Chanakya



ॐ असतो मा सद्गमय ।  
तमसो मा ज्योतिर्गमय ।  
मृत्योर्मा अमृतं गमय ।  
ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः ॥

Acharya Chanakya (350-275 BCE) was an Indian teacher, philosopher, economist, jurist and royal advisor. He authored the ancient Indian politico-economic treatise, Arthashastra, read by many in India and Europe even today. He is considered a pioneer in the field of political science and economics and is credited with unifying the Indian subcontinent and the retreat of Alexander, the Greek invader. He lived his life working to his capacity in pursuit of his vision of a strong and prosperous India.

**Birth and Early Childhood:** Chanakya was born as Vishnu Gupta (also called Kautilya), to Rishi Canak, in the city of Pataliputra, Magadh (modern Bihar). Even as a child, Chanakya displayed the qualities of a born leader. His shrewdness and political acumen were visible right from childhood. Having memorized the Vedas at a very early age, he proved that his level of knowledge was beyond children of his age.

**Student Life at Takshashila:** Chanakya gained his education from Takshashila University (Gandhar province, now in Pakistan), a prestigious institution which admitted only the brightest and the most deserving students. The branches of studies ranged from law, medicine, and warfare to Vedas, archery, hunting, elephant-lore and 18 forms of art. After graduating from the University, the students were recognized as the best scholars in the subcontinent. After completing his education, Chanakya became the most influential professor (acharya) of political science in Takshashila, whose scheming machinations stoked many uprisings and dismantled dynasties.

**Great Political Strategist:** A masterful political strategist and the first to envision the unification of India, Chanakya commanded an impressive network of spies and manipulated the weaknesses of the enemy in his favor. Chanakya's main philosophy was "A debt should be paid off till the last penny; an enemy should be destroyed without a trace". He seemed to have lived and died by this philosophy. He compiled his political ideas into the "Arthashastra", one of the world's earliest literary works on political thought, economics and social order, discussing monetary and fiscal policies, welfare, international relations, and war strategies in detail. Chanakya also authored the "Nitishastra" (popularly known as Chanakya Niti)- a guide on the ideal way of life and path-breaking research to devise a legal system responsive to the needs, ideals and goals of a country.

**Role in the Fall of the Nanda Dynasty:** Chanakya moved to Pataliputra (presently known as Patna) to strengthen the country politically and economically in order to shield itself from foreign invasion. Known as the

the city of fortunes, Pataliputra was the leader in the production of essential commodities and luxurious goods. Chanakya became the president of the 'Sungha' (Trust) that helped the king distribute money allotted for charity to different sections of the society. King Dhanananda who was unscrupulous and cruel imposed very high taxes on his subjects, causing much unrest and suffering. When Chanakya advised the king against it, Dhanananda insulted Chanakya in front of a full court. Seething from humiliation, Chanakya untied the shikha (lock of hair) at the back of his head and swore that he would not tie it back till he destroyed the Nanda kingdom. One day while walking the streets of Pataliputra, Chanakya saw a little boy shouting against the injustices and corrupt practices prevailing in the society. Sitting on a makeshift throne, enacting the role of a king, this boy was Chandragupta Maurya, the lone survivor of King Sarvarthasiddhi, who was killed by Dhanananda. Impressed by his wisdom and moved by his emotional story, Chanakya, who was freshly wounded by the Nandas, found an unexpected ally in Chandragupta. He vowed to depose Dhanananda and put Chandragupta in his rightful place as the king of Pataliputra.

**Dominance of the Maurya Empire and Retreat of Alexander:** Chanakya's foresight, knowledge and political expediency founded the mighty Mauryan Empire under the leadership of Chandragupta Maurya. After unifying much of India, Chandragupta and Chanakya passed a series of major economic and political reforms, established a strong central administration and a highly efficient and organized bureaucratic structure with a large civil service. The empire developed a strong economy, with internal and external trade thriving and agriculture flourishing. In both art and architecture, the Mauryan Empire made important contributions. The relationship between Chandragupta and Chanakya bloomed through the years developing into a strong force for their enemies including the mighty Greek invader Alexander. The troops of Alexander and other invaders who ravaged regions around India were all defeated by Chandragupta's military prowess and the strategies employed by Chanakya. In the war of independence for northern India, Chandragupta was the physical instrument and Chanakya, the brain.

### References and details:

<http://chanakyasstory.blogspot.com/p/life-story.html>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chanakya>

<http://www.ajabqjab.com/2014/08/complete-chanakya-niti-in-hindi.html>

<http://chanakya.brainhungry.com/>

## USE OF TEMPLE FACILITIES FOR PRIVATE EVENTS

The Temple facilities are available for devotees to host private events like Wedding, Engagement, Birthday Party, Seemantham (Baby Shower) or to perform private Pujas. Reservation time slots are 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM or 4:00 PM – 9:00 PM.

**Sanskritic Bhavan** (Maximum 275 guests): The Bhavan accommodates 250 to 350 guests depending on how the dinner arrangements are made. Devotees have the following two options for charges:

(1) Devotees may reserve the Bhavan for \$850 per time slot. For small gatherings of less than 80 guests, a portion of the hall is available for \$400 (Security Deposit - \$250). In this option, devotees won't pay for tables, chairs, dinnerware, silverware, warmer, and cleaning, but they would pay for the following:

a) Projector and Screen	\$100
b) Makeshift Stage of 8' x12' size	\$100
c) PA System (4 microphones)	\$100
d) Centerpiece (per table)	\$2.00
e) Resetting of Seating	\$150
f) Table Cover (per table)	\$5.00
g) Chair Cover (per cover)	\$3.50
h) Mandap (simple)	\$151
i) Schaefer (per item)	\$15.00
j) Waiter Service (20 guests/per waiter, 4 hours minimum)	\$28/hr./per waiter
k) Additional rental per hour	\$100

**Note:** Temple does not provide decoration.

(2) In this option, devotees will pay \$8.50 per person including hall and all items from (a) thru (i) for a minimum of 150 people for a total of \$1200 (minimum).

**Discount:** Temple Members will receive 10% discount for hall's rental and items (a) to (k) above. Temple does not discount food, priest services and adjustable security deposit. Non-profit Hindu organizations and individuals facing financial hardship may request in writing to the Executive Committee for discounts.

**Shakti Dham** (Maximum 120 guests): This hall is available for \$250 per time-slot (Security deposit -\$100). Additional hours are not allowed. Table/chair rearrangement is not allowed. Devotees may request items from (a) to (h) above for additional charges.

**Shanti Dham** (Maximum 30 guests): This hall is available for \$100 per time-slot (Security deposit -\$100). Additional hours are not allowed. Table/chair rearrangement is not allowed. Devotees may request items from (a) to (h) above for additional charge.

**Special Celebration Bundle \$501:** Devotees are provided the use of Shakti Dham and a 4-item meal for up to 80 people, including children.

Devotees wishing to use the Temple facilities must complete "Puja Services and Temple Facilities Reservation Form" and pay the adjustable security deposit. Devotees may download the form from our website [www.columbushindutemple.org](http://www.columbushindutemple.org) by clicking on Temple Services Guide > Temple Facilities > Forms and Guidelines. Please write to us at [bht@columbushindutemple.org](mailto:bht@columbushindutemple.org) or call us at 740-369-0717 for further details.



## Why do we pray?

By Melkote Ramaswamy\*

During our lifetime, all of us encounter situations where being unable to do anything or having done everything, we find all that we can do is hope and pray. This would seem to imply that Prayer is a last resort. This is unfortunate. Prayer, if done regularly, can be rejuvenating and life-lifting and yield long-term results.

Prayer-silent or vocal- is a multi-pronged tool. It is not just for seeking material things. It can be a way of showing our humility that we don't control everything or have all the answers. It is a means of understanding and knowing more about God (in whatever form you choose to imagine). It can be a way of showing our gratitude to the Almighty for all the blessings and bounty that we have. By the way, these modes of worship/prayer are described in Bhagvad Gita, Chapter-7-16. Community prayers-these have energy due to synergy--are directed to peace-internal and external.

Prayer is natural. It is universal. Almost every function of import starts with a prayer/benediction/invocation; People pray before a meal. The Indianapolis Star, for instance, carries a Prayer in their daily edition. We are aware of the saying that the family that prays together stays together.

One does not have to be religious to pray; When Hindus, Muslims, Christians and Jews pray in the same room, one has to wonder if they are praying to the same God.

Most importantly, Prayer is a deliberate act/action. Following the law of causality in physics, every action has consequences. Hindus describe any deliberate act as karma. Prayer is therefore a karmic action and produces results. The result can be what you expect, less than what you expect or more than what you expect. According to Chapter 2, verse 47 of Bhagvad Gita Karmanyevaadhikaraste, Ma Phaleshu Kadaachana, we only have control over our actions and absolutely none whatsoever over the fruits of our efforts(outcome).

Through good deeds, one builds up good karma (punya) and bad deeds result in bad karma (Paapa). Through accumulating good karmas, one attains heaven and when once the good karmas are exhausted, he is back on the earth (This is similar to going to Hawaii for vacation and after all the money is spent, you are back on the mainland to work for the next vacation!). This is what Hindus believe. The ultimate goal of life for a Hindu is not to be re-born. This is possible by leading a dharmic life and performing one's activities without getting attached to the fruits.

\* Melkote Ramaswamy is a physicist, speaker, and writer, author of An Immigrant celebrates America (University of Indianapolis Press 2007) and Vedanta through Drushtaanta (Adhyatma Vidya Mandir, Ahmedabad 2013), and an active member of the Hindu Temple of Central Indiana.

## Utilizing the Power of Prayer

-Excerpts from the writings of Paramahansa Yogananda

"To know exactly how and when to pray, according to the nature of our needs, is what brings the desired results. When the right method is applied, it sets in motion the proper laws of God; the operation of these laws scientifically bears results."

"In the past you may have been disappointed that your prayers were not answered. But do not lose faith....God is not a mute unfeeling Being. He is love itself. If you know how to meditate to make contact with Him, He will respond to your loving demands."

"The first rule in prayer is to approach God only with legitimate desires. The second is to pray for their fulfillment, not as a beggar, but as a son: "I am Thy child. Thou art my Father. Thou and I are One." When you pray deeply and continuously you will feel a great joy welling up in your heart. Don't be satisfied until that joy manifests; for when you feel that all-satisfying joy in your heart, you will know that God has tuned in your prayer broadcast. Then pray to your Father: "Lord, this is my need. I am willing to work for it; please guide me and help me to have the right thoughts and to do the right things to bring about success. I will use my reason, and work with determination, but guide Thou my reason, will, and activity to the right thing that I should do."

Source: [www.yogananda-srf.org/HowtoLive/Utilizing\\_the\\_Power\\_of\\_Prayer.aspx](http://www.yogananda-srf.org/HowtoLive/Utilizing_the_Power_of_Prayer.aspx)

**Match the following pilgrimage sites to their correct description**

Jyotirlinga	Located in Mathura, the “Garbha Griha”- (prison cell) in this Temple is said to be the exact place where Lord Krishna was born
Siddhivinayak	A 13 km trek uphill to reach this holy shrine of Mata Rani
Jagannath Puri	This is the place from where Lord Rama built a bridge, across the sea to Lanka to rescue his wife Sita from Ravana
Tirumala/Tirupathi	Nestled in the Himalayas and dedicated to Lord Vishnu, this Temple is open only six months of the year
Krishna Janma Bhoomi	12 special shrines dedicated to Lord Shiva
Vaishno Devi	The presiding deity of this “Temple of Seven Hills” is Lord Venkateshwara
Pushkar	Home to one of the biggest chariot festivals (rath yatra) in the world
Sabarimala	In this village, devotees of Lord Shanidev do not put locks on the doors of their houses
Badrinath	The only place to have a Temple of Lord Brahma
Haridwar	Located in Mumbai, this Temple of Lord Ganesha is visited by a multitude of celebrities
Shani Shignapur	A sacred ghat situated on the banks of river Ganga where the Kumbh Mela takes place
Rameswaram	Dedicated to Lord Ayyappa and located 3000 ft above sea level, pilgrims have to fast 41 days before going to this Temple

## TEMPLE MANAGEMENT 2016

### Priests:

Shri Palachandra Bhatta ([priest.palachandra@bhtohio.org](mailto:priest.palachandra@bhtohio.org)) 614-943-0708  
Shri Sathish Devanathan ([priest.devanathan@bhtohio.org](mailto:priest.devanathan@bhtohio.org)) 614-943-0232  
Shri Saikrishna Muppalla ([priest.saikrishna@bhtohio.org](mailto:priest.saikrishna@bhtohio.org)) 614-943-0228  
Shri Prakash K. Pandya ([priest.pandya@bhtohio.org](mailto:priest.pandya@bhtohio.org)) 614-943-0707  
Shri Ramesh C. Punetha ([priest.punetha@bhtohio.org](mailto:priest.punetha@bhtohio.org)) 614-943-0705

**Religious Cook:** Dandpani Naidu 614-557-5758 and Ravi Bhat 614-943-1233

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**Education:** Nageswara Rao Manne 614-775-9899, Amarendra Mishra 614-764-4019, Padmanaban Sundaram 614-973-9465, Latika Dixit 614-337-3197, Sandhya Agochiya 614-760-0870. Hetal Desai 614-330-7206, Shivani Kumar 614-315-6644, Ramesh Madhu 714-271-2655, Chandra Shekhar Parasa 614-570-8716, Sreenivas Polina 614-933-9507, Veena Raju 614-607-4003, and Swathi Rao 614-538-9435

**Finance & Audit:** Sai Thumuluri (H) 614-327-7200, Sangita Doshi (H) 740-739-5322, Abha Garg (H) 740-513-2822, Chaman Gupta (P) 614-761-8942, Krishnan Hariharan (H) 614-570-5974, Prasanna Mahendra (A) 614-354-8666, Sudha Pandari (A) 614-390-3191, Richa Singhal (H) 614-734-6001, Ritu Srivastava (H) 614-707-9459, and Shikha Srivastava (H) 614-210-0470

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**Information Technology:** Raj Lengade: 614-367-2284, Hridayesh Gupta 614-787-0347, Shankarganesh Krishnamurthy 614-216-0505, Umesh Tripathy 614-807-3101, Rajesh Shah 937-626-1482, and Ravi Vanguri 614-575-9968

**Interfaith:** J.S. Jindal 614-975-6669, Bangalore Shankar 614-792-2921, Mohan Hari 614-260-1806, and Rakesh Thaploo 614-843-3980

**Mahaprasadam:** Nirupam Acharya 804-767-2081, Chanakya Gandhi 614 496 7845, Radhika Ghanekar 614 - 437 - 1590, Mohan Hari 614-260-1806, Richa Jhaldiyal 614-725-2299, Ramakrishna Kshatri 614-854-9680, Rama Patnaik 614-389-3024, Mahesh Ramabadrana 614-738-3429, Muralidhar Ranganathan 614 822 9955, Madhusudan S. Rao 740-881-3178, Rubi Verma 740-389-1676, and Rushikesh Vyas 614 316 4632

**Maintenance & Decoration:** Arindam Guha 614-787-3579, Nirupam Acharya 804-767-2081, Vasudev Bhatt 614-846-2203, Prashant Desai 740-881-4183, Shailendra Garg 614-406-9282, and Satya Goyal 614-761-9749

**Programs:** Manish Thakur 614-288-7347, Vijay Bhatt 614-766-9128, Vish Chandramouleeswaran, 614-352-5726, Sarath Kumar Chatla 614-707- 4459, Prashant Desai 740-881-4183, Alagappan Kanakasabapathy 614-408-8396, Ravindra Mereddi 330-354-1965, Amarendra Mishra 614-764-4019, Pradeep Parikh 740-938-4207, Satya Pattanaik 614-408-8596, and Balachandran Srinivasan 614-634-1017

**Geography:** Uma Venkataraman

**Gujarati Language:** Vaishali Tripathi, Ranna Patel, Tejal Patel, Vaishali Shah, Rekha Patel, Sandip Shah, and Chanakya Gandhi

**Hindi Language:** Shivani Kumar, Sonika Rustagi, Rashmita Maharana, Karuna Sharma, Vandana Vaid, Mamta Ravinder, Latika Dixit, Meenal Singhal, Sandhya Agochiya, Vandana Pruthi, Garima Bhardwaj, Anup Kapoor, Neeru Mishra, Sunita Chaudhary, Shyly Sunder, Shailendra Mishra, Niharika Srivastava, Sumedhya Arya, Veenu Puri, Shilpa Jain, and Nisha Gupta

**Hindu Dharma and Culture:** Veena Rao, Akshaya Raviraj, Ranju Jha, Veena Hiremath, Shireesha Polineni, Swathi Rao, Neeru Mishra, Latika Dixit, Seema Sharma, Richa Jhaldiyal, Sudha Ganesan, Suresh Jegadeesan, Pavananandan Kulkarni, Seema Swarup, Sapna Patria, Purnachandra Rao, Shalija Aima, Manmohan Katapadi, Garima Tiwari, Sujata Arora, and Kiran Raju

**Mathematics:** Shivani Kumar, Vandana Vaid, Gautam Kini, Ila Vador, and Naveen Sinha

**Sanskrit:** Vamsi Krishna Tummalapalli, Teja Parasa, Archanna Manoharan, and Madhu Bongani

**SAT/ACT:** Sandeep Rustagi, Venkat Punugu, and Deepa Sitaraman

**Tamil Language:** Padmanaban Sundaram, Poornima Shankarganesh, Ramesh Sethuraj, Sriram Ramanujam, Shankarganesh Krishnamurthy, Geetha Chandramohan, Madhavan Gnanasundaram, Lakshmi, Renuka Kannan, and Viji Sundar

**Telugu Language:** Nagesh Manne, Sreenivas Polina, Ravi Vanguri, Vijaya Mulagapati, Asha Paruchuri, Venu Ravipati, Venkataramana Suravarapu, Anitha Edupuganti, PurnaChandra Rao Irukulapati, Subrahmanyam Kasichainula, Sridhar Pandari, Vineela Devareddy, Jaisree Polina, Amarendra Nandigam, Praveena Pusapati, Sridhar Vegesina, Rama Dasaka, Ramarao Kannepalli, and Kiran Karnati

**Teaching Assistants:** Mrugank Deodhar, Shreya Rawale, Anya Shah, Pradnya Karne, Mitali Singh, Muskan Arora, Varun Gopal, Arpita Patel, Paayal Vora, Dhriti Gada, Vaidehi Patel, and Avni Patel



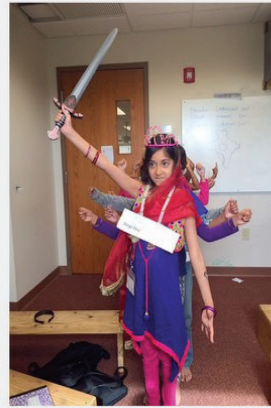
# Look What's Happening in Gurukul!



Lord Ganapati unexpectedly appeared in front of Gurukul students, who welcomed him with a 16-step Puja. He also visited some of the classes to ensure that our culture and heritage is being passed on without any obstacles.



Students made clay murtis of Lord Ganapati and sought his blessings. A lot of murtis made it back to the Temple for the Visarjan ceremony.



Enacting the skit of Mahishasur Mardhini during class.



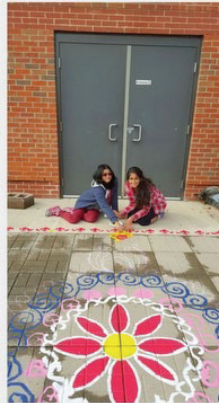
Students made a trip to the Ayyappa shrine to get blessings. They were able to connect the story they heard in class and identify the God and the 18 steps to reach his shrine.



Students display their artistic talent by creating a colorful collage of their favorite Gods and Goddesses.



Decorating the Temple just in time for the Diwali



premises with rangoli, community celebrations.



A unique assembly session to showcase Sankranti was held this year. Teachers from various parts of India spoke about how the festival is celebrated in their region.



The Tamil students had a fascinating experience celebrating Pongal in a traditional way. The look on their faces was simply priceless when they saw a cow walk in to partake in the festivities.







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**Shri Jagannath Rath Yatra &  
Temple Anniversary  
Saturday, July 9, 2016**



**Shri Radha Krishna Vasudev Maha Yagna  
Thursday, August 11- Sunday, August 14, 2016**