

**PLEASE NOTE THE SCHEDULES**

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

PASCHIMAVANI

DIRECTIONS

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

NEWS FROM THE HINDU COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL CENTER, LIVERMORE

VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT <http://www.livermoretemple.org>

SHIVA-VISHNU TEMPLE

OM NAMAH SHIVAYA

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

OM NAMO NARAYANAYA



Mahā Kumbhābhishekam 2010

JUNE 16-20, 2010

Hindu Community and Cultural Center

Shiva-Vishnu Temple, Livermore, California

|| Om Namah Shivaya ||

|| Om Namah Shivaya ||



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Devotees,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all into this pivotal New Year, 2010. In the last quarter of 2009, as many of you may have witnessed, we have celebrated many events such as Laksharchana for Vishnu and Shiva, Kali Puja, Deepavali, Pushpayagam, Skanda Shasti, Sessa-Vastra event, Karthika Masam events, KalaBhairava Jayanthi, Ayyappa Pooja and Mandalostavam, Geeta Jayanthi, a very well attended Health Fair, Children's day, Sudarsana Homa, Dhanvantari Homa, a holistic health/Ayurvedic workshop, a successful Fund-Raising Dinner for MKA2010, Hanuman Jayanthi, Dhanurmasa event, all with gusto and great participation. Of these, the Laksharchana, Dhanvantari Homa and the holistic Ayurvedic workshop are our temple firsts and the response is very good. We have also obtained a Shiva Mandapam culminating in many years of efforts. It is currently on display at the temple and stay tuned for its Samprokshana around MKA2010 time frame. For personal reasons, we have lost a good priest in Pt. Nageswara Sastri as he had resigned and left to India. I am sorry to see him leave. We now have a new priest, Pt. Kumaraswamy Kristipati, joining our esteemed team of priests. Please welcome him.

As I said, year 2010 is going to be pivotal for 3 different reasons among others. We are going to conduct Maha-Rudram, first in temple's history, from Jan 17th to Jan 24th under the auspices of MKA2010. Please come and participate in this auspicious event and it is being coordinated by Sri Srinivasa Rao Neelamraju garu. As most of you may already know, we will be having 2nd Maha-Kumbhabhisheka of our temple from June 16th to June 20th. Pt. Srinivasa Acharyulu garu, our emeritus chief priest, has been chosen as the Yaga Brahma for this MKA2010 event. Many of the inner shrines need renovation work and such work could be taken up only during Maha Kumbhabhishekas that come once in 12 years. Please participate in this unique event and if you can, please donate generously. From the management side, we are trying to get some facilities a facelift where necessary and add where they are inadequate. We want to pave the south parking lot, build some more rest-rooms, relocate the kitchen to the south (from North) and make it self contained with storage, walk-in cooler, and pantry space. We also want to add an administration building with few class rooms in place of the current trailer office. We have submitted in an application with the city for this purpose. As part of the process, neighbors would be heard before the city can accord permission to us to extend these amenities. The key concerns from the neighbors are traffic, parking, and noise. We have therefore issued an appeal to all of you with DOs and DO-NOTs. Please follow them. When coming to the temple, please use Vasco-North exit, take left on scenic and after two Stop signs, take left on to Arrowhead Avenue. AVOID coming through Wisteria Way. This is a residential area. Also please do not do any street parking. Use our parking lots. DO NOT throw trash in the parking lots or on streets. DO NOT Honk.

Please help us to help you serve with better facilities.

May God bless you and wish you all a very happy and prosperous New Year!

Dr. Srinivas Pyda,
President, HCCC

PLANNED SPECIAL EVENTS

DATE/DAY	EVENTS	TIME	ACTIVITIES
January 1st Friday	NEW YEAR DAY 2010	SPECIAL SCHEDULE	TEMPLE OPEN 7:00AM
	Punarvasu	7:00 AM	Single Line Darshanam Start 8:30 AM
		7:30AM	Shiva and Vishnu Suprabhatam
		7:30AM	Shiva ,Parvati, Lakshmi,Rama and Andal Abhishekam
		9:00 AM	MahaGanapati Homam
		8:00PM	Single Line Darshan sytafrts
January 2nd Saturday	1st Saturday of the Month	11:00AM	Ekantha Seva
		12:00 Noon	Swarna Alamkaram for Lord Shiva
January 3rd Sunday	Sankata Hara Chathurthi	5:00PM	Vastra Samarpana for Lord Balaji
January 5th Saturday	Uttara phalguni	6:30 PM	Ganesha Abhisheka
January 8th Friday	Swati	6:30PM	Ayyappa abhisheka
January 9th Saturday	2nd Saturday of the Month	11:00AM	Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Abhisheka
		11:30AM	Muttangi Alamkaram for Lord Shiva
January 10th Sunday	Ekadasi	5:00PM	Tomala Seva for Lord Balaji
January 12th Monday	Pradiosham, Masa Shivaratri	6:30PM	Balaji Bhoga Murthy Abhisheka
January 13th Monday	Dhanurmasa Puja ends		108 Kalasha Abhisheka for Lord Shiva
January 14th Thursday	Makara Sankranthi, Thai Pongal		
	Ayyappa makara deepa pooja, Uttarayan Punya kala	6:30PM	
January 16th Saturday	3rd Saturday of the Month	11:00AM	Ayyappa Pooja
		12:00Noon	Rajatha Alamkara for Lord Shiva
		9:30 AM	Tiruppavada Seva for Lord Balaji
		3:00 PM	Anjaneya Abhishekam
		5:00PM	Andal(Godha) Kalayanam Detailed Program at the End
January 17th Sunday	Sravana	10:30AM	Balaji Sahasranama Archana
	3rd Sunday of the Month	6:00PM	Shiva Sahasranama Archana
	MAHARUDRAM Starting Day		Detailed Program at the End
Jan 18th Monday	MLK Day		Temple Opens from 9:00AM to 8:00PM
Jan 20th Wednesday	Vasanth Panchami	6:30 PM	Lalita Sahasranama Archana
	Saraswati Puja	10:30 AM	Detailed Program at the End
Jan 21st Thursday	Shasti	6:30PM	Kartikeya Sahasranama Archana
Jan 22nd Friday	Ratha Sapatami	9:30 AM	Surya Namaskara followed by Sri Aruna Parayana
Jan 23rd Saturday	4th Saturday of the Month	10:30 AM	Shiva Swarna Mukhavada
		12:00Noon	Pushpa Seva for Lord Balaji
Jan 24th Sunday	Ratha Sapatami weekend function	8:30 AM	Surya Namaskara followed by Sri Aruna Parayana
			Maha Rudram Ends
Jan 25th Monday	Krittika	6:30PM	Murugan Abhishekam
Jan 26th Thursday	Bheshma Ekadasi	6:30PM	Balaji Bhoga Murthy Abhisheka
	Rohini	6:30PM	Sri Krishna Pooja
Jan 27th Wednesday	Pradosham	6:30PM	Shiva Abhisheka
Jan 28th Thursday	Punarvasu	6:30PM	Rama Abhishekam
Jan 29th Friday	Poornima	6:30PM	Lalitha Sahasranamarchana
	Thai Poosam	6:30PM	Murugan Abhishekam
		7:00PM	Myura Vahana Lord Kartikeya
Jan 30th Saturday	5th Saturday of the Month	10:30AM	108 Kalasha Abhisheka for Lord Balaji
Jan 31st Sunday	Last Sunday of the Month	4:30PM	Kala Bhairava Abhisheka and Archana
Feb 1st Friday	Sankata Hara Chathurthi	6:30PM	Ganesha Abhisheka
Feb 2ed Thursday	Uttara phalguni	6:30PM	Ayyappa abhisheka
Feb 5th Friday	Swati	6:30PM	Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Abhisheka
	Shiva Brahmastavam day 1		Detailed Program at the End
Feb 6th Saturday	Shiva Brahmastavam day 2		Detailed Program at the End
	1st Saturday of the Month	10:30 AM	Swarna Alamkaram for Lord Shiva
		12:00 Noon	Vastra Samarpana for Lord Balaji
Feb 7th Sunday	Shiva Brahmastavam day 3		Detailed Program at the End
Feb 9th Tuesday	Ekadasi	6:30PM	Balaji Bhoga Murthy Abhisheka
Feb 10th Wednesday	Pradosham	6:30PM	Shiva Abhisheka
Feb 11th Thursday	Maha Shivaratri		Detailed Program at the End
Feb 12th Friday	Sravana	6:30PM	Balaji Sahasranama Archana
Feb 13th Saturday	2nd Saturday of the Month	11:00AM	Muttangi Alamkaram for Lord Shiva
		11:30AM	Tomala Seva for Lord Balaji
Feb 15th Monday	President's Day		Temple Opens from 9:00AM to 8:00PM
Feb 19th Friday	Shasti	6:30PM	Kartikeya Sahasranama Archana
Feb 20th Saturday	3rd Saturday of the Month	11:00AM	Rajatha Alamkara for Lord Shiva
		12:00Noon	Tiruppavada Seva for Lord Balaji
Feb 21st Sunday	3rd Sunday of the Month	10:30AM	Shiva Sahasranama Archana
	Krittika	5:00PM	Murugan Abhishekam
Feb 22nd Monday	Rohini	6:30PM	Sri Krishna Pooja

PLANNED SPECIAL EVENTS

DATE/DAY	EVENTS	TIME	ACTIVITIES
Feb 24th Wednesday	Ekadasi	6:30PM	Balaji Bhoga Murthy Abhisheka
Feb 25th Thursday	Pradosham	6:30PM	Shiva Abhisheka
	Punarvasu	6:30PM	Rama Abhishekam
Feb 27th Saturday	4th Saturday of the Month	10:30 AM	Shiva Swarna Mukhavada
		12:00Noon	Pushpa Seva for Lord Balaji
	Poornima	5:00PM	Lalitha Sahasranamarchana
Feb 28th Sunday	Last Sunday of the Month	4:30PM	Kala Bhairava Abhisheka and Archana
Mar 1st Monday	Uttara phalguni	6:30 PM	Ayyappa abhisheka
Mar 3rd Wednesday	Sankata Hara Chathurthi	6:30PM	Ganesha Abhisheka
Mar 4th Thursday	Swati	6:30PM	Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Abhisheka
Mar 6th Saturday	1st Saturday of the Month	11:00AM	Swarna Alamkaram for Lord Shiva
		12:00 Noon	Vastra Samarpana for Lord Balaji
Mar 10th Wednesday	Ekadasi	6:30PM	Balaji Bhoga Murthy Abhisheka
Mar 12th Friday	Sravana	6:30PM	Balaji Sahasranama Archana
	Pradosham	6:30PM	Shiva Abhisheka
Mar 13th Saturday	2nd Saturday of the Month	11:00AM	Muttangi Alamkaram for Lord Shiva
		11:30AM	Tomala Seva for Lord Balaji
	Masa Shivaratri	5:00PM	108 Kalasha Abhisheka for Lord Shiva
Mar 14th Sunday	Kardiyan Nombu	5:00PM	Lakshmi Sahasranama Archana
Mar 16th Thursday	Ugadi Asthanam ; Vikruti Samvastaram	6:30PM	Ugadi Asthanam;Panchanga Sravanam In Telugu & Kannada
			Vasantha Navaratri Start
			Srimad Valmeeki Ramayana Parayanam Starts
Mar 20th Saturday	3rd Saturday of the Month	11:00AM	Detailed Program at the End
		12:00Noon	Rajatha Alamkara for Lord Shiva
		6:30PM	Tiruppavada Seva for Lord Balaji
Mar 21st Sunday	Krittika	6:30PM	Murugan Abhishekam
	3rd Sunday of the Month	10:30AM	Shiva Sahasranama Archana
	Shasti	5:00PM	Kartikeya Sahasranama Archana
	Rohini	5:00PM	Sri Krishna Pooja
Mar 24th Wednesday	Punarvasu		Sri Rama Navami - Detailed Program at the End
Mar 26th Friday	Ekadasi	6:30PM	Balaji Bhoga Murthy Abhisheka
Mar 27th Saturday	4th Saturday of the Month	10:30 AM	Shiva Swarna Mukhavada
		12:00Noon	Pushpa Seva for Lord Balaji
	Pradosham	5:00PM	Shiva Abhisheka
Mar 28th Sunday	Sri Rama Navami - Week End Function		Detailed Program at the End
	Last Sunday of the Month	4:30PM	Kala Bhairava Abhisheka and Archana
Mar 29th Monday	Uttara phalguni	6:30PM	Ayyappa abhisheka
	Panguni Uttaram		Sri Sooktha Homam - Detailed Program at the End
Mar 31th Wednesday	Swati	6:30PM	Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Abhisheka
Apr 1st Thursday	Sankata Hara Chathurthi	6:30PM	Ganesha Abhisheka
Apr 3rd Saturday	1st Saturday of the Month	11:00AM	Swarna Alamkaram for Lord Shiva
		12:00 Noon	Vastra Samarpana for Lord Balaji
Apr 8th Thursday	Sravana	6:30PM	Balaji Sahasranama Archana
Apr 9th Friday	Ekadasi	6:30PM	Balaji Bhoga Murthy Abhisheka
Apr 10th Saturday	2nd Saturday of the Month	11:00AM	Muttangi Alamkaram for Lord Shiva
		11:30AM	Tomala Seva for Lord Balaji
Apr 11th Sunday	Pradosham	5:00PM	Shiva Abhisheka
Apr 12th Monday	Masa Shivaratri	6:30PM	108 Kalasha Abhisheka for Lord Shiva
Apr 14th Wednesday	Tami New Year - Vikruti	6:30PM	Lord Murugan Archana & Panchanga sravana in Tamil
Apr 16th Friday	Krittika	6:30PM	Murugan Abhishekam
Apr 17th Saturday	3rd Saturday of the Month	11:00AM	Rajatha Alamkara for Lord Shiva
		12:00Noon	Tiruppavada Seva for Lord Balaji
		5:00PM	Sri Krishna Pooja
Apr 18th Sunday	Rohini	10:30AM	Shiva Sahasranama Archana
	3rd Sunday of the Month	11:30 AM	Pushpa seva for Lord Kartikeya
	Tami New Year - Week End Function		
Apr 19th Monday	Shasti	6:30PM	Kartikeya Sahasranama Archana
	Arudra Ramanuja Jayanti	6:30PM	Ramanuja Satmurai
Apr 20th Thursday	Punarvasu	6:30PM	Rama Abhishekam
Apr 24 th Saturday	4th Saturday of the Month	10:30 AM	Shiva Swarna Mukhavada
		12:00Noon	Pushpa Seva for Lord Balaji
	Ekadasi	5:00PM	Balaji Bhoga Murthy Abhisheka
Apr 25th Sunday	Uttara phalguni	5:00 PM	Ayyappa Abhisheka
	Last Sunday of the Month	4:30PM	Kala Bhairava Abhisheka and Archana
Apr 27th Thursday	Chitra Poornima	6:30PM	Lalitha Sahasranamarchana
Apr 28th Wednesday	Swati	6:30PM	Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Abhisheka

New Year's Day- 2010

DATE/DAY	TIME	EVENTS
Jan 1st Fri	7:00 AM	Shiva and Vishnu Suprabhatam
	7:30AM	Lord Shiva, Parvati, Durga, Lakshmi, Rama(In side Laksmi Shrine) and Andal Abhishekam
	7:30AM	Maha Ganapati Homam
	8:00AM	Nitya Pooja Harathi to all Deities
	9:00AM	Single Line Darshan Start
	7:30PM	Ekanta seva

Sri Andal Kalyanam

Jan 16th, Sat	9:30 AM	Anjaneya Abhishekam
	3:00 PM	Edurukola Utsavam
	4:00 PM	Kalyana Utsavam
	5:30 PM	TiruVeedhi Utsavam
	6:30 PM	Kalyana Bhajonom for all Devotees

Maharudram 2010

Jan 17, Sun	6:00 PM to	Vighneswara Pooja, Punyahavahavachana,
	8:00 PM	Deekshadharana
Jan 18, Mon to	9:00AM	Shiva & Vishnu Suprabhatham
	9:30 AM to	Mahanyasa Parayana & Rudra Kalasa Pooja
Jan 22, Fri	10:30 AM	Maharudram With Abhishekam
	1:30 PM	Shiva Alankara - Archana & Teertha Prasadam
Jan 23, Sat	5:00 PM to	Maharudram With Abhishekam, Archana & Teerthaprasadam
	8:00PM	Teerthaprasadam
Jan 23, Sat	9:00AM	Shiva & Vishnu Suprabhatham
	9:30 AM	Mahanyasa Parayana & Rudra Kalasa Pooja
Jan 24, Sun	10:30AM	Maharudra Abhisheka with Eleven Different Dravyas
	1:30 PM	Shiva Swarna Kavacha Alankara
Jan 24, Sun	2:30 PM	Shiva Archana & Teertha Prasadam
	5:00 PM to	Rudrakramarchana & Chaturveda Swasthi, Teertha Prasadam
Jan 24, Sun	8:00AM	Shiva & Vishnu Suprabhatham
	8:30 AM	Shiva Abhishekam & Alankara, Archana
Jan 24, Sun	10:30AM	Ekadasa Rudra Homa, Poornahuthi Rudrakalasa Snapana & Shiva Archana, Neerajana, Mantrapushpam Mahadaasheervachanam, Panditha Sathkaram, Theertha Prasadam

Saraswati Puja Celebration

Jan 20th, Fri	10:30 AM	Saraswati Puja
	11:30 AM	Pushpanjali
	12:00 Noon	Bhog Prasad
	12:15 PM	Aarti
	12:30 PM	Hatekahari (Aksharabhyasam)
	7:00 PM	Sandha (Sandhya) Arati
	7:30 PM	Aksharabhyasam
	8:00 PM	Shanti Jal and Prasad

SHIVA BRAHMOTSAVAM 2010

DATE/DAY	TIME	EVENTS
Feb 5th Fri	6:00PM	Anujna, Ganapati Pooja, Punyahavachana, Deeksha Dhaarana, Panchagavya Sudhi, Ankurarpanam, Vaastu Homa, Nandi Dhawaja Arohana, Bali, Arati, Teertha Prasadam
Feb 6th Sat	9:00AM	Suprabatham
	9:30AM	Lord Shiva Abhisheka
	10:30AM	Nava Kumbha Sthapana
	11:30AM	Agni Pratishta, Rudra Homa and Bali
	12:30PM	Arati
	4:00PM	Rudra Trishathi Archana
Feb 6th Sat	5:00PM	Sadyojatadi Homa, Shiva Sahasra Nama Homa, Parivara Devata Homa, Laghu Poornahuti
	7:00PM	Nitya Aradhana, Bali
Feb 6th Sat	7:30PM	Arati, Mantra Pushpam and Rajopachara Seva
	8:00AM	Lord Shiva and Lord Vishnu Suprabatham
Feb 7th Sun	8:30AM	Lord Shiva, Ganapati & Kartikeya Abhishekam
	10:30AM	Nitya Homa, Bali
Feb 7th Sun	11:30AM	Parvati Parameshwara Utsava Murthy Abhisheka
	1:00PM	Avabrutha Snanam, Maha Poornahuti, and Arati
Feb 7th Sun	3:30PM	Lord Shiva-Parvathi Kalyanam
	5:00PM	Nandi Vahana Seva for Lord Shiva
Feb 7th Sun	7:00PM	Mouna Bali, Dwaja Avarohanam, Deeksha Visarjanam, Asheervachanam

MAHA SHIVARATRI 2010

Feb 11th Thu	6:00 AM	Lord Shiva and Lord Vishnu Suprabatham
	6:30 AM	1st Yaama Lord Shiva Abhisheka
Feb 11th Thu	10:00 AM	2nd Yaama Lord Shiva Abhisheka
	1:00 PM	3rd Yaama Lord Shiva Abhisheka
Feb 11th Thu	3:30 PM	4th Yaama Lord Shiva Abhisheka
	5:00 PM	Jyothirlinga Archana
Feb 11th Thu	5:00 PM	Mahanyasa Parayanam
	6:00 PM	5th Yaama Ekadasa Rudra Abhisheka, Pushpa Alankaram, and Rajopachara Seva
Feb 11th Thu	6th Yaama	Lord Shiva Abhisheka
	7th Yaama	Lord Shiva Abhisheka
Feb 11th Thu	8th Yaama	Lord Shiva Abhisheka

SRI RAMA NAVAMI CELEBRATIONS

Mar 16th Thu to	8:00 AM to	Srimad Ramayanana Parayana
	12:00 Noon	
Mar 24th Wed	6:30 PM to	Sri Rama Sahasranama Archana
	7:30PM	
Mar 24th Wed	10:00 AM	Sri Rama Abhisheka
	11:00 AM	Sri Rama Shadakshari Homa and Namakarana Samskara Homa
Mar 24th Wed	12:00 Noon	Theertha prasadam
	6:00 PM	Sri Seeta Rama Kalyanotsavam

SRI RAMA NAVAMI (WEEKEND FUNCTION)

DATE/DAY	TIME	EVENTS
Mar 28th Sun	8:00 AM	Lord Shiva and Lord Balaji Suprabatham
	8:30 AM	Abhisheka for Lord Shiva, Lord Ganesha, Lord Kartikeya
	9:30 AM	Seeta Rama Edurukolu Utsavam
	11:00 AM	Sri Seeta Rama Kalyanam
	12:00 Noon	Sumuhurtam
	12:30 PM	Akshataropanam, Asheervachanam and Theertha Prasadam
	1:30 PM	Sri Seeta Rama Sankeertanam
	3:00 PM	Sri Rama Pattabhishekam
	5:00 PM	Hanumanta Vahana Utsavam with Rama Sankeertana
	7:00 PM	Maha Mangala Arati
	7:45 PM	Ekanta Seva for Lord Balaji

PANGUNI UTTIRAM

DATE/DAY	TIME	EVENTS
Mar 29th Mon	5:00 PM	Sri Suktha Homam
	7:00 PM	Gadya Traya Parayanam, Mahalakshmi Utsavam
	7:30 PM	Sethi Seva
	8:00 PM	Ekanta Seva for Lord Balaji

**Announcements****Your Generosity Keeps Temple Growing**

HCCC will be recognizing the donors by naming the facilities, per HCCC donor recognition policy. Please note that projects will be executed after getting the city approvals and realizing finances, per HCCC Master Plan. The following are the key categories.

Single Donation	Facility / Infrastructure
\$1,000,000	New Administration Building
\$500,000	Kitchen
\$250,000	Priest Kitchen or Library or Prayer room
\$100,000	Class rooms or computer room or Vahana room
\$5,000	1 Parking space

Multiple sponsors with equal contributions are welcome for a given facility, please check with HCCC Management. For detailed donation opportunities, please contact HCCC Management.

Shiva-Vishnu Temple Invites Applications for Grants

The Hindu Community and Cultural Center, Inc., of Livermore is pleased to announce their annual Grant Program and invites applications from non-profit, human services agencies in Livermore and the surrounding areas. We intend to give out a total of \$25,000 in the year 2010. Individual grants can vary from \$500 to \$3500 depending on the needs and suitability of the applicant. This grant program, initiated in 1987, is one of several Human Services activities at the temple. Human Services agencies that meet the needs of the elderly, abused women, and youth which are primarily funded by private donations, are encouraged to apply for these grants. Organizations should apply giving us the details such as a mission statement, sample projects, a specific project for which the grant will be utilized, and any other information in support of the application. Please mail your application to reach us by the deadline of February 6th, 2010 to:

HCCC, Attn: Mr. Anand Gundu

1232, Arrowhead Avenue, Livermore, CA 94551-6963

All applicants will be informed of the grant decisions and the representatives of the selected organizations will be invited to an award ceremony at the temple.

HCCC Livermore is Recruiting Priests

Hindu Community and Cultural Center (HCCC), Livermore, CA, USA, invites applications from qualified individuals for employment to Priest positions. The candidates must have the following to qualify:

1. Knowledge/Proficiency in one or more Agamam (Shaivagamam, Smartham, Vaikhanasam, and Pancharatram)
2. Knowledge/Proficiency in one or more Vedas (Rig, Yajur, Sama, and Atharva)
3. Knowledge/Proficiency in conducting various temple rituals.
4. Knowledge/Proficiency in Pourohityam/Karmakanda to conduct rituals.
5. Knowledge/Proficiency in Panchangam and Sanskrit.
6. Knowledge/Proficiency in religious scriptures such as Puranas, Ramayanam, Bharatam, Bhagavatam, Divya Prabandham etc., and ability to give discourses.

7. Ability to function in a team with excellent work ethics and adherence to rules of the organization.
8. High regard to devotee treatment and satisfaction, and ability to speak multiple Indian languages including working knowledge of English.

Interested applicants may send a complete resume including copies of certificates by US Mail, Fax, or email to:

HCCC, Attn: Chairman of the Priest Selection Committee,
1232 Arrowhead Avenue, Livermore, CA 94551-6963 • Fax: 925-455 0404 • Email: pschccc@gmail.com

Maharudram

Rudra literally means that “Fire comes from the Bowels of the earth spreading God’s Grace all over the world”. Sri Rudram chant is an ancient Vedic hymn in praise of Lord Shiva, and is the oldest prayer with a listing of various names of Lord Shiva. Through the chanting of Sri Rudram,



Lord Shiva’s various attributes and aspects are invoked and worshipped. Chanting the Rudram is considered to be of great benefit. Scriptures define several methods of Rudram recitation. Those are Rudram, Ekadasha Rudram, Maha Rudram, and Ati Rudram – each being more potent than the preceding one.

1. Reciting the entire Sri Rudram – 11 Anuvakas (chapters) of Namakam once followed by 11 Anuvakas of Chamakam, is the most common method practiced in day-to-day worship (during daily Abhishekam to Lord Shiva in our temple).
2. Reciting Namakam 11 times followed by first, second canto of Chamakam for each Namakam recitation is known as Rudraikadasini (Ekadasha Rudram).
3. Eleven Rudraikadasini make one Laghu Rudram (121 times recitation). This is usually done by 11 priests each chanting Rudram 11 times simultaneously.
4. Eleven Laghu Rudrams make one Maha Rudram (1,331 times)
5. Eleven Maha Rudrams make one Ati Rudram (14,641 times)

Maha Saraswathi Day

Maha Saraswathi Day, an all day event, is planned by Maha Kumbhabhishekam’s YES committee on March 20, 2010 in HCCC’s Assembly Hall. This event will have many programs such as Bhajans, Sloka recital, musical cultural program, art and crafts, speech, poetry, debate, skits, youth forum, senior activity, and Rangoli exhibition. Please participate and get blessings from Saraswathi, Goddess of wisdom, learning, and arts.

Program schedule and registration information about this event will be updated on temple website in January. Until it is available on the temple web site, you can obtain information by requesting Dr. Kamala Shankar, the event coordinator, by email at kshankar27@comcast.net

Greetings

Om Namashivaya Om Namo Narayanaya. On behalf of the HCCC Management team, I would like to wish you all a very happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year. As always, your support and participation in large numbers in all the temple events encourages us to continue to strive to serve you better. I would like to request more and more youth and senior members of our devotee community to visit us and participate in temple programs, especially during the Maha Kumbhabhishekam ceremonies from June 16th to 20th, 2010.

Dr. Kamala Shankar, *HCCC, Corporate Secretary*

Key Events Celebrated

Dhanvanthari Homam

As part of MKA 2010, the YES (Youth, Education, and Seniors) group conducted Dhanvanthari Homam to pay tributes to Lord Dhanvanthari, the God of Medicine on 5th and 6th Dec ‘09. The temple conducted a memorable Dhanvanthari Homam for the first time. The Dhanvanthari Homam was a two day event, planned meticulously and conducted with diligent care and attention. Program began with a prayer and introduction by Dr. Kamala Shankar. The program began with two Homas; Ganesha Homa and Dhanvanthari Homa. The Homas were followed by yoga program, seminars by experts and discussions on alternative medicines Ayurveda, Homeopathy, and Reiki.

Nearly 200 devotees attended the Dhanvanthari Homa. About 75 participants attended the seminars and workshops conducted in the assembly hall. The discussions created awareness amongst the devotees about the different alternative systems of medicine consistent with the theme of the event.

People from out of state registered to have the Homam done for the good health. The atmosphere was so charged and devotees felt the good vibrations all around during the Homa. Yoga Bharati volunteers demonstrated the Surya Namaskaram while Brahma Kumaris taught devotees about Raja Yoga in the morning session. In the afternoon, we had a very informative talk by Dr Geeta Arora on Ayurveda. There was



a Pilates session by Bhavani as well before noon. After the lunch, the intensity to learn more was evident as most the devotees stayed back to finish the rest of the afternoon sessions comprising Acupressure tips and techniques by Dr Shen, Ayurveda food sampling by Jayanthi, and a talk on Homeopathy by Dr Rini. The response was so overwhelming. A number of participants suggested to us to have these programs more often.

Here are words of appreciation from participants of this event. “I wanted to congratulate you & thank you for organizing the wonderful program on alternate medicine, on Sunday, about 2 weeks ago, on day of Dhanvanthari Pooja. Speakers spoke on a series of topics, gave excellent demonstrations on Suryanamaskar, Kapalabati, Pranayama etc. It was very interesting overall. Speakers were knowledgeable, able

to impart the knowledge well. Atmosphere was so friendly & informal, food was great of course! People could easily charge for these types of presentations & classes but this was a free program that I wish even more people took advantage of. I am sure it was no easy task to get so many people to participate in speaking & demonstrations of all those topics. I hope you will be able to do more of these for the benefit of so many people” – Sumangala Kote.

“Om Namah Shivaya. My husband and I attended the senior yoga and alternate medicine workshop at the temple few weeks back. We want to thank the volunteers who worked hard to put together this wonderful program” - Usha and Madhavan Nambiar

Shiva Vishnu Laksha Archana Puja



On October 3rd and 4th, Laksha Archana for Shiva and Vishnu was conducted in the temple. Our priests did an exemplary job in decorating the Utsava Murthis, sitting together and performing the Archana starting at 10 AM. It was concluded in the evening. The Vishnu Laksha Archana on Saturday was highlighted by the Tulasi Dalams and it is good to see the idols immersed in Tulasi. The Shiva Archana on Sunday was colorful with multi layered arrangement of Carnations. The priests deserve congratulations on a commendable job well done. Our Pachaka Srinivasan had prepared all the Prasadams on time and as required and food for the participants on the second day. The event was very well coordinated by Mrs. Padmaja Narra and Mrs. Rams Bhagavat. They worked tirelessly for a number of days including both the days arranging the seating for devotees and encouraging the visiting devotees to participate in the event. Without the help from a number of volunteers, the event would not have been so successful. There were 93 sponsors who generously donated.

Health Fair 2009

Health Fair 2009 was yet another great event. Human Services committee, the doctors of the Bay-Area and Sacramento region, regular temple volunteers, and HCCC administration staff have done it again. We had over 200 visitors to the health fair conducted on November 7. Beneficiaries of services rendered in the health fair had expressed their profound thanks to HCCC and its volunteers for conducting such health fairs. A number of people from the neighboring communities came and made use of the services in the Health fair this time. We are really indebted to have such great physicians, dentists, nursing staff, and other volunteers who came and helped to make the fair successful. The Gods and Goddesses of the temple would certainly bless all of them with peace and prosperity for such yeoman services rendered. The services included testing for blood cholesterol, bone density, ECG, blood sugar, blood pressure with the help of experts from different fields of medicine. Theme for this year was cancer awareness and health benefits of a walking program.

Human Services committee of the HCCC conducts two Health Fairs each year and Health Advisory Clinics on every first and third Saturdays of every month.

Articles

I love Shiva-Vishnu Temple because

“Making a difference in people’s life who visit the temple, connecting to God through service to humanity” – Vinay Kalleth

“I love HCCC for 1. Authentic Hindu Rituals. 2. Services offered to Devotees. 3. Being Managed Democratically.” – Dr. Sridar Pootheri

“I love HCCC for the beautiful architecture of the main temple, wide variety of religious services it offer -becomes Shiva temple during Shiva

Rathri, Vishnu temple during Vaikunta Ekadasi etc; for the opportunity to do Human services, Cultural and Children activities. Best of all the chance for individual devotees to learn and understand the various ritualistic aspects of Hinduism.” – Dr. Kamala Shankar

“Praying in the Sanctums I feel the divinity,
standing in the queue for food I feel the humility,
listening to the programs I feel the civility,
working in the temple I feel the amity,
and it is an ultimate serendipity” – Dr. Srinivas Pyda

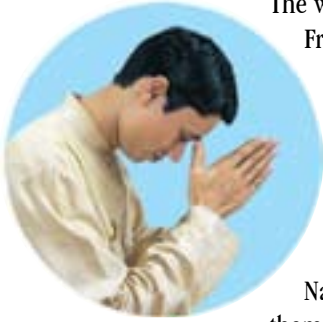
“HCCC built on good foundation that serves all sections of Hindu Community. We have all idols giving liberty to worship in your own way and traditional. It is driven by volunteers and run democratically.” - Dr.Peraiah Sudanagunta

“I love HCCC, for sustaining a balance of religious, cultural, educational and human services, for the current and future generations of Hindus in Northern California. I love HCCC, for promoting harmony within our community, with our neighbors, and with our environment.”
- N. Seshagiri

“HCCC provides a comprehensive framework to participate, volunteer, and donate for practicing Hindu traditions. HCCC is the result of broader bay area Indian community. Greater Bay area Indian residents consider HCCC as attractive place to worship and love to participate in numerous HCCC functions” - Srinivas Malladi

Meaning and the Benefits of Namaskar

By K.V. Shastri, Visakhapatnam, India**



The word ‘Namaskar’ is derived from the root ‘namaha’, which means paying obeisance (Namaskar) or salutation. From Science of Justice, ‘Namaha’ is a physical action expressing that ‘you are superior to me in all qualities and in every way’. By doing Namaskar to a deity or a Saint, unknowingly their virtues and capabilities are impressed upon our minds. Consequently we start emulating them, thus changing ourselves for the better.

Increase in humility and reduction of ego or enhancement in the spiritual emotion of surrender and gratitude or gaining the Sattva component and faster spiritual progress. We receive the highest amount of Sattva component from the posture (mudra) of Namaskar. By doing Namaskar to Deities or Saints we receive subtle frequencies emitted by them, e.g. frequencies of Sattva or Bliss.

स्वायत्तिक अकृष्टत्व प्रतिबोधकः
अनुकूलो व्यापारः क्रिया - न्यायशास्त्र
(Science of Justice)

Avoid a Hand Shake. It transfers undesirable raja-tama components! In short, in a handshake, the raja-tama components in one person will get transferred to the other person, thereby lowering his Sattvikta (Purity levels). While practicing spirituality, our objective is to perform acts which increase our Sattvikta.

If at all they do Namaskar by joining their palms, it is done just as a formality. As the act is not based on faith, the benefit derived from it is minimal. Along with faith it is essential that every religious act be correctly performed according to the Science of Spirituality, so that it gives complete benefit. In this series, as with the others, along with information on various methods of doing Namaskar, the Science in them is also explained. Understanding the Science will help in strengthening faith in the act. Such an act correctly performed with faith, will yield corresponding benefits.

When meeting someone of the same age-group do Namaskar by joining the fingers and placing tips of the thumbs on the Anahat chakra (at the centre of the chest). This type of Namaskar increases the spiritual emotion of humility in the embodied soul. Sattva frequencies from the universe are attracted by the fingers (which act as an antenna) and are then transmitted to the entire body through the thumbs which have awakened the Anahat chakra. This activates the soul energy of the embodied soul. In addition, by doing Namaskar in this manner to each other, frequencies of blessings are also transmitted.

The correct method of doing Namaskar to God is described in four simple steps.



- A. ‘While paying obeisance to God, bring the palms together.
 1. The fingers should be held loose (not straight and rigid) while joining the hands or palms.
 2. The fingers should be kept close to each other without leaving any space between them.
 3. The fingers should be kept away from the thumbs.
 4. The inner portion of the palms should not touch each other and there should be some space between them.

Note: The stage of awakening of spiritual emotion (Bhav) is important to the seeker at the primary level. Hence, for awakening spiritual emotion (Bhav), one should keep space in between the joined hands, whereas a seeker who is at the advanced level should refrain from leaving such space in

between the palms to awaken the unexpressed spiritual emotion (Bhav).

- B. After joining the hands, one should bow and bring the head forward.
- C. While tilting the head forward, one should place the thumbs at the mid-brow region, i.e. at the point between the eyebrows and try to concentrate on the feet of the Deity.
- D. After that, instead of bringing the folded hands down immediately, they should be placed on the mid-chest region for a minute in such way that the wrists touch the chest; then only should the hands be brought down.

The underlying science in the action of doing Namaskar is described here.

The fingers should not be stiff while bringing the palms together because this will lead to a decrease in Sattva component from the vital and mental sheaths and thus increase the raja component in them. By keeping the fingers relaxed, the subtlest Sattva component will get activated. With the strength of this energy, embodied souls are able to fight powerful distressing energies.

In the Namaskar posture, the joined fingers act as an antenna to assimilate the Chaitanya (Divine consciousness) or the energy transmitted by a Deity. While joining the palms, the fingers must touch each other because leaving space between the fingers will result in accumulation of energy in that space. This energy will be immediately transmitted in various directions; therefore the seeker's body will lose the benefit of this potent energy.

For a seeker at the primary level, it is advisable to leave space between the palms; it is not necessary for a seeker at an advanced level to leave space between the palms.

After joining the palms, bow a little. This posture puts pressure on the naval and activates the five vital energies situated there. Activation of these vital energies in the body makes it sensitive to accepting Sattvik frequencies. This later awakens the 'Atma Shakti' (i.e. soul energy of an embodied soul). And later, Bhav is awakened. This enables the body to accept in large measures the Chaitanya emitted by the Deity.

Touch the thumbs to the mid-brow region (Please see images above). This posture awakens the Bhav of surrender in an embodied soul, and in turn activates the appropriate subtle frequencies of Deities from the Universe. They enter through the 'Adnya chakra' (Sixth of the 7 chakras in the Kundalini) of the embodied soul and settle in the space parallel to it at the back interior of the head. In this space, the openings to all the three channels converge; namely, the Moon, the Central, and the Sun channels. Due to the movement of these subtler frequencies in this space, the Central Channel is activated. Consequently it facilitates the speedy transmission of these frequencies throughout the body, leading to purification of both the gross and subtle bodies at the same time.

After doing Namaskar, to completely imbibe the Chaitanya of the Deity (that has entered the hands by now), instead of bringing the folded hands down immediately, place them on the mid-chest region in such a way that the wrists touch the chest.

The 'Anahat chakra' is located at the centre of the chest. Akin to the Adnya chakra, the activity of the Anahat chakra is also to absorb the Sattva frequencies. By touching the wrists to the chest, the Anahat chakra is activated and it helps in absorbing more of the Sattva component.

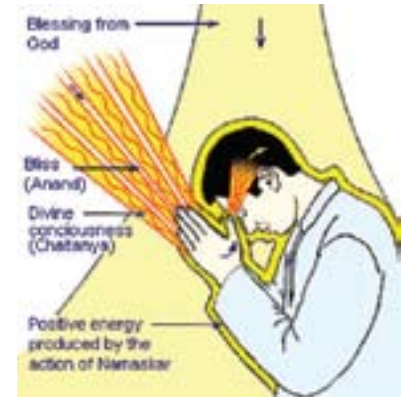
By doing Namaskar in this manner, the Deity's Chaitanya is absorbed to a greater extent by the body, as compared to other methods of doing Namaskar. This gives maximum distress to negative energies. The negative energies that have manifested in a person are unable to touch their thumbs at the mid-brow region in Namaskar.

It is not recommended to wrap a cloth around the neck while performing circumambulation, doing Namaskar, ritualistic worship, sacrificial fires, and chanting while visiting Guru and deities. When a cloth is wrapped around the neck, it does not activate the Vishuddha chakra (in the throat region) and hence an individual gets less benefit of the Sattva component.

If you wonder why we should do Namaskar to elders here is the reason. When an elderly person arrives, the vital energy of the young person starts rising and when he gets up and does Namaskar, it returns to normal. - Manusmriti 2.120; Mahabharat, Udhog, Chapter (Section) 38.1, Sr. no. 104, 64-65.



As the sojourn of the elderly person is gradually towards the southern direction, that is, towards the region of Lord Yama (towards death), his body starts emitting raja and tama frequencies on a high scale. When such an elderly person comes in the vicinity of any younger individual, these frequencies start affecting the younger person. A subtle magnetic field is created between the two. Consequently, the vital energy of the younger person is pulled upward. This way the younger person can suffer due to sudden momentum to his vital energy. When this younger person does Namaskar to the elderly person, some amount of the Central channel of his Kundalini system is activated and the Sattva component in it starts increasing. Consequently the raja and tama components in him are influenced by the Sattva component and the vital energy comes back to normal state. Hence on arrival of an elderly person, it is customary for



the younger individuals to do Namaskar to them.

When travelling, prior to the commencement of a journey and upon returning, why should one do Namaskar to elders in the family? Namaskar to the elders in the family is one way of surrendering to the God principle in them. When an embodied soul bows in Namaskar to an elder by surrendering to the God principle in him, at that time a sense of compassion is created in his body. This compassion percolates right up to his subtle body. At that time, energy of his mind is activated and in turn activates the five vital energies, which are located at the seat of the Manipur chakra (situated in the naval region). Transmission of these five vital energies all over the body then awakens the soul energy. With the strength of the soul energy, the Central channel gets activated and converts the expressed energy of spiritual emotion to the unexpressed energy of spiritual emotion. With the help of this unexpressed energy of spiritual emotion, the embodied soul, through the medium of elders, gains the required Deity's principle from the Universe. For this purpose, while leaving the house on a journey, the embodied soul should do Namaskar to elders and with the strength of Sattva frequencies has to protect himself from distressing frequencies in the atmosphere. Similarly, returning from a journey, one should immediately do Namaskar to elders and awaken the God principle in them, which would disintegrate the raja-tama particles from the air around him, which might have been brought along.

The correct method of doing Namaskar to Saints is described here.

1. The portion of head, which should be placed at the feet: We can imbibe maximum Chaitanya through the Brahmarandhra (the seventh chakra of the Kundalini system located in the crown of our head). Since it (Brahmarandhra) cannot be placed at a Saint's feet, the part of head beginning above the forehead is to be placed at the feet of Saints. Due to this, maximum Chaitanya emanating from their feet can enter into the one doing Namaskar.

2. The exact spot to place one's head on a Saint's feet: The big toes of Saints emit maximum Chaitanya; hence we should place our head on the big toe, than on their foot. If we are in a position to touch both the 20 toes, then place the head on the right big toe.

3. The position of hands when placing the head on a Saint's feet: a. Some interlock their hands behind their backs at the waist and do Namaskar. If we are in a position to touch both their toes, then we should place the hands one on each foot and the head should be placed on the big toe of the right foot. If we are in a position to touch one of their toes, then place both the hands on it and keep the head on the big toe. b. Some do Namaskar by placing hands on the ground. This is also wrong because if the hands are placed on the ground then the Chaitanya emanating from the Saint's feet are absorbed by one and then returns to the earth through the hands of the one doing Namaskar. Thus the person does not benefit from it. c. Some cross their hands and place them on the feet of Saints, that is, their right hand on the right foot of the Saint and their left hand on the left foot of the Saint while doing Namaskar. This is a crude imitation of the manner in which Christians place their crossed hands on their chest. Instead, our right hand should be placed on the left foot of the Saint and our left hand on the right foot of the Saint. This is convenient also. However, if a Guru has started some procedure in a particular sect, then the hands are to be placed in that manner only. d. The hands are to be positioned in such a way that the palms are placed on the feet.



Namaskar to the wooden footwear (Paduka) of Saints. The left Paduka symbolizes Lord Shiva and the right symbolizes Divine Energy. The left Paduka is the un-manifest savior energy and the right is the un-manifest destroyer energy of the Supreme God. The savior or destroyer energy of the Supreme God emanates from the 'pegs' of the Paduka as per the need. When we do Namaskar by placing our head on the 'pegs' of the Paduka, some may experience distress due to the inability to tolerate the manifest energy emitting from it. Hence, while doing Namaskar to the Paduka, instead of the pegs, place the head on the foremost part i.e. the place where the Saints place their toes.

Touch the step with the fingers of the right hand and move the same hand over the head. The area around the temple is charged with 20 frequencies of Deities which leads to an increase in the Sattva component. The presence of Divine consciousness in the area charges even the stairs in a temple. Climbing steps is one of the activities, which increases the raja component in the body. Hence, the raja component is already activated in the body of an embodied soul so by touching the steps with the fingers of the right hand, the Sattva component and peace from the charged premise, get transmitted to the body through the right hand. In addition, from this action, the activated raja component in the body can be controlled through the medium of the Surya Nadi (Sun channel). This means that, for a moment, the activities of the Sun channel can be stopped. From this process, the embodied soul learns to enhance the Sattva component through raja dominant actions. Therefore, it is very essential to perform the appropriate Sattvik actions at each corresponding level, hence the method of touching the steps with fingers of the right hand and then moving the fingers or palm over the head. Even the dust present on the steps is charged with Chaitanya and so we must respect it and derive spiritual benefit from it. If the embodied soul harbors the spiritual emotion that 'the Chaitanya from the steps be transmitted all over my body from the dust on my hand, then it will give increasing benefit to the embodied soul. In addition if the ego of the embodied soul is less at that time then it gives even more benefit. When any action is performed devoid of ego or 'I'ness it is treated as a 'non-action' (akarma-karma).

*** The opinions expressed in this article are solely the opinions of the author and doesn't represent the opinions of HCCC or its management.*



PICTURE GALLERY



HCCC Volunteers Dhanvamthari Homam Alternative Medicine Speakers



Children Program



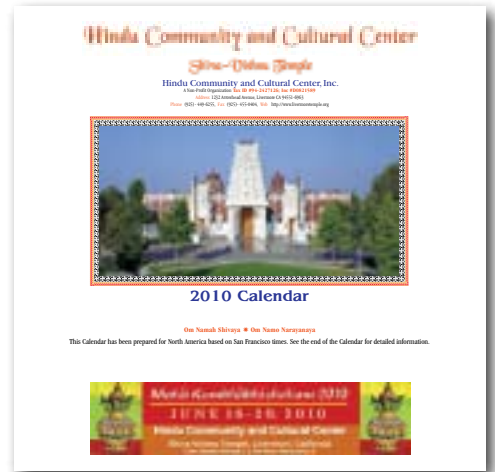
Children Program - Puppet Show

FROM EDITOR'S DESK

Dear devotees,

Due to some unavoidable circumstances, the 1st issue of 2010 Newsletter is delayed. We regret the inconvenience caused to you due to this delay. I, on behalf of management team of HCCC, would like to wish all of you and your family a very happy, prosperous, and safe 2010. Your favorite 2010 Calendar is available now with the temple office. On your next visit to temple, please pick up your copy. We have started keeping the temple newsletter in some of the Indian grocery stores in Fremont area for your convenience.

Janakiram Kaki
Publicity Chair – HCCC



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