



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

HCCC CHAIRPERSON'S COLUMN

Dear Devotees:

In my earlier Chairman's column, we discussed the lawsuit filed by HCCC's religious cook, Mr. Gopal Krishna Machar. As a result, HCCC went through a wrenching experience. Consequently HCCC Board of Directors took the unprecedented step of appointing a three-member Pachaka Legal Liaison Committee (PLLC) to handle the litigation portion on behalf of HCCC, so that other members of the BoD and EC can focus on important HCCC business. PLLC spent many man-hours gathering information requested by lawyers from both sides of the lawsuit. As of July 26, 2006, Gopal Krishna Machar had dropped his case against HCCC, had resigned from his position with HCCC and on July 28th, left the US for India on a permanent basis.

On behalf of HCCC I want to thank Sri. Goud Memula, Vishu Visweswaran and Amrit Duneja for their dedicated service in representing the organization and our beloved temple. I am happy to announce that we consider the matter closed. Sarve jana sukhino bhavantu.

Now, turning to devotee amenities and infrastructure development: Based on the recommendations from the Master Planning Committee (MPC), HCCC has chosen an architectural firm ARCHEVON to develop a master plan to meet the future needs of the devotee community. The key architect, Mr. Karthik Patel and his team are expected to start their work soon on this project.

In July of this year, HCCC, for the first time, had conducted a summer "Youth Camp". Many children participated in the camp held on July 22-23, 2006. It was so well received that our Youth and Education Chair, Dr. Kamala Shankar would like to make the Youth Camp an annual event. We hope that many more children can participate in the coming years.

HCCC Cultural Committee Chair, Mrs. Kala Iyer has plans to arrange several mini cultural programs to raise funds for the temple. First in this series was a North Indian classical music concert by Smt. Shahasrabudhe, which was well attended by music lovers; more such programs to follow suit with class 1 artists performing. Monies collected from these programs will be used to supplement the construction related project costs. My request to all the devotees is to attend these programs and contribute money generously - so that we will be able to put future HCCC expansion projects on a fast track.

Speaking about fund raising and donations to our temple, I have a request to each of you. If you are currently working for a corporation, please find out whether your employer has a matching contribution program for donations made by the employees to non-profit organizations. Donations made under such program will affectively increase the contribution. Many have donated under similar matching grants programs. Please use such facilities to donate to the HCCC.

Our priests did a fantastic job in performing the annual Pavitrotsavam function held August 4 through 6, 2006. Devotee attendance during these three days was overwhelming. In the same vein, we expect many of you to take part in the upcoming Ganesh Chaturdthi function going to be held in August.

Last, but not the least, our search for an additional Vaikhanasa priest is going well and currently we are interviewing prospective candidates.

Om Namah Shivaya and Om Namo Venkatesaya.

Jagannadham Akella, Chair Person, HCCC Livermore



PLANNED SPECIAL EVENTS

DATE/DAY	EVENTS	TIME	ACTIVITIES
Oct 1st Sun	Vishnu Brahmotsavam Day 3 Chandi Homam Vijaya Dasami	Detailed program was given in previous Issue 2:00 pm 7:00 pm	Chandi Homam in Temple Aparajita Puja and Asthana Utsavam Balaji Sahasranama Archana
Oct 2nd Mon	Sravana	6:30 pm	Balaji Bhoga Murthy Abhishekam
Oct 3rd Tues	Ekadasi	6:30 pm	Shiva Abhishekam
Oct 4th Wed	Pradosham	6:30 pm	Lalita Sahasranama Parayanam
Oct 6th Fri	Poornima	6:30 pm	Swarna Alamkaram for Shiva
Oct 7th Sat	1st Saturday of the Month	11:00 am 12 Noon	Vastra Samarpanam for Balaji Ganesha Abhishekam
Oct 9th Mon	Samkathara Chathurthi Karva Chouth	6:30 pm 5:00 pm	Karva Chouth Puja by Ladies Performing by Smt. Prabha Duneja
Oct 10th Tues	Krittika	6:30 pm	Kartikeya Abhishekam and Archana
Oct 13th Fri	Rohini	6:30 pm	Sri Krishna Puja
Oct 14th Sat	Punarvasu	6:30 pm	Sri Rama Abhishekam
Oct 15th Sun	2nd Saturday of the Month	10:30 am	Muttangi Alamkaram for Shiva
Oct 17th Tues	3rd Sunday of the Month	10:30 am	Sahasra Kalasha Abhishekam for Balaji
Oct 18th Wed	Ekadasi	11:00 am	Bilwa Dala Archana for Shiva
Oct 19th Thurs	Pradosham	6:30 pm	Balaji Bhoga Murthy Abhishekam
Oct 20th Fri	Naraka Chathurdasi Masa Shivaratri Deepavali	6:30 pm 10:00 am 12 Noon 6:30 pm 7:30 pm	108 kalasha Abhishekam for Shiva Maha Lakshmi Abhishekam Theertha Prasadam Dhana Lakshmi Puja Theertha Prasadam
Oct 21st Sat	3rd Saturday of the Month	11:00 am 11:00 am	Tiruppavada Seva for Balaji Rajatha kavacha Alamkaram for Shiva
Oct 22nd Sun	Lakshmi Kubera Puja Kali Puja in A.Hall Skanda Sashti Begins		Lakshmi Kubera Puja (Details on page 2) (Details on page 2)
Oct 23rd Mon	Swathi	6:30 pm	Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Abhishekam
Oct 27th Fri	Karthika Somavara	6:30 pm	Shiva Abhishekam
Oct 28th Sat	Skanda Sashti		Kavadi Function
Oct 29th Sun	4th Saturday of the Month		Vishnu Pushpa yaga (Details on page 2)
Oct 30th Mon	Day Light saving time Ends Kala Bhairava Jayanthi Skanda Shasthi weekend Function	4:30 pm	Kala Bhairava Abhishekam (Details on page 2)
Nov 1st Wed	Sravana	6:30 pm	Balaji Sahasranama Archana
Nov 2nd Thurs	Karthika Somavara	6:30 pm	Shiva Abhishekam
Nov 4th Sat	Ekadasi	6:30 pm	Balaji Bhoga Murthy Abhishekam
Nov 5th Sun	Pradosham	6:30 pm	Shiva Abhishekam
Nov 6th Mon	Tulasi Vivaham	6:30 pm	Tulasi Vivaham in Temple
Nov 7th Tues	1st Saturday of the Month	11:00 am 12 Noon	Shiva Anna Abhishekam Vastra Samarpanam for Balaji
Nov 8th Wed	Karthika Poornima	10:30 am & 2:30 pm	Samoochika SatyaNarayana Puja in A. Hall*
Nov 9th Thurs	Poornima	6:30 pm	Lalita Sahasranama Parayanam
Nov 10th Fri	Rahu, Ketu, Jupiter and Saturn Transit		Navagraha Shanthi Homam at 4:00 pm
Nov 11th Sat	Krittika	6:30 pm	Kartikeya Abhishekam and Archana
Nov 12th Sun	Sarvalaya Deepam		
Nov 13th Mon	Karthika Somavara	6:30 pm	Shiva Abhishekam
Nov 14th Tues	Rohini	6:30 pm	Sri Krishna Puja
Nov 15th Wed	Samkathara Chathurthi	6:30 pm	Ganesha Abhishekam
Nov 16th Thurs	Punarvasu	6:30 pm	Sri Rama Abhishekam
Nov 17th Fri	2nd Saturday of the Month	10:30 am	Muttangi Alamkaram for Shiva
Nov 18th Sat	3rd Saturday of the Month	10:30 am	Sahasrakalasha Abhishekam for Balaji
Nov 19th Sun	Karthika Somavara	6:30 pm	Shiva Abhishekam
Nov 20th Mon	Ekadasi	6:30 pm	Balaji Bhoga Murthy Abhishekam
Nov 21st Tues	Ayyappa Mandala Puja begins	6:30 pm	Ayyappa Abhishekam and Arathi
Nov 22nd Wed	Pradosham	6:30 pm	Shiva Abhishekam
Nov 23rd Thurs	3rd Saturday of the Month	11:00 am	Tiruppavada Seva for Balaji
Nov 24th Fri	Masa Shivaratri	11:00 am 6:30 pm	Rajatha kavacha Alamkaram for Shiva 108 Kalasha Abhishekam for Shiva

Lakshmi Kubera Puja

DATE/DAY	TIME	EVENTS
Oct 21 Sat	5:00 pm 5:30 pm 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Samkalpam Lakshmi Kubera Puja Arati, Theertha Prasadam Prasadam
Kali Puja (A. Hall)		
Oct 21 Sat	9:15 am 10:05 am 12:00 Noon 12:30 pm 1:00 pm 6:00 pm 7:15 pm 8:00 pm	Maha Ashtami Puja Maha Sandhi Pushpanjali Anna Bhog & Arati Kumari Puja Chandi Path Pushpanjali & Arathi Dhunuchi Nritya
Skanda Sashti Celebrations Oct 22nd-27th		
Oct 22 Sun	11:30 am 7:00 pm	Karthikeya Abhishekam Laksha Archana Starts
Oct 23 Sun	5:30 pm	Karthikeya Abhishekam
Oct 26 Thur	7:00 pm	Laksha Archana
Oct 27 Fri	10:15 am 11:30 am 1:30 pm 7:00 pm	Kavadi Puja and Procession Skandi Sahti Karthikeya Abhishekam. Archana, Arathi, Theertam and Prasadam Laksha Archana
Oct 28 Sat	3:30 pm 7:00 pm	Karthikeya Kalyana Utsavam Laksha Archana
Oct 29 Sun	10:30 am 11:30 am 5:00 pm 7:00 pm 8:30 pm	Kavadi Puja and Procession with Peacock Vahanam Function Karthikeya Abhishekam & Pushpa Alamkaram Subrahmanya Homa & Poomahuti Laksha Archana Ekanta Seva
Sri Vishnu Pushpa Yagam		
Oct 28 Sat	7:00 am 8:00 am 11:00 am 12:00 Noon 1:00 pm 1:30 pm	Suprabatham Balaji Abhishekam Pushpa Yaga Starts Pushpa Yaga Homa Poomahuti Theertha Prasada Viniyogam
Gita Jayanthi (A. Hall)		
Dec 2nd Sat	10:00 am 11:00 am 2:00 pm 3:00 pm 3:15 pm 3:30 pm 4:30 pm	Gita Parayan Children Performances on Bhagavad Gita Bhajans Vedic Hymns By Temple Priests Talk on Bhagavad Gita by Smt.Prabha Duneja Bhajans Sri Krishna Puja, Arathi & Theertha Prasada
Hanuman Jayanthi		
Dec 19th Tue	10:00 am 6:30 pm 7:30 pm 8:30 pm	Sundara Kanda Homam Sri Anjaneya Swamy Abhishekam Sahasra nagavalli dala and sahasra kadaliphala Archana Ekanta Seva

PLANNED SPECIAL EVENTS

DATE/DAY	EVENTS	TIME	ACTIVITIES
Nov 19th Sun	3rd Sunday of the Month Swathi	11:00 am 6:30 pm	Bilwa Dala Archana for Shiva Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Abhishekam
Nov 20th Mon	Karthika Somavara	6:30 pm	Shiva Abhishekam
Nov 23rd Thur	Thanks Giving Day		Temple opens from 9:00 am to 8:00 pm
Nov 25th Sat	4th Saturday of the Month	12 Noon	Pushpa Seva for Balaji
Nov 26th Sun	Sashti Sravana	6:30 pm 6:30 pm	Karthikeya sahasranma Archana Balaji Sahasranama Archana
Nov 30th Thur	Last Sunday of the Month Ekadasi	4:30 pm 6:30 pm	Kala Bhairava Abhishekam Balaji Bhoga Murthy Abhishekam
Dec 2nd Sat	1st Saturday of the Month	11:00 am 12 Noon	Swarna Alamkaram for Shiva Vastra Samarpanam for Balaji
Dec 3rd Sun	Gita Jayanthi (weekend Prog.) Pradosham Poornima Krittikka	6:30 pm 6:30 pm 6:30 pm 6:30 pm	Details on page 2 Shiva Abhishekam Lalita Sahasranama Parayana Karthikeya Abhishekam and Archana
Dec 4th Mon	Rohini	7:00 pm	Karthika and Annamalai Deepam
Dec 7th Thur	Punarvasu Sankatahara Chathurthi	6:30 pm 6:30 pm	Sri Krishna Puja Sri Rama Abhishekam Ganesha Abhishekam
Dec 9th Sat	2nd Saturday of the Month	6:30 pm 10:30 am 10:30 am	Muttangi Alamkaram for Shiva Sahasrakalasha Abhishekam for Balaji
Dec 15th Fri	Ekadasi	6:30 pm	Balaji Bhoga Murthy Abhishekam
Dec 16th Sat	3rd Saturday of the Month	11:00 am 11:00 am 6:30 pm	Tiruppavada Seva for Balaji Rajatha kavacha Alamkaram for Shiva Sri Lakshmi Narasimha swamy Abhishekam
Dec 17th Sun	Swathi Dhanur Masa Puja begins 3rd Sunday of the Month Pradosham	6:30 pm 11:00 am 6:30 pm 6:30 pm	Andal Abhishekam everyday by 10:00 am Bilwa Dala Archana for Shiva Shiva Abhishekam
Dec 18th Mon	Masa Shivaratri	6:30 pm	108 kalasha Abhishekam for Shiva
Dec 19th Tue	Hanuman Jayanthi		Details on page 2
Dec 23rd Sat	4th Saturday of the Month Sravana	12 Noon 6:30 pm	Pushpa Seva for Balaji Balaji Sahasranama Archana
Dec 25th Mon	Christmas Day Ayyappa Mandala Puja ends Sashti	6:30 pm	Temple Opens from 9:00AM to 8:00PM Karthikeya Sahasranama Archana
Dec 30th Sat	Vaikunta Ekadasi	6:30 pm	Details on page 3
Dec 31st Sun	Last Sunday of the Month Pradosham Krittikka	3:00 pm 4:00 pm 4:00 pm	Kala Bhairava Abhishekam Shiva Abhishekam Karthikeya Abhishekam and Archana

Vaikunta Ekadasi		
DATE/DAY	TIME	EVENTS
Dec 30 Sat	7:00 am	Suprabhatam
	8:00 am	Balaji Abhishekam
	9:30 am	Arati, Theertha Prasadam
	10:00 am	Vaikunta Dwara Darshanam
New Year Schedule		
Jan 1 Mon	7.00 am	Shiva and Vishnu Suprabhatam.
	7.30 am	Shiva Abhishekamm
	7.30 am	Mahaganapati Homa
	8.00 am	Alamkaras to deities
	8.30 am	Sri Krishna Puja
	9.00 am	Sahasranama Archana
	9.30 am	Darshan
	10.00 am	Single Line Darshan starts
	8.30 pm	Ekanta Seva

UPCOMING YOUTH & EDUCATION EVENT

Youth Garba in Assembly Hall
 On Oct 28th 2006 - from 4:30 PM to 7:30 PM
 Registration: - Send email to Youthgarba2006@yahoo.com
 with Full name and Age of the participant.
 Parents, family and friends are welcome to participate.
 For youth and children under 18 we request Indemnity form to be completed by parents. For further information, please contact the coordinator Jyoti Gundu at anand_gundu@yahoo.com

GITA SAAR

Whatever happened, it happened for good.
 Whatever is happening, is happening for good.
 Whatever that will happen, it will be for good.
 What have you lost for which you cry?
 What did you bring with you, which you have lost?
 What did you produce, which has destroyed?
 You did not bring anything when you were born.
 Whatever you have, you have received from Him.
 Whatever you will give, you will give to Him.
 You came empty handed and you will go the same way.
 Whatever is yours today was somebody else's yesterday and will be somebody else's tomorrow.
 Change is the law of the universe

ANNUAL HEALTH FAIR

10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
 on November 11 Sat, 2006

This is a free health evaluation, education and advice. The HCCC Health Center and its Volunteering Physicians will be holding a Mega Health Fair. Physicians with different specialization's will be available to evaluate and advise on your health.

Aswayuja Poornima Chandi Homa
 Kanaka Durga Sanctum
 6.30 PM October 6th 2006

In the Kali Yuga, worshipping and the performance of the Chandi and the Ganesha Upasana, will immediately bestow on the devotees the fulfillment of their desires, as stated by the Aryokthi, the learned wise scholars. In the Sapthashati (Chandi) Markandeya Purana's twelfth chapter, the mahatyam (efficacy) of the Chandi Devata is revealed "In the Serathruthu (autumn), those who worship goddess, will acquire great wealth. Those who praise goddess glory will have all their sins purged and all their difficulties removed. They will no longer suffer from their enemies, thieves, evil kings, or natural disasters, such as wild fires, heavy winds, or high water. It will be of great help to the world peace and benefit the entire mankind."

Kartika Masa Shiva Puja

10/23, 10/30, 11/06, & 11/13	Monday	6.30 pm	Shiva Abhishekham
11-20-06	Monday	6.30 pm	Pradosham/ Mahanyasa Purvaka Shiva Abhishekham

Kartika Poornima
Samoochika Satyanarayana Pooja
 November 4th 2006, Assembly Hall
 Two batches - 10:30 am and 4:00 pm

Sudarsana Homa 3 PM December 3rd 2006

YOUTH CORNER

A visit to the temple -- a day in the life of a Hindu

By Priya Shankar

When the Hindu worshipper finally arrived at the temple, only after taking off his shoes and washing his hands and feet, did he finally walk in. When inside, he approached the sanctum of one of the many Hindu Gods and sat down near the shrine without 'trespassing' into the inner sanctum, and waited patiently for the ceremonial puja to occur that would invoke the Lord as though the divine spirit was actually within the icon. This day in the life of the Hindu represents the emphasis that many other Hindus place on the visiting of temples. While for some Hindus simply visiting God and praying is enough, others emphasize the ritual aspects of Hinduism, through which intermediaries such as priests perform rituals and ceremonial bathing of Gods in order to satisfy, appease, and please Gods, and to treat them like divine guests. I was able to experience one of these rituals, when I visited the Shiva-Vishnu temple and was able to attend a Shiva Abhishekam.

The Shiva Abhishekam, is performed to cure diseases and to bestow health, wealth, prosperity, peace of mind and purity of heart on the worshipper. Specifically, the pouring and flow of water on the Shiva Lingam symbolizes the internal flow of pure love and compassion from within. In relation to Shiva, abhishekam is conducted as both a cleansing ritual and an appeasement of the Lord. Shiva, the Lord of Kala (time), is "abhisheka Priya". It is performed everyday in the morning.

The abhishekam was conducted in a smaller inner sanctum (garba griha) within the larger temple. This sanctum has an inner shrine meant for only Gods and priests and the outer shrine meant for common people. To enter Shiva's sanctum, I walked up 5 steps and passed two dwara palakas or guards. I also observed the roof of the sanctum, known as the gopuram, which was adorned with inscriptions of devas. These architectural aspects gave a palace-like quality to the 'abode of Shiva.' Once inside the sanctum, I noticed a stone icon of Nandi, Shiva's vahana - vehicle, which was placed in the center. Around Nandi's neck was a rudraksha mala (necklace) made from fruits from Shiva's abode in Mt. Kailash. The outer shrine also consisted of a black stone of Ganesha on one side, a Karthikeya on the other, and a sculpture of Parvathi and Shiva known as the Utsava vighraha. The inner shrine, in contrast, was dedicated solely to Shiva and contained the Lingam (that symbolizes our atma/soul) adorned with flowers, vibudhi (ash), and trishul. In addition, a silver pot with a hole in it was hung on top of the linga to allow water or milk to fall throughout the abhisheka. All of these aspects of the shrine represented the emphasis on creating the deities celestial abode within the temple. By surrounding the Shiva, with his sons and wife, and keeping guards at the front of the sanctum, a real-life quality was created. In addition, rather than considering these objects are simply symbols, through the practice of Prana Pratishtha which evokes the spirit of God within the icons, Hindus tend to present the Gods as actually 'alive' and residing within the temple. In addition to water, milk, buttermilk, honey, vibudhi, fruit juices were poured on the lingam during the abhishekam while the sacred mantras were continuously being chanted.

During the abhishekam, the priest used two main types of chantings: the Sri Rudram and the Chamakam throughout the ceremony. Before beginning, the priest explained what Sri Rudram and chamakam were and their relevance in the abhishekam. The Rudram-Chamakam is a very important part of Vedic literature and Vedic religion; its heart lies in Krishna Yajurveda and in the center of Taittiriya Samhita. The priest first chanted slokas to bring Lord Shiva and his form into his focus (dhyana) and let Shiva enter his body and provide Shiva rupa for him during the Shiva puja. Wearing bhasma and rudrakshas are basic components of Shiva rupa. Then Sri Rudram is chanted in order to propitiate the Lord through the description of his 300 sacred names. Sri Rudram is in the middle of all four Vedas and in its middle it has the auspicious Panchakshara mantra "namah Shivaya". Two identifiable mantras in Sri Rudram are "Tryambakam Yajamahe," that prays to the three eyed Lord to give deliverance out of this life to attain salvation and "Namaste Astu Bhagavan" describe the 11 fundamental names of Shiva reciting names such as "Visveswaraya, Mahadevaya, Tryambakaya, tripurantakaya...Neelakantaya, Mritunjaya, ..." Essentially, Sri Rudram serves as a way to appease and please the many forms of Shiva and be protected by His grace. When Rudra or Lord of death, abhishekam is done to appease him; when he is "Mrtunjaya" or "immortality" abhishekam is done to ask for well-being. Because rudra is also considered "Aashutohin" or one who is easily pleased and Sri Rudram is considered the easiest way to please him and is performed in the Shiva Abhishekam daily.

Later on in the abhishekam, chamakam was recited. Chamakam is in the fourth chapter of the Yajurveda. It is essentially a list of 400 key items that Shiva Bakthas attain because of their prayer and chanting of Sri Rudram. The chanting of chamakam reflects Hindu views of fallibility in human desire and the idea that one needs guidance in deciding what is needed or to be desired. During the abhishekam, chamakam is recited in brief phrases ending in "chame" meaning "and to me be this granted," accompanied by a list of desirables. Essentially, the recitation of chamakam reflects understanding of human desire accompanied by limitations. However, while chamakam chanting reflects hindu understanding of human desire, it also recognizes that these wants are ethereal and are only a path to a greater end: the achievement of moksha and the devotion to god with utter love and without desires.

After Chamakam, "Satyo jatam prapadyami ..." is chanted. This sloka has five paragraphs - one for each face of Shiva. After this "Pursha Suktam" is chanted. This narrates how the universe is formed out of the Yagna performed by the virat Purusha. Even sanyasis wandering in forests are prescribed to chant Sri Rudram, Chamakam and Pursha Suktam every day to keep their spiritual advancements going day by day towards salvation. Then "Durga Suktam" and "Shanti mantras" are chanted. The Abhishekam is concluded with "Prokshana" - sprinkling of holy water that once flowed on the vighraha on the heads of devotees.

Devotees chant slokas or sing bhajans when the screen is put across and the deity was decorated. When it opened, Shiva archana is performed along with other upachara pujas. The puja is concluded by distribution of theertha and prasada.

SOME TEMPLE EVENTS IN PICTURES



A close up picture of Sri Krishna in his well decorated crib on Janmashtami day. All evening everyone worshiped without minding the long slow moving line of devotees to this crib.



Janmashtami was celebrated with usual pomp and joy on August 19th. Several hundreds of devotees visited the temple and participated in the event. The evening bhajans by children was the upshot of the event. An young lad, dressed in the form of Krishna, with flute in his hand, "suddenly" appeared in front of the crowd and thrilled everyone assembled.



A memorable natiya seva to Ganesha by Sindu Ravuri on Ganesh Chaturthi day evening puja.



Evening Thiruveedhi utsavam on Ganesh Chaturthi day.



On Ganesh Chaturthi day, August 27th, Utsava murthi next to the homa kunda where modhaka Homa was performed for Ganesha.



On August 26 th the Children celebrated Ganesh Chaturthi by sitting in rows with their parents and doing puja in the Assembly hall, as step by step instructions were given by the Priest Pdt. Nageshwar from the dias.



Y&E Chair Kamala Shankar with shilpi and some Youths who spent time making Ganesha vigrahas, in the temple back yard. Children painted this vigraha and performed puja during Children's Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations.



Sri Krishna Bhajan by devotees on Janmashtami



Decorated Ganesha during puja on Ganesh Chaturthi day. This vigraha was taken in a boat and immersed in San Francisco Bay during Ganesh Visarjanam on September 2nd.



Happy Children with "Ganesha Claus" in the library on August 26th after receiving a goody bag from Ganesha Claus.

HCCC: ITS PHILOSOPHICAL FOUNDATIONS

(A perception) by T. N. Narasimhan

Anyone who visits the Livermore Temple on one of its many festive occasions such as Janmashtami, Durga Puja, Rama Navami, Basava Jayanti, Ganesha Chaturthi, and so on will be impressed by the thousands of Hindus of every denomination that have adopted this institution as their own. This is remarkable. The Temple is neither dedicated to a particular deity or nor is led by a particular spiritual leader. Some thirty years ago a small group of citizens, belonging to diverse Hindu traditions from within and outside of India, came together to set up an institution enabling all Hindus to practice their religion in an authentic, traditional atmosphere. That Hindus from around the world have been imbued with the feeling that this Temple is their own speaks well of the framework established to govern the organization. This framework is embodied in the Constitution and the Bylaws of HCCC.

The Constitution and the Bylaws of HCCC are based on the visions of those who conceived of the institution. For comparison, in the case of the United States and India, such visions are embodied in the Preambles of their respective Constitutions. The aspirations of the peoples of the United States and India include justice, equality, fraternity, and blessings of liberty. Intrinsically, the Preamble is a broadly-worded statement of philosophy and intent, while the articles of the Constitution address specific objectives. The Constitution of HCCC does not explicitly include a Preamble. Instead, philosophy and intent are enumerated in "Section 2: Purpose" of the Constitution. If one wishes to have a Preamble to the Constitution of HCCC so as to be cognizant of its philosophical foundations, what might be the form of such a Preamble? Here is a perception.

"We, the Hindus of the San Francisco Bay Area, solemnly constitute ourselves into a voluntary, self-governing institution to

- worship according to Hindu scriptural traditions,
- preserve Hindu religion and culture for ourselves and our Posterity
- promote spiritual welfare among all Hindus, and
- be at peace and harmony with the society at large and other religions,
- and, to achieve this vision, we give ourselves this Constitution and these bylaws".

Why do we need a Preamble, and why should we be mindful of its existence?

According to India's Constitution, the Preamble is the source from which the Constitution derives its authority, and the source that inspires the Constitution to define its objects. Therefore, how we abide by our Constitution now, and how we may contribute to its evolution with time are to be guided by the philosophy inherent in the Preamble.

As we participate in the HCCC now, and work towards perpetuating its existence for future generations of Hindus, we have to make innumerable decisions along the way. We will often be confronted with conflicting ends such as tradition versus change, ritual versus the spiritual, one individuals' tradition versus another's, rights to freedom versus responsibility to others, personal convictions versus larger consensus, and so on. Strength of mind and commitment to purpose that propel us to achieve do also influence our ability to decide. If so, how do we approach making difficult decisions? The answer is that we have to do what is best for the institution. In turn, what is best for the institution shall be guided by its values and visions. Our success or failure at every stage depends upon our ability to be thoughtful, gracious, fair, and even-handed in balancing conflicting desires and making wise judgments. The challenges of decision-making can at times be formidable. At these times, our commitment the Preamble to our Constitution shall be our most reliable guide.

ANNUAL CHILDREN'S DAY 10:30am to 5pm on Nov. 18th 2006

PROGRAM

Prayer, Slokas and Bhajans: 10:30 AM - 12:30PM

Activity center : 12 noon - 2 PM

Dances / Ballet / Skits: 2- 5pm

Theme for this years event is Guru-Sishya; but all activities should

be based on Hindu Heritage. Group participation is accepted.

Registration-deadline - 11-12-06 (subject to change)

Registration - childrensday06@yahoo.com

For further questions contact Kamala: kshankar27@yahoo.com

or Padmaja at 925-960-0175.

YOUTH CAMP

Another milestone for Youth and education-Summer Youth Camp-on July 22nd 23 rd 2006

For the first time in the history of HCCC -we had 70 kids ranging from 5-16 years participate in the Summer Youth Camp - a two day event at the HCCC Assembly hall. This was a co-sponsored event with Y&E group and Balagokulum group-working as a team .

These were scotching hot days but kids had great fun learning about Hindu heritage, hearing stories about great Hindu women, stories on moral value, repeating bhajans, Hearing from priests about our religion and Samskritam.

They had field trip including Visit to inside the temple, learning about different Gods and Mini -Art exhibition featuring Hindu contributions to the world. They were really involved in the Yoga, Niyudha and games sessions. The youth volunteers had worked very hard, they were enthusiastic, energetic and made this program a great success. Program like this would not be possible without support and help of many adult volunteers and the functional committee members. It was a fun and learning experience for everyone. The enthusiastic statement by the little kids that they want to come back the next day at 7 AM said it all and meant a lot for us.



Children learning slokas from Temple Priest.



Children learning Surya Namaskaram



Children learning exercises



Children sitting in a circle and learning

PLEASE NOTE

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If you would like to contribute an article to this news letter, please contact Publicity Chair at SridarKP@Gmail.com
- Sridar K Poothari, Publicity Chair.

STORY OF A SERVANT

Narendra Singh Bahadur, the Raja of Indrapur, had a servant named Hira Singh. Hira Singh resolved to break open the treasury of the Raja and steal away the ornaments and gold. Accordingly one day at the dead of night, he entered the bed-room of Narendra Singh on his way to the treasury, when he overheard a conversation between the Raja Sahib and the Rani. Lalitakumari, the Rani, asked the king: "When are you going to get our daughter Surat Kumari married? She is quite a grown-up girl now. We cannot postpone the marriage any longer." The king replied: "I am trying my level best during the last two years, but I am not able to get a suitable match." The Rani would not accept such an answer, but again and again pressed the Raja to yield to her wish. At last the Raja said: "Lalita, I shall offer Surat in marriage to the first Yogi I would come across in the neighbouring forest along with half of my estate tomorrow morning."

Hira Singh who was all the while keenly over-hearing this conversation thought within himself: "Why this hazardous attempt then? If I am caught, I will be severely punished. Let me go to the forest and sit like a Yogi. I will get the girl and half the estate also quite easily." Immediately he dressed himself as a Yogi, repaired to the forest and sat in Samadhi on Padmasana with closed eyes. He did not shake the body even a bit. The Raja went to the forest the next morning and at last came to the place where this Yogi was sitting. He waited for a long time. The Yogi did not open his eyes. He gave one the impression that he was immersed in Samadhi. After full one hour he opened his eyes. The Raja fell prostrate at his feet and sincerely begged him to visit palace. The Yogi finally condescended to do so.

The Raja took the Yogi to the Durbar hall, seated him on the gaddi, and washed his feet. The Raja was fanning him. Then the Raja with folded hands addressed the Yogi thus: "O mighty Yogi blessed Soul, we have a beautiful girl. Kindly accept her in marriage together with half of my estate." Now real discrimination dawned upon the Yogi. Hira Singh who was wearing the false garb of a saint began to think very seriously and feelingly: "I am now honoured by this Raja and Rani simply because I am wearing the garb of a Yogi. If I were a Yogi and saint with divine virtues and God-Consciousness, how much more should I be held in esteem and honour by not merely this one petty chief but by countless kings, emperors and queens, and how many such princesses and kingdoms should I acquire?" At once he left the gaddi and the palace with a changed heart. God's grace descended upon him now. His heart was burning with intense Vairagya born of discrimination. Tears of joy flooded his eyes. Hair on the body stood on ends. No sensual object of the world could tempt him now. He went back to the dense forests with a heart filled with righteous disgust for the world, did intense and constant meditation and attained Self-Realization.



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