

PUSHPANJALI



**Newsletter
Vol 18 - #2 April 2009**

The Hindu Temple of St. Louis
725 Weidman Road
Ballwin MO 63011

WWW.HINDUTEMPLESTLOUIS.ORG

Phone : (636)230-3300

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Vice Chairman	Jiwan Singla
Secretary	Vijayakumar Buddhiraju

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Asset Management	Vijayakumar Buddhiraju (Chair)
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Humanitarian	G.V. Naidu (Chair)
Public Relations	G.V. Naidu (Chair)
By-laws	Sharad Parikh (Chair)
Operations	Ramarao Kaza (Chair)
Food	Sendil K. Rathinasabapathy (Chair)
Pooja	Venkat Darmavarapu (Chair)
Publications	Malathi Reddy (Chair)
Library	Puran Luthra (Chair)
Cultural	Balachandra Anantrama (Chair)

Temple Staff

Manager: Satish Babu

Priests: Shri Deevi Srinivas , Shri Rameshwar Dass, Shri Vedantam
Sarma, Shri A. Ramakrishna Rao, Shri C. Janardhana Charyulu

Resident Shilpi : Arumugam Chinniahkonar

Part-time Help: Premalatha Ganeshraj (Accounts).

Greetings!

I welcome you as the President of the Executive Committee (EC) for the year 2009. First, I want to welcome the other two elected members to the EC, who are: Dr. Rama Rao Kaza, and Mrs Malathi Reddy. Both of these members have had a wide range of experience in serving the temple community as EC members, and as volunteers. All three of us, along with the rest of the EC, pledge to serve the temple to make it a serene, and sacred place for worship. We will strive to make it a welcome site for authentic religious experience, and also provide a peaceful recluse from our daily stressful jobs and lives. This year, our goal is to make you our # 1 priority. Thus our efforts will be to enhance your religious services and cultural/educational experiences.

As you know from the last Pushapanjali, and from the announcements made at various religious festivals and at the General Body Meeting, this year the temple will undertake two major tasks: 1. Kumbhabhishekam (reconsecration of the Deities and the temple) with Dhawaja Stambham installation. 2. Raising funds to start paying off the loan taken to buy the land south of the temple. Both of these tasks will require structured organization and sustained efforts from the assigned Committees and all of the Devotees. We will need your support in these efforts.

Presently, there is a misconception that the temple is not in need of funds, as our operational expenses were exceeded in the past few years, by the revenue from religious services provided in and out of the temple. If that was not the case, the temple would not have been able to bid and buy the lot south to the temple to avoid the parking problem at major festivals., which was our # 1 problem in the last few years. Therefore, it is absolutely important to renew our support in every possible way. The temple management fully recognizes that in these hard economic times, financial donations might be difficult to make. But be assured that both small and large donations will be put to use the best possible way for the betterment of the temple.

I urge all of the 'annual sponsors' to renew for this year and other devotees to become new 'annual members'. A list of festivals included in the 'annual sponsorship' can be obtained in the temple. We are also in desperate need of volunteers for the various Committees, and hope that you will come forward in joining the various temple projects.

As more information is available on Armugam's visa and on the sponsorship of 'shilpis' for the Kumbhabhishekam work, we will publish it in the next Pushpanjali issue, and also post it on the website.

In closing I want to ask for your full help in the running of the Temple this year and beyond.

Rao Ayyagari, President of the Executive Committee

AYYAPPA MANDALA POOJA

December 25th Thursday Ayyappa mandala pooja was held in our temple. Ayyappa devotees carried their irumudis and worshipped Lord Ayyappa with abhishekams and Bhajans. The pooja was conducted all day.

GANESHA POOJA

Temple always conducts Ganesha pooja on the first day of every year. The beginning of 2009, on Thursday, January 1st at 11 am Ganesha pooja was conducted by our priests. Devotees in record numbers attended the pooja and obtained the blessings of Lord Ganesha.



(Sri Rameshwar dass and Sri Sarma initiating Ganesha Pooja)

VAIKUNTA EKADASI

January 7th Wednesday Vaikunta Ekadasi was celebrated. Vaikunta dwaram was opened to mark this special occasion. Many devotees went through the special dwaram to get the blessings of Lord Vishnu



(Vaikunta Ekadasi puja by Sri Rameshwar dass and Sri Srinivas)

MAKARA SANKRANTHI

Makara Sankranti was celebrated in our temple January 14th Wednesday 7.00 PM. Special puja was conducted.

THAI POOSAM

Lord Murugan devotees attended Thaipooam festival on Sunday the 8th February 11.00 am. Abhishekam and special alankarana was done for Lord Murugan.



(The devotees at Lord Murugan Shrine celebrating Thaipooam)

MAHA SHIVARATHRI

Mahashivarathri was celebrated on Sunday February 22nd. It started with Laghunyasa Rudrabhishekam and Navagraha Abhishekam in the morning. In the evening, there was Mahanyasa Rudrabhishekam followed by Bhajans & Prasadam and Jagran. Again the early morning pooja was done at 4am with Mallikarjuna Suprabhatam. The temple was open for the whole night.



(Sri Srinivas and Sri Ramakrishna conducting Shivarathri pooja)

Operations Committee Report

Temple will be open all day during the following festivals.

03/27/09 Chandramana Ugadi
04/03/09 Sri Ramanavami
05/25/09 Memorial Day
07/06/09 Temple Anniversary
08/13/09 Temple Open till midnight Krishna Janmashtami
09/07/09 Labor Day
09/28/09 Vijaya Dasami
11/26/09 Thanks Giving Day
12/25/09 Christmas Day
01/01/2010 New Year's Day

Guidelines for Temple Operations

No Private poojas in the Temple before 6 AM. Basement facilities will be closed by 11PM except Temple sponsored events. Kitchen only rental not allowed for outside the Temple functions. No overnight private Poojas or Bhajans are allowed in the Temple. No memorial services in the Temple within 15 days of death. Main hall in priest quarters is available for youth classes, other religious activities with nominal charges. For basement facilities contact manager or visit Temple Website www.hindutemplestlouis.org

Pooja Committee Report

March 27th is Chandramana Ugadi and Temple will be open all day. During Abhishekam times all the sponsors will get a fruit as prasadam given by Priest.

Fund Raising Committee Report

We are pleased to inform you that Temple recently purchased 4.354 acres of land adjacent to the Temple & Mahatma Gandhi Center (south side)for \$1,200,000.As you know this has been a long cherished desire of the community to add additional space and it took almost two decades to reach our goal.

During every major function at Temple & Mahatma Gandhi Center we faced parking & other space problems. As the community is growing the situation is becoming more challenging with each year. Due to simple lack of space many potentially desirable activities like classes for our Youth, Yoga, Mediation & Music Lessons are being forsaken. In addition to ritualistic activities at the Temple, we have an obligation to concentrate on imparting knowledge of our religion, culture to our younger generations.

We have taken \$800,000 loan from the bank to purchase this land.We had raised \$50,000 + towards land purchase as donations & \$ 85,000 interest free loans from devotees. We enthusiastically acknowledge and thank our donors for all your generosity in supporting our Temple. Please feel free to send any suggestion for Fund Raising activity. If you like to join in our Fund Raising committee contact Temple Manager. We now seek your gracious and overwhelming financial and/or 'in kind' donations towards the land purchase loan.

Please donate liberally for the land **NOW**. Temple needs your support now to move forward!! To realize the temple and community dream for us and for our children, we need your support.

Building & Construction Committee Report

To meet the latest MSD requirements shrines drainage system has been connected to the sanitary sewer system. Walk-in cooler odour problem has been fixed.

Food Committee Report

Temple kitchen provided prasadam for devotees who attended poojas during New year, Ayyappa Mandala pooja, Vaikunta Ekadasi, Thaiposam and Shivarathri. Many thanks to the devotees who sponsored the prasadam. The sponsorship for prasadam is \$150 for each occasion; Devotees who wish to sponsor prasadam can select the festival of their preference and contact the manager. Temple kitchen will prepare and serve prasadam during the major festivals. Temple kitchen is providing food for visiting devotees on the weekends. Thanks to all the food committee volunteers helping to prepare this delicious food and raising money for the temple.

Asset Management Committee Report

Some of the temple assets are invested in very sound American family funds. Due to current turbulence, although the asset value is reduced, we need not worry regarding the safety and soundness of investment. We believe that as the markets recover, the investment will pay for itself. The South side land has been acquired from the Bank. It is currently owned by the temple. Any and all the ideas regarding the utilization of this land are welcome. Just write a note and leave with Sri Sateesh Babu.

From youth group: How Youth Group has helped me in College?

We are taught that everything learned in high school is to prepare us for college. While some of these preparations are academic, some are also developed outside of school through social interaction. Being in the Youth Group has helped to sharpen my leadership and organizational skills. There is a lot of group work done in college, and as such, it is important to be able to give direction to a group, and keep them focused on the task at hand. The key to success in college is to manage your time successfully. You may not always have the time to do everything you planned on doing. Thus, it is important to prioritize based on

importance of the task. In the Youth Group, there were always numerous activities that we wanted to do. However, there simply was not enough time. We had to prioritize our activities in order to do as much as we could to the best of our abilities. It is not always important to do the most, but it is always important to do your best. This is the single most important thing that I learned from the Hindu Temple Youth Group. Enjoy this time of your life, it is the best.

Pramukh Nagabhushan

Health Fair

Saturday, May 2, 2009 from 9AM-2PM

Free and Open to Public

At Mahatma Gandhi Center

717 Weidman Road, St. Louis, MO 63011

(Across Queeny Park)

Sponsored by

Indian Medical Council of St. Louis

Hindu Temple of St. Louis

Mahatma Gandhi Center

**Mississippi Regional Blood Drive will collect blood.
Please come and donate.**

- Blood tests to screen for cholesterol, triglyceride levels, blood glucose (*Must be fasting for at least 6 hours prior to blood test).
- Screening for Anemia.
- PSA to screen for Prostate problems.
- General Health checkup for both men and women.
- Consultation, Screening and education for Diabetes. Heart Disease, Allergy, Pulmonology and Cancer.
- Healthy diet consultation.
- Consultation and screening for mental health.
- Ophthalmology Screening and consultation.
- Orthopedic consultation and Osteoporosis screening (Bone Densitometry).
- Dental screening and education.
- Komen for the Cure will register for free mammogram
- Hindu Temple Tours for those interested

For further information, please contact:

**Dr. Ghosh, 314-997-7809; Dr. Naidu 314-576-7114;
Dr. Manepalli 314-569-2317 and Dr. Pai 314-439-8020**

UPCOMING FESTIVALS AND POOJAS

Sri Rama Navami	April 3 rd Friday 7.00 PM (TEMPLE OPEN ALL DAY)
Pradosham	April 6 th Monday 6.45 PM
Satyanarayana Pooja	April 8 th Wednesday 7.00 PM
Sowramana Ugadi	April 13 th Monday 7.00 PM
Acharya Jayanthi	April 29 th Wednesday 6.00 PM
Tyagaraja Aradhana	May 3 rd Sunday 11.30 AM
Prasosham	May 6 th Wednesday 6.45 PM
Satyanarayana Pooja	May 8 th Friday 7.00 PM
Memorial Day	May 25 th Monday (TEMPLE OPEN ALL DAY)
Pradosham	June 4 th Thursday 6.45 PM
Vaikasi Vishakam	June 5 th Friday 7.00 PM
Satyanarayana Pooja	June 6 th Saturday 7.00 PM
Hanuman Jayanthi	June 7 th Wednesday 7.00 PM
Sani Trayodasi	June 20 th Saturday 11.00 AM
Pushpa Yagotsavam	July 4 th Saturday 9.00 AM
Sani Trayodasi	July 4 th Saturday 11.00 AM
Pradosham	July 4 th Saturday 6.45 PM
Satyanarayana Pooja	July 6 th Monday 5.30 PM
TEMPLE ANNIVERSARY DAY	July 6 th Monday 7.00 PM
Srinivasa Kalyanam	(TEMPLE OPEN ALL DAY)

Request to Devotees

Undelivered Mail/Change of Address

Each undelivered Pushpanjali (news letter) costs us \$1 (printing, postage and returned postage). Every month we receive about 10 to 20 newsletters undelivered. Please help us giving forwarding address to Hindu Temple.

Did you visit www.hindutemplestlouis.org?

- View Pushpanjali online
- Access to the events and calendar
- Access to the pooja schedule and rates
- Download necessary forms

Volunteers needed for all committees. Interested devotees please sign up in the manager's desk (or) contact the respective chairpersons.

Temple Hours

Monday-Friday	9AM – 12:00 noon, 5PM - 8PM
Week-ends & major Festivals	9AM – 8 PM
Daily Services	9:00AM – Nitya Puja

Other scheduled Services:

Sunday, Monday	Rudra Abhishekam
Tuesday	Parvathi Abhishekam
	Durga Puja
	Hanumaan Puja
	Ramayan Paath
Wednesday	Dattatreya Abhishekam
Thursday	Shri Saibaba Abhishekam & Sai bhajans
Friday	Shri Mahalakshmi Abhishekam
Saturday:	Shri Venkateswara Subrabhatham
	Balaji Abhishekam
	Vishnu Sahasranamam

First Saturday of Every Month

Poolangi seva of Shri Venkateswara

Fourth Sunday of Every Month

Navagraha Abhishekam

Every Chaturthi

Ganesha Abhishekam

Shukla Trayodasi Pradosham

Rudra Abhishekam

Every Krittika Nakshatram

Murgan Abhishekam

Punarvasu Nakshatram

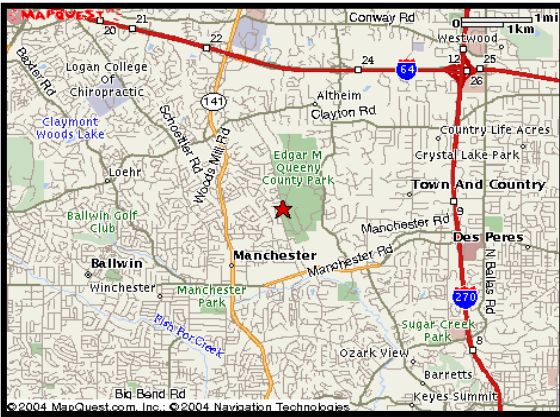
Shri Rama Abhishekam

Every Rohini Nakshatram

Shri Krishna Abhishekam

Shukla Dasami

Shri Sai Vratam



From I-64
Take 270 south,
Manchester Rd
west, right on
Weidman Rd,
From I-44
Take 270 North,
Manchester Rd
west, right on
Weidman Rd,

The Hindu Temple of St. Louis

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