



श्री लक्ष्मी नारायण मंदिर

Shree Lakshminarayan Temple

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO. 1/2008

Dear Members and Devotees,

May the grace of Bhagwan Shree Lakshminarayan be always on and with us.

At the last Annual General Meeting held on 10 August a new Management Committee (MC) was elected for the term 2008-2009. There has been a complete transformation of the MC, except for the President who was a member of the former MC. The new MC comprises individuals who are very dedicated, motivated and intend to implement many fresh measures that will bring the temple and its activities notches upwards and forward, catering to the various needs of its members and devotees, of all ages from the young to the old.

Various subcommittees have been set up to cater to the specific needs of the temple, and all members and devotees are cordially invited to volunteer their services in these subcommittees to infuse new and fresh ideas and to provide support in the management of the Temple and all its activities. The success of the temple depends entirely on the involvement, motivation and contributions from its members. Volunteerism is one important way to earn *karma* and receive *mewa* in the service of GOD.

Activities that disseminate and enhance the values and virtues of our religion to our young children would be specially pursued. Further and fuller details of the future plans would be disclosed in our future newsletters, which is a major innovative and fundamental conduit to reach out to all our members on a regular basis to keep them abreast of developments in the activities and programmes of the Temple and its devotees.

A top priority for the new MC is to recruit new members to the Temple. We have launched a membership drive and encourage all devotees who are not members, to become members and contribute to the service of GOD. Existing members who have not renewed their membership are strongly encouraged to renew theirs.

Membership and donations are the two main source of income that finances the various activities of the Temple.

No ambition can be successful without the enthusiastic support and contributions from all members. We therefore seek your active involvement and participation in all our activities and in every aspect of our Temple's management.

This is YOUR Temple and let us serve the Temple and community together, shoulder to shoulder, in the name of GOD.

Management Committee

PRESIDENT

Kirpa Ram Sharma

VICE PRESIDENT

Ranvir Kumar Singh

SECRETARY

Satyaprakash Tiwari

ASST SECRETARY

Sunil Kumar

TREASURER

A/P Balram Chowbay

ASST TREASURER

Popatbhai Patel

COMMITTEE

MEMBERS

Ram Dulare Shahi

Mahendra Prasad Rai

Jagadish Gupta

Ramesh Kumar Tiwari

Ajay Kumar Dubey

Ajay Kumar Gupta

Our Regular Activities

SUNDAYS

11 am to 12 noon Bhajans
 12.00 pm to 12.30 pm Prabachan
 12.30 pm to 12.35 pm Aketaggan
 12.35 pm Aarti
 Followed by Prasad & Preet Bhoj.

TUESDAYS

2.30pm to 5.00pm Mahila Satsang Bhajans/ Prabachan
 7 pm to 9 pm Bhagavad Gita Gyan

More religious programs will be listed in the forthcoming issue.

Our Upcoming Events

Sunday 31st August 2008

PREETHI BHOJ

from 12.30 pm to 1.30 pm

This is a THANK YOU and OUTREACH event, and all are invited to join and enjoy a sumptuous lunch, and to provide feedback and volunteer their services on that day for all the Temple's activities

Sunday, 7th September 2008

AMRIT VAANI

10am to 12.30 pm

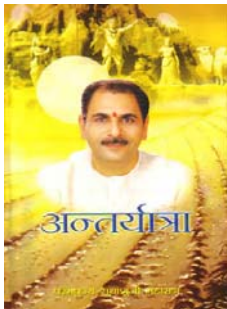
at the Shree Lakshminarayan Temple

by Param Pujya Shri Sudhanshuji Maharaj

CALENDAR OF HINDU FESTIVALS (SEPTEMBER 2008)

Ganesh/ Vinayak Chaturthi	Wednesday	03-09-2008
Radha Astami	Friday	07-09-2008
Vishwakarma Puja	Tuesday	16-09-2008
Navaratri begins	Tuesday	30-09-2008

"This is a THANK
 YOU and OUTREACH
 event"



FREE LEGAL CLINIC/SERVICES

As an added service, the Temple has made arrangements for some basic legal services to be provided **FREE** to its current members (who are not in arrears of their subscriptions) and children of such members who are below 21 years old. Membership has its benefits. For all members who wish to do a deed poll or a simple will (of one page length), they will not be charged any fees if they register with the Secretary in advance to ensure that they qualify for the free services.

The MC thanks Ram Prakash Tiwary, Ranvir Kumar Singh, Mahendra Prasad Rai, Vijay Kumar Rai and Ramesh Chandra Tiwary for their seva in this regard to the Temple and its members.

More devotees who can volunteer such services are invited to contact the Secretary.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

The Management Committee, on behalf of all members and devotees, takes this opportunity to congratulate **Mr Sivakant Tiwari** for being awarded The Meritorious Service Medal by the Government of Singapore on the occasion of its National Day 2008 and **Ms Sangeeta Devi d/o Surinder Rai** for being conferred a First Class Honours LL.B degree by the National University of Singapore in 2008.

We thank them for putting the community into the limelight and becoming a beacon for others to follow, and wish them the best in all their future endeavours.

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A GITA VERSE FOR REMEMBRANCE:

'THE HIGHEST SERVICE TO GOD, AND THE BEST CHARITY'

The one who shall propagate this supreme secret philosophy (or the transcendental knowledge of the Gita) amongst My devotees, shall be performing the highest devotional service to Me, and shall certainly come to Me. No other person shall do a more pleasing service to Me, and no one on the earth shall be more dear to Me. (18.68-69)



SHREE KRISHNA JANMASHTAMI

On 23rd August 2008 the Temple celebrated **SHREE KRISHNA JANMASHTAMI**.

Sri Krishna Janmastami marks the celebration of the birth of Sri Krishna. This festival is also known as Krishna Jayanti or Janmashtami. Five thousand years ago, Krishna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, descended from the spiritual world and appeared in Vrindavan, India. Naturally an occasion of great joy for His devotees, this is what we might naturally call His "birthday" except that Krishna does not take birth like an ordinary human being. His so-called birth is a transcendental pastime He performs through His mystic potency. In the Bhavishya



Puran it is said "My Lord Krishna, please let us know the date when Your mother, Devaki-devi, gave birth to You. If You kindly inform us about this, we shall observe a great celebration on this date. We are one hundred percent surrendered unto Your lotus feet, and we wish only to please You with our ceremonies." Vaishnavas or devotees, therefore, hold great celebrations on the appearance day of lord Krishna, especially in Vrindavan, India, where the lord appeared on earth.

Janmashtami is celebrated every year on the eighth day in the month of Shravan (August-September). According to Hindu scriptures, Lord Krishna was born in the "Rohini" star. Janmashtami is celebrated for two days: the first day is called Krishnashtami or Gokulashtami and the second day is called Kalastami or Janmashtami. It is only at midnight between the first and the second day that birth of Lord Krishna took place. The actual festivities begin during midnight in this 48-hour period. The celebration reaches its peak at midnight, with the birth of Lord Krishna, with lots of hymns, aarti taking place, blowing of the conch (shankh) and rocking of the cradle of the Lord. The idol of Lord is bathed with Panchamrit (a mixture of milk, ghee, oil, honey and Gangajal) and then decorated with yellow clothes and glittering gems. The Panchamrit is later distributed as Prasad to the devotees along with other sweets. While some fast on the first day and break it at midnight, others continue for both days.

In ancient Northern India a very flourished town called Mathura was ruled by a great Yaduvanshi King called Ugrasen. He had a son named Kansa and a daughter named Devki. Kansa was a cruel tyrant and he forcefully became the king of Mathura by confining his father to jail.

Devki was married off to Vasudev, one of the high ranking officer in his army. On their marriage a heavenly prediction echoed that the eighth child of Devki would be the slayer of Kansa. Feared by the prediction, Kansa imprisoned Devki and Vasudev and ordered them to handover all their children to him. Kansa killed the first six of their newborns but could not kill the seventh child due to divine intervention as the seventh child was born to Vasudev's second wife, Rohini. Thus Balram, the elder brother of Krishna was born.

However, when the eighth child was born, a miracle occurred. The prison gates flew open, the guards fell asleep and a voice from the heavens commanded Vasudev to take his child to Gokul where his friend Nand and his wife Yashodha lived and exchange his son for their daughter. Thus, Kansa's plan to kill Krishna was foiled and the eighth child grew up as Yashodha and Nand's son in Gokul and later killed his maternal uncle Kansa, thereby liberating all the people of Mathura from his atrocities.

Janmashtami or Krishnashtami is one of the most popular Hindu festivals celebrated with great enthusiasm as it is the birthday of Lord Krishna, the re-incarnation of Lord Vishnu who gave us the vital message of the Bhagwat Gita - the guiding principles for every Hindu.

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