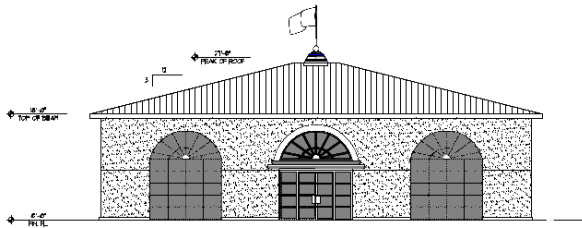




Celebrating Unity in Diversity

Building Update



EAST

June 2006, we submitted an application to the County for a Development Order (DO). This is the stage where the County ensures that a commercial building, such as ours, meets the regulations and standards set by the State, the County, and the community in terms of environment, drainage, sewage, water/ electricity, preservation of native species, removal of invasive species, fire code, SWFL water management, traffic, peaceful co-existence with neighbors, open space requirements, sharing of costs of county mandated projects such as bikeway/walkway, etc.

August 2006, the DO was sent back by the county for inclusion of several points relating to environment and technical standards. We are working on our responses together with our Engineers and Landscape Architect. We are also waiting for a clearance by our neighbor as to the buffer space between our properties. After these steps, the DO application will be re-submitted.

The cost estimates obtained from builders indicate that we will need about \$400,000 for the clearance of land, preparation of the land, and parking lots. In addition we will need \$150 per square foot of building space. The Board of Trustees has passed a resolution, in August 2006, that our Phase I building will be around 4,000 square feet, considering the funds we are likely to raise. The Phase I will include a Temple building, rest rooms and kitchen/storage. Phase II will add a dining hall to this making the building suitable for larger community events.

See **Building** Page 2

Upcoming Events

Come celebrate with us!

- **Bhajan**, Fri Oct 6, 8pm, Unitarian Church, sponsored by Muddapus & Shirhattis
- **Fundraising Dinner**, Sun Oct 8, 2006, Cypress Middle, details below.
- **Lakshmi Pooja**, Sat Oct 21, Unitarian Church.
- **Bhajan, (Guru Nanak Jayanti)** Fri Nov 3, 8pm Unitarian Church, sponsored by Parmars & Walhas.
- **Bhajan**, Fri Dec 1, 8pm Unitarian Church, **Sponsor needed.**

Hindu Temple of Southwest Florida

Welcomes You To

4th Annual

Fund Raising Event

Dinner & Garba With Live Music from Jhankar

Sunday October 8, 2006,

**Cypress Lakes Middle School,
8901 Cypress Lakes Drive, Fort Myers, FL 33919**

Dinner 5 to 7:30 pm.

Entertainment 7:30- midnight.

Jhankar is a five-member music group

touring the USA from India.

Tickets: family \$100, single \$50

Tickets available at **Little India, India Bazaar.**

Contact: Sundaresan 239 561 5866, Vyas 239 458

8705, Lalla 239 489 4538, Bushan 239 481 5236,

Krishnan 239 482 0427

email janavi2006@hotmail.com

Please contribute generously towards Kalpa Vruksha (\$1000) & make our Temple a reality!

A commoner's understanding of The Bhagavad Gita

Most of you have read scholarly works on the *Gita*. Perhaps you will be curious to know how someone (with little knowledge of Sanskrit, *Vedas* or *Puranas*) understands it. You know *Lord Ganesha* went around his parents *Shiva* and *Parvathi* three times and claimed the fruit whereas *Karthikeya* sped on his peacock around the Universe but lost the fruit to his brother. Likewise, I may not be able to elaborate these ideas and enthrall you, but I will put them in a nutshell (like *Ganesha* did) and you can peel them as much as you wish.

Now let us go to *Kurukshetra- Arjuna* has parked his *ratha* (chariot) between the *Kaurava* and *Pandava* armies. Reality strikes him. He says:

अर्जुन उवाच

दृष्ट्वेमं स्वजनं कृष्ण युयुत्सुं समुपस्थितम् ॥२८॥

सीदन्ति मम गात्राणि मुखं च परिशुष्यति ।

वेपथुश्च शरीरे मे रोमहर्षश्च जायते ॥२९॥

गाण्डीवं स्रंसते हस्तान्वक्रयैव परिदह्यते ।

न च शक्नोम्यवस्थातुं भ्रमतीव च मे मनः ॥३०॥

dhrusTve mam svajanam Krishna yuyuthsum samupasthitam

seedanti mama gaatraaNi muhkam cha parishushyati vepathush cha sharire me romaharshash cha jaayate gaaNDeevam sramsate hastaat tvak chaiva paridahyate

na cha saknomi avasthaatum brahmateeva cha me manaha (Gita Ch 1, 28-30)

Krishna, I am astounded to see my relatives lining up to fight eagerly against us. My limbs go weak, mouth is dry, my whole body shakes, my hair stands on end, my *Gandiva* bow slips. My skin burns, I cannot even stand. My mind is gone.

This is a high state of pain and sadness- each one of us has had or may experience. I, for one, have had pains like this- when I had to leave my dear parents to come to the USA, then when I had to cremate them. There are other highly painful moments also. Every time a child suffers or I witness extreme poverty or hunger, I feel this. We are all human; we will have pain, though it is different for different people.

We have to identify with the pain before we learn to master it. To have a disaffected perception of misery, we have to feel it, digest it and conquer it - may be.

Absence of feelings is not mastery of feelings.

Let us see what else *Arjuna* felt. We will go one step at a time before we come to know who we are. Shall we?

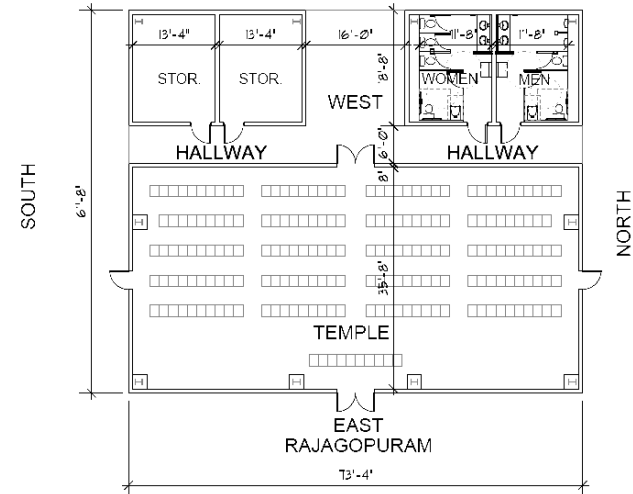
C. G. Shanmugam

Prayer is the greatest binding force,

making for the solidarity and oneness of the human family. If a person realizes his unity with God through prayer, he will look upon everybody as himself. There will be no high, no low, no narrow provincialism or petty rivalries in the matter of language. There will be no individual distinction between a touchable and untouchable, a Hindu and a Musalman, a Parsi, a Christian or a Sikh. Similarly, there would be no scramble for personal gain or power between various groups or between different members within a group. –Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948). Celebrate Gandhi Jayanti Oct 2, having Faith, seeking Unity and Truth.

Building continued from Page 1.

September 2006, we will be working with our Architect for detailed drawings of Phase I that will lead to the submission of an application for a building permit.



We thank our Trustees who are continuing to donate generously to help build our Temple!

How do I become a Trustee of the Temple?

A Trustee donates \$10,000 to the Temple and then the Board of Trustees affirms the individual's status as a Trustee (life member). This amount may be donated over a period of three calendar years. During the three-year period, the individual will be considered a Patron member.

Sponsor the Temple Newsletter for \$300 per issue. Your name carried on front page and back.

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Thanks to our volunteer cooks!
 For all your catering needs-(239) 481 5236

Membership Form

Hindu Temple of Southwest Florida

PO Box 60845, Fort Myers, FL 33906
 (239) 561-5866

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

I pledge to support the Hindu Temple of Southwest Florida and its activities.

Yearly Membership Jan 1st – Dec 31st

	Family	Individual
Patron	\$1000	\$500
Associate	\$200	\$100

I am donating _____ to the Temple.

I will volunteer my time for Temple activities and committees

I authorize Hindu Temple of Southwest Florida to debit my Credit Card/Bank Acct

for an amount of \$ _____ per month.

Signature _____

Date _____

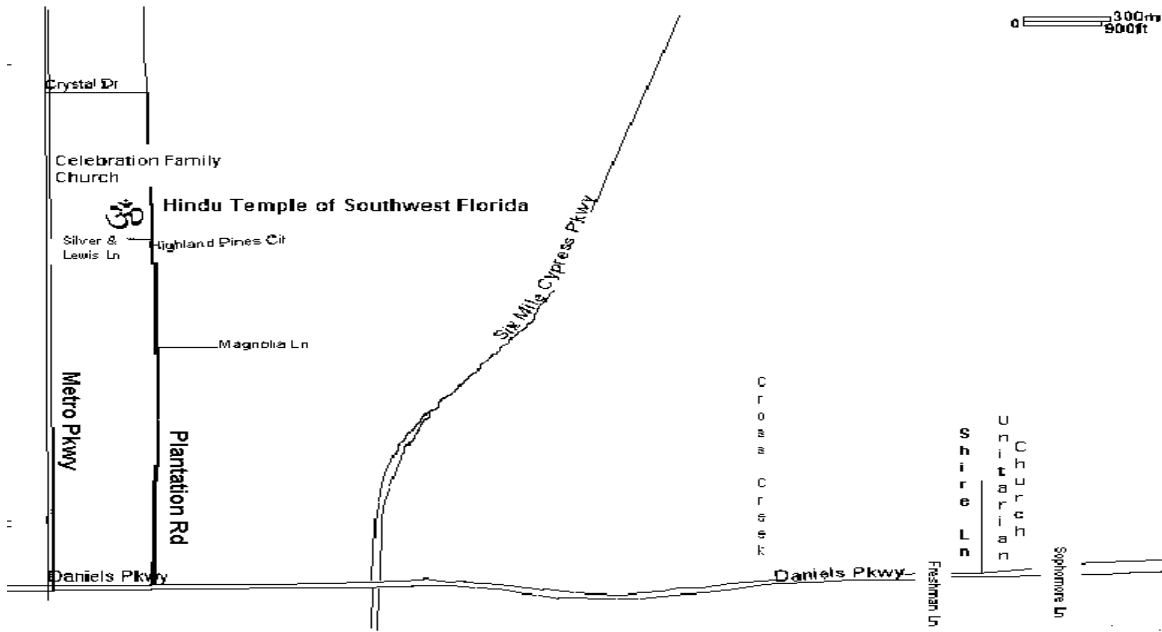
All contributions are tax-deductible. Tax-deductible donations for every calendar year must be received by Dec 31. You may also contribute stocks to our Scottrade account .

May Ganesha bless you for your generous contribution!

Baal Vidhya classes
 Sundays 11-12
 Call (239)482-0677

Vakra thunda mahaa kaaya, Soorya koti sama prabhaa, Nirvighnam kurume deva, Sarva kaaryeshu sarvadaa

You of the twisted trunk and the massive body, with the dazzle and light of a million suns, lead me on a path that has no obstacles or hindrances, clearing the way in all that I do, ever, and always!



Visit Our Garden Temple Today!
(Maintained by Irene & Nick Panella)
Saturday Morning Prayers 8:30 am

Directions:

- * From I-75, take exit 131 and turn West on Daniels Pkwy.
 After 3.3 miles turn Right on Plantation Rd.
- * From US41 S, turn Right on Daniels Pkwy and Left on Plantation Rd.
- * From US41 N, turn Left on Crystal Dr. and Right on Plantation Rd.

**With Best Compliments
 from**

BUDGETAX

**Hindu Temple of Southwest Florida
 PO Box 60845, Fort Myers, FL 33906**

To