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**Upcoming Events!**  
 Come celebrate with us!

- Bhajan, Fri Nov 7, 8pm Cypress Middle School
- Jalaram Jayanti, Sun Nov 9, 6pm Cypress Middle School
- Bhajan, Fri Dec 5, 8pm Cypress Middle School

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

To

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Hindu Temple of Southwest Florida  
*Celebrating Unity in Diversity*



# amritvani

A Quarterly newsletter

October, 2008

VOLUME III, NUMBER 3

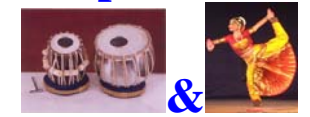
## Enjoy a night of Rhythm, Color, and Cuisine



### Annual Fundraising Dinner 2008



Featuring Indian music by  
**Anil Desai Group from Bombay, India**



**Indian Classical Dance**

Saturday, October 18, 2008 from  
 7 pm to Midnight

**Temple Beth El**

16225 Winkler Road, Fort Myers, FL 33908

Advanced Tickets Sold at  
 Little India, India Bazaar, Indian Groceries  
 Tickets also sold at the Door on the event day.

Admission: \$50 per Adult, Children 12-18: \$25,  
 Children below 12: Free

This issue of the newsletter was made possible by a donation from Sandeep Walha

## Building Update

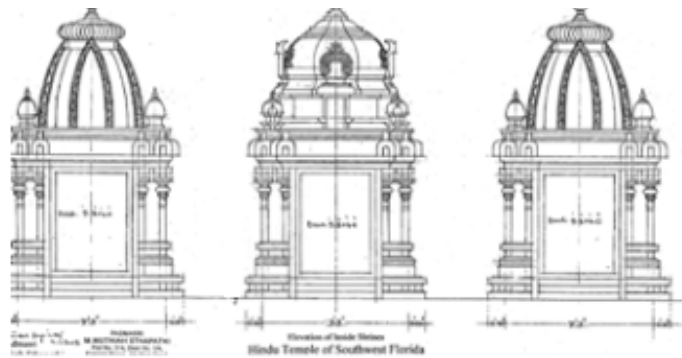
- Architect – Sheeley & Associates
- Building Contractor – C.C. Turner
- Sthapathy – Padmashree Muthiah Sthapathy

- Land cleared – Jan 15, 2008
- Ground breaking – Jan 20, 2008
- Foundation poured – Aug 28, 2008

We have started construction of our Temple and Community Hall. We will have a Temple area of 2600 sq feet with three main deities – Ganesha, Krishna and Shiva. We also have a Community Hall of approximately 4000 sq feet where we can have Yoga classes, Music classes, Baal Vidhya, Cooking classes, concerts and numerous other activities for the community.

We appeal to your generous spirit to help us complete this project by March 2009. We are seriously short of funds to complete our construction. Your contribution will be greatly appreciated. You will help us build this community center not only for us, but help build a legacy for our children and grand children where our religion and culture is fostered.

If we reflect back on our status in the last twenty years, most of us can feel that God has been very kind to us. We have all had troubles on the way, but they should be regarded as tests for our character. Most of us can feel extremely grateful for what we have achieved and we need to give something back to Him, in thanks. What are we giving to Him who has given us everything? Please open your hearts and help us in the Temple construction. With your help we will have a place for meditation and prayer that you will come to regard as your own Mandir. Please send your check soon, so our construction is not halted.



## A commoner's understanding of The Bhagavad Gita

Painful experiences make us realize how human we are and this is one of the major milestones for the growth of our soul. Let us understand some more of Arjuna's Grief. He sees bad omens and feels very low at this point. "For I desire not victory, O Krishna, nor kingdom, nor pleasures. Of what avail is dominion to us, O Govinda?"

न कांक्षे विजयं कृष्ण न च राज्यं सुखानि च ।  
किं नो राज्येन गोविन्द किं भोगैर्जीवितेन वा ॥३२॥

*Na kaankshe vijayam Krishna, na cha raajyam sukhaani cha, kim no raajyena govinda, kim bhogair jeevitena va (Gita Ch 1, 32)*

आचार्याः पितरः पुत्रांस्तथैव च पितामहाः ।  
मातुलाः श्वशुराः पौत्राः श्यालाः सम्बन्धिनस्तथा  
एतान्न हन्तुमिच्छामि धनतोऽपि मधुसूदन ।  
अपि त्रैलोक्यराज्यस्य हेतोः किं नु महीकृते ॥३३॥

*Achaaryah pitarah putraahstathaiva cha pitaamahaah, maatulaah shvashuraah poutraah shyaalaah sambandhinastatha*

*Ethaanna hantumichchhaami ghnatopi Madhusudana, api trailokya raajyasya hetoh kim nu maheekrute (Gita Ch 1, 34-35)*

"Teachers, fathers, sons and also grandfathers, maternal uncles, fathers-in-law, grandsons, brothers-in-law and other relatives, these I do not wish to kill though they kill me, O Madusudhana., even for ruling over the three worlds, how much less for the sake of this earth."

The wretchedness of war brings indescribable cruelties and sufferings. We read daily of the things happening in Iraq. In times of the Vietnam War, people refused to be drafted and went to jail. Unfortunately, Arjuna had no such exit path. I feel one with Arjuna with his laments. Indeed I am happy that Arjuna was not a cold-blooded warmonger to start shooting at the sound of the very first bugle. I was very startled to note that some learned commentators on Gita have described Arjuna as an 'Anxiety or Neurotic Patient'. Another says that Arjuna shirks from his *Kshatriya's* (warrior) role.

*Kurukshetra* describes conflict, bitterness and irreconcilable differences between brothers that led to war and monstrous mutual massacre. Such events happen everyday all over the world. Hatred and bitterness arise in individual relationships between parents and children, between spouses, between lovers, siblings, friends, and business partners, not to speak of religious groups and nations. We can learn how to deal with such bitterness by studying the Gita. *C. G. Shanmugam*

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## How do I become a Trustee of the Temple?

A Trustee donates at least \$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.

**Our Thanks to all our Members and Donors who are making our Temple a reality!**

## Board of Trustees

**Chair:** Subhash Kshetrapal  
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(Mukesh Vyas)  
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Religious –

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Mallika Nandur

C. G. Shanmugam

## Annappurna Catering

Thanks to our volunteer cooks for making your parties special!  
Call (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 1<sup>st</sup> – Dec 31<sup>st</sup>

	Family	Individual
<b>Patron</b>	\$1000	\$500
<b>Associate</b>	\$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 or Indian Rupees.**

**May Ganesha bless you for your generous contribution!**

## Baal Vidhya classes

Sundays 11-12

Call (239)482-0677

