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

- Bhajan, Fri Jun 5, 7:30pm Cypress Middle School
- Bhajan, Fri Jul 10, 7:30pm Cypress Middle School
- Bhajan, Fri Aug 7, 7:30pm Cypress Middle School
- Temple Inauguration, Ganesh Chaturthi, Sun Aug 23

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

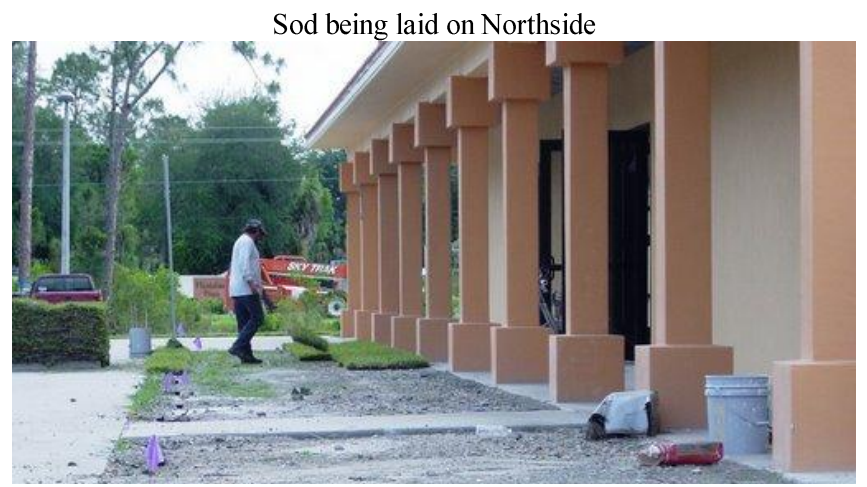
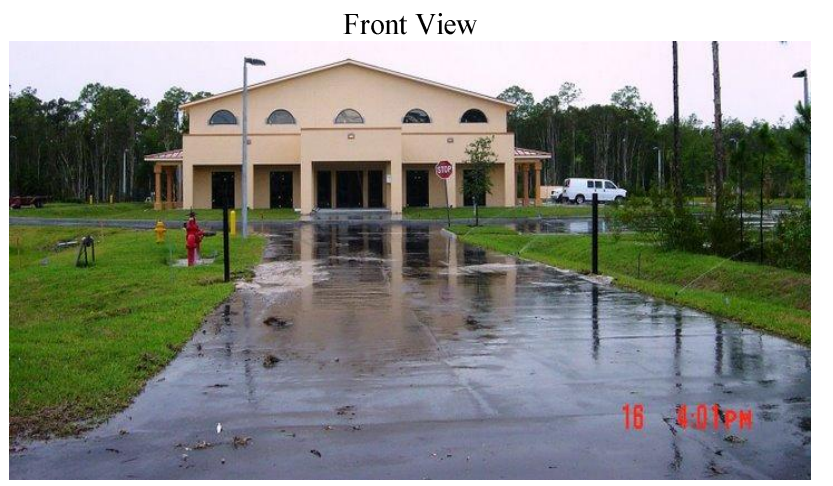
To



May, 2009

varami vani

VOLUME IV, NUMBER 1



A Profile of Our President



Renga Sundaresan

Of all the people involved in our Temple, Renga Sundaresan stands out as a model leader. On moving to Naples in 2003, Renga started attending Temple meetings. When it was jokingly suggested to him that he should move to Fort Myers to be closer to the action, Renga didn't think twice. Since then, our Temple has occupied much of his life. To increase his knowledge about building construction, Renga secured a job in the construction industry. Selected as Director for our building committee in 2004, Renga has been involved in every aspect of building, from meeting with the architect and Sthapathy, studying nearby Temples, to personally clearing the land. He was able to help us decide on the building contracts and his attention to detail is something we have truly benefited from. This year, he has had to personally oversee the building construction, review contracts, pay bills and manage our finances. Most of all, we appreciate Renga's calm demeanor, as he conducts meetings and listens to all the numerous suggestions that invariably come his way. His interest in the Temple is supported by his wife Janavi, who served as our Secretary for two years. He is indeed an answer to our prayers.

MN

Building Update

- Architect – Sheeley & Associates
- Sthapathy – Padmashree Muthiah Sthapathy

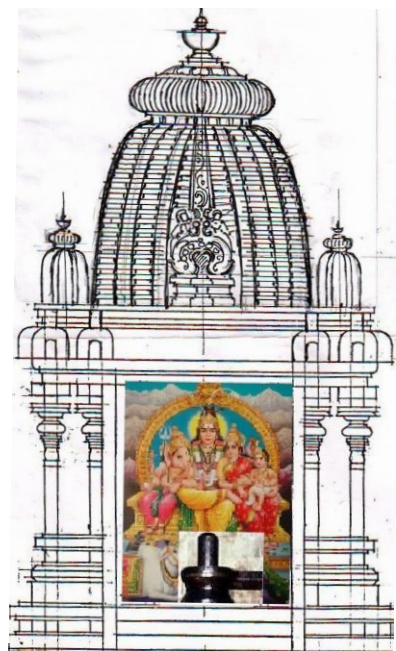
- Ground breaking – Jan 20, 2008
- Foundation poured – Aug 28, 2008
- Target completion – June 2009
- Inauguration – Ganesh Chaturthi, Aug 23, 2009

We have a Temple area of 2600 square feet with three main deities – Ganesha, Krishna and Shiva. The hall also has a portion that can be used as a Community Hall of 4000 square feet for Yoga classes, Music classes, Baal Vidhya, Cooking classes, Concerts and numerous other activities for the community. We also have a second floor at the back of 1800 square feet for classes, office, meetings, etc. Mandaps for the three deities are being made in grey-white granite in India and will be assembled and installed later this year.

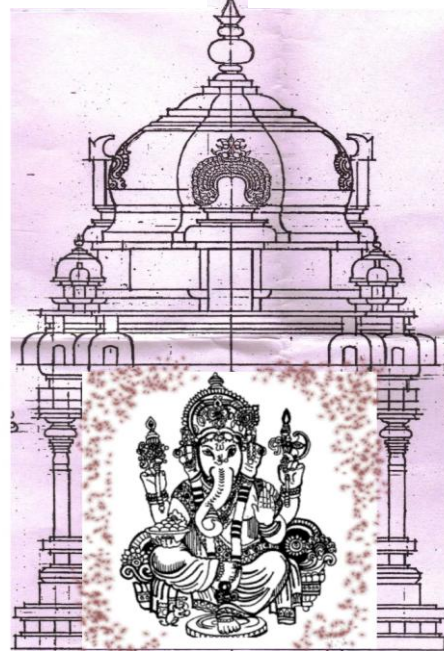
As our general contractor became a victim of the economic downturn, our building committee stepped up to the plate and is working directly with the subcontractors. This involved rewriting a lot of contracts. We are especially thankful to Girish Patel, Rakesh Patel and Sunil Lalla who have put in countless hours, overseeing the construction.

We appeal to your generous spirit to help us complete this project. We need funds towards mandaps, garden, air-conditioning, mezzanine floor, fence, room divider, floor tiles, electricity to name a few. Some of these are already under contract, and we need to pay bills as they come due. We still need at least \$100,000 to bring the project to completion and pay for day-to-day expenses. **Please send your contributions by June 2009 to help us complete this project.**

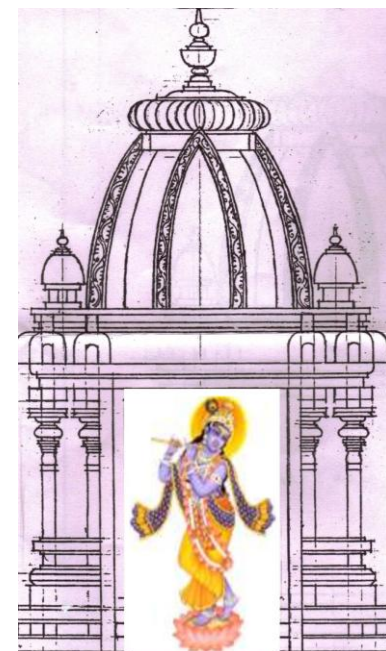
For a tour of the building please call (239) 561-5866



Puri, Jagannath style



Cholapuram, Ganapathi style



Mathura, Krishna style

Love

Love is the most powerful creative force of life. It brings peace that leads to progress and prosperity. Love Divine is the sole message of all faiths and religions of the World. *This is my commandment that ye love one another, as I love you.* [John 15:12] Love is spiritual in its sense, source and spirit. *Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.* [Roman 13:9] Swami Vivekananda talks of three angles of love:

1. Love knows no beginning.
2. Love knows no fear.
3. Love knows no rival.

It is the faith, it is the hope

It is the struggle up the slope

It is the brain and eye to see

One God and One Humanity. (Swami Rama Tirtha)

Seek refuge only in the Divine, beloved friend. Always remember the illustrious truth that you have neither existence nor individuality independent of God.

[Gita18:62]

All religions exhort their followers to practice virtues such as compassion, purity, holiness and charity. A Hadith from the Prophet Mohammed reads: *“Anyone who plants a tree and the tree bears fruits, God will reward that person as much as the fruits of that tree.”* We make a humble demand for your spirit of charity and philanthropy for the noble cause of the construction of a temple in Fort Myers that would deliver the Divine Message of Love for Humanity and the Love for God. Your Love as well Contribution will go a long way in bringing Unity in Diversity and Diversity in Unity.

Respectfully

S.D. Mohan

(This note was written by Seema Kshetrapal's father on his visit here. He passed away earlier this year.)

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Bhat, Chandrasaha
 Bhavnani, Vinod
 Bushan, Rathna & Lakshmi
 Bushan Archana
 Caanthan, K. Deva & Thanum
 Chandok, Manoj & Era
 Dash, Udaya & Ira
 Ganatra, Vijay
 Jain, Usha
 Jalaram Mandal
 Kini, Vidya
 Krishnan, Ramaiah & Lakshmi
 Krishnan, Nithya
 Krishnan, Arvind
 Kshetrapal, Subhash & Seema
 Kshetrapal, Anisha
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 Rana, Vanraj
 Rao, Mukunda
 Sambandam, Odaiappan
 Sehgal, Suri
 Shanmugam, C.G.
 Sharma, Dinesh
 Sundaresan, Renga & Janavi
 Swami, Shanmukh
 Uttamchandani, Vijay
 Varshney, Prakash
 Varshney, Rajiv
 Walha, Santokh & Sandeep

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.

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!

Om gam ganapathaye namaha

Om gam ganapathaye namaha

Om gam ganapathaye namaha

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 or Indian Rupees.

May Ganesha bless you for your generous contribution!

Baal Vidhya classes

Sundays 11-12

Call (239)482-0677

Board of Trustees

Chair: Subhash Kshetrapal

Sunil Lalla

Murali Muppala

Jalaram Mandal (Mukesh Vyas)

Vyoma Nair

C. R. Natarajan

Aasish Patel

Thakor Patel

Ramachandran Rajaram

Nagaraj Rajendra

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Executive Committee

2008-2009

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Renga Sundaresan

(239) 561-5866

President Elect:

Mallika Nandur

Secretary:

Latha Rajendra

Treasurer:

Rathna Bushan

Directors:

Building – Girish Patel

Fund-raising – Usha Jain

Religious – Tarun Patel

Officers-at-large:

Sunil Lalla

Aasish Patel

Assistant Secretary -

Assistant Treasurer -

Fundraising Associate - Kamal Mahajan

Building Associate - Rakesh Patel,

Thakor Patel

Interior Design – Vyoma Nair,

Vidya Kini

Bharti Lalla

Religious Associate - Lakshmi Krishnan

Newsletter Editorial

Committee

Mallika Nandur

C. G. Shanmugam

Annapoorna Catering

Thanks to our volunteer cooks for making your parties special!

Call (239) 481 5236