



amritvani

Hindu Temple of Southwest Florida
12552 Plantation Road, Fort Myers, FL 33966
239-225-7245 www.hindutempleswfl.com

July 2010

Volume V, Number 1

Half-Yearly Update

Namaste!

We have had an active six months this year. The New Year's Havan started us off on the right track with many devotees attending.

This year, we have been performing Sathyanarayan Puja on every Poornima and this has been a focal point for many to gather and pray. Since we have our own building, we have also been able to celebrate all religious events even on weekdays. Makar Sankranti was celebrated on a Thursday, where we decided to take up a collection for the people suffering in Haiti. Thanks to your generous donations, in a couple of weeks, we were able to donate \$10,000 to Hope for Haiti.

The next month brought us Maha Shivrathri, where we stayed up till midnight with prayers and Holika Dahan with a wonderful bonfire under the watchful eye of the Fire Department.

Our priest, Sri Mayuram Bhattar joined us in March. He helped us celebrate Ugadi, Basant Navratri, Sri Ram Navami, Mahavir Jayanti, Hanuman Jayanti, Baisakhi, and Tamil/Kerala/Bengali/Assami New Year.

Annapoorna, our volunteer catering organization put up a large stall with Dosa, Chat and other items at the India Festival. We also introduced a bimonthly social at the Temple with Dosas one month and Punjabi food in the next. Check out our Gujarati special this month.

Namita Singh helped us with our first Art Camp in April. The children's art work still graces our Temple. This gave us an impetus for our two week summer camp this month with Sri Ravi Bharati and his wife Radhika from Trinidad.

Our musical senses were given food from Niveta Chandrasekhar, a teenager, who enthralled us in March. In May, Prince Rama Varma and his accompanying artists kept us entertained and longing for more. Sri Varma also spent an hour with our Music group and taught us a bhajan which he sang at the concert. We also got a chance to test our own sound system, and by all accounts it is very good.

Mother's Day gave men a chance to show off their cooking talents and women reciprocated on Father's day.

With our priest in residence, we have a schedule of pujas that you can take advantage off. It was delightful to witness an *annaprasana* (first meal) for a baby girl at the Temple. Please check with our priest or see our website for details.

Mallika Nandur, President

Durga Stotram

Om durgarthi durgaashamani

durgaapadvinivaarini

durgamachchedini durgasaadhini

durganaashini

She is the reliever of difficulties, Who brings peace in the face of adversity, Who dispels troublesome enemies, Who cuts through impediments, Whose spiritual practices relieve distress and Who destroys miseries. Let us pray to her to help us with our trials and tribulations.

Temple Construction

On the building front, we have received four containers of carved granite stone from Sri Muthiah Sthapathy. Two more containers have been loaded and are on the seas. Due to the regulations on certain Florida roads, we could use only 20 ft containers, which increased our shipping cost.

We have completed the concrete pads for the three mandaps to enable them to be raised for better viewing of the deities. The pad is also reinforced to bear the weight of the mandap.

We have filed for religious worker visas for two Shilpis who have experience in erecting granite Temples. We have a site visit from the INS this month and expect the visas to be processed soon. Once the Shilpis start their work, we estimate it will take them six months to complete the mandaps.

If you have an outstanding pledge from last year, please fulfill this as early as possible.

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Annapoorna Catering

Thanks to our volunteer cooks for
 making your parties special!
 Call Mamta Mahajan
 (239) 277-9619

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

Membership Form

Hindu Temple of Southwest Florida

PO Box 60845, Fort Myers, FL 33906
 (239) 225-7245

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!***

**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.