



DEEPAM

Volume 21, Issue 1

inside this Issue	
President Message	2
Chairman Message	3
Committee Members	4
Tulasi Story	5-8
Kid-Youth Corner	9-12
Volunteer Appeal	13
Financial Report	14
Intro to Thirukkural	15
Renovation Update	16
News and Events	17-20
Advertisements	21-23



Hindu Temple
13010 Arbor Street, Omaha, NE, 68144

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Respected Devotees,

Aum Shri Ganashaaya Namah!
Namaste!

It is my great pleasure and honor to write this message. With the grace of Lord Prasanna Ganapati, all the religious, spiritual, educational, and cultural activities of our magnificent temple are running smoothly. It is the selfless efforts, dedication, and services of our devotees, volunteers, and patrons that have made this possible. My appreciation and gratitude goes to the past Presidents and Chairs of the Board for their services, persuasion, and dedication which have been instrumental in the progress we have made for our Hindu community. Today, our temple is in much better shape and the community is stronger due to the exceptional services of our past Executive committee and board members under the leadership of Dr. Phani Tej Adidam and Shri V.T. Ramakrishnan. Last year was the year of reconciliation and moving forward; I hope that in the coming years, we will look towards the future.

The vision, commitment, and perseverance of a group of eminent devotees led to the inception of the Hindu Temple in 1993, which went through major construction culminating the current magnificent temple structure and Kumbhabhisekam in 2004. We are commencing another major project to expand the religious, educational, cultural, and social activities for our temple and community. During this expansion, renovation, and remodeling we will make all attempts to maintain our regular religious, spiritual, and educational activities; however, there will be no access to the social hall, kitchen, and conference/class rooms during this period. We seek your support and understanding through this time. The anticipated date for completion of this project is January 31, 2013.

We are fortunate to have two excellent priests in our temple as they continue to lead the religious activities, performing various rituals and pujas for all of us. Coordinated through the Vedantic Center of Nebraska, as we have done in the past, we will continue to invite seers and scholars to offer spiritual discourses on different aspects of Hinduism. In addition, through the sustained efforts of our dedicated teachers of Balvihar, our temple will also continue to provide opportunities for our children to discover the Hindu cul-



tural heritage and traditions and develop pride in their Hindu identity.

I want to emphasize that anything we do for our exceptional temple is a SERVICE and it is my honor to serve as a president of the Executive Committee for the coming year. In addition to the elected members of the executive offices, we are fortunate to have a strong team of volunteers; it is their devotion and selfless efforts that are responsible for running the daily activities of this temple. We, as a community, greatly appreciate their outstanding services. With the growth and expansion of the temple and our community at large, we need more volunteer participation. It is my earnest request to all those who want to get involved in volunteering, to kindly send an email to our Volunteers and Welcome Committee

(htom.volunteers@gmail.com).

As our temple continues to fulfill the religious, spiritual, cultural, educational, and humanitarian needs of our community, I will try my best to serve and satisfy accomplish our temple's mission and objectives; your sustained support is greatly appreciated and your suggestions are always welcome.

Seeking the blessings of Lord Prasanna Ganapati,

Rakesh K. Singh

Dr. Rakesh K. Singh
President, Executive Committee

htom.rsingh@gmail.com

MESSAGE FROM CHAIRMAN

Adhika Bhadrapada, Krishna, Chaturthi,
Nandana Samvatsaram
(September 3, 2012)

Namaskar

It is my pleasure to write to all of you in this exciting time for our temple. I have had the opportunity of watching our temple grow since its inception and now have the pleasure of watching the building expand to meet our growing need. The addition of about 1,200 square feet will not only provide us with much needed space, but will also provide a location in which our community can continue to flourish. This expansion project is possible because of the generous support of many: you– the faithful community, the chair of the Long Range Planning Committee who brought together the support of our community for this endeavor, the chair of the Fundraising committee who tirelessly secured finances, and the chair of the Building Committee who is committed to completing the project within our budget. I also thank the previous chair of the Board and the President of the Executive Committee for their hard work in taking the temple logically to the next growth phase.

As this New Year begins, the Board of Trustees is excited to continue moving our temple forwards. Some of our main goals are to: 1) Facilitate the smooth functioning of the Executive Committee; 2) Address temple security; 3) Plan a “retreat” to discuss the future of the temple; 4) Solidify an operational infrastructure for the temple with the assistance of the Executive Committee; and finally, 5) Raise additional funds to pay off the construction cost by the year 2015.

Our temple has come so far and thanks to all of your generous effort. If you have been pledging a donation to the temple, we request that you extend it by two years, and if you have not yet pledged, we would encourage you to do so. On the Board’s part, we will continue to plan for our temple’s future so that it can be enjoyed by generations to come. I think having a retreat will be an excellent platform to hear about different plans as well as different perspectives for the future. In the coming weeks, our plan is to have Board members meet with several community members, with expertise and interest in different areas, to come up with several strategic plans and recommendations. We will then share these ideas with the community members for their input. I will keep you informed on the progress of these efforts. With the help of united community members, board members, and a vibrant Executive Committee, I sincerely believe our goals will be attainable.

As always, if you have any comments or suggestions for our temple, please email me at: joshissd@cox.net

I look forward to seeing you all at the temple during the Shri Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations on September 23, 2012.

Best regards,

Shantaram Joshi
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Please Donate
Generously to Your Temple



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Priest: Pundit Vidya Shankar,
Pundit Damodara Bhattar
Sevak: Chandrasekhar Karmegam

Facility Maintenance: **Srinivas Mallipudi
& Sunil Singh**

Publications: **Manju Mehta**

IT Management: **Muralidhar Chintapalli**
402-394-9783

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: **Rakesh K. Singh** 402-292-3790

Vice President: **Suresh Seshadri**
402-980-2919

Secretary: **Sundara Chokkara** 402-393-3484

Asst. Secretary: **Jayaram Nagarajan**

Treasurer: **Murali Deshpande**

Asst Treasurer: **SayiKishore Repakula**

Member (11-13): **Arun Sharma**

Member (11-13): **Meera Varman**

Member (11-13): **H.G Jayappa**

Member (12-14): **Amit Khot**

Member (12-14): **Shashi Bhatia**

Member (12-14): **Krishna Murthy**

Past President: **Phani Tej Adidam**
402-679-0063

Temple Tours & Public Relation: **Nina Mote**

Volunteer and Welcome: **Ambika Jayaram & Anusha
Narshimhan**

Building and Renovation: **Jagdish Nijhawan**

Nomination: **Phani Tej Adidam** 402-679-0063

Vedantic Center of Nebraska: **Phani Tej Adidam** 402-
679-0063

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chairperson: **Shantaram Joshi** 402-965-9777

Vice Chairperson : **Prem Arora**

Secretary : **Archana Chatterjee**

Member (11-13): **Sree Nair** 402-330-1390

Member (11-13): **Bhavana Dave** 402-292-3790

Member (11-13): **Subhash Bhatia**

Member (12-14): **Ramanathan Narayanan**

Member (12-14): **Sriram Ravipati**

Member (12-14): **Jayesh Thakker**

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Puja & Religious: **Suresh Seshadri**
402- 980-2919

Finance: **VT Ramakrishnan** 402-493-2931

Education: **Rajesh Sharma**

Cultural: **Deepa Kashyap**

Mahaprasad: **Gowridhar Madu**

Fund Raising: **Naresh Dewan** 402-397-5518

Long Range Planning: **Sanjay Singh**

Past Chairperson: **VT Ramakrishnan**
402-493-2931

Story of Tulasi

(from Devi Bhagavaham)

Tulasi (Holy Basil plant) is held most sacred by Hindus. According to Puranaas it is Mahalakshmi herself taking the form of Tulasi.

Saraswathy, Ganga and Lakshmi were wives of MahaaVishnu. He loved them equally. One day when all of them were sitting together Ganga sent lustful glances at Vishnu. Seeing this Saraswati got angry and held Ganga by hair and pulled her down. Lakshmi intervened and stopped Saraswati. In the rage Saraswati cursed Lakshmi to become a plant on earth. Then Ganga cursed Saraswati to become a river on earth and in return Saraswati cursed Ganga also to be born as a river.

When all the melee ended The Lord told them, "Devi, don't worry, all these were destined to happen". He called Lakshmi beside and told her "Devi, you go to earth and take birth as the daughter of Dharmadvaja. Later you will be transformed into a plant by my grace".

King Vrishadvaja was an ardent Shiva bhakta and at the height of it he prohibited the worship of any other diety in his country. All Yaa-gas and worship of Vishnu stopped. Surya(Sun) got angry with this. He cursed the kingdom would cease to be prosperous. Shiva didn't like this. He went to punish Surya with his trident. Surya ran for help to his father Kashyapa, then to Brahma and ultimately to

Vishnu. Then Shiva also reached there. Bhagavan told them "By this time –half of a muhurta – many yugas have passed in the earth and the fellow whom you are complaining is dead and his grandsons – Dharmadvaja & Kusadvaja-are ruling the kingdom. The kingdom is non-prosperous and the kings are doing penance to propitiate Mahalakshmi"

Birth of Tulasi

Mahalakshmi entered the womb of King Dharmadvaja's wife Madhavi and took birth on earth. Even at the time of birth the child looked like a matured girl – because she was in the womb for a long time – and was extremely pretty. So she was named "Tulasi"- meaning matchless. She abandoned all worldly pleasures and started doing severe penance to get Vishnu as



her husband. After many years of penance, Lord Brahma appeared to her and gave her the boon. He told her "Devi, cowboy Sudaama was born as part of Sri Krishna. That brilliant boy, due to a curse of Ra-

The best and most beautiful things in this world cannot be seen or even heard, but must be felt with the heart.

- Helen Keller



The greatness of humanity is not in being human, but in being humane.

Story of Tulasi

Continued...

dha, has now taken birth as an 'Asura' in the name of 'Sankhachuda'. He is matchlessly eminent and has once seen you and is doing penance to get you as his wife. First you will become his wife and later MahaVishnu's".

Sankhachuda was very eminent. He did severe penance to get Vishnu-kavacha and Tulasi as his wife.

Brahma was pleased and Sankhachuda got the boon from him that his death will happen only if he is without the kavacha and her chastity is lost. Later Sankhachuda's arrogance gave innumerable troubles to the Devas. They with Brahma and Shiva approached MahaVishnu. MahaVishnu suggested that Shiva to challenge Sankhachuda while He Himself will harrass Tulasi. Thus when

Sankhachuda & Tulasi were making love Shiva attacked them and Sankhachuda went away fighting with Shiva. After some time Vishnu approached Tulasi disguised as Sankhachuda and continued their play. Feeling something odd, Tulasi got up to curse the imposter. Soon Bhagavan took his original form and told her "You wished to get me as your husband. Sankachuda was part of me. He was born due to a curse by Radha given to cowboy Sudaama, chief of my Parshadas. By now, Shiva would have already given him moksha. You were Lakshi, my wife, and it is time for you also to join me in the Vaikuntam. Your body will decay and become

holy river 'Padmavathi'; **Your hair will become Tulasi plant,**

the most sacred of all plants, leaves of which will be held most sacred in all the three worlds. It will be sacred enough to make all the three worlds pure. All worship without using Tulasi leaves would be ineffective".

Saying thus Bhagavan took Mahalakshmi back to His abode.

The Greatness of Tulasi.

Everything of the Tulasi plant, leaves, flowers, fruits, roots, twigs, skin and even the soil around is holy. Atma of a person cremated using Tulasi twigs as firewood attains Vishnulokam. Even great sinners will be absolved of their sins if a twig of Tulasi is placed at the bottom of the pyre. Just as all waters becomes pure by union with Ganga jal, all firewood become pure by a piece of Tulasi twig. Yamadutas will stay away and Vishnu Parshadas will come near. If one smears a paste of Tulasi leaves and worship Vishnu for a day, it is equivalent to 100 days of ordinary worship.

Modern science has discovered that Tulasi emits Ozone gas (O₃) and purifies it's surroundings. Earlier days Ganga water was so rich in dissolved oxygen that water sample collected 1ft. away from a decomposed floating body would test negative for BOD(Biological Oxygen Demand) showing it's purifying power.

Empty pockets teach millions of things in life...

But full pockets spoil us in million ways !!!

No one in the world is afraid to speak the truth.

Everybody is afraid to face the consequences after the truth is told!

Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us every day.

- Sally Koch

Story of Tulasi **Continued...**

Story of Lord Vishnu & Tulasi

Once upon a time Lord Indra began to fear that he was losing the respect **among the people as they seemed to worship only the Trimurthy's**. He knew that he couldn't replace the Gods of Creation and Sustenance (Brahma and Vishnu) but thought people wouldn't worship Lord Shiva as after all he was only a God of Destruction. So with the intention of waging a war with him, he went to Kailasham.



Lord Shiva having foreseen this, assumed the form of the gana, prevented him from entering and challenged him. As they fought, Lord Shiva's anger kept growing and he very soon overpowered Indra. Indra then prostrated before him and Lord Shiva forgave him but he deposited the left over anger into

the ocean.

That anger took the form of a baby by name 'Jalandhara'. He grew up very powerful desiring to be an Asura. When he reached the marriageable age, he approached a powerful Asura named 'Kalanemi' who was Ravana's uncle, and sought the hand of his extremely beautiful and intelligent daughter Vrinda who was one of the foremost devotees of Lord Vishnu. After the marriage Jalandhara became extremely powerful due to Vrinda's yogic powers and prayers to Lord Vishnu.

Observing this Shukracharya, the Guru of Asuras made him the King of Asuras. Jalandhara had now conquered all of the earth and was preparing to conquer Indra's Heaven.

Now Indra and other gods approached Lord Shiva for a solution who agreed to talk to Jalandhara. But talks for peace by Lord Shiva failed as Jalandhara insulted him on how he called himself an ascetic and still had a wife Devi Parvathi.

Jalandhara proved too powerful even for Lord Shiva during the battle and he trapped all the gods using illusionary power. Jalandhar took the form of Lord Shiva himself and approached Parvathi with a sinister mind. But Devi with her powers could see through his de-

*Follow the three R's:
Respect for self, respect for others and responsibility for all your actions.*

Dali Lama

*Ignorance breeds fear.
Fear breeds hate. Hate breeds violence.*

Story of Tulasi

Continued...

sign and immediately picked her sword to attack him. Jalandhara now feeling a little weak from battle with Lord Shiva and aware of Parvathi's supreme battle powers, vanished. Lord Vishnu found Parvathi extremely furious and, upon knowing the reason, explained to her that since Jalandhara was the husband of his great devotee Vrinda, he was bound to be very powerful due to her prayers.

Seeing Parvathi's anguish, Lord Vishnu with a heavy heart agreed to intervene.

He took the form of Jalandhara, went to Vrinda who was deep in prayer to Lord Vishnu for her husband's safety and called out to her. For a moment Vrinda stopped praying and looked towards "her husband". At that precise moment Lord Shiva killed Jalandhara as Vrinda had stopped praying for him. Vrinda got to know through her powers that something was wrong. Lord Vishnu took his original form to explain her why he had to do that.

But Vrinda was heart broken and cursed Lord Vishnu that since he stood like a stone while his devotee suffered, he would turn black and reside in a stone and will also be separated from his wife. Lord Vishnu gracefully accepted the curse and sat next to his dead devotee Vrinda feeling very upset.

Lord Shiva came to Lord Vishnu and consoled him not to be grieve as his devotee would be re-born as the Tulasi plant (Vrinda) and would always be part of every ones prayers to Lord Vishnu. As part of the curse, Lord Vishnu's spirit entered the Saligram (black stone) found in the river Gomti (Nepal). Also as part of Vrinda's curse, he got separated from his wife(Sita Devi) in his next Avatar as Lord Rama as she was abducted by Ravana.

CONTRIBUTED BY:

JANAK DAVE

*When he quickens all things
To create bliss in the world,
His soft black sinuous lotus
limbs
Begin the festival of love
And beautiful cowherd girls
wildly
Wind him in their bodies.
Friend, in spring young Hari
plays
Like erotic mood incarnate.*

- Jayadeva (12th century, India)

Translated by Barbara Stoler Miller

***NEVER win
people with
Arguments,
rather defeat
with your
Smile!
Because
people who
always wish
to Argue with
you, cannot
bear your
Silence !!!***



Kids - Youth Corner



Tid Bits about BalVihar

I enjoy coming to BalVihar. One thing I learned about BalVihar is that it is more than just learning about Indian culture and Hindi. I learnt many moral values. My teacher is very nice. I realized how hard they work!. Hindi is one thing that really annoys me.

Khushi

What I learned in BalVihar – I learned stories of Gods and Goddesses. I learned how to write words in Hindi. I like BalVihar because I learned a lot about Indian culture and Hindi. I even learned whole Hindi alphabets.

Akhil Ganti

One thing, I have learned in BalVihar is how to write Hindi alphabets. I can even write two and three letters words. I enjoy coming to BalVihar.

Apurva

BalVihar is good but I don't like home work. I can almost never finish it. My other school is also giving me a lot of homework. Can we please sometimes not have homework. Other than that I like BalVihar. I like it when the teacher tells us stories. We have very nice teachers.

Akshay

I like BalVihar because we do lots of activities. I also like the stories but I don't like Hindi.

Suhas

I learned about different forms of Gods and Goddesses. I also learned many stories about God. If I am good I get treats.

Ajay

BALVIHAR - WINDOWS INTO ALL THINGS ABOUT INDIA

Growing up as an American born Indian child is quite an amazing journey to undertake. As parents, we want to provide opportunities for our children to become responsible citizens in our ever changing society. Exposing our children to diverse cultures helps them to gain a greater understanding of the world around us and better prepares them for life within American society.

It is up to our families to involve our children in the Hindu Temple and BalVihar. These two institutions provide a place of support, opportunity, and exposure to Indian and Hindu culture, as well as values and traditions. Involvement ensures that our children will carry these core values with them throughout their life while providing them with a well-rounded view of their ancestry and enabling them to be future leaders in society.

BalVihar is proud of the role it plays in Omaha society. Our registration has been growing steadily for the past two years and we now have close to 100 children combined in all four classes: Prathma, Dwitya, Tritya, and Youth.

Our outlook is bright and we are looking for continued support from the community and our army of volunteers. Our volunteers have been a key asset in sharing with our children the knowledge and experience needed to make the connection with our Indian culture. This is done through the platform that the Hindu Temple offers with the help of tools such as bhajans, poems, shlokas, and prayers.

BalVihar plans to continue the path of enrichment of our next generation. Over the years we have seen our children become valuable members of society through their teenage years and into adulthood. BalVihar provides a greater understanding of our culture so that our children are able to share the knowledge with their friends and colleagues regarding topics related to India and Hinduism.

Beginning in September, BalVihar will be beginning classes on Sundays between 10:45 and noon to all



Kids - Youth Corner



enrolled participants. We encourage you to visit our website listed below to enroll your children in BalVihar in order for them to gain all the benefits associated with being a member. We look forward to hearing from your family and working together to enrich our children!

www.hindutemplebraska.org

Contributed By:

Rajesh Sharma

(Chairperson for BalVihar)

GANESHA AND MOON

One day Ganesha was invited to a feast. Being very fond of sweets, he consumed a large number of sweets. While returning home his stomach burst open due to the weight of the food consumed. Luckily it was night. Hoping no one had seen him; he quickly tied his stomach with a snake. Unfortunately the moon saw him and burst into peals of laughter. Ganesha was furious and uttered a curse that the Moon (Chandra) would be invisible from then on. The Moon (Chandra) was ashamed of his action and begged forgiveness. Ganesha also felt he had been hasty in cursing the Moon. But since he could not take back his curse but only lessen it's intensity, he proclaimed that the moon would wax and wane and would be invisible on only one day of the month, "Amavasya".

KUBERA (GOD OF WEALTH) AND GANESHA

Kubera (the God of wealth) invited Shiva and Parvati to dinner wishing to show off his riches. But the couple denied Kubera's request and said that he could feed Ganesha instead. Kubera laughed and said "I can feed thousands of children like this." Ganesha went to his palace and sat down to eat. He started eating all the food placed in front of him. As was the custom, more

and more food was served to him, as he did not say that he had enough. Soon there was no more food in the palace and so Kubera ordered his troops to get more food from the surrounding villages. But Ganesha continued eating and there was no more food to be found. Still very hungry, Ganesha started eating all the furniture.

Kubera became very frightened. Ganesha told him, "You promised my parents you will feed me. Now, I have to eat you up as I am still very hungry". Kubera ran away and pleaded with Shiva to save him from Ganesha. Shiva asked Kubera to give up his pride and serve Ganesha a handful of rice. Kubera went back to his palace. By this time, Ganesha's stomach had become very huge but the child was still hungry. When Kubera served a cup of rice with humility, Ganesha's hunger was satisfied.

MORAL

We should never take undue pride in our material or spiritual accomplishments. The old saying "Pride always leads to a fall."

Contributed by:

Deepa Kashyap





Kids - Youth Corner



April 20, 2012

Usha Akella

VAMANA AVATAR

Prelude to the Fifth

And now for the fifth, an unlikely tale,
The message anew: *Dharma* shall prevail,
The lord, a dwarf and giant at once,
A triumph of Bali's lack of hesitance,
Surrendering his *ahamkara* to the lord,
A great devotee submits to the God of gods.

No mean king was this king of the *asuras*,
Of noble lineage, lofty, kind and generous,
In control over all the haunting *vasanas*,
Versed in *vedic* lore, scholarship galore,
His downfall, the result of one tragic flaw,
For **Ambition**- he knew no limits to draw.
He who had conquered *Amaravati* with ease,
No *devas* to fight, no kingdom to seize,
That story is told, you know *Indra* had fled,
Willingly, surrendering the crown on his head,
Bali, now, lord of the earth and lord of heavens
Nothing left in the cosmos to conquer,
He performed in glory a hundred *asvamedhas*.
The establishment of each created being in place-
Utkarsha; the order of things, he had displaced,
Bali is victim of an ancient inner vice,
Ambition, can a man from dharma splice.

In many men of stature and men of strength,
In men towering, glorious and heaven sent,
Again and again we see the story unfold,
A tragic trait causes fall of the vain and bold.

The clock is ticking!
Little does Bali know, the order of things,
is always set right,
by the omniscient one, out of sight,
The drama has begun for Earth's divine redemption,
Our short lived follies exist only by divine sanction,
Aditi, that pious wife of Kashyap and mother of the *Devas*,
Broken hearted, at her sons defeat, desired justice for
Indra,
And so resolved, taught by her illustrious husband-
sage,
the *Payovrata*, taught by Brahma from age to age,
"In *Phalgun*a, twelve nights and days of the ascending
moon,
Subsisting on milk alone, Narayana will grant your
boon."
Recite the holy *Aum Nam*o *Bhagavate Vasudevaya*,
He who knows this universe's every atom and part,
Will melt in the presence of a mother's heart,
With pure devotion and ceaseless concentration,
Upon the inner one she turned her inner gaze,
Transcending the mind's bewildering maze,
At the end of twelve days, the Lord with the lotus eyes,
appeared, "Soon. But now the time is not ripe,
I am pleased with your devotion, know this *de-*
varahasya,
Breathe not a word, I will be born to you and
Kashyapa."
Born with the splendor of his original form-



Kids - Youth Corner



His very birth a miracle beyond known norms!
For a moment, he assumes this form to reassure Aditi,
That truly, as per his promise, truly, it was indeed he.
Then again- merely a new born babe, fresh as dew,
The earth appeared to be reborn too,
So sparkling the sky in brilliant blue,
The earth broke open in a new perfume,
And the flowers cheerfully bloomed anew.
Born in the month of Bhadrapada under the star Abhijit,
The avatar VAMANA- a tiny form! Nature has knit,
a deliberate deceptive truth: The Lord's splendid spirit-
Sat Chit Ananda! Who could fathom, this was it!

Listen , Listen to the glory of this incarnation!
All that he received was ordained by divine sanction,
A roster of celebrity Gods bestowed,
Gifts and boons needed for him to fulfill his vow:

Surya himself imparts the holy *Gayatri*,
The sacred thread installed by Brihaspati,
The earth, the deer skin: *Krishnajina*,
The moon, the *Brahma* danda- staff of the Brahmin,
Aditi, the mother, the *Kaupina*,
Goddess Sarasvai, the *akshamala*,
The umbrella, from the world of Dyu,
Brahma himself , the *kamandalu*,
Beware, Beware clan of Bhrigu!
The seven rishis, the *Kusa grass*,
Kubera, the vessel, to beg for alms,
Annapurna, his first *Bhiksha*,
This was Vamana!
His other name- Upendra. Born in the month of

Bhadrapada under the star Abhijit,
The avatar VAMANA- a tiny form! Nature has knit,
a deliberate deceptive truth: The Lord's splendid spirit-
Sat Chit Ananda! Who could fathom, this was it!

Listen , Listen to the glory of this incarnation!
All that he received was ordained by divine sanction,
A roster of celebrity Gods bestowed,
Gifts and boons needed for him to fulfill his vow:

Surya himself imparts the holy *Gayatri*,
The sacred thread installed by Brihaspati,
The earth, the deer skin: *Krishnajina*,
The moon, the *Brahma* danda- staff of the Brahmin,
Aditi, the mother, the *Kaupina*,
Goddess Sarasvai, the *akshamala*,
The umbrella, from the world of Dyu,
Brahma himself , the *kamandalu*,
Beware, Beware clan of Bhrigu!
The seven rishis, the *Kusa grass*,
Kubera, the vessel, to beg for alms,
Annapurna, his first *Bhiksha*,
This was Vamana!
His other name- Upendra.

To be continued



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Namaskar,

The temple needs volunteers in the following areas:

Help needed :

- ◆ In connection with renovation on need basis.
- ◆ On special puja days (help with arrangements for puja and post puja clean-up of temple and related activities).
- ◆ In handling audio system on special puja days and music programs.
- ◆ In ironing deity clothes.
- ◆ In cooking mahaprasadam on special occasions.
- ◆ In serving lunch and post lunch cleanup of social hall.

Please respond to htom.volunteers@gmail.com, if you wish to volunteer, so that we could add your name in our database.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Contact number (best time to reach): _____

Mention the area: _____

Thanks,

Volunteer Committee

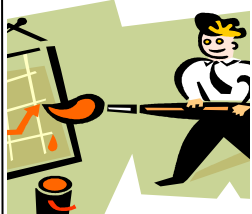
It is our pleasure to bring the first issue of Deepam for the current fiscal year. This has been an exciting year for our temple. The renovation of the temple has started and is in full swing. Hopefully by next year we will have better equipped class rooms, social halls and kitchen. Please help temple to grow by giving your precious time, effort, constructive criticism and money.

Please provide us with your feedback regarding Deepam. Your suggestions are most welcome. We welcome advertisements or announcements for donation of \$201 or \$101 for a full and a half page respectively, Also we seek sponsorships (\$501) to cover partial cost of Deepam publication. If you are interested in any one of these, please contact us at omahaDeepam@gmail.com.

We wish to thank advertisers for their support.

May God bless us all

Manju Mehta



FINANCIAL REPORT



Hindu Temple, Omaha NE (Mar 2012 thru Jul 2012)

INFLOW		OUTFLOW	
Hundi collections cash	\$25,113	Operating expenses	\$35,471
Direct deposits	\$6,675	Staff expenses	\$17,786
Puja services	\$20,834	Priest expenses	\$44,116
Capital Pledge (hall expansion)	\$25,674	construction project	\$35,805
Non-pledged donations	\$16,314	Other events	\$7,082
Sponsored/event donations	\$10,316	Mortgage interest	\$0
Other events	\$6,604	Towards Mortgage/payoff	\$0
Total inflow	\$111,530	Total outflow	\$140,260

Balances As of July 31,2012

Balance owed on Mortgage/Short-term line of credit : \$0

Operating Account Balance : \$35,279

Savings (Endowment) balance : \$82,507

Social hall expansion Fund Balance : \$446,812

INTERESTED ??? Are you on the Hindu Temple e-mail mailing list ? If you would like to be included, please send an e-mail with your e-mail information to htom.reachus@gmail.com . Also please give us your current address if you have moved.

Use the pledge form here to support your Hindu Temple on a regular basis :

HINDU TEMPLE P L E D G E F O R M 2012

We offer automatic bank withdrawal. If you want to sign up for this, please attach a voided check of your bank account. We will then start an automatic process to debit your account on a monthly basis, thus making it easier for you.

Name (s) : _____

Address: _____

Phone/ e-mail _____

Pledge Amount: _____ Monthly Start Date: _____

(\$200 or \$100 or \$50 or \$25 or other amount per month as per your wish)

Signature & Date : _____

Drop this form & voided check in the Temple hundi.

Or

Hand over to a Temple volunteer



AN INTRODUCTION TO THIRUKKURAL (8)

It is said that God's sayings to Man is *Geeta*
Man's sayings to God is *Thiruvaachakam*
Man's sayings to Man is *Thirukkural*.

Thirukkural was written by Thiruvalluvar hundreds of years ago. It consists of 1330 couplets (called *kural* in Tamil) split into 133 chapters covering various aspects of individual life, social aspects and societal living. Thirukkural has also been translated in some 80 languages.

This is an attempt to present these couplets in this and future issues of Deepam – the original couplet in Tamil, with literal English phonetics and a short explanation.

(788)

**Udukkai izhandavan kaipola aangey
Idukkann kalhaivadaam nutpu.**

உடுக்கை இழந்தவன் கைபோல ஆங்கே
இடுக்கண் களைவதாம் நட்பு.

**Just like a hand that saves one's modesty when a loin cloth is slipping away
So should be a true friend helping when in need.**

A request to our Tamil friends :

Please share your favorite *kural* and comments so that they may be included in future Deepam editions

www.thirukkural.com is one of many web sites for more information

Contributed By:

UJ Ramakrishnan



UPDATE ON TEMPLE EXPANSION AND RENOVATION



Long awaited dream of Temple's expansion and renovation has come true. The construction has started and we will finish the project sometime in January of next year. The demolition is complete and the new walls for the westward expansion are already in place.

Some of you might question as to why it took so long to start the project. Well, it was a chal-

lenge to come up with the plans that everyone could agree on and we met this challenge. We have new stage with attached green room fully equipped with granite topped sink counter and a mirror. Another important feature of the facility will be updated conference room, office and a shoe room and more importantly all these areas will have an easy access from our main corridor. Also, the existing kitchen and bath rooms will be completely renovated.

All this is possible with the help of so many devotees that the list goes on and on and the Temple and we all appreciate that. Thanks are also to White Lotus, our general contractor and our own Devotee, Arun Agarwal, to whom the project was awarded based on competitive bids.

Thank you all and May God bless us all.

Jagdish Nijhawan

CHAIR, BUILDING COMMITTEE



We are pleased to announce that the project has started based on the plans that were unanimously approved by your Building committee, long term committee, Executive committee and the Board. We as a community should be all proud of that as it really proved the very essence of our democratic process.

The project when finished will have 6 class rooms for BalVihar with internet connection for each class room. These class rooms will be separated by foldable partition walls and when these partitions are in open phase, the capacity of our social hall will be almost double. We will



NEWS AND EVENTS

HINDU TEMPLE HOLDS PRAYER FOR PEACE

On August 5th 2012, a dastardly shooting took place at the Sikh Temple in Oak Creek, Wisconsin. The Sikh congregation was about to commence their prayers at that time, and unfortunately six people reached their heavenly abode immediately. Such shootings at a place of worship are not only appalling, but also dreadful.

On August 6th 2012, the Hindu Temple (in coordination with *India Association of Nebraska* and *Sadh Sangat*) organized a prayer meeting in which we all prayed for the departed souls, as well as for the families of the departed and wounded. Due to good local media coverage, there were more than 100 people from all faiths who attended this meeting. The prayers were led by Pandit Damodara Bhattar, and were followed by representatives of Hindu Temple, IAN, and Sadh Sangat (Sikh community). The next day, the Hindu Temple and Sadh Sangat mailed a packet of the holy saffron sikh cloth, holy vibhuti, kum kum, and almonds to the Sikh Temple in order to show our solidarity with them.



We pray to Lord Prasanna Ganapathi that such events should not take place. We pray that let light replace the darkness in the minds of misguided souls, and we pray that let there be more understanding among people of various faiths.

Namasthe.

Phani Tej Adidam

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

- ◆ Teej/Gauri Puja on September 18, 2012 from 6-7:00 p.m.
- ◆ Shri Ganesh Chaturthi Puja (actual day) on September 19, 2012 at 10:30 a.m
- ◆ Anan ta Chaturdashi on September 29th, 2012
- ◆ Shri Sankatahara Chaturthi October 3, 2012
- ◆ Mahala Amavasya October 14, 2012
- ◆ Navarathri Begins on October 15, 2012
- ◆ Maha Navami. Dashera October 23, 2012
- ◆ Sarvajanin Durga Puja
- ◆ Deepavali Puja November 13, 2012
- ◆ Deepavali Celebrations , November 17, 2012

SHRI GANESH CHATURTHI CELEBRATIONS



PROGRAM

On Tuesday, September 18, 2012

Teej/Shri Gauri Devi Puja 6.00-7.00 PM

On Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Shri Ganesh Abhishekam & Puja 10:30 AM

On Sunday , September 23,2012

Shri Ganesh Chaturthi Celebrations

9:15 AM - 1:15 PM

PROGRAM

Vishesha Abhishekam, Alankaram

Shodasha Upachara Puja, Sahasranama Puja

Ratha Uthsavam/Yatra, Maha Mangala Aarti

Prasada Viniyogam

Free Archana for Students (after main aarthi)

Health Fair (IAN event) 9-11am at BalVihar Hall

Boxed Lunch Prasadm will be distributed after the main Aarati

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Panditjis 697-8546 ; Rakesh Singh 402-292-3790

Shantaram Joshi 965-9777; Suresh Seshadri 894-4918; Ram Bishu (402) 421-1541 Te jAdidam 331-3519;

Alekha Dash 492-9707; Geetanjali Godbole: 334-0946; Lalita Kunte: 498-5942.



Brahmothsavam Function - June 2012



**Lord Jagannath Bahuda Ratha Yatra
July - 2012**



**Shri Garuda Panchami
Pooja
July 2012**



**Varalakshmi Pooja
July - 2012**



**Hindustani Classic
Concert
July - 2012**



Skanda Pooja and Dinner Function - July 2012

MANAGEMENT OF INDIAN GROCERY BUSINESS GROUP

We proudly announce that
India Garden is under our management

Two convenient grocery locations

Grocery Locations

Indian Grocery	Indian Grocery
3019 S 83rd Plaza	13021 Arbor St
Omaha, NE 68124	Omaha, NE 68144
Ph. (402) 391-0844	Ph. (402) 333-3066
(New & Bigger than before)	(Near Hindu Temple)

RESTAURANT LOCATION

India Garden
2819 S 125th Ave. Suit #355
Omaha, NE 68144
Ph. (402) 697-0101

NEW RESTAURANT & CHAAT CENTER coming SOON
Right next to our 83rd St Location.

INDIA MART

Fresh Vegetables on every Friday

**Halal Meat and Natural Chicken
available**

**10% Discount on all the Groceries
every Friday**

3720 S 132nd Street,

Omaha, NE 68144

**(Next to Skate Daze on 132nd Street,
Between West Center and 'L' St.)**

(402) 333-4636 (INDO) www.imartomaha.com

SPECIAL DISCOUNT

15% off with this Flyer



We can help you plan and create your next memorable special event, milestone parties, sweet 16, graduation parties, engagement parties, bridal showers, baby showers, birthday parties and a lot more .. Call us

Rama Yalla

(402) 370-6575

info@whimZicalparties.com

Rajini Giri

(402) 212-6563

rajini@whimZicalparties.com

www.whimZicalparties.com

www.facebook.com/whimZicalparties



AVIATE TRAVELS

AVIATE Travels provides airline ticket booking services. Get the best deals on Flight Tickets for your India Travel.

To get the best **discount airfare deals**.....
give us a call 402-953-1291.

Contact Person: **Krupa**

[Email—krupa@aviatetravels.com](mailto:krupa@aviatetravels.com)

Hindu Temple
13010 Arbor Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68144
402-697-8546

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage Paid
Omaha, NE
Permit Number 1182



We are on web
Htom.org

QUOTES FROM BHAGAVAD GITA

Still your mind in me, still yourself in me, and without a doubt you shall be united with me, Lord of Love, dwelling in your heart.

The person whose mind is always free from attachment, who has subdued the mind and senses, and who is free from desires, attains the supreme perfection of freedom from Karma through renunciation.

Better indeed is knowledge than mechanical practice. Better than knowledge is meditation. But better still is surrender of attachment to results, because there follows immediate peace.

The soul who meditates on the Self is content to serve the Self and rests satisfied within the Self; there remains nothing more for him to accomplish

Still your mind in me, still yourself in me, and without a doubt you shall be united with me, Lord of Love, dwelling in your heart.

The serenity of mind, gentleness, silence, self-restraint, and the purity of mind are called the austerity of thought.