

Mandir Vani

Hindu Temple and Cultural Center of the Rockies
8375 S. Wadsworth Blvd., Littleton, CO 80128
(Tax ID: 84-1301209)

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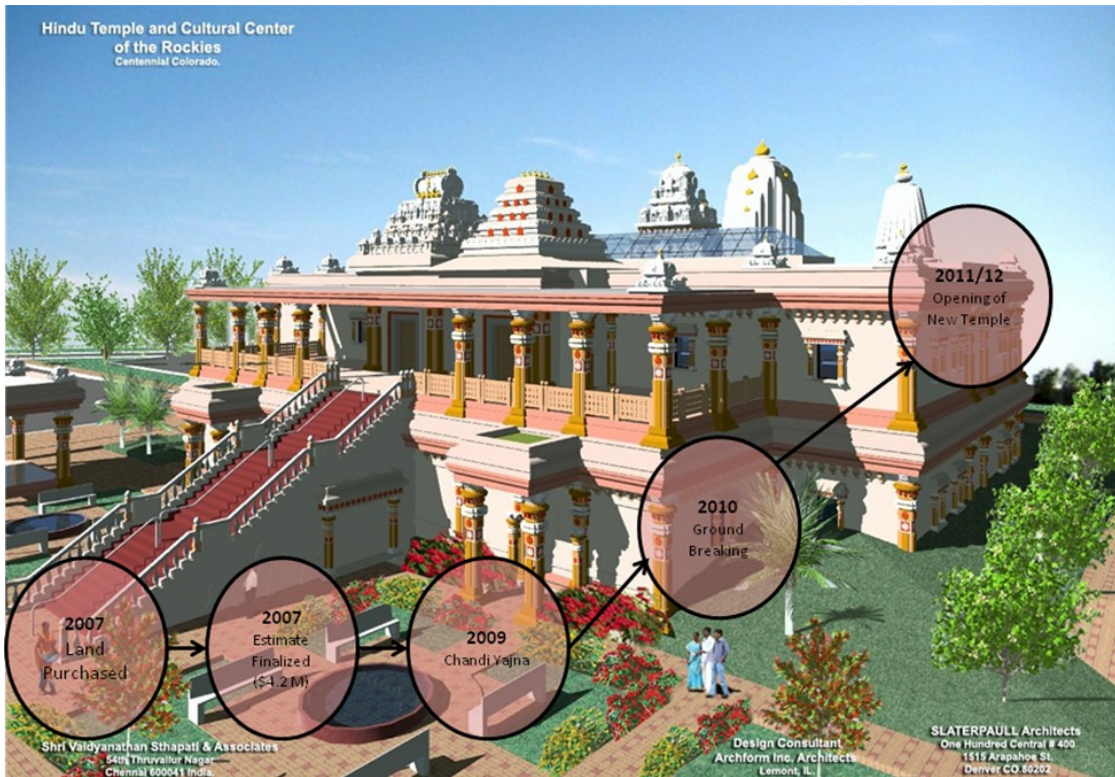
The mission of the Hindu Temple and Cultural Center of the Rockies (HTCC) is to provide a forum for religious worship and celebrations, and for cultural, religious, and spiritual development activities based on Hindu / Vedic / Sanatan - Dharma traditions.

Editorial Board

K. C. Upadhyay (Priest)

Prabhakara Rao (Editor)

Reva Nayar (President)



New Hindu Temple Rendering
Please Donate Generously

President's Page

Dear Devotees,

On behalf of the Hindu Temple Trustees, our priests and myself I wish you and your families a very Healthy and prosperous 2010.

I have had the honor and privilege of serving our Hindu temple for the past 15+ years. I have enjoyed your confidence, trust and support and thank you all for it. The dedicated trustees and the devotees are always working very diligently for the growth and betterment of the HTCC.

Our New Temple Committee has been instrumental in getting the Zoning approvals and the preliminary design plans ready for the New Hindu Temple.

Our Temple's attendance has been steadily growing. We have had three big functions, so far, this year. Starting off the New Year with Ganesh Puja, followed by Navgraha Puja, and most recently, the Holi celebration. The attendance averaged over 250 for these big programs. We thank our Priests, operations and cultural program teams, along with many other volunteers to make these programs a success.. Ram Navami celebration is on March 28th. Please join in , with your families, to celebrate the birth of Lord Rama.

Our Web Design team is planning to launch a "New" website by end of March, 2010, which will depict the true representation of Our Hindu Temple. The Group is committed to keep it current to meet the needs of the community.

We have always had very good rules, procedures, administration and ethics since the inception of the Temple. However, with the New Temple on the horizon, we are revisiting all rules and procedures and some changes will be incorporated in the near future.

The advance work for Fund Raising for the New Hindu Temple has been progressing very nicely. The Fund Raising team along with help from other trustees has developed a Road Map Presentation so that we can go to the Hindu community to request for funds. We thank Mr. Arjun Sen (renowned professional in the field of Sales and Marketing) for having donated his time and talent, so very generously, in the preparation of this very important presentation. The first presentation was made to a long term supporter and a respected community leader and we were successful in obtaining a commitment of a very large sum. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the board members and behind the scenes volunteers for their constant help and support.

With this very encouraging news, we request dear devotees that, in your list of resolutions for 2010, please list a generous donation for the New Hindu Temple as one of the items. Let's face it, until we all make some financial sacrifices , our dream of building a new Hindu Temple will not become a reality. So I request you all, fervently, to please come forward and donate your time and money generously. We can then enjoy the spiritual benefits of a New Hindu Temple during our lifetime and leave a Legacy for our Children and Grandchildren.

Please send us any suggestions you might have and for any service that you would like to offer.

May God shower his blessings on you and your families.

Reva Nayar
HTCC President

New Temple News - Narender Kumar - Vice President

On December 7, 2009, Final Development Plan (FDP) was presented to the City of Centennial. The City Council unanimously approved the plan and welcomed the construction of this unique and beautiful structure in their city. I feel the City is genuinely interested in having this Temple built in the city as it will help them promote the City as a diverse and cultural society. Many of our members already make Centennial their home and this will be a further indication of their intent to settle in the area. One council member joked that this might even bring a cricket team to the city, well maybe.

The next step in this process is to file a Subdivision Improvement Agreement (SIA) with the City and file the plans and cost estimates for public improvements, such as landscaping and utilities. Andy Firestine at the City has indicated the FDP will be good for a period of two years which will give us time to raise funds prior to the start of construction. The future activities include the final design and approval of the construction plans and obtaining necessary grading and building construction permits. These activities are contingent upon the funds raised for construction of the Temple.

Meanwhile we continue to help with the fund raising efforts and finalizing the Road Map. I urge you to help us in building a Temple by donating generously and leaving a permanent reminder of our culture and heritage in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado.

New Temple: Vision

New Temple will be the hub of Hindu religious and cultural activities in the Rocky Mountain Region, meeting needs of all major sects, and regional cultural groups. The temple will strive to be all inclusive and the facilities will be available to all community members who believe and respect the Hindu/Vedic/Sanatan Dharma.

New Temple: Objectives

The key objectives of the Hindu Temple and Cultural Center of the Rockies are to:

- Strive to fulfill growing need of our society to obtain authentic understanding of the vast and rich heritage of Hindu religious traditions, philosophy and culture.
- Operate a place of Hindu worship and conducting activities aimed at the cultural and spiritual development of the community.

These activities will address religious, cultural, and philosophical aspects of Hindu Dharma in its broadest sense and will include all sects (Sampardayas) of Hindu faith.

New Temple: Goals

The goal of the New Temple project is:

- To build a larger and better Hindu Temple and Cultural Center
- To provide a forum for
 1. Religious worship and celebrations
 2. Cultural, religious and spiritual development activities for all sects of the Hindu community of the Rocky Mountain region.

The new Temple has been designed and will be built to serve the needs of our growing community for decades to come.

Celebrations at Temple – Madhur Mahajan

Ganesha Puja (Jan 1, 2010): was held on January 1st to start the New Year, 2010. The puja was sponsored by Vaithianathan family. Once again, people of all regions gathered to seek the blessings of Lord Ganesha. On the first Sunday of the year, the Nava Graha Puja (worship of nine planets) was performed. As in the past years, Reva and Inder Nayar sponsored the Nava Graha Puja.

Maha Shiva Ratri Puja (Feb 4, 2010): was performed on Thursday, February 4th. Several sessions were conducted till midnight to perform Lord Shiva's Maha Abhishekam.

Holi Celebration (Feb 28, 2010): Festival of colors, Holi was celebrated on February 28th. The highlights of the event were Shri Nrusimha Narayana Puja, Havan followed by a cultural program, exchange of greetings with color, and prasad.

Major Hindu festivals are celebrated at the temple through out the year. A multitude of devotees gather on every Sunday and on special holidays. Individual members and group members sponsor the events and take the responsibility of Prasad and other chores to make each event pleasant and memorable one. With their selfless help and gracious support, the Hindu Temple has become a welcoming place to all devotees.

Treasurer's Report (Jan to Dec 2009) - Satish Kumar, Treasurer

Month	Income	Expense	Major Celebrations
Jan	14,300.39	12,881.02	New Year Ganesha Puja
Feb	15,461.92	14,036.72	
Mar	13,859.23	17,685.49	Maha Shivaratri
Apr	13,680.10	18,229.90	Sri Rama Navami
May	12,372.73	17,054.47	
Jun	10,828.69	5,937.79	Graduation Puja
Jul	6,883.96	13,033.43	
Aug	16,298.96	11,993.49	Krishna Janmastami & Ganesh Chaturthi
Sep	27,560.07	19,137.73	
Oct	16,082.65	15,874.03	Diwali
Nov	23,009.98	16,380.99	
Dec	23,349.00	19,612.19	

Total **\$193,687.68** **\$181,857.25**

Current Temple Fund	\$126,646.92
New Temple Fund	\$499,468.93
Total	\$626,115.85

**HINDU TEMPLE and CULTURAL CENTER of the ROCKIES INVITES
YOU TO JOIN IN THE CELEBRATION of**

Sri Ram Navami



Saturday, March 27, 2010 to Sunday, March 28, 2010

Program

Saturday, March 27, 2010	Ram Poojaa	10:00 AM
	Akhand Paath of Ram Charit Maanas begins	11:00 AM
Sunday, March 28, 2010	Akhand Paath of Ram Charit Maanas ends	11:00 AM
	Bhajanas, Pravachan etc.	11:00 – Noon
	Sri Ram Birthday Celebrations	12:00 - 12:15
	Stotra Reading	12:15- 12:45
	Announcements, Update on New Temple Project Arati and Prasad	12:45 - 12:50 12:50 – 1:30

If you are interested in participating in Akhand Ramayan Paath, please call Manohar Arora at 303-568-0746.

For further details, please call Acharya ji, Pandit ji and/or Karam V. Chawla at (303) 948-9693.

Direction: From C-470 & Wadsworth Blvd. – north on Wadsworth Blvd., west on Chatfield Ave (first light), make a U turn on Yukon Street, right on Wadsworth court (second street), first left to the Temple Parking area.

HTCC Board of Trustees and Officers

Officers:

President	Reva Nayar	303-690-4347
Vice President - New Temple	Narender Kumar	303-797-8029
Vice President - Operations	C. P. Mishra	303-973-7765
Secretary	Ram Vaithianathan	303-799-8157
Treasurer	Satish Kumar	303-973-4635
Manager	Karam Chawla	303-948-9693

Board of Trustees:

Agarwal, Bipin	303-883-6198	Bhat, Pawan	720-870-2244
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Kumar, Narender	303-797-8029	Kumar, Satish	303-973-4635
Mahajan, Madhur	303-278-9860	Mishra, C. P.	303-973-7765
Morisetti, Hari	720-748-6217	Mukherjee, Modhumita	303-499-5208
Nallapati, Srinivas	303-791-0481	Nanda, Ved	303-377-6438
Nayar, Reva	303-690-4347	Patel, Paresh	303-693-0576
Rao, Prabhakara	303-979-4193	Talanki, Sridhar	303-883-2403
Vaithianathan, Ram	303-799-8157	Verma, Sudhir	720-323-7799

Hindu Temple Operational Committees

If you have any comments or concerns, please contact the respective committee chairs.

Committees	Chair	Telephone	E-mail
Advisory Council	Bipin Agarwal	303-883-6198	bipin_agarwal@hotmail.com
Bylaws	Ved Nanda	303-377-6438	nandas@earthlink.net
Communications	Ram Vaithianathan	303-799-8157	jaya123@comcast.net
Executive	Reva Nayar	303-690-4347	amn116@hotmail.com
Finance	Satish Kumar	303-973-4635	skwc@wt.net
Fund Raising	Reva Nayar	303-690-4347	amn116@hotmail.com
Construction	Narender Kumar	303-797-8029	Knarender3@hotmail.com
Nomination	Reva Nayar	303-690-4347	amn116@hotmail.com
Operations	C. P. Mishra	303-973-7765	cpmishra@hotmail.com
Web Site	Prabhakara Rao	303-979-4193	PrabRao@comcast.net
	Madhu Mahajan	303-278-9860	madhurmahajan@msn.com
Mandir Vani	Prabhakara Rao	303-979-4193	PrabRao@comcast.net

SYMBOLISM IN HINDUISM, AND SIGNIFICANCE OF PUJAS

Mita Mukherjee

The earliest known Hindu scriptures are the Vedas and Upanishads. These texts contain rituals and practices that deal with meditation and contemplation for seekers on the spiritual path.

Hinduism is actually better described as a way of life—or the Sanatana Dharma, the values one needs to go through life. According to the Vedas, the infinite all pervading reality is called” BRAHMAN” derived from the word “Brihat” This means it is so large that it is incomprehensible to man.

Brahman is described as limitless, formless, infinite pervading all living and nonliving things in the universe. It is the consciousness within humans, the life force within plants and animals. The way to comprehend this entity is by way of meditation, however just to be able to reach this point, one has to lead a pure and satvik life, free of negative thoughts and emotions.

These teachings were handed down from guru (teacher) to shishya (disciple) by word of mouth in highly intellectual families. For common man this was too difficult to understand. They needed something that they could identify with. It is said Vyasa one of the great rishis at that time created the stories of the “Puras”. He created Gods and Goddesses of different qualities and attributes.

The main Gods or the trinity consists of Brahma—the god of creation. Vishnu, God of sustenance, Shiva the destroyer. The consort of Brahma is Saraswati, the goddess of knowledge. (One cannot create without knowledge). Vishnu's consort Lakshmi is goddess of wealth (one needs wealth to maintain the universe). Shiva is with Parvati or Durga the goddess of strength, or shakti. (One needs strength to destroy the evil in the world as well as within oneself). Shiva is also the God of the relentless cycle of birth and death that beings go through.

As time marched along numerous gods and goddesses got created however in Sanskrit the saying is “Ekam sat vipra, bahuda vadanti” which means the TRUTH is one but it is perceived and spoken of in different names and forms.

Now we come to the significance of the main pujas that we celebrate. Durga puja happens around October and in India we start the 10 days of the pujas with “mahalaya”

This day we remember our relatives, parents, grandparents who have passed on to the next life, we offer them food and flowers and worship their memory. It is said that Ram worshipped Ma Durga the goddess of strength so he could defeat the rakshasa Ravana.

We depict Ma Durga as gaining victory over Mahishasur who was a demon who brought evil into the world. After 10days of fighting Ma Durga killed the demon and stood victorious, the significance therein is that we should pray for the shakti inherent in us to destroy our evil tendencies such as anger, fear, jealousy, lust etc. On the 10th day we celebrate our victory over ourselves.

After Durga puja, there comes Kali puja an even stronger incarnation of Shakti , sometimes it takes a really strong hand to destroy the demons within us. This is followed by Lakshmi puja, we pray to the goddess of wealth to bless us with the sustenance and also to give us the inner wealth, or the nobler traits to go forth in the world.

Finally we pray to goddess Saraswati, to give us the knowledge to be creative as well as to attain the spiritual realization. Thus the symbolism of Durga, Kali, Lakshmi pujas pertain to a path of enlightenment, where false values of desire, lust, and passion are weeded out and positive values like self-control, love and kindness are cultivated. Only then can learning begin and we are ready to worship goddess Saraswati. We pray to her to bestow upon us the grace so we can reach the highest goal, “MOKSHA”, so we can be released from this endless cycle of birth and death. That is the ultimate goal of a human being according to our Hindu religion.

(These thoughts have been taken from Symbolism in Hinduism by swami Chinmayananda).

Shiva Ratri
(The cosmic night of Lord Shiva)
by
Acharya Kailash Chandra Upadhyay

Shiva Ratri is one of the main festivals of Hindus. It usually falls in the month of February or March every year and marks a day and night of fasting and prayers dedicated to the worship of Lord Shiva for receiving his blessings for the happiness.

On this day, especially in the night after sunset to next sunrise four pujas each 2 to 3 hours long are performed, chanting the “Rudram” (a special Vedic prayer dedicated to Lord Shiva) is offered on Shiva Linga along with puja ingredients. Also on this day in India huge crowds of people are seen in lines in front of the temples waiting for their turns to offer fruits, flowers and milk etc on the Shiva Linga.

Shiva, the consort of Parvati, is one of the trinity Gods, the destroyer, also the God of cure, abode of yogis, ascetics and mystics. He is known to be appeased easily even with the simple prayer of his devotees when offered with devotion. Thus he is called “Ashutosh”.

Vidyeshwar Samhita of Shiva Mahapuran in its 5-8 chapter mentions that on this day Lord Shiva appeared in front of creator Brahma and preserver Vishnu in the infinite form of a splendid fallus, when Brahma and Vishnu were unable to fathom his appearance, then Lord Shiva spoke to them that this represents the Brahman and that the replica of the Linga made by mortals in any size and worshipped on this day will bring them all the happiness, also, that this day now on will be known as “Shiva Ratri”.

The Linga represents the Purush (Breath and Sky) and the Yoni represents the Prakriti (matter and earth). The union of these two on this day is known as the marriage between Shiva and Parvati. Thus the outcome of this union is considered as the creation. The un-manifested absolute, which is beyond all forms and qualities, is represented in the form of Shiva Linga.

The worship of Shiva Linga is found in the ancient Rig Veda and also in other scriptures of Hindus. Six out of 18 Puranas, i.e. Shiva, Linga, Skanda, Matrya, Koorma and Brahmamand Puran are dedicated to Lord Shiva. Valmiki Ramayana, in its Uttar Khand 31/42-43 mentions that wherever Shiva devotee Ravana used to go, he took the Swarna Shiva Linga with him and placed it on the mound of sand and offered fruits, flowers and fluids on it and danced around it. The fourteenth chapter of Mahabharata’s Anushasan Parva mentions 1000 (Sahasra) names of Lord Shiva. The Keith of Sanskrit Literature Kalidas writes “Jagatsya Pitarou Vande Parvati Parameshwarou” meaning I bow to Parvati and her husband Parameshwara Shiva, who are mother and father of the Universe.

Rig Veda emphatically states that “Ekam Sad Viprah Bahudha Vadanti” meaning that the reality (truth) is one but learned people call it by many names. Therefore, the Brahman is called as Parama Brahma, Maha Vishnu and Parameshwara, representing the same abstract one. In the

same lieu of non-duality of Brahman, Padma Purana, though known as Vaishnavite Purana, gives the lengthy detail of the Linga Puja. Also, the Skanda Purana, which is famous for its well known Satya Narayana Kathas, mentions that even Lord Vishnu himself sings the glory of Linga as a form of Brahman: “Srashta tvam ko Parvah” meaning that you are the only creator, preserver and destroyer of this Universe, The same message has been echoed by the Tirumantriam Scripture which says of Shiva, “Himself creates, Himself preserves, Himself destroys, Himself conceals, Himself all of this he does and then grants Liberation and Himself the all pervading Lord.

Sir John Marshall is astonished to learn about the findings of countless Shiva Lingas through excavations in different parts of the world. He says that the worship of Shiva Linga especially in Mohenjo-Daro area, was well established even before chalcolithic age. He says further that the people of this land seem to belong to a sophisticated and civilized society.

May the love and compassion of Lord Shiva enlighten our hearts and minds to experience his bliss in everything, which is crucial for the co-existence of us all.

“OM Namah Shivaya”

Sanskrit Classes for Children
by
Pundit Raghavendra Iyyer

Pundit Ragavendra Iyyer has been offering Sanskrit class for 6 kids in the Denver area for a little over a year. The kids are between the age of 8 and 10. When Pundit ji started this class, the kids did not know to read or write Sanskrit. Further, the kids were not exposed to Sanskrit as these kids were born and brought up in this country. The kids first learnt the alphabets and pronunciations and then moved to words. Kids are able to read Sanskrit slokas on their own. Now they are learning poems, their meanings and grammar. Very soon they will be learning to develop sentences and move on to stories. Kids are challenged through periodic tests. In addition, Pundit ji teaches slokas for the last 5 minutes. Kids have already learnt Dakshnamoorthy Astakam and now learn Shyamala Dandakam. The class is held on Sundays between 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. For additional information, please contact Pundit ji at ndrock2004@yahoo.com or at (720) 308 - 8804.

Contact Information

Temple Priests:

Acharya ji Kailash Chandra Upadhyay 720-299-8890 (C)
Pundit ji Raghavendra Iyyer 720-308-8804 (C)

Temple Manager:

Karam Chawla 303-948-9693

**Hindu Temple and Cultural
Center of the Rockies**
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303-948-9693

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Address Correction Requested

Donation Appeal

Please continue to show your support by making generous donations at the Temple or by mail (cut and enclose the coupon printed below) to : 8375 S. Wadsworth Blvd., Littleton, CO 80128. The contributions are tax deductible. The Tax ID Number for the Hindu Temple and Cultural Center is 84 -1301209

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____, my/our contribution for the New Hindu Temple and Cultural Center of the Rockies.

Name: _____, Spouse Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____