



Mandir Vani

News Letter of

Hindu Temple and Cultural Center of the Rockies

8375 S. Wadsworth Blvd., Littleton, CO 80128

www.hindutempleofcolorado.org

303-948-9693

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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)

Madhur Mahajan (Editor)

Mahesh Jha (President)

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Upcoming Celebrations

A Major Milestone Achieved

On this Diwali day, the Hindu Temple is completing its 10 years of successfully serving and nurturing the spiritual and devotional needs of our community. To observe this milestone, month-long celebrations are already in place. Keep your calendars open and join us in the festivities at the temple.

Bhajan-Sandhya: Fri, October 13th, 6:30 PM

Well-known artists from our community, Vinata Gangolli (radio artist), Nirmalya Chatterjee, Swati Risbud, and Geeta Chaudhary and group offer their homage to the deities with melodious devotional songs in different regional languages. Aarati and prasad (light dinner) will follow.

Lakshmi Pooja and Diwali Celebration:

Fri, October 20th, 6:00 PM

Get ready to celebrate the most joyous festival of the year, Diwali, (the Festival of Lights). Come and pay homage to the Goddess Lakshmi on October 20 from 6:30 PM to 10:00 PM. For more details, please see the program flyer page 5.

Grand Pooja – Mahotsav: Sun, November 5th, 10:30 AM

Please join us in Pooja-Archana of all the temple deities, and participate in Yagna and bhajans. You may sponsor the Archana of your Revered Deity in your name for an optional donation of \$108.00, or all the deities for an optional donation of \$508.00. To sponsor, please sign up at the front desk or contact Acharya ji.

Community Rallies Behind Spectacular Concert to Raise Funds for Building New Temple

The temple organized a memorable concert of Odissi dance and Santoor music on Sunday, September 24 at the Grandview High School auditorium in Aurora. The three prominent artists from India - Srimati Sanchita Bhattacharya an Odissi dancer, Pandit Tarun Bhattacharya on Santoor and Sri Ajit Pathak on tabla gave a breathtaking performance. Another remarkable accomplishment of this event was that it brought together the entire community. Members of India Association of Colorado (IAOC), Bengali Association, Gujrati Samaj, Maratha Mandal, Kannada Koota, Kerala Association and Telegu association participated and strongly supported the event for the noble cause. Many community members generously contributed. The program exceeded its target and raised a net of about \$20,000 after paying all the expenses. Mrs Saroj Chatterjee organized and emceed the event with the help of more than twenty-five hard working, dedicated and talented volunteers from all across the community. The volunteers helped to provide live cameras, projectors and screens, which was an additional treat to the audience.

The program formally opened with the candle lighting ceremony by the temple priest Acharya Kailash Upadhyay ji. The stage was beautifully decorated with candles, flowers and Deitiy Jagannath. As the lights dimmed, the candles lined up along the edge of the large stage seemed like a beautiful garland and created a magnificent environment for this extraordinary concert.

Well-known Odissi dancer Sanchita Bhattacharya, a disciple of the legendary Guru Kelucharan Mahapatra, started her performance with the invocational dance - Mangalacharan. She chose *Vandemataram* as the invocational theme for this dance. This was followed by Pallavi (set to Raag Vasant) and Abhinay (set to the popular bhajan - *Maiya mori mai nehi makhan khayao*). She danced to a devotional song written in Oriya and concluded her program with Moksha (salvation) and Durga Vandana. Intricate footwork, beautiful expressions and grace came naturally in each of Sanchita's dance.

Santoor maestro Tarun Bhattacharya, a disciple of Pandit Ravi Shankar, spellbound the audience as he started with the popular evening Raag Kirwani which is originally a Karnatic raag; later on it was brought into the Hindustani music system.

Ajit Pathak, a disciple of the great legend Pandit Kishen Maharaj of Benares, accompanied on tabla. The jugalbandi (interaction) between the santoor and tabla was absolutely incredible as the audience interrupted the performance several times with applause. This was followed by an improvisation set to the great Gujrati bhajan - *Vaishnav jan to*. Pandit Bhattacharya concluded his program with a *gat* in Misra Pahadi followed by a *dhun* in Bengali folk tune - *Bhatiyali*.

Hindu Temple President Dr Mahesh Jha presented a slide show on the project plan for building the new temple. The program was followed by a delicious dinner from the Taste of India restaurant. Attendees were effusive in praising the team for the great work in presenting such a wonderful event.

- Nirmalya Chatterjee



Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about New Temple

Over the last several months, many community members have asked us many questions about the New Temple. We would like to share those questions and our answers to them with all of you to keep you informed about our plans and progress.

Why do we need a New Temple when we already have a Hindu Temple?

We are not planning a new Hindu Temple in addition to the current Hindu Temple, rather to relocate to bigger and better facilities to better accomplish our mission. When the New Temple becomes operational, we will move out of the current building and sell it.

What will the New Temple offer that we do not have in the current Temple?

First, the New Temple would be larger in size with seating capacity of about 500, and with space for more deities. This is an appropriate target based on our past experience and future projections. We plan to build a Temple that will meet the community needs for decades to come, because a Temple is not like a store or office that one can change easily. Second, it will include cultural and educational facilities. Third, the facilities will be modern, designed for the convenience of the visitors and meeting particularly the needs of the elderly and the children. Fourth, the inside and outside architecture as well as the landscaping will be appropriate for a Temple, enhancing the experience of both, worshippers and visitors. It will be a place that the community will be proud to own.

Where will you build this New Temple? Have you found a suitable land?

We have signed a contract for a piece of land on South Potomac and East Fremont Streets in the City of Centennial, Colorado. It is easily accessible from I-25, East Arapahoe Road exit (less than 4 miles). The largest concentration of the Hindus in Rocky Mountain region live and/or work within a 10-mile radius of this site. It is a beautiful piece of land near Arapahoe County Justice center with very good road and utility access, and excellent mountain and park views. It is in an industrial park, currently under development, and we have received indications that a religious facility can be built there, after receiving proper Special Use permit. The land

size, 4.25 acres will provide ample parking and landscaping as well as site for future buildings such as a separate community/cultural center. The price, \$500,000, is very reasonable for that location. The closing is set for January 15, 2007.

How much will the whole project cost and how long will it take?

It is hard to give a firm number because the design has not been completed. Our preliminary estimate is that it will cost about 2.5 to 3 million dollars and if funds are available when needed, the New Temple should be ready for use in about 3 years, by summer of 2009.

Where are you going to get that kind of money?

Some money will come from the sale of the current facilities. Most of it will come as donations from people like you, us, and all other Hindus in our community who recognize the need for a temple and priest in their day-to-day life and for ceremonial rites from birth to marriage to death. A temple is used by the community and has to be built by the community. Dozens of communities in US and Canada have built temples, reflecting their size and affluence, and we can do it too.

We are fortunate that many of our community members have been very successful in their businesses and professions. This will be a "once in a life-time" opportunity for them to thank God for the blessings and share their blessings with their community. It is not unrealistic to expect that every family can and should make a one-time contribution of at least one percent of its current worth of assets, for a community facility to be used by them for life and to be left behind as a legacy for the next generation.

We probably have more than 200 very successful Hindu "Baby Boomers" with family assets (home, retirement funds, and savings) worth more than a million dollars. If they make a tax-deductible contribution of \$10,000 it is not going to deprive them or their heirs of a good life. And a beautiful Temple and Cultural center would enhance the quality of their life now and in retirement by providing a place to pursue religious and spiritual activities.

In addition, we have several hundred young families with annual income of \$100,000 or more. Many young couples have talked to us about this.

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about New Temple (Continued)

They want to have a place where their children can learn about our religious and cultural heritage. They want to have a place for their parents (residents or visitors) to enjoy religious, spiritual and cultural activities. They are willing to contribute a couple of thousand dollars per year, for three four years, to have a place that they can proudly take their children and parents to.

Will donors get any special benefit or recognition?

Well, the Temple and all its facilities will be open to all, regardless of their donations. However, we are considering several ideas to recognize the donors. They may be registered as members of HTCC with voting rights to elect Trustees. They may be listed in HTCC Annual Directories. The names of donors in certain categories (see the Pledge Contribution Form) may be engraved on plaques displayed in the Temple in specific areas or in reception lobby. We may even consider naming certain areas, such as the library or the stage or the dining hall, after a major donor (say \$25,000 or more).

Can a donor remain anonymous?

While we would like to have the names of our donors displayed in the Temple, for their friends and family members to see for decades to come, if a donor would like to remain anonymous, we will honor that request.

Has the Fund-Raising started? How is it going?

Yes, the Fund-Raising has started. In fact, it has been going on for some time. But now that we have signed a contract for the land, we are stepping up the activities. A Fund-Raising committee has been formed and we are working to recruit members from various cultural regions to join in the effort. We are following several approaches: mass distribution of pledge forms in Mandir Vani and at temple functions, organizing special fundraising events such as a concert held last month, one-on-one personal meetings. So far, about \$115,000 has been received in donations designated for the New Temple and we have pledges for additional \$85,000. We

Raja and Prabha Upadhyay: \$5,000 (paid in full)

also have \$65,000 from the sale of the third lot at current location.

If I can't make a large one-time donation, can I make several smaller donations?

Sure. You can indicate total contribution in the Pledge Form and pay it over three years.

Besides money donation, how else can I help?

You can help in fund raising efforts, planning and organizing events, making calls, persuading friends and relatives. And, if you have ideas and professional skills related to architecture and design of temples, you can help develop preliminary plans and drawings.

Please contact Satish (Sam) Kumar: (720) 973-4635, Narender Kumar: (303) 797-8029, Bipin Agarwal: (303) 883-6198 or Mahesh Jha: (303) 526-0260 for further details.



Additional Pledges...

Since the publication of last issue of Mandir Vani, following pledges have been received for the New Temple:

Abhinav and Aparna Dhar: \$5,100 (paid in full)

Ved & Kathy Nanda: \$5,000

Sridhar and Subalakshmi Talanki: \$10,000 (paid \$1200 to date)



New Temple Fund Contribution Pledge Form

Please join the Community leaders in this noble cause to serve God and our community, and to build a legacy for our children so that they can be aware of our proud heritage! Your generous financial support is urgently needed to buy the land and to design and build the facilities (about three million dollars) during the next three years.

Please fill out the form and send it along with your check:

Payable to: **New Temple Fund**

Address: Hindu Temple and Cultural Center of the Rockies,
8375 South Wadsworth Blvd, Littleton, CO 80128

Your donation is tax deductible (Tax ID # 84-1301209). A contribution receipt will be sent to you in January 2007. May God bless you and your family!

I pledge to help build the New Temple by becoming a:

- **Sponsor** (Total Contribution of \$25,000 or more)
- **Patron** (Total Contribution of \$10,000 to \$24,999)
- **Benefactor** (Total Contribution of \$5,000 to \$9,999)
- **Supporter** (Total Contribution of \$2,500 to \$4,999)
- **Member** (Total Contribution of \$1,000 to \$2,499)

I am making this contribution in the name of: (optional)

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____
The balance (if applicable), \$ _____ will be paid _____
_____(method/date).

Signature and date:

Name (last, first & spouse):

Address:

Email address:

Phone Number:

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Program for Diwali Celebration



Friday, October 20, 2006

<u>Program</u>	<u>Time</u>
Candle lighting by children*	6:30 -- 6:45 PM
Ganesh and Lakshmi Poojaa	6:45 – 7:15 PM
Stotra Paath (Sree Suktam etc)	7:15 -- 7:45 PM
Pravachana by Acharya Ji	7:45 – 8:00 PM
Fund Raising for New Temple	8:00 -- 8:30 PM
<i>Keertana / Bhajana*</i>	8:30 – 9:00 PM
<i>Arati / Prarthana</i>	9:00 – 9:30 PM
<i>Prasaad</i>	9:30 – 10:00PM

***Children will receive packages containing goodies!**

****Silver coins of Lakshmi and Ganesh will be available, suggested donation:
single coin for \$20 and a set of two coins for \$35.**

Directions to the temple: From C-470, take Wadsworth Blvd exit, go north. Left on West Chatfield Avenue (first light), going west one block. Turn left on S. Wadsworth Ct., going south half block. First driveway on the left is to the temple parking lot. The new south parking is accessible from there through the Frontage Road.



HINDU TEMPLE AND CULTURAL CENTER OF THE ROCKIES

8375 S. WADSWORTH BLVD. LITTLETON, CO 80128, TELE (303) 948 - 9693

Chief Priest: Acharya Kailash Chandra Upadhyay Tele. Residence (720) 344 – 1448

YEAR 2007 Activity Calendar (Page 1)

Activity	Date	Day	Time
January			
New Year / Ganesha Pooja	01	Monday	11 AM
Poornima/Satyanarayana Katha	03	Wednesday	6:30 PM
Navagrah Pooja	07	Sunday	11 AM
Lohadi	13	Saturday	
Makar Sankranti / Pongal	14	Sunday	11 AM
Vasanta Panchami/Sarasvati Pooja	23	Tuesday	6:30 PM
February			
Poornima /Satyanarayana Katha	02	Friday	6:30 PM
Maha Shivaratri	15	Thursday	8:00 PM
Holashtak Begins	24	Saturday	
March			
Holi Holashtak Ends	03	Saturday	
Poornima/Satyanarayana Katha	03	Saturday	6:30 PM
Hindu New Year – Ugaadi (Vikrama Samvata 2064 begins)	19	Monday	6:30 PM
Vasanta Navaratra Begins	19	Monday	
Durga Ashtami	26	Monday	6:30 PM
Shri Rama Navami (Akhand Ramayana Paath following Saturday and Sunday).	27	Tuesday	March 31, 10:00 M – April 01, 2 PM
April			
Shri Hanuman Jayanti	02	Monday	6:30 PM
Poornima /Satyanarayana Katha	02	Monday	6:30 PM
Parashurama Jayanti	19	Thursday	
Akshaya Tritiya	19	Thursday	
Adi Shankaracharya Jayanti	23	Monday	
Nrisimha Jayanti	30	Monday	6:30 PM
May			
Poornima/Satyanarayana Katha/ Adhik Maasa Begins	02	Wednesday	6:30 PM
Poornima /Satyanarayana Katha	31	Thursday	6:30 PM
June			
Adhik Maasa Ends	15	Friday	
Graduation Pooja	17	Sunday	11 AM
Ganga Dashami	25	Monday	
Nirjala Ekadashi	26	Tuesday	
Poornima /Satyanarayana Katha	31	Thursday	6:30 PM

*HINDU TEMPLE AND CULTURAL CENTER OF THE ROCKIES
YEAR 2007 Activity Calendar (Page 2)*

Activity	Date	Day	Time
July			
Devashayini Ekadashi	26	Thursday	
Guru Poornima/Satyanarayana Katha	30	Monday	6:30 PM
Shravana Month begins	30	Monday	
August			
Teej Vrat	15	Wednesday	
Naaga Panchami	18	Saturday	
Vara – Lakshami	24	Friday	7:00 PM
Poornima/ Rakshaabandhana/Satyanarayana Katha	28	Tuesday	
Upaa-karma	28	Tuesday	8:00 AM
September			
Shri Krishna Janmashtami	03	Monday	6:00 PM
Haritalika Teej Vrat	14	Friday	
Vinayaka Chaturthi	15	Saturday	6:30 PM
Poornima/Satyanarayana Katha	26	Wednesday	6:30 PM
Pitri Paksh (Shraddha) Begins	27	Thursday	
October			
Pitri Paksh (Shraddha) Ends	11	Thursday	
Sharada Navaratri Begins	12	Friday	
Durga Ashtami	19	Friday	6:30 PM
Dashahara/Vijaya Dashami	21	Sunday	11:00 AM
Sharada Poornima/Satyanarayana Katha	25	Thursday	6:30 PM
Karavaa Chauth	28	Sunday	4:00 PM
November			
Ahoi Ashtami	02	Friday	
Dipawali/Lakshami Pooja	09	Friday	6:00 PM
Govardhana Pooja	10	Saturday	
Bhaiya Dooja	11	Sunday	
Tulasi Vivaha	21	Wednesday	
Poornima/Satyanarayana Katha/Guru Nanaka Jayanti	24	Saturday	6:30 PM
December			
Gita Jayanti/Mokshada Ekadashi	20	Thursday	6:00 PM
Poornima /Satyanarayana Katha	24	Monday	7:00 PM

Activities in Bold Faces are planned to be celebrated at the temple.

Dates are subject to change, please call Acharya ji for confirmation and further details.

Direction: From C-470 , Exit Wadsworth Blvd. north , left on Chatfield Ave. (First Light), left on Wadsworth Court (first street) , first driveway on the left is to the temple parking lot.

Board Briefings...

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the overall management of the Hindu Temple and Cultural Center of the Rockies (HTCC). It sets the policies and guidelines. The day-to-day operations are managed by the Officers and Committees. The names and phone numbers of the current Officers and Trustees are given below. Please feel free to contact them, if you have any suggestions about the operations of the current temple, plans for the new temple, or you would like to volunteer your services.

This Diwali marks the tenth anniversary of Temple operations at its current location. During this period HTCC has grown into a congregation of about 1500 families. The steady growth in temple activities and community support for the temple is reflected in temple's annual operating budget, which now stands at about \$100,000 in income and \$75,000 in expenses. The net asset has increased from a few thousand dollars to nearly half a million dollars (cash and property).

Mrs. Saroj Chatterjee is responsible for organizing cultural events. We congratulate her on organizing a very successful fundraising program featuring Sarod Maestro Tarun Bhattacharya and Odissi

dancer Sanchita Bhattacharya. The program netted about \$17,000.

It is anticipated that some of the current Trustees will be retiring at the end of 2006 and we will add some new Trustees. If you would like to recommend some one's name, including yourself, please contact one of the members of Nominating Committee – Reva Nayar, Mahesh Jha or C.P. Mishra. In terms of cultural regional groups, we are still seeking a trustee with Gujarati origins. We are also seeking a trustee, who can take charge of communications – maintaining website, membership directory, email communications and Mandir Vani publication. In addition to having appropriate skills, the person would have to commit at least about 20 hours of time per month at the temple - participating in activities and then communicating it to the congregation. A very good volunteering opportunity for some one with ideas and time!

The Board is also pleased to share the news about the new Assistant Priest Mr. N. D. Raghavendra, who has his visa interview scheduled for November 1 at Chennai and God willing, should arrive in Denver, soon thereafter. Just in time, as, Acharya Ji is planning to visit his parents in India, from November 8 to 22.

Officers

President	Mahesh Jha	303-526-0260
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	303-973-635

Trustees

Bipin Agarwal	303-883-6198	Satish V. Kumar	720-489-5093
Arun Budhiraja	303-755-4805	Madhur Mahajan	303-278-9860
Saroj Chatterjee	303-470-2801	Ved Nanda	303-377-6438
Paritosh Kaul	720-488-3546	Reva Nayar	303-690-4347
Pushp Khatri	303-979-8424	Sridhar Talanki	303-883-2403
		Raja Upadhyay	303-526-4297

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SITE FOR NEW HINDU TEMPLE

After a long and exhaustive search, we have signed a contract for an approximately 4.25 acre parcel of land located east of Centennial Airport, northwest of the intersection of Potomac Street and Fremont Avenue. The price of the land is \$500,000, which translates into roughly \$2.70 per square foot. I believe this is an ideal location, where majority of Hindu population resides and is easily accessible. The site is large enough for us to build a beautiful facility we can be proud of. We can build a structure that can be used for worship and holding community events. I want to thank members of New Temple Committee and Bipin Agarwal for the time and efforts spent in this search. I especially want to thank Stephanie Bryant, our realtor, who made this her personal mission to find this property for us.

We have a long way to go before this dream is realized. The closing is scheduled for January 15, 2007 and we need money, as we currently have only about half the funds needed for the purchase. We have a successful and prosperous Indian population in this area. As Camille says, look at the houses and cars the Indians own; this should not be a difficult task for this community. We are all proud of our rich heritage and our children must feel the same. I appeal to all of you to open your hearts and wallets to make this project a success. I see no reason why we cannot do what has been done in number of other cities. We need to raise \$2.5 to \$3.0 million and we can do it. We need it for our legacy and for the sake of our children and culture.

Narender Kumar
Vice President-New Temple Construction