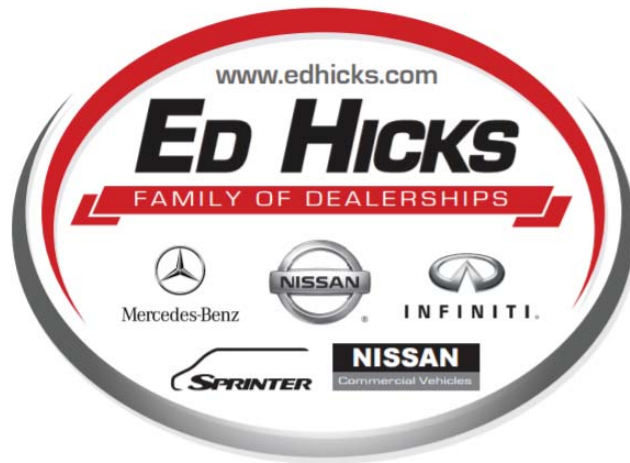


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**MAHAKUMBHABHISHEKAM CEREMONY  
SRI VENKATESHWARA TEMPLE  
MAY 13 2017 TO MAY 18 2017  
SOUVENIR**



South Texas Hindu Society  
10401 McKinzie Ln, Corpus Christi, TX 78410  
[www.southtexashindusociety.org](http://www.southtexashindusociety.org)

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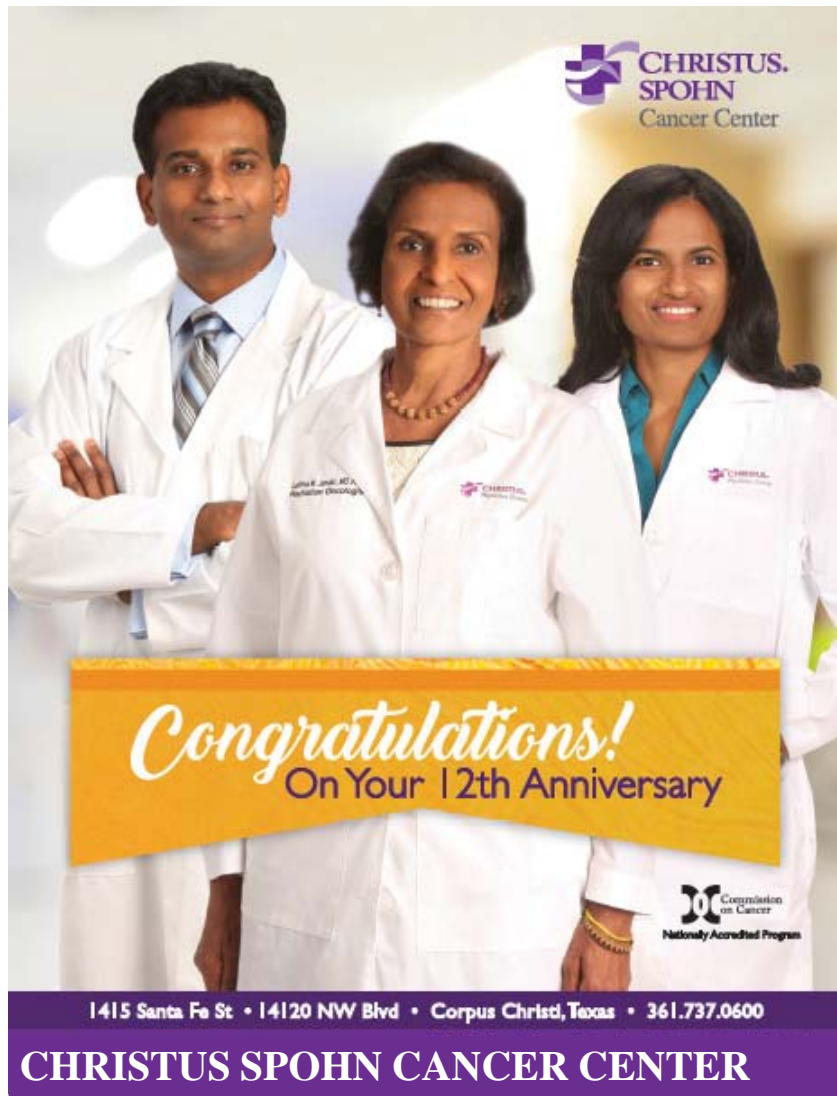
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**Bill Wilson**  
Lending Officer  
[bwilson@americanbank.com](mailto:bwilson@americanbank.com)



**ONCOLOGY TEAM** Left to Right  
**Dr. Shantanu G. Reddy, Dr. Lalitha Janki and Dr. Swetha Panati**



**FOREWORD**

In May of 2017, by the time of the Mahakumbhabhisekham, our temple will have completed 12 years of service to the community and it has been a great 12 years. From the yearly festivals including the Diwali celebrations to the daily Poojas, we have had a great venue to both practice and celebrate our heritage, culture and religion and to expose the next generation and the community to it. We have also been able to serve the community at large through the Annual Health Fair and showcase our traditions through the Festival of India. The importance of having such a venue for our own community was brought home to us when we recently witnessed a beautiful dance recital at the temple by young ladies born and brought up in Corpus Christi showcasing their knowledge of our classical Bharatanatyam. This is something that we can all cherish.

From a personal standpoint, my family has been in Corpus Christi for over eight years and we have thoroughly enjoyed it. As for most of us, our journey here was quite unexpected but fortuitous. In fact, as luck would have it, on our second trip to Corpus Christi when we were deciding where to put down roots, we came to this temple and witnessed an Ugadi celebration. Our host brought us to the temple where we witnessed a gathering of the community and first met people. Pooja and I were overjoyed to see how welcoming and warm the Corpus Christi Temple Community was. This exposure showed me that in this small town in South Texas there is a community that gets together in harmony and maintains our traditions. The visit to the temple was a large deciding factor in our decision to move here. We moved here and are trying to do our part for the same community and those who come here like we did. We do not have to forget our cultural roots in order to be American. This is, after all, a country that respects diversity and is a melting pot. When we are firmly rooted in our own traditions we can respect ourselves and give to our nation that which is the best we have to offer and also learn what is best to learn. This cultural dialogue can only be had when each side has a good knowledge of their personal traditions. Our temple gives us a great vehicle for learning and being able to showcase our side to the community in general. For all this, we have our community with all the volunteers and our hardworking priests to thank. Over the next twelve years, there is certainly more to come that we will all do. There is a vibrant Swadhyaya currently and bhajans that many participate in. More participation with additional opportunities to learn in the form of regular classes for singing, dancing and perhaps a Bal Vihar, would be great for both our younger children and continuing with the cultural education that is provided at the temple for the community at large.

**Vijay Bindingavele**  
**President, STHS**

## PRIESTS



Sriman Lakshmi Srinivasacharyulu Anikepally



Sriman Sai Manoj Machavolu

### Cultural team:

Mrs. Sri Devi Padmanabhan, Shalini Narang, Vimmi Maheshwari, Shobha Venkatraman, Gargi Bhowal, Maria Alexander, Nandini Krishnan, Kalyani Chekuri, Ritha Kulkarni, Sulakshna Modak, Anju Ahuja, Alka Ahuja and many other talented men and women .

The Temple website was supported very well by Mr. Krishna & Mrs. Raji Akella and Mr. Mohit Goyal from Austin and now by our own Mrs. Manasa and Dr. Ramaesh Chandra Yarlagadda. The grounds keeping maintenance is done by Misters Gopal Pathikonda, Raju Bhaga, Kantilal Bhakta & Pinakin Patel.

### Fund raising:

Drs. Ramakrishna Mulukutla, Mahesh Maruvada, Vandana Kamat and Lalitha Janaki

### News letter:

Mr. Prasad Yarlagadda, Dr. Mahesh Maruvada, Mrs. Manasa Tatikonda, Dr. Ramesh Chandra Yarlagadda, Dr. Lalitha Janaki

### Flowers and Decorations:

Srimathis: Anushaanikepalli, Sarojini Uyyalada, Punita Krishnaswamy, Sashi Sudhakaran, Lata Patel, Rajaya Lakshmi Rayasam, Manasa Tatikonda, Bhagya Reddy, Aruna Rao, Sarojini Mahadevan, Drs. Lalitha Janaki, Siri Surapaneni, Vandana and Suraj Kamat.

### Volunteers:

Thank You all for being there when we needed you. You all have put your heart and souls in making this project a grand success.

### Souvenir:

Dr. Lalitha Janaki, Mr. Karthik Viswanathan, Mrs. Bhakti Sooda, Drs. Vandana Kamat, Ramakrishna Mulukutla, and Mahesh Maruvada. This souvenir would not have been released on time without the yeoman work done by Mr. Karthik Viswanathan, & Mrs. Bhakti Sooda. My sincere apologies if I did not mention everyone, but we want you to know that you are the pillars behind our success.



On behalf of the entire board my sincere thanks to you all.

#### Our managers:

Misters. Naru Patel, Ashok Nadkarni, Ananth Venkatraman.

#### Our Present Manager: Dr. Murthy Mangipudi:

Mr. Stewart Rice is our legal advisor since the inception. We are very thankful for the free services he has provided and continues. Mr. Gary Pearce was our accountant in the beginning and helped us set up at no cost to the organization. Mr. Naru Patel not only helped the temple organization, but also has been a great advisor to all our priests, who have just moved to USA.

**The success of this organization is due to our strong community.**

#### Annadatas:

There is no life without food and there is no puja without prasadam.

Srimatis: Prabha Mulukutla, Sashi Sudhakaran, Swarna Katragadda, Rajya Lakshmi Rayasam, Paresha Desai, Anita Patel, Jaya Patel, Shyamala Maruvada, Rama Mangipudi, Ranjana Jain, Nirupama Patel, Bhakti Nadkarni, Meena Pathikonda, Vandana Kamat, Shobha Venkat Raman, Saroja Uyyala, Ajeeta Polluri, Sujata Yarlagadda, Devasena Komuri, Jyothi Patel, Rekha Gajjar Ketan Gandhi, Margie Dalvi, The Mahila Mandal, and a number of other ladies .

**My sincere apologies if,** I have not included everyone involved.

The Health fair and Festival of India were an attractive feature to both the Indian and non Indian community;

#### Our leaders for HF and FOI are:

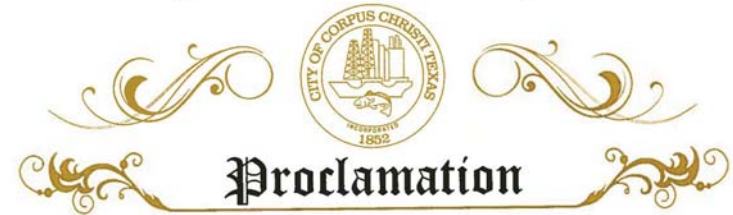
Drs. Sivakumar Padmanabhan, Srikanth Dama Raju, Vandana Kamat, Vijay Bindingnavle, Suraj Kamat, Rama Krishna Mulukutla, Murthy Mangipudi, Vishnu Reddy, Krishna Rayasami, MP. Sudhakaran, Chandra R. Katragadda, Shamim Baduruddin, Salim Surani, Mathew Alexander, Thomas Alexander, Kasi Chekuri, Rajeev Narang, Suresh Pathikonda, Meena Pathikonda, Suresh Kulkarni, Mahesh Maruvada. Divyang Ayar, Muku Maheshwari, Arvind Modak, Ashok Jain, Narender Kumar, Ravi Krishnan, Lalitha Janaki.

\*Srimatis, Lata Rakhe, Prithi Kular, Bhakti Nadkarni, Daksha Patel, Neela Patel, Indu Mangala, Shashi Singh, Meenakshi Patel, Jayshree Shah, Bakula Dave.

Misters Sekhar Dongre, Pinakin Patel, Rakhesh Patel, Narender Patel, Bhanukant Patel, Vijayan Ramaswamy, Palniappan, Rajan Ahuja, Prasad Yarlagadda, Ramesh Poluri, Srinivas Uyyalada, Sunil Reddy, Srinivas Komeri, Ranjit Bhakta, Bhaskar Patel, Narender Patel, Nareen Mangla, Madan Singh.

Bhakta Samaj: Mr. Raju Bagat, Mahaveer Bhakta, Baldev Bhakta, Kanti Bhakta, Kantilal Bhakta, Nandu Dalvi, Gulf Coast Paper, Mattera Paper Products, Gulf Coast Paper Company, Quantum Kopies are just a few names.

# City of Corpus Christi



**WHEREAS**, on May 28, 2005, South Texas Hindu Society inaugurated Sri Venkateswara Temple to provide facilities for worship and prayer services for the Hindu community of South Texas. The temple employs Vedic priests who can perform religious ceremonies at the temple as well as provide guidance or assistance to the Hindu community. The priests also promote and communicate the distinct religious, philosophical and cultural dimensions of the Hindu religion among the American population; and

**WHEREAS**, the temple provides facilities for Yoga and Meditation for the development of the mind, body and soul. The temple provides a venue for celebration of festivals and religious ceremonies. It facilitates the teaching of any Indian language as well as music, dance and/or other arts. Also, the temple inspires the young generation to acquire the knowledge, and understanding of Hinduism; and

**WHEREAS**, over the past decade, through Festival of India and Community Health Fair, South Texas Hindu Society has showcased its rich cultural heritage to the local population and has served over 10,000 fellow South Texans with free health screenings that included cholesterol, Electrocardiogram (EKG), blood pressure, blood sugar, diabetes analysis and a free follow-up consultation with a physician or specialist to address any health issues; and

**WHEREAS**, the devotees of Sri Venkateswara Temple invite all community members to visit the temple and seek blessings from Lord Venkateswara. The devotees serve as a source of inspiration and guidance to one another who worship there, and provide support in times of need; and

**WHEREAS**, according to Hindu scriptures, Mahakumbhabhishekam is required to be performed for every twelve years to re-vitalize the temple. During this ceremony, Divine energy is invoked in kumbha's and it is transferred to the deities via best ritualistic tradition. Through the continued performance of worship by numerous people over generations, the divine energy in each deity builds up, and the temple as a whole grows in spiritual status.

**NOW**, therefore, pursuant to the powers vested in me as Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Corpus Christi, I do hereby proclaim,

May 13 - 17, 2017

## "First Mahakumbhabhishekam Celebration Days"

in Corpus Christi, Texas, of Sri Venkateswara Temple and encourage all citizens to join in this celebration.

May 9, 2017

*Lucy Rubio*

Lucy Rubio  
Mayor Pro Tem



**Board of Trustees**



**Avinash Ahuja**



**Pinakin Patel**



**Krishnaiah  
Rayasam**



**Bhakti Sooda**



**Shantan  
Reddy**



**Bhanukant  
Patel**



**Mahesh Maruvada**



**Rakesh Patel**



**Riitha Kulkarni**



**Vote of thanks**

Lalitha M. Janaki, MD FACR

I am honored, and humbled to be asked to write this article. Corpus Christi has been our home for the last 33 years. Corpus Christi was a big switch for me and our family, having moved from Washington D.C. Some 18 years later, my husband Madhava Gopal, and our family with other community members were involved in building the Hindu temple. Looking back, we have enjoyed the history.

**South Texas Hindu Society was established 2002.**

The founding members of this organization are Drs. Subba Rao Burra ,Lalitha M. Janaki, Ramakrishna Mulukutla and MP Sudhakaran, Mr. Bhanukant Patel. Two years later Dr.Chandra Sekhar Rao Katragadda has joined the team as a board member. We had to raise funds and secure a place to house our deities. As the organization has no prior history, the bank would not loan the money. Drs. Subba Rao Burra, Lalitha Janaki, Chandra Sekhar Rao Katragadda, Rama Krishna Mulukutla, MP Sudhakaran and Mr.Bhanukant Patel have pledged their personal assets to secure the loan. With Lord Balaji's grace, funds started coming in and we were able to release our liability after six years. Misters Bhanukant Patel, Govind Nadkarni, Ajmer Kular, Gopal Pathikonda Harish Shah, Ashok Nadkarni and several members of the community cooperated, to complete the first phase of the project. At the time of our inauguration, the temple was not completely built, that was in year 2005. Slowly but surely we completed the final phase of the project. Thanks to great efforts by Mr.Bhanukant Patel. Subsequently we have installed Sri Durga Mata, Sri Pavan Suta Hanuman, Sri Shiridi Saibaba, Dwajashambam and the Gopurams at the top of each temple.

In spite of all the hiccups, yes we have come a long way. At present we have 19 members on the board, and their pictures are in the souvenir. We do have champions, who silently support us like Dr. Meena and Mr. Gopal Pathikonda.

**Our Past priests:**

Srimans Sivakumar Shankarmanchi, Kalyan Kumar Paramkusam, Srinivas Sharma Gudipalli, Sai Chandra Sekhar Murikipudi.

**Our present team: Sriman Srinivascharyulu Anikepalli and Sriman Sai Manoj Machavolu**

They both are very proficient, well-liked by the community. We are very blessed to have both of them.

the group turned to S.V. Temple. The temple committee's accommodation of the group's weekly practices was a boon in many ways. It provided the group with a neutral place for practices and was also located conveniently so that Dr. Sreedhara's drive could be cut down by an hour, as he was already making a 4 hour round trip to get to the group. Additionally, the group was able to avail the space free of charge which was also important in the continuation of the dance program.



We are eternally grateful to the S.V. Temple and its board for providing our kids and the Corpus community an opportunity to learn about this art form. Bharatanatyam is difficult to master and, as such, taught the children many life lessons, including but not limited to patience, discipline, hard-work, endurance, and respect. The many performances given at the S.V. Temple's fundraiser as well as the annual programs of KaveriNatya Yoga had inspired and motivated our kids to continue to keep up with the learning and, in some cases, bring it to the Arangetram stage. Arangetram is the debut on-stage performance of a Indian classical dance or music. We are hoping to see more of our kids achieve their goals in dance and continue with their learning. On occasion of the temple anniversary, all the dance students and their families wish to offer a heartfelt thank you, as well as best wishes for a bright spiritual future for the S.V. Temple and its devotees. As the Bhagavad Gita states, "Whatever has happened, has happened for good, Whatever is happening is also for good, Whatever will happen shall also be for good."

**Smt. Maria Alexander**

**Smt. Kalyani Chekuri**



**Sathanarayana  
Murthy Mangipudi**



**Sridevi  
Shivakumar**



**M.P. Sudhakaran**



**Vandana Kamat**



**Vijay  
Bindingavele**



**Krishna Akella**



**Ramakrishna  
Mulukutla**



**Srikanth Damaraju**



**Lalitha Janaki**



**Chandra  
S. Katragadda**



**OM NAMO VENKATESAAYA NAMAHA**

**Venkatadri Samam Sthanam**

**Brahmande Nasti Kinchana,**

**Venkatesa Samo Devo Na**

**Bhutho Na Bhavishyati**

**Vina Venkatesam na natho na natha,  
Sada venkatesam smarami , smarami,  
Hare Venkatesa , praseedha praseedha,  
Priyam Venkatesa , prayacha prayacha.**

#### **Vaikanasa Agama Viseshalu Sthala Mahatyam**

Lord Venkateswara is ruler of the entire universe, unimaginably mesmerizing, eternally young, kind to everyone, adorns precious Gems and possesses purest soul who fulfills desires without asking. This Sri Lakshmi Prasanna Venkateswara Swamy's Temple has magnificent effect on this place. Devotees' desires are fulfilled because of the Divine Power of Venkateswara swamy. The temple administration has given me the Golden opportunity of being Vaishnavite priest and dedicate myself to serving the Lord from October 17th 2010. Ever since I embraced this Temple and community. I had several wonderful experiences I wish to share with all Devotees. Sri Bhu Neela sametha Sri Lakshmi Prasanna Venkateswara swamy Temple is located at Corpus Christi, Texas with main deity as Sri Venkateshwara swamy along with other deities . Every devotee with the help of the priest has been frequently visiting the temple to get their wishes fulfilled. For the past 12 years the temple has been performing nithyotsava, pakshotsava masotsava samvatsarotsavas continuously. Devotees will be get (kongu bangaram), fulfilling their internal wishes and also giving devotees what they desired after birth along with that they also get moksha after death. The effulgent temple with all beautiful deities is ready for Mahakumbhishekam. This Mahabhishekam is going to be performed on basis of vaikanasa agama shastra. Let us know about vaikanasa aagama:

**Vaikanasa Agama:** Nigamas or vedas and agamas or tantras, form the two primary stream of thought in indian culture. Agamas have made a two fold contribution to our heritage, literary and practical. The literary contribution consists of temple oriented

## **Dancing Amidst Gods**

Bharathnatyam is an ancient Indian dance form that traces it's origins to 2nd century BC. Traditionally, the dance was a way of expressing the mythological, devotional and spiritual components of the Hindu religion in a dance-drama format. Now a days, it encompasses other religions and is no longer confined to theological genre. The way of patronizing and preserving this art was through community performances, most commonly in temples. Even in this sense, many have strayed from the traditional norm. In modern times, many dancers practice in studios but, thanks to the S.V. Temple's generosity, the Bharatanatyam dancers of Corpus Christi have been allowed to stay in touch with the very roots of this sacred art form. The Corpus Christi S.V. Temple played a vital role not only in providing the group a venue to present its dance programs annually, but also the space to learn the dance for several years.



To give a little history, some of our girls were introduced to Bharatanatyam about 14 years ago in Aarti Dance School based in San Antonio. Unfortunately, the distance made commitment difficult for both parents and children, and the opportunity for the girls to learn the classical dance came to an abrupt halt. After a few years' gap, SrideviJaishekar's interest and initiative brought Kaveri Natya Yoga and Dr. Sreedhara Akkibalu to Corpus Christi. Dr. Sreedhara was a blessing for our kids as he was willing to make a trip to Corpus Christi to teach the girls Bharatanatyam. As the student population grew, and individual homes were no longer feasible to accommodate all the children and their respective schedules,



### Dhol-Tasha team

We come across the seven oceans to pursue higher studies and make a good career for ourselves, in that process we tend to lose the touch of our own traditions and customs and festivals from where we belong. To make sure that we do not lose the essence of our culture, we the master students of Texas A&M University Kingsville came together and started an organization named Dhol-Tasha Pathak. After a lot of hard work and planning we got sanctioned around \$4000 from our university and we imported the musical instruments from India. All this was possible because of two guys in our team Sagar Khaire and Pranav Aundhkar. These two aspirants in our team made it possible for others who had never touched dhol or tasha before learn all the tunes and master it. We played for various events across the university and also in and around the city. The whole ans sole purpose of playing Dhol-Tasha was to pay tribute to Shivaji Maharaj and to Ganpati Bappa. These two major celebrations marked the highest audience for us. These two celebrations also helped us raising funds for us to buy new instruments. We whole heartedly thank the temple institution of Corpus Christi for backing us up and encouraging us at every point.



Lastly I would like to mention the name of the students without whom we would have not come this far, Kumaresh Murugesan, Shreya Kulali, Yatin Chand, Pratiksha Dhokale, Rakesh Badgujar, Himani Bedekar, Anish Kumar, Summet Mulkalwar, Ajinkya Shigaonkar, Priya Ashok, Gaurav Patil, Akshay Vaidya, Pooja Sankpal, Prajakta Kolhe, Pavitra Hegde, Surabhi Hote, Ishan Kulkarni, Bhushan Patil, Indrajeet Patil, Nikhil Zope and Pratik Jarande.

**Shreya Kulali**

scriptures of the different cults, the Vaishnava, Saiva, Sakta and other traditions. Agama constitutes a parallel trend to the Vedas and attempts to serve the spiritual elevation of the common man prescribing a path which is less tedious, but simpler and easy to follow as prescribed by the Vedas. All the agamas center round the worship of their respective deities, such as Vishnu, Siva and Sakti, with elaborate liturgical practices. They highlight eternal values, which transcend through Yugaas and Heritage. The importance and peculiarity of Agama literature is that it is encyclopedic in nature, covering all most all subjects, explaining Religious experience of Yogis, Monks and Priests to discipline all the mental faculties within the body. From time immemorial Temple complex and Image worship have been the epicenter of overall growth and well being of Community.

Vaikhaanasa Agama is one of the two divisions of Aagamas, the other being Pancharaatra. Vaikhaanasa Agama is the cream of all 4 Vedas where the pathway to the highest objective of Human life, the MOKSHA is prescribed through iconic worship of Vishnu. Lord Vishnu taught the Vedas to Brahma, who in turn taught them to the mythical Sage Vaikhaanasa or Vikhanasa. Vaikhaanasa Sutras and other writings are said to be in crores of Slokas, taught to four of his disciples, they are Marichi, Atti, Bhrgu and Kasyapa who propagated them. Vimaanaarchana Kalpa of Marichi is one of the representative texts of this Agama. The origin of this sect is traced back to Vedic ritualism where in Vaikhaanasa texts are related to the Taittiriya branch of Krishna Yajurveda. Later on these Vaikhaanasas transformed themselves into orthodox sect of devout worshippers of Vishnu where succession of priesthood is by birth (Janmana Vaishnavaha) and not by Initiation (Deeksha) like wearing the marks of Vishnu's Conch shell and Disc (Chakra) stamped on the body by hot iron (Tapta-Mudra).

### Sthala Mahatmeyam

Sri Lakshmi Prasanna Venkateshwara swamy temple is filled with more significance. The temple has a power to fulfill all the devotees desire. I will be discussing my experiences and my suggestion to the devotees who were successful in their life, and also i will be sharing their experience below:

### **Sri Venkateshwara swamy**

Sravana Abhishekam is very special here. All Devotees from Dallas ,Houston,Austin and all across USA believe this place like Tirumala in fulfilling their wishes for performing Sravana Nakshatra Abhishekam .

Special thing ---Mudupu

studies, job, marriage, children---fulfill their desires

Mudupu (yellow cloth with 11 dollars dakshina), 11 pradakshina

After its fulfilled 108 pradakshina

### **Ganapathy:**

House ,life achievement, runa badha

21 undrallu(sweet)

108 undrallu after their wish is fulfilled.

### Shiva parvathi

Shiva parvathi pooja , Shiva abhishekam- Devotee with any deadly disease (cancer)were cured after performing Ekhadasha Rudrabhishekam( Roga nivarana). Not just Indians but many other religion individuals come here to get their diseases cured.

### Murugan

Yearly once we perform Thai Pusam with Kavadi Utsav. Devotees feel their kids and parents are healthy and safe for praying Karthikeya Bhagawan (Murugan)

### Navagraha (dosha nivarana)

Devotees feel the same when they visit Srikalahasthi, Pedakakani back in india.

Devotees from Dallas, Houston, Austin and all across USA come here for the Navagraha pooja to remove their jathaka dosha.

### Guru pooja (Shiridhi Sai Baba, Dattathreya)

Guru krupa is special here.

Whoever offer kova on Thursday for Shirdi Sai Baba feel their wishes are fulfilled with all benefits.

### Anjaneya

Vadana Anjaneya is very special here. Devotees and kids got rid of black magic(alternate word for maaya mantralu or negative forces) after they did Hanuman Chalisa and applied raksha on their hand.

### Durga (Chandi Parayana Homam)

During Dasaara, the devotees participate in Chandi Parayana Homam for 9 days and this is very special here. Bommala Kolu (Doll display) which is very beautiful is arranged during these 9 days. They all get Durga Mata blessings. Chandi parayana homam is celebrated in a very special way.

### Rama Parivar

Sri Rama Kalyanam Akshatha is very special.

They believe holy rice is very auspicious and keeps it in their place for worship throughout the year .

### Radha-Krishna Parivar (santana prapti)

Janmaastami is celebrated here in a very special way and watching this is very blissful.

Radha Krishna homam, prashadam ---santana prapti

### Kabir

Monthly Kabir bhajans are performed in a grand scale.

### Om Tat Sat

### Sriman Lakshmi Srinivasacharyulu Anikepally

Some members of our community came forward and started giving regular yearly donation of Five Thousand dollars in addition to significant donations by sponsoring various Poojas, rituals and Prayers. Still we are moving at a snail's pace financially. The reason is huge Mortgage which is siphoning all the money to the Bank, leaving hardly any funds to undertake routine maintenance and repairs, leave alone improvements as per stage 2,3 and so on. It is very important to increase the regular donor pool. It is not difficult if all of us join our hands together and accumulate funds. From the time I was President I proposed couple of plans to get out of debt and have healthy finances.



Remembrance of our Grandson, Aarush

- Each one of us have Birthdays and couples have wedding anniversaries. If everyone performs Pooja on Birthday paying 25 dollars and 101 dollars for Wedding Anniversary Sahasranaama Pooja. The Poojas can be performed even if one cannot be present and they will get the Prasadam of Pooja performed in their name. Imagine a 200 dollars recurrent income from a family of 4 every year!
- Already about 15-20 Devotees are donating 5 thousand dollars a year. If 40 of us join hands and put a one time donation of 25 thousand dollars each, the Mortgage can be paid off and those donors need not pay for 6 years in consideration of timely aid. They can still sponsor Poojas of their choice.

**I urge all Devotees to give serious consideration and help to take care of our Temple, Sree Venkateswara's Blessings to all of us**

**Dr. Mahesh Maruvada**

Dear devotee family

I am Dr. Uma Maheswara Maruvada (Mahesh), one of the Trustees of our Sri Venkateswara Temple. My wife is Syamala. We have three sons Srikar, Shashank and Thejaswi, Srikar's wife is Varsha. We moved to Corpus Christi in June of 1988. I have been in Psychiatry practice since 1989. We were used to going to Temples like Pittsburgh Venkateswara Temple and Ganesh Temple in New York. In Texas, we used to go to Meenakshi Temple in Houston first and started going to San Antonio Temple for our Religious activities until 2005. Then we were fortunate enough to have our own Temple in Corpus Christi.



Right from the beginning we have been actively involved from Kumbhabhishekam onwards, being one of the leaders and pioneers in supporting the Temple financially and providing guidance regarding Temple rituals and Pooja activities, I have been a Trustee since the beginning and had the good fortune to serve as President of the Board. Over the years I have seen significant progress in Temple activities. I wrote monthly newsletters for the Temple, explaining about all festivals and rituals to be performed and their importance, along with Sanskrit Slokas as deemed necessary.

We were fortunate enough to have very talented and excellent Priests whose voice and articulation was authentic and commanding.

Why should one have a Temple? For times immemorial the message was "before choosing a place to live, make sure five things are available, Temple, priest, doctor, one who gives loans (bank), and running water like river". The Divine power infused into the Deities protects everyone in the area. Various rituals and Prayers performed will spread the Blessings and Divine Energy. All the Devotees need to be actively involved in taking care of our Temple. In this day and age even Divine places need financial help. Expenditures run in thousands of dollars.

## Glory of Lord Shiva

Srikanthomathuloyasyajananisarvamangala!

Janakahshankaro deva tam vandekunjaraanam!!

According to our Shastras we have Trimurties(Brahma,Vishnu,Shiva).Lord Shiva is one god among the Trinity, Lord Shiva is responsible for destruction. Here the meaning of the destruction is completely different from what we commonly understand. In Sanskrit it is called Swalpakaalikalayam. Our daily sleep is called as swalpakaalikalayam.



We may have many facilities which will support sleep but without Shiva Anugraha we can't sleep, Sleep gives us energy to continue our work for the next day and relaxes our body. The meaning of the name Shiva is Shobanam, Subham, Sreskaram, Mangalam, etc which means all the good things which are happening to us are at the feet of Lord Shiva and we will get them with the Anugraha of Lord Shiva. There is a saying "AbhishekapriyahaSivaha" which means Lord Shiva likes abhishekam. We can get the anugraha of Lord Shiva by performing Shiva abhishekam.

Ingredients used for Shiva abhishekam and their benefits are as follows.

Abhishekam to Shiva Lingam with

PANCHAKAVYAM - Removes all sins of mankind.

Abhishekam to Shiva Lingam with

PANCHAMRUTHAM (ripe banana, jaggery, candy sugar, seedless dates, honey, dry fruits) - Gives wealth.

Abhishekamto Shiva Lingam with

GHEE- Gives Mokshastate.

Abhishekamto Shiva Lingam with

MILK - Gives long life.

Abhishekamto Shiva Lingam with

CURD - Gives Good Children and Blessing for children

Abhishekamto Shiva Lingam with

HONEY- Melodious voice and Enhancement of musical talent.

Abhishekamto Shiva Lingam with

SANDAL PASTE- Gives Lakshmi's Grace.

Abhishekamto Shiva Lingam with

WATER (Mixed withGanga Jal) -Gives Peace.

Abhishekam to Shiva Lingam with

COW YOGURT- Gives Health.

According to the Hindu Shastrathe one who prays lord Shiva with complete trust and visits Shiva temple regularly,won't haveany kind of grahadoshasaccording to the Jathaka (Horoscope)

The reason being all the Navagrahas are like the ornaments for Lord

Shiva(Sri Kalahasthi)

**Priest Sai ManojMachavolu**

chief priest entered the Temple, he was hardly able to walk because of Divine trance. He had to be helped up the steps by the devotees to the altar. It took him half an hour afterwards to come back to normal self. The same thing happened to another Priest at Sri Sai Pratistha. One has to witness it to believe it.

Another pleasant experience was doing DhwajaPrathistha Pooja. While priests were performing Dhwaja Pooja, birds started flying around the Dhwas and do a Pradakshina (circambulation) around the Dhwaja& Lord VenkateswaraGopuram. They kept doing it over & over till the Pooja was finished & then dispersed like magic once the Pooja was over. It was a wonderful memory.

On another Kumbhabhishekam,the Priests removed rice from a sealed bin, measured the rice & did Kalyanam. The next morning when they tried to put it back in the container, they had five more extra sillus(Handfuls). The extra rice that was overflowing the bin. The priests were unable to explain this event (Deva Mahima-Divine Glory). During Sri Hanuman Pratistha, though it was done in hot weather, all day it was gentle breezes. (Pavanasuta Hanuman). But when the time came for Pooja to AnjaneyaSikhara, skies became dark, howling winds came &thundrstorms arrived. In that weather, we climbed up to the Sikhara& did the AnjaneyaSikharaPooja.It reminds us of the wind god blessing his son Sri Hanuman.

We had Hanumanji in open area as in Gujarat per the devotees' request. When Temple was vandalized, the PrakaraRakshaka (protector of the Temple) Sri Hanuman took brunt of the attack, but nothing happened to the Deity though they tried to break it. Then it was decided to close it with a picket fence & lock it. Priests had to do Prayastchittha Pooja (penance)for Sri Hanuman for eight hours.

During MahaSivaratri, lots of devotees visit the Temple and some of them stay all night doing Jagaram (awake all night). On one of those occasions, a handful of devotees were witnessing Lord Siva's early morning Abhisheka (last one for that MahaSivaratri). While the priest was doing the Abhishekha on the Siva Linga, we could see the shape of Sri Dattatreya with three heads, Trident & four dogs at his feet. We had to tell the Priest to stop & witness it from the front. That was an unforgettable experience. Even the Priest was astounded & told us that he never witnessed anything like that before. Recently at Sri Hanuman Temple, a squirrel was making Pradakshinas around Sri Hanumanji round and round at the pedestral of Sri Hanuman. It was a sight to witness & reminds us of the interaction of Lord Rama with the squirrel while building the bridge to Sri Lanka.

The Temple is blessed by PUJYA Sri ShambhaviDhanamjaya Swami who performed forty days of poojas to all the MoolaYantras placed under the pedestral of all the Deities. When you enter the Sri Venkateswara Temple, you experience an inner peace. This sentiment is expressed by our Hindu Devotees as well as devotees of other religions. Glory to all our Gurus & glory to our Temple, devotees & our community at large.

**Dr.Ramakrishna Mulukuthla**

**Astonishing  
Events  
Sri Venkateswara Temple**



How fast time flies! It was like yesterday when the Sri Venkateswara Temple opened twelve years ago with MahaKumbhabhishekham. Following are a few recollectionsof amazing things which happened at the Temple.

For the first kumbhabhishekam only the GarbhaGudi&ArthaGudi(sanctum sanctorum) of Sri Venkateswara was finished.The Temple had wires hanging from the ceiling and the sheetrock was not finished.The Homas were performed at the Yagnasalain tents located north of the present parking lot.On the third day evening, there were dark clouds in the skies, with strong winds and the tents were being tossed around. We were worried about thunderstorms.But due to Divine Grace &Sri Venkateswara Krupa though it rained all over town,the Temple had only a few drops of rain.The function went uninterrupted.

Sri Venkateswara deity weighed 2 tons. It was lifted by devotees manually without the help of cranes or mechanical help. God gave us the strength. The whole Temple was rocking with the chants of Govindanamasmarana. We used wooden planks to carry the deity over the steps to the Altar. One of the devotee's son's leg was caught under the plank & his ankle got swollen and very painful. He was unable to bear weight on the leg. It was assumed that he had a broken ankle & he was taken to ER. His mother remembered that she forgot to put the offerings to Sri Venkateswara in the altar before the Deity was placed. On the advice of the Priests & elders, she placed the offerings in the altar of Goddess Padmavathi. We were pleasantly surprised to see the devotee's son walking without crutches even though ankle was swollen. By the grace of Lord Venkateswara he did not have any fracture even with the weight of 2 tons.

On the final day of Prana Pratistha of the Deities takes place. We have to take the PurnaKumbhas from the yagnasala to Temple. The chief priest told us that he gets Poonakam (divine trance) when he carries the PurnaKumbha. As soon as the

**Best Compliments  
From  
Ahuja & Family**



*Samitran and Peshori Lal Ahuja*

*The entire Ahuja Family feels fortunate to live in beautiful Corpus Christi. We are very grateful to all the volunteers who have worked so hard to provide this wonderful Mandir in which we can worship and immerse our children in our Hindu Faith*

Glimpse of Events at the Temple



Best Compliments From  
Vishal Bhagat Foundation  
on Occasion  
of Mahakumbhabhishekam

## The Power of God



The visionaries were inspired to bring the idea of a Temple to fruition.

They were inspired to devote their time, energy and fortunes.

The devotees were inspired to participate with their time, energy and fortune.

On a freezing wet day, in a tent, the initial religious ceremony to start construction was done.

The temple was built.

Here, God provides a fountain of Faith, Hope, Inspiration, Protection, Unity and Tranquility limitlessly.

There have been many challenges, none greater than the financial viability of the Temple.

Twelve years have passed and many experiences have come to epitomize The Power of God.

Celebrating this momentous occasion seemed like an unsurmountable challenge on many fronts.

Faith is the inspiration to all.

God always provides.

All have God's blessing.

Vandana Kamat MD  
Treasurer, Board of Trustees, STHS

## Glimpse of Events at the Temple



## GIFTED

It was a strange coincidence when we landed in Kingsville six years ago. Kingsville, a small University town was sometimes very discouraging. Then we found Sri Venkateswara Temple in Corpus Christi. Since then we have been regular visitors to the temple. We try to be there every Saturday and that energizes us for the whole week. The moment we enter the temple such peace sets in us. The very friendly and cheerful priests greet us every time and are ready to help us in every way. Their devotion and expertise in performing prayers and Abhishekams are worth appreciation. We convey our thanks and gratitude to Sri Lakshmi Srinivasacharyulu and Sri Sai Manoj Machavolu. It is a great pleasure to attend all the prayers performed by them.



We pray to Lord Venkateswara and all the Deities with folded hands and convey our heartfelt thanks to all those who made the existence of this temple possible. May Lord Venkateswara bless us all!!

Hari Om

Ravi & Sadhna Agarwal



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Our children had a wonderful schooling and the extracurricular activities. The Bharathanatyam classes started in 2006, initially in the temple. Initially, they traveled to San Antonio for classes. Subsequently it used to be Wednesday evenings in our home. The teacher used to do yoga classes after dance. We were blessed to have a nice teacher like Dr Shreedhara, such that Aparna performed Barathanatyam in July 2012 in Corpus Christi.

Even though it was one year since we had moved out of town, we wanted to do it in Corpus Christi. We are thankful to all our friends there who helped us make it happen then. Subsequently, Aparna had been teaching Baratanatyam to a group of beginners here, before she left for college in 2015.



Even though 6 years have lapsed since we moved to the Northeast, the memories are evergreen. Somehow it feels like we still belong there. Wish it was not this far to visit more often if we wanted to.

Congratulations and best of luck for Mahakumbhabishekam- 2017.  
**Sridevi & Siva Padmanabhan Sivakumar Family**



Best Compliments



Dr. Nirupama Patel

415 E 4th St, Alice, Tx 78332

361-664-8945

**OM NAMAH SHIVAY**



SarvesāmSvastirBhavatu

SarvesāmShāntirBhavatu

SarvesāmPūrnambhavatu

SarvesāmMangalamBhavatu

Om Shanti ShantiShanti

The Bindingavele Family- Vijay Krishna, Pooja Laxmi,  
Roopa Laxmi, Leela Shree, SaaraNayaki, JaiyaPadmavati

## Fond Memories of Corpus Christi Dr. Siva PadmanabhanSivakumar

Going back the memory lane and recollecting the past kindles life's moments. You know, it cannot be changed; but you can relish the moments that were pleasant and learn from the past. Life in Corpus Christi was one of the best times for me and my family. For many long timers in Corpus Christi, Siva and Sridevi were well known. Our children, Aparna and Gokul made us even more popular. Living for 10 years (2001 thru 2011) was not a short time. My first job after Fellowship was in Corpus Christi. Work was busy, but it was the nice social life we had that helped to keep up the sanity in life.

Quickly we had many friends. Our friends' circle was huge. I cannot remember any weekend, when we did not have a party in a friend's house. If on-call, I just have to know, whose house to drive to on Saturday night for dinner. The weekend camping trips along the Guadalupe River or Mo Ranch we went to were so rejuvenating that brought the families together. Every year we would look forward to them. We had our time for tennis as much as we liked to. Even now, we can connect with all our friends and keep it lively. I am glad that the next generation is keeping up with the friendship and am sure it will last forever.

In 2005, when the committee came up with the temple proposal I felt rejoiced since it was very much needed at that time. Prior to that we had to travel to either San Antonio or Houston. We saw the temple grow to what it is now. Hats off to the committee and the community. I am glad we are able to be part of it for the rest of our life. One cannot overemphasize the importance of having a temple in the community for well being in life.

In 2008, the first free Community Health Fair was conducted and I am thankful to all those who made it happen when I proposed it. I was looking thru my old emails and can vividly remember organizing it then. It gives me immense satisfaction that it is continuing annually along with the Cultural fair.

2010 was the "Year of the Lung" when the First Annual Lung walk was flagged off in Corpus Christi. I am glad Dr Salim Surani is continuing it annually from what I initiated.

**Warmest  
Congratulations  
Coastal Bend  
Kid's Clinic**



Anil C.Patel,M.D., F.A.A.P.

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When we moved to Corpus Christi, twelve years ago with our little daughter. SV Temple was one of the first places we visited. We instantly liked the temple and its atmosphere. The priests were really welcoming and the community was very friendly. The temple catered to our religious and spiritual needs and visiting the temple on festival days was a joyous event. We started participating actively in the temple's activities and religious ceremonies.



After twelve years and three girls, we feel that the temple has become a part of our life. All of our Hindu festivals are celebrated with great fervor and our kids really enjoy visiting the temple, it's like a second home to them. The Hindu temple really brings the community together and has become a hub for religious and cultural experiences. I urge every Hindu family in Corpus Christi to visit the temple with their family and explain to your children the importance of religion, spirituality and devotion. It has been my pleasure to serve on the Board of trustees for over 10 years and in these years, I have to come to understand how difficult it is to manage an organization. But I also believe that the community can come together and serve the temple and uphold our beliefs while inculcating the Hindu culture among our children.

**Ritha Kulkarni & Family**



*Sarve Bhavantu Sukhina  
Sarve Santu niramaya*

## Best Compliments From

# Vandana, Suraj, Ishan And Romali Kamat

**We Wish Good Health, Happiness and Prosperity  
by way of God's Blessing To All**

dominate them or forcing those followers to convert to Hinduism. It also allowed Hinduism to accept people of various faiths who sought shelter in India during prolonged periods of conflicts and persecution elsewhere in the world.

It is said that one of the lost tribes of Israel lived in the Northeast provinces of India. Assyrians came to the coast of Malabar at the dawn of Christianity and one of the apostles, St Thomas came to India and died there. There were thriving Jewish communities in Kerala and Bombay for centuries. Zoroastrians sought shelter from Persia and are called Parsis in India. Armenians fled to India to escape genocide at the hands of the Turks. Most recently, when Tibet was invaded by China, the Dalai Lama sought shelter and the government of Tibet in exile is in Dharmasala, India.

Because Hinduism's visualization of God in various forms and manifestations, there came about the Hindu Pantheon, many gods. A devout Hindu is comfortable in the worship of God in any of these manifestations for he or she knows and understands the oneness of the various forms of the Supreme Being.

If we understand Monotheism as referring to oneness of God, then the Hindu concept of an inclusive God is closer to that interpretation than the One God stance of Abrahamic faiths, each of which believes that their God is the true God and others are false gods.

There is another aspect of Hindu philosophy that takes the understanding of "God is One", a step further. This philosophy is called Advaita, the concept of Non-duality, called Monism. It states that the individual soul, called Jeevatma is one with Paramatma, God. Thus, each of us has a sparkle of the Divine in us. When we realize that, we are considered to have achieved self-realization.

Many times, I wonder about the historical calamity that happened in Hinduism. How did the faith which believes that God is One and the soul of every individual is a sparkle of the Divine and is one with the Supreme Being, come to divide its adherents into various strata? At the highest level of philosophy was the great understanding of God who is inclusive of everything, animate and inanimate, while at the day to day functioning of the society, the tradition of exclusivity that prevented equal treatment of all people. (Inclusive God but exclusive society.)

Christianity and Islam have an exclusive vision of God but they welcome everyone as they vie to be the dominant forces in the market place of religion.(Exclusive God butwelcoming of and seeking converts.) That does not mean these societies are egalitarian. There is a class system everywhere, just not called as castes. The privileged always try to protect and perpetuate their privilege, there is always an underclass in every society.

**Monotheism:**

One God or God Is One? The concept of Unity of the Divine.

-P. Ravi Sarma

--"Truth is One: Sages call It by different names." --RgVeda, 1.164.46

--"Like all the rivers flow to the same ocean, all prayers lead to the same Divine"-

Sandhya Vandanam, Morning prayers

--"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."- John 14:6, New Testament

"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before<sup>me</sup> me."

"You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. <sup>5</sup> You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods."-Exodus 20:5

"There is no god but God. Muhammad is the messenger of God." --Shahada, Qaran

-----  
The most perplexing aspect of Hinduism to Hindus and Non-Hindus alike is the pantheon of gods and God. People who are of Hindu faith understand at an intellectual level the Unity of the Divine, that the underlying principle of everything is Brahman, the Great Unmanifest Being that is the cause of all creation but is not of creation, that into which everything returns and this process of creation and dissolution continues ad infinitum. Brahman, also called Nirguna Brahman, is without form and is not manifest (Definition of God in Abrahamic faiths.) However, Hinduism states that people have difficulty in relating to that abstract God and allows each person to visualize God in a way that they can relate to, called Saguna Brahman, God with attributes. Therefore, the Hindu Pantheon, multiple ways in which devotees express their devotion to God. Many scholars call this polymorphic monotheism. Islam and Judaism do not allow for visualization of God amorphic monotheism, while Christianity has a limited amount of visualization of God through the persona of Jesus, called oligomorphic monotheism.

Abrahamic faiths, Judaism, Christianity and Islam are called Monotheistic religions. They talk of one God but as noted above, the God in each of these religions is not considered the same by their adherents. Therefore, the unending conflicts that involve these religions and in the case of Christianity and Islam the need for conversion to their respective faiths to the exclusion of any other beliefs.

Hinduism is said to be the oldest living religion, being around for several thousands of years. The Vedas are very ancient, the Rg Veda being the most ancient scriptural text available. It declares that "Truth is One: Sages call It by different names." This concept of the unity of the Divine allows Hinduism to accept God in many forms, and Hindus acknowledge the validity of many other belief systems without feeling the urge to

**Blessed Devotee**



The upcoming Mahakumbhabhishekam heralds a singularly noteworthy achievement by the south Texas Hindu Community. Everyone ,in their own way,partook of the blessings that the Balaji Temple showered on them. To the trustees and volunteers, i would say that the many challenges that you faced and overcame was the blessing that you sought! some years ago when I announced that no one else could join him and i for a drive to ocean drive, my Master said:" the three of us shall go" signifying that god was with us at all times. So dear Trustees,volunteers and the devotees,you are always in the company of the plus one. The more you do,the more you make him do!.This is what serving really means.



**Pranam  
Naru Patel**

## SHAMABHAVI DHANAMJAYA SWAMIJI



47-3-16, Dwarka nagar 5<sup>th</sup> Lane  
Visakhapatnam – 530016

### SRI MAHA RAAJNI SHAMBHAVI MATHA SMARANA PURVAKA AASIHI

The root to the Hindu culture is VEDA - "VEDHO AKHILO DHAMMA MOOLA"- the saying. The supreme lord, who is the embodiment of Vedas, will be incarnating in every Yuga to establish the Dharma. The text of Vedas the Lord Vishnu is all pervading and the first and foremost and Agni is the last among the Lords. "AGNIRVY DEVAANU VAMAHA VISHNUHU PARAMAHA" – says the Veda hymn. During the Vedic period 'Tapas' and invoking of the Vedas' were the instruments to attain the Lord's blessings. Over a period of time yagnas and yagams have been adopted to please the Lords. These are difficult exercises or sadhanas and every human being cannot carry out this sadhana. At this juncture, the great Seers have advocated the worship of the Lords by establishing and installing the deities by invoking the Veda mantras and performing Yagas, homa, yantra and thava hymns and helped the ordinary mortals at large to pray and inculcate the sadhana. by worshipping the deities with the Veda dharma, the devotees had attained a holy bliss and lived a peaceful life. The worship of the Lord is of two types one worship without a deity and other worshipping to the deity. The first type of worship, the devotee will establish the Lord either at his heart or assuming the Lord at the center of the Sun space. This prayer and worship (both external and internal) will be either done by Japa (chanting the name of the Lord numerous times) or concentrating on the form of the Lord or paarayana (uttering the lords greatness and names regularly). the second type of worship is more practical and admissible to all as it makes the feeling of the presence of the Lord before them and develops devotion It also creates a respect towards the athithis (unexpected guests). For those, who tread the path of the Karma policy, the gruhasthas (family members) and the sadhakas, the holy worship of the deity is best suited and pleased. The support and services rendered by the Hindu Society of South Texas in the American continent in building a unique temple by strictly adhering to the Vedic principles is really laudable and blessed.

Best Compliments

From

Divyang, Pooja, Krishna, Yashwant, and Interventional Associates, PLLC.

On the Occasion OF

Mahakumbhabhishekam





Best Wishes on the occasion of Mahakumbabhishekam

From

Gopal and Meena Pathikonda

Neelam & Vilas

It is always better to follow swadharma (to the dharma who he belongs) rather than following othersdharma. In this context you may take the religious path to one self. Even if anyone sacrifices his life for swadharma that is considered as emancipation. The swadharma will always be behind at the time of birth of every being. In fact the swadharma begins at the mother's womb. After seeing, understanding the cycle of development, the jeevatma (the being) after being just born as the a baby tells the God that he would strictly adhere to the dharmas as directed and that is the first cry of the baby. There is a large difference between the first cry and the later ones. The rest is all materialistic oriented ones. As per the doctrine of karma theory and also Vedicdharma, the devotion towards mother, father, teacher and bondages etc. are attached in a subtle form to the jeeva (to be born in the form of a being). This Vedic Dharma is of two types- one is Parvathi that is Visnu tathva and second is Nivithi that is Siva Tathva. The sadhana of these two doctrines is 'PARA BRAHMAN' - 'OM ITHYEKAAKSHARAM BRAHMA' - the Vedic advocacy. Although outwardly there is a distinction in the forms of Lord Shiva and Kesava otherwise philosophically both belong to ONE form. By Installing the Lords, the greatness of the multifarious Hindu religion is spread over the continents by the South Texas Hindu Society.

With Blessings

Swamiji



शुक्लाम्बरधरैर्विष्णुं शशिवर्णम्चतुर्भुजाम्  
प्रसन्नावदनाभ्याथेत्सर्वविघ्नोपशान्तायेत्



वाग्ध्यां विवसमुत्तमौ वाग्ध्यां पिपातये  
जगतः पितरौ वन्दे पार्वतीपरमेश्वरौ

Temple is a place of worship where deities are installed according to Vedic rites following one of four Agamas, Shaiva, Vaishnava, Shakta and Smarta. The Agama Religion is Universalist, no Varnas. The Temple consecration is called Kumbhabhishekam which means (Abhishekam) "Sprinkling" of the Temple with Sacred waters carried in a (kumbha) water pot. This is the most important ritual in the life of newly built temple. The consecration rites extend over several days. The first rite in the series is the honoring of Ganesha, the Lord of Beginnings and the remover of Obstacles. There will also be Prayers to the Earth (Bhoomi Pooja) for the support and Blessing of the new building. The Priests will tie a thread of Blessing and Protection (Raksha Bandhanam) around their wrists as they commit themselves to the rituals ahead. Our Temple Consecration was performed in May 2005. Every year we celebrated anniversary of this event as one of the Temple's major festivals. Every 12 years we need to perform MAHAKUMBHABHISHEKAM. According to Agama Sastras a "Punarudhaarana Kumbhabhishekam" (Restoration Sprinkling) needs to be performed. This ritual is required for rejuvenation and restoration of all the deities in the Garbha Vighras in the Temple complex to preserve full potency of infused power in the deities at an appropriate Muhurtam on an Auspicious day. New Vighras and additions to the Temple are also consecrated at this Auspicious time. This occasion also gives an opportunity to renew the dedication of Devotees to the Temple and their connection to the Divine Almighty Lord. During Mahakumbhabhishekam the power of Temple Deities is temporarily transferred by the Priests to the Kumbhas. These Kumbhas are placed in the hall of Ritualistic Worship (Yagasala), where daily Worship and Rituals as well as special Rituals are performed. During this period, the main Sanctums and Shrines are cleaned and renovated. This also is the occasion for installing new Vighras, brass kalashas on the Gopuras and any other special items in the Temple. The new Vighras are Sanctified by Purificatory Rituals with water and Milk as laid



TEMPLE , helps & Guides towards.....

- T- Tradition**
- E- Education**
- M- Meditation**
- P- Peace**
- L - Love**
- E- Enlightenment**

Best Compliments on the occasion of Mahakumbhabhishekam  
From  
Anil & Sarita Damaraju



**Congratulations and Best of Luck.**  
**To the Members**  
**On**  
**12th Anniversary**  
**and**  
**Mahakumbabhishekam**

**MALLADI FAMILY**  
**MASSACHUSETTS**

**With Best Complements From**  
**Ravi and Seshu Sarma**  
**Atlanta**

**On the Occasion of**  
**Mahakumbhabhishekam Ceremony**

down in the Aagamas. As an integral part of the Dhvajasthambha complex, the vehicles for each Deity (Nandi for Shiva and Garuda for Vishnu) are situated facing the respective Deity. Then NETHRONMELANA (Eye opening ceremony) for the New Vighras is performed. After the installation is completed, the Divine energy is transferred back to the MOOLAVIGRAHAS of the Temple as well as to the New Vighras and Kalashas by performing the MAHAKUMBHABHISHEKAM with the water from the Kumbhas accompanied by the chanting of Special Mantras. MAHAKUMBHABHISHEKAM is a great Revitalizing ceremony for the entire Temple and an opportunity for the Devotees to re-affirm their faith.

सर्वे जनाः सुखिनो भवन्तु  
सर्वे संतु निरामया  
सर्वेभ्योऽपि पश्यन्तु  
माकथित् दुःखमनुयात्  
ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः

Dr.Mahesh Maruvada

**OM**  
**NAMAH**  
**SHIVAY**

**The Temple: Our Cultural Core**

The pleasing sound of temple bells, the fragrance of agarbathis, reassuring chants of suprabhatham, the soothing cadence of the priest's recitation – all memories from my childhood in Hyderabad's various temples. To experience this once again in Corpus Christi has been a unique attraction of the Sri Venkateshwara Temple. Our family has indeed been fortunate to have this communal center as part of our lives. My involvement with the temple had been consistent thru seven years of health fairs and festivals celebrating India. Though work consumes my time currently, the temple's place in our lives remains a reminder of our heritage. Our children have participated in the various activities over the years, the Diwali and Holi celebrations, volunteering at community events. Then there was the Eagle scout project our son championed. While it was common for Boy Scouts in the coastal bend to build bookshelves at orphanages or dress up churches and the botanical garden, our son decided to build picnic benches around the temple which we all enjoy now. This is another great promise of the common social and religious place – a focus for the civic minded efforts of our younger generation.



*Aneel Damaraju and boy scouts of Troop 87 building picnic benches at the Temple Aug 11, '12*  
The temple has served as a great showcase for traditional arts. Nieces who had trained in Bharatanatyam in India used the backdrop of the sanctum to perform events which were also fundraisers for the temple.



*Meera Damaraju performing at the SV Temple May 31, 2014*

All of us of Indian heritage live in a tiny pond of a culturally discrete community within the larger, vibrant society in the greatest country in the history of the world. Each of our individual statements of our identity that we present to our colleagues and neighbors in Corpus Christi help our future generations as they assimilate into the larger nation. The Sri Venkateshwara Temple is our vehicle and spiritual core.

**Srikanth Damaraju, MD FACC FSCAI**

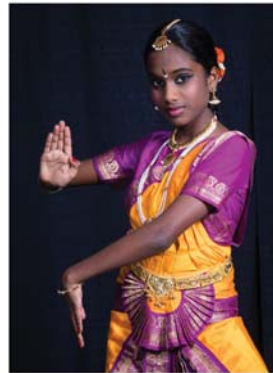
Blessed



Blessed is our Community who has the presence of the sanctum - Our Temple  
Blessed are our priests who are the navigators and guides of our Temple.  
Blessed are the families who are touched by the aura of our Temple.  
Blessed are the women who are lifted beyond duties or austerities at our Temple.  
Blessed are the men who are touched by the sacred innate values of our Temple.  
Blessed are the children who are taught to reflect beliefs beyond just symbolism at our Temple.  
Blessed are our souls that encounter the subtle omnipresence of the supreme at our Temple.  
Blessed are the eyes that can revere the divine through the deities at our Temple  
Blessed are our hearts that purify themselves by bathing in the realm of the diversity.  
Blessed are our minds that gain strength and resilience through the powers of consciousness at our Temple.  
Blessed are our morals that are an embodiment of our interactions towards each other at our Temple

**Bhakti Sooda**

Glimpse of Events at the Temple



Glimpse of Events at the Temple



Glimpse of Events at the Temple



Glimpse of Events at the Temple

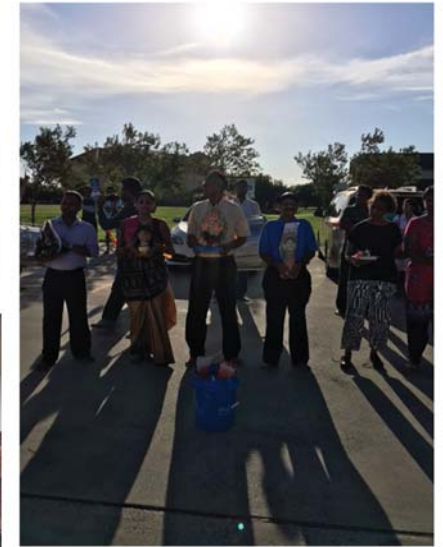




*Salutations again and again to the Devi who abides in all beings in the form of intelligence.  
— The Devi-Mabatmyam*

**Best Wishes  
To  
S V Temple  
(Hindu Temple of South Texas)  
Pathikonda Family  
Suresh, Maya, Anoop & Ratna  
Victoria, Texas**

**Glimpse of Events at the Temple**



## Glimpse of Events at the Temple



Sri Sankaracharya in this following sloka in Bhagavadam describes who Yama won't have altercation with

*bhagavad.h gitaa kiJNchidadhiitaa*

*gaNgaa jalaleva kaNikaapiitaa .*

*sakRidapi yena muraari samarchaa*

*kriyate tasya yamena na charchaa .. (20)*

Let a man read but a little from Gita, drink just a drop of water from the Ganges, worship Murari (Govinda) just once. He then will have no altercation with Yama

We are all in our second half of our life waiting for the call from the Lord and it is imperative for us to practice what is taught in Gita and pass on the message to our children & grandchildren. Just like a Moslem gives Koran to his son and a Christian gives Bible to his son when they go to college, it will be a nice practice for us Hindus to give Gita to our kith & kin. The idea is for them to read and practice Gita in their daily lives. It is never too late.

One does not need to read the whole Gita Pravachan daily. We can read a few Adhyayas or an Adhyaya or few slokas or even one sloka daily. It is important to have a niyama or will to do it daily.

Swami Vivekananda said Gita=Truth beautifully arranged together in their proper place like a fine garland or a bouquet of choicest flowers.

In conclusion, Mahatma Gandhi put it most aptly—When doubts haunt me, when disappointment stares me in the face and when I see not one ray of light on the horizon, I turn to Bhagavad Gita and find a verse to comfort me and I immediately begin to smile in the midst of overwhelming sorrow. My life has been full of external tragedies and if they had not left any visible and indelible effect on me, I owe it to the teachings of Bhagavad Gita.

destination, the heaven of peace. When you see it in the Gita setting the very picture of the lord "Parthasarthy" (charioteer) in the chariot advising Arjuna carries a greater significance of Lord driving the chariot of Arjuna to the final destination.

Vedas have 3 "Kandas" – Bhakti, Karma, Jnana. Similarly, in Bhagavad Gita the description goes as follows:

- Chapter 1 – 6<sup>th</sup> : Nishkama karma Yoga - Helps training & purification of intellect
- Chapter 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> : Bhagavad Upasna Bhakti Yoga - Helps the intellect to be in control without dwelling into various desires
- Chapter 13<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>: Jnana Yoga - Helps remove the Maya from intellect

The Bija , Nayakamani & Shakti( Keelaka) in the Bhagavad Gita are represented by the following shlokas :

**Bija** - 11<sup>th</sup> shloka of second Adhyay

śrī-bhagavān uvāca  
aśocyān anvaśocas tvam  
prajāñā-vādārś ca bhāṣase  
gatāsūn agatāsūmś ca  
nānuśocanti paṇḍitāḥ

The Supreme Personality of Godhead said: While speaking learned words, you are mourning for what is not worthy of grief. Those who are wise lament neither for the living nor for the dead.

**Nayakamani** – 22<sup>nd</sup> shloka of the ninth chapter

ananyāś cintayanto mām  
ye janāḥ paryupāsate  
teṣām nityābhīyuktānām  
yoga-kṣemaṁ vahāmy aham

But those who always worship me with exclusive devotion, meditating on my transcendental form—to them I carry what they lack, and I preserve what they have.

**Shakti or Keelaka** – 66<sup>th</sup> shloka of the eighteenth chapter

sarva-dharmān parityajya  
mām ekaṁ śaraṇaṁ vraja  
ahaṁ tvāṁ sarva-pāpebhyo  
mokṣayiṣyāmi mā śucaḥ

Abandon all varieties of religion and just surrender unto me. I shall deliver you from all sinful reactions. Do not fear.

On the Occasion of MahaKumbabishekam of S V Temple

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**BEST WISHES  
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**THE NINE FOLD PATHS OF DEVOTION**

1. SHRAVANA
2. KEERTHANA
3. SMARANA
4. PADASEVANA
5. ARCHANA
6. VANDANA
7. SAKHYA
8. AATMANIVEDANA



**THE NINE FOLD PATHS OF DEVOTION**

1. LISTENING TO LEGENDS ABOUT GOD
2. CHANTING THE GLORY OF GOD
3. CONSTANT REMEMBRANCE OF GOD
4. SERVING THE FEET OF GOD
5. WORSHIP OF GOD
6. PROTSTRATING IN FRONT OF GOD
7. FRIENDSHIP
8. SELF-DEDICATION

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**Bhagavad Gita in daily life**

Shrimad Bhagavad Gita is to a Hindu what Bible is to a Christian & Koran is for a Muslim. Vedas are hard to comprehend for the normal person, hence Veda Vyasa wrote Bhagavad Gita in easy to understand language for the masses

Bhagavad Gita, the divine song of the Lord occurs in the Bhishma Parva. It comprises of eighteen chapters, from 25<sup>th</sup> to 42<sup>nd</sup>. It is one of the Prasthanas Traya for Hindus, the other two being Upanishads & Brahma Sutras.

The significance of Gita compared to other religious epics is that Bible & Koran are written in peaceful times while Gita Pravachan is given in the middle of battlefield with war raging on. The significance of war between Pandavas & Kauravas is of significance. There are one hundred Kauravas representing all the evil tendencies and five Pandavas representing the divine tendencies. A war of Mahabharata is fought every day in a person's life with the good & bad tendencies. The good tendencies are few which are trying to overcome numerous bad tendencies. How to overcome the evil and increase the good in self is a fight being fought every day by all of us.

The first shloka in Bhagavad Gita starts with Dharmaksetre

dharma-ksetre kuru-ksetre  
samavetā yuyutsavaḥ  
māmakāḥ pāṇḍavāś caiva  
kim akurvata sañjaya

and last shloka ends with Mama

yatra yogeśvaraḥ kṛṣṇo  
yatra pārtho dhanur-dharaḥ  
tatra śrīr vijayo bhūtir  
dhruvā nītir matir mama



The whole divine song is nothing but Mama Dharma. Dharma is the Sanskrit word which comes from the root "Dhur" which means to uphold and keep up the values. Again Gita reversed is "Tyaga" or renunciation which means renunciation of various desires like Kama, Krodha, Lobha, Mada, Matsyara and Ahamkara the six evils which plague mankind.

All students of the Gita are reminded of the famous analogy of the chariot in the Kathopanishad. The body is described to be like a chariot being pulled by five horses representing the five senses. The discriminatory intellect is the ideal charioteer holding the lusty horses in perfect control and driving the lord of the chariot, the Ego, to its ultimate



Best Wishes on  
Mahakumbhabhishekam  
From  
Jaimala K. and  
Kaushik H. Bhakta



Congratulations to the  
temple on it's  
12th anniversary  
From  
Kanti & Urvashi  
Bhakta

Wishing all the best to the  
temple and the community.

Dinker Bhakta and Family



Best Compliments from

From  
Hirabhai Gopaul  
Jatin, Rita, Jasmin, & Ella Gopaul

Best Compliments  
On the occasion of  
Mahakumbhabhishekam



From: Lutchmee Chimanbhai Bhakta  
Kirti Mahavir Bhakta  
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and Raj Mahavir Bhakta

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On the Occassion of  
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**Om**  
*Jai Shree Krishna*  
 Best Wishes from:  
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 Snehlataben & Maganbhai  
 Nikesh, Dillon, Kunal, Vishal

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**Grace of God  
 M. P. Sudhakaran**

As I am blessed to be a devotee of our temple and walk through the premises, four incidents that happened in the past come to my mind. I would like to share those with others and invite them to join in receiving the blessings of Lord Venkateswara. Our temple Gods are actually listening to us! Please come to the temple, surrender and talk to Him, and He will grant you what you need and ask-for.

1) Location of our temple

Over the years, I have heard comments stating that our temple is located 'far away' and attending events at the temple takes some efforts to do so. I am convinced that it is because He wanted to be there. Here is why.

When we were looking for a suitable land, we created a matrix with twenty factors and the following

sites were evaluated for their suitability.

- 1) Between Weber and CR 47
- 2) Between CR 51 and 22
- 3) on I 77 between five points and Sinton
- 4) Between Violet and Callicoatte Road (CR44)
- 5) Near Corpus Christi International Airport on Hwy 44
- 6) Old Brownsville Rd (between Saratoga and SPID)
- 7) Bear lane (between SPID and Navigation)
- 8) Saratoga (between Staples and Rodd Field Road)
- 9) Slough Road (near Yorktown and Airline)
- 10) Flourbluff area
- 11) Near Hill Top (calallen)

None of these could be selected for one reason or the other.

One day when I was driving on Old Brownsville Road, I found a lot which was facing East (between SPID and Saratoga) and I was very much interested to find out the details. I called the real estate agent and found out it was already sold! Next day I was driving back on that road again from Saratoga to SPID, passed through the lot, went underneath the bridge and continued my driving on North PID. I do not know what happened. I TALKED to Parameswaran. I asked Him, 'Eswara, why are you not giving us the land? If YOU (Nee) don't help us, who is going to help us? Why? Don't you want to come here? tears started to come and I felt some kind of choking feeling in my throat. (I feel the same as I am wring this now) Somehow I managed to drive back to my work which is past I37/McKinzie intersection.

I have crossed that intersection of I 37 and McKinzie on many, many days. There used to be a 'lot for sale' sign facing I 37 (where there is La Quinta Inn now). Since it was facing the highway, I assumed it would be very expensive and therefore I never

enquired about that lot. On that particular day, (when I asked Lord Parameswaran to help us) I called the real estate agent. To my delight and surprise, he told me that eventhough that particular lot was high-priced, he could sell us a lot behind that lot for \$16,000 per acre! (with water and wastewater availability!!). My excitement and surprise could not be contained. I called my good friend Dr. Subbarao Burra who started the temple construction project. He did not believe me. He said that he had asked about the SAME lot (a while back) and was told that it would be sold for \$25,000 per acre. Still, I convinced him to contact the real estate agent. Dr. Rama, Dr. Janaki and Mr. Bhanukant Patel got involved and the 10.4 acre lot was acquired for about \$168,000!!!!!! The rest is history.  
Lord Parameswaran wanted to be there, and He came there.

2. Siva Lingam

During the very initial planning stages, one day I was talking to Dr. Burra and told him that the temple must be a Siva-Vishnu temple. I told him, without thinking and any hesitation that I would pay for that Siva Lingam and he could order that from India. He said that it might be expensive. I said, 'don't worry, I will take care'.



I came home and shared that with my wife. She was always supportive of me, but this commitment concerned her due to our financial strength. I told her that if needed, I would take a loan using my vehicle and would pay for that Siva Lingam. I told her that Parameswaran would take care of me and he would show me the path. Eventhough we discussed this matter on several occasions, I was very clear and confident that somehow this would work out. A few months later, Dr. Burra called me one day and wanted to meet with me. When we met, he discussed the invoice with me (this was for the deities that we ordered for the temple). He was reading out the prices for each and every one of them and when it came down to Siva Lingam, he paused for a moment and said "No charge". I just could not believe! He said that because we ordered so many deities, the Siva Lingam was given to us at no charge. What else can I write???

**Balaalayam**



Once in every 12 years temple is renovated and all the vigrahas are reestablished(punahpratista). During the jeernodhaarana(renovation Period), the divine presence of the Murtis(Deities) must be transferred to the holy waters contained in the kalaasas. Pooja is done to these kalasaas and ustava deities(bronze idols taken out in processions). The kalasaas remain in a miniature structure known as Balaalayam. "Baala means mini and "aalaya" means temple or structure in sanskrit. During this time the devotees will not be able to see or do poojas to the stone sculpted Moola vigrahas(Deities).



The scheduled poojas will be done only to utsava moortis. The divine presence of the Lord will remain here until it is transferred back to the Moola Vigrahas. According to the aagmashastra, Scheduled Poojas to Moola Vigrahas will start only on the Maha kumbhabhishekam day.

Lalitha M Janaki, MD FACR

### Glimpse of Events at the Temple



### 3) The mystery of Silver Kalasam

After the inauguration of our temple, we were blessed to sponsor a silver kalasam to the temple. This was (and is) used by the Priests on a daily basis. Sometime after its donation, one day it was reported to me that it was missing from the temple. Needless to say, my wife was very distraught over this while I was not at all disturbed. She was trying to read/interpret too many things into this. I told her that once it was given to the temple, it belongs to Him and He would take care of His property. I told her that she should not think that it is *ours* anymore as it belongs to Him and His temple.

Almost one year passed-by. The Priests continued to search for it, my wife did, and so did many others. One day, all of a sudden, when I was returning from an out of town meeting I was at the airport and she called me and her voice was extremely joyful. She told me, 'our kalasam was found! it was in the same store-room area, right in front, on the shelf'. She was surprised how no one was able to see that for one year when it was so obvious! I told her that she was making the same mistake by saying '*our kalasam*' as it was not ours. I was always confident that it would be found.

### 4) Prayers answered

One of my friends wanted to be blessed with a child (for quite sometime). They were taking several steps (including prayers to our temple deities) towards this but somehow they were not successful. Whenever I went to the temple, I prayed to Lord Ganapathy that He should bless them with a child. Still no progress. One day when I was at the temple praying, I asked the Lord why he was not answering my prayers as well as my friend's prayers. I prostrated in front of the Lord and prayed that He should show mercy on us and bless my friend with a child. I left it at that.

I had been to the temple several times after that and I continued to pray. One day when I went to the temple, I saw my friend there. We just talked for a few minutes after which he told me, 'Sir, I have some good news to tell you'. I immediately guessed as to what it could be and he confirmed that his wife was pregnant! I could not contain my excitement, ran to the Ganapathy temple and prostrated before the Lord and thanked him for LISTENING to my prayers.

It is my humble opinion that our temple is a very sacred place. It has been built according to *Aagama Sastra*, and the 'yantras' placed underneath the deities have been prayed over and blessed by Sri Shambhavi Dhanamjaya Swamiji (from India). The temple inauguration was conducted under the distinguished guidance of Sri Satyanarayana Charulu (from Memphis) by several respected priests for five days (in 2005). Subsequent to inauguration, daily pujas and other religious celebrations have been done by current and previous well-trained priests with extreme care and diligence. Their chanting of the mantras, adherence to strict religious principles have added (and continue to add) positive, divine energy to our temple. Furthermore, this positive energy is enhanced by bhajan sessions organized by several groups of devotees and the visits of *Sadhus* to our temple. It is indeed a blessing that such a great place exists in our neighborhood and I request and invite everyone to come to our temple and seek the blessings of Lord Venkateswara.

Glimpse of Events at the Temple



Sri Navagraha



Sri Hanuman





Sri Venkateshwara



Garuda



Sri Mahalakshmi

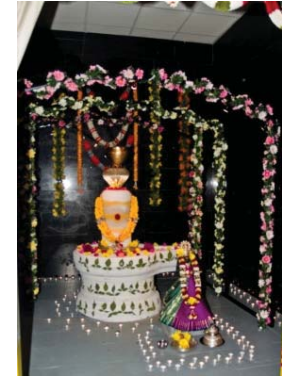


Sri Godadevi

## DIETIES



Sri Ganesh



Shiva & Parvathi



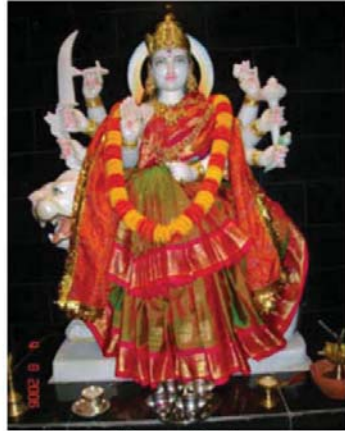
Nandi



Sri Subramanya Swamy



Sri Dattatreya



Durga Devi



Ram Parivar



shirdi sai baba



Radha Krishna



Dwarapalakas :Jaya & Vijaya



Sri Kabir Das