

## MAHA KUMBHABHISHEKAM LOGISTICS

June 4, 2010

Dear Devotees,

Our Temple's Maha Kumbhabhishekam Mahotsav starts next Wednesday (June 9) and continues through Sunday (June 13). We welcome you to celebrate with us this great event, which marks the completion of twelve years from the initial consecration of the Temple's Deities. It is meant to purify the Temple and re-energize the Deities. The five days of this celebration are filled with various religious programs, cultural events, and fine food offerings. In this document, we give you useful information on some logistics of the event.

### 1. PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

- The program starts at 9 AM on each of the five days.
- The Mahasankalpa ceremony, when community members take a solemn vow to perform Kumbhabhishekam, will be on the morning of Day 1 (June 9), around 10 AM. We would like as many devotees as possible, along with their spouses, to attend this important ceremony.
- Cultural programs from 7 to 8 PM on Days 1, 2, and 3, by the Tamil, Maharashtrian, and Telugu communities, respectively. (Note: The monthly Krittigai Puja falls on Day 2, Thursday, and will be celebrated from 6 to 7 PM.)
- Spiritual discourse by Drs. K.S. Sripada Raju and C. Adinarayana Reddy on Day 4 (June 12) between 2 and 3 PM.
- Sangeetanjali program of devotional songs by Udayan Parikh and group from Houston on Day 4 from 4:30 PM to 7 PM. Purchase of tickets for just this program will be possible, at \$25 per ticket. Contact persons are Rajiv Das, Ashim Aggarwal, and Sandip Shah.
- Kumbhabhishekam to the deities and to the shikharas on the morning of Day 5 (June 13) – this is the climactic event of the five days of rituals.
- Kalyana Utsavs simultaneously for five sets of deities from 1 to 2:30 PM on Day 5 (see #2 below for details).
- A gala presentation by a very well known and highly talented group of three performers on Day 5, 2:30 to 4 PM. Performers are: Manisha Dongre: Kathak; Sandhya Atmakuri: Kuchipudi; Asha Subramaniam: Mohini Attam.

### 2. KALYANA UTSAVS (VIVAHAMS) ON SUNDAY JUNE 13, 1 to 2:30 PM:

The Kalyana Utsav ceremony will enact the marriages of five of our temple's deities to their divine consorts: Uma–Maheswara, Sita–Rama, Radha–Krishna, Padmavathi–Venkateswara, and Valli–Devasena–Subrahmanya. This ceremony is a first for our temple in several different ways: it is the first time we are celebrating the marriages of Uma–Maheswara and Radha–Krishna; it is the first group marriage for our deities; and it is the first Vivaham after Kumbhabhishekam. For all these reasons, this is a very important as well as colorful event. If you wish to sponsor this event to the deity-couple of your choice (at \$51/family), please fill a sponsorship form available at the Registration Tent.

At this time, we have the following request for you. We need six mangalsutras, six saris, and five veshtis (dhotis) for the Vivahams. If you have any of these items you would like to donate, please let Raman Anantaraman (e-mail: [raman@nscl.msu.edu](mailto:raman@nscl.msu.edu), cell: 517-862-8648) know by Monday

June 7 noon. This deadline is required by the fact that we need to have time to purchase the items not covered by your donations. Please note that donors of saris and veshtis can take back those items the day after the Vivaham, if they choose to.

**3. EVENT REGISTRATION:** Please register in the temple lobby on June 9<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup>. On the final two days (June 12 and 13), please register at the Registration Tent and get name tags for the members of your party. **This is a required step.** It will help us with the logistics.

#### **4. PURCHASE & COLLECTION OF REGISTRATION PACKAGE:**

We request you to support the Kumbhabhishekam by purchasing a registration package of your choice from the list posted at:

<http://lansingtemple.org/kumbhabhishekam/registration%20package%20list.pdf>.

The packages contain different combinations of the following: plaque in the Yagnashala or Navagraha sanctum, kalasha (with opportunity to perform abhishek of the temple shikhas on Day 5 using lift trucks), meal packages, tickets for the Sangeetanjali program, community directory, and a commemorative Souvenir.

We urge you to purchase the registration package latest by June 9, as we have to give the food caterers the number of meals required. You can purchase and collect your registration package in a number of ways:

- From tomorrow (Saturday June 5) through Tuesday June 8, there will be a Registration counter open in the Temple every evening from 7 to 8 PM. You can give your check or pay by credit card at these times and collect your packages. You can also pay beforehand by PAYPAL (see: <http://lansingtemple.org/misc/paypal-donation.html>) and collect your package from the counter. Those who have already purchased the registration package can also collect their package at this time.
- On Days 1, 2, and 3 of Kumbhabhishekam, the Registration Tent will be staffed from 6:30 to 8:30 PM (and possibly at other times) and you can purchase and collect the package of your choice. However, there is no guarantee that meal coupons will be available after Day 1. Payment by credit card will be possible.
- On Days 4 and 5, the Registration Tent will be staffed throughout the day and packages can be purchased. However, there is no guarantee that meal packages will be available. Payment by credit card will be possible.
- In case of questions, please call Satheesh Veeramachaneni at 517-214-5968.

**5. PURCHASE OF MEAL PACKAGES BY WEDNESDAY JUNE 9:** For those who wish to purchase meals only [lunch and dinner on Day 4 (June 12) and lunch on June 13 (Day 5)], meal packages are available. Each meal package will have 2 lunch coupons and 1 dinner coupon and will cost \$30. Wednesday June 9 is the deadline for purchase of meal packages. To reserve meal packages ahead of June 9, send e-mail to Satheesh Veeramachaneni at [tellneni@gmail.com](mailto:tellneni@gmail.com) or call his cell number 517-214-5968 with the number of meal packages you will need. Note that, if you are purchasing any of the Registration Packages (Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze, or Basic), certain numbers of meal packages are included.

**6. PARKING:** Please park your vehicles in the Temple parking lots as long as they are not full. On the final two days (Saturday and Sunday), once the temple's lots are full, park your car at the following locations, after dropping off your family members at the Temple. **Please do not park on streets in the neighborhood of the Temple. Please follow posted parking guidelines.**

a) Saturday only (not Sunday): St. Luke Lutheran Church just east of the Temple on Van Atta Road.

b) Both days: **Wilkshire Early Childhood Center, 5750 Academic Way, Haslett.** From the Temple, drive west (towards downtown Haslett) 0.4 miles, turn right onto Academic Way, and drive 0.1 miles to the Wilkshire Center on your right. It is an easy 15-minutes walk to the Temple from here.

## **7. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

We need volunteers for many things. **To volunteer, please call Satheesh Veeramachaneni at 517-214-5968 (or meet him at the Registration Tent on Days 4 and 5).** He will direct you to the areas where help is most needed. The main areas where volunteers are needed are: safety management, help in setting up the food tent and cleaning, watch kids in the general area, registration, etc.

- One particular need is transportation for the four out-of-town priests from their hotel (Super 8 Motel, 2736 Grand River Avenue, East Lansing, phone: 517-337-1621) to the Temple and back each of the five days. We need two or three volunteers for this. It will be good if the same volunteers can do this for all five days. If you can help, please contact Sudhakar Kulkarni, home phone: 517-485-1060, e-mail: [kulkarnis@comcast.net](mailto:kulkarnis@comcast.net).

## **8. SOME REQUESTS:**

- During the five days of the ceremony, please enter the Temple from the East (new) entrance. (Before entering, please register at the Registration Tent, which will be located close to this entrance.)
- For “Kanya Darsana” on Day 5, we need young children (both girls and boys) between the ages of 7 and 10 at about 11 AM. These young children will be the first ones to view the deities immediately after the abhishekam and alankaaram. Please bring your children in this age group to the Temple by 11 AM and hand them over to Mrs. Gayathri Rajaram. She will keep the kids together and take them to view the deities at a signal from the priests.

## **9. CONTACTS**

For registration, registration packets, meal packets, and volunteering:  
Satheesh Veeramachaneni, 517-214-5968 (cell)

For other questions, please call any one of the following:

Manohar Naga, 517-290-1610 (cell)

Ashim Aggarwal, 517-763-7678 (cell)

Rajiv Das, 248-417-1691 (cell)

Srinivas Kandula, 517-230-4762 (cell)

Sudhakar Kulkarni, 517-927-5220 (cell)

Pardeep Kumar, 517-614-5182 (cell)

Chandu Patel, 517-214-9609 (cell)