



BHARATIYA TEMPLE OF LANSING, INC.

955 Haslett Road, Haslett, MI 48840
http://lansingtemple.org
Phone: (517) 339-6337
Tax Exempt ID: 38-2399465



Board of Trustees – 2007

Rajiv Das, Chair
517-347-9843

Manohar Naga, Vice Chair
810-588-6727

Suseela Umakanth,
Secretary
517-347-2108

Nandita Jain, Treasurer
517-349-9153

Executive Board Members

Ashim Aggarwal
347-528-5351

Pardeep Kumar
517-347-2930

Sunit Patke
517-349-5576

Shiv Kumar Singh
517-203-4131

Pratin Trivedi
517-349-5134

ANNUAL REPORT AT THE GENERAL BODY MEETING December 2, 2007

Rajiv R Das, Chair, Board of Trustees

Dear Members,

Namaskar,

With the autumn leaves withering away and snow drifts falling, the year 2007 is coming to an end. Together, we have achieved many milestones this year. The year started with a very active fundraising drive for temple completion and project planning as well as SETU which was a community event. Your board of trustees were able to meet the community set target of funding to initiate the completion project which was kicked off by Bhumi Puja on September 15th (Ganesh Chaturthi Day). We were blessed by the visits and discourses by experts in shastras. I have provided you the details in the following major categories.

Construction Update:

The following milestones were achieved this year to initiate the Temple Completion project. Construction committee has spent many hours to meet these key milestones :

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|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. April 17th 2007 | Public Hearing at the Township for the special use permit |
| 2. May 2nd 2007 | Township issues Special Use Permit |
| 3. June 8th 2007 | Construction Committee meets with Township Planning |
| 4. September 6th 2007 | Site Plan review at Meridian Township for approval |
| 5. September 12th 2007 | Board meets the funding commitment |
| 6. September 15th 2007 | Bhumi Puja performed at Temple |
| 7. September 19th | Township issues Foundation permit |
| 8. October 9th 2007 | Board issues Letter of Intent to Contractor for Phase 1 |
| 9. October 28th 2007 | Foundation work started by the Contractor |
| 10. November 13 th 2007 | Building permit issued by Meridian Township |

Board of Trustees have decided to split the project into two phases based on the recommendation of Construction Committee. The construction for Phase 1 (Outer shell, framing and roofing) has commenced in late October by laying the foundation. This phase is expected to be completed by January 2008. Contract for Phase 1 has been approved for \$ 421,000.00.

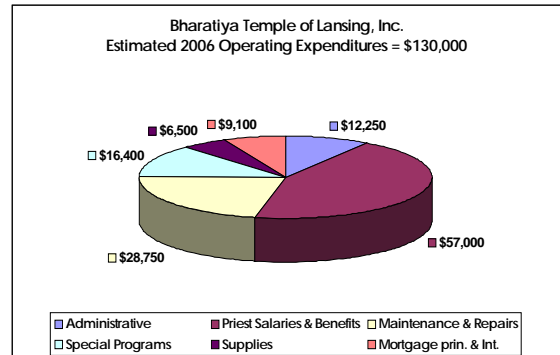
Phase 2 planning is in progress with an expected completion by Summer of 2008. The overall cost of the project is expected be around \$ 867,000.00. The major reason for the cost difference from the original budget is due to installation of fire sprinklers along with fire hydrant and 8 inch water line. This is due to the new ordinance from Meridian Township which became effective after January 1, 2007. Construction Committee is working on all the cost aspects to deliver high quality and long term solution for the completion project.

To-Date the construction is on schedule with the project timeline. I would like to thank the Construction Committee members (Manohar Naga, Gian Taneja, Sudhakar Kulkarni, Aditya Sharma, Tirlok Kakar, Anup Shah and Pardeep Kumar) who have put number of hours every week discussing the plans, negotiating with Contractors and in discussions with Meridian Township.

Fundraising and Financials

For non-profit organizations like our temple, fundraising is a key activity which board actively pursues throughout the year. The chart below provides a summary of our operating expense for a year. Funds for Temple operations are financed by fundraising, memberships, Hundi collections, and priest services.

In addition to annual operating expense, we will require capital improvement funds at least in 2007 and 2008 to meet the temple completion project which has an expected completion date of June 2008. In addition to the existing fundraising programs, new programs have been initiated such as Sponsor-a-day of temple, dollar-a-day programs as well as usual fundraising efforts. We encourage you to donate generously. To-Date in 2007 the total amount of funds collected is \$312,000 of which \$209,000 were earmarked for the completion project. Our fundraising committee will be actively working for innovative ideas. I would like to thank **Dr. Anantraman, Dr. AJ Shah, Sanjeev Deshpande, Dr. Ved Gossain, Smruti Shah and Dr. Babu Rathod** for their active help in fundraising activities.



The general donations has dipped slightly in the year, however the Board considers it quite healthy given the focus on the fundraising for the capital improvement. We were also successful in collecting the previous pledges. Special events generated revenue of approximately \$ 27,000.00. The temple established a line of credit for \$50,000 with the Fifth Third Bank to support operational expenses, if needed. However, we have not needed to use this line of credit. Our 2007 Diwali fundraiser was very successful in getting approximately \$ 30,000 in cash collections.

Membership:

The Year 2007 have resulted in membership roster of 104 members with following breakdown between life members and annual members –

- ❑ Life Members – 70.
- ❑ Annual Members – 34.

We have welcomed seven new life members this year and hope to add at least 10 more in 2008.

- ❑ **B.P and Madhavi Rajesh**
- ❑ **Ramesh and Vani Avula**
- ❑ **Aditya and Abha Sharma**
- ❑ **Jai and Shash Tripathi**
- ❑ **Satish and Lalita Udpa**
- ❑ **B.D and Aparna Agrawal**
- ❑ **Ram and Lakshmi Surapaneni.**

We definitely need to increase annual membership to at least 100 in the year 2008. Board will initiate new membership drive to reach the new level. Besides helping with operational expenses, membership levels also aid in determining the devotee identification with the Temple. We encourage you to continue to be an annual member or reach the \$10,000 threshold to become a life member and participate actively in temple activities. Your contribution and involvement in the temple's day-to-day affairs is very important for the temple's future.

Volunteer Recognitions

As the year 2007 completes, on behalf of board of trustees, I would like to express our gratitude and thanks for the following devotees and volunteers –

1. **Dr. C. A. Reddy** – He has taught Gita class at temple for last several years. Lot of devotees and community members attend his classes. We recognize his devotion and volunteer spirit.
2. **Dr. Raman Anantraman** – Dr. Raman has maintained the temple website for all the relevant information. He has always provided his input for creating temple flyers and newsletters.
3. **Dr. K Padmanabhan** – Whenever you receive the email from Temple, Dr. Padmanabhan is behind it. He is instrumental in keeping the communication link between temple and community.

4. **Dr. Sripada Raju** – Dr. Raju has always provided his guidance and blessings to the temple community. He was instrumental in planning the SADBODHA retreat.
5. **Shashi Karve** – Shashi has co-ordinated a very successful children's class at temple with help of her daughter Priya Karve. This program has generated lot of interest in the community.

In addition to above devotees, we have also recognized **Tirlok Kakar, Sandeep Shah and Rampal Agrawal** during the Diwali celebration at Okemos High School.

Ongoing Activities

Educational programs: We have continued to actively run the Bal-Vihar and youth educational program including Hindi classes at the temple. With temple completion, we intend to add more educational classes as space will be available. **Madan and Diane Syal** have continued to devote time teaching youth group.

New Activities: Temple celebrated an annual event SETU this year followed by SADBODHA retreat for two days focused on mind and body healing. Both the events had encouraging participation from community.

Discourses:

- ❑ **His Holiness Sri Siddheshwar Swamiji** blessed our temple devotees on the Bhumi Puja day and gave a short discourse on Divinity. He patiently answered lots of questions from the audience.
- ❑ **Swami Bodhananda on November 5th** – He provided a six hour long discourse for our temple devotees on "JOYFUL LIVING IN AN INTERACTIVE WORLD" in a discourse series. He is spiritual director and Founder of The Sambodh Society, Inc and the Sambodh Center for Human Excellence, Kalamazoo MI.

Community Outreach: Our participation in the social activities for the Greater Lansing Community like Soup Kitchen, Meals on Wheels and Lansing Food Bank have continued. Jai Jaglan and Padmini Karna coordinated winter clothing drive which was very successful. Jai Jaglan has continued to coordinate the 'food bank' drive.

Inter-religious Services: Faculty and students from Albion College and local high schools have visited our temple. Dr. Raman, Dr. Kulkarni, Shashi Karve and Dr. Raju have lectured and answered their questions regarding Hinduism and Temple.

Religious Activities:

We have added new religious activities as Sri Ram Vivaham, Bhajan Mandali as well as Krittigai which demonstrates inclusive spirit of our temple..

Future Vision for the temple

With the completion of the temple, we should focus on following activities as part of the long term vision for our growing community –

- ❑ Regular classes on Hinduism and our culture for Elementary, Middle and High Schoolers
- ❑ Community out reach program to interact with local school and educational institutions to spread the knowledge of Hinduism
- ❑ Create Temple as a social and cultural hub for mid Michigan Hindu and Jain families
- ❑ Involve the younger generation in temple administration and activities
- ❑ Create a FRIEND of TEMPLE society for fundraising and providing guidance to Board of Trustees.

Once again, I thank all the devotees for supporting the temple and its activities. We continue to look forward to your financial and volunteer support. Please feel free to reach out to the board of trustees with feedback and suggestions.

Regards,

Yours Truly

Rajiv R Das

On behalf of Board of Trustees
Bharatiya Temple of Lansing

November 29th 2007

Year 2007 – a Pictorial perspective



June 23rd 2007:

Our temple hosted a summer event, SETU which literally means BRIDGE. The focus of this event was to promote interaction between community members as well as the neighbors. This was a very successful event with food stalls, Icecream vending and other shops of interest. Approximately 500 – 600 people visited the temple during this event. Cultural programs and exhibitions were other added attractions. Temple intends to host this event on an annual basis.



September 15th 2007:

Enthusiastic devotees participating in the ground breaking ceremony on September 15th. The ceremony was initiated by the Bhumi Puja performed by chairperson and Sharma ji on a nice sunny morning. A large number of devotees participated in the puja, ground breaking and prasad. Township provided the foundation permit subsequent to this activity. Construction Committee completed the contract with a local contractor for completing the project with foundation work planned to be initiated during the week of October 27th 2007.

2007 Board of Trustees:

From Left to right: Pardeep Kumar, Sunit Patke, Ashim Aggarwal, Nandita Jain, Shiv Kumar Singh, Rajiv Das, Suseela Umaknath, Manohar Naga and Pratin Trivedi. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each member of the Board for their dedication and hard work. This Board has been cohesive, constructive, and each member has worked very hard to keep this temple running smoothly. Their efforts were instrumental in this year's very successful results. I feel privileged to be a member of this team.



September 25-26, 2007:

SADBODHA Retreat – Temple has started this annual event to promote a mind and body healing with inspiration from Dr. Raju. This retreat is focused on practicing Yoga taught by certified teacher and also discourse on Gita and other relevant topics. Temple will plan to host this annually.

Board of Trustees would like to wish you all a very Happy and Prosperous 2008