



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 – 2008

Rajiv Das, Chair
517-347-9843

Manohar Naga, Vice Chair
810-588-6727

Pratin Trivedi, Secretary
517-349-5134

Smruti Shah, Treasurer
517-347-1209

Executive Board Members

Ashim Aggarwal
517-332-0222

Pardeep Kumar
517-347-2930

Sunit Patke
517-349-5576

Jai Tripathi
517.347.4257

B.D. Agrawal
517.349.7146

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE GENERAL BODY MEETING December 7, 2008

Rajiv R Das, Chair, Board of Trustees

Dear Members,

Namaskar,

With the onset of beautiful Michigan winter, the year 2008 is coming to an end. Our year-long Temple completion project was finished on schedule by Ganesh Chaturthi Day (September 4-2008). It added much-needed amenities and facilities. The Temple Board has been keeping you updated via newsletters and town hall meetings. The new addition has brought new responsibilities in terms of maintaining the facility and we seek your help to keep the facility clean and pristine for the best religious experience. The completion project came to a close with the issuance of the Final Occupancy Certificate by Meridian Township on November 24.

Construction Update:

The following milestones were achieved during the Temple Completion project:

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 1. September 15 2007 | Bhumi Puja performed at Temple |
| 2. September 19 2007 | Foundation permit issued by Meridian Township |
| 3. November 13 2007 | Building permit issued by Meridian Township |
| 4. December 2007 | Temple Project Construction started |
| 5. August 28 2008 | Temple Project Construction completed |
| 6. September 4 2008 | Temporary Occupancy permit granted by Meridian Township |
| 7. November 24 2008 | Final Occupancy Certificate granted by Meridian Township |

The Construction Committee members – B.D. Agrawal, Tirllok Kakar, Sudhakar Kulkarni, Pardeep Kumar, Manohar Naga, Gian Taneja, Anupam Shah, Sandip Shah, Aditya Sharma, and Jai Tripathi – spent countless hours to meet these key milestones. They put in many hours every week discussing the plans, negotiating with the Contractors, and managing the construction issues. During the Diwali 2008 celebration, they were recognized for their dedicated service.

We are currently completing the installation of kitchen equipment which will enable us to seek the final mechanical and electrical certification from the State of Michigan. Subsequently, Meridian Township will provide us final occupancy certificate after inspection. [Rajiv: How does this differ from milestone 7 above? Use some other words.]

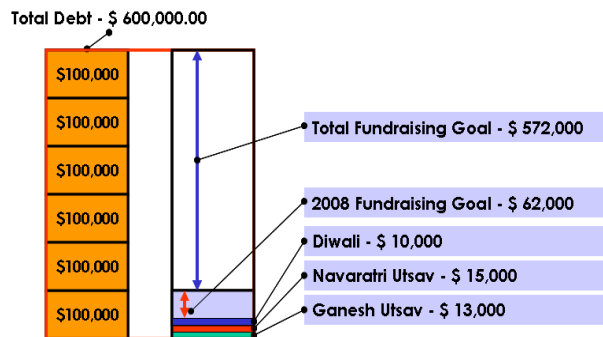
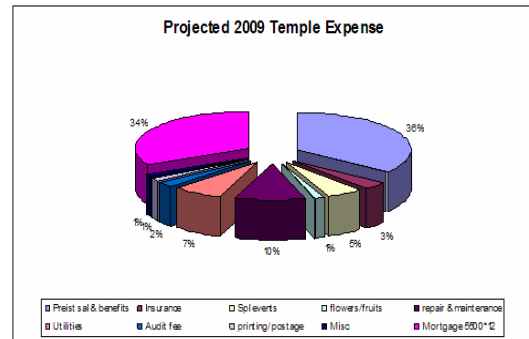
THE TEMPLE ENCOURAGES YOU TO RENT THIS FACILITY WITH ITS EXPANDED SPACE BOTH UPSTAIRS AND DOWNSTAIRS FOR EVENTS SUCH AS WEDDINGS, BIRTHDAYS AND SPECIAL PUJAS. PLEASE REFER TO THE TEMPLE FACILITY RENTAL POLICY (AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE OR WITH OUR PRIESTS) FOR USAGE GUIDELINES. THE RENTAL REVENUE WILL ASSIST IN THE TEMPLE OPERATION.

Facilities	Rental Rate
Dining area and kitchen with cooking facility	\$ 400 for 4 hours, \$ 600 for 8 hours
Dining area only with food serving	\$ 300 for 4 hours, \$ 500 for 8 hours
Dinning area for gathering only (no food service)	\$ 250 for 4 hours, \$ 400 for 8 hours

Fundraising and Financials

For non-profit organizations like our Temple, fundraising is a key activity that the 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, membership dues, Hundi collections, and priest services.

In addition to annual operating expense, we will require debt reduction funds for 2008 and beyond. Our annual expense for 2008 and beyond will be in the order of approximately \$ 200,000. The expense distribution is shown in the table on the right. Although the Board is continuously looking for reduction in expenses, a large facility like ours will incur additional expenses. We need to work together to commit operating funds to run the temple. Devotees are requested to rent the temple facility for their life events as detailed on the previous page.



The total mortgage debt is \$ 600,000. Temple Board has been continuously raising funds to meet the debt. A debt reduction program has been initiated. The chart on the left provides the fundraising results from the 2008 Temple events – Ganesh Utsav, Navaratri, and Diwali.

We have set an annual goal of \$ 100,000 which will make us debt-free in next six years. Please refer to the chart below explaining HOW TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL.

YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED for following –

1. Help us meet the goal of raising \$ 100,000 per year to meet the Debt Reduction Program Goals.
2. Sponsor the Kitchen at \$ 50,000 each. Family plaques will be installed.
3. Donate to get the Grand Benefactor Plaques in Yagnashala and Navagraha sanctum @ \$ 5,000 each.

Annual donation of \$ 2,000.00	10	\$ 20,000.00
Annual donation of \$ 1,000.00	20	\$ 20,000.00
Annual donation of \$ 500.00	40	\$ 20,000.00
Annual donation of \$ 200.00	100	\$ 20,000.00
Annual donation of \$ 100.00	200	\$ 20,000.00
Grand Benefactor Plaques - \$ 5,000.00		OPEN
2 Kitchen Sponsorship - \$ 50,000.00 each		OPEN
3 Classroom Sponsorship - \$ 25,000.00 each		Already Sponsored

Board of Trustees would like to recognize Sanjeev & Anuradha Deshpande, Ashim & Kalyani Aggarwal, and Milind & Shashi Karve who pledged \$ 25,000 each for the three classrooms at the Temple.

We also recognize Sanjeev Deshpande for the Ganesh Utsav fundraising & Ramesh Dedhia & Bidhan Redey for fundraising during Navaratri. All these events raised funds to meet the Temple needs.

Membership:

The Year 2008 resulted in membership roster of 119 members with following breakdown between life members and annual members, As evident there has been an increase of 8 members during 2008.

Membership	2007	2008
Life Members	71	74
Annual Members	40	45

We have welcomed three new life members this year (based on the donation roster created in February 2008) and hope to add at least 10 more in 2009.

- ❑ **Vikas Bajpai and Renu Chaturvedi**
- ❑ **Satyapal and Santosh Pasricha**
- ❑ **Upendra and Arti Shah**

We need to double the annual membership to at least 100 in the year 2009. Board will initiate a new membership drive to reach this target. Besides helping with operational expenses, membership dues also aid in developing the devotees' 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 are very important for the Temple's future.

Volunteer Recognitions

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

1. **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 a lot of interest in the community.
2. **Dr. Raman Anantraman** – Dr. Raman continues to maintain the Temple mailing list and the Temple website. He has always provided his input for creating Temple flyers and newsletters.
3. **Madan and Dianne Syal** – Madan and Dianne Syal have invigorated the Youth Group with Hindi classes, choir, concerts and other interesting activities.
4. **Samip Patel** – Samip is an excellent example of selfless volunteerism. He is available for all the Temple events, especially for the food service to ensure a pleasant experience for devotees.

We are very happy to report that our past Chairs have formed a **Chairperson Advisory Committee** to advise and assist the Chair. On behalf of the 2008 Board of Trustees, I thank **Manohar Naga, Sudhakar Kulkarni, Suman Kashyap, Ved Gossain and Smruti Shah** for their continued service to the local Hindu and Jain community.

Ongoing Activities

Educational programs: We have continued to actively run the Bal-Vihar and youth educational program including Hindi and Tamil classes at the Temple. With Temple completion, we intend to add more educational classes as space will be available. **Madan and Dianne Syal** along with **Sanjay and Anjali Srivastava** have continued to devote time to teaching the high school youth group. **Various other activities, such as Yoga and Gita classes, continue with increasing attendance.**

Discourses:

- ❑ **May 30th – 31st:** **Swami Bodhananda** conducted a two-day camp on Kaivalya Upanishad, "the study of which at the feet of an awakened Master is an integrative healing experience." Swamiji is well-known to our community as a master of Vedanta and an eloquent speaker. He is the Founder and spiritual director of The Sambodh Society, Inc and the Sambodh Center for Human Excellence, Kalamazoo MI.
- ❑ **June 7th:** A one-day Yoga camp was conducted by **N. V. Raghuram**, a well-known yoga practitioner. This was well attended by our devotees and other community members. This was in continuum of the **Sadbodha** retreat of 2007.
- ❑ **July 17th - Dr Kusum P Merh** visited Bharatiya Temple of Lansing and delivered a lecture on "Introduction to Vedic Literature". The lecture was very informative and interactive. It was well attended and was appreciated by the Temple community.
- ❑ **August 2008 – Dr. C A Reddy** conducted a two-day spiritual retreat on "Bhaja Govindam of Adi Sankaracharya," which was attended by many Temple devotees.

Community Outreach: Our participation in the social activities for the Greater Lansing Community like Soup Kitchen, Meals on Wheels, and Greater Lansing Food Bank have continued. We have been actively working to help a group of Nepali immigrants, who have recently arrived in Lansing, with their basic needs.

Inter-Faith Services: Faculty and students from Albion College, Michigan State University, and local high schools have visited our Temple. Dr. Raman, Dr. Kulkarni, and Dr. Raju have lectured and answered their questions regarding Hinduism and the Temple. We have been highly complimented by Albion College and STATE NEWS.

Future Vision for the Temple

With the completion of the Temple, we should focus on the 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 outreach 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.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I thank the three outgoing Board members – Pardeep Kumar, Pratin Trivedi, and B.D. Agrawal – for their outstanding contributions during their tenure on the Board.

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

December 5th 2008

Year 2008 – a Pictorial perspective



July 19th 2008:

Our temple hosted the 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. Rain did not dampen the SETU spirit. 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 1st 2008: Mata Ki Chowki

Enthusiastic devotees celebrated Mata Ki Chowki which has become an annual tradition at our temple. This event kicked off the fundraising drive as well the festival season for our temple. We had an acclaimed bhajan singer who performed at this event along with the devotees.



September 4th, 2008:

Ganesh Chaturthi – With the last minute inspections, Meridian Township granted temporary occupation permit to the temple for the additional facilities completed. Devotees took out an impressive procession and welcomed Lord Ganesha to the temple to kick-off the Ganesh Utsav. This festival also generated approximately \$ 13,000 in cash and pledges for the temple.

Devotees are proceeding with the procession in front of the temple to welcome Lord Ganesha in the picture.

Diwali 2008 :

Our completed Temple reflects the commitment and support from our community. It took us almost five years to realize this dream from planning, raising funds, and construction project. This facility will enable us to expand the classes for our children and adults, have life events (birthdays, anniversaries, weddings) as well as cultural and religious events.

We need to work to keep the facilities pristine to provide an excellent religious experience for our devotees.



Board of Trustees would like to wish you all a very Happy and Prosperous 2009