



**BHARATIYA TEMPLE OF
LANSING, INC.**

6 Haslett Road, Haslett, MI 48840

<http://lansingtemple.org>

Phone: (517) 339-6337

Tax Exempt ID No.: 38-



Year 2005,
Issue I

Board of Trustees

February 14, 2005

Chairman

Sudhakar Kulkarni
517-485-1060

Vice Chairman

Chandrakant Khiroya
517-332-7275

Secretary

Prakash Kapoor
517-349-5958

Treasurer

Smruti Shah
517-347-1209

Executive Board

Members:

Pardeep Kumar
517-347- 2930

Loki Naga
517-332- 4944

Dr. Kunwar Rajendra
517-351-6366

Rajiv Das
517-347-9843

Shivkumar Singh
517-622-3681

Dear Temple Devotees:

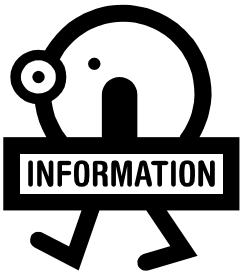
Lord alone is responsible for victory and defeat; for it is subject to His control that all these worlds along with guardian deities (Brahma and others) helplessly carry on their activity like birds caught in a net. Not recognizing the Lord as the real Cause in the shape of the potency of Indriyas- the senses of perception as well as organs of action, the power of the mind and bodily strength, life, immortality and death as well, we look upon the gross body as the cause. Just as a wooden puppet or even as a mechanical toy-deer is subject to the control of the showman or the individual, winding up the toy, likewise know all living beings, as subject to the control of God. Without His inspiration the Jiva (individual soul), Prakrti (primordial matter), Mahat-tattva (the principal of cosmic intelligence), the ego, the five elements, ten indriyas and the mind fail to create, maintain and dissolve this universe. We who are ignorant of this fact regard our own incapable self as capable of doing everything independently. Really speaking, it is HE who evolves beings through other beings and devours them Himself through other beings. Whatever blessings in the form of long life, affluence, fame, life and power are coveted by a man are obtained by him at the time appointed for the same as surely as their contraries (in the shape of death-for example tsunami, poverty, infamy and so on), even though he may be unwilling to accept them. Therefore, one should remain balanced in joy and sorrow proceeding from fame and disrepute, victory and defeat and even so from life and death.

Tragic events have happened all over the world recently and will happen again. All we need is to be resolute to face them courageously by helping each other. Our community rose to the occasion. Dr. Ved Gossain, designated collector of Tsunami relief fund for the community, collected more than two thousand dollars and handed over to American Red Cross. Your Board of Trustees thanks you very much for lending a helping hand.

Yours Truly,
Board of Trustees
Bharatiya Temple of Lansing

As one acts and conducts himself, so does he become. The doer of good becomes good. The doer of evil becomes evil. One becomes virtuous by virtuous action, bad by bad action.

-Veda Upanishads



MAHA SHIVARATRI

From 6 AM on Tuesday, March 8 to 6 AM on Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Maha Shivaratri, “the great night of Lord Shiva” is one of the holiest days in the Hindu religious calendar. It is considered the most auspicious day for the worship of Lord Shiva. It is believed that Lord Shiva manifests Himself as a huge column of light (jyotirlingham) on this day and bestows his grace on His devotees. It is said that the devotees who worship Lord Shiva on this day will accrue the benefit of worshipping Him for a whole year. On Shivaratri, devotees fast during the day, maintain a sleepless vigil during the night and worship Lord Shiva in four yaamas (quarters) of the night. The observance of the fast and vigil is symbolic of self-control, one of the prerequisites for God realization.

Shivaratri, besides its great religious importance has also a special significance for our community because it is anniversary day for the Temple. The Board of Trustees extend a warm welcome to all of you and look forward to your participation enthusiastically in sponsoring puja, chanting “Om Namah Shivaya” japa, singing bhajans, and various other activities. May Lord Shiva’s blessings be with you, your family and friends.

PROGRAM

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

| | |
|------------------|---|
| 6:00 AM | Shri Ganesh Puja/ Kalash Sthapana, Shri Shiv Puja, Abhishekam and Aarti |
| 8:00 to 11:30 AM | Abhishekam open to Shiva Devotees* |
| NOON | Shri Shiv Puja, Abhshekam and Aarti |
| 1:00 to 4:00 PM | Abhishekam open to Shiva Devotees* |
| 4:00 PM | Rudra Havan |
| 6:00 PM | Shri Shiv Puja, Abhshekam and Aarti |
| 7:00 to 11:30 PM | Abhishekam open to Shiva Devotees* |
| 7:00 to 8:30 PM | Bhajan, Kirtan, Aarti, and Prasad |
| MIDNIGHT | Shri Shiv Puja, Abhshekam and Aarti |

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1:30 to 5:30 AM | Abhishekam open to Shiva Devotees* |
| 6:00 AM | Japa, Aarti, Prasad (ending of fast) |

24 Hours Continuous “Om Namah Shivaya” Japa:

Please call Sharmaji or Shastriji at the Temple to sign up for your time slot.

Sponsorship: Rudra Abhishekam, \$25.00; Puja \$25.00, Rudra Havan, \$ 51.00

- Special Request to Shiva Devotees: Before you come to the Temple please shower, wear clean clothes (no work clothes, please). At the Temple please contact Sharmaji or Shastriji to do 108 times “Om Namah Shivaya” japa for cleansing the body and spirit and then do the abhishekam so that the sanctity of the Temple is preserved. Your cooperation



"Skill,
Knowledge,
Talent,
Ability and
Experience
could best
be utilized,
implemented
and
benefited
from...when
we first
place

ourselves in
the right
place"

"Unity to be
real must
stand the
severest
strain
without
breaking"
-Mahatma
Gandhi

Always remember
those who
serve.

Action to be
effective
must be
directed to
clearly
conceived

in this matter is extremely appreciated.

**FOLLOWING THIS FUNCTION OUR PRIESTS WILL CONDUCT A
PURIFICATION ABHISHEK FOR PURIFICATION OF THE SHIVA
LINGUM**

@ 8:00 A.M. On Wednesday March 9, 2005

**Special Note: YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS AT "MAHA SHIVRATRI
DAY" WILL BE HIGHLY APPRECIATED.**

**For more information please contact the following Religious Committee
members:**

**Mrs. Meena Sharma @ 517-347-0567; Rajiv Das @ 517-347-9843; Pradeep
Kumar @ 517-347-2930; Prakash Kapoor @ 517-349-5958; Sharmaji,
Shastriji at the Temple @ 517-339-6337.**

A note from the board:

*Dr. Kulkarni, who is coordinating reservations of Temple facility for public
and private events, is unavailable for next 4-6 weeks. Please contact
Prakash Kapoor at 517-349-5958 for any reservations*

*In order to clarify frequently asked
questions
Regarding membership dues,
We have provided answers to some frequently
Asked questions.*

Please refer to the next Two Pages

Calendar 2004 Donors' list: In the following pages you will find list of donors who
contributed during 2004 or have contributed \$100 or more in prior years. Donation
amounts listed here include general donations, special event donations and membership
dues. It does not include amount paid for priest services, rental fees for library material,
temple rent, etc. We have tried to compile this list with utmost care. However, if you see
any error, please first check your records (canceled checks or bank statement) and if you
still have questions, please feel free to call Temple Treasurer.

ends.

-Jawaharlal
Nehru

Membership Dues

Happy New Year. We hope that you all had nice holiday season. Once again, it is our great pleasure to print answers to the frequently asked questions related to membership issues. Please read them carefully and you are welcome to call our Treasurer, Smruti Shah if you still have questions.

Q. What is the annual membership?

A. Any individual or family wishing to become a member must have

a. Donated a total of \$250 (excluding membership dues) to this Temple in their lifetime and

b. Paid annual membership of \$150 (family) or \$75 (individual)

In order to be eligible to vote in a particular year, dues must be paid prior to June 30th of that year.

Q. Who can become a member of the Bharatiya Temple?

A. Any individual or family subscribing to the objectives of the temple and submitting the necessary dues and donations.

Q. Are there any exceptions to this policy?

A. Life members (an individual or family who has donated a total of \$10,000 and honorary members need not pay annual membership dues.

Q. What are the benefits of the membership?

A. Membership in this great institution is a privilege. It primarily provides you and your spouse (family membership) a right to vote in the election of the Board of Trustees and therefore a voice in the administration of Temple activities. It also allows you to rent the temple facility for private functions such as weddings, birthday party etc.

Q. Who can serve as a Trustee?

A. (a) Life member

(b) Any individual or family, who has donated a total of \$1,000 in their lifetime to this Temple and has paid annual membership dues.

Q. What type of payments made to the Temple are tax deductible?

A. Bharatiya Temple is a tax-exempt organization under Sec. 501 (c)(3) of Internal Revenue Code. We must use this status very wisely and follow all

regulations. IRS regulations state that any donations made to the Temple in cash or kind to the extent that the donor does not receive any value of goods or services back from the Temple are tax deductible.

The following payments help the Temple activities but do not qualify for tax deductions as a contribution under the current IRS regulations:(These are few examples)

Purchase of tickets for Temple-sponsored cultural events. (However, if you sponsor the program to defer the cost, it will be a tax-deductible item.)

Cost of Ad placed in Temple brochure

Purchase or rental of library books or videos

Any amount paid towards services such as Priest services for puja in your home, Sunday school/Bal Vihar, Temple rental etc.

In the event a fund raising dinner or program is arranged, the Temple will provide you with the portion of the total price which will be eligible for tax deduction.

Q. Do I get a receipt for my contributions?

A. Majority of work at the Temple is handled by volunteer workers. It is not cost effective and possible to send a receipt for every contribution we receive. Consistent with IRS regulations we will mail you a receipt only when your contribution exceeds \$250 per donation. For donations less than \$250, your canceled check will be your receipt. We also publish a list of all donors in the January newsletter for the previous calendar year.

We cannot apply any part of your contribution as a membership dues without your express instructions. Please complete this form and return it with your payment before the due date to become a voting member.

Name: (Last and first name) _____ Spouse _____

Address: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Dues: Circle one Family \$150 Individual \$75

Phone: Home _____ E-Mail _____

Checks Payable to "Bharatiya Temple of Greater Lansing" and mail to: 955 Haslett Road, Haslett MI 48840

YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE