



Mandir Patrika



Vedanta Ashram Society
6421 Cork Street Halifax B3L 1Z5
Tel: 431-6000
<http://www.hindutemple-halifax.org>

February, 2008

Message from your V.A.S. Board

Fellow Devotees, Namaskar

The 2008 VAS Board would like to thank the out-going Board members of 2007 - Mrs. Savita Narang, Mrs. Kamlesh Bhatnagar, Mrs. Tej Sharma, Mrs. Pushpa Bhargava, Mrs. Sumitra Unia, Mrs. Lila Joshi, and Mrs. Indu Bhatnagar for a wonderful job they did. Our special thanks to Pundit Rai Sahib for his selfless service to the community and we wish him all the best in the future. We will try our best to serve the Hindu community and others during our term. We appreciate constructive suggestions from VAS members towards activities of the Mandir.

The amended constitution introduced a few changes regarding the term and members of the Board. The main objective of making a smaller Board is to facilitate the greater participation of the membership at large. We urge the volunteers and the membership to participate in all activities of our Mandir. Please give your time, expertise generously.

For any society the youth are the torch bearers. The community views the world through them. In this part of the world, particularly in the metro the Hindu temple is the only forum to facilitate our youth desirous of learning tenets of Hinduism, our scriptures and our culture. Just one day a week, and a few hours that day would provide an insight into our great religion and culture. Please avail this opportunity and do participate as volunteers in various activities of our society.

We have begun facilitating smooth operation of regular weekly, monthly, annual and special events of the Mandir. Hindi classes have been started along with dance & bhajans will be taught for special events. The number of enthusiastic students increased, thanks to parents.

Board of Directors 2008 & 2009

Chairperson	Mr. Ashok Khanna	445 - 1409
Vice Chairperson Admin.	Mrs. Kamal Gulati	443 - 0570
Vice Chairperson Religion	Mrs. Laxmi Raju	429 - 4359
Vice Chairperson Prasad	Mrs. Jaya Dutta	455 - 8431
General Secretary	Mrs. Simi Mehra	445 - 2032
Financial Secretary	Mrs. Bala Durvasula	463 - 7804
Youth Co-ordinator	Ms. Poonam Unia	431 - 3465

Members for different committees:

We appreciate the contribution of all devotees who agreed to volunteer their services.

Name of Committee	Chair Person	Members
Religion	Mrs. Lakshmi Raju (429-4359)	Mrs. Pushpa Bhargava Mrs. Indu Bhatnagar Mrs. Suseela Sastry Dr. Vijay Khanna Ms. Vaneeta Grover
Prasad	Mrs. Jaya Dutta (455-8431)	Mrs. Raj Verma Mrs. Damayanti Parmar Mr. & Mrs. Mago Mr. Kishan Khanna
Finance	Mrs. Bala Durvasula (463 -7804)	Mr. Ram Mago Dr. P. Rangaswamy Mrs. Bharti Shah Mrs. Manjula Vadaparti
Mandir Patrika	Mrs. Simi Mehra (445 - 2032)	Mrs. Indu Bhatnagar Mr. Deepak Kriplani Mr. Arun Mehra Mrs. Sumitra Unia
Youth	Ms. Poonam Unia (431-3465)	Mrs. Tej Sharma Ms. Vageshwari Nagokar Mrs. Bithika Roy Mrs. Bandana Ghose Mrs. Supraja Challa

Building	Mrs. Kamal Gulati (443 – 0570)	Mr. Ashok Khanna Mrs. Kamlesh Bhatnagar Mrs. Sumittra Unia Mr. Hiranmaya Dutta
Public Relations	Mrs. Kamal Gulati (443 – 0570)	Mrs. Gauri Mukhopadhyaya Mr. Deepak Kriplani

We thank the volunteers for their participation in the following activities:

Havan	Mrs. Krishna Nijhawan (422-2088)	Mrs. Kusum Sood Mrs. Tej Sharma Mrs. Savita Narang Mrs. Lata Kale
Mata ki Chowki	Mrs. Savita Narang (443-8785)	Mrs. Usha Goel Mr. Om Khanna Mrs. Neera Sikka
Hope Cottage	Mrs. Jaya Dutta (455-8431)	Mrs. Damayanti Parmar Mrs. Indu Bhatnagar Mrs. Lalitha Sreenivasan Mrs. Nirmal Mago Mrs. Raj Verma
Telephone	Mr. Deepak Kriplani (455-0101, 443-4095)	Mrs. Indu Bhatnagar
Voice Mail	Mrs. Sudarshna Bhanot (443-4722)	Mr. Ashok Khanna

Annual V.A.S. Membership

Please become a member if you are not one yet; encourage your friends and relatives to support the temple. Cheques as well as cash payments are welcome.

Singles 19 and over	\$31.00
Couples	\$51.00
Life Membership	\$1001.00 (Payable in instalments within a calendar year)

Temple Use

Devotees are welcome to book the Mandir facilities for private or V.A.S. sponsored public functions through the Board.

Events	Charges Payable
Sunday Prasad	Minimum \$201.00 Additional donations welcome.
Weddings	\$351.00
Mandap loan outside temple use	\$51.00

GUIDE LINES FOR SUNDAY PRASAD SPONSORS

1. The temple provides Rice, Dhal/Chick peas/Rajma, seasonal vegetable, Halwa and Roti
2. * Sponsors may bring Raita (yoghurt).
3. The VAS Religious committee members make all arrangements at the Altar and the sponsors are requested to bring flowers & fruits, and milk, yoghurt for charnamrit.
4. *Two volunteers from Prasad Committee are available to assist from 9:30 AM onwards. Sponsors are requested to bring additional volunteers to help with preparation of rotis, for serving Prasad and for tidying up the eating areas afterwards.
5. Sponsors wishing to have special pooja or Hawan must contact the VAS Religion and Prasad committees in advance and conclude before 11 AM.
6. Please NOTE: - It is customary for the priest to offer blessings to the sponsors and for devotees sing Shubha Kariyo after the blessings. Sponsors are requested to inform the Religious committee in advance if they do not seek blessings.
7. The donation for Prasad sponsorship (including cleaning) is \$ 201.00
8. For further information and to book Prasad, please contact to any one of the following members:

Mrs. Jaya Dutta	455 – 8431
Mr. Ashok Khanna	445 – 1409

The following became Life Members in 2008:

Mr. Vishal & Mrs. Shelly Bhardwaj

Youth Activities

Poonam, our youth co-ordinator, will be teaching children singing and dancing for various events so we encourage parents to bring their children to participate. She will start at 11:30 in the morning. Hindi classes have started and are being taught by Mrs. Tej Sharma. Children 4-6 will only be taught oral where as children 7 and up will learn reading and writing. Classes start at 10:30 am for more information contact Mrs. Tej Sharma - 423-1988, or Poonam Unia - 431-3465
Also every 3rd Sunday of the month is youth day so we encourage youth to come early to help out in the kitchen as well as offering songs.

Community News

Achievements:

Congratulations to our Pundit Dr. S. Swaminathan on his appointment as Interfaith Chaplin at Dalhousie University.

Our hearty congratulations to Dalhousie University Prof. Kishore Pasumarthi for his successful research on Gene, that could help healing after heart attack.

Births:

Congratulations to proud parents and grandparents:

Mr. Mr. Narayan & Mrs. Bala Swamy are blessed with twin grandson & granddaughter

Archana on behalf of individuals or families

After consultation with our pundits, we have decided to further streamline Sunday services. If any one other than the sponsoring family wishes to offer Archana (short prayer) in his/her name to the Lord and to receive blessings from the presiding pundit, that person is requested to inform religious vice chair (Mrs. Lakshmi Raju) ahead of time. During regular services only the sponsoring family is requested to come to the altar for blessings. Anyone else wishing to be blessed must wait in the pooja hall until after charnamruth is distributed. The duty pundit will take extra time (5 to 10 minutes) to offer a short prayer for the family to invoke Sri Bhagwan's blessings. This will allow the individual family to make small offerings at the altar in their own time. PLEASE DO NOT DISTURB PUNDITS DURING THE SERVICES. Thank you very much for your co-operation. It's best to join in time for the prayers.

1. We request fellow devotees to wait for the direction from the punditji for starting Ganesh bhajan, Shubh Kariyo, Bhog Bhajan and Aarti .
2. Fellow devotees, please be part of the main pooja at 11 AM. The Pundits perform it for everyone's benefit. Those who arrive on time enjoy participating in bhajans.

Recent Events

Sunday February 10: Vasant Panchami was celebrated with bhajans in praise of Sharda Ma (Devi Saraswati)

Saturday February 2: Sri Vivekanand's birthday was celebrated. Students from study group of Dr. Prabir Basu organized the evening with bhajans, speeches and good food.

Sunday January 14: Makar Sankranthi and Pongal was celebrated with special food

Saturday December 29, 2007: Sri Sarda Ma's birthday was celebrated. Students from the study group organized the function with help from Dr. Swaminathan. Mr. Geoff Regan was chief guest, Pundit Sastryji Performed pooja. The evening was filled with devotional songs, speeches and very good food.

Future Events

Maha Shivratri: Thursday Mar. 6 7:30 – 9:30 PM

Holi: Sunday Mar. 23

Navratre (Ramayan Recitation) Sunday April 6 - 14

Ram Navami Monday April 14

Lalitha Sahasranam

Sunday May 11

Vishnu Sahasranam

Sunday June 15

Story of Markandeya

Dr. S. Swaminathan

Markandeya was a great devotee of Lord Siva. His father Mrikandu performed Rigorous austerities to get a son. One night Lord Siva appeared to him in a dream and asked, "Do you want a good son who will live only for sixteen years or a bad and foolish son who lives a long time?" Mrikandu opted for a Good son.

Accordingly a son was born to him in due course. When he grew up he came to know about his fate. Brought up in a purely religious atmosphere the boy began whole-heartedly to worship Lord Siva with intense faith and devotion. He entered frequently into deep meditation. On the day decreed as his final day, he entered into Samadhi. The messengers of Yama could not approach him due to this. Hence Yama himself arrived to take away the boy's life. Markandeya prayed to Lord Siva for protection and embraced the Siva Linga in the house. Yama threw his noose round the Linga and the boy. Immediately came out Lord Siva off the Linga and asked Yama to back off saying that He is conferring a boon to Markandeya to live for ever as a boy of sixteen years of age.

Lord Siva is therefore called 'Mrityunjaya' and 'Kala-kala'.