



Mandir Patrika



Vedanta Ashram Society
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October 2010

Message from V.A.S. Chairperson

First of all please accept my apologies for the delay in issuing Mandir patrika on schedule. This was due to pre-occupation with our temple expansion project. I'm pleased to inform all members that our Building and Fund raising committees have had several successful meetings. Fund raising committee had organized three successful events and collected over \$ 12,000.00. Thanks to all organizers and supporters. Building committee is hoping to have ground breaking event in March 2011. Please be generous, open your hearts as well as pockets to help in this worthwhile project. Nothing will be accomplished without your assistance and generosity.

With Bhagwanji's grace, so far we had a very successful and busy year. We are grateful to swamis & swamini who visited temple, blessed and enlightened us with their pravachans.

On humanitarian grounds our temple donated \$ 500.00 for Pakistan relief fund through Canadian Red Cross.

Last but not least, I'm proud to mention Dr. Smriti Chowdhury our youth co-ordinator with the help of Mrs. Tej Sharma and other many volunteers organized five day summer camp for children ages 3 to 8 years. Children learned many things in a fun filled way and were a great success. This camp may be planned for next year.

Board of Directors 2010 & 2011

Chairperson	Mr. Ram Mago	492-0632
Vice Chairperson Admin.	Mr. K.L. Khanna	477-5435
Vice Chairperson Religion	Mrs. Suseela Sastry	444-4648
Vice Chairperson Prasad	Mrs. Savita Narang	443-8785
Financial Secretary	Mrs. Lila Joshi	902-627-2391
General Secretary	Mrs. Indu Bhatnagar	443-3621
Youth Co-ordinator	Dr. Smriti Chowdhury	492-4184

MAKE PUJA (WORSHIP) A PART OF DAILY ROUTINE

Mrs. Krishna Nijhawan

For over all success in life, Gyan, Karm and Bhakti (knowledge, righteous action and worship of God) are three perfect tools with the man to work on. This is what all our scriptures stipulate. For example, professional expertise (knowledge) and its intellectual application in all walks of life (righteous action) is very necessary for achieving steady material advancement. Worship of the Lord, the third tool gives added strength to both through his grace and benevolence. He is purely personified and imparts strength of purity to the worshipper. He is all powerful, the Omnipotent entity creating, sustaining and controlling all existence. He bestows a strong purpose, strong will and a strong mind to the devotee. He is omniscient, super conscious intelligence and improves intelligent faculties of the man who worships Him to invoke His grace for that. He guides him and protects him against all dangers in life. His very name AUM means "one who protects." Worship of the Lord, therefore, becomes a complimentary tool and an added help to the other two stipulated means of success, the knowledge and righteous action.

Man has been endowed with a perfect machine, i.e. his body along with a sharp intelligence, to chalk out for himself a decent life in his path to progress. Human life has a very challenging and competitive course to tread. He is born with the legacy of ancestral heritage and that of all past actions which had not borne any fruit in his previous lives leading him to varying degrees of inborn strength and weaknesses, capabilities and disabilities as also opportunities and obstacles. He is further conditioned by the force of environmental circumstances. He therefore, has to face a lot of problems to modify these limitations & opportunities for his benefit and for a life progress. Surely, it is a very complex situation for a common man. He is further confronted, these days, with another complexity which has caused a great drift in his normal lifestyle and a substantial disturbance in his whole makeup. The recent advancement in science & technology and in ever increasing momentum, has offered him an easier, more comfortable and pleasant life. With it, he has become more ambitious for material progress, for material enjoyment and for sensual pleasures. However, as stated above, worshipping the Divine being very important for overall success in life, he should realize that he has to brace all his inner strength, understand the true realities of human life and know that there is a supreme power, controlling his actions and ultimate destiny and act according to THAT POWER'S dictates. It is therefore, a must for him to acquire some relevant spiritual knowledge and schedule his daily routine to include sometime for worshipping the Divine, the good time for it being mornings and evenings at sunrise and sunset if he has to really succeed in all fronts surely he can find sometime for this crucial function of his life, May God bless him.

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)

Congratulations to **New Life members:** Ms. Manisha Bali, Ms. Neera Bhatnagar, Mr. & Mrs. Jiwanand/Sudarshana Bhanot, Mr. & Mrs. Bob/Jaya Dutta, Mr. & Mrs. Ramjibo/Bandana Ghose, Mr. &

Mrs. Tejinder/Nirmal Kanwal, Mrs. Sudarshan Kapoor, Mr. & Mrs. Narayan/Bala Swamy, Mr. Rajesh Swamy, Dr. & Mrs. Sastry/Suseela Vankamamidi, Mrs. Indu Bhatnagar, Mrs. Savitri Deshwal, Ms. Alisha Kapur, Mr. Keshav paliwal, Mr. Rohit Kumar, Mr. Kishori Lal, Mr. Chand Malik, Mr.& Mrs. Pardeep Sonia Malik, Ms. Kama/Anita Mehrotra, Mr.& Mrs. Harbans/Krishna Nijhawan, Ms. Rita Kapur, Dr.& Mrs. Hari/jayanti Samant, Mr.& Mrs. Tanay/ Chakshu Sharma, Mr.& Mrs. Karan K./Ellen B. Talwar

Temple Use

Devotees are welcome to book the temple for private or V.A.S. sponsored public functions through the Executive Council.

Events	Charges Payable
Sunday Prasad Sponsorship by one family	Minimum \$201.00 Additional donations welcome.
Sunday Prasad Sponsored by two families	\$301.00 (\$151.00 each family)
Weddings in the temple	\$351.00 Cleaning included
Private functions. Responsible for their own food	\$251.00 Cleaning included

Private functions without food \$ 201.00 Cleaning included

Mandap & Chowkies borrowed outside temple \$ 51.00

GUIDE LINES FOR PRASAD SPONSORS

1. The temple provides Rice, Daal/Chick peas/Rajma, seasonal vegetable, Halwa and Roti
2. * Sponsors may bring Raita (yogurt) and additional sweets from home.
3. Sponsors are totally responsible for ANY additional vegetable dish.
4. The VAS Religious committee members make all arrangements at the Altar and the sponsors are requested to bring flowers, fruits, milk and yoghurt for charnamrit.
5. *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.
6. Sponsors wishing to have special pooja or Hawan must contact the VAS Religion and prasad committees in advance and conclude before 11 AM.
7. 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 wish for formal blessings.
8. The donation for Prasad sponsorship (including cleaning) is \$ 201.00
9. For further information and to book Prasad, please contact Mrs. Savit Narang 443 – 8785.

Youth Activities

Vedanta Ashram Society Summer Camp:

A Summer Camp was held from July 12 to July 16, 2010. There were 8 participants from age 3 and a half years to 8 years. The program included religious teachings and yoga by our revered priests, Bhajans, storytelling, both cultural and religious, movie watching, arts and crafts, drama and some other fun activities. By the grace of Lord Krishna the camp was a successful one and participants enjoyed it a lot. My sincere thanks are due to our respected priests, Drs. Swaminathan and Shastri and our volunteers without the help of whom the camp would not have been possible. I also wish to express my thanks to Mrs. Indu Bhatnagar and Mrs. Tej Sharma for their guidance, support and hard work. I have received feedback from the parents and grandparents of the participants, all of whom gave the camp a rave review and mentioned that they are looking forward to next year's camp. They also commented that they wanted the camp ran for a longer period.

Respectfully submitted,
Smriti Chowdhury
Youth Co-ordinator.

Community News

Achievements: Arun Bodovitch grandson of Mr. Ram & Mrs. Nirmal Mago graduated as dentist from New York University

Births: Congratulations to proud parents and grandparents for the addition in their families:

Son: Mr. & Mrs. Love & Simar Sood

Grandson: Mrs. Usha Goel, son of Aarti & Baljinder Rakhra
Mrs. Kamlesh Bhatnagar, son of Amit & Amanda Bhatnagar

Weddings: Congratulations to newlyweds:

Ritu Ubhi & Sandeep Singh. Bride is the daughter of Mr. Ravinderpal & Mrs. Channi Ubhi

Minakshi Lal & Manish Dhir. Bride is daughter of Mr. Shyam & Mrs. Saroj Lal
Vikas Khanna & Nicole. Groom is son of Mr. Ramesh & Mrs. Rajni Khanna

Deaths: Deepest condolences from the community to the family of: Mr. Kabe in Toronto formally from Halifax

Important Dates in 2010

Oct. 8 (Fri)	Devi Navaratri Begins
Oct. 17 (Sun)	Vijayadashami
Oct. 26 (Tues)	Karva Chauth
Oct 30 (Sat)	Ahoi Ashtami
Nov. 3 (Wed)	Dhan Teras
Nov. 5 (Fri)	Deepawali, Lakshmi Pooja
Nov. 7 (Sun)	Bhai Dooj

Recent Events

Sunday, May 9 Mother's Day: Recitation of Shri Lalitha Sahastranaam has taken place, Pooja was performed by Dr. Sastry..

Sunday, June 19 – Father's Day: Recitation of Shri Vishnu Sahatranaam has taken place. Dr. Swaminathan was the priest

Sunday, July 4 Swami Pragyapadji visited the temple

July 12 – 16 Youth Camp for 4 – 8 yrs. old children, was organized by Dr. Smriti Chowdhury. It was a great success.

Wed. September 1 Shri Krishana Janmashtami was celebrated 9 PM to 12 midnight. Dr. Swaminathan performed the pooja

Future Events

Garba (Navratre) Saturday October 9, 7:30 – 10:00 PM

Fund Raising Dinner Friday October 15, 6:00 - 8:00 PM followed by Mata Ki Chowki

Karva Chouth Tuesday October 26

Deepawali On Saturday November 6, 7:00 - 9:00 PM followed by Prasad. (Actual Diwali is on Nov. 5th).

Regular Pooja Sunday November 7, with only **dry fruits & Halwa for Prasad**

General Body Meeting: Either last week of November or first week of December