



Satsang Sandesh

A monthly news magazine of

India Temple Association, Inc.

Hindu Temple 25 E. Taunton Ave, Berlin, NJ 08009
SOUTH JERSEY ♦ DELAWARE ♦ PENNSYLVANIA

Vol. 37 No. 6

Phone: (856) 768-3134

www.indiatemple.org

JUNE 2011

Religious Calendar

June 12, Sunday

Shri Gayatri Jayanti
Nirjala Ekadashi
Bhim Ekadashi

June 15, Wednesday

VatSavitri Purnima
Shri Kabir Jayanti

June 27, Monday

Yogini Ekadashi

Monthly Activities

June 3, Friday, 8-9 pm

Vishnu Sahasranama Parayanam

Monthly Bhajans

June 10., Friday, 8-9 pm

Pushti Mandal of Voorhees

Contacts:

Dhiraj Saparia (856) 287-1415

Priti Shah (856) 467-9148

June 17, Friday, 8-9 pm

Satya Sai Baba of Medford

Contacts:

P.K. Prabhakar (856) 596-3147

Sesha Vemuri (856) 751-0867

June 24, Friday, 8-9 pm

Shree Ji Bhajan Group

Contact:

Urmi Upadhya (856) 424-9328

Charu Sheth (856) 662-8754

Seva paramo dharma

I have had the honor of leading our magnificent board for ___ months now, and I thought it appropriate to provide you with – not so much a report – as a brief commentary on our organization – its power and its progress. First, let me say that it is an incredible honor to lead such a group of magnificent people as the board of directors of our Temple. They are as concerned, as creative and as intellectually gifted a gathering of people as I have ever known.

I am also proud to be working with an organization that not only reflects the great Indian heritage for charity and caring for ones neighborhood, but – from what I've seen over the past few years – the membership of our Temple embodies the very soul and nature of caring and giving for which our Indian culture is renowned.

Over the past few months, you have dug deep in your pockets to help the young people of our temple. You have dug deep in your pockets to aid your American neighbors who were ravaged by the Spring Tornadoes, and – as I write this – a new and more devastating string of tornadoes has ripped through the heart of Missouri and Illinois and the death toll is rising. And, you have reached into your pockets even deeper to aid our Japanese neighbors halfway around the world.

In summary, my main comment on the people of our India Temple Association is that you are an incredible and caring group that makes me proud to be an Indian-American.

Rina Patel, ITA President

Special Prayers

ITA has a program whereby you can have prayers performed on your behalf every year on a special day in your life by pledging \$301. Also, at your request, Shri. Bhupendra Shuklaji will perform a special puja on your behalf, or the regular temple puja performed on the designated day will be dedicated in your name. Below are the donors for this month.

• Dunthur & Yedahalli	June 02	Ramesh Gupta	June 12
Puttaswamy		Hemali & vaishali Kothari	June 13
• Kartik Patel	June 04	Dahyabhai & Taraben Patel	June 13
• Meghan & Melanie Patel	June 04	Santosh Khuran	June 19
• Milan Patel	June 06	Ishvar Patel	June 22
• Bharat Gandhi	June 07	Kalavati Desai	June 29
• Dinesh Patel	June 08	Kartik & Dupta Patel	June 29

Condolences

Shri Vinod Saraf, Father of Sirish Saraf, 79, passed away on May 15, 2011.
ITA and its Board extend their sincere condolences to the Saraf family.

Senior Citizens' Program

Thursday June 9, 6:30 to 9:15 pm & Thursday June 23, 6:30 to 9:15 pm

The highlights of the program are as follows:

1. **Musical Evening with the Shah Group**

On June 9, a group of talented local artists are teaming up to present popular Indian music in the Social Hall of the temple for the recreation of senior citizens. The artists are Smt. Arti Shah, Sri Baldev Patel, Sri Nilkanth Shah, Smt. Reena Shah, Dr. Pradip Patel, and Sri Sital Nanavaty.

2. **Talk on Insomnia**

Do you awaken several times during the night? Or, do you consistently awaken in the middle of the night and can't go back to sleep? Or, does it take hours to fall asleep?

If any of the above applies to you, you may probably have insomnia. Please attend the informative talk on June 23 by Dr. Amita Vasoya, DO, FCCP, FAASM of UMDNJ-SOM, who will cover the topic of INSOMNIA and ways to get a better night's sleep.

3. **Excursion Trip**

A bus trip to Hindu Temple, Bridgewater, Statue of Liberty, and Swaminarayan Mandir, Edison is scheduled for June 12.

For more information about the program, activities, and to join the group, please contact Suraj Bhan Singh, by phone: (856) 582-5035 or e-mail (sbsingh1@hotmail.com) or Narsinh N. Sangani, by phone: (856) 435-2128 or e-mail (nnsangani@juno.com).



Bal-Vihar Updates

On Sunday, May 8, 2011, Bal-Vihar celebrated Mother's Day with much joy and jubilation, allowing the children a chance to connect with their mothers. The morning began with the students playing games outdoors with their mothers; this included the infamous three-legged race, tug-of-war, and catch.

Then proceeding indoors, the celebration continued on with the children making cards of all shapes and sizes for their mothers. The event concluded with the aarti and a special lunch made by the Bal-Vihar dads.

Scholarship Committee's Announcement

ITA Scholarship Committee has reviewed all the submissions received for 2011 and we are extremely proud of all our contestants. The essays submitted by students were very thought provoking, well researched and well developed. We are happy to see our Bal Vihar and Youth students shine academically and blossom into responsible and caring community Volunteers. ITA Trustees and Scholarship Committee heartily congratulate the following winners. We sincerely hope that our community kids will continue to excel in academics and give back to the community and society at large.

Update from Youth Group

By Sujay Desai

We did not have a Youth session on April 10th. Instead of having a Youth session, Sharad Uncle invited all of us Youth kids to come out and volunteer at the Bal Vihar Annual Day at Lenape High School. Many of us came and we had a lot of fun watching the performances and helping out the uncles and aunties with the program.

During the Youth class on April 24th, we practiced Yoga with Harish uncle. This time, he taught us the Surya Namaskar, or the Sun Salutation. Afterwards, Sharad Uncle gave us a lesson on Gunas and social structure. We learned how effort is and is not used when moving through these natural tendencies. He taught us how Gunas reflect in our personal characteristics. Social occupations are also based on these characteristics. We also took some time to practice the chanting for the play we are going to be performing on Annual Day. Lunch that day was sponsored by Shilpa and Mrudang Desai.

YOUTH ANNUAL DAY, JUNE 4, 2011

11 AM—1 PM at Cherokee High School, Marlton, NJ
Everyone is invited to this talent showcase event and enjoy the show followed by a scrumptious lunch

The Winners for the Essay Contests

First Place: Parth Parihar and Shyam Bharadwaj

Second Place: Divya Giyanani

Third Place: Neel Parikh

ITA WILL PUBLISH EACH ESSAY IN MONTHLY SATSANG

ITA SEVA SAMITI UPDATE



ITA Seva Samiti hosted the Senior Citizens Group at the home of the Rashatwars on Sunday evening, April 17th. The seniors were advised of the various programs and services available to them and opportunities to volunteer for Refugee Resettlement Assistance, Visiting Elderly Residents, Natural Disasters Committee, etc. We thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated Subhash and Sangeeta's hospitality, with a delicious dinner followed by a melodious rendition of Hindi vocals by singers of undoubted talent presenting classical pieces and golden oldies.

For the benefit of both Japan Disaster and US Tornadoes victims, Seva samiti had successfully conducted India Day Festival, the MELA, at Cherokee High School on May 22, Sunday. Look for a complete report on this event in the next issue of the Satsang Sandesh.

The home tutoring program for refugees is in the planning stage. If interested in helping, please contact Hina Desai at [856-424-1934](tel:856-424-1934)/hinamdesai@hotmail.com.

You are aware of the different committees and programs of the Seva Samiti, from reading the Sandesh or the Seva Samiti brochure or attending the pujas and other functions. We are a community that has the means and the will to help its members and can do so, only with your participation. Just as we encourage volunteering to help others, know also that there is support and assistance available for a deserving student or a family facing a difficult situation (Lata Pimplaskar 856-985-4785/ latap@comcast.net).



EARLY TICKET SALE FOR NAVRATRI 2011

This year Navratri starts on Wednesday, September 28 and ends on Wednesday, October 5, 2011. Based on Hindu year, instead of 9 days of Navratri celebration, this year, we will be celebrating only 8 days. Sharad Purnima Raas-Garba will be on Saturday, October 8, 2011.

From the past experience, it was decided by the Navratri Committee that certain individuals having more family members or students above age 18 can take advantage of discounted tickets by purchasing them on ITA website before September 18, 2011. Ticket sale will start from July 1 and will end on September 18. The Saturday tickets for \$10.00 will be discounted to \$7.00 when you purchase them on our website www.indiatemple.org between July 1, 2011 and September 18, 2011.

In addition to above discounted tickets, many of you can also purchase season tickets that are already discounted for the frequent attendees. Season tickets of \$25/person, age 18 through 64, and \$20/person, ages 12 through 17 as well as Seniors 65 and above will also

ITA WEB SITE

WWW.INDIATEMPLE.ORG

We are pleased to welcome you to the newest version of our temple's web site. The site now contains many new features. One of the key components of the site is the ability to subscribe. Subscribed users will receive **e-alerts** that notify you of new messages containing emergency notifications, periodic information and when new content is available in specific areas of the site. Also, take advantage of the following:

- Take a look at upcoming events
 - Book temple and/or services
 - Enroll your children in Bal-Vihar and/or Youth Program
- Be familiar with other programs of ITA and contact appropriate teachers/chair person for enrollment
 - See yourself or your family/friends in photo gallery of various events
- Download various forms for membership, facility rental, scholarship application, puja services
 - Use PayPal feature for any and all needed payments, including donations
 - Find out important days from Calendar of Current Hindu Year
 - Know your trustees and Executive Committee leaders
 - Read Temple's history

If due to inclement weather or emergency any of the regular programs are cancelled, notice will be announced and published on our website immediately.

**PLEASE USE THIS WEB SITE FOR ROUTINE
COMMUNICATION AND NEEDED INFORMATION**

Graduation Ceremony at Berlin Mandir

Sunday June 5, 2011 @ 2:00 PM

It is that time of the year when students graduate and reach specific milestones in their lives. The temple plans a celebration for graduates at all levels, starting from the primary school all the way up to colleges and universities, on Sunday June 5, 2011, starting at 2:00 PM at the temple. The festivities will begin with Puja of all deities at the temple, followed by a Yagna-Havan in the parking lot. The festivities will conclude with a prize awarded to each graduate and will be followed by Aarti and Mahaprasad (dinner) by about 5:30 PM.

It is a Hindu tradition to start any celebration with Puja (worship) of God. Each graduate seeks God's blessings for health, wealth, prosperity and happiness as he/she prepares for the next challenge of life. Yagna, more commonly known as Havan on a smaller scale, is a ritual of sacrifice. The Temple has planned to erect a tent in the backyard parking area to perform this ritual to please gods (Devatas), who impart blessings to the graduates. It is said that oblations poured into fire to Agni-Devata (the lord of fire) appeases Devatas, who in return bless the seeker to a successful life.

In a spiritual sense, Yagnas/Havans are performed to enable people to make a sacrifice of all their bad thoughts and actions, as fickleness, hatred, stealing and foolish stubbornness are not considered natural traits of human beings. Yagnas/Havans are physical actions symbolic of inner human quest to get rid of these tendencies and bring about the natural human traits of righteousness and moral/ethical behavior. Yagna is also considered to propel humans to refine their lives by worship of deities, establishing unity (oneness) with god and by helping less privileged in the community through charitable contributions.

If your family is interested in participating, please RSVP to Ramesh Viswanathan at rameshv99@gmail.com or Sangeeta Rashatwar at sangeetarashatwar@gmail.com. Suggested donation is \$51.00 per family.

BHAGAWAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA

By Prabhakar

Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba shed His physical body on April 24th, 2011, at the age of 84 by Western reckoning, and at the age of 96 according to Hindu lunar calendar, just as he had predicted long ago. To His devotees, He is Bhagawan Himself who had donned a mortal form to benefit humanity, restore Dharma, Vedas and Sanathana Dharma. He established Veda patashalas, educational institutions, state of the art hospitals and inspired innumerable works of service and love in every country of the world. He brought abundant water to the thirsty people of Andhra Pradesh. At the request of the Tamil Nadu government, He did the same for Chennai.

The number of people who have had the great privilege of knowing Him and about Him are innumerable. He drew people to Him from every part of the world and from every religion. He worked tirelessly from early morning to late night for the sake of suffering humanity. He healed the sick and brought comfort to the troubled; above all, He guided people towards spirituality. The mightiest to the most helpless were drawn to Him and His teachings. They were all transformed by His Love. He made the most difficult scriptures easy to understand. He taught us how to live with simple but all encompassing teachings - "LOVE ALL SERVE ALL" and "HELP EVER, HURT NEVER". To us His devotees, He is ever present, an inherent part of us a Companion of many lifetimes.

To His Christian devotees He was the Father in heaven that Jesus spoke of, to the Vashnava devotees he was no less than Lord Krishna Himself, to the Saivaites He was Lord Siva. He has appeared to several devotees in the form of their chosen deity, Ishta Devata.

It is very difficult for a devotee to write about "Swami" as we call Him, for however much we write or however eloquently we attempt to describe Him, we know that it is inadequate. Words fail to describe the phenomenon of the Avatar. It is impossible to describe adequately the mystery of the Avatar that is Bhagawan Sathya Sai Baba. One can only surrender to Him in all humility. He has said of Himself:

*Of vastness unknowable
Of knowledge inconceivable
Of Love Unfathomable*

**Am I
Baba**

My humble pranams at His Lotus Feet.
Samastha Loka Sukhino Bhavanthu !

Programs for Your Spiritual Growth

YOGA ABHYAS FOR HEALTH HAPPINESS & GOD

REALIZATION: A program for adults on yogasana, pranayam & meditation.

First Sunday: 9:30 -11:30 am at our temple in Berlin

Contact: Virendra Gupta @ (856) 424-9313

GITA STUDY GROUP:

Every Tuesday & Wednesday, 8-9 pm at our Berlin temple

Contact: Sharad Pimplaskar @ (856) 985-4785

BHAJANS & STUTI:

Every Friday, 7:30-9 pm

Contact: Shree Shuklaji (856) 768-3134

Regular Programs for Children and Youth

BAL VIHAR: For children (ages 5-13) to promote a positive Hindu identity in the diverse U.S. culture.

2nd & 4th Sunday @ 10 am - 1pm

Contact: Lata Pimplaskar (856) 985-4785

Rina Patel (856) 313-5235 for registration and location

YOUTH PROGRAM: A program for young adults (ages 13-18) and parents. 2nd & 4th Sunday, 10:30 am - 1 pm at our Temple in Berlin.

Contact: Sharad Pimplaskar at (856) 985-4785; Sangeeta at (856) 424-4211 or Sunitha at (856) 596-3215

CREATIVE ART WORKSHOP

1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday @ 9:30 am at our temple in Berlin

Contact: Narendra Amin (856) 429-8761

PUJA SERVICE CHARGES, TEMPLE FACILITIES USAGE FEE AND OTHER CHARGES:

Following provides list of applicable charges and fees.

Shri Shuklaji will be available for religious services on request. Please check temple availability at www.indiatemple.org;

Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the link "Temple Availability", then click on "CALENDAR tab" and, from drop down menu, click on "EVENT/RENTAL CALENDAR". **Please contact Smt. Chetna Giyanani (856-267-5598) or Smt. Anoo Joshi (856-616-2460) for the booking of the Temple Facilities and/or scheduling of Puja Services by Shuklaji.**

Please note that 50% of the listed cost of Puja performed outside the temple goes to Pujari in addition to his regular salary.

PUJA SERVICE **	INSIDE TEMPLE	OUTSIDE TEMPLE	Following listed Fees and charges are in addition to the charges listed for Puja Services
Archana(Panchopachar)	\$11	N/A	
Vahan (Vehicle) Puja	\$21	N/A	
Namakaran/Annaprashan	\$51	\$101	
Birthday	\$51	\$101	<u>TEMPLE FACILITIES USAGE FEE:</u>
Shraddha	\$51	\$101	Prayer Hall: \$200
Anniversary Celebration	\$101	\$151	Social Hall: \$300
Seemant	\$101	\$151	
Kesh Mundan Puja	\$101	\$151	
Sodashopchar, Kalash Puja, Punyah-Vachan or Blessings	\$101	\$151	
Satyanarayan Puja	\$121	\$151	
Engagement Ceremony	\$101	\$201	
Havan/Grah Shanti	\$201	\$251	<u>OTHER CHARGES</u>
Vastu Puja - outside service only	N/A	\$251	\$51.00 for outside 25 mile radius
Wedding Grah Shanti	\$201	\$301	\$51.00 for non-member surcharge
Wedding Ceremony per day	\$301	\$351	
Upanayan/Yagnopavita	\$251	\$301	
Antim Rites (Funeral Service)	Voluntary donation		
Uttar Kriya per day-outside service only	N/A	\$101	
Yagna//laghu rudra - outside service only	N/A	\$351	
Navchandi Yagna—outside service only	N/A	\$651	

NOTE: Charges and availability of other Puja Services not listed above may be discussed with Smt. Chetna Giyanani @ (856) 267-5598

DIRECTION TO BERLIN TEMPLE

A. From Tacony Bridge:

NJ route 73S; Drive about 12-13 miles and follow sign for East Taunton Ave. on your right

B. From Ben Franklin Bridge:

Route 30E to NJ route 70E to NJ route 73S, drive about 7 miles and follow sign for East Taunton Ave. on your right

C. From Walt Whitman Bridge or Delaware Memorial Bridge:

I-295N to Exit 29-A for route 30E to Berlin Twp. Turn left on East Taunton Ave.

D. From Central and North Jersey:

NJ turnpike south, Exit 4 for route 73S. Drive about 10-11 miles and follow sign for East Taunton Ave. on your right.



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PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IF IT SHOWS "EXPIRED" IN ADDRESS LABEL

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Darshan Schedule

Morning

7:30 am - 12:30 pm

Evening

6 pm - 9 pm

Aarti

12 pm & 8 pm

Times may change during special occasions

Please use the front door and ring the bell if locked

**Please check appropriate items from the following, and mail it to
Hindu Temple, 25 East Taunton Ave., Berlin, NJ 08009 Attn: Mr. M. Kanzaria**

I/We would like to join India Temple Association and I/We are remitting the membership dues (please select one) Individual or Family one year (\$51) _____

Individual or Family five year (\$151) _____

Life (\$1,001) _____

I/ We are seniors, age 65 and above and would like to join India Temple Association. I am / We are remitting the membership dues

(please select one) Individual or Family Five year (\$25) _____

Life (\$101) _____

I am adding additional donations:

_____ Scholarship Fund _____ Special Prayer (\$301) _____ Temple Renovations

_____ Seva Samiti Fund _____ Bal Vihar Fund _____ Youth Fund

I am relocating to following address

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____