



Satsang Sandesh

A monthly news magazine of

India Temple Association, Inc.

Hindu Temple, 25 E. Taunton Ave, Berlin, NJ 08009
SOUTH JERSEY ♦ DELAWARE ♦ PENNSYLVANIA
(Non-Profit Tax Exempt Organization, Tax ID # 22-2192491)

Vol. 39 No. 7 Phone: (855) MYMANDIR (855-696-2634) www.indiatemple.org JULY 2013

Religious Calendar

July 03 Wednesday

- Yogini Ekadashi

July 18 Thursday

- Gauri Vrat starts

July 19 Friday

- Dev Shayani Ekadashi

July 20 Saturday

- Jaya Parvati Vrat starts

July 22 Monday

- Guru Purnima/Gauri Vrat concludes/ Satyanarayana Katha

July 24 Wednesday

- Jaya Parvati Vrat concludes

August 02 Friday

- Kamika Ekadashi

Monthly Activities

July 05, Friday

- Vishnu Sahasranama
Parayanam: Kshama Raghuveer
(610) 642-2875

July 20, Saturday

- Sunderkand Path @10:00 AM

July 22, Monday

- Shri Satyanarayan Puja/
Katha on Purnima Day
@6:00 PM in our
Mandir
Kshama Raghuveer
(610) 642-2875

Monthly Bhajan

July 19 Friday, 8-9 p.m.

- Satya Sai Baba of Medford
P.K. Prabhakar (856) 596-3147
Sesha Vemuri (856) 751-0867

July 26, Friday, 8-9pm

Shree Ji Bhajan Group

contact:

Urmi Upadhyay (856) 424-9328; Charu Sheth (856) -662-8754

From the Desk of ITA President

THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

In April, our mandir created its own history by conducting ShatChandi yagna, a pooja and Yagna over a continuous nine day period during the Chaitra Navratri of Ram Navmi. This auspicious event for the benefit for the entire community was sponsored by **Mr. Arun and Vijayalakshmi Maheshwari**. Many volunteers worked tirelessly, lunch and dinner was catered, and numerous priests officiated the yagna. The mandir coffers were filled by Yagna donations, and topped off by a very generous contribution of an additional \$8,000 by the Maheshwaris.

Next, I would like to thank **Mr. Gopalbhai and Gitaben Patel**, for a generous donation of \$1,000 which covered the entire expense of replacing our broken wall oven. I mentioned the oven was broken and in the blink of an eye he offered to pay to replace it. He is a Founding member of our temple and our newest trustee.

Last year, an **anonymous donor**, contributed \$5,000, for the installation of security cameras. This year your Facility Committee has received several quotes, and will be awarding one contract to complete this work in the coming months.

APPEAL FOR MANDIR FACILITY

This year, your mandir purchased two stoves, one for mandir kitchen and for one for upstairs Pujari's kitchen. We also replaced the broken clothes dryer in the social hall. Your facility committee also replaced a 6 gallon water heater with a 30 gallon water heater to allow hot water to flow to the worship hall sink. The water pipes to the worship hall were leaking and in disrepair. They have been fixed and insulated. Your facility committee has been busy and working hard. I appeal to you our members to contribute to cover these necessary repairs.

On our wish list, is ceiling replacement in social hall and worship hall, cleaning of HVAC ductwork, installing new light fixtures in social hall, replacing carpet. I appeal to you, our generous members, for donations. Please mark your donation "**for Temple Renovations**". All donations are welcome, appreciated, and tax deductible.

APPEAL FOR OUR INDIAN BRETHREN IN UTTARAKHAND

Uttarakhand has been ravaged by flood, killing over a thousand people, hundreds missing, destroying homes and holy sites. In fact, the epicenter of destruction is Kedarnath, temple town, holy pilgrimage site, the abode of Lord Shiva. ITA Seva Samiti, service group of our mandir, is taking monetary contributions to help our brothers and sisters in Uttarakhand. Please donate generously!
Sangeeta Rashatwar

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.

- | | | | |
|----------------------|---------|----------------|---------|
| • Vinu Patel | July 01 | Kiran Bhatt | July 24 |
| • Vinod Mehta | July 12 | Mahesh Dixit | July 24 |
| • Ramesh Upadhyay | July 13 | Amardeep Patel | July 24 |
| • Asha Gupta | July 18 | | |
| • Arun Maheshwari | July 18 | | |
| • Pratima Parikh | July 19 | | |
| • Vijay & Asha Gupta | July 22 | | |

Condolences

Lalithbai Dhruva, founding member passed away in May 27.
Puriben Patel, mother of Hasmukhbhai Patel of passed away on June 16th.
Ramanlal N. Panchal, father of Nilesh Panchal passed away on June 18th.

ITA and its Board extend their sincere condolences to Dhruva, Patel, and Panchal's families.

AIP offers scholarships.

The Asian Indian professionals of Tri state area are again inviting applications for undergraduate scholarships from students with at least one parent of Indian origin, residing in Tri state area.

LAST date of applying is July 30th 2013

For application forms please visit aip-inc.us.

Senior Citizens' Program

Thursday July 11, 6:30 pm to 9:15 pm and Thursday July 25, 6:30 pm to 9:15 pm

The highlights of our two bi-weekly programs of this month are as follows:

iPad: It was announced in January that we may have another session soon on iPad. Now we have invited again our member Sri Natubhai Desai M.E. on **July 11** to present some selected Apps of iPad: Podcast, Clock, Tune-in Radio, YouTube, USA Today, Adobe Reader, and Sixty Minutes. There are more than two lakh Apps and these are a select few. It is recommended that you bring your iPad so you can follow along.

Music: The *Rhythm* Group of musicians, namely Sri Nilkanth Shah, Smt. Arti Shah, Sri Baldev Patel, Mrs. Dharmishtha Bhatt, Dr. Pradip Patel, Sri Dinesh Shah, and Sri Sital Nanavati will graciously present popular Indian music on **July 25** for the entertainment of our members. This well-known talented group has been performing for several years. Please join us and enjoy the evening.

In addition to the above regular programs, two of our yearly activities are given below:

Picnic: A picnic has been arranged on Sunday, **July 21** at the Red Bank Battlefield Park (National Park), Gloucester County from 10 am to 4 pm. The park is beautiful, historical, and located at the bank of the Delaware River. It can be reached from Exit 22 of Route 295 W. The Hessian Avenue Pavilion has been reserved for you.

Visit to Temples in PA & WV: We are planning a week-end bus trip, for about 50 persons, to three well-known temples – Hindu Jain Temple, and Sri Venkateswara Temple in Pittsburgh, PA, and New Vrindaban Palace of Gold Temple of ISKCON in West Virginia. As you may know, these are some of the oldest and most impressive temples in USA. We plan to depart from the Hindu Temple, Berlin in the morning on Saturday, **Sept. 7** and return next evening on Sunday, **Sept. 8**. We will stay overnight in Pittsburgh in a comfortable hotel with rooms for double occupancy. Hindus age 50 and above are urged to join this pilgrimage (*Teerth Yatra*).

Contact: Suraj Bhan Singh sbsingh1@hotmail.com (856) 582-5035

ITA Scholarship—Second Place Winner—Ms. Shriya Joshi

Role of Hindu Temples in USA

At face value, Hindu temples have a singular role in the United States: a place of worship for practicing Hindus to gather together. Yet the role of Hindu Temples far exceeds just the outward appearance of a religious building. As the number of Indians living in the United States has rapidly risen in the past ten years, Hindu Temples play an increasingly important role in the United States. True, they are houses of worship, but Hindu Temples act more as links- links that tie together religion and culture, links between American born-Indians and Indian culture as well as Hinduism, and links between members of the Hindu community living in America.

In a more personal light, I can absolutely owe my cultural awareness and my identity as an Indian to my parents, and the Berlin Temple. Some of my earliest memories involve spending time- every other Sunday to be exact- at Bal Vihar at the Berlin temple. Even more so than creating ongoing and lasting friendships and introducing my family to the South Jersey Indian community, the temple was providing me with a vital link to Indian culture and Hinduism. Since Hinduism is so entwined with Indian culture, simply attending the Temple and being a part of Bal Vihar gave me the chance to develop spiritually as a Hindu and culturally as an Indian. In learning shlokas, yoga, stories from Hindu mythology, and the basic concepts of Hinduism, I was given a comprehensive education in religion and spirituality far beyond any I could have received through school or by listening at home. As a result, I was able to fully develop my own identity as a Hindu and an Indian living in America. Temples like the one in Berlin give Indian children in America a chance to connect with their culture, and parents a tool with which they can educate their children.

Furthermore, Hindu Temples also form connections between members of the Hindu community. Take South Jersey's very own India Temple Association (ITA). Using the Berlin Temple as a foundation, the ITA seeks to provide temple services and cultural education for members of the Hindu Community. In doing so, the ITA gives members of the South Jersey Hindu community an opportunity to not only practice their faith but also form bonds with other Indians and Hindus living nearby. In organizing monthly activities and Bhajans as well as Seva Samiti community service projects, the Temple lays the foundations for a strong network of Hindus. As a result, the temple fosters a greater sense of connection between Indians and fosters the creation of new friendships and families. This kind of community organization is, of course, not exclusive to South Jersey: examples of such temple organizations and programs exist everywhere. They display the crucial role that Hindu temples have in creating and fostering bonds between members of local Indian communities.

At the end of the day, Hindu Temples play an extremely important role in the United States. We often call the United States the "great melting pot" of the world, where different cultures of the globe merge together to form something uniquely American. However, upon closer examination, the United States is more like a "tossed salad" where different "ingredients", different cultures and nationalities come together to form a new uniquely American dish while simultaneously retaining their individual flavors. In providing a foundation for Indian children to learn more about Indian culture and religion to develop their own cultural identity, in creating links that create a tightly knit, highly active community, Hindu Temples ensure that even in the midst of the chaos of that "tossed salad", we retain the unique flavors of India.

**Swami Vivekanand Book Reading
Monday 8-9 pm starting July 8, 2013**

To commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Swami Vivekanand, our mandir is starting a book club with reading **every Monday** from 8-9 pm starting **from July 8th**. We will read for 45 minutes and discuss for 15 minutes. This is open for all ages. We have books. Come, bring a friend, read and learn about him. Any questions, please contact Sangeeta Rashatwar SangeetaRashatwar@gmail.com or Dr. Veena Gandhi at gandhiom1943@comcast.net

**2nd Annual
Hindu Mandir Priests' Conference
By Sangeeta Rashatwar**

A two-day conference of Hindu priests concluded at the Shri Surya Narayan Mandir in Jamaica, New York on June 1, 2013. Hailed as a roaring success it was a highly informative session on topics pertaining to Hinduism and Hindu priests in North America.

May 31, the first day saw 130 Hindu devotees, pundits, and swamis in attendance. The inauguration session began with a chanting of the Ganesha Atharvashirsha and then Pundit Ram Hardwar the spiritual leader of the Mandir extended a warm welcome to all participants.

It was now time for some talented speakers to express opinions on challenges facing priests in the community. Topics were as varied as **the work of the USA pundits both here and in Guyana, a talk on devotion, dharma, and prayer and the priesthood, and challenges facing the Hindu in hostile societies.**

The next day, Saturday, started early with yoga, pranayama and devotional singings by young Hindus of the community. Six business sessions followed under the guidance of youthful Sarika Persaud and rotating members who introduced the various speakers. Topics covered were diverse and educational. **Speakers touched on priests roles-issues and concerns, communities issues and concerns, devotees and executives inputs, sharing resources, the GOTO group and education and training.** The speakers were passionate and knowledgeable. Some of the other topics covered were **the role of priests and their assimilation in North American society to Hindu chaplaincy in the university setting and continuing education and skill development strategies.**

The third session saw a poignant presentation by Aneesh BalraVasundaram of his story of growing up in a priests family. He touched on such **issues as expectations of parents for young Hindus, blindly following rituals laid down by elders and that in the North American context blind faith is looked down on.** His simple and articulate presentation drew spontaneous applause from all present.

Of special note was the participation of a number of youthful Hindus at the conference as speakers. In addition to Aneesh, there was **also Austin Ayer who spoke about the training available at universities in the Mahari-shi organization, Devi Mehotra who spoke about the Hindu Students Council at Yale University, and Dr. Anand Ramnarine who called for a national Hindu voice as a means of solidifying our Hindu identity.**

Our own Pandit Sudhir Jha participated in the conference and was a speaker on a panel for **"Gaps & Reconciliation"** his topic was **"Encouraging Youngsters in Practicing Hinduism"**. Sangeeta Rashatwar moderated the session entitled **"Sharing Resources - The GOTO Group"**

Conclusions that emerged from the conference was a need for the clergy to build a dharmic Bridge between the priest and his community. A pandit sabha was recommended and also the development of training sessions for priests and a guidebook.

All in all, the conference was memorable for what it achieved-the achievements being plentiful.

Bal Vihar and Youth Annual Day

What a scintillating performance!!!

A marvelous performance by our talented BV and Youth children. Kudos to them, the coordinators, the MCs, the tireless volunteers, and all the teachers!

To top it all, the food was delicious. To sum, we are growing from strength to strength.

Our next Bal Vihar and Youth programs will commence in Fall. We look forward to meeting all the children again!

ITA Seva Samiti update

Sadhna Kothari



Two events were undertaken successfully by ITA Seva Samiti in May:

- **Inter-faith prayer and candlelight vigil** for victims of the Oklahoma Tornadoes on Wednesday, May 22nd – representatives of the Berlin Methodist Church were invited to our Mandir that evening to pray with us for the restoration of the survivors and to grieve for those who lost their lives in the violent storms. Our coming together for this combined ‘satsang’ brought serenity to all who attended. We were also able to secure donations for the cause, under the banner of India Temple Seva Samiti. We hope this will be the first of many more inter-faith events in conjunction with other houses of worship in the area. As we strengthen our own spirituality in the Hindu Dharma and offer assistance to our community, we look also to build ties with our neighbors.
- **American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life** for the Voorhees chapter on Friday, May 31st. We had a strong contingent from our Mandir, with many members walking to raise funds and show solidarity to all those affected by cancer in some way, either as survivors or as caregivers or friends. By participating as the ITA Seva Samiti group, we made a bigger impact with the donation of approximately \$6,000 to the American Cancer Society.

The activities for the Relay were varied and guaranteed to appeal to the different age groups. Fund raising for worthy causes need not be all solemn and staid and this was surely proved with the impromptu Dandia Raas and Garba, the performance by the Marathi Saad Group, the lively Yoga session, Zumba, Henna painting and of course, the snacks and food to keep us going. The highlight of the night was the “*luminaria ceremony*” - the walkers taking a silent lap around the field with the lights turned down and guided by the electric candle lit luminaria, to honor and remember family and friends touched by this disease.

Thanks to all the sponsors (Dunkin Donuts and Subway) and volunteers from ‘set up’ to ‘clean up’. Let’s make this an annual event in the ITA Seva Samiti calendar.

An Appeal

Dear Friends,

It seems the Sky has fallen on our brothers and sisters in Uttarkhand, our most precious, auspicious, holy land where Lord Shiva meditates. The only thing still standing is the Kedarnath Temple, rest is in water.

To begin with: Let us donate money; later on, we will figure out the things the region needs and we will work to achieve it. If you wish to join our efforts, please contact Lata Pimplaskar at 856-985-4785 or latap@comcast.net

For all the Natural Disasters, India Temple Association Seva Samiti collects tax deductible donations and sends your generous donations to a researched organization that uses all or most of the money for its intended purpose.

You may send a check to ITA, or go on our website, www.indiatemple.org DONATE through Credit Card or Paypal account. Please write in "For Uttarkhand". Thank you!

Lata Pimplaskar,

Volunteer, ITA Seva Samiti

ITA Seva Samiti Presents

MAXIMIZING THE POWER OF GAYTRI MANTRA - MR. RAJEN VAKIL

Shri S. N. Tavariaji has distilled the ancient secrets of Yogic asanas, pranayamas, and other higher practices into a few simple exercises which were passed on verbally in 'Guru-Shishya' parampara of thousands of years. Sri Tavariaji had a group of students with whom he shared this invaluable knowledge.

Mr. Rajen Vakil was one of his disciples, and has dedicated his life to spreading it throughout the world. Mr. Vakil came to our temple couple of years ago and shared with us the powerful 3SRB breathing techniques. That seminar was very well attended and many of us found it beneficial. He is coming on August 25 and 27 to present how to maximize "The Power of Gayatri Mantra" at our Berlin Temple.

The science of Gayatri Mantra involving the correct use of Lips, Larynx, Vocal cords, Chest, Abdomen and Diaphragm was unraveled by Yogi Shri Tavariaji. We are fortunate to have Shri Rajen Vakil explain the amazing power of this mantra and how to practice it correctly for maximum benefit of mind and body.

Please make sure to mark your calendar.

Sunday - August 25, 2013 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM (Light Lunch will be served)
Tuesday - August 27, 2013 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

For more information, please contact:

Lata Pimplaskar 856-985-4785 or latap@comcast.net
Hina Desai 856-424-1934 or hinamdesai@hotmail.com
Dr. Amita Talati 856-751-8667 or atalmd@gmail.com
Sunitha Reddy 856-596-3215 or sunithahreddy@yahoo.com

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 a.m. at our Mandir

Contact: Virendra Gupta @ (856) 424-9313

GITA STUDY GROUP:

Every Tuesday & Wednesday, 8-9 p.m. at our Mandir

Contact: Sharad Pimplaskar @ (856) 985-4785

BHAJANS & STUTI:

Every Friday, 7:30-9 p.m.

Contact: Shree Shuklaji or Shri Sudhirji (856) 768-6785

Regular Programs for Children and Youth

BAL VIHAR: For children (ages 4-13), to promote a positive Hindu identity within the diverse U.S. culture.

2nd & 4th Sunday @ 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Contact: Lata Pimplaskar (856) 985-4785, Bhavesh Patel 1-855-my-mandir ext 3, Rina Patel (856) 313-5235 for registration and location

YOUTH PROGRAM: A program for young adults (ages 13-18) and parents. 2nd & 4th Sunday, 9:45 a.m. - 1 p.m. at our Mandir.

Contact: Sharad Pimplaskar at (856) 985-4785 or Sangeeta Rashatwar at (856) 424-4211

CREATIVE ART WORKSHOP

1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday @ 9:30 a.m. at our Mandir

Contact: Narendra Amin (856) 429-8761

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

The following provides list of applicable charges and fees. Shri Shuklaji /Shri Sudhirji will be available for religious services on request. Please note that 50% of the listed cost of Puja performed outside the temple goes to Pujari in addition to his regular salary. Please check temple availability at www.indiatemple.org; Click on "CALENDAR tab" and, from drop-down menu, Click on "EVENT/RENTAL CALENDAR". **Please contact Smt. Chetna Giyanani or Shri. Harish Shelat at 1-855-MY-MANDIR Ext 1 for the booking of the Temple Facilities and/or scheduling of Puja Services by Shuklaji or Sudhirji.**

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	<p><u>TEMPLE FACILITIES USAGE FEE</u> Prayer Hall: \$200 Social Hall: \$300</p> <p><u>OTHER CHARGES</u></p> <p><u>MILEAGE AND TRAVEL TIME TIER</u> \$0 for 1 - 25 mile radius \$51 for 26 - 100 mile radius \$101 for 101 - 150 mile radius \$151 for 151 - 200 mile radius</p> <p>NON-MEMBER \$51 for non-member surcharge</p>
Vahan (Vehicle) Puja	\$21	N/A	
Namakaran/Annaprashan	\$51	\$101	
Birthday	\$51	\$101	
Shraddha	\$51	\$101	
Anniversary Celebration	\$101	\$151	
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	
Vastu Puja - outside service only	N/A	\$251	
Sunderkand Path	\$151		
Wedding Grah Shanti	\$201	\$301	
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 at 1-855-MY-MANDIR Ext 1

DIRECTION TO BERLIN TEMPLE

A. From Tacony Bridge:

Take NJ route 73S; drive for about 12 - 13 miles and follow signs for East Taunton Avenue. Temple is on your right

B. From Ben Franklin Bridge:

Take route 30E to NJ route 70E to NJ route 73S, drive for about 7 miles and follow signs for East Taunton Avenue. Temple is on your right

C. From Walt Whitman Bridge or Delaware Memorial Bridge:

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

D. From Central and North Jersey:

Take NJ Turnpike South. Exit 4 for route 73S. Drive for about 10 - 11 miles and follow signs for East Taunton Avenue on your right



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Darshan Schedule

Morning

7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Evening

6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Aarti

12 p.m. & 8 p.m.

Times may change during
special occasions

**Please use the front door
and ring the bell if locked**

**PLEASE REVIEW YOUR ADDRESS LABEL AND RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP BASED ON EXPIRATION DATE OR SUPPORT ITA WITH YOUR
ENROLLMENT IF YOU ARE NOT IDENTIFIED AS A MEMBER**

**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 _____ Lifetime Seva (\$301) _____ Temple Renovations
_____ Seva Samiti Fund _____ Bal Vihar Fund _____ Youth Fund

I am relocating to the following address

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____