



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. 38 No. 5 Phone: (855) MYMANDIR (855-696-2634) www.indiatemple.org MAY 2012

Religious Calendar

May 2, Wednesday

- Mohini Ekadashi

May 5 Saturday –

- Bal Vihar Annual Day

May 6, Sunday

- Shri Buddha Jayanti / Purnima

May 16, Wednesday

- Aparā Ekadashi

June 1, Friday

- Nirjala Ekadashi/Bhim Ekadashi
- Shri Gayatri Jayanti

June 3, Sunday

- Graduation Yagna

June 4, Monday

- Vat Savitri Purnima/Shri Kabir Jayanti

Monthly Activities

May 4, Friday

- Vishnu Sahasranama Parayanam

Kshama Raghuveer (610) 642-2875

Monthly Bhajans

May 18, Friday, 8-9 p.m.

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

May 25, Friday, 8-9 pm

- Shree Ji Bhajan Group
Urmi Upadhyaya (856) 424-9328
Charu Sheth (856) 662-8754

Youth Annual Day which is our last session of the year for Youth Program was held on April 22nd, at the Cherokee High School. The day was very well organized and it was done entirely by our young people. Well done! The program included dance, play, violin recital and prayers. Speaking for the entire membership of the Temple, I can't tell you how proud we are of the growth and development of our young people who are advancing from the Bal Vihar program level to the youth program. It was such a delight to watch how disciplined and enthusiastic they were – both in the planning and the execution of the program, which set an wonderful example for the younger children.

It is said that a man never stands so tall as when he stoops to help a child. In that spirit, I'd like to thank Sharad Pimplaskar – our highly esteemed program director -- all our program teachers and our volunteers for the incredible work they are doing for these young people.

I'd also like to thank the parents for sticking with the program and bringing their kids to the preparation meetings and to the program itself. I know many of you parents have thoughts which would add to, and enhance, the program, and we enjoin you to feel free to share them with your teachers; or, you can E-mail them directly to Program director, Sharad Pimplaskar at spimplaskar@comcast.net or Rina Patel at president@indiatemple.org

We now look forward to Bal Vihar Annual day which is scheduled for 11:00 AM on May 5th, 2012 at Lenape High School at 235 Hartford Rd, Medford, NJ. This event is open to the community and we encourage you all to attend to be amazed by our very talented young people.

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.

• Nanu Maisuria	May 02	Sushil & Kamala Chandra	May 19
• Narendra H. Amin	May 05	Sharad Pandya	May 19
• Harendra Dave	May 05	Mahesh Dixit	May 26
• Rajubhai Patel	May 05	Priti & Tejas Patel	May 26
• Shreyansi M. Shah	May 08	Siddhi Vasa	May 26
• Sudhaben Patel	May 09	Pooja & Jayesh Khatiwala	May 27
• Bhal Patel	May 10	Naresh Talati	May 27
• Iti Bar	May 11	Isvar Patel	May 28
• Narsinh Sangani	May 15	Nishta Patel-Hudson	May 28
• Natwarlal Contractor	May 16	Dipti & Monil Pandya	May 29
• Mahendra Jaiswal	May 17	Jayanti & Kalaben Patel	May 29
• Upendra & Rekha Shah	May 17, & 25	Jayant Pandya	May 31

Condolences

Dipika Gandhi's mother Jayaben Dadarwala passed away on March 24.

Sangeeta Doshi's mother Dr. Sarla Patel passed away on April 11.

Upenshu Parikh's mother smt. Premlataben of Bensalem passed away on April 22.

ITA and its Board extend their sincere condolences to Sangeeta, Dipika, and Upenshu's families.

Senior Citizens' Program

Thursday May 10, 6:30 pm to 9:15 pm and Thursday May 24, 6:30 pm to 9:15 pm

The highlights of this program are:

A. The bus trip to two Hindu temples at Lanham, MD and Cherry Blossom festival at Washington DC on April 8 was great. Fifty six seniors had both a pilgrimage experience and a joyous, educational visit to the nation's capital.

B. Musical Dhamaka with the Shah Group: On **May 10**, the well-known group of talented artists of South Jersey will present Indian popular music for the recreation of seniors at the Temple's Social Hall. The singers are: Sri Nilkanth Shah, Smt. Arti Shah, Sri Sital Nanavati, Sri Raj Lotia, Sri Dinesh Shah, Sri Baldev Patel, and Smt. Dharmishtha Bhatt. Please join us and enjoy the evening.

C. Ayurvedic and Yogic Remedies for common respiratory problems: *Ayurveda*, recognized as a complementary medicine in USA, is a comprehensive, Indian system of health that teaches us how to live a healthy, youthful life in harmony with the natural elements. *Yoga* is a time-tested practice that also originated in Indian traditions several millennia ago and now accepted throughout the world. Creating healthy life means creating balance. Imbalance leads to disease. Some early signs of imbalance (the precursors of disease) are headache, sore throat, nasal congestion, and coughing. Seniors are more susceptible to respiratory problems, such as asthma, chronic bronchitis and sinusitis, hay fever, common cold etc. On **May 24**, Sri Virendra Gupta, our Yoga teacher at ITA for over 25 years, will share some of the wisdom for preventing and treating these problems. He will cover the well-known methods of Pranayama, use of *Neti* pot to cleanse nasal passages, yoga exercises, relaxation, and herbal medicines. *Ayurvedic* therapies are all natural and are not known to produce any side effects.

Contact Info: Suraj Bhan Singh; sbsingh1@hotmail.com

Youth Program

By Sona Dadhanania

On April 22nd, the Youth group held their 2012 Annual Day, in front of all of the Bal Vihar children, parents, and guests at Cherokee High School, from 11 AM - Noon. Bal-Vihar had graciously set aside time for the Youth to perform in front of the kids and parents, which we were very thankful for. The program, which was MC-ed by Sabrina Patel and Lokesh Shah, started with a bhajan we had been learning all year from Sharad Uncle, who accompanied us on his harmonium. Next, performance a terrific dance 'Barso Re' by Ankita, Bijal, Atira, Nisha and Smriti, which was followed up by a violin performance by Atira. After, another group of girls, Shikha, Sona, Sabrina, and Rashmi, performed an amazing dance to 'Rang Deeni' from the movie Dev. After the dance was an incredible karate and Bo-staff demonstration from Nisha. Then, Amol, Vipul, Kishan and Pranav put on a great play called "Gopal and the Cowherd", which brought everyone many laughs. It also made a wonderful point of true love for God lies in believing and honesty. Then, Ankita and her sister Khushbu danced to the song Liquid Dance, from the 2008 hit Slumdog Millionaire. This dance was followed by a Bhangra dance, the soul of the day, 'Rang De Basanti', by Rahie, Raj, and Lokesh. Finally, the show concluded with a Bharatnatyam fusion dance by Sabrina and Sona, who danced to Mausam and Escape, also from Slumdog Millionaire.

Our annual day wouldn't be a success without the help and aid of our teachers and parents, who helped us throughout the program with the technology and clothing. So, a big thank you to them. The youth themselves invited the graduating Bal-Vihar class to join us for a special Holi and Mother's Day session on May 13th. The lunch was sponsored by all of the youth participants and Manu and Ketki Dadhanania, and another BAL Vihar family so thank you to them. The youth can't wait to help out the Bal-Vihar kids for their upcoming annual day, and look forward to putting on another spectacular program next year.



Honoring our Bal Vihar Teachers and Volunteers!

(by Lata Pimplaskar)



*Gurur Brahma, Gurur Vishnu, Gurur Devo Maheshwara,
Gurur Saakshaat Param Brahma Tasmay Shree Guruve Namaha||*

In our tradition, Guru is considered God; without a teacher, one cannot recognize the God within. Bal Vihar children honored their teachers in the last session and I would like to mention their names for our community to recognize all that they do week after week, month after month, and for some, years!

Teaching is a task, and a very difficult one when one is teaching two dozen children in a classroom! Our Bal Vihar teachers are committed, who prepare their lessons in advance and teach our children Vedic Heritage. Hinduism always has been labeled as an intricate religion and it is generally presumed that one learns about it after one retires. Gita Shastra and other Vedic teachings sharpens one to handle the challenges of life, and it teaches the art of living intelligently. It is a precious gift that a teacher passes on to his pupils.

Our sincere thanks to the following teachers of Bal Vihar:

Bharat Kenjale: Children love yoga and Bharat makes exercising fun!

Kshama Raghuvver: Kshama with her calm and kind disposition teaches about various Hindu Gods and prayers

Seema Patel: Feisty lawyer by profession, yet a gentle leader to our youngest group

Charu Sheth: Long time student of Bhagavad Gita class, the soft spoken Charu handles Agni, our oldest group with complete understanding of the subject

Brinda Raghuvver: An engineer by profession, Brinda who grew up in this country, knows the children's way of thinking

Deepti Goyal: Her skills in story telling about our Saints and Heroes of Bharat is liked by all her students

Meeta Chaturvedi: With her tremendous energy, Meeta handles many tasks for our children

Ritu Amba: Despite having a little one at toe, Ritu is always bursting with enthusiasm which children love

Bharati Shah: When she was asked to teach Mahabharata, she spent her entire summer last year studying this epic; that is dedication for you!

Snigdha Garg: Her keen interest in passing on her knowledge of our culture makes her an astute Bal Vihar teacher

Radha Mawrie: Very knowledgeable about our Vedic Heritage, who manages to prepare her lessons even while travelling on business trips

Ramesh Viswanathan: Agni group children learn a lot from Ramesh uncle who is well versed in all levels of Vedic Knowledge

Chetna Giyanani: Chetna can wear many hats on any given day, yet never loses the smile from her countenance!

Last but not the least, we have many dedicated volunteers and I am sorry to say that I do not even know many names, only faces but a few routinely work with me and I would like to recognize and thank them profusely: Denny Depani, Bhavesh Patel, Nilang Dalwadi, and his team of fathers. THANK YOU ALL!

Discourse by

Dr. Ramakamal Das Vedantaji Maharaj at our Mandir

Topic: **Prabhu Ka Anubhav Karane Wali Bhakti**

Dates: Sunday, April 29: 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm; Monday, April 30: 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm; Tuesday, May 1: 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm;

Wednesday, May 2: 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm; Thursday, May 3: 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm; Friday, May 4: 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm;

Saturday, May 5: 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm



Pujya Maharaj-ji, a resident of Varanasi, India is an expert speaker. He has captured the hearts and minds of devotees all over India as well as abroad. He has published several books and given hundreds of discourses all over the world. Having Ph.D. in Upanishads and M. A. in Hindi, he is an international Kathakar. He was invited by United Nation's Religious Conference in the year 2000 and has been coming to our temple every year since then. It is our honor and profound privilege to host him again at our temple this year.

For further information please contact Devendra/ Ruchita Singh (609-248-5966) or Rakesh/Nila Kohli (856-751-8688) or Drs. Amrit/Anju Nayar (856-778-1781).



Its May

Come May, Its India Day!!

and has been for two years when the cafeteria at Cherokee High School has hosted this fun filled event and made it a showcase of our cultural heritage under the auspices of the ITA_ the seva Samiti of Hindu Temple in Berlin, NJ. This year the date is set

for May 20. Doors open at 11 AM and festivities are expected to last till late afternoon. This is an invitation for you to join us with your family and bring along some friends both Indian and non Indians. Share our culture through friendship !!

Support a cause !!

The event is a fund raiser for Camden's Kids Alley, after school program empowering children in the city of Camden



promise is an outing where you will see the colors of a in full bloom. Experience the many dance forms of many regions performed by local artists in colorful costumes with grace, poise and rhythm . Savor the culinary delights of India from all corners of the subcontinent. If you have a sweet tooth we will not disappoint-there will be stalls for Bengali and other types of mithai. And if you are a chai freak do visit the Chai Corner where Nivedita Shukla will satisfy that craving with tea, coffee and other beverages.

For our ladies there will be a Mehndi/ Henna Pavilion-add color to your hands & to your life!! For children Bharat Kanjale is creating a fun center where our games coordinator will entertain them. All in all it can be a fun filled day for all members of your family.



To put up such a show we need helping hands-So please elp Join us as Volunteers. Have FUN while doing GOOD KARMA !!

Advance tickets for the raffle and the fair at a discounted price can be purchased also to Volunteer call : Kishor Daga-856 287 8967 or Denny Deepani-856 449 6760

ITA_ Seva Samiti Volunteers
Lalit Nigam-Editorial Writer

ITA—SEVA SAMITI YOUTH COMPUTER SUPPORT PROGRAM UPDATE



These days everyone needs to catch up with technology. On April 7th, 2012, ITA Seva Samiti Youth conducted their very first Computer Support Program for the Community , at our Hindu Temple . The youth volunteers set up the laptops and were ready to provide training in word, excel, email, internet, photoshop etc. Our very own Binduben, (Priest Shuklaji's wife) was very excited to use the computer. She is now eagerly waiting for her next lesson. Mr. Patel's excel skills were refreshed by the volunteers. Some of our youth too learned tricks of technology from Bhavesh Patel. The youth will be collecting seva hours, helping one life at a time!

If you are interested in updating your computer skills contact Lata at 856-985-4785 or Chetna at chetnatemple@gmail.com for the next Computer Support Program by the ITA Seva Samiti Youth.



www.ekal.org

EKAL VIDYALAYA FOUNDATION OF USA

Proudly Presents EKAL 2012 Fundraising Event

"Reaching One Million Children"



One School
One Village
One Dollar A Day

www.ekal.org

A Musical Extravaganza

SAMIR DATE

DIPALEE SOMAIYA

SATURDAY, May 12, 2012 at 4:30 PM

Moorestown High School

350 Bridgeboro Road, Moorestown, NJ 08057

New This Year

For Your Convenience
online tickets available at
www.ekal.org

(click on buy tickets, go to May 12, event)

Tickets

Regular: \$20 (\$25 purchase after April 30)

VIP : \$50 (\$75 purchase after April 30)

Open Seating; Doors Open at 4:00 PM

Complimentary Light Snacks

For tickets and information please contact :

Dr. Veena & Sharad Gandhi 856-435-9148

Magan & Hansa Kanzaria 856-667-4906

Pravin & Devindra Sheth 856-840-0820

Bipin & Veena Mehta 856-782-8290

Dr. Vijay & Rangini Gandhi 609-463-8851

Dr. Umesh and Prabha Shukla 908-431-9845

Gajanan & Pratibha Joshi 856-429-2086

Harshad & Dr Hema Mehta 856-772-0358

Devendra & Damayanti Patel 215-970-5170

Parimal Parikh 609-927-3587

93% of Ekal Charity Concert Proceeds Go Directly Towards Supporting a School
Ekal's Mission: To Eradicate Illiteracy from Rural and Tribal India with Holistic Empowerment
Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation of USA is a 501(c)3 Charitable Organization – Tax ID 77-0554248

Graduation Ceremony at Berlin Mandir

Sunday June 3, 2012 @ 3:00 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 3rd, 2012, starting at 3:00 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 by May 15, 2012. Suggested donation is \$51.00 per family.



ITA Seva Samiti is walking for a great cause

**Come join hands with ITA Seva Samiti Team at
America Cancer Society's Relay for Life**

in Voorhees,

On June 8th between 6pm-12am

@ Eastern High School Track

Pick your time 6-8pm, 6-10pm, 10pm-12am

**Sign up Chetna at Chetnatemple@gmail.com or
Lata 856-985-4785**



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 temple in Berlin

Contact: Virendra Gupta @ (856) 424-9313

GITA STUDY GROUP:

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

Contact: Sharad Pimplaskar @ (856) 985-4785

BHAJANS & STUTI:

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

Contact: Shree Shuklaji (856) 768-6785

Regular Programs for Children and Youth

BAL VIHAR: For children (ages 5-13), 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 1, 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 Temple in Berlin.

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 temple in Berlin

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 will be available for religious services on request. 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 Smt. Anoo Joshi at 1-855-MY-MANDIR Ext 1 for the booking of the Temple Facilities and/or scheduling of Puja Services by Shuklaji.

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) 433-8909

DIRECTION TO BERLIN TEMPLE

A. From Tacony Bridge:

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

B. From Ben Franklin Bridge:

Take route 30E to NJ route 70E to NJ route 73S, drive about 7 miles and follow sign for East Taunton Ave. Temple 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 Ave.

D. From Central and North Jersey:

Take 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" OR YEAR MARKED
2011 OR EARLIER IN ADDRESS LABEL

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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 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: _____