

# 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)

Phone: (855) MYMANDIR (855-696-2634) Vol. 38 No. 11 www.indiatemple.org **NOVEMBER 2012** 

#### **Religious Calendar**

#### Nov 02 Friday

Karva Chauth •

- **Nov 10 Saturday**
- Rama Ekadashi / Vagh • **Baras**

**Nov 11 Sunday** 

Dhan Terash-Dhan Puja in Mandir

Nov 12 Monday

Kali Chaudash/ Narak • Chaturdashi

#### Nov 13 Tuesday

DIWALI - Laxmi Puja & Annakoot in Mandir

Nov 14 Wednesday

New Year Vikram Samvat 2069

**Nov 15 Thursday** 

Bhai-Duj •

#### **Nov 18 Sunday**

Labh-Panchmi •

#### **Nov 24 Saturday**

- Dev-Prabodhini •
- Ekadashi & Tulsi Vivah • in Mandir from 4:00 PM onwards

#### Nov 28 Wednesday

Purnima—Satyanarayan Katha in Mandir

**Monthly Activities** 

## Nov 02, Friday

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

#### **Monthly Bhajans**

Nov 16, Friday, 8-9 p.m. Satva Sai Baba of Medford P.K. Prabhakar (856) 596-3147 Sesha Vemuri (856) 751-0867



**Diwali Celebration DHAN TERAS PUJA** Sunday, November 11, 6:00 PM

Please call Ghansyambhai at 856-596-7531 or Binduben at 856-768-6785 to participate as puja yajman.

Kali-Chaudash/NarakChaturdashi - Celebration Monday, November 12 Lord Hanuman Puja from 6:00 PM



Nov 18

#### **DIWALI CELEBRATION W/ANNAKOOT** Tuesday, November 13 from 6:00 PM to 9:30 PM FIRST AARTI: 8:00 PM\*\*SECOND AARTI: 9:30 PM

Initiation of Diwali Celebration will be with Laxmi Pujan at 6:00 PM. Puja will be followed by Bhajan Program along with ANNAKOOT. Please call Nikunj at 856-596-7531 or Binduben at 856-768-6785 if you are planning to bring Annakoot Prasad. Appropriate items will be allocated for offering and presentation. Please bring Prasad in sufficient quantity to serve 25 people.

## Hindu New Year Vikram Samvat 2069 Celebration

#### Saturday, November 14, 2012 from 6:00 AM

Aarti will be at every hour. Coffee/tea and snacks will be served from 8:30 AM to 12:00 noon.

#### **Tulsi Vivah Celebration**

#### November 24, 2012, 4:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. followed by Maha Prasad

Tulsi Vivah is considered the beginning of the wedding season in India in the month of Kartik, which occurs in October/November every year. According to Hindu mythology, Tulsi (incarnation of Maha Lakshmi) is ceremonially married to Lord Vishnu on this day. ITA will celebrate this occasion with a wedding celebration. Please join us with your friends and families.

#### **Mandir Parking**

With new parking regulations, parking is available only one side (mandir side) of Haines Ave. Additional parking is available at the Church Parking Lot or Municipal Parking Lot at the end of Haines Ave.

#### **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.

Nov 01 Dixit Mahesh

- Patel Lalit
- Puttaswamy Dunthur
- Gupta Roopali. •
- Ravani Kishan
- Maheswari Arun
- Desai Barbara
- Bagaria Surendra

Nov 02	Patel Bimal	Nov 18
Nov 04	Dixit Mahesh	Nov 20
Nov 05	Patel Jagdishver	Nov 21
Nov 09	Shah Nagindas/Champaben	Nov 22
Nov 11	Patel Kusum N.	Nov 24
Nov 15	Patel Kusum N.	Nov 28
	Patel Rital	Nov 28

#### **Condolences**

Shri. Turiomal Abhichandani of Yardley PA, father of Prakash Abichandani, Lalit Abichandani, Champa Moorjani and Laxmi Motiani, passed away on September 15.

Smt. Savitri Pandey of Robinsville, mother of Subhash Pandey, Shuchi Mishra and Shubhra Kulshreshtha passed away on September 17.

ITA and its Board extend their sincere condolences to Abhichandani, and Pandey families.

## Senior Citizens' Program

#### Thursday Nov. 8, 6:30 to 9:15 PM - Challenges for Seniors

The recipient of the Jvotindra Dave Award from Gujrati Sahitya Parishad for his humorous essay collection "Sushila", Mr. Harnish Jani will enlighten you with his humorous style tackling the life's challenges of senior citizens. I am certain that you will laugh with him as he makes health and other issues as his materials for interesting stories and makes pains more bearable.

#### Sunday Nov. 18, 11:30 AM to 3:00 PM - Annual Function

This program's venue is Gagan Palace Restaurant, Stratford (phone: 856-627-6200). The Rhythm Group of artists, namely, Arti Shah, Baldev Patel, Dharmishtha Bhatt, Dinesh Shah, Manish Mehta, Nilkanth Shah, Dr. Pradip Patel, Raj Lotia, and Sital Nanavati will entertain you with favorite, popular songs. For lunch, you will enjoy appetizers and vegetarian buffet. So buy tickets, come, and join us.

#### Sunday Nov. 25 to Dec. 2 - Caribbean Cruise

Hindu Senior Citizens group will be on a 7-night Western Caribbean cruise visiting Bahamas (Great Stirrup Kay), Jamaica (Ocho Rios), Cayman Islands (Grand Cayman), and Mexico (Cozumel). The air trip starts in the morning from Philadelphia International Airport to Miami and embarkation on Norwegian Pearl ship. Bon Voyage!

Contact Info: Suraj Bhan Singh; <u>sbsingh1@hotmail.com</u> (856) 582-5035.

Bal Vihar Program Kayla A. Patel, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade/Aakash A



9/23/2012: Today's first regular session kicked off with Lataji's lecture on how God is everywhere and that there is a third eye in our mind. She mentioned a story in this regard. After the story, we recited chants, slokas, and a prayer. Finally at the end of the session we saw a magician from India named Kruti Parekh. She was an awesome magician! She did a disc trick, and tissue paper eating trick. She even could see through a blindfold and copy words, sentences, numbers, and things from different languages. Wow!!!

10/14/2012: This session started again with the new format where Lataji Auntie gave a lecture and then we had yoga and class. She talked about the Hindu festival known as *Navaratri* for the worship of the Goddess *Durga through Garba*, a traditional Indian folk dance. In Sanskrit, "Nava" means nine and "ratri" means night. Therefore Navaratri is the "Nine Nights of Prayer." Lataji told us that we pray at night because everything we see goes to sleep and then we can enjoy the bliss of quiet. When we do the Garba, we start with "Thron Tali" or three clap dance. We dance and we forget everything else and remember the three Goddesses: Durga, Saraswati, and Lakshmi. Durga is the mother of the universe and helps us overcome our problems. Saraswati represents knowledge and finally Lakshmi represents wealth. The final and tenth night is called Dushera the day Lord Rama defeated the demon Ravana. I look forward to dancing; hope you do too!

#### **Food Sponsors**

- 09/23/2012: Amee & Dipal Parikh
- 10/14/2012: Archana & Ajay Kulkarni, Sapna & Shiv Shah, Sona & Asutosh Shah, and Prinal & Nilang Dalwadi

## From the desk of ITA President

Dear Members,

It is my pleasure to announce to every one of ITA's members that The ITA General Body will meet on December 9<sup>th</sup> 2012, for the purpose of holding our General Body meeting and Elections for Trustees. With the exception of our religious gatherings, this is – without question -- the most important gathering of the year. There will be a music program before the elections, followed by a dinner sponsored by the current Board of Trustees. Following the music, I – as the Chairman of the current Board of Trustees will provide a "State of the Association" message. This report will take you through the most important activities and actions that the Board and Association took this past year and provide you some insights into our plans for the future. Following my report, our treasurer, Harshad Patel, will present a report on the financial status of your Association.

Our most fundamental object for this meeting is to make each and every member an informed and involved member of our association – that is to say to feel a part of the Association and involved in its future. And, from our informed congregation, we would like to see new leadership emerge to blend with the current leadership in order to instill new energy and new Ideas into our strategic direction. So, we're asking each of you who have not – thus far – been involved in the Temple activities to get involved and lend your intellect and energy to make a difference in our Temple and its future. Our Temple is always looking for new leadership and new contributors with new ideas and new energy for our Association.

Sincerely, Rina Patel

#### **ITA GENERAL BODY MEETING & ELECTION OF TRUSTEES**

To be held on December 09, Sunday at 6:00 P.M. after a SPECIAL BHAJAN PROGRAM by Chandan Modi, his students and local artists from 3:30 P.M. to 5:30 P.M.

Nominations along with completed forms are invited from General Body members by November 30, 2012. Nomination forms can be downloaded from <u>www.indiatemple.org</u>.

Nominations will not be accepted after November 30, 2012. Further requirements for the nomination include valid membership for the year 2011 and 2012, believing in ITA Constitution, one year work experience with any of the ITA Committees and willingness to volunteer time and services for ITA activities. If there are insufficient number of nominations received by the deadline, remaining vacancies may be filled by the Board in accordance with ITA Bylaws. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO BECOME TRUSTEE OR ADDI-TIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT Vinaya Vardhan <u>vinayavardhana@gmail.com</u> or Rina Patel <u>president@indiatetemple.org</u>

Following Trustees are eligible for re-election for additional three years term:

Pankaj Desai, Jatin Mehta, Dhiraj Panda, Kshama Raghuveer, Neelkant Shukla

#### Following Trustees are not eligible for re-election due to their three consecutive terms expiry by December 31, 2012: Ghanshyam Dave

ITA takes this opportunity to thank all outgoing Trustees for their dedicated support and looking forward to their continued support for the ITA activities.

## Indian Cultural Center Now we have roof over our head!



During the last Sunday's ICC visit, Mr. Shailesh Chowdhury elatedly said "*Finally we have roof over our head!*". Yes, after the steel beams are in place, the bolt tightened and the field soldering is done, we will have roof over our long-awaited Indian Cultural Center. This week, the metal framing has begun and in next few weeks we will be finishing all the framing. This will pave the way for the closing of the building before the beginning of the winter. With the building closed, our contractors will able to work all through the Winter inside the building and – as a consequence -- we are on track to complete the construction of the Center in the Spring and open the doors of our own magnificent new Cultural Center for our Indian Community.

That brings us to the financing part of our project. Thankfully, we have reached halfway to our goal of raising 4 million dollar for the construction of this building. Looking ahead, we have acquired and soon will have to tap into interest bearing stopgap financing so that construction does not slow down or stop for lack of funds. At this critical juncture, it is critical for everyone to do your part and pledge an additional donation or fulfill any fulfilled pledges so we do not rely on expensive interest-bearing advances to proceed. If you have already donated, we thank you profusely and kindly request you to consider adding to those donations. In addition, please help us to spread the word and talk to your friends, family and neighbors to come on board, dig deep, and donate to complete our center.

We invite everyone to visit the site every Sunday, from 11AM to Noon (weather permitting) and witness the construction progress. Also, please continue to visit our website <u>www.iccofsj.org</u> to monitor the progress of this project.



<u>www.iccofsj.org</u>

1-855-ICCOFSJ

## <u>Youth Program</u>

#### By Sona Dadhania, 9th Grade

On October 14th, the youth embarked on their annual field trip, and this year, the youth traveled to the Philadelphia Museum of Art in order to study ancient Indian art and sculptures on display there. Around 10 AM, the youth departed from the Temple on a bus with many parents, and once we got there, the youth split into groups of 5 or 6 with an adult to explore the museum itself. Once inside, the youth were able to see many spectacular pieces, such as sculptures of various deities and depictions of many gods, such as Vishnu and Buddha. The most prominent Indian exhibit in the museum is the Temple recreation,



which took actual pieces from an ancient temple in South India and then recreated the temple with all of the original pillars and wall pieces; it was a sight to see as it is something that is thousands of years old, and yet is still in pristine condition. We connected our youth studies with the artwork and sculptures, which made this a very fun and educational experience for us. With some of the extra time, we were also able to explore other sections such as East Asian art, Medieval European Art, and European Armory. Afterwards, the youth and parents sat down for a nice lunch in the beautiful gardens opposite the Museum. Eventually, our great day had to come to an end and we returned to the Mandir. All the youth would like to thank the parents and volunteers for helping to create such a wonderful experience for all of us, including some Bal Vihar siblings. Thank you so much, and we look forward to next year's field trip!

## **International Day Celebration**

ITA's participation International Day Celebrations reflect its desire to be part of the bigger fabric of our country's cultural life. By our presence there, we not only showcased Indian culture, but, by osmosis and active participation imbibed the culture of many different nations -- including Japanese, Chinese, Russian, Philippines, Pakistani or indigenous American. The person-to -person contact with other ethnic groups enriched our communities global experiences. We were able to savor the cuisines of many nations, through exposure to their dances, music, folk songs and heard their leaders speak. All this made for an afternoon of fun, frolic and enjoyment with family and friends.



"The program began with a parade of flags and participants in international costumes, followed by invocations. Gwen De Vera was the dynamic chairperson of the event. In attendance were many officials of Camden County including Voorhees mayor Mike Mignogna.

Our communities participation came in the form of dance performances by several groups and food donations by Indian restaurants from this area. Dance performances came from the following groups:

Madhu Gupta and her daughter Arti gave a rendition of a diya dance. Kathak was presented by Abhilasha Choudhary's dance academy Classical Rhythms. Performers were Isha Zaveri, Maya Shanker, and Arya Amaro.Marathi Saad organization delighted with the traditional "LAVNI". Contributors were Sum-

edha Nadkarni, Kavita Lade, Sona Karnik, Shilpa Metkar and Pallavi Saoji. Even though they came prepared, the Bhangra Group could not perform due to time constraints.

Indian food and delicacies were served by two area restaurants-Palace of Asia and Gagan Palace. ITA's effort was spearheaded by Dr. Sunder Mansukhani and Sangeeta Rashatwar.

I look forward to seeing the International Day Celebrations again next year. I know they well be even bigger and better.





### Karva Chowth Celebration

#### Friday, November 2nd, 4:00 PM and 7:00 PM

# A GauriGanapati puja for the long, married happy life for the couples to be performed at the mandir on the occasion of Karva Chauth - celebration.

In India, the ritual of marriage is considered to be the ultimate ritual of life. Here tying knots means promising a companionship of seven lives. In a country with intricate rituals and customs, it is believed that there is nothing more pious and stronger than the relationship of marriage. Married women are said to be the companion of their better halves in all the good as well as bad days. According to the ancient Hindu texts, the will power of a married lady to change her husband's bad fortune into good is so strong that it can even change God's ultimate decision. So, the relationship of man and his lady are eternal and blessed.

Karwa Chauth is a very difficult fast. A woman has to spend an entire day without any food or single drop of water till the moon rise. It is said that this pain taken by a wife helps her husband get a token of blessings by the almighty. There are different stories to why this festival came into being. Some people believe that this festival of Karva Chauth was actually the day to celebrate the season of autumn and enjoy the company of friends and relatives but later on, few mythological legends were associated with it to give it a religious existence.

However, thousands of people especially Hindus and Sikh of north-western India who believe in its religious existence have several folklores related to this festival. They often associate it with the legendary story of a devoted wife (Pativrata Nari), Karwa and her efforts to save her husband's life. They also quote the story of Satyavan and Savitri, the couple who united again despite being destined to be separated due to Savitri's efforts to save Satyavan's life from Yamdoota, the God of death.

#### ITA Scholarship: Fifth Prize Winner's Essay — Ms. Unnati Amin Do We Really Need A God?

"Why?", "Why does that happen?"

As a child much to my teacher's chagrin, these two questions have always been on the tip of my tongue. Throughout elementary and middle school, I had never been given a sufficient response to the question. It took all of my teachers' restraint to not roll their eyes when I asked this question for the umpteen times. Eventually both they and I became accustomed to dismissing this question of "Why?" especially when they were teaching a science based topic. During the latter part of my middle school career, I buried the question, "Why?" understanding the teacher had no better answer than I had. I would not be until my sophomore year in high school when I grabbed a shovel and dug the question back up.

My sophomore year in high school, my most difficult and interesting class was Advance Honors Chemistry. Every day in chemistry seemed to be a new adventure of atoms with Mr. Harrison narrating us through a new complicated story. It took me almost half a year to ask him the question I had been dying to since first grade. When I finally asked him, "Why do electron particles behave this way?", I was surprised by the answer.

Instead condescendingly dismissing my question, he instead replied with his quirky sense of humor, "You will have to ask the big man in your religion. If you ever find an answer, let me know because I really want to know the answer too". Response was particularly shocking to me because huge separation I had given religion and education in my mind. To me until that moment, religion and education were vastly different ideas with no compatibility. However, now they have become one part of the same coin.

As defined by Webster dictionary, religion is a set of beliefs concerning cause, nature, and purpose of the universe, while science is the systematic knowledge of the physical or material world gained through observation and experimentation. While one attempts to explain the physical world, the other attempts to explain the spiritual world. As you dive deeper and deeper into science or any career, the necessity of God becomes more and more poignant. The understanding that is a greater purpose to our actions than just the superficial deeds that we are currently engaged in becomes extremely important. God is a necessity not a passing fad that can be escaped. In order to better understand the world beyond the physical description of the world by science.

The question, "why?" has not and will never escape my mind. I now just have an answer to rely on when I cannot find an answer. The answer is a God.

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 regis- tration 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
	<ul> <li>YOGA ABHYAS FOR HEALTH, HAPPINESS &amp; GOD REALIZATION: A program for adults on Yogasana, Pranayam &amp; Meditation.</li> <li>First Sunday: 9:30 -11:30 a.m. at our Mandir Contact: Virendra Gupta @ (856) 424-9313</li> <li>GITA STUDY GROUP:</li> <li>Every Tuesday &amp; Wednesday, 8-9 p.m. at our Mandir Contact: Sharad Pimplaskar @ (856) 985-4785</li> <li>BHAJANS &amp; STUTI:</li> <li>Every Friday, 7:30-9 p.m.</li> </ul>

#### 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 check temple availability at <u>www.indiatemple.org</u>; Click on "CALENDAR tab" and, from drop-down menu, Click on "EVENT/RENTAL CALENDAR". Please contact Smt. Chetna Giyanani or Shri. Ishwar Chauhan 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			
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	OTHER CHARGES		
Satyanarayan Puja	\$121	\$151			
Engagement Ceremony	\$101	\$201	MILEAGE TIER		
Havan/Grah Shanti	\$201	\$251			
Vastu Puja - outside service only	N/A	\$251	\$0 for 1 - 25 mile radius		
Sunderkand Path	\$151				
Wedding Grah Shanti	\$201	\$301	\$51 for 26 - 100 mile radius		
Wedding Ceremony per day	\$301	\$351	\$101 for 101 - 150 mile radius		
Upanayan/Yagnopavita	\$251	\$301			
Antim Rites (Funeral Service) Volunta		ation	\$151 for 151 - 200 mile radius		
Uttar Kriya per day - outside service only	N/A N/A	\$101 \$351	NON-MEMBER		
Yagna/Laghu Rudra - outside service only Navchandi Yagna - outside service only	N/A N/A	\$351 \$651	\$51 for non-member surcharge		

## 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

#### 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



President Rina Patel 1-855-my-mandir x 710 president@indiatemple.org

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Religious Services Facility Rental Temple Manager Chetna Giyanani Ishwar Chauhan 1-855-my-mandir x 1 manager@indiatemple.org

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

## India Temple Association, Inc.

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PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IF IT SHOWS "EXPIRED" OR YEAR MARKED 2011 OR EARLIER IN ADDRESS LABEL

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