

Samarpan

an offering....

Hindu Samaj Temple of Minnesota

Oct, 2012

President's Note

Dear Community Members,

Namaste!

Deepavali Greetings to You and Your Family!

I am very happy to see that *Samarpan*, the Hindu Samaj Temple and Cultural Center's Newsletter/magazine is being revived. *Samarpan* will help facilitate the accomplishment of the Temple and Cultural Center's stated threefold goals: a) To enhance knowledge of Hindu Religion and Indian Culture. b) To make the practice of Hindu Religion and Culture accessible to all in the community. c) To advance the appreciation of Indian culture in the larger community. We thank the team for taking up this important initiative and wish them and the magazine the Very Best!

The coming year promises to be an exciting one for the Temple. We look forward to greater and expanded religious and cultural activities and most importantly, the prospect of buying land for building a formal Hindu Temple!

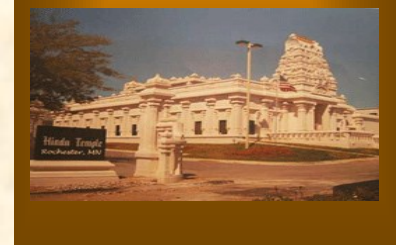
Yes, we are very close to signing a purchase agreement with Bank to purchase ~8 acres of land in NE Rochester! It has required time, patience and perseverance, but we strongly believe it will be well worth the wait. As soon as we have made the purchase we will call a meeting of the community to discuss our vision for future and how we can collectively get there. We would greatly welcome your feedback. So stay tuned...

Best wishes for the festive season!

Sincerely,

Suresh Chari

President, Hindu Samaj Temple



Wish you all a Very Happy Diwali

Editor's Note**By Rajani Sohni**

Welcome back to all our readers! After a long hiatus, we are bringing *Samarpan* back to life. We hope that the newsletter will serve as a forum, bringing you closer to our community with the exchange of ideas, energy and information related to Hinduism, India, and its cultural diversity. *Samarpan* hopes to be a platform to display and share talents and accomplishments from members of our community.

While the magazine has been inactive for over a year, our Temple continues to expand and flourish thanks to the patronage of our community members. Many religious and cultural events have taken place over the past year. Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations were conducted in September, and Navratri events are drawing to a close with Ayudha Puja and Vijaydashami celebrations at the temple this week. Diwali is just around the corner, and children and adults alike are looking forward to fun-filled festivities to be held in our community.

There are many different groups and classes that meet at the temple on a weekly or monthly basis. Some of these groups are: Balagokulam group, Gita discussion group, Yoga and Bharatanatyam classes, Malayalam school, Rochester Vidyalaya Dance and Music classes, Lalitha Sahasranamam group. Contributions highlighting activities of each group are welcome and we will make every effort to include them in *Samarpan*. In addition, we plan to share upcoming events at the temple, as well as provide a recap of the events that have taken place. A monthly calendar of temple and temple sponsored events will be published in the newsletter.

Thank you to all our past contributors and we hope to continue the trend by encouraging more of our community members to submit articles to *Samarpan*. This is your platform and your magazine and we welcome your feedback. Please send your contributions and feedback to the following e-mail address: editors@histemplemn.org.

Wishing you all good health and happiness during the Festive season!

Namaste: The Significance behind an Ancient Yogic Greeting**By Amrita Bhagia**

Namaste. Namaskar. These words have been used for centuries as the traditional Indian way to greet one another no matter of what gender, age, or social status. Namaste (or Namaskar) is performed by bringing both palms of the hands together in front of the heart, and lightly bowing the head. It is one of the few Sanskrit words commonly recognized across the globe. Namaste divides into the two Sanskrit words *Nama*, meaning to bend or bow, and *Te*, meaning to you. Therefore, Namaste literally means "I bow to you". Namaskar directly translates into "I bow to [your] form".

No one really knows when the ancient practice of Namaste began. However, some say it began with Krishna. Stories say that when Krishna played his mischievous pranks, he would only return stolen items when someone performed the act of Namaste. Namaste has a very deep spiritual significance. As we put our palms together, we acknowledge the divinity and sacredness within one other. By performing the traditional act of Namaste we unknowingly say, "The spirit in me respects the spirit in you," and "The divinity in me bows to the divinity in you." Through Namaste, we also express submission and humility.

Namaste is deeply rich in symbolism too. The five fingers of our left hand, representing the five senses of karma, and the five fingers of our right hand, representing the five organs of knowledge, blend together. This shows that our karma and actions must be in complete harmony with wisdom and knowledge, telling us to act and think correctly. As we bring our palms together, we also symbolize the coming together of many dual elements such as man and woman, heaven and earth, sun and moon, and mind and body. In Namaste, when we count the fingers of our right and left hands, we reach a total of ten. The number ten symbolizes perfection and unity, which we all strive to achieve. This simple Indian greeting has a great significance that acknowledges the many truths of life.

Compiled from various sources.



Quiz :

Navratri Quiz (compiled from various sources)

1. Which of these is not one of the Nava Durgas?

- A. Kalaratri B. Katyayini C. Kamakhya D. Kushmanda

2. Which of these is not one of the 8 siddhis of Siddhidatri?

- A. Garima B. Mahima C. Anima D. Ishima

3. Which weapon was given by Yamraj to Goddess Durga to fight Mahishasura?

- A. Axe B. Rod C. Sword D. Thunderbolt

4. Four of the Shakti Peethas are located at which of these places in India:

A. Tripura, Ubali, Kaalighat, Magadh

B. Mithila, Jwalamukhi, Mansa, Mathura

C. Karnat, Kanchi, Somnath, Magadh

D. Kurukshetra, Varanasi , Madurai , Kaanchi

5. The Shakti Peethas in Bangladesh are located at which of these places.

A. Jayanti, Behalia, Kmarkhara, Jessore

B. Jessore, Jayanti, Chittagong , Sylhet

C. Sylhet, Moishkhal, Behalia, Jessore

D. Hidagari, Jayanti, Chittagong , Shibgunj

6. Which is true about Devi Mahatmya?

A. 70 shlokas in Sanskrit in Matsya Purana

B. 700 shlokas in Sanskrit in Markandeya Purana

C. 700 shlokas in Prakrit in Markandeya Purana

D. 7 shlokas in Pali in Bhagvat Purana

E. None of the above





Quiz :

7. Lakshmi's emergence is connected with the Samudra Manthan. Which of these did not emerge in this Manthan?

- A. Surbhi B. Urvashi C. Rambha D. Varuni

8. When Goddess Lakhmi appeared out of the sea of milk, she was named Gajalakshmi because,

- A. Her gait was like an elephant's.
B. She was mounted on an elephant.
C. Elephants sprinkled water on her.
D. She carried elephant's tusk in her hand.

9. Which script was supposed to have been invented by Goddess Saraswati?

- A. Pali B. Indus C. Kharoshti D. Devanagri

10. In which of the following Shakti Peethas, the Devi's three eyes are worshipped?

- A. Devi Kotari of Hingula, Pakistan
B. Devi Vramori of Janosthan, India
C. Devi Indrakshi of Lanka, Sri Lanka
D. Devi Mohismordini of Sarkara, Pakistan

11. Which of these options has four of the ten Mahavidyas.

- A. Kali, Tara, Sodasi, Sunanda
B. Bhairavi, Bagla, Matangi, Kali
C. Tara, Bhuvaneshwari, Barahi, Kamla
D. Chinnamasta, Tara, Kalika, Bahula

12. Which of the statements does not apply to Mata Vaishno Devi?

- A. Devi's childhood name was Trikuta.
B. Devi assumed the form of Mahakali to kill Bhairav Nath.





Quiz :

C. Devi exists in the form of Pindis.

D. Devi was devoted to Lord Shiva.

13. In her first birth Devi was called

A. Uma B. Parvati C. Sati D. Gauri

14. Why is Devi called Durga?

A. She protects the entrances (durgs).

B. She slayed the demon Durga.

C. She was named so by Lord Shiva.

D. She stayed in a place called Durg.

Hope you enjoyed the quiz! Following are some of the celebrations associated with Navratri – Garba, Dassera, Vijaya-dashami, Bommai Kolu (Golu), Rangoli.

Persons to answer all questions accurately will be named in the next issue along with correct answers. E-mail your answers back to quizmaster@histemplemn.org with the title "Food for Thought". In case of more than one winner, there will be a drawing held at a public function in our temple.

Laughter the best medicine

-Unni





**Rochester Vidhyalaya and
Hindu Samaj Temple Presents**

Festival of Lights – Diwali 2012

Century High School
Auditorium, Rochester, MN
SUNDAY NOV 4, 2012
1130 AM TO 6 PM

Tickets (\$3 more at Gate)
General Admission - \$20
Student (4-12) Senior (>65) - \$15
**(includes admission, hot lunch,
live program, evening snacks,
Dance floor)**

**Purchase tickets at Rice & Spice or
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Phone: 507-867-8768**

