



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. 40 No. 11 Phone: (855) MYMANDIR (855-696-2634) www.indiatemple.org NOVEMBER 2013

Religious Calendar

November 04 Monday

- Vikram Samvat, New Year

November 05 Tuesday

- Bhai Bhij

November 07 Thursday

- Labh Panchami

November 13 Wednesday

- Dev Prabodhini—
Ekadashi—Tulsi Vivah in
Mandir

November 16 Saturday

- Sundarkand Path in
Mandir

November 17 Sunday

- Dev Diwali—Purnima—
Shri Guru Nanak Jayanti—
Satyanarayana Katha in
Mandir

November 29 Friday

- Utpati Ekadashi

Monthly Activities

November 01, Friday

- Vishnu Sahasranama
Parayanam @8:00 PM
Kshama Raghuveer (610) 642-2875

November 16, Saturday

Sundarkand Path @ 10:00 AM

November 17, Sunday

**Shri Satyanarayan Pooja
@3:30 PM**

Monthly Bhajan

November 15 Friday, 8-9 p.m.

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

November 22, Friday, 8-9pm

Shree Ji Bhajan Group
contact: Urmi Upadhyay (856) 424-
9328; Charu Sheth (856) -662-8754

Diwali Celebration at Berlin Mandir

DHAN TERAS PUJA

Friday, November 01, 6:00 p.m.

Please call Kshama Raghuveer at 610-642-2875 or Binduben at 856-768-6785 to participate as
PUJA YAJMAN



DIWALI CELEBRATION W/ANNAKOOT

Sunday, November 03 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Initiation of Diwali Celebration will be with **Laxmi Pujan** at 6:00 p.m. Upon completion of Puja, Temple will host Bhajan Program along with **ANNAKOOT**.



FIRST AARTI: 8:00 P.M.****SECOND AARTI: 9:30 P.M.

Please call 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.

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.

- | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|--------|
| • Patel Lalit | Nov 01 Dixit Mahesh | Nov 18 |
| • Puttaswamy Dunthur | Nov 02 Patel Bimal | Nov 18 |
| • Gupta Roopali. | Nov 04 Dixit Mahesh | Nov 20 |
| • Ravani Kishan | Nov 05 Patel Jagdishver | Nov 21 |
| • Maheswari Arun | Nov 09 Shah Nagindas/Champaben | Nov 22 |
| • Desai Barbara | Nov 11 Patel Kusum N. | Nov 24 |
| • Bagaria Surendra | Nov 15 Patel Kusum N. | Nov 28 |
| | Patel Rital | Nov 28 |

Condolences

Lata Pimplaskar's oldest brother Shri Ashokbhai (Dada) Kadam passed away in Baroda, India on September 29th at the age of 76.

ITA and its Board extend their sincere condolences to Pimplaskar's family.

Senior Citizens' Program

Thursday November 14, 6:30 pm to 9:15 pm and Thursday November 24, 4.00 pm to 9:00 pm

Nov. 14: Executive Council Elections and Annakoot Celebration: Our Executive Council has ten members and we will elect them during our meeting at the Berlin Hindu Temple. The ten positions are: President, Vice-President, and eight secretaries for: Proceedings & Records; Funds & Audits; Support & Volunteers; Culture & Recreation; Food & Nutrition; Excursions; Health & Welfare; and Education & Information. All Senior Citizen members are urged to attend the meeting and participate in this bi-annual democratic event. The elected individuals will meet qualifications in accordance with the By-Laws and will serve various programs and affairs of the Association for the next two years (2014-15). This is your opportunity to strengthen and improve our Association by electing those who possess aptitude and meet your high standards.

For our *Annakoot* celebration, all attending the meeting are expected to bring one food item enough for about ten persons. Food is considered one of the highest donations (*Daan*) one can make. Please call and coordinate with Mrs. Sushila D. Patel (856- 269-0367), our Food & Nutrition Secretary or the undersigned.

Nov. 24: Annual Function: Our Annual Function 2013 will be at the Palace of Asia Banquet-Conference Room, 2389 Marlton Pike (Route 70) West, Cherry Hill, 08002 (behind America's Best Value Inn). The event is fully sponsored by Dr. Rajendra Patel & Mrs. Nancy Patel. The program will start at 4 pm with the arrival of our members and guests, followed by Welcome, Introduction, and Address, and the buffet dinner (5 to 6 pm). This will be followed by musical program by Dr. Raj Patel's *SurSagar* Group.

A prior registration is mandatory. There will be a small registration charge (donation) of \$5/- per person; the entire proceeds will go toward the design, development, hosting, marketing, and maintenance of our website **HinduSeniors.org**. The registration has already started on September 26 and will continue on our meeting dates (Oct. 17, Oct. 31, and Nov. 14) on a first-come first-served basis. Seats are still available.

Reminder: Our Dues are going up! Beginning January 1, 2014, the life membership will go up from \$ 20 to \$ 50 and the yearly membership to \$5.

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

Free Notary Service

The following ITA members provide free notary service to our community.

- Ghanshyam Dave of Marlton, (H) 856-596-7531 ghanu44@aol.com
- Raman Modhera of Voorhees (H) 856-424-5509 rvmodhera@gmail.com
- Dalpat Patel of Columbus (H) 609-298-2724 imperialin@aol.com
- Suraj B Singh of Washington Township (H) 856-582-5035 sbsingh1@hotmail.com

ITA sincerely thanks them for providing such service free of cost.

Bal Vihar

Vikram Meyyappan

On October 13th, we started another auspicious day by chanting powerful slokas and mantras. After chanting these mantras, Lata-ji told us about Dashera and Navaratri and about its importance and why it is celebrated. Dashera is the day good wins over evil. Lata-ji elaborated on Navaratri, the 9 days Ram prays to Goddesses Durga, Lakshmi, and Saraswati, and how it is celebrated all over India. After Lata-ji's much informative talk we chanted Mantra Pushpam and recited more slokas and mantras before the aarathi.

Later, we had classes and yoga. The kids had a great time in class and in yoga with Bharat-ji.

After that, we had lunch. The lunch was pasta, and the kids and parents enjoyed it.

It was another great day indeed at Balvihar.

ITA Yuva Darshan

By

Sanjana Kondapalli

The year kicked off for the Youth program on September 8th with the Ganesh puja. It was performed by all kids to remove obstacles from our daily lives. With a new year of Youth group, we all needed to get to know each other. We played a fun icebreaker activity to break the awkwardness among us.

This year, youth program lunches include food from Domino's, Subway, and Taco Bell. Indian food will only be served on Indian festivals.

To start off the session on September 22nd, we recited the shlokas and warmed up our muscles with yoga. After that, guest speakers Parth Chauhan and Radha Mehta (former youth students who graduated in 2009) spoke to us about how great the Youth program is. Praveen uncle launched our first discussion circle about how God is everywhere. Thanks to Praveen uncle, I learned something new. We finished off the session with aarti and pizza from Domino's.

Our next Youth program session was on October 13th. We began with reciting shlokas that was lead by Priest Shri Sudhir Jha. After that we stretched our bodies to the limit with yoga taught by Ameya Krishanan and Anil Enum. Past Youth student Mitali Raval spent part of her day with us. She helped us customize our Youth sessions into what we want it to be, though the educational part will remain the same. Thanks to Mitali for making an effort to make Youth sessions more enjoyable. Parth Chauhan returned to help promote a walk-a-thon to help raise money for children in India who need an education. As usual we ended the Youth session with aarathi and a generous lunch that was sponsored by Rajesh and Shilpa Bhatt. Thanks for the delicious lunch. Happy Dussehra to all!!!

Tulsi Vivah on Wednesday, November 13 from 5 PM to 9 PM

Please join us with family and friends for Tulsi Vivah on November 13. We will be celebrating the marriage of Sri Krishna with Tulsi. We will have fun starting with arrival of the Barat, followed by the wedding inside the temple. Children and parents will sing and dance during the program on this happy occasion. The groom (Shilpa Bhuta's family) and bride (Sumi Patel's family) are sponsoring this Event. We will have Aarti at 8 PM, followed by Mahaprasad.

2013 Navaratri—An ITA Landmark



2013 Navratri, an ITA landmark event, was a grand success in regards to participation and revenue.

This success is due to tireless efforts by selfless volunteers and their spouses, covering initial planning stage through completion, including but not limited to Local artists, Front desk and entrance management, Prasad distribution, garlands preparation for Goddess, providing tea, Dunkin', munchkins, and snacks for volunteers, Aarti management, Aarti Hosts, various donors and sponsors, all priests services, maintaining security at parking area and inside discipline to name a few. The list goes on and on. We thank every one of you sincerely.

ITA is also thankful to outside artists (from India), Moorestown Board of education and Palace of Asia for their timely services.

Last but not least, ITA appreciates all the participants, from one year old to 85 plus years old traveling from within a mile distance of event location, as well as from Pennsylvania, Delaware, Atlantic city, North and Central Jersey and Long Island.

As outlined in our policy, ITA also appreciates following families for donating \$1000 and up.

Dr Pradipbhai and Ilaben Patel, Gopalbhai and Geetaben Patel, Ashvinbhai and Arunaben Patel, Thakorabhai and Neemaben Dahya.

Devang Parikh, Navratri Committee Chair

ITA participates in Voorhees Township International Day Celebrations by Chetna Giyanani

India Temple Association participated in the International Day Celebration, organized by Camden County Freeholder Board, in association with the Voorhees Township Cultural and Diversity Advisory Committee and the Camden County Human Relations Commission on Saturday, Oct 12, 2013. A culmination of pageantry, entertainment, and food, it was a great opportunity to celebrate Camden County's diversity and understand and appreciate its rich cultural background.

ITA's display of prominent Indian artifacts attracted many visitors to explore our Indian culture and heritage. At the parade, the Indian Tiranga was followed by the participants and volunteers all dressed in colorful Indian costumes from North, South, East & West regions of India. The Bengali Dance, Gujarati RaasGarba, Marathi Lavni, Bollywood Dance, Mehendi Art, Flute & Tabla recital, Saree draping session, all showcased a myriad of expressions of India's heritage and tradition at the event.

The event surely opened many doors and windows of opportunity for citizens to come and learn about some of the different nations and cultures represented in the population of Camden County. ITA looks forward to being a part of the International Day Celebrations every year. Our sincere gratitude to INDIAN VILLA, PALACE OF ASIA, & RAJBHOG for donating the sumptuous food that tickled the taste buds of many. To all the participants and volunteers a big THANK YOU, for participating with ITA and making this a successful event!!

Seva Samiti Update

by Chetna Giyanani

On October 12th, 2013 ITA Seva Samiti in coordination with SAMAR - South Jersey Marrow Association of Recruiters, a partner of Be the Match Organization, the national bone marrow registry, conducted a Bone Marrow Drive to sign up volunteers to donate bone marrow. **We sincerely thank the 11 volunteers who joined the registry that night and hope they will be able to help save one life at a time!**

To raise the awareness in the community we are sharing some of the questions raised at the drive. Hope this educates all, and encourages everyone to become a part of the Bone Marrow Registry!

What is Bone Marrow?

Bone marrow is a spongy material found inside your bones. The bone marrow contains immature stem cells, which can develop into three different types of blood cells:

- Red blood cells to carry oxygen to your body
- Platelets to help your blood clot, when needed

White blood cells to help fight infection

It is the stem cells in your bone marrow that can benefit the transplant recipient.

In the past, donation of stem cells from bone marrow involved minor surgery to draw marrow from your hipbones. Stem cells were then collected from the donated marrow. Today the most common way of collecting the stem cells is by filtering them directly from your blood. Doctors call this procedure peripheral blood stem cell donation, but many people still refer to it as bone marrow donation, even though bone marrow isn't directly involved.

Who can donate Bone Marrow?

All healthy individuals between the ages of 18 and 44 years are eligible to register. If you have been tested earlier, you are in the registry and do not have to be tested again.

Why volunteer to Donate Bone Marrow?

Right now some patients from our community are battling life-threatening diseases like leukemia. An illness so critical, the only hope for cure is a marrow/blood cell transplant. As per statistics from Leukemia Lymphoma Society,

- **Approximately every 4 minutes someone is diagnosed with leukemia, lymphoma or myeloma.** Finding a matching donor for a transplant is not always easy, or even possible. Since tissue types are inherited, patients from the same race are more likely to find an appropriate match within the same community. **Today there simply are not enough viable donors registered to help these patients.**

- The National registry has over 10.5 million registered potential donors, **but only 30% are from the South Asians and other minorities in this pool.**

50% of our patients do not find a matched donor for a cure, and lose their battle with this fatal blood disease.

Some people in need of a bone marrow stem cell transplant don't have any family members with compatible bone marrow. These people often turn to the National Marrow Donor Program to find a compatible donor. The donor program keeps a database of volunteers who are willing to donate their bone marrow to strangers.

Please consider registering to be a donor so that you can help other people in need of a bone marrow stem cell transplant. Even if you weren't a match for your family member, you may be a match for a stranger

When & Where can you sign up in a Bone Marrow Registry?

Look out for details about our next Bone Marrow Drive and come join the registry! Together we can help & bring a smile back to life, and save one life at a time!

** Some of the content in this article was provided by MayoClinic.com

**Swami Vivekanand Book Reading
Monday(s) 8-9 pm**

To commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Swami Vivekanand, our mandir has started a book club with reading **every Monday** from **8-9 PM**. Our reading in English, is punctuated with important notes and highlights bringing him to life! This is open for all ages. Currently, we started a book entitled "**Selection from Complete Works of Swami Vivekanand**". We have completed all twelve chapters of book entitled "A Short Life of Swami Vivekananda" published by Advaita Ashram.

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 gandhiveenaom@yahoo.com

Dear Members,

It is my pleasure to announce to every one of ITA's members that The ITA General Body will meet on December 15th 2013, 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, Trustee Elections will be held, followed by reports from current ITA President and Treasurer.

ITA GENERAL BODY MEETING & ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

To be held on December 15, 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, 2013. Nomination forms can be downloaded from www.indiatemple.org. Please return completed and signed form to ITA Election Committee, PO Box 1877, Voorhees, NJ, 08043 or you can email your form to Electioncom@indiatemple.org. All emails and forms must be received by November 30 2013. Questions, please contact Election Committee: Phone: 1-(855) MY MAN-DIR (855-696-2634) x 715, Email Electioncom@indiatemple.org or visit www.indiatemple.org.

Further requirements for the nomination include valid membership for the year 2012 and 2013, 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 Constitution and Bylaws

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO BECOME TRUSTEE OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT Rina Patel Electioncom@indiatemple.org.

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

Gopal Patel (F)
Dinesh Depani (E)
Chetna Giyanani (W)
Devang Parikh (E)
Lalit Patel (O)

Following Trustees are not eligible for re-election due to their three consecutive terms expiry by December 31, 2013

Dahya Patel (F)
Ramesh Viswanathan (S)
Rina Patel (L)

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

Sincerely,
Rina Patel

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: Praveen Garg at (856) 783-4692 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 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	
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		\$151 for 151 - 200 mile radius
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	
			TEMPLE FACILITIES USAGE FEE
			Prayer Hall: \$200
			Social Hall: \$300
			OTHER CHARGES
			MILEAGE AND TRAVEL TIME TIER
			\$0 for 1 - 25 mile radius
			\$51 for 26 - 100 mile radius
			\$101 for 101 - 150 mile radius
			\$151 for 151 - 200 mile radius
			NON-MEMBER
			\$51 for non-member surcharge

NOTE: Charges and availability of other Puja Services not listed above may be discussed with Smt. Charu Sheth 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



India Temple Association, Inc.

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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: _____