

*uddhared ātmanātmānam
nātmānam avasādayet
ātmaiva hyātmano bandhur
ātmaiva ripur ātmanaḥ*

Elevate yourself through the power of your mind, and not degrade yourself, for the mind can be the friend and also the enemy of the self. (*Bhagavad Gita, 6:5*)

Monthly Sadhana:

True peace of mind is gained by sacrificing our lower tendencies for higher ideals; however, this requires mental strength. We can gain the mental strength required for the spiritual path by choosing simple, meaningful goals for ourselves and succeeding in achieving them. For the next month, choose any one simple habit of yours that wastes time and commit to reducing the amount of time spent on it. Examples include:

- Spending less than an hour a day on social media / T.V.
- Keeping showers under 15 min.
- Waking up 30 min. earlier each day

Upcoming Events:

Dec 02- Karthikai Deepam

Annabhisheka

Dec 03- Sarvalaya Deepam

Dec 15- Dhanurmasa Puja begins

Dec 18- Hanuman Jayanti (Tamil)

Dec 23- Sastha Preethi

Ayyappa Padi Puja

Dec 29- Vaikunta Ekadasi

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VĀGVĀNĪ



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The official newsletter of Śrī Mātā Hindu Temple.



Navarātrī Mahotsava!



Mata Jagran was a grand all-night vigil consisting of devotional songs, dance and Puja for Mata and was observed on September 23rd as a part of the Navaratri celebrations. We had devotees from the community as well as outside of the Triad choosing to stay overnight and be a part of the divine atmosphere. Mata was welcomed and taken out on a palanquin procession to the sounds of Nadaswaram and Thavil – the divine instruments for traditional festivals. Apart from a whole night of singing Bhajans, there were also cultural performances by kids from the community. Over 600 devotees were thought to have attended the event with Prasad freshly cooked and served to all. As a fund-raising event, the Mata Jagran team was able to raise \$75,000 from this event alone.

Sri Mata's Garba Griha was beautifully decorated and a Golu (doll and figurine display) was set up. Sahasranama recital, multi-cultural programs and Garba were part of the daily festivities over the nine days, and it culminated with a special Puja and Abhisheka on the tenth day-Vijayadashami. Bathukamma Sambaralu was one of the many special events celebrated during Navaratri. On an average 50+ devotees participated on individual days of Navaratri with 120+ on Ashtami and Navami.

October / November Events- “A Snapshot”

Diwali

Diwali was celebrated over 3 consecutive days from October 18-20. The Temple was lit up with lights for the joyous occasion and it was a treat for the eyes. Govardhana Puja and Samuhika Lakshmi Puja were conducted as part of the celebrations. It is worth noting that Sri Mata Hindu Temple was invited to participate in the first official Diwali Day Celebration at the Governor’s Mansion and SMHT was present at the signing of the Diwali Day Proclamation by Governor Roy Cooper. It was a proud moment for SMHT and the Hindu community in North Carolina!



Karwa Chauth

Karwa Chauth is a festival in which married women fast from sunrise to sunset and pray for the good health of their husbands. This year Karwa Chauth was observed on October 8 and special arrangements were made at the Temple premises for women who wanted to observe this fast. Separate stations with Aarati thalis and Puja items were set up and it turned out to be a truly satisfying experience for those who performed the Puja and for all those who participated.



Skanda Shasti

This is a day dedicated to the second son of Lord Shiva – Lord Subramanya also known as Karthikeya or Muruga. It falls on the sixth day (shasti) after Amavasya in the month of October-November and commemorates the destruction of evil by the Supreme Being. This year Skanda Shasti fell on October 25 and special Panchamrutha Abhisheka and Puja was performed at our Temple as part of the occasion.



October / November Events- “A Snapshot”

Karthika Masa Puja

Karthika Masa is auspicious for both Shaiva and Vaishnava devotees. Devotees engage in month-long prayers and observe various rituals and customs. Karthika Masa is the favorite month for Lord Shiva amongst all 12 months. During Karthika Masa, the devotee embraces the Truth that there is no difference between Lord Vishnu and Lord Shiva and that both are One. It is considered auspicious to light a Diya in front of the Tulasi plant and/or near the entrance of the house before sunset during Karthika Masa. The full moon day of the Karthika Masa of the lunar calendar is one of the most auspicious days. Deva Diwali is celebrated in Varanasi and other northern parts of India. It is believed that Lord Shiva killed Tripurasura on Karthika Purnima and Gods celebrated by lighting Diyas. Our Temple conducted Karthika Somavara Puja every Monday during Karthika Masa as well as on Pradosham days. We celebrated Karthika Purnima at our temple on November 3rd by lighting 365 Diyas in the unique shape of a Shiva Linga and performed Jyotirlinga Archana.



Gayatri Maha Yagna

Goddess Gayatri is considered to be the Creator of Life, Slayer of Sorrow, Bestower of Happiness and Creator of the Universe. Chanting Her holy mantra and offering our prayers to Her is extremely auspicious and soul-satisfying. In collaboration with the Gayatri Pariwar of Charlotte, our Temple conducted a 24 Kund Gayathri Maha Yagna on November 11th. Initially planned as a 9 Kund Yagna, it was increased to 24 after the tremendous response from the community. Despite cold weather, devotees came in large numbers to participate in the event and receive Her Blessings.

Upcoming Events- “A Preview”



Hanuman Jayanti (Tamil)

The Hanuman avatar is considered as the 11th Rudra avatar of the Lord Shiva and is the embodiment of devotion, strength, knowledge, divine power, bravery, intelligence, and spirit of selfless service—all of which is directed towards the service of Lord Rama and Mother Sita. We will be conducting Hanuman Jayanti Puja and chanting Hanuman Chalisa at our Temple on December 18.

Ayyappa Mandala Padi Puja

Lord Ayyappa is also known as 'Hariharaputra,' which literally means the son of both 'Hari' (Vishnu) and 'Hara' (Shiva). Sabarimala is the holy temple in Kerala where Lord Ayyappa presides. Devotees planning for a pilgrimage to Sabarimala will observe a 41-day penance before visiting Him. During their penance, they should continuously contemplate on the Divine, treating everyone as Lord Ayyappa Himself, while living a life of peace, righteousness, and compassion. They will often wear saffron, blue, or black clothes during this time, grow out their facial hair, sleep on the ground, and only eat food that is cooked in their home as a part of their austerities. The annual pilgrimage to Sabarimala runs from November 16 to January 14. Our Temple will have weekly Ayyappa puja on Saturdays at 6.30 pm starting November 18th and a Grand Ayyappa Mandala Padi Puja has been scheduled for December 23rd.



Vaikuntha Ekadashi

It is believed that the Vaikuntha Dwaram or the gate to Heaven is opened on this day. Devotees who observe fast and contemplate upon the Lord sincerely attain salvation by entering through the North gate of the Temple which is opened once a year on this day. Vaikuntha Ekadashi is very important day for Tirumala Venkateswara Temple at Tirupati and Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple at Srirangam. We will be celebrating Vaikuntha Ekadashi at our Temple on December 29 beginning with a 5:00 AM procession of the Lord into the Vaikuntha Dwaram (North gate). Devotees will then follow the Lord into Vaikuntha as is the custom.

Construction Updates

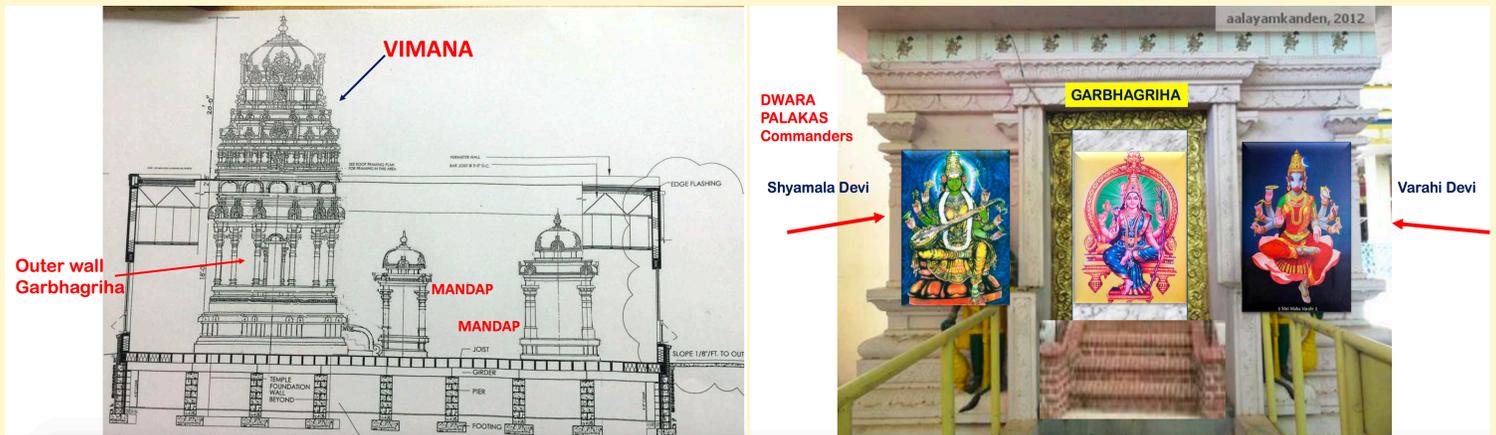
Having received the Occupancy Certificate, we have been able to organize and celebrate religious festivals and events at our Temple! The community has come together in large numbers to support each and every festival that we have celebrated at the Temple! Volunteers have been opening the Temple everyday during the times below. If you have any questions, please contact 336-LOK-MATA (336-565-6282).

SRI MATA HINDU TEMPLE IS NOW OPEN EVERYDAY!

Monday to Friday: 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM
Saturday and Sunday: 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM

“What is Indianization?”

Our Sthapathi made his first official visit to the Temple during the second week of November to discuss architectural plans with the Board and Construction Team. The orders for the Deities have already been placed and work has begun in India! The Visas for ten Shilpis are currently being processed so as to begin the Indianization as soon as possible. The Board is currently planning the Pratistha Mahotasava and Kumbhabhisekha and we need ALL your support! The sponsorship forms for this once in a lifetime event will soon be coming out so please stay on the lookout! The vision that we have been nurturing for the past three years is finally coming to fruition step-by-step and day-by-day!



GOSHTA DEVATAS OUTER WALLS OF GARBHAGRIHA --- 18



OUTER WALLS OF GARBHAGRIHA



VIMANA -- ON TOP OF GARBHAGRIHA

Śrī Mātā Senā's Volunteers of the Month

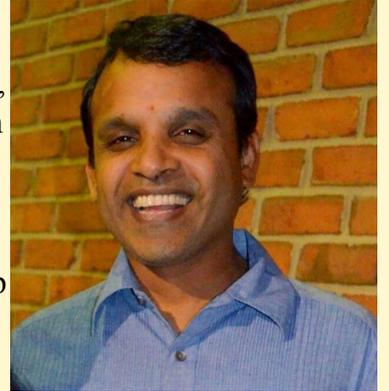
SANTOSH BIDE



Santosh Bide is a Founder Trustee of SMHT. He was one of the first members to come forward and acknowledge that there is a need for a Temple in Winston-Salem. Santosh is a regular volunteer of the Temple and he helps with everything from setup to clean up to managing the parking lot. Apart from these activities, Santosh also takes care of a large portion of the administrative work of the Temple such as handling Duke Energy, IRS tax filing, police presence during special events, and relationships with the nearby community and churches. Santosh is a silent volunteer and rarely takes the spotlight; however, during every event, he is present helping outside or wherever need. You can catch Santosh every Thursday evening at the Temple where he leads mediation and Shirdi Sai Baba Aarati. He is a great asset to the Board of Trustees and deeply dedicated to SMHT. SMHT Board is proud to recognize Santosh Bide as the “Volunteer of the Month.” May Sri Mata bless him and his family with good health and happiness always.

RAMANATHAN SANTHANAGOPALAN

Ramanathan Santhanagopalan is one of the Board of Directors of SMHT. He is an all-rounder and any work can be assigned to him with full faith that it will be completed successfully! He has been volunteering in setup, religious rituals, pujas, clean up, and administrative work since the beginning of the Temple. Ramanathan is deeply committed to participating and supporting the religious events of the Temple and he is always present to lead the Puja in strict accordance with scriptural injunction. Soft-spoken and cheerful, Ramanathan does not care for appreciation nor does he expect thanks—he always says we should do our worship to God with sincerity regardless of what people say. Ramanathan will be at the Temple on Monday and Friday evenings to perform Shiva Abhisheka and Mata Abhisheka. SMHT Board is proud to recognize Ramanathan Santhanagopalan as the “Volunteer of the Month.” May Sri Mata bless him and his family with good health and happiness always.



HEMANT RAMASWAMI



Hemant is one of the Board of Directors and a dedicated volunteer of SMHT. Since 2013 he has been volunteering in setup, religious rituals, pujas, clean up, and administrative work such as helping the temple with IRS filing, county taxes, tax refunds, etc. Hemant has always been a reliable presence from the very beginning and the Board knows that he is just a call away! During major Pujas, he is an active participant and supports the religious committee in their endeavors. Hemant is insightful and makes valuable suggestions during meetings, always keeping the community and the growth of the Temple in mind. His foresight and positivity is deeply appreciated by one and all. SMHT Board is proud to recognize Hemant Ramaswami as the “Volunteer of the Month.” May Sri Mata bless him and his family with good health and happiness always.

Editor's Desk

Article Submission

We are accepting written submissions (200 – 250 words) on religion and spirituality as well as reflections on SMHT's events. All age groups are encouraged to contribute. Content will be subject to edits. Please email your submissions to: info@matahindutemple.org.

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