

HARI Times...

SITA-RAMA * RADHE-SHYAM

February-March 2004

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President:

Mr. Subodh Patil 731-9398

Sr. Vice President:

Mrs. Priti Patel 732-2345

Secretary:

Mr. Srini Subramanian 730-7168

Treasurer:

Mr. Ujjwal Mittal 731-9269

Vice Presidents:

Mrs. Swapna Dasgupta 763-1110

Mrs. Mauha Long 361-1507

Dr. Mohit Parikh 728-9762

Mrs. Gita Sakaria 558-8296

Mr. Bipin Shah 741-9550

School Director:

Dr. Mukul Parikh 728-9801

School Youth Forum Director:

Mr. Haresh Bharucha 975-3432

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Chairman:

Mr. Ashok Shukla 737-1919

Members:

Dr. Ramesh Bhatia 560-1405

Mrs. Rekha Arora 761-5225

Dr. Ganesh Bal 732-0213

Mr. Narendra Desai 741-4737

Dr. Nirmal Joshi 541-0363

Dr. Ray Kathiresan 790-0786

Mrs. Sukanya Mukherjee 761-7927

Mr. Naran Patel 540-0352

Dr. V. C. Shah 732-6454

MAHA SHIVARATRI

Saturday, February 21, 2004

Shiva Puja & Dinner: 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm
Dinner Prasad Sponsored by Rekha & Ramesh Arora
Followed by Bhajans by Dr. Usha Bhargave

HOLI

Sunday, March 7, 2004

Variety program by Children: 10:30 am
Aarti: 12:00 Noon, Followed by Lunch Prasad

MUSICAL & BHAJANS PROGRAM

Saturday, March 13, 2004, starting at 4:30 pm

Presented by Jayamangala School of Arts & Music
Artists: Jayalaxmi Bala (vocal),
Sandya Srinath (Violin) & Srinath Bala (Mridangam)
Dinner Prasad Sponsored by Gayathri & Ganesh Iyer

BHAJAN-KIRTAN

Sunday, March 21, 2004

Devotional songs, Bhajans, Kirtans starting 5:00 pm
Followed by Dinner Prasad

Param Hans Saints from BAPS Edison Temple, NJ, will grace the occasion with their presence. Pl. call Pravin Patel at 766-6256 or Mahendra Patel at 766-3779 for details

GUDI PADVA

Saturday, March 27, 2004

Puja & Dinner: 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm
Dinner Prasad Sponsored by Maharashtrian Families
Followed by Cultural Program

301 Steigerwalt Hollow Road * New Cumberland * PA 17070 * (717) 774-7750

www.haritemple.org

COMMUNITY CORNER**IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION**

Priest Service Requests for outside of HARI premises	Subodh Patil
Hall Rental Requests	Subodh Patil or Anant Kulkarni
Dinner Coordinator for HARI Sponsored Programs	Priti Patel
Lunch Coordinator for HARI Sunday School	Alka Amin (540-5380)
Website Coordinator	V. C. Shah
HARI Times Editors	Hiten Amin (732-0513) Ashok Shukla

IMPORTANT COMMUNITY EVENTS

09.19.2004, Sunday	India Day (AIACPA event)
10.02.2004, Saturday	Non-Violence Day (AIACPA event)
10.15.2004, Friday & 10.16.2004, Saturday	Navaratri Mahotsav (Gujarati Samaj event)
11.20.2004, Saturday	Gujarati Samaj Diwali Dinner
12.05.2004, Sunday	AIACPA Annual Dinner

ACTUAL DATES OF MAJOR FESTIVALS

02-18-2004, Wednesday	Maha Shivaratri
03-06-2004, Saturday	Holi
03-21-2004, Sunday	Gudi Padva
03-30-2004, Tuesday	Ramanavami
04-03-2004, Saturday	Mahavir Jayanti
04-05-2004, Monday	Hanuman Jayanti
08-30-2004, Monday	Raksha Bandhan
09-07-2004, Tuesday	Krishna Jayanti
09-18-2004, Saturday	Ganesh Chauth
09-28-2004, Tuesday to 10-13-2004, Wednesday	Pitr-Paksha (Shraddh)
10-14-2004, Thursday to 10-22-2004, Friday	Navaratri Mahotsav
10-22-2004, Friday	Vijaya Dashami
10-31-2004, Sunday	Karva Chauth
11-12-2004, Friday	Deepavali (Diwali)
11-13-2004, Saturday	Vikram Samvat 2061

PRIVATE RENTALS

Sunday, March 21

Saturday, April 10

EKADASHI, PURNIMA, AND AMAWASYA DATES

	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
Shukla Ekadashi	Feb 02, Monday	Mar 02, Tuesday	Apr 01, Thursday
Krishna Ekadashi	Feb 16, Monday	Mar 17, Wednesday	Apr 15, Thursday
Purnima	Feb 06, Friday	Mar 06, Saturday	Apr 05, Monday
Amawasya	Feb 20, Friday (Darsh)	Mar 20, Saturday	Apr 19, Monday

HARI Times is a monthly publication of Hindu American Religious Institute (HARI), located at 301 Steigerwalt Hollow Road, New Cumberland, PA 17070. You may send your comments, suggestions, religious writings (original work only) and important announcements to HARI Times Editors using the address provided on the HARI website www.haritemple.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HARI Youth Committee...

The Board of Trustees in their January 11, 2004 meeting approved to form a HARI Youth Committee (HYC) as a part of HARI organization. The objective for the formation of this committee is: (1) Sharing knowledge on Temple Management, (2) Facilitating Hindu brotherhood, and (3) Encouraging volunteerism.

Hindu youths from age 13 to 24 can become a member of HYC through an enrollment process. The members of HYC will meet at least once a month at HARI. Every year, they will elect a President and a Vice President. These officers will participate as non-voting members in the Board of Trustees and Executive Committee meetings and promote active participation from HYC in the HARI operation. School Youth Forum Director will be the coordinator for HYC.

HARI School...

HARI School offers a variety of classes for children age five and above. Fees are applicable for special classes like Indian Classical Dances (conducted by Mrs. Vatsala Srinivas, the director of the Natya Kala Mandir, MD) and Indian Classical Vocal classes (conducted by Mrs. Priyambada Mishra of Mechanicsburg).

This year, the school has started a Spelling Bee chapter along with North South Foundation, a non-profit, tax-exempt, and voluntary organization that awards scholarships to exceptionally qualified but needy students in India. The Chapter announced the following regional contests for Indian American Children: (1) Junior Spelling Bee: for children born after 8/31/1995, (2) Senior Spelling Bee and/or Junior Vocabulary Contest: for children born after 8/31/1991, and (3) Senior Vocabulary Contest: for children born after 8/31/1987. One can register online at www.northsouth.org.

The contests will be held at HARI temple on Saturday, April 24, 2004. Regional winners will be invited to the National Championship Finals on August 28th & 29th in Phoenix, AZ. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd place Spelling and Vocabulary Contests winners at finals will receive scholarships \$1000.00, \$500.00 and \$250.00 respectively.

Please contact the Spelling Bee coordinators Sreedharane Krishnan at 975-2527 / sreetips@yahoo.com or Beena Krishnamurthy at 610-2743 / beena@us.ibm.com for more information.

CONGRATULATIONS

Baby Girl: Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Chirag & Nita Barot, proud parents of *ANJALI*, born on Saturday, January 3, 2004. Proud grandparents are Mr. & Mrs. Harish & Pratima Barot and Mr. & Mrs. Mahendra & Jaya Brahmbhatt.

Baby Boy: Congratulations to Dr. Piyush & Mrs. Bhakti Patel, proud parents of *NIRAV*, born on Thursday, January 15, 2004. Proud grandparents are Mr. & Mrs. Girish & Shobhana Patel.

Baby Girl: Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Anand & Smitha Shukla, proud parents of *ANJALI*, born on Friday, February 6, 2004. Proud grandparents are Mr. & Mrs. Ashok & Maya Shukla and Mr. & Mrs. Dasa & Sujatha Gangadhar.

EXTENDED SERVICES

HARI Temple offers the following services to devotees:

Temple Hours: Everyday 7:30 am to 12:30 pm, and
5:00 pm to 8:30 pm

HARI Temple Services: (no charge to devotees)

Daily Aarti: 8:00 am, 12:00 noon, and 7:00 pm
Daily morning puja: 9:00 am (Shubha Prabhatham)
Vishnu Sahasranama: Every Saturday 12:30 pm

Extended Services to devotees at HARI Temple:

Archana (in person or by mail)	...	\$10.00
Vahan (Car) Puja (in person)	...	\$21.00
NEW Satyanarayana Puja:		
Every Purnima at 7:30 pm	...	\$21.00 (sponsored by devotees)
Any day at 11:00 am	...	\$21.00 (pre-schedule with the HARI Priest)
Contact HARI Priest at 774-7750 for Satyanarayan Puja details		
Jain Swadhyaya Puja:		
Every 1 st Sunday of the month at 2:00 pm		
Contact Mrs. Pragna Shah at 697-9061 for Jain Swadhyaya details		
NEW Havan / Puja:		
Every 2 nd Sunday of the month at 5:30 pm		
Contact Mrs. Aruna Lal at 732-5899 or Mrs. Manisha Arya at 732-8079 for Havan details		
Wedding / Engagements (does not include facility rental):		
Members	...	\$151.00
Non-members	...	\$201.00
Other Ceremonies (Annaprashan, Aksharabhayanam, Namakaran, Upanayanam, etc.):		
Pre-schedule with HARI Priest	...	\$51.00

Note: 1) Timings are subject to change during festivals and special occasions.
2) Extended Services are provided only if they do not conflict with HARI scheduled programs.

Extended Services to devotees at their Homes, beyond Temple Hours only:

Any Puja or Ceremony (Gruhpravesh, Groundbreaking etc.):	
Members: \$101.00	Others: \$151.00
Wedding / Engagements:	
Members: \$151.00	Others: \$201.00
Funeral Services:	
Members: \$0.00	Others: \$51.00

Note: 1) Devotees need to pre-schedule this with HARI President and the Priest.
2) Extended Services outside of the temple premises are provided only if they do not conflict with HARI scheduled programs.
3) All Extended Services are first come, first served basis.

YOUTH FORUM

Gem from Bhagavad Gita....

*Vaasaamsi jeernaani yathaa vihaaya Navaani grihnaati naro'paraani;
Tathaa sareeraani vihaaya jeernaan Yanyaani samyaati navaani dehi*

(Chapter 2-22)

“Just as a person gives up his old clothes to put on new ones, so the embodied soul, having discarded the worn out bodies, puts on new ones.”

Who is my teacher?

Nature is one of my best teachers. I have learned:

Patience	...	from the Earth
Purity	...	from the Water
Sacrifice	...	from the Fire
Coolness	...	from the Air
Expansion	...	from the Sky
Fullness	...	from the Ocean
Cheerfulness	...	from the Children
Concentration	...	from the Olympic Winners

For those who have deeper vision, every object and event in life is a teacher-a guru

Destiny and Reason **Jyotirmayananda**

by Sri Swami

Once Destiny and Reason quarreled between themselves, each saying, “I am greater than you.” Reason said to Destiny, “Let us prove our greatness by action. Find a dull-witted and poor man. Bestow on him great wealth. If he continues to live in peace and prosperity, without my assistance, that is, without Reason, I will accept my defeat.”

Destiny and Reason found such a man. He was a shepherd, very poor and without much sense. He used to graze sheep in the fields. Destiny presented to him very costly slippers. They were golden with rich embroideries. The shepherd was pleased to find them, but he never knew their value. One day a goldsmith was passing by. He saw the golden slippers on the feet of the shepherd, and recognized them to be very costly. Desirous of possessing those slippers, he said to dull-witted boy, “Please give these slippers to me and ask me anything that you like best in exchange.” The boy said, “I will give these slippers to you if you bring me a box of candy.” “Very gladly,” replied the goldsmith and exchanged his costly slippers for a box of candy. Destiny watched the deeds of the shepherd boy with disgust, and Reason watched his movements with joy.

Moral of the story:

Without reason, even the best destiny would be rendered futile, but with reason, even the worst conditions will turn into blessings. Therefore, develop reason and defeat destiny.

2004 HARI CALENDAR

Date	Event	Program	Sponsored By
Saturday, February 21	Maha Shivaratri	Bhajans by Dr. Usha Bhargave	Rekha & Ramesh Arora
Sunday, March 07	Holi	Variety Program presented by Children	HARI Devotees
Saturday, March 13	Musical Program	By Jayamangala School of Arts & Music, MD	Gayathri & Ganesh Iyer
Sunday, March 21	Param Hans Saints from BAPS Edison	Bhajan-Kirtan and Satsang	HARI Devotees
Saturday, March 27	Gudi Padva	Cultural Program	Maharashtrian Families
Friday, April 2 and Saturday, April 3	Sri Ramanavami	24-Hour Rama Charit Manas Recital	Open
Monday, April 5	Sri Hanuman Jayanti	Chanting of Sri Hanuman Chalisa	Asha & Ashok Agarwal Minoo & Hiten Amin
Saturday, April 17	Sri Mahavir Jayanti	Mahavir's Teachings by Mrs. Pramodaben Chitrabhanu	Jain Center of South Central PA
Sunday, June 6	HARI School Graduation	HARI School Program	Open
Saturday, September 11	Sri Krishna Janmastmi	TBA	Open
Saturday, September 11 Saturday, September 18	Jain Paryushan Parva	Paryushan Puja	N/A
Saturday, September 25	Sri Ganesh Chaturthi	TBA	Sharma Family
Thursday, October 14 to Friday, October 22	Navaratri Mahotsav	Durga Puja Raas-Garbaa	N/A
Saturday, October 23	Dasherra	Durga Puja	Bengali Families
Monday, November 1	Karva Chauth	Puja by Devotees	N/A
Saturday, November 13	Diwali	Diwali Annakot, Annual GB Meeting	HARI Devotees

To sponsor an event and/or dinner prasad, please contact Mrs. Priti Patel at (717) 732-2345.

Maha Shivaratri

The 14th day of the dark half of Magh (or, Maha) is known as Maha Shivaratri. It is believed that Lord Shiva married to Parvati, daughter of Mount Himalayan, on this day. The Shiva Puran relates the story of the Bheel hunter Gurudruha. Lord Shiva was so pleased with the honesty of the deer and the compassion of the hunter that He established them in the sky as the Mrug-Shirsh Nakshatra (constellation of Orion). He also granted a boon to the Bheel that, "... shall be born in a town known as Shrungver, as a man named Gruha. Lord Vishnu will grace your home as Lord Rama." The Garud and Skand Puranas cite similar versions about a king named Sundarsenak and an evil hunter named Chand, respectively. Devotees of Lord Shiva consider Maha Shivaratri as the most holy night of the year.

Devotees observe a strict fast, visit the temple, keep vigil all night, and worship the Shivalinga throughout the night with milk, curd, honey, and rose water whilst continuously chanting the Mantra *Om Namah Shivaya*. Offerings of *Bili* leaves are also made to the *Shivalinga*. *Bili* leaves are considered very sacred as, it is said, Goddess Lakshmi resides in them. The person who utters the names of Lord Shiva during Maha Shivaratri with perfect devotion and concentration is freed from all sins, reaches the abode of Lord Shiva and lives there happily.

Lord Shiva is also known as Nataraj, the Lord of Dance. He is the Lord of Nature and Lord of Meditation. Usually He is portrayed in a meditating posture, with matted hair that holds the flowing river Ganga, a crescent moon, a serpent coiled around his neck, a trident in one hand, and ashes all over his body. His devotees witness him as the complete cosmic force and remain loyal to Him for life because He liberates them from the eternal cycle of births and deaths.