



Introduction

It gives the Board of Management of the Shri Luxmi Narayan Temple immense pleasure to present this first newsletter to the membership and devotees of the Temple. The idea of sharing information with the broader family of the Shri Luxmi Narayan Temple, in a less formal way, was agreed upon some time ago. We are therefore thrilled that we are turning this idea into action with this first of what we are optimistic will be many more newsletters. In presenting this first newsletter, we invite you to communicate with us about matters relating to the Temple. We encourage you to use the

platform of this newsletter to get know about the day to day running of the Shri Luxmi Narayan Temple better. The Shri Luxmi Narayan Temple is continuously striving to achieve its vision and goals. The vision of the Temple is to be an organisation dedicated to the dissemination of the teachings and practices of Sanathan Dharma. The goals are: To promote and propagate the study of Hindi, Sanskrit and Sanathan Culture; To hold and conduct Religious services, discourses, lectures and symposiums, calculated to

promote Sanathan Dharma; To help the aged and needy of any race, colour or creed and to make donations to deserving causes whether relating to religions, education, charity or philanthropy. In pursuance of its vision and goals, the Shri Luxmi Narayan Temple will engage in research, learning, teaching and service, in a context of Social Responsibility, Religious and Spiritual Excellence for the promotion of access to the teachings of Sanathan Dharma. We are confident that you will assist and support us to achieve these visions and goals.

Pooja Vidhi, Sanskrit and Hindi Classes

In 2013, we had a group of students who were in their third year of the Pooja Viddhi classes. In the three years that these students attended classes, they were taught correct pronunciation of mantras, pooja procedure and philosophy of different aspects of Sanathan Dharma. Once the results are finalized, the successful students will be awarded Pooja Vidhi Certificates. The teachers of this class were Pundits Sajeel Maharaj, Rohith Maharajh and Ramesh Sharma. The Three Year Purohit Diploma Certificate course and

syllabus was compiled by our Late Guru, Pundit H R Maharajh

We also offered Sanskrit language classes in 2013. There were about 12 students in this class. Their teacher is Pundit Kanhaiya Maharajh. The successful students were rewarded at our Akhanda Bhajan programme in February 2014.

In 2013, our Hindi classes were resumed after it had stopped for a few years. The classes began with twelve (12) students ranging from primary school children to

housewives to working parents. The emphasis in these classes is on functional Hindi. While most of the time is spent on oral use of Hindi, sometime is dedicated to reading and written work. There are no examinations as the purpose of these classes is to get students to speak Hindi without the pressure of an examination.

Sathsangh and Festivals

Sathsangh is held in the shrine from 6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays. In addition to singing devotional songs, devotees chant in unison Vedic mantras, Shaanti Paat and mantras pertaining to individual deities. There is also recital and discourse of the Ramayana and Gita.

The Temple observed all the major Hindu festivals - Shivaratri, Holika Dahan, Ram Naumee, Hanuman Jayanti, Krishna Astami, Ganesh Chaturti, Navaratri, Deepavali and Gita Jayanti in 2013. Our festivals have incorporated recitals and explanations from the various scriptures, such as Ramcharitmanas, Bhagavad Gita, Puranas, and Vedas. The Temple also successfully hosted Akhanda Bhajan in February; Satyanarain Katha in April; Akhanda Ramayana in July; Durga Saptasati in October and Akhanda Gita in December. In accordance with our Temple policy document the Temple shall provide bhojan Prasadh for Akhanda Bhajan, Satyanarain Katha, Akhanda Ramayana, Durga Saptasati and Akhanda Gita. Should a devotee or devotees wish to provide bhojan Prasadh at other festivals (Holika Dahan, Ram Naumee, Hanuman Jayanti, Ganesh Chaturti) or at a Tuesday Sathsangh to mark a special occasion (anniversary, birthday or memorial), such a request must be made to the Board of Management in writing at least three (3) weeks prior to the occasion. All arrangements, costs and preparation will be the responsibility of the devotee/devotees. Devotees who wish to assist with the preparation of bhojan Prasadh are requested to forward their names to the Vice President of the Social Projects Standing Committee Three weeks (3) prior to the festival for which bhojan Prasadh will be provided.

Feeding Scheme and Publications

The Temple sponsored and served lunch at Cheshire Homes and ABH Westsun Homes in 2013. We also distributed hampers during Diwali in November.

The Temple continues to disseminate teachings and practices of Sanathan Dharma through its various publications and website. We sold our Pooja, Sathsangh & Havan, Wedding, Shashti, Antyeshti and Garuda Purana books at Priest's

workshops in Gauteng, Pietermaritzburg and Ladysmith as well at the Durban Diwali Festival. Our website continues to attract Hindus from both South Africa and other parts of the world. We even had a Priest from the West Indies who contacted us for information through our website.



Recent Highlights

We had a very successful Annual Get Together at the Japanese Gardens in Durban North. We thank the Bahanjees who provided the delicious eats and who facilitated a sense of camaraderie that prevailed during the get together.

Our very own nightingale Shashika Mooruth was the star attraction at our last show where the emphasis was on Bhajans in memory of her late Dad, the late Mr Aniruth Mooruth. All of us remember Mr Mooruth who was a long serving devotee and trustee of our Temple.



