



## AALAYA SANDESHA

**Subhamastu Avighnamastu Vijayostu**

**Sri Venkateswara Temple Newsletter**

**10401 McKinzie Lane, Corpus Christi, TX 78410**

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**MAY 2015**

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dear Devotees,

Thank you very much for your donations and participation in making another Festival of India/Health Fair successful. After deducting the expense for the event, the funds raised were about \$ 55000. Dr Srikanth Dhamaraju led the team that made this event so

successful. I want to thank all the volunteers who helped with the setting up of the stage, sound system, chairs and table, serving the food, manning the sales counters, etc, however we did feel the need for more volunteers, especially before the start of the event in the morning. I hope next year we will have more volunteers participating in the event.

In the month of March, refinancing of the Temple loan of \$ 950,000 was done. A line of credit of \$ 250,000 was approved for a possibility of building a dining hall adjoining the temple. We also celebrated the Ramnavami and Ram-Sita Kalyanam on the day prior to the Health Fair event. This event was well attended as well. In addition to that we had evenings beautiful vocal and Bharat Natyam performance by children of our community. These events are highly encouraged. I am hopeful that we will have more of such performance. We just celebrated the **10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Temple, on 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of May, 2015. Hats off to our priests for their major efforts in decorating and organizing the entire three day function. For those who have missed the event can get glimpse from the temple website.** Pooja Bindingnavale, along with Priya Kulkarni will organize a summer camp for the children at the temple, the details of which will be announced soon. Also, efforts are being made to bring some renowned Kathak dancers to perform here in the coastal bend area. Let us look forward to a busy summer. Enjoy a fun filled and safe summer. Please keep a visit to the temple on your summer routine list.

It gives me a great pride to say that our temple is all inclusive and welcomes all devotees from all over the world and all parts of India. We are blessed with our priests, who even though are from South India are fluent in Hindi and English and cater to the devotees and their cultures from all different parts of India. Our temple brings members from all parts of the country, young, old, with different backgrounds and professions. I thank you whole heartedly for your input and support.

God Bless us All!

Vandana Kamat

President

Trustees of South Texas Hindu Society

## PRIEST'S CORNER



### Vishnu

कायेन वाचा मनसेन्द्रियैर्वा ।  
बुद्ध्यात्मना वा प्रकृतिस्वभावात् ।  
करोमि यद्यत् सकलं परस्मै ।  
नारायणायेति समर्पयामि ॥ ॥

%M30

Whatever I perform with my body,  
speech, mind, limbs, intellect, or my  
inner self either intentionally or  
unintentionally,  
I dedicate it all to that Supreme Lord  
Narayana..

## CARNATIC MUSIC RECITAL



We had our first Carnatic Vocal Music Recital on March 22, 2015 at Sri Venkateshwara Temple. The students were very excited and performed with enthusiasm. Some of these students have been learning Carnatic music for a few years. The students who participated were Anisha Anandula, Sriya Chekuri, Sunidhi Kulkarni, Suhawni Narang, Aarthi Palaniappan, Rani Sooda, Sachi Sooda, Vidya Venkatraman, Ritik Verma, & Yuvan Krishnaswamy. It was well attended by family, friends and music lovers. Thanks to South Texas Hindu Society and all the parents who helped make this a successful event.

Our sincere thanks to all who helped with sound, stage and the decorations.

Shoba Venkatraman.



The Health Fair/Festival of India 2015 was a huge success and the turnout for the event was amazing. The crowd was from different ethnicity and they really enjoyed walking around the temple grounds, learning and experiencing a new culture. The cultural programs truly showcased the vast Indian culture and the food was liked by one and all. The weather couldn't have been better and the day was perfect for an outdoor event like this. This year we have various interesting booths that brought all kind of things to represent India and its culture. And finally, without the community's help this kind of a magnanimous event would not have been possible. We continue to thrive with your support and participation and we hope to see you all again next year for another wonderful fair.

By

Ritha Kulkarni.



## **EDITOR'S CORNER**

**By**



**Lalitha M.Janaki MD FACR**

It feels like it all happened just yesterday!

In 2002 on a very auspicious day, Ganesh Chaturthi, a family friend called and wanted to come and talk about building a Hindu temple in Corpus Christi. The initial hesitation vanished after visiting several community leaders from our Indian community. There were multiple meetings, discussions, disagreements, compromises, and finally the project became a reality. Our very first installation of deities took place in May of 2005.

Now I realize that we already have 10 years of operation under the name of South Texas Hindu Society. The community has grown. Several new members moved to the community. Hundreds of students from home are here and visit the temple very often.

We had 8 Health fairs at the temple grounds, multiple Holi celebrations, at least 30 Balaji Kalyanams, and 100s of Sivabhishekams. The very popular one is Diwali function with fireworks. These are just a few of the many events that took place on the premises. The original board was a 5 member team. Now we have over 15 board members. Majority of the board members are the key financial backbone of the organization.

The temple operates from the pledges of the some of the board members and general donations from devotees. I have to admit that there is one community member who does a lot more than any one of us, financially and otherwise, Mr. Gopal Pathikonda. He is a great mentor for the next generation. My sincere thanks to him. Time and again I have tried to reel him in, to be on the board but was not successful. Having said that, we have just celebrated the 10th anniversary. Believe it or not the priests have put such an effort to arrange, decorate and coordinate the two and half day event. There are several hundreds of pictures uploaded to our website, a nice effort from our two young priests. It is very disappointing to see very few attendees. It was a weekend event but still it was not a pretty sight to see very few devotees.



**From left to right, Mayor Nelda Martinez and State representative Todd Hunter**

There is a word in Sanskrit "PRAPTAM ", translates into deserving. That is all I want to say about attendance. It was very nice to see some of the out of town board members .Summer is here. Indian families have been planning trips to go home and elsewhere.100s of students from our country graduated here in Corpus Christi, and this is all good.

None of this is possible without Lord's blessings.

Come, pray, visit and get blessed.

**HAVE A SAFE AND FUN FILLED SUMMER.**