

DEEPAM



HAPPY DEEPAVALI AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

Volume 31, Deepavali Special Issue 1
November 2021



Hindu Temple

13010 Arbor Street, Omaha, NE, 68144

hindu temple
Deepavali

Cultural Virtual Event

November 14, 2021 • 4 PM

Link to watch the program will be announced
via Email and Facebook

Followed by Raffle on Facebook Live



RAFFLE TICKET
\$10

1st Prize: \$1000 in cash

2nd Prize: 65" TV (\$700)

3rd Prize: Vitamix Blender (\$350)

4th Prize(3): \$100 Indian Grocery Gift Card

5th Prize(4): \$50 Indian Restaurant Gift Card

6th Prize:(10): \$15 Indian Restaurant Gift Card

Raffle Contact

Alekha Dash
402 492 9707

Shantaram Joshi
402 965 9777

Anil Bhatta
402 333 6607

Ankit Desai
402 547 9017

Deepa Kashyap
402 932 7395

Chandrasekhar
402 812 5654

Cultural Program Contact

cultural@htom.us

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Priest: **Pandit Nagabhat Vidyashankar**
Pandit Pandit Badari Narayana
Pandit Laxmikant (Amol) Kulkarni
Sevak: **Chandrasekhar Karmegam**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: **Ketan Patel**
Vice President: **Venkatesh Bettadapura**
Secretary: **Sai Krishna Yeluri**
Asst. Secretary: **Shital Kontamwar**
Treasurer: **Jeyanthi Vishwanathan**
Asst. Treasurer: **Ravi Rajagopal**
Member (21-23): **Sujeet Reddy Adudodla**
Member (21-23): **Satyanarayana Pavuluri**
Member (21-23): **Aswathy Nair**
Member (20-22): **Rajesh Sharma**
Member (20-22): **Nageswara Rao Athota**
Member (20-22): **Kalyan Karpagavinayagam**

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Pooja & Religious: **Srikant Madduri**
Finance: **Meera Kashyap**
Education: **Rajesh Sharma**
Cultural: **Shital Kontamwar**
Mahaprasad: **Surendra khandavalli /**
Vidya Sagar
Facility Maintenance: **Vikram Patel**
IT Management: **Sujeet Reddy /**
Shivakumar Nyalam

Publications: **Dr. Nagendra Chaturvedi**
Temple Tours/Public Relation: **Vandana Singh**
Volunteer/Welcome: **Nageswarao Atota / Ganesh**
Naik
Nomination: **Srini Nedunoori**
Vedantic Center of Nebraska: **Dr. Phani Tej Adidam**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chairperson: **Dr. Subhash Bhatia**
Vice Chairperson: **Malathi Balu**
Secretary: **Kantharaj Etigi**
Member (21-23): **Suresh Patel**
Member (21-23): **Venkata Kameswararao**
Myneni
Member (21-23): **Jayaram Nagarajan**
Member (20-22): **Vikram Patel**
Member (20-22): **Sivakumar Shanmugham**
Member (20-22): **Kranthi Adidam**
Fund Raising: **Dr. Alekha Dash**
Long Range Planning: **Dr. Rakesh Singh**
Past Chairperson: **Muralidhar Chintapalli**

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Namaskaram All!
Om Ganeshaaya Namaha!!



Namaste. On behalf of Executive Committee and its sub committees, I want to wish you all Happy Deepavali.

We had a busy festive season and it had been a blessing to be associated with all the festivals. We have successfully performed – Jagannadha rath Yatra, Bahuda yatra, Ganesha Chaturthi, Janmastami, Guru Purnima, Navarathri and Dasara. We had performed two major havans for the welfare of the community. I want to thank our Puja committee and Priests for their commitment. After eighteen months of long gap, we are starting to see more and more devotees feeling comfortable coming to temple. Thanks to adhering to mandatory face mask while in temple premises.

The second phase of COVID was very deadly in India. Our condolences to those of you who lost family and friends. There was a scarcity of Oxygen Concentrators and flow meters. I want to thank all the donors who helped us raise and donate about \$50,000. We are continuing our meal services at Stephen Center every week. We donated some blankets during winter. If you want to be part of it, please reach out to me. I want to thank all of you who supported parking lot renovation. We spent \$290 K for paving concrete parking lot.

Beyond these activities, our temple started cafeteria at nominal donations to temple. Currently the cafeteria services will run every Saturday from 10:30 am to 1 PM in the temple Mini Hall. Please support the cafeteria and provide your feedback. I am thankful to all the volunteers who are preparing and serving the food. I want to thank our facility manager for all his support with Cafeteria operations.

I am excited to share with you we are in midst of forming Youth Volunteer Organization. We had about 25 youth volunteers signed up. We hope to share more about all the wonderful work they did in future publications of Deepam. I want to thank all volunteers who are supporting temple activities – Religious and Vedanta activities, Finance, Bal Vihar, Temple Tours, Publications, Cultural and decorations, Maha Prasadam & Cafeteria Services. Last and most important is my appeal to all devotees to support temple by signing up for ACH. I thank all patrons for your continued support to our temple. Always at the service of Lord!!

May Lord Prasanna Ganapati bless us all!!

Best Regards
Ketan Patel (Ankit)
President, Executive Committee
(2021-2022)



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Dear Hindu Temple Devotees

Namaskar

May the blessings of Lord Ganesh be upon you all.

Happy Deepavali,

It is with heartfelt gratitude that in this festive season I am writing this message as the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees (BOT).

To start with I want to express my gratitude to Murlidhar Chintapalli and Sirini Nendunoori respectively outgoing Chairperson of the BOT and President of the Executive Committee as well as their able teams for superb leadership and services they provided during the challenging year of global pandemic, Additionally I want to express my sincere thanks to all volunteers who have served the Temple in various capacities. Moreover, I want to communicate my gratitude to the leaders of Balvihar for imparting religious and spiritual knowledge to the future generations of Hindu leaders. Thanks to Vedantic Center leader Dr Tej Adidam for engaging the community at large for spiritual discourse. Last but not the least thanks to Dr. Sanjay Singh Ji for successful completion of beautiful Sant Sadan an envy for other Hindu temples.

I want to thank current BOT Chairs for Long Range (Dr Rakesh Singh Ji) Fund Raising (Dr Alekha Das Ji) Bye Laws (Suresh Seshadri Ji) as well as Vice Chair the BOT (Malathi Balu Ji) and Secretary of the BOT (Kantharaj Etigi Ji) and all Board Members for their genuine support for their guidance for all functions of BOT this year. Also, my thanks to Ketan Patel Ji (President Executive Committee) and all the Members of EC for their steady hand on the wheel in guiding the operations of the Temple

I want to devote part of my message to **Act of Charitable Giving or Daan**. You may know that Temple has significant financial need to meet the current and future operational and capital costs (details you will see in this Deepam).

Our Hindu scriptures e.g., Vedas, Bhagvad Gita and Ramayana have references to importance of **Daan**

In Vedas, charity, and benevolence have been attributed to paramount part of religion. Rigveda (verse – 3.24.5) says, “शतहस्त समाहर सहस्त्र हस्त सं किर” which means earn with hundreds of hands and donate with thousands of hands

In Bhagvad Gita Lord Krishna says “अफलाकाङ्क्षिभिर्यज्ञो विधिदृष्टो य इज्यते । यष्टव्यमेवेति मनः समाधाय स सात्त्विकः॥(verse-17-11) which means when one believes that charity must be performed without thought of reward, is **Sattvic** meaning moral, virtuous, good, holy, pure, wise and vital in character.

In Ramchritarmanas (Ramayana Uttarkand) Sant Tulsidas Ji states: *प्रगट चारि पद धर्म के कलिल महुँ एक प्रधान। जेन केन बिधि दीन्हें दान करइ कल्याण॥(verse-103(ख))* means there are four types of donations like daily, casual, Kamay and Vimal. Vimal donation is given to delight the God. Please delight the God

I therefore on behalf of the Board of Trustees, request you to please **Donate, Donate and Donate**. May the blessings of Goddess Laxmi be upon you and yours.

With my Best Wishes, Humility and Gratitude

Subhash C Bhatia

Chairperson, Board of Trustees (2021-2022)



Please Support Your Temple by Buying the Deepavali Raffles Tickets! The details of prizes are provided below:

Ticket No: 492	Ticket No: 492
Name: _____	hindu temple
Address: _____	Annual Deepavali Raffle 2021
Phone: _____	NOVEMBER 14 4 PM
	1st Prize: \$1000 in cash
	2nd Prize: 65" TV (\$700)
	3rd Prize: Vitamix Blender (\$350)
	4th Prize(3 each): \$100 Indian Grocery Gift Card
	5th Prize(6 each): \$50 Indian Restaurant Gift Card
	6th Prize:(10 each): \$15 Indian Restaurant Gift Card
	\$10

HAPPY DEEPAVALI AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR WISHES



From:

**PURNIMA AND BABU GUDA
RAHUL AND REEMA**

Financial Update: Hindu Temple Omaha

Hindu Temple, Omaha NE (Jan 2021 thru Sep 2021)

INFLOW	OUTFLOW
<i>Hundi collections cash</i>	<i>Operating expenses</i>
\$52,977	\$89,711
\$37,307	
<i>Direct deposits</i>	<i>Priest & Staff expenses</i>
	\$138,078
<i>Puja services</i>	<i>Sant Sadan Construction</i>
\$90,178	\$13,973
<i>Donations</i>	<i>Parking lot renovation</i>
\$146,231	\$283,581
<i>Sponsored/event collections</i>	<i>Sponsorship & Events</i>
\$41,016	\$1,906
<i>Charity sponsorships</i>	<i>Charity donations</i>
\$56,028	\$50,137
<i>Pledged Donations</i>	<i>Devotee Loan & Mortgage Int</i>
\$177,068	\$38,260
<i>Federal Grants</i>	<i>Towards Mortgage/payoff</i>
\$3,523	\$25,990
<i>Asset Sale</i>	<i>Towards Housing/payoff</i>
\$98,843	\$13,525
Total Inflow 2021 (YTD)	Total outflow 2021 (YTD)
\$703,172	\$655,161

----- Balances As of September 2021 -----

Balance owed on Federal loans: **\$145,727**

Balance owed on Devotee loans: **\$450,001**

Balance owed on priest/staff housing mortgage: **\$128,195**

Operating Account Balance : \$46,043

Savings (Endowment) balance : \$72,582

Interested in donating your appreciated securities (stocks)? It's very easy to transfer to your Temple! Please supply the following info to your brokerage firm.

Receiving Firm Name: **TD Ameritrade**

Receiving Firm DTC number: **0188**

Receiving Account title: **HINDU TEMPLE OMAHA**

Receiving Account Number: **868591259**

NOTE: This is subject to change and hence please check with Temple for the latest account information.

Then, email htom.finance@gmail.com with the details about your donation and contact information and with the subject line "Securities Donation" so that we can follow up to ensure a successful transfer. We generally consider the closing price of the stock on the day we have received to value your contribution. It's that easy!!

TRACK YOUR DONATIONS – We track your donations as complete as possible and send annual donation amounts to your address or email. For any changes please keep us updated with your latest email and physical address by e-mailing to htom@htom.omhcoxmail.com so that we can send financial communications to your latest email / address.



Hindu Temple Cafeteria

GRAND OPENING

October 16, 2021

Every Saturday 10:30am - 1pm thereafter



Idli, Sambar
& 2 chutneys



Dosa, Sambar
& 2 chutneys



Samosa



Chole Bhature



Balvihar Activities and Learning





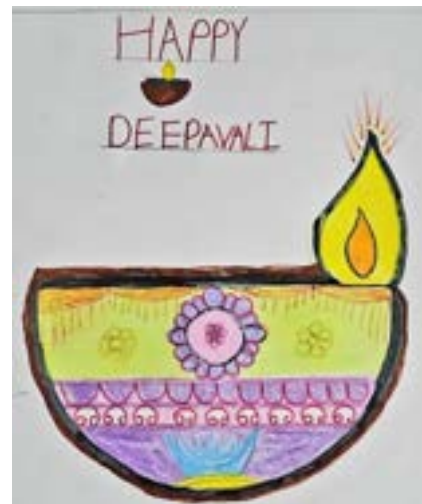
Arhaan-Prathama Jr-Rangoli



Armaan Sawhney-Prathama Jr-Diya



Neil Deshmukh-Dwitya Jr-Lord Ganesha



Vedanth Kulkarni-Dwitya Jr-Diya



Sahana Iyer-Prathama Sr-Diya

Balvihar Activities by Kids

Balvihar and Omaha Indian Community

Balvihar Omaha has been playing an important role in our community since 1970's to inculcate Hindu values, culture and spiritual values in our young generation. This is pivotal as we are not only introducing them to Hindu concepts and philosophy but also encouraging them to become tomorrow's torch bearers of Hinduism. Balvihar provides a place to our kids to get together with their peers in an inviting environment that introduces, encourages and fosters habits based on Hindu teachings. We feel appreciated and encouraged when our graduates share how they are benefiting from Balvihar learnings-

- Sense of Indian community
- Expose to Indian culture traditions and Hindu religion and spirituality
- Temple is a sacred place to practice Indian and Hindu beliefs
- Sets up to connect with Indian heritage, grand parents and other relatives till living in India
- Allows them to get their questions regarding India and Hinduism answered
- It offers place and opportunity to give back to community by volunteering in different activities while learning about their Indian roots
- Place that allows to expose other members of Omaha and Nebraska community to visit and get introduced to India and Hinduism by means of tours
- Provides platform to kids to expand their interests in extra curricular activities like- prayers/shlokas, dancing, plays, Hindu mythology, and volunteering

As we all know that 2021 has been a year filled with all kinds of challenges, Balvihar under the guidance of Hindu Temple leadership and Balvihar volunteers has adapted to continue to provide services and support our mission to kids of our community in support of Covid-19.

Rajesh Sharma, Balvihar Coordinator

Introduction of Diwali: by Aradhya Pawar

Today we are going to learn about Diwali. Diwali is "the festival of lights". We celebrate it by making foods such as shankarpali, laddu, chakli, and many more sweets. We also worship for five days. Mainly Hindus celebrate it, but other religions such as Jains, Sikhs, and some Buddhists celebrate it. This worldwide-known festival is celebrated in many countries but is originated in southern Asia.

Day 1: Dhanteras

On this day, people clean their houses. They make rangoli, colorful designs. They also light diyas, small lamps.

Day 2: Kali Chaudas

Kali Chaudas is the day when Lord Krishna defeats Narakasura and rescues 16,000 princesses kidnapped by this gruesome demon.

Day 3: Lakshmi Puja

On the third day of this fascinating holiday, people do the Lakshmi Puja. Diyas are set afloat in a tray of water. This day is to remember and give respect to ancestors.

Day 4: Govardhan Puja

This day marks the defeat of the demon Bali. This day also marks the bond of husband and wife. Some communities make hundreds of kinds of food.

Day 5: Bhai Dooj

This day is the last day of Diwali. Bhai Dooj means "brothers' day". The sister does a small puja, and the brother gives a gift to the sister.

So, as you can see, Diwali is a fabulous holiday.



Venkateshwara Jayanthi 2021



Navaratri Puja - 2021



Ganesh Chaturthi Puja - 2021

Hindu Temple Donations thru Dec 31, 2020

Grand Benefactor (Over \$250,000)

Vinod Gupta	Shobhana & Jagmohan Desai
-------------	---------------------------

Grand Guarantor (Over \$100,000)

Usha & V T Ramakrishnan	Kiran & Deepak Gangahar	Jane & Vedhagiri Selvakumar	Sudha & Anil Agarwal	Poonam & Sanjeev Sharma
Meera & Naresh Dewan	Shashi & Subhash Bhatia	Manjula & Ravindra Tella	Lakshmi & Rajeshwar Rao	

Guarantor (Over \$50,000)

Nina & Sharad Mote	Smita & Alekha Dash	Subhi & Subrahmanya Joshi	Sona & Shan Batheja	Archana & Samar Gogoi
Sudha & Sriramamurthy Ravipati	Bhavana & Rakesh Singh	Kranthi & Tej Adidam	Rammohan Sanakaraneni	
Chandrika & Mohan Mysore	Sandhya & Shailendra Saxena	Vandana & Sanjay Singh	Usha & Sushant Devaraju	
Hemanth & Dharmistha Desai	Ambika & Sree Nair	Angeli & Jayesh Thakker	Indira & Bala Wariyar	

Grand Patrons (Over \$25,000)

Madhumati & Kaliprasad Ayala	Sumita & Arun Sharma	Jyoti & Atul Ramachandran	Nigar & Chandran Nair	Anu & Luke Yeransian
Kamali & Sankar Muthukrishnan	Jayashree & Subhash Paknikar	Sushama & M Shashidharan	Ambika & Jayaram Nagarajan	Niranjana & Ashwin Patel
Anubha & Vijay Agarwal	Prem & Mahendra Bansal	Sharda & Ramarathnam Bishu	SaiBaba Nebraska Inc	Vimla & Hamid Band
Bharti & Ashok Amin	Cindy & Aryan Mooss	Swarna & Gopi Gopalakrishnan	Kumudini & Jagdish Pai	Sandhya Thamma & Srinivasu Pinapati
Aparna & Srinivasa Rao Nedunoori	Amrita & Sabyasachi Mahapatra	Asha & Bikram Singh	Radha Balasubramanian & Natarajan	Kiran & Sudesh Gambhir
Meena & Narendra Reddy	Kusum & Anil Bhalla	Deepa & Venkatesh Bettadapura	Jayanthi & Palvannanthan Ganesan	Gyanendra & Smriti Bhandari Chhotry
Swaroop & Jagdish Nijhawan	Madhu & Arvind Patel	Ravikumar Subramaniapillai & Umasankari Sundaram	Apar Ganti & Ketki Tendulkar	Premkumar Neelakanta
Meena & Krishna Murthy	Madhuri and Chandra Are	Bhavani & Sam Chigurupati Rao	Sudha & Anand Karney	
Sarbani & Anup Chakraborty	Hena & Sanat Roy	Geeta & Sundar Chokkara	Manjula & Natarajan Raman	

Patrons (Over \$10,000)

Rekha & Devendra Agrawal	Chittibabu Guda	Bala kottapalli	Prem & Anil Sahai	Buddhavarapu Rama-murtie
Latha & HG Jayappa	Murty Adabala	Padma & Krishan Lassi	Rao & Madhavi Konijeti	Nagaraju Mudhelli & Dhanalaxmi
Kanta & Prem Arora	Madan & Lauryl Rama-krishnan	Kalpna & Vasudeva Murthy	Ratheesh Nair	Nandita & Malay Dalal
Jyoti & Uday Chintal-pudi	Srinivasarao Mallipudi	Surinder Batra	Devika & Arunkumar Pondicherry	Madhavi & Sayi Repakula
Kavish Rohatgi and Timisha Singh	Sangeeta & Sandeep Agrawal	Jeya & Prasad	Monica Arora & Michael Bodensteiner	Sivakumar Shanmu-gam
Vishal & Sonya Khanna	Jayanthi & Mohan Bal-moori	Bangalore Arunagiri	Anand & Pooja Deshmukh	Kanad Sharma
Visalakshi & Rama-nathan Narayanan	Anusha Narasimhan & Vijay Anand Kannan	Santhanam Sirungattur & Hemamalini Krishnan	Somnath & Meera Singh	Progress Physical Therapy
Shobha & Harish Sawhney	Manjula & Om Patney	Rati & Vivek Mathur	Priya & Anil Srinivasan	Pradeep & Simran Sa-bloak
Amit Ashok Khot & Padmaja Khot	Tamil Sangam	Saroj & Bhupinder Gan-gahar	Padmashri & Murali Ambekar	Ketan Patel
Anuradha Subramanian & Anand Rau	Geeta & Rajeeva Raghavendra	Praveen & Swapna Injapuram	Lavanya & Jamboor Vishwanatha	Vijaya & Yella Reddy
Nalini & Pradeep Naro-tam	Chitrita & Shyamal Roy	Neha & Vootla R Rao	Urmil & Balwant Arora	UPFNA
Kavitha & Sathish Shanmugam	Raghu Tadikonda	Raghu Dasari & Ganta Snigdha	Nageswara Athota	Suseela Sarasamma & Premchand Nair
Asha & Murali Desh-pande	Sai K Renukunta	Prafulla & Vasant Raval	Sumitra & Bhasker Pa-tel	Prakash Kukreja & Priti Agrawal
Praveena & Jayachan-dran Narasimhan	Vijay Kashyap & Deepa Hangal	Lalitha & Atul Kunte	Nagarajan Venkata-raman	Harish & Seema Bhan-dula
Meera & Mahendra Varman	Viji & Suresh Seshadri	Murali & Mukunda De- vanaboyina	Mala & Rakesh Bedi	Swapna Kanuri & Cha- kri Pureti
Sharath Kasi Reddy & Saritha Reddy	Marie & Satish Medirat-ta	Surendranath Subra- maniam & Meera Kashyap	Shanti & Shyam Soma- ni	Veerender R Kandi
Ritoo & Anuj Jain	Indu & Pradeep Gupta	Naveen Uppala & Sai Krishna Yeluri	Pradeep Somavarapu	David & Tripti Burt
Sushma & Vijay Dewan	Gupil Krishna Kodali & Tejith Kodali	Jackie & Venu Nair	Vijay & Sangeeta Badal	
Satish & Sujatha Muk- tineni	Uma & Venkat Perumal	Swati Baradia & An- kush T Bhandari	Rajesh & Teresa Kumar	
Angela & Vinay Nijha- wan	Bindu & Vishwajeth Bhoopalam	Kalpna & Prasad Pa- dala	Jayashree Giridhar & Giridhar Thoranagallu	
Namaste Foods	Manju & Parmender Mehta	Hiranmayi Srinivas & Sunil Arora	Aswathy Chandran & Narayanan Nair	
Sandeep Sheth & Su- san Hendrick	Jayanthi & Krishna- murthy Viswanathan	Asha & Mahesh Patel	Muralidhar & Sudharani Chintapalli	
Sivamani So- masundaram & Jaya- sudha Sivamani	Telugu Samiti	Seema & Kantharaja Etigi	Suchitra & Asit Pattnaik	

Grand Donor (Over \$5,000)

Shreejit & Dhanya Nair	Sumantha & Jeffery Sedor	Usha & Venu Chivukula	Bhaskar & Viji Setti	Jyotsana Sharma
Sreedhar Marupudi & Madhu Pendurthi	Haritha & Venkata Myneni	Sri Rama Rao Gali & Sailaja Hasya Priya	Santhosh Devakumar	Bhanu Prakash Gandluri
Sowjanya & Sangamesh Phulari	Deepika & Rahi Khandelwal	Jyothi & Sudhir Kalra	Mandira & Amit Khanna	Rajesh & Harsha Sharma
Asha & Niranjan Agarwal	Geetha & K Parameshwaran	Candy Grush	Swati & Ashish Jain	Makrand A Bhide
Kartik Gollapudi	Sudhir Gajre	Kavita & Ranganath Rao	Sanjay & Sridevi Garapati	Hena & Kirti Patel
Laksh & Chaitra	Deepak Sinha & Suhita Sinha	Sunil & Lala Luthra	Smrati & Maneesh Jain	Nayana & Thakor Patel
Bengali Association of Nebraska	Srinivas Chundru & Mamma Yaramati	Suvarna & Prasad Adusumalli	Suneel Doddapaneni	Yashaswini & Nagesh Kuriyavar
Ratish Gopal & Smitha Ratish	Veena & Sanjay Varma	Venkat & Sitalavanya Malina	Subhash Chandra	Asha & Pravin Desai
Yugandhar & Shilpa Vanaparti	Sadhna & Devender Malik	Maya & Purathatil Krishnan	Pooja & Anil Jayaprakash	Madhavi & Gautam Bhadbhade
India Association of Nebraska	Omaha Tamil Palli	Neeruben & Sureshbhai Patel	Kanchan & Umesh Mehta	Priya Venkataraman
Usha & Premnath H Singh	Chandra M Kotipalli	Ganesh Hospitality LLC DBA Super 8	Sona Marudaraj & Marudaraj Jivaraj	Manashi & Debasis Bagchi
Vathsala & Subra Raman	Nisha & Vikas Padhye	Arbuda Hospitality LLC DBA Days Inn	Jitendrabhai Patel/Lavkesh Patel	Krishna & Iswari Chennam
Minaxi & Pradip Mistry	Madhu Vallabhaneni	Sun Hospitality LLC	Geetha & Narasimha Gondi	Puspa & Arvind Patel
Best Brains / Prasad Nalamittu	Mahesh & Prasanthi Gudaruru	Pratap Reddy Syamalaraja & Vasudha	Venkatesh Ramakrishnan	Sanju & Kamlakar Rajurkar
Reetu and Susanta Hota	Nilam & Dhaval Naik	Sharada & Ramakrishna Reddy	Duvvuri Rakesh	Sujeet Reddy Adudodla & Neeraja
Venugopal Rao Boinpally & Madhavi Pamera	Madhu Midathada & Srinivasa Rao Kadubandi	Magesh & Anitha Sreenivasan	Nirmala & Rajagopalan Parthasarathy	Jai Bikhchandani & Priyanka Vashisht
Surendra Khandavalli	Sai Maddipoti & Sudha Ravilla	Vijay VenkataSubramanian	Vaishnavi & Seshadri Rajagopal	Gopi K & Krishnaveni Mudhapati
Shilpa Somraj & Prahaldada Rao	Greeta Juliet Dhanraj & Rengarajan Ramanujam	Harikumari & Ayyangar Komanduri	Surya S Maddipati	Sugata Sensarma & Sumitra Bhattacharya
Suganthi & Krish Soundararajan	Pravardhan R Birthi	Balu Ramakrishnan & Malathi Balu	Anil K Tati & Jyotirmayi	Sreenivasulu Kode & Karuna Rasineni
Pushpa & Subramaniam Srikumaran	Eshwar Mandava & Anusha Tummala	Meenakshi & Deepak Khazanchi	Shefalika & Shashi Verma	Venkata Kolli
Rajasekhar Bodduluri	Roshni & Ganesh Paduavary	Sasmita & Chittaranjan Ray	Rohini & Mallari Kulkarni	Stanton Inn Motel
Nebraska Nepalese Society	Jeya & Jothi Muruganathaswamy	Andrea & Dhruva Chakravarti	Venugopala Potineni & Mrudula Nagineeni	Ramesh & Devi Kotaru
Anil Ayalasomayajula	Mahadevan Subramaniam	Lalit and Jayashree Bohra	Maya Ravichandran & Ravichandran Rajagopal	Jeyamkondan Subbiah
Baldev & Kailash Luthra	Srija, Manjari and Srikanth	Gayathri & Ramasubramanian Rajamani	Ranjith Kumar & Keerthi	Navneeth Rao Bongu & Anuhya Gudibanda
Srikant Jangala & Venkata Padmanabhuni	Jolly & Ishan Amin	Kaushik & Rekha Patel	Kalyani & Kamlesh Ansingkar	Binodh Wariyar
Himaanshu Agarwal	Murali Mohan Ravi	Renu & Jasbir Singh	Robin & Priti Gandhi	Hitendra Ghosh
Hem Dutt, Uma & Nidhi Mehta	Natasha & Sridhar Kannan	Ramesh & Radhika Bada-nahatti	Amala & Srinivas Nim-magadda	

Donor (Over \$1,000)

Sujatha Parimi	Venkata Kiran Ala	Tholkappian Vadivelu	Lilly & Siddarth Behera	Swasti Bhattacharyya
Harsh V Chauhan & Dunes K Kumari	Balvinder K Sabherwal	Srikanth & Archana Mahankali	Jayashri Sankararayanan	Jyoth & Hari Kadavath
Tulsi Group LLC	Sai Reddy Teegala	Srilekha Yelamanchali	Har Kamal Dev & Indian GROCERY & Video	Srikanth & Lepaksheswari Madduri
Meena & Nachiappan Shanmugam	Shubhashri Gaonkar	Maulin & Niraj & Jigna Patel	Ravi Kumar Yalaman-chali	Nikhil Gogineni
Deepa & Suresh Karupakula	Murali Mandava	Nitesh Patel	Aditya Vardhan Rao Bhongir	Durga Shankar Biswa
Ramasubramanian Murugesan	Steven & Wendy Moore	Sailesh R Buddhava-rapu	Tushar Patil & Sonal Tuljapurkar	Dhirendra P. Singh & Pramila Singh
Oormila Kovilam	Kalyan Karpagavinayakam & Kalaivani Kalyanasundaram	Eric Baba	Jayashree & Shashi Srinivasan	Manoj & Naganjali Harkar
Sanjeev and Kiran Tina	Venkat Raman Jayanti & Mallika Madduri	Michael Worsley	Sri Hari Prasad Tadepalli	Ashokbhai Mohanbhai Patel
Vikram & Hetal Patel	Kollira K Somanna & Krithika Somanna	Sudha & Natu Patel	Swathi & Rameshbabu Chirumamilla	K Gorrepati
H&R Block Tax Services, Inc.	Shiva Prasad T & Shalini Thudimilla	Venkatesh & Roopa Govindarajan	Bhavinkumar & Gauriben Patel	Ram Pankaj
Gowridhar Madu & Lavanya	Satish Banwasi	Dhanya Haridas & Sirin K Purushothaman	Manikandan Chellapandian	Subhash Sahai
Ravi Shankar Ammanamanchi	Sriharish Rajakumar & Elakiya	Ketan & Falguniben Chaudhari	Gaurav Patil	Jigish Bhatt
Kishore Viswanathan & Latha Kishore	Harsha & Shiva Prakash	Vivin & Shobana Purushothaman	Krishna & Niru Acharya	Lily & Paul Ramachandran
Rugmini Warriar & Vinod Variyam	Kannada Koota of Nebraska	SANTI'S THREADING & AYURVEDIC SPA	Narendranath Chitta	Gautam Pallapa
Shaji Sakthidharan & Rajasree Balakrishnan	Durga Panga	Murty & Sridevi Patchipulusu	Rino & Anoop Verma	Saravanan & Muthunagai Apper
Suresh & Veena Mediratta	Silpi S. & Mantu Baishya	Vijayakrishna Chinnam	Rahul & Petra Razdan	Arun Reddipalli
Uthayan Sivalingan	Sandeep Rahul Nandagiri	Phani Velichety	Sravanthi & Rajesh Balakrishna Nayakwadi	Roopa Subramanya
Sonia & Kuldeep Kaur & Tarnjit Saini	Thansi Reddy	Vatsala & Janak Dave	Ashima & Nikhil Mehta	Arun Prasad Kothandaraman
Shankar Govindarajulu and Durgalakshmi Durai-kannan	K.C Balaji	Vidya Sagar & Srilakshmi Chada	Savitri & Ram Nadmichettu	Jaya Prakash Tedla
Venkateshbabu Chinaperumal	VenkataSesha Kotha & Archana Gamini	Chenchu Lakshmi & Velidi Rao	Vishwas S & Shital Kontamwar	Avani Nooka
Manmohan & Pratap Pothuloori	Chidambaranathan Alagar & Anuradha	Mark Brian Levell	Muralitharan Veeramuthu	Sethu & Banu Thangamuthu
Padmaja Padarthy & Muralee Turangi	Dharmaraj Dhandapani & Deepalakshmi Thayalan	NE Marathi Mandal	Suraj Kumar Mohanty	Vivek Pallepatti
Chandra Kumar Poniah	IndianGrocery and Video	Harish & Natasha Keshwani	Rajeswari & T Natchiappan	Manisha Wagle

Donor (Over \$1,000)

Chandra Kumar Ponniah	IndianGrocery and Video	Harish & Natasha Keshwani	Rajeswari & T Natchiappan	Manisha Wagle
Naganna Channaveerai-ah	Mary & Indru Hingorani	Jiban & Jamuna Giri	Rajashekhar Ramini	Madhavi Naishadham
Arathi & Neralur Jay Reddy	Swapna & Vamshi Gunda	Sujatha Nagarajan & Ravishankar Moorthy	Venkat RR Gaddam	Mahesh Pattabiraman
Jitender Deogun & Ravinder Deogun	Devyani & Chandrakant Shah	Sudheer Kumar & Madhurima Chillamcharla	The India Spice	Umapathy Tummala
Shantha & Gopalakrishna Elluru	Mike Lulla	Sridevi & Lakshmin Ramakrishnan	Jayashree & Hemant Satpathy	Siddartha Kakani and Nagavalli Dandamudi
Jairam Krishnamurthy	Damodar Naidu Mad-dipatla	BDI Technologies	Chandra S. Chilappa	Rajendra Patel
Tirumala & Anitha Chengalasetty	Dinesh S Chandel & Purnima Singh	Boopathy Sethuramalin-gam	Santhosh Veeramalla	Kishore Iyer
Dr. Pinaki & Kalpana Panigrahi	Atul Aggarwal	Usha & Des Goyal	Shiva Shanker Bodde-boyina	Satish & Navya Mara-boina
Atanu Ghosh	Samir Mukherjee	Giribabu Andukuri	Rakhi & Ashok Mirchan-dani	Anagha & Milind Gokhale
Balaji Nelluri	Amol & Amrita Upadhye	Srinivas & Santhi Darsipu-di	Shoban Naresh Magalin-gam	Krishna Prasad Manandhar
Satyajit & Kalpana Kar	Krishnappan Muthuraman & Kavitha Karuppiyah	Bourampeta Vivekananda Reddy & Shilpa Vanteru	Bimal Adhikari / Bishnu M Adhikari	Hindu Temple Society
Ashok & Foram Fichadia	Suhasini Mahesh	Kiran Aithagani	Ajay Verma	Amitabh & Debayan Chakravarty
Paresh Prajapati	Ganesh Naik & Archana Krishnananda	Somasundaram & Prema Rajendran	Goutham Kalali	Suganya & Namasivayam Somasundaram
Vasthala Juvvigunta & Dinesh Pawar	Karthikeyan Pragasam & Radhika Ramasamy	Nagarjuna Reddy Gujjula	Krishnakant K & Krishna Trivedi	Devika Soundara Manick-am
Rajakumari & Gopal TK Krishna	Srinivass Seshadri	Hemantha Koduri	Hema & Venketraman Sahasranaman	Dilip K Reddy Bhavani
Manish & Kalpana Moon-dra	Debleena Dash / Kan-chanbala Dash	Srinivas Dannaram & Madhuri Pulluri	Angeli Sawhney	Hema & Yogesh Sehgal
Vijay Pakalapati	Ravi Thoutireddy	Jyothi & Sadanand Pande	Venkata Surya Kiran Reddy Velagala	T. Thambi-Pillai
Balakrishnan Palanisamy & Sasirekha Rathinam	Rama Kolli & Naga Sra-vana Pedarla	Gurumurthy Venkata-raman	Seema Singh and Ajay Singh	Bala Ganeshreddy Pa-mireddy
Ashwini Kasarla	Srinivas R Vanguru	Ravikumar Kal-yanasundaram	Abhishek & Swathi Patil	The Bon Ton Stores
Hariharan Sambath & Iyswarya Kuppusamy	Ramesh K Kanchanam & Prathyusha Kanchanam	Sirasha Poda & Ranga-nath Mandalasri	Santhoshkumar Mani	Aditya Kota
Chanda & Againdra Bewtra	R Potti	Vijay Raj	Suresh Srinivasan	Sonia & Anoop Mahen-derkar
Shailander Singh	Sonali Deshmukh	Murali & Sunita Chaduvu-la	Sujitha Dindigala	Saraswathi & Ramesh Ramalingam
Ajay & Gulshan Chander	Nagaraj Rajarao & Kal-pana Nagaraj	Sumana Arun	Rajasekhar Keerthi	Subhransu Sahoo
Liliana Ramakrishnan	Madhav Dasika	Durga Prasad & Niharika Nuvvula	Jagan Karri	Tejvir Singh/Jasmine Dhindsa
Sabina Ramakrishnan	Jasminuma Veronickom & Sanjeevi Mariappan	Vihaan Raval & Hridaan Yatrik Raval	Senthilkumar Raju	Aradhna & Kunal Patra
Suresh Srivastava	Bhaswati Bandyopadh-yay/Bhaswati Manish	Kamala & Naveen Kumar Yada	Rama Pallavi & Mohan Kannapareddy	Yoga Sangeet Inc

Donor (Over \$1,000)

U.S.Rao	Esakkiappan Senthivel	Kondala & Vijaya Sanam-pudi	Anil Cherukuri	Lavanya & Ganesh Srinivasan
Baldev Bhardwaj	Rajeev Doddapaneni & Sneha Pavuluri	Madhuben & Lallubhai Bhakta	Giri Vayalapalli	Chimanbhai Bhakta
Sudheer & Sandhyasree Bodapati	Bhartiben & Dharmendra Patel	SK Management LLC	Srinivas Malkapuram	Sai Krishna & Abhinaya Takur
Satya Dhanalakoti & Manideepa Nugooru	Nagaraj Mylandla	Ananth Siddanthi	Murali Ganesan	Surabhi Chandra
Kishore K Chitneni & Naga Swapna Akunuri	Ashok & Vasanta Tankala	Narayanan Subramanian/Hema Subramanian	Prithviraj & Arunima Dasgupta	Archana & Nagendra Chaturvedi
Chakravarthy Baddela	Narendhar Sama & Samatha Aleti	Smasala LLC	Atul Rai & Chetana Shetty	Jagrutiben & Jagdishbhai Patel
Himanshu & Rupa Gadgil	Crystal Ellis & Riniski Mcglown	Neena & Venugopal Kovuru	Susmita Pal	Murali Ravi
Ajit and Geetanjali Godbole	Namita Dhiman	Chandrasekaran & Vimala	Vijaya Sekhar Reddy Alla	Rajesh Sharma
Deepti Bhat & Nagaraj Kurse	Prasad P.Kolli	Sriram Ramaswamy	Kalinath & Lakshmi Nisankarao	Sunil Upadhyay
Omaha Community Foundation	Vallinayagam Alagianambi	Neela & Prasad Kandimalla	Rajeshwar & Nandita Mitra	Madhu Kiran H Murthy
Geetha & Sampath Nathan	Sambasiva Chebrolu & Sivasree Chebrolu	Skanth Ganesan	Kavitha & M Radhakrishna	Maya Gogoi
Sandip R. Ghotikar	Srinivasa & Swapna Ravula	Sagar Damle	Pratik, Vijay & Chhaya Gayee	Michael & Pooja Arora
Kurry Xpress	Raviraj Nudurupati	Sandeep Chavva	Suresh Maram	Neelavan & Gayathri Kaliappan
Udaya Kompella	AU and Robin Khan	Saravanan Arumugam and Sangeetha	Venkatesh Santhanam	Raja Patel Management Co.
Sudesh Batra	Selvakumar Swaminathan & Kavitha Rathinam	Praveen Gudipati	Rajanikanth & Divya Alaparathi	Rajesh & Diya Shetty
Divya Rajasree & Vinod Geetha-Sasikumar	Sandeep Ready Narani	Nirmala & Damodar Deshmukh	Chandrasekar Venkatnarayanan	Rajesh & Sima Patel
Seema & Rajeev Sharma	Punyasha Roul	Kishore B Maddineni	T Eazhilarasan Annamalai	Shalini Rani Soleti
Sirish Kandi	Srinivas & Anantha Velanki	Jayakrishna Anupoju	Srinivas & Lavanya Allenki	Shantaben & Kavalbhia Patel
Zinny & Sanjukta Satpathy	Srinivas & Kalyani Thutika	Anima & Gyanendra Khadayat	Veeraraghavalu Vamalur	Sriram & Rama Iyer
Prakash Raghavan & Sowmya Sundararajan	Gowtham Maranani	Divya Rajendiran & Pradeep Akkina	Netra & Sami Pokhrel	Suman Rayabaram
Suresh Tatavarthy	Satyanarayana Tatineni	Karthika & Muralidharan Keeramangalam	Suresh Mummalaneni	Uday Sreekanth
Sandeep Mukherjee	Sivakumar Subramanian	Shantaben & Manubhai Patel	Satya & Harsha Thipareddi	Usha & Nandakumar Reddy
Sumeet Agarwal	Dharani Mudugal & Avdesh Buragadda	Vidya Ranganathan	Kewal & Veena Sahni	Vivek Verma
Mohan Anugole	Shiva Kumar Nyalam & Archana Nyalam	Subathra & Rathina Muthumaran	Jivantika & Birud Sindhav	Raghu Babu
Raj Deeduvanu & Padma Garimella	Rajiv Venkataraman & Swathi Rajiv	Amulya & Sunil Kumar Bolisetty	Champak / Suman Patel	Rakesh K & Kirtibala Gupta
Gangireddy Sathi	Shwetha & Krishna Gundabolu	Vijay Shivaswamy & Namita Sakhuja	Hamsadhwani Carnatic Music Academy	Mahita & Dhanya Shankar
Rajashekar Reddy Katpally & Sangeetha Citore	Gautam Sitiesh & Shashi Sinha	Gayatri & Venkata Chappalli	Jagannath Bharadwaj	4A Lucent Omaha

Donor (Over \$1,000)

Naresh & Nikita Gella	Parthiv Parikh & Sneha Shah	Biswaranjan & Pallavi Mohanty	Ken Chicoine	Arthy & Ramesh Aswathnarayanan
Healthcare For the Family PC	Srikanth Dindu	Guruprasad Appaji	Hrishikesh Karekar	Ashish Sharma
Prakash Pramuda	Foundation for Hindu living	Manoj & Mayuri Desai	Lina Kumar	Ashutosh Ladda
Karthik Ramachandra	Nabin Sapkota, Bishnu Devi Ojha & Rashmi Ojha	Uma & Ashok Gupta	Srinivas Chilukuri	Atmakuri Sankara Rao & Seetha Ratnam
Vinod Labhasetwar	Pranab and Suvra Ghosh	Sivaraj Annanmar	Rajesh G Kotha & Swapna Gudishetty	Durga Devi KC
Samir & Madhusnigdha Pradhan	Ajaya Kar & Ruby Satpathy	Kumud & Yashwantlal Amin	Dharti & Drew Patel	Harshida & Jitubhai Kothari
Ritu & Ravi Maniktala	Dharvik Arjun Vihaan Reddy	Raja Balaraman	Jayapal & Padmaja Peddyreddy	Karupakala Rukmani Bai & Sathyanarayana
Viji & Preetha Pushkaran	Pramod Chakravarthy Kalwa	Satish Saxena	Durgaprasad Chiguluri & Geeta M. Namani	Kavitha & Yathish Nagavalli
Ramakrishna Kilaru & Gopi Nandigam	Satyanarayana Rachagani	Tina & Sunil Patel	M Vasudevan & Gomathi K	Ketan Ganatra
Jagan & Swetha Palreddy	Srinivas Likki	Kaushal Trivedi	Vidya Shankar Nagamani	Lakshmi & Hanumantha Rao
Saravana Natarajan	Karthik Koppisetty	Kavir & Seema Saxena	Vinod & Phani Chandana Karusala	Lalitha & Sathyanarayana Ravipati
Praveer Rapoor	Anil Khemani	Dinesh Sadhvani	Pavan Kumar Jeksani	Mahadevi & Mahabaleshwar Bhat
Madhukar Reddy Dudipala and Bhagyalaxmi	Sravani & Himakara Gupta Borra	Nabin Kumar Chaudhary	Ramesh Vemula	Michael Luther
Ashok Mudgapalli & Santhi Gorantla	Tapan K Das	Sunita Patil	Meenakshi & Brendon Vishwanath	N K Gupta
Swapna Nimmoji & Satish Mairpally	Swapna & Radha Golla	Prasanna Lakshmi & Ganesh Satti	Srinivas Kota and Pallavi Adapala	Naresh Gupta
Ashok & Biswajita Samal	Dushyantbhai & Falguniben Patel	Radha Krishna Edpuganti	Pavan Kumar Komandur	Pamela Priya Selvakumar
Vidyasagar Prathapa	Damodara Bhattar	Swamy & Tejaswini Talam	Satya & Vijaya Nelluri	Praveen Ramakrishnan
Someswara Gorrela	Madhu Kalyan Pendurthi	Prashanth Govindaraju	Priyanka & Sai Kommula Reddy	PSG Tech Class of 1964
Rajasundar Senthilnayagam	Srinivas Pendyala	Ravi Dyavar Shetty	Shiv Batra	Rahul Dingra
Babu Inti & Neelima Inti	Sivakumar Rathinavelumani	Anuradha & Naidu Appala Arnipalli	Amit Panwalkar	Rahul Varman
Balakrishnan Ethiraju	Madan Mohan Reddy	Ramya & Ramkumar Ayakkad	Manoj Ravulapati	Rajamani & V S T Chari
Srinivas Tadiparthi & Neelima Aitha	Kusum Firoz	Abhishake R Lahare	Jeethandran Murugan	Rajvel Selvakumar
Sunil & Shradha & Shreyan Mamilla	Parthasarathy Seshacharyulu & Ramya Devanathan	Sudhakar Ammanamanchi and Chandhana	Indumati Trivedi & Family	Ramawatar & Manju Sarawagi
Jawahir Koul & Manika Koul	Ravi Shankar & Pavana Sirisha	Deepa & Taranath Pokharel	Govind Tiwari & Camvan T Cao	Robert Pelshaw
Venkatesh Ramasamy & Gayathri Venkatesh	Shankar Ramanathan & Sharada Rajappa	Arun Mani	Vani V & Jai Kotcherlakota	S Potti
Sasmita & Gouri Kumar Mishra	Manjula & Satyanarayana Pavuluri	P Kasinathan & Sriranjani Kasinathan	Manjunath Hampanna	Saaniya Bedi
Biju & Minu Kumar	Shubhashri & Sameer Naik	Madhavi Samala & Joseph Reddy Tirumala Reddy	Partha Sarathi Pradhan	Sanjay Kumar Molugu

Donor (Over \$1,000)

Hema Sekhar Srirama & Karuna Murthy	Mankuzhi & Sreelatha Namboothiripad	Sanjana & Sonil Shrestha	Nandini Ganesan & Sri Jegan Radhakrishnan	Saraswati & Gajanan Joshi
Janak & Dharmishtha Brahmbhatt	Ashvini Acharya	Suresh Bachu	Sushil Kumar	Shirish Bhakta
Taruna Walia	Carmini Mutunayagam	Sandhya & Paras K Mishra	Jyoti S Angal	Sonny Batheja & Mashal Jatoi
Archana Ashrit	Sameer Rao, Sreevidya Sameer & Sunil Raghavendra	Geetha Kumari & Binod Khadka	Prashant Rao	Sriram Seshadri
Sudarshan Doddabele & Latha Raghavan	Sridher Swaminathan & Kalyani Narayanan	Shriram Purushoth & Revathy Govindaraju	Raja & Gayathri Vel	Suchindra & Samar Ray
Farm Credit Services of America	Karunakar Gillella	Subba Raju & Krishna Veni Kothapalli	Jyothi & Padmanaban Perumal	Venkataramana S Chivukala
Sai Pullabhotla & Sandhya Bhaskara	Manglesh & Jyoti Soni	Chivukula Rao	Kailash Khatri	Wendell Quist



Deepavali greetings to all
From

Ramakrishnans

—V T, Usha, Praveen, Madan, Lauryl, Sabina, Liliana—

Ashtavakra Gita

Jitender Singh Deogun

India is a land of great sages, Rishis and Munis. Ashtavakra (अष्टावक्र), one of the holy sages, was a great expositor of the Self, freedom from bondage, and transcendence to the supreme state of eternal bliss. The Ashtavakra Gita embodies his teachings in the form of a dialogue between the sage Ashtavakra and King Janaka. Not much historical is known about the life of Ashtavakra, however, several stories can be found in Mahabharata. One must know some of the interesting stories about his birth and contact with King Janaka to appreciate the exposition in Ashtavakra Gita.

Ashtavakra was the son of sage Kahor and Sujata. Kahor was a great scholar of Vedas. Ashtavakra learned Vedas from his father while still in the womb of his mother. One day, Kahor was teaching his disciples and made mistakes while reciting a Vedic mantra. "Father your recitation is wrong," Ashtavakra exclaimed from the womb. Kahor was angry and cursed his son, you will be born with eight deformities in your body. True to the curse, the son was born with eight crooked parts (deformities) in his body and thus was named Ashtavakra.

Kahor went to King Janaka's court to get some monetary help but was defeated in debate by the court Vedic scholar Vandin, the son of King Varuna. Kahor was made to go into sea to take part in a sacrifice performed by King Varuna. As the time passed, Ashtavakra grew to twelve years of age, his mother sent him to King Janaka's court to bring his father back. Ashtavakra easily defeated Vandin in the debate and secured release of his father and many other Vedic scholars who were defeated in debate by Vandin and confined to sea.

King Janaka was impressed by the spiritual prowess of Ashtavakra and sought to become

his disciple. It must be noted that King Janaka was not only the most powerful king but also a highly spiritually advanced person of his time. *Ashtavakra Gita* is a compilation of Ashtavakra's teachings as a dialogue between the sage Ashtavakra and King Janaka.

Ashtavakra follows a very simple, intuitive, uncompromising, and direct approach to teach the profound truths of Upanishads. One can feel the magic of the transcendental from his answer to the very first question of King Janaka. Ashtavakra Gita has 20 chapters and a total of 298 slokas. The text starts with a question from King Janaka in first sloka:

कथं ज्ञानमवाप्नोति कथं मुक्तिर्भविष्यति ।

वैराग्यं च कथं प्राप्तं एतद् ब्रूहि मम प्रभो ॥ १-१ ॥

O my Prabhu, tell me how knowledge of Truth can be acquired, tell me how liberation can be achieved, also tell me how renunciation is realized (in life). Ashtavakra replies,

मुक्तिं इच्छसि चेत्तात विषयान् विषवत्त्यज ।

क्षमार्जवदयातोषसत्यं पीयूषवद् भज ॥ १-२ ॥

If you want liberation, O' my child, give up the objects of senses (विषयान्) like poison (विष). Seek, cultivate forgiveness, sincerity, kindness, contentment, and truth like the nectar (अमृत).

First, it is interesting and instructive to see from the first two Slokas that how King Janaka addresses Ashtavakra, a twelve-year boy with deformed body, as "my Lord" (प्रभु), and how Ashtavakra calls King Janaka as "my child." This is because a Guru and disciple relationship has been established and agreed to between Ashtavakra and King Janaka. We must understand that the Guru is held in the highest esteem in our culture from the ancient times. The physical form, and materialistic status of

Continued to the next page.....

the two in a Guru-disciple relationship is of no significance. The Guru is The Guru and must be held in highest esteem. Second, Ashtavakra propagates a simple path to knowledge of Brahman, liberation, and renunciation, that is, cultivation of virtues like forgiveness, sincerity, kindness, contentment, and Truth (Truthfulness). The same path to enlightenment is also propagated by Guru Nanak,

सचु वरतु संतोखु तीरथु गिआनु धिआनु इसनानु ॥
दडिआ देवता खिमा जपमाली ते माणस परधान ॥

Those who make Truth (Truthfulness) their solemn vow, contentment their sacred place of pilgrimage, spiritual knowledge and meditation their cleansing bath, as well as kindness their deity to worship and forgiveness their chanting beads, those people are spiritually most exalted. In fact, one cannot follow a path of Dharma and attain liberation without acquiring these virtues. Guru Nanak says,

धौलु धरमु दडिआ का पूतु ॥

संतोखु थापि रखिआ जिनि सूति ॥ SGGS Pg. 4

The mythological ox that holds earth in its place is, in fact, the Dharma, and Dharma is born of Kindness (दया), moreover, kindness is nurtured by contentment. Goswami Tulsi Das confirms, दया धर्म का मूल है।

Kindness is the root, the essential core of the Dharma. Again, Bhagat Kabir says,

गोधन गज धन वाजिधन और रतनधन खान ।

जब आए संतोष धन सब धन धूरि समान ॥

There are all kinds of wealth, like wealth of cows, wealth of elephants, wealth seized/acquired by force and wealth of mines full of gems, however, Bhagat Kabir says that all these wealth are like dirt when one acquires the wealth—the virtue of contentment. It seems to me that *contentment* is like the basic, the core virtue that nurtures other virtues.

Ashtavakra continues to answer other aspects of King Janaka's question in first sloka.

न पृथ्वी न जलं नाग्निर्न वायुर्द्यौर्न वा भवान् ।

एषां साक्षिणमात्मानं चिद्रूपं विद्धि मुक्तये ॥ १-३ ॥

(O' my child, like phenomenal world, you are not made of five elements of creation.) You are not earth, not water, not fire, not air, and not even ether. If you wish to attain liberation, know yourself as the Self—Atman, witness of the empirical world, but different from all the phenomenal objects, the body, and the mind. Above all you are the Consciousness.

यदि देहं पृथक् कृत्वा चित्ति विश्राम्य तिष्ठसि ।

अधुनैव सुखी शान्तो बन्धमुक्तो भविष्यसि ॥ १-४ ॥

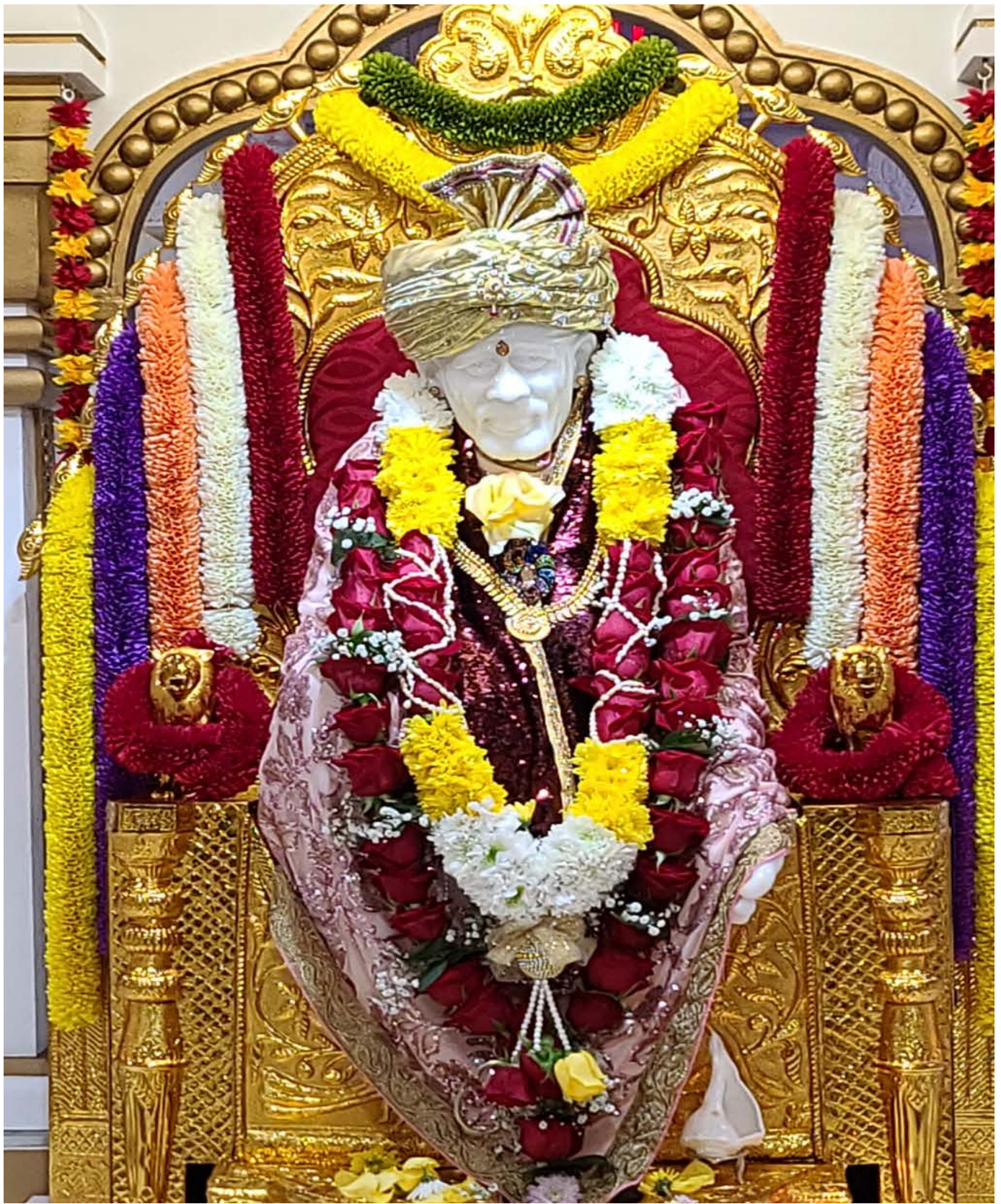
If you detach yourself from the body, that is, do not identify yourself with the body, and calm your Chitta (चित्त) that is rid your Chitta of all "agitations" (literally, remain at rest in Chitta), you will be spontaneously gain eternal bliss and peace, and attain liberation from the "perceived" bondage of Maya.

Ashtavakra instructs King Janaka to follow Self-Realization which is both the *process* and *goal of recognizing* that our true nature is the same as that of the Brahman — The Supreme Truth. Mundakya Upanishad clearly states: One who knows Brahman becomes Brahman, स यो ह वै तत्परमं ब्रह्म वेद ब्रह्मैव भवति ॥ MU. 3.2.9
Guru Nanak propagates similar philosophy, जिनी आतमु चीनिआ परमातमु सोई ॥ SGGS Pg. 421

Those who know Atman become Paramatman. जन नानक बिनु आपा चीनै मिटै न भ्रम की काई ॥ Pg. 684 that is, Guru Nanak says, without knowing the Self, the moss of delusion of duality cannot be eradicated.

Ashtavakra's Gita, even though not regarded as an Upanishad, yet comprises a systematic expounding of mystical and monistic Vedanta.

Acknowledgements: In addition to study of Hindu and Sikh Scriptures, the author benefited greatly from reading books and articles by many authors.



Guru Purnima Puja - 2021

Long-range Planning Committee Survey and Vision 2030

Thanks to those patrons/devotees who have completed the Hindu Temple Long-range planning (LRP) committee (Rakesh K. Singh, Chair; Malathi Balu, Co-chair; Natasha Keshwani; Jagdish Nijhawan, Srinu Nedunoori) survey. In this survey, our goal was to identify specific areas of concern and develop goal-oriented plans to address specific deficiencies that impact our temple's long-term growth. We greatly appreciate your responses.

Based on the survey, we acknowledged the progress made in the religious services, which is reflected in the survey (Very Satisfied/satisfied). On the contrary, concerns persist in educational and spiritual services suggesting immediate and long-term investment.

The overall survey has given a better perspective regarding the current state of our temple services and the need for improvements.

Based on the feedback, the long-range planning committee is working on Hindu Temple Vision 2030, to be presented in Jan. 2022 to the board of trustees (BOT). Four subcommittees have been created to address specific areas chaired by a member of the LRP committee.

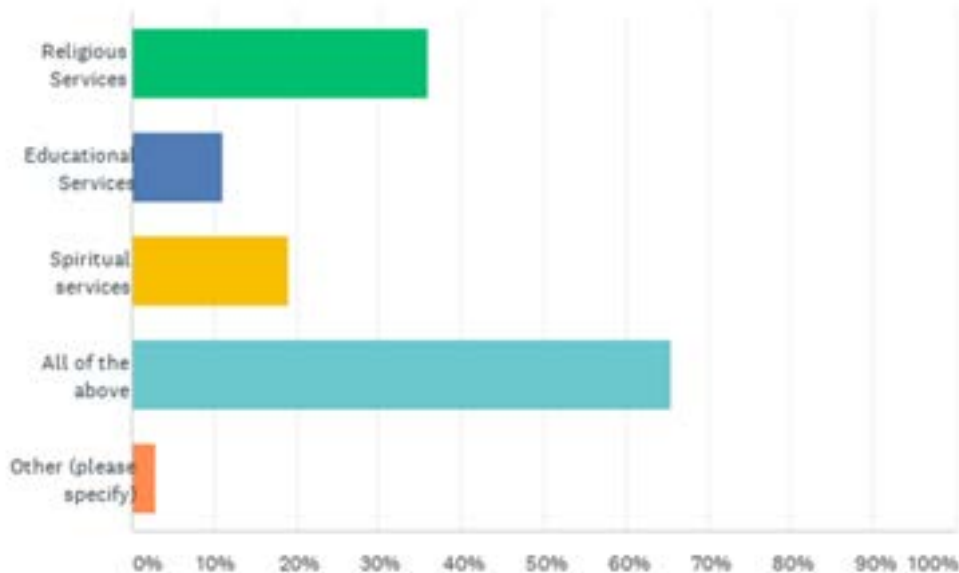
- ◆ Education services including Balvihar/Youth group (Chair-Natasha Keshwani)
- ◆ Spiritual/Vedantic Center of Nebraska (Chair-Jagdish Nijhawan)
- ◆ Religious services (Chair-Srinu Nedunoori)
- ◆ Community services and Operational management (Chair-Malathi Balu)

These subcommittees/taskforces will have their members chaired by LRP members mentioned above. These subcommittees will meet and develop specific goals, requirements, and strategies. They will have 90 days to formulate a draft presented and discussed in the LRP meeting in Jan. 2022. Following approval from LRP, it will be forwarded to the BOT for their approval, followed by GBM approval (special meeting in March 2022).

We thank you for your generosity and continued support.

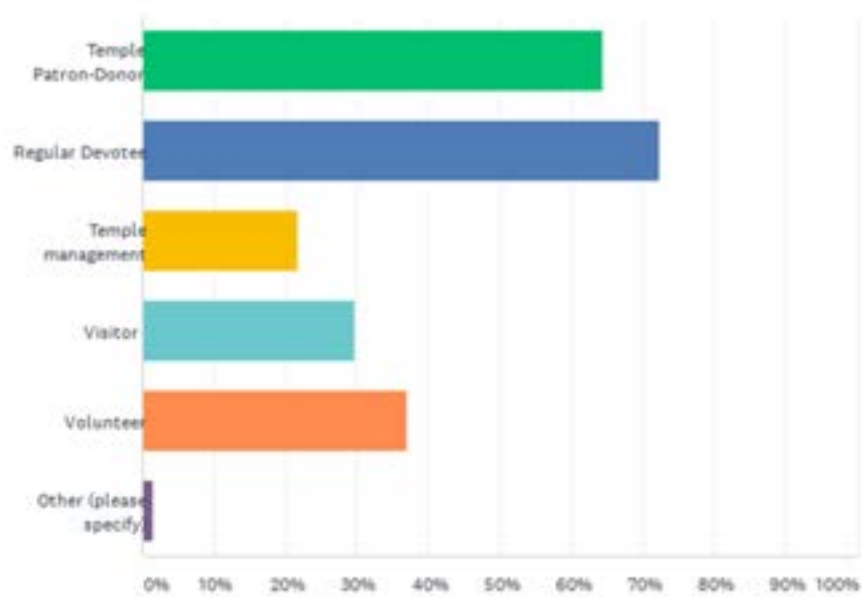
-Hindu Temple Management

Q1: Which aspect of our Hindu Temple mission is most important to you?

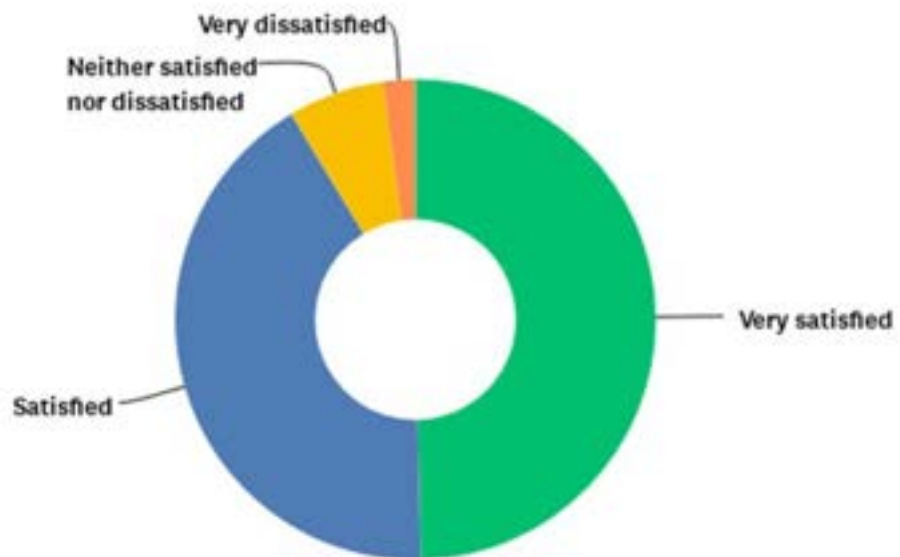


Continued to the next page.....

Q2: In what ways do you interact with our temple?

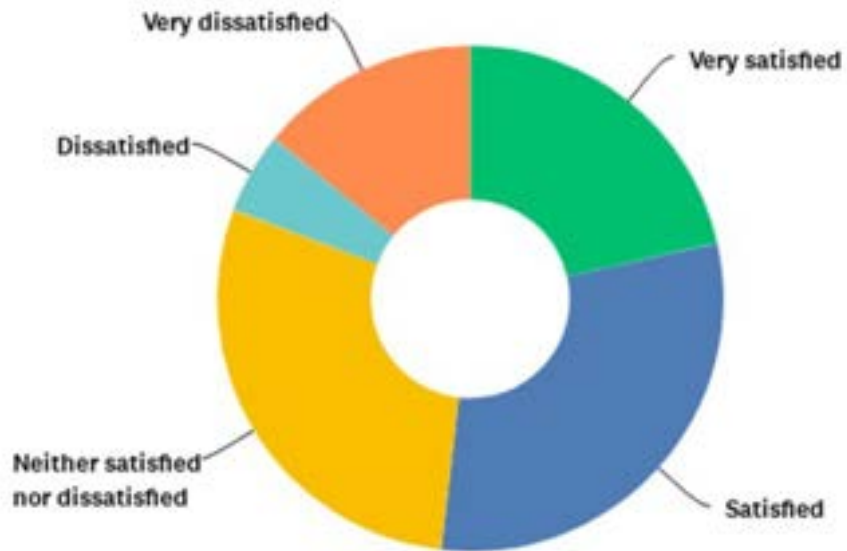


Q3: How satisfied are you with our temple's religious services?

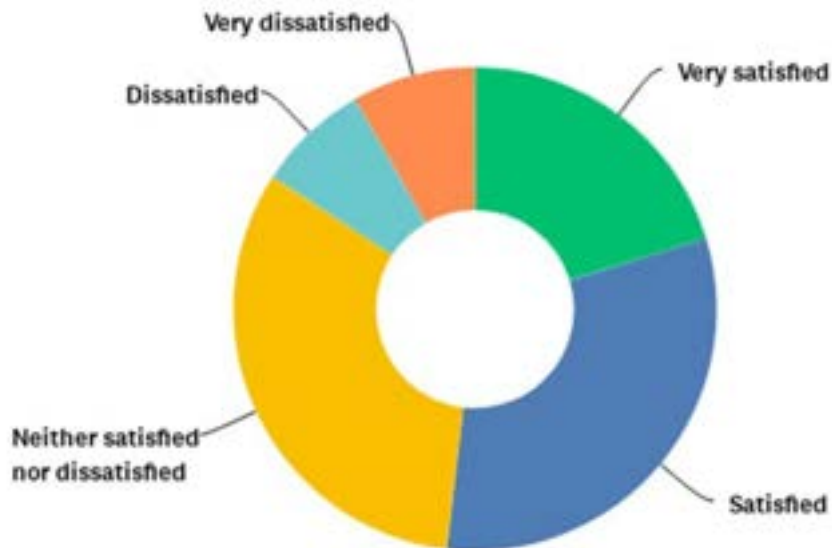


Continued to the next page.....

Q4: How satisfied are you with our temple's spiritual program, including Vedantic Center?

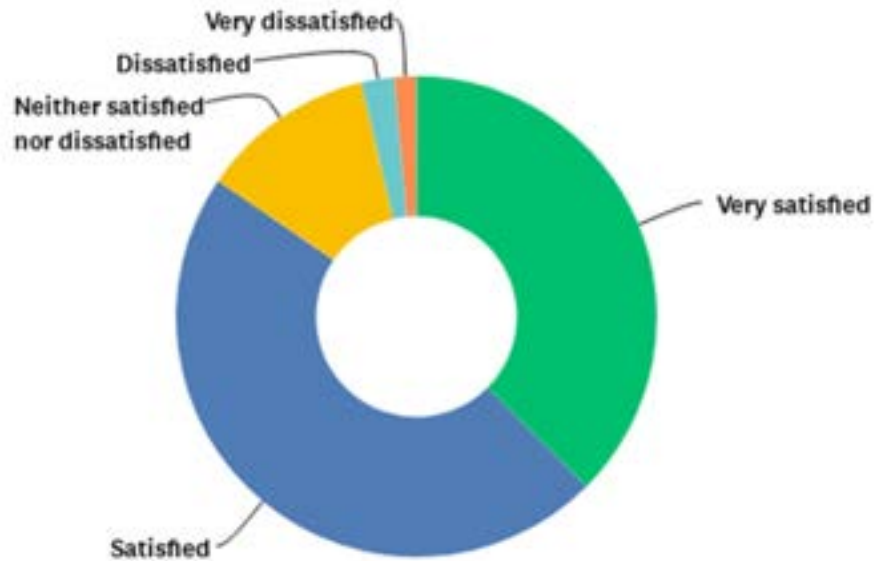


Q5: How satisfied are you with our temple's education programs, including Balvihar and Youth classes?

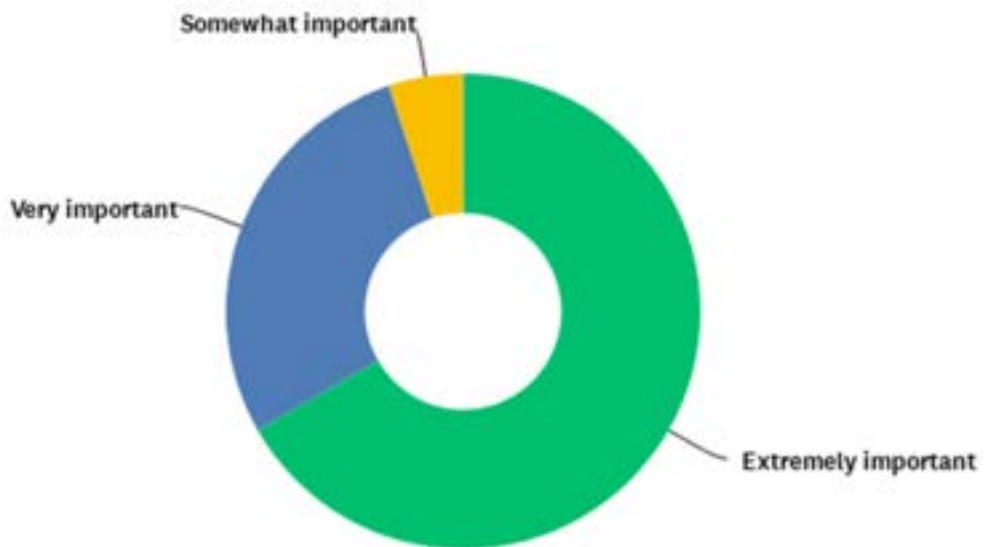


Continued to the next page.....

Q6: How satisfied are you with the impact our temple has made since 2016?

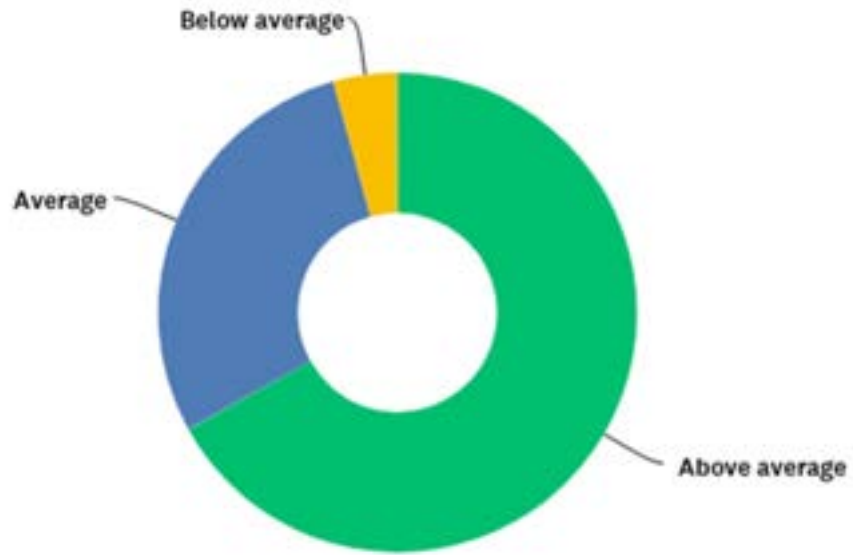


Q7: When thinking about future generations, how important is it to you that we further our educational and spiritual mission?

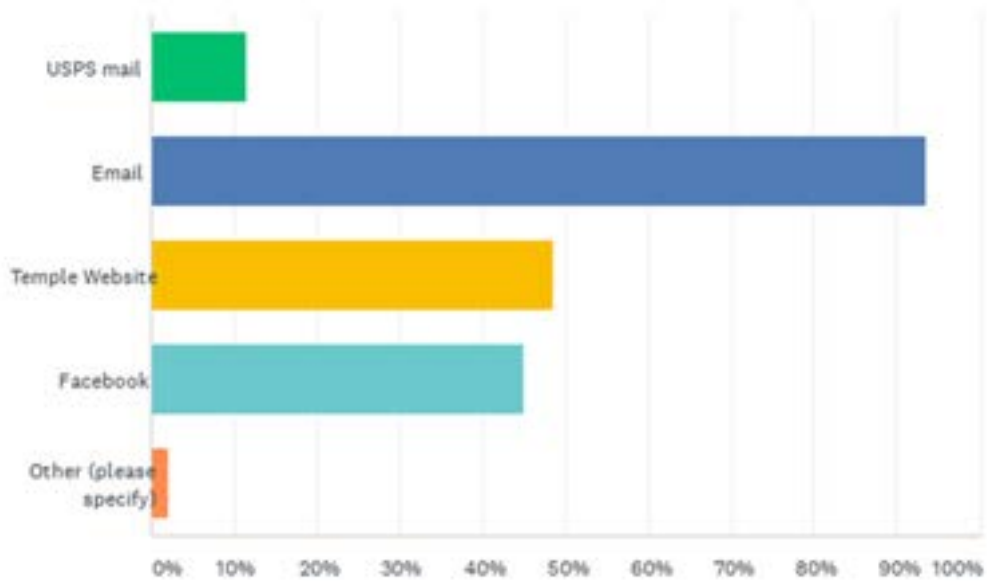


Continued to the next page.....

Q8: Where does Hindu Temple rank relative to other charities you support?



Q9: What is your preferred method of communication?





Hindu Temple Limited, 13010 Arbor Street, Omaha, NE 68144. (402) - 697-8546

hindu temple
Omaha, Nebraska

Om Durga Devi Namaha

Hindu Temple Omaha
Devi Abhishekam – Annual Sponsorship

WHEN: EVERY FRIDAY

Program Details

- 1) Devotee sponsors for yearly abhisekhams by providing sankalpam details of the entire family and devotee address.
- 2) During Devi abhisekhams, priest does sankalpam in devotee name even if devotee is not present physically in the temple
- 3) Prasadam will be posted to devotee's registered home address once every month
- 4) To Sponsor use below link or visit our Temple
<http://hindutemplenebraska.org/donate.php>

More details... htom.puja@gmail.com



Annual Sponsorship

Devi Abhishekam: \$501

For More Information :

Web www.htom.org Email : htom.puja@gmail.com; Ph: 402-697-8546





Hindu Temple Limited, 13010 Arbor Street, Omaha, NE 68144. (402) - 697-8546

hindu temple
Omaha, Nebraska

Om Gam Ganapathaye Namaha

Hindu Temple Omaha
Lord Ganesha Abhishekam - Annual Sponsorship
WHEN: EVERY SUNDAY

Program Details

- 1) Devotee Sponsors for yearly abhishekams by providing sankalpam details of the entire family and devotee address.
- 2) During Ganesha abhishekams, priest does sankalpam in devotee name even if devotee is not present physically in the temple
- 3) Prasadam will be posted to devotee's registered home address once every month
- 4) To Sponsor use below link or visit our Temple
<http://hindutemplenebraska.org/donate.php>

More details... htom.puja@gmail.com



Annual Sponsorship

Ganesha Abhishekam: \$501

For More Information :

Web www.htom.org Email : htom.puja@gmail.com; Ph: 402-697-8546





Hindu Temple Limited, 13010 Arbor Street, Omaha, NE 68144. (402) - 697-8546

hindu temple
Omaha, Nebraska

Om Ganapathaye Namaha

Hindu Temple Omaha

Navagraha Abhishekam - Annual Sponsorship

WHEN: EVERY FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH

Program Details

- 1) Devotee Sponsors for yearly abhishekams by providing sankalpam details of the entire family and devotee address.
- 2) During Navagraha abhishekams, priest does sankalpam in devotee name even if devotee is not present physically in the temple
- 3) Prasadam will be posted to devotee's registered home address once every month
- 4) To Sponsor use below link or visit our Temple

<http://hindutemplenebraska.org/donate.php>

More details... htom.puja@gmail.com



Annual Sponsorship

Navagraha Abhishekam: \$301

For More Information :

Web www.htom.org Email : htom.puja@gmail.com; Ph: 402-697-8546





Hindu Temple Limited, 13010 Arbor Street, Omaha, NE 68144, (402) - 697-8546

hindu temple
Omaha, Nebraska

Om Namah Shivaaya

Hindu Temple Omaha
Lord Shiva Abhishekam - Annual Sponsorship
WHEN: EVERY MONDAY

Program Details

- 1) Devotee Sponsors for yearly abhisekhams by providing sankalpam details of the entire family and devotee address.
- 2) During Shiva abhisekhams, priest does sankalpam in devotee name even if devotee is not present physically in the temple
- 3) Prasadam will be posted to devotee's registered home address once every month
- 4) To Sponsor use below link or visit our Temple
<http://hindutemplenebraska.org/donate.php>

More details... htom.puja@gmail.com



[Annual Sponsorship](#)

[Shiva Abhishekam: \\$501](#)

For More Information :

Web www.htom.org Email : htom.puja@gmail.com; Ph: 402-697-8546





Hindu Temple Limited, 13010 Arbor Street, Omaha, NE 68144. (402) - 697-8546

hindu temple
Omaha, Nebraska

Om Sri Muruga

Hindu Temple Omaha

Lord Murugan Abhishekam - Annual Sponsorship

WHEN: EVERY TUESDAY

Program Details

- 1) Devotee Sponsors for yearly abhishekams by providing sankalpam details of the entire family and devotee address.
- 2) During Murugan abhishekams, priest does sankalpam in devotee name even if devotee is not present physically in the temple
- 3) Prasadam will be posted to devotee's registered home address once every month
- 4) To Sponsor use below link or visit our Temple
<http://hindutemplenebraska.org/donate.php>

More details... htom.puja@gmail.com



Annual Sponsorship

Murugan Abhishekam: \$501

For More Information :

Web www.htom.org Email : htom.puja@gmail.com; Ph: 402-697-8546





Hindu Temple Limited, 13010 Arbor Street, Omaha, NE 68144. (402) - 697-8546

hindu temple
Omaha, Nebraska

Om Namo Venkatesaaya

Hindu Temple Omaha
Lord Balaji Abhishekam – Annual Sponsorship

WHEN: EVERY SATURDAY (EXCEPT FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH)

Program Details

- 1) Devotee Sponsors for yearly abhishekams by providing sankalpam details of the entire family and devotee address.
- 2) During Balaji abhishekams, priest does sankalpam in devotee name even if devotee is not present physically in the temple
- 3) Prasadam will be posted to devotee's registered home address once every month
- 4) To Sponsor use below link or visit our Temple
<http://hindutemplenebraska.org/donate.php>

More details... htom.puja@gmail.com



Annual Sponsorship

Balaji Abhishekam: \$501

For More Information :

Web www.htom.org Email : htom.puja@gmail.com; Ph: 402-697-8546





Durga Puja 2021 by Bengali Samiti of Nebraska

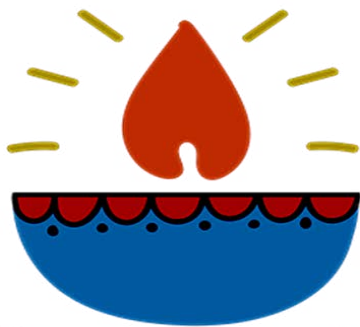
**Deepavali Greetings from
Gopi & Swarna**

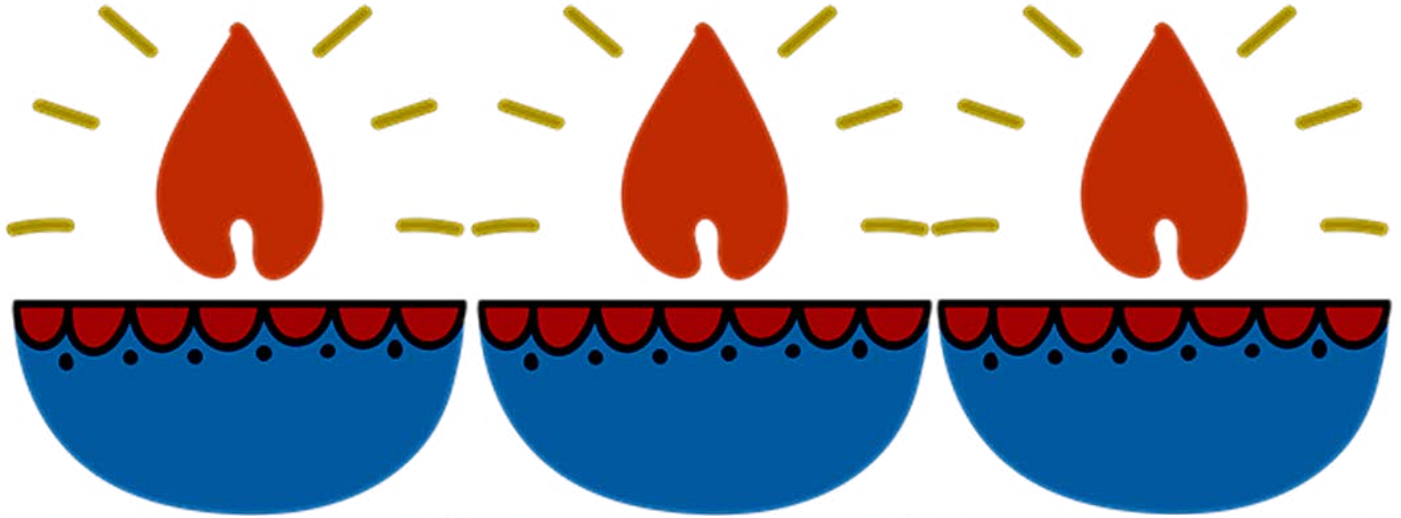


**Wishing You All
A Very Happy Deepavali**

From:

Jitender and Ravinder Deogun



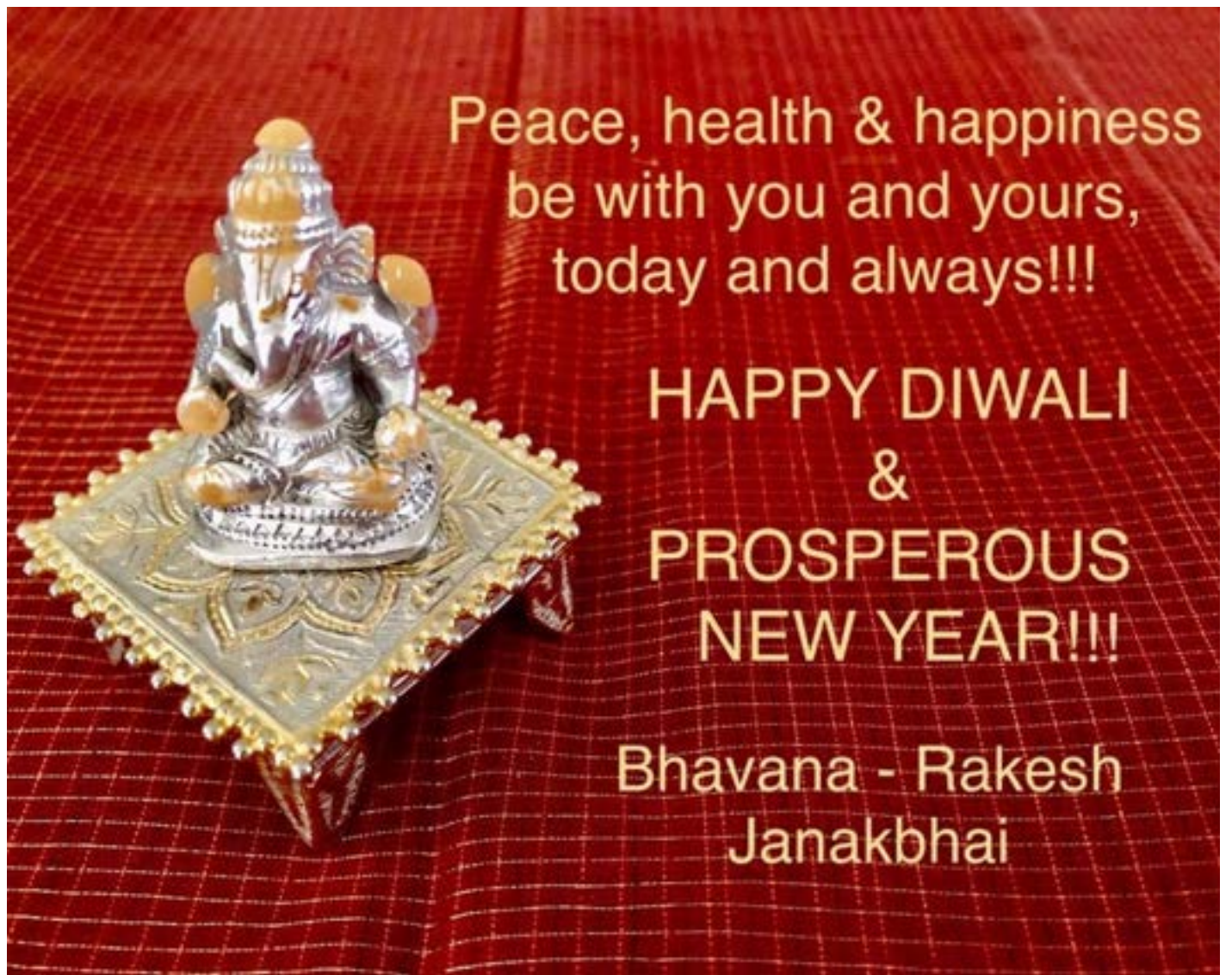


Best Wishes and
Happy Diwali
From:



Smita and Alekha Dash
Rohan Dash
Debleena, Ajay & Sarika Saini





Peace, health & happiness
be with you and yours,
today and always!!!

HAPPY DIWALI
&
PROSPEROUS
NEW YEAR!!!

Bhavana - Rakesh
Janakbhai





Happy Deepavali Wishes

From: **Saraswathi G. Joshi & Family**
Sumangala and Shantaram Joshi
And Deepa and Nikhil Kumar
Yashaswini K. Joshi & Family



**Our best wishes for a very
HAPPY DEEPAVALI to all**

**We pray for everyone's
safety and prosperity!
Our heartfelt love and
gratitude to Lord
Prasanaganpati!**



**Shashi, Subhash, Shivani, Sameer, Supriya and
Bhatia Family**

NAMASTE

P L A Z A

Indian Super Market



Conveniently Located on
114th & Dodge in
MIRACLE HILLS PLAZA
Beside Mc Donalds



617 N 114th St, OMAHA NE :: 402-934-5679

LARGEST SELECTION - LOWEST PRICES

FRESH VEGETABLES EVERY DAY



EVERY DAY
GET MORE
For your
Shopping Dollar



KONARK GROCERS

ONE STOP SHOP

Denver - Des Moines - Omaha

14128 Arbor St, Omaha, NE 68144

402-905-9999

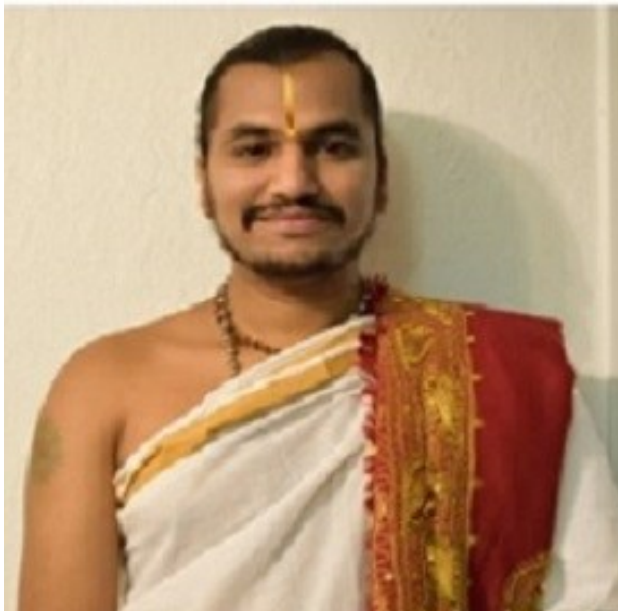
Please Join Us in Saying “Thank You” to Our Priests and Facility Manager



Pandit Nagabhat Vidyashankar
Priest, Hindu Temple



Pandit Badari Narayana
Priest, Hindu Temple



Pandit Laxmikant Kulkarni
Priest, Hindu Temple



Shri Chandrasekhar Karmegam
Facility Manager, Hindu Temple

2021 Honorees and Outstanding Volunteers of Hindu Temple, Omaha



**Shri Srini Nendoori, Past President of
Executive Committee**



**Shri Muralidhar Chintapalli, Past
Chair of the Board of Trustees**



**Shrimati Kusum Bhalla, 2021
Outstanding Volunteer of the Year**



**Shrimati Meera Kashyap, 2021
Outstanding Volunteer of the Year**



**Shri Sai Yeluri, 2021
Outstanding Volunteer of the Year**



**Shri Yuvaraj Rajagopal, 2021
Outstanding Volunteer of the Year**

Editor's Corner

"It is my great pleasure to bring the 2021 Deepavali special issue of Deepam to you all. We have included the useful updates and details of the major events such as Deepavali Puja, messages from our leaders, Deepavali greetings from our community members, a brief reports on Bal Vihar activities and upcoming major events/pujas of 2021. We thank all the devotees for their continued support of Deepam.

In this special issue, we have included an updated donors list as of December 31, 2020, including donors who have donated over \$1,000 donation to the temple since its inception. We sincerely thank all the donors for their generous contribution. If there is any error in the amount we have listed, please contact Shrimati Meera Kashyap or Shri Ketan Patel. Please help temple to grow by giving your precious time, effort, constructive criticism and generous donation.

We also want to thank all the advertisers for their support of this publication. We invite you all to consider contributing articles for publication in the quarterly Deepam issues. Articles from young adults are also welcome and I request the parents to encourage their children to contribute their articles. I look forward to your suggestions to improve the Deepam.

I also take this opportunity to thank the members of Publication Advisory Committee for their help in bringing this special issue. We also want to thank the Printing Facility, Creighton University for this publication.

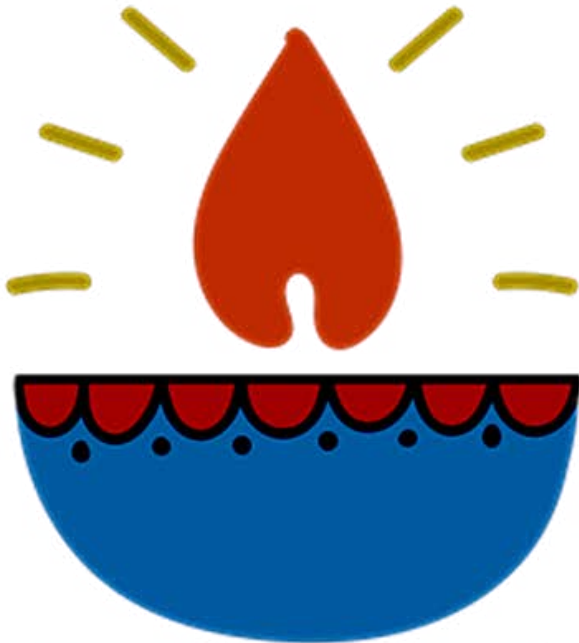
Wishing you all a **"Very Happy Deepavali and Prosperous New Year 2021"**

Nagendra Chaturvedi, Editor

on behalf of Publication Committee

Hindu Temple

**HAPPY DEEPAVALI AND
PROSPEROUS NEW
YEAR WISHES**



From:

**Archana and Nagendra Chaturvedi
Partha and Prahaan**



PLEASE CONTACT US

2455 S 132nd OMAHA, NE. Phone: 4023308575

TULSI INDIAN GROCERIES



**GET EVERYTHING
AT ONE PLACE**
**FRESH INDIAN VEGGIES
GROCERIES
SWEETS & SNACKS
BREAKFAST & CHAATS**

Available Everyday!



CONTACT US

617 N. 114th St., Omaha, NE 68154
email: maharaja.oma@gmail.com
Ph: (402) 505-4488



Wait no more for...
**A SUPERIOR
DINING
EXPERIENCE!**





PLATINUM
CHIROPRACTIC + WELLNESS

WE WISH YOU A
Prosperous Diwali!



LOOKING TO FEEL AND MOVE BETTER?

At Platinum Chiropractic + Wellness we diagnose and treat disorders of the musculoskeletal and nervous systems. We improve spinal health, movement of the body, decreasing muscle tension, and so much more! Feeling any back pain, muscle pain, and/or restricted movement? Give us a call!

DIWALI RATE SPECIAL OF **\$35** FOR
NEW PATIENTS!

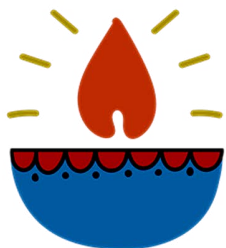
Come check out
Dr. Vinay Panchal
402-502-1230

5370 South 84th Street Omaha, NE 68127

info@pcwomaha.com
www.pcwomaha.com

Hindu Temple
13010 Arbor Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68144
402-697-8546

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage Paid
Omaha, NE
Permit Number 1182



**Happy Deepavali to You All
From Hindu Temple, Omaha**

