



HTCCM, Inc.
P.O. Box 6763
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Newsletter Editor:

Sarv Devaraj

Hindu Temple and Community Center of Michiana, Inc.

HTCCM Newsletter



Welcome & Thank You from the Board

This is the first issue of the HTCCM Newsletter—the first of what we hope will be a regular feature. The HTCCM Board thanks you for your enthusiastic support of the ongoing initiative to establish a temple here in Michiana. We are very close to our first goal of starting Sunday Puja in the temple in a few months time.

A quick update, for those of you not aware, is that we have purchased a property at the intersection of Dubois Street and Lily Street. Also, we completed demolition of unwanted structures. We conducted our first Puja last Sunday and we are now ready to start the renovation work.

The 'Contents' bar on the left side of this newsletter lists the items that are included in this newsletter. We hope you and your kids enjoy this newsletter.

Suggestions or items for inclusion in the next newsletter can be sent to Sarv Devaraj (sdevaraj@nd.edu). Please let us know your opinions about the newsletter. If this is an intrusion, let us know and we will remove your email from our list. If you know anybody that needs to be added to the mailing list, please let us know as well.

Thank you and God Bless!

The HTCCM Board

Religious Discourse - By Smt. Jaya Srinivasan

Topics: Sita Kalyan (The Marriage of Sita), Krishna and Karna (The Story of Krishna and Karna)

Date/Time: **April 1 and April 2, 7pm to 8:30 PM** followed by Prasad

Venue: Elkhart Camp Grounds

For more information contact: Bharatbhai Patel (264-2914) or Ganesh Vaidyanathan (271-2046). Smt. Jaya Srinivasan has visited South Bend twice already. She is an expert in Hindi, Sanskrit, and English discourses and had researched Valmiki, Tulsi, and Kamba extensively.



Elected Members (Elections on 2/28/2009 and on 3/8/09)

Executive Committee:

President: Jayanti Patel (286-9123)

Vice President: Kashmira Bhatt (273-4728)

Secretary: Sarv Devaraj (243-8566, sdevaraj@nd.edu)

Treasurer: Ganesh Vaidyanathan (271-2046)

Executive Director: Raj Kohli (277-7827)

Executive Director: Ajit Pai (277-1991)

Member-at-Large: Vikram Singh (271-1239)

Directors of Operation:

Executive Director: Raj Kohli

Director of Charitable Activities: Monolita Mitra

Director of Communication and Public Relations: Gita Khilnani

Directors of Food Services: Bhupendra patel, Nitin Patel, Paresh Patel, Pushpa Patel, Ravinder Patel and Raksha Amin.

Director of Fund Raising: Vinay Patel

Directors of Legal Affairs and Auditing Services: Harolyn Dutt and Bunty Choudhary

Director of Promotion: Bharat Bhai Patel

Director of Technology Services: Mahesh Devireddy

Directors of Temple Affairs: Kantibhai Patel, Harshad Pithadia and Kalavati Giasotta

Directors of Temple Development and Maintenance: Mukesh Patel and Jay Patel (SSC Construction)



Donation Drive in Progress: Due to the generosity and enthusiasm of the community we have been able to do a lot so far, but much work remains. We encourage members who have pledged to fulfill their pledges. We also request those who have not had a chance to contribute to consider doing so. Please call Raj Kohli 302-6783.

NEXT PUJA

After the enthusiasm and fervor observed during last Sunday's Puja, we are pleased to announce the next Puja on **April 12 (Sunday) at 2PM**. The renovation work will not yet be finished but we will have a simple Puja/Havan and Prasad. Many of you commented that it was such a joy to come together as a community and spend some time together. That is the spirit of the HTCCM!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We appreciate your volunteer efforts in helping us get the temple functional soon. A group of volunteers are planning to work on April 4 and April 5 at the temple. Please contact Bharat Bhai Patel (574-903-1991) to let him know if you can volunteer.

HAVE YOU CHECKED OUR WEB SITE YET?

Please check out www.hindutempleofmichiana.org for information about our temple. Feel free to offer suggestions on information we can provide on the web site. Obviously, once the temple is fully functional we will have all kinds of information on the web site.

KIDS STORY SECTION

THE GREATEST FOOLS IN THE NATION



This is the first of our stories on 'Akbar and Birbal'. For those of you kids who don't know who these two people are – Akbar was one of the great rulers of India, and his very famous and witty minister was Birbal. Read on to see why Birbal was so well known for his wit and wisdom.

Once, King Akbar asked Birbal to bring the five greatest fools in the nation to him. He said - "It is not difficult because this world is full of fools." Birbal went about looking for fools. Very soon, he saw a man **riding** a buffalo carrying a bundle of grass on his head. Birbal asked him - "Why are you carrying this bundle on your head instead of placing it on the buffalo?" The man replied - "My buffalo is old and weak, so I thought that she should not carry too much load, that is why I have put this bundle on my own head instead of putting it on her." Since the man was actually riding the buffalo with the bundle on his head, Birbal considered him a candidate to take to the king.

On the way, they saw a man lying flat on his back with his arms in the air. Birbal said, "Why, that man seems to have had a stroke! Wait here while I help him sit up." The man said " No, don't! Please don't touch my hands." So, Birbal asked, "I am sorry. Do they hurt?" The man replied "No. No. Not at all! My wife has asked me to buy a pot as big as this. If I move my hands, I'll get the wrong size and my wife will scold me for the rest of my life." Birbal thought "What a prize fool...I must take him with me."

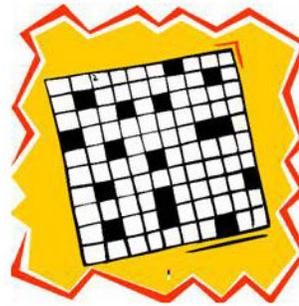
All this fool searching had made Birbal quite tired and he felt so tired that he took a nap. A few hours later, a refreshed Birbal was on his way back to his palace. He thought "What a beautiful moon! Even a thousand lamps would not light up the street as it does!" He then saw a man searching frantically for something. "What are you looking for?", asked Birbal. The man replied "My ring Sir" Birbal asked "Did you drop it here?", He replied, "No Sir, over there under that tree, but it's brighter here, so I'm looking for it here." Birbal said "Come with me", and took him with the other two men to King Akbar's court.

Birbal entered the court with the three fools. Akbar asked Birbal "What? Back so soon, Birbal?" Birbal replied, "It's not surprising, King. Everyone knows that fools are easier found than wise men." And Birbal told the emperor about his encounters with each of them.

Akbar said "But there are only three fools here! I distinctly remember asking you to show me five." Birbal replied, "I beg to correct you, King, there are five. These three and pardon me for saying so, the two of us." Akbar was furious "What?" Birbal remarked, "Yes, King, We have been the biggest fools of them all! You for sending me on such an errand and me for obeying you."

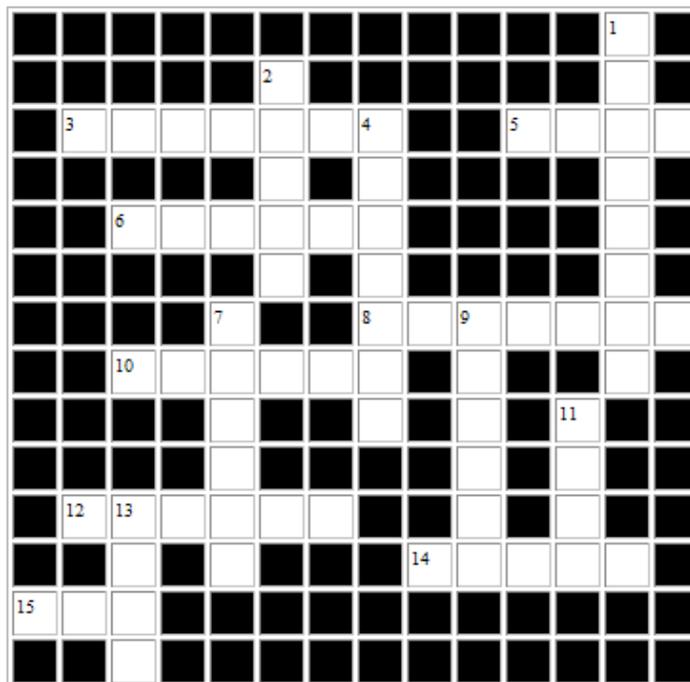
The whole court burst out laughing, but the loudest laugh was that of the emperor, who was renowned for his fine sense of humor.

KIDS CROSSWORD PUZZLE



(Answers to this puzzle are posted on the temple web site www.hindutempleofmichiana.org. Look for the link to the Newsletter)

HTCCM Kids Puzzle 1



Across

3. Lord Karthik's pet
5. Festival of colors
6. Festival of lights
8. Monkey God
10. Indian song of prayer
12. Food served after a puja
14. He has ten heads
15. Short for Indian Association of Michiana

Down

1. Classes for Kids in Granger
2. Ganesh's favorite food
4. Lord _____'s wisdom is captured in the Gita (book)
7. God of Knowledge
9. He causes fights among the Gods
11. An act of devotion
13. God with bow and arrow