



## AALAYA SANDESHA

Subhamastu Avighnamastu Vijayostu

Sri Venkateswara Temple Newsletter

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**2nd Quarter 2017**

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Dear Sir/Madam,

We have just finished our mahakumbhaabhishekham and it was a great event. The hard work of our priests and the community at large was rewarded by the success of the function. For many members of the community it was a first exposure to such a large traditional hindu event. Just as it was about renovating the temple, rejuvenating the energy of the vigrahas, it was also about rejuvenating our connection with the temple and our traditions.

It is summer now with warm weather here and our children home from school. It is great time for us to be able to teach them that which we think is important. Of course, science, mathematics, language, and history is taught to them in school, but during the summer we can teach our children what we think is important. We can teach them science from our perspective, the same for mathematics, language and history. This will allow the children to be properly educated not only in the facts and theories of the mainstream culture but also in what is important in our culture. This allows them to bring a unique perspective to the national table, making the conversation richer and the product better.

As part of the ongoing plans to serve the needs of the community, I am soliciting ideas for starting a Bal Vihar at our temple. The idea is for it to take place every two weeks on a Sunday, and be a forum to continue in the spirit of the Summer Temple Camp.

Please let me know of your ideas, desire to volunteer or any input that you may have.

Thank you,

Harihi Om

Vijay Bindingavele



## **Shraddha unlimited**

A feeling of spiritual elation and sense of fulfillment still runs through me as I pen down a few words. This feeling that started in the middle of May as the grand event of Mahakumbhabhishekam unfolded at our temple so very successfully. The remodelling at the temple, the decorations at the temple, the erection of the tent the decoration at the yagnashaala, the building of the homkundas....all the amateurs at work until 3 am in the morning, all inspired by the priest and more so by their own shraddha was a fine example of the dedication of the devotees to this event.

Our fundraising broke the boundaries of our usual festival of India. There were expenses but the fundraising was almost double. And then of course there was a whiff of skepticism about this expense amidst the loan that the temple has incurred. Well, the immense outpouring of donations for the event told another story. Such is God's grace. The sacred ceremony to increase the divinity of the temple will no doubt yield more blessings

So visit the temple as often as you can to seek the blessings, especially on the auspicious days or your special days like birthday, anniversary or visit the temple and make your day special.

The temple has grown tremendously with your continued support. God Bless you all.

Vandana Kamat

Trustee



## OM

Since time eternal Hindus have believed in the power of chanting the sacred word OM. For many, it is just a word created out of our rich mythological past. But even science has proved the therapeutic, psychological and spiritual benefits that can be derived from chanting OM.

It's the primal sound of the universe that comprises of all the sounds within itself and has evolved as an integral part of meditation. The OM mantra has astounding benefits that can heal the stress accumulation. Medical studies have found that chanting OM with concentration enables you to reduce the adrenaline levels that in turn helps reducing the stress levels. As chanting OM segregates one from the world and the associated tensions it leads to finding peace without distractions.

When OM chanting is done on a regular basis, the mind is focuses only on the sacred word. Which will lead into attentiveness towards subconscious thoughts.

The practice of chanting OM in the very first hour of waking improves releases endorphins resulting in a refreshed and relaxed state of mind.

Chanting OM while meditating further helps in detoxifying the body by regularization of the blood circulation and provides more oxygen to the body.

The constant deep breathing process along with the vibrations helps in getting rid of toxins. Besides regulating the flow of blood to different parts of the body, chanting OM also aids in controlling the blood pressure, heart beat and respiration process.

Chanting OM improves self-consciousness and strengthens the mind, improving concentration towards the soul assimilating positivity.

Mrs. Bhakti Sooda



## Editor's Corner



Our 12th anniversary at Sri Venkateswara temple in Corpus Christi is a goose bumping experience. Planning for the occasion was just a discussion until March of 2017.

All of a sudden the amazing grace of Lord and His presence was felt. Sri man Srinivasacharya took the lead and moved forward Everything was timely .

Priests from all over US arrived and the 5 day festivities began. A number of us took time off from work. Community's gracious presence made it even colorful. The event was an awesome success. Not a hair out of place. The rituals were done just like in Tirupathi Tirumala .

Acharya Srinivas garu was able to import whatever needed and the board was 100% behind the project

In honor of our 12th year celebration , members of the board have decided to feed the hungry once every month for the next 12 months. We will arrange food donation through homeless shelter.

Please join me welcoming Dr. Vishnu Reddy to be member of board of trustees .

Sravanamasam Pujas are underway

Please visit the temple.

Temple calendar with all the scheduled pujas is available at our website .

My sincere apologies for the delay publishing this issue.

Lalitha M Janaki ,MD FACR