



An Invitation...



Please join us for a Town Hall style inaugural lecture forum on:

Hindu Temple, Community Activism and You

The timely lecture forum, the first one organized at the **Shanthy Mandir**, will address the many positive impacts of the Hindu Temple and Community Center including providing a focal point for the many spiritual, educational and service oriented activities already thriving in the Columbia Indian Community. The invited speaker who is the founding Secretary of the Sri Meenakshi Temple of Pearland (Houston), Texas, will share his Houston experience with us. Having been very actively involved in service initiatives in the US and India for many years, Sam Kannappan will draw upon his first-hand experience to discuss how community activism can transform the quality of life in a mid-sized town like Columbia. This "Town Hall" style lecture forum is timely for our community in the present-day context as faith-based groups are called upon to complement the social service undertakings of federal, state and local governments.

Time: 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.
Date: Sunday, December 4, 2005
Location: Shanthy Mandir
2006 Holly Avenue, Columbia
Directions: East on Vandiver past Rangeline,
left on Parker, Right on Holly

About the speaker...

Sockalingam (Sam) Kannappan is a Licensed Professional Engineer and a licensed real estate broker in the State of Texas, USA. With a 25-year experience in petrochemical, power plant, nuclear and offshore design, he has received meritorious performance awards from the Tennessee Valley Authority, General Electric and the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center.



Kannappan is also a recognized leader in Houston's Indo-American community. He is the founder secretary of the Sri Meenakshi Temple in Pearland, Texas. As chairman of India's Disaster Relief Committee, Kannappan coordinated earthquake relief in Gujarat and met with lawmakers in Washington DC, who approved an additional \$ 10 million for earthquake relief. He subsequently helped Indo-American organizations to jointly raise \$230,000 for the victims of September 11. More recently, he has helped arrange for the Meenakshi Temple to provide food to New Orleans evacuees in the Astrodome in Houston.

Sam will be available for informal discussions until 4:30 p.m.

Additional information...

Chandra 446-6143, Inder 874-9647, and Vairam 875-4518