

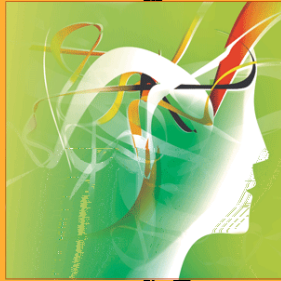


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VOLUME 2



Research

A Competitive

Today's high school

...takes grades, ... and college to obtain admission becoming increasingly

...students need themselves the crown onsets

American Competitiveness Council (ACC) showed that many schools surveyed nationally, were not well equipped for laboratory science.

Realizing the lack of research experience for most of the freshman students, several universities and

national laboratories are now offering several programs and internships for high school students. Recently, the House Science and Technology Committee on Research and Science Education has echoed the

effectiveness of science labs-experience. The committee focuses on many aspects of U.S. science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education and is currently putting together a legislative proposal to improve the science laboratory experience for high school students. It is a recent trend

industrial research labs to maintain a rigorous college participatory program. In addition to polishing their own resume and boosting their own high-school course work, research and lab experience demonstrate to the college admissions committee the applicant's willingness to learn, which translates into an advantage during college admission.

What is offered to high-school students?

During these internships (mostly in summer) students work in a laboratory under the direction of a mentor on a project related to those laboratories' specific research programs. In addition to working in the lab, students attend lectures, present seminars, and engage in various scientific group activities. The internships are generally designed to help maximize the research experience and time and to

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We proudly welcome our 100th member - Chandrasekar and Lakshmi Prabha

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Gurunathan Lakshman. We are very grateful to them for bringing their contagious enthusiasm and passion to all our program offerings during their short visit. Lakshman presented several talks at the University, and with assistance from Kumudini, officiated at the devotional programs, as detailed by Meera and H. R. Chandrasekhar in the article on page 5. Lakshman's inspiring write-up on sustainable

development from a Hindu perspective is timely given the ongoing discussions on climate change, both locally in Columbia, and globally. We are also thrilled that he has accepted to write a quarterly



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This article is a summary of the author's presentation during the recent round-table discussions at the University of Missouri-Columbia in July 2007. It was originally prepared by the author for the Multifaith seminar on "Faith-based Eco-Sustainability" at Saskatoon, Canada

Eco-Sustainability - A Hindu Perspective - G. Lakshman

The environmental crisis or crisis of sustainability is an inevitable result of an insatiable appetite for more and more of new and newer artifacts. There is a spiraling escalation of our desire towards enjoying anything and everything that can produce a sensory euphoria. Understandably, we cannot understand or tolerate anything that might disrupt this joyride. We can only see 'our desires' fulfilled by exploiting resources wherever they are and in whichever way we can. Our lives are a constant chase; fulfilling one desire after another. This self-centered, materialistic attachment feeds on itself until we all become insensitive to its impact on our environment and the wellbeing of others. We define progress and happiness to mean a life full of bigger and better gadgets; it requires enormous resources to keep us happy and, in this quest, we destroy the quality of our environment and dramatically diminish valuable resources. Having

accomplished this, we have now successfully created an environmental crisis or a veritable problem of sustainability and we dare to pass this legacy to future generations.

Society is driven by the yardstick of wealth, prestige and power. The crisis of sustainability is created by this mindset, a mindset of science, technology and economics. We can, of course, try to stem this tide of madness through public meetings, group activities and organized upsurge against blatant destruction of the environment. Unfortunately, we will be constantly weakened by our greed and unfulfilled desires. The moral authority of faith leaders may be weak, ineffective and hypocritical. A more effective solution has to come from a different approach and a different source. We must establish a direct link with the

scriptures to convey the message. Hinduism offers a different perspective to this relationship between environment, nature and humanity.

Hinduism's approach to this problem is based on three principles.

One of the axioms of Hindu philosophy is that problems cannot be solved by the same level of thinking that created them. This quote has also been attributed to Albert Einstein. Since the crisis of sustainability has been created by a



materialistic and technology-savvy mind, it cannot be solved by materialistic and technological reasoning. We have to go a higher level of knowledge and understanding to motivate people to do the right thing. Hinduism says it is not enough to respect nature; it is necessary to revere nature.

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We can all do little things in our daily life which will enhance the quality of our environment. The following are only some suggestions which help to conserve water, stop destroying trees and reduce the emission of greenhouse gases.

- Use cloth bags for bagging groceries. Keep them in the car so you won't forget them when you go shopping
- Don't run the tap when you are not using the water while brushing teeth or while soaping during the shower
- Turn down the water temperature on the hot water heater. It uses the gas or electricity unnecessarily to maintain the high temperature even when the hot water is not being used
- Practice principles of passive heating and cooling. Close the curtains and windows when you turn on the air-

conditioning to reduce the passive heating of the house during hot days. Open the windows at night to take advantage of cool night air.

- Buy groceries in bulk whenever possible. This reduces the packaging waste.
- Turn off all unnecessary lights. Make a habit of turning the lights off whenever you exit the room
- Walk, stroll or run whenever you can and avoid taking the car for short runs
- Reduce the level of water in the toilet tank and adjust the flush volume which can do the job
- Use a soaker hose for watering plants and grass and if possible water the lawn either in the morning or evening to reduce the loss of water by evaporation
- Write on both sides of the

paper. Particularly, in North America we tend to use only one side and in some cases only a fraction of the paper.

- Try not to print everything you see on a website. Save the information as a file and print only what is really needed. Used printed pages can be recycled as scrap paper or note-pads.

We would greatly appreciate receiving other similar ideas from our youth and adult readers so that we can share them with others. Remember "Think globally, act locally" should not remain just another catch phrase for posters and billboards. Do not underestimate the significant impact that implementation of these and other simple and thoughtful changes to our lifestyles can have on our environment. Send your suggestions to shanthimandir@yahoo.com.



First Ever HTCC Elections

Officers of Executive Board and Elected Trustees

HTCC Board of Trustees has scheduled the first ever elections for officers of the Executive Board and Elected Trustees and a General Assembly meeting for **Saturday, September 15 at 10:00 a.m. at Shanthi Mandir**. It is no coincidence that this day we also celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi in the evening. The day also marks the second anniversary of the inauguration of Shanthi Mandir. All current members should be receiving a notice with regard to the elections from the President of the Board of Trustees in the next two weeks.

Message from the Executive Board continued from page 1...

column on the Bhagavad Gita. This regular feature will start with the next issue of Shanthi Sandesh.

This month we are getting ready for our Capital Campaign. H. R. Chandrasekhar will be providing leadership for this important HTCC effort. With approval earlier this year of our tax-exempt status under IRS Section 501 (c) 3, the donation of the Shanthi Mandir property to HTCC, and the finalization of the recommendations from our Facilities and Renovations committee for medium term repairs/renovations, the stage is now set for the Capital Campaign. We will be discussing the repair/renovation and long term plans with our membership in the weeks ahead. We have already received donations of over \$19,000 during this quarter (see donation recognition on page 13 for details). Please contact Chandra (Chandra@missouri.edu or 446-6143) if you would like more information about our Capital Campaign or would like to assist us in any manner in this effort. **Please also be aware that if you make donations of \$5,000 or more prior to December 31, 2007, you will be recognized as a Founding Trustee** with all the rights and privileges of families who have donated like amounts since the start of the Mandir project in August 2005. This is an excellent opportunity for you and your family to play a significant role from the inception of the Hindu Temple and Community Center, one that will serve Mid-Missouri for generations to come.

HTCC's Board of Trustees has scheduled our first elections for Officers to the Executive Board as well as Elected Trustees on September 15 at 10:00 a.m. The elections will be held at the Mandir during a General Assembly meeting. You should be hearing shortly about the procedures and details with regard to these elections from Ranadhir Mitra who is the President of the Board of Trustees. We would encourage all of our members to consider running for the various offices and to actively participate in the elections. The HTCC Constitution and Bylaws which includes specific information on meetings and elections is posted on our web site for your ready reference.

September 15 also happens to be Ganesh Chaturthi. Our second anniversary celebrations will be in full swing later that evening with the Ganesh Chaturthi Puja. This year, we have decided to team up with the Mid-Missouri Marathi Mandal who will be organizing and hosting the devotionally-focused celebrations at the Mandir. Details of this Puja will become available in the next few weeks.

This issue of Shanthi Sandesh, appropriate to the start of the fall semester, focuses on education and research opportunities for our youth. Annirudha Raychaudhari's lead article offers excellent ideas and inspiration to high-schoolers on getting a leg up on college admissions. It is supported by inspiring contributions from Meghna Srinath on the Booker Prize and the 2006 recipient, Kiran Desai, and by Deb Gangopadhyay, on time management and the need to maintain a balance between academics and other extra curricular activities.

HTCC Youth Day August 25

HTCC has become actively involved in the Columbia Faith and Education Collaborative, an interfaith group under the auspicious of the MU Peace Studies Program. At a community meeting in March, the interfaith group decided to form four committees focused on education, service, social activities and youth. HTCC is represented on the service committee by Gopalaratnam (on a temporary basis until replaced by another volunteer) and on the education committee by Satish Anand. We are yet to have representatives on the youth and social activities committees. Please let us know if you would like to participate on these committees on behalf of HTCC. It is important that we participate proactively in the collaborative. The service committee already has completed its first interfaith project - the Community Blood Drive held on July 15, 2007 at the First Baptist Church. It was a modest start to a significant collaboration. The next interfaith service opportunity is a Habitat for Humanity project is scheduled for September 7-9 (details on page 12).

Please sign up to participate on behalf of HTCC. It is wonderful to give your time and effort in support of this worthy cause.

Regionally too, there are other interfaith efforts underway. One such effort at Westminster University is aimed at the formation of a mid-Missouri interfaith consortium to facilitate working towards common goals of the various participating groups. This effort seeks to serve as a clearing house of service and other interfaith opportunities, with a special focus on youth. HTCC was represented at the inaugural meeting earlier this month. We will keep members informed of opportunities resulting from our participation in this effort.

With almost two years under our belt, it is appropriate for us to explore offering new programs long desired by our membership. Efforts are underway for offering Tabla and vocal music (possibly Hindustani and Carnatic styles depending upon levels of interest) classes at the Mandir beginning fall. Based on the very positive initial response to the recent survey, we are in the process of organizing meetings to discuss details of these offerings. HTCC will provide infrastructure support for these new initiatives although the classes themselves will be privately taught and



organized. These offerings, in addition to the dance classes already underway at the Mandir, will serve to enrich our educational programs.

Lastly, please remember to pencil in the HTCC Youth Day on your calendar. It is organized jointly this year with Bal Sabha and Bal Puja youth groups and will be held on Saturday, August 25 from 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the Dexheimer shelter (Cosmopolitan Park). Notice of this celebration of the accomplishments of our youth will be sent out next week. Please help with the organization of this event by contacting the HTCC Youth Activities Committee.

See you at the Mandir!

**Vellore S. Gopalaratnam
Inder Khurana
Visala Palaniappan
Anuradha Rajagopalan**

All who have meditated on the art of governing mankind have been convinced that the fate of empires depends on the education of youth.

Aristotle

Research experience for High School Students

continued from Page 1...

have a practical laboratory experience to gain insight into how and why scientific researches are done. These programs are also helping students to understand the importance of documentation and the ways and means of scientific communication. Apprenticed to a mentor, the process is a stepping-stone to learn the culture of science. During lab-internships, students can uncover many treasures, which can be beneficial while pursuing higher education and research.

Hands on learning-gives a different perspective and exposure

Students performing research on a college level, while still in high school, get a chance to test themselves in a real laboratory environment. The foremost advantage is doing hands-on experiments, which brings a different perspective of learning. During this laboratory experience, many students I know have found their niche topics, while some have rediscovered it. In most cases, pre-college research experience helps high school students decide on their major, well before they even go to college. Not only does it help to expand knowledge on a particular subject of their choice, it also increases acuity and problem-solving capacities. Additionally, it gives an overview of several research techniques, protocols, and operation of equipment. Apart from boosting a college

resume, working in a lab helps students with their own high school work. I have noticed that after laboratory experience, many students have found it easier to handle difficult and advanced placement courses. In many cases they just do not just cease to learn the theoretical concepts, they also want to understand how things work.

Making College ready and College admission

The U.S. Department of Education reports that students who take advance placement courses along with hands-on laboratory experience are considered better prepared for college. During research, students are exposed to a wide range of topics and challenges to meet rigorous standards. It is often like doing college work. Therefore, once the students go to college; these prior experiences help them better prepared academically, make them adaptable easily to the higher demands of academic life. As a practical benefit, when most freshmen struggle to manage time wisely, these students who learnt to work within time constraints, develop good time management skills, a prerequisite for successful college life. In addition to the prestige associated with working in a university laboratory, one also gains access to state-of-the-art technologies, which gives one a sense of confidence. Working in labs gives students an opportunity to meet other students and learn about them. If the students gain some meaningful research experience, it conveys the message that the students have a real knack for learning and that's what admission committees look for when screening students for college admission. The initiative the student exhibits and the

experience they gain, can be useful in being accepted to a school of their choice and in obtaining competitive financial assistance. Additionally, some of the researchers they come across, particularly the supervising mentors can write strong letters of recommendation to elite schools to help them to secure fellowships.

Supporting federal agencies

Federal R&D agencies' (NIH, NSF, NASA, DOE, etc.) funded projects, in many cases offer opportunities to high school students to obtain a meaningful research experience. For example, NIH, NSF support various aspects of research to stimulate students' interest in careers in life sciences, biomedical and physical sciences. Many formal and informal activities; such as Saturday Morning Science sessions, Ask-a-Scientist Online Discussions, and workshops have been formulated to attract students and make them aware of the research opportunities available.

The Frustration and the hope

Working intensely in the lab may not be an attractive option when most of the friends are celebrating their escape from high school, having fun. Particularly, the first few weeks may seem rather disorienting and frustrating. Interns may need to spend a lot of their time and energy without getting expected results. Progress in science may move more slowly than expected and most often students need to be resourceful and intuitive in using time and effort. Facing unprecedented problems, they need to read journals, discuss with mentors, where no textbooks can really help. Undoubtedly, this is a new adventure with its own merits. Along with these frustrations and agony comes the excitement of learning and experiencing new things. It is worth commencing this rigorous process, as this experience can be exhilarating and rewarding, taking the students to new heights☺

Aniruddha Raychaudhuri is a Research Scientist at the University of Missouri-Columbia. He can be reached at email address: raychaudhuri@missouri.edu

A Visit from Dr. G. Lakshman - Meera and H.R. Chandrasekhar,

Columbia was fortunate to receive a visit from Dr. Gurunathan Lakshman and his wife Kumudini, from Saskatoon, Canada, during July 5-8, 2007. We took advantage of their visit by arranging for a number of events. The events included a talk at the University of Missouri on lessons from the Bhagavad Gita, a round table discussion with faculty and staff on Hinduism's perspectives on sustainable development, a special Sai Bhajan and a chat with our youth on the Gita at the July Bal Puja meeting. The focal event of their visit, however, was the Third Annual Samuhika Satyanarayana Puja.

Dr. Lakshman, who is a physicist by training, was a Principal Research Scientist at the Saskatchewan Research Council for 18 years. In 1986 he established System Ecotechnologies, Inc, an environmental biotechnology company. He is an expert on designing engineered wetland treatment systems for wastewater treatment and has produced several marketable products. He is also interested in understanding the inner essence of the Bhagavad Gita and exploring the power of mantras.

Dr. Lakshman believes that the Bhagavad Gita has valuable lessons for today, both in resolving personal strife and finding solutions to the global crisis of violence, bigotry and socio-economic conflicts. His talk "Ancient Wisdom for a Global Crisis – The Bhagavad Gita: Love, Peace and Harmony in the 21st Century," was presented at Gannett Hall on July 6, organized by the Cultural Association of India and hosted by the MU Center on Religion and the Professions. It was attended by a standing-room only audience of over 75, including many leaders of the Columbia interfaith community. In this presentation he discussed how "the

solution to the present day crisis appears to be in the rediscovery of human values, a shift from the current emotion-based behavior to value-based conduct," and related these ideas to the Gita's "many cosmic and philosophical issues dealing with the nature and significance of human life, thought and action.... Religion is supposed to give people two things: courage and hope. Belief in those values can move people from self-destruction to spiritual transformation."

Dr. Lakshman also led a round-table discussion, attended by MU faculty and staff, on Hindu perspectives on sustainable development, and discussed the paradigm shift needed to deal with the environmental crisis (see article by Dr. Lakshman in this issue of Shanthi Sandesh). In his view, you cannot solve a problem created by technology by another technology – you need to go to "a higher level of knowledge and understanding to motivate people to do the right thing." He laid his finger on today's "body-centric" culture and "self-centered materialistic attachment" that "feeds on itself until we all become insensitive to its impact on the environment." He explained how the Gita's concept of sharing, a sense of restraint, and sensitivity to the welfare of all human beings is a starting point to achieving solutions to the environmental crisis.

Kumudini and Lakshman are ardent devotees of Shri Sathya Sai Baba. The Columbia Sai Bhajan group conducted a Special Sai Bhajan on Saturday, July 7, immediately following the regular Saturday morning Suprabhatam/Sahasranaamam

prayer service. The well-attended bhajan concluded with some inspiring personal experiences of the Lakshmans with Swami.

A deep belief in the essence of Hinduism makes Dr. Lakshman both a person who distills the practical and who is a practitioner of Hindu tradition. On Saturday, July 7 he conducted the traditional Samuhika Satyanarayana Puja at the Mandir, with Kumudini assisting. Over a dozen families conducted the puja under his guidance, while several other community members attended. The large audience marveled at his clear rendering and discerning explanations of the various stages of the puja. The puja was followed by prasad and a delicious pot-luck dinner.

On the following morning, Sunday, July 8, Dr. Lakshman spoke to the Bal Puja group. He discussed the lessons of the Gita as they applied to younger students.

This talk was very well received. Shanthi Sandesh editors have been in discussions with Dr. Lakshman about the possibility of having a regular by-lined column on the Bhagavad Gita in each quarterly issue of the Mandir newsletter.



We were privileged to experience the insightful lectures and puja that Dr. Lakshman delivered, and to share his and Kumudini's friendship and humor. Their visit produced a lot of enthusiasm among the Columbia Hindu and interfaith communities. The very positive media coverage of several of the public events arranged during Dr. Lakshman's visit generated wonderful publicity for educational and devotional programs at the Mandir. We hope he will visit us again!🙏

Missouri Academy of Science Mathematics and Computing

Neil Thawani, sophomore, University of Missouri-Columbia

The Missouri Academy is an accelerated two-year residential program that replaces students' junior and senior years of high school. Over the course of these two years, students complete rigorous coursework pertaining to mathematics, science, and computing, along with completing the core requirements of the Missouri high school curricula. Upon completion of this program, students earn a high school diploma along with an Associate of Science degree. On average, 85% of students who graduate from the Missouri Academy continue with science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (S.T.E.M.) programs in their college careers.

Personally, I have always had a great interest in the sciences; when I was younger,



I wanted to become a computer programmer. After taking some computing classes (Java, Visual Basic) through the Academy, I realized that in practice, computer programming was not really something that I had a passion for. The Missouri Academy, while one is completing the core requirements for graduation, allows students to take classes they normally would not be able to take in many high schools throughout the state. In my second (senior) year, I took a Civil Liberties class, and solidified my passion for law. I am currently pursuing a B.S. in Chemistry and plan on attending law school after I graduate.

The Associate of Science Diploma has 68 credits of college coursework backing it, and these credits are transferable to all public institutions in Missouri, including Northwest

Missouri State, UMKC, Mizzou, Truman, and the most common destination for Missouri Academy graduates (approximately 25% of every graduating class), UMR. After graduating the Missouri Academy at the age of 17, I found that I was able to make a graduation plan that would allow me to complete my undergraduate degree program in two and a half years.

Overall, my Missouri Academy experience was a very rewarding one, both academically and personally, and retrospectively, was a much better decision than staying at my regular high school in Boonville🙏

For more information about the Missouri Academy, please visit the official Missouri Academy website: <http://www.nwmissouri.edu/masmc>, and the unofficial student-run MASMC website: <http://www.moacad.com>.



Eco-Sustainability: A Hindu Perspective
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According to Hinduism, God created the entire physical universe with five component elements namely, space, air, fire, water and earth. Oceans, vegetation, animals and humans were created later as inhabitants of this physical firmament we call earth. Man is hailed as the apex of creation; not in the sense that Man is the master of all he surveys who can choose to exploit all the resources at his will. It is in the sense that Man is the apex of creation thrust with a great responsibility to protect and nurture the environment using his superior intelligence. Man is a custodian looking after everything else in creation.

Hinduism goes further to reiterate that the Cosmic Consciousness, called the Brahman, the Creator is immanent in everything in the creation. Brahman is the sustaining force in everything, animate and inanimate. Hence our environment and resources are also a manifestation of the Brahman although, unfortunately, we are blind to this inherent connection.

We should show reverence to everything in the creation. It is not mere respect; but reverence, an acknowledgement of the presence of the omnipresent cosmic spirit. We should internalize this sense of reverence to our environment and resources in our psyche and show it when we begin to define 'progress' and 'prosperity'. We should feel the reverence for everything in the Creation and then we can see a real change

in our attitude towards the environment. During Hindu rituals we use herbs, leaves, flowers, plants and fruits in the worship. Man, as the crown of Creation, should make sure that even these denizens of our environment have an opportunity to participate in the worship. This is the first principle.

Since humans are an essential component of God's creation we should feel for the welfare and wellbeing of all human beings, wherever they are. We should recognize and appreciate the impact of our activities on their lives; we may be destroying the food crops and biodiversity in other countries because we want them to grow corn and sugarcane for ethanol for our gas guzzlers. As a corollary to the first principle we should ensure that our desires and actions to achieve 'progress and prosperity' do not cause conflict and pain in others. This is the second principle.

Spirituality is when we are ready to sacrifice our own needs for the welfare of others, spirituality is when we are ready to diminish our own wants just to ensure that others may enjoy their needs. Spirituality is when we put a ceiling on our desires and experience the spirit in the trees, rivers and mountains. Hinduism emphasizes the sense of sharing and sacrifice built upon a sense of restraint and universal oneness. This sharing

goes across all boundaries. When there is restraint on desires, compassion in the heart, and belief in the oneness of Creation there is bound to be less pressure on our resources. This attitude should be inspired from the inside and not tutored from the outside. This is the third principle.

We need a paradigm shift in our aspirations and what should be the priorities in our life. A paradigm shift in how we define 'happiness' and 'progress'. A paradigm shift in our perspective of the world and its resources. We should rise above the materialistic view that we are the masters and we have God's permission to exploit the earth's diminishing resources at our will. We need a ceiling on our desires. What we need is a fresher perspective from the vantage point of universal wellbeing and we should remember that as the crown of Creation we have the inherent responsibility and duty to protect the environment.

Almost all prayers in Hinduism, whether chanted at home before meditation or sung at the temple during worship, pray for the wellbeing of everything in the Creation; trees, mountains, rivers and all animals and humans. The prayers are universal and seek the divine blessings for all. I wish to end this article with a prayer from Hinduism (see box below) ☺

*May all creatures in the universe live freely without fear
May all people around the world live in peace and harmony
May all people everywhere regardless of their faith, nationality, gender and ethnic roots live without fear, persecution or poverty
May the earthly resources be bountiful to all
May the cosmic consciousness kindle love in every beating heart
May the love become universal and melt all borders of the selfish mind
May the Grace of Divinity shower equally on all and always*

*Education is not the
filling of a pail, but the
lighting of a fire.*

W. B. Yeats



Dashaavatar Show at the Shanthi Mandir during the June Bal Puja meeting

Bal Sandesh

Newsletter of Bal Sabha of Columbia, MO

August 2007

Bal Sabha Officers

- President**
Ravi Thawani
- Vice President**
Varsha Pherwani
- Secretary/Treasurer**
Surya Mantrala
- Cultural Secretary**
Vasavi Yeletti
- Bal Sandesh Coordinator**
Hema Srinivasan

EDITOR'S NOTE



Welcome every one to the new school year 2007-2008 after a summer full of exciting activities. Please share your adventures or meditations and musings of the summer. Write an article about it or send a picture to Bal Sandesh. In this issue you will see a nice story on Australian myth, the exciting art workshop you may have missed, some drawings and math problems as usual. We also have two of our Balsabha members, Meghna and Deb, graduate from High School and both of them have written articles for our Bal Sandesh. Remember the Picnic for Bal Sabha is on Saturday, August 25th.



Bal Sabha Kudos

High School Graduates: Meghna Srinath graduated from Hickman High School and will be going to Washington University in Saint Louis next Fall. Deb Gangopadhyay graduated from Rockbridge High School and will be going to Yale University next Fall. Balsabha congratulates the graduates and wishes them continued success in life.

Math Contests: Ashok represented Missouri in the American Regional Math league in June 2007 and also won the silver medal in USA Math talent search in the year long 2006-07 competition. Congratulations to Ashok.

Chess Tournaments: Arjun Khurana and Vikram Arunachalam tied for 1st place in Class D and Class C respectively of the Missouri Class Chess Championships held

in Columbia on July 14-15, 2007. Each won an undisclosed cash prize (the amount is between \$75 and \$1 million) as well as recognition by the Missouri State Chess Association. Congratulations to Arjun and Vikram.



Suryanshi Rawat, 5th Grade Mill Creek was chosen as the alternate for the "State Fashion Revue" from 4H Boone County. Her Sewing Project "All occasion dress - Shrug, Tank top and Skirt with ruffles" is also a winning entry for the State Fair 2007 at Sedalia.

Chaitasi Naik, 11th grade Jefferson City High School,

won third price for her painting in multi media category at Sketch Day competition held by Jefferson City Art Club.

HTCC Youth Day

The YOUTH Day celebration is a day to have fun, recognize and reward our youth. Everyone is invited. Please mark your calendars, volunteer to help with pot-luck dinner and also volunteer to help for various games and activities.

- Day: Saturday
- Date: August 25, 2007
- Time: 4:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- Location: Dexheimer Shelter, Cosmopolitan Park, Columbia
- Phone: (573) 445-4213 and (573) 874-7460

Contacts:

- Kalai Kumar (573) 445-9579 to help with the organization of this annual event
- Varsha Tejwani (573) 256-8904 for help with pot-luck dinner
- Kalai Kumar (573) 445-9579 and Adarsh Kumar (573) 447-2006 to help organize games for the picnic.

HTCC Summer Art Workshops - Creative and fun moments



Foil Embossing - Chaitasi Naik Junior at Jefferson City High School

I am an artistic person and an ardent lover of Arts. I love to draw, to paint, to work on things with my hands. So when my mom asked me whether I would like to attend the art workshop at



the temple, I immediately responded yes and enrolled in the foil embossing workshop. I was looking forward to this workshop,

since it was a new medium for me.

Thus, one Saturday morning I was in the workshop surrounded by some of my contiguous friends, all of us sitting around the long table, chattering and eating Prasad. Eventually our tutors got their class started by passing out the supplies. They passed out a two-sided (golden and silver) piece of foil, a pen, and a piece of wood covered with midnight blue cloth to each of us and a sheet of paper listing different subjects. We were required to choose a subject from the options offered. There was ruffling of paper, excited

chatter but finally the prattle quieted down when our teachers told us what we were supposed to do. To get to this process it took about an hour of the total 1 & ½ hour time available for the workshop and the other half was dedicated to actually working on our designs. Thus I passed my morning, among my friends, exercising my talents.

So, are you interested in foil embossing? Well here's what it takes to enjoy this form of creative art. Before you can start embossing, you need some basic supplies including a sturdy smooth surface like plywood, a pen, lots of old newspaper, a scissor and some foil. You can buy foil at Hobby Lobby, where they have a foil embossing kit. Start with the sturdy smooth surface on which you can display your finished embossed piece. If your surface is a light color, then you may want to paint a darker color or get a dark piece of cloth and wrap it around. Once you have the background ready, set it aside. Place a large amount of recyclable paper, such as old newspapers or magazine on a flat surface. Place many pieces

of paper beneath, so that your foil will get a cushion. On top of this pile, place your piece of foil, the shiny, metallic side facing away from you. On top of the foil, place the sheet of paper that contains your subject. Position your subject matter so that it falls exactly in the center. Then take a pen and trace your subject matter, so that it is imprinted on the foil. Make sure you don't tear the sheet. Remove your subject sheet. Then with your foil still upside down, take your pen and go over the lines that are already there. Next pick up your scissors and cut out your subject from the foil. Then glue your foil on the dark background you had prepared earlier. Finally to add a bit of dazzle to your creation, you can use glitter glue, rhinestones, ribbons, or just plain paint. There you are you have your own wonderful foil embossed work of art.

Is this not a creative form of presenting your subject? Art is an expression and foil embossing is one such form. If you are an ardent lover of art, like me you will enjoy foil embossing. Give it a try to realize the joy!

My Australian Myth - Prerna Srinivasan, 7th grade Smithton Middle School

Once upon a time, in a far, far away land called Australia, there was a bright, white, dry desert called The "Pearl Desert", because of its whiteness.

Back then all of the deserts were owned by the almighty god, Nystrom. Now Nystrom had a horrible arch nemesis, Gibson. Gibson was very greedy and wanted The Pearl Desert.

So Gibson went to Nystrom and said, "O Nystrom! God of the Gods! Better than Sir Heaven himself! Please may I have The Pearl Desert?" Nystrom sat there thinking, "The Pearl Desert is my most prized possession. I also know that Gibson will flatter



the gods to get his greedy little hands onto valuable items to make him greedier. No! I shall not give it to him!" So Nystrom shouted "NO! Never! I will never give you The Pearl Desert!" This made Gibson so angry that he declared war. Nystrom got really scared. Everyone knew that they should not upset Gibson. Even though Nystrom was the "gods of the gods", Gibson had the strength of the 10 Nystroms put together!

To decide the place of battle, they decided to flip a coin and Gibson chose heads and Nystrom chose tails. FLIP! CLAP! WHACK! Heads! Gibson got to choose where the battle was going to take place. Gibson stood there and thought, and thought, and thought some more. Finally Gibson yelled "The Pearl Desert!" Nystrom was

about to protest when he reluctantly agreed.

With a "On your mark, get set, and a go!" the two went to battle. The battle lasted 10 days! There was bloodshed everywhere! On the tenth and last day of the battle, Nystrom somehow managed to kill Gibson! Since Gibson was very strong, he had lots of blood. So when he died, the blood sprayed all across The Pearl Desert. The blood soaked into the ground turned it from white to muddy blood color. Nystrom was very sad and angry. Since it was Gibson's blood that turned The Pearl Desert red, the desert was named The Great Red Gibson Desert. Till this day The Great Gibson Desert is still red.

This is how The Great Red Gibson Desert got its name and how it got the red color!

The Man Booker Prize debuted in 1968. Started by Tom Maschler, an English publisher, the prize was originally known as the Booker-McConnell Prize, but the name was later changed to the Booker Prize. In 2002, administration was handed over to the Booker Prize Foundation. The Man Group was the main sponsor, thus the name Man Booker Prize.

This is one of the world's most prestigious literary prizes, awarded to the best English fiction book of the year. There has been only one recipient each year, with the exception of 1992, when there were two. The five finalists, however, also receive a mark of distinction.

To be eligible for the Booker Prize, the book must be written in English and the the

An exploration of the Inheritance of Loss and author Kiran Desai

Meghna Srinath, Hickman High School

Author Kiran Desai was born in Chandigarh, India. She migrated to the U.S. at age 15. Her dad is a Gujarati and lives in Delhi, while her mom is half-German, half Bengali, and lives in New York. She wrote her first novel, *Hullabaloo* in the Guava Orchard, while she was a student at Columbia University. This book is a comical, satirical parable. She then spent more than eight years writing *The Inheritance of Loss*. The first copy was over 800 pages, subsequently cut down to 336. At age 35, she is the youngest Booker prizewinner.

The Inheritance of Loss is set in the mid-1980s. Desai switches between towns called Kalimpong, in the foothills of the Himalayas in northeast India, and New York. The story centers on an embittered, retired Indian judge who lives in Kalimpong. He was educated in Cambridge, strongly dislikes Indians, and is very short-tempered. Sai is his 16-year-old orphaned granddaughter who is sent to live with him. A lowly peasant cook in the household cares for Sai and brings her up. The cook has a son named Biju, who migrates to New York. The cook thinks that Biju is a successful man. However, Biju is actually very poor, switching restaurant jobs every week and living in the basement

of a project in Harlem.

In the mid-1980s along the India-Nepal border, there was much political tension between the Indians and the Nepali Indians (Gorkhas). Desai describes how this socio-political rift widens as strife and insurgency

tear apart the lives of people in the village of Kalimpong.

Throughout the book, Desai explores complex themes through her characters' inner struggles. She explores the idea of roots and belonging—Biju often wonders whether he belongs in India or the U.S. This conflict is also shown through Gyan, a Gorkha who is Sai's tutor and lover. Gyan must come to terms with his

loyalties—Sai or the Gorkha army. Immigration is another theme through Biju's story. Desai reveals the difficulties an immigrant faces in the U.S. As Desai said, "We often hear the stories of super achieving immigrants, but we need to hear stories about fragmented lives and the [price] many pay for their immigrant dreams." She explores the relativity of the term 'happiness' and how perhaps, life is more defined by loss than by fulfillment. The judge captures the conflict of living in the past versus the present, as he constantly reflects on his troubled past.

Finally, and especially relevant to the state of affairs today, Desai makes a passionate statement by depicting the impact of political tension and war in Kalimpong as a microcosm of the effects of war on a community, nation and even international relations.

In conclusion, Kiran Desai's achievement brings Indian writers in English to the forefront of world literature. *The Inheritance of Loss* is highly recommended reading for ages 14 and above.

Jokes

Naimish Balaji, 2nd grade,
Paxton Keeley

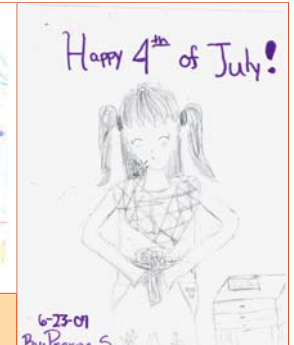
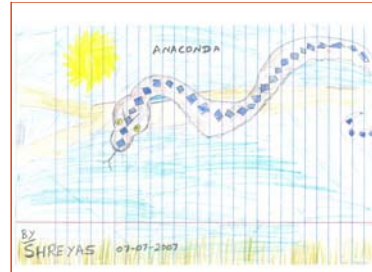
This summer I read about Egypt to my sister Nithya. She made a joke. The joke was: All Mommies (mummies) are from Egypt.

1. Why did the Pigeon cross the zebras?
2. Which bugs jumps over cups?
3. What happened when the bee telephoned his friend?
4. What dinosaur always gets itchy?
5. What do these pictorial messages mean?

a. BED BED b. Stand U
I

c. ↑ Side ↓

Answers:
 1. Because the pigeon wanted to learn Algebra (algebra).
 2. The glass hopper.
 3. He got buzzy signals.
 4. Ichysarus
 5. a. Double bed b. I understand you c. Upside down



Drawings
 "Anaconda" by Shreyas
 "Happy 4th of July" by Prerna
 "Chicago" by Vishnu

Math Problem

Maya Cutkosky, 8th grade, West Junior High School

Maya's watch has both a count down timer and a clock. The count down timer shows 2:08 (which means 2 hours and 8 minutes) and the clock says it's 12:15. If Maya starts the timer when the next minute occurs, at what time will the clock and the timer look the same?

Answer 1:12.



The only way of finding the limits of the possible is by going beyond them into the impossible.

Arthur C. Clarke



Bal Sabha meets every fourth Sunday of the month from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. at Shanthi Mandir



Bal Sandesh needs you!

We welcome submissions of all types (reports, poetry, short stories, artwork, puzzles, jokes etc.). Work can be submitted to the Editors or the Parent Advisor. We prefer electronic version of the submission (e-mail or diskette). Artwork can be submitted on paper. Older kids interested in volunteering to serve on the editorial team should contact the Editorial Staff or the Parent Advisor.



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Moving on to College - Deb Gangopadhyay, Rockbridge High School

As I entered my final year of high school, I realized that high school and college were not there solely for education, but teach one how to live a balanced life.

When I first moved to Columbia, I was thirteen and apparently ready to start high school as a sophomore. My first year of high school, I devoted all of my time to perfecting schoolwork and studying. I was surprisingly self-motivated and disciplined. I targeted my own distractions such as the television and distanced myself from them, to the point where I requested that my parents stop paying for cable. Luckily, I was able to make a few very close friends who shared the same internal, unexplainable academic motivation that I had. Also, it was convenient that most of these friends were years older because I have benefited greatly from their elderly wisdom.

It took me two years of high school before I realized that I had pushed the true purpose of high school into obscurity. I slowly lost control of my life to academics, and surprisingly my parents were not even pushing me. My third year of high school, I took an overwhelmingly difficult course schedule that was not even necessary, and I felt as though I had no time for anything. During the first semester of this third year, I found no time to even sit down and think; yet, somehow I would have to deal with the approaching tennis season of the second semester that would consume an extra four hours a day. When the time for tennis came, I had to face the circumstances, and I managed to adapt with the help of some elderly advice. My older friends had already faced these problems, and thus I could solve mine much more quickly with their advice than I would have naturally.

The key to my time management was the library. Everyday after tennis practice, I went to the University library where I could focus and work much faster than I could ever have done at home. The University library had been my solution. It had given me my life back since its eminent demise at the start of high school. I could then harness the true purpose of high school by focusing on the bigger picture of living a balanced life by developing more social skills, spending more time with the friends and family, and picking up better study habits at the library.

I do not think I would be ready for college now had I not been pushed to my limits in the middle school. Use high school to learn this balance, and most importantly do not kill yourself with academics and live up the few short years that you are given to be a child.

HTCC Tennis and Chess Tournament Updates

Tennis update by Senthil Kumar

As part of HTCC Summer youth activities, a tennis tournament was conducted on June 2, 2007 in Cosmopolitan Park tennis grounds. Many children participated in the tournament. The tournament was played in three sets between the players. The kids enjoyed the tournament and exhibited good sportsmanship. Tennis is a very popular sport and offers many physical and mental advantages.

Thanks are due to parents who brought their kids early in the morning as well as their enthusiasm to supervise the games. As in the past year, the tournament was well attended and several kids had improved their

games very much compared to last year. There was lemonade and juice for the participants and certificates that will be presented on the HTCC Youth day. We hope to see more participation from more kids in the future tournaments.



- Rishav Chaudhury
- Zane Durante
- Nidhi Khurana,
- Aishwary Kumar
- Radheya Naik
- Rohit Rao



Chess update by Vairam

Several children participated in the HTCC Chess Tournament on Saturday, July 21, 2007. A 3-round, G/30, Swiss format was used to run the event. The children who played all three rounds included:

The results: Rohit Rao placed 1st, Zane Durante placed 2nd, and Nidhi Khurana placed 3rd. Others received honorable mentions. All children enjoyed the event, which was capped off by a simultaneous games exhibition ("simul") by Tim Campbell, Director of the Mid-Missouri Chess Academy.

Summer Art Workshops - Akila Balaji

Art is a product of human creativity and imagination. For kids, it brings out their imagination and creativity and stimulates their mind. Keeping this in mind, the HTCC Youth Committee conducted two creative art workshops for the kids at Shanthi Mandir in the month of June. The workshops were a lot of fun as well as some creative education for the kids.

The first workshop was led by Ms. Renuka Jain. She gave a new look to the toothpick and wooden spoon by making a beautiful peacock. She taught the kids how to create some pretty wall hangings using small flat wooden

shapes (like foam sticky shapes), toothpick and glue in a felt cloth. These projects can then be hung on a wall with or without framing. We had about 5 kids and one grand mother who



enjoyed the work. The kids created their own ideas and made lot of things. Some of the pretty wall hangings that they created were a house, bird, cat, caterpillar, flowers, swastika, and Om. Every participant created two wall hangings. The parents liked the workshop a lot and were very eager to help and do one or two stuff by themselves. The workshop lasted close to 2 hours. All the participants had lot of fun and one or two pretty wall hangings at the end of the session.

The second workshop was on Foil Embossing led by Mrs. Indira Ramaswamy.

Thanks to Indira for providing all the materials (foil, plywood, gems, glue, and designs too). She had also come prepared with 17 frames. These had to be done prior to the workshop as the frames need several

hours to dry. There were about 16 kids and one grand mother. The paper design has to be traced and transferred to the foil. Then the foil was glued to the plywood. The kids then painted the design on the foil in a variety of colors and further used their imagination. It was a wonderful workshop packed with lots of kids. Even parents had a nice time by watching and learning how to do the work. Most of the pieces were crown and necklace. Some kids made typical Indian elephant, a humming bird and the musical instrument, the veena. It was very nice to see the kids having enthusiastic and artistic nature. These workshops were well enjoyed by the kids as well as their parents.

The two workshops were very well received with active participation from the members of HTCC. Thanks to the parents and the kids for the support – there was lot of fun and learning of new art projects.

Buddha's Words on Loving Kindness - Leela Jashnani

Teach this triple truth to all: A generous heart, kind speech, and a life of service and compassion are the things which renew humanity.

Gautam Buddha

Materialism and spiritualism co-exist in our lives, and there is a third factor - happiness that provides motivation for both. 'How to be happy' is a tough question. Materialism alone will not make a person happy, then, what is the sure way to make a person happy? Here are some profound thoughts and words on kindness from the teachings of Lord Buddha.

According to the teachings of Buddha a person of wisdom should know the path of peace and goodness. One should be righteous, gentle, and humble and be easily satisfied with few material objects. One should not be weighted down with physical needs and wants. A person with a gentle disposition should not be demanding or oppressive, but peaceful, calm and skillful in dealing with

others. One should not get involved in deeds that might be cause for regret at a later time. Always wish all living beings good will, safety and peace, regardless of their size, shape or form, their strengths or weaknesses, their location or even their existence. One should always desire universal

Ginny Morgan delivered a talk on "Metta Bhavna (Bringing Loving Kindness into our Hearts and Minds)" at Shanthi Mandir on June 2, 2007 to celebrate Buddha Purnima. She is a guiding teacher for Show Me Dharma Center and the former President of the Board of Mid America Dharma, the emerging retreat center for the Midwest area.

peace.

Buddha's teachings further extend the message of kindness and goodwill, comparing this

love and devotion to the boundless affection and dedication of a mother, for her offspring. Our love and devotion should be free from any ill-will or hatred, extend beyond all boundaries, transcending the depths of the ocean and the horizons of the blue sky. We should always be awake and alert, in tune with nature in order to achieve that sublime peace. The pure-hearted individual, who is free from all material desires will achieve "moksha" or eternal bliss and never get tangled in the web of birth and death on this earth.

In conclusion this message of loving kindness towards others and freedom from materialism is the "mantra" for eternal peace and happiness. It is both, the Alpha and Omega of a true human being's life.

Interfaith Service Project: Habitat for Humanity Building Project

Following the successful Faith and Education Collaborative's first service project (Community Blood Drive) in July in which HTCC participated, the Collaborative is planning a building project in conjunction with the Columbia Chapter of the Habitat for Humanity. If you are interested in participating in the service project, please contact Gopalaratnam at 446-0663 <vsogopal@aol.com>.

The interfaith group will work two shifts a day during Friday, September 7 - Sunday, September 9 (From 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon, and 12:00 noon - 3:30 p.m. We are hoping to staff 15 volunteers during each shift. Further details are currently being discussed and will be made available to interested individuals as soon as this information becomes available. Please join us for a wonderful experience in support of a worthy cause!



Omkaara Mandhata Group - Murarilal Nagar

Dear friends:

OMGOD stands for Omkaara Mandhata Group of Devotees, its pious mission being the recovery and dissemination of India's cultural heritage enshrined at Omkaara Mandhata Mukti Dhama, a holy hilly island in Madhya Pradesh, India (22° 14' N 76° 17' E).

It has as its organ an electronic free forum named OMGOD operating as a Yahoo



Group. It is a divine spiritual fellowship, a divya satsanga.

Membership is free. There is no fee. There is no obligation of any kind whatsoever. There is no compulsion. By now OMGOD has fifty five plus members around the globe. Approximately 2800 divine messages in words and pictures

have been circulated. You are free to read what other members write. You may share your ideas

on OM with other members if you like.

We have enriched this collection by uploading many of our files and photos.

We request you most earnestly to join OMGOD. The total valuable collection can be viewed only by the members.

Membership may be discontinued any moment just by a click.

Archival files are open to all, no membership being necessary to view this rich collection of good thoughts on OM.

Om Shanti

The URL for this spiritual treasure is <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/omgod/>
For more, please visit our Omshanti home: <http://www.missouri.edu/~omshanti/>

The Diggers, Painters, Mowers and Cleaners have been Busy - Meera Chandrasekhar

It might be hot, but that has not stopped the busy bees of Shanthi Mandir.

Planting was late this year, thanks to the cold snap (hard to remember that cold snap when it is 90F outside, right?). Our garden expert, Dr. Sunder Lal, told our crew that Mother's Day was a great day to plant. The love and nurturing that characterizes those who are celebrated that day apparently rubs off on the plants. Well... we had to bow to the weather this year, but within a week or two, two large groups of volunteers, kids included, showed up to pull weeds and plant this year's annuals. It was great fun to watch older kids instructing younger kids about what to pull out of the ground and what to keep. The adults could have learned a thing or two from these experienced gardeners! Last year's hard work has paid off - we have a terrific crop of bright perennial flowers to accompany this year's bright annuals.

During the week of Independence Day in

early July another dedicated group tackled maintenance work inside the Mandir. They removed, cleaned, painted and put back the acoustic ceiling tile on two-thirds of the main hall's ceiling. They also replaced some water stained tiles with new ones. Once the rest of the ceiling is completed, they plan to paint the walls. They hope to complete this work in time for the festival season.

We are seeking 6 more sponsors to support mowing the yard at the Mandir. Your \$35 will pay for one mowing. Please contact Visala Palaniappan or Meera Chandrasekhar and we will gladly accept your cash or check.

Have you been to the Educational Center recently? There now are new seminar tables and black boards so that we can move our language classes there in the fall. Hard wiring of telephone and internet

connections for the Center are also underway. Have you noticed how good the lawn looks? This year we have a contractor who mows the yard on alternate weeks, and our own volunteers, Ram, Bharath and Gopal take turns mowing during the intervening weeks. Mowing by the contractor has been sponsored by Mandir Members.



We welcome the seven new families who signed up to assist with cleaning the Mandir on a weekly basis. We now have 28 families on this roster. Interested? We welcome your help and your spirit of contributing to the upkeep of the Mandir! 24 more families, and our turns will come only once a year ☺

Samuhika Satyanarayana Puja - Kusum Malhotra

The Satyanarayana Puja is performed in reverence to the Narayan form of Lord Vishnu. The Lord in this form is considered an embodiment of truth. This Puja is conducted to ensure abundance in one's life. The Satyanarayana Puja can be performed on any day. It is not a Puja confined to any festivities, but Poonima (full Moon) or Sankranti are considered to be the most auspicious day



for this puja.

We celebrated our third annual Samuhika Satyanarayana Puja at the Temple on Saturday, July 7, 2007 with great joy. Ten families performed the puja under the guidance of Dr. G. Lakshman and Kumudini, who came from Saskatchewan, Canada. More than 40-50 additional friends attended the Puja. The Puja was performed in a traditional manner starting with lighting the Diya, reciting the



Gayatri Mantra, the Ganesh Puja, along with the Satyanarayana puja, and finally ending in the Aarti and Prasad. Dr G. Lakshman provided detailed

explanations that were quite helpful in understanding the significance of various aspects of the ceremony. We give our special thanks to Dr & Mrs. Lakshman, and we greatly appreciate the support from the many volunteers during the puja ☺

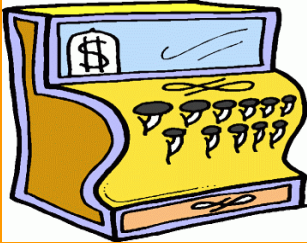


Thank You!

Donor Acknowledgement for the January 1 - June 30, 2007

We gratefully acknowledge the following donors for the first half of 2007 (January 1 - June 30). If we have inadvertently made an error in not including your name, please let us know. We will correct the error at the earliest available opportunity with our apologies.

<p>\$99 Mohan and Rajalakshmi Adusumilli Lakshmi Mangunta Saroj Mohan Krishna and Raji Subramaniam Sheela Chockalingam</p>	<p>Surdashan and Nirja Loyalka Lakshmi Rangachari Om and Toshi Sehgal Kannan Shankaranarayanan</p>	<p>Anuradha Rajagopalan</p>
<p>\$100 - \$499 Sudhir and Priya Batchu Vellore S. and Anantha Gopalaratnam Kiratidas and Geetha Kutikkad</p>	<p>\$500 - \$999 Bal Puja Youth Group</p> <p>\$1,000 - \$2499 Laxman Alreja V. Ramachandran and</p>	<p>\$2,500 - \$4,999 Shubh Kaam, LLC. Soorya Performing Arts (including dance class families)</p> <p>\$10,000 - \$15,000 Vairam and Alagu Arunachalam</p>
<p>Donors supporting lawn mowing operations at the Mandir</p>	<p>Asit and Sandra Basu H. R. and Meera Chandrasekhar Ranadhir and Roma Mitra (2)</p>	<p>Shuba and Ratti Ratneshwar Rajini and Bisham Tolani</p>



HTCC Statement of Accounts and Quarterly Fiscal Report

For the period April 1, 2007 - June 30, 2007

Prepared by Visala Palaniappan, Interim Treasurer, June 30, 2007

Balance Forward (on March 31, 2007)		\$54,196.96
Quarterly Revenues		
Interest Income		
Interest on maturity (3 CDs)	\$1,163.02	
Interest for the quarter (Money Market)	\$207.96	\$1,370.98
Membership:		
New Lifetime Family Members (LFM) 2 @ \$1,000	\$2,000.00	
Lifetime Family Member Upgrade (LFM) 1 @ \$950	\$950.00	
2007 Annual Family Members (AFM) 3 @ \$50	\$150.00	
2007 Annual Individual Member (AIM) 1 @\$30	\$30.00	\$3,130.00
Donations:		
Hundi Donations/Prayer Services	\$255.66	
Check Donations	\$19,485.78	
E-Pay Donations	\$102.00	\$19,843.44
Facilities Use Donations:		
Bal Sabha (March, April, May 2007)	\$60.00	
Dance Class (January - June 2007)	\$630.00	\$690.00
Other Revenues		
Yoga Class—Session II	\$145.00	
Sponsorship for Lawn Mowing	\$105.00	
HTCC Tennis Tournament	\$19.00	\$269.00
Total Quarterly Revenues		\$25,303.42
Quarterly Expenses		
Start-up costs	\$16.95	
Maintenance and Supplies	\$717.61	
Upgrade and Repairs	\$283.99	
Utilities	\$1,023.70	
Special Events	\$244.24	
Printing and Mailing	\$133.20	
Bank Fee (returned check)	\$3.79	
Total Quarterly Expenses		\$2,423.48
Net Income for the Quarter		\$22,879.94
Ending Balance* (June 30, 2007)		\$77,076.90

**\$74,693.96 in FNB Money Market (5.25 APY) and \$2,382.94 in BCNB Checking Accounts*

Special Guru Purnima Bhajan - Vellore S. Gopalaratnam

A special Sai bhajan was held at the Shanthi Mandir on Thursday, July 26. The well attended bhajan was spiritually uplifting. Guru Purnima is a



festival with a truly spiritual meaning and relevance, Guru Purnima today celebrates one's teacher or guru through respect and reverence. It is believed that

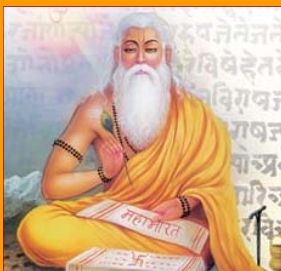
the festival originated as Vyasa Purnima, to honor the greatest scholar of Hinduism. It is typically celebrated in

July - August on the full moon of the fourth month (Ashada) of the Indian calendar. It is believed that the great scholar Vyasa, who lived in the Dwapara Yuga (over

5,000 years ago), was born on this day. Legend has it that this is when he completed the codification of the four Vedas or the Hindu religious texts. He also wrote the 18 Puranas, the Brahma Sutras, and dictated the Mahabharata which Lord Ganesh penned. The special



bhajan concluded with aarti and distribution of Prasad made by several devotees



Community Calendar (Aug 15 - Nov 31, 2007)

Unless otherwise indicated, all events are at Shanthi Mandir, 2006 Holly Avenue, Columbia, MO 65202

- Aug 25** **HTCC Youth Day / Bal Sabha / Bal Puja Picnic**
Saturday, 4:00 - 8:00 pm.
Dexheimer Shelter, Cosmopolitan Park. A day of fun to recognize and reward our youth All age groups
Contacts: Organization Kala Kumar at 445-9579, Pot-luck dinner Varsha Pherwani at 256-8904, Games Adarsh Kumar at 447-2206.
- Sept 2** **Janamashtami Puja**
Sunday 6:30 pm -12 midnight
There will be slokas, music, dance, and bhajans. Prasad served after aarti. Contact Hema Srinivasan at 445-2854 or SrinivasanH@missouri.edu for participating in the program.
- Sept. 7-9** **Interfaith Service Project - Habitat for Humanities** (see Page 12 for details). Organized by the Columbia Faith and Education Collaborative.
- Sept. 8** **HTCC Garage Sale (Tentative date)**
Look out for notice to donate items and help organize the event. Contact Meera Chandrasekhar at 446-6143 for details.
- Sept. 9** **Making of Ganesh idol**
Sunday, 5:00 - 7:00 pm.
A fun activity initiated last year, we will make the Ganesh idol for the Ganesh Chaturthi Puja. Clay working and making of idol open to all interested.
- Sep 15** **HTCC General Assembly Meeting and Officer Elections**
Sunday 10:00 am - 12:00 noon.
HTCC Board of Trustees has scheduled the first ever elections for officers of the Executive Board and Elected Trustees during the General Assembly meeting.
- Sep 15** **Ganesh Chaturthi Puja**
Saturday 6:00 - 8:00 pm
The Puja also marks the Second Anniversary of Shanthi Mandir. This year the Mid-Missouri Marathi Mandal take the lead in organizing the Puja. Contact: Yogesh and Rashmi Naik at 634-6041 or yogeshvnaik@hotmail.com if you would like to contribute to the program.
- Other scheduled devotional programs during Oct. - Nov for which details will become available shortly**
- Oct 13** **Navratri Devi Jaagan**
Oct 21 **Dussehra Puja**
Oct 27 **Skanda Shashti**
Oct 29 **Karva Chauth**
Nov 10 **Deepavali Puja**
- Wear work clothes. Contact Gopal at 446-0663 for further details.*

Thank You! We are now 100 STRONG!

Lifetime Family Members

1. Aggrawal, Kul and Archana
2. Anand, Satish and Sushma
3. Arunachalam, Vairam and Alagu
4. Bal, Sharanjit and Ranjit
5. Basu, Asit and Sandra
6. Battula Ravindra and Vijaya Kattumuri
7. Chandrasekhar, Holalkere and Meera
8. Chaudhary, Kunal and Ritcha Mehra
9. Cutkosky, Dale and Hema Srinivasan
10. Dhand, Rajiv and Upinder
11. Gangopadhyay, Keshab and Shubhra
12. Gopalakrishna, Srinath and Uma
13. Gopalaratnam, Vellore and Anantha
14. Gowda, Bhaskar and Shoba
15. Jashnani, Ghanshyam and Leela
16. Katti, Kattesh and Kavita
17. Khanna, Sanjeev and Vinita
18. Khurana, Inder and Jasmit
19. Krishna, Gopal and Santosh
20. Krishnan, Hari and Latha
21. Kulkarni, Rajesh and Indira
22. Kutikkad, Kiratadas and Geetha
23. Lal, Sunder and Nila Gupta
24. Loyalka, Sundarshan and Nirja
25. Mahal, Satnam and Jasvir
26. Malhotra, Anil and Kusum
27. Mantrala, Murali and Suryamani
28. Mitra, Ranadhir and Roma
29. Mohan, Rajiv and Sunilima Sinha
30. Naik, Yogesh & Rashmi
31. Nair, Satish and Jyotsna
32. Palaniappan, Kannappan and Visala
33. Panneerselvam, Ayyakannu and Gandhi
34. Patel, Nitin and Harsha
35. Pendurthi, Chalapati Rao and Kavita
36. Puri, Ravi and Mona
37. Raghuraman, Kannan and Anandhi Upendran

38. Ramachandran, V and Anuradha Rajagopalan
39. Rangnekar, Nitin and Kirthi
40. Rawat, Gagneesh and Aditi
41. Rawlani, Ramesh and Chandra
42. Sadhu, Vijay and Smita
43. Satpathy, Sashi and Namita
44. Sehgal, Om and Santosh
45. Sethi, Sanjiv and Punam
46. Sethi, Yash and Anjna
47. Sharma, Krishna and Sandhya
48. Singh, Amolak and Kuljit
49. Srinivasan, Bharath and Manjula Narasimhan
50. Tejwani, Lokesh and Varsha Pherwani
51. Thawani, Ravi and Meena
52. Viswanath, Dabir and Pramila

Annual Members for 2007

1. Aroor, Annayya Rao and Sudha
2. Balaji, B. S. and S. Akila
3. Baskar, Muthu and Indumathi
4. Bathini, Venkat and Jyothy
5. Bhanuchandran, Rekha
6. Bhaskaran, Rajagopalana and Vasanthi
7. Chandrasekhar, Anand and Chiengkham Baccam
8. Chokalingam, Anand and Smrita
9. Chokkalingam, Siva and Sheela
10. Elangovan, Bala and Abi
11. Faizer, Rumi and Archana Ramaswamy
12. Garg, Nadish and Shallu
13. Ghosh, Arkashubra and Anuprita
14. Goel, Punit and Archana
15. Goyal, Munish and Monika
16. Gupta, Ghanshyam and Manorma
17. Halder, Jagabandhu and Pitu
18. Jain, Arun
19. Khanna, Ramesh and Pushpa
20. Kujala, Naresh Gandhi and Sriyala

21. Kumar, Adarsh and Sangeeta
22. Kumar, Rajesh and Aruna
23. Kumar, Senthil and Kalai
24. Kuppusamy, Saravanan and Priya Ravindran
25. Mohan, Saroj
26. Nagarkar, Sushama and Divya
27. Nathan, Vivek and Manjula
28. Nune, Satish and Padmaja Gunda
29. Pradhan, Prashanth and Meeta
30. Premnath, Venkatesan and Vasanthi
31. Radhakrishnan, Nandhu and Selvi
32. Ramadoss, Uma and Sasi
33. Ramaswamy, Ram and Indira
34. Rao, Mohan and Kalpana
35. Ratnaparkhe, Milind
36. Ratneshwar, Srinivasan and Subbalakshmi
37. Raychaudhuri, Aniruddha and Sriparna
38. Sivaraman, M. and Sujata
39. Srivatsava, Pramod and Rama
40. Srivastava Shefali
41. Sternadori, Richard
42. Subramanian, Krishna and Raji
43. Sunkar, Madhavi
44. Thiruvengadathan, Rajagopalan and Rama Kannan
45. Tolani, Bhisham and Rajini
46. Upadhyay, Ashish and Deepika
47. Venkatasamy, Chandrasekar and Lakshmi Prabha
48. Walker, Andy and Kate

The HTCC is grateful to the above families who have signed up as members as of August 15, 2007. If you would like to sign-up as a member, please visit our web site and download, complete and send off your membership application with appropriate dues. We sure would appreciate your support for all our activities. Please also consider upgrading your annual membership to lifetime membership. The lifetime dues provide the HTCC with a strong ownership base and steady stream of revenue for delivering quality devotional, education, service and youth programs.

Current Programs at the Mandir

(August 15, 2007)

Devotional Programs

Open prayer time/Aarti	Tuesday	6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Sai Bhajan	Thursday	7:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Venkateshwara Suprabhatam/Vishnu Sahasranaamam	Saturday	9:00 - 10:00 a.m.
Open prayer time/Aarti	Saturday	6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Kirtan (Monthly event)	1 st Sunday	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Educational/Youth Programs

Bhagavad Gita Study Circle	2 nd /4 th Saturday	6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Tamil Classes	1 st /3 rd Sunday	3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Hindi Classes	2 nd Sunday	1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
	4 th Sunday	2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Bal Puja	2 nd Sunday	10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Bal Sabha	4 th Sunday	3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Service Programs

Volunteering at Central Missouri Food Bank	1 st Tuesday	5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Shram Daan (Labor Donation) Special summer timing	Friday	6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Narayan Seva (Sai Group - St. Francis Home Lunch)	2 nd Sunday	11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Non-Perishable Food Collection (Ongoing continuously)		

Fitness and Cultural Art Programs

Yoga Sessions (fee required)	Saturday	3:00 - 4:30 p.m.
Bharata Natyam classes (instructor fee required)	Wednesday	4:00 - 8:30 p.m.



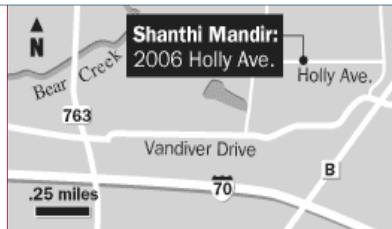
We are grateful to Mrs. Vedavalli Srinivasagopalan for the donation of a panchaloha idol of Lord Satyanarayana and a bronze hand bell, and to Mr. Ram Ramaswamy for bringing them from India. These donations will be used for future Samuhika Satyanarayana Pujas.

Shanthy Mandir

Hindu Temple and Community Center of Mid-Missouri (HTCC)

2006 Holly Avenue, Columbia, MO 65202-2043

<http://shanthimandir.missouri.org>, (573) 814-1AUM (286)



Please visit our web site and send us your e-mail address if you would like to be included on the **Friends of the Mandir** distribution list to receive timely program notices.

Directions: Take Exit 127 on Interstate 70, Head north on Rangeline Street, Right at first traffic light on Vandiver Drive, Left on Parker Street, Right on Holly Avenue, Shanthy Mandir sign will be visible on the right after 5-6 homes. (Note: Holly Avenue is immediately before the Sunrise Optimist building)

Shanthy Sandesh is a quarterly publication of the Hindu Temple and Community Center of Mid-Missouri (HTCC). It is published on behalf of HTCC by it's Public Relations and Publicity Committee. Editors: Gagneesh Rawat/Arkasubhra Ghosh/B. S. Balaji <shanthimandir_news@mchsi.com> or <shanthimandir@yahoo.com>