



Issue: 2011/01

SHANTI

October 2011

एकं सद्र विप्रा बहुधा वदन्ति

(One Truth is variously spoken of by the Sages)

The Hindu Temple & Cultural Centre of the ACT (Inc.)

81 Ratcliffe Cres, Florey ACT 2615 Ph: 6259 3057



President's Message

Dear devotees

I am very pleased to report that my committee and I have started working on the promises I made.

My first initiative is to revive the HTCC most liked periodic News Letter, Shanti, after a long gap. I will be using Shanti to promote religious, cultural and educational aspects for which the HTCC stands. It will be available on HTCC website and in hard copy at the temple for devotees who will prefer to have a paper copy.

The HTCC will publish Shanti quarterly to align with the period for reporting on the financial health and the progress on the projects undertaken.

The initial major cultural functions, Navaratri, and Karva Chauth celebrations were very successful. I thank the volunteers for their tireless effort behind the scene in planning and putting these functions together.

The Exec Committee (EC) has co-opted Dr Mohan Singh to assist me in the implementation of the governance part of our initiative, and Sh Raman Bhardwaj to assist in the Temple Management.

Thanks again for your trust in me. Let me assure you that there is no one other than you that will have supremacy in guiding the Exec Committee to achieve the goals of the HTCC.

Pundit ji holds a session on Religion and Scripture every Saturday between **6:00 pm and 7:00 pm**. Please contact him for more details.

Ph: 6259 3057

Email: diwedishailesh4@gmail.com



Pundit ji's Spiritual Corner

After completing prayers and offerings, it is customary to walk around deities.

The devotees need to perform a minimum of 16 steps of worship to the devtas. These steps are *Aawhahan* (inviting of the Devta), *Assanam* (the offering of a seat to Devta), *Paadyam* (the washing of the Devta's feet)... **More on this can be found on** <http://mailerindia.com/hindu/veda/index.php?pooja>

And the practice to go around the deities is one of the sixteen steps. The Lord is the centre, source and essence of our lives. Pradakshina signifies the recognition of Him as the focal point in our lives. This action, in large gathering, can also be symbolically done by moving around at one spot.

In general it is customary to walk 5 times around a deity. 5 (an odd number) is highly regarded in Hindu scripture. The Sristi (world) consists of five tattvas (elements) - *Aakash* (sky), *Vayu* (air), *Agni* (fire), *Jal* (water) and *Prithvi* (earth). This mainly has been the reason for eternity and Sristi continuity.

"Pundit Shailesh Diwedi"

Shanti will feature this column regularly for pundit ji to enlighten devotees on the diverse religion and cultural aspects in relevance to the current age.

When life is infused into a deity through a proper *pran partishtha* ceremony, divinity enters the deity. The divinity, in the form of magnetic waves starting from the central point of the base of a deity, spreads around in a circle, and the divinity and divine halo always move clockwise. Therefore the devotee moving clockwise along the magnetic field of the deity can benefit from the positive vibrations that one receives. These vibrations are a blessing that add to one's strength and protect one from all kinds of problems and calamities. (Prem Bhalla Hindu Rites, Rituals, Customs and Traditions, 2007).

Major Activities Held

Ganesh Chaturthi, 4 Sept.

Many thanks - Marathi Mandal and Pundit Makarand Kale for celebrating this important function in a grand way. (Collection raised - \$531)

Onum, 11 Sept.

Many thanks - Ayappa Group devotees and Sh Roshan Menon for performing the pooja very professionally.

Murari Babu Katha, 18 Sep.

A bus full of Canberra Devotees went to Sydney to enjoy Murari Babu Katha. A big thanks to Sh Prakash Mehta for coordinating this activity. The HTCC also donated \$1000 (collected from various devotees) towards a souvenir.

Navaratri, 28 Sept - 6 Oct.

Approximately 150 to 300 devotees participated in Garba and Dandia every day. Many thanks – DJ Jwen Patel to make the Dandia very lively. Many thanks - Smt Tejal Patel and Sejal Desai for coordinating Navaratri evenings. (Collection raised -\$5521)

Mata Ki Chowki, 1 Oct.

Many thanks - Sh Rajesh Satija for coordinating the Mata Ki Chowki. He has supported the HTCC in performing the Mata Ki Chowki / Jagran for the last 10 + years. (Collection raised - \$2,300)

Up-Coming Major Events

Diwali Mela & Indian Vegetarian Food Fair	22 October
Diwali Pooja	26 October
Chhapan Bhoj Goverdhan Pooja	27 October
Laxmi Mahayantra Yagna	TBA

Your Donations

We thank the following people/organisations for their kind donations from 01 July until end of Navratri:

Ajay and Sunita Singh, \$101; Ajit Rathore, \$51; Akhilesh Arora, \$51; Amish Haria, \$51; Amit and Reena Ghildyal, \$406; Amit Bhavsar, \$21; Amol Dass, \$56; Anil Sharma, \$51; Ankit Khunger, \$30; Anonymous, \$202; Asha Haria, \$51; Ashok Jain, \$102; Ashok Tulpule, \$251; Atul Kumar, \$51; Bala Ji Sambavdam, \$25; Basu Banka, \$501; Beena Saxena, \$21; Braddon Supermarket (Jayesh Khatri), \$200; Chirag Mehta, \$51; Daksh Tyagi, \$20; Darshan Thakkar, \$60; Dr Mahavir Gupta: \$102; Dr Neelu Nath, \$51; Dr Sandip Goel, \$50; Girish Maheshwari, \$51; Harsh Puri, \$11; J. Patel, \$51; Jai Shree, \$30; Jayesh Mehta, \$52; Jiwan Ajmera, \$21; Jyoti Patel, \$51; Kanti Jinna, \$71; Kapil

Bhatt, \$50; Kejal Thakkar, \$50; Keshav Goel, \$51; Kuldip Bhatia, \$100; Lakhan Sharma, \$152; Lal Ji Singh, \$102; Manish Raj, \$21; Maruti Ram, \$21; Meena Bhandari: \$21; Mintu Mittro: \$20; Mohan Singh, \$61; Narender Nath, \$51; Nilesh Pandya, \$21; Niraj Mehta, \$102; Parbhakar Gore, \$50; Parveen Jain, \$21; Pradeep Chopra, \$50; Pradeep Kumar, \$150; Pradeep Sharma, \$152; Prakash Mehta, \$504; Prashant Bhatt, \$50; Priyanshi Negi, \$50; Pt Shailesh Diwedi, \$21; R. Jha, \$51; Rahul Desai \$12; Rahul Tejani, \$51; Raj Subrail, \$51;; Rajesh Satija, \$51; Rakesh Malhotra, \$111; Rakesh Patel \$51; Raman Chawla, \$11; Ramesh and Kala Govind, \$51; Ramesh Malik, \$153; Ramesh Patel, \$802; Ravi Bhatia, \$35; Ravindra Singh, \$31; Rekha Vanamali, \$101; Renu Sharma, \$51; Sachin Tyagi, \$51; Samir Gaur, \$22; Sanjay Pandey, \$102; Sanjay Sharma, \$101; Sanjeev Gosain, \$51; Shaishav Patel, \$51; Sheel Awadhwal, \$11; Shipra Arora, \$101; Shivani Rathore, \$20; Siddhratha Goswami, \$51; Subhash & Manu Dang, \$201; Subhash Chandra, \$51; Subhash Mohindra, \$101; Subhash Rewal, \$51; Swati Gupta, \$51; Udit Gera, \$203; Ujjwal Suthar, \$251; Veni Lal, \$50; Vijay Arora, \$153; Vishnu Sharma, \$51; Yamal Rewal, \$51; Yogesh Kashyap, \$50; Aust Kriya Yoga Assn, \$100; Shri Sanatan Dharam Ramayan Mandali, \$151 and Rajdhani Marathi Mandal Committee, \$380.

Major Projects Update

Shantiniketan

Sh. Lal Ji Singh, due to his work commitments, could not continue the management of the Shantiniketan Project.

Sh Subhash Dang attended a meeting with ATCPLA regarding some of the parking related issue raised on the Development Application. ACTPLA will not accept the overflow parking as it is: a) not under the ownership of the HTCC; and b) it is under a temporary leasing arrangement. Sh Subhash Dang will prepare a submission in discussion with Sh Prakash Mehta to satisfy the ACTPLA requirement. Sh Subhash Dang will also form a core team to manage the project as directed by the recent AGM.

HTCC Website

Due to some unforeseen circumstances, it became necessary to develop a new HTCC website. We are pleased to announce that a new website **is now up and running** and incorporates the required features and functionality. A small Canberra based company, King Infotech helped us in the completion of this task at a very concessional price and short time frame. The contents are being reviewed and will be updated as necessary.

Please visit www.htcc.org.au and provide your feedback to improve the contents.

Your HTCC sub-committees

Your EC has formed the following sub-committees for effective operations of the temple.

Governance, Membership, Donations, Communication, Publications, Public Relations, Educational, Religious, Cultural, Grants, Sports / Yoga, Maintenance, Daily Operation, Temple/Pundit Ji Booking, and Food

If you have any suggestions OR would like to be involved please contact any of our committee members. Also, please see important email addresses to serve you better.

booking htcc	booking@htcc.org.au
Info htcc	info@htcc.org.au
Manager htcc	manager@htcc.org.au

Finance Update

Quarter 1 (July - Sept 2011)
(provisional & subjected to final audit)

Income

1	Donations	\$ 7,129.00
2	Membership	\$ 1,700.00
3	Events	\$ 6,444.00
4	Hundi Collections	\$14,798.65
5	Miscellaneous	\$ 7,318.50
	Total Income	\$37,390.15

Expenditure

1	Events	\$ 4,145.16
2	Employment /wages	\$10,594.54
3	Miscellaneous charges	\$ 167.69
4	Utilities and Miscellaneous	\$ 8,452.58
	Total Expense	\$23,359.97

Net Profit = \$14,030.18

Governance Initiatives

The HTCC EC is pleased to announce a number of initiatives already underway to ensure efficient operation of temple affairs and effective decision making for the special projects and requests.

1. Business Case driven projects/referrals

The relevant sub-committee will prepare and submit a business case for approval by the EC for

any project/referral referred to HTCC to ensure that a sound decision making process has been used and the decision taken at the time can stand any public scrutiny.

2. Standard Operating Procedures

The EC has commenced the development of a number of policies and procedures to streamline the temple and kitchen usage and appropriate reimbursement for usage of these facilities. These procedures will be available on the web-site.

3. Stocktake

The EC and volunteers have started stocktake of all assets (kitchen utensils and furniture items). Soon, there will be an asset register available for an efficient operation and use of the temple assets.

4. Planned Governance Initiative Timeline

Initiatives	Deliverables	Quarter No
1	Inventory of HTCC assets	2
2	Development and review of the policies and procedures	2
3	Membership Benefits	2
4	Publishing guidelines for email broadcasts	2
5	Membership Register	2 and 3
6	Assets Register	2 and 3
7	HTCC Election procedure	3

Your EC is committed to bring in the best practice governance initiatives listed above, and planned for second and third quarters of its terms. The newsletter will report on the continuous progress on these deliverables throughout the quarters.

Volunteers are pillars of any organisation. Elizabeth Andrew has truly said:

“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart”

There are too many to be named here for their never ending assistance in a number of small and large projects. Please volunteer to help in any way and contact one of the committee members.

Regular activities at the Temple

Morning Aarti	7:30am
Evening Aarti	7:30pm

Regular religious activities:

Monday	Shivji Abhishekam	6:30 - 7:30 pm
Tuesday	Hanuman Pooja	6:00 - 7:00 pm
Thursday	Sai Baba Shej Aarti	8:00 - 8:30 pm
Every pay week Friday	Lord Murugan Bhajan	7:00 - 8:30 pm
2 nd and last Sunday	Ayyappa Bhajan	6:30 - 7:30 pm
Every Purnima	Satya Narayan Katha	7:00 pm

Regular pooja and havans:

1st Sunday	Pooja	11:00am - 1:00 pm
3rd Sunday	Havan	11:00am - 12:00 pm

Devotees are requested to please sponsor these regular events and hold independent pooja events on other Sundays. Please contact Temple Manager or any EC member.

Regular Educational activities

Wednesday	Hindi	6:00 to 7:00 pm
Thursday	Sanskrit	6:00 to 7:00 pm
Saturday	Yoga	8:00 to 9:30 am
Saturday	Hindu Religion and Scripture	6:00 to 7:00 pm
Sunday	Kriya Yoga	5:00 to 6:00 pm
Alternate Sunday	Purnavidya	10:30 to 11:30 am

Contact details to join these activities

Activity	Responsibility	Ph No
Hindi, Sanskrit, Religion and Scripture, Purnavidya	Pdt Diwedi	6259 3057
Yoga	Sh Vijay Arora	6247 0654
Kriya yoga	Sh Nagaraja	6259 6108

Membership

HTCC is able to provide services to the community with the continuous support from its members. Please consider becoming a member (if not already) for a worthwhile cause and objective.

Life Membership	\$201*
Family Membership	\$21
Single Membership	\$11

* can be paid in 4 instalments over 2 years.

For details please contact Mrs Manju Bhardwaj on (ah) 6262 8915.

Communication and Regular Broadcast

Our regular broadcast keeps you informed of poojas, cultural events and community information. If you are a HTCC member, and currently not in receipt of our regular email broadcast, please send a message to htcc temple@yahoo.com.au so that we can include you in our mailing list.

Pundit ji and Temple Booking

Temple hall is available for private booking for religious and cultural activities. Please contact Temple Manager Sh Narender Nath Chowdhary on (6258 6476) for terms and conditions and booking the Temple and Pundit ji. Additionally, you can check temple/ pundit ji availability and make bookings requests online.

Donation

HTCC appeals everyone to donate generously and open heartedly to help accomplish undertaken projects, such as Shanti Niketan.

1. The donation over \$2 is tax deductible.
2. Please contact the Treasurer Mrs Manju Bhardwaj or any committee member to make a donation.
3. The donation can also be made online. For details please refer to our website <http://htcc.org.au/donation.html>.

Finally, the HTCC EC is your first point of call for all HTCC matters. Please don't hesitate to contact any of EC members if you have any queries/ concerns/ suggestions.

Contact Details of HTCC Office bearers (2011-12):

President: Mr Subhash Dang (02 6253 3043 ah 0410 626 654) subhash.dang@gmail.com; Vice Presidents: Mr Sanjay Sharma (6258 9260 ah 0413 862 659) mercuryact@gmail.com; Mrs Seema Gosain (6255 4576 ah) sgosain.au@gmail.com; Manager: Mr Narender Nath Chowdhary (6258 6476 ah) narender@grapevine.com.au; Pundit ji: (62593057) diwedishailesh4@gmail.com; Secretary: Mr Vishnu Sharma 6242 1089 (ah) 0402 904 629 vsharma_au@yahoo.com; Assistant Secretary : Mrs Kalpana Lakshman (6288 8402 ah) klaxman@tpg.com.au; Treasurer: Mrs Manju Bhardwaj (6262 8915 ah 0448 498 294) manjub@tpg.com.au; Public Officer: Mrs Renu Sharma (6251 0058 ah 0413 003 096) renu1999@yahoo.com; Committee Members: Mr Anil Gupta, Mrs Shuchi Raj, Mrs Shubhra Chandra, Mr Bhagwati Khannah, Mrs Sneha Dang, Mrs Abha Gupta; Dr Mohan Singh, Mr Raman Bhardwaj