

Dear Devotees,

November 2007

Namaste! Wishing you a very happy Diwali and Holiday Season. Please enjoy the picture of Lord Balaji decorated completely with flowers. We would like to thank Kirit Patel for this beautiful picture (Poolangi Seva picture was taken during our anniversary celebration in August 07). The year is almost over, with Diwali & Annakut fast approaching. We are close to starting the priest quarters project. We look forward to your continued support in maintaining and improving our Temple.

**Diwali / Lakshmi Pooja      Friday, Nov. 9 ~ 6:30PM – 7:30PM**

Diwali is the biggest festival all over India, celebrated with sweets, gifts and fireworks. We will celebrate the festival of lights with a family pooja for Goddess Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth. Known as the "Festival of Lights," it symbolizes the victory of good over evil, and lamps are lit as a sign of celebration and hope for humankind.

**Govardhan Puja/Annakut      Saturday, Nov. 10 ~ 5:00 PM – 8:00PM**

This is the signature event of our temple and has been a very popular and most attended event in our temple. It is a community effort where all the devotees bring a prasad and all the items are beautifully arranged in the main hall. Last year we had over 120 different items, and this year we expect to cross the 150 mark. This event is feast to the eyes and the pooja and bhajans are divine. If you would like to bring prasad/sponsor for this event, please contact Smitha Shah (721-4642) or Jayshree Patel (685-1880).

**Annual Meeting**

During Annakut, we also conduct the Annual General Body meeting and elections. General body meeting consists of state of the temple address by executive committee members. This year we will be electing not only Executive committee members but also some Board of Trustees members for 2008. When the temple was first established, some members of the Board were elected for a 5-year term. These members will be replaced with three new members: one member from a group of devotees who have contributed \$10,000 or more over the past three years, one member who has donated \$5,000 or more during the past three years, and one member nominated by the general membership.

Being involved in the Executive committee allows you to help the temple with planning of events, maintenance of facilities, and fundraising. The Board of Trustees has a broader governance and oversight responsibilities such as priest housing and larger long-term projects. By being a part of either the Executive committee or Board of Trustees, you can have a direct impact on the temple and our community.

Our temple is also badly in need of volunteers. We will have posters with specific areas where help is needed. Please sign-up and do as much as you can. We all have work and family commitments. But each of us doing a little will go a long way in keeping our temple clean and running smoothly.

**God and angels don't get paid even though theirs is some of the most important work around. Ditto for volunteers. ~Cherishe Archer**

**Tulsi Vivah                      Saturday, Nov 24 ~ 5:30PM-7:30PM**

Our last major event for the year is Tulsi Vivah. The marriage between Lord Krishna and Tulsi ma is conducted like a real wedding with bridesmaids, families and is one of the most fun events in our temple. If you would like to sponsor, please contact Jayshree Patel (685-1880).

**Website Update**

Chirag Radhakrishna has worked tirelessly to create a beautiful, sleek new website for our temple. We would like all of the devotees to go to our new website and register their name, address and e-mail, so we can send electronic newsletters and event reminders. Your information will only be used by the temple. Our sincere appreciation and thanks to Chirag & Sruthi on their hard work and countless hours spent. Visit our website at [www.htgw.org](http://www.htgw.org)