

Sept 3-14, 2008

4th Year



Bharatiya Temple

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For directions and program updates, please visit temple's website.



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Best Wishes to Philadelphia Ganesh Festival

From the Soni Family

*Shri. Ashok Soni
Smt. Sanjiwan Soni
Kum. Shubha Soni
Shri. Kamal Dagly
Smt. Geeta Dagly*

Best Wishes to Philadelphia Ganesh Festival

यमेकाक्षरं निर्मलं निर्विकल्पं
गुणातीतमानन्दमाकारशून्यम् ।
परं पारमोकारमान्मायगर्भं
वदन्ति प्रगल्भं पुराणं तमीडे ॥

I praise that Ganesha, Who is the beginning of the universe,
Who is pure, Who is free from differences, Who is beyond the
qualities, Who is pure bliss, Who is formless, Who is beyond
everything, Who is OMkar, Who is the creator of illusions, and
Whom eminent Purana sing. ||

Adi Shankara (source: Stutimandal.com)

*Shri. Sidarth
Shri. Ashok
Smt. Vijaya Viswanathan
Shri. Nagesh Nama*



Welcome



Dear Ganesh Devotees:

It is our pleasure to welcome you back to the 4th year of America's 1st, 11-Day Ganesh Festival, Philadelphia Ganesh Festival at our Bharatiya Temple.

We profusely thank Shri Ashok & Shrimati Sanjiwan Soni as well as Sri Nagesh Nama & Srimati Vijaya Viswanathan for Grand Sponsoring the Festival. We also thank eleven Indian-American organizations for their active participation in the Festival. It is gratifying that our festival has been successful in uniting Indians and mainstream Americans sharing different backgrounds. We also thank many area restaurants and caterers who have come forward to offer their Seva to Lord Ganesha by donating cooked food, groceries and their chefs for the Mahaprasad served every evening. The dedication, commitment and sustained hard work of scores of volunteers have come to stay as the hallmark of the Philadelphia Ganesh Festival and its success over the years. This year will be no exception. We express our most sincere thanks to all volunteers.

This year veteran maestros like Padmabhushan Pt. Rajan & Sajan Mishra, Taalyogi Pt. Suresh Talwalkar and Gajarat Nu Gaurav Shri. Praful Dave are going to grace our Festival. We are sure our community will not miss the golden opportunity to enjoy their performances. Every effort has been made to balance the religious, spiritual and cultural content of the Festival. Anand Bazaar, surely, will excite kids and adults alike. On behalf of all Festival volunteers, we invite you, your family and friends to participate in these festivities at the Philadelphia Ganesh Festival.

This year we have the challenge of steering the festival amidst the second phase construction of our temple. We will very much appreciate your patience and cooperation in bearing with us for any inconvenience. We can all look forward to a much better facility and back drop for next year's Festival.

Ganapati Bappa Moraya ! Mangal Murti Moraya !!

Temple's President

Nandkishore Todi

Festival Mentors

Mukund Kute, Ganesh Patil, T. Sarada

Festival's Coordination Committee

Pramod Kotwal

Vipul Rathod

Niranjana Samant

R. Sivakumar

Participating Organizations

* Philadelphia Marathi Mandal * Plymouth Balvihar * Indo American Club * Telugu Association of GDV * Tamil Association of GDV *
* Bharatiya Temple * Bharatiya Cultural Center * Bharatiya Vidyalaya * Gujarati Samaj * SRUTI * Sangeet Society *

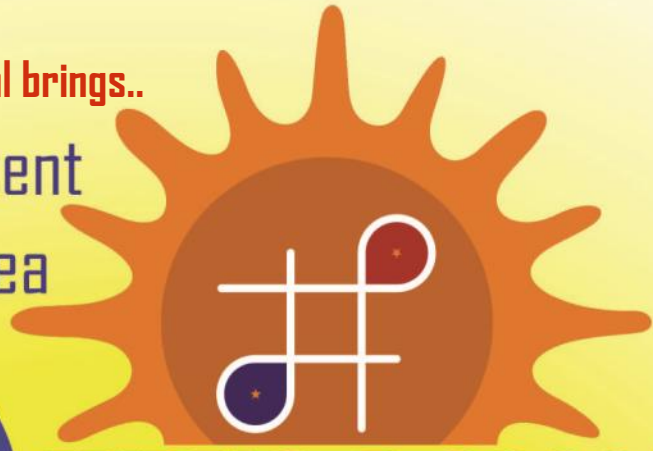
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Festival Highlights

Daily Religious Programs Venue: Deity Hall	
Wednesday 9/03	1:00pm Ganesh Havan, Ganesh Aagaman Procession, Ganesh Pratishthapana, Bhajans & Mahaprasad
Everyday	6:00pm Mahaprasad, 6:30pm Ganapati Atharvashirsha Recitation, Archana & Shodashopachar puja followed by Aarti
Sunday 9/14	10:30am Ganesh Visarjan Puja & Aarti 12:15am to 1:15pm Ganesh Visarjan Procession and Immersion at PMI Engg. Pond & Mahaprasad
Main Entertainment Programs Venue: Auditorium (Free for Public Contribution Donors or by suggested donation of \$10 per day per person)	
Wed 9/03	8:00pm Kalabhavan presents Dr. Meena Nerurkar's Dance Drama on the life of Lord Krishna
Thurs 9/04	8:00pm Carnatic Concert by Sri D. Seshachary of the "Hyderabad Brothers"
Friday 9/05	8:00pm Hindi Orchestra "Sangeet Ka Safar" by Anitha Krishna & Friends
Saturday 9/06	11:00am to 8:00pm Anand Bazaar 10:00am to 1:00pm Children's program by students of Bharatiya Vidyalaya and Plymouth Balvihar 2:00pm to 3:30pm "Manthan" Dances by Handicapped Children's Dance Group from Gujarat 4:00pm to 6:00pm Outdoor Entertainment 8:00 pm "Bhriugu Garva Bhangam" Kuchipudi Dance Ballet by Padmasri Dr. Sobha Naidu
Sunday 9/07	11:00am to 8:00pm Anand Bazaar 9:30am to 10:45am Adult Yoga Session by Benita Mukerji 1:30pm to 4:00pm "Omkarache Dhyam" Abhang, Natya Geet & Bhav Geet by Sunil Mungee 4:00pm to 6:00pm Ganesh Bhajans by Swami Siddhanandji of Chinmaya Mission (Upstairs) 8:00pm Gujarati Music Medley by Sri Praful Dave
Monday 9/08	8:00pm "Mandolium" A Mandolin-Harmonium Jugalbandi by Snehasish Mozumder & Kedar Naphade.
Tuesday 9/09	8:00pm An Enchanting Evening of Music by Padmabhushan Pandits Rajan & Sajan Mishra.
Wednesday 9/10	8:00pm "Prayog" Classical Bharatnatyam performance with live music by Viji Rao.
Thursday 9/11	8:00pm Hindustani Classical Tabla Concert by Talyogi Pt. Suresh Talwalkar, Satyajit Talwalkar & vocal support by Kumar Mardur
Friday 9/12	8:00pm "Ek Bijane Nadata Rahiye" Hilarious Gujarati Drama by Sailesh Trivedi & Group
Saturday 9/13	2:00pm Hindustani concert by Priyanka Tope 3:00pm Carnatic Concert by Shreya Adiraju 4:00pm Bhajans by Meenaxi Bapat (Upstairs) 8:00pm "Bhairav Se Bhairavi" Niche Entertainment, India Light Classical Musical Concert



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Telugu Association

- Grocery (1 Day)
- Cooking Help (1 Day)

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Cooking (1 Day)

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Head Chef (1 Day)

Plymouth Balvihar

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Philadelphia Marathi Mandal

Cooking Help (2 Days)

Tamil Association

Cooking Help (2 Days)

Gujarati Samaj

Cooking Help (2 Days)

Bawarchi

2 Menu Items

Passage to India

1 Pakoda Item

Aman's

1 Desert

Hot Breads

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Bharat Panchal

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Food & Prasad

Sanjeev Lal, Sangeeta Raje Palkar, Bharat Panchal, Ani Railkar, Ganesh Patil, Bhakti Panchal, Praful Ajmera, Raksha Ajmera, Shiva Sajjan, Vaishali Joglekar, Jyoti Deshmane, Harshada Pendharkar, Kala Sajjan, Abhijit Nerurkar, Aarti Nerurkar, Lakshmi Iyer, Meenal Samant, Samapada Deshpande, Rama Shankar, V Shankar, Ravi Indrakanti, Shaila Karnik

Decoration

Venkateswara Reddy, Lakshmi Iyer, Sunanda Kulkarni, Vaishali Joglekar, Jyoti Deshmane, Komal Date, Mona Vibhute, Dilip Seth, Bhavin Shah, Sarita Kotwal, Karuna Samudralwar, Ranjit Deshmukh, Shubhra Vedanti, Anu Sirsat, Rajendra Nalavade, Hema Abhyankar

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Procession

Harshad Abhyankar, Shirish Joglekar, Umesh Tambi, Priya Shah, Sujata Deshmukh, Shubhra Vedanti, Gopi Ganeshan, Anu Sirsat

Anand Bazar

Saroja Sagaram, Ganesh Patil, Sunanda Kulkarni, Sanjeev Lal, Ishaan Nerurkar, Shubhra Amonkar, Janhavi Patel, Karuna Samudralwar, Shital Vibhute, Chandana Asthana, Meghana Deshmane, Rutuke Patel, Sanjeev Munshi

Stage, Video & Light

Asheesh Nadkarni, Mallik Budhavarapu, Ranjit Deshmukh, Ramesh Iyer, Dhananjay Samudralwar, Kedar Gidh, Anjan Dave, Aniruddha Potnis, Milind Ranade

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Mohana Padgaonkar, Sarita Kotwal, Shaila Karnik, Lakshmi Iyer, Mona Vibhute, Sunanda Kulkarni, Andy Suri, Gopi Ganeshan, Paramita Sinha

Cleanliness

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Program Guide

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2008

1:00 PM—2.45 PM (Outdoors)

GANESH HAVAN



Do not miss the Ganesh Havan on the 1st day where our priests **Shri. Kasiram-ji, Vishnu-ji and Sridhar-ji** will invoke Lord Ganesha to come and stay with us for 12-days. *Every one can make offerings in the Ganesh Havan even without Havan Sponsorship.* However, your support for arranging Ahuthi and 108 Modakams is very welcome. Havan Sponsorship is \$21 only.

2:45 PM - 3:45 PM (Outdoors)

GANESH PROCESSION



Aagaman Procession of Ganapati Bappa will be colorful as every year. Welcome Ganesha within us and dance to the tune of our famous Dhol-

Tasha— Lezhim Band. Children from Plymouth Balvihar and Bharatiya Vidyalaya will perform 3 dances.



These dances are choreographed by Sujata Deshmukh, Shubhra Vedanti and Priya Shah-Kulkarni. Dhol Tasha pathak performers are, Harshad Abhyankar, Ashish Nadkarni, Shirish Joglekar, Vimesh Tambi, Kiran Padgaonkar and others.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

In consideration to Jain community observing Jain Samvatsari in Auditorium from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM, all Ganesh Devotees are requested to observe silence around Auditorium and Lobby downstairs.

3:45 PM - 5:30 PM (Upstairs)

PRATHISTHAPANA



Priest Kasiram-ji will perform Prathisthapana in upstairs in deity Hall.

Please join collective recitation of Ganapati Atharvashirsha.

Lord Ganesha's 16-way puja will be followed by MahaAarti.

5.30 PM - 8:00 PM (Outdoors)

MAHAPRASAD

5.30 PM - 6:30 PM (Upstairs)

BHAJANS

Satsanga and Bhajans by Local Artists and children.

6:30 PM - 6:50 PM (Upstairs)

GANAPATI ATHARVASHIRSHA

6:50 PM - 7:20 PM (Upstairs)

MAHA AARTI

8:00 PM - 10:30 PM

DANCE DRAMA



Kalabhavan presents **Dr. Meena Nerurkar's** dance drama on the life of Lord Krishna.

She has won the **Maharashtra State Award** for Best Play Writer.

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Program Guide

Thursday, Sept. 4, 2008

11:30 AM - NOON	Vishesh Puja and Archana
NOON	Aarati & Mantrapushpanjali
6:00 PM - 6:30 PM	Archana
6:30 PM - 6:50 PM	Ganapati Atharvashirsha
6:50 PM - 7:20 PM	Aarati & Mantrapushpanjali
8:00 PM—10:30 PM	

CARNATIC MUSIC CONCERT

Sri Seshachary will provide a traditional Carnatic Music Vocal concert accompanied by **Sandhya Srinath** on Violin and **Srinath Bala** on Mridangam. This concert will give special focus on kritis devoted to Lord Ganesha.



Sri D. Seshachary is a top grade Carnatic musician of international reputation and is well known as one of the **Hyderabad Brothers**, together with his brother Sri D. Raghavachary. He hails from a family of musicians, with his initial training being under his father, Late Sangeetha Sahitya Vidwan Daruri Ratnamacharyulu, and his mother, D. Sulochana Devi.

Sandhya Srinath started training from an early age from Late Shri V. Janakiraman of AIR, Delhi. She went on to get advanced lessons from Lalgudi G Jayaraman and Prof. T.N. Krishnan.



Srinath Bala, having been initiated by Late Sri Krishnan, learnt under Sri. R. Ramesh (Karaikudi Mani Style of Percussion). He went on to get lessons under Maestro Padmabhushan Sangeetha Kalanidhi Umayalpuram K. Sivaraman. He has accompa-

nied many senior artists such as Ravi Kiran, T. Rukmini, Late Mani Krishnaswamy, Sangeetha Kalanidhi Sri. R. K. Srikantan, performing in India, Canada and the US.

Friday, Sept. 5, 2008

11:30 AM - NOON	Vishesh Puja and Archana
NOON	Aarati & Mantrapushpanjali
6:00 PM - 6:30 PM	Archana
6:30 PM - 6:50 PM	Ganapati Atharvashirsha
6:50 PM - 7:20 PM	Aarati & Mantrapushpanjali
8:00 PM—10:30 PM	

SANGEET KA SAFAR



New Jersey based **Anitha Krishna** has the distinction of captivating lovers of both Indian classical and film music. Besides winning a number of awards and a title in classical circles in India, she was the female lead singer for a host of celebrity singers from India on their light music tours in US, Europe and Canada. She is a noted playback singer having sung for a few Telugu films. Very recently

she was conferred the title, Gayaka Ratna by the Vamsee International Navaratna Award Committee of Andhra Pradesh.

Suresh Ramachandran: Versatile singer who has accompanied Shankar Mahadeven, SP Balasubramaniam and Chitra on their musical tours

Santhosh Khammamkar: Talented singer who is also Zee TV SaReGaMaPa finalist.

Keyboard and Synthesiser: **Viju Jacob** has accompanied leading Bollywood singers including Anuradha Paudwal

Percussion(Congo Drums/Dhol/Dholak) : **Ganesh Jagtab** Leading percussionist of USA and one of the busiest

Tabla/Mrindangam : **Subhash Kariyil** has accompiied Padma Bhshan Dr K.J.Yesudas in his classical and film music concerts

Rhythm Guitar : **Roy Veghese** leading guitarist of USA.



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Program Guide

Saturday, Sept. 6, 2008

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM Vishesh Puja and Archana
NOON Aarati & Mantrapushpanjali

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM



This morning is devoted to children from Plymouth Balvihar and Bharatiya Vidyalaya.

The program begins with recitation of Ganapati Atharvashirsha by children who have been practicing for last 2 months.

In the next part children participating in the procession dances will perform those dances on the stage. The choreographers are Sujata Deshmukh, Shubhra Vedanti and Priya Shah-Kulkarni.



Later children from Tamil Association will present a singing concert.



Students of Priya dance academy and Laxmi Raghavan's dance academy will perform the final segments of the morning children's

program.

Later children will receive a trophy as proud participants of Philadelphia Ganesh Festival 2008.



2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

MANTHAN GROUP

Folk dances from Gujarat presented by a troupe of Handicapped Girls.



M Miserable Doves

A Answer from God

N No body else

T To-morrow (the future)

H Health Care

A A helping hand

N New heights to conquer

Manthan, an institution only for disabled girls is situated at a distance of about 30 kms. from Ahmedabad (Gujarat state, India) near a village called Hajipur, District Gandhinagar. In



1991; **Smt. Niruben** and disabled eleven girls stayed in 3 mud houses and had to avail water from near by tube well even for nature's call.

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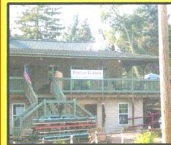
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Saturday, Sept. 6, 2008

6:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Archana

6:30 PM - 6:50 PM

Ganapati Atharvashirsha

6:50 PM – 7:20 PM

Aarati & Mantrapushpanjali

8:00 PM—10:30 PM

BHRIGU GARVA BHANGAM

This Kuchipudi Dance Ballet is presented by the Kuchipudi Dance Academy. Kuchipudi is a classical dance form that originated in the village of Kuchipudi, in India and is typically a



male oriented dance drama.

The Ballet is performed by Padmashree Dr. Shobha Naidu's students.

Padmasri Dr Sobha Naidu, is one of the most outstanding exponents of Kuchipudi Dance. Her greatness lies in her total dedication to the exacting genre with a classical base. A fiercely un-compromising purist, she is highly imaginative with a sense of deep involvement but without losing contact with contemporary taste and sensibilities. She has been Principal of Kuchipudi Art Academy at Hyderabad since 1980.

The ballet tells the Sthala Purana (story of the shrine) of Tirumala in Chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh state in South India. It is the seat of Lord Venkateswara, who is regarded as an incarnation of Lord Vishnu and the refuge for mankind in the Kaliyuga.

It starts with sage Narada asking the Sapta Rishis (seven great sages), who, among the three supreme deities Brahma, Vishnu and Siva, is competent to receive the Yagna Phalam (the offerings made during a sacrificial ritual). Sage Bhriguvisu visits all the three deities in their celestial abodes and is eventually convinced that Vishnu is the fittest one to receive the Yagna Phalam.



Philadelphia Ganesh Festival, 4th Year 2008

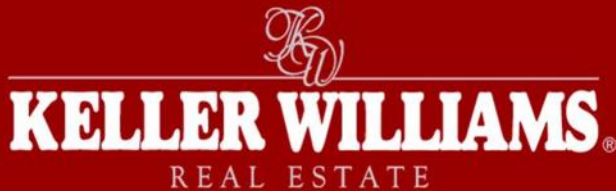
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Pallavi's professionalism is exemplary. Her diligence and perseverance positively impacted on the sale and purchase of our home. We highly recommend her.

- Vandna & Sanjeev Munshi

In the 3 years Pallavi has been our real estate agent, we have bought primary and investment residential properties. She continues to handle our rental listings. We can attest to her know-how, professionalism, integrity, commitment and "go-getter" attitude. Even in these tough market conditions, you can always count on her due diligence and sound objective advice.

- Poorva & Pulasti Choudhary

Pallavi was a blessing to us while buying our FIRST home. She is very knowledgeable on properties, and made the paperwork process as painless as possible. She definitely is in it for the clients' best interest, and we now have the house of our dreams!

- Melynda C. Helmer & John Disessa

Pallavi's hard work made the difference and sold our house in a tough market.

- Shraddha & Jawahar Bharatia

Pallavi has very good realtor acumen to understand a buyer's mind..... You are the best!

- Chandra Vaithianathsamy & Srinath Doraiswami

You sold our house in four days, when the housing market was in doldrums. You were equally tenacious when we wanted to purchase our new home. . You are tops!

- Aarti & Pratap Sanghavi

Pallavi has excellent negotiation and persuasion skills, but is also very pragmatic and fair. She exudes confidence and optimism, and was a calming influence during the selling process.

- Sonia & Manal Mehta

We were buying for the third time and Pallavi is far superior to any other agent that we have worked with. Pallavi went the "extra mile" whenever we had questions or concerns.

- Saurin & Heema Shah

We understand your commitment towards your profession and really appreciate your guidance which immensely helped us in making this entire HOME buying process as easy as possible. Your timely references helped us get the best mortgage rate

- Aarti & Sachin Prabhudesai

Pallavi helped us in the buying process from start to finish and was very accommodative with our schedules. Her honest and friendly nature coupled with her dedication and punctuality makes her a terrific agent to work with.

- Sumitha & Ramesh Kaliappan

Program Guide

Sunday, Sept. 7, 2008

9:30 AM—10:45 AM

ADULT YOGA SESSION

By Benita Mukerji

The session will start with a short Breathing Exercise (*Pranayama*), followed by Yoga Postures (*Asanas*), and end with Relaxation (*Shavasana*). **Please bring your own yoga mat, blanket, or towel.**

Benita is a Certified Yoga Teacher. Growing up in Varanasi, India, she began her yoga studies at a very early age as part of her classical dance training. She continued practicing yoga through college; working full-time; and raising a family. After leaving the corporate life, Benita has devoted much of her time to yoga education. She opened her home studio to share her extensive experience and "*Joy of Yoga*." She received her Yoga Teachers Certification from YogaLife Institute, in Devon, PA.

Her home studio details are at <http://mysite.verizon.net/joyofyoga>



11:00 AM—1:30

PMM Program

11:30 AM - NOON

Vishesh Puja and Archana

NOON

Aarati

1:30 PM—4:00 PM

VOCAL CONCERT

Kumar Sunil Mungee is a young talented versatile singer, musician, composer, with a vision.

The prince of Ghazals and Bhajans, as known these days,



Kumar Sunil Mungee is a child prodigy who has been performing since the tender age of 5 years. With his mind all set at that tender age, Kumar is fortunate to be among the few artist to be groomed under the traditional "guru shishya parampara", that is, the ancient traditional way of learning any art form by staying as a child to the teacher and learn the art

form and its professional aspects by the late maestro of Agra Jaipur Gharana Pandit Jitendra Abhisheki for a period of 15 years.

Anup Jalota the Bhajan and Ghazal samrat proudly says that Kumar Sunil Mungee will take Indian music to greater heights. During his concert you will have a unique experience of the rich Indian music presented in the most authentic form. His sweet melodious voice will take you into an aura of divinity, romanticism, and spirituality touching your hearts regardless of language.

Please visit: www.sunilmungee.com

Sunday, Sept. 7, 2008

4:00 PM—6:00 PM

GANESH BHAJANS

Swami Siddhananda, a graduate from Kerala University, joined Chinmaya Mission in 1972 at Sandeepany Sadhanalaya, Mumbai and studied Vedanta under Gurudev Chinmayanandaji. Swamiji is the resident Acharya at Chinmaya Mission "Kedar" at Langhorne, PA and also the in-charge of Chinmaya Mission West Publications Division.



Swamiji is an artist and a singer, has composed many Bhajans and has brought out CD albums. The most famous among them are **Hari Om Smaran, Shivo-ham, and Sivam Sivakaram Shantam.**

6:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Archana

6:30 PM - 6:50 PM

Ganapati Atharvashirsha

6:50 PM - 7:20 PM

Aarati & Mantrapushpanjali

8:00 PM—10:30 PM

GUJARATI VOCAL CONCERT (FOLK)



Praful Dave's voice and style epitomizes Gujarat and its folk heritage and his songs are known to swell emotions in people. He is one of the most talented folk singers, who was honored by the Gujarat Government for his contribution to folk music.

Praful Dave is a very well known folk singer among the Gujarati community all over the world. For last many years, he has been ruling over the hearts of the people who speak and understand Gujarati. **Praful Dave** is a recipient of the "Gaurav Puraskar" at a very young age for special achievement for folk literature and music. He is also the recipient of highest number of awards as a playback singer in Gujarati films. He is the only Gujarati singer who has performed in the famous Royal Albert Hall, UK with the Symphony Orchestra. His performance in the "Chaalo Gujarat" convention in 2005 in New Jersey was a grand success. **Praful Dave** will perform folk songs, Gujarati devotional songs, and folk literature with meaningful short stories about Gujarati culture and heritage, including Ganapati Stuti.



Philadelphia Ganesh Festival, 4th Year 2008

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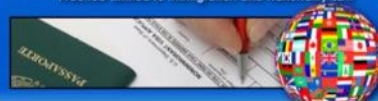
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Best wishes on the 4th anniversary celebration of
The Philadelphia Ganesh Festival 2008

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Program Guide

Monday, Sept. 8, 2008

11:30 AM - NOON Vishesh Puja and Archana
 NOON Aarati
 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM Archana
 6:30 PM - 6:50 PM Ganapati Atharvashirsha
 6:50 PM - 7:20 PM Aarati & Mantrapushpanjali
 8:00 PM—10:30 PM

MANDOLIUM

Two exciting young musicians are coming together to perform a first-ever duet of the mandolin and the harmonium, based on Indian (Hindustani) Classical Music.



Kedar Naphade is a promising young exponent of the art of harmonium solo and accompaniment. He has been a leading disciple of Pt. Tulsidas Borkar. He has performed harmonium solo and has shared the stage with luminaries such as his guru Smt. Padmavati Shaligram-Gokhale, Pt. Jasraj, Smt. Veena Sahasrabudhe, Pt. Ullhas Kashalkar, Smt. Prabha Atre, Smt.

Laxmi Shankar, Pt. Phiroz Dastur etc.

Snehasish Mozumder is among the few established musicians in India who have mastered the art of playing Mandolin. He has blended it perfectly into the style of Hindustani Indian Classical Music. He studied under late Acharya Ajoy Sinha Roy who was a beloved disciple of Baba Alauddin Khan Saheb, the founder of Maihar Gharana and he takes lesson of laykari under the guidance of Pandit Anil Palit. Finally he came under the tutelage of Pandit Ajoy Chakraborty. He is a recipient of Surmani and Jadubhatta Awards.



Samrat Kakkeri comes from a long line of musicians and has devoted his life to the art of Tabla. He is considered a child



protégée who has received acclaim as an accomplished tabla player (drummer) from early age. He has provided live accompaniment with some prominent Kathak dancers including Urmila Nagar, Gopal Rao and Raghav Bhatt. He has also assisted with composing music for the Kathak ballets "Megh Dut" and "Panch Bhoot" as well as played Tabla for the recording.

Visit: <http://www.mandolinclassic.com>

Visit <http://www.kedarnaphade.com>

Visit <http://www.facingeast.com/samratkakkeri.php>

Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2008

11:30 AM - NOON Vishesh Puja and Archana
 NOON Aarati
 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM Archana
 6:30 PM - 6:50 PM Ganapati Atharvashirsha
 6:50 PM - 7:20 PM Aarati & Mantrapushpanjali
 8:00 PM—10:30 PM

HINDUSTANI CLASSICAL CONCERT

Pandits Rajan and Sajan Mishra, the legendary **Mishra Brothers**, are highly acclaimed Hindustani vocal artists of the Benares Gharana. Besides India, they have performed for audiences in several continents at prominent musical gatherings.



Major awards: Padma Bhushan (2007); Sangeet Natak Academy; Kumar Gandharva; Sangeet Ratna (Allahabad); Sangeet Bhushan (Varanasi); Kashi Gaurav (Varanasi); Sangeet Nayak (Chandigarh).

Pandit Subhen Chatterjee, one of the best known tabla players, has accompanied Pandit Bhimsen Joshi, Shrimati Girija Devi, Pandit Jasraj, Ustad Rashid Khan, Pt. Vishwa Mohan Bhatt, Ustad Shahid Parvez, among others. He has also

collaborated with Sivamani, Peter Gabriel, Paul Horn, and David Crosby. A regular performer in WOMAD (World Organisation of Music & Dance).



Sanatan Goswami will be accompanying the **Mishra Brothers** on the harmonium. A senior disciple of violin maestro Pandit V. G. Jog and vocalist Pandit Dinanath Mishra, he is a fine solo harmonium player. He has accompanied luminaries such as Shrimati Girija Devi, Ustad Rashid Khan, and Pandit Ajoy Chakraborty.

Visit www.surmandal.com and www.subhenchatterjee.com to obtain more details.



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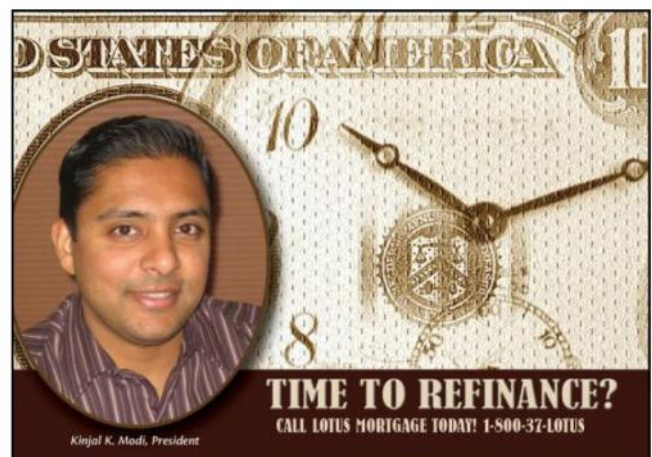
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Program Guide

Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2008

11:30 AM - NOON Vishesh Puja and Archana
 NOON Aarati
 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM Archana
 6:30 PM - 6:50 PM Ganapati Atharvashirsha
 6:50 PM - 7:20 PM Aarati & Mantrapushpanjali
 8:00 PM - 10:30 PM

PRAYOG

“PRAYOG”, a dialogue between dance and mathematics. This piece will explore the relationship between mathematical and metaphysical elements of traditional South Indian dance through Bharatanatyam. The main objective of this piece is to show the usage of footwork along with the basic nuances of Bharatanatyam such as, hand gestures, standing postures, leaps and circling movements inter-played into geometric nodes and beats to create various geometric figures and shapes. The geometric shapes are often cosmological: they represent in symbol the essential structure of the universe.



For example, four directions, the planets, various divinities and man himself. This piece also uses basic principles of arithmetic to explore the bridge between arts and mathematics.



Viji Rao is director of the Three Aksha Institute of Performing Arts, which hosts dance performances, workshops and lecture demonstrations and she will lead this highly talented and flamboyant ensemble. Viji has over two decades of experience in performing, teaching and choreographing. She is also proficient in other forms such as Kalari-payattu, Chhau, Ballet and contemporary dance.

Nattuvangum : Viji Rao

Vocal : Pushthakam Ramaa

Mridangum : P. Janardhana Rao

Violin : T.S. Krishna Murthy

Morsing and Khanjira : D. V. Prasanna Kumar

Multiple Instruments : Praveen D Rao

Thursday, Sept. 11, 2008

11:30 AM - NOON Vishesh Puja and Archana
 NOON Aarati
 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM Archana
 6:30 PM - 6:50 PM Ganapati Atharvashirsha
 6:50 PM - 7:20 PM Aarati & Mantrapushpanjali
 8:00 PM - 10:30 PM

TABLA & VOCAL CONCERT

This is a unique Tabla & Vocal presentation by **Taalyogi Pandit Suresh Talwalkar**, who will be accompanied by his son **Satyajit Talwalkar** on the tabla. Satyajit is very talented and is one of the leading Tabla players of his generation. The vocal support for this performance will be



given by **Kumar Mardur**, who himself is an accomplished vocalist from Dharwad, belonging to the great tradition of Kirana Gharana. The harmonium accompaniment will be given by **Shri Chinmay Kolhatkar**, a disciple of Dr. Arvind Thatte.

Taalyogi Pandit Suresh Talwalkar, is an accomplished artist and

as a Guru who belongs to the illustrious “Keertankar” family of Shri Dholebuva. He has accompanied a number of great artists such as Pt. Gajanan-buva Joshi and Pt. Nivrut-tibuva Sarnaik in their concerts. Sureshji has been conferred upon with a number of awards and honors. Such as Pt. Vishnu Digambar Paluskar Award, Vasant-rao Naik Puraskar, an award from Naad Brahma as well as from Govt. of Andhra Pradesh and, the title of “Taal Yogi” rendered by the Shankara-charya. Sureshji was also honored at the hands of the President of India Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, with the prestigious “Sangeet Natak Academy Award”, a national award for his contribution to the classical music.



Visit www.sureshtalwalkar.com or www.swaranajalicolumbus.com to obtain more details about the artist.

॥ गणपत्यथर्वशीर्षोपनिषत् ॥

ॐ भद्रं कर्णेभिः शृणुयाम देवाः । भद्रं पश्येमाक्षभिर्यजत्राः ।
स्थिरैरङ्गैस्तुष्टुवाꣳ सस्तनूभिः । व्यशेम देवहितं यदायुः ।
स्वस्ति न इन्द्रो वृद्धश्रवाः । स्वस्ति नः पूषा विश्ववेदाः ।
स्वस्ति नस्तार्क्ष्यो अरिष्टनेमिः । स्वस्ति नो बृहस्पतिर्दधातु ॥

ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः ॥

ॐ नमस्ते गणपतये । त्वमेव प्रत्यक्षं तत्त्वमसि । त्वमेव
केवलं कर्तासि । त्वमेव केवलं धर्तासि । त्वमेव केवलं
हर्तासि । त्वमेव सर्वं खल्विदं ब्रह्मासि । त्वं साक्षादात्मासि
नित्यम् ॥ १ ॥ ऋतं वच्मि । सत्यं वच्मि ॥ २ ॥

अव त्वं माम् । अव वक्तारम् । अव श्रोतारम् । अव
दातारम् । अव धातारम् । अवानूचानमव शिष्यम् । अव
पश्चात्तात् । अव पुरस्तात् । अवोत्तरात्तात् । अव
दक्षिणात्तात् । अव चोर्ध्वात्तात् । अवाधरात्तात् । सर्वतो मां
पाहि पाहि समन्तात् ॥ ३ ॥

त्वं वाङ्मयस्त्वं चिन्मयः । त्वमानन्दमयस्त्वं
ब्रह्ममयः । त्वं सच्चिदानन्दाद्वितीयोऽसि । त्वं प्रत्यक्षं
ब्रह्मासि । त्वं ज्ञानमयो विज्ञानमयोऽसि ॥ ४ ॥

सर्वं जगदिदं त्वत्तो जायते । सर्वं जगदिदं त्वत्तस्तिष्ठति ।
सर्वं जगदिदं त्वयि लयमेष्यति । सर्वं जगदिदं त्वयि
प्रत्येति । त्वं भूमिरापोऽनलोऽनिलो नभः । त्वं चत्वारि
वाक्पदानि ॥ ५ ॥

त्वं गुणत्रयातीतः । त्वं अवस्थात्रयातीतः । त्वं
देहत्रयातीतः । त्वं कालत्रयातीतः । त्वं मूलाधारस्थितोऽसि
नित्यम् । त्वं शक्तित्रयात्मकः । त्वां योगिनो ध्यायन्ति
नित्यम् । त्वं ब्रह्मा त्वं विष्णुस्त्वं रुद्रस्त्वमिन्द्रस्त्वमग्निस्त्वं
वायुस्त्वं सूर्यस्त्वं चन्द्रमास्त्वं ब्रह्म भूर्भुवः स्वरोम् ॥ ६ ॥

गणार्दिं पूर्वमुच्चार्य वर्णादिस्तदनन्तरम् । अनुस्वारः
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मनुस्वरूपम् । गकारः पूर्वरूपम् । अकारो मध्यमरूपम् ।
अनुस्वारश्चान्तरूपम् । बिन्दुरुत्तररूपम् । नादः सन्धानम् ।
संहिता सन्धिः । सैषा गणेशविद्या । गणक ऋषिः ।
निचूद्रायत्री छन्दः । श्रीमहागणपतिर्देवता । ॐ गं गणपतये
नमः ॥ ७ ॥

एकदन्ताय विद्महे वक्रतुण्डाय धीमहि ।

तन्नो दन्तिः प्रचोदयात् ॥ ८ ॥

एकदन्तं चतुर्हस्तं पाशमङ्कुशधारिणम् । रदं च वरदं
हस्तैर्विभ्राणं मूषकध्वजम् । रक्तं लम्बोदरं शूर्पकर्णकं
रक्तवाससम् । रक्तगन्धानुलिप्ताङ्गं रक्तपुष्पैः सुपूजितम् ।
भक्तानुकम्पिनं देवं जगत्कारणमच्युतम् । आविर्भूतं च
सृष्ट्यादौ प्रकृतेः पुरुषात्परम् । एवं ध्यायति यो नित्यं स
योगी योगिनां वरः ॥ ९ ॥

नमो व्रातपतये नमो गणपतये नमः प्रमथपतये
नमस्तेऽस्तु लम्बोदराय एकदन्ताय विघ्नविनाशिने शिवसुताय
श्रीवरदमूर्तये नमः ॥ १० ॥

ॐ भद्रं कर्णेभिः शृणुयाम देवाः । भद्रं पश्येमाक्षभिर्यजत्राः ।
स्थिरैरङ्गैस्तुष्टुवाꣳ सस्तनूभिः । व्यशेम देवहितं यदायुः ।
स्वस्ति न इन्द्रो वृद्धश्रवाः । स्वस्ति नः पूषा विश्ववेदाः ।
स्वस्ति नस्तार्क्ष्यो अरिष्टनेमिः । स्वस्ति नो बृहस्पतिर्दधातु ॥
ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः ॥

Ganapati Atharvashirsha

om bhadraṁ karṇebhiḥ śṛṇuyāma devāḥ । bhadraṁ
paśyemākṣabhiryajatrāḥ । sthiraṅgaṅgaistuṣṭuvāṁ sastaṇūbhiḥ ।
vyaśema devahitaṁ yadāyuh । svasti na indro vṛddhaśravāḥ ।
svasti naḥ pūṣā viśvavedāḥ । svasti nastārksyo ariṣṭanemiḥ ।
svasti no bṛhaspatirdadhātu ॥ om śāntiḥ śāntiḥ śāntiḥ ॥

ॐ om namaste gaṇapataye । tvameva pratyakṣaṁ tattvamasi ।
tvameva kevalaṁ kartāsi । tvameva kevalaṁ dhartāsi । tvameva
kevalaṁ hartāsi । tvameva sarvaṁ khalvidaṁ brahmāsi । tvaṁ
sākṣādātmāsi nityam ॥ 1 ॥ ṛtaṁ vacmi । satyaṁ vacmi ॥ 2 ॥

ava tvaṁ mām | ava vaktāram | ava śrotāram | ava
dātāram | ava dhātāram | avānūcānamaya śiṣyam | ava
paścāttāt | ava purastāt | avottarāttāt | ava dakṣiṇāttāt | ava
cordhvāttāt | avādhārāttāt | sarvato mām pāhi pāhi samantāt
|| 3 ||

tvaṁ vāṇmayastvaṁ cinmayaḥ | tvaṁānandamayastvaṁ
brahmayayaḥ | tvaṁ saccidānandadvitīyo'si | tvaṁ pratyakṣam
brahmāsi | tvaṁ jñānamayo vijñānamayo'si || 4 ||

sarvaṁ jagadidaṁ tvatto jāyate | sarvaṁ jagadidaṁ
tvattastiṣṭhati | sarvaṁ jagadidaṁ tvayi layameṣyati | sarvaṁ
jagadidaṁ tvayi pratyeti | tvaṁ bhūmirāpo'nalo'nilo nabhaḥ |
tvaṁ catvāri vākpadāni || 5 ||

tvaṁ guṇatrayātītaḥ | tvaṁ avasthātrayātītaḥ | tvaṁ
dehatrayātītaḥ | tvaṁ kālatrayātītaḥ | tvaṁ mūlādhārasthito'si
nityam | tvaṁ śaktitrayātmakaḥ | tvaṁ yogino dhyāyanti
nityam | tvaṁ brahmā tvaṁ viṣṇustvaṁ
rudrastvamindrastvamagnistvaṁ vāyustvaṁ sūryastvaṁ
candramāstvaṁ brahma bhūrbhuvayaḥ svarom || 6 ||

gaṇādīm pūrvamuccārya vaṇādīmstadanantaram |
anusvāraḥ parataraḥ | ardhendulasitam | tāreṇa rddham |
etattava manusvarūpam | gākāraḥ pūrvārūpam | akāro
madhyamarūpam | anusvāraścāntyarūpam |
binduruttarārūpam | nādaḥ sandhānam | saṁhitā sandhiḥ |
saiṣa gaṇeśavidyā | gaṇaka ṛṣiḥ | nicrdgāyatṛi chandaḥ |
śrīmahāgaṇapatirdevatā | om gaṁ gaṇapataye namaḥ || 7 ||

ekadantāya vidmahe vakratuṇḍāya dhīmahi |

tanno dantiḥ pracodayāt || 8 ||

ekadantaṁ caturhastam pāsamaṅkuśadhāriṇam | radaṁ ca
varadaṁ hastairbibhṛāṇam mūṣakadhvajam | raktaṁ
lambodaram śūrpakarnakam raktavāsasam |
raktagandhānuliptāṅgam raktapuspaiḥ supūjitam |
bhaktānukampinam devam jagatkāraṇamacyutam | āvirbhūtam
ca srṣṭyādaḥ prakṛteḥ puruṣātparam | evaṁ dhyāyati yo nityam
sa yogi yoginām varaḥ || 9 ||

namo vrātapataye namo gaṇapataye namaḥ pramathapataye
namaste'stu lambodarāya ekadantāya vighnavināśīne śivasutāya
śrīvaradamūrtaye namaḥ || 10 ||

om bhadram karṇebhiḥ śṛṇuyāma devāḥ | bhadram
paśyemākṣabhīryajatrāḥ | sthīrairāṅgaistuṣṭuvāṁ sastaṇūbhiḥ |
vyaśema devahitam yadāyuh | svasti na indro vṛddhaśravāḥ |
svasti naḥ pūṣa viśvavedāḥ | svasti naṣṭārksyo ariṣṭanemiḥ |
svasti no brhaspatirdadhātu ||

Iti Ganapati Atharvashirsha

Ganapati Atharvashirsham Meaning, By Dr. Vasant Lad

Aum! Let us listen with our ears to that which is auspicious, adorable one. Let us perceive with our eyes what is holy and auspicious. With strong, stable body and limbs, may we seek the divine grace and accept the noble order of all our life.

Ganesha, Salutations to YOU, YOU are actually A Brahma Tattvam. Only because YOU bless an action, it happens. Only YOU are the ONE who holds us from falling, Only YOU remove obstacles and ignorance. YOU are the Brahman, the ultimate divine power. YOU are the soul that is part of everything.

I surrender to you, Lord Ganesha. You are the speaker. You are the listener. You are the giver. You are the sustainer. I am your disciple. Protect me from the front and back. Protect me from the north and the south, from above and below. Protect me from all directions.

You are full of perfect knowledge of truth and awareness. You are full of bliss and pure consciousness. You are truth, consciousness and bliss. You are the absolute awareness. You are full of supreme wisdom and knowledge.

You are the earth, water, fire, air and the space. You are the root foundation of speech. You are beyond the three gunas: sattva, rajas and tamas. You are beyond the physical, mental and causal bodies. You are beyond the three aspects of time: past, present and future. You are eternally established in the muladhara chakra. You have three shaktis: action, knowledge and will.

Salutation to the Ganapati whose seed mantra is Aum Gam. We know Ekadanta, the One-tusked God, the unique God. We meditate upon Vakratunda, the curved-trunk God. May that unique elephant God illumine our consciousness and direct us along the right track.

One should meditate upon Lord Ganesha having one tusk and four arms; holding the noose and goad with two of them; with the other two indicating varada, the giving of boons and blessings, and abhaya mudra, the fear removing gesture; having a mouse as the emblem on his ensign; possessing a big, beautiful belly and large, lovely ears which look like winnowing baskets; having a red cloth and His whole body covered with red sandalwood paste. He should be worshiped with red flowers. He manifests Himself as the universe and is beyond prakriti, matter, and Purusha, the manifest God. One who worships Ganesha in this way forever is the best of yogis.

Prostrations to Vratapati, the Lord of Plenty. Prostrations to Ganapati, the Lord of various groups of Gods. Prostrations to Pramathapati, the Lord of Siva's hosts. Prostrations to Lambodara, the full-bellied God with a single tusk, destroyer of obstacles, the Son of Siva, the Bestower of all Blessings.

संकटनाशन श्री गणेशस्तोत्र
 श्री गणेशाय नमः नारद उवाच
 प्रणम्य शिरसा देवं गौरीपुत्रं विनायकम्
 भक्तावासं स्मरेन्नित्यं आयुः कामार्थं सिद्धये ... 1
 प्रथमं वक्रतुंडं च एकदंतं द्वितियकम्
 तृतीयं कृष्णपिंगाक्षं गजवक्त्रं चतुर्थकम् ... 2
 लम्बोदरं पंचमं च षष्ठं विकटमेव च
 सप्तमं विघ्नराजेन्द्रम् धूमवर्णं तथाष्टमं ... 3
 नवमं भालचन्द्रं दशमं तु विनायकम्
 एकादशं गणपतिं द्वादशं तु गजाननम् ... 4
 द्वादश एतानि नामानि त्रिसंध्यः पठेन्नरः
 न च विघ्नभयं तस्य सर्वं सिद्धिं करं प्रभो ... 5
 विद्यार्थी लभते विद्यां धनार्थी लभते धनम्
 पुत्रार्थी लभते पुत्रं मोक्षार्थी लभते गतिम् ... 6
 जपेद गणपतिं स्तोत्रं षडभिमसिः फलम् लभेत्
 संवत्सरेण सिद्धिं च लभते नात्र संशयः ... 7
 अष्टभ्यो ब्राह्मणेभ्यश्च लिखित्वा यः समर्पयेत्
 तस्य विद्या भवेत्सर्वा गणेशस्य प्रसादतः ... 8
 इति श्रीनारदपुराणे संकटनाशन
 श्री गणेशस्तोत्रं संपूर्णम्

Sankatnashan Shree Ganesh Stotra

Pranamya ShirsaDevam GauriPutra Vinayakam
 Bhaktavasam SmareNityam AyuhuKamartha Siddhaye..1
 Prathamam Vakratundamcha Ekdantam Dwitiyakam
 Tritiyam KrishnaPingaksham GajaVakram Chaturthakam..2
 Lambodarm Panchamam cha Shashtham Vikatmeva cha
 Saptam VighnaRajendram Dhumravarnam Tathashtakam..3
 Navam Bhalachandram cha Dashmamtu Vinayakam
 Ekadasham Ganapatim Dwadasham tu Gajananam..4
 Dwadashaitani Namani TriSandhyai Yah Pathennarh
 Na cha Vigna Bhayam Tasya sarva Siddhi Karam Prabho..5
 Vidyarthi Labhate Vidyam, Dhanarthi Labhate Dhanam
 Putrarthi Labhate Putram, Moksharthi Labhate Gatim..6
 Japed Ganapati Stotram Shadbhir Masaihi Falam Labhet
 Samvastarena Siddhim cha Labhate natra Sanshayh..7
 Ashtobhyo BhahmaneBhyascha Likhitva Yah Samarpayet
 Tasya Vidya Bhavet Sarva Ganeshsya Prasadatah. ..8

श्रीगणेशाय नमः ॥
 मुदाकरात्तमोदकं सदाविमुक्तिसाधकं
 कलाधरावतंसकं विलासिलोकरञ्जकम् ।
 अनायकैकनायकं विनाशितेभदैत्यकं
 नताशुभाशुनाशकं नमामि तं विनायकम् ॥ १ ॥
 नतेतरातिभीकरं नवोदितार्कभास्वरं
 नमत्सुरारिनिर्जरं नताधिकापदुद्धरम् ।
 सुरेश्वरं निधीश्वरं गजेश्वरं गणेश्वरं
 महेश्वरं तमाश्रये परात्परं निरन्तरम् ॥ २ ॥
 समस्तलोकशङ्करं निरस्तदैत्यकुञ्जरं
 दरेतरोदरं वरं वरेभवक्त्रमक्षरम् ।
 कृपाकरं क्षमाकरं मुदाकरं यशस्करं
 मनस्करं नमस्कृतां नमस्करोमि भास्वरम् ॥ ३ ॥
 अकिञ्चनार्तिमार्जनं चिरन्तनोक्तिभाजनं
 पुरारिपूर्वनन्दनं सुरारिगर्वचर्वणम् ।
 प्रपञ्चनाशभीषणं धनञ्जयादिभूषणं
 कपोलदानवारणं भजे पुराणवारणम् ॥ ४ ॥
 नितान्तकान्तदन्तकान्तिमन्तकान्तकात्मजं
 अचिन्त्यरूपमन्तहीनमन्तरायकृन्तनम् ।
 हृदन्तरे निरन्तरं वसन्तमेव योगिनां
 तमेकदन्तमेव तं विचिन्तयामि सन्ततम् ॥ ५ ॥
 महागणेशपञ्चरत्नमादरेण योऽन्वहं
 प्रगायति प्रभातके हृदि स्मरन् गणेश्वरम् ।
 अरोगतामदोषतां सुसाहितीं सुपुत्रतां
 समाहितायुरष्टभूतिमभ्युपैति सोऽचिरात् ॥ ६ ॥
 इति श्रीशङ्करभगवतः कृतौ श्रीगणेशपञ्चरत्नस्तोत्रं
 सम्पूर्णम् ॥

Shri Ganesh Pancharatnam Stotram

By Adi Sankara

Mudaa karaatta modakam sadaa vimukti saadhakam

Kalaadharaavata nsakam vilaasi loka rakshakam
Anaayakaika naayakam vinaashitebha daityakam
Nataashubhaashu naashakam namaami tam vinaaya-
kam...1

Natetaraati bhiikaram navoditaarka bhaasvaram

Namah suraari nirjaram nataadhikaapaduddharam
Sureshvaram nidhiishvaram gajeshvaram ganeshvaram
Maheshvaram tamaashraye paraatparam niranteram ...2

Samasta loka sha.nkaram niraasta daitya kunjaram

Daretarodaram varam varebhavaktram aksharam
Kripaakaram kshamaakaram mudaakaram yashaskaram
Manaskaram namaskritaam namaskaromi bhaasvaram...3

AkInchanaarti marjanam chirantanokti bhaajanam

Puraaripuuvanandanam suraari garva charvanam
Prapanchanaasha bhiishhanam dhananjayaadi bhuushha-
nam, Kapoladaanavaaranam bhaje puranavaaranam...4

Nitaanta kaanta dantakaanti mantakaanta kaatmajam

Achintyaruupa mantahiina mantaraaya krin-
tanam Hridantare niranteram vasantameva yoginaam
Tamekadantamekameva chintayaami santatam ...5

Mahaaganesha paJncharatnam aadarena yon.avaham

Prajapati prabhaatake hridi smaran ganeshvaram
Arogataam adoshhataam susaahitiim suputrataam
Samaahitaayurashhta bhuutimabhyupaiti sochirat ...6

आरती गणपतीची (सुखकर्ता दुःखहर्ता)

सुखकर्ता दुःखहर्ता वार्ता विघ्नाची । नुरवी पुरवी प्रेम कृपा
जयाची । सर्वांगी सुंदर उटि शेंदुराची । कंठी झळके माळ
मुक्ताफळांची ॥१॥ जयदेव जयदेव जय मंगलमूर्ती । दर्शनमात्रे
मनःकामना पुरती ॥१॥ रत्नखचित फरा तुज गौरीकुमरा । चंदनाची
उटी कुंकुमकेशरा ॥ हिरेजडित मुगुट शोभतो बरा । रुणझुणती
नूपुरे चरणी घागरिया ॥२॥ लंबोदर पीतांबर फणिवरबंधना । सरळ
सोंड वक्रतुंड त्रिनयना ॥ दास रामाचा वाट पाहे सदना । संकष्टी
पावावे निर्वाणी रक्षावे सुरवरवंदना ॥३॥

आरती गणपतीची (शेंदुर लाल चढायो)

शेंदुर लाल चढायो अच्छा गजमुखको । दोंदिल लाल बिराजे सुत
गौरीहरको । हाथ लिये गुडलड्डू साई सुरवरको । महिमा कहे न
जाय लागत हुं पदको ॥१॥ जय जयजी गणराज विद्या सुखदाता ।
धन्य तुमारो दर्शन मेरा मन रमता ॥१॥ अष्टौ सिद्धी दासी
संकटको वैरी । विघ्नविनाशन मंगलमूरत अधिकारी ।
कोटीसुरजप्रकाश ऐसी छवि तेरी । गंडस्थलमदमस्तक झुले
शशिवहारी ॥ जय० ॥२॥ भावभगतिसे कोई शरणागत आवे ।
संतति संपति सबही भरपूर पावे । ऐसे तुम महाराज मोको अति
भावे । गोसावीनंदन निशिदिन गुण गावे ॥ जय० ॥३॥

घालिन लोटांगण वंदीन चरण । डोळ्यांनी पाहिन रूप तुझे ॥ प्रेमे
आलिंगिन आनंदे पूजिन ॥ भावें ओवाळिन म्हणे नामा ॥१॥ त्वमेव
माता च पिता त्वमेव, त्वमेव बंधुश्च सखा त्वमेव । त्वमेव विद्या
द्रविणं त्वमेव, त्वमेव सर्वं मम देवदेव ॥२॥ कायेन वाचा मनसेन्द्रियैर्वा
बुद्ध्यात्मना वा प्रकृतिस्वभावात् ॥ करोमि यद्यत्सकलं परस्मै
नारायणायेति समर्पयामि ॥३॥ अच्युतं केशवं रामनारायणं कृष्ण
दामोदरं वासुदेवं हरिम् ॥ श्रीधरं माधवं गोपिकावल्लभं जानकीनायकं
रामचंद्रं भजे ॥४॥ हरे राम हरे राम राम राम हरे हरे । हरे कृष्ण
हरे कृष्ण कृष्ण कृष्ण हरे हरे ॥५॥

Ganapati Aarti (Marathi)

Sukh Karta Dukh Harta Varta Vighnanchi
Nuravi Puravi Prema Krupa Jayachi
Sarvangi Sundar Uti Shendurachi
Kanthi Jhalke Maal Mukta Phalanchi
Jai Dev, Jai Dev, Jai Mangal Murti
Darshan Matre Mano Kamana Purti, Jai Dev Jai
Ratna Khachit Phara Tuja Gauri Kumara
Chandana-chi Uti Kum Kum Keshara
Hire Jadit Mukut Shobhato bara
Runa Zunati Nupure Charani Ghagariya, Jai Dev2
Lambodar Pitambar Phanivar Bandhna
Saral Sondi Vakra Tunda Tri-Nayana
Daas Ramacha Vat Pahe Sadana
Sankati Pavave Nirvani Rakshave SurVar Vandana, Jai
Dev2

Ganapati Aarti (Hindi)

Shendur Lal Chadhayo Achcha Gajmukh ko
Dondil Lal Biraje Sut Gauri Har Ko
Haath Liye Gud Laddu Sai Survar Ko
Mahima Kahe Na Jaaye Lagat Hu Pad Ko
Jai Jai Ji Ganaraj Vidya Sukhdata
Dhanya Tumharo Darshan Mera Man Ramta, Jai Dev2
Ashto Siddhi Dasi Sankat Ko Bairi
Vighna Vinaashan Mangal Murat Adhikari
Koti Suraj Prakash Aaisi Chhabi Teri
Gandasthal Mada Mastaka Jhule Shashibihari, Jai
Jai2
Bhava Bhagatise Koi Sharanagat Aave
Santati Sampati Saba hi Bharpur Paave
Aise Tum Maharaj Moko Ati Bhave
Gosavi Nandan Nishidin Gun Gave, Jai Jai2

Ghalin Lotangan Vandin Charana | Dolyane Pahin Rupa
Tujhe | | Preme Alingana Anande Pujin | Bhave Ovalin
Mhane Nama | | 1 | |

Tvamev Mata cha Pita Tvamev Tvamev Bandhuscha Sakha
Tvamev | Tvamev Vidya Dravinam Tvamev, Tvamev Sarvam
Mama Dev Dev | | 2 | |

Kayen Vacha Mansendri yeirva, Budhyat mana Va Prakriti
Swabhavat | Karomi Yadyat Sakalam Parasmai, Nanayana
Yeti Samarpayami | | 3 | |

Achyutam Keshvam Ram Narayanam, Krishna Damoda-
ram vasudevam Harim | Sridharam Madhavam Gopi-
kaVallabham, Janaki Nayakam Ramachandram Bhaje
| | 4 | |

Hare Ram Hare Ram, Ram Ram Hare Hare | Hare Krishna
Hare Krishna, Krishna Krishna Hare Hare | | 5 | |

मंत्रपुष्पांजलि **ॐ यज्ञेन यज्ञमयजन्त**
देवास्तानि धर्माणि प्रथमान्यासन् । तेहनाकं महिमानः सचंत । यत्र
पूर्वं साध्याः सन्ति देवाः ॥ ॐ राजधिराजाय प्रसह्यसाहिने नमो वयं
वैश्रवणाय कुर्महे । स मे कामान् कामकामाय मह्यं कामेश्वरो
वैश्रवणो ददातु । कुबेराय वैश्रवणाय महाराजाय नमः ॥
ॐ स्वस्ति साम्राज्यं भोज्यं स्वाराज्यं वैराज्यं पारमेष्ठ्यं राज्यं
माहाराज्यमाधिपत्यमयं समंतपर्यायीस्यात् सार्वभौमः सार्वायुष
आंतादापरार्धात् । पृथिव्यै समुद्रपर्यताया एकरात्रिणि । तदप्येष
श्लोकोऽभिगीतो मरुतः परिवेष्टारो मरुत्तस्यावसन् गृहे । अविक्षितस्य
कामप्रेर्विश्वेदेवाः सभासद इति ॥
ॐ एकदंताय विद्महे वक्रतुंडाय धीमहि तन्नो दंती प्रचोदयात् ॥

Mantra Pushpanjali

Om Yadnena Yadnya Maya Jant DevasTani Dharmani
Prathamanyasan | Teha Nakam Mahimanah Sachant | |
Yatra Purve Sadhyaha Santi Devaha | | Om Raja Dhirajay
Prasahya Sahine Namo Vayam Vaishnavanay Kurmahe |
Sa Me Kaman Kam Kamay Mahyam Kameshwaro Vaishra-
vano Dadadu | Kuberaya Vaishnavanay Maharajay Namah
| | Om Swasti Samrajyam Bhaujyam Swarajyam Pa-
rameshtham Rajyam Maharajya Madhipatya Mayam
Samant Parya Yisyat Saarva Bhaumah Sarvayusha Antada
Parardhat | Pruthivyai Samudra Paryantaya Ekaraliti |
Tadapyesha Shloko Abhigito Marutah Pariveshtaro Ma-
rutta Syavasan Grihe | Avikshitasya Kamaprer Vishve
Devaha Sabhasad Iti | |

Spiritual

Significance of Ganesha's Pratishthapana (Inauguration) and Visarjan (Farewell)

Edited by Mukund Kute with thanks from an article by

Dr. Rajat Pandit Sharma in Lokvani

In order to comprehend the practice of '*Pratishthapana*' and '*Visarjan*', let's first understand the concept of worship in the Hindu faith. The worship of the Almighty in Hindu Dharma may be through the '*Saakaar*' (with form) or '*Niraakaar*' (formless).

The *Niraakaar* method requires no physical depiction, or object and meditation ('*Dhyaan*') is a way of praying. The easiest and most effective *Puja* is to sit silently in contemplation of the Supreme Divinity within ourselves.

However, our mind is restless. It won't sit still that easily. It wants to roam from the past to the future, and rarely observes the truth of the Almighty. Our philosophers '*Rishis*' designed the *Saakaar* method which requires a physical medium, an image or a symbol (*Murti*) through which the Almighty is venerated and '*Puja*' or '*Archana*' are forms of this act of worship.

Idol worship in Hinduism is most misunderstood by the non-Hindus. Formlessness of God is the essential theme of Hinduism. But worship of divine in a chosen form is a popular practice. In the Vedanta that expounds the Vedic philosophy, it is mentioned innumerable times that God is without a name and a form and is everywhere. Logically it also means, God is in 'everything' we sense, including a well decorated Idol.

The word Pratishthapana and Visarjan are derived from the Sanskrit language. Pratishthapana is very first part of the *Saakaar* method. It refers to invocation of Almighty to be present in the *Murti*. After the *Sakaar Puja* is finished, the formal concluding rite is called Visarjan, in which the presiding deity is requested to depart from the physical form, (a '*Murti*'). This 'temporary receptacle' is then discarded, most often by submersion into water, such as a river, pond or the sea.

In the case of the Ganesh Festival, it commemorates the creation of Lord Ganapati and he is venerated for ten days with great fervor. Goddess Gauri molded his original form from exfoliate of her own skin. She then invoked her consort, Lord Shiva to breathe life into the inanimate sculpture. Hence, the process of creating and worshipping Shri Ganesh is highly significant and analogous to his actual genesis described in our scriptures. The Goddess Gauri is represented as mother earth and the clay from which the *Murti* is created symbolises her body's exfoliate from which Ganapati was formed. On the final day of the festival (Anant Chaturdashi), the transitory embodiment of Ganesh is respectfully requested to depart (*Visarjan*) and then the remaining depiction (now inert) is submersed into water.

There is profound importance to *Visarjan* and this particular act of worship, *Puja*.



1. It is only through collective power of our prayers and belief that an inanimate object becomes transformed into an object of devotion. Similarly, we should learn that all humans are mere flesh and blood, however through the Almighty's grace we may become the embodiment of spirituality and transcend all adversity.

2. We are reminded that a *Murti* (physical depiction) is not just the Supreme Being and in fact, it is through devotion that our hearts imbibe the divine spirit where He resides. The *murti* is a symbolic intermediary through which we can channel our prayers (during *puja*) and simultaneously receive the Almighty's blessing.

3. The *Visarjan* ceremony represents the concept of *Sama-sara*, or the cycle of birth death and rebirth. During death, as the soul departs from our body, the dead perishes and returns to the natural elements. Similarly, once the presiding deity departs from the *Murti*, its physical manifestation is then returned to nature. The imbibed spirit of divinity however remains in the hearts of the devotees and enriches their lives.

Ganesha's Puja Method

Edited by Mukund Kute with thanks to Hinduism Today

Sakaar form's worship (*Puja*) allows us to experience the spirit of the Supreme through all the physical senses. *Darshan*, or beholding the depiction, *Shravan* which allows one to hear the praises of the Almighty, *Sparsha*, to touch the sacred image, *Gandha*, inhaling the scent emanating from the flowers, perfumes, fruits and incense offered to the deity and of course *Rasanaa*, when we taste the ambrosial *Prasad* which has been offered to the Almighty.

Hindu tradition says "Atithi Devo Bhava" meaning a guest is or should be treated as God ! It teaches us to offer the best of things we have to our guests as our Dharmic Duty. Lord Ganesh comes to our lives for 10 days as a Guest.

When a guest comes to our home, we offer him a water. Then we offer him a seat in choicest place in our living room or family room. If the Guest is traveling light, we offer him cloths, water for bath. Then we offer him a best food cooked on that day. This is our tradition and treat our guests well.

Since Lord Ganesha will be our guest for 10 days, we will welcome and offer to him 16-way *Puja* every day. What are these 16 offerings? You will come to know on the next 11 pages.

GANESH PUJA EXPLAINED.....

आचमनम् Āchamanam

Water Sipping By the Pūjārī



ॐ सुमुखाय स्वाहा
ॐ एकदन्ताय स्वाहा
ॐ गजकर्णिकाय स्वाहा

Aum sumukhāya svāhā
Aum ekadantāya svāhā
Aum gajakarṇikāya svāhā

Aum! Hail to the God whose face is always shining!
Aum! Hail to the God who has only one tusk!
Aum! Hail to the God with huge elephant ears!

Holding the spoon with your left hand, take a spoonful of water from the cup and place it in the right palm to rinse the hand, letting the excess fall onto the floor or a tray. Put another spoonful of water into the right hand, intone "Aum sumukhāya svāhā" and sip the water. Repeat for the second and third lines, then rinse the right hand again.

विघ्नेश्वर प्रार्थना Vighneśvara Prārthanā

Ganeśa Invocation

ॐ शुक्लांबरधरं विष्णुं शशिवर्णं चतुर्भुजम् ।
प्रसन्न वदनं ध्यायेत् सर्वविघ्नोपशान्तये ॥

Aum śuklāambaradharam viṣṇum
śaśivarnam chaturbhujam
prasanna vadanam dhyaëet
sarvavighnopāśāntaye

Aum. O Lord dressed in splendid white, pervading the universe, shining radiantly like rays of the full moon, having four mighty arms and a charming, happy face, we meditate on you that all obstacles may be quelled.



Salute Lord Ganeśa by holding hands in añjali mudrā, the prayerful pose. Then, while reciting the verse, tap your temples lightly with your knuckles three times, as in the photo. Alternatively, you may cross your arms before your face, the left hand tapping the right temple and vice versa. Return your hands to añjali mudrā while reciting the last words of the chant.

संकल्पम् Sankalpam

Dedication of Puja, Statement of Purpose

ॐ अद्य पूर्वोक्त एवगुणसकल
विशेषेण विशिष्टायां अस्यां शुभतिथौ
ॐ महागणेश्वरं उद्दिश्य महागणेश्वरप्रीत्यर्थं
महागणेश्वरप्रसादसिद्धार्थं
यथा शक्ति (name of city) देशे (period of day)
ध्यानावाहनादि गणेशपूजां करिष्ये ।
ॐ अप उपसम्यह्य

Aum adya pūrvokta evaṅguṇasakala
viśeṣeṇa viśiṣṭayāṁ asyāṁ śubhatithau
Aum Mahāgaṇeśvaram uddiśya
Mahāgaṇeśvara prītyartham
Mahāgaṇeśvara prasāda siddhyartham
yathā śakti (chant city) deśe (insert the time of day)
dhyanāvāhanādi Gaṇeśa pūjām karishye
Aum apa upasammyahya

the left hand, place a spoonful of water into your right palm and ritually wash both hands with the water by wiping the palms together a few times as you recite "Aum apa upa sprīṣya." Once the saṅkalpam has been chanted, the pūjā must not be interrupted or abandoned until the concluding mantras are recited.



WORSHIP AND OFFERINGS BEGIN

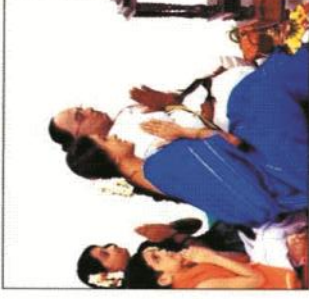
आवाहनम् आसनम् Āvāhanam, Āsanam

Welcoming and Offering a Seat

ध्यायामि । आवाहयामि ।
रत्नसिंहासनं समर्पयामि ।

dhyaayāmi, avahayāmi, ratnasinhāsanam samarpayāmi

We now meditate on you, O Lord, and invite you to sit upon the jewel-studded, lion throne we have prepared for you.



Offer a pinch of rice to the Deity as you chant each of the three words before "samarpayāmi." Visualize Ganeśa seated on a gem-studded throne before you, smiling, full of blessings, waiting to be honored as a guest in your home.

अर्घ्यम् Arghyam

Washing the Lord's Feet and Hands

पादयोः पादं समर्पयामि ।
हस्तयोः अर्घ्यं समर्पयामि ।

pādayoḥ pādyaṁ samarpayāmi
hastayoḥ arghyaṁ samarpayāmi

We now humbly bathe each of your white lotus feet and gently wash each of your precious hands, Lord Ganeśa.

With your right hand offer a spoonful of pure water by holding it up before the Deity momentarily and then placing it in the tirtha cup. This is how all water offering is done throughout the pūjā. As you chant the first line, visualize yourself bathing the feet of Ganeśa. Offer a second spoonful of pure water as you intone the next line and visualize yourself washing His hands.

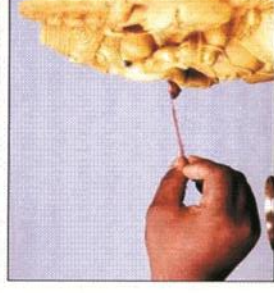
आचमनम् Āchamanam

Offering Water to Quench His Thirst

ॐ भूभुवः सुवः आचमनीयं समर्पयामि ।

Aum bhū-bhuvah suvaḥ āchamanīyaṁ samarpayāmi

Aum! In all three worlds, we humbly offer you fresh, pure water for sipping.



Offer a spoonful of pure water to Ganeśa. Visualize His accepting it in His Hand and sipping it.

स्नानम् Snānam

Ritual Bathing

ॐ सुप्रसिन्धुसमानात् सुवर्णकलशस्थितम् ।
स्नानार्थं गृहात् शम्भो सलिलं विमलं गणेश ॥
गङ्गास्नानं समर्पयामि

Aum surasindhu samānitam suvarṇakalāśasthitam ।
snānārtham grīhāt śambho salilam vimalam gaṇeśa ॥
gaṅgāśnānam samarpayāmi

We now bathe you, beloved Lord Gaṇeśa, the pure one,
with the water that was brought from the Ganges in the
golden pot. We have bathed you in sacred Gaṅgā water.

While ringing the bell
and reciting this verse,
dip a flower into the
tirtha water and gently
sprinkle the Deity.
Do this three times or
more. Hold the flower
in your right hand in
the mṛṅgi mudrā, the
stem between your third
and fourth fingers.
If the altar design
allows, you may pour
water over the mūrti,
rather than sprinkling
it during this chant.



अलङ्कारम् Alankāram

Adornment and Offerings

वस्त्रार्थं मङ्गलाक्षतान् समर्पयामि
उपवीतार्थं मङ्गलाक्षतान् समर्पयामि
ॐ गन्धं गृहाण सुगन्धमन्धकासुरसूदन ।
कुङ्कुमदिसमायुक्तं कुलाचलनिकेतन ॥
दिव्य परिमलं विभूतिं चन्दनं कुङ्कुमम् समर्पयामि

vastrārtham maṅgalakṣatān samarpayāmi
upavītartham maṅgalakṣatān samarpayāmi
Aum gandham grīhāṇa surabhim andhakā surasūdana,
kuṅkumadī samāyuktam kulāchalaniketana
divya parimala vibhūti chandana
kuṅkumam samarpayāmi

We give you this auspicious unbroken rice, our
magnificent Lord, that you may enjoy resplendent
clothing. We give you auspicious unbroken rice.
Lord Gaṇeśa, that you may be handsomely adorned
with a white, cotton sacred thread. Aum. O Lord, the
destroyer of the demon Andhakasura, you who resides
in the Himalayas, please accept the good smelling
chandana with *kuṅkuma* and choice offerings.

Dress the Deity. Offer a pinch of unbroken rice while chant-
ing each of the first two lines. Repeat the third and fourth
lines over and over as you decorate the Deity with flowers.
The last line is recited once while applying vibhūti (holy
ash), chandana (sandalpaste) and kuṅkuma. (red powder).



पुष्पम् Pushpam

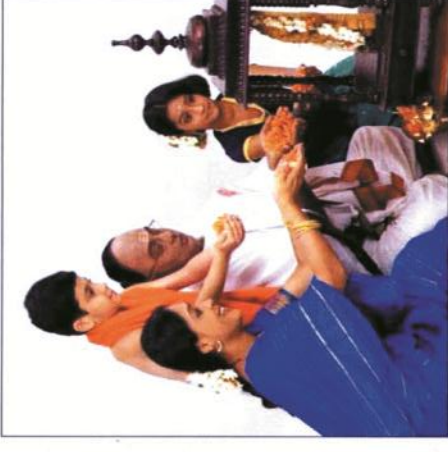
Offering Flowers

तदुपरि मङ्गलाक्षतान् समर्पयामि ।
पूजार्थं नानाविधपत्र पुष्पाणि समर्पयामि ।

tadupari maṅgalakṣatān samarpayāmi
pujārtham nānavīdhapatra puṣhpāṇi samarpayāmi

We now offer this auspicious unbroken rice. And for
the fulfillment of our devotion, we offer many kinds
of fresh, blooming flowers, our peerless Lord.

A pinch of rice is offered with the first line. A
handful of flowers is offered with the second.



धूपम् Dhūpam

Offering Incense

ॐ वनस्पत्युद्भवैः दिव्यैः नानागन्धसमन्वितैः ।
आग्नेयधूपदीपानां धूपोऽयं प्रतिगृह्यताम् ॥
दशाङ्गं गुग्गुलोपेतं सुगन्धं सुमनोहरम् ।
आग्नेयःसर्वदेवानां धूपोऽयं प्रतिगृह्यताम् ॥
धूपमाग्रापयामि धूपानन्तरमाचमनीयं समर्पयामि
मङ्गलाक्षतान् समर्पयामि

Aum vanaspatyudbhavaiḥ divyaiḥ
nānāgandhasamanvitaiḥ,
āgneyadhūpadīpānām dhūpo-yaṁ pratigrihyatām.
daśāṅgam guṅgulopetam sugandham sumanoharam,
āgneyaḥ sarvadevānām dhūpo-yaṁ pratigrihyatām.
dhūpamāgrahayāmi
dhūpānantaram āchamāṇīyaṁ samarpayāmi
maṅgalakṣatān samarpayāmi

The finest incense, of magical qualities, of full and varied
fragrances, Lord Gaṇeśa, we set aflame and offer to you in
this, our home. Incense of the finest resins and perfumes,
incomparable in sweetness and aroma, to be inhaled and
enjoyed by you and all the Gods and devas, we offer to you
in this, our home. Eagerly we offer to you, our resplendent
Lord, fine resin incense, of heavenly odor, bewitching
to the mind, rising out of a ghee-fed flame. We offer it
to you in this, our home. This fine incense we have duly



offered for your pleasure. And we again offer you cool,
sweet water for sipping and auspicious unbroken rice.

During this chant, make three circles before the Deity with
lighted incense held in your right hand while ringing the bell
with your left hand. Complete the third circle and trace an
Aum as you chant the fifth line, dhūpamāgrahayāmi. At
that point raise the incense higher and ring the bell louder.
Put the incense down, and recite the next two lines. With
the first, water is offered, with the second, a pinch of rice.

दीपम् Dipam

Offering The Light

ॐ सायवतित्रयोपेतं प्राज्यमङ्गलादायकं ।
दीपं पश्य दयाराशे दीनबन्धो नमोभ्यस्तु ते ॥
ॐ आवाहितायः सर्वाभ्यो देवताभ्यो नमः ।
दिव्यं मङ्गलदीपं सन्दर्शयामि ।
दीपानन्तरमाचमनीयं समर्पयामि ।
मङ्गलाक्षतान् समर्पयामि ।

aum sājavartitrयोपेतं prajyamāṅgala dayakam,
dipam paśya dayārāśe dīnabandho namo-stu te.
aum āvāhitabhyah sarvabhyo devatābhyo namah,
divya māṅgala dipam sandarśayāmi,
dīpānantaramāchamanīyam samarpayāmi,
māṅgalakṣatān samarpayāmi

O the Compassionate, the friend of devotees! See this lamp offered which is lighted with ghee and three wicks and which is the provider of abundant auspiciousness.



ALL PHOTOS BY DINDORIA

Salutations to you!

Aum! Salutations to all the Gods invoked! This divine, auspicious light we offer to you. After that, we offer you pure water for sipping and auspicious unbroken rice.

Offer the oil light to Lord Gaṇeśa and ring the bell as you chant this hymn. As with the incense, circle three times then draw the Aum with the flame. Then raise the flame and ring the bell louder, then stop ringing. Offer water, then a flower or a pinch of rice.

नैवेद्यम् Nairvedyam

Offering Food

सत्यं त्वर्तेन (chant in morning)
ऋतं त्वा सत्येन (chant if evening) परिषिञ्चामि ।
ॐ अमृतमस्तु अमृतोपस्तरणमसि स्वाहा ।
ॐ गणेशाय स्वाहा । ॐ गणेशाय स्वाहा ।
ॐ गणेशाय स्वाहा ।

satyam tvartena (chant if in morning)
ṛitam tva satyena (if evening) pariśiñchāmi
Aum amṛitamastu amṛitopastaraṇamasi svāhā
Aum gaṇeśāya svāhā, Aum gaṇeśāya svāhā,
Aum gaṇeśāya svāhā

We add Truth to Truth. Aum. May this sweet and pungent food be transformed into nectar. We humbly offer to you this food.

While reciting the first part of the mantra, uncover the food offering. Then, while chanting the last line and



ringing the bell, circle a spoonful of water over the food and offer it to the Deity. While ringing the bell softly, gently waft the aroma and vital essences of the food or fruit toward the Deity. Do this by sweeping the right hand over the food with a flower held between your fingers, stem upward. The palm is facing downward as it moves over the food, then rotates upward as the sweep approaches the Deity, bringing the aroma and prāṇa toward His nose and mouth. As you complete the third line, gently toss the flower toward the feet of the Deity at the end of the sweep with all the love in your heart.

ॐ आवाहितायः सर्वाभ्यो देवताभ्यो नमः ।
नानाविधमहानैवेद्यं निवेदयामि ।
यथाशक्तिस्समर्पितमहानैवेद्यम् कृपया स्वीकुरु ।

Aum āvāhitabhyah sarvabhyo devatābhyo namah,
nānā vidha mahānāivedyam nivedayāmi,
yathāśakti samarpita mahānāivedyam kṛpaya svikuru

Aum! Salutations to all the Gods invoked! Because we are offering you our very best, Lord Gaṇeśa, in all sincerity and love, please consider the essence of this food as among the finest meals you have ever received. To the best of our ability in the worship of you, we offer this food and humbly beg that you will receive it.

विद्येश्वराष्टोत्तर शतनामावलिः

Vighneśvarāṣṭottara
Śatanāmāvaliḥ
Chanting Gaṇeśa's
108 Names

In this section of the pūjā, chant the "garland of Gaṇeśa's 108 names." As you intone each name, offer with your right hand a flower, some flower petals or a pinch of rice. The names are attributes of the Deity, each delineating an aspect of His wondrous nature. Each name is preceded by the mantra Aum and followed by namah, meaning "obedience, adoration or homage to." Thus the first line is chanted Aum Vināyākāya Namah (pronounced, "na-ma-ha").

विनायकाय

विघ्नराजाय

गौरीपुत्राय

गणेश्वराय

स्कन्दराजाय

अव्ययाय

पुताय

दक्षाय

अध्यक्षाय

द्विप्रियाय

अग्निगर्वीच्छदे

इन्द्रश्रीप्रदाय

वाणीप्रदाय

अव्ययाय

सर्वसिद्धिप्रदाय

सर्वतनयाय

शर्वरीप्रियाय

Vināyākāya

Vighnarājāya

Gauriputrāya

Gaṇeśarājāya

Skandāgrājāya

Avyayāya

Pūtāya

Dakṣhāya

Adhyakṣhāya

Dvijapriyāya

Agnigarvacchide

Indrasripradāya

Vāṇipradāya

Avyayāya

Sarvasiddhipradāya

Sarvatānāyāya

Sarvaripriyāya

सर्वाम्काय

सृष्टिकर्त्रे

देवाय

अनेकार्चिताय

शिवाय

शुद्धाय

बुद्धिप्रियाय

शान्ताय

ब्रह्मचारिणे

राजाननाय

द्वैमातुराय

मुनिस्तनाय

भक्तविद्युवि

नाशनाय

एकदन्ताय

चतुर्बाहवे

चतुराय

Sarvātmakāya

Śṛiṣṭīkartre

Devāya

Anekārchitāya

Śivāya

Śuddhāya

Buddhipriyāya

Śāntāya

Brahmachāriṇe

Gajānanāya

Dvaimāturāya

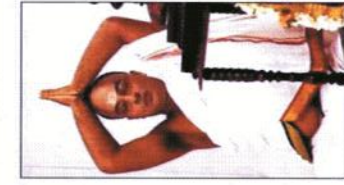
Munistutāya

Bhaktaviḍṣa vināśanāya

Ekadantāya

Chaturbāhave

Chaturāya



Ringing the bell loudly as you recite the above chant, pick up a flower or a pinch of rice and hold it at chest height in the fingertips of the right hand. As the last word is spoken, gently release the rice or flower at the feet of the Deity. Then put down the bell and raise your hands above your head in devout prayer that Gaṇeśa will accept the meal. While your hands are raised, close your eyes and visualize Gaṇeśa accepting and partaking of the meal. After a moment, lower your hands and intone Aum quietly.



परमै	Parasmai	..... who is supreme
स्थूलतण्डाय	Stūlatuṇḍāya	..... who has a stout trunk
अग्रण्ये	Agranye	..... the leader
धीराय	Dhīrāya	..... the courageous one
वागीशाय	Vāgīśāya	..... the Lord of speech
सिद्धिदायकाय	Siddhidāyaka	..... bestower of fulfillment
दूर्वाबिल्व	Dūrvābīlva	..... who loves diverse grass and bilva leaves
प्रियाय	Prīyāya	.....
अव्यक्तमूर्तये	Avyaktamūrtaye	..... the manifestation of the Unmanifest
अद्भुतमूर्तिने	Adbhutamūrtine	..... of wondrous form
शैलेन्द्रतनुजोत्सङ्ग	Shailēndratānujotsaṅga	..... of wondrous form
खलवावयसुधासारजित	Khala-vayasu-dhā-sāra-jita	..... the granter of all fulfillment
स्वलावयसुधासारजित	Swalā-vayasu-dhā-sāra-jita	..... the granter of all fulfillment
मन्मथविग्रहाय	Mannamathavighrahāya	..... the granter of all fulfillment
समस्त	Samasta	..... the supporter of all the worlds
जगदाधाराय	Jagadādharāya	..... the source of illusory power
मायिने	Mayīne	..... who rules the mouse
मूषिकवाहनाय	Mūshikavāhanāya	..... the joyful one
हृष्टाय	Hṛṣṭāya	..... the contented one
तुष्टाय	Tuṣṭāya	..... the joyful one
प्रसन्नान्ते	Prasannāntē	..... the joyful one
सर्वसिद्धि	Sarvasiddhi	..... the joyful one
प्रदायकाय	Pradāyaka	..... the joyful one



Sailendratānujotsaṅga khelanotsukamānasāya
who is happy to play in the lap of His mother,
Pitrati, daughter of the mountain Lord

मन्त्र पुष्पम् Mantra Pushpam

Worship With Flowers

ॐ योऽपामं पुष्पं वेदं ।
पुष्पवान् प्रजावान् पशुमान् भवति ।
चन्द्रमूवा अपां पुष्पम् ।
पुष्पवान् प्रजावान् पशुमान् भवति ।
य एवं वेद । योऽपामयन्तं वेदं ।
आयन्तं नवान् भवति ॥
ॐ श्री महागणेश्वराय नमः
मन्त्रपुष्पाञ्जलिं समर्पयामि ।

Aum yo-pām puṣpam vedaṁ,
puṣpavān prajāvān paśūmān bhavati,
chandramūva apāṁ puṣpam
puṣpavān prajāvān paśūmān bhavati,
ya evaṁ vedaḥ, yo-pāmāyantaṁ vedaḥ,
āyantaṁ navaṁ bhavati.

Aum Śrī Mahāgaṇeśvarāya namaḥ
mantra puṣpañjalim samarpayāmi

The one who understands the beauty of the blooming powers of the Supreme being is blessed with beautiful, blooming life, progeny and cattle. The moon is certainly the bloom of those powers. One who realizes the qualities of the moon, which are nothing but the blooming divine powers, is blessed with a blooming, beautiful life of perfection, progeny and cattle. One who realizes this principle and realizes the source from whom all these powers have come himself becomes the abode of those divine powers. Aum, salutations, Lord Mahāgaṇeśa, we respectfully offer you this flower mantra.

While chanting this mantra, hold a handful of flowers before you in añjali mudrā, hands cupped loosely around the flowers at chest height. Recite the verses with adoration. As you intone the last word, samarpayāmi, lower your hands (as shown in the photo) and toss the flowers into the air above the murti, sending a shower of blossoms upon the God with feelings of gratitude and loving devotion.

शक्तिसंयुताय	Śaktisamyutāya	..... united with power
लंबोदराय	Lambodarāya	..... who has a large belly
शूर्पकर्णाय	Śūrpakarna	..... with fan-like ears
हरये	Haraye	..... destroys evil with lion-like courage
ब्रह्मविदुत्तमाय	Brahmaviduttamāya	..... foremost knower of God
कालाय	Kālāya	..... the master of destiny
ग्रहपतये	Grahapataye	..... lord of planets
कामिने	Kāmine	..... who is love
सोमसूर्याग्नि	Somasūryāgni	..... whose eyes are the moon, sun and fire
लोचनाय	Lochanāya	.....
पाशाङ्कुश	Pāśaṅkuśa	..... who holds a noose and a goad
धराय	Dhāraya	.....
चण्डाय	Chandāya	..... who is fierce-looking
गुणातीताय	Guṇātītāya	..... who transcends qualities
निरञ्जनाय	Nirañjanāya	..... who is without blemish
अकल्मषाय	Akalmashāya	..... who is without impurity
स्वयंसिद्धाय	Swamsiddhāya	..... self-fulfilled, perfect
सिद्धार्चिताय	Siddhārchita	..... whose lotus feet sages worship
पदाब्जनाय	Padābjanāya	.....
बीजपूर	Bījapūra	..... who is fond of pomegranates
फलासक्ताय	Phalāsaktāya	.....
वरदाय	Varadāya	..... the boon giver
शाश्वताय	Śāśvatāya	..... the eternal, unchanging one
कृतिने	Kṛitine	..... the skillful one
द्विजप्रियाय	Dvijapriyāya	..... fond of the twice-born
वीतभयाय	Vītabhayāya	..... who is fearless
गदिने	Gadine	..... who wields the mace
चक्रिणे	Chakrine	..... who wields a discus
इक्षुचापधृते	Iṣṭhucāpadhṛite	..... who holds a sugarcane bow
श्रीदाय	Śrīdāya	..... the bestower of wealth
अजाय	Ajāya	..... the unborn one
उत्सलकराय	Utsalakara	..... who holds a proud blue lotus flower
श्रीपतये	Śrīpataye	..... the Lord of wealth
स्तुतिर्षिताय	Stutiharshitāya	..... who delights in praise
कुलद्रिभृते	Kuladrībhṛite	..... who supports Himalaya, His family's mountain
जटिलाय	Jatīlāya	..... who has matted hair
कलिकल्मष	Kalikalmasha	..... the destroyer of sins in the Kaliyuga
नाशनाय	Nāśanāya	..... the destroyer of sins in the Kaliyuga
चन्द्रचूडामणये	Chandrachūdāmanaye	..... who wears a moon upon his head
कान्ताय	Kāntāya	..... the beloved, loving one
पापहारिणे	Pāpahāriṇe	..... the consumer of sins
समाहिताय	Samahītāya	..... absorbed in meditation
आश्रिताय	Āśritāya	..... who is our refuge
श्रीकराय	Śrīkarāya	..... who manifests prosperity
सौम्याय	Saumyāya	..... the amiable one
भक्तवाञ्छित	Bhaktavāṅchita	..... the grantor of devotees' desires
दायकाय	Dāyaka	..... the peaceful one
शान्ताय	Śāntāya	..... the peaceful one
कैवल्य	Kaivalya	..... bestower of unsullied liberation
सुखदाय	Sukhadāya	.....
सच्चिदानन्द	Sacchidānanda	..... embodiment of existence-knowledge-bliss
विग्रहाय	Vighrahāya	.....
ज्ञानिने	Jñānine	..... the great wisdom
दयायुताय	Dayāyutāya	..... full of compassion
दान्ताय	Dāntāya	..... who has self-control
ब्रह्मद्वेष	Brahmadvesha	..... who has self-control
विवर्जिताय	Vivartitāya	..... who is free from aversion to knowledge
प्रमत्तद्वेष	Pramattadvēsha	..... who brings terror to demons
श्रीकण्ठाय	Śrīkaṇṭhāya	..... with beautiful throat
विबुधेश्वराय	Vibudheśvarāya	..... Lord of the Wise
रामार्चिताय	Rāmārchitāya	..... worshipped by Rāma
विधये	Vīdhaye	..... who is the destiny of all
नागराज	Nāgarāja	..... whose sacred thread is a king cobra
यज्ञोपवीतने	Yajñopavitane	.....
स्थूलकण्ठाय	Stūlakāṇṭhāya	..... of stout neck
स्वयं कर्त्रे	Swyamankarte	..... who is self-created
सामघोषप्रियाय	Sāmaghoṣapriyāya	..... who loves the sound of Sāma Veda

आरती Ārati

Worship With Flame

ॐ साज्यं त्रिवर्त्तिसंयुक्तं वह्निना योजितं मया ।
गृहाण मङ्गलारति ईशपुत्र नमोऽस्तु ते ॥
ॐ आवाहिताभ्यः सर्वाभ्यो देवताभ्यो नमः ।
दिव्यमङ्गलदीपं सन्दर्शयामि ।
आचमनीयं समर्पयामि ।
मङ्गलाक्षतान् समर्पयामि ।

aum sājyam trivartisaṁyuktam vahninā yojitam mayā,
grīhāṇa maṅgalāratim īśa putra namo-stu te.
aum āvalītabhyah sarvābhyo devatābhyo namaḥ
divya maṅgaladīpaṁ sandarśayāmi
āchamaniyaṁ samarpayāmi
maṅgalākṣhatān samarpayāmi

O Gaṇapati, Son of God Śiva, please accept this auspicious ārati prepared by me with ghee, three wicks and fire. My salutations to you! Aum! Salutations to all the Gods invoked! This divine, auspicious light we offer to you. After that, we offer you pure water for sipping and auspicious unbroken rice.

During this chant, hold the lit oil lamp or camphor burner in your right hand and the bell in your left. While ringing the bell and slowly reciting the ārati mantra, make three circles clockwise before Gaṇeśa with the flame. Stop at the top of the third circle, lower the lamp slightly and trace the symbol of Aum in Sanskrit or in your native language.

रक्षधारणम् Rakshadhāraṇam

Prayer for Protection

इन्द्र स्तोमैपञ्चदशेन
मध्यमिदं वातेन सगरेण
रक्ष रक्षो धारयामि ।

indra-stomena pañcadaśena
madhyamidaṁ vātena sagareṇa
raksha rakṣāṁ dhārayāmi



ALL PHOTOS BY HINDOIA

Then lift the flame slightly above the Aum that you placed in the ākāśic ether and ring the bell loudly for all three worlds to hear. Keep ringing loudly while chanting the above two-line salutation to the devas ("āvīṇīdibhyah! ... sandarśayāmi"). Put down the bell and the lamp and then, with the flame still burning, offer a spoonful of water with "āchamaniyaṁ samarpayāmi," then a pinch of rice with "maṅgalākṣhatān samarpayāmi."

O Indra, Lord of material and spiritual prosperity, please protect the space between the heavens and earth as well as the mind between the body and the soul with the help of fifteen noble powers and virtues (five prāṇas, five jñānendriyas and five karmendriyas). Your protection and blessings sustain me.

As you recite this mantra, make three circles above the burning flame with a flower held in the right hand, stem upward (photo next page). With the last words, toss the flower gently toward the Deity and place your hands in añjali mudrā while facing the altar. Now offer the flame at chest level to all present, allowing each to draw both hands through it and lightly touch the eyes three times (photo next page, upper right). The Gods and devas can see us



अर्पणम् Arpaṇam

Final Consecration

अनया यथा शक्तिं कृतं
(state period of day)

पूजया भगवान् सर्व देवात्मकः
श्री महागणेश्वराः सुप्रीतः
सुप्रसन्नो वरदो भवतु

anayā yathā śaktiṁ kṛta

(state period of day from list on page 1-4)

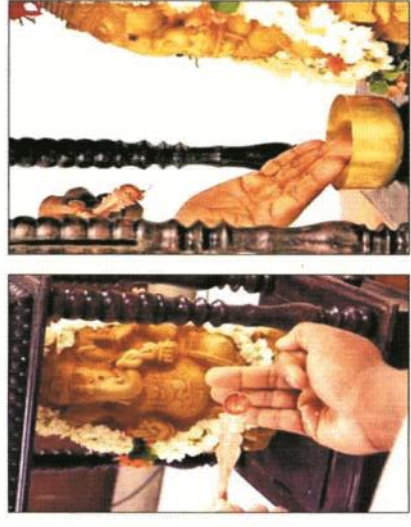
pūjayaḥ bhagavān sarva devatmakah
śrī mahāgaṇeśvarah supṛītah
suprasanno varado bhavatu

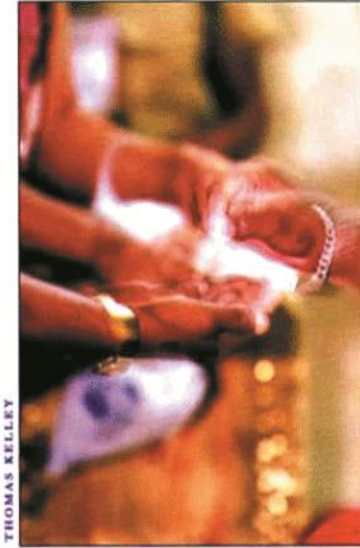
To the best of our ability we have performed this (state time of day) pūjā and worshiped you, dear Lord, the brightest of all the Gods. May it please you. May it be enjoyed by you. Surrounded by your presence, we place ourselves in your care, loving Gaṇeśa.



through the flame and send blessings. If especially honored persons are present, such as one's guru, parents or teacher, take the flame first to them. Then proceed clockwise to the others. In some cases, the pūjāri may stand near the altar while devotees come forward to receive the flame. If no one is attending the pūjā, you may personally draw blessings from the flame, but not otherwise. Finally, present the flame once more to the Deity, then extinguish it with a wave of the right hand or by snuffing it out with a flower.

Before reciting the above verse, place a pinch of rice in your left palm, then transfer it to the right palm. Add to the rice three spoonfuls of water and close the hand (left photo). Hold the rice before you as you face the Deity, the left hand under the right hand, and recite the mantra. As you intone the last words, let the rice and water fall into the tirtha cup (right photo). The sacraments may then be given out in the following order: holy ash, blessed water, sandalpaste, red powder, food and flowers. If no one is attending the pūjā, you may partake of the sacraments yourself, but not otherwise. If many devotees are attending, a second person may help pass out the sacraments, except for the holy ash, which is always given by the person who performed the pūjā.





Sharing the blessed offerings: at left holy ash is distributed, a small pinch into the right hand of each devotee; at right, the father of this household applies the sacred dot on his daughter's forehead.

Below, the family offers final prayers at the conclusion of their morning puja.



विसर्जनम् Visarjanam

Farewell and Apologies

ॐ आवाहनं न जानामि न जानामि विसर्जनम् ।
पूजाञ्चैव न जानामि क्षम्यतां परमेश्वर ॥
मन्त्रहीनं क्रियाहीनम् भक्तिहीनं सुरेश्वर ।
यत् पूजितं मया देव परिपूर्णं तदस्तु ते ।
अन्यथा शरणम् नास्ति त्वमेव शरणम् मम ।
तस्मात् कारुण्यभावेन रक्ष रक्ष गणेश्वर ॥
ॐ तत् सत् ॐ

Aum āvāhanam na jānāmi na jānāmi visarjanam,
pūjāñchaiva na jānāmi kshamyatām paramēśvara.
mantrahīnam kriyāhīnam bhaktihīnam sureśvara,
yat pūjitam mayā deva paripūrṇam tadastu te,
anyathā śaraṇam nāsti tvameva śaraṇam mama,
tasmāt kāruṇyabhāvena raksha raksha gaṇeśvara.
Aum tat sat Aum.

O Lord, we do not know the proper means of inviting you or, when taking our leave, how to wish you farewell. A full knowledge of priestly rites has not been imparted to us, so you must overlook and forgive any mistakes or omissions. We know little of mantras or pious conduct, and we are strangers to true bhakti. Nonetheless, please forgive us and regard our attempts as exact and complete—because you are our only refuge. With your compassionate nature, Lord Gaṇeśa, we beseech you, please protect those who pray. That which is Truth is Aum.



This concluding apology is recited with hands in añjali mudrā. It is a formal and devout end to the worship service. As the final words, "Aum tat sat Aum," are spoken, it is customary to clap your hands together three times. All may now prostrate.

It is traditional and most uplifting to meditate for a few minutes after the pūjā, rather than rushing off to daily duties. There is great personal benefit in such internalized worship, eyes closed, mind still, following, deep within yourself, the prāṇas that the pūjā has created. Externalized worship is the bhakti path; internalized worship is the yoga path. Both together make the complete circle that sustains devotees in their spiritual life, making them strong and kindly in moving the forces of the world in their daily life. This dual-pronged effort towards self-transformation and right living is the very foundation for the final goal of all seekers: moksha, freedom from rebirth.



फिलाडेल्फिया गणेश फेस्टिवलको
हार्दिक शुभकामनाएँ ।

Best Wishes to Philadelphia Ganesh Festival



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Program Guide

Friday, Sept. 12, 2008

11:30 AM - NOON Vishesh Puja and Archana
 NOON Aarati
 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM Archana
 6:30 PM - 6:50 PM Ganapati Atharvashirsha
 6:50 PM - 7:20 PM Aarati & Mantrapushpanjali
 8:00 PM—10:30 PM

GUJRATI COMEDY DRAMA

Please join to enjoy a hilarious Gujarati Comedy Drama, **Ek Bijane Nadata Rahiye** by Shakuntal Arts which is a well known group in North America performing dramas, skits, folk plays and mime in the United States and Canada. The group is organized by **Sailesh Trivedi** and **Rupal Trivedi** having more than twenty five years of stage experience.

This group received many many honours to their credit including a President's award for their folk play "Year 2222" in Allahabad, India.

This play, **Ek Bijane Nadata Rahiye** directed by **Sailesh Trivedi** is a hilarious social comedy drama.



Bharat Patel

The story revolves around a wife who is a Hitler in the house. The father, son and grandfather make a plan to teach her a lesson. After that, the situation that starts will carry the audience into an ocean of laughter.

The main lead is by **Rupal Trivedi** and is supported by **Bharat Patel**.

RUPAL TRIVEDI



The other cast includes **Prema Pathak**, **Smita Gandhi**, **Hasit Dani** and **Rakesh Nayak**. The music and set is by **Utsav Trivedi** and **Hasit Dani**.



Rakesh Nayak



Prema Pathak



Smita Gandhi



Hasit Dani

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2008

11:30 AM - NOON Vishesh Puja and Archana
 NOON Aarati
 2:00PM - 4:00 PM

YOUNG STAR's CONCERT



Priyanka Tope (2:00PM - 3:00PM)

A young accomplished Hindustani Vocal artist from Long Island, NY. She has been trained under the tutelage of two outstanding Gurus. Smt. Sanghamitra Chatterjee and Dr. Aruna Sharma. Priyanka has accompanied Pt. Ramesh Mishra, Sri Ulhas Bapat, and other accomplished instrumentalists.

She released two CD albums "Priyanjali" and "Rainbow: A Bridge to India" and donating the proceeds to children's causes such as UNICEF. **Tejas Tope will accompany her on Tabla.**

Shreya Adiraju (3:00PM- 4:00PM)

Shreya Adiraju is a young upcoming Karnatic musician from Philadelphia. In 2007, she had her arangetram performance at the Kimmel Center for Performing Arts in the presence of Mr. V.V.Sundaram, founder of Cleveland St. Thyagaraja Festival, and other eminent musicians. Shreya's rendering of Thyagaraja krithis and other devotional compositions in her unique, beautiful voice and keen sense of shruti puts the audience in a mood of bhakthi and reverence. Recently, Shreya gave a performance at the Atlanta Temple and another memorable concert at Arsha Vidya Gurukulam in Saylorsburg, Pa. She is equally an expert in Jazz singing winning accolades for her school as well as herself.



4:00 PM—6:00 PM (Upstairs)

BHAJANS

Mrs. Minaxi Bapat hails from Baroda and is an exponent of the Kirana Gharana Gayaki. She is a disciple of Dr. Prabha Atre, who is one of the leading vocalists of

Kirana Gharana. **Mrs. Bapat** started giving stage performances at a very young age and at the tender age of 14 received the "Sangeet Jyoti" award from Swami Shivananda of Rishikesh. She has also been awarded "Surmani" by the Sursingar Parishad of Bombay. The prestigious venues where she performed include Sawai Gandharva Punyatithi in Pune,

Haridas Sangeet Sammelan, Sangeet Natak Academy, and Rajasthan Music Conference.

Hemakalyan Bapat will accompany her on Tabla. He hails from a family of musicians. His music raining started at an early age with his parents Dr. Laxmikant & Minaxi Bapat. Later he graduated in vocal music and tabla from M.S. University of Baroda.





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Program Guide

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2008

6:00 PM - 6:30 PM Archana
6:30 PM - 6:50 PM Ganapati Atharvashirsha
6:50 PM - 7:20 PM Aarati & Mantrapushpanjali
8:00 PM—10:30 PM

BHAIRAV SE BHAIRAVI



“Bhairav Se Bhairavi” is an exposition of classical Indian musical tradition, based on the eternal cyclical clock of day and night. It commences with raga Bhairav, a morning raga, and concludes with Bhairavi, Sung at the dawn. Raga Todi, Sarang, Marwa, Bhimpalas, Yaman and Bageshree are few of the “Ragas” which form the backbone of this musical endeavor.

The programme encompasses a wide range of musical forms like Classical Bandish, Tappa to semi classical and light compositions like Bhajan, Gazal, Folk and Classical based film music.

Key Performers:

Pandit Vijay Koparkar with a Masters from College of Engineering Pune (M.E. Metallurgy) is an eminent classical vocalist who has trained under his gurus Vasantao Deshpande and Pt. Jitendra Abhisheki. He has also performed at various prestigious platforms including Sawai Gandharva.

Dattaprasad Ranade who specializes in Ghazals and **Swarada Gokhale**, the recipient of the prestigious Balgandharva Award for young talent in Pune perform the light music part of the show.

The show has been written by **Dr. Sameer Kulkarni**, an ENT surgeon and a writer of many Marathi plays and films while the musical arrangement has been done by **Ashish Mujumdar**. The base of this performance comes from his research and training of Yoga for the last ten years.

The show has been produced by Niche Entertainment and Directed by Milind Oak.

Visit www.nicheentertainment.com to obtain more details.

Sunday, Sept. 14, 2008

10:30 AM Ganesh Visarjan Puja

Today is Anant Chaturdashi, the day when Lord Ganesha will go back to his abode. A special Visarjan Puja will be performed.

12:15 PM - 1:15 PM

VISARJAN PROCESSION

After 10 days of festivities, it is time for Lord Ganesha to go back to his abode. Come early and join this colorful procession to bid farewell to Ganesha with urgings to come back early next year. Lord Ganesha will be taken in decorated Palkhi around the temple and later to the banks of a pond in the premises of PMI Engineering on Stump Road. A ceremonious UttarArati & Visarjan (Immersion) of Ganesh Murti will be performed there.

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Ganesha Chaturthi

By Sumana Venkatarao



Ganesha is widely known as the elephant-headed son of Shiva and Parvati, and is worshipped as the god of wisdom and the remover of all obstacles.

The Ganesha Chaturthi festival celebrates the birth of Lord Ganesha. The Ganesha idol is placed in beautifully decorated mandaps in homes. The mandap is decorated with plantain and mango leaves, fruits, colored lights, and other plants. The main sweet cooked during Ganesh Chaturthi is kadubu, which is a half circle shaped sweet filled with mixture of cooked jaggery and coconut.

During the festival, people make many different kinds of Ganesha idols. My father, for example, makes a clay Ganesha during Ganesha Chaturthi. In India though, there are an extensive assortment of Ganesha idols during this festival. In our recent trips to India, we have made it a point to go during this time of year because it is such a major family and social festival and is done so grandly. Last time we were in India, we went around Bangalore in an auto-rickshaw just to see all the different Ganeshas. In one place, we saw a Ganesha idol that looked like Balaji, Swami Vivekananda, and many that were up to 25-feet tall.

In public, it is celebrated for seven to ten days. Lokamanya Balgangadhar Tilak was an Indian freedom fighter, who started the idea of public Ganesh festival celebrations with the goal of bringing people together to fight the British. These days, the Ganesha idol is kept on beautifully decorated platforms in huge colorful tents during the celebrations. In these tents, public performances are held on each of the ten nights. On the last day of the festival, there is a ceremony involving a large procession.

The Ganesha idol is immersed completely into water. This symbolizes Ganesha going back into the Earth after removing all obstacles.

Here at Bharatiya Temple, we are lucky enough to be able to celebrate Ganesh festival like the way it is done in India -- colorful tents, processions, evening performances, and final immersion. Hope you have a nice time!

Origin of Ganesh's Elephant Head

By Swetha Chengalvala
(Age 10)



We all worship Ganesh as the lord of wisdom and success. Ganesh is very easy to identify because of his elephant head. Many of you might not know how Ganesh got his elephant head. It started when Parvathi was all alone, when Shiva, her husband, was away from home. So, she made a boy from the sweat and oils from her body

and named him Ganesh. She asked Ganesh to guard the door while she was taking a bath. Lord Shiva returned and wondered why there was a stranger blocking his entry. Shiva was mad and the battle began with the young Ganesh. Because of the mightiness of Shiva, Ganesh's head was chopped. Shiva went inside and told Parvathi what happened. Parvathi was very upset and told Shiva that the young boy who Shiva killed was their son. Parvathi demanded that her son be brought back to life. Shiva sent his people to collect the head of a living being who is sleeping with its head facing north because that was the direction associated with wisdom. Shiva's people found an elephant that fit this description and soon the elephant was beheaded. Shiva brought the boy back to life by attaching elephant's head to the boy's body and promoted him to the status of primary God to please Parvathi. To this day, we worship Ganesh as the lord of new beginnings and remover of obstacles.



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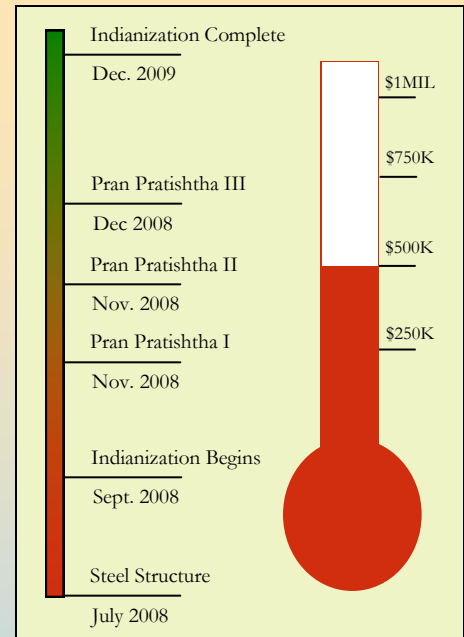


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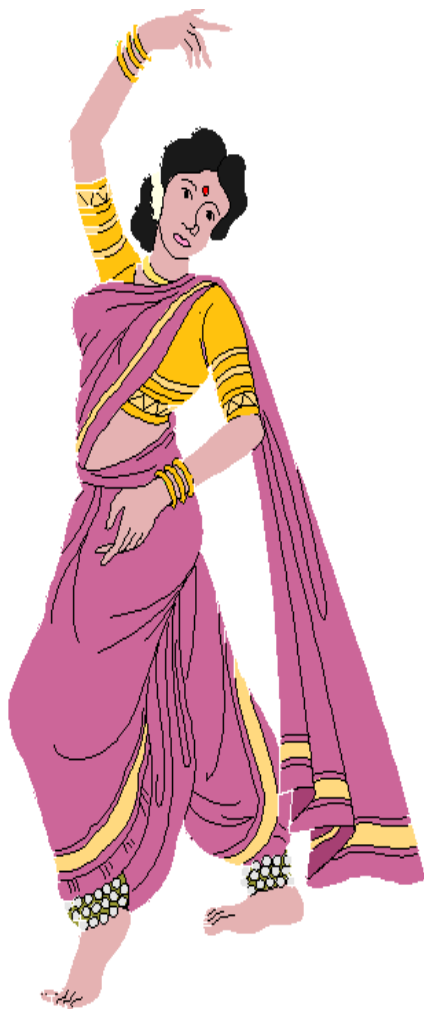
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