



Hindu Society of Minnesota

10530 Troy lane N, Maple Grove, MN 55311
www.HinduMandirMN.org Tel: 763-425-9449



Hindu Temple MN



Hindu Mandir MN

Namashkar!

I am sincerely humbled and touched to have the opportunity to connect with you as the 2013 Executive Committee president of the Hindu Society of Minnesota. It is indeed a privilege and honor to be able to communicate and share with you.

First, by way of introduction, I have been associated with the temple for 20 years; I started as the Cultural Committee chair and continued to Vice President. I completed my Bachelors from University of Minnesota and Masters from University of St. Thomas and now work as Solution Architect in an international IT firm.

I am married, mother of two kids, son 13 and daughter 10. Being able to make a difference in socio-cultural initiatives of society has always been my dream and passion. I am thankful to have the opportunity to live it.

My favorite things to do are spend time with my kids, volunteer, read non-fiction, and be involved in activities related to yoga and meditation.

My vision is simple: it is to showcase to maximum number of people spanning multitude of communities - the beautiful temple and the variety of religious, cultural, educational programs that are offered. I want to invite as many new people as possible to the temple and give them an opportunity to share their best talents and make a difference.

Each of yours is an amazing and unique story that INSPIRES me every day. THANK YOU for all that you do.



Thank you,
Sushumna Tandon Aggrawal
(Sushmi)
president@hindumandirmn.org

Inside this brochure

- HTM in the New York Times
- HTM covered in local news
- Building the dream
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In Minnesota, Big Moment for a Temple for Hindus

By CHRISTINA CAPECCHI
Published: June 28, 2009

MAPLE GROVE, Minn. — Amid the soybean fields and silos on the outskirts of this town, a testament to the Hindu faith, a 43,000-square-foot temple, has risen.

The location, direction (facing east) and elevation (at the highest point in the vicinity) of the building have been chosen according to Hindu rules. Even the minute of the temple's final consecration — 12:01 p.m. Sunday — was chosen because it was considered the most auspicious time.

The Hindu Society of Minnesota began

constructing the temple, which came with a \$9.5 million price tag, five years ago, and worshipers have been able to use it since 2006. But it was not considered complete until this weekend, when its 65-foot tower was consecrated.

When building began, the society's database consisted of 1,000 families. Now the group claims 4,000 families.

At least 10,000 people attended the formal opening of the temple in Maple Grove this weekend, according to temple officials. It was a long time coming for the volunteer planners, who have struggled to reconcile city code with religious code. Enforcers of each supervised closely. The Fire Department, for example, was concerned about the temple's fire pit, which is sacred to Hindus.

Continue reading at
<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/06/29/us/29hindu.html>

StarTribune.com



Yoga finds past purpose

Minnesota's Hindu Temple, with its laid-back, spiritual approach, is bringing back a more traditional form of yoga at its classes.

By Amelia Rayno, Star Tribune
September 14, 2010

Some of the pupils came in jeans, baggy dresses and T-shirts. The only sound was the purr of the wind curling through the cornfields that surrounded the holy place.

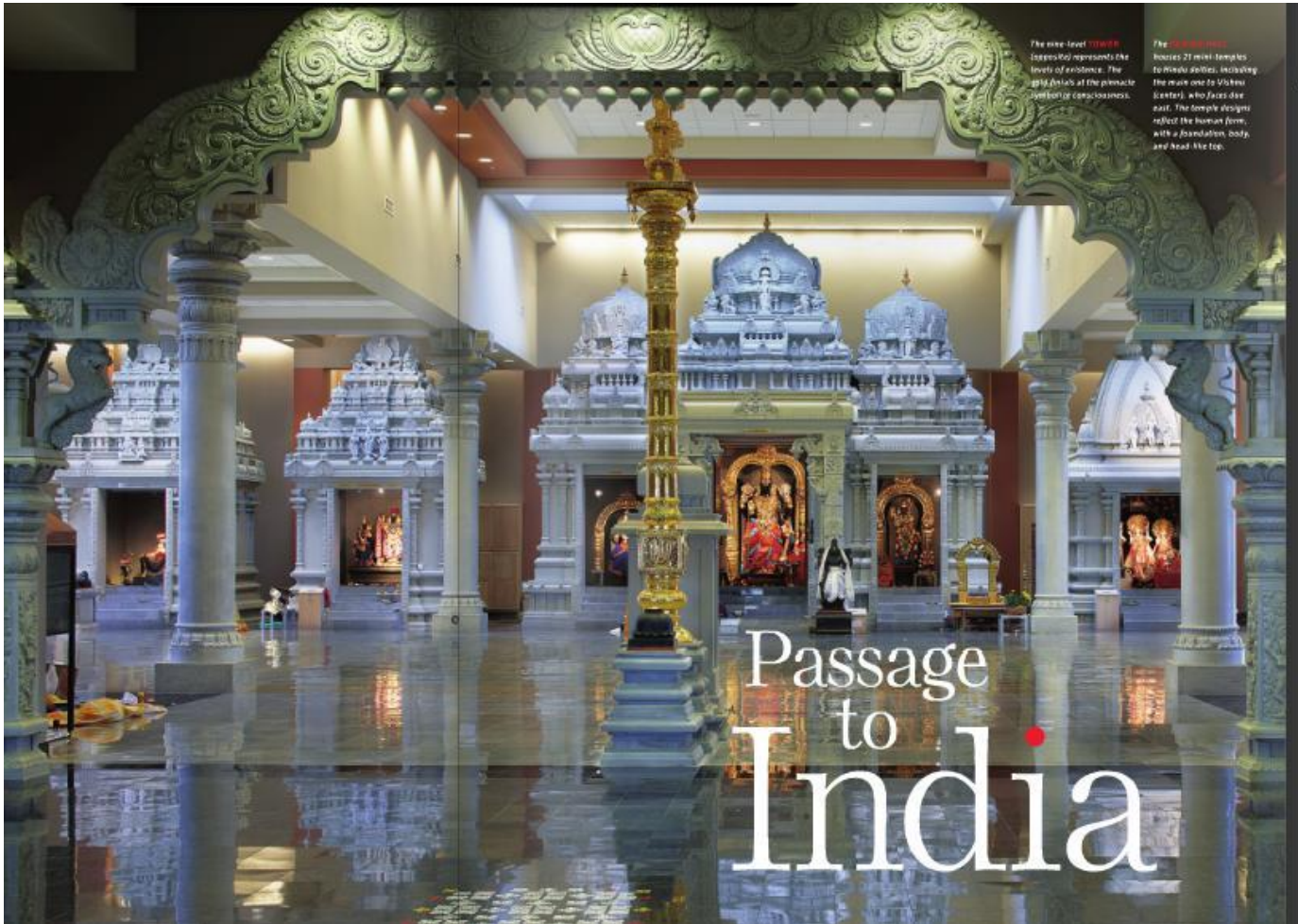
One of the students shivered, a reminder that there was no expectation that anyone was there to work up a sweat.

The inspiration came from within. And on this night about a dozen kids, middle-aged adults and teenagers came to try to tap that inner jackpot.

The temple's setting, where inside a white-robed priest performed chants and blessings for various young couples, was a far cry from what one might find at a typical American yoga studio, where soothing music is often played on a stereo and the outfits are pricey spandex.

But with the temple's traditional Indian approach staged more like a spiritual workshop than a cardio routine, the trendy practice became what it was originally intended to be: a spiritual guide to finding oneself.

Architectural Magazine showcases Mandir



The nine-level Gopuram (tower) represents the levels of existence. The 224 pillars at the pinnacle represent the 224 gunas of consciousness.

The Gopuram houses 21 mini-temples to Hindu deities, including the main one for Vishnu (center), who faces east. The temple's design reflects the human form, with a foundation, body, and head-like top.

Passage
to
India

Higher calling

by Linda Mack

Architecture MN

December 2010



Only once in the past decade has an issue of Architecture Minnesota has focused on sacred architecture. These buildings were designed to nurture their communities' highest aspirations, whether those aims are to worship, promote peace, steward the environment, or preserve the spiritual and cultural traditions of a homeland. Built

with the help of volunteer architects and engineers, the new Hindu temple of Minnesota connects followers from five Midwest states to Hindu traditions from across India.

Temple designed by Muthiah Stapathi

- Total built up area: 42,000 square feet
- Height of Gopuram: 60 feet
- Height of Main temple: 30 feet
- 21 mini-Temples from all across India
- Skylights in the Temple hall
- Unique Vaastu Shastra architecture from east-west & north-south of India

Ground breaking: Oct 2004
First Kumba Abishekam: July 2006
Raja Gopuram Kumba Abishekam: 2009

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HATS School – Success Breeds Success

My name is Amrit Bhatia. I am 12 years old and attend the Hindu American Temple School (HATS) at the Hindu Temple of Minnesota. I am in the level 5 dharma class. In class, we are learning and discussing the Mahabharata. I go to HATS to learn about our religion, culture, and Hindu values.

I also get opportunities to learn leadership qualities which I can apply to day to day life. We learn a lot about our festivals, and how they are celebrated in India and here. Every Sunday, I have lunch at the temple. By doing so, I get to taste different foods from all over India and also be with my friends at the same time.

Every year, my parents and few of their friends sponsor lunch at the temple. I volunteer at the cash register, and also help out in the kitchen. When the whole lunch event is done, I feel great about raising money for the mandir. I learn about volunteering.

By attending HATS every week, it gives me an opportunity to do darshan upstairs in the Hindu Mandir. I pray to every god and attend the aarti. The atmosphere during the aarti is joyous. I feel great! I'm glad that I'm part of the HATS school and excited that I have earned the opportunity to learn new things..

By: **Amrit Bhatia (12 yrs old)**

Pictures on the right:

Picture 1 – HATS class

Picture 2 -- HATS class

Picture 3 – Amrit Bhatia



HATS SCHOOL – Vishal Agarwal

- ** 180 students enrolled
- ** Topics of study: Meditation, Science, SAT/ACT, Dharma, Six Indian languages
- ** Non-sectarian
- ** 14-year curriculum
- ** Empower our children as self-confident Hindu Americans
- ** Second generation teenagers involved on a large scale



Past Events and Projects

Youth Initiatives

Summer Camp
Science Camp (pictured right)
Vegetable Garden
Hindu Youth of MN (HYMN)

Students of all ages enjoy spending their summers learning at the Temple. They play sports, cook, design artwork, and learn about their heritage. At Science Camp, students learn about physics and mass by building a bridge and testing it's carrying weight.



Supporting Culture and Fine Art

Cultural Shows (pictured below)
Bollywood Movie Night
Dandiya Night



Healthy Minds and Bodies

Ayurveda Classes
Yoga and Zumba Classes
Classes priced at suggested donation

Charitable Efforts

Toy Drive
Sharing and Caring Hands
Feed My Starving Children

Helping our Larger Community

I humbly express my gratitude to this magnificent place of worship and the people who made this Temple a reality.

Being the daughter of a Priest / Astrologer, visiting temples and participating in religious rituals have been an integral part of my life. Although I have come thousands of miles from our homeland, it is because of the Hindu Temple of Minnesota that I can still stay connected to my religious, cultural and philosophical roots. Furthermore, it gives me immense happiness and great satisfaction to watch my children bask in the warm glow of our values and traditions at the Temple.

Visiting and volunteering at our Temple gives me a feeling of completeness and an opportunity to give of myself, as a very small gesture of my appreciation of the many blessings that the Almighty has bestowed upon me.



By: Vallabha Tantry

Pictures on the right:

Top three: Mandir volunteers cooked food, took it to Sharing and Caring Hands for the homeless, and served them.

Bottom: Priest Gowthamji helps deliver donated toys.



New Upcoming Events

Cultural Heritage Day

Cultural Heritage Day is a day long conference designed to introduce people to all facets of Indian culture. Workshops will include Bollywood dance classes, Hindi script reading, history of India, henna, folk singing, cooking, health, and many more. This is a great way for new attendees to understand India as well as for involved patrons to delve into different aspects of their culture.

Celebrating our Graduates

A milestone passed, new things begun, dreams as shining as the sun. A goal achieved, a victory won and many more to come!



Career Expo:

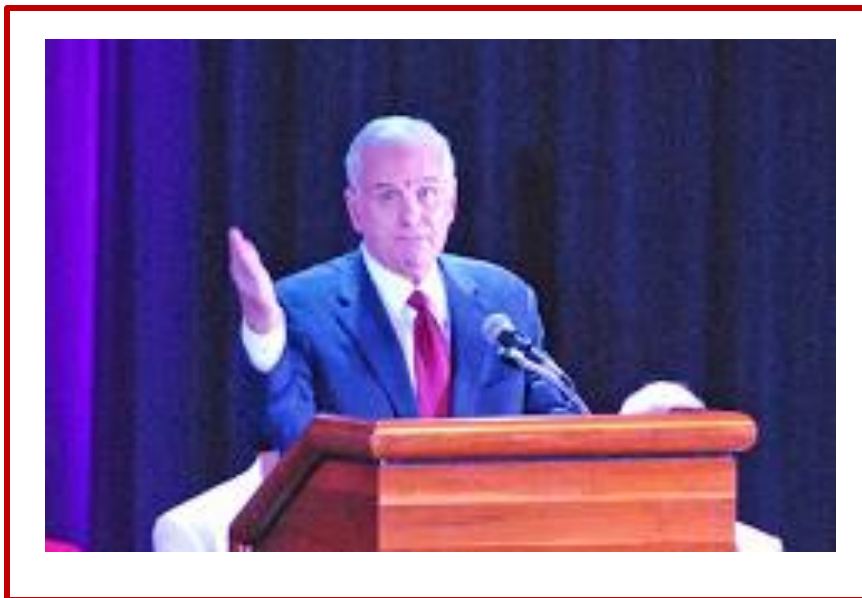
The Twin Cities is full of talented individuals, and as youth grow older, they should aspire to be just as active and diverse in. This event will outline the many options students have to pursue and allow them to network to help achieve their goals.

Stories from our Past:

Our past should guide us in who we become. Stories from our relatives gives us advice and brings us closer to one another. Grandparents and older relatives will share inspirational stories from their lives that entertain and educate.



Governor Dayton attends Diwali Show



The Hindu Mandir held their annual Diwali Show on October 20th, 2012. For this particular function, we were delighted to host Governor Mark Dayton. He was impressed with so many volunteers and organizers ensuring a successful event and values such a large Indian presence in the Twin Cities.



Much of the credit for the Governor attending goes to Aamira Redd (pictured in white, with Mr. Rajiv Garg in middle), a high school student who personally knows and invited the Governor.



An especially engraved memento depicting Goddess Lakshmi was presented to Governor Dayton at the show.

Key visitors to our Mandir



Swamy Dayanada Saraswati



Sant Rajinder Singh Ji Maharaj



P.C. Mangalick



Former Governor Tim Pawlenty



Sri Gajapati Maharaja Dibyasingha Deb



Senator Amy Klobuchar

Visitors to our Mandir website

Country/Territory Detail:

United States

Dec 20, 2010 - Jan 19, 2011



This country/territory sent 5,627 visits via 45 regions

	Detail Level: F	Visits ↓
1.	Minnesota	4,571
2.	Illinois	221
3.	California	124
4.	Ohio	118
5.	Texas	69
6.	New York	56
7.	Wisconsin	51
8.	Iowa	30
9.	Virginia	30
10.	Pennsylvania	28
11.	Florida	27
12.	North Dakota	27
13.	Georgia	23
14.	New Jersey	22
15.	Missouri	20
16.	Michigan	18

	Detail Level: Region	Visits ↓
17.	Massachusetts	17
18.	Connecticut	15
19.	Indiana	14
20.	Colorado	14
21.	Arizona	14
22.	Washington	14
23.	North Carolina	13
24.	Kansas	13
25.	Nebraska	11
26.	Tennessee	10
27.	Maryland	10
28.	District of Columbia	7
29.	Kentucky	5
30.	Alabama	4
31.	South Dakota	4
32.	Utah	4

	Detail Level: I	Visits ↓
33.	Nevada	3
34.	Maine	2
35.	Arkansas	2
36.	Mississippi	2
37.	Oklahoma	2
38.	Oregon	2
39.	Hawaii	2
40.	Idaho	2
41.	Delaware	2
42.	New Hampshire	1
43.	South Carolina	1
44.	West Virginia	1
45.	Montana	1

Contacts for key Mandir services

Contact information for the year 2013

In addition to people shown here, our Mandir is blessed with hundreds of volunteers

President - EC



Sushmi Aggarwal

president@hindumandirmn.org vicepresident@hindumandirmn.org

Vice President - EC



Vallabha Tantry

Temple Administrator



Anu Panda

admin@hindumandirmn.org

Auditorium rental Pooja arrangement



Narender Venkata

manager@HinduMandirMN.org

Guided tours



Ned Mohan

nedmohan@gmail.com

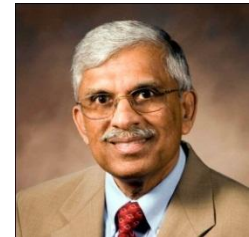
Yoga Classes



Mythili Chari

mikechari@yahoo.com

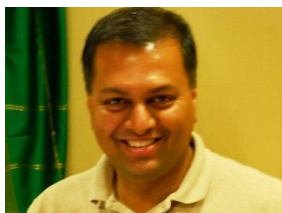
Charity/ Volunteering Mandir Store



Byron Byraiah

chairman@hindumandirmn.org

HATS school



Vishal Agarwal

vishalsagarwal@yahoo.com

Trustee Membership payment of dues



Sastry Varanasi

sastrty.varanasi@comcast.net

Volunteering at the Mandir



Sridhar Koneru

volunteer@hindumandirmn.org

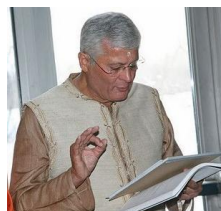
Special events



Kanak Dutt

kanakdutt@gmail.com

Sunday Satsang Interfaith Dialogues



Dr. Shashi Sane

shashisane2@gmail.com

Meditation



Arvind Naik

arvind.k.naik@gmail.com

Before contacting the volunteers above, check on-line information at

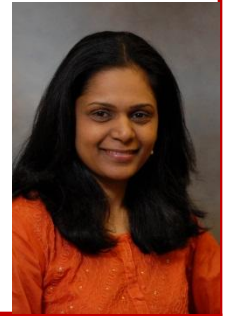
<http://www.hindumandirmn.org/TempleServices.aspx>

Membership Information

Dear Devotee / Visitor,

- ** On major event days, we attract 1000 - 2000 persons on a regular basis.
- ** On Sunday mornings, you will see children and parents attending the HAT school.
- ** On a monthly basis, our Website gets over 5000+ visitor, from all over the USA.
- ** We are the largest Temple in North America – article by *New York Times*
- ** The Architectural digest of MN put our Mandir on their cover.
- ** With mini-deities from every part of India, our Temple is unique to the world.
- ** Involvement means investment in our traditions and culture for your sons and daughters.

Shanti Shivanandan
Fundraising Chair



Will you join us? Contact abisiva@comcast.net

Type of Support	Description	Benefits	Amount
Membership	Member of the Hindu Temple	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Archanas for family, 2 Archanas for Individual, 1 Archana for Student • Can participate in monthly Executive Committee meetings • Can become part of Executive committee; Elections every 2 years • Discount on renting auditorium and dining/kitchen for private parties 	\$200 per Family, \$100 for Individual, \$50 for Student
Trustee Membership	Trustee of the Hindu Temple	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name on Board within temple • 5 FREE Archanas per year • Can attend monthly Trustee Executive Council (TEC) meetings and help govern society's activities • Can be elected to TEC for 2 year terms • Substantial discounts on auditorium and dining/kitchen rentals for private parties. 	\$1000 for initiation, \$500 per year thereafter (Installment options available)
Jewel of Temple Donorship	Donation towards any item in the temple <u>Levels:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sapphire: \$5000 • Ruby: \$10,000 • Emerald: \$15,000 • Diamond: \$20,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name on plaque within temple (downstairs) • 4 FREE Archanas per year • Vastram (deity adornment) after 1st payment • ** Memento after full payment • Substantial discounts on auditorium and dining/kitchen rentals for private parties 	\$5,000 - \$20,000, payable over 5 years
Mini-temple Sponsorship	Sponsorship of the various mini-temples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name on back wall of sponsored temple • Name on plaque within temple • 5 FREE Archanas per year • Vastram (deity adornment) after 1st payment (Memento after full payment) • Substantial discounts on auditorium and dining/kitchen rentals for private parties. 	\$25,000 and above, payable over 5-10 years

Ways to participate

Volunteering produces a feeling of [self-worth](#) and [respect](#) and is also renowned for skill development, socialization, and having loads of fun. You get all that and more while volunteering for Hindu Society of Minnesota. Here are a few ways you can get involved at HSM:

Volunteer Activity	Expectations	Timings
Front Desk	Man the Front desk Answer phone calls Distribute HSM service tickets	Weekdays - Evenings Weekends - Full day (2 hour slots)
Information Desk	Meet & greet devotees coming in to the Temple. Make them feel welcome and provide them information about the upcoming events. (Minimal preparation needed to learn information about the Temple and the upcoming events/initiatives.)	Sundays - 10AM - 2PM Special Event Days as needed
Photography & Videography	Need Photographers/Videographers of various skill levels to cover HSM events	On-going Need
Kitchen	Cooking - Saturday/Sunday and special event sponsorship - Sunday Breakfast sponsorship Serving/Cash Collection - Saturday/Sunday and special events - Sunday breakfast - Saturday/Sunday snacks stall Cleaning - Regular cleaning after lunch/dinner - Weekly/bi-weekly cleaning of fridge and freezer - Cleaning and organization of pantry - Power-wash of kitchen and dining hall every 7-8 weeks – 6 volunteers for 3-4 hours Scheduling - Website schedule management - Notifications and acknowledgements to sponsors Inventory Management - Pantry inventory management (guiding and helping the cook) Annadata Special Events - Organization and management of special events	On-going Need

More ways to participate

Volunteer Activity	Expectations	Timings
Special Event Leads	Plan, organize and co-ordinate Special events	On-going Need
Special Event help	Assist Special Event Leads to conduct an event. Could include responsibilities in publicity, volunteer recruitment, logistics, VIP liaisons, etc.	On-going Need
Marketing & Communications	Needed: Creative Designers, Writers, Artists, and Coordinators Creating marketing material Internal & External communications Distributing material online and at physical locations	Marketing & Communications
Information Technology	Needed: Project Managers, Systems Analysts, Web Developers, DBAs, and Graphic Designers Help with end-to-end support of HSM's information technology infrastructure.	On-going Need
General	Even if you do not see anything above that interests you, please reach out to us anyway. We can surely find some worthwhile way for you to volunteer.	On-going Need

Please register as a volunteer on our website at <https://www.hindumandirmn.org/Services/VolunteerServices.aspx>

Have Questions? Please send an email to Sridhar Koneru: volunteer@hindumandirmn.org

Find out more about the Hindu Society of Minnesota

We host temple tours every Saturday and Sunday at 10:30am. Bring friends and family to learn about the temple as well as all of its religious and non-religious services.

Email us to schedule a tour at
templetours@hindumandirmn.org
Tours available upon request

Find us online



Hindu Temple MN



Hindu Mandir MN

www.HinduMandirMN.org

**Thank you for contributing your
time to make the Mandir a
welcoming place for all!**