

Vandana

Newsletter of the Hindu Temple, Canton, Michigan

ISSUE NO. 2, 2026

"A Place of Worship" -- Est. 1987

Table of Contents

Letter from the Editor	3
President's Message	4
Meet the Priests & Interview with Mukhyaji	6
Highlights This Quarter	8
Meet the Executive Committee	13
Meet the Board of Trustees	14
Enrichment Classes	15
Community Outreach Programs	16
Membership	17
Activities This Quarter	18
Support Our Temple	19

Letter from the Editor

Jai Shri Krishna and Namaste to everyone.

Hope you all enjoyed the newly revived issue of Vandana that was published last quarter

Some printed copies are available on Sunday.

However, you can also read it on the website.

We welcome your comments and suggestions always.

Bhanu Hajratwala

info@hindutemple.org

President's Message

Namaste,
Jai Shri Ram Ji Ki!
Jai Shri Krishna!

It is both an honor and a privilege to serve as the President of our Hindu Temple for 2026. On behalf of the Temple Board, I extend my sincere gratitude to all our devotees, volunteers, sponsors, donors, staff, and well-wishers for your continued faith, support, and commitment to our temple.

Our temple is much more than a place of worship. It is where families come together, children learn about their heritage, traditions are preserved, and our community has opportunities to serve, connect, and grow. The strength of our temple comes from the collective efforts of everyone who contributes their time, talent, resources, and seva.

At the heart of our temple are our respected priests, whose knowledge, dedication, and service provide the spiritual foundation of our community. Through daily pujas, religious ceremonies, festivals, and guidance to devotees, they help us deepen our connection with Bhagwan and our Hindu traditions. They are spiritual guides and teachers who help preserve our traditions and pass them on to future generations. We are deeply grateful for their wisdom, patience, and unwavering commitment to our temple and community.

We are equally thankful to our Temple Board, volunteers, and staff, who work diligently behind the scenes to keep our temple safe, welcoming, and well maintained. Our custodial staff, in particular, play an important role in keeping the temple clean, orderly, and comfortable for devotees and families. We sincerely appreciate everyone’s dedication and service.

An important responsibility of the Temple Board is to maintain and improve our facilities so they can serve the community for many years to come. Several building, infrastructure, and grounds projects are planned or underway, including improvements to the Havan area, air-conditioning and dehumidification systems, roof cleaning and recoating, walkways and parking areas, and tree treatment and maintenance.

While these projects may not always be visible during our religious celebrations, they are essential to preserving our temple and ensuring that it continues to serve our community well into the future. We are grateful to everyone who contributes their time, expertise, and resources to these efforts.

Preserving our cultural heritage and passing it on to the next generation remains one of our key priorities. Our weekend language and Mantra classes give children opportunities to learn, connect with their cultural and spiritual roots, and develop a deeper appreciation for our traditions and values. We are encouraged by the participation of our younger families and look forward to creating even more opportunities for our youth to learn, participate, lead, and serve.

Our temple is also a place for fellowship and community connection. This year, our health fair, sports activities, Karaoke Night, and other community gatherings provided opportunities for families and individuals to come together, connect with one another, and enjoy time together. These events remind us that our temple is not only

a place of worship, but also a place where friendships are formed, families come together, and our community grows stronger.

We will also be conducting our Annual Fundraising Campaign, which supports the temple's ongoing operations, religious and educational programs, maintenance, and improvement projects. The continued strength of our temple depends upon the generosity of our community. I encourage everyone to support the temple according to their ability and to consider the lasting impact of our collective contributions.

We are excited about our upcoming Navaratri celebration, which will once again bring our community together through devotion, music, celebration, and fellowship. I invite everyone to participate and help make this year's celebration a memorable and spiritually uplifting occasion.

As we come to the close of 2026, I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve alongside our Temple Board, priests, volunteers, staff, sponsors, and the entire community. It has been a privilege to serve our temple and to witness the dedication and generosity of so many members of our community. I encourage everyone to continue supporting our temple, volunteering your time and talents, and remaining connected to its spiritual and cultural mission.

A strong temple is built not only through its facilities and programs, but through the people who give their time, energy, faith, and seva. With Bhagwan's blessings and our collective efforts, I am confident that we can preserve our traditions, nurture our community, and build a vibrant spiritual and cultural foundation for generations to come.

Thank you for your continued faith, dedication, and support.

In the service of Bhagwan and our community,

Daxesh Modi

President, 2026

Hindu Temple of Canton, Michigan

Meet the Priests



Prasad Bhat
Head Priest (Panditji)
734-981-8730 ext. 3



Jitendrakumar Ranchhodbhai Sevak
Priest (Mukhiyaji)
734-981-8730 ext. 4



Chandramouli Sharmaji
Priest
734-981-8730 ext. 5

Our three priests lead daily rituals, festivals, and personal ceremonies for our community with deep devotion and scholarship, keeping our traditions alive for every generation of devotees.

Vandana talks to Mukhyaji

First of all JSK Mukhyaji and thank you for talking to us. I am sure the devotees will really appreciate this.

Education and Qualifications

Shastriya Degree from Shri Bhagwat Vidyapith, Shri Bruhad, Gujarat Sanskrit Parishad

5 years of training in (Drupad) Haveli Sangeet

Currently pursuing a degree in Hindustani Classical music from Swar Sanskar Academy (Gwalior Gharana)

Fluent in English, Hindi, Gujarati and Sanskrit

When were you appointed at this Temple? Does the Temple activities satisfy your expectations?

I was appointed at this Temple on July 26, 2011

Since then I have been a part of all the religious and devotional music events at the Temple

I would say these activities exceed far beyond my expectations

We are not only place of worship but also become a community center because of all the different activities we do to engage a diversified devotee base

I see people participating, donating and sponsoring various activities enthusiastically and knowing that people have a sense of belonging to our temple gives me joy and satisfaction

How do you stay inspired and maintain such vibrant communication with the devotees?

By nature I am an extrovert and open minded. I am able to connect to all ages easily

My approach is to provide a welcoming environment where people feel they belong and can connect with me at a personal level as well

I feel happy to see families flourishing and becoming successful in all walks of life be it, financial, family related or spiritual

I also consider it my responsibility to help families get on a spiritual and religious path and strengthen their faith in our religion and culture

Above are my goals which help me stay focused consistently engaged and communicate with the community members and devotees

Devotees seem to love and respect you. The general comments about you are very positive. Any comments?

I am glad to know that I am loved and respected

I think a lot of that comes from my ability to connect individually with people and engage them in Seva while respecting their individual philosophy and beliefs

I also think that my musical abilities go a long way in getting the type of attention that I do

I am forever thankful for my music which has helped me express my Bhakti in a way that others have also been able to connect to

Any other comments you would like to share with our readers?

I pray that Thakurji keeps our Temple safe, flourishing and growing forever

May He bless our community with peace and joy

May we all stay united in our goal and mission which should be to move forwards

I also pray that with the support of Panditji, Sharmaji, our management, volunteers and all the devotees we continue to have more activities for people of all ages and help them stay connected to our Sanatan Dharma faith.

ॐ सह नाववतु।
सह नौ भुनक्तु। सह वीर्यं करवावहै।
तेजस्विनावधीतमस्तु मा विद्विषावहै॥
ॐ शांति, शांति, शांतिः

Highlights This Quarter

This quarter has been very busy at the Temple with various celebrations.

Shrinathji Anniversary

Did you know - Shrinathji came to our temple 15 years ago?

The Lord was beautifully dressed and surrounded by his favorite fruit mangoes.

Mukhyaji conducted the ceremony explaining that the destination to the Lord is same no matter which path you take.







Lord Venkateswara Pratishta Anniversary

Did you know - It was 10 years ago when the Lord arrived at our Temple?

The Murties were beautifully dressed with marigold flowers

Community dance groups performed prior to the ceremony for Balaji Pratishta by our priest Prasadji.







Navgraha Abhishek Pooja

Did you know - It was Lunar Eclipse that evening?

Individual Graha was addressed and prayed to for Shanti.

The ceremony was conducted by our Priest Sharmaji

Shravan Masa Poornima Puja was also performed on August 7th, 2026.

Community Blood Drive

We also participated in Canton Community Blood Drive in collaboration with Sewa International - Detroit Chapter. Very worthwhile cause.

Janmashtami

September was a very busy month with Janmashtami celebrations. There was a beautiful community dance event for Krishna Janmashtami Special.



Nandotsav

Lord Krishna’s birthday was celebrated as well (Nandotsav)

Children enjoyed Matki Phod trying their best to crack the pot and get the candy (no dahi)

Then there was cake cutting for the Lord followed by Maha Aarati and prasad.

It was a fun day for all.

Ganesh Chaturthi

Children were busy making clay Ganesh Idols to celebrate His birth and then Viserjan was celebrated a week later.

It was a lot of fun for the young ones.



Hindu Temple Volleyball Tournament

Several teams came out to play volleyball sponsored by the Temple at the Heritage Park in Canton.





Health Fair

Community Health Fair at the Temple was very successful Approximately 100 people showed up. Many youth were there volunteering at the registration desks.

A big Thank You to various medical teams that had donated their time.

Health Fair - about 100 devotees participated

Meet the Executive Committee

2026 Executive Board



Somil Shah
Chairman



Daxesh Modi
President



Kamlesh Patel
Vice Chairman



Sailesh Patel
Secretary



Mahesh Rathi
Treasurer

Meet the Board of Trustees



Ramakrishna Nallani
Trustee



Hasmukh Patel
Trustee
Chair, Kitchen Committee



Madhavan Ranganathan
Trustee



Nilesh Patel
Trustee
Chair, IT Committee



Amit Patel
Trustee



Bharti Bhavsar
Trustee



Hitesh Patel
Trustee



Bhanu Hajratwala
Trustee



Mayur Shah
Trustee



Keshav Raizada
Trustee

Enrichment Classes

Our temple offers a variety of classes throughout the year designed to nurture spiritual growth, cultural knowledge, and community connection for devotees of all ages -- from Bhagavad Gita study circles and Sanskrit shlokas to bhajan and classical music groups, yoga and meditation sessions, and Hindi/Gujarati language classes for children.

Community Outreach Programs

In the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam -- “the world is one family” -- our temple extends its seva beyond our walls through food drives, interfaith gatherings, blood donation camps, senior support initiatives, and partnerships with local charities serving the greater Canton and Metro Detroit community.

Membership

Temple membership helps sustain our daily worship, festivals, education programs, and community services, while giving members a voice in temple governance, including voting rights at the Annual General Body Meeting.

Membership Benefits

- Free yoga classes
- Discounted rates for priest services
- Discounted rates for facility rental
- Free temple publications
- Free annual calendar
- Free Vandana quarterly magazine
- Discounted fees for dance, language, and mantra classes
- Discounted-price tickets for Navratri and other events
- Volunteering and community-service opportunities

To join or renew your membership, visit:

https://thehindutemple.breezechms.com/form/membershipform2026

Activities This Quarter

- **Saturday, October 10, 2026** - Annual Dinner and Fundraising
- **Sunday, October 11, 2026** - Navratri special chanting
- **Sunday, October 11 - 19, 2026** - Navratri Garba. **BRING YOUR ENERGY FOR RAAS AND GARBA. LIVE SINGERS WILL BE THERE!!!!!!**
- **Saturday, October 17, 2026** - Mata Ki Chowki
- **Sunday, October 18, 2026** - Chandi Havan
- **Sunday, October 18, 2026** - Kanya Puja
- **Monday, October 19, 2026** - Maha Navmi Kanya Puja
- **Tuesday, October 20, 2026** - Dashera Celebrations
- **Tuesday, October 20, 2026** - Saraswati Puja and Akshaabhyas

FOR MANY MORE ACTIVITIES AND DETAILS PLEASE GO TO info@thehindutemple.org

Continue to read this newsletter to keep updated on happenings at the Temple.

Support Our Temple

Your generosity sustains our Kathas, festivals, scholarships, and seva programs -- and helps us continue serving this community for generations to come.

To make a donation or learn about sponsorship opportunities, please reach out to us.

info@hindutemple.org

Hindu Temple of Canton, Michigan

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