



SHIRDI SAI SAMACHAR

Sri Shirdi Sai Samsthan, Michigan



Volume 1 Issue IV

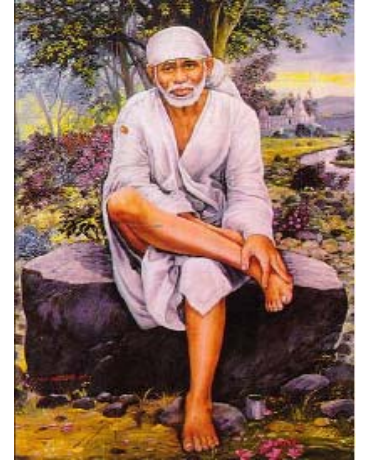
NON PROFIT - Tax ID 32-0064813

Thursday, 6 April 2006

Message from the Executive Committee

Om Sai Ram:

As all of you know we had a series of very successful Sai Satcharita Parayanam events at various locations in Metro Detroit area. Sri Satcharita Parayanam events are conducted with a **SANKALPA** to build BABA temple and to spread the word of Shirdi Sai Samsthan's existence. Thanks to all the members and devotees who generously sponsored the halls for all the special events and our regular puja location. The next Sai Satcharita Parayanam event will be in Westland, MI. We appreciate your continued support for the program. Our next main event will be Sri Rama Navami on April 6th at Novi Civic Center. We are expecting hundreds of Sai devotees around Detroit area to observe spectacular Sri Seeta Rama Kalyana Mahotsavam.



We are happy to announce the membership of SSSS, MI reached more than 120 and also Samsthan funds entered into 6 digit numbers. In the next few years, we hope, this will continue in an exponential manner.

The main goal of our Samsthan is to build Sri Shirdi Sai Baba temple in greater Detroit area. The Ad-Hoc committee is very active and continuously searching to find a suitable property to build Baba temple. We are working on one such property located on 14 mile just east of Farmington road in Farmington Hills. While Board of Trustees and Executive committees are in the process of acquiring the above said land, the Ad-hoc committee will be continuously looking for more properties until Samsthan acquire any property. If any one of you interested to help Ad-hoc committee, please call one of our committee members or send an email at www.saibabami.org.

Please lend us a helping hand in day-to-day activities. We strongly encourage you to join as a member in the Sai Samsthan Michigan. We are sure all of you would like to serve **Baba** without any reservation.

We thank everyone who involved in Sri Shirdi Sai Baba Temple activities and we sincerely appreciate your continued support. If you would like to volunteer, please call any committee member or simply visit our Web Site at www.saibabami.org Please share the word about Baba Bhajans and Temple Activities with your friends, family members and neighbors. Baba Blessings will be with all devotees and members.

Thursday Puja

Sai Puja performed on every Thursday evening at Novi Civic Center, 45175, W 10 mile road, Novi, MI 48375. (On 10 mile between Novi and Taft Roads)

6:45 - 7:15 Dhoop Arathi
7:15 - 7:45 Puja
7:45 - 8:15 Bhajans
8:15 - 8:35 Sejarati
8:35 - 8:45 Prasadam

PUJA SPONSORSHIP

Archana: \$ 11
Bhajan Hall Sponsorship: \$ 51

To sponsor pujas, please email

shirdisai@saibabami.org

SPECIAL EVENTS

1. **Fund Raising Dinner**
2. **Anup Jalota's Musical Night On July 16th, 2006**

The **FIRST EVER fund raising** event to build BABA TEMPLE is scheduled in First week of June, 2006. The details of location and the timings will follow shortly. Please be prepared for spectacular and dazzling cultural events. This will be a great opportunity to all of us to be part of Baba Mandir Nirman Process. Every dollar you spent will be 100% tax deductible too.

Another major event is **Sri Anup Jalota's musical night**. The program is scheduled on Sunday, July 16th, 2006. It will be a great opportunity for you and your entire family to see the breathtaking event. It's a once in a life time opportunity. You will have a chance to see the great Ghajal Singer personally. All the funds collected will go to temple construction.

Sri Shirdi Sai Samsthan, Michigan invites all devotees to lead the Samsthan towards our goal by joining as a member of our organization. The membership form can be downloaded and printed from the website www.saibabami.org. You can submit the filled membership form in person or by mail. You can mail the filled form with a check to the specified address. Please do not send us cash.

Annual Membership: \$ 51, Life Membership: \$ 251,

Patron: \$5,001 Benefactor: \$10,001 Grand Benefactor: \$100,001.

Checks payable to **Shirdi Sai Samsthan MI**. Mailing Address: **Saibaba, P.O.Box 724, Novi, MI 48376-0724**



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Executive Committee (2006)

Ramachandra G. Reddy
(President)
Kamaraju Vadrevu
(Vice President)
Kanakadurga Govindaraju
(Secretary)
Srinivas Raju Dhenuvakonda
(Joint Secretary)
Srikanth Koritala
(Treasurer)
Prakashraju Vysyaraju
(Joint Treasurer)
Saiprasad Jammalamadaka
(Temple Coordinator)
Ramprasad Suribhotla
(Volunteer Coordinator)
Kaukuntla Rajashekar
(Event Coordinator)

Board of Trustees (2006)

Rao Nerusu (Chairman)
Gopi Kilaru (Vice Chairman)
Venkateswara Rao Gutta
Anand Kumar
Krishna M Nichanametla
Sarvesh Seshadri
Rajesh Sharma
Mina Subhedar
Mehtar Velagapudi

Anupama Gopalakrishnan –
(Chair: Communication/Publicity,
Webmaster)



"If formless meditation is difficult, then think of my form just as you see it here. With such meditation, the difference between subject and object is lost and the mind dissolves in unity".

Experience of Shirdi Saibaba's devotee: The "Sugar Tea" story

Das Ganu was once performing his Kirtan (religious discourse) and singing the glory of Sai Baba, in the Koupineshwar temple in Thana. One Mr. Cholkar, a poor man serving as a candidate in the Civil Courts in Thana, was amongst the audience. He heard Dasganu's Kirtan most attentively and was much moved. He there and then mentally bowed and vowed to Baba saying - "Baba, I am a poor man, unable to support my family. If by your grace, I pass the departmental examination, and get a permanent post, I shall go to Shirdi, fall at Your Feet and distribute sugarcandy in your name." As good luck would have it, Mr.Cholkar did pass the examination and did get the permanent post and now it remained for him to fulfill his vow, the sooner the better.

Mr. Cholkar was a poor man with a large family to support; and he could not afford to pay for the expenses of a Shirdi trip. As Mr. Cholkar was anxious to fulfill his vow as early as possible, he resolved to economize, cut down his expenses and save money. He determined not to use sugar in his diet and began to take his tea without it.

After he was able to save some money in this way, he came to Shirdi, took Baba's darshan (sight of a holy person), fell at His Feet, offered a coconut, distributed it with a clean conscience along with sugar-candy as per his vow and said to Baba that he was much pleased with His darshan and that his desires were fulfilled that day. Mr. Cholkar was in the Masjid with his host Bapusaheb Jog. When the host and the guest both got up and were about to leave the Masjid, Baba spoke to Jog as follows:- "Give him (your guest) cups of tea, fully saturated with sugar."

Hearing these significant words, Mr. Cholkar was much moved, he was wonderstruck, his eyes were bedewed with tears, and he fell at Baba's Feet again. Mr. Jog was also curious about this direction, regarding the tea-cups to be given to his guest. Baba wanted by His words to create faith and devotion in Cholkar's mind. He hinted as it were, that He got the sugar-candy as per his vow and that He knew full well his secret determination not to use sugar in his diet. Baba meant to say, "If you spread your palms with devotion before Me, I am immediately with you, day and night.

Though, I am here bodily, still I know what you do; beyond the seven seas. Go wherever you will, over the wide world, I am with you. My abode is in your heart and I am within you. Always worship Me, Who is seated in your heart, as well as in the hearts of all beings. Blessed and fortunate indeed, is he who knows Me thus." Peace or calm was his ornament and he was the repository of wisdom. He had no love for perishable things and was always engrossed in self-realization. He

Have you visited our newly designed website? The website has many interesting stories about Shirdi Saibaba. An excellent resource for your children!

Visit www.saibabami.org for all event updates, pictures and information about Shirdi Saibaba and Samsthan activities. For suggestions and contributions, please email shirdisai@saibabami.org

Upcoming Special Events for Next Quarter:

The dates and venue information will be posted on our web site www.saibabami.org

Special Bhajans and Prayers at devotee's residence

Any Saturday of the month, Samsthan can arrange Baba Puja/Bhajans at any devotees home. If interested, please contact Temple manager to sign up.

Sai Samsthan will provide Priest and Bhajan Singers (at least two) for the program.

All donations/monies collected during these events will go to Sri Shirdi Sai Samsthan, Michigan.

Please share this with your family and friends.



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Sai Mantra: Om Sai Anandai Namah!

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| 1. Om Sri Sai-Ganeshai Namah. | 11. Om Sai Sarva-Sakshiai Namah. |
| 2. Om Sadguru Sai Nathai Namah. | 12. Om Sai Antaryaminai Namah. |
| 3. Om Jagad-Guru Sai Nathai Namah. | 13. Om Sai Paripuranaai Namah. |
| 4. Om Param-Guru Sai Nathai Namah. | 14. Om Sai Adi-Shaktiai Namah. |
| 5. Om Dev-Guru Sai Nathai Namah. | 15. Om Sai Anaadi-Shaktiai Namah. |
| 6. Om Sai Shiv-Shaktiai Namah. | 16. Om Sai Ramai Namah. |
| 7. Om Sai Sarva-Shaktimaanai Namah. | 17. Om Sai Triloki-Nathai Namah. |
| 8. Om Sai Sarva-Vyapakai Namah. | 18. Om Sai Traikal-Darshiai Namah. |
| 9. Om Sai Sarva-Atmai Namah. | 19. Om Sai Govindai Namah. |
| 10. Om Sai Alakh Niranjana. | 20. Om Sai Sat-Chit-Anand-Swaroopai Namah. |



What is the significance of Shirdi Saibaba and Sri Ramnavami?

The three main festivals in Shirdi are of two to four days each. They are *Ramnavami* (April), *Guru Purnima* (July), and *Vijayadashami* (September). These festivals are celebrated with great passion, verve and heartfulness. Thousands flock to bathe in the grace which seems to flow especially freely at such time. In 1897, Gopalrao Gund proposed holding in *Urus* as an expression of his gratitude to Baba for having been granted the birth of a son after many childless years. Baba gave his permission for the celebration and fixed the day for *Ramnavami*. This was an ingenious touch of Baba's. *Urus* is a Muslim festival honoring a Muslim Saint (usually one who passed away); by holding the *Urus*, on the day of a Hindu festival, the two communities were brought closer together in a natural yet remarkable way.



Things were going on in this way and the fair was gradually increasing in importance till 1912 when a change took place. That year one devotee Mr. Krishnarao Jogeshwar Bhishm came to the fair, he was staying in *Dixit Wada*. A new thought arose in his mind and he crafted a letter thus. There is some providential arrangement in the fact that the *Urus* or fair is celebrated in Shirdi on the Ram Navami day. The *Ramnavami* days is very dear to all the Hindus then why not begin the *Ram Navami* festival the celebration of the birth of Sri Ram on this day here. Kaka Mahajani liked the idea and it was arranged to get Baba's permission in this matter. Bhishm solved the difficulty of *Kritan* by saying that his *Ram Akhyana*, the composition on Rama's birth was ready and he would do the *Kritan* himself while Kaka Mahajani should play on the harmonium. It was also arranged to get '*Suntharwada*' (ginger powder mixed with sugar) as Prasad prepared by Radhakrishnamai. So he went to *masjid* to get Baba's permission Bhishma explained the idea of celebrating *Ram Navami* festival and asked for Baba's permission and Baba gladly gave it. All rejoiced and made preparations for the *Jayanti* festival.

Next day the *masjid* was decorated. A cradle was supplied by Radhakrishnamai and placed in front of Baba's seat and the proceeding stated Bhishma stood up for *Kritan* and Mahajani played on the Harmonium. Baba took a garland from the '*Nimber*' and placed it round his neck and sent another for Bhishma. Then the *Kritan* commenced. That day's program including *Mahapuja* and *Arti* was finished. Later on Mr. Mahajani asked Baba for permission to remove the cradle. Baba refused the same saying that the festival was not yet finished. Next day another *Kritan* and *Gopalkala* ceremony was performed and the Baba allowed the cradle to be removed. While the *Ram-Navami* Festival was thus going on, the procession of the two flags by day and that of the sandal by night went off with the usual pomp and show. From this time onwards the *Urus* of Baba was transformed into the *Ram Navami* Festival and began to grow gradually year by year, Radhakrishnamai started *Naam-saptah*. In Shirdi, two locally historic rituals are carried out during this festival: the sack of wheat that is kept in *Dwarkamai* is changed and the old one taken to *prasadalaya* to be used there, and secondly, the *Dwarkamai* flags are replaced. When *Urus* was first celebrated, Gopalrao Gund prevailed upon his friend to supply a flag for the procession.

This was Damu Anna Rasne of Ahmednagar who had similarly been blessed by Sai Baba with sons having come to Baba for this Purpose on the recommendation of Shama's father-in-law. In addition, Gund asked Nanasahab Nimonkar to supply a second flag with embroidery. This was also done and both flags (described as "huge" by M. W. Pradhan, who saw them) were taken in procession through the village and fixed the two corners of *Dwarkamai*. Descendants of these two devotees continue this tradition and flags are brought and offered at Baba's Samadhi before being taken on a grand procession.

Sri Shirdi Sai Samsthan, MI

A non-profit organization

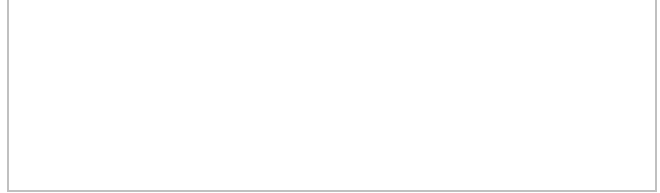
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PO Box 724,

Novi, MI 48376-0724

www.Saibabami.org

Place Stamp



Collage of Shirdi Sai Baba and His modest "possessions" like a long robe - Kafani, begging bowls (tin pots), clay pipes - Chillum, sacred staff - Satka, leather slippers – Paduka, wheat Grinding mill, Handi (pot) for making food. Besides this there are few other silver articles e.g. silver umbrella etc which were in use in the Palki procession as well as formal worship of Baba in those days.

