



# SHIRDI SAI SAMACHAR

## Sri Shirdi Sai Samsthan, Michigan



Volume 1 Issue III

NON PROFIT - Tax ID 32-0064813

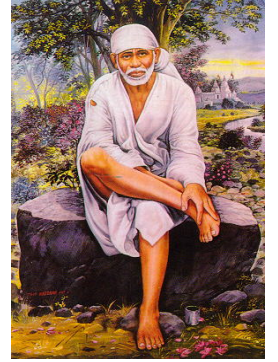
Saturday, 4 February 2006

### Message from the Executive Committee

#### Sai Ram to all members and devotees:

Welcome to New Board of Trustees, Ms. Mina Subhedar from Maharashtra Mandal and Mr. Rajesh Sharma from Punjabi Community. This partially fulfills our goal to have representation from different communities on Board. One of our main goals is to expand the horizon of Samsthan in the Community. We are glad to inform that we now have representation from Kannada, Marathi, Punjabi, Telugu and Tamil communities.

Mr. Rao Nerusu is unanimously elected as Chairman, Board of Trustees and Mr. Gopi Kilaru elected as Vice-Chairman. Sri Shirdi Sai Samsthan Executive committee and Board of Trustees are glad to announce Ms. Anupama Gopalakrishnan as Communication and Publicity Chair Person. **(Cont'd on Page 2...)**



**SAI BABA – The embodiment of the Supreme Spirit** - Nobody knew the parents, birth or birthplace of Sai Baba. Many inquiries were made, many questions were put to Baba and others regarding these details, but no convincing answer or information have yet been obtained. When asked about HIS relatives and other details HE gave only one answer: 'From very long'. *Note: These words uttered by SAI BABA have been actually heard by the daughter-in-law of Mrs Bayajamaa Kote Patil. She was a witness to the dialogue between Mrs Bayajamaa Kote Patil and BABA who came for Bhiksha at Mrs Bayaja's place.* He first manifested Himself as a young lad of sixteen under a Neem tree in Shirdi for the sake of Bhaktas. Even then HE seemed to be full with the knowledge of a Brahman (the only one Universal force or energy governing all matters). He had no desire for worldly objects and pleasures even in dream. He renounced Maya (delusion) and Mukti (deliverance) was at His feet. With His blessings many souls attained liberation. For all the seekers HE uttered only three words- 'ALLAH ACHCHA KAREGA' by way of HIS blessings. Everything will be fine by the GRACE OF GOD. Sai Baba is widely regarded as an incarnation of God, but He always said that He was an obedient servant of God.

Though an incarnation He showed the people the way how to behave satisfactorily and carry out the duties of their respective stations (Varnas) in this life. He never emulated others in any way, nor asked others to have something done for Him. For Him, Who saw the Lord in all movable and immovable things of this world, humility was the most proper thing. None He disregarded or disrespected; for He saw Narayan (Lord) in all beings, He never said, "I am God," but that He was a humble servant and He always remembered Him and always uttered - "Allah Malik" (God is the sole proprietor or Owner). By His thoughts and worldly behavior He established ideal values and virtues of faith, patience and humanity. One should concentrate on and do faithfully one's duties assigned to him/her by GOD and wait patiently for the results (fruits) of his action (Karma) because the effect of any cause is always determined by GOD.

### Sunday, February 26, 2006 is MAHASHIVARATRI -

Every week throughout the year, one day is sacred to the Lord Shiva, but once a year a day is set aside as Mahashivaratri - the Great Festival of Shiva.

It is a moveable festival, kept on the fourteenth day of the dark fortnight of the lunar month of Phalguna. This year it falls on February 26<sup>th</sup>.

The prayers and worship continue late into the night when the devotees offer coconut, Bilva leaves, fruits, and specially prepared sacred food to Shiva and his divine consort Parvati.

Offering Bilva leaves to Shiva on Shivaratri is considered very auspicious by his devotees.

Logon to [www.saibabami.org](http://www.saibabami.org) and click on events to learn more...



### Samsthan Financial Overview

The total assets: \$82,000. Out of this \$50,000 is in a 3 month CD at 4.3% interest rate. Rest of the money is in Money market and Checking accounts. There is almost \$10,000 increase in the assets in about one month (For more info please see January News Letter).

**Life members: 61 and Annual Members: 31**

### 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/moneys collected during these events will go to Sri Shirdi Sai Samsthan, Michigan.

Please share this with your family and friends.



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**Message from the Executive Committee – (Cont'd from Page 1)**... Ms. Anupama is also our present webmaster. Please visit our website at <http://www.saibabami.org>. We feel fortunate to have her in the Samsthan activities. For the past three years Mr. Srikanth Koritala has been instrumental in the development and maintenance of our website. We sincerely thank Srikanth for the excellent work and support for the organization.

Sri Shirdi Sai Samsthan is actively looking for a land to build Sri Shirdi Sai Temple in Greater Detroit area. Two weeks ago, a new Ad-Hoc committee formed to abridge the available lands in the Real-Estate market for our need. The new Ad-hoc committee consists of Ms. Vandana Gullapalli, Mr. BJ Mehta, Mr. Vijay Vadlamuri, Mr. Krishna Mohan Nichanametla, Mr. Kama Raju Vadrevu, and Mr. Viswanath Ravipati is actively looking for a property possibly in a centralized location. We are confident that within few months, the committee will locate and recommend us an appropriate property to build the temple. We all hope the Dreams of Shirdi Sai Devotees of Greater Detroit area may become true. Our Recent New Year Celebration was a grand success. Hundreds of New Devotees presence is apparent just because of advertisement and publicity through media such as Internet and flyers at local business places. We sincerely thank one and all. We thank everyone involved in Sri Shirdi Sai Baba Temple activities and we sincerely appreciate your continued support. Please visit our Web Site at <http://www.saibabami.org>.

Please share the word about Baba Bhajans and Temple Activities with your friends, family members and neighbors. We appreciate your suggestions regarding this news letter and all other temple activities (email [ID: shirdisai@saibabami.org](mailto:shirdisai@saibabami.org))

### Footprints

One night a man had a dream.  
He dreamed that he was walking along the beach with  
the Lord.

Across the sky flashed scenes from his life.  
For each scene, he noticed two sets of Footprints in the  
sand,

one belonging to him, and the other to the Lord.

When the last scene of his life flashed before him,  
he looked back at the Footprints in the sand.

He noticed that many times along the path of his life  
there was only one set of Footprints.

He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest  
and saddest times of his life.

This really bothered him, and he questioned the Lord  
about

"Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you,  
you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed  
that during the most troublesome times in my life  
there is only one set of Footprints.

I don't understand why, when I needed you most,  
you would leave me."

The Lord replied:

"My son, My precious child,

I love you and I would never leave you.

During your times of trial and suffering,  
when you have seen only one set of Footprints,  
it was Then that I carried you."



### Sai Baba- His Philosophy

Sai Baba never preached, nor did he deliver any sermons. Neither has Sai Baba any philosophical compositions to his credit. Hence he was not theoretically a philosopher as were Kapila and Sankara, or Kaul and Hegel or Whitehead and Russell. And yet his way of life has influenced far many people than have a thousand books of arm-chair philosophers.

Baba had no needs and no desire for anything material. If he was living, it was not for him, but wholly in order to do good to others. Only for this purpose he maintained his body, but for the physical sheath itself he didn't care a whit. This completely selfless fakir was even in unison with God, and that is why his very presence had an elevating, influence on those who came for his darshan, and that darshan taken even once, was enough to transform even a casual visitor - an atheist into a believer, a pessimist into an optimist, a sinner into a God's man. Differences of caste, creed and religion are man-made and therefore artificial. Hence those differences had no place in the eyes of Sai Baba.

That Sai Baba never revealed his own caste and religion has a deep significance. It is that he didn't want these labels, to be, attached to him. Another important principle -brought in practice by Sai Baba was that of equality once a person stepped into his Dwarakamai a dilapidated mosque where he lived. He was neither rich nor poor, neither a Raja nor Praja (subjects), neither a landlord nor a laborer. Actually people coming to him forget these differences of wealth and position. The common meal which Sai Baba cooked and served with his own hands in Dwarakamai was an object-lesson in equality. It was just for this reason that Baba never consented to be a Guru and never made any disciples, for this institution of Gurus leads to ownership and property rights which Baba strictly opposed. He wanted Shirdi affairs to be run in a spirit of democratic socialism.

Please share your experiences with the readers of Shirdi Sai Samachar. Send us your articles, poems, experiences, suggestions, etc. to [shirdisai@saibabami.org](mailto:shirdisai@saibabami.org)



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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**  
**Mehar Velagapudi**

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

**Upcoming Special Events for Next Quarter:** The dates and venue information will be posted on our web site [www.saibabaMI.org](http://www.saibabaMI.org)

\*\* All day Sai Satcharitra Parayanam on First Saturday of Feb, March, April and May 2006.  
\*\* Maha Shivaratri Program.  
\*\* Sri Rama Navami Program

Purify the heart by being good and kind to all. Do not attempt to find fault with others. Look upon all with love and respect, with faith in their sincerity. Treat your servants kindly. Do not entertain hatred or contempt in your heart; show your resentment if you must, through words, not by action. Repent for your errors that you commit and decide never to repeat them; pray for strength to carryout your resolutions -

The Antaryami

### 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 Pooja  
7:45 - 8:15 Bhajans  
8:15 - 8:35 Sejarati  
8:35 - 8:45 Prasadam

### PUJA SPONSORSHIP

Archana: \$ 11  
Bhajan Hall Rent + Puja: \$ 51  
**To sponsor pujas, please email**  
[shirdisai@saibabami.org](mailto:shirdisai@saibabami.org)

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](http://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: \$ 51.00  
Life Membership: \$ 251.00

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

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](http://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](mailto:shirdisai@saibabami.org)

**Shri Sai Satcharita**, the magnum opus, a composition of 9,308 verses (*ovis*) on the life and teachings of the venerable Shirdi Saint, Shri Sai Baba, penned in Marathi by late Govind Raghunath Dabholkar (Hemadpant) with the Blessings of Shri Sai Baba, completed 75 years on November 26, 2005. The 'Shri Sai Satcharita', which is revered and read by crores of Sai devotees, was styled in the verse form based on the popular Eknathi Bhagwat. The 'Charita' contains 53 chapters, which provides an interesting mix of Baba's advent in Shirdi, His miracles (*leelas*), his teachings, etc.

The 'charita' is another of Baba's *leelas*, because not only has it slaked the thirst of His innumerable devotees by providing them succour for their material and spiritual growth, but has proved to be a fountain of inspiration for other literary works on Sai *Maharaj*. Hemadpant was 60 years old and was skeptical, whether he would be able to write on Baba's life; so he wanted to seek Baba's blessings to accomplish the task. On his behalf Shama told Baba, "This *Annasaheb* wishes to write your biography; don't say you are a Poor *Fakir* and there is no need to write it. But, if you agree and help him, Your Feet (Grace) will accomplish the task." Baba was moved and placed His Boon Bestowing Hand on Dabholkar's head and gave him *Udi as prasad*.

The Omniscient Baba wanted to calm his agitated mind; so He said, "Make a collection of My stories, experiences, conversations, etc. He should subdue his ego and offer it at My Feet. He who does so, will get not only my help in writing the book but I will be there to assist him forever, in every way." "I shall myself write my own story, and he will become my instrument. Listen to My stories with reverence, narrate them to others in *keertan*, and meditate upon them! This will give rise to love and devotion, which will instantly destroy ignorance. Where there is faith and devotion, I remain enslaved forever; but otherwise, I am unattainable."

"When these stories are heard with devotion, the devotees will experience constant bliss and Self Realisation. Where disputes and arguments prevail, *maya* and ignorance abound, thus eluding Self Knowledge, hence he remains unhappy on earth and even in heaven."

**Sri Shirdi Sai Samsthan, MI**

*A non-profit organization*

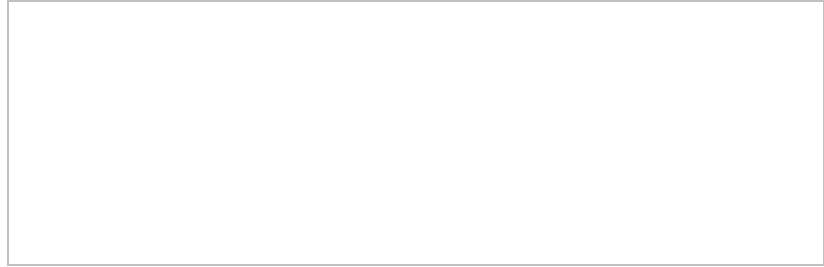
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Novi, MI 48376-0724

[www.Saibabami.org](http://www.Saibabami.org)

Place  
Stamp



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**Shirdi Sai Baba's khadau (Slippers)**



Sada Nimba Vrukshasya Muladhi Vaasat  
Sudha Sravinam Tikta Mapya Priyantham  
Tarum Kalpa Vrukshadhikam Saadhayantham  
Namaami Sadgurum Sainaadham