



SHIRDI SAI SAMACHAR

Sri Shirdi Sai Samsthan, Michigan



Volume 2 Issue 1

NON PROFIT - Tax ID 32-0064813

Thursday, 1 February 2007

Sri Shirdi Sai Samsthan wishes all the devotees and members a very happy and prosperous New Year. Hope the New Year brings lots of good health, wealth and happiness to the Sai community and their families. Here is the update on Samsthan Activities:



New Year Calendar: The Sai Samsthan Executive Committee printed the New Year calendar with all the major events marked. This will help devotees schedule their calendar for the events. There were 14 businesses that sponsored the calendar and their names and addresses were printed on the calendar for easy access to the devotees. All the members were mailed one calendar each. If you would like to get a calendar for your friend or family member, please contact executive member and ask for a copy. Calendars are given free to all the devotees.

Sai Chitra Yatra: The Sai Chitra Yatra is going on successfully with a lot of devotees showing interest to take the Baba's picture and keep it in their homes for a week.

Sai Vidya Peeth: The Sai Vidya Peeth is going on with great energy and vigor. So far we have 40 students in 4-8 year age group and 42 students in 9-15 year age group. We are renting two separate rooms for the class at Novi Civic Center. Please spread the word of Sai Vidya Peeth among your friends and family members.

Web Site improvement: The Sai Samsthan website will shortly be linked from the Maharashtra Mandal and Gujarati Samaj web sites. Thanks to Meena Subedar (BOT) and Pratik Shah (another BOT) for their initiative and help. This will help other community people to know about Samsthan's activities. The samsthan is also contemplating to have a Paypal link on our web site to facilitate donors from far away places to donate.

Internal Audit Committee: Our Samsthan is non-profit organization and each donated dollar is precious for the samsthan. Internal Audit committee was formed in October for auditing the books of accounts and help external auditor to file IT returns. Purpose of IAC is to check all the Receipts, Payments, Deposits and Withdrawals. Any member interested to help the Internal Audit Committee please send mail to shirdisai@saibabami.org

Land updates: Land committee is working on a couple of lands in Novi, Farmington and Northville. Land committee has guidelines to pick and choose the land. We will keep you posted on any further developments.

Rental Place for Temple: Samsthan is renting the Novi Civic center for bhajans every week. We are strongly looking at a possibility to rent a commercial place so that the temple will be open for 7 days a week and all FOUR Aarthis to Baba can be performed. Novi or Farmington are the locations being looked at. Please mail us if you find any place that is suitable for our temple.

Shirdi Sai Style of Teaching

As for Sai Baba's style of teaching, He did not deliver lectures and rarely gave formal teachings. He has never written anything by way of wordy philosophy. Rather, He taught orally by parable, direct experience and the example of His own life. He assures all that each could experience.

His Divine Love and blessings flew directly and not through any intermediary. All would experience fulfillment of their worldly desires and also perfect satisfaction of their craving for self realization (AATMA BODHA). There is no exception to this experience.

Baba's way is to cater directly to the needs of each individual and He did not require His devotees to take up any rituals or conventionally prescribed practice, nor did he favor any particular path over another. Baba generally discouraged people from changing their chosen form of worship in GOD and never advised total detachment from worldly life and changeover of preference for a particular deity as GOD. He advised perfect loyalty in and faith in the power and blessings of the Almighty (ALLAH MALIK) and patience for the results of action (KARMA).

As a result of Baba's grace, devotees experience self-generated conviction and faith that whatever their desires and aspirations are, they will never go unnoticed by Baba and they would not return empty-handed from SAI-COURT (DARBAR).

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. Contact the temple manager at (248-705-8440) to schedule priest services.

Archana for life members: Each life member is eligible for an Archana on the day of their choice for lifetime. From August 2006, the samsthan has started having an Archana on the name of our life members. Prasad & the Vibhuthi (holy ash) will be mailed to the member. Please e-mail us if we have missed your date of Archana. The Samsthan strongly encourages your family and friends to become members of Sai Samsthan.



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The universalistic Sai movement should start with Mahlsapathy, an uncultured poor village goldsmith. He has been the pole star amongst the Sai bhaktas. He is considered as the first person to start Sai worship. Earlier a pujari of the Khandoba temple Mahlsapathy's faith grew making him the most zealous admirer and ardent worshipper of Baba. He was the first person to be allowed to worship Baba for a long time.

His self-dedication and great attachment to Baba were irresistible for a large hearted soul like Baba. His placing of flowers and sandal at the lotus feet of Sai and offering were obviously the mark of respect.

Saibaba the fakir could not object them even though these were offered in the mosque. When this grew more and more like worship then Baba realized how incongruous Hindu worship of him was in the mosque. Its growth in the mosque finally turning into a Dwarakamai controlled entirely by a Hindu board reminds us of a small shoot of a banyan tree creeping through a cleft of a rock, which a plant can't easily go through, yet the banyan grows through it and pushes the pieces of rock aside and grows into huge dimensions. Such was the growth of the Hindu puja of Baba.

Who is a Guru?

There are many so-called Gurus, (imposters) who go about from house to house with cymbals and veena in their hands, and make a show of their spirituality. They blow mantras into the ears of their disciples and extract money from them. They profess to teach piety and religion to their disciples, but are themselves impious and irreligious.

Sai Baba never thought of making the least show of His worth (piety). Body-consciousness, He had none, but he had great love for the disciples.

There are two kinds of Gurus:

- (1) 'Niyat' (appointed or fixed) and
- (2) 'Aniyat' (unappointed or general). The latter by their advice develop the good qualities in us, purify our hearts and set us on the path of salvation; but contact with the former, dispels our duality (sense of difference); and establishes us in Unity by making us realize "Thou art that" there are various Gurus imparting various kinds of Wordy knowledge, but he, who fixes us in our Nature (Self) and carries us beyond the ocean of wordy existence, is the Satguru.

Sai Baba was such a Satguru.

HE always said, 'Words create delusion (MAYA BHRAMA) But Company of Sat Guru (SATSANG) imparts knowledge by removing ignorance. His greatness is indescribable. If anybody went to take his darshana, he, without being asked, would give every detail of his past, present and future life. He saw Divinity in all beings.

Friends and foes, the virtuous and the vicious were alike to Him. Disinterested and equal-balanced, he obliged also the evildoers.

He was the same in prosperity and adversity. No doubt, ever touched Him. Though he possessed the human body, He was not in the least attached to his body or house.

Though he looked embodied, he was really disembodied, i.e., free in this every life (MUKTATMA).

SHIRDI SAI MANTRA



Om Namah Shirdi Sai Baba
Om Shirdi Sai Baba Prasanam

Om Shanti Om Shanti
Om Shirdi Sai Baba Prasanam

Om Shanti Om Shanti
Om Shirdi Sai Baba Prasanam

Om Shanti Om Shanti Om Shanti

"OM SHANTI OM SHANTI OM
SHANTI OM SHANTI SHANTI
SHANTI OM"

Remember!
LIVE HEAVEN.
LOVE EVER, HURT NEVER.

Full day Sai Satcharita: Sai baba's blessings are required to accomplish any goal. Our goal is to build Shirdi Sai Temple in Metro Detroit. To fulfill our goal we read Sai Satcharita completely in one day with full devotion and dedication. It is not an easy task to read 254 pages in one day, but with Sai's blessing we want to complete the 254 pages reading in one day (8am to 8pm). There are FOUR such sessions, each month first Saturday starting from February. Four sessions are conducted at four different cities, Novi, Troy, Canton and Ann Arbor to encourage local devotees to participate in day long program. First of the series is scheduled for Feb 3rd at Novi Civic Center from 8am to 8pm. Please visit our web site www.saibabami.org for more details.

Each one of us is constantly searching for the correct path for carrying on the mundane tasks assigned to us in the course of our worldly existence. We are often confronted with new questions and problems regarding our duties, family, society, body or mind for which we search for answers and solutions. Please share your experiences with the readers of Shirdi Sai Samachar. Send us your articles, poems, experiences, suggestions, etc. to shirdisai@saibabami.org



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Executive Committee (2006-2007)

Saiprasad Jammalamadaka
(President)
Srinivas Raju Dhenuvukonda
(President –Elect)
Ramprasad Suribhotla (General
Secretary)
Shefali Manu Mishra (Joint -
Secretary)
Rajasekhar Kaukuntla (Treasurer)
Venkata Pala (Joint- Treasurer)
Venkat Devarakonda (Temple
Manager)
Surender Ravi (Event Co-
ordinator)
Jogeswararao Peddiboyina
(Volunteer Co-ordinator)

Board of Trustees (2006 -2007)

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

Upcoming Special Events for Next Quarter:

The dates and
venue information will be posted
on our web site
<http://www.saibabami.org>

****Feb 3rd** - All day Sai Satcharita
Parayanam,
****Feb 16th** - Maha Shiva Rathri
****March 27th** - Sri Ram Navami

** The Samsthan will have special
prayer sessions and arathis during the
event.

*“Do not be obsessed by
egotism, imagining that
you are the cause of
action: everything is due
to God.”*

- Shirdi Sai Baba

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**

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: \$ 51.00
Life Membership: \$ 251.00

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

Tax-deduction letters: It is Tax time of the year! All the donations that you make to Shirdi Sai
Samsthan are 100% tax exempted. Devotees who donated more than \$100 during calendar year 2006
would have received Tax exempt letters in the mail by 1st Feb 2007. If you have donated more than
\$100 and have not received a letter please send an e-mail to shirdisai@saibabami.org and
r_kaukuntal@yahoo.com (Treasurer).

Doctor and Sai – a short story

Once a Mamlatdar had a friend who was a Doctor. Once he was trying to explain the glories of
Saibaba to the doctor. And also said that it would be good for Him to seek Baba's darshan.

The doctor said that his personal deity or the *ishta devta* was Ram and that, he would not bow before
a Mohammedan and so, he was unwilling to go to Shirdi.

The Mamlatdar replied, that nobody would press him to bow down. So, he should come and just give
pleasure of his company.

Accordingly, they reached Shirdi and went to the Masjid for Baba's darshan. All were wonder-struck to
see, the doctor going ahead and saluting Baba. They asked him, how he forgot his resolve and bowed
down to a Mussalman.

Then, the doctor replied that, he saw his beloved deity Ram, on the seat where Baba was sitting and
therefore, prostrated himself before Him. He was very pleased to see the Purushottam form of Shri
Ramchandra face to face.

Then as he was saying this, he again saw, Sai Baba there. Being dismayed he again said, "How could
he be a Mohammedan? He is great Yogasampanna (Full of yoga) Avatar. "

Moral of the story: A pure yogi is eternally one with God.

Register your child with Sri
Shirdi Sai Samsthan's
"Sai Vidya Peeth"

Speak to a Sai Volunteer
today!



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



Gurusthan

This is a small place under the blessed Margosa tree towards the west of the Samadhi temple. Shri Sai was first seen sitting under this tree in the outskirts of the village of Shirdi. Later Baba himself referred this as a Holy and sanctified resting-place of his spiritual 'ancestor' or Master. Therefore, this place is known as 'Gurusthan' or Abode of the Master. While going or coming from Lendi garden Baba used to bow to this place from a distance. The leaves of this *neem* tree are said to have lost its bitterness. This old *neem* tree is guarded and maintained by the Trust today.

There is a small temple erected under this tree with a portrait of Sai Baba, a small idol of Him and 'sacred feet' of the Master.

"Om Shirdi Vasaya Vidmahe Sacchidanandaya Dhimahi Thanno Sai Prachodayath"

The meaning of the above line: We know this Sai is Supreme Divinity incarnate. We meditate on this God of Truth. May this Almighty Personality lead us on the path of total liberation.