



# SHIRDI SAI SAMACHAR

## Sri Shirdi Sai Samsthan, Michigan



Volume 3 Issue I

NON PROFIT - Tax ID 32-0064813

Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2008

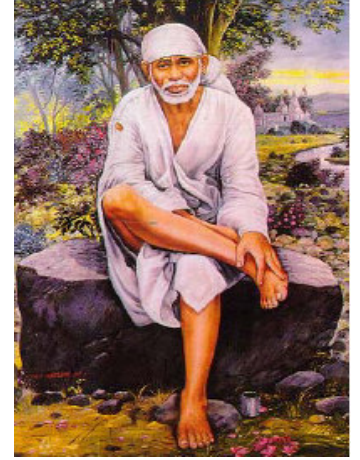
### Message from the Executive Committee

#### Om Sai Ram:

As all of you know we had a series of very successful events like **Baba Samadhi/Dussera Day, New Year Day, Vikuntha Ekadasi and Maha Shivarathri** events. We also celebrated the **Sai Satcharita Parayanam** at Novi and Ann Arbor. Sri Satcharita Parayanam events are conducted with a SANKALPA to build BABA temple and to spread the word of Shirdi Sai Samsthan's existence. Starting from Jan 26<sup>th</sup> we have expanded our prayers to Saturday evenings. Thanks to all the members and devotees who generously sponsored the halls for all the special events and our regular puja location.

The next major events are **Sri Rama Navami** on April 14th at Novi Civic Center, **Fund Raiser on April 26th at St. Toma Banquet Hall, Farmington Hills** and Sai Satcharitra at Troy on May 11th. We appreciate your continued support for the programs.

We are happy to announce the membership of SSSS, MI reached little over 400. As per the latest update from our Treasurer, net available funds are \$435K as of last year end.



Last quarter we have also introduced "credit card" payments to our method of payments. Donors and devotees can utilize this to make payments to any services/donations to the samsthan. Please see the Profit and loss statement for last quarter in the next page. With generous donations from some sponsors we have published the **calendar** for the year 2008 and distributed them to our members. If you have not received a copy of the calendar please contact us. Please send an email to [shirdisai@saibabami.org](mailto:shirdisai@saibabami.org) to update any change of address.

In the **Sai Vidya Peeth**, we are conducting classes for kids in two groups: junior and senior. We have published the curriculum this year and conduct classes every Thursday from 7 to 8pm. The enrollment in this program is about 50 this year.

The main goal of our Samsthan is to build Sri Shirdi Sai Baba temple in greater Detroit area. The Ad-Hoc committees continuously searched to find a suitable property to build Baba temple for the last 3 years. As of now, we are in the process of final negotiations for our own place of worship. See **land update** in the next page.

**Please lend us a helping hand in day-to-day activities.** 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](http://www.saibabami.org). Please share the word about Baba Bhajans and Temple Activities with your friends, family members and neighbors. Baba Blessing will be with you and your family all the time!

### Regular Puja Schedule

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

#### Thursday Puja

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

#### Saturday Puja

5:00 - 5:30 Dhoop Arathi  
5:30 - 6:30 Abhishekam & Astotaram  
6:30 - 7:30 Archana  
7:30 - 8:30 Bhajans & Sai Chalisa  
8:30 - 9:00 Shej Arathi

#### PUJA SPONSORSHIP

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

To sponsor pujas, please email  
[shirdisai@saibabami.org](mailto:shirdisai@saibabami.org)

### Upcoming Events

We are pleased to announce the following upcoming events. The exact location and timing for these will be announced a month in advance.

#### Sri Rama Navami, Fund Raiser,

**April 14<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 PM – 9:30 PM**  
**April 26<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 PM – 11:00 PM**

Sai Satcharitra, Troy  
Guru Pournima  
Sravana Pournima  
Ganesh Chaturthi  
Dasara/Maha Samadhi Day Oct 9<sup>th</sup>  
Deepawali  
Karthika Pournima

May 11<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM  
July 18th  
August 16<sup>th</sup> (tentative)  
September 3<sup>rd</sup>  
October 28<sup>th</sup>  
November 13<sup>th</sup> (tentative)

Visit [http:// www.saibabami.org](http://www.saibabami.org) for all event updates, pictures and information about Shirdi Saibaba Samsthan activities.



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### Executive Committee (2007-2008)

**Suresh Dareddy**  
(President)  
**Prasad Beesabathuni**  
(President-Elect)  
**Prakash Vysyaraju**  
(Treasurer)  
**Ramesh Bhogi**  
(Joint-Treasurer)  
**Srinivas Gogineni**  
(Joint-Secretary)  
**Bhaskar Pamarthi**  
(Volunteer Co-ordinator)  
**Sita Kavuri**  
(Event Co-ordinator)  
**Murali Kodali**  
(Temple Manager)  
**Rajashekar Kaukuntla**  
(Secretary)

### Board of Trustees (2007-2008)

**Venkateswara Rao Gutta**  
(Chairman)  
**Prasad Gullapalli**  
(Vice Chairman)  
**Rao Nerusu**  
**Aruna Bhavinenii**  
**Durga Govindaraju**  
**Kutumba Rao Ravi**  
**Meher Velagapudi**  
**Krishna Mohan Nichanametla**



"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".

### Property Update

The main goal of our Samsthan is to build Sri Shirdi Sai Baba temple in greater Detroit area. The Ad-Hoc committees continuously searched to find a suitable property to build Baba temple for the last 3 years. Multiple locations have been identified per our specifications and now we found one property that suite to our need and which is in the process. .

As of today, we are in the process of final negotiations for our own place of worship. It is located at 28875 Seven Mile Road, Livonia, MI 48152 its on the south east corner or Middlebelt and 7 mile. Some of the reasons for selecting this place:

- This is already a church: there is no requirement for getting new permits or altering the city zoning. Religious places needs to have a special city zone which might take as long as 6 months or more.
- The church has 11,000 sft of build up space.
- It also has 1100 sft of house next to it to be used as priest quarters
- Has a built up 180 car park
- Close to highways, located on south/east of Middlebelt road and 7 mile road in Livonia.
- Puja's can be performed from almost day one with some minor enhancements
- Close to Livonia Mall and Livonia Cinema center.
- \$735,363.00 for 4.01 acres and the church and the priest house in Livonia
- Please visit [http://www.religiousrealestate.com/Listings/galilean2\\_titlepage.shtml](http://www.religiousrealestate.com/Listings/galilean2_titlepage.shtml) for more details on the property.

We are in the process of doing the final due diligence on this property. We have consulted with the local priests, Chicago Sai priest and Shirdi Priests to get their opinion about the property. The attorneys' are looking at the purchase agreements. However there is lot of work that need to be done before we officially sign the purchase agreement. An email was sent to all the registered members on Jan 8, 2008 10:57 PM. If you would like to receive a copy of the email, please contact us at [shirdisai@saibabami.org](mailto:shirdisai@saibabami.org)

We request two volunteers to come forward and help us in closing this. We are having a **fund raiser** on April 26<sup>th</sup> and request volunteers to come forward and help us in this. If you have any questions about the property or the progress, please feel to contact us.

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, Life Membership: \$ 251,  
Patron: \$5,001 Benefactor: \$10,001 Grand Benefactor: \$100,001.

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

### Financial update: Unaudited Accounts: Income & Expenditure Statement - Qtr end Dec 2007

Opening Balance	\$404,416		
<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenses</b>	
Annual Membership	\$561	Quick Books Online Subscription	\$188
Fundraising Donation	\$1,116	General Expenses	\$496
General Donation	\$15,936	Cr.Merchant Services	\$282
Hundi Collections	\$7,312	Property Purchase exp	\$500
Interest Received	\$15,167	Prasadam Supplies Expenses	\$664
Life Membership	\$4,718	Priest Expenses	\$4,949
Poojari Sponsorship Donations	\$1,166	Printing Expenses	\$2,549
Puja/Archana Donations	\$4,932	Rent Expenses	\$11,850
Special Event Collections	\$1,241	Special Event Expenses	\$490
Sponsorship Donation	\$2,642	Statutory, Tax and Legal Expenses	\$1,573
Others	\$570	Others	\$189
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$55,361</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$23,731</b>
<b>Total Balance as of 12/31/2007</b>	<b>\$436,047</b>		

### Bank Balances

LaSalle Bank	Balance	Lotus Bank	Balance
Checking	\$83,308	Checking	\$1,500
Fixed Deposit	\$250,000	Fixed Deposit	\$101,239
<b>Total Bank Balance</b>	<b>\$436,047</b>		



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### 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 armchair 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 manmade 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.

### Special Bhajans and Prayers at devotee's residence

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.

**Priest Services:** Your Sai Samsthan Priest can perform all kinds of Priestly services at your home. Please contact Murali @ 248.767.4009.

Please share this with your family and friends.



**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.

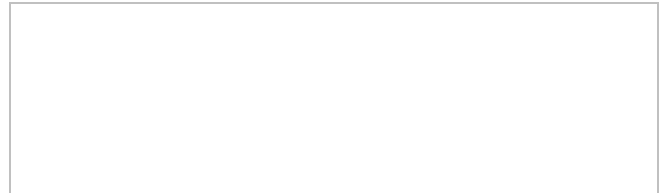
The 'charita' is another of Baba's leelas, because not only has it slaked the thirst of His innumerable devotees by providing them succour for their material and spiritual growth, but has proved to be a fountain of inspiration for other literary works on Sai Maharaj. Hemadpant was 60 years old and was 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 Realization. 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*  
Tax ID: 32-0064813  
PO Box 724,  
Novi, MI 48376-0724  
[www.Saibabami.org](http://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.

