

# Satyanarayana Swamy Devasthanam



## Prayer

अमोघं पुंडरीकाक्षं नृसिंहं दैत्य सूदनं।  
हृषीकेशं जगन्नाथं वागीशं वर दायकं।  
सगुणं च गुणातीतं गोविंदं गरुडध्वजं।  
जनार्दनं जनानंदं जानकी वल्लभं हरिं।  
प्रणमामि सदा भक्त्या नारायणं अजं परं।  
दुर्गमे विषमे घौरे शत्रुणा परि पीडिते।  
निस्तारयतु सर्वेषु तथा निष्ठ भयेषु च।  
नामान्येतानि संकीर्त्य फलं ईप्सितं आप्नुयात्।

सत्यनारायणं देवं वंदेहं कामदं प्रभुं।  
लीलया विततं विश्वं ऐन तस्मै नमो नमः।  
इदं फलं मया देव स्थापितं पुरतस्तवा।  
तेन मे सफलावाप्तिः भवेत् जन्मनि जन्मनि॥

सर्व मंगळ मांगल्ये शिवे सर्वार्थ साधिके।  
शरण्ये त्र्यंबके देवि नारायणि नमोस्तु ते॥

## Temple Schedule

Monday	7:00pm-8.30pm	Rudrābhiṣekham for Lord Śiva
Tuesday	7:00pm-8.30pm	Abhiṣekham for Panchamukha Ānjaneya
Wednesday	7:00pm-8.30pm	Veda Classes
Friday	7:00pm-8.30pm	Lalithā Sahasranāma Pārāyaṇa
Sunday	9:30am-12:30pm	Viṣṇu Sahasranāma Pārāyaṇa
Every full moon day (Pūrṇima)	7:00pm	Group Satyanārāyana Pūja (Samūhika Vratam)
Devasthānam Daily Pūja schedule	10:00am	Śrī Satyanārāyana Swāmy Suprabhātam & Morning pūja.
	10:30am	Rudrābhiṣekham for Lord Śiva
	6:00pm-7:00pm	Viṣṇu Sahasra Nāma Archana
	9:00pm	Ekānta Seva & Aishwarya Tīrtham

For latest information regarding temple events, please visit <http://www.siliconvalleytemple.net>



*Dhruva Murthy Prana Prathista*



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## A Few Words From The Chairman

On behalf of Sri Satyanarayana Swamy Devasthanam, VEDA I take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and participation in making the dream of having Permanent place for the Temple and installing the Dhruva murtis, come true. With all your devotion, co-operation and dedication, Sri Satyanarayana Swamy Devasthanam is able to progress in several aspects to meet and fulfill the religious and spiritual needs of Devotees and also present a sacred and Holy atmosphere in the Temple. Your participation in regular poojas like monthly group Satyanarayana Swamy Vratam, Vinayaka Navaratri, Devi Navaratri, Deepavali, Karteeka Masa deeksha has been phenomenal and this ever increasing devotion of yours is making us feel even more motivated to expand the temple activities to accommodate your religious needs. As Chairman of the Devasthanam I feel more confident about setting tougher goals and planning towards their achievement. I am proud to say that, it is only with your dedicated cooperation and devotion we got successful in reaching the tougher goal of permanent place acquisition and Dhruva murti installation. Your contributions towards the building fund have been extraordinary, amidst tougher economical situations and we are thankful and grateful to all of you for that. I pray to Lord Satyanarayana Swamy to bless you all with a happy, prosperous and divine life.

As Chairman, it is my sincere and humble request to all of you to continue to provide your invaluable support and your valuable suggestions in making this temple a great place of Devotion.



Marepalli Nagavenkata Sastri  
VEDA





# VEDA Temple Priests



Sri Marepalli Naga Venkata Sastry  
Chief Priest



Rajarao Charmathi



Sivaram Sarma



Jagadish Sarma Kodamanchili



Prasad Bhagawatulla



Nagendra Sarma



Mruthyunjaya Sarma



## A Message From The Temple President

It has been the most wonderful experience of my life to be part of the VEDA family for the past 9 years and to head the temple committee as a President for the past 5 years. I am extremely happy to announce that we have crossed yet another major milestone, by building the temple in our own premises. This phenomenal task was made possible with the help of many devotees and their tremendous effort for the success of this temple. I would like to thank all our devotees, donors, and volunteers for their support throughout the years and hope that they continue to support the temple in the future as well.

VEDA has come a long way since it started the “SRI SATYANARAYANA SWAMY” temple in a leased accommodation in San Jose in 2007. At that time devotees in bay area, were struggling to get the rituals services done due to lack of priests. There were numerous requests from all the devotees to build a Grand Temple of Sri Satya Narayana Swamy in Bay area. Due to the contributions of many devotees and hardworking volunteers and the temple committee members, we were able to relocate to this current location in 2010 and construct this temple complex.

Sri Satyanarayana Swamy Devasthanam has been very successful in organizing many major festivals and major cultural events. Within a short span of time, the temple attracted thousands of devotees from all over the Bay Area. We have around 4000 members associated with the temple. In a first of its kind in bay area, every month on Poornima (Full Moon) day we are conducting Samoohika Sri Satyanarayana Swamy Vratam at the temple.

I request all of you to continue to make this temple a Grand Success and get blessed by Lord Sri Satya Narayana Swamy.

Finally, as the saying goes, that no great work can be done without sacrifice. I should thank my wife Smita for taking care of my son Tarun Kumar while I am doing my services to the temple.

“Have commitment, planning, and add little aggression towards the works you can achieve anything in the world.”

**“GOD BLESS ALL”**

Jagadeesh Chandra Babu Pasumarthi  
(President)



## A Message From The Executive Vice President

I am happy to be part of VEDA family for the last 4 plus years as Executive Vice-President. I am glad and I am indebted to Sri Manohar Mahavadi and Smt Shailaja for introducing me to Sri Marepalli Naga Venkata Sastry garu many years back during Rudraabhishekham at a rental place near Mission Blvd and followed by an opportunity to service during Ganesh Nimajjanam.

I would like to express my gratitude and deep appreciation to VEDA Chairman Sri Marepalli Naga Venkata Sastry garu for giving me such an amazing opportunity to service to the society. I also express my sincere respects to my executive and working committee members who co-operated with me all along and together we stood as one team.

Finally, my sincere appreciation to my wife Vasundhara Dulam in cooperating during these years. We have seen a tremendous progress in less than 3 years which includes swasthala (Own building) and construction of Gharbha Gudi. During this journey we had many challenges and hurdles. In spite of all these we, along with the devotee community encouragement and god's blessings, could continue to make progress. "Good leaders are selfless, take initiative, and focus on their duty rather than obsessing over outcomes." We may have both good and bad, but we sincerely request everyone to pardon us and bless to do further service. **God bless all**

Praveen Dulam  
Executive Vice-President







## A Message From The Temple Treasurer

Dear Devotees, Donors, Volunteers and Committee members,

Dhruva Murthy Prana Prathishta event (Inauguration event) on May 31st, June 1st and June 2nd, 2013 of Sri Satyanarayana Swamy Devasthanam (VEDA) is memorable and an great occasion in service to God and community.

As we all know BrahmaSri Marepall Naga Venkata Sastry garu (Chairman and Founder of VEDA) had a vision and plan to have a temple for Sri Satyanarayana Swamy in Bay area, CA, USA. We are fortunate to be a part of the committee and involve in the efforts to achieve the goal for last four plus years.

Over the past many years temple was providing the religious services through a team of dedicated and well versed priests under the able leadership of BrahmaSri Marepall Naga Venkata Sastry garu and temple is able to achieve sustainable growth in short span.

Temple will continue to conduct with utmost divinity such auspicious group/individual Sri Satyanarayana Swamy puja and other important religious festivals Ugadi, Maha Sivarathri, Sree Sita Rama Kalyanam, Ganesh Festival, Karthika masam pujas, Devi Navarathri's and several others activities.

Since we moved to our own building, temple was also supporting many community groups request for conducting religious discourses, yoga classes, music / dance concerts, classes and has become center of Vedic education. It has been a great effort, planning and perseverance, resource generation and buying own building in July 2010, at 475, Los Coches St. Milpitas, CA by the committee headed by President Sri Krishna Jagadish Babu Pasumarthi. Once we moved to own building, we initiated the next phase of constructing the Garbha Gudi's with Druva Vighras.

As a Treasurer, observed that we got unwavering support from the community for their generous donations and belief in our efforts, along with guidance and volunteer services towards Garbha gudi construction and deities consecration. VEDA Committee had put in efforts and time in getting the conceptual vision into a real project architecture, designing and interactions with Architects, City Engineers, Construction Companies, Equipment Suppliers, CPA and Bankers over the last few years to complete the first phase of temple reconstruction.

I want to thank my wife Anita for supporting family all along and she also involved in temple volunteer activities and support from my children Niharika and Suryateja, and feel very blessed and blissful.

With divine blessings, wish a successful Pranaprathishta event and commit to provide continued support in the future. Let Grace of Lord bestow on us all kinds of success, happiness and community growth.

Venkata R Mandadi  
Treasurer. VEDA



## A Message From The Secretary

It gives me immense pleasure to serve the temple under any capacity. I feel the Lord has chosen us to serve him. With the guidance from sastri garu and a strong challenge taking team of committee members ,along with devotees who trusted in the growth of the temple and contributed generously, we were able to move from the past to the present.

As the saying goes that No great work can be done without sacrifice. I should thank my wife for taking care of kids while I did my services to the temple. In the best interests of the temple growth, I wish the best to the future committees and pledge to provide continuous support.

Padmanabham Tadepalli  
Secretary





## Executive Members



Marepalli Naga Venkata Sastry  
Chairman



Jagadeeshbabu Pasumarthi  
President



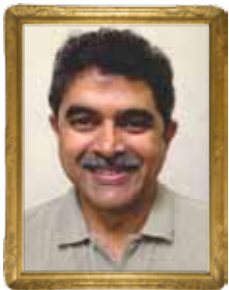
Praveen Dulum  
Vice President



Padmanabham Tadepalli  
Secretary



Venkat Reddy Mandadi  
Treasurer



Krishna Viswanadham  
President Elect



Murali Subbarayalu



Nagesh Vempati



Ram Sripathi



Venkat Ramana Kamaraju



Hari Venkata Sastry

## NEW Executive Members



Shashidhar Kache



Kishore Kichilli



Dayakar Duvvuri



Mahadev Kolluru



Shesu Tirumala Setti



Rama Chander Yungutur



Krishna Thatipelli



Narayana Mattigunta



Vaishnav kovuuri



Paramesh Srin



Srin

# Past Executive Members

## Previous Presidents



Ravi Parimi

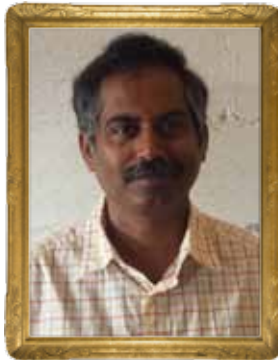


Vijayalaxmi Dixit



Subramanyam Dixit

## Previous Vice President



Srinivas Surapaneni

## Previous Treasurer



V.S. Rao

## Previous Secretary



Bushan Keshavabhotla

## Cultural



Krishna Kumar  
Pillalamari

## Religious



Hari Venkata Sastry

















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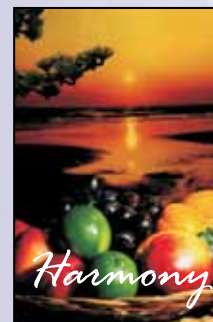
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# Temple Finances

## Vedic Education & Devotional Academy

### Statement of Operations

For the 12 months ended December 31, 2012

Description	Total
<b>Revenues</b>	
General Contributions	\$507,404.00
Contributions towards Building	\$311,510.00
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b><u>\$818,914.00</u></b>
Gross Profit	\$818,914.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$470,993.00</u></b>
Excess of Revenues over expenses	\$347,921.00
Other Revenues	
Interest	\$270.00
<b>Net Revenue (Loss)</b>	<b><u>\$348,191.00</u></b>

Management Purpose only. Not Audited or Reviewed



**Vedic Education & Devotional Academy**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**As of December 31, 2012**

<b>ASSETS</b>	<u>December 31, 2012</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	
101 - Cash On Hand	\$ 17,221.00
106 - Chase Saving (xxx5888)	858.83
107 - Chase Checking (XX9518)	21,853.32
108 - Chase Checking (xxx3745)	35,732.37
109 - Chase Savings (xx0662)	370,216.90
113 - Paypal	362.89
128 - Advance payment for Idols	<u>19,125.00</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<u>465,370.31</u>
<b>PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT</b>	
146 - Deity of God	31,097.11
147 - Building	2,285,231.35
148 - Computer	657.60
149 - Jewelry	14,792.20
150 - Building Improvement	201,797.24
151 - Machinery & equipment	4,254.41
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(129,171.14)</u>
<b>Net Property and Equipment</b>	<u>2,408,658.77</u>
<b>OTHER ASSETS</b>	
183 - Security Deposit	<u>1,500.00</u>
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<u>1,500.00</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><u>\$ 2,875,529.08</u></u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	
210 - American Express	587.90
248 - Interest payable	<u>18,165.00</u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<u>18,752.90</u>

Management Purpose Only. Not Audited or Reviewed.  
See Accountants' Compilation Report

**Vedic Education & Devotional Academy**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**As of December 31, 2012**

**LONG-TERM LIABILITIES**

216 - Building purchase	352,116.00
264 - Chase Loan (xxx101)	1,259,740.56

**Total Long-Term Liabilities** 1,611,856.56

**Total Liabilities** 1,630,609.46

**NET ASSETS**

290 - Unrestricted	714,910.53
292 - Temp Restricted	181,817.91
Excess of Revenues Over Expenses	348,191.18

**Total Net Assets** 1,244,919.62

**TOTAL LIABILITIES AND  
NET ASSETS**

\$ 2,875,529.08

Management Purpose Only. Not Audited or Reviewed.  
See Accountants' Compilation Report





**Vedic Education & Devotional Academy**  
**Statement of Cash Flows**  
**For the 1 Month and 12 Months ended December 31, 2012**

	1 Month ended	12 Months ended
	<u>December 31, 2012</u>	<u>December 31, 2012</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Net income (loss)	\$ 35,082.22	\$ 348,191.18
Adjustments to reconcile net income (loss) to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	3,536.34	45,602.25
Losses (gains) on sales of fixed assets	0.00	0.00
Decrease (increase) in operating assets:		
Other current assets	0.00	(17,489.55)
Increase (decrease) in operating liabilities:		
Accrued liabilities	(12,743.33)	(24.74)
Total adjustments	<u>(9,206.99)</u>	<u>28,087.96</u>
<b>Net Cash Provided By (Used in) Operating Activities</b>	<b>\$ 25,875.23</b>	<b>\$ 376,279.14</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Capital Expenditures	<u>14,530.26</u>	<u>(39,895.25)</u>
<b>Net Cash Provided By (Used In) Investing Activities</b>	<b>\$ 14,530.26</b>	<b>\$ (39,895.25)</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Notes Payable	(26,343.80)	(120,556.96)
Net Assets	<u>78.94</u>	<u>6,237.50</u>
<b>Net Cash Provided By (Used In) Financing Activities</b>	<b>\$ (26,264.86)</b>	<b>\$ (114,319.46)</b>
<b>NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>14,140.63</b>	<b>222,064.43</b>
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT BEGINNING OF PERIOD</b>	<b>\$ 432,104.68</b>	<b>\$ 224,180.88</b>
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF PERIOD</b>	<b>\$ 446,245.31</b>	<b>\$ 446,245.31</b>

Management Purpose Only. Not Audited or Reviewed.  
See Accountants' Compilation Report







*Dhruva Murthy Prana Prathista*





# Temple Persona

Vishnu S. Pendyala

vishnu@siliconvalleytemple.net

“*Deho Devalaya.*” The Upanishads equate the body with the temple. This similarity can be interpreted in many ways. Just like the body provides us with many tools to live a rich and fulfilling life, the temple provides innumerable tools to live an enriching, complete life. One should practice the art of sensing the world through the organs of the temple, just like we practice the art we are born with, of sensing the world through the organs of the body. The religious teachings, the rituals, and the symbolisms that constitute the temple provide us with the right ways of sensing the world. For instance, take the most treasured sense of taste. Just like the body provides teeth, tongue, saliva and other artifacts to revel in this sense of taste, temple provides many ways to appreciate this same sense.

While the body provides those artifacts to cherish the senses in the very basic plane of existence – the bottom most slice of Maslow’s pyramid, the temple provides ways and means to enjoy the senses at the highest plane of happiness. What we eat in the temple, called the *Mahaprasadam*, is respected as the God Himself. “*Annam parabrahma swaroopam*” – food is a manifestation of God, claim our scriptures. Temple teaches us to devour food as if it were divine. Temple food is deliberately rich and delicious - not to be hogged and consumed to satisfy a basic need, but to be enjoyed as a divine blessing at a much higher plane.

When we see divinity in the objects of desire like food and opposite sex, the lowly basic need that lets the senses loose, transforms into a want of the higher plane of love and devotion. The female form of God is revered at the highest level in the temple, as *Adi Parashakti* – the ultimate power behind the entire creation. When we imbibe the temple’s ritual to revere the female form as the most powerful, our basic instincts give way to discretion and devotion. *Vijaya Dasami* or *Dasara* as it is popularly called is one of the most celebrated festival in the temple and is devoted entirely to the worship of the female form.

*Vijaya Dasami*, means Victorious 10<sup>th</sup> (day). My interpretation of *Vijaya Dasami*, however, is Victory over the ten senses. The festival symbolizes the destruction of *tamo guna* that feeds into the senses. What is the most tempting sensation to a man, that even sage Viswamitra, with his severe penance and determination, could not overcome? It is the female form. What better entity can we propitiate to conquer this sensation than the female form of divinity itself? When I was small, my grandmother used to call *Dasara* as an essentially boys’ festival and always insisted that I celebrate it as much as I can - wear new clothes and recite hymns in praise of the goddesses, at least. I didn’t understand then, but it does make sense now. Not that only boys need to conquer the ten senses, but they do need it more, at least in this context.

Durga, the goddess who is worshiped for the festival, means unattainable - cannot be reached. As long as we have a terrestrial form, absolute victory over the senses is unattainable. But the festival symbolizes the goal that we should try to achieve, even if it is unattainable in this birth. It reminds us of the need to keep trying to





## Dhruva Murthy Prana Prathista

detach from worldly matters by practice, devotion and dispassion. We cannot imbibe all these deeply rooted symbolisms to refine our existence, without the help of the temple and the rituals it prescribes.

“*Bhadram Karnebbih Shrinuyama Devah*” - Oh God, may we hear Good with our ears, proclaim the invocation in Mandukya Upanishad that is often recited in the temple. “*Bhadram Pashyema-Akssabhir*” comes next - May we See with our Eyes what is Auspicious. Those are the best ways to utilize the hearing and visual senses. Temples help us do that – we hear only good in the temple and see only that is auspicious. With practice, we can do the same everywhere else – hear only good and see only auspicious ignoring all the rest.

Another claim from the same Mandukya Upanishad is: “*Brahmavid Brahmaiva Bhavati*” - One who knows God becomes One with It. If we contemplate on God at all times, trying to know and experience Him and His qualities, like in the various *sahasranama* recited at the temple, we will become one with Him. Then, as said in the Narada Bhakti Sutras, “*Tasmin Tajjane Bheda Abhavaat*” - there is no difference between the God and his devotees. That is why, the Manu Samhita says, “*Krante Vishnum*” - Contemplate on God (Vishnu) in your every step. The temple inculcates this habit.

The “*Deho Devalaya*” aphorism can be given another interpretation. Like all rivers flow into the ocean, the temple that the body is, is always longing to submerge into the Devalaya, the temple. “*Jivo Brahma Sanatana*” – the indweller in the body is God, is the next part of the aphorism. Food, a form of God does not fulfill its *raison d’etre* until it submerges into the God in the body. Similarly, the temple that the body is, does not realize its true purpose until it dissolves in the purity of the Devalaya, the temple.

The serene vibrations of the mantras (man-tra: that which rescues the mind) recited in the temple purify the mind and body. How do we react when we see a long lost friend after many years? How about when we hear our dearest song – a bhoole bisre geet - that we grew up with? Our heart jumps with joy. That is exactly what happens to our eons old soul when we hear the ancient mantras that have been in existence for almost as long as our souls. My 3-year-old daughter recognizes the mantras wherever they are played, as “those recited in the temple.” It goes to prove that her soul is well acquainted with them. Recognizing those sounds would not have otherwise been possible at such a young age and in such a short period without the “*Poorva Janma Vasana Balam*”.

Participating in the Siva Abhishekam on Monday evenings and reciting *Rudram* and other *suktas* along with the priests is one of the most treasured activities that I look forward to, in my weekly routine. Seeing the pleasant personalities of the idols, priests and devotees makes me forget all the stress and unwind. We never see an angry or upset face in the temple. Temple automatically stimulates pleasantness, which then becomes contagious. We are very fortunate to have the temple in the heart of Silicon Valley under the stewardship of the highly learned Sri Marepalli Naga Venkata Shastri garu. To the devoted, the temple makes every day a festival and every routine, a ritual.

It is not spirituality if its experience does not create happiness. Temple helps experience the happiness of spirituality. The depth of a religion is unfathomable to those who never see beneath the rituals it prescribes. Temple helps fathom the depth. I made temple an integral part of my daily life and hope you will too.

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*Vishnu Pendyala works as a Software Engineer and is a long time devotee of the temple. He holds BE, MBA, and MS degrees from Indian and U.S. universities and is working on his PhD thesis in Computer Engineering at Santa Clara University. He hopes to do doctoral work in Hinduism as well at some point of time in future. More about him via <http://www.google.com/search?q=vishnu+s+pendyala>.*







**Congratulations and Best Wishes to  
Sri Satya Narayana Swamy Devasthanam**

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# VEDA History- A dream come true!

## About VEDA

- Non profit organization incorporated in 2002
- Vision of VEDA is to promote Spiritual, Hindu Religious and Cultural values
- VEDA started 'SRI SatyaNarayana Swamy' Temple in 2007
- Provided religious services to more than 10,000 devotees in Bay Area
- Became renowned within in the community
- Non profit organization incorporated in 2002
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- Provided religious services to more than 10,000 devotees in Bay Area
- Became renowned within in the community

## VEDA Timeline

- Feb 2002 - Incorporated by 'Sri Marepally Naga Venkata Sastry' with others
- Apr 2007 - Started 'Sri Satya Narayana Swamy' temple in a leased accommodation
- Apr 2007 - Started temple executive committee with a team size of 9
- Sep 2008 - A new committee formed – headed by Sri JagadeeshBabu Pasumarthy
- Nov 2009 - Committee makes a decision to move out of leased accommodation into Swasthala
- Jan 2010 - Committee started looking for various buildings with religious permissions.
- Jul 2010 - Acquired 13,300 sqft building (473 , 475 and 479 – LosCoches ,St, Milpitas) with proper religious permit for about \$2.5 Millions
- Jun 2012 - Performed Bhoomi pooja Initiating construction of Mandirs for all Deities
- Dec 2012 - Acquired all the required permits from the city for the construction of main sanctum (Gharbhagudi)
- Jan 2013 - Formal construction started for to build diety sanctum (Gharbhagudis)
- Apr 2013 - Arrival of black stone idols (Dhruva Murthies) from India.
- Jun 2013 - Temple Praana prathista and grand opening ceremony





## VEDA Activities

- Spiritual Discourses by various religious heads
- Perform celebrations of Hindu Festivals – SriRam Navami, Krishnaastami, ...
- Sri Satya Narayana Swamy Vratham every Full moon day
- Rudrabhishekam during Karthika maasa
- Classes offered to children in Indian Classical dance and music
- Provide classes on Hindu VEDAs
- Provide directions on Pooja vidhi to all

## VEDA Achievements

- In short span raised \$2.3 million from donations from devotees, Temple bonds, Bank Loans
- In less than 9 months, realized the dream of swasthala
- In less than 9 months arrival of Dhruvamuthy vigrahas from India
- Gharbha gudi construction started with about a Million dollars estimations.
- Samuhika Vratham of about more than 1000 couples in collaboration with Annavaram temple.
- Many major events and festival celebrations crossing devotees number to more than 2000



## Veda Mantram and The Guru SrI GurubhyO NamaH | HariH OM

‘Veda’ comes from the root ‘Vid’. ‘Vid’ means knowing. Hence ‘Veda’ means the knowledge, to know. ‘Veda’ is an infinite flow of sounds. This sound is called ‘the Sabda, the Akshara’ meaning imperishable. These sounds existed before, they are existing now and they continue to exist forever. The ‘Veda’ is called Sruti. The knowledge is in the form of sound. If sound is to perish, we wouldn’t have any communication over satellites today.

In Krishna Yajurveda Taittireeya Samhita, there is one mantram that says the following:

‘SRuNvamti viSvE amRutasya putraa  
aa yE dhaamaani divyaani tasthuH’

‘शृ॒ण्व॑न्ति॒ विश्वे॑ अ॒मृत॑स्य पु॒त्रा आ ये॑ धामा॒नि दि॒व्यानि॑ त॒स्थुः।’  
अमृत॑स्य पु॒त्राः प्र॒जाप॑तेः पु॒त्राः दे॒वाः, तेषां॑ यानि॒ यानि॑ धामा॒नि  
स्थाना॑नि वर्त॑न्ते, तेषु॑ तेषु॑ धामेषु॑ स्थित्वा शृण्व॑न्ति।

Sri Vidyanaraya Swamy states that, ‘Devas’ are pockets of Cosmic energy. They are the children of the Supreme energy that is Omnipresent. These Devas stationed in their own places designated by the Supreme Power, listen to the mantras invoked by anybody from anywhere and grant that has been sought through the mantras. These Vedic sounds are not created by anybody. These are the natural sounds of infinite forms of the Cosmic energy. Great Maharshis have visualised and received these collection of sounds from Cosmos in the form of Mantras.

They started teaching them to the later generations and this process continues incessantly. The natural combination of these sounds in various mantras, invokes various forms of energy and causes a particular event to happen. Hence, the sounds in Veda mantras have their own special significance and have to be learnt only from the Veda Guru. Mis-invocation would result in disasters. The Temple is the house of Veda mantras. The priests who have learnt the Veda from a Veda Guru, with utmost devotion and dedication, invoke the right mantras in right way to receive the benefits of the mantras.

Quest for the Truth should only help us progress towards the Truth. It should not negate or discard what has been learnt already or ridicule the uninterrupted tradition of the teacher-student divine relationship. Such a progressive quest can only be quenched through the Sadguru. Veda mantras are always chanted starting with a salutation to all the Gurus, ‘SrI gurubhyO namaH’, paying respect to the tradition.





There is a story mentioned in Puranas about the Supreme place of the Guru in the Vedic tradition. A sin committed in Brahma's presence can be pardoned by Vishnu. A sin committed in Vishnu's presence can be pardoned by Siva. A sin committed in Siva's presence can be pardoned by Guru. A sin committed in Guru's presence can never be pardoned.

ब्रह्म स्थाने कृतं पापं विष्णु स्थाने विनश्यति.  
विष्णु स्थाने कृतं पापं शिव स्थाने विनश्यति.  
शिव स्थाने कृतं पापं गुरु स्थाने विनश्यति.  
गुरु स्थाने कृतं पापं आकल्पांतं न विनश्यति।  
गुरुर्ब्रह्मा गुरुविष्णु गुरुदेवो महेश्वरः  
गुरुस्साक्षात् परब्रह्म तस्मै श्री गुरुवे नमः॥

HariH OM | tatsat

