



SINGAPORE MALAYALEE HINDU SAMAJAM

സിങ്കപ്പൂർ മലയാളി ഹിന്ദു സമാജം

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Newsletter

“A Newsletter for You by You” -002/2017<<>>for Members Circulation Only

SMHS Management Committee Members

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FEBRUARY 2017

Wishing you all a belated Happy Lunar New Year!

We have no own events planned for this February.

But Samajam has taken the responsibility of conducting the Gita Chanting Competition for Gita Jayanti Celebrations. Prelims on Feb 25th and 26th and Finals on March 04th. Wish to volunteer? will be a good experience to see children and adults perform.

We will be starting the talk by Swami Chitnanada Puri of Advaita ashramam Kerala, from 1st March 2017. He is a very learned scholar. A rare opportunity for all of you to listen to another Scholar who talks straight to the point, loves questions. And answers will be from depth.

Taipusam is on Febraury 09th.

Last month's activities:

From the start of the year SVKT was busy with various Ayyappan Pujas. There were Sastha Preethi by Murali Krishnan and team, Trishathi puja which was part of the Makaravilakku Celebrations.

Bhramashree Balamurali thirumeni conducted Padi Pujas on all the three days as grant as the previous years.

The Panchakala Pujas started from 12th January and ended on 14th January. Minister for Law Mr.K.Shanmugham was the special guest for Makaravilakku day. The crowd missed the former President of the Nation Late Mr.S R Nathan. Chairman of Hind Endowment Board, Advisory board and several distinguished guests graced the occasion. The celebrations ended with a firework. The entire temple was lighted up too for the occasion.

Updating Members information: There are still a few

Regular events:

Samajam Members' Sahashranama Puja: 07:00PM

First Saturday*: for Swami Ayyappan

Third Saturday*: For Guruvayurappan

*Calender month

**Pls register your mobile number to get update of any change in time

Forthcoming Events:

Taipusam :February 9th

Gita Jayanti competitions: Feb 25&26 Final 04 March 2017

To update member's particulars & to get event info: WhatsApp or SMS to : Ajay :92387500

SMHS Advisor:

Mr Gopinath Pillai
BBM BBM(L)

Auditor:

MGI Menon &
Associates

Internal Auditors:

C S Balan
H/p: 97593907
R Asokan
H/p: 9740 6593

Legal Advisor:

Vacant

who are yet to confirm your address and update your contact particulars.

Discontinuing mails: Mails to members who are unreachable by above methods will be discontinued. Hence please make it a point to respond if you did not respond yet.

Information on your interests, details of Children/ young members in family etc: As part of our effort to organise events to give the right knowledge about our Hindu religion to our youngsters and children, we request all members to update the details of your children or grand-children who are still pursuing education.

Adults in family who are not members of Samajam are welcome to take memberships taking advantage of the present fees which are due for revision.

President's Message:

In January Samajam celebrated 50th year of Makaravilakku celebrations in Singapore!

I know the question in the minds of those who chose to miss it. What is so great about it?!

There are certain things which you should know. Reading through the memories while proof-reading the Commemorative Publication, I could see the mind of the personalities who created the event half a century ago and the ones who continued it successfully year after year.

Remember when Samajam was established? In 1926. Thus Samajam is a 91 year old organization in 2017. What is its history in the first 40 years? If any of you know, share with me. Because I cannot see any records beyond these 50 years where Makaravilakku was active. Except that Samajam was formed by one Mr.Chathukutty who was a contractor. The main purpose of Samajam that time was to ensure a decent burial for the destitute Malayalees in the event of a death. Those years I think Malayalees were all bachelors, travel to India was by sea as flights were not popular, and thus in the event of a death, the people around, the community had to the last rites. Over the years, the situation changed. Most of the people became citizens and they started living with family in Singapore.

Makaravilakku celebrations committee, appears to be a system well-planned by the elders of Samajam. Though under the auspices of Samajam, we seldom interfere in its administration. We will have members in it, but it welcomes all Swami Ayyappan devotees and give them a representation there. The funds collected for it are also kept separately, not touched by Samajam. Thus the event is run by people passionate about Swami devotion. So they always handle it with the necessary sanctity.

In other words, unlike other Samajam events, the deterioration of religious belief among the younger generation of Malayalee Hindus did not affected this event.

For a serious devotee, there are several points which will make them go deeper and deeper in Swami Ayappan devotion and chant *Swami Saranam*. On the first place, he cannot be ruled out as a myth. He is someone who can be traced back in history. <https://www.slideshare.net/dilishpillai/lord-ayyappa-myth-and-historical-facts> says Ayyappan was born on 10 January 1095 A.D. That is just 922 years ago.

Observing Mandala *Vritham* gives a hands-on experience on attaining spiritual heights just in 41 days. It is a knowledge difficult to digest and absorb by reading scriptures, trying to digest its philosophical depths. No theory, just practical.

It is a step-by-step process. By following the daily routines and chanting *Sarana manthras* at least 3 times a day with full devotion, one can feel their mind power increasing at least one step up every day. Once one complete one *Mandalam* period devotionally, the mental power would have already developed to understand the great principle of Hinduism “*tat twam asi*”. You are the same as the Lord himself!

This is the guaranteed experience for anyone who did a 100% fool-proof observance of *vritham* and chanting *Saranam* at a level of concentration to lead the mind to that level of un-interrupted focus and depth. Those who are experienced will understand what I said very easily. If anyone think your experience is not that divine, get the basics right and you will be on track.

Swami Ayyappan has given the right to his devotees to be called by his own name, Ayyappan. There are no religious barriers to go to his temple too. Dress code is same for all.

Climbing the mountain is another great experience. There cannot be any other meditation technique or yoga which can give such deep effect. The 41 mile path have several ups and downs like our life. Manoeuvring is a difficult task on layman terms. It becomes easy when one is listening carefully to the impulses the lord put into ones' mind.

Those who experienced it continued and passed it to the followers. That is how it continued for the last 50 years and I am sure it will continue for years to come too. The number of Swamis visiting Sabarimala from Singapore is increasing exponentially. 20 years back one had to quietly observe *virtham* , but now a days people travelling in flight wearing black and bare footed is a common site.

A dedicated temple for Lord Ayyappan in Singapore

We have an Ayyappan Sanctum and Guruvayoorappan Sanctum at Toa Payoh Temple. The temple has a Namboothiri to do pujas. But unfortunately *thirumeni* can do the pujas as per the Tamil system followed by the temple only. Not in the Kerala's traditional style in which he is trained. Samajam is now doing some events bringing well known priests from Kerala, such as Bhramashree Balamurali Thirumeni, former chief priest of Sabarimala, Bhramashree Radhakrishnan thirumeni and team for Chakkulathukavu Pongala, they are doing pujas as per Kerala's traditional style. Unknown to us, several of the non-malayalee Singaporean Hindus visit Kerala and its famous temples such as *Guruvayoor, Chottanikkara, Chakkulathukavu, Vaikom, Ettumanoor* etc. They like Kerala style Pujas and as such they used to ask us why we don't do Pujas in Kerala style here though we are the second largest in the Indian community in Singapore and hence must be having a population to support.

Malayalees in Singapore also wish the pujas for the main events in their house, marriages etc to be done in their traditional style. Samajam does not have a facility now to cater to this need. We too understand that many malayalees just go to the temples near their place of stay as the pujas are nothing different from Toa Payoh Temple.

In that scenario, A temple dedicated to Lord Ayyappan and doing the pujas as per Kerala temple practices will be a dream come true for both Ayyappan devotees in Singapore and the Malayalee community. The community heartily welcome the idea our advisor Mr.Gopinath Pillai had announced during the Award ceremony on 30th December 2016 at PGP Hall.

But a temple is a very costly project. Presently all Malayalees are not heading to Toa Payoh temple.

They patronise the temple closer to their house. We wish to have the support and co-operation of Malayalee Hindus to plan this project. The first assurance we need is that all of you will visit the temple regularly and patronise it.

To get connected to all Malayalee Hindus in Singapore, our website www.hindusamajam.org will have a section where all Malayalee Hindus in Singapore are requested to REGISTER. It is not membership and it does not carry any fee. This will be available from the Vishu day 14 April 2017. The form to register will have more details to fill up; related to the Individual, family their skills and talents etc so that we can contact them when we organise events. As practices vary across Kerala State, we are even getting prepared to do some specific events related to the district from which they are hailing from, in that regionilised style. People can also advice their interest in Cultural and Social activities if the details about their interests and skills are also filled up.

On Cultural side, Samajam plan to conduct Cultural events and competitions. There will be items which are useful to improve the knowledge on stories from the great epics. Our future stage shows will have some traditional temple art forms like Chakyar koothu, ottamthullal, Kathakali etc aimed to give the community an opportunity to enjoy these art forms in Singapore too.

On Social side, Samajam is making an attempt to see whether there is still any destitute Malayalees in Singapore. Helping them is one of the items in our Constitution. Activities for aging population to avoid them getting into depression, to improve their mental health etc are also in the plan.

However, we cannot do these unless we have a place for our own. Should the temple be a reality, we want it to have facilities for all these community needs. Until then a rented place is also in the plan. Activities to recover the rental cost will need all your support. Members are welcome to suggest what other areas we should be focusing on, from your experience.

Wish you all a Happy Lunar New Year! The year of Rooster!

Yours truly,
Ajayakumar Nair
President