



# SINGAPORE MALAYALEE HINDU SAMAJAM

സിക്സറ്റി മലയാളി ഹിന്ദു സമാജം

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## Newsletter

“A Newsletter for You by You” -001/2017<<>>for Members Circulation Only

### SMHS Management Committee Members

#### **President:**

K.N.Ajayakumar Nair  
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#### **Vice-President:**

V G Kumar  
Hp: 9633 3130

#### **Hon.Secretary:**

Harish OV :  
Hp: 91008400

#### **Hon.Asst.Secretary:**

Jayarajan Balakrishnan  
Hp:90883008

#### **Hon.Treasurer:**

Sonu Nair  
Hp:93383661

#### **Hon.Asst.Treasurer:**

Sujatha Nair  
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Hp:90117934

#### **Committee Members:**

Rajandren Nair:  
Hp : 9009 9139

Vineesh  
Hp:9027 4750

Geethakrishnan:  
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Hp:90668157

Kavitha Harish:  
Hp: 8168 8607

## JANUARY 2017

**The events for the month are:**

### **Makaravilakku Celebrations 2017:**

**Mahapadi Puja** : Starts from 4<sup>th</sup> Jan 2017. Mass participation will be on 6<sup>th</sup> Jan 2017.

### **Makaravilakku Celebrations: 12 th to 14<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

The 50<sup>th</sup> year Makaravilakku celebrations will be from 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> January 2017. As usual the panchakala pujas will start from the evening of 12<sup>th</sup>.

Last month's activities:

### **Guruvayur Ekadashi 2016: 10 December 2016**

**Narayaneeyam Chanting**: went well from 04<sup>th</sup> Dec to 09<sup>th</sup> Dec 2016 at the Hindu Centre, 132 Owen Road in the evening 7:00 PM to 8:30PM. The chanting ended on Ekadashi Day, 10<sup>th</sup> December at Toa Payoh Temple.

### **Makaravilakku:Starwarts award/ commemorative book Launch and performance by playback singer Srinivasan at PGP Hall:**

Mr. S .Iswaran Minister for Trade & Industry presented the awards in the presence of the Chairman HEB Mr.Jayachandran, Chairman HAB Mr.Rajan Krishnan and distinguished guests. Minister shared his own memories of being a part of Bhajan team in his younger age.

Our advisor Mr.Gopinath Pillai welcomed the audience. He said that it is time Samajam should work towards a full Ayyappan Temple matching Sabarimala rituals for the benefit of the Ayyappan devotees in Singapore. He urged the support of members and donors to raise the funds.

The 50<sup>th</sup> Year Makaravilakku commemorative book was launched by Minister Iswaran, Mr.Pillai and the office bearers of HEB and Samajam.

### 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:

**Maha Padi Puja:**  
Friday 6 Jan 2017  
Mass Participation

**Makaravilakku  
Celebrations:**  
12,13&14 January  
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

**Updating Members information:** There are still a few who are yet to confirm your address and update your contact particulars. Samajam volunteers called all members whose numbers are available.

**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:**

Our attempt to personally call all our members was an eye-opener. A good number of our life members are too old, seldom travel out of house, particularly in the evening. That's why we do not see them for our Pujas and events.

Most of their children are not members of Samajam, though some are in touch as they used to accompany their parents. Grand children are mostly unaware of Samajam.

Another lot have no much interest and seldom took part in any events. Felt spending money the newsletter is a painful commitment. Another administrative gridlock is that our AGM's can never have quorum or can never amend rules if the proportion of this category is higher.

That made me to think. What is Samajam's role in the life of our fellow Malayalee Hindus in Singapore??!

True that Hinduism does not ask followers to go to the temple on any regular interval. The temple pujas are not designed to give any education on the religion. Then how will our younger generation know and appreciate the greatness of this religion which is actually implied by this big freedom to practice it in ones' own pace? Is it okay that parents grew up our children without giving a clear idea on their religion? Do Samajam have something to do in this matter?

Everyone know that Hinduism is a way of life. But most of the Malayalee Hindus are unaware **what is that way**, they should lead their life. Definitely it does not mean that one have to do nothing to live as a Hindu. There is a path of *dharma* and there are many **Dos and Don'ts**. Older generation knew that. If you are the children or grand-children of that older generation and the lack of time during your chase for the academic excellence and subsequent raise to get the best in career prevented you from bothering about it, I think you are going to face some emptiness or even some un-security in your retirement life. You may ask so what? If that means, amnesia or depression and a life in old age home which one can otherwise avoid, perhaps it makes sense.

Those of us who are in their 40s and 50s would have even silenced our parents with your scientific knowledge and its in-compatibility with the Ramayana and Mahabharatha stories.... When man landed on Moon how it can be worshipped as a God?!

Moon still makes tides. Holes in Ozone layer, global warming all are waiting for us to make us sweat and learn the *way of life* we should have lived! Gods and goddesses with many hands full of weapons which they can move with their mind appeared to be nonsense to us. When our inventions reached high tech robots and drones, the weapons that can be moved with the mind is starting to make sense. but vet to be invented!

Time has come for a **re-think**. Time to go to parents and grandparents and ask them what was this religion all about. If they are not down with amnesia or depression, they will tell us that we Hindus start the day praying, we respect nature as mother nature, we seek permission before we step on goddess earth, respects the Sun, Moon and the nature whose proper functioning was necessary for our existence. We did *yagnas*- it was not wasting ghee that can feed the poor; it was giving oxygen to breath for the whole (hu)man-kind, weather to give rain and shine as needed and NOT to make flood, draught and calamities. We prayed to rising sun, setting sun and went to sleep praying. So when Hindus are supposed to pray? Actually it was throughout the day! Not elaborate prayers or pujas; just a remembrance and a simple chant was enough. Knowledge of our real *limitations* always presented simplicity to our character. NOT the arrogance which rules us when we think we are learned.

That is a culture... with high values. **Want to know more? Time to ask Samajam to do something to get this knowledge shared for the benefit of us and our children.**

Still powerful is the knowledge on ones own **mind**. Keeping it under control, the ancestors were able to rise into the heavens of knowledge. Learned *rishis* gave human faces to astronomy and got us to live healthy physically and mentally adopting to natural changes. Astrology even predicted how these planets moving around the sun can affect the things to happen in your very life.. that too pre-fixed at the time of birth. **A deviation from that pre-fixed path is possible only through mind control, prayers and meditation.**

Concentration and chanting of mantras could give much more brain power and strong mind without side effects that the chemical, so called medical supplements could not give. For academic excellence, should we teach our children to concentrate and meditate or to stress them putting pressure to achieve un-certain targets? **Should we give them confidence or pressure? Decision is yours. Samajam can be of use.**

Malayalee Hindus in Singapore have no much avenues to practice our own religion properly. Except for those who are associated with Missions formed by great souls like Ramakrishna/Vivekananda, Swami Chinmayananda, Sri Sai, Mata Amrithanandamayi, Sri Sri Ravishankar, Satguru etc. The rest have very little access to the Hindu values, and its application... and it's great use.

Some may argue that they wish to have an **unbiased view** of the great scriptures of Hinduism, vedas, Upanishads etc from its original meaning than through the eyes of a Mission. **Samajam will be the answer for that. We together can get educated structural and un-structured.**

It is estimated that we have about 60,000 malayalees in Singapore and at least half of them are Hindus. That means approximately there are 7500 malayalee Hindu families. **If a good majority of them can come under the one roof 'Samajam'**, the focus can be on activities and studies that can give them mental satisfaction based on their likes and comfort levels. Whether it is puja, learning to chant mantras, or sahasranamas OR talks by learned-scholars to make the high philosophical scriptures interpreted and broken down in size for us to take-in and digest in mind. We will have enough group size to cater to the 'class' size one belong to.

I am open for a dialogue. Members/ well-wishers, do you all have any view on this subject. Can share with me? Together we can work towards a mentally healthy community. Let our children be not pressurized; let them achieve grades with a peaceful mind. Let us not get depressed, withdrawn or become useless in our older ages. Let our minds be active and powerful learning the depths of this world and let us all live busy, active and healthy until our last breath.

I believe Samajam have a role to play in your life. It is mutual. Come forward with your ideas and opinions. We will do it together and make this world a beautiful place to live for our peers who are lost in the waves of the twists and turns of life.

Thanks to our advisor Shri.Gopinath Pillai for announcing that **we should have a temple for Lord Ayyappan in Singapore.**

Samajam wish that temple to be a place where we can do our religious needs in our Kerala's traditional 'tantra' method (which is different from the Tamil temples "mantra" method). The temple to be a place we grow our mother tongue and culture. Let us have place in that temple to learn more about our religion. Let that learning help us to touch the ultimate heights of this religion- the highest level of philosophical knowledge that makes 'mind control' possible, and thus live the 'way of life' where the mind revels in the high standard of rightfulness, much above *dharma* and *karma*. ( ... and 'way of life' does not mean some way of life in the lower level with no direction! At the lower level we feel we conquered many things, but in the old age when physical body gives up, the mind trying to tally the life's balance sheet will say we earned nothing, wasted resources, accumulated only liabilities... The whole life was wasted.. Haven't you heard many successful men whom we think successful lamenting this in the old age? )

Let our temple be the breeding ground for all to learn mind control techniques and to touch that eternal bliss together with all the success we want in our material life!

I am ready to drive Samajam in that direction. How about you members? Mine is a public transport service... need passengers. Waiting for all of you to come on-board.

Want all your help to navigate when we loss direction... can switch ON your GPS?

Thanks to all the new lady volunteers who helped to call all our members.

Thanks to all the male/female volunteers who came in large numbers to man various activities during the Award ceremony/book launch on 30<sup>th</sup> December 2016. Many of you are new. Happy to see your commitment and dedication.

**Wish you all a very Happy New Year 2017**

Yours truly,  
Ajayakumar Nair  
President