



THE HINDU TEMPLE SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

Šri Mahā Vallabha Ganapati Devasthanam



December 2020

Dear Devotees,

I am pleased to write to you once again seeking the benign blessings of *Sri Maha Vallabha Ganapati*, the presiding deity of our *Devasthanam* to keep us all safe and free from the cruel clutches of the present pandemic covid-19 soon and for the return of normalcy all over so that we can all move around freely as normal people.

Our *Devasthanam*, in addition to regular religious events, celebrated all important festivals in the same grandeur except without the devotees. Historic Ratha Yatra around the streets of Flushing was very much missed. Although the usual splendor, enthusiasm and participation of devotees has been regrettably absent, virtual participation was made possible for most of the festivals. In spite of the present unfortunate situation, there has been no compromise at all in following all the Agamic rituals religiously, in keeping with the tradition of our Temple in celebrating all the festivals. We regret that restrictions in number of devotees visiting the Temple and curtailing the visiting hours had to be imposed unavoidably in the interest of all concerned. I am sure the devotees can appreciate all the necessary steps taken by the Temple Management to meet the challenges posed by the pandemic.

Some cultural programs including 43rd Temple Anniversary Celebrations with Bhajans by Smt. Saavitri Ramanand and Murali Balachandran were held. Breast Cancer Drive-thru took place on October 18th and the Temple raised over \$5,000 for this cause. 'Let's Talk Science: Climate Change, Gravitational Lensing, and More!' by students of Ganeša Pātaśāla was held on November 8th and Learning Series by Akshayam continues monthly.

Our humble appeal to all the devotees to kindly support the Temple by contributing generously so that the Temple can continue to function without interruption and bring Temple services to your homes by livestreaming as many services as possible. May the blessings of *Sri Maha Vallabha Ganapati* and all Deities enshrined in our temple be with you and your family and let us fervently pray for a covid-free healthy year - 2021. I wish you all Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for the New Year!

You may please donate online at nyganeshtemple.org or by phone (718) 460-8484 ext.112. All donations are tax deductible.

Sincerely,

Dr. Uma Mysorekar

President