

Biographical Sketch

and

Personal Statement of Candidates

Donor Group

Sanjay Choubey – Nominee, Donor Group



2. Brief Overview:

Sanjay has been an Entrepreneur and an IT Leader, who most recently worked as **Vice President of IT** at Johnson Controls. Apart from the senior corporate roles, Sanjay, an Engineer, has also been in various leadership capacities (Partner/ VP) with consulting organizations such as IBM, SAP, PricewaterhouseCoopers. Sanjay is passionate about helping organizations identify and accelerate business value through digital transformation and has been helping CIOs, Presidents of various organizations.

3. Involvement with the Temple:

Sanjay has been very active member of Education and Outreach committee of Hindu Temple of Wisconsin. He has been an active member of the team, who shapes the strategy and plan for Senior's program.

Sanjay is instrumental in shaping up outreach through posters and flyers as well as management of senior's agenda for temple website.

Sanjay has also been very active member of several ongoing activities such as Sunderkand Path every month, Akhand Ramayan every year, and several other Pujas.

4. My Proposal, if get elected

There are several new propositions, in the area of Education and Senior's Program, which if elected, will be pursued

1. Initiations of religious educational initiative for Children
2. Competitive activities in the area of Classical Vocal and Instrumental for different age group
3. Continue to shape Senior's Yoga and cultural outreach

Balaji Sankaranarayanan – Nominee, Donor Group

I am an Assistant Professor in the Information Technology and Supply Chain Management (ITSCM) department at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. I completed my PhD from the Kelley School of Business, Indiana University-Bloomington, and have held academic faculty positions for the past 10 years. I have been fortunate to be a committee member of the HTW Education and Outreach Committee since March, 2017. I would like to highlight three activities we have organized in 2017-2018, which have been greatly appreciated.



First, to strengthen our outreach activities, we revamped the “HTW Experience” tour. This temple tour, requested by several outside groups, is geared towards explaining about Hinduism and our temple. I was part of the team that redesigned the tour. We have run several successful tours for middle school, high school and college students, as well as Church groups, in the past 2 years. Second, to promote educational activities among our children, we have developed children education programs at major festivals. I have actively participated in the development, and have conducted several children education programs, such as for Ganesh Chaturthi, Ram Navami, Shivarathri etc. The goal is to educate young children about the significance of each festival. Third, I have assisted the HTW seniors program through helping to conduct surveys and providing IT support. This program engages our seniors through various activities and events, such as yoga, healthcare talks etc.

Our HTW temple is a great asset to Wisconsin, which has immensely served the ambitions and needs of the Hindu community over the years. If elected to serve in the HTW Board, I would like to participate in and champion the education and outreach activities of the temple. I would like to be involved in developing more engaging educational content, to make the connection with our children – our next generation. I also hope to continue to work on outreach initiatives, through the temple tour and other promotional activities. Further, I would be glad to engage in any other activities that may require my expertise, such as in developing a stronger web presence.

Thank you for considering my nomination to serve on the HTW Board, and I look forward to many years of productive service to the HTW community!

Girish Shah – Nominee, Donor Group



Who am I?

My name is Girish Shah. I have lived in Milwaukee since 1989. Professionally, I am a management consultant and have worked for Ernst & Young, IBM, and now Logicalis. My wife is Sonal Shah. She is a teacher at University School of Milwaukee.

Both Sonal and I have supported the Hindu Temple of Wisconsin from its conception. The temple has given us spiritual comfort, as well as serve as place for us to mingle with our friends.

My Concerns

Over the last few years, I have noticed that

- The cleanliness and upkeep of the temple has deteriorated
- The enthusiasm to support the temple both financially and by volunteering has dwindled
- The long-term vision and direction of the temple is unclear

These issues lead me to conclude that the long-term sustainability of HTW is in danger. It is important that we have enthusiastic and committed leaders on the Board to address these issues.

My Priorities

The temple needs to be governed, enriched, and maintained in a manner that

- Makes us all proud by reflecting the richness and diversity of the Hindu community in Wisconsin
- Supports all spiritual seekers by embracing the Vedantic tradition of multiplicity of religious views as we promote all three forms of spiritual growth: jnana, bhakti, and karma
- Unites our community by considering and respecting all views and opinions

Why me?

I truly believe that we owe it to the visionaries that helped build this temple. The onus is on the Board members to preserve their legacy, and pass it on to the next generation. My intention is to be one of those custodians. I have been in this community a long time, and will be here for a long time. Preserving the temple is personal for me.

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Patron Group

SV Gopalratnam – Nominee, Patron Group

I have been associated with the temple from its inception and served as a board of director for several years. In the early days, as a religious committee chair person, and a board member, I was responsible for all the religious activities in the temple. I have also organized several major temple activities, such as Maharudra yagna; Kumbhabhishekam / Pratisthapana etc.

As operations committee chairperson, for this year, I am overseeing the temple activities like hall booking, priest booking, outsourcing of the cleaning services; and lawn mowing and snow plowing services etc.

I conduct Veda classes in the temple to teach chanting of Sri Rudram, Chamakam, Sukthams, Vishnu and Lalitha Sahasranamams to adults and kids.

Being semiretired, if elected, I will contribute more time for the temple and share my leadership abilities with a balanced approach in bringing the community together in fulfilling its spiritual needs.



Prashanti Pilla – Nominee, Patron Group



I, Prashanti Pilla MD, FACOG, MBA, an active OBGYN physician, have been serving, Milwaukee, and neighborhood communities for the last decade. I am married to Srinivas Mudili and have two beautiful kids who are currently in the middle school.

Having come from a strong cultural and devotional upbringing, devotion, and culture are always center of my core values. I am grateful to the people, who with their zeal and energy, made the temple happen in Milwaukee. I observed work of numerous thoughtful leaders, who provided services to the temple, and was inspired by their hard work and dedication. Rather than staying on sidelines, I started to engage in temple services, to make the difference. On observation, I realized that the biggest challenge the temple faced, was shortage of funds. As a first step, I started to make donations to the temple in my individual capacity, by contributing to the temple expansion, and other major temple events. Recently I realized that, contributions in individual capacity, though good, isn't enough to make the big difference. I became member of the 2018 fund raising committee and started to inspire other people to contribute funds, by reaching out to them, and relating to them. I sold all the tickets that were assigned to me, and am proud that I brought in new people, as donors to the temple. In my journey, I realized that people are willing to help, but they are not educated, on how.

If elected to board, I would bring in fresh energy and creative ideas to the board. Rather than looking at the same funding donors, year over year, I will come up with some innovative ideas to attract new people. I will help design programs, and develop marketing strategies, in such a way that, people willingly and happily donate money. Temple is divine, for all, active participation from all segments of the community is required. I will look at ways to promote diversity and inclusion. It's time that millennials take an active role in preserving our culture and passing it onto the next generation. I will encourage them to take an active role, for benefit of the community, and their kids. I will publicize the work and projects that the temple is undertaking. Communication is key in this day, and age. I will solicit, and encourage feedback from devotees to see what's working, what's not, and make necessary adjustments.

With MBA from renowned Kellogg Northwestern University, and my experience of managing and working with people, I am positive that I can bring in influential leadership, serve with passion, and be the torch bearer of change that will help us create a better and vibrant temple.

Amitava Sengupta – Nominee, Patron Group



Retired Engineer from GE HealthCare, WI. Long time associated & one of the founding member of HTW.

Education: Mechanical Engineer, Munich & German equivalent of MBA from Pforzheim, Germany.

Work Experience:

- Started as Design Engineer in “Wacker Werke” Construction Equip. Manufacturer in Munich.
- Transferred to Vienna manufacturing as Manager of Quality control & Lead Service trainer.
- 1983 company transferred me to USA to their Wisconsin office in Hartland.
- Past 25 years worked in GE Healthcare, primarily in Manufacturing & Regulatory affairs role.
- Opened 1st GE manufacturing in Bangalore producing MRI Tables & electronic cabinets.
- Spent a year in Mexico as Transfer Leader & setup MR Coil machining & assembly operation.
- Retired in 2015

Community involvement:

- Lead “Bharatya Sangha”, an Indian cultural association, in Munich for multiple years.
- President of Asian Moon Festival at the Milwaukee Summer Fest for three years.
- Multiple time elected as President & Treasurer of Bengali Cultural Society.
- Very familiar with 501c regulation & taxes.

Temple involvement:

- Past three years working for Temple as Caretaker & Building Manager.
- Primary role is to take care of day to day operation, maintenance & Safety of the Temple.
- Making sure all systems are operational, like Gas, plumbing, electricals, water & septic system.
- Manage Alarm system, keep Sprinkler system & Fire Extinguishers operational & Compliant.
- When possible, make repairs myself to keep the cost down before making service calls.
- Purchase & keep inventories of paper goods for kitchen. Buy fruits & flowers for puja as need.
- Helped created the Rental Agreement, Wrote contracts & work description for the office staff and Cleaning company.
- Execute unpleasant side of my job: Asking to be considerate to other devotees. Cleanup after themselves, not to park in handicap parking or not to use areas that they have not rented.

Election: If elected, I will continue help the Temple to execute above task or any other task assign to me. I have enough experience & knowledge to help Temple avoid any City & Fire code violations. Keep our Temple safe, compliant & operational as I have been doing for past three years.

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Benefactor Group

Kishore Acharya – Nominee, Benefactor Group



Dear devotees and benefactors of HTW, I am Kishore Acharya and running for a position for the HTW board. Please support me in this election by voting for me. Let me tell you about my past and present involvements with the temple and what I intend to do in future.

My involvement with the temple started from the first meeting that was held to discuss the need for a Hindu temple in the greater Milwaukee area. As the decision was finalized to build the HTW, I became a founder member of the HTW. In 2000 when the temple opened, prior to prana pratishthapana, there was one priest performing Narayana puja. During the priest's vacation for a few weeks I took the responsibility of doing both the morning and evening Narayana puja.

After the pran pratishthapana, I joined the religious committee and I am an active member of this committee to this date. As a member of the religious committee, I introduced spring and fall nine-day Navaratri celebration and Saraswati puja on the Vasanta Panchami day. I am still championing these events. I was instrumental in coordinating and introducing annual lord Jagannatha Ratha Yatra festival of Puri and monthly Jagannatha puja with the help of Orissa community.

I served on the HTW board for six years. During that time Amitava Sengupta and I installed the first sound system inside the temple, persuaded Bengali community to donate the stage lightings for the auditorium and worked with a company to install the temple Security camera system

Currently, I am also serving in the Education and outreach committee. As a team member of this I contributed in the development of a structured temple tour comprising of a power point presentation, a tour of the temple and a question answer session. Various area schools, colleges and church groups are taking advantage of this program on a regular basis. In this program I work as presenter and tour guide. I am also a part of the organizing committee of the newly introduced Senior Program.

I have a Ph. D degree in electrical engineering and worked as an image generation engineer and project leader in the field of Computerized Tomography. I have also worked as an Adjunct professor in the Milwaukee School of Engineering. If elected, I will be able to bring my administrative, technical expertise, teaching experience and religious knowledge to the HTW board. I am retired and therefore will be able to spend more time in the temple. With the permission of the board I intend to volunteer in the temple office in the morning to help devotees who comes to offer puja and expand the scope of the Education and Outreach program.,

sarve bhavantu sukhinaha

Suri Venkataraman – Nominee, Benefactor Group



Background:

I am an Engineer by profession and moved to USA in 1992 from Chennai. I grew up most of my life in Chennai and have very strong socio-cultural and human values. I have been in Milwaukee for the past 23 years right from the inception of the temple to date. I am married and have two kids who are in Universities. I believe in Spiritual Humanism, where I am inquisitive in traditional behaviors and their links to scientific humanist inquiries. I value and respect ancient beliefs and life-systems and find its fit and applicability in modern society. I have strong passion towards service to fellow beings and want to pursue my life goal more as a contributor than a consumer.

Temple Involvement:

- Cultural – Music and Dance. Have organized musical and other cultural events for HTW as part of fund raising activity.
- SEP(Spiritual Enrichment Program)- I am a strong supporter for SEP activities and how we can transform SEP to more relevant for kids of this age to have a strong “Value Foundation”.
- Religious Events – Maharudram, Brahmotsav, Ekadasa Rudram, Skanda Shashti, all weekly pujas and services.

Proposal:

Hindu culture is an expression of love, respect, honoring others and humbling one’s own ego so that the inner nature, which is naturally pure and modest, will shine forth.

Motto: Love and be loved

1. *What is the purpose of the temple and what does it bring?*

A means for mental peace, focal spot for social, spiritual needs and a source for promoting cultural, arts and science.

दुख में सुममरन सब करे, सुख में करे ना कोय |
जो सुख में सुममरन करे, तो दुख काहे को होय ||

In anguish everyone prays to Him, in joy does none
To one who prays in happiness, how can sorrow come?

1. *How is it done?*

Sath-Sangamam is the key to bring peace. Association with good people naturally will bring the great values. Acquire the power to discriminate good over evil or bad. We constantly

learn and being in association with good people will accelerate such value formation in us and over time will become a natural outcome of our self.

“The rain drop from the sky: If it is caught in hands, it is pure enough for drinking. If it falls in a gutter, its value drops so much that it can’t be used even for washing the feet. If it falls on hot surface, it perishes.

If it falls on lotus leaf, it shines like a pearl and finally, if it falls on oyster, it becomes a pearl. The drop is same, but its existence & worth depend on with whom it associates.”

The goal to develop compassion as there is no greater quality than compassion.

2. Specific Emphasis:

- a. Cleanliness & orderliness
- b. Enhance - Sanctum-Sanctorum saanithyam
- c. Value Foundation - Spiritual Enrichment opportunities – Discourses, Lectures, Katha Shravan.
- d. Music, Culture, Arts & Science – Workshops, Presentation etc...
- e. Revenue Opps:
 - i. Group Veda Parayanam - @ sponsors residence
 - ii. Group Bhajans - @ sponsors residence
 - iii. Harikatha - @ sponsors residence
 - iv. Value Foundation for Kids.
 - v. **Digital Prasad:** Database of devotee’s family, gothra, star and month, cell and email. Perform Puja and send an email.