

**Candidate: Vikram Agarwal**

**BOT Candidate**

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Dear Community members,

I am Vikram Agrawal, resident of Clifton Park and I am submitting my candidacy for a position on the BOT of the Hindu Temple.

I have been a resident of the Capital region since 1999- first arriving for my graduate studies at RPI and then founding a highly successful national software business which is headquartered in the RPI Tech Park in North Greenbush. My wife Sarika and I are blessed with three children- Rhea (10), Rishik (6) and Ronit (6). Our family is a very active participant in the temple and cultural center activities.

I have been a board member of the HCC for the past several years-I have been very active volunteering for different activities/festivals in the Temple, I have donated a lot of money to help build and improve the Temple and Cultural Center. I have been very happy to see the participation and activity increase significantly by our community members over the past few years both in the Temple and Cultural Center. At this point, a lot of work needs to be done to build upon what has been accomplished so far- the Temple has several repair and expansion projects which need to be undertaken and completed, the parking arrangements have to be beefed up and additional ideas have to be explored to help meet the increasing needs of the community.

I strongly feel that with my ongoing participation and contribution to the Temple activities, I can play a very effective role in working with the team members of the both the Temple and HCC to push forward and implement these various expansion and improvement projects.

I look forward to your support for my candidacy and working with the various teams in building on what has been already been achieved with a lot of hard work and dedication.

Sincerely  
Vikram

**Candidate: Kishor Bagul**

**BOD Candidate**



Dear Friends,

My name is Kishor Bagul, resident of Loudonville NY would like to submit the candidacy as a Board of Directors for our Albany Hindu Temple Cultural Center, provided our community would like me to do so, by electing in our annual election on November 20<sup>th</sup> 2016.

To provide brief background about me, I have been living in capital region for last 18 years or so, from the week I came to Albany I have been involved with the temple in one or other capacity. More than ten years ago I have also served as Board of Trustee for our Hindu Temple and worked on various projects and activities that could leverage my time, efforts and expertise. My involved started prior to the ground breaking of our Cultural Center building and I have firsthand knowledge of efforts went in to build this facility, countless efforts put in by our community members, and very generous donations that came in big and small chunks to make this Hindu community dream a reality. I am fully committed to success and continual growth for the Hindu Temple as well as Community Center and it will be privilege to serve again

In addition to my professional leadership roles and positions in past, I have also served on multiple other non-profit boards where activities to support education, skills enhancements, economic development and building better communities.

Upon elected as Board of Director, I would like to bring more unity to community by support of building better leadership teams, right projects and initiatives and help drive the goal of our organization to the next level. The prior and existing board members have done terrific jobs so far and I feel that momentum needs to be increased where every community member can enjoy social company, learn our culture and heritage and worship to god for peace and prosperity.

Thank you all!

God be with us.

**Candidate: Jivji Desai**

**BOT Candidate**

I have lived in the Capital District for 35 years. Since that time till today, I have always helped and worked for Temple in various capacities. I was a BOT member for three terms during '80s and '90s. During the construction of our new Temple, I was actively involved in supervising the construction of this beautiful temple. That time we did not have much money to work, so we have to do lots of work on our own. I am so proud to see the growth of our temple. I am one of the two individuals responsible for hundi collection, gathering cash and all other collections every month for the past 20 years. I have provided extensive support during all major religious celebrations of the temple. Temple has trusted me so long time with this duty. In addition, I receive all emergency calls from our security contactor for both Temple and HCC, even during the night time, and respond to them by visiting Temple before fire and police department arrive there to provide full access to them.

As a BOT candidate, I will share my experience and knowledge and my feeling towards better functioning of both Temple and HCC, and work to keep temple's dignity. I want to support Temple expansion and Cultural Center dining area expansion. In my retirement, I want to devote more time to the Temple. I feel Temple needs to focus more on unity and harmony among all our members, and I want to actively support such efforts.

**Candidate: Tara Dharan**  
**BOT Candidate**

Namaskar, Albany Hindu Temple Community

I am one of the contestants for the Board of Trustees for the Hindu Temple Society this year.

I would like to introduce /reintroduce myself to all of you. I have been a part of the Albany Hindu Community for the past fifteen years.

I was born and brought up in New Delhi to South Indian parents. I am a Certified Management Accountant. I also did a three month volunteering at the Temple to learn how it is run a few years back.

My first year as a trustee I was the editor of the Devalaya Vaani the Temple newsletter, and my second year I was part of the executive committee as the membership secretary. I recruited quite a few members that year! This current year I was voted to become the Vice Chairman, and in this capacity I have managed to get the Safe Deposit Locker opened after 4 years, take inventory of Temple valuables, and uphold the Constitution.

I am a regular attendee at all of the Temple's religious and cultural activities and volunteer at the DVD desk often. Since I am a people person, and not afraid to voice my opinions I have made my presence felt. If you place your trust in me and vote for me as a Trustee, I promise to continue to serve you to the best of my ability.

Thanks for giving me this opportunity to serve all of you.

Tara Dharan



## Candidate: Vijay Oruganti

### BOD Candidate



Dear Friends,

My name is Vijay Oruganti and I would like to humbly request your vote for the BOD position in the upcoming Temple elections. I have been serving in this position for the past two years and look forward to complete my term by serving another year if elected.

#### **My background:**

I was born near Vizag India, raised in Mumbai and have been living in Albany for the past 19 years with my wife (Rama) and children (Vikram and Somida). I hold a degree in Electronics engineering from Bombay University and currently work as a Client Support Analyst in a local Telecom software company.

Like a lot of fellow immigrants of my generation my journey to this great nation is a confluence of the boom in the IT sector combined with my determination to pursue a better life. After a couple of short stints in Michigan and Florida, destiny brought me to Albany just like a feather carried by a breeze. With a beautiful Temple so close to home and a warm community, Albany is a little India in the heart of New York, just the right place to settle down.

In my time here, I have seen the Temple grow steadily and the HCC constructed from the ground up. This work needs to continue so we can keep up with the steadily growing needs of our community. Our Temple is the melting pot that unites our community and allows us to practice our religion and rich culture thousands of miles away from its birth place.

I realize the Temple and HCC were made possible by the foresight, generosity, sacrifice and hard work of my seniors many of whom still continue to serve selflessly. I feel proud to be a member of our Temple and strongly believe that being a member is the least we can do to support and strengthen our Temple if we want to persevere our religion, our culture and pass it on to our future generations. I would like to take this opportunity to urge anyone reading this note to become a Temple member if they aren't already.

Finally, I am happy to see that we have more nominees for the BOD this year and would like to assure you of my continued service to the community irrespective of the election results.

Sincerely,

Vijay Oruganti

**Candidate: Arjun Patel**

**BOT Candidate**

Please accept this as my formal announcement as a candidate for the Board of Trustees. It has been an honor serving the Temple as Treasurer for the past three years. Specifically overseeing both the Temple and Cultural Center facilities. In addition, it was especially rewarding to be involved with the Kumbhabhishekam held in June this year and most recently the annual Diwali celebration.

If elected by the GBM, my goals and objectives for the next three years are as follows:

1. Develop and execute the plans for Temple expansion as approved by the GB last year. With your blessings and support, I will ensure the construction is completing on time and within the budgets established to meet the growing needs of our Temple community.
2. As our community has grown, the demands on the Cultural Center have as well. I will take an active role in the expansion of the dining hall in similar fashion as the Temple expansion. Maintaining a focus on time as well as budget.
3. I think a routine maintenance plan for both the Temple and Cultural Center would yield big dividends from both a cost and pride standpoint for all our devotees. If elected, I will make this an immediate focal point.
4. As our footprint and congregation expands, security must be addressed. I would make it a point to make sure that our assets and people are always safe by choosing the proper surveillance system and other security measures are implemented to prevent and mitigate all risk/liability.
5. I will continue to serve our community during the most difficult of times by coordinating funeral arrangements with local providers.
6. Last but certainly not least in my priorities, as demonstrated during my tenure, I am ALWAYS on standby to assist with all the needs of the Temple, Cultural Center and Priest's Quarters at any time.

I would welcome the opportunity to serve our amazing community for years to come and greatly appreciate your vote!

Sincerely,



Arjun C. Patel

**Candidate: Dr. Gattu Rao**

**BOT Candidate**

Dear devotees,

My name is Gattu N Rao MD want to introduce myself as a candidate contesting for BOT.

I have been associated as a member, volunteer, Trustee, coordinator of some major Religious events and Festivals and Cultural Programs and Fundraising events for the Temple since 1980, before the New Temple was built. I have organized events getting many local Americans attending so they become aware of our Cultural and Social Traditions. Coordinated many Fund Raising events in and outside of the Temple before the cultural center was built, like Annual Temple Dinners. I have served the Society as Trustee, Religious committee chair, Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees, and as Chair of the Board of Trustees few times and coordinated the Prana Prathistapana of the Dieties in the New Temple when New Temple was built. In the years that I was not a trustee I continued as a volunteer and coordinated for the Temple Activities. My wife and my family actively participate and help. I have actively participated in in the First Kumbhabhisekam 12 years ago and this year's Kumbhabishakem by raising funds.

I also visit other Temples and have learnt a lot from their religious and social and educational functions and witnessed expansions from time to time. My wife and I participate in majority of our Temple functions and coordinate some and feel during some of them that we need to explore the possibilities of expansion of our Temple. They include some of the major functions like Sri Ganesh Chaturthi, Sri Rama Navami, Sri Krishna Janma Astami, Dasara and Deepavali, when more than one Pujas are necessary by different groups of our community almost at the same time or day. When more than one event is organized both in HCC and Temple the Parking lot also becomes a issue. I will be willing to put forth my suggesions before the BOT and Community. As our Community is growing steadily as also our needs it is time that we consider some of the suggesions mentioned above. At some time we should consider some place for Library and a gift shop as most Temple have.

Most of you know me and while I solicit your kind support to get elected as BOT member , I assure you that my commitment will continue for our Temple and Community what ever may be the election results. May God Bless us all. Best wishes for a very Happy Holiday Season.

Gattu N Rao MD

## **Candidate: Sachin Shah**

### **BOD Candidate**

Dear friends,

My name is Sachin Shah. I have been living in Albany area for about 14 years with my wife (Abhijna) and 2 children (Sia and Soham).

My family has been associated with the Hindu Cultural Center (HCC) since its inception. As we have seen HCC growing over the past few years, we have contributed to its growth and expansion, with contributions to kitchen projects, basement project, fund raising events, parking project etc. We have also been working as organizers and volunteers for many events including Grand Diwali Celebration, Navaratri/dandiya celebration, Annakut, Heritage class and Sunday brunches. My kids are integral part of HCC activities and have been taking part in dances, heritage class, summer camps and other religious/cultural activities.



We are invested in being a part of this growing community, bringing in unity and fellowship for the devotees. With the unprecedented growth of our community in the area, the HCC needs more dedicated members as it continues to grow and expand with the community. I have been fortunate enough to contribute as a volunteer and now I thought it's time for me to be a dedicated member of the board to bring expansion of the HCC to the next level and effectively implement the goals and visions for HCC. I'm requesting your support for my candidature for the Board of Directors (BOD) position in the upcoming elections.

If given an opportunity, I am interested in serving the cultural center in several areas to my professional experience including education, technology, fund raising and finances. I am also interested in:

- Working with other board members in laying out short term and long term goals;
- Providing oversight and support around policy development, organizational alignment and compliance;
- Implementing a sustainability model to increase HCC revenue;
- Bringing more diversity to the temple/cultural center thru introduction of new religious, cultural and educational program;
- Establishing a feedback loop by constantly having a dialogue with the community either through surveys or frequent General Body Member's meetings;
- Bringing consistency and transparency in communication;
- Studying the existing bylaws to identify gaps and help make amendments that benefits everyone.



**Candidate: Amritesh Singh**

**BOT & BOD Candidate**

I, Amritesh Singh is a candidate for election to the Board of Trustees and Board of Directors. I have been residing in the Capital District since (1987) I was a student studying for Undergraduate and Master's Degree in Accounting & Taxation at SUNY, Albany. Since my graduation, I have worked as an Auditor at the NYS Comptroller office and in the NYS Department of Health. I now have management responsibility for people and have to ensure proper accounting of NYS revenue of Two Billion Dollars. This professional environment has taught me the value of Transparency, following strictly the rules laid out by the Legislature and fairness, particularly in handling public funds. The faith of the community in Government and in our case our Temple organization rests on close adherence to these principles.

Me and my family have been very active in our temple ever since we came to the Capital District. At one point I was the youngest person elected to BOT (two successive terms). My professional background has always propelled me to take on the duties of Treasurer whenever, I had been in BOT. I took 17 years off from BOT activities after my two terms in BOT were over to address my primary responsibility of caring for my family.

Even while when I have not been in BOT, I and my family including my children have been active in the Religious activities of the temple in Organizing and helping others in organizing, festivals like Ram Navami, Janamashtami over many years. This year we started a new initiative of monthly Durga Chaalisha which is gaining popularity.

It is my hope to encourage BOT to observe the rules of fairness to all in facilitating opportunities to participate and initiate new activities in the temple. Our Temple community has seen uptick in the number of devotees last few years. BOT needs to recognize their needs and help them assimilate and make our Temple all inclusive.

I seek your vote to help me to make the Temple an organization for all new and old, donors or commoners, for all whether we are from North or South.

Please Vote and Support me.