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Albany Hindu Temple BOT Nominee: Dr. Gattu N. Rao MD



Dear Sirs/Madams,

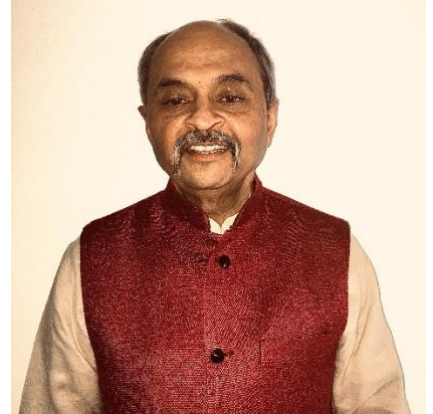
I am a humble and dutiful servant to our Albany Hindu Temple Society (HTS) community since 1975. Having arrived to America in 1971 and upon completion of my Medical residency and surgical fellowships training in the NYC area, my wife and I decided to relocate our family (3 Daughters and 1 Son) to the blossoming Upstate NY region. We sought to help create and foster a thriving Hindu community and thus became active inaugural participants in our present day Temple community.

Over the years I have played a variety of roles in catalyzing and ensuring positive momentum. Having been Chairman of the Board of Trustees (4 times) and Vice-Chairman of the Board of Trustees (7 times) throughout the years, I am very knowledgeable and familiar with our organization's operations and understand how to ensure effective governance and collaboration. I was part of the team that helped us build our current Temple and relocate from the Old Temple (now Priest Quarters) as well have led a significant variety of religious and cultural endeavors, over the last 40+ years, to reflect a positive impact for our greater capital region community. Furthermore I have recruited local and federal officials to speak and partake in our programming as a way of helping raise awareness and sought to increase diverse participation in our community. My family and I have participated and/or led significant fundraising campaigns, cultural, and religious programs for our Temple community over the years. Among many, one of my personal important achievements was fundraising and leading the Nagadevathas and Navagraha deity installations.

My vision for our Hindu Temple Society community is simple...to help grow and foster a positive and enriching experience for our devotees that aims to build bonds, collaborate, and celebrate the diversity and beauty of our religion and culture. As well we are in great need to further our Temple's religious facilities areas to accommodate a better experience for religious rituals. I am and will always be a dedicated servant to our Temple and community. I humbly request your vote and continued support to ensure our community's prosperous growth over the years ahead. May the Gods and Goddesses Bless you all...

Albany Hindu Temple BOT Nominee: Rohit Dagli

My name is **Rohit Dagli**, and I am a candidate for the upcoming elections to the Board of Trustees (BOT) for the Hindu Temple Society of the Capital District, NY. I am truly thankful to Late Shri Arjunbhai Patel for encouragement and giving me an opportunity to volunteer and work with the Hindu Temple Society & BOT. I moved to the Capital District in 1987 and I have been working in the New York State Department of Transportation designing bridges and structures.



In BOT, I have been working as Joint Treasurer as well as Treasurer since the sudden demise of late Shri Arjunbhai Patel. In my capacity, I have exercised additional controls following accounting practices and policies consistent with Non-Profit Charitable Organizations. I am also a member of Bereavement Committee.

If elected, I plan on serving as treasurer continuing my efforts to follow the HTS constitution, modernize and improve the HTS accounting process and follow principles for operation of NON-PROFITABLE CHARITY ORGANIZATION.

We all are aware of the effects of Covid-19 pandemic since February/March 2020 and the steps HTS have taken to stop the spread and protect all devotees. As a member of BOT, we organized a covid vaccine camp and placed new operating policies for the services offered by HTS at the temple or priest visits. Now as we are returning to normal operations of the temple with various services, our primary focus will be to work towards Health and Safety of our community while providing Religious Services to all devotees. Religious Services are the foundation as well as the social fabric of our culture.

I will continue to work towards ensuring smooth operation of our Temple and provide all important Religious Services for our community.

Thank you all for giving me an opportunity to serve our community.

Sincerely,

Rohit Dagli

518-859-2384

Albany Hindu Temple BOT Nominee: Sangeeta Raizada



I, Sangeeta Raizada will be contesting for a BOT position in this year's upcoming elections. I've been living in this area since 1995 with My husband Deepak & 2 beautiful kids.

In my first term as BOT member, I served as a membership secretary for a year as well as religious committee member for the past three years. During this time, I closely worked with our team to ensure every event in the temple was a successful one. I've been organizing Maata ki chowki for several years at our temple. With all your support, I will be able to continue the good work done by my team members. My goal is to always stay impartial and preserve the sanctity of this institution. Temple is a very sacred place and I want to bring the community together & move forward in a positive light. I sincerely hope you consider me worthy to serve our community and support me by giving your valuable vote. Namaste!

Albany Hindu Temple BOT Nominee: Smita Jain

Namaste नमस्ते 🙏



I am Smita Jain. I work in the healthcare field. I have been living in the capital region area for several years. I am contesting for the Board of Trustee position for Hindu Temple Society.

I enjoy volunteering in my community, and I have been doing volunteer work at Albany Hindu Temple for many years. Recently volunteer HTS Covid -19 Vaccination Camp and in the past

I helped with so many religious and cultural events including Hindu Temple summer camp for kids.

Beside Albany Hindu temple locally I have been doing volunteer work @ Tri City India Association, Festival of Nations, Jain Society of capital district and Local health care organization etc.

For Tricia I have served as Vice President in the year 2019. I have played a major role in leading different events like cultural programs, woman's day, republic day and outdoor events.

I am a highly passionate community volunteer with an impressive work ethic and skilled in motivating others for the purpose of fund-raising.

I would like to be a part of the HTS organization and work towards its success together with other members.

I need your kind support to vote for me.

Thanks

धन्यवाद

Smita Jain

Albany Hindu Temple BOT Nominee: Ashish Jain

My name is Ashish Jain and I'm contesting for a position in the Board of trustees at the Hindu Temple Society. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you.

For the past several years, you might have seen me in and around the temple assisting with various temple initiatives, doing volunteer work, and helping in improving the temple experience for all our devotees. This has given me firsthand knowledge and experience about temple proceedings, and this positions me as an ideal candidate to serve the Hindu community in the capital region through the Board of trustees at Hindu Temple Society. Temple is giving me an opportunity to serve the community and I believe it's a great privilege for any individual.

My wife Yojna, my daughter Vidhi and I moved to the United States in 2009. My company, where I am still working after 12 years, transferred me from India to the US on a 2-year job assignment. After the assignment I tried to move back to India multiple times, but of course, life had different plans for me. In Dec 2011, we were blessed with two amazing little twin boys, Aman and Naman, to make us a family of five. My father lives in India and visits us almost every year during the summertime. I think I've got my traits from my father as he is an active volunteer in a Jain Temple in India and has served in the temple's management for a long time. We practice Jainism, however, to achieve the highest level of true Jainism is a long and arduous path.

Hindu temple society already does a great job of bringing the Hindu Community together. I am delighted to note that so many amazing people are willing to serve the temple community by joining the management team as a board of trustees. All the candidates are great and I'm sure they will do a fantastic job. If I get elected, my efforts as Board of Trustee would center on attracting more people to this wonderful religious place. I'll use my experience to assist the management in taking this place to new heights by promoting and introducing new programs. I am grateful that you took the time to go through my candidature and read my profile, please do consider voting for me if you are looking for commitment, resourcefulness, and loyalty in the candidate. Irrespective of my election, I'll continue to be a dedicated member and contribute selflessly to the betterment of the temple and community as it gives me happiness, joy, and a sense of satisfaction.

Community service experiences:

- Member, Religious Committee, Hindu Temple Society, Year 2021
- Joint treasurer & Treasurer, Board of trustees, Hindu Temple Society, Years 2018-2020
- Constitution Review Committee: Member, HTS, Year 2020; Member, TRICIA, Year 2021
- Nomination election Committee: Member, TRICIA, Year 2020 & 2021
- Treasurer, Parents Teacher Association (PTA), Loudonville Elementary School 2019 – till date.
- Director, Jain Society of Capital district, Years 2018 – till date.

Things I am proud of:

- Assistance rendered to organize bus tours for our community from Hindu temple society and Jain society of the capital district.

Adopt-a-roadside cleaning, Lead, Section of Albany-Shaker Road, Year 2017 - 2019



Albany Hindu Temple BOT Nominee: Rajesh Ramamurthy

I am a long term member of Hindu Temple Society. I have been associated with our temple as a devotee and volunteer for various temple functions over the past many years. I have been parent, teacher and coordinator of the children's Heritage Classes (currently Bala Vihar) since 2009 until present. I am keenly interested in Samskritam, Srimad Bhagavad Gita and other topics of Indian Culture as well.

I take great joy participating in temple pujAs, yagnas and ceremonies and believe we have a wonderful space for doing Spiritual Sadhana. We are indeed blessed with dedicated priests. I support the growth and development of both the temple and its devotees. Our community's elders have indeed nurtured and bequeathed us a precious institution. With great foresight they have created this institution when none existed before out of their vision and passion. I support economically feasible infrastructure needs of the temple for the future.

Managing this temple's affairs in a dharmik manner attracting keen participation of our next generation of youth is of utmost importance. Towards this end, deliberative and transparent decision making in BOT meetings is an important principle that I support. Over the past few years there have been some consequential decisions e.g., cancellation of 2020 elections, that I have consistently opposed. I support for the following imperatives:

- Accountability: In ethics and governance including access for internal/external auditors
- Constitution: Abidance with the spirit of HTS Constitution as it is a comprehensive document
- Empower: Enable and entrust the next generation to cherish/nurture their rich heritage
- Engagement: Empathy and respect in engagement with the community and facilitate conversation and feedback.
- Transparency: Advocate for membership participation and input in BOT meetings
- Defense: Advocate for fair and just response to Hindu Dvesha (bias) with external community

Of late, there has been a concerning trend towards Hindu Dvesha, (anti Hindu bias) from certain quarters in USA (e.g. Swastika issue). In this context, I believe it is important for us to understand these challenges faced and communicate effectively within and outside our community as well as engage with civic officials to raise their awareness on such matters and offer them the correct perspectives on Hinduism.

I look forward to your support of my candidacy for HTS BOT.

Albany Hindu Temple BOT Nominee: Ved Shravah

Dr. Ved Shravah, a candidate for the Board of Trustees at the Hindu Temple Society comes from a scholarly family in India with both of his parents being very strong Vedic and Sanskrit scholars. His father was a pro-Chancellor of Banaras University and mother being the first woman to get Ph.D. Shastri and Ved - Acharya degrees from Banaras Sanskrit University and won the President's Gold Medal.

Ved was raised in a very scholarly family and his own mother tongue was Sanskrit as both parents were conversing in Sanskrit only. He had the privilege of learning the Vedas, Upanishads, Panini's Grammar and Sanskrit literature at a very early age under his mother's guidance.

Ved currently works in the office of State Assessment in the Department of Education at Albany as Mathematics Content Specialist and has lived in Albany for the last 16 years. Prior to that he has taught Applied Mathematics at, SUNY New Paltz; SUNY Stonybrook, and at the University in Iowa.



Ved has served in BOT for six years before, in BOD for 6 years and in BOG for one year and have served our community with dignity bringing everyone together in exceptional harmony.

His leadership style has been appreciated at his work place where he is serving as President of NYSED Employees association, as council leader of his Union of Professional Employees Federation (PEF), Chairman of the statewide Health and safety Committee, and member of the statewide E Board.

Dr Shravah was elected by his community to one of the largest school districts of New York State, the Wappingers Board of Education and served for 19 years as Board Member and President of the Board managing a \$250,000 budget and more than 2000 employees. He was elected as a Trustee of the Dutchess County BOCES and served for 6 years. He is also President of Wappingers Education Foundation.

Ved Shravah has also served on TRICIA BOARD as secretary of the organization and was honored by TRICIA at the Republic Day Celebration by TRICIA leadership for his contributions to TRICIA.

His vision for the Temple is:

1. Working together as a team in cooperation with the community.
2. Educating non Hindu Communities and Colleges and Universities about Hinduism and our values of Universal Brotherhood. ,
3. Running meetings with dignity and decorum by following the Roberts Rules.
4. Honoring our senior citizens who have contributed to build our temple and cultural center.
5. Being fair and bringing harmony to serve the temple.
6. Etc.

Albany Hindu Temple BOT Nominee: Ramana Allena

My name is Ramana Allena. I have been living in the Capital District area for more than 24 years with my wife Niraja Allena. I along with Niraja have been volunteering at the temple and HCC for several years and worked with organizers of various programs such as Sunday Brunch, COVID vaccination program and various cultural and religious events. I'm contesting for a Board of Trustee position in the upcoming HTS elections and seek your support for the continuity of progress made at HTS over the past several years in providing religious services to our community and promoting our culture. Our culture has rich heritage of diversity, and I'm a firm believer of unity in diversity. I always work for oneness of our community. One need not be a Board member to be a volunteer for HTS. However, to bring in a change, official board membership helps. If elected, I will work with other members in analyzing the current processes and procedures of HTS, identify opportunities to improve, and introduce automation so that we operate consistently, efficiently, and cost effectively. I think this is needed to maintain our records accurately, with a growing community in the area. **I will continue to offer my voluntary support to our beloved HTS organization, whether elected or not.**



Albany Hindu Temple BOT Nominee: Dr. Sashidhar Reddy MD, MBA

- Temple member for 35 years. Entire family are devotees of the temple.
- Past member Board of trustees and Board of Governors.
- Made contributions to the old and new temple over the years.

I am contesting for Board of Trustee membership.

I believe in entire community involvement of the temple with strong leadership. We are entering a new digital age with many challenges. This requires wisdom of the elders and energy and new age knowledge of the youth.

Please give me your vote of confidence and trust to be part of new guiding team for the temple.

Albany Hindu Temple BOT Nominee: Amritesh Singh



I, Amritesh Singh is a candidate for the Hindu Temple Board of Trustees (BOT) election. I have been residing in the Capital District since (1987) when 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/ Accountant 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 Three 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.

My family and I 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. Since then, I continued to serve the Temple community, while also paying attention to my family responsibilities.

Myself 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, Akhand-Ramayan Paath, Janamashtami, Temple Anniversary, Navratri** etc...over many years. Several years ago we started a new initiative of monthly **Durga Chaalisa** which is gaining popularity. Even during Covid-19 Lockout we successfully organized the programs in the Temple by following all the rules. Just last weekend all the **side-sanctorums** were cleaned and **Poshaaks** of all the deities were changed and **Alankaars** were done for the Diwali Celebrations.

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, from all parts of India.

Please Vote and Support me.

Hari Om Tat Sat (हरि ॐ तत सत)

Amritesh Singh

Nishkam Karmath Sevak (निष्काम कर्मठ सेवक)

Albany Hindu Temple BOT Nominee: VV Rami Reddy Muppidi

Namaskar!

I am, **VV Rami Reddy Muppidi**, contesting for a Board of Trustee (BOT) position in the upcoming elections of Hindu Temple Society (HTS).

I am a life member of our temple and a resident of Albany area for over 20yrs. I am a volunteer with passion for community service to work towards the growth our institution, I also would like to continue to maintain the integrity and the transparency of HTS.

As a current member of Board of Trustees, I am serving on membership committee as well as other committees.

Also, I have the great privilege of serving our community through Tricia as a Board of Director (BOD) and previously as a Tricia Executive Committee (EC) member. In addition to that I was Albany Telugu Association (ATA) President in 2015 and ATA Board of Director in 2013. Over the years, as a volunteer I have promoted and participated in numerous activities through all these non-profit organizations just like our Hindu Temple Society.

With your support, I would like to serve our community to accomplish its goals with great vigor and enthusiasm.

Please consider your support to my candidacy.

Sincerely,
V V Rami Muppidi

Albany Hindu Temple BOT Nominee: Mithilesh Kumar

I thank NEC for giving us an opportunity to reach out to members. I would like to first say a few words about my background as many temple members are not familiar with my antecedents.

I am an Electrical Engineer by profession. I have also done MBA from XLRI, Jamshedpur and Master's Certificate in Project Management from George Washington University, Washington DC.

After graduating from Engineering college, I started working with Telco (Now Tata Motors) in Jamshedpur. I worked there for more than 31 years, reaching a Senior Management position. After this I took early retirement and migrated to US when all my three children started living and working in USA. The idea was to live closer to children but independently at my own. Two of my sons have graduated from American Colleges— MIT, Boston and RPI, Troy. My daughter who is eldest, has done B.Sc. from Delhi University and MBA from IMDR Pune and again from Xavier's University in Cincinnati.

I have been living in this town with my wife for 16 years now. I was an annual member of temple for last many years. This year I became a life member. I came to this town, when I got a State Govt job of Mechanical Construction Engineer with OGS. My job was mostly in Greene, Columbia, and Ulster counties. I worked for OGS for approx. 9 years after which I got a position of Project Manager in The State Office of Information Technology Services, where I am still working for last 7 years.

While in Jamshedpur, I was actively associated with many professional and voluntary bodies, organizing events, giving technical talks at local and National levels. I also held State level office of General Secretary for 3 years with Indian Institution of Plant Engineers.

While in Albany, I have been actively associated with our Union - PEF. For several years I was a steward, representing fifty members. For last 3 years I was an Executive Board member, representing approx. five hundred members. I have been Secretary of PEF Indo American Committee for three years and now its treasurer for last three years. For last three years I was also on Statewide IT committee of PEF. I have been involved with organizing union events and taken part in volunteering for charitable work.

With my very diverse exposure to various social groups in India and in US, good education, managerial training and experience, I am confident to become a valuable addition to the Temple BOT team, if elected.

I am quite hopeful that members of the temple will extend their support and get me elected.

If elected, I would strive to work for the following-

- Promote Good Teamwork and interpersonal relationship among all board members.
- Try to create synergy among board members having talents in diverse field.
- Continuous Improvement- even small improvements done regularly results in a big improvement over time.
- Respect democratic values and respect constitutional provisions. Will support having at least one general body meeting in a year to report programs, policies and accounts to the general membership and seek their views and comments for major policy decisions.
- Create an egalitarian atmosphere in temple, treating all devotees equally and with respect. Discourage feudal practices and VIP mentality. All are equal in the abode of God, that is Temple.
- Will work for Excellence in all aspect of temple work and providing services to the devotees.

Albany Hindu Temple BOT Nominee: Jhansi Putta

We have been actively involved with Hindu temple over 45 years since its inception. As it was important to us to instill Hindu faith and values to our children, we have been fully involved with our temple activities etc. Both my kids have good memories of their attendance and activities at both old and new temple. They both talk fondly of those days events and participation. I like to see this to continue with all the growing families and will work towards that goal.

Accountability is most important to me. Each and everyone involved with temple funds and accounts should be open to any audits.

My commitment is to bring compromise to the table in discussions and move forward with our temple goals. President Biden said Compromise is the key.

Abiding by the temple constitution bylaws by the entire temple administration is equally important to me and our society.

I would like to create interest in our members in Community service. Our members are for fortunate to be among the middle class people in the capital district which has supported us We should try to serve the community to the extent we can. I remember those days when we joined Jewish community by serving Easter dinner along with Jewish temple team and to many locals. The event "Hindus and Jews served Easter dinner" was on the local news. We have included other religious groups in many other events too. We hope to continue in many such service projects to be a part of the local community which supported us in this promised land.

I like to continue to serve the temple and our community. I hope you will give me the chance to do so.

Thank you.

Jhansi Putta

Albany Hindu Temple BOT Nominee: Sarika Agarwal

Dear Community members.

I am Sarika 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 2004. My husband Vikram and I are blessed with three children-Rhea(15), Rishik(11) and Ronit(11). Our family is a very active participant in the temple and cultural center activities.

I have been a very active volunteer for different activities/festivals in the Temple. My family has 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. And finally, we are emerging from the lockdown and closures from the pandemic. At this point, a lot of work needs to be done to build upon what we have accomplished so far-the temple has several repair and expansion projects which need to be undertaken and completed. As you might have seen, the capacity of our temple is very limited compared to the expansion in our community population over the last 10 years. Basic facilities such as drainage, bathrooms, size of the temple etc. must be repaired and modernized so that our temple can meet the needs of our growing community. Rather than focusing on these items, I find it very disheartening to see some community members focus on spreading negativity and false rumors rather than working collectively to address the needs of the community and the temple.

I strongly feel that with my ongoing participation and contribution to the Temple activities, I can play a very effective role in working with other team members of 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 a lot of what has already been achieved with a lot of hard work and dedication.

Sincerely

Sarika

Albany Hindu Temple BOT Nominee: Vupputuri Srinivasarao

Dear Devotees,

Sarve Jana Sukhino Bhavantu. God bless you all.

Before introducing myself, I would like to thank all those founders of Albany Hindu Temple. For their Vision, Dedication, Endurance, Practicality, Time and Donations. They lay the foundation for this vibrant community that we have it today. It is our responsibility to continue the traditions of Sanatana Dharma.

This is Srinivasarao Vupputuri, filed the nomination papers for Albany Hindu Temple BOT position. With your blessings and God's grace, I would like to serve Albany Hindu Temple Community with more involvement.

Sanatana Dharma and Indic Traditions are dear to me.

As wise men said that for the smooth functioning of any organization

1) Greater Good for "Most People"* must be the corner stone for conducting activities.

2) Dissent of "Some People" should be heard, but rule (1) prevails in most cases.

"*" higher the percent and closer to one hundred percent is the better.

If you give me the opportunity to serve Albany Hindu Temple, would like to bring the following points for discussion in front of Temple Management. It is totally up to the management to consider or sideline these points. Some of the points may be outside the scope of Albany Hindu Temple Constitution. Such points can be sidelined.

1) Temple Finances:

a) Find ways to increase the revenue.

b) Reduce the operating expenses as much as possible.

c) Address the short term and long term financial goals, commitments and sustainability

2) Temple premises and properties:

a) Upkeep and maintain temple premises to a higher standard

b) Fence the Temple property by soliciting donations from public (not touching existing Temple Funds)

c) Walking/Jogging path along the border of the Temple property, so devotees can perform Parikrama and also gain health benefits

3) Propagation of Sanatana Dharma ethos and Indic Civilizational values:

a) Community outreach to Students of all ages in Schools and Colleges in Capital District Area.

b) Reach out to the "greater community" to spread good words and deeds

c) To perform the above (a) and (b), a dedicated group of volunteers can be constituted and tasked and supported by all means.

d) Periodic public possessions can be conducted with prior permission from concerned authorities in a designated spaces and places.

e) Sanatana Dharma tourism must be encouraged across the country by organizing, arranging and cooperating with interested individuals and entities.

God bless you all.

Regards

Srinivasarao Vupputuri