



PERSATUAN BRAHMIN MALAYSIA

(BRAHMANA SAMAJAM, MALAYSIA)

No. Pendaftaran 829 (Selangor)

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MEMBERS' CIRCULAR

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1. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The grandeur of the Sri Rama Navami celebrations this year was enhanced by the presence of Udayalur Sri Kalyanaraman and party. The Bhagavathar, who today is the leading exponent of sampradhaya bhajanai, conducted the utsavam according to tradition and enlightened the community on the relevance of Nama sangeerthanam. Our heartfelt thanks to him for his inspiring presence and participation and we hope the bhagavathar will continue to grace future Samajam activities. The troupe's expenses were fully sponsored by a group of members and the Bhagavathar was magnanimous enough to donate a sum of RM 1000/- to the Samajam.

It was encouraging to note that there were many volunteers helping out during the Sri Rama Navami celebrations. This is a good sign and the Management Committee hopes this will continue. Please get yourself involved in helping out during the Samajam activities without being asked. If everyone gives a hand, the work gets done faster. There is nothing difficult in doing the preliminary preparations before any function and after the function, which includes giving a hand in serving the prasadam and tidying up the place. Let us all treat the premises as our second home.

2. HON. SECRETARY'S COLUMN

Your kind attention is drawn to Section 7 Junior's Section of the Circular. This month, we have additional articles contributed by a member. Please pass this section to your children. Members are more than welcome to contribute suitable articles for future issues of the Circular. You may send your articles to me by e-mail or by normal post.

As part of the cost-savings program, we strongly encourage members to opt for the electronic version of circulars or even retrieve them at your on leisure from the Website : <http://members.tripod.com/bsamajam/>

3. THIS MONTH'S EVENTS

POURNAMI POOJA

The May Pournami poojai falls on Friday May 12, 2006 (Star- Chithirai). This will be sponsored by Mr and Mrs V. Subramanian and Family.

SAMOOHA BHAJANAI

The May Bhajanai will be held on May 27, 2006 and is sponsored by members from Petaling Jaya Section 5 and Section 12. All members and their families are cordially invited to participate in the Bhajanai.

4. MISCELLANEOUS

APPLICATION FORMS

- MEMBERSHIP AND EDUCATION FUND -

These forms are available for download at <http://bsamajam.tripod.com/Forms.htm>.

BRAHMIN ASSOCIATION EDUCATION FUND

Dr. Sankaran Ramanathan was elected as Chairman of the BAEF for the year 2006-2007. Our congratulations and best wishes to him and members of the BAEF sub-committee.

EDUCATION FUND BOARD NEWS

I would like to thank members for having re-elected me as Chairman for another term. The other members of the Board are: Mr. Venkiteswaran Sankar and Mr. Subramaniam Sivaswamy. Thanks also goes all those who helped to ensure the success of EFB activities in the past year. As in the past, we hope more youths will come forward to participate actively. The following activities were carried out by EFB during the previous term :

(a) Sponsorship of one day's function during the Sree Rama Navami celebrations on 14th April 2005. Two students who had excellent results in the 2004 SPM examination, Miss Anusree Subramaniam and Miss Swarnalakshmi Baskar, were presented with tokens of appreciation.

(b) *R. Gopal Ayer Inaugural Memorial Dinner-cum-Lecture* held on 22nd April 2005. This event at the Samajam was attended by about 60 persons, and the inaugural speaker was Dr. E. S. Sivaramakrishnan.

(c) *Speak Sanskrit in Seven Days course from 13th to 19th June 2005, with 22 participants.*

(d) *Motor Treasure Hunt* held on 22nd October 2005. There were about 30 participants in all, and the hunt ended at A Famosa Resort, Tanjong Bidara.

(e) *Merit Awards 2005*: Awards and commendations were presented to 10 applicants at a ceremony followed by lunch held at the Samajam on Sunday 5th February 2006. More than 70 people, including many outstation members, attended this function. The photograph of donors and awardees present is published in this circular.

We are pleased that two members have come forward with sponsorship of new awards. The *R. Somasundaram Merit*

Award for Youth Leadership was inaugurated last year. This year, we hope to inaugurate the *Saraswathi Ammal Award for Performing Arts*. We have streamlined award procedures to cover meritorious performances during the calendar year (in this instance, the year 2006). Awards will be given out early next year, before the Samajam Annual General Meeting. As an educationist, I am committed to ensuring that merit is duly recognized. I appeal to all members to come forward and support the activities planned for this year. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. – Chairman -

NAANDHI BRAHMANAS - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED-

The Management Committee is making a list of volunteers to assist members who are in need of their services for nandhi (for upanayanam) and brahmannartham (for sradham). Please register your names with the Hon. Secretary, if you are available for such services.

CARNATIC VOCAL RECITAL - May 27, 2006 -

There will be a vocal recital by Ms. Swathi Mahadevan from Bombay on **Saturday 27th May, 2006** during the monthly bhajanai at the Samajam premises and on **May 28th, 2006** at the Sangeetha Abhivirithi Sabha (32, Jalan Rozario, Brickfields) at 7.00 p.m. All are welcome.

NITYA MANGALA CHANDIMAHAYAGNA MOHOTHSAVAM AND KOTI ARCHANA AT SRI SRI JUDGE SWAMIGAL ADHISHTANAM AT PUDUKKOTTAI - June 1 2006 – May 27, 2007-

The above festival is being conducted at Sri Bhuvaneswari Avadhutha Vidya Peetam at Pudukkottai for a one year period, commencing with Sri Mahaganapathi Homam, Sri Suktha Homam, Sri Navagraha Homam, Sri Maha Sudarsana Homam, Chandi Homam and Koti Archana for Sreematha Bhuvaneswari.

One of our senior members, Sri V. Ramachandran has been appointed as the patron for Malaysia by H.H. Sadguru Sri Sri Omkarananda Swamigal to coordinate this grand celebration. Members may contact Sri Ramachandran at telephone No. (03) 9284 1717 for more information.

INSTALLATION AT SRI JAGADISHWARA ASHRAMAM, SIVAN TEMPLE - April 30, 2006

The installation of Sri Dhakshinamoorthy and Naalvar at Sri Jagadishwara Ashramam, Shivan Temple at Taman Sri Sentosa will be held on Sunday 30th April, 2005.

For details please contact Sivashree T.A. Jagathesa Sarma - Telephone 77810913.

MAHAKUMBABISHEKAM - April 26 - 30, 2006-

Maha Kumbabishegam of **Sri Devi Karumariamman Temple, Ulu Tiram**, Johore will be performed on **Sunday 30th April at 10.00 a.m.** Yagasala poojas will commence on 26th April and will be held in the mornings and evenings until 30th April, 2006. The temple authorities request all members to attend the Kumbabishegam ceremonies and receive the blessings of Sri Devi Karumariamman.

A few dates of Mandalabisheka Ubhayam are available and the cost of sponsorship is RM 2000/-. Those who are interested

may contact **Sri Chellam Subramaniam (L-63) Tel: 07 867 2423**

A FUN FAMILY DAY - May 12, 2006-

In conjunction with Mothers Day, a fun-filled family gathering is being organized at Restaurant Cintamani, Jalan Hang Leiku, Kuala Lumpur on **Friday 12th May 2006, 10.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.**

A special buffet of vegetarian fusion health cuisine will be served. The charges are RM13/- per adult and RM8/- per child for children from the ages of 4 years – 10years. Children below 4 free of charge. Come uniquely dressed for the occasion!! *A grand prize awaits the most uniquely dressed person!!!* Please call early to confirm your attendance since places are limited to only 80. Last date for confirmation is Sunday 7th May 2006.

For reservations:	Parimala	77824776 / 016 3568092
	Vasanth	20941652 / 012 3159610
	Sundari	22835953 / 012 3290304

GROUP BHAJANAI PRACTICE - UPDATES -

It is proposed to conduct a group bhajanai once a month. This bhajanai will comprise of simple songs where all participants, youths and elders can participate. The first practice session will be held on Sunday 7th May, 2006 from 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon at the Samajam premises. All youths are encouraged to attend.

RATES FOR PRIEST'S SERVICES - UPDATES -

The Joint Committee was held on April 8, 2006 between Persatuan Brahmin Malaysia and Persatuan Pengurusan Kuil Vinayagar. It was agreed that the rates for the following events/functions will be as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Aavani Avuttam | RM15.00 per person |
| 2. Non-members | Double rate |
| 3. Pournami Pooja | RM50.00 with or without sponsors. |

5. MEMBERS' COLUMN

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mr. & Mrs. Ashok Padmanabhan (230) thank all members and their families for their presence, gifts and asirvadams on the occasion of the upanayanam of their son Jeya Ram on March 10, 2006.

OBITUARY

- Chellam Govindan daughter of Sri K.S. Narayana Iyer (022) passed away peacefully on 12th March, 2006 at Ambattur, India.
- R. Sadasivam (206) passed away on March 23rd, 2006. The family would like to thank all those who were present at the funeral and rendered assistance.

Our condolences to the bereaved families.

6. TEMPLE NEWS

Persatuan Pengurusan Kuil Vinayagar (PPKV) management welcomes all members to take part in the activities of the Temple such as Chaturthi Homam and prayers. Any member wishing to sponsor the events can contact V. Subramanian (Temple Hon. Secretary) or R. Ravi Sundaram (Temple Hon. Treasurer). Members are welcome to come to the temple to offer their prayers and get the blessings of Sumuga Vinayagar.

13th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - HELD ON SUNDAY, 23/05/2006 -

The 13th Annual General Meeting of Persatuan Pengurusan Kuil Vinayagar was held on Sunday, 23rd May 2006 at the Samajam Premises. The members of the 13th Management Committee of the Persatuan are:

Position	Name	Tel. No.
President	Dato' Dr. G. Sreenevasan (L-33)	6201 2504
Vice President	Tan Sri GK Rama Iyer (L-71)	4257 5458
Hon. Secretary	Mr. V. Subramaniam (L-107)	2282 5099
Assist. Hon. Secretary	Dr. Eswaran Padmanabhan (510)	5513 3193
Hon. Treasurer	Mr. R. Ravi Sundaram (L-54)	7781 0304
Assist. Hon. Treasurer	Mr. N. Srinivasan (052)	7956 9507
Committee Member	Mr. A. Kumaraswamy Iyer (086)	012- 559 7712
Committee Member	Pn. Sri Vijaya Rama Iyer (L-163)	4257 5458
Committee Member	Mrs. Santha Krishna Iyer (L-174)	2283 2499
Hon. Auditor	Mr. R. Subramoney (L-111)	9285 4495
Hon Auditor	Mr. D. Subramaniam (L-47)	4296 7876
Trustee	Dr. Ir. KS. Kannan (L-17)	2284 9784
Trustee	Dr. K. Vijayaraghavan (L-71)	2283 5953
Trustee	Dato' A. Narayanan (067)	2095 1670

PPKV thanks the Persatuan Brahmin Malaysia for the use of the premises during this AGM. PPKV also thanks all members who attended this meeting.

SANKATAHARA CHATHURTHI - May 16, 2006 -

The next Sankatahara Chathurthi homam plus abhishegam and pooja will be held on May 16, 2006. Members are encouraged to sponsor this event either on an individual basis or as a group. The rate for the Upayam is only RM300.00 and includes prasadam. Please contact the Hon. Sec. (Mr. V. Subramaniam) or Hon. Treasurer (Mr. R. Ravi Sundaram) for further details and bookings.

PRIEST UPDATES

Our vadhyar, R. Ravindran Vadhyar, will be leaving for home this month. In his absence, Mr. A. Kumaraswamy Iyer (086) has kindly consented to carry out the temple poojas.

DAILY POOJAS

For as little as RM30.00 per month, you could sponsor daily poojas at our temple. Archanas will be done on the name of every individual in your family (based on what information you provide – gothram/Nakshthitams). Members are strongly encouraged to sponsor this daily pooja at our temple. Those who are sponsoring are kindly requested to forward their payments at the beginning of each month to the Hon. Treasurer (Mr. R. Ravi Sundaram).

7. JUNIOR'S SECTION

ABCs

A--Accept

Accept others for who they are and for the choices they've made even if you have difficulty understanding their beliefs, motives, or actions.

B--Break Away

Break away from everything that stands in the way of what you hope to accomplish with your life.

C--Create

Create a family of friends whom you can share your hopes, dreams, sorrows, and happiness with.

D--Decide

Decide that you'll be successful and happy come what may, and good things will find you. The roadblocks are only minor obstacles along the way.

E--Explore

Explore and experiment. The world has much to offer, and you have much to give. And every time you try something new, you'll learn more about yourself.

F--Forgive

Forgive and forget. Grudges only weigh you down and inspire unhappiness and grief. Soar above it, and remember that everyone makes mistakes.

G--Grow

Leave the childhood monsters behind. They can no longer hurt you or stand in your way.

H--Hope

Hope for the best and never forget that anything is possible as long as you remain dedicated to the task.

I--Ignore

Ignore the negative voice inside your head. Focus instead on your goals and remember your accomplishments. Your past success is only a small inkling of what the future holds.

J--Journey

Journey to new worlds, new possibilities, by remaining open-minded. Try to learn something new every day, and you'll grow.

K--Know

Know that no matter how bad things seem, they'll always get better. The warmth of spring always follows the harshest winter.

L--Love

Let love fill your heart instead of hate. When hate is in your heart, there's room for nothing else, but when love is in your heart, there's room for endless happiness.

M--Manage

Manage your time and your expenses wisely, and you'll suffer less stress and worry. Then you'll be able to focus on the important things in life.

N--Notice

Never ignore the poor, infirm, helpless, weak, or suffering. Offer your assistance when possible, and always your kindness and understanding.

O--Open

Open your eyes and take in all the beauty around you. Even during the worst of times, there's still much to be thankful for.

P--Play

Never forget to have fun along the way. Success means nothing without happiness.

Q--Question

Ask many questions, because you're here to learn.

R--Relax

Refuse to let worry and stress rule your life, and remember that things always have a way of working out in the end.

S--Share

Share your talent, skills, knowledge, and time with others. Everything that you invest in others will return to you many times over.

T--Try

Even when your dreams seem impossible to reach, try anyway. You'll be amazed by what you can accomplish.

U--Use

Use your gifts to your best ability. Talent that's wasted has no value. Talent that's used will bring unexpected rewards.

V--Value

Value the friends and family members who've supported and encouraged you, and be there for them as well.

W--Work

Work hard every day to be the best person you can be, but never feel guilty if you fall short of your goals. Every sunrise offers a second chance.

X--X-Ray

Look deep inside the hearts of those around you and you'll see the goodness and beauty within.

Y--Yield

Yield to commitment. If you stay on track and remain dedicated, you'll find success at the end of the road.

Z--Zoom

Zoom to a happy place when bad memories or sorrow rears its ugly head. Let nothing interfere with your goals. Instead, focus on your abilities, your dreams, and a brighter tomorrow.

Over a hundred years ago, a restless young man in his quest for the core of all spirituality admonished his fellow men in the following words: "We reap what we sow. We are the makers of our own fate. The wind is blowing; those vessels whose sails are unfurled catch it, and go forward on their way, but those which have their sails furled do not catch the wind. Is that the fault of the wind? We make our own destiny." Believe in yourself and make your own future.

Why do we light a lamp?

— Sent in by Mr. S. Suryanarayanan (544A) -

In almost every Indian home a lamp is lit daily before the altar of the Lord. In some houses it is lit at dawn, in some, twice a day — at dawn and dusk — and in a few it is maintained continuously (akhanda deepa). All auspicious functions commence with the lighting of the lamp, which is often maintained right through the occasion. Light symbolizes knowledge, and darkness, ignorance. The Lord is the "Knowledge Principle" (chaitanya) who is the source, the enliver and the illuminator of all knowledge. Hence light is worshiped as the Lord himself. Knowledge removes ignorance just as light removes darkness. Also knowledge is a lasting inner wealth by which all outer achievement can be accomplished. Hence we light the lamp to bow down to knowledge as the greatest of all forms of wealth.

Why not light a bulb or tube light? That too would remove darkness. But the traditional oil lamp has a further spiritual significance. The oil or ghee in the lamp symbolizes our vaasanas or negative tendencies and the wick, the ego. When lit by spiritual knowledge, the vaasanas get slowly exhausted and the ego too finally perishes. The flame of a lamp always burns upwards. Similarly we should acquire such knowledge as to take us towards higher ideals.

Whilst lighting the lamp we thus pray:

*Deepajyothi parabrahma, Deepa sarva tamopahava
Deepena saadhyate saram, Sandhyaa deepo namostute*

I prostrate to the dawn/dusk lamp; whose light is the Knowledge Principle (the Supreme Lord), which removes the darkness of ignorance and by which all can be achieved in life.

elders?

— Sent in by Mr. S. Suryanarayanan (544A) -

Indians prostrate before their parents, elders, teachers and noble souls by touching their feet. The elder in turn blesses us by placing his or her hand on or over our heads. Prostration is done daily, when we meet elders and particularly on important occasions like the beginning of a new task, birthdays, festivals etc. In certain traditional circles, prostration is accompanied by abhivaadana, which serves to introduce one-self, announce one's family and social stature.

Man stands on his feet. Touching the feet in prostration is a sign of respect for the age, maturity, nobility and divinity that our elders personify. It symbolizes our recognition of their selfless love for us and the sacrifices they have done for our welfare. It is a way of humbly acknowledging the greatness of another. This tradition reflects the strong family ties, which has been one of India's enduring strengths.

The good wishes (Sankalpa) and blessings (aashirvaada) of elders are highly valued in India. We prostrate to seek them. Good thoughts create positive vibrations. Good wishes springing from a heart full of love, divinity and nobility have a tremendous strength. When we prostrate with humility and respect, we invoke the good wishes and blessings of elders which flow in the form of positive energy to envelop us. This is why the posture assumed whether it is in the standing or prone position, enables the entire body to receive the energy thus received.

The different forms of showing respect are :

Pratuthana — rising to welcome a person.

Namaskaara — paying homage in the form of namaste.

Upasangrahan — touching the feet of elders or teachers.

Shaashtaanga — prostrating fully with the feet, knees, stomach, chest, forehead and arms touching the ground in front of the elder.

Pratyabivaadana — returning a greeting.

Rules are prescribed in our scriptures as to who should prostrate to whom. Wealth, family name, age, moral strength and spiritual knowledge in ascending order of importance qualified men to receive respect. This is why a king though the ruler of the land, would prostrate before a spiritual master. Epics like the Ramayana and Mahabharata have many stories highlighting this aspect.

8. CONTACTS

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Why do we prostrate before parents and

9. CALENDAR OF EVENTS

English	Tamil	Day	Event
May 2006	Vaikaasi		
1	18	Monday	Chathurthi Vruthum; Muhurtham Naal
2	19	Tuesday	SRI SANKARA RAMANUJA JAYANTHI
3	20	Wednesday	Shashti vrutham
4	21	Thursday	Muhurtham Naal; Agni Nakshathiram Starting
9	26	Tuesday	Ekadasi vruthum
10	27	Wednesday	Dwadasi, Pradosam
11	28	Thursday	Muhurtham Naal
12	29	Friday	CHITHIRA POURNAMI; Muhurtham Naal
15	1	Monday	Maasa Pirappu (Punya Kaalam)
16	2	Tuesday	Sankatahara Chathurthi
18	4	Thursday	Subha Muhurtham
22	8	Monday	Dhattaathreya Jayanthi
23	9	Tuesday	Ekadasi Vrutham
24	10	Wednesday	Dwadasi, Pradosham
25	11	Thursday	Subha Muhurtham
26	12	Friday	Ammavasai, Tharpanam, Kaarthigai vrutham
27	13	Saturday	Bhajanai (7.00 p.m. – 9.00 p.m.)
28	14	Sunday	Agni Nakshakthira Dhosha Nivirthi
29	15	Monday	Subha Muhurtham
30	16	Tuesday	Chathurthi Vrutham
	Vaikaasi		
June 2006			
1	18	Thursday	Subha Muhurtham
2	19	Friday	Shashti Vrutham
7	24	Wednesday	Ekadasi Vrutham; Subha Muhurtham
8	25	Thursday	Dwadasi; Subha Muhurtham
9	26	Friday	Pradosam, Vaikaasi Visaagam
10	27	Saturday	Kaanchi Maha Paeriyavar Jayanthi
11	28	Sunday	Pournami Pooja (7.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.)
14	31	Wednesday	Sankatahara Chathurthi; Subha Muhurtham

Prepared by R. Ravindran Vadhyar

Disclaimer

While all attempts are made to ensure the contents of this Circular are factual, the Management Committee is not responsible for any omissions or incorrect information printed.