

Balaji Temple Celebrates Anniversary of Deities

By a Staff Reporter

SUNNYVALE — The Balaji Temple celebrated the fifth anniversary of the arrival of its deities, Balaji and Mahalakshmi, to the temple Feb. 12-15.

The celebrations began Feb. 12 with Ganesh puja, Kalasha stapana and Punyavachana.

The second day began with the abhishekam of Mahalakshmi and the reciting of the Sri Sukhtam. Offered to the devi were food items such as milk, yogurt, ghee, honey, sugar and fruit juices. Temple member Lakshmi Kary donated cow's fresh milk.

Lalitha sahastranama and devi bhajans were recited before the curtains were drawn to reveal

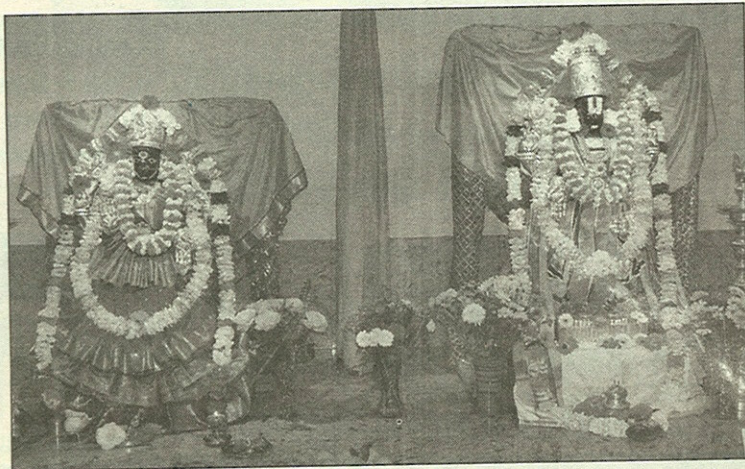
Mahalakshmi.

On the third day of celebrations, an abhishekam was performed for Balaji with the recitation of the Venkatesh stotram.

Balaji was decorated with flower garlands, silver crown and myriad other offerings by devotees.

At the conclusion of the religious ceremonies, Rajesh Kamath, the secretary of the temple, gave a brief speech highlighting the events of the past year.

The anniversary celebrations concluded Feb. 15 with the reciting of Venkateshwara sahastranama-vali. Rashtriya ashirvadam and astavadan were also performed by the swami, and all the devotees followed him in reciting the names.



The Balaji and Mahalakshmi deities decorated for the Balaji Temple's anniversary celebrations Feb. 12-15 in Sunnyvale.