

# Hari Om Mandir hosts annual fundraiser dinner



Hari Om Mandir patrons, founder members, devotees, community leaders from various social organizations  
(Courtesy of Suresh Bodiwala)

Suresh bodiwala

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Hari Om Mandir in Medinah hosted its annual fundraiser dinner Sept. 16 at the Pearl Banquet & Conference Center in Roselle.

Patrons, founder members, devotees, community leaders from various social organizations joined hands to raise funds for the cause of community services, growth & development, future expansion projects of the Mandir.

The gala evening started off with a red-carpet welcome for all the guests who attended the program. A huge backdrop with the Mandir logo was set up at the entrance, and it was an honor to be clicked there for a memorable evening. Photographers were ready to roll their cameras and capture every guest who walked in ... exhibiting their best attire and joyous mood!

Very soon the venue became a hot favorite for friends and families to take pictures and make their presence at the function, a day to remember.

The program formally started with an auspicious Diya lighting ceremony, amidst chanting of mantras by the Mandir priests Acharya Ram Naresh Vajpayee and Shastri Dharmender Bhatt.

Chaiman BOT, Brij Sharma, President EB, Vipin Wadhwa, Chairman FundRaising Committee, Anil Saxena and Prem Salwan from Salwan Trading lighted the lamp and the program was kicked off with a bang.

The evening emcees, Pratibha Jairath and Mona Sharma, welcomed one and all and spelled out the grand entertainment lined up for the evening.

Classical dance, Bollywood singing, Rajasthani folk dance-Ghoomer, Punjabi Giddha etc was all included in the packed variety program.

Pratibha Jairath and Dr Pradeep Sood were the star singers of the evening, who enthralled the audiences with their melodious songs -- all time old favorites down the memory lane, as well as the fast modern upbeat numbers. Very soon, Couples were on the dance floor swaying on slow vault dancing songs. Finally, just as Dr Sood sang the all-time hit Punjabi songs, the floor was jam packed with people dancing away to glory!

Anil Saxena, chairman of fundraising, outlined the purpose of the evening and gave a brief update on the ongoing project from 2022 - Hanuman murti. He shared the progress made on the project from last year, and the remaining funds required for completion. He thanked everyone for their past donations and requested people to continue with their generosity to help Mandir in achieving its goals.

Vipin Wadhwa, executive board president, emphasized the significance of the temples today as a source of preserving our roots of Indian spirituality, values, heritage & culture.

Collective prayers in the temples generate positive vibes and provide mental peace and solace to everyone who visits the temple. He made a final appeal for donations to help the Mandir in conducting community service programs like medical camps, food drives, yoga camps, etc, Mandir growth & dev projects. He thanked all members of the board and devotees, who helped him throughout the year for organizing programs, celebrating all festivals with enthusiasm. No donation is small - every penny counts!

The fun-filled evening concluded with a sumptuous dinner and open dance floor. The president thanked all the donors and finally announced the success of the evening target collection had been achieved and a big thank you to all for attending.