



Newsletter

November / December, 2009



www.augustahts.com

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Upcoming Events

November 7 and 8

Workshop by Sri Datta Yogi Raja

With the blessings of **Parama Pujya Sri Ganapathi Sachchidananda Swamiji**, Sri Datta Yogi Raja will give a workshop at HTS on Saturday Nov 7 from 1-6 pm, and Sunday from 10 am-5pm. Kriya Yoga is a proven system of pranayamas and mudras that balance the flow of pranic energy, increase awareness of the subtle body, and bring protection. Sri Datta Yogi Raja will teach advanced meditation practices centered on the 'Sri Chakra,' the symbol of the body as a divine temple. His use of Sri Swamiji's soothing and healing ragas hasten our absorption of this cosmic relationship. Sri Datta Yogi Raja explains the mysterious truths of our Essential Nature in a way that satisfies newcomers and experienced aspirants alike. The fee is donation basis, and all are welcome. For more information, contact Clare Bergson at 706-854-9921.

December 27

Vaikuntha Ekadashi

9:00 AM Suprabhatham & Vishnu Sahasranamam

10.30 AM Sathyanarayana Pooja

Announcements

Condolences

We are sorry to inform that two members of our community passed away on October 20, 2009. Our heart-felt condolences to their families and friends.

Hari Subramanian served as the president of executive committee and chairman of board of trustees of HTS Augusta in the past. He always unconditionally supported various temple activities. He initiated many traditions in the temple like yearly Havan which is continued to this day. We miss his melodious renditions of classical music at various religious functions.

Bharat Sadalge was a long-standing member of our temple. Bharat was a very generous man and helped many of the community members and his relatives over the years.

Balshala's Fundraising

Balshala parents have actively undertaken a fundraising campaign to support the HTS cultural center. This group intends to raise \$25,000 to sponsor the kitchen in cultural center. A minimum contribution of \$ 250 per family is being solicited. In an effort to include kids in a "fun"draising activity, a very successful Fall Carnival was organized on Oct 11th. We request all Balshala parents to contribute to this goal, and thank the several parents who already donated (some at much higher than the suggested level). To date, a total of \$ 18,547 was raised. You can show support by writing checks to HTS cultural center with 'Balshala' on the memo line. Contact Surekha Prasad (706-854-9488) or Karthik Subramanian (706-650-8158) for additional information.

ACHARYA DRONA

In trying to analyze the character of Acharya Drona, we find it inextricably intertwined with that of King Drupada. It is a classic example of friendship turned into enmity with persistence of animosity and nursing of revenge over a long period of time. This leads to disastrous consequences. A valuable lesson to be learned is that we should try hard to avoid such conduct and behavior.

Drupada, when still a prince, was sent to the same teacher sage where Drona of poor parentage was receiving all-round education. In the course of their training, when they had common tasks assigned to them, they became very close friends. One day, Drupada told Drona that when he became king, he would share his wealth with him. After their long period of training was over, their paths separated. Drupada became ruler of the vast Panchala kingdom while Drona remained a poor Brahmin who could not even afford milk for his only son, Aswatthaman. He went to Drupada expecting financial assistance, but Drupada had changed completely upon acquiring wealth. When Drona reminded him of their former friendship and his oral promise, Drupada arrogantly said that friendship was only possible between equals and not between a rich ruler and a poor beggar. Drona returned empty-handed but mentally resolved that he would teach Drupada a fitting lesson sometime.

Later, Drona was appointed as teacher of the Kuru princes. He trained both the Pandavas and Kauravas to be skilled archers. When their training was concluded, Drona as their guru, asked for the due customary fee as dakshina. He asked that Drupada be brought to him as a prisoner bound with ropes. The Kauravas went first, but Drupada who was a great chariot warrior was able to defeat them. The Pandavas, however, with Arjuna as their leader, vanquished him and brought him to Drona as a bound captive. Drona compelled him to part with half of his kingdom as a condition for his release.

Drupada returned in disgrace but swore revenge. He performed a difficult ritual sacrifice desiring progeny to kill Drona. As a result, Dhrstadyumna was born. When Drona laid down his weapons desisting from participating in the war and assumed a yoga pose, Dhrstadyumna beheaded him in a disgraceful and cowardly manner.

A study of Drona is not complete without reference to his conduct towards Ekalavya, a young lad who belonged to the tribal community of Nishadas, the lowest social order of Sudras. Ekalavya had an intense desire to learn archery. Having heard of Drona as an expert teacher, he approached him with a request to accept him as a pupil. Drona point blank refused because he belonged to an inferior social order. Ekalavya was sorely disappointed but his desire to master archery was so great that he made a clay image of Drona. Keeping this as a guide for concentration, he practiced intensely and successfully mastered the art. One day, when the Kuru princes were out, their dog began to bark furiously. Ekalavya silenced the animal effectively by skillfully shooting arrows to pin its jaws together. The princes were amazed and complained to Drona that Ekalavya was superior to them in archery. When Drona came, Ekalavya greeted him with great respect as his teacher. Thereupon, Drona demanded his customary fee asking that Ekalavya cut off his right thumb so that he could no longer be a rival to any of his own disciples. Ekalavya, without the slightest hesitation, cut off his right thumb and offered it to Drona.

Even though Ekalavya belonged to a low social order, his supreme sacrifice showed courage and honor. On the other hand, Drona, although well versed in the scriptures, was unable to subdue his ego and vengeful spirit.

- Dr. Ramesh Pai

Message from the President of HTS Augusta

Fellow Devotees,

I am deeply humbled and honored for the trust you have shown by entrusting the responsibility of activities at the temple this year. With Grace of God and all your support, We [executive committee] will have a successful upcoming year. We are currently trying to recognize the projects to improve and wish to accomplish this year at our temple. Feel free to send me your suggestions. Thank you.

Vidya Sridharan

November 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10a Hawan shala RSVD-Swadhya	2 10:30a Priest Busy 7p Shiv Pooja	3 11a Priest Busy	4 12p priest dayoff	5 7p Ganesh Pooja	6 7p Devi Puja	7 9a Karthikeya puja priest busy@temple 1p Temple rsvd- Datta Yogiraj 854-9921-Contact C. Bergson
8 10a Hawan shala RSVD-Swadhya 10a Temple RSVD- Datta Yogiraj	9 7p Shiv Pooja	10	11	12 Priest Day Off	13	14 9a BalajiPuja Priest busy @Temple 11:30a Temple RSVD-Augusta college student visit
15 10a Hawan shala RSVD-Swadhya 10a 3rd Sunday Puja	16 7p Shiv Pooja	17	18	19 Priest Day Off	20	21 10:30a Priest Busy
22 10a Hawan shala RSVD-Swadhya	23 7p Shiv Pooja	24	25	26 Priest Day Off	27	28
29 Priest Day Off 10a Hawan shala RSVD-Swadhya 3:30p Jain puja	30 7p Shiv Pooja					

December 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7p Satyanarayana Puja	2	3 Priest Day off	4 7p Devi Puja	5 9a Karthikeya puja priest busy@temple 7p Ganesh Pooja
6 Soup Kitchen 10a Hawan shala RSVD-Swadhya 10a Priest Busy-Temple RSVD-Datta Jayanti Celebration	7 7p Shiv Pooja	8	9	10 Priest Day off	11	12 9a BalajiPuja Priest busy @Temple
13 Priest Day Off 10a Hawan shala RSVD-Swadhya	14 7p Shiv Pooja	15	16	17 Priest Day off	18	19
20 10a Hawan shala RSVD-Swadhya 10a 3rd Sunday Puja	21 7p Shiv Pooja	22	23	24 Priest Day off	25	26
27 9a Vaikuntha Ekadashi 10a Hawan shala RSVD-Swadhya 10:30a SathyaNarayana Puja	28 7p Shiv Pooja	29	30 Priest Day Off	31	1 10a New year-Havan/Ganesh Puja 7p Devi Puja	2

SCHEDULE

Mondays	7pm	Shiv Puja
1 st Friday	7pm	Devi Puja
1 st Saturday	9am	Karthikeya Puja
2 nd Saturday	9am	Shri Venkateshwara Puja
3 rd Sunday	10am	Monthly Puja
2 nd & 4 th Sunday	2 pm	Jain Puja

Caravan, a non-profit performing arts group, will present a **family hindi comedy** on **Nov 15th** at 4:30 PM. "Honeymoon CIRCUS" will be performed at the Columbia County Theater in Evans. All proceeds after expenses will be donated to "The Lydia Project". Contact Bipin Chudgar (495 – 6837), BN Roy (868 – 8233) or S. Kharbanda (395 – 1181) for additional information or tickets.

The Hindu Temple Society
P.O. Box 204264
Augusta, GA. 30907

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