



# Newsletter

January / February, 2010



[www.augustahts.com](http://www.augustahts.com)

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Augusta, GA 30907.

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Augusta GA 30909.

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## Upcoming Events

January 16 and 17

Sri Venkateswara Abhishekam & Kalyanotsavam

Saturday Jan 16

7:00 AM: Suprabhatam  
7:30 AM: Havan  
9:00 AM: Sankalpam  
9:15 AM: Abhishekam  
1:00 PM: Aarthi/Mahaprasad  
3:00 PM: Carnatic vocal music  
concert ( see below)  
6:00 p PM: Sayanotsavam

Sunday Jan 17

8:00 AM: Suprabhatam  
9:00 AM: Sankalpam  
9:15 AM: Kalyanotsavam  
10:30 AM: Procession  
12 Noon: Aarthi/Mahaprasad



The priests *Sri Gopal Bhattar* of Hindu Temple of Atlanta and *Sri Satyanarayana Molakkalu* of our temple will perform the pooja.

For further details contact; *T.N.Muralidhar* 860-6856;  
*M.R./Vidya Sridharan* 860-7160; *Dharma Thiruvaiyaru* 650-3176,  
*Nageshwara Rao Pasala* 863-9350

**Sponsorship for pooja: \$25 for each day**

**Please attend this auspicious function and receive the blessings of Lord Venkateswara.**

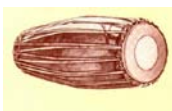
A Carnatic Vocal Concert by **Sri. Bangalore S. Shankar** will be held at HTS on Saturday at 3:00 PM.

Sri Shankar will be accompanied by  
**Sri. Gokul Kumar** of Atlanta GA on Violin



&

**Dr. Sriram** of Atlanta GA on Mridangam.



This concert is free and all are welcome to enjoy this event.

January 23

## Saraswati Puja

10:00 AM: Puja  
11:00 AM: Pushpanjali and Bhajans  
11:30 AM: Children's Program  
12 Noon: Aarathi & Mahaprasad

Puja will be conducted by Dr. Ajoy Chakraborty.  
Students may bring a book or a musical instrument to be placed at the feet of Devi Saraswati.

For additional information, contact Vidya Sridharan (860-7160) or Arun Dutta (868-5373)



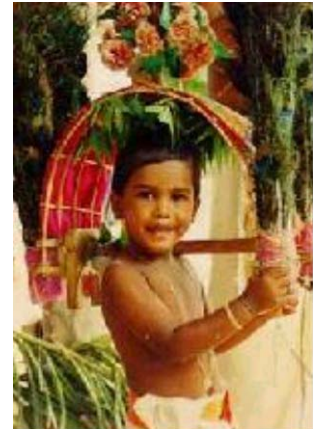
January 31

## Thai Poosam



9 - 10 AM: Kavadi Procession  
10 - Noon: Abhishekam & Bhajans  
12 Noon: Aarathi & Mahaprasad

**Abhishekam and Kavadi sponsorship \$25**  
**Yearly Abhishekam sponsorship \$150**  
(1<sup>st</sup> Sat. of every month)



Please attend the function and receive the blessings of Lord Subramanya.

February 12

## Maha Shivaratri

6:30 PM: Milk offering  
7:30 PM: Pooja  
9:30 PM: First Aarathi  
12 midnight: Bhanjans till midnight and Final Arathi

February 28

## Holi Celebration

Holika Dahan will be celebrated at 7:00 PM. Please join us at the temple to participate in this annual event. Contact Praful Patel for more details at 863-1897.

## THE SIGNIFICANCE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

It is usually not emphasized in our scriptures that Yama, the god of death, is also Dharma, the god of justice and righteousness. He is impartial and makes no distinction between high and low, rich and poor. The Mahabharata is a vast epic in which characters appear at different times and under different circumstances. There are two characters who are intimately related to Lord Yama.

The first character is Vidura. Due to the request of his mother, Satyawathi, and a strange course of events, Vidura was born to sage Vyasa and a chambermaid at the palace. Hence, he was a stepbrother to the emperors, Pandu and Dhritarashtra. However, he had no claim to the throne because his mother was a sudra (low-caste) woman. Vidura's birth occurred because Yama incurred a curse from a sage for unfair treatment. It is believed that Vidura was actually Yama born as a human for one lifetime.

Vidura is by far the most saintly character in the whole epic. At one stage, the evil-minded Duryodhana had a beautiful mansion built of combustible material with the intent of setting it on fire while the Pandavas slept in it. When Vidura came to know of this plot, he sent a coded message to Yudhishthira and the Pandavas escaped through an underground passage.

Vidura was an ardent devotee of Krishna. When Krishna went as a messenger of peace on behalf of the Pandavas, he refused to stay in a palace arranged by Duryodhana and instead chose to stay in Vidura's humble abode. Vidura was totally against war and fearlessly advocated justice for the Pandavas for the return of their kingdom. His sage advice to Dhritarashtra is recorded as the Vidura Neethi. It is a beautiful exposition of ethical behavior and a moral code of conduct.

The other character connected to Yama is Yudhishthira, the oldest of the Pandavas. He was born to Kunti when she invoked Yama for progeny per the boon granted to her by the sage Durvasa. The word Yudhishthira means firm or steadfast in battle (Yudhi means battle, sthira means firm). The other names by which he is known are indicators of his character. One is Dharmaraja, which means a ruler who follows dharma, or virtuous conduct. Another is Ajatasatru, which means peaceful by nature and not easily drawn to fighting. No one could bear enmity towards him.

Three interesting episodes in the Mahabharata are indicative of Yudhishthira's true nature.

Duryodhana was intent on killing his cousins living in exile in the forest and pursued them with a large army. Some gandharvas (semi-celestials) sporting in a lake objected to the invasion of their territory whereupon Duryodhana declared he was the ruler and could not be prevented from proceeding.

Chitraratha, the chief of the gandharvas, was an excellent warrior and he captured Duryodhana. When the news was conveyed to the Pandavas, Bhima was overjoyed. However, Yudhishthira felt that family honor demanded that his cousin be helped. He sent Arjuna who fought Chitraratha and freed Duryodhana. Chitraratha was brought in submission to Yudhishthira. After an exchange of views, Chitraratha and the Pandavas became lifelong friends. This is clear proof of Yudhishthira's magnanimity.

Once, Yudhishthira sent his youngest brother Sahadeva to spot a source of water. An unseen voice at a lake cautioned Sahadeva that he could not drink until he had answered some questions. Sahadeva did not heed the voice of the Yaksha (forest-dwelling semi-celestial) and was rendered lifeless. The other Pandava brothers, when sent to find Sahadeva, met with the same fate. Eventually, Yudhishthira went and was delivered the same warning. He, however, heeded the voice and was able to satisfy the Yaksha with answers that reflected his keen intelligence, philosophical insight, and depth of knowledge. This constitutes the Yaksha Prasna episode. The Yaksha offered to revive one of the brothers. Yudhishthira selected Sahadeva because his mother Kunti would have one living son, and with Sahadeva's revival, Madri would also have one. The Yaksha was so pleased with Yudhishthira's consideration and compassion that he revived all the brothers. Then he revealed himself as Yama, blessed them, and disappeared.

At the epic's end, when the Pandavas began the trek to heaven, each one dropped along the ascent. Yudhishthira plodded on, followed by a dog, which had joined him along the way. At the top, the dog was not granted entry. Yudhishthira refused to enter if the dog could not accompany him. At that moment, the dog revealed itself as Yama, and pleased by Yudhishthira's steadfast loyalty and sense of justice, granted entry to all the Pandavas.

The Mahabharata leaves us no doubt about the sterling character of Yudhishthira. However, he showed he was human on two occasions, once when he lied during the battle to accomplish the difficult task of killing Drona, and again when he engaged in a game of dice with high stakes. The sixtieth verse in the second chapter of the Gita warns even wise men to be ever vigilant. Sri Krishna's advice is clear. He says:

Yatato hy api kaunteya purusasya vipascitah  
Indriyani pramathini haranti prasabham manah

O, son of Kunti, the turbulent senses carry away forcibly the mind even of a wise man though he is striving to control them.

- **Dr. Ramesh Pai**

# Announcements

## Scheduling (Krishna Prasad)

Please contact Krishna Prasad (651-1928) to schedule priest services, rent temple or cultural center. Alternate contacts for scheduling are Mohan Wakade (863-3568) and Vidya Sridharan (860-7160). You can check available dates on the temple calendar at [www.augustahts.org](http://www.augustahts.org). All HTS members can schedule pujas or rent temple facilities. Charges for different services are posted on the temple website. Non-members may be able to schedule by making additional donation of \$200. However, we encourage all devotees to become members or renew their membership. Please support our temple by promoting HTS membership.

## Email List (Vidya Sridharan)

Augusta HTS is in the process of updating our email list. This list will be used to send newsletters and important reminders to the HTS members. Please send your email address to [augustaHTS@yahoo.com](mailto:augustaHTS@yahoo.com) to be included in the temple mailing list.

## Soup Kitchen (Shiela Kamath)

Many thanks to the several volunteers that helped with the last soup Kitchen for the year on December 6th. Several members of the youth came to help us out to serve 340 homeless, hungry individuals at the Fenwick street center. The volunteers were Karan Suraj, Meghna Rathi, Preethi Murugappan, Ashish Gohel, Purnima and Priya Merai, Ishana Ratan, Madan and Susan Gopal, Dinesh and Anjana Shah, Prasanna Jain, Indrani Ganguly, Giri Venaktaraman and Sheila Kamath. Our next commitment is for January 31, 2010. Please call Giri Venkataraman, if you are interested in helping with this project. The time commitment is from 8:30AM to 12:30PM. Any help is appreciated.

## Driver Safety Program (BN Roy)

If there is sufficient interest from the community HTS could sponsor a Driver's Training course from AARP at the temple. This would consist of two (2) - four (4) hour class room sessions to be held on two (2) Saturdays and would cost \$10/person for AARP members and \$12 for non-members. Training would entitle adults/seniors to receive discounts on auto insurance from most insurance companies. A minimum participation of 25 persons is required for the training sessions to be held at temple premise. If interested, please contact EC President or Secretary.

## Sports News (Vidya Sridharan)

The 2009 Temple sponsored Golf tournament was held in October 2009. Congratulations to the following winners.

Winners: Dr.Sridhar Gowda and Dr.Jaspal Gugral

Runners: Dr.Prakash Merai and Mahesh Shah.

## **Message from the Chairman of BOT**

Dear Members of the HTS,

Firstly, let me wish you all a Happy New Year! It is with great pleasure that I take on the responsibility of Chairman of the Board of Trustees. The names of the Trustee Board as well as the Executive Committee ably lead by Dr. Vidya Sridharan is listed below. They are very accomplished individuals who have agreed to dedicate their time and efforts to continue to make this Temple function well. I hope to do my best to lead and help these dedicated volunteers as they organize their efforts to make our Temple a better place of worship. During the past two years, the BOT has been very hard at work and completed the Cultural Center which is ready for use from Jan 1, 2010. There is however a host of maintenance issues at the Temple which was built 13 years ago and these will be addressed soon in order of priority. I do hope you take the many opportunities that the Temple has to offer, be it teaching a Balshala class, participating in a Spiritual discourse, serving the homeless in the soup kitchen or participating in the various poojas conducted by our priest Satayji. You do have to agree there is something for everyone at HTS no matter what your aptitude and means. This is the greatest strength of our Temple. So I call on you to come join us and participate in whatever way you can and help us make this a better place for all. God Bless You all!

- **Shiela Kamath**

### **Board of Trustees**

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Subhash Kharbanda, Vice Chair

Achyut Patel, Secretary

Kanchan Khosla

Vinod Chudgar

Devinder Mehta

Arvind Shah

Kartik Subramanian

Manan Vakil

Kanta Kondur (BOP)

Rita Jerath (BOP)

## Executive Committee

<b>President:</b>	Vidya Sridharan (860-7160)	
<b>Vice President:</b>	Amitava Ganguly (860-5586)	
<b>Secretary:</b>	Mohan Wakade (863-3568)	
<b>Joint Secretaries:</b>	Krishna Prasad ( <i>Scheduling</i> , 651-1928)	
	Mukesh Gupta (863-5713)	Sashwat Dhru (951-5662)
<b>Treasurers:</b>	P. UnniKrishanan (803-279-3996)	T.N. Muralidhar (860-6856)
	Kanaka Sundaram,K (863-8378)	
<b>Prasad Committee:</b>	Samlesh Bansal	Santosh Rani
	Sudha Sinha	Swathi Wakade,
	Rajeshree Joshi	
<b>Cultural Committee:</b>	Dharma Thiruvaiyaru	Surekha Prasad
	Radhika Mehta	Ranjana Rai
	Dinubhai Patel	
<b>Puja Committee:</b>	VidyaSridharan	Nimitha Shetty
	Karuna Pogula	Sharad Purohit
	Prasanna Jain	Arun Datta
<b>Facilities and Development Committee:</b>		
	Mukesh Gupta	Bharat Damani
<b>Youth Committee:</b>	Krishnan Anand	Rani Bhat
	Pramod Ganapathy	
<b>Balashala Committee:</b>	Chitra Anand	Sandhya Yagnik
<b>Seniors Committee:</b>	Rekha Maurya	Asha Joshi
<b>Publication and Web Committee:</b>		Krishna Prasad
	Kavitha Krishnarao	Sashwat Dhru
<b>Community Outreach:</b>	Giri Venkataraman	B.N.Roy
<b>Newspaper Liaison:</b>	D.K. Bhaskar	
<b>Audiovisual Committee:</b>	Nayan Shah	Mukund Deshpande
	Sankar Sethuraman	
<b>Membership Committee:</b>	Amitava Ganguly	
<b>Sports Committee:</b>	Raju Patel	

## January 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 10a New year- Havan/Ganesh Pooja	2 9a Karthikeya pooja
3 7p Ganesh Pooja	4 7p Shiv Pooja	5 7p Ram Archana	6 7p Krishna Archana	7 Priest Day Off	8 7p Devi Pooja	9
10 2p Jain Pooja	11 7p Shiv Pooja	12 7p Ram Archana	13 Priest Day Off	14 10a Priest Busy	15 7p Devi Archana	16 9a Balaji Abhishek 3p Carnatic music concert
17 9a Balaji Kalynotsav	18 7p Shiv Pooja	19 7p Ram Archana	20 7p Krishna Archana	21 Priest Day Off	22 4p Temple RSVD - Puja Preparation 7p Devi Archana	23 9a Temple RSVD- Saraswati Puja
24 Priest day off 2p Jain Pooja	25 7p Shiv Pooja	26 7p Ram Archana	27 7p Krishna Archana	28 Priest Day Off	29 7p Devi Archana	30 9a Priest Busy 7p SathyaNarayana Pooja
31 8a Soup Kitchen 9a Thai Poojam						

## February 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7p Shiv Pooja	2 7p Ganesh Pooja	3 7p Krishna Archana	4 Priest Day Off	5 7-9a Priest Busy 7p Devi Pooja	6 11a Priest Busy
7	8 7p Shiv Pooja	9 7p Ram Archana	10 7p Krishna Archana	11 Priest Day Off	12 7p MahaShivaratri	13
14 12p Priest Day off 2p Jain Pooja	15 7p Shiv Pooja	16 7p Ram Archana	17 7p Krishna Archana	18 Priest Day Off	19 7p Devi Archana	20
21 10a 3rd sundaypooja	22 7p Shiv Pooja	23 7p Ram Archana	24 7p Krishna Archana	25 Priest Day Off	26 7p Devi Archana	27
28 8a Soup Kitchen 10a SathyaNarayana pooja 2p Jain Pooja 7p Holi Celebrations						

## SCHEDULE

Mondays	7pm	Shiv Puja
Tuesdays	7pm	Ram/Hanuman Archana
Wednesdays	7pm	Krishna Archana
Fridays	7pm	Devi Puja (1 <sup>st</sup> Fri.) / Archana
1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday	9am	Karthikeya Puja
2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday	9am	Shri Venkateshwara Puja
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	10am	Monthly Puja
2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	2 pm	Jain Puja

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

**DONATE GENEROUSLY TO  
YOUR TEMPLE**

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THE LAST DAY OF  
INPUT FOR THE NEXT  
NEWSLETTER IS 20<sup>th</sup>  
OF THE DECEMBER.  
PLEASE SEND YOUR  
INPUT TO

Bkrishnaprasad@msn.com

PLEASE  
RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP  
BE A PERPETUAL DONOR