



Newsletter

March / April, 2010



www.augustahts.com

P. O. Box. 204264
Augusta, GA 30907.

1421 Lukes Road
Augusta GA 30909.

Phone: (706) 860-3864

Upcoming Events

March 5 7:00 PM

Holi Celebration

Holika Dahan will be celebrated at the temple. Contact Praful Patel for more details at 863-1897.

March 6 7 - 9:30 PM

Bhajan Program by the Disciples of Pt. Jasraj School of Music

March 13

Pardes (Youth Group Program)

March 14

Soup Kitchen

March 16 7:00 PM

Yugadi (Ganesh Puja)

March 20 and 21

Akhand Ramayan Path

Starts at 10 AM on Sat., Mar 20th. Ends with 3rd Sunday Puja on Mar 21st. Contact Sudha Sinha for more details (863 - 8878).

March 24 7:00 PM

Rama Navami

March 26, 27 and 28

Datta Yogi Workshop

March 27 6:00 PM

Movie Night

March 28

Sports Day

March 30 7:00 PM

Hanuman Jayanthi

April 16, 17 and 18

Mahalakshmi Laksharchana

April 24 and May 1

AARP Safe Driver Class

Mahalakshmi Laksharchana

Augusta HTS will have a three-day Mahalakshmi Laksharchana (one lakh repetitions of goddess Lakshmi name). All HTS members are encouraged to attend this event, and seek blessings of Mahalakshmi in these times of troubled economy.

April 16 (FRI): 7:00 PM

April 17 (SAT): 7:00 PM

April 18 (Sun): 10:30 AM



Three levels of sponsorship are available;

\$200

\$500

\$1000

This is a major fund-raising puja. A significant amount of temple funds were used in building the Cultural Center. One of the goals of this puja is to replenish the temple funds.

Volunteers are needed to chant names, set up, clean up and also cook Mahaprasad.

Contacts for additional information or to volunteer;

Vidya sridharan: 860 - 7160

Amitava Ganguly: 860 - 5586

Sheila Kamath: 650 - 5751

A STUDY OF CONTRASTS

It is interesting to review the character of Dhrtarastra and Sanjaya, two persons in the Mahabharata who were closely associated, but who exhibited markedly contrasting qualities.

In the sixteenth chapter of the Bhagavad Gita, Sri Krishna enumerates two types of qualities present in human beings – the divine (*daivi*) which lead to self (God) realization, and the demoniacal (*asuric*) which lead to a lower scale of evolution. His advice is to foster the former and shun the latter.

Dhrtarastra, the blind emperor, wielded enormous power, and if he wished, could have prevented the catastrophic war. In spite of wise advice from his old uncle, Bhishma, and his virtuous stepbrother, Vidura, he could not bring himself to avert the battle, which had disastrous consequences. It has been aptly said that his blindness was not only physical, but also mental and spiritual. His extreme fondness for his son, Duryodhana, and his inability to guide and control him, proved calamitous.

In the opening verse of the Gita, he asks, "What did my people and the Pandavas do on the field of battle?", a question which clearly reveals his partiality to his sons by using the word "*mamakah*" (mine) and refers to the Pandavas as "*chaiva*" (others). Actually, Yudhisthira had earlier been declared as crown prince and entitled to the kingdom. "I" or egoism (*ahamkara*), and "mine" or sense of possession (*mamakara*) are two obstacles in the path of spirituality, which should be avoided by all. This would be expected more so in an emperor who sets an example for others.

After the war was over, Yudhisthira, a personification of nobility and righteousness, told his brothers to call upon Dhrtarastra. He wanted them to individually seek the elder's blessings and also assure him that he would enjoy all the comforts and privileges he had before. However, Dhrtarastra had great animosity, particularly towards Bhima, and had mentally resolved to crush him if he could lay his hands on him. Sri Krishna sensed this hatred, and when it was Bhima's turn, he had a metal image put in his place. Dhrtarastra, who was known for

his muscular strength, embraced the metal image and reduced it to pieces.

Sanjaya was Dhrtarastra's charioteer and minister, a man totally loyal to the emperor. Sage Vyasa conferred on him the power to visualize all the events of the battle, which he narrated to the emperor in his palace. On several occasions, Sanjaya had advised the king to seek peace with the Pandavas and not to resort to war. When Sri Krishna went to the assembly of Kauravas to represent the Pandavas as the supreme ambassador of peace, he offered one concession after another to avoid war. When Duryodhana, on the advice of Karna and others, attempted to hold Sri Krishna prisoner, the Lord revealed his cosmic form, which made them give up their evil design. Dhrtarastra also was given the ability to have the divine vision. Instead of exercising his power as ruler to call off hostilities, he merely thanked Lord Krishna for the vision.

In the eleventh chapter of the Gita, there is a description of Viswarupadarsan, the revelation of the cosmic form of Lord Krishna to Arjuna. This is well depicted in detail by Sanjaya. There is a marked contrast in his reaction. In the last five verses of the Gita, Sanjaya recalls the vision. Unlike Dhrtarastra, he is transported into an ecstatic state. He repeatedly thanks Sage Vyasa for having graced him with the ability to have this enthralling divine vision. The final verse is often repeated at the conclusion of auspicious events and also as a prayer for success in endeavors. It states:

*yatra yogeswaro krsno, yatra partho dhanur darah,
tatra srir vijayo bhutih dhruva nitir matir mama*

Wherever Sri Krishna is present as Lord (teacher) of yoga,
Where Arjuna stands with upraised bow in hand, the perfect man of action,
There will be prosperity, victory, welfare, and correct policy.
That is my firm conviction.

- **Dr. Ramesh Pai**

March 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7p Shiv Pooja	2 6:45p Kartikeya Archana	3 7p Ganesh pooja	4 Priest off	5 10a Devi Pooja 7p Holi celebration	6 9a Karthikeya Pooja 7p Bhajan program by Prayas
7	8 7p Shiv Pooja	9 6:45p Ram Archana	10 6:45p Krishna Archana	11 Priest off	12 6:45p Devi Archana	13 8a Balaji Abhishek 6p Pardes, Columbia county library
14 8a Soup Kitchen 2p Jain Pooja	15 7p Shiv Pooja	16 6:45p Ram Archana 7p Yugadi	17 6:45p Krishna Archana	18 Priest off	19 8a Temple & Cultural Center-RSVD	20 10a Akhand Ramayan Path
21 Akhand Ramayan Path	22 7p Shiv Pooja	23 6:45p Ram Archana	24 7p Rama Navami	25 Priest off	26 6:45p Devi Archana 7:15p Datta Yogi Wrkshp.	27 10a - 5p Datta Yogi Meditation Workshop 6pm Movie Night Cultural Center-RSVD
28 10a - 5p Datta Yogi Meditation Workshop 9a SPORTS DAY Priest Day off 2p Jain Pooja	29 7p Shiv Pooja	30 10a Sathya Narayan Puja 6:45p Ram Arch. 7p Hanuman Jayanthi	31 6:45p Krishna Archana			

April 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Priest off	2 7p Devi Pooja	3 9a Karthikeya Pooja
4	5 7p Shiv Pooja	6 6:45p Kartikeya Archana	7 6:45p Krishna Archana	8 Priest off	9 6:45p Devi Archana	10 8a Balaji Abhishek
11 2p Jain Pooja	12 7p Shiv Pooja	13 6:45p Ram Archana	14 Tamil Yugadi 6:45p Krishna Archana	15 Priest off	16 7p Mahalakshmi Laksharchana	17 7p Mahalakshmi Laksharchana
18 10:30a M.Lakshmi Laksharchana	19 7p Shiv Pooja	20 6:45p Ram Archana	21 6:45p Krishna Archana	22 Priest off	23 6:45p Devi Archana	24 9a Defensive Driving class
25 Priest Day off 2p Jain Pooja	26 7p Shiv Pooja	27 6:45p Ram Archana	28 7p Sathya Narayan puja	29 Priest off	30 6:45p Devi Archana	

Announcements

Bhajan Program by the Disciples of Pt. Jasraj School of Music (March 6)



HTS Augusta invites you to participate in and enjoy the Bhajan Concert (Hindi, Sanskrit, & Marathi Bhajans) by Prayaas of Atlanta, GA (Disciples of Pt. Jasraj School of Music). This program will be held at the temple between 7:00 - 9:30 PM. This is a free program and all are welcomed to attend.

Smt. Usha Balakrishnan, the lead vocalist
Tarun Talwar, the supporting vocalist
Amitava Sen on the violin
Nitin Mayur & Amit Chabukswar on the tabla

Pardes (March 13)

A cultural program by HTS youth group will be held at columbia county library-auditorium. Please contact Pramod Ganapathy for tickets or additional information (863 - 8421).

Movie Night (March 27)

Enjoy dinner and a Hindi movie (3 IDIOTS; with English subtitles) at the cultural center. Come experience the visual and acoustic technology available at the cultural center at 6:00 PM. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for 13 and younger. Parental guidance suggested. Seating is limited. Call Mohan Wakade (589 - 4171) or Krishna Prasad (231 - 6330) for tickets and more information.

Datta Yogi Workshop (March 26, 27 and 28)

With the Blessings of His Holiness Sri Ganapathi Sacchidananda Swamiji, **Sri Datta Yogi Raja** will present 'Kriya Yoga and Sri Chakra Meditation' at the HTS. March 26 (Fri) 7:15 - 9 PM, March 27 and 28 (Sat & Sun) 10 AM - 5 PM.

Sri Swamiji's Kriya Yoga is a proven system of pranayamas and mudras that balance the flow of pranic energy, increase awareness of the subtle body, bring protection and strengthen a feeling of connection with this cosmic energy. Kriya yoga can be done by anyone in almost any physical condition. In the workshop at HTS, Sri Datta Yogi Raja will also introduce participants to advanced meditation practices centered on the 'Sri Chakra.' His use of Sri Swamiji's soothing and healing ragas hasten our absorption of this cosmic relationship, and awaken our inner intelligence and intuition. All are invited, and encouraged to participate. Sri Datta Yogi Raja has been empowering seekers in Europe, Asia, USA and Canada for over 20 years. He is also known as Raju Ramanathan and is a Master of Biomedical Engineering. He was trained by Sri Swamiji to teach meditation and Kriya Yoga programs. During the Datta Jayanthi 2002, Sri Swamiji gave Deeksha to Raju and renamed him Datta Yogi Raja. Raju blends the teachings of Patanjali, Jesus and Sri Swamiji in his own unique way that all students feel empowered to bring these practices into their daily life. Lunch will be served both days. Attending both sessions is recommended, but one is certainly better than none! Suggested Guru Dakshina/Offering: \$50. For more information, contact Clare Bergson, 706-854-9921.



HTS Sports Day (March 28) Contact Raju Patel for details (706 - 284 - 1632).

AARP Safe Driver class (April 24 and May1)

HTS will host the AARP Safe Driver class in the Cultural Center on Saturdays, 4/24/10 (9am -1pm) and 5/1/10 (1-5 pm). This is a two part program and candidates must attend both sessions. The fees are \$12/person for AARP members and \$14/person for non-AARP members. Training would entitle adults/seniors to receive discounts on auto insurance from most insurance companies. Those of you who have expressed interest in attending the classes please confirm your attendance with B. N. Roy (bnroy@yahoo.com; 868-8233).

Past Events:

- **Soup Kitchen** conducted and sponsored by HTS volunteers fed 340 homeless people on Fenwick street on January 31st. Thanks to the following volunteers for their dedicated support; Susan and Madan Gopal, Arvind Shah, Indrani Ganguly, Karuna Pogula, Kamla Shah, Purnima Merai, Giri Venkataraman and Sheila Kamath. Special thanks go to the youth volunteers Riddhi Patel, Ashish Gohel, Pramod Ganapathy, Chinmaya Sharma, Harita Patel and Meghna Rathi who took time out of their busy schedule to help us.
- HTS celebrated Balaji Puja, Saraswati Puja, Shiva Ratri and Ramakrishna Janmadin during the past two months. These events were well attended, in spite of inclement weather.

SCHEDULE

Mondays	7pm	Shiv Puja
Tuesdays	6:45 pm	Kartikeya (1 st) / Ram Archana
Wednesdays	6:45 pm	Krishna Archana
Fridays	7pm	Devi Puja (1 st Fri.) / Archana
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

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

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OF APRIL. PLEASE
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BE A PERPETUAL DONOR