



Newsletter

Nov. / Dec. 2010



www.augustahts.com

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

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Phone: (706) 860-3864

Upcoming Events

November 6

Diwali

5:00 PM: Lakshmi Puja
6:00 PM: Diwali Program
8:00 PM: Mahamangalarathi



Please bring thali, Lakshmi idol or coin and pooja samagri from home, if you plan to do Lakshmi Puja. Please park at Sue Reynolds elementary school. Volunteers will be available to shuttle to and from the school.

Diwali dinner this year is sponsored by Rekha Sareen, Geetha Sareen, Sarabjit Soni, Nirja Gupta, Nidhi Gulati, Puja Sharma, Sarita Sharma and Jaya Batra.

November 13

9:00 AM

Skanda Shashti

December 17

8:00 AM

Vaikuntha Ekadashi

Message from the Chair

It has been my privilege and honor to serve the Temple the past three years on the Board of Trustees. Over the years, many accomplishments have been made to improve communication and access to Temple facilities and programs. The new addition of the Cultural center has enhanced the Balshala program and given access to host programs both cultural and artistic in nature and will encourage participation in future programs. In the past year, the executive committee has worked hard to streamline the database for membership as well as improve communication via email and the website. They are currently working on a project to facilitate online scheduling of renting and pooja services which we hope will be launched soon. We want the process to be seamless and easy to access and user friendly. The functioning of a Temple facility like ours depends on many volunteer hours, selfless service by members under the guidance of the Executive Committee and Trustees. It also needs a committed, fiscally responsible community. The Temple was built as a place of worship and to promote our religious and cultural heritage. To continue the progress we have made for future generations, maintaining the traditions and also forging new paths, I am requesting you to make a commitment. If you have not been a member, plan to be a member or perpetual donor. If you are already a member, step up to be a perpetual donor. If you have a talent, want to be on a committee, step up to the plate and offer your services. I have been very grateful for the number of younger people that have come forward in the past three years that have taken on responsibilities, given their input, donated time and money and served the Temple in many capacities. I hope this wave continues and helps the Temple flourish. I wish to thank all the volunteers for their hard work, especially our Priest Satayji, President Vidya Sridharan, the Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees for their unwavering support of the Temple and its activities. May God Bless you!

Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinaha!

- Sheila Kamath (Chair, BOT)

Message from the President

It is amazing to know that this whole year has passed by so quickly. First, I like to thank Trustee Board for providing the opportunity to serve this august community in the capacity of President of the HTS. There are lots of people who have helped in the smooth operation of the Temple body- Starting from last year's Datta Jayanthi through Vijayadashami and Deepavali this year. It is impossible to list all the names who made this possible.

We conducted Laksharchana of Mahalakshmi in April (3days) and Hanuman Havan in July (1 day), which were attended in large numbers. All the other major festivals were well coordinated and attended by the community. Pooja committee strove very hard to make sure all the poojas happened without problems. We had several Yoga camps this year and some were repeated because of public request and interest. We donated significant amount of money to Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund which denotes the compassion of this community. As usual our temple volunteers worked hard to help the poor and serve them through Soup kitchen and Golden Harvest. Also we had several classical /non-classical music/dance programs which enriched our lives. The other two big events were Arts in the Hearts of Augusta, and Garba. As usual many people volunteered for these two programs and by these programs, we collected substantial amount of money to the Temple. I really do appreciate the community who have pitched in and donated generously in this time of recession.

The new Cultural Center completed this year and we started using it for Balashala and various other programs. Mother's day program from Balashala and Rabindranath Tagore day were rousing successes and cherished by all.

We have tried to get into 21st century with HTS newsletters on line and mass communication via e-mail. Also we are trying to automate various scheduling/renting of temple facilities, Priestly services and Membership database etc.,. This functionality will be shown on Deepavali day. Please pay attention to learn, as it requires each member to schedule the event /services by themselves in future. I want to thank each and every member and Chairs of the Team in my Executive committee for their unending, selfless service, without whose support I could not have survived the year. A special thanks to our Treasurer for doing the hardest job in the Temple year after year- keeping temple finances in order without alluding to any hardship.

I wish you all Happy Deepavali and Happy New Year and once again thanks to each and every member of this community.

- Vidya C Sridharan (President of HTS)

Online Scheduling Information:

Beginning 2010 Diwali day, all temple scheduling will be done online. Members can schedule or rent online by following the steps listed below.

Go to WWW.AUGUSTAHTS.ORG Select BOOK NOW button on home page. This opens a new appointment window (Bookmark for future use).

STEP 1: Select a service (Membership, Schedule Puja, Rent temple...). Click NEXT.

STEP 2: Select a preference (Satyanarayana Puja, Rent Temple Half-day...). Charges are listed here. Write down how much you need to pay.

STEP 3: Select an available date in calendar (shown in green). Choose a time (options are limited).

STEP 4: Provide your information. Name as it appears in temple membership list, Email, Phone number and Address.

STEP 5: Make payment on GOOGLE CHECKOUT (If you do not already have a google account, you may have to provide your information again).

Please pay the appropriate amount for your membership category. Remember your google ID and password for later use.

Unpaid or underpaid reservations will be automatically deleted.

Detailed information about online scheduling will be available under "Information for scheduling puja / renting temple" on the temple main webpage.

Sports News (Dr. Natrajan)

The HTS golf tournament was held at North Augusta Golf and country club on October 9th. Congratulations to the following winners.

1st place: P.K. Natrajan, Achyut Patel and Pankhil Patel

2nd place: Prakash Merai, Praful Patel and Mukund Deshpande

3rd Place: Sridhar Gowda, Mahesh Shah and Vishal Sharma

DRAUPADI

Draupadi was the daughter of King Drupada, ruler of Panchala. She was born along with her brother, Drstadyumna, from the great sacrifice their father performed for progeny to kill Acharya Drona who had insulted him. She was also known as Panchali, or sometimes Krishna because she had a dark complexion.

Draupadi is the most notable among the women in the Mahabharata, and has a stellar role in the second half of the epic. She was considered the most beautiful among women in her time. How Arjuna won her at the svayamvara and how she became the wife of all the Pandavas have been described in an earlier column.

Draupadi's beauty, however, did cause problems, as she became the cynosure of many evil-minded people. One such was Kichaka, the brother-in-law of King Virata. Kichaka was physically strong and politically powerful, being commander of the army. The Pandavas had to spend the thirteenth year of their exile incognito, without being discovered. They had assumed different roles in the household of King Virata under false identities. Draupadi became chief attendant to the queen, and Bhima a cook in the royal kitchen. Kichaka began to make improper advances towards her. She complained to Bhima, and together, they hatched a plan. Kichaka was persuaded to meet her secretly at night in the dance hall where Bhima was lying in wait dressed as a woman. They fought each other, and Kichaka was killed. To keep Bhima from being recognized as the killer, it was given out that Draupadi was protected by gandharvas, semi-celestial beings who were responsible for the killing.

Draupadi's implicit trust and deep devotion to Sri Krishna are revealed on many occasions, two of which are described here. During a shameful episode where she was disrobed in public in the assembly of Kurus, when no one could come to her rescue, she mentally petitioned Lord Krishna to save her from disgrace. Sri Krishna responded promptly by sending her an inexhaustible supply of saris.

On another occasion, Duryodhana, who was hosting Sage Durvasa and his many disciples, requested the sage to visit the Pandavas during their forest exile. Duryodhana's intent was evil and malicious. He thought that Yudhisthira would not be able to satisfy them, and Durvasa, who was known for his quick, fiery temper, would pronounce a curse on the Pandavas. Early during the exile, Surya, the Sun God, pleased with Yudhisthira's worship and devotion, had gifted a magical vessel to the Pandavas. It could provide an inexhaustible supply of food, but would not provide any more for the day after Draupadi, who was the last to eat, had eaten her meal and put it away. Yudhisthira, as a dutiful host, invited Durvasa and his disciples for a meal. Draupadi was caught in a dire predicament as she had already eaten and put away the vessel. She thought intensely of Lord Krishna who appeared and asked Draupadi to fetch the vessel. A grain of rice and a piece of spinach were found sticking to the bottom. Krishna ate the tiny remnants with great relish and declared he was full and could eat no more. Meanwhile, Durvasa and his disciples had gone to the river for their customary bath. All of them suddenly experienced extreme fullness. Thinking that Yudhisthira would be insulted if they did not eat, they left in haste.

Draupadi's full acceptance and kind behavior to the two wives Arjuna had acquired during a period of voluntary separation from his family, show her magnanimity. One was Ulupi, a princess of the Nagas, and the other was Subadhra, sister of Krishna. In another episode, when she meets Krishna's wife, Satyabhama, Draupadi shows her intelligence by giving wise advice on how to keep husbands happy. After the war was over, Drona's son, Aswatthaman, commits a heinous act by killing all of Draupadi's sons when they were asleep by setting their tents on fire. Arjuna was able to capture him and was intent on killing him. Draupadi shows her capacity for forgiveness by reminding Arjuna that he was his teacher's son, and pleads that his life be spared.

- **Dr. Ramesh Pai**

November 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7p Shiv Pooja	2 6:45p Karthikeya Archana	3 11a Priest Busy 6:45p Krishna Archana	4 Priest Off	5 11a Priest Busy 7p Devi Puja	6 5p Diwali
7 8a Karthikeya Pooja 12p Priest Busy	8 7p Shiv Pooja	9 10a Priest Busy 6:45p Karthikeya Archana	10 6:45p Krishna Archana	11 Priest Off	12 7p Devi Puja	13 9a Skanda Shahsti
14 10a Priest Busy 2p Jain Pooja	15 7p Shiv Pooja	16 6:45p Ramarchana	17 6:45p Krishna Archana	18 Priest Off	19 6:45p Devi Archana	20 10a Balaji Abhishek
21 7p Satyanarayana Puja	22 7p Shiv Pooja	23 6:45p Ramarchana	24 Priest Off	25 6p Priest Busy Temple & CC Rsvd	26 10a Priest Busy Temple & CC Rsvd	27 10a Priest Busy Temple Rsvd 7p Ganesh Puja
28 Priest Day Off 2p Jain Pooja	29 7p Shiv Pooja	30 6:45p Ramarchana				

December 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:45p Krishna Archana	2 Priest Day Off	3 7p Devi Puja	4 9a Karthikeya Pooja
5 8a Soup Kitchen	6 7p Shiv Pooja	7 6:45p Karthikeya Archana	8 6:45p Krishna Archana	9 Priest Day Off	10 6:45p Devi Archana	11 9a Balaji Abhishek
12 10a Priest Busy 2p Jain Pooja	13 7p Shiv Pooja	14 6:45p Ramarchana	15 6:45p Krishna Archana	16 Priest Day Off	17 8a Vaikunta Ekadashi 7p Satyanarayana Puja	18
19 10a 3 rd Sunday Puja	20 7p Shiv Pooja	21 6:45p Ramarchana	22 6:45p Krishna Archana	23 Priest Day Off	24 7p Ganesh Puja	25
26 Priest Day Off 2p Jain Pooja	27 7p Shiv Pooja	28 Ramarchana 7p Ganesh Puja	29 6:45p Krishna Archana	30 Priest Day Off	31 6:45p Devi Archana	

Please fill this and submit on Deepavali day or before to one of the office members.

HINDU TEMPLE SOCIETY AUGUSTA, GA

Membership Form

Please Print

Name: Mr/Mrs _____

Name of Spouse: _____

Children (optional): _____

Membership category and form of payment

Please Select ONE:

Perpetual Donor - \$300 Credit Card Check United Way

Membership - \$150 Credit Card Check United Way

Please complete this section **if you have changed these items** since last publication

Telephone number: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Please select your responses:

Are you currently receiving News Letter? Yes No

Are you getting calling post messages? Yes No

Are you getting temple E-mail messages? Yes No

HTS Executive Committee

President: Vidya Sridharan (860-7160) **Vice President:** Amitava Ganguly (860-5586) **Secretary:** Mohan Wakade (863-3568)

Joint Secretaries: Krishna Prasad (*Scheduling*, 651-1928), Mukesh Gupta (863-5713) Sashwat Dhru (951-5662)

Treasurers: P. Unni Krishnan (803-279-3996) T.N. Muralidhar (860-6856) Kanaka Sundaram (863-8378)

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

**DONATE GENEROUSLY TO
YOUR TEMPLE**

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit # 426
Augusta, GA.

Deadline for sending input
for next newsletter is

December 20th.

Please send your input to:

Bkrishnaprasad@msn.com

PLEASE
RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

BE A PERPETUAL DONOR