



Newsletter

July / August, 2011



www.augustahts.com

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Upcoming Events

Friday, July 15: Guru poornima Satyanarayan Pooja at 7 p.m.

Monday, July 18: Shiva and Ganesh Sankasta Chaturthi Celebration at 7pm

Friday, August 12: Vara Maha Laxmi pooja at 7pm
Participants should bring their own thali with pooja samagri.



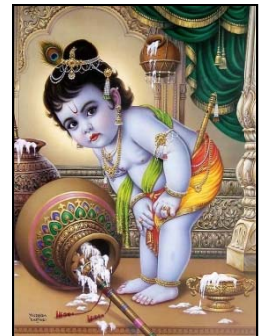
Sunday, August 14: Balashala begins in the Cultural Center of HTS at 10:30 am.

Sunday, August 21: Krishna Jayanthi Celebration

7:00 pm to 8:00 pm Public milk offering for Lord Krishna.

8:00 pm to 9:00 pm Pooja followed by and Mangala aarathi.

Temple is providing the milk for offering. People can bring fruits and flowers if they like to.



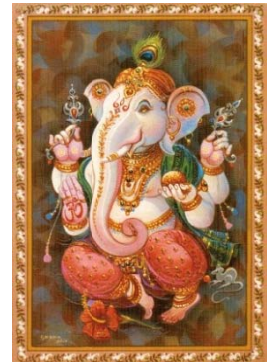
Thursday, September 1: Ganesh Chaturthi

5:30 am to 7:00 am Havan

Saturday, September 3: Chaturthi Celebration

10:00 am Abishek for Lord Ganesh and Ratha Yathra.

Maha Prasad will be served.



Announcements

Youth Group Graduation Puja

Thanks to everyone for participating in the graduation pooja this year. It was a successful event with the underclassmen even cooking for the graduates and the puja. We have graduates from high schools, colleges, and graduate schools as well. The puja was a reminder of the strong community and outreach of the many successful folks. The youth group is being revitalized and will be involved in many more of these type events with the temple. Please continue to provide support to their efforts. Thanks to Dr. Ravi Jerath and Dr. Vandana Jerath for their presentation to the youth group members and their continued support through the years.

Karthik

Arts in the Heart of Augusta September 16-18

Arts in the Heart of Augusta is a weekend celebration of the different ethnic groups that live in Augusta and a promotion of the various artistes and groups that bring the arts to Augusta. About 15 countries participate in the festival and have booths depicting their food and culture. There are seven stages where music, dance and artists show their talent. The Indian Pavilion has been sponsored by the Temple since 1993 and we take pride in putting our best foot forward. The festival will be held September 16-18 in downtown Augusta at the Commons. It is a ticketed event and about 5000 people attend the event so it is not a small task to organize and prepare for the event. Help of all kinds is welcome. To organize and use manpower wisely, we do have to plan well. If interested in helping, please give a call to Sheila Kamath 706-650-5751.

Balshala

Balshala is Sunday school for children in grades KG to 12 during the school year. The main goal of the program is to learn about Hinduism and various aspects of the Indian culture through slokas, bhajans, stories, plays, and crafts. Hindi classes are also offered to interested Balshala students. This is a great opportunity for kids to make friends, gain confidence, and develop leadership skills. Balshala will resume in the Cultural Center of HTS on August 14th, 2011 at 10:30 AM. The registration for the 2011-2012 school years will start on August 14th and continue till August 28th, 2011. In order to participate in the program, parents are required to pay both the annual Balshala fee (\$50.00/child) and the annual membership dues to the temple at the time of registration. Temple annual membership is \$150 and for perpetual donor membership it is \$300. Cash and Checks are accepted as the forms of payment. For accounting purposes, please pay the Balshala registration and the Temple membership dues with separate checks. For more information refer to the website: www.balshala.com

Sports Dr. Natarajan

Temple Golf tournament was held at Midland valley country club.

Winners: Dr.S.Gowda
Dr.P.K.Natrajan
Mr.Pankit patel
Mr. Deshpande

Second Place: Dr.P.Merai
Mr.Achyut Patel
Mr.Mahesh Shah
Mr.Praful Patel

Parables Illustrating the Importance of the Mind *by Dr. K. Ramesh Pai*

The gross body (Sthulararira) is constituted of the basic elements, the Panchbhutas, namely earth, water, fire, air, and the all-pervading space (Akasa). The Indriyas (senses) coming into contact with the Indriyarthas (sense objects) leads to sense perception, which the mind interprets as pleasant, or to be pursued, or unpleasant, or to be avoided. Sense control is a very important part towards the path of realization of the Self (Atman/Spirit), the ultimate goal of sincere seekers of Mukti (liberation). Sense control can be obtained only by using the mind, and hence its importance.

Parable 1

In a certain town, there lived a prostitute who was brought up in the profession from a young age. On the pavement outside her home, a sadhu (holy man) who was well versed in the scriptures and was respected for his knowledge, daily sat giving advice to those who sought it. One day, when the prostitute was passing by, the sadhu accosted her and asked her to amend her evil way. She listened attentively and said she would try to change. The sadhu saw, however, that visitors continued to frequent her house seeking her services for entertainment and pleasure. For every visitor, the sadhu put a pebble by his side to keep count. The prostitute, for her part, for every visitor prayed fervently to the Lord pleading that she had not had the benefit of education in any other vocation to enable her to earn a decent living. After some days, when the pebbles collected by the sadhu had become a heap, he stopped her and pointed to the enormity of her sins. She went home, crying piteously and earnestly begged the Lord to put an end to her worthless life.

After some time, both of them died. The body of the sadhu was carried by his followers in a grand procession, and he was given a grand funeral. As the prostitute had no relatives, her body was cast away on the forest by hired laborers to be eaten by vultures and wild animals.

The messengers of Death came and carried the woman's soul to Heaven while the sadhu found himself in Hell. When he protested against this gross injustice, he was told that Yama, the God of Death, was also the God of Justice who was supremely impartial and made no distinction between rich and poor, high and low. He was also told that while he was counting pebbles and watching the number of visitors to the house, the woman's mind was on the Lord. Consequently, he was the sinner who was being punished.

Parable 2

Two young men who were constant companions set out one evening seeking recreation. In a temple courtyard, they noticed there was a harikatha performance, a religious discourse accompanied by devotional singing. One of them suggested it would be a good way to spend the evening, but the other did not agree. They parted company. The first one stayed while the other sought a place with a night club atmosphere and vulgar music. After a while, the first friend found the performance uninteresting and started to imagine the pleasures being enjoyed by his companion. On the other hand, the second friend thought he had made a mistake coming to a place of profanity, and began to think of the religious discourse being enjoyed by his friend. The first friend, being seated in a temple courtyard, did not have the benefit of listening to the religious discourse. The second friend, while being at an unworthy place, had his mind contemplating the religious discourse and devotional singing.

Sri Ramakrishna constantly instructed his devotees, "You are what your mind is. Take care of your thoughts and everything will be alright." Train your mind to be like the honeybee. It either sits on a flower collecting nectar or it is in the hive depositing the honey collected. It is in constant contact with honey. So also, your mind must be on God and good deeds. Avoid the nature of the common housefly, which sits for an instant on sweet things, then sits on excreta in the next moment.

He also told them that the mind tends to take the same nature as the object or form it is constantly contemplating. He drew their attention to the example mentioned in our scriptures. A wasp keeps a worm captive in its hole and prevents its escape by standing guard at the entrance. By continuously thinking of the wasp, though out of fear, the worm in course of time is transformed into a wasp.

Message from the President

Dear Devotees/friends,

In the last month we had two great programs, in addition to the regular HTS poojas and activities. The first one was the heavenly classical concert by the famous Priya sisters. We are very fortunate and privileged to listen to such a high quality concert. This was possible because of great efforts of our cultural committee, with a major and passionate effort by Dharma and Shankar Sethuraman.

The second event was the Graduation Pooja. The pooja was well planned and completed on time. The talented youths (high school graduates, seniors and juniors) of our HTS community surprised us with their multiple talents in academic achievements as well as in the preparation of excellent quality food. This event drew a lot of high praises from many members of our community. Every successful event requires dedicated service and hard work by volunteers. There was no exception in this case also. It was the result of great leadership and active participation by Karthik and Radhika Subramanian, proactive planning and organization by Sheila Kamath and consistent and tireless work by our Pooja committee, led by Nimitha Shetty.

“Congratulations to the Youth Group on their great success in academic achievements and voluntary missions!”

Hail to our HTS angels!

Wishing all of you a very enjoyable and cool summer.

Amitava Ganguly

Condolences:

The Hindu temple and it's community extends its condolences to:

Mr Dolat Patel on the loss of his mother, Mrs Gangaben Gandabhai Patel, in India.

May God Bless the departed souls and May they rest in Peace in Heaven.

July 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Priest Day Off					1 6:15 p Krishna Chanting 7 p Devi Abhishek	2 9 a Karthikeya Puja
3	4 7 p Shiva Puja	5 6:45 p Hanuman Chalisa	6 6:45 p Krishna Archana	7 Priest Day Off	8 6:15 p Krishna Chanting	9 9 a Balaji Abhishek
10 2 p Jain Puja	11 7 p Shiva Puja	12 6:45 p Hanuman Chalisa	13 6:45 p Krishna Archana	14 Priest Day Off	15 Guru Poonnima 7:00 p Satyanarayana Puja	16
17 10 am Third Sunday Pooja Priest Day Off	18 7 p Shiva Puja 7p Ganesh Puja	19 6:45p Hanuman Chalisa	20 6:45 p Krishna Archana	21 Priest Day Off	22 6:15 p Krishna Chanting	23
24 Soup Kitchen 2 p Jain Puja	25 7 p Shiva Puja	26 6:45 p Hanuman Chalisa	27 6:45 p Krishna Archana	28 Priest Day Off	29 6:15 p Krishna Chanting	30

Aug 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7 p Shiva Puja	2 6:45 p Hanuman Chalisa	3 6:45 p Krishna Archana	4 Priest Day Off	5 7 p Devi Abhishek 6:15 p Krishna Chanting	6 9 a Karthikeya Puja
7 Soup Kitchen	8 7 p Shiva Puja	9 6:45 p Hanuman Chalisa	10 6:45 p Krishna Archana	11 Priest Day Off	12 7 p Varamahalakshmi Puja	13 9 a Balaji Abhishek 7 p Satyanarayana puja Raksha Bhandan Day
14 2 p Jain Puja	15 7 p Shiva Puja	16 6:45 p Hanuman Chalisa	17 6:45 p Krishna Archana	18 Priest Day Off	19 6:15 p Krishna Chanting	20
21 10 a 3rd Sunday puja 7 p Krishnar Jayanthi	22 7 p Shiva Puja	23 6:45 p Hanuman Chalisa	24 6:45 p Krishna Archana	25 Priest Day Off	26 6:15 p Krishna Chanting	27
28 2 p Jain Puja	29 7 p Shiva Puja	30 6:45 p Hanuman Chalisa	31 6:45 p Krishna Archana	Sep 1 5:30 a Ganesh Havan Priest Day Off	Sep 2 7 p Devi Abhishek	Sep 3 Chathurthi Celebration Maha Prasad

SCHEDULE

Mondays	7:00 pm	Shiv Puja
Tuesdays	6:45 pm	Hanuman Chalisa
Wednesdays	6:45 pm	Krishna Archana
1 st Friday	7:00 pm	Devi Puja
Fridays	6:15pm	Krishna: Chanting and Meditation
Saturdays	8:00 am	Suprabhatham
1 st Saturday	9:00 am	Karthikeya Puja
2 nd Saturday	9:00 am	Shri Venkateshwara Puja
3 rd Sunday	10:00 am	Monthly Puja
2 nd & 4 th Sunday	2:00 pm	Jain Puja

HTS Temple Third Sunday - Cleaning Responsibility

Third Sunday cleaning responsibility of the temple lie on the group sponsoring the third Sunday Pooja. Please make sure the temple is clean before you leave, and to make arrangement for at least one person from the group to stay back until the cleaning crew has completed the cleaning.

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

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INPUT FOR THE NEXT
NEWSLETTER IS 15th OF
THE AUGUST. PLEASE
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Kavithahts@hotmail.com

PLEASE
RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP
BE A PERPETUAL DONOR