



Newsletter

March / April, 2011



www.augustahts.com

P. O. Box. 204264
Augusta, GA 30907

1421 Lukes Road
Augusta GA 30909

Phone: (706)-860-3864

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, March 2 Mahashivaratri Pooja

- 06:00 PM: Ganesh Pooja & Kalasha Sthapana
06.45 PM: Public Offering of Milk
07.45 PM- 10.00 PM: Panchamrita Abhishek, Namarchana
Pooja, Pushpanjali & Arati

Milk for public offering is provided by temple. Devotees can bring flowers and fruits.



Friday, March 11 & Saturday March 12, 2011 - Ramakrishna Birthday Celebration

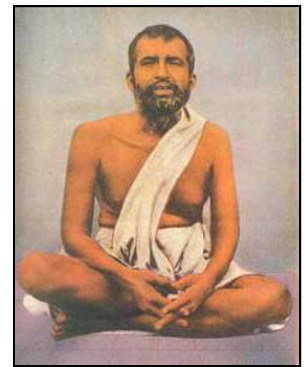
POOJA & LECTURE/DIS COURSE by Swami Atmajnanandaji (Stuart Maharaj) from Greater Washington D.C. Vedanta Center.

Friday, March 11

- 8:00 PM: Lecture/discourse by Swamiji with question and answer (Q&A) session, at HTS Cultural Center

Saturday, March 12

- 11:30 AM: Puja by Swamiji followed by mahaprasad at the Main Temple.
6:00 PM Ramakrishna Aarti (India Ramakrishna Math style) at the Main temple
7:00 PM Short discourse/lecture/Q&A by Swamiji



Contacts:

Amitava/Indrani Ganguly (706)-860-5586; Kiran Karanth (706)-631-4250 & B.N. Roy (706)-868-8233

Friday March 18 Holi Celebration

6:30 PM Holi Bonfire

Please mark your calendar, and celebrate Holi bonfire. For further information please contact Praful Patel @ (706)-863-1897 or Vinod Chudgar @ (706)-855-8613.

Saturday, March 26 A Carnatic Vocal Concert by Smt. Bhavana Pradyumna Concert will be held in the Cultural Center.

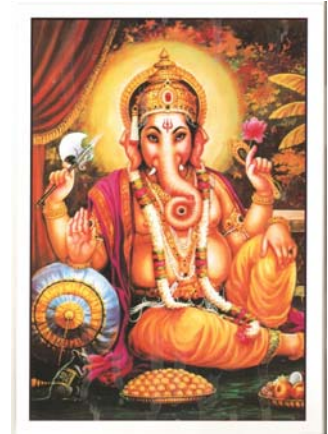
3:00 PM **Smt. Bhavana Pradyumna** will be accompanied by
Mr. Ramesh Panchagnula of Atlanta, GA on **Violin &**
Dr. Sriram of Atlanta, GA on **Mridangam.**



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

Sunday, March 27 Ganesh Havan

10.00 AM - 10.15 AM : Ganesh Pooja
10.15 AM - 10.30 AM : Maha Sankalpa
10.30 AM - 11.00 AM : Punyahavachana
11.00 AM - 12.00 PM : Havan
12.00 PM - 12.30 PM : Purnahuti
12.30 PM - 12.45 PM : Arati
1.00 PM : Mahaprasadam



This is a Temple Fund Raising Event. Please participate and donate generously to the temple.

Sponsorship: \$50 and above

Yajamana Tray: \$251 and above.

Contacts: Amitava Ganguly (706)-860-5586 & Nimitha Shetty (706)-868-5800

Monday, April 4 Yugadi Celebration

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Shiva pooja and Yugadi celebration

Prasad will be served.

Saturday, April 16 & Sunday, April 17 Akanda Ramayan Pat.

10:30 AM : Akanda Ramayan Pat starts on April 16

12:00 PM : Akanda Ramayan Pat ends with the third Sunday pooja.

For further details contact Sudha Sinha (706)-863-8878

Message from the President:

Dear Devotees/Friends,

I would like to share some of my thoughts and results from a quick Google search about "what is a temple" and its purpose:

A "TEMPLE" (from the Latin word templum) is a structure reserved for religious or spiritual activities. The word "mandir" or "mandira" is derived from a Sanskrit word mandira, for house, synonymous with words "devalayam" or "devasthanam". All of these words represent "a place of worship" by devotees of the temple. Temple is a place where we congregate and perform ritual practices (poojas) to express our Bhakti or love and devotion to a deity or several deities. During the ritual consecration of a temple, the presence of the universal all-encompassing Brahman is invoked into the deity through rituals and by chanting Vedic hymns, thereby making the deity and the temple sacred and divine. As a result, the inner sanctuary, where the murtis of deities reside, becomes the meeting place of god and mankind.

I believe that our temple is such a divine place. Children, youths, adults/senior citizens of our HTS community - all of us come to the temple, join the prayer with our pujariji, chant mantras and feel the vibration in the temple.

To keep the sanctity of such a divine place it is imperative that we keep our facilities (the temple and the cultural center) very clean and tidy. Unfortunately, it is impossible to do so just with a few volunteers and monthly cleaning services. Spilled water and food can be a tripping hazard for our children and senior citizens. They are our own. We do not want them to get hurt.

I am confident that if we all work together we can keep our HTS facility clean and safe, by throwing our individual trash only in the trash cans, picking up small items spilled or left by our own children, and by throwing all trash only in the trash cans. As adults, let us teach our children through our actions to be responsible in maintaining the cleanliness of our facilities. I have personally seen such an example in this HTS temple, when after a third Sunday pooja, a parent from this HTS community took the vacuum cleaner away from me saying "Uncle, give me that; my son will do it". Immediately, his kindergarten level son came and started doing the vacuum with a quite a joyous attitude. Let us join that parent and all such HTS parents to keep the divinity in our temple.

As we all know "cleanliness is next to godliness".

Amitava Ganguly,
HTS, Augusta, GA.

The Parable of the Three Robbers- From the Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna

By Dr. Ramesh Pai

Great teachers who serve as our guides in the path of spirituality have made their profound teaching easy of understanding by taking examples from ordinary household life and the use of parables. When narrated in this manner it appeals to people who are not highly intellectual. Ramakrishna Paramahansa was one such teacher who used this method most effectively in the course of his conversations and meetings with persons who approached him for guidance.

A study and review of some of the parables bringing out the essential underlying instruction will be of immense benefit. Among them one of the most striking one is the parable of the three robbers.

The Bhagavad Gita is the most popular of the Hindu Scriptures, available in every Indian home and used for study as a practical guide for day to day life. The fourteenth chapter of the Gita is the Gunatraya Vibhaga Yoga which deals with the three gunas in detail in twenty seven verses. The Gunas are the inherent traits which form the distinctive make up of every individual. They are three in number. The first is Sattva which reflects purity and goodness such as kindness, compassion and charity. The second is Rajas which reflects incessant relentless activity devoid of rest and relaxation. The third is Tamas which reflects laziness, inertia, excessive sleep, idleness, etc. One of the traits of Tamas not ordinarily emphasized is pramaada, which is acting on impulse without any thought of consequences. This recklessness or heedlessness is clearly pointed out in the Gita chapter.

All human beings are constituted by the three Gunas, mixed up in different degrees in various combinations which determine their conduct and behavior. In the Ramayana, the conduct and character of the three brothers born of the same parents serves as a fitting example. Ravana was the embodiment of Rajas, Kumbhakarna of Tamas and Vibhishana of Sattva.

Sri Ramakrishna has dealt with this concept of the three Gunas in his inimitable manner summarizing the whole Gita chapter as a story of the three robbers which follows.

A merchant with some valuables travelling alone had to pass through a forest to his home in the city. He was waylaid by three robbers who took away all his possessions. Then the first robber said, "Let us kill him! ". The second robber argued, "Why incur the sin of killing him? Let us tie him up firmly to a tree". The second robber's advice was followed and they went away leaving him to his fate. After sometime the third robber returned, unbound him and took him to the edge of the forest along a road leading to the city which could be seen at a distance. The merchant thanked the robber profusely for his kindness and earnestly requested him to accompany him so that he could suitably reward him on reaching home. However the third robber said, "I cannot come with you to the city as I will be recognized as a robber by the police".

Sri Ramakrishna himself offers the explanation for the story. The first robber was Tamas showing the quality of pramaada, acting on impulse. The second robber was Rajas exhibiting the quality of binding to the pleasures of the sensory world. The third robber was Sattva who showed the qualities of kindness and compassion. Nevertheless he was still a robber illustrating the main and central theme of the Gita chapter, that in order to achieve spiritual liberation, Mukti, one has to transcend the Guna of Sattva also and become Trai guna atita. Be established in Sattva without EGO (Ahankara). One must be constant in purity, virtue and goodness but not be conscious of one's Sattvic activity.

Message from the Swamiji of Bharat Sevashram Sangha (BSS-NJ):

Swami Amarnathanandaji of BSS- NJ wants to convey his deep appreciation and gratitude to the Augusta Hindu Temple community for its generous donation to the fund for the construction of the new Mandir at the Kendall Park, NJ site. He extended an open and cordial invitation to the temple community to visit the mandir which is expected to be complete by end of summer.

Note: Many HTS members contributed money to Swamiji this past year resulting in a total donation from our community exceeding \$3000. This money would be used for the installation of Devi Saraswati Murti at the new BSS temple and would be recorded as a gift from the Augusta Hindu community.

Swamiji's fund raising campaign is continuing and anyone interested in donating to this cause may contact B.N.Roy at (706)-868-8233.

A physician that does not want to see you!!!----- Breathe Wrong

Sanjeev Kapuria is an anesthesiologist by profession & Director of the Preoperative Evaluation clinic at the Medical College of Georgia. When he discovered that his Blood Pressure was on the high side, he preferred to practice 'Pranayama' rather than get relief with medicines. Surprised by the amazing benefits of Pranayama, he researched further about the various techniques & analyzed the various benefits as a physician. Dr. Kapuria decided to share his experience with others at the Hindu temple. He has started the Pranayama class at the temple. Several HTS members have been attending this class, held at 10:30AM every Sunday. All HTS members are invited to attend this free class. With the popularity of Baba Ramdev and others, you may have heard about the benefits of Pranayama. Perhaps there might not be any 'NEW' information about the practice of Pranayama, which is thousands of years old. However, we could benefit from a bit of motivation, a scientific perspective and encouragement from peers in the class. Feel free to take advantage of this class.

Announcements

Annual sponsorship of Abhishek and pooja:

Balaji, Ganesh, Muruga and Devi	\$500.00
Individual Deity annual sponsorship is	\$150.00
Annual SathyaNarayanapooja sponsorship	\$120.00
Any above puja one time sponsorship is	\$25.00

Information from Sports committee by Sharma Pogula

Sports events/competitions will be held on behalf of HTS during the months of April through September 2011. The dates for the events will be chosen by the event captain (as below) based on the availability of facilities and number of participants. So please watch for announcements in the newsletter, web site or at the temple. Our intention is to get more participation. I encourage you to contact the team captains for your participation. A sports day event for children, competitions and cricket match information will be announced separately.

If you have any suggestion to improve participation, please contact Mr. Sharma Pogula at (706)-855-1081.

1. Cricket	Jay Amin/Vinod Chudgar	(706)-868-0739
2. Tennis	Ashok Pillai	(706)-855-1349
3. Bowling	Ashwin Galiara	(706)-855-9280
4. Bridge	Dr. Natarajan	(706)-863-4892
5. Volley Ball	Praful Patel	(706)-863-1897
6. Golf	Dr. Sridhar Gowda	(706)-868-7796
7. Sports day For Children	Kanti Mistry / Vinod Chudgar	(706)-860-3568 / (706)-855-8613
8. Shuttle	Daniel George	(706)-731-9990

Please call the captains for your participation. Please participate and be recognized of your skills.

HTS Temple Priest:

Our temple priest will be out of town from April 10th to May 3rd. During this time Temple will be open only from 6 PM to 8PM.

Condolences:

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

Mr. Nagin Merai and his family on the loss of his brother **Mr. Uttambhai Bhagwan Merai**, (95 years old).

Mr. Raj Batra and his family on the loss of his brother **Mr. Anil Batra**, (56 years old).

Dr. Adarsh Gulati and family on the loss of his mother **Mrs Kailesh Gulati**, who was also sister of Mr. Madan Gopal.

Mr. Pushpankur Ghoshal on the loss of his father **Mr. Ashok Ghoshal**.

Mr. Ravi and Sangeeta Verma on the loss of Sangeeta's father in Dehradun, India.

Dr. Bipin Chudgar on the loss of his mother in India. She was 87 years old.

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

March 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6:45 p Hanuman Chalisa	2 5 p Mahashivarathri 6:45 p Krishna Archana	3 Priest Day Off	4 6:15 p Krishna Chanting 7 p Devi Abhishek	5 9 a Karthikeya Puja
6	7 7 p Shiva Puja	8 6:45 p Hanuman Chalisa	9 6:45 p Krishna Archana	10 Priest Day Off	11 Temple RSVD: Lecture	12 9 a Balaji Abhishek 4 p Ramakrishna Jayanti
13 2 p Jain Puja	14 7 p Shiva Puja	15 6:45 p Hanuman Chalisa	16 6:45 p Krishna Archana	17 Priest Day Off	18 7 p Holi	19 10:30 a Sathyanarayan Puja
20 10 a 3 rd Sunday Pooja	21 7 p Shiva Puja	22 7 p Ganesha Puja 6:45p Hanuman Chalisa	23 6:45 p Krishna Archana	24 Priest Day Off	25 6:15 p Krishna Chanting	26 TMPL RSVD – Havan Prep 3 p Carnatic Music
27 10 a TMPL RSVD: Havan 2 p Jain Puja	28 7 p Shiva Puja	29 6:45 p Hanuman Chalisa	30 6:45 p Krishna Archana	31 Priest Day Off		

April 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 7 p Devi Abhishek 6:15 p Krishna Chanting	2 9 a Karthikeya Puja
3	4 7 p Yugadi 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 Priest Day Off 2 p Jain Puja	11 Priest Day Off 7 p Shiva Puja	12 Priest Day Off 6:45 p Hanuman Chalisa 7 p Rama Navami	13 Priest Day Off 6:45 p Krishna Archana	14 Priest Day Off	15 Priest Day Off 6:15 p Krishna Chanting	16 Priest Day Off 10:30 a Akhand Ramayan Starts
17 Priest Day Off 10 a 3 rd Sunday puja – Akhand Ramayan Ends	18 Priest Day Off 7 p Shiva Puja & Hanuman Jayanthi	19 Priest Day Off 6:45 p Hanuman Chalisa	20 Priest Day Off 6:45 p Krishna Archana	21 Priest Day Off	22 Priest Day Off 6:15 p Krishna Chanting	23 Priest Day Off
24 Priest Day Off 2 p Jain Puja	25 Priest Day Off 7 p Shiva Puja	26 Priest Day Off 6:45 p Hanuman Chalisa	27 Priest Day Off 6:45 p Krishna Archana	28 Priest Day Off 7 p Ganesh Puja	29 Priest Day Off 6:15 p Krishna Chanting	30 Priest Day Off

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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TO YOUR TEMPLE

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THE LAST DAY OF
INPUT FOR THE NEXT
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THE APRIL. PLEASE
SEND YOUR INPUT TO

Kavithahts@hotmail.com

PLEASE
RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP
BE A PERPETUAL DONOR