An Interfaith Dialog, July 22nd Sat

We warmly invite you to an insightful evening filled with rich experiences including an interfaith dialogue with representatives from various religions, followed by a keynote presentation from a 9/11 Survivor.

The Keynote Speaker, Ram Singal is a professional engineer who has been practicing and teaching Raja Yoga Meditation with the Brahma Kumaris for almost 40 years. Ram utilizes the spiritual principles he has learned to transform obstacles into opportunities, serving many others in the process. Such was the case on that infamous September day in 2001. For contact details see Pg 6.

HTS Outreach Activities

The outreach and community service committee is looking for volunteers to work at Lydia House. Please volunteer and provide your support to the HTS and local community. Details on page 3...

Balshala Open House

With the arrival of August, the temple is hosting baalshala for the junior citizens. This year there is new co-ordinator for the balshala. We hope all parents will lend her the support to run the program without hitch and make enjoyable to the kids. For additional details and contacts see page 4...

Surya Grahan, August 21st. 2:34– 2:40pm

The total solar eclipse on Augusta 21st will be one of its kind in for next 100 years in USA, and only seen in NA. The 70 miles wide path of totality will span from Oregon to South Carolina. The City of Augusta will be missed by few miles. But the eclipse will be visible in totality in McCormack, Saluda, Edgefield, Bamberg, and Columbia in south Carolina.
What Becomes Of The Soul After Death

Excerpts taken from Swami Sivananda’s book

BIRTH AND DEATH
Birth and death are two illusory scenes
In the drama of this world:
Really no one is born, no one dies,
No one comes, no one goes.
It is Maya’s jugglery,
It is play of the mind;
Brahman alone exists.
There is birth for the body alone,
Five elements combine to form the body;
The Atman is birthless and deathless;
Death is casting off the physical sheath.
It is like deep sleep;
Birth is like waking from sleep;
Be not afraid of death, O Ram!
Life is continuous.
The flower may fade but the fragrance floats;
The body may disintegrate,
But the immortal fragrance of the soul Always will remain.
Learn to discriminate
The Real from the unreal;
Think always of the Infinite
That is birthless and deathless.
Transcend Maya and Moha,
Go beyond three Gunas,
Give up attachment for the body.
Free yourself from birth and death
And merge in the Immortal Essence.

REBIRTH
Rebirth is due to mind
And to the tendencies of the mind.
You think: and an impression is left in the mind,
This impression is the seed of thought,
The impressions coalesce together
And make tendency or tendencies.
As you think,
So you become. You take birth
According to your thoughts.
Sattva rises upwards
Rajas is in the middle,
Tamas goes downwards
Enveloped in evil qualities.
Mind is the cause
Of man’s bondage and liberation;
An impure mind binds,
A pure mind liberates.
When you realise the Truth,
When you know your own Self,
The cause for future births is removed,
The thoughts are killed, the Samskaras are burnt.
You are free from rebirth,
You attain Perfection,
You enjoy Supreme Peace,
You become Immortal—this is the Truth.
If there is only one birth,
If the evil-doer is thrown into eternal fire,
There is no scope for his betterment;—
This cannot be accepted.
This is not reasonable too,
The Vedanta embraces even the worst sinner:
How sublime is this philosophy!
It proclaims to him:
Friend! Thou art pure Soul, Sin cannot touch thee,
Regain your lost divinity, Sin is nothing.
Sin is a mistake only; You can destroy sins in the
Contd/.... From 2
twinkling of an eye,
Be bold, be cheerful,
Stand up, wake up, “Uttishthata, Jaagrata”.
The Gita says: “Even the worst sinner
Can become righteous, can cross sins
By the raft of wisdom.”
How do you account, friend!
There is the existence of boy geniuses,
A child plays on the piano,
A child delivers lectures,
A boy solves great mathematical problems.
A child narrates his previous life,
One becomes a full-blown Yogi,
This proves that there is rebirth:
Buddha gained experiences in several births.
He became Buddha only in his last birth.
He who has a taste for music,
Gains experiences in several births,
And becomes a master of music in one birth,
He cuts grooves for music in each birth,
Slowly develops tendency and aptitude,
And becomes an expert musician in one birth;
So is the case with every Art.
The baby sucks, the young duck swims,
Who taught this? They are
The Samskaras or the tendencies of previous births.
In one birth all virtues cannot be developed.
By gradual evolution only, one can be cultivated.
Saints possess excellence in all virtues,
The existence of saints and adepts
Indicates that there is rebirth.

HTS Outreach Activities

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Lydia House: July 12th 2017

Every year we donate school supplies to Columbia county for under privileged children so it would be nice if we can inform in the upcoming Temple news letter to our members about the good cause and if they would like to contribute to help the needy children with school supplies of their choice.

The School board has provided a list of school supplies which will be posted on the news bulletin board in the entrance hall of the temple for members to view and may be we can also announce in the 3rd Sunday puja.

Interested individuals should contact Usha Patel by email.
Balshala Registration

August 6th, 2017

10:30am – 12:30 pm

Agenda:

Register your child – Age 4+ (cutoff date September 5)
Sign up for Prasad and Clean Up
Parent meeting at 11:30 am

DON’T FORGET YOUR CHECKBOOK!

Parents: You must be HTS member to register your child for Balshala, please be prepared to pay your HTS membership dues along with Balshala registration fees. If you can’t make it to registration, you can have someone else register your child!!!!

Interested in being a teacher or volunteering???

EMAIL teambalshala@balshala.org
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**Notes:**
- **Tennis Group:** Monthly Puja
- **Ganesh Chaturthi Puja Celebrations**