



वक्रतुंड महाकाय सूर्यकोटिसमप्रभ ।
निर्विघ्नं कुरु मे देव सर्वकार्येषु सर्वदा ॥



PUJAS FOR JAN - FEB

GANESHA HAVAN	JAN 1
SANKASTHI	JAN 5
KARTIKEYA PUJA	JAN 6
KITE FESTIVAL	JAN 7
SATHYANARAYANA PUJA	JAN 12 & 31
KALYANOSTAV	JAN 20-21
SARASWATI PUJA	JAN 27
THAI POOSAM	FEB 3
MAHA SHIV RATRI	FEB 13
THIRD SUNDAY PUJA*	FEB 18

On behalf of the 2017-2018 Executive Committee, we wish you a happy and prosperous new year. Our temple has grown almost double in the last 10 years and with that has come a welcomed change in how we do things. Having said that we can not abandon our way of governing as set forth in our current Constitution. Our goal this year is to become more efficient and transparent in how we operate. In doing so we have created emails for our officers and chairpersons of the Executive Committees. If you have any questions, suggestions, or comments, please email us by clicking on the Executive Committee name included in this newsletter and posted on our website.

On that list, you will see some familiar names and a few new names. We hope this will encourage those of you who have a willingness to serve to come forward and let us know.

A big thanks to all who completed the membership form during Diwali. We have updated our database and hopefully all of you are now receiving the newsletter. The information you provide allows us to include your email for the newsletter and to provide you with your charitable contribution notice. Don't forget to like and follow us on Facebook.

Please be on the lookout for more information from our Education and Career Counseling Committee's first event to be held on January 27th at 4:00 pm.

The temple's success does not depend on the work of one or a few, it requires all of us to put forth some effort. That effort may be an hour or so of your time volunteering to help clean, plant, or cook. That effort may be a monetary contribution regardless of the amount. In either event, we appreciate your continued support.

Happy New year and Best wishes.

Mukti Patel

President

HTS Augsta Executive Committee 2018	
President	Mukti Patel
Vice President	Sanjiv Sondhi
Secretary	Varsha Kulkarni
Joint Secretaries	Kiran Karanth, Surekha Prasad
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Balsahal Committee	Balshubha Paregi
Youth Committee	Shaji Kamalasanan, Anita Patel
Membership Committee	Devesh Patel, Chetan Patel, Kailash Kailash
Education Committee	Srinivas Akkella, Anita Gangwani, Sajitha Menon, Lopa Agarwal, Vaishali Sondhi, Nirja Gupa, Srinivasan Thiyagrajan, Shaji Kamalasanan, Rama Mandavat
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<u>Board of Trustees</u>	
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To Send email click/tap and hold on the name of committee

Sri Dakshinaa-moorti – Guru of all Gurus

By Angarai Venkat

Subramanian

Contributed by Dharma Thiruvaiyaru



DakshiNaa-moorti is indeed the foremost preceptors and is the personification of ultimate awareness and knowledge. We worship Him as the Lord of wisdom. In this article, we shall explore Sri DakshiNaa-moorti as ‘Guru of all Gurus’ in terms of research, teachings, understanding, and, inferences by looking at the Kumaaras, Sri. Adi Shankaracharya, Sri. Ramana Maharishi, Poojyasri. Dayaananda Sarasvati of Aisha Vidya Gurukulam, and the Paramacharya of Kaanchi Kaama KoaTi PeeTham Sri. Chandra Sekhara Sarasvati.

Lord DakshiNaa-moorti and the Four Kumaaras

Sanaka, Sananda, Sanaatana and Sanat-kumaara who were born from the mind of Brahma, are collectively referred to as the “Kumaaras”. When Brahma ordered them to procreate, they didn’t; they were very dispassionate and were not interested in material things; several questions sprang in their minds and they wandered for about one hundred years in search of answers; the almighty and all merciful Lord Shiva who is the indweller of all, enlightened the Kumaaras in the form of DakshiNaa-moorti.

Lord DakshiNaa-moorti is believed to teach through ‘Paraa Vaak’, which is a divine speech-form inaudible to worldly ears and it resides in the recesses of silence. As soon as Sri DakshiNaa-moorti assumed silence, the kumaaras too merged into that Supreme Silence, the true state of the Self. The four Kumaaras represent the four components of the antah-karaNa (“inner organ”) - manas (sensory mind), buddhi (intellect), ahankaara (ego), and chitta (storage) – and they were focused on realizing the Divine Reality within. Ordinary expressions are of no use in grasping the teachings of Sri DakshiNaa-moorti who explains the true meaning of BrahmaN naturally through ‘Paraa Vaak’. It is often said of the imagery of DakshiNaa-moorti thus:

“Chitram vaTa taroar-moole vriddhaa shishyaah gurur yuvaaha

Guroastu maunam vyaakh-yaanam shish-yaastuh chinna sanshayah

- It is strange to see the very old disciples and the very young teacher, who sit under a banyan tree, with the teacher always observing silence, and the students getting all of their doubts cleared.”

Lord DakshiNaa-moorti and Sri. Adi Shankaracharya

We believe that the first substantial historical record about DakshiNaa-moorti is in ‘Suta Samhita’ of ‘Skanda

PuraaNa’. It is believed that Sri. Adi Shankaracharya studied ‘Suta Samhita’ eighteen times before composing his Bhaashya (commentary) on ‘Brahma Sootras’. It was perhaps his familiarity with Suta Samhita that inspired him to compose Sri DakshiNaa-moorti Stotra.

The DakshiNaa-moorti Stotra contains some of the most profound teachings of Advaita (Monism) Vedaanta (Philosophy). The wisdom conveyed by this Stotra’s verses can bring about a radical transformation of one’s world view by removing ignorance about the world, about BrahmaN, and about oneself. This transformative knowledge is capable of destroying the moola avidya (fundamental ignorance) that is the ultimate cause for all suffering. Thus, the DakshiNaa-moorti Stotra is a moaksha shastra, a scriptural teaching that can lead to one’s liberation from the cycle of birth and death. This Stotra is also a superb work of poetry set in a meter known as shardula vikridita. In its verses, Sri. Shankara deftly employs poetic imagery and vivid metaphors to extend the power of Sanskrit language to beyond what is possible by mere prose. Among all of Sri. Shankara’s works, this Stotra stands out as a dazzling and brilliant gem.

Lord DakshiNaa-moorti and RamaNa Maharishi

The great sage RamaNa Maharishi of AruNaachala very strongly believed that ‘Silence is unceasing eloquence’ and that oral lectures are not as eloquent as silence. Maharishi was considered by many as a personification of the primal master ‘DakshiNaa-moorti’, the ideal teacher Who taught by silence.

I vividly remember having read ‘Mountain Path’ as well as Maharishi’s devotees explaining during their satsang that during Mahaa Shivaratri day when one of the devotees requested Maharishi to teach them the essence of Lord DakshiNaa-moorti, he agreed and

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SRI DAKSHINAA-MOORTI CONTD / ..

said “here it goes” and remained silent for hours, and then asked whether they understood the concept of Lord DakshiNa-moorti. All of the disciples gathered there said they did. They were at peace and were glowing, not realizing that well over 8 hours had passed.

One of RamaNa Maharishi’s profound statement was “Chummaa iru” meaning ‘Just be silent’, which is not a state without thoughts; it is a state where there is no ‘thinker’. Silence is something that no thought or deed can assail. It is the natural state of ‘Being’ and it cannot be ‘practiced’. If we can admit that ‘action’ can take place spontaneously, it can likewise be understood that the ‘thought’ also can take place spontaneously. This spontaneity and unison of thought, speech, and action is the reason that jnyaanis (wise-ones) are said to have the nature of a child.

Lord DakshiNaa-moorti and Poojya Swami Dayaananda Sarasvati

Swami Dayaananda Sarasvati has specifically chosen DakshiNaa-moorti as the main deity in his Ashrams in India as well as U.S. When asked why he chose DakshiNaa-moorti as main deity for his ashrams even though He is not a commonly-found deity, Dayananda Sarasvatiji responded saying that, in an Aashram where Advaita Vedaanta is taught, there could not be a more appropriate deity than DakshiNaa-moorti. He further explained that the word DakshiNaa-moorti can also interpreted as DakshiNa amoorti – DakshiNascha asau amoortischa iti saha DakshiNaa-moorti ; one who is DakshiNa (skillful) and also Amoorti (formless). Hence, DakshiNa means skillful in removing the ignorance and Amoorti is the formless Lord Shiva who in the form of a teacher.

Lord DakshiNaa-moorti’s icon always faces south and the common interpretation of DakshiNaa-moorti is ‘South-facing Lord’. But traditionally, south is considered an inauspicious direction as it is associated with death, ignorance, and all the things that are undesirable in life. Why then does DakshiNaa-moorti face south? Because the Lord has nothing to be afraid of. While His elderly students sit facing Him (north), DakshiNaa-moorti sits facing south.

Lord Dakshinaa-moorti and the Paramacharya Chandra Sekharendra Saraswati of Kaanchi Kaama KoaTi PeeTham

Kaanchi Paramacharya reminded many of Lord DakshiNaa-moorti when he talked about the power of silence. The paramacharya explained this concept eloquently by quoting the following line from Adi Shankarachar-

ya’s DakshiNaa-moorti Stotra:

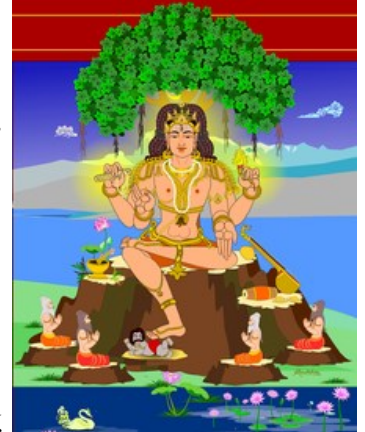
‘Mauna vyaakhyaa prakaTita Parabrahma-tatvam...’
Parabrahma tatvam (Philosophy) is best explained by silence; one cannot get to know

Parabrahmam by mind or speech; profound silence awakens the knowledge of the Supreme Brahman; by practicing silence, one can progress from the stage of ‘No-thought to God-thought’.

’Gurave sarva loakaa-naam,
bishaje bhava roagi-naam,
nidhaye sarva vidyaa-naam,
Sri DakshiNaa-moortaye
namah’

Salutations to that Sri.
DakshiNaa-moorti, Who is the teacher of the entire world, Who is the doctor to those afflicted by the disease of birth and death, And who is the treasure house of all knowledge.

Venkat Angarai Subramanian hails from a traditional family who firmly believe in Sanaatana Dharma. Venkat is a trustee at SSVT; Co-Founder/Secretary of HEF-DC; Ekal-DC he is the founder, President & CEO of Management Consulting firm ANGARAI



Balaji Pooja Program

Jan 20, 2018

Udaya- asthmana Nitya Seva

7:00 AM	Suprabhata Seva
8:00 AM	Nithyaaradhana and Homam Followed by Abhishekam Archana
12:00	Mahaprasad
6:30 -	Unjal Seva
7:30 PM	Shayanotsavam – Ekantha Seva

Jan 21, 2018

8.00 A.M	Suprabhatham
-12 NOON	Mahakalyanotsavam Mahaprasad

8 Spots available for Special sponsors @ \$250 each

General Sponsorship open to all for \$25.00

PI email [Dr. Vidya Sridharan](mailto:Dr.Vidya.Sridharan) for information

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CONDOLENCES

The HTS mourns the loss of following community members:

Mrs. Savitaben Chhotubhai Patel (mother of Rajeshbhai Chhotubhai Patel and mother-in-law of Reshmaben Rajeshbhai Patel)

K. Balakoti father of Suguna Dhandapani and father-in-law of B. Dhanadapani grandfather of Balsubha Paregi and grandfather in law of Anurag Paregi.

May god provide eternal peace to the departed soul and provide solace to the family members to bear the loss of the loved one.

HTS COMMUNITY SERVICE

It was a very rewarding experience on Sunday, Nov. 26th 2017 for us in the Soup Kitchen service project.

Seven members helped with preparing the meals on that day. Golden Harvest has put out a special menu as requested by us.

We encourage you to join in the experience of serving the community. We would appreciate your help in (i) kitchen 8:30-10:30am (5-7 volunteers; 18 years of age and older) and (ii) dining service 10:30-12:30pm (10-16 volunteers; 13 years of age and older).

For details email [Meena Arun](mailto:Meena.Arun@augustahts.org) or call (919)757-1088 .

Soup Kitchen Dates

February 4, 2018

April 1, 2018

June 3, 2018

August 5, 2018

October 7, 2018

December 2, 2018



India needs a revival of mythology T R Reddy (reprinted with permission from Indian Abroad)

I agree with Saumen Sengupta ('Wake up, the honeymoon is over,' Letters, India Abroad, December 19) about the mammoth problems facing India, which are mainly due to the sinful negligence and wrong priorities of the previous governments. Selfishness and corruption is ingrained in every walk of life so badly, it will take a long time to change things. But in my opinion, the Narendra Modi government has made strides in all of these area in the short time it has been in power.

Modi has taken efforts to highlight sanitation and infrastructure as major issues. This has brought awareness all over India in citizens including children. The celebrity participation and promotion also is noteworthy.

Corruption is prevalent in every walk of life and growing like cancer. It is not just by the government officials and political leaders but the mindset of the people is also to be blamed. They want to become rich quickly and prosperous at any cost including taking away (white collar thieves) from relatives and friends. I vehemently disagree with Sengupta's comment about Sushma Swaraj and more so about the Gita. Even western thinkers including clergy agree that Gita is non-sectarian.

When one of my neighbors, a pastor, asked me to share with him a Hindu religious scripture I follow, I loaned him a translation of the Gita by an American author, John Hawley. When the pastor returned the book he said that 'this is not a Hindu scripture, I did not see anywhere in the book a Hindu word, it is a universal book which depicts the ethos of proper living.'

By handing the Gita to the political leaders, Swaraj reminded them and refreshed the principles laid down in the Gita, subtly warning them about what happens if they violate those and behave improperly. In my opinion what India needs is a revival of mythology, be it Hindu, Muslim, or Christian, where stories are told in folklore form. Regardless of whether they actually took place or not, the dialogues between characters in the Mahabharata and stories from the Gita have created a lasting impact on the people of India, children as well as adults, about good and bad, and their consequences. Unlike what Sengupta quoted, I like to remember from the Gita, *Kar-masanyaasaat karmayogo vissishyate*.

YOUTH GROUP CORNER

The youth group has planned out the following events for Dec- Jan

Local community service: Youth Group participated to help the Salvation Army by volunteering at local centers for donations.

Mission Project: The Youth Group in collaboration with Rise for Hunger will work on a mission project. The goal is to encourage economically challenged kids to attend school by providing them free lunch in different countries all over the globe. By paying 29 cents, you can sponsor for a whole meal. The youth group has a goal of 10,000 meals or \$2,900 being raised for the cause.

Religious Activity: Youth Group will start explaining the meaning behind each third Sunday puja and will start with the Ayappa Puja this December.



Youth group performing for Salvation Army fundraiser at Kroger on Columbia Road.

AN APPEAL TO FUND FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF NEW MA DURGA PRATIMA

Dear Friends and devotees of Augusta Hindu Temple Society As you are aware the local Bengali community with active participation from HTS membership at large has been celebrating Sri Durga Puja over the past two decades here in the temple. The murtis that we have been using are now more than thirty years old and are in very poor shape with multiple damaged limbs, ornaments, and soiled articles of clothing. These have been in constant need of repairs, replacements and careful cleaning every year. A decision was recently made

to retire and replace the murtis with new ones. Since then we have been in touch with murti makers in Kolkata and selected a design for the murtis and negotiated a deal with one of the reputed makers. With the Divine Mother's blessings, we expect to receive the new murtis by this summer in time for this year's puja.

To defray the cost of procurement and shipping of the murtis we initiated a fundraising effort within the local Bengali community and have secured donation pledges that would cover the major portion of the expenses. Since many devotees of the temple community have in the past been enthusiastic participants and sponsors in the puja we thought it would be proper to invite them to join in this auspicious effort of bringing in new Ma Durga pratima in town for worship. So those of you who feel inclined to donate to this Ma Durga murti fund may please do so by writing a check to "HTS of Augusta" with a note 'Durga murti fund' and hand it to any of the following persons: **Shri. Partha Mukherjee; Arunava Saha, Himadri Das, and Mrs. Indrani Ganguly.** Our plan is to collect all donations on the Sri Saraswati puja day, **January 27, 2018, or earlier.**

Thank you for your participation and A hearty welcome in advance to this year's Durga puja with all new murtis!



Images of the murti's being procured

<h2 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Hindu Temple Society, Augusta January 2018</h2>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Thithi • Rashi • Nakshatra ○ - Full Moon ● - New Moon * - Maha Prasad	Punima • Mithuna • Ardra 1*	Prathipada • Mithuna • Punarvasu 2	Dwitaya • Karka • Pushya 3	Tritiya • Karka • Ashlesha 4 Temple Closed	Chaturthi • Simha • Magha 5 6.15 PM Krishna Chanting 7.00 PM Sankashtahara Chaturthi	Shasti • Simha • Purva Phalguni 6 8.00 AM Suprabhatam 9.00 AM Kartikeya Puja
Saptami • Kanya • Uttara Phalguni 7 12.00 Noon Kite Festival	Ashtami • Kanya • Hasta 8 10.00 AM Ganesh Havan 7.00 PM Shiva Puja	Navami • Thula • Chitra 9 6.45 PM Hanuman Chalisa 7.00 PM Devi Puja	Dasami • Thula • Swati 10 6.45 PM Krishna Archana	Dasami • Thula • Vishaka 11 Temple Closed	Ekadashi • Vrischika • Anuradha 12 6.15 PM Krishna Chanting 7.00 PM Satyanarayana Puja	Dvadashi • Vrischika • Jyeshtha 13 8.00 AM Suprabhatam
Trayodashi • Dhanu • Moola 14 Makara Sankranti 2.00 PM Jain Puja	Chaturdashi • Dhanu • Purva Ashadha 15 7.00 PM Shiva Puja	Amavasya • Dhanu • Purva Ashadha 16 6.45 PM Hanuman Chalisa	Pratipada • Makkara • Uttara Ashada 17 6.45 PM Krishna Archana	Dwitaya • Makara • Shrivana 18 Temple Closed	Tritiya • Kumbha • Dhanishta 19 6.15 PM Krishna Chanting	Chaturthi • Kumbha • Shatabhisha 20* 8.00 AM Suprabhatam 8.00 AM Venkateshwara Puja
Panchami • Kumbha • Purva Bhadrapada 21* 9.00 AM Venkateshwara Kalyana Utsav	Shashthi • Meena • Uttara Bhadrapada 22 7.00 PM Shiva Puja	Saptami • Meena • Revathi 23 6.45 PM Hanuman Chalisa Ratasaptami	Ashtami • Mesha • Ashwini 24 6.45 PM Krishna Archana	Navami • Mesha • Bharani 25 Temple Closed	Dashami • Vrishabha • Kritika 26 6.15 PM Krishna Chanting	Ekadashi • Vrishabha • Rohini 27 8.00 AM Suprabhatam 10.00 AM Bengali Saraswati Puja
Dvadasi • Mithuna • Mrigashirsha 28 2.00 PM Priest Off Jain Puja	Tryodasi • Mithuna • Ardra 29 7.00 PM Shiva Puja	Chaturdashi • Karka • Punarvasu 30 6.45 PM Hanuman Chalisa Thai Pooam	Punima • Karka • Ashlesha 31 6.45 PM Krishna Archana 7.00 PM Satyanarayana Puja	On 31 st Lunar Eclipse 5.51 AM to 11.00 AM - Temple Closed in the Morning	<p> Motel 6 201 Boy Scout Rd, Augusta, GA 30909 Phone: (706) 733-8200 Owners: Vikram Sheth & Rama Prasad </p>	

<h2 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Hindu Temple Society, Augusta February 2018</h2>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Thithi • Rashi • Nakshatra ○ - Full Moon ● - New Moon * - Maha Prasad				Dwitaya • Simha • Magha 1 Temple Closed	Tritiya • Simha • Purva Phalguni 2 6.15 PM Krishna Chanting 7.00 PM Devi Puja	Chaturthi • Kanya • Uttara Phalguni 3 8.00 AM Suprabhatam 9.00 AM Thai Pooam Kartikeya Puja Sankashti 7.00 PM
Panchami • Kanya • Hasta 4	Shashthi • Kanya • Chitra 5 7.00 PM Shiva Puja	Saptami • Tula • Swati 6 6.45 PM Hanuman Chalisa	Ashtami • Tula • Vishaka 7 6.45 PM Krishna Archana	Navami • Vrischika • Anuradha 8 Temple Closed	Dashami • Vrischika • Jyeshtha 9 6.15 PM Krishna Chanting	Ekadashi • Vrischika • Jyeshtha 10 8.00 AM Suprabhatam 9.00 AM Venkateshwara Puja
Dvadashi • Dhanu • Moola 11 2.00 PM Jain Puja	Dvadashi • Dhanu • Purva Ashadha 12 7.00 PM Shiva Puja	Tryodasi • Makara • Uttara Ashada 13 6.30 PM Maha-Shivaratri	Chaturdashi • Makkara • Shrivana 14 6.45 PM Krishna Archana	Amavasya • Makara • Dhanista 15 Temple Closed	Pratipada • Kumbha • Satabhisha 16 6.15 PM Krishna Chanting	Dwitaya • Kumbha • Purva Bhadrapada 17 8.00 AM Suprabhatam Ramakrishna Jayanti
Tritiya • Meena • Uttara Bhadrapada 18* 10.00 AM Third Sunday Puja – Tamil Group	Chaturthi • Meena • Revathi 19 7.00 PM Shiva Puja	Panchami • Mesha • Aswini 20 6.45 PM Hanuman Chalisa	Shashthi • Mesha • Bharani 21 6.45 PM Krishna Archana	Saptami • Mesha • Kritika 22 Temple Closed	Ashtami • Vrishabha • Rohini 23 6.15 PM Krishna Chanting	Navami • Vrishabha • Mrigashirsha 24 8.00 AM Suprabhatam
Dashami • Mithuna • Ardra 25 2.00 PM Priest Off	Dvadashi • Mithuna • Punarvasu 26 7.00 PM Shiva Puja	Trayodashi • Karka • Pushya 27 6.45 PM Hanuman Chalisa	Chaturdashi • Karka • Ashlesha 28 6.45 PM Krishna Archana	Kashmir Bazaar Mrs. Meena & Mr. Ravi Murugappan	Dr. Marandapalli Sridharan & Dr. Vidya Sridharan	