The Path of Devotion
चे त्वक्षरमनिदेश्यमानयं पर्यःपाते ।
सर्वत्रगमचिन्त्यं च कूटस्थलचरं धुतवम् ॥ ३ ॥
सतित्येयेिद्वागं सर्वं सममुद्भवः ।
ते प्राप्नुवति मामेव सवर्पूवहिते रता: ॥ ४ ॥

Translation
But those who worship the indescribable, all-pervading, inconceivable, immutable, constant, eternal, impersonal absolute devoid of perceptible form and attributes; completely controlling all the senses with spiritual intelligence equally disposed to everything and dedicated to the welfare of all living entities; they certainly also achieve Me.

Bhagavad Gita - 12:3

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 2016
1st Sunday: 10:00 a.m. Balsalha EOY program
13th Friday: 7:00 p.m. Mata ki Chowki
14th Saturday: 9:30 a.m. Smart Driving Class
14th Saturday: 6:00 p.m. Who Kidnapped Sita!!
15th May Sunday: 10:00 a.m. Graduation Puja
22nd May Sunday: 3:30 p.m. Carnatic Musical Program
28th May Saturday: 9:30 a.m. Purposeful Living with Vedanta
29th May Sunday: 9:00 a.m. Purposeful Living with Vedanta

JUNE 2016
19th Sunday: 9:00 am Devi Havan (Annual Fund Raiser)

HINDU OBSERVANCES

MAY-2016
2nd Monday: - Varuthini Ekasashi
03rd Tuesday: - Gauna Varuthini Ekadashi
06th Sunday: - Parashuram Jayanti, Akshaya Tritiya
12th Thursday: - Ganga Saptami
14th Saturday: - Sita Navami, Vrishabha Sankrati
17th Tuesday: - Mohini Ekadashi
19th Thursday: - Narasimha Jayanti
21st Saturday: - Buddha Purnima
22nd Sunday: - Narada Jayanti

JUNE- 2016
1st Wednesday – Apara Ekadashi
4th Saturday – Shani Jayanti, Vat Savitri Vrat
14th Tuesday – Ganga Dussehra, Mithuna Sankranti
15th Wednesday – Nirjala Ekadashi
19th Sunday: - Jyeshtha Purnima, Vat Purnima Vrat
30th Thursday: - Yogini Ekadashi

UPCOMING PROGRAMS
14th May Saturday: 6 p.m. Who kidnapped Sita
15th May Sunday: 10:00 a.m. Graduation Puja
22nd May Sunday: 3:30 p.m. Carnatic Musical Concert by Kiranavali
Carnatic Musical Concert:
By Kiranavali & Group

Date: Sunday 05/22/16
Time: 3:30 pm
Venue: Cultural Center
Free for Members. $10 for non-members.
Contacts: Dr. Jayant Murthy: 423 534 4957 Or Dharma Thiruvaiyaru 706-650-3176
www.kiranavali.net
www.carnatictradition.com

Acknowledgements:

HTS acknowledges the sponsorship of the following individuals and Group’s for Third Sunday Pooja’s:

February 2016:

March 2016:
Telugu Community Of Augusta.

April 2016:
Sudha Sinha, Sakun Kharbanda, Sarojani Pandey, Rashmi Pandey, Nidhi Gulati, Ratna Gambhir, Neeta Sareen, Renu Mehta, Jaya Batra, Sarita Sharma, Vijay Arora, Kanchan Khoshla, Neru Gupta, Saroj Toni, Poonam Surma, Rekha Sareen, Chandra Khoshla, Dharam Batra, Reeta Goyal & Rita Jerath
Hindu Temple Society of Augusta
1421 Lukes Road Augusta GA 30909

Host Satsang with
Swami Sarvapriyanandaji

On
28th & 29th May 2016
At HTS Cultural Center

Saturday 28th May 9.30 AM
Purposeful Living
with Vedanta
Saturday 28th May 5.00 PM
Meditation Session

Sunday 29th May 9.00 AM
Defining God
According to Taitariya Updanishad

Please participate in large numbers

For Additional Information contact:
Mukut Sharma: 706-855-5060
Sheila Kamath: 706-650-5751

Also, Visit
www.youtube.com; Search “Sarvapriyananda”
Annual Fund Raiser: - Devi Havan June 19, 2016 @ 9 a.m.

A Havan is a ritualistic puja performed to keep us in harmony with the cosmic forces, thereby removing and overcoming the sorrows of life and bringing spiritual advancement.

By doing Puja/Havan, thoughts and vibrations of spiritual forces are created around us. These spiritual forces work to eliminate the negative influences in our life and help surround us with a positive energy which can bring us peace of mind, material prosperity and enable us to more clearly touch the divine, our true nature.

The periods when the results of our past actions, favorable or unfavorable, come to fruition are indicated by planetary positions at the time of our birth. The malefic effects which are destined to befall us can be reduced by the grace of God by performing specific pujas as recommended in the scriptures. The body, mind and spirit are purified and harmonized by meditation, prayers, mantra japa and the pujas we perform.

The result of these actions is to help purify us and to enable us to imbibe more deeply the spiritual energy invoked by the puja.

Havans are revelations from the Higher Power to our Ancestors. In these sacred rituals Agni (Fire) is lighted in the Havan Kund (the sacrificial fire) and various energies (deities) are invoked by chanting the mantras and through various postures (mudras).

Many offerings are made to these deities during the Havan for our prayers to be answered. The people who completely believe in the ritual are immediately benefited, as grace comes to them spontaneously and instantaneously.

Why Do We Perform?
Havans also bring in high energies, thereby paving way for positive thoughts, actions etc. They help in re-vitalizing the three energies in our body (Vata, Pitha, kapha) and help in maintaining energy balance.

During the havans, the divine energies from the deities flow into the body of the performer and thereby cleanse them of all negative energies and destroy negative samskaras. They also bring in positive energies which in turn affect and change the outside world. The deities invoked during the Havans form a protective shield around the performer to safeguard them from any further evil energies.

Performing and participating in the Durga Havan especially will benefit you by
* removing negative energies
* removing suffering caused by hostile elements
* removing suffering resulting from sorcery, thieves etc.
* improvement in health, wealth, progeny, fame, success, longevity, food, strength etc.
* eliminating fear, danger and evil planetary influences

Please participate in this fundraiser to be held on SUNDAY, JUNE 19 starting at 9 AM and reap the benefits for you and your family.

Sponsorship: - Donation of $101 or more per participating family.

Contact: - Nimita Shetty, Sheila Kamath, Shaji Kamalsanan
Volunteers and sponsors are needed for cooking mahaprasad. For more information please call Gita Shah.
I would like to share some personal thoughts with our temple members which I expressed earlier with a larger audience through Khabar magazine. (With the permission of Khabar as it wanted copyright of the article) I was responding to the articles about us, the Indian Americans in Indian news media in the US on the topics of isolationism, assimilation, second class citizens, charitable contributions etc.

We, the Indian Americans migrated to the US armored with higher education and by working hard, most of us are in a better financial status than the average American Americans. I realize a number of us do get involve in local charitable, social, and political activities. Yet, there is an overwhelming group of us who do not participate. It does not take rocket science to realize why some of us feel like second class citizens and perhaps occasionally we are not treated so well by ignorance. But, I must say that those of us who do get involve wherever and whenever there is a chance, we have not encountered such a thing. I urge those who feel isolated should get out of the nest and partake in charitable activities on individual basis or in a group when there is opportunity, which will pave the way to get into other areas.

Charity does not necessarily mean donating money. It can be in any of the three actions, as our scriptures said, Tan, man and dhan (I translate as Time, Talent and Treasure). Look around your neighborhood, there are folks who can use one or all of these three resources to make their lives better. E.G. Thanks, again to the quality education we received in India which helped us to become good at math and science. Let us, active or the retired engineers and scientists amongst us seek those opportunities to volunteer. Collect a few kids in our neighborhood, who are not helped by their parents for whatever the cause might be, and give them a helping hand similar to what some of us receive from our handyman neighbors when we have small maintenance issues. I urge all of us get involve to whatever extant one can and also encourage children to serve in organizations such as Ronald McDonald House, Easter seals, Food bank, soup kitchen etc. as some of us are already participating.

Further, in spite of all the euphoria the economists have created about India, with the statistics the analysts generated, the government has not been able to improve the lives of the down trodden people very much. There are more poor people in India today than ever before. We Indian Americans cannot solve this mammoth problem. But we can make a small dent. Lack of education and proper skills are the major causes of the poverty. There are millions of poor students who are smart but cannot afford higher education or learn technical skills. We can give a hand to these people and pay back the unwritten debt we owe to India of the near free education most of us received there without which we would not be in the U.S. and what we are today. The free education available these days, stops at a very low standard high school at best. Pick up the tab of one of these smart students and help him/her through college or acquiring skills, be somebody in your village or town. A dollar a day will send one student through college. Let’s not give as charity for good, make as loan and make him/her repay when able to earn to another deserving student. For the sake of those who have no connections left in India, the Temple committee is looking into setting up a process in the near future where a member may be able to donate funds and accomplish this and get tax benefits. If one is planning to contribute right away, there are several genuine non-profit organizations in US which can conduit the aid properly without pilferage.

F. Ram Reddy
Chairman, BOT Hindu Temple & Trinity Hospital
Arts and painting Classes:
Date: 05/07/16
Time: 4:00pm
Venue: Cultural Center
Instructor: Vinaya Alapatt
Fee: $10 per class

Music (Tabla lessons):
Venue: Cultural Center
Date: 05/07/16
Time: 5.30 pm
Instructor: Kiran Karanth

HTS Yoga Club:
Venue: Cultural Center
Date: 05/07/16
Time: 9:00am
Committee: Dr. Sanjeev Kapuria
            Clare Bergson,
            Hari Kashyap,
            Brinda Balan
            Seema Sharma

The HTS Yoga Club will offer instruction in Yoga on Saturdays at 9 am. The club will hold a drop-in open house on May 7th and 14th. Everyone interested is invited to come find out more about the classes and meet the instructors. Subsequently, the club will offer a 12-week introduction to Hatha yoga class, and a once-a-month pranayama class.

Pranayama Class:
This class is for 45 minutes and is open for everyone from Beginners to Advanced. Everybody can learn Pranayama at their own pace, gradually increasing their skill level. Pranayama is the fourth "limb" of the eight limbs of Ashtanga Yoga mentioned in the 'Yoga Sutras' of Patanjali. Patanjali, known as the Father of Yoga, presents pranayama as an exercise that is preliminary to concentration.

Beginner Hatha Yoga:
This class is designed as an introduction to the practice of Hatha yoga, and is focused on safety and alignment. Instructors will guide students safely into and out of postures, and offer modifications that work for a variety of body types and physical limitations. A typical 75-90 minute class will begin with gentle movements and stretches to warm up the body, followed by pranayama and a sequence of basic asanas. These practices release stress and tension and increase vitality. Come stretch and breathe, and possibly even break a sweat in a supportive environment. You don’t need to be able to touch your toes; you just have to be willing to try.
Intermediate Hatha Yoga:
This class incorporates advanced asanas and variations of the standard postures, and is suitable for more experienced yoga practitioners who are able to hold poses longer.

Community Outreach Update
Knit for Love Group recently celebrated five years of self service to the Augusta community and beyond representing our temple. Over the years we have knitted and or crocheted hats, scarves and lap blankets for the kindergarten classes of the Richmond County School system. Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home and Lydia House. In the temple we raffled blankets, sold hats and with the support of the community we raised money to donate to Safe Homes of Augusta for battered women and children. Currently we are knitting baby hats for the Children's Hospital, Any suggestions or ideas are welcome to serve our community. Please contact Susan Gopal.

Sunday, May 1st, Balshala End of Year Program:
All Balshala students are getting ready to showcase what they have learned in Balshala program all-year long along with a small cultural performance on Sunday, May 1st 9:30am-1:30pm at the main temple. After the End-of-year program, the HTS Augusta dads plan to prepare and serve an early Mother's Day lunch for all the attendees of the event. Please feel free to join us all that day. Balshala will commence for next year in fall 2016. We will publish more information in our future newsletters.

Friday May 13th, 2015 Mata Ki Chowki
7 to 8 p.m. Dinner Mahaprasad
8 to 11 p.m. Chowki / Bhent

Sponsorship Fee $101/- contact Adarsh Gulati 706-951-1902
For further information and volunteering contact
Rekha Sareen 706-421-2637
Nidhi Gulati 706-650-2905

Thanks to Mr. Shyam Verma for leading the Bhents and please join us by singing Bhents/Bhajans.

Jai Mata Di

Saturday May 14, 9.30 a.m. -SMART DRIVING COURSE
As was done in the past HTS would again host the "Smart Driver Course" from the AARP on Saturday, May, 14, 2016, starting at 9:30 am at the Temple Cultural Center. It is a highly effective and popular one-day (6-hour) course with excellent audio-visuals. As before, participants get certificates that entitle them to ~10-15% reduction in auto insurance premium from most insurance companies. If interested please send an email to [baidyaroy@gmail.com] indicating number of persons intending to attend.
Note: Those of you who have previously taken the class in June, 2013 or earlier, need to take it again now.
Cost: for AARP members $15, Non-AARP members $20.
You may contact B. N. Roy @ 706-868-8233, if you need additional details.
Saturday May 14, 6.00 p.m. – Who kidnapped Sita! Comedy play @ Augusta Prep. Day School

Sita is kidnapped & Case is under the Panchwati Police Station. Inspector Chautala and Hawaldar Shane are the investigating team. How the case takes a mysterious and hilarious turn....
A complete satirical comedy package on greed and corruption
Just watch a 2 hrs. un-stoppable family comedy...
Written and Directed by - Ravi Verma
Ticket - $20 /Per person (Kids in lap are FREE); Students $10
Note - Theater has limited seats. (IACA life members will get a reserved seat.)

Sunday, May 15th 10 a.m. - Graduation Ganesh Puja:

Join us in wishing our graduates...
Annual Graduation Puja will be held at the Temple on Sunday, May 15th at 10:00 a.m.

Eligibility : All High School Graduates and College Graduates are invited to participate in the Puja.
Donation : $50.00 requested from each participating graduate.
Attire : Indian
Awards : Students with highest SAT Score will be given awards. A Copy of your scores should be submitted in advance to Sheila Kamath.

Essay Competition: -
Topic : ‘Consider the role of Sita in the Hindu Epic Ramayana. Identify the characteristics that are worthy of emulation in modern society.’
Please submit your Essays on the above topic neatly typed with double spacing and not exceeding 400 words to Sheila Kamath (email: sheila731@yahoo.com) no later than 8th of May, 2016. Also submit a screen shot of your official SAT score by 8th May.
While all are welcome to participate in the puja, only children of current HTS members qualify for the contest and prizes.

Saturday, May 28th 9:30 a.m. – Purposeful Living with Vendanta:
HTS will host satsang with Swami Sarvapriyanandaji at cultural center on 28th and 29th May. Two eventful days include meditation session, talks by swamiji on defining God according to Taitariya Upanishad. For additional information please refer to the flyer on page 3 or contact Mukut Sharma (706-855-5060) or Sheila Kamath (706-650-5751). You can also visit Youtube and search for “Sarvapriyananda”.

HTS Balshala Alumni: -
Calling all HTS Balshala and youth group Alumini to start our alumni group. Please contact or email Sanjeev Singhal (706-664-4221) or Sheila Kamath (706-650-5751) for more details regarding this first time event to be celebrated on Saturday, June 18th (the day before father’s day and the Havan).

Condolences:
Mr. Dhirendra Nath Talukdar, younger brother of Baren K. Talukdar and brother-in-law of Mrs. Geetanjali Talukdar passed away untimely in Kolkata, India on March 6, 2016.
We pray for Peace of his departed Soul.
### MAY 2016

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### JUNE 2016

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**Temple Hours:** 8 - 10 AM and 6 - 8 PM

**Temple is open every day at these hours except on Thursday.**
**Temple is CLOSED on Thursdays and last Sunday of the month.**