

## Events @ A Glance

Volume 44

Issue 04

April 2024

April 03 @ 6 PM	Spiritual Talk
April 09 @ 7 PM	Ugadi Puja
April 16 @ 7 PM	Rama Navami Puja
April 23 @ 7 PM	Hanuman Jayanti PUJA
April 20 & 21 @ 10 PM	Akhand Ramayana Path
April 21 @ 6 PM	Vishu Puja
April 28 @ 3 PM	Omkar Dadarkar Hindustani Musical Concert



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## President's Message

कर्मण्येवाधिकारस्ते मा फलेषु कदाचन ।  
मा कर्मफलहेतुर्भूर्मा ते सङ्गोऽस्त्वकर्मणि ॥ 47 ॥

*karmany-evādhikāras te mā phaleṣhu kadāchana  
mā karma-phala-hetur bhūr mā te saṅgo 'stvakarmaṇi*

You have a right to perform your prescribed duties, but you are not entitled to the fruits of your actions. Never consider yourself to be the cause of the results of your activities, nor be attached to inaction.

**Bhagavad Gita: Chapter 2 Verse 47**

Dear Devotees,

Namaste!

With the blessings of Lord Shiva, our recent Maha Shivaratri Spiritual experience was truly profound. In March, we also celebrated the 16th year of Ramakrishna Jayanti Puja, beautifully orchestrated under the leadership of Indrani Ganguly and her dedicated team. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Telugu Association of Greater Augusta (TAGA) for their Krishna Puja on the third Sunday, with special thanks to Rao Pasala, Srinidhi, and their team for their coordination.

As we approach our Annual Havan, our Puja committee and EC have decided to fulfill a long-time aspiration by hosting the Sri Chandi Havan. Recognizing its potency, we plan to engage expert priests alongside our own Govarthan Ji. Let us unite in supporting this Havan financially, seeking the divine blessings of Mother Sri Chandi for ourselves, our families, and our community.

I am deeply thankful for your unwavering support. Our recent completion of the SRC Project marks a significant milestone, with

plans underway for further improvements, including Alter Improvement and Traditionalization, conceptually approved by both EC and BOT. More details can be found in the Projects section.

Our collaborative celebrations of Holika Dhahan and Holi Colors with BAPS and Gujarati Samaj were a testament to our unity and spirit of community. Special thanks to Hamang Bhai Bhavsar for sponsoring food for Holika Dhahan, and Dan Patel for sponsoring pizzas for Holi Colors.

Looking ahead, we anticipate the Hindustani Classical concert by Omkar Dadarkar, organized by the Cultural committee and Swati Wakade, to be a delightful event showcasing our cultural values.

Next month, we eagerly anticipate the Meenakshi Kalayana Utsavam and Classical Musical Concert, generously sponsored by one of our devotees.

In conclusion, let us heed the message from the Gita to "let go of the ego and find peace in selfless service." Your continued support is invaluable and without it, none of these achievements would be possible. I eagerly anticipate our continued journey together in serving our community with love.

In humble Service,

**Srinivasan Thiyagarajan**

**President,**

**Hindu Temple Society of Augusta**

# Upcoming Pujas & Events

<b>APRIL</b>	<b>April 1 Monday</b>	<b>Shiva Puja @ 7 PM</b>
	<b>April 3 Wednesday</b>	<b>Swami Sankarananda Saraswati Talk @ 6 00 PM</b>
	<b>April 5 Friday</b>	<b>Devi Puja @ 7PM</b>
	<b>April 6 Saturday</b>	<b>Kartikeya Puja @ 9 AM</b>
	<b>April 8 Monday</b>	<b>Shiva Puja @ 7 PM</b>
	<b>April 9 Tuesday</b>	<b>Ugadi Puja @ 7 PM</b>
	<b>April 13 Saturday</b>	<b>Venkateshwara Puja @ 9 PM</b>
	<b>April 15 Monday</b>	<b>Shiva Puja @ 7 PM</b>
	<b>April 16 Tuesday</b>	<b>Rama Navami Puja @ 7 PM</b>
	<b>April 20-21 Sat &amp; Sunday</b>	<b>Akhand Ramayanan Path</b>
	<b>April 21 Sunday</b>	<b>Vishu Puja @ 6 PM</b>
	<b>April 22 Monday</b>	<b>Shiva Puja @ 7 PM</b>
	<b>April 23 Tuesday</b>	<b>Satyanarayan Puja @ 5 PM &amp; Hanuman Jayanti @ 7 PM</b>
	<b>April 27 Saturday</b>	<b>Krishna Puja @ 7 PM</b>
	<b>April 29 Monday</b>	<b>Shiva Puja @ 7 PM</b>
<b>MAY</b>	<b>May 3 Friday</b>	<b>Devi Puja @ 7PM</b>
	<b>May 4 Saturday</b>	<b>Kartikeya Puja @ 9 AM &amp; Annual Havan Puja @ 5 00 PM</b>
	<b>May 5 Sunday</b>	<b>Annual Sri Chandi Havan Starts @ 8 00 AM</b>
	<b>May 6 Monday</b>	<b>Shiva Puja @ 7 PM</b>
	<b>May 11 Saturday</b>	<b>Venkateshwara Puja @ 9 PM</b>
	<b>May 12 Sunday</b>	<b>Balshala EOY Puja @ 10AM</b>
	<b>May 13 Monday</b>	<b>Shiva Puja @ 7 PM</b>
	<b>May 19 Sunday</b>	<b>Graduation Puja @ 10AM</b>
	<b>May 20 Monday</b>	<b>Shiva Puja @ 7 PM</b>
	<b>May 22 Wednesday</b>	<b>Satyanarayan Puja @ 7 PM</b>
	<b>May 25 Saturday</b>	<b>Krishna Puja @ 7 PM</b>
<b>May 26 Sunday</b>	<b>Sankashti @ 7 PM</b>	
<b>May 27 Monday</b>	<b>Shiva Puja @ 7 PM</b>	



## Spiritual Talk

Swami Sankarananda Saraswati

Arise, Awake! Bliss is Who You Are!

Classical Yoga in the Modern Age - Theory, Principles and Practice.

Wednesday April 3 2024

@ 6 00 PM

## Ugadi Puja/GudiPadva

Tuesday April 9 2024

@ 7 PM

Let's celebrate to welcome abundance, prosperity, and happiness, and the beginning of nature's annual cycle and the onset of the spring season.

07.00 PM: Ugadi Puja

08.00 PM Maha Aarti

followed by Maha Prasad



## Rama Navami Puja

Tuesday April 16 2024

@ 7 PM

Ramanavami celebrates the birth of Lord Rama, epitomizing virtue, righteousness, and dharma. Observing Ramanavami invokes blessings of strength, courage, and divine grace.

07.00 PM: Rama Navami Puja

08.00 PM Maha Aarti

followed by Prasad

## Hanuman Jayanti Puja

Tuesday April 23 2024

@ 7 PM

05 00 PM : Satyanarayana Puja

07.00 PM: Hanuman Jayanti Puja

(Milk will be provided by the temple)

08.00 PM Maha Aarti followed by Maha Prasad







# Akhand Ramayan

**Saturday April 20, 2024**

**@ 9 00 AM**

09.00 AM: Havan, Ram Parivar puja,  
& Hanuman Chaleesa

10.30 AM Ramayan Akhandpath Reading Starts

**Sunday April 21, 2024**

**@ 10 30 AM**

10 30 AM Ramayan reading conclusion  
Ram Stuti, Hanuman Chalisa, Ramayan Arti,  
& Bhajans

12. 00 Noon Maha Arti followed by  
Mahaprasad

To schedule your Ramayan Reading service, Please Contact:  
Sushma Sethi @ 706-951-9615 Nandi Shetty @ 706-414-1340,

To help with prasad, please contact Sudha Sinha @: 706-951-8878 and Samlesh Bansal @  
706-399-8363



# Vishu Puja

**Sunday April 21 2024**

**@ 6 PM**

06.00 PM: Vishu Puja

07.00 PM Maha Aarti

# Satsang

**Gita Satsang**

**Venue: Main Temple**

**Balshala Sundays**

**Time: 11 00 - 12 00 Noon**

**Every Tuesday**

**@ 7 00 PM**

**Virtual Ramayan Reading**

**Every Wednesday**

**@ 7 00 PM**

**Virtual Bhajans**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**Meeting ID: 824 7871 5596**

**Passcode: ramji**

**Contact: Shyam Verma (706) 373-4094**





# OMKAR DADARKAR HINDUSTANI MUSICAL CONCERT

**Sunday April 28, 2024  
@ 04 30 PM**

Contact:

Swati Wakade @ (706) 267 6531

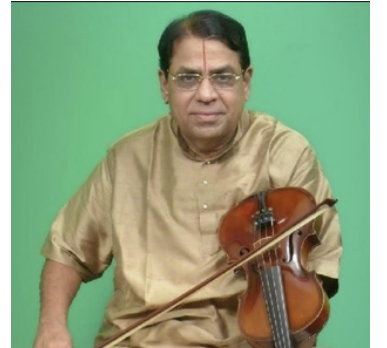
Lalitha Kavuri: @ (630) 518 5334

Srinivasan Thyagarajan @ (678) 602 5613

## **Saturday May 18, 2024**

### **MEENAKSHI KALYANA UTSAV PUJA @ 3 00 PM**

**A GRAND CARNATIC  
VOCAL CONCERT  
BY SASHI KIRAN & CHITRAVINA  
GANESH @ 5 30 PM**



For the auspicious occasion of SAHASRA CHANDRA DARSHANAM of Mr V. RAMNATH, Mr & Mrs Ramnath are sponsoring a special MEENAKSHI SUNDARESHWAR THIRUKALYANA PUJA followed by a Grand Carnatic Vocal Concert and Maha Prasad will be served @ 7 30 PM.



**HINDU TEMPLE SOCIETY OF AUGUSTA**

Issue 001

# Annual Sri Chandi Havan

**Saturday, May 4th @ 5:00 PM**

**Sunday, May 5th @ 8:00 AM, 2024**



**PLATINUM SPONSORSHIP (PARAMA SEVAK) - \$ 1001**

**GOLD SPONSORSHIP (ARADHAKA) - \$ 501**

**SILVER SPONSORSHIP (UPASAKA) - \$ 151**

**Donate**

[augustahts@gmail.com](mailto:augustahts@gmail.com)

**zelle**

**PayPal**

**Contact:**

Nimitha Shetty: (706) 910 6169

Bharat Patel: (706) 267 8609

Srinivasan Thiyagarajan: (678) 602 5613

# Upcoming 2024 Graduation Puja

The annual graduation Ganesh Pooja for high school seniors as well as college graduates will be held at HTS on **Sunday, May 19 at 10 AM.**

All interested students and parents are requested to call or email Sheila Kamath 706-951-8245 / [sheila731@yahoo.com](mailto:sheila731@yahoo.com) for participation details.

There are no membership requirements to participate in the Pooja. There is a small charge to defray the cost of the silver coin that will be given to you, poojari dakshina and mahaprasad expenses.

The parents of the graduates are requested to call Sheila Kamath for more details.

Our temple has been able to award prizes each year for the highest SAT score and essay writing contest for high school seniors due to magnanimous donors who have established endowments for this purpose.

While the **pooja is available to anyone** that wants to attend, the entries for these prizes are limited to children of current **HTS membership only.**



**Essay topic:** Overcoming adversity: Discuss how a character from a Hindu epic of your choosing embodied resilience and strength during times of challenge.

The typed essay is limited to **300 words** and is to be emailed to [Sheila731@yahoo.com](mailto:Sheila731@yahoo.com) by **May 12 (Sunday) by 8 pm.**

No late entries will be considered.

Highest SAT/ACT score: Please submit a copy of your scanned official score to [Sheila731@yahoo.com](mailto:Sheila731@yahoo.com) by **May 12 (Sunday) by 8 pm.**

No late entries will be considered

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## Sports Augusta HTS | Table Tennis Club

**"Bringing our community together through sports"**

All genders and age groups are welcome. **Only for HTS Members**

- **Wednesdays 6 pm to 8 pm and Saturdays 12 noon to 2 pm**
- **First session: 24th Feb, Saturday at 12 noon at the Cultural Centre**
- **Equipment will be provided by HTS**
- **2 tournaments planned in 2024 - April and October**
- **Club Organizers: Vinay Kolar (706) 267-1849**

**Arunachalam Lakshminarayanan (970) 430-8508**

**Registration Link: [Click Here](#)**



# HTS SENIOR MEMBERS COMMITTEE PRESENTS:

## Bingo Fun Evening



HTS Senior members committee 2024 is thrilled to host the **first ever BINGO evening** for our dear Augusta Senior members community. Please do join us for a fun-filled social event.

**Date: Friday, April 19th**

**Time: 4-6 PM**

**Venue: HTS Cultural Center**

*\* Chai and light refreshments will be provided by the temple*

**Note:** This event is for Senior members of HTS.

Please check the official HTS Augusta WhatsApp group for a link specially for our temple's Senior Members to join and receive communication about special events planned throughout this year. Link: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/FjO7DIbDiJ95AaJfaxVs2r>

Contact: Meena Arun (919) 757 - 1088

## IT

The HTS Cultural Center WiFi access has been successfully reconfigured, and it's now operational, thanks to the dedicated efforts of the IT Committee, particularly Ragu Kannoth and Arun Kachroo, who dedicated at least ten hours to the task. A heartfelt thanks to the entire team for their hard work and dedication.



## Surya Grahan (Solar Eclipse)

**April 8, 2024 - Total Solar Eclipse in Augusta**

**Begins @ 01 50 PM & Ends @ 04 23 PM**

- Avoid stepping outdoors during pregnancy
- Take a bath after the Surya Grahan ends
- Avoid sleeping, eating and drinking
- Avoid using sharp objects
- Don't enter in the temple and perform puja
- It is advised to keep Tulsi patra in every food item before solar eclipse
- Chant surya mantra like 'Om Suryaye Namah' or 'Om Bhaskaraya Namah'

*Courtesy : The Times of India*



# Puja



# Shri Krishna Puja



# Ramakrishna Jayanti Puja





# Events

# Masti: HTS Youth Presentation

After a long hiatus, HTS Youth Group held their annual Masti show, Mission Naach, on March 16th to raise money for Rise Against Hunger Charity! The kids performed on stage, dancing and acting out the plot of the Bollywood movie, Happy New Year! From countless hours of preparation to participation from over 35 dedicated members, the show was directed/choreographed by youth group cultural leaders Krisha Patel, Sahej Mander, Pranita Akella with assistance from Esha Patel for choreography. This event was a collaborative effort with significant contribution from many individuals including Aman Paregi, Kunsh Sharma, Esha Patel, Aaditya Doppalapudi, members who assisted in scripting, and AV/technical support provided by Srinivas Akella.

With immense support from the community, the event was successful leaving the youth group members hopeful and energized to return with a bigger show next year.

*Special thanks to Youth Group coordinators Chetan Patel, Suba Paregi and Jagu Patel and team for their dedicated effort to make it happen.*





# Events

## Carnatic Music Concert

On Saturday March 16th 2024, HTS of Augusta hosted a fun-filled evening of Carnatic music at the temple auditorium. Starting in the morning, we paid homage to the great Vageyakara, lyricist and tunesmith, Sri Tyagaraja. Sri K.N. Shashikiran and Smt. Kiranavali Vidyasankar, along with her students, presented Sri Tyagaraja's famous 5 gems or Pancharatna Krithis. Following this group rendition, the students who travelled from all around the country, like Maryland and Pennsylvania, performed challenging individual pieces honoring some of Carnatic music's greatest composers.

The day concluded with a scintillating concert by Smt. Kiranavali Vidysankar and her 15-year-old talented daughter Akshara Samskriti, accompanied by Vishal Sowmyan and Vageesh Nanduri, two youngsters, a college(PA) and high school student(NC) who played the violin and mridangam respectively.

The inaugural Composer's Day was an immense success with top class artists performing in the temple and was also an incredible opportunity for future talent to perform on stage at our HTS. Here's to more opportunities for esteemed performers and talented youngsters to perform and carry on tradition.

*Special thanks to Dharma Thiruvaiyaru and team for organizing this mega event.*





# Holika Dahan



**Holika Dahan** was observed on March 29th evening. It was truly heartening to see so many new family members join our puja, highlighting the growth of our community. A special thank you goes out to Hamang Bhai Bhavsar for graciously sponsoring today's Maha Prasad. We also extend our gratitude to BAPS and Gujarati Samaj for their unwavering support in making the event a success. Special thanks to Prasanna, Sanjiv Sondhi, Piyush Patel, Umapathi, Srinivas Akella, Neha Punjabi, and Suba Paregi for their timely support.

A big shoutout to all the volunteers who supported this event, and a special mention to Devesh Patel, Nitin Vashi, and the entire team for their dedicated efforts in assisting with the preparation work for Holika Dahan, as they always do.



## Holi Color Festival

The Hindu Temple Society celebrated **Holi color festival** on March 30th (Sunday) morning. It was an amazing Holi colors experience. Thanks to all of you for making this a memorable event. Special thanks to Dan Bhai Patel and his family for sponsoring today's pizza. Thanks to BAPS and the Gujarati Samaj for extending their support. Appreciation goes to Neha Pujabi, Raji Sudharshan, and the team for sponsoring and helping with today's cooking of Maha Prashad. A special mention to Arunachalam, Sivakumar, and Ayyappan for assisting with food preparation.

Special thanks to Sanjeev Singhal for providing colors, and to Chetan and Krina for coordinating the event and guiding our youth group. Gratitude to the decoration committee for the special photo booth. Special kudos to our youth group for their assistance in setting up, serving food, and cleaning up. Thanks to Sudharshan for setting up the audio system, making the event grand.

Thanks to each and every one of you who helped today.





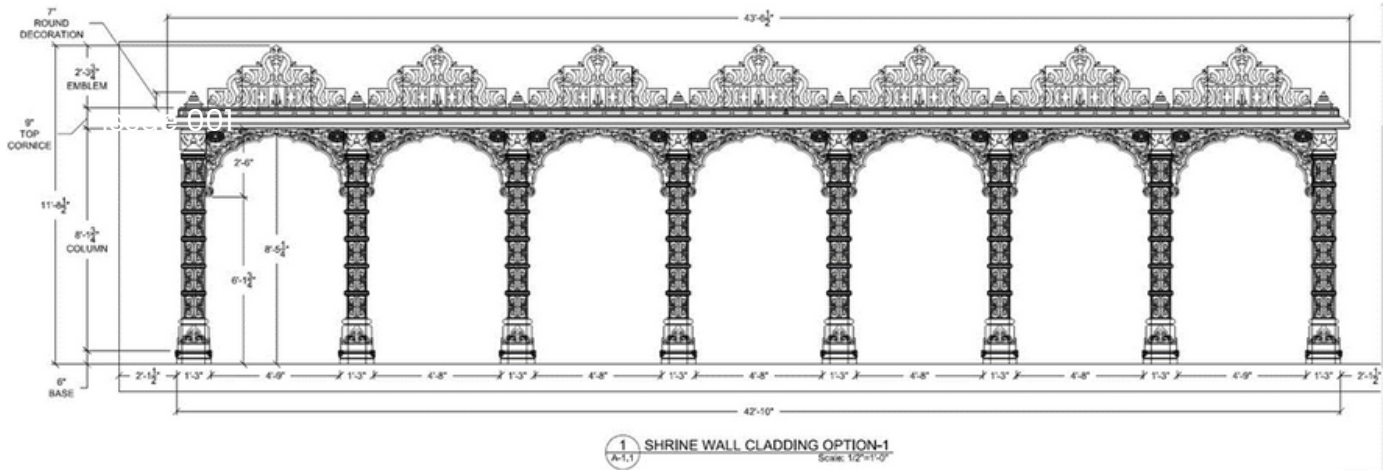
# Holi Color Festival





# Projects

## Altar improvement & Traditionalization Project



### Projected Budget:

\$ 25,000 - \$ 35,000

### Approval Status:

Conceptual Approval EC (3/10/2024) BOT (3/22/2024)

### Tentative Time:

4- 5 Months

### Ad-hoc Committee:

Sheela Kamath, Shaji Kamalhasanan, Gagan Bhatra,  
Debee Khadanga & Piyush Patel

### Contact:

Srinivasan Thiyagarajan, President

Email: [president@augustahts.org](mailto:president@augustahts.org) Phone: (678) 602 5613

## One Free Archana

**New Service For Our Esteemed HTS Members Only**

At the outset, we would like to express our gratitude for being an HTS member. As previously communicated, as a token of appreciation for your membership, HTS will be offering ONE FREE ARCHANA PER FAMILY. Kindly assist us by completing this form, which will facilitate our connection with you to achieve this goal. Thank you for all your support Link to [complete the form to register](#)

## HTS Membership/Renewal

HTS Membership runs from Diwali to Diwali and is now open for renewal for the year 2023-24. Any new families enrolling into membership now, will be members through Diwali 2024.

Regular Member (\$150/Year) Perpetual Donor (\$300/Year)

For more information on membership visit [HERE](#)

## REQUEST FOR PRIEST SERVICES

For private/personal Pujas and all Rituals after confirming with Priest Shri. Govardhan ji (763) 447-7366 schedule your appointment using the link [Click Here](#)



## TEMPLE & CULTURAL CENTER RENTAL

Contact: Shri. Sharad Prohit  
Email: [vicepresident@augstahts.org](mailto:vicepresident@augstahts.org)  
(706) 294-2450

## GAVEL CLUB

Gavel Club meetings are now held in person on Sundays at 5 pm in the HTS Cultural Center.

High school students interested in enrolling may contact Sharma Pogula @706-872-6146

## DAILY TIMINGS

8:00 am – 10:00 am

&

6:00 pm – 08:00 pm

Temple is closed on Thursdays - Priest Off