



HINDU TEMPLE SOCIETY OF AUGUSTA

NEWSLETTER

Events @ A Glance

Volume 42

Issue 02

February 2024

- Feb 17th**
@ 10 AM **SARASWATI PUJA**
- Mar 03rd**
@ 4 30 PM **SPIRITUAL TALK**
- Mar 08th**
MAHA SHIVARATRI
- Mar 16th**
@ 10 AM **RAMAKRISHNA JAYANTI**
CLEBERATIONS
@ 02 PM **GREAT CARNATIC**
MUSIC COMPOSERS' DAY
- Mar 17th**
@ 10 AM **THIRD SUDNAY PUJA**



Board of Trustees

Nandi Shetty	Chairman
Nand Kumar Bansal	Vice-Chairman
Shakuntala Shanmugasundaram	Secretary
T Ramchandra Reddy	BOP
Arun Gambir	BOP
Tarak Patel	Member
Gyan Sharma	Member
Mukut Sharma	Member
Sanjiv Sondhi	Member
Piyush Patel	Member
Varsha Kulkarni	Member

Executive Committee

Srinivasan Thiyagarajan	President
Sharad Purohit	Vice- President
Lopa Agarwal	Secretary
Krina Patel	Joint Secretary
Chetan Patel	Joint Secretary & Youth
Umopathy	Joint Secretary
Ranjana Kashyap	Treasure
Sankar Sethuraman	Joint Treasurer
Bharat Patel	Puja
Lalitha Kavuri	Cultural
Neha Punjabi	Prasad
Sangeeta Verma	Publication
Rashmi Karanth	Balshala
Gagan Batra	Maintenance
Jyoti Kapuria	Outreach
Meena Arun	Seniors
Ragu Kannoth	Information Technology
Sajitha Kalthingal	Education
Nitin Wasi	Sports
Dharma Thiruvaiyaru	Spiritual /Classical
P T Sudharshan	Audio Visual
Jigar Parik	Membership
Vishal Sharma	Health

Govarthan Krishnamoorthi	Priest
Advisory	
Nimita Shetty	Shiela Kamath
Shaji Kamalhasanan	Ravi Verma
Debee Khadanga	Vidya Sridharan
Samalsh Bansal	Ravi Murugappan

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!

As we embark on our journey, I am reminded of the profound words from the Bhagavad Gita: "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."

In our recent Executive Committee meeting, we shared our collective vision – one dedicated to transparency, service filled with joy, unification, and strengthening of our community with love. Our commitment extends to the transfer of cultural values and traditions to the next generation.

Following the recommendations of the Board of Trustees (BOT), we are set to establish ad-hoc committees that will strategically execute plans in alignment with our vision. This is a significant step towards realizing our shared goals.

We are excited about the upcoming events, including the Spiritual Talk on March 3rd by Swami Yogatananda, 'The Great Carnatic Music Composers' Day' and Youth Group Fundraising Event: 'Masti'" on March 16th, and the auspicious occasion of Maha Shivarathri on March 8th.

I extend my gratitude for your continued support. If you are a member yet to enroll for the Free Archana, please take a moment to click the provided link. Our Priest will reach out to bless you on the day of the special occasion and remind you about the free Archana.

This newsletter outlines ongoing projects, with more details and updates to be shared in future issues. We recently held discussions with GAPI and are actively working on our Health camp and Health clinic. Special thanks to Vishal and Chetan for their coordination. More information on these initiatives will be provided shortly.

In closing, let us remember the essence of duty and selfless action, as we work together towards a community filled with joy, love, and the preservation of our cultural heritage.

In humble Service
Srinivasan Thiyagarajan
President,
Hindu Temple Society of Augusta

Upcoming Pujas & Events

February	Feb 02 Friday	Devi Puja @ 7 00 PM
	Feb 03 Saturday	Thaipooosam Puja @ 9 30 AM
	Feb 05 Monday	Shiva Puja @ 7 00 PM
	Feb 10 Saturday	Venkateshwara Puja @ 9 00 PM
	Feb 12 Monday	Shiva Puja @ 7 00 PM
	Feb 17 Saturday	Saraswati Puja @ 10 00 AM
	Feb 19 Monday	Shiva Puja @ 7 00 PM
	Feb 23 Friday	Satyanarayana Puja @ 7 00 PM
	Feb 24 Saturday	Krishna Puja @ 7 00 PM
	Feb 26 Monday	Shiva Puja @ 7 00 PM
	Feb 27 Tuesday	Sankashti Puja @ 7 00 PM
March	Mar 01 Friday	Devi Puja @ 7 00 PM
	Mar 02 Saturday	Kartikeya Puja @ 9 00 AM
	Mar 03 Sunday	Spritual Talk by Swami Yogatmananda @ 04 30 PM
	Mar 04 Monday	Shiva Puja @ 7 00 PM
	Mar 08 Friday	Maha Shivaratri 8 00 AM - 12 00 AM (Midnight)
	Mar 09 Saturday	Venkateshwara Puja @ 9 00 PM
	Mar 11 Monday	Shiva Puja @ 7 00 PM
	Mar 16 Saturday	Ramakrishna Jayanti Celeberations @ 10 00 AM
	Mar 17 Sunday	Third Sunday Sri Krishna Puja @ 10 00 AM
	Mar 18 Monday	Shiva Puja @ 7 00 PM
	Mar 23 Saturday	Krishna Puja @ 7 00 PM
	Mar 24 Sunday	Satyanarayana Puja @ 7 00 PM
	Mar 25 Monday	Shiva Puja @ 7 00 PM
	Mar 28 Thursday	Sankashti Puja @ 7 00 PM
	Mar 29 Friday	Holika Dahan @ 07 00 PM
Mar 31 Sunday	Holi Colors @ 11 00 AM	



Saraswati Puja

Saturday February 17 2024

@ 10 00 AM

10.00 AM: Udbodhon, Puja

10.30 AM: Pushpanjali, Arati & Bhajan

11.30 AM: Cultural Program

12.30 PM: Mahaprasad

Spiritual Talk

Swami Yogatmananda

Bhakti: Philosophy, Psychology and Practice

Sunday March 3 2024

@ 4 30 PM



Maha Shivratri

Friday March 08 2024

09.00 AM: Rudra Abishekam

09.30 AM - 06 30 PM: Public Milk Offering

06 30 PM: Sankalpa

07.00 PM: Rudra Abishekam

07 30 - 08 30 PM: Bhajans

8 30: Puja followed by Mangalarti

09 00 PM- 12 00 AM Meditation & Bhajans

Ramakrishna Jayanti

Saturday March 16 2024

@ 10 00 AM



GREAT CARNATIC MUSIC COMPOSERS' DAY

Saturday March 16 2024

@ 02 00 PM

2:00 pm: Group singing

4 00 pm - 4:30 pm : Coffee & Tea Break

4: 30 pm- 6: 30 pm: A Carnatic vocal concert by Kiranavali and Akshara



MASTI

Saturday March 16 2024

@ 06 00 PM

VENUE:	HARDIN AUDITORIUM, COLUMBIA COUNTY LIBRARY, EVANS, GA
TICKETS:	\$10 FOR UNDER 11 \$15 FOR 11 AND UP
YOUTH GROUP CULTURAL FUNDRAISING EVENT	

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](#)

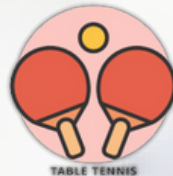
Meeting ID: 824 7871 5596

Passcode: ramji

Contact: Shyam Verma (706) 373-4094

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](#)

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](#)**

Financial Report

Financial (Q1) Report From 11/19/2023 - 12/31/2023		
Category	Revenue	Expense
Donations	\$ 10,018.36	\$ 150.00
Hundi	\$ 1,694.19	
Membership	\$ 30,529.16	
Pujas	\$ 26,394.92	\$ 1,572.97
Facilities Rental	\$ 290.00	\$ 200.00
Annual Havan	\$ 640.00	
United Way	\$ 680.39	
HTS Garba		\$ 161.27
Community Outreach	\$ 147.00	\$ 77.00
Diwali	\$ 6,604.59	\$ 17,024.36
Maintenance		\$ 1,292.18
Misc	\$ 1,294.81	\$ 2,578.32
Personnel		\$ 8,508.23
Supplies	\$ 25.00	\$ 185.90
Insurance and Taxes		\$ 1,002.00
Utilities	\$ 233.00	\$ 5,473.52
Youth Group	\$ 500.00	
TOTAL	\$ 79,051.42	\$ 38,225.75
<p>As of 02/01/2024, 8:00 PM we have 317 members</p> <p><i>Note : Any inadvertent errors and omissions will be rectified as soon as possible upon discovery.</i></p>		

Puja

Venkateshwara Kalyana Utsav



The Annual Venkateshwara Kalyana Utsav commenced with a Havan and abhishekam on Saturday, the 20th. In the evening, attendees enjoyed Sayanothsavam, featuring Hari Katha and bhajans. On the 21st, the Kalyana Utsavam was observed, followed by a procession. This event provided both joyous and divine experiences for all devotees in attendance. For over 35 years, Dr. Sridharan and Dr. Vidya Sridharan have been Sponsoring, leading and organizing this significant Puja. HTS feels incredibly blessed to have such dedicated devotees.

Events

HTS and BAPS Jointly Celebrate Kite Festival

HTS collaborated with BAPS and Gujarati Samaj for a lively Kite Festival on January 14, 2024. The event was a resounding success, filled with joy and excitement. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all who supported and contributed. Special recognition goes to the BAPS administration, particularly Niren Bhai and Neelay Bhai, for their invaluable assistance in making the event possible. We also express gratitude to the Gujarati Samaji of CSRA and Shri. Dhavel Ji for their unwavering support.

A sincere acknowledgment goes to the dedicated individuals from HTS, including Krina, Chethan, Piyush, Neha, Arunachalam, Debee, Sharad, Ragav, and Umapathy, whose efforts were instrumental in the event's success. Lastly, our deepest appreciation goes to all the volunteers who generously contributed their time and energy on behalf of HTS.

HTS represented in Sixteenth Interfaith Celebrations



Dr. Tarak Patel represented the Hindu Community on behalf of our Hindu Temple Society in the 16th Annual Interfaith Celebrations. Special thanks to Dr. Tarak Patel and Shri. B N Roy uncle Thanks to all the volunteers on behalf of HTS



Shri Ram Mandir Pran Pratishtha Celebrations @ HTS



Sri Ram Mandir Pran Pratishtha Samaroh held on January 21st, 2024, at our temple. The auspicious occasion commenced with the recitation of Sunderkand Path, followed by a blissful Mahaprasad. Our temple echoed with the soul-stirring Ram Bhajans, lovingly performed by our devoted community members. The day unfolded with a live telecast from Ayodhya, starting at 11 AM, allowing us to witness and cherish the sacred moments. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Shri. Nandi Shetty and all the dedicated volunteers who played a crucial role in ensuring the grand success of this event.

A Joyous New Year's Eve Celebration @ HTS



In a fresh initiative for 2024, Balshala teachers and parents at HTS organized a delightful New Year's Eve celebration. Devotees embraced the arrival of the New Year with a perfect blend of fun and spirituality, engaging in various entertaining games, soulful bhajans, and a delightful feast (bhojan). The event offered a unique opportunity to welcome the New Year in a joyous and spiritually uplifting manner

Balshala



Surya Namaskara Yagna by HSS @ HTS

Youth Group



Golden Harvest Food Bank Soup Kitchen HTS Youth group Volunteers:
Aarav Gupta, Aditya, Adway, Om Patel, Krish, Jay, Dev, Anirudh, Arnav, Bhaumik, Kashvi, Krisha, Krishna,
Nayan, Srishti & Vidyash.

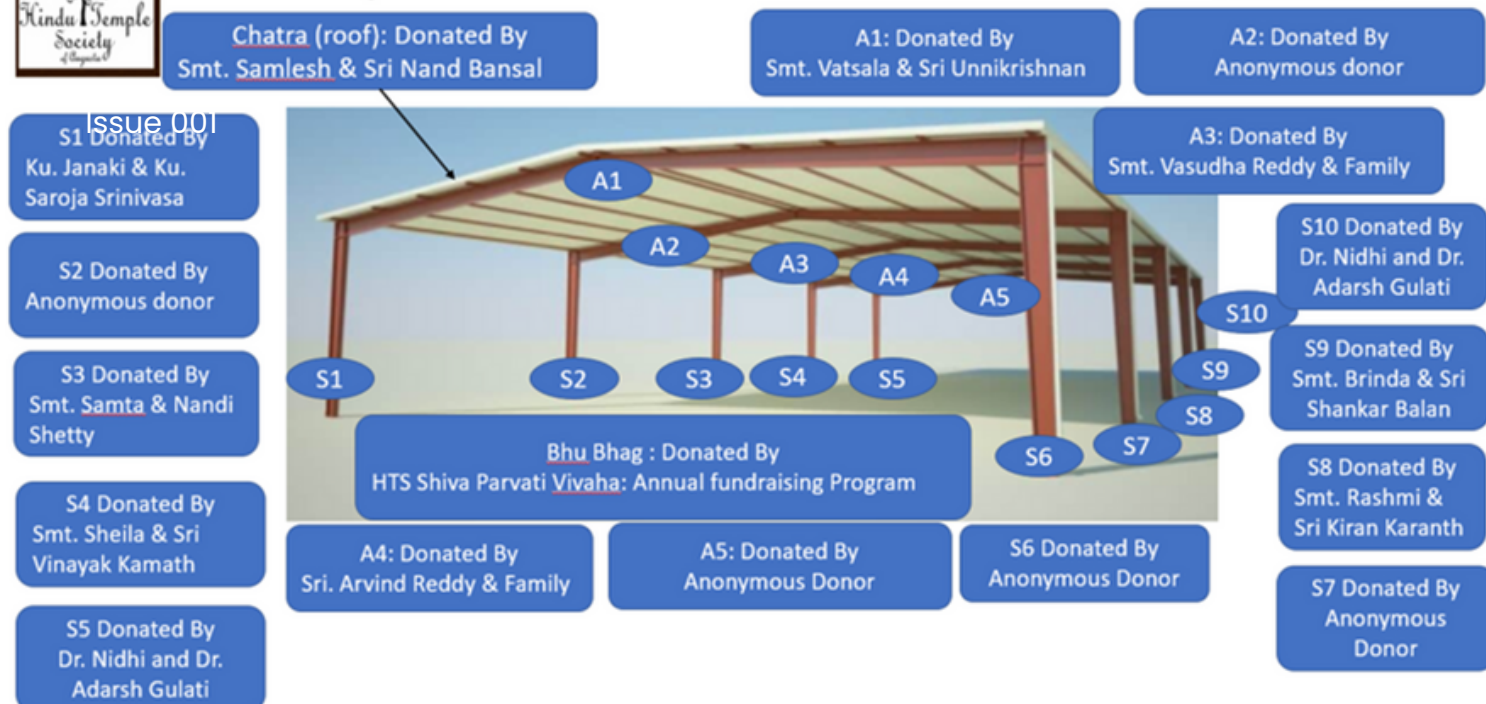
Third Sunday Pooja (Jan 21) volunteers: Aadi, Aarav Patel, Kavya, Aditya, Aisha, Esha, Kashvi, Pranita,
Bhavani, Samidha & Vidyash

Projects



Spiritual & Recreational Center

S: Stambha (Pillar)
A: Attadharika (Cross beam)
*: General Donations



For the past 20+ years, we have performed the annual fundraising havan under a makeshift (rented) tent at the back of the temple. We have received divine blessings by performing various spiritual events at that place. For many years, as a community we have felt the need to build a permanent bhavya structure that could not only support fundraising havan programs, but also enable us to use the space for outdoor weddings, Diwali, Yoga, Holi, other outdoor community activities and much more. In 2022, we began working on a proposal to build a permanent structure about 50 feet X 100 feet (5000 sq. ft), referred to as the 'Spiritual and Recreational Center (SRC)' with the sincere hope that this will fulfill the growing needs of our community at large.

We received overwhelming support during the fundraising effort for the SRC. The snapshot below provides an overview of the same.

As the project moved forward with an overwhelming support, the input and requests of senior members to have a concrete floor instead of a gravel one, was accommodated.

Status and Next Steps:

The City of Augusta has approved the initial proposal (structure shown above with gravel floor) within a few months. When the request for a concrete floor was submitted, approval from multiple departments was needed. Meanwhile, The City of Augusta faced a cyber-attack, which also delayed the approval process. The final approval came towards the end of September 2023. With the holiday season approaching, discussions were initiated with contractors to engage with the project. Site preparation work began around mid-December. Below are the next steps and the suggested timeline for the project.

Site Preparations: Complete

Pier construction, building installation, inspections and turnover to HTS are expected to be completed in the next couple of weeks.

If you have any suggestions/queries, or wish to contribute to this project, please feel free to contact the Chairman of the BOT (Nandi Shetty-706-414-1340).

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
(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