



AALAYA SANDESHA

Subhamastu Avighnamastu Vijayostu

Sri Venkateswara Temple Newsletter

10401 McKinzie Lane, Corpus Christi, TX 78410

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4th Quarter 2015

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Devotees,

Compliments of the season!

I came on board as a trustee in 2005. Since then I have been enlightened about the operations of the temple, the coastal Bend Indian community and more so about what it takes to run this temple which is a place for devotees for faith, salvation, hope and prayers.

Two years ago, I had the honor to preside over the Board of Trustees. I am humbled by the support given to me by the trustees and devotees. I know that I could never take such responsibility without your support. Throughout my role as a trustee and now President, I have seen how God allots different roles for devotees to play to make various functions of the temple successful. My sincere thanks to all the prasadam donors. Especially the Mahila Mandal who has always been there in the time of need. Also, sincere thanks to the decorators who have decked up the temple through various festivals. And above all, our Priest Anikepalli, in the last few months, after departure of Priest Chandrashekhar has singlehandedly performed the duties of the temple with great devotion and dedication. We eagerly await the arrival of the new priest.

The recent Diwali function saw another success where we raised the target of \$ 35,000 thanks to the donors. We had approximately 950 devotees attend the function. Our next fundraiser will be the Festival of India 2016. We all know that funds are needed to run the temple. We have a good size Indian Community and I feel that we can afford this temple. In the last two years, a few important projects have been accomplished. We have a new driveway which has been especially built to facilitate devotees who have physical challenges to walk to the temple. We have refinanced our loan and reduced it from over 1 million dollar to \$ 950,000 with no early payment penalty. We plan to pay at least \$10,000 to \$ 15,000 per year towards the principle in addition to the regular mortgage. We have repaired and added more security lights. The temple website has been more active now than before, the temple's facebook page has been added and the quarterly newsletter has been revived.

The Board of Trustees have three priority goals: 1. Repay the Temple loan of \$ 950,000 as soon as possible. 2. Build a dining hall for the temple that we can maintain well. 3. Build the Rajgopuram for the temple. Our community is growing in the coastal Bend. The goals are within our reach. May be if every devotee family donates 1%-5% of their gross income to the temple, it will be financially sound.

Remember, the temple instills in us conscience, faith, a sense of belonging, security, culture, pride that contributes to our strength and character which takes us a long way. Encourage your children to visit the temple, make it a routine every week.

My Namaskar to you all and I welcome Dr Vijay Bindingnavale to carry on the torch of leadership. Let us all give him our full support.

Happy New Year 2016!

Sincerely,
Dr.Vandana Kamat
President board of trustees,STHS



Priest's Column



Sloka

चला लक्ष्मीश्चलाः प्राणाश्चलं जीवित-यौवनम् ।
चलाचले च संसारे धर्म एको हि निश्चलः ॥

chala lakshmiishchalaH
praaNaashchala.n jiivita-yauvanam
chalaachale cha sa.nsaare
dharma eko hi nishchalaH

Meaning

Wealth comes and goes,
life and youth goes from the living,
In this world of coming and going,
'dharma' alone is firm.

ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः

om śāntiḥ śāntiḥ śāntiḥ
(OM peace peace peace)

DAKSHINA

In the ancient ages anyone that needed education, had to follow a GURU. The student went with the GURU, lived with him, served hand and foot with utmost respect and learnt all forms of education by observing and listening to the Teacher. No books to read and nothing to write. Education was in all forms that prepared the student to master the Vedas, worldly knowledge, using weapons etc. When the education is completed, the GURU never asked for something in return (one exception, Drona to Ekalavya). The student gave GURU DAKSHINA in some form or other. It would be a great honor to GURU when SISHYA, the student exceeded the teacher's expectations by absolute devotion and commitment to the highest standards set by the GURU who is always respected as a composite of Brahma, Vishnu and Siva.

In modern age such GURUKULAMS don't exist. We do consider one as a GURU in a certain way, the Priest. Priests are direct link between Devotees and GODS and GODESSES we worship. They have learnt Vedas and Mantras that are chanted in Worship. Before any Pooja, the priest sets up the devotees performing and himself as the medium through which the prayers are performed until final Mangalam is performed and TEERTHA PRASADAS are delivered.

The tradition is to offer DAKSHINA and DAANAMS of different kind, Suvarna Daanam, Bhoodaanam, Go-Daanam and such. As far as our regular Poojaas are concerned, we offer Dakshina to the Priest. There is no specific Prescribed amount. All depends on the satisfaction and affordability on the part of devotee. This is the the tricky part. This is where human nature plays big role, both devotee and priest being humans, neither of whom should be greedy or stingy. Devotee needs to respect Priest's talent to take Devotee's prayer to the Almighty to Devotee's satisfaction and reward with appropriate Dakshina. Priest needs to understand that Devotee's have different approaches towards this offering and treat everyone same way regardless of one giving big amount and one giving not so big. Onus is on us not to put Priest in a situation to give at least a minimum and on the priest not to put any pressure on Devotees to match their personal expectations.

WHAT IS 116

Often times we hear someone giving an amount of 116 of whatever currency. Why 116? Answer is, "no reason". However there is one of Vedic significance, 1116 (9 total). "9" is an auspicious number, POORNA SANKHYA.

ASHAATAADASA PURAANNAAS (18, 8+1=9)

BHAGAVDGEETHA (18chapters, 8+1=9)

MAHAABHAARAT has 18 chapters (1+8=9)

BHAAGAVATAM has 10800 Slokas (9)

NAVAGRAHAS (9)

INDRIAS(9),

In a Japamaala there are 108 beads (9)

Rishi Vyasa created 9 Puranas

There are 108 Mahaa Puraanaas (Upanishads)

It is only part of an exhaustive list of what all amount to 9

Then, normal pulse rate 72

15 breaths per minute, and number per hour, 12 hours and 24 hours comes to same number.

There are 27 Constellations in our Galaxy and 4 directions amounting to 108, covering the whole Galaxy.

In the present day and age, when one couldn't give 1116, it is adjusted to 116 and smaller denomination of 58 and odd number of 101

By Dr Mahesh Maruvada

Incoming president's note

I thank you for the opportunity to serve all of you. I am always available and please call me if you have anything to share or ideas to improve our community. I only ask that when a problem is mentioned a solution also be offered. I think that positivity is important and that the universe returns it to you if you show it.

We are a very strong community with very good people. We are always there for each other when need arises. As such we will continue to succeed and I hope that you all offer as much as you can for the community. I will be speaking to most of you over the next two years and I look forward to getting to know all of you and doing our part. Many of you have told me to ask if I need anything and I thank you for the generous offer. I will be sure to enlist your help in ensuring that we continue to be what we need to be.

Wishing all of you a happy shankranti

Jai Sri krishna

Dr.Vijay Bingingvale

Editor's corner

A year has gone by with lots of religious and social activities at the temple grounds.

We are ready for 2016

Dr. Vandana Kamat has graciously agreed to continue another year at the beginning of 2015 and we are very thankful, A very hardworking, dedicated and a firm leader. On behalf of the board members and the community members, I have the honor to extend our sincere appreciation. Thank you Vandana.

Temple has hired a new priest to take Sri Sai Chandra Sekhar's place. Immigration process is in progress and we are hoping that he will be on board early part of 2016. In the interim Sri Srinivasa Charyulu Anikepalli is working very hard, continues to fulfill the needs of the devotees and daily activities of the temple.

Diwali function was a blast. Sri Durga Navaratri celebrations were well attended as well. These two major functions priest Sri Srinivasacharyulu managed single handed. Panditjee Thank you very much.

Now comes our new leader who will carry on the torch for the next 2 years. Vijay Congratulations and thank you for accepting. Welcome on board. You have challenging years ahead and we are sure you can handle it.

I take this opportunity to thank all the board members for their input in the day to day activities and operation of our temple. The members that are there from get go have taken a challenge and responsibility to get to where we are today.

Some reflections are important for motivation. The other day Dr. Maruvada was introducing me to his extended family, THIS IS DR LALITHA JANAKI, SHE IS AN ONCOLOGIST then he added " she is also a board member ". It's indeed a great feeling. Some of you have no idea what an honor it is, to serve on a temple board. It's a huge recognition, a privilege and a BLESSING. Not many are blessed with it!

A SENIOR BOARD MEMBER'S ADVICE TO THE YOUNGER BOARD MEMBERS :

Dear fellow board members please participate, contribute not just the money, (you do that any way). your thoughts and, your input. We want you to come to the meetings, and be a part of constructive discussions.

Happy New Year

God bless you all

Lalitha M. Janaki, MD FACR



Sri Venkateswara Temple

Presents

A Discourse on

Peace and Joy

By

H H Swami Chidatmanandha

Regional Head, Chinmaya Mission, Andhra Pradesh

Discourse: Sunday, January 10th 2016

Time: 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM

**Venue: Sri Venkateswara Temple
10401 McKinzie Ln, Corpus Christi, TX 78410**



Swami Chidatmananda is a spiritual teacher whose core teaching emphasizes the oneness (non-duality) of all beings. Swamiji travels across the globe delivering rich and profound lectures yet simple even for a novice. Swamiji's humility and pleasant demeanor makes him very approachable to people from all walks of life seeking relief from ordinary issues to the deeply held misperceptions on life that cause immense stress and suffering.

Swamiji brings out variety of creative and scientific presentations by unearthing the ancient philosophies that appeal to the modern and rational minds thereby transforming them for the better. An element of humor is seen in his style that smoothens and simplifies the subject delivered and also has a healing effect on the audience.

Swami Chidatmananda ji, with his dynamic and inspirational teachings has touched the hearts of many people. After his sessions in the form of workshops, meditation retreats and lectures, the audience feels uplifted and discovers spiritual direction in their lives. Many feel peace, solace and guidance in his loving presence. Countless people benefit from his regular discourses through Indian television channels. Swamiji's topics like 'Art of Healing', 'Beyond Suffering', 'Learning through Relationships', 'Success in Married Life' and 'The Greatness of Mind' address the core problems of humanity.

Contact: 361-241-0550