



AALAYA SANDESHA

Subhamastu Avighnamastu Vijayostu

Sri Venkateswara Temple Newsletter

10401 McKinzie Lane, Corpus Christi, TX 78410

Phone [3612410550](tel:3612410550) "<http://www.svtempletexas.org/>"

3rd Quarter 2015

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Sri Srinivasacharyulu Anikepalli

EDITOR

Dr.Lalitha M.Janaki

Contact Info :

[361 549 9727](tel:3615499727)

drljanaki@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Devotees,

Namaskar.

In spite of the heat, we had a great summer. The summer camp organized by Pooja Bindingnavale at the STHS Temple was enjoyed by all the participating children. The children are back in school now.

The month of Shravana started August 15th and along with it has started the festivities of the fall season. Janmasthmi was celebrated this month; it was well attended by many devotees. Our Priest, Srinivasacharyalu, conducted the Pooja very proficiently, started and finished on time; the devotees enjoyed the outdoor activities followed by delicious Prasad prepared by the devotees. Many thanks to the grand sponsors, Pooja sponsors , Shashi Sudhakaran, Shobha Venkatraman, Dr Roopa Patel and their helpers for the decorations and the Mahila Mandal Samaj , Rekha Gajjar, Meena Pathikonda for the prasadam and most importantly the volunteers who helped clean up after the event.

The next event of Shri Ganesh Chathurti, the celebration of the "Sukha Karta, Dukha Harta" Deity started with murti sthapana on 17thSeptember and ended on 19thSeptember with Ganapati Bappa Morya. Again thanks to all the grand sponsors, sponsors, Prasad donors and volunteers. This was another well attended function.

As you can see any function needs a team of helpers and devotees to be successful. As you all know our Priest Sri Sai Chandrashekhar has left at the end of August 2015 to pursue further studies. Since then Sri Srinivasacharyalu has been performing all the day to day rituals and functions single handedly without any deficiencies. We pray that may God give him and his family good health and happiness.

We have selected a new priest for the temple. His name is "Sai Manoj Machavolu". He is fluent in Telugu, Tamil, Hindi and English. We are in the process of filing for his immigration. The immigration process will take about 3-6 months. Our effort to recruit a priest who is already in USA has been unsuccessful. Meanwhile, Priest Srinivasacharyalu will continue with the duties of the temple and perform poojas at the devotee's house as and when needed.

Few gentle reminders as regards to etiquettes towards the priest, the priest of the temple however young or old he is, he should be addressed with respect, It is proper to address him as “**Panditji**”. Do not address him by his first name. Also in the temple as well as in your home, the Prasad and food has to be served **first to the priest and then to the guests**. When he comes to your house to perform Pooja, he is the guest of honor.

Any prasad brought to the temple should be vegetarian without onion and garlic.

Now, looking forward to the Navratri Festival followed by Dussehra and the Grand Diwali on November 11th, 2015. Diwali is our fundraiser festival for the Temple. We request as many devotees as possible to be the grand sponsors, Pooja sponsors and Prasad donors. This is a well-attended festival. The new president and temple Board of Trustees for 2016 will be announced on this occasion. And as always the Diwali fireworks will light up the occasion. Please attend all the festivals and seek God’s blessings. Wishing you all a very Happy Season of Hindu festivals.

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



Priest's Corner

Om namo vinayaka slokam



MOOSHIKA VAHANA
MODAKA HASTA
VILAMBITA SOOTHRA
VAMANA ROOPA
MAHESWARA PUTRA
VIGHNA VINAYAKA
PAADA NAMASTE

Meaning:

Oh god you have mouse as a vehicle,
Sweet modaka in the hands,
Ears wide like fans,
Wearing a sacred thread.
Oh son of LORD SHIVA
You are short stature,
You remove all obstacles

SRI GANESH CHATHURTI

Ganesh chaturthi was celebrated with great prompt and enthusiasm for three days in our temple. It started on 17th September with murthi sthapanana and ended on 19th September with Ganapathi Bappa Morya.



Devotees offering aarti to **LORD GANESHA**



Preparations for the Lord Ganesha homam is being done by priest.
Many devotees attended the puja and took the blessings of Lord Ganesha.

SUMMER SCHOOL



The 2015 Summer Temple Camp was a week long, fun filled adventure. The kids had fun doing different Indian crafts, sampling different Indian foods and learning about temple culture. Everyday, Priest Sai Chandrashekar, spent 30 minutes with the children teaching them slokas and explaining why different things are done in the temple. The children also had yoga and meditation every day and by the end of the week, there was a definite vibe of relaxation among the children. The last day featured a pizza and popsicle party.





We had great attendance and community participation this year, we hope for even more next year! Please contact the temple board if you would like to learn more or get involved!

By
Mrs.Pooja Bindingavele

NAVRATRI GOLU

Navratri is a time when many homes in the southern states of India - parts of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala – display Bommai Golu with colors, light, music and food.

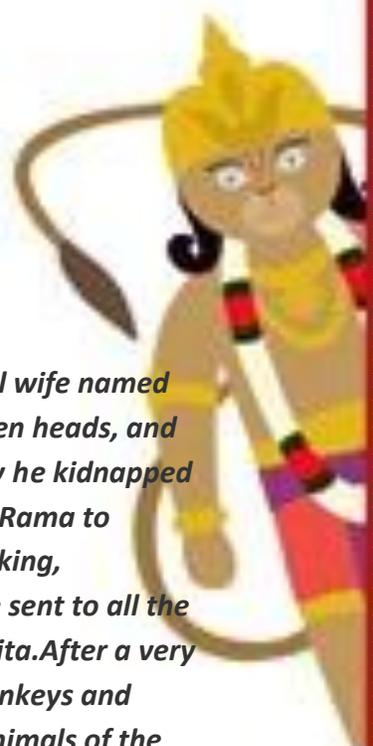
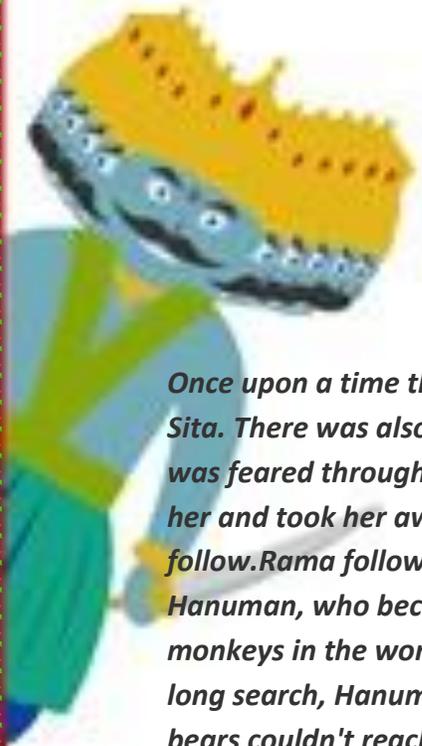
Bommi (Doll) Golu is the artistic display of dolls on an odd numbered tiers or steps, usually made of wood. Traditionally, the top few steps include a Kalash (ceremonial jar) with fresh water, covered with coconut and mango leaves, idols of God's and goddesses. The next few steps have idols of saints and heroes of the country. The other steps represent human activities, depicting functions such as marriage, temples, and an orchestra or music band. Business is usually represented by the Chettiar dolls, with shop items. Marapacchi dolls dressed in colorful clothes are used too. Today, Golu has the thematic representation of ancient stories from Ramayana and Bhagavad Gita, Dashavataram set, Ashtalaxmi set, Ganesha set among others. On the Amavasya (no moon day), the Navratri preparations start by setting up the steps and decorating the homes. For the nine days of Navratri prayers, lamps, sundal (protein rich dish made from lentils) and sweets are offered to the Goddess Durga. Child and women recite shlokas, sing songs and eat special dishes offered to the Gods. Women and families are invited in the evening and they exchange betel leaves, betel nuts, fruits, flowers, turmeric and kumkum. On the tenth and last day, the Golu dolls are symbolically put to sleep and packed away the next day to be brought out of the boxes the following year.

In Corpus Christi, we can see this Golu at the S V Temple on all nine days. Please visit the temple and also bring your children so that they can also enjoy this tradition. We also have some families in Corpus Christi who also celebrate Bommai Golu, and the entire community comes together in this celebration.

May Goddess Durga bestow her blessings on us on this auspicious Navratri season! Happy Navratri!

By
Mrs.Ritha Kulkarni





THE STORY OF DIWALI

Once upon a time there was a great warrior, Prince Rama, who had a beautiful wife named Sita. There was also a terrible demon king, Ravana. He had twenty arms and ten heads, and was feared throughout the land. He wanted to make Sita his wife, and one day he kidnapped her and took her away in his chariot. Clever Sita left a trail of her jewellery for Rama to follow. Rama followed the trail of glittering jewellery until he met the monkey king, Hanuman, who became his friend and agreed to help find Sita. Messages were sent to all the monkeys in the world, and through them to all the bears, who set out to find Sita. After a very long search, Hanuman found Sita imprisoned on an island. Rama's army of monkeys and bears couldn't reach the island, so they began to build a bridge. Soon all the animals of the world, large and small, came to help. When the bridge was built, they rushed across it and fought a mighty battle. When Rama killed the evil Ravana with a magic arrow, the whole world rejoiced. Rama and Sita began their long journey back to their land, and everybody lit oil lamps to guide them on their way and welcome them back.

Ever since, people light lamps at Diwali to remember that light triumphs over dark and good triumphs over evil. We celebrate DIWALI, festival of lights in the temple with puja and fireworks. This is one of the most awaited festival for both adults and kids. As always hope to see you this year too.

Happy Diwali



EDITOR'S CORNER



Namaste ,Greetings

Another great summer .Today is the first day of fall September 2015, marks the most religious month this year.We had an extra month (Adhika Masam) in our Hindu calendar .Adhika Masam moved some of the festivals back, bringing both Janmastami and Ganesh Chaturthi in September this year.

The world's chief catholic religious leader Pope Frances touches our soil during his historic visit to US this week.As we move into the next quarter several festivities underway . Navaratri Bommala Koluvu precede the Diwali celebrations. Preparations underway for fireworks at the temple grounds for Diwali.

There are the other fun filled celebrations like Halloween , Thanks Giving and Christmas around the corner. Lots of excitement for our next generation youngsters.

Reflecting on the summer activities, the summer school for kids at the temple grounds was a blast.Thanks to Pooja Bindignavale and Priya Kulkarni for active involvement in organizing &coordinating. Of course to all moms and children for participation.

New leader with his new team will be announced.We will have new priest soon on board ,with his multi lingual talent serving our temple and in turn the community.

We have several newcomers in the community. On behalf of the board of trustees' I urge all of you to gather as many mail contacts as possible and pass it on to any board member and/or to Dr.Murthy Mangipudi,our temple manager.

Our two youngsters, Divya & Prathyusha have left the community to pursue their careers after graduation. My sincere thanks to Mrs. Manasa Tatikonda, newcomer to our community,who helped me to put this newsletter.

Happy Holiday Season.

Dr. Lalitha M.Janaki MD FACR