



AALAYA SANDESHA

Subhamastu Avighnamastu Vijayostu

Sri Venkateswara Temple Newsletter

10401 McKinzie Lane, Corpus Christi, TX 78410

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

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EDITOR

Dr.Lalitha M.Janaki

Contact Info :

[361 549 9727](tel:3615499727)

drljanaki@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Devotees,

We have just finished with the grand celebration of Shri Ganesh Chaturthi, which lasted for 5 days. The idol of Shri Ganesha was immersed at the North Corpus Christi Beach with the chanting of "Ganapati-bappa Morya, Pudchya Varshi lowker ya". Prior to that, we had the celebration of Janmastami. Our talented priests had displayed the respective deities with beautiful decorations. These functions were well attended. We have also seen an increasing number of students from Corpus Christi A & M and Kingsville A & M attending our temple functions. It is good to know that more and more students from India are coming to US for higher education. Our temple is open for them to come and pray and be blessed.

We are looking forward to Navaratri and our next and the biggest festival of the year and that is the festival of lights, DIWALI. This is also one of our major fundraising event. Appropriate arrangements are being done and permits being obtained so that we may be able to enjoy lighting the firework. I invite all of you to attend the event and show your support to the temple. The "blessed" dollar notes will be distributed as done every year after the Samuhik Laxmi Pooja is performed. I encourage more and more devotees to be the grand sponsors for Diwali.

And, I want to thank the Prasad donors for all the events of the temple. I also want to remind all the devotees that any Prasad or food that is brought to the temple has to be vegetarian without onion or garlic.

The success and prosperity of a Hindu Temple can only be enhanced by more festivities, attendance of devotees and volunteers.

I encourage the devotees to use our temple premises to celebrate any important events like birthdays, anniversaries, naming ceremonies, etc. You may call the priest and the temple manager Dr Murthy Mangipudi for details and to schedule any event.

Again, I thank you all for your continuing support to the temple.

Vandana Kamat MD

President

STHS Board of Trustees

Priest's Message

DURGA NAVARATRI (DASARA)

In the month of 'Aswayuja ' from 'Padyami' to 'Dasmi' are auspicious days of 'Navaratri' which are celebrated with great joy. This year Dasara (Dussehra) is celebrated during the month of September . During 'navaratri' (literally translated as nine nights) many pujas and 'homas' are performed in the honour of Mother Durga. The image of 'Sakti' (energy) as the vanquisher of 'Mahishasura' are worshipped during the 'Navaratri' festivities. Some people perform 3 times daily 'Aahavaneeya agni, Grahapatya agni, Dakshina agni'. In addition to this, the adiya homa is performed with the 'Maha Surya Mantra' . All these yagna performances are to create powerful agents in the atmosphere surrounding the house to keep the environment clean and healthy.



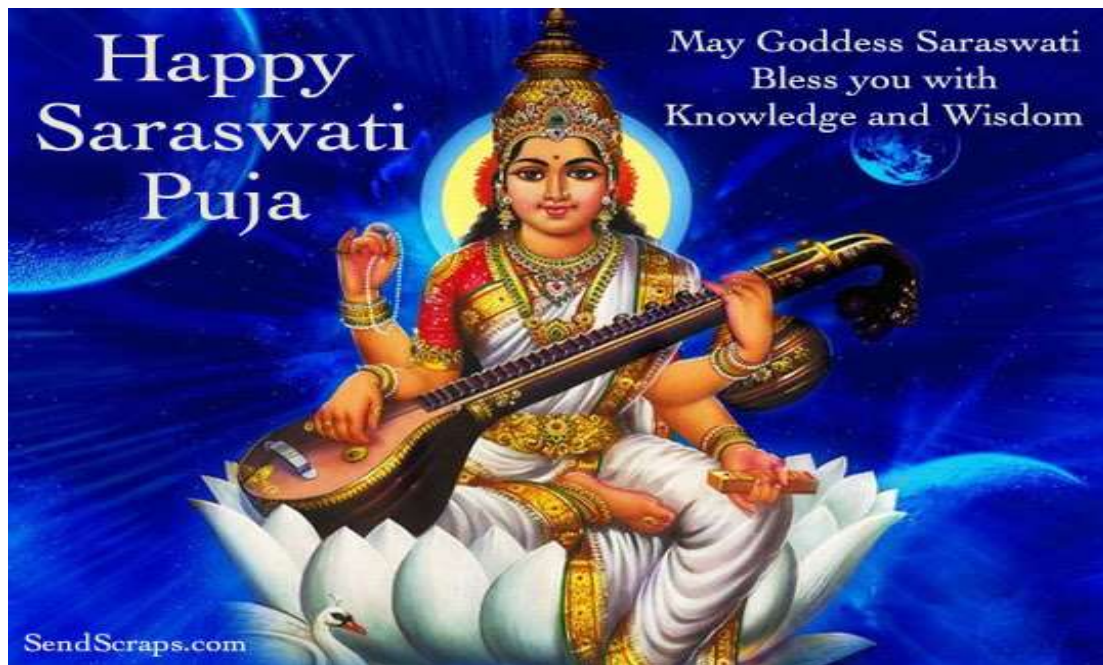
- 1st Day - 'Asvayuja padyami' - Sri Swarnakavachalankruta Durga devi
- 2nd Day - 'Asvayuja vidhiya' - Sri Bala TripurasundariDevi
- 3rd Day - 'Aswayuja tadhiya' - Sri Gayatri Devi
- 4th Day - 'Aswayuja chavithi' - Sri Annapoorna Devi
- 5th Day - 'Aswayuja pachami' - Sri Lalitha Tripurasundari Devi - LalithaPanchami
- 6th Day - 'Aswayuja Shasti' - Sri Maha Lakshmi Devi - Maha shasti
- 7th Day - 'Aswayuja saptami' - Sri Maha Saraswati Devi - Mahasaptami
- 8th Day - 'Aswayuja astami' - Sri Durga Devi – Durgastami
- 9th Day - 'Aswayuja navami' - Sri Mahishasura amrdini Devi- Maharnavami
- 10th Day - 'Aswayuja dasami' - Sri Sri Rajarajeswari Devi - Vijayadasami





Ayuda puja: Long ago the pandavas ended their 'Agnatavasa' exile after Arjuna brought down the 'Gandeeva' from above the 'sami' (jammi chettu) tree where they were hidden and defeating the Kauravas during 'Vijayadasami'. Hence the 'Sami' tree has a special importance during this festive season. It has come as a tradition that kings used to perform pujas to their weapons and chariots under this tree. This tradition is continued still and instruments used in our day to day lives, vehicles are worshipped during this time .





Saraswathi Mata:- In the Rigveda,Saraswati is a river as well as its personification as a goddess.In the post-Vedic age, she began to lose her status as a river goddess and became increasingly associated with literature, arts, music, etc. In Hinduism, Saraswati represents intelligence, consciousness, cosmic knowledge, creativity, education, enlightenment, music,arts, eloquence and power.Hindus worship her not for "academic knowledge", but for "divine knowledge" essential to achieve moksha. Saraswati, the goddess of knowledge and arts, represents the free flow of wisdom and consciousness. She is the mother of the Vedas, and chants to her, called the 'Saraswati Vandana' often begin and end Vedic lessons. It is believed that goddess Saraswati endows human beings with the powers of speech, wisdom and learning. She has four hands representing four aspects of human personality in learning: mind, intellect,alertness and ego. She has sacred scriptures in one hand and a lotus – the symbol of true knowledge – in the second.With her other two hands she plays the music of love and life on a string instrument called the veena. She is dressed in white – the symbol of purity – and rides on a white swan – symbolizing Sattwa Guna or purity and discrimination. Saraswati is also a prominent figure in Buddhist iconography – the consort of Manjushri. The learned and the erudite attach greater importance to the worship of goddess Saraswati.As a practice, only educated people worship her for knowledge and wisdom.They believe that only Saraswati can grant them 'moksha' – the final liberation of the soul.Saraswati's birthday – Vasant Panchami – is a Hindu festival celebrated every year on the 5th day of the bright fortnight of the lunar month of Magha. Hindus celebrate this festival with great fervor in temples, homes and educational institutes alike.



DEERGA SUMANGALI PUJA:-

DEERGA = FOR LONG TIME

SU = GOOD

MANGAL= AUSPICIOUS SIGNS

BHAVA MEANS BE it means be blessed with long period of married life Sumangali means a woman wearing mangalasuthra tied by the bride groom on the day of wedding. it is preached to unmarried girls that married woman pray to have the husband for a long time.

EDITOR'S CORNER

By

Lalitha M.Janaki MD FACR



Summer is over ,kids back to school and a number of new students from India to A&M campus.Weather is changing ,the signs of Fall,pumpkins and Orange colours everywhere. Next quarter is festivities ,gatherings ,sharing and fun times, both for Indian and the non Indian communities .Dussera coincides with Halloween. Halloween is celebrated on a fixed date each year, but Dussera,of course we know why not always the same day of the year..

Diwali our festival of lights which coincides with Bon fire in UK .Fireworks is also a common feature for our community and UK during Bonfire. Diwali is new year for some parts of our country.

Harvest festival ,Thanksgiving .Christmas and new Year Wow!! lots of fun, caring and sharing. There was an excellent music concert at the temple and for those who missed ,have really missed some great live music .The music concert was by Sri Sharat Chandra Tamada and Smt.Raja Rajeswari Kalaga .I am not able to find words to describe, just two ,Very impressive.On behalf of the trustees I take great honour to thank who ever arranged the program and of course the singers for their precious time and the great talent .Of course the top of the cream was the song by Kumari Aarthi Palaniappan. God Bless you Aarthi

This is our last news letter for this year.

I do want to thank all the members of the board and the community for their participation throughout the year. Of course the Anna Datas for the yummy dishes.

Happy Dussera ,Diwali, Halloween, Thanks Giving,. New Year Hanukha and all other fun filled festivities I might have missed mentioning. Special thanks to my two daughters Prathyusha and Diyva for helping me to put it all together.

HAPPY AND A SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON

GOD BLESS

