



# GANEŠĀNJALI



## Temple Newsletter

December 2021



ŚRI KSHIPRA GANAPATI

**THE HINDU TEMPLE SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA, NY**

*Śri Mahā Vallabha Ganapati Devasthānam*

45-57 Bowne Street, Flushing, New York 11355-2202

Tel: (718) 460-8484 ext.112 • Fax: (718) 461-8055

<https://nyganeshtemple.org> • email: [hts@nyganeshtemple.org](mailto:hts@nyganeshtemple.org)

# CANTEEN & CATERING SERVICES of The Hindu Temple Society of NA

143-09 Holly Ave. Flushing, NY 11355



Please visit the Temple Canteen's website: [canteen.nyganestemple.org](http://canteen.nyganestemple.org)

email: [canteen@nyganestemple.org](mailto:canteen@nyganestemple.org)

Tel: (718) 460-8493 or (718) 460-8484 ext.123

Temple Canteen is currently offering the following dining options

Daily from 8:30 AM to 9:00 PM

**Take-Out** - for info see: [canteen.nyganestemple.org/](http://canteen.nyganestemple.org/)

**Indoor Dining** - As per the current indoor dining rules - 'Key to NYC', anyone 12 years of age and older must show proof of COVID-19 vaccination (including a valid ID) in order to use the canteen indoor dining option and must strictly adhere to all current NYC Indoor Dining guidelines including wearing a mask and maintain social distancing.

We seek cooperation from every one during this challenging time.

Temple Canteen also offers **delivery services** with  
UberEats, Grubhub and DoorDash from 8:30 AM to 8:00 PM all days

# A Letter From the President

Dear Fellow Devotees,

Namaste and sincere greetings to you all for a happy COVID-free new year. The entire world has been subjected to untold miseries during the past two years including great loss of lives as a result of COVID-19 and our sincere prayer to *Śri Mahā Vallabha Ganapati* to shower His Grace and grant us a safe 2022 and beyond.

Regular religious services and special festivals are being performed strictly as per *Agama Sastras* and also scrupulously following all the precautionary and protective measures put in place since the onset of the pandemic in 2020. With gradual improvement in the disturbing situation, entry to the Temple by 10 devotees at a time was enhanced to 50 from May this year. All major festivals including the 44th Anniversary of the Temple, *Śri Sudaršana Mahā Yajnam*, *Śri Rāghavendra Swāmy Ārādhana*, *Śri Ganeša Chaturthi Nava-Dina Brahmotsavam*, *Śri Devi Navarātri Mahotsavam* and *Deepāvali* were all celebrated and live-streamed.

The cultural events included International Yoga day, Group dance program by students of East West School of Dance, Mandolin concert by Vishnu Venkatesh, Bhajans for World Peace by Mukthambar Fine Arts, Swami Vivekananda Day, India's 75<sup>th</sup> Independence Day, Devotional songs, Talks by Students of Ganeša Pātašāla, Akshayam's Unique Learning Series #43 "Ganesh Chaturthi Special" discussing 'The different forms of Ganesha' by Dr. Purna Prasad along with Sitar and Dance performances by Rishab Sharma and Kuhokee Kumari Das, Health & Wellness during the Pandemic #4 - 'Causes of Knee Pain' by Dr. Ranawat MD, Akshayam's Unique Learning Series #44 'Celebrating the Legacy of Mahatma Gandhi' and Violin Concert by Srinidhi Pennathur, etc. All these programs were live-streamed for the benefit of devotees.


Temple representatives participated virtually in many community and interfaith events. Temple also has become a center for learning about Hindu religion, Deities and methods of worship and these take place both in person and virtually. Pātašāla classes continued virtually and Summer Camp was conducted in July 2021 - the theme was 'Saints of India and Bhagavad Gita' and was very successful. Temple Canteen continues to function following all the city guidelines including proof of vaccination from diners.

We thank our dedicated volunteers and our staff for their excellent and devoted service even in stressful conditions. May God bless them all. We hope and pray that everything will return to normal in 2022 and that you will be able to participate in the Temple services as in 2019 and earlier.

My sincere thanks and gratitude to you all for your support of the Temple by your generous contributions in this difficult time. We are also grateful to you for your understanding and cooperation by adhering to the darshan timings to visit the Temple. We look forward to your continued support in coming months and years as well.

May the blessings of *Śri Mahā Vallabha Ganapati* be always with you and your families.

*Sarve Jana Sukhino Bhavanthu*

Sincerely,  
  
Dr. Uma Mysorekar  
President



# AKSHAYAM

THE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS TEAM, HINDU TEMPLE SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

## THE BEGINNING

The Young Professionals Team of HTSNA was formally named Akshayam in 2015 in order to establish a platform for young Hindus to discuss, learn, network, and serve the community. Young professional and youth teams were always part of the Temple's outreach sector in the years prior to 2015; however, the name Akshayam was chosen to organize this effort, as there was great need for the traditional Hindu Temple to offer a space for youngsters to ask questions about age-old traditions, learn about the rich history, and explore their Hindu identity in the West. After the team was inaugurated, it hosted its first Hindu Young Professionals Conference, Anubhava, which later became an annual tradition.

## THE PURPOSE: FROM THE TEMPLE PERSPECTIVE

With the grace of the Lord and the incredible support and effort of the people, the New York Ganesh Temple has successfully established its incredible role in the Hindu community for over four decades. For this legacy to continue, the next generation of Hindus must take on this responsibility and first learn about the *Sanatana Dharma* and what appeals to them and their spiritual journey. They must engage in *seva* not just within the Temple but, within the community, as service is one of the fundamental pillars of our *dharma*. Young Hindus need to be given a platform to discuss openly, question traditions and its relevance to the 21st century, brainstorm how religion and its application should evolve, and promote and preserve our rich culture and heritage. Akshayam's role would be to connect young Hindus to each other and to the community so that the Temple can continue its legacy for generations to come.

## THE YOUNGER PERSPECTIVE

From Akshayam's standpoint, this team offers a place for one to freely question and learn about his/her faith. Knowledge about traditions and faith-based practices is the foundation for strengthening and formalizing one's identity, let alone the identity of a Hindu community. Living in the West, a platform such as Akshayam is incredibly powerful to allow one to stay connected to his/her culture, rich history, and heritage. Akshayam connects young thinkers to *gurus* in the field of *Agama*, *Saiva Siddhanta*, *Vedanta*, Temple management, etc., to guide them in whichever path they choose to follow. With Akshayam contributing newer ideas of how the Temple can continue to evolve to cater to the changing Hindu demographic, and also offering ways to implement these ideas, the team plays an important role in the future of Hinduism in the West.

## OUR ACTIVITIES

Learning forms the core of Akshayam's initiatives. The team organizes monthly learning series to explore different concepts within Hinduism and invites various guest speakers to present these topics. Sessions are organized in Q&A format and are live-streamed for the general public. The team is also involved in planning and executing different cultural events, in coordination with the Cultural Committee, and volunteers in different sectors of the Temple including but not limited to teaching in the Temple school, leading Temple tours, helping in the Temple canteen, live-streaming Temple services, etc. The annual Anubhava conference has also become a tradition for young Hindus to come together to talk about topics that range from the science of Hinduism to its evolution in the modern-day and everything in between.

## GET CONNECTED

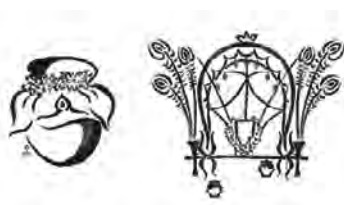
Akshayam invites all young Hindus to join the team by filling out the registration form on the temple website. This team is open to everyone and no background experience or qualifications are necessary. You can also email Akshayam at [akshayam@nyganesh temple.org](mailto:akshayam@nyganesh temple.org) to find out more.  
Welcome to Akshayam!

# **SKANDA SHASHTI**

By: M.R. Ravi Vaidyanaat Śivāchāriar

Lord *Skanda* is the most powerful deity who is easily propitiated by the devotee's intensity of dedication. He is bountiful in giving boons and in offering invincible protection from all evil.

*Shashti* in Sanskrit refers to numeral six. There are six significant abodes (*āru-padai-veedu*) for Lord *Skanda*. He is a six-faced divine energy *Shanmukha*. He is glorified with six syllable *Shadākshara mantra* (*Sa-Ra-Va-Na-Ba-Va*). His ordinal number is six. His seat is of hexagonal shaped (*shatkonam*) *yantra* with six corners (geometric form). It is said that in the Hindu Solar calendar month *Tula / Aippaṣi* (Oct 15 to Nov 15) he fought for six days with demon *Surapadma* and revealed his *Viśvarupa* form (supreme universality). Hence the popular phrase "*Skanda Shashti*" is widely used by devotees to celebrate and worship Lord *Skanda* during *Shashti* day.



*Kaumāra tantra* text provides the details on the *Skandotsavās*, the festivities of Lord *Śri Skanda*. *Krittika* or *Viśākha Nakshatra* day or *Shashti tithi* day are said to be auspicious for *Skanda*. As per these guidelines, our temple observes *Skanda Shashti* during Hindu Solar calendar month *Thulā* (or *Aippaṣi*). The program extends for six days includes *Skanda Homam*, *Shadākshara mantra japam*, Special *Abhishekam*, *Alankāram*, *Pooja*, *Upachāram*, on all days. During the same period, devotees observe *upavāsa* (fasting). On *Shashti* day they would ceremoniously carry the milk pot and other sacred materials meant for *abhishekam* tied in a decorated *Kāvadi* and submit to the temple as offerings. *Śatru samhāra triśati archana* and *Śri Valli Devasenā Sameta Śri Śubramanya Thiru Kalyāna Utsvam* (divine wedding ceremony) will be carried out on the concluding day.

As per a legend, a giant *Tārakāsura* (≠demon) entered into a deep penance, contemplating Lord Brahma and was blessed with a boon that none shall be equal to him in might and in battle. Thereupon he became a menace to all the divinities whom he put to untold troubles by exceeding all the limits of wickedness. Devās sought the help of Lord Brahma & Lord Śiva.

Due to the impact of *Vajrāyuda*, groups of male and female youth troupes emerged from *Skanda*, as his army troupes named *Viśākha*. Lord Indra requested *Skanda* to take over the commandership of the army of devas (*devasenāni*) to win over the demon *Tārakāsura*. The mission of the Lord *Skanda's* birth was fulfilled. Lord *Skanda* also won over other demons viz. *Surapadma*, *Simhavaktra*, army of *mahishāsura*.

*ōm namō bhagavatē mahāpuruṣhāya, mayūravāhanāya, gaurīputrāya, īśātmajāya,  
skandasvāminē, kumārāya, tārakārayē, shanmukhāya, dvādaśanētrāya, dvādaśabhujāya,  
dvādaśātmakāya, śaktihastāya, subrahmanyāya namō namah ||*

I bow to the supreme Lord, who is supreme personality, who rides on peacock vehicle, son of Pārvati and Iśwara, referred as a clever boy (*Skanda*), who defeated the demon *tārakāsura*, who has six faces, twelve eyes, twelve hands with various powerful arms to control the space, who is named as *Śri Subrahmanya*. I pray Him again and again for His blessings.

*Om Sa-Ra-Va-Na-Ba-Vāya Namaha*



# FESTIVALS



*Šri Devi Khodiyār Māta Pooja  
Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021*



*Šri Venkatešwara Mahotsavam  
Friday, June 18<sup>th</sup> - Sunday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021*



*Šri Venkatešwara Mahotsavam  
Friday, June 18<sup>th</sup> - Sunday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021*



*44<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Temple  
Sunday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021*



*Šri Sudaršana Mahā Yajnam  
Friday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> - Sunday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021*



*Šri Krishna Janmashtami  
Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021*

# FESTIVALS



*Šri Ganeša Chaturthi Nava Dina Brahmotsavam  
Friday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> - Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021*



*Šri Devi Navaratri Mahotsavam  
Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup> - Thursday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021*

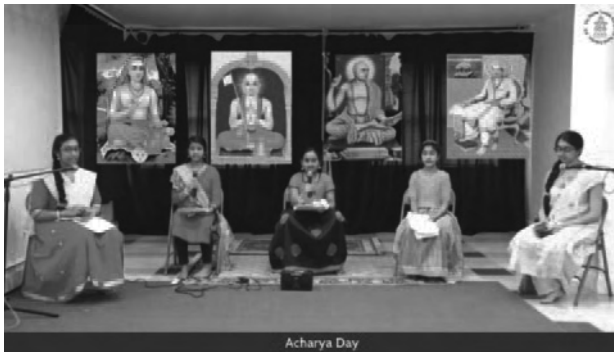


*Deepāvali Celebrations  
Tuesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> - Thursday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021*

# FESTIVALS, VIRTUAL CULTURAL & OUTREACH ACTIVITIES



*Skanda Shashti Mahotsavam  
Thursday, November 4<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021*



*Āchārya Day  
Sunday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021*



*7th International Yoga Day  
Sunday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021*



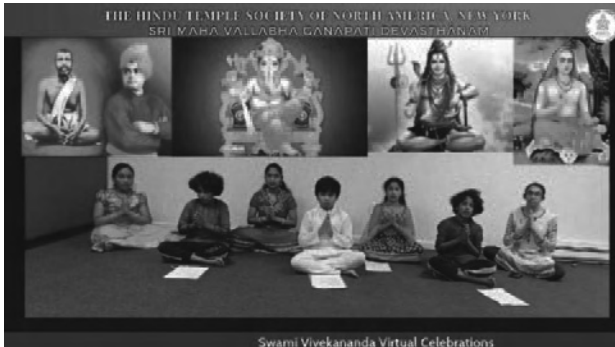
*Music Virtual Program for Śri Venkateśwara Mahotsavam  
Saturday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021*



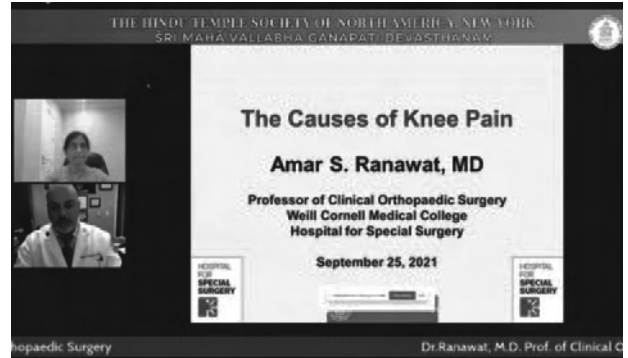
*Virtual Bharathanatyam - 44th Temple  
Anniversary Celebrations  
Sunday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021*



# VIRTUAL CULTURAL & OUTREACH ACTIVITIES



*Swami Vivekananda Virtual Celebrations  
Saturday, July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021*



*Health & Wellness during the Pandemic - Session #4  
Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021*



*Virtual Violin Concert  
Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021*



*Breast Cancer Walk  
Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021*



*"Lets Talk Science" - Session #3 (Ganesa Patasala)  
Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021*



*Mini Health Fair  
Saturday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021*

## **INTERFAITH**



Every faith tradition shares many of the similar spiritual values, be it on the creator, appreciation of nature, respect for the sacredness of living entities and materials or objects and many others. Despite the religious differences, but considering the commonalities, The Hindu Temple Society of North America acknowledges and serves as a bridge for mutual understanding and respect by active participation in several Interfaith Councils and its programs at local, regional, national and international initiatives such as peace-building, cooperative, constructive interactions, establishing multi-ethnic, multi-religious societies, promote respect among each other.

## **UNITY WALKS**



The Hindu Temple Society of North America is situated in Flushing, the birth place of religious freedom in the North American continent, the most religiously diverse neighborhood and microcosm of world religions, is also referred as the City of Gods. The temple participates in every interfaith unity walk be it in-person or by virtual means conducted by (1) The Queens Historical Society and (2) Flushing Interfaith Council. People of all faith walk together to various houses of worship and places of importance in the Queens area. Participants enjoy the walk and all their questions are answered by our temple officials.

## **OHNY - WEEKEND**



Open House New York (OHNY) Weekend is conducted annually to celebrate the Art & Culture, Design & Architecture. It gives everyone an opportunity to explore places of interest which are wide open on the specified days. The Hindu Temple Society of North America participates in the OHNY weekend events and offers tours. This year Temple offered tours both by in-person as well as virtually. The Stone, Wood and Metal carvings, Sculptures, Vimānam and Gopuram (Domes & Towers) are major attractions that bring in more visitors every time to this event.

## **EDUCATION - WORLD RELIGION**



Services and education offered by The Hindu Temple Society of North America, elevates the Hindu faith awareness across the continent. The Temple encourages the student community in learning the literatures, rituals, festivals, ceremonies, celebrations, traditions and belief system. Students from various educational institutions visit the temple in person or virtual means to study and understand the Hindu faiths and its belief system. Temple takes cautious steps in answering all their queries and clear the misconceptions about our faith. Universities or Schools, students from KG level to research scholars pay visit to our temple for learning.



## SUGGESTED HOMAMS / POOJAS FOR PARIHARA,

### GENERAL WELFARE & DURING OTHER

#### AUSPICIOUS EVENTS

Mahā Ganapati Homam	
SudarṢana Homam	<i>Removal of all obstacles</i>
Sankata Hara Chaturthi Pooja	
.....	
Mahā Lakshmi Homam	
Ṡankhābhishekam	<i>Success in all endeavors</i>
.....	
Mrityunjaya Homam	
Dhanvantari Homam	<i>Recover from ill-health</i>
Āditya Hrudaya Pārāyanam/Homam	
.....	
Nāga Ṡanti Homam	
Subrahmanya Homam	
Kāla Rāhu Ṡanti Homam	<i>Removal of Sarpa Dosha</i>
Nāga Pratishtha	
ĀḌesha Homam	
Garuda Homam	
.....	
Chandi Homam	
SudarṢana Homam	<i>Recovery from difficult times</i>
Navagraha Homam	
.....	
Navagraha Homam	<i>Overcoming problems</i>
SudarṢana Homam	
.....	
Santāna Gopala Krishna Homam	
Purusha Sookta Homam	<i>Praying for child</i>
.....	
Swayamvara Pārṃvati Pooja	
Durga Deepa Namaskaram	<i>Praying for marriage</i>
Srinivāsa Kalyānam	
Pārṃvati Kalyānam	
.....	
Bāla MārkanḌeya Homam	
Āyushya Homam	<i>Protecting child</i>
.....	
Mahā Ganapati Homam	
SudarṢana Homam	<i>Moving into new house</i>
Vishnu Homam, Vastu Homam	
Rakshoghna Homam	
.....	
Āyushya Homam	<i>First and subsequent birthdays</i>
.....	
Āyushya Homam	
Rudra Homam	<i>60<sup>th</sup>, 70<sup>th</sup>, &amp; 80<sup>th</sup> birthdays</i>
Navagraha Homam	<i>and Longevity</i>
Mrityunjaya Homam	
Sarva Devata Homam	
SudarṢana Homam	
Dhanvantari Homam	
.....	
Saraswati Homam	<i>Initiating into studies</i>
.....	
SudarṢana Homam	<i>Business Development</i>
.....	
Chandi Pātha Samputi	
Pārāyanam / Homam	<i>Career Advancement</i>
.....	
Sandhi Ṡanti Homam	<i>Graba Ṡanti</i>
.....	
Lakshmi Nārāyana Hrudaya	
Pārāyanam / Homam	<i>Prosperity</i>
.....	
Satyanārāyana Pooja	
Budha Graha Ṡanti Pooja	<i>Wisdom</i>
.....	
Tila Homam, Pārāyashitta	
Pavamāna Homam	<i>Repentance</i>
.....	
Satyanārāyana Pooja	<i>General Welfare (Loka Kshemam)</i>
.....	
Sundara Khānda Pārāyanam	<i>For success in all efforts</i>
.....	

## RELIGIOUS SERVICES

### ABHISHEKAMS:

Regular **Abhishekam** for all deities

**Ṡankha Abhishekam** for all deities (at Temple only)

**EkādaṠavāra Rudrābhishekam**

**Kanaka Abhishekam** for all deities (at the Temple only)

**Sarva Devata Abhishekam**

### ARCHANAS:

**Ashtottaram** (108)

**Sahasra Nāma** (1,008)

**TriṠati** (300)

### HOMAMS:

**Ganapati Homam**

**Ṡri Rudra Homam**

**Sarva Devata Homam**

**SudarṠana Homam**

**Chandi Homam**

**Dhanvantri Homam**

**Vishnu Homam**

**Saraswati Homam**

**Lakshmi Narasimha Homam**

**Navagraha Homam**

**Nāga Ṡanti Homam**

**Mrityunjaya Homam**

**Ṡri Subrahmanya Homam**

**Āyushya Homam**

### SAMSKĀRAS:

**Nāma Karanam**

**Seemantham**

**Shashti Abda Poorthi**

**Ṡathābhishekam**

**Punyāhavāchanam**

**Griha Ārambham**

**AnnaprāṠanam**

**Griha PraveṠam**

**Apara Kriyas**

**Vidyārambham**

**Upanayanam**

**Hiranya Ṡrāddham / Pitru Tarpanam**

**Hair Offering**

**Vivāham (Wedding)**

### SPECIAL POOJAS for Deities:

**Ṡri Satyanārāyana Pooja**

**Navāvarana Pooja**

**Ṡri Guru Pāduka Pooja**

**Ṡree Mahā Meru**

**Kalyāna Utsavam**

**Navagraha Ṡanti**

### OTHER POOJAS / SERVICES:

**New Business**

**Veda Pārāyana**

**Sundara Khānda Pārāyanam**

**Saptasati Pārāyanam**

**New Vehicle/ New House**

**Travel**

**Book Religious Services over the  
Phone at (718) 460-8484 ext.112  
or online: [nyganeshtemple.org](http://nyganeshtemple.org)**

# **THE HINDU TEMPLE SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA, NY**

*Śri Mahā Vallabha Ganapati Devasthānam*

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## ***... Participate from home with your family ...***

In view of the ongoing pandemic, the Temple continues to implement careful opening to the public for Darshan & Archana only on a modified schedule of hours. These hours are subject to change - please visit the Temple website for details and updates or contact the Temple Counter directly at: (718) 460 8484 ext. 112

All scheduled poojas and rituals are carried out by the priests. Archanas, abhishekams and other scheduled poojas sponsored by devotees are also being performed by the priests inside the Temple and Prasadams sent to the respective devotees.

Please call the Temple at: (718) 460 8484 ext. 112 or visit the Temple website:<https://nyganeshtemple.org> for booking services, religious schedules and live streaming info.

Join Online Chanting and Prayer on Festival days see - [nyganeshtemple.org/prayer](https://nyganeshtemple.org/prayer)

Weekly live-streaming schedules see - [nyganeshtemple.org/tv](https://nyganeshtemple.org/tv)

Devotees may watch LIVE: [Facebook.com/nyganeshtemple](https://www.facebook.com/nyganeshtemple) or [YouTube.com/nyganeshtemple](https://www.youtube.com/nyganeshtemple)

Schedule changes - [nyganeshtemple.org/schedule-changes-temporary-suspensions](https://nyganeshtemple.org/schedule-changes-temporary-suspensions)

Please support the Temple during these challenging times by donating online generously at - [nyganeshtemple.org/donations-annadanam](https://nyganeshtemple.org/donations-annadanam)

Temple Canteen / Catering Services see - [canteen.nyganeshtemple.org](https://canteen.nyganeshtemple.org)

Patasala Online Classes see - [nyganeshtemple.org/patasala](https://nyganeshtemple.org/patasala)

Yoga Classes Online see - [nyganeshtemple.org/yoga](https://nyganeshtemple.org/yoga)

Veda & Divya Prabhanda Classes Online - [nyganeshtemple.org/divya-prabhanda-veda-classes](https://nyganeshtemple.org/divya-prabhanda-veda-classes)

Akshayam (HTS Young Professionals Team)info see - [nyganeshtemple.org/akshayam](https://nyganeshtemple.org/akshayam)

Senior Center Activities Online see - [nyganeshtemple.org/seniors](https://nyganeshtemple.org/seniors)

Thank you for your cooperation.

## **SUPPORT THE TEMPLE**

Please join us from home celebrating the religious and cultural activities of the Temple with your family and receive the blessings of Śri Mahā Vallabha Ganapati.