



GAÑEŠĀNJALI



Temple Newsletter

June 2023



ŠRI TARUNA GANAPATI

THE HINDU TEMPLE SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA, NY

Šri 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

June 2023 • Vol 46-23 • No. 1N • 2 Issues per Year

CANTEEN & CATERING SERVICES of The Hindu Temple Society of NA

143-09 Holly Ave. Flushing, NY 11355



Temple Canteen is currently offering the following dining options
Daily from 8:30 AM to 9:00 PM

Take-Out - for info see: canteen.nyganeshtemple.org

Indoor Dining - Facemask recommended.

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

With the grace and blessings of Sri Maha Vallabha Ganapati, the Temple canteen was started in 1993 - mainly to prepare "naivedyam" (food offering) to the deities in accordance with agama sastras. The authentic South Indian food at the canteen was a great appeal to devotees as well, who enjoyed the traditional flavor and taste of idli, dosa, pongal, upma, sambar, chutney, etc., Thanks to the encouragement of devotees, the canteen grew rapidly and moved in 1998 to the current, spacious location in the community center.

Please visit our dedicated canteen website for more information

Please visit the Temple Canteen's website: canteen.nyganeshtemple.org

email: canteen@nyganeshtemple.org

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

A Letter From the President

Dear Fellow Devotees,

Namaste & Greetings!

New Year day began well with grand celebrations and with thousands of devotees participating in the day-long events. Other main festivals celebrated during the last six months included; *Vaikuntha Ekadasi*, *Śri Dhanvantari Mantra Japam*, *Makara Sankrānti* & *Śri Ayyappa Pooja*, *Mahā Śivaratri*, *Śri Rāma Navami Mahotsavam*, *Śri Dakshināmoorthy Mantra Japam* and *Śri Śiva Mahotsavam*. All these festivals and several *mantra japas* were very well participated by the devotees.

Several cultural and outreach events were carefully planned to include; Youth, Young Professionals and Young families. The Young Professionals Group of the Temple known as '*Akshayam*' has been conducting monthly online lectures called 'Learning Series' on various topics.

There were several cultural events and most important included: Republic Day celebrations and Remembering Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King & Nelson Mandela in January, Youth Group Presentation on Hindu Temples of India - a two part presentation in March and April, Annual Holi Festival and Earth Day in April and Composer's Day in May.

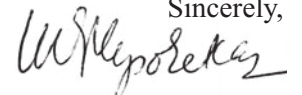
There were several Interfaith events participated by the Temple during the last 6 months. Among them the most significant ones were; Multi-faith Prayer for Peace event at the UN on April 14th, New York City Day of Prayer on May 4th and New York State Governor's Unity Summit on May 10th.

Summer Day Camp is back in person this year and scheduled from July 24th thru July 28th. All the Patasala children are encouraged to register and participate - please refer to page 4.

My sincere thanks and gratitude to you all for your support of the Temple by your generous contributions. We look forward to your continued support in coming months and years as well. We thank our dedicated volunteers and our staff for their excellent and devoted service. May God bless them all.

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

Sarve Jana Sukhino Bhavanthu

Sincerely,

Dr. Uma Mysorekar
President



THE HINDU TEMPLE SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA
Śri Mahā Vallabha Ganapati Devasthānam
45-57 Bowne Street, Flushing, NY 11355



SUMMER DAY CAMP 2023

July 24th - July 28th, 2023

5 DAY - CAMP SESSION

AGES: 7 YRS & Above

MONDAY - FRIDAY : 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

DROP-OFF / PICK-UP LOCATION: SARASWATI HALL

(HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE INVITED TO APPLY AS CAMP COUNSELORS)

Theme:

HINDU HERITAGE

The summer day camp will be conducted this year with a focus on the Yoga, Hindu culture and heritage.

Morning session : Yoga, Hindu Culture and Heritage

Afternoon Session : Arts and Crafts, word building, board games, etc.

Fee for the Camp is \$75.00 which includes Indian vegetarian lunch & snacks

Those interested may please register online at

<http://nyganeshtemple.org/summer>



Early Registration Recommended - Accepted on "First Come" basis.

For further information please email: patasala@nyganeshtemple.org

SACRED MATERIALS

By: M.R. Ravi Vaidyanaat Śivāchāriar

Sacred materials are integral to every ritual and ceremony. *Kāmikāgama dravya bhāga patala - drvaya samskāra vidhi* - deals with all kinds of *dravyās* (sacred materials) for usage in rituals. There are about 450 verses guiding us on dealing with *dravyās*. We shall learn a few of them in this article.

Haridrā: It is also referred as *Haldi* or Turmeric, used in rituals, medicine and cooking. Symbolizing prosperity, fertility and purity, it is applied on the *māngalya sutra*. Hindus use turmeric paste to anoint deities and images of divinities, make conical shaped *kshanika linga* to invoke the divinities during religious ceremonies.

Kumkum: It is also referred as *Sindoor*, signifies religious and social symbol of Hinduism. Kumkum is prepared from naturally dried turmeric root (yam) ground to fine powder and a few drops of organic lemon extract is added for color change to red and used for religious purpose. For fragrance, a rose or pandanus fascicular (thaazhampu) saffron essence is added. Wearing *Kumkum* believed to bring in good luck in our lives and muster positive energies in and around us. It represents the *sakthi* or energy aspects and its red color stands for absolute fire principles. It is believed to remove all the negative energies and enhances the presence of positive vibrations.

Vibhooti: It is recognized as sacred or holy ash. *Vibhooti* is applied across the body using index, middle and ring fingers by facing east or northern direction. It is worn on forehead, neck, chest, shoulders, arms, elbows, stomach, knees and several other parts of the body (5, 8, 16, 32 or 36 parts of the body). The guidelines on direction and size are laid down in *Āgama*. Traditionally it is applied as three horizontal lines across the forehead with a length of 6 angulas (1 angula is 0.66 inch) and is defined as *Tripundra*. It is processed from dried cow dung (*Gomaya*) and rice husk by subjecting it to *Agni* (sacred fire). It is segregated into four sub-types i.e. *Kalpa, Anukalpa, Upakalpa, Akalpa*.

Chandana: The *Chandana* paste is prepared by grinding or rubbing the raw sandalwood, by hand, upon a granite slabs with friction made for the purpose. With slow addition of water a thick paste results, which is mixed with saffron or other such pigments to add fragrance to it and used for religious purposes. *Gandhasyāt chandanam basma sahitam vāta kalpayet*, the 15th *patala* of *Kāmika Āgama Uttara bāga* narrates ways to maintain ourselves cool during the summer season. *Āyurveda* suggests using *chandana* as a preventive care item by rubbing it on the forehead to reduce headaches. It is also used to get rid of excess oil from our body & face and itchiness.

Akshata: Meaning whole, unbroken, unhusked and is prepared from the raw rice grains and colored with saffron or turmeric powder or vermilion. *Akshata* represents the *Nakshatra devatās* and symbolizes fertility, bounty and prosperity. Under the *pancha-bhoota* concept, it represents the *ākāśa tattva*, space principle or absolute ether (shunya). It is said to absorb, hold and radiate the *Chaitanya* or cosmic consciousness, increase the power of the rituals and hence utilized as a substitute for various other offerings such as *vastra*, flowers, leaves, water.

continues on page 6...

SACRED MATERIALS CONT'D

By: M.R. Ravi Vaidyanaat Šivāchāriar

Darbha grass: *Rig Veda* explains about the usage of *Darbha* grass or *Kuša* grass in religious ceremonies. The botanical name is *Eragrostis cynosuroides*. In *Bhagavad Gita*, Lord Krishna recommends the usage of *darbha* grass as an ideal *āsana* (seat) for meditation. *Vishnu purāna* and *Mahābhārata* mention about the significance of *Darbha* grass. Hindu sages and saints like *Mārkanteya*, *Athri*, *Kaušika*, *Vyāsa*, *Kātyāyana*, *Bharatwāja*, *Yagnavalkya*, *Āśwalāyana*, *Āpasthamba* have revealed about the greatness of *darbha* grass. While performing religious rituals, one need to wear a ring (pavitram) made of this *darbha* grass. It is said to have the highest value in conducting the phonetic vibrations through its tip. This grass without a tip is considered no value, as the conduction value will be lost. It is also used to ward off evils.

Coconuts & Bananas: It is the most common offering in any rituals and symbolizes selfless services. Breaking a coconut symbolizes breaking of our *ahankāra* or ego. The coconut juice represents *vāsanās*, the inner tendencies and the bright white kernel, the pure mind and heart. When we offer coconut and by the touch of God, our minds are purified and blessed. The banana symbolizes *moksha*, as they don't contain seeds and hence no recycle of birth for the banana tree through seeds. It is one of the major reasons to offer bananas in our rituals, as our prayers are always for attainment of *moksha* to end this life-cycle without rebirth.

Yoga Classes by Sanjay Attada. (Disciple Of Late Swamy Bua).

8:30 a.m. – Sundays – \$10 per class.
Age Restriction: 13 years and above only.

Followed by:

Pranayama & Meditation Classes.

9:30 a.m. – Sundays – \$5 per class.
Saraswati Hall.

For more info: see NYGaneshTemple.org

FESTIVALS



*New Year's Day
Sunday, January 1st, 2023*



*Vaikuntha Ekādaśi
Monday, January 2nd, 2023*



*Ardra Darsanam
Thursday, January 5th - Friday, January 6th, 2023*



*Makara Sankrānti - Śri Ayyappa Pooja
Saturday, January 14th, 2023*



*Śri Dhanvantari Mantra Japam
Monday, January 16th - Sunday, January 22nd, 2023*



*Sri Sani Pravesam
Tuesday, January 17th, 2023*

FESTIVALS



Mahā Śivarātri Celebrations
Tuesday, February 14th - Saturday, February 18th, 2023



Śri Rāma Navami Utsavam
Wednesday, March 22nd - Thursday, March 30th, 2023



Sri Dakshinamoorthy Mantra Japam
Tuesday, April 25th - Thursday, April 27th, 2023



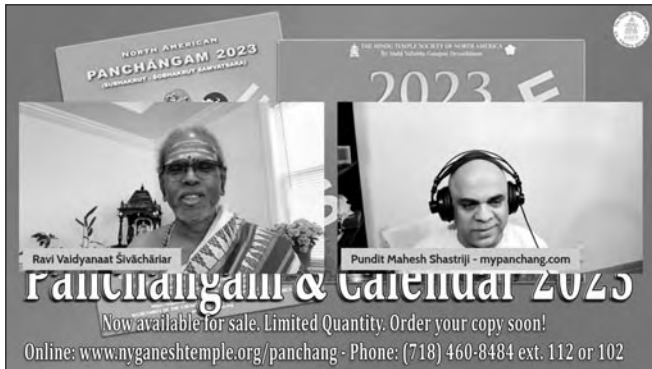
Śri Satyanārāyana Kalyāna Utsavam
Monday, May 1st, 2023



Śri Śiva Mahotsavam
Friday, May 26th - Sunday, June 4th, 2023



CULTURAL & OUTREACH ACTIVITIES



*Learning Series - Session #52
"Global Application of Hindu Panchang for religious,
civil, social & astrological purposes"
Saturday, December 17th, 2022*



*Devotional Songs by Visually Impaired Music Group
Sunday, December 18th, 2022*



*Devotional Songs by Visually Impaired Music Group
Sunday, December 18th, 2022*



*Republic Day Celebrations
Sunday, January 29th, 2023*



*Youth Group Presentation: Hindu Temples of India
Sunday, March 12th, 2023 & Sunday, April 2nd, 2023*



*Group Bhajans - Sri Rama Navami Celebrations
Sunday, March 26th, 2023*

CULTURAL & OUTREACH ACTIVITIES



Annual Holi Festival and Earth Day
Sunday, April 9th, 2023



Multi-Faith Prayer at the UN
Friday, April 14th, 2023



Learning Series - Session #57
"Significance of Chandana, Kumkum & Akshata"
Saturday, May 13th, 2023



'Composer's Day
Saturday, May 20th, 2023

**SUGGESTED HOMAMS / POOJAS FOR PARIHARA,
GENERAL WELFARE & DURING OTHER**

AUSPICIOUS EVENTS

Mahā Ganapati Homam	
Sudaršana Homam	<i>Removal of all obstacles</i>
Sankata Hara Chaturthi Pooja	
.....	
Mahā Lakshmi Homam	
Šankhābhishekam	<i>Success in all endeavors</i>
.....	
Mrityunjaya Homam	
Dhanvantari Homam	<i>Recover from ill-health</i>
Āditya Hrudaya Pārāyanam/Homam	
.....	
Nāga Śanti Homam	
Subrahmanya Homam	
Kāla Rāhu Śanti Homam	<i>Removal of Sarpa Dosha</i>
Nāga Pratishta	
Āślesha Homam	
Garuda Homam	
.....	
Chandi Homam	
Sudaršana Homam	<i>Recovery from difficult times</i>
Navagraha Homam	
.....	
Navagraha Homam	<i>Overcoming problems</i>
Sudaršana Homam	
.....	
Santāna Gopala Krishna Homam	
Purusha Sookta Homam	<i>Praying for child</i>
.....	
Swayamvara Pārvasī Pooja	
Durga Deepa Namaskaram	<i>Praying for marriage</i>
Srinivāsa Kalyānam	
Pārvasī Kalyānam	
.....	
Bāla Mārkaṇḍeya Homam	
Āyushya Homam	<i>Protecting child</i>
.....	
Mahā Ganapati Homam	
Sudaršana 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>60th, 70th, & 80th birthdays</i>
Navagraha Homam	<i>and Longevity</i>
Mrityunjaya Homam	
Sarva Devata Homam	
Sudaršana Homam	
Dhanvantari Homam	
.....	
Saraswati Homam	<i>Initiating into studies</i>
.....	
Sudaršana Homam	<i>Business Development</i>
.....	
Chandi Pātha Samputi	
Pārāyanam / Homam	<i>Career Advancement</i>
.....	
Sandhi Śanti Homam	<i>Graba Śanti</i>
.....	
Lakshmi Nārāyana Hrudaya	
Pārāyanam / Homam	<i>Prosperity</i>
.....	
Satyanārāyana Pooja	
Budha Graha Śanti Pooja	<i>Wisdom</i>
.....	
Tila Homam, Prāyaschitta	
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
Šankha Abhishekam for all deities (at Temple only)
Ekādaśavāra Rudrābhishekam
Kanaka Abhishekam for all deities (at the Temple only)
Sarva Devata Abhishekam

ARCHANAS:

Ashtottaram (108)
Sahasra Nāma (1,008)
Triśati (300)

HOMAMS:

Ganapati Homam	Śri Rudra Homam
Sarva Devata Homam	Sudaršana Homam
Chandi Homam	Dhanvantri Homam
Vishnu Homam	Saraswati Homam
Lakshmi Narasimha Homam	Navagraha Homam
Nāga Śanti Homam	Mrityunjaya Homam
Śri Subrahmanya Homam	Āyushya Homam

SAMSKĀRAS:

Nāma Karanam	Seemantham
Shashti Abda Poorthi	Šathābhishekam
Punyāhavāchanam	Griha Ārambham
Annaprāśanam	Griha Praveśam
Apara Kriyas	Vidyārambham
Upanayanam	Hiranya Śrāddham / Pitru Tarpanam
Hair Offering	Vivāham (Wedding)

SPECIAL POOJAS for Deities:

Śri Satyanārāyana Pooja	Navāvarana Pooja
Śri Guru Pāduka Pooja	Śree Mahā Meru
Kalyāna Utsavam	Navagraha Śanti

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 at nyganestemple.org**

THE HINDU TEMPLE SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA, NY

Śri Mahā Vallabha Ganapati Devasthānam
45-57 Bowne Street, Flushing, NY 11355
Tel: (718) 460-8484 ext.112 • Fax: (718) 461-8055
email: hts@nyganeshtemple.org • <https://nyganeshtemple.org>

Temple Timings are as follows:

Monday thru Friday: 8:00 AM - 8:30 PM

Saturdays & Sundays: 7:30 AM - 8:30 PM

Please note: ALL DEVOTEES visiting the Temple :

- Face Masks are **recommended** to enter the Temple.
- Chanting or singing by anyone other than the Temple priests, is **strictly prohibited** while inside the Mahā Mantapam.
- Connecting and/or charging of cell phones, laptops or other portable electronic devices to any power outlets within the Temple premises is **strictly prohibited**.
- **Timings for admittance are subject to change at the discretion of the Temple Management**, before visiting the Temple please visit our website for updates or contact the Temple directly at (718) 460-8484 ext. 112.

Entry Restrictions: PLEASE DO NOT VISIT THE TEMPLE, CANTEEN OR COMMUNITY CENTER if you have recently been exposed to someone with COVID19, are feeling sick or showing any symptoms of an illness. For the safety of all devotees and our staff - MASKS ARE RECOMMENDED.

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.

Weekly live-streaming schedules see - nyganeshtemple.org/tv

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

Please support the Temple during these challenging times by donating online
generously at - nyganeshtemple.org/donations-annadanam

Temple Canteen / Catering Services see - canteen.nyganeshtemple.org

Patasala Online Classes see - nyganeshtemple.org/patasala

Yoga Classes Online see - nyganeshtemple.org/yoga

Veda & Divya Prabhandha Classes Online - nyganeshtemple.org/divya-prabhandha-veda-classes

Akshayam (HTS Young Professionals Team) info see - nyganeshtemple.org/akshayam

Senior Center Activities Online see - nyganeshtemple.org/seniors

SUPPORT THE TEMPLE

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