



# GANEŠĀNJALI



## Temple Newsletter

*December 2023*



**ŠRI KARPAKA VINAYAGAR**

**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](mailto:hts@nyganeshtemple.org)

# 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.nyganesh temple.org](http://canteen.nyganesh temple.org)

**Indoor Dining** - Face Mask recommended

*We request you to please cooperate and wear a mask for your safety, the safety of our staff and others. Thank you for helping keep the community safe!*

Temple Canteen also offers **delivery services** with  
UberEats, Grubhub and DoorDash from 8:30 AM to 7:00 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 the Temple Canteen's website: [canteen.nyganesh temple.org](http://canteen.nyganesh temple.org)

email: [canteen@nyganesh temple.org](mailto:canteen@nyganesh temple.org)

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

# A Letter From the President

Dear Fellow Devotees,

Namaste. Happy Holidays and best wishes for the New Year. The year 2023 was a remarkable year with growth and progress and we proudly celebrated 46<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Temple. *Ganesh Chaturthi* Celebrations were once again grand and thousands of people participating in all the functions. *Ratha Yātra* was very well participated by thousands of devotees, well wishers and elected officials. *Devi Navarātri*, *Deepāvali* and *Skanda Shashti* Celebrations were just as grand.

Several cultural programs were conducted in the last 6 months. The most significant were the combined Indian & Korean Independence Day Celebrations as the date are same. Annual conference of Hindu Young Professionals 'Anubhava' organized by Akshayam on 'Embracing Ethical Values: Exploring the Timeless Lessons of Ramayana in the Contemporary World' was conducted in August. Besides these several cultural programs were also organized.

Youth group remained active and had several activities in the last six months. The Patasala continues to grow and we encourage parents to enroll their children in the online weekend classes which focus on education and fine arts. Senior Center activities have resumed both online and in person - please refer to page 6 for the current Senior program schedules. Yoga classes have also resumed in person. Veda & Divya Prabhandas classes also continue to be offered for Adults via zoom. Devotees are encouraged to enroll and participate. The Kathak Dance classes have now resumed in person and devotees interested are requested to contact the Temple directly for information.

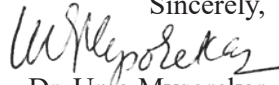
Temple participated in several Interfaith programs including; National Minority Donor awareness month - Seminar on Religious Perspectives on Organ Donation organized by Northwell Health in the month of August. Temple participated in several community events including: Opening ceremony of the 30th Annual World Yoga Festival and the 9th Yoga Day celebration inaugurated by Consul General of India in New York in June. Temple participated in American Cancer Society's Annual Breast Cancer walk in October. Temple raised \$5,000 towards this noble cause.

The dedicated service of the *Devasthanam* staff, the sincere volunteers, security staff and last but not the least the cooperation of devotees need special mention. Excellent arrangements for the continuous distribution of food *prasadam* to devotees were made to the satisfaction of the devotees.

I thank you for your support through your valuable and generous contributions in the past and I appeal to you for your continued patronage and we will do our best to serve you and the Temple.

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

*Sarve Jana Sukhino Bhavanthu*

Sincerely,  
  
Dr. Uma Mysorekar  
President

# EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF GANEŠA PATAŠĀLA

Every SATURDAY

To Be Decided	MATH (Grades K - 8)
8:30 AM to 9:25 AM	SANSKRIT for Children (All Levels)
9:30 AM to 9:55 AM	BHAJANS (All Grades)
10:00 AM to 10:25 AM	SLOKA CHANTING (All Grades)
10:30 AM to 11:25 AM	RELIGION (All Grades)
11:30 AM to 12:25 PM	Languages: HINDI
11:30 AM to 12:25 PM	Languages: TAMIL
11:30 AM to 12:25 PM	Languages: TELUGU
11:30 AM to 12:25 PM	Languages: KANNADA
1:00 PM to 1:55 PM	SCIENCE (Grades 3 - 8)
*3:00 PM to 3:55 PM	SANSKRIT for Adults (Level 1) - *Sanskrit classes (Adults level 1) is a group class that requires at least ten (10) enrolled students in order to run a group course. In the event of low enrollment, the course will be cancelled (and refund given) or postponed to a different date. For inquiries please email: patasala@nyganeshtemple.org
COMPUTER SCIENCE (Grades 4 - 12) - For inquiries visit - <a href="http://nyganeshtemple.org/pcig">http://nyganeshtemple.org/pcig</a>	

For Further Information Please contact the Temple at (718) 460-8484 ext. 112  
or email: [patasala@nyganeshtemple.org](mailto:patasala@nyganeshtemple.org) ^ <https://nyganeshtemple.org/patasala>

## Kathak Dance Classes at the Temple



Kathak Dance classes at the Pātašāla are offered by  
Renowned Master Guru Pandit Satya Narayana Charka

For Beginners, Intermediate & Advanced – in various grades.

Beginners – 9:00 am to 10:00 am

Intermediate – 10:00 am to 11:00 am

Advanced – 11:00 am to 12:00 noon

Location: Temple Basement

Tuition: \$60.00 per Month or \$600.00 for the entire year (September thru June)

For class information & updates see:

<https://nyganeshtemple.org/patasala-kathak-dance-classes>



## **KARTIKA DEEPAM**

### **(Arraying the rows of Lights in the month of Kārtika)**

by: M.R. Ravi Vaidyanaat Śivāchāriar

*Krittikā Deepāvali vidhi* chapter in the *Kāmika Āgama* text, provides details on directions for arraying the rows of lights in the month of *Kārtika* at the time of sunset for the attainment of all the desired benefit.

At home we light *deepā* (or *diya*) using sand clay-mold lamps and decorative metallic lamps, whereas in temples the *deepās* are lit on large number of decorated lamp posts, shrines, atop the *gopura* (tower), *vimāna* (dome) and in all the geographical directions. It is also customary to light a huge bale fire (using bales of straw & wood) in the eastern direction (in an open space/ground) on a high-rise conical structure like tripod or tower, so that the flame raises high signifying *swargiya bhavana* (flame directs to the abode of *Śiva*).



A procession is arranged charming with the auspicious fresh sprouts, along with various kinds of music and dance performance, carrying lamps in hands, sounding of the conch.

This festival of lights begins on the first day of Lunar calendar month *Kārtika* (mid of October to November) and it is observed as *Deepāvali* festival. While the moon is in the constellation of star cluster *Krittikā* (Pleiades) on the full moon day of the same month it is observed as *Kārtika Deepam* festival. Some observe *Umā Maheśwara Vrata* on this day. *Sage Vātsyāyana* recommends to celebrate the festival of lights on *Kārtika Amāvasya* day (new moon day) and denotes this day as *Yaksharātri* and *Sukharātri*. The first day of the *Kārtika māsa* is also observed as the *Vikrama Samvatsara* as it denotes the beginning of new year for the business community and hence celebrate it with lighting array of lamps. *Kashmirians* sing the *Kārtika Amāyām Deepamālā varnanam* rhyme, as the entire *Kārtika* month is celebrated by lighting rows of light.

Illuminate the inner self in this *Kārtika* month. The light of lights, the self-luminous inner light of the self is ever shining steadily in the chamber of our heart. Fix the mind on this supreme light, enjoy the reality by attaining illumination of the *ātma*, and the eternal bliss.

### **Virtual Introduction to Vedas classes online**

**Thursdays at 7:30 pm (EST)**

For information and registration of online Veda classes  
please see: [nyaneshtemple.org/vedas](http://nyaneshtemple.org/vedas)

### **Virtual Divya Prabhandha classes online**

**Tuesdays at 7:30 pm (EST)**

For information and registration of online Divya Prabhandha classes  
please see: [nyaneshtemple.org/divya-prabhandha](http://nyaneshtemple.org/divya-prabhandha)

Questions? Please contact Sri Ravi Vaidyanaat Sivachariar  
at (718) 460-8484 ext. 107 or email: [ravi.v@nyaneshtemple.org](mailto:ravi.v@nyaneshtemple.org)

## OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

### Senior Activities (at Senior Center)

#### Weekly In-person Schedule:

Tuesdays:

10:00 am - 11:00 am - Yoga

11:00 am - 11:15 am - Tea Break

11:15 am - 12:00 noon - Guided Spiritual / Religious discussions

12:00 noon - 12:45 pm - Potluck Lunch

12:45 pm - 1:30 pm - Bhajans by Meena Mani (every other week)

#### Weekly Online Schedule:

Mondays: (AM - timing varies) - Srimad Bhagavad Gita Classes

Wednesdays: 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm - Sanskrit Class - level 3

Thursdays: 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Sanskrit Class - level 4



*For Senior activity updates & announcements please go to [nyganeshtemple.org/seniors](http://nyganeshtemple.org/seniors)*

For Questions and participation in online classes please email: [hts@nyganeshtemple.org](mailto:hts@nyganeshtemple.org)

### 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](http://NYGaneshTemple.org)



# COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

The Temple actively participates in various Interfaith and Community events throughout the year - below are some of the significant programs that took place in the last six months:

Under Governor Kathy Hochul’s leadership, the New York State Division of Human Rights (DHR) launched the Hate and Bias Prevention Unit (HBPU) to help communities combat prejudice and discrimination. A statewide network of Regional Councils was established in June 2023 and fully operational from August 2023. Our Temple is proud to be part of the Hate & Bias Prevention Regional Council as a member.

In the month of August 2023, our Temple actively took part in the Seminar on “Religious Perspectives on Organ Donation” organized by Northwell Health Transplant Center and shared the Hindu perspective on this subject along with other faith views and the dialogue led to dispel myths around organ donation and religion.

New York City Mayor Eric Adams hosted a Deepavali Celebration event at Gracie Mansion on October 17, 2023. Our Temple was honored to perform the lighting ceremony and also conduct a prayer.

New York State Governor Kathy Hochul visited our Temple to sign the “Diwali School Holiday” bill in the presence of several elected officials, community leaders, dignitaries, and a public audience. This historic bill signing was organized at the Auditorium of The Hindu Temple Community Center on November 14, 2023.



*NYC Hate & Bias Prevention Regional Council meeting  
Thursday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023*



*Seminar - Religious Perspectives on Organ Donation  
Wednesday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023*



*NYC Mayor's Deepavali event - Gracie Mansion  
Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023*



*Diwali Reception with Governor Hochul - Official bill  
signing for Diwali school holiday in NYC public schools.  
Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

# FESTIVALS



*Śri Venkateśwara Mahotsavam  
Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup> - Sunday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023*



*46<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Temple  
Tuesday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023*



*Śri Sudarśana Mahā Yajnam  
Friday, July 28<sup>th</sup> - Sunday, July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023*



*Vara Maha Lakshmi Vratam  
Friday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023*



# FESTIVALS



*Šri Ganeša Chaturthi Nava Dina Brahmotsavam  
Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup> - September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023*



*Šri Devi Navaratri Mahotsavam  
Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup> - Monday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023*



*Deepāvāli Celebrations  
Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup> - Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

# FESTIVALS, CULTURAL & OUTREACH ACTIVITIES



*Skanda Shashti Mahotsavam  
Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup> - Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023*



*Carnatic Music Concert  
for Sri Siva & Sri Venkateswara Mahotsavam  
Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023*



*Bhasha Day (Patasala Language showcase)  
Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023*



*9<sup>th</sup> International Yoga Day  
Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023*



*Odissi Dance & Sitar Recital - (46<sup>th</sup> Temple Anniversary)  
Sunday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023*

# CULTURAL & OUTREACH ACTIVITIES



*India & Korea Independence Day Celebrations  
Sunday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023*



*Anubhava 2023 (Akshayam) - Annual Conference  
Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023*



*Grand Music Concert -  
Sri Ganesa Chaturthi Celebrations  
Friday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023*



*Learning Series - Session #61  
"Śri Devi Navarātri Celebrations"  
Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023*



*Cancer Walk  
Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023*



*Deepavali Cultural Celebrations  
Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

# THE HINDU TEMPLE SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA, NY

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email: [hts@nyganeshtemple.org](mailto: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, have a fever, cold or flu like symptoms.*

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](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)

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 In-person see - [nyganeshtemple.org/yoga](https://nyganeshtemple.org/yoga)

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

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

Senior Center Activities In-person & Online see - [nyganeshtemple.org/seniors](https://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.**