

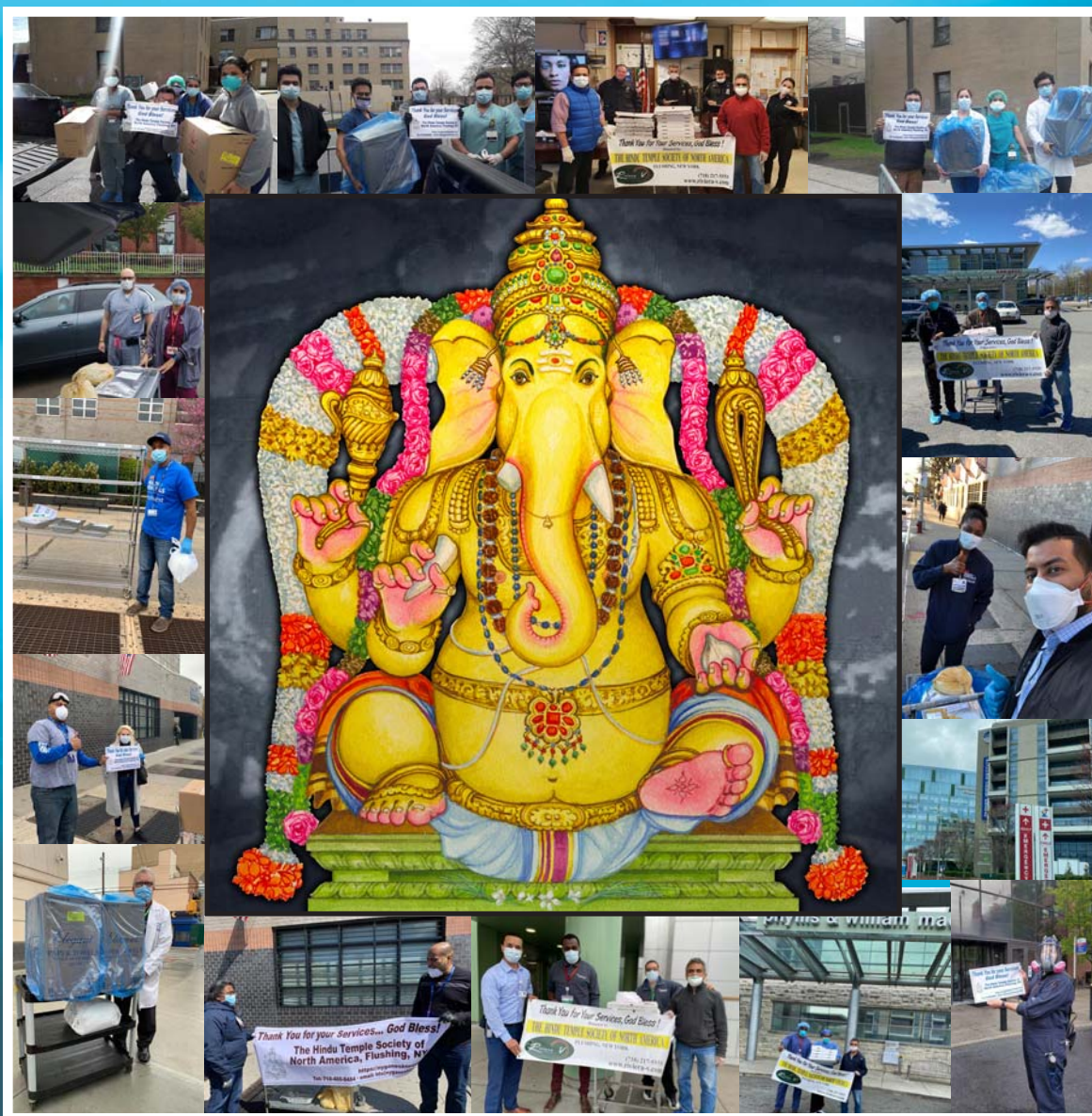


GANESĀNJALI



Temple Newsletter

JUNE 2020



COVID-19 RELIEF EFFORTS - ŚRĪ HARIDRA GANAPATI

THE HINDU TEMPLE SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA, NY

Śrī Mahā Vallabha Ganapati Devasthānam

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

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

<http://nyganeshtemple.org> • Email: 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.nyganesh temple.org
email: canteen@nyganesh temple.org
Tel: (718) 460-8493 or (718) 460-8484 ext.123

The Temple Canteen is currently open for Take Out Only
on all days from 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

For the safety of our customers and kitchen staff - Temple Canteen offers
'Contactless Curbside Pickup' for orders.
Payment is accepted **ONLY** by credit/debit cards.

For 'Contactless Curbside Pickup' information
see: canteen.nyganesh temple.org/contact

You can now order your favorite idli, dosa, vada and more from Temple
Canteen for delivery at your door-steps!
Temple Canteen now offers delivery services
with UberEats, Grubhub and DoorDash from 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. all days

Enjoy a delicious dosa, vada and much more from the Temple Canteen!

A Letter From the President

Dear Fellow Devotees,

Namaste & Greetings! As we began the New Year on a grand scale as usual, none of us ever imagined that we would be faced with a pandemic crises of this magnitude as COVID19. First two months of the year seemed to go uneventfully starting with the grand New year celebrations. *Mahā Śivaratri* was the major religious celebration before the lock-down started in mid March 2020. Given all the challenges with lock-down, Temple had implemented a lot of changes including allowing number of devotees inside the Temple. This was reduced gradually until the complete shut down as of March 26, 2020. All the *nitya poojas* continue to be performed by the priests. Several of the religious services live-streamed including the daily online chanting followed by *Sarva Devata Harati* and they have become popular. All the festivals including *Śri Śiva & Śri Venkateśwara Mahotsavam* and *Śri Sudarśana Mantra Japam* were conducted by priests only.

Among the cultural events, 71st Republic Day celebrations along with recognizing the leaders of non-violence Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King & Nelson Mandela on February 1, 2020 was successful. Battle of the Brains was conducted on March 7, 2020 with 40 children participating. Virtual program was held to celebrate the legacy and teachings of great Acharyas - Śri Adi Sankaracharya, Śri Ramanujacharya, Śri Madhvacharya & Śri Basaveswara on May 2, 2020. Patasala Classes and Yoga classes are now being conducted online.


On behalf of the Hindu Temple Society of NA, I take this opportunity to express my condolences to all the families who have lost their loved ones. May all their souls rest in peace and may God give strength and courage to the families to bear the loss. A virtual memorial service was held on Sunday, May 24th to honor those who lost their lives and offer condolences to their families and loved ones.

Our sincere thanks and gratitude to all the devotees for their support of the Temple by their generous contributions in this difficult time. We look forward to your continued support in coming months and years as well.

Due to the COVID19 pandemic *Mahā Kumbhābhishekam* planned in June/July 2020 is postponed to 2021. Devotees will be kept informed of the developments. I take this opportunity to inform all the devotees that the sponsorships made towards *Kumbhābhishekam* 2020 will be automatically credited towards *Kumbhābhishekam* 2021.

As we continue to cope with this pandemic, we should all be thankful to the countless essential workers, doctors, nurses, homecare workers, first responders, law enforcement and many others for their great service. May God bless them. Our thanks to all the dedicated groups of volunteers for their sterling services and our gratitude to our excellent staff for their devoted services. We appeal to all the devotees to volunteer their time and talents and serve Śri Mahā Vallabha Ganapati and be blessed.

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

Sincerely,

Dr. Uma Mysorekar
President



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



SUMMER ONLINE CAMP 2020

July 20th - July 24th, 2020

5 DAY - ONLINE CAMP SESSION

AGES: 7 YRS & Above

MONDAY - FRIDAY : 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Theme:

HINDU HERITAGE

Camp will be conducted as per the guiding principles of Late Dr. M.G. Prasad, with a focus on Yoga, Hindu Culture and Heritage.

Activities include : Yoga, Hindu Culture and Heritage

Fee for the Camp is \$50.00

Those interested may please register online at

<http://nyganeshtemple.org/summer>

...DEADLINE for Registration - June 20, 2020...

Enrollment - ONLY UP TO 50 CAMPERS

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



**For further information please email: patasala@nyganeshtemple.org
or Prema Desai : pdesai82@aol.com**

TEMPLE FUNCTIONING DURING CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

By: M.R. Ravi Vaidyanaat Śivāchāriar

In reaction to the global pandemic which began to affect our local area the Temple took swift action to implement emergency preparedness. Constant announcements were made before and after every service, where devotees assemble either to view the service or offer their personal worship. Announcements included instructions to clean/wash their hands, while in touch with any materials, including dravyās, prasādam, etc. Distribution of prasādam were carefully monitored through trained volunteers. New York declared a State of emergency, issued safety instructions and precautionary steps to be strictly adhered to. Considering the challenges posed by the pandemic, new protocols and procedures were implemented after discussions with the Temple priests to conduct regular religious services on a modified schedule.

Religious services (nitya poojas) are performed as per the Agamic rule without interruption. However, the weekly, monthly services and festivals are re-scheduled and performed on a smaller scale. All the priests and staff members are frequently being updated on how to effectively handle the situation as it develops and adjust to the needs in strict conformity of NYC guidelines.

Due to restrictions on congregation, the Temple established new ways to reach the community, neighbors, and devotees by live streaming of abhishekams through YouTube and Facebook on a weekly schedule. Gradual reducing of congregation inside the Temple began as per NYC guidelines and complete closure of the Temple for the public was inevitably implemented for the safety of the staff and devotees.

With the continuing spread of the coronavirus, the Temple conducts the following special prayer services on a daily basis in the interest of devotees and the community to seek divine intervention in the speedy recovery of the situation to normalcy. Performed daily are Roga Hara Shānti Japam & Homam with Mahā Mrithyunjaya Mantra, Dhanvantari Mantra, Aghora Astra Mantra, Pratyangira Mantra, chanting of Vaidyanathāshtakam & Sheetalāshtakam. Also daily evening online Chanting & Prayer with different slokās ending with Sarva Devata Hārati are taking place. In view of the restrictions preventing priests from performing outside religious services, the Temple offers virtual priest services which can be performed as needed by the devotees including services related to Funerals (Last Rites) and Śrāddham.

Weekend special prayers including free Archana Seva are conducted in bestowing divine blessings on everyone including all Government and City officials, Hospitals, Physicians, Nurses, Healthcare professionals, Medical Research professionals, Social Workers, Law Enforcement, Suppliers for essential goods, those currently hospitalized, undergoing treatments, and/or combating this virus from home. May they fully recover.

While our temple continues to push forward in these unprecedented times, the Temple Canteen continues to operate, preparing food offerings to the Deities (naivedyams) and also for food available for take-out and curb-side pickup. The Canteen also began offering delivery services with UberEats, Grubhub and DoorDash. Social distancing norms were set and orientation given to all the kitchen staff and cleaning crew. Additional Hand sanitizers were installed and food is prepared with utmost care conforming to sanitary codes.

As part of the Temple's COVID-19 relief efforts, meal deliveries to hospitals and our local police precinct are being done periodically by our dedicated volunteers as well as delivery of essentials such as healthcare supplies, etc.

By the grace of Lord Śri Mahā Vallabha Ganapati, in the midst of the pandemic the human element was not neglected and the Temple continues to support all the staff with full employment. The Temple is grateful in its ability to continue to serve the community under the present duress of grief, trauma and uncertainty.

FESTIVALS



*New Year's Day
Wednesday, January 1st, 2020*



*Vaikuntha Ekadasi Celebrations
Monday January 6th - Tuesday, January 7th, 2020*



*Makara Sankrānti - Śrī Ayyappa Pooja
Tuesday, January 14th, 2020*



*Śrī Dhanvantari Mantra Japam
Tuesday, January 21st - Saturday, January 25th, 2020*



*Mahā Śivarātri Celebrations
Tuesday, February 18th - Saturday, February 22nd, 2020*



FESTIVALS, CULTURAL & OUTREACH ACTIVITIES



*Śri Śiva Mahotsavam
Monday, May 4th - Wednesday, May 6th, 2020*



*Śri Venkateśwara Mahotsavam
Monday, May 11th - Wednesday, May 13th, 2020*



*Republic Day of India Celebrations
Saturday, February 1st, 2020*



*Battle of the Brains
Saturday, March 7th, 2020*



Online Chanting and Prayer



Rogahara Śān̥thi - Japam & Homam

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... Participate from home with your family ...

In view of the wide spread situation of COVID-19 virus, the Temple continues to be CLOSED to the public until further notice.

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 Prasadam sent to the respective devotees.

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

Join Daily Online Chanting and Prayer at 6:30 p.m. see - nyganeshtemple.org/prayer
Weekly live-streaming schedules see - nyganeshtemple.org/tv

Devotees may watch the LIVE Telecast on:
Facebook at: Facebook.com/nyganeshtemple
YouTube at: YouTube.com/nyganeshtemple

Schedule changes - nyganeshtemple.org/schedule-changes-temporary-suspensions

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

Patasala Online Classes see - nyganeshtemple.org/patasala
Yoga Classes Online see - nyganeshtemple.org/yoga

Our response & efforts during the current pandemic: COVID-19
please see - nyganeshtemple.org/covid19-response

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 Śrī Mahā Vallabha Ganapati.