

PUSHPANJALI




QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER **Vol – 21 #3 Oct 2011**

Hindu Temple of St. Louis
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www.hindutemplestlouis.org

HINDU TEMPLE OF ST. LOUIS is pleased to present the following lectures on Vedas by Sri Stephen Knapp (Sri Nandanandana dasa).

	Date, Day & Time	Topic
	October 22, 2011 Saturday @ 6PM	Giving Vedic Culture to the next Generation (oriented to youth)
	October 23,2011 Sunday @ 5PM	How Vedic Culture is as Relevant Today as Ever

****Please do not miss these special lectures by an invited guest speaker ******

NEIGHBORHOOD FAITH OUTREACH

Christ Prince of Peace Church (at Weidman Road) is celebrating their 40th anniversary. As a part of the celebration Hindu Temple of St. Louis, Mosque and the Church are participating in the event. Temple devotees are invited to attend the celebrations at the church on Nov 7th 2011 at 7PM and at the Mosque on Nov 17th at 7 PM. They are visiting our temple on October 26th at 7PM.

DONATIONS, WHY?

Puran Luthra – President

We spend money and put lot of effort to plant a tree (in the back yard or in the front) at our homes. Why? Because we want to avoid direct heat from Sun in our house during summer and/or enjoy the flowers and colors of the tree in spring and fall. Same way, donations to temple is also to provide us a spiritual home for our generation and our future generations so that we can enjoy a beautiful place for worship, perform auspicious ceremonies in our life, come to pray at Lord's feet when we are sad, and our future generation can learn our culture, dharma and values.

To expand this temple to meet our today's or future needs and to maintain this beautiful building, we need money, and donations are

the only source of that money. Hindu festival season reminds us that donation is an essential part of our prayer and pooja. As you celebrate festivals or do tax planning for this year, please keep these thoughts in mind and help us by donations for development of the land for parking, better kitchen facility, and children education classes etc.

You are cordially invited to attend the

Benefit Dinner of the Hindu Temple of St. Louis

Place : The Hindu Temple of St. Louis

Date : Saturday, September 24, 2011

Social Hour : 6.00 PM

Presentation & Announcements : 7.00 PM

Followed by Dinner

Help our temple every time you make a purchase with your credit card

- Choose from our Temple's creative card designs.
- \$50 initial donation to The Hindu Temple of St. Louis. (This donation to the temple is by Capital one after the initial purchase)
- Earn to donate 2% Cash rewards at most major Gas and Grocery merchants
- Earn to donate 1% Cash rewards on all other purchases
- Earn to donate up to 10% Cash rewards at select merchants

With our new fundraising program, you'll be effortlessly donating to the Temple every time you make a purchase with your card. Your contributions will be automatic, and the cash rewards will be donated to the Temple. ***Credit approval required. Terms and conditions apply. Offered by Capital One, N.A. © 2010 Capital One.***



Goto <http://www.hindutemplestlouis.org>

DEVI NAVARATHRI SCHEDULE - 2011

DAY DATE	ALANKARAM	POOJA SCEHDULE	TIMINGS
PRATHAMA TUESDAY Sept 27 th	PARVATHI	SRI CHAKRA PUJA PARVATHI ABHISHEKAM SRI CHAKRA PUJA	9:00 AM 10:00 AM 6:30 PM
DWITIYA WEDNESDAY Sept 28 th	BALA TRIPURA SUNDARI	SRI CHAKRA PUJA DATTATREYA ABHISHEKAM SRI CHAKRA PUJA	9:00 AM 5:15 PM 6:30 PM
TRITIYA THURSDAY Sept 29 th	ANNAPURNA	SRI CHAKRA PUJA SAIABHISHEKAM SAIBHAJANS SRI CHAKRA PUJA	9:00 AM 10:00 AM 5:15 PM 6:30 PM
CHATURTHI FRIDAY Sept 30 th	MAHALAKSHMI	SRI CHAKRA PUJA GANESHABHISHEKAM LAKSHMIABHISHEKAM SRI CHAKRA PUJA	9:00 AM 10:30 AM 5:15 PM 6:30 PM
PANCHAMI SATURDAY Oct 1 st	GAYATRI	BALAJI ABHISHEKAM SRI CHAKRA PUJA GAYATRI HOMAM GAYATRI MANTRAMCHANTING SRI CHAKRA PUJA DURGA JAGARAN	8:00 AM 10:00 AM 5:00 PM 4:30 PM 6:00 PM 8:00 PM
SHASHTI SUNDAY Oct 2 ND	MAHAKALI	RUDRABHISHEKAM SRI CHAKRA PUJA SRI CHAKRA PUJA	8:00 AM 10:00 AM 6:30 PM
SARASWATHI PUJA SAPTAMI MONDAY Oct 3 RD	SARSWATHI	RUDRABHISHEKAM SRI CHAKRA PUJA SAMUHIKA AKSHARABHYASAM SRI CHAKRA POOJA	8:00 AM 10:00 AM 5:30 PM 6:30 PM
DURGA STAMI ASHTAMI	DURGA	SRI CHAKRA PUJA PARVATHI ABHISHEKAM	9:00 AM 10:00 AM

TUESDAY Oct 4 TH		DURGA PUJA RAMAYAN PATH DURGA HOMAM SRI CHAKRA PUJA	11:00 AM 11:30 AM 5:00 PM 6:30 PM
NAVAMI WEDNESDAY Oct 5 TH	MAHISHASUR MARDINI	SRI CHAKRA PUJA DATTATREYA ABHISHEKAM SRI CHAKRA PUJA	9:00 AM 5:15 PM 6:30 PM
VIJAYA DASAMI THURSDAY Oct 6 th	RAJA RAJESHWARI	SRI CHAKRA PUJA SAI VRATAM/HOMAM SAI BHAJANS SRI CHAKRA PUJA SAMUHIKA KUMKUM PUJA	9:00 AM 10:30 AM 5:00 PM 6:30 PM

REPORT

Vijaya Kumar Bhuddiraju, Chairman

Friends,

I would like to extend our hearty congratulations to the Youth for their well organized successful effort in raising funds for Joplin disaster. I would also take this chance to update you on the projects that the temple is involved in the past few years.

Firstly, the North/South expansion is scheduled to begin in the first week of October this year. There have been several changes made by Stapathi which required the county approval once again. The final drawings are expected to be approved by the county shortly.

Secondly, the temple came to a deal with the erstwhile owner of the Southside land for the purchase of the house and the site next to it. This deal is very important to advance the proposed building on the site. The construction will allow us to generate over 200 spaces paved parking. Right now, although some cars are parked on this land during major functions, we are not permitted to pave the place for parking. We need to have some building there for paving the land for parking. Further, acquiring the lot next to the house facilitates the construction on our Southside land extremely close to the temple and also saves considerable amount of expenses for generating the sewer drainage and retention basin etc.

Thirdly, while the acquisition of the land and the house and North/South expansion is expected to be completed this year, the construction on the new land will have to start some time later. Your immediate help is needed for these projects. I appeal to you to attend the fund raising dinner on the 24th of September.

Joy to Joplin – A Fundraising Trivia Night was a Great Success

Hindu Temple Youth Group

The Hindu Temple Youth Group hosted a Fundraising Trivia Night on Saturday, August 20th, 2011 and raised \$3,500.00. The Trivia game had questions ranging from Indian history, geography, mythology and arts and science. Everyone had fun participating in the game and the enthusiasm among the participants was contagious which made the fundraising event a fun-filled evening with great food and lots of prizes. The money was donated to the Joplin Relief Fund through the United Way. Special thanks go to Mayuri restaurant for donating prizes and for Dr. Diwakar Pulisetty for working with youth members in composing trivia questions. Thanks to each and everyone who participated in the event and have donated very generously.



POOJA COMMITTEE REPORT

Ayyagari Rao – Chair

On July 6th, Temple's 14th Anniversary was celebrated with Srinivasa Kalyanam. During this month, a 'Shanti Homam' was performed by the temple priests in the yaga shala for the specific purpose of seeking peace and stability in the lives of the devotees and everyone connected to the temple.



Guru Purnima was performed with Dattatreya Puja and Samuhika Satyanarayana Puja. It was attended by 75 couples who participated in the puja. Holy Basil (Tulasi) leaves from plants which are now being grown in the temple premises were used in "Visesha Tulasi Puja" which was performed along with Poolangi Seva of August. As expected, 78 sumangalis (married adult females) participated with great enthusiasm in the rituals for Sri Varalakshmi Vratam on the second Friday of Sravana masam (August 12th). Yajurveda Upakarma was performed with a homam on the next day at 6am when 65 devotees replaced their upaveetams (sacred threads).



The birth of Lord Sri Krishna was performed in a festive manner on Sri Krishna Janmashtami. Devotees came to the temple on this

occasion till midnight and received blessings and delicious prasadam prepared by the temple for this occasion. Adults and children alike pulled the ceremonial swing in which Lord Krishna's baby idol was placed to symbolize tender loving care for the God.

Puja of Teej festival/Haritalika on August 31st was performed by 45 female devotees for the blessing for the continuance of married life. This ritual was followed by Ganesh Chaturdhi next day. It was performed both at 5:30 and 7 pm on a specially erected stage with the idols of Sri Ganesh by 100 families. The mandatory akshatas which were blessed by Lord Ganesh were distributed to all of the devotees to place on their heads. This ritual is associated with removal of any ill effects of seeing the moon that night.

Preparations are well under way for the highly awaited Navaratri festival of this year starting on Tuesday, September 27th and ending on Thursday, October 6th. Proper parking will be again coordinated by the county police. Please see the website for all of the details of the ritualistic pujas of Navaratri which traditionally is a huge event in our temple.

Significance Of Navaratri Festival:

During the *Navaratri* festival, which is celebrated for nine days, Goddesses Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswathi are worshipped. The festival signifies the triumph of good over evil. The nine days are divided into three *Avasthas* or states and are further divided into groups of three days each and in each such group of three days the three deities Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswati are worshipped. The three *avasthas* are morning, night and *Sandhya*(twilight) representing the qualities of good, bad and indifference. If we seek light we have to offer all our qualities to these deities during the festival of *Navaratri*. We have to move from *Durgathi* to *Sadgathi* and for this we worship Goddess Durga who is known as *Durgathinaashini* or the destroyer of evil. Goddess Lakshmi leads us in our path towards *Sadgathi* and in the next state, Goddess Saraswathi leads us to the state of transcendence wherein the whole creation vanishes, we are completely free and in this state of freedom we experience perpetual bliss. Hence, we celebrate this victory and triumph on the day of *Vijaya Dasami*. If we are to be truly successful in life, and are to celebrate *Vijaya Dasami* in the real sense, it is necessary to believe in the totality of existence and then ultimately believe in the 'Self' that has transcended even the totality of existence.

MEDITATION – PART 1

Chellam V. Goli

Meditation is the science of God-realization. It is the most practical science in the world. Most people would want to meditate if they understand its value and experience its beneficial effects. The ultimate object of meditation is to attain conscious awareness of God and of the soul's eternal oneness with God. God realization bestows on the meditator the blessings of the peace, love, joy, power and wisdom. Meditation utilizes concentration in its highest form. Concentration consists in freeing the attention from distractions and in focusing it on any thought in which one may be interested. Meditation is that special form of concentration in which the attention has been liberated from restlessness and is focused on God. Meditation is, therefore, is concentration used to know God.

God manifests Himself in various cosmic forms. He also manifests Himself in truth, in divine qualities, in the creative power and beauty in nature, in the lives of great saints and in the soul of every human being. Thus meditation on any of these concepts brings a deep realization of the Omnipresent Absolute, of Him who is ever existing, ever conscious and ever new bliss. Meditation is of three types: (1) Loving demands addressed to God, (2) Affirmations about God as truth, and (3) Spiritual guidance and inspiration directed to One's own consciousness. We may select meditation that meets our present need.

To help focus our mind on that special thought, practice focus our gaze and concentration our attention between the eye-brows by keeping our spine straight and sitting in any comfortable pose on a straight chair or in a cross legged position on a firm surface. Audibly or mentally repeating the words slowly on any mantra of our choice or Aum until we become absorbed in the inner meaning. Meditate until we feel that the concept on which we are meditating has become a part of our own consciousness. The first proof of God's presence is an ineffable peace. This evolves into joy humanly inconceivable. Finding God within we will find Him without, in all people and all conditions, all nature will respond. Meditation is the only way to know God. If we forget God, it will not be God who will punish but we will create our own misery. If we know God, He will reveal that this life is only a drama and that we are immortal, that we are never sick, that we are never dead and we are never unhappy. It was all a dream. There is no other way to find God except through meditation practices in a way the realized masters taught it.
(to be continued..)

SANI PEYARCHI (SATURN TRANSIT)

Sendil K. Rathinasabapathy – Chair, Publication committee

Graha is a “cosmic influencer” on the living beings on earth. In Hindu astrology, Sun is in the center, all other grahas revolve around the sun and emits out waves of energy. These waves of energy affect our awareness, actions and reactions. We have nine Grahas which greatly influence everyone. We call them “Navagrahas”. These navagrahas are equated to nine celestial bodies in the astronomy, move through 12 zodiac signs while they revolve around the sun. Everyone in the world is born in one of these 12 zodiac signs.

Guru (Jupiter) takes 12 years to complete one circle around the sun. So Guru stays in one zodiac sign for one year and transits to next sign. Rahu and Kethu (shadow planets) take almost 18 years to complete one circle around the sun. So these two grahas expected to stay in one sign for 18 months and transits to next sign. Interesting fact about these two shadow planets, they revolve in the opposite direction. Sani (Saturn) takes 30 years to complete one circle around the sun. So Sani stays in one sign for 2 and half years and moves to the next sign.

Middle of 2011, Guru, Rahu and Kethu transits from one sign to the next sign. Coming December 21, 2011 Sani is taking its transit from Kanni (Virgo) to Thulam (Libra). Sani Bhagwan moves between signs slowly and steadily. This is the only planet takes more time to revolve around the sun. The good effect that Sani Bhagwan gives will be a lasting one. The bad effects will be the kind of experiences that modulates or shapes our future. This transit will give good or ill effects to all 12 zodiac signs, based on where it stands in everyone’s chart.

When the Sani stays in the sign it is called “Janma Sani”, when it is in the second house it is called “Patha Sani”. From December 21st, people who are born in Virgo will have the effect of Patha Sani and Libra signers will have the effect of Janma Sani. Likewise everyone will have some effects from this planet.

Special prayers and pariharams should be observed for Sani Bhagwan to reduce the ill effects and to maximize the good effects. Lord Shani is the greatest purifier. Everything false will perish and only Truth will shine - that is His message.

GANAPATHI STHAPATI PASSES AWAY



We want to inform the devotees the demise of Padma Bhushan V. Ganapati Sthapati, the chief architect of 'The Hindu Temple of St. Louis'. He passed away on September 6, 2011 at the age of 84. He was responsible for the architectural details and the Indianization of our temple. He was involved with the temple from the beginning to the end of construction and attended Kumbhabhishekam celebrations in July 1998. We are ever grateful for his assistance. He was born into a family of sculptors who traced their lineage to more than 1000 years. His creations in India and elsewhere speak for his all-encompassing knowledge of architecture and sculpture. They include 600 temples in India, US, Australia, Malaysia and Singapore. The modern day wonder of 133 foot Thiruvalluvar single stone statue in Kanyakumari is a testament to his genius. May his soul rest in Peace.

Temple Hours

Monday-Friday	9AM – 12:00 noon, 5PM - 8PM
Week-ends & major Festivals	9AM – 8 PM
Daily Services	9:00AM – Nitya Pooja 7.45PM – Ekantha Seva

Other scheduled Services

Sunday, Monday	Rudra Abhishekam
Tuesday	Parvathi Abhishekam Durga Puja Hanumaan Puja Ramayan Paath
Wednesday	Dattatreya Abhishekam
Thursday	Shri Saibaba Abhishekam & Sai bhajans
Friday	Shri Mahalakshmi Abhishekam
Saturday:	Shri Venkateswara Subrabhatham Balaji Abhishekam Vishnu Sahasranamam



The Hindu Temple of St. Louis

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