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HINDU PATRIKA

May & June 2013



Hindu Temple & Cultural Center of Kansas City

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
6330 Lackman Road
Shawnee, KS 66217-9739
<http://www.htccofkc.org>
Tel: (913) 631-7519 (Temple)

President Message to the Community

Dear Devotees,

As we are entering into the Month of May, we wanted to give you an insight to what has happened in the last four months and what is coming at HTCC.

With your support, we are able to sustain the donation based model of HTCC's Sunday Mid-day Prasad program until now. With passing time, we are seeing increased involvement from individuals and groups in this endeavor. We are fairly optimistic that the wonderful community of Kansas City area will continue to lend their support to move this program forward.

In March, we had two major events celebrated successfully. The MahaShivaratri puja was performed with great devotion and elaboration. There was a constant flow of devotees throughout the day until midnight. We also celebrated Holi with all its grandeur on Mar 30. We saw the largest representation from regional community groups in the food mela. We had a record event in terms of participation, number of visitors and amount of revenue generated for HTCC. The play with colors saw an unprecedented crowd, so much so that we ran out of the stock of colors and had to reorder it. We had a wide mix of crowds – locales and Indians and everybody seemed to be enjoying every moment of the celebration.

We hosted the first event under the proposed Heritage Fund by celebrating the 150th Birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. The event was celebrated over two days, April 7 and 12 and witnessed a sizable participation. It is heartwarming to think that our community has an interest in heritage related events as well. For the kids, we have replaced the old play sets with a better and brand new one. Very soon we will be doing the landscaping of the play area to give our little angels a safer and enjoyable place to hang out while the parents enjoy their time with the gods.

May is a very important month for HTCC. It will be **25 years old** and we will celebrate the Brahmotsavam for three days. I would like to request you all to come forward and get involved to show your support to our beloved Temple.

We are determined to bring more such events under HTCC for our community. We are striving to do better. But we need your feedback on a regular basis to analyze our actions and look for areas of improvement. After all, our job is to make your visit to HTCC as enjoyable as possible and help you build a long lasting relationship of devotion, love and patronage.

Wishing you all the best!

Yours truly,
R.B.Mohapatra

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Community Outreach and Interfaith Community:

Dr. Amit Kumar, Deb Bhaduri, Dinesh Chinalachaiagari, Rama Nadela

Email:

Executive Committee: committee@htccofkc.org

Priest Committee: pcom@htccofkc.org

Treasurer: trg@htccofkc.org

Editor: editor@htccofkc.org

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

BAL VIHAR Every Sunday 10am to 11am dispersing after Bal Aarthi.
Contact Ganesh Siruvalure @ siruvalure@gmail.com

YOGA PARIVAR Every Sunday 9.30am to 10.30am
Contact Dr. Vijay Kumar @913-894-6454

HINDI CLASS Every Sunday 11.00am to 12.00noon
Contact Swapnam Kumar @ 816-554-2454

SOUP KITCHEN May 27th & June 24th. Every Last Monday
Contact Suma Hegde @ 913-491-1969

PRANAYAMA YOGA Every Monday and Wednesday evening at 6.00pm to 7.30pm in a basement. Contact Sadhana Bisarya at # 913-764-3521 or sbisarya1@gmail.com.

Email to editor@htccofkc.org to update your community events.

Anna Daan - Maha Punya

HTCC is Serving Sunday Mid-day Prasad to Devotees for FREE

WE request your support to sustain this initiative

How you can support!!

- * **Sponsor** Prasad for one or more Sunday with your Family & Friends –
Cook at Home or Cook at HTCC Kitchen
- * **Donate:** Want to Participate, but do not have time!
You can donate any amount to HTCC Sunday Prasad fund and HTCC will prepare the Prasad on your behalf for a Sunday using your donations
- * **Celebrate** a Memorable day of your life
Celebrate by donating to this “Anna Dana” Program. One Sunday will be sponsored in your name.

Please send your donations to HTCC or Donate Cash on your next visit to the Temple. Make sure you mention to the Managers that your donation is for the HTCC SUNDAY PRASAD FUND or write it in the Memo field of the check.

For More information contact (913)-631 7519 e-mail: manager@htccofkc.org

150th Jayanti of Swami Vivekananda Celebrated at HTCC

HTCC celebrated the 150th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda on April 7 and April 12. This is the first initiative under the proposed HTCC Heritage fund.

Sunday, April 7:

The event included a small exhibition on Swami Vivekananda, some cultural activities and a lecture by Mr. Phillip Goldberg.

The Hindu Swyamsevak Sangha (HSS) was kind enough to send all exhibition materials to us for the event. The picture chronicle of Swamiji's life was greatly enjoyed and appreciated by the visitors.

The cultural program began with Bhajans by Mrs. Ranu Pal. It was followed by soulful violin rendition by Akshya and Bhavish accompanied by their father Dinakar on the tabla. Mrs. Bhasweti Ray gave a nice presentation on "Chakras". The Kansas City Bengali Association and Sagam were the major contributors to the cultural activities. The kids play depicting Swamiji's childhood experience was very soulful. Sangam's play on Swami Vivekananda's experience in America was very insightful. In the mean time, Mrs. Swati Sharma also enthralled the audience with her beautiful voice.

The evening session started with devotional music by Mrs. Lata Venkatesh and Mrs. Pameena on VEENA accompanied by Ajay on the Mrindamgam. The Priests of HTCC felicitated the guest speaker with holy vedic chantings and blessings. Afterwards, the keynote speaker, Mr. Phillip Goldberg delivered an extremely interesting and insightful lecture titled – **East Meets West – The amazing influence of Indian Spirituality**.

The day ended with signing of books by Mr. Goldberg and dinner.

Friday, April 12:

The event was primarily planned around a scholarly lecture on "Swami Vivekananda's message on spiritual awakening" by Swami Yogatmananda of the Vedanta Society of Providence, Rhode Island. Our Priests gave a tour of the temple and also chanted the holy mantras to beginning the event. There was a sizable participation in this event and the speaker as well as the audience enjoyed the evening to the core.

The HTCC executive committee extends its heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers and community organizations that helped us to make this event such a great success.

The Rosary Beads

By Debabrata Bhaduri

Hindu devotees, while chanting God's name use the rosary or 'japamala', which has 108 beads. The rosary has two-fold purpose. By chanting and keeping track of counts by passing the beads through fingers, the devotee is able to distance him/herself from distracting thoughts and focus the mind more effectively. I always wondered what is special about the number '108' in the Hindu psychic that it occurs in many places. In classical Indian dance, there are '108' different movements of hand and feet. In major puja festivals, the priest offers 108 flowers and bay leaves to God.

There is an interesting story in Mahabharata. When Rama, in exile decided to go for war with the demon king Ravana to rescue his wife Sita in the Lanka Island, he was seeking goddess Durga's blessing for success. He was told that the Goddess can be pleased only if he offers her '108' 'neal kamal' or blue lotuses during the puja. Rama, after traveling the whole world barely managed to collect just one hundred eight blue lotuses. When he started the puja, he found that one lotus was missing. It was actually hidden by the Goddess Durga herself to test Ram's devotion. Ram was so disturbed that he prepared to offer one his eyes to her since people used to say that his eyes were like blue lotuses. At this, Goddess Durga appeared in front of him and prevented him from doing so. She was very pleased at his devotion and blessed him for his upcoming battle with Ravana.

It is interesting to note that there are 18 chapters in Bhagvat Gita as well as there are 18 Puranas. There must be special holiness about these numbers that resemble '108' but for a '0' slipped in between.

There is another interesting fact about this number that I learned from an eminent scholar Subhas Kak who once came to talk at the temple. India astronomers knew the fact that the distance from earth to sun is 108 times the sun diameter and the distance from earth to moon is again 108 times the moon diameter. According to Indian line of thoughts, the outer universe is mirrored in the inner universe of our mind. On the same token, chanting 108 times might represent a spiritual journey – from devotee's heart to the heavenly God sun or moon. In other words, chanting cycles of 108 helps the devotee elevate the individual consciousness to the Universal consciousness or 'Brahman'.

Sri Sainath is known by many names, one of them is 'Sairam'. Hinduism or for that matter the Indian Society accepts Sri Ram as the 'Maryada Purusha' - the epitome of noble values. Sri Rama sacrificed everything to uphold the honor of His dynasty and race, to fulfill the promise of His father *Dashrath*, and devoted heart and soul for the welfare of kingdom and its subject. Sri Sainath could be compared with Sri Ramachandra in all these qualities. He was an epitome of compassion and kindness. His main concern of life was His devotees. On the one hand, He used to bless them and cure their material, mental and spiritual afflictions; on the other hand, like a concerned mother He used to cook food and serve to all the devotees and animals present there. At times He would be found singing bhajans with them or even playing with children like a young boy. He used to address His horse as His son. That is why Sainath is also worshipped as Sai Mother, though He was in the State of 'Poorna Bramha'. He had taken *Avtaric* form and often used to say that He would be born again and again till all His devotees get liberated. For these reasons only He has been aptly hailed as 'Sairam'. Many devotees have seen Him in the graceful form of Sri Ramchandra at Shirdi.

There is no definite information about the date of birth, place of birth and early childhood of Sri Sainath. Sai Baba never disclosed anything about His place and date of birth as He Himself had only said that He was born out of *Brahma* and *Maya*. Therefore, on the holy Ramnavami Day, Sai Baba's Birthday is celebrated at Shirdi and elsewhere, with great devotion and fervor. And the devotees chant with lot of emotion and devotion

*"Sai Raham Nazar Karanaa
Bachchon ka Paalan Karanaa"*

Which means - 'Sai, please cast your merciful glances at your children and take care of them'.

It is the duty of all of us, the children of Lord Sai, to keep up the noble values Sai Baba stood for. They are mutual co-existence, amity with all religion, love and compassion for all living and non-living beings so as to realize *Sai-Chit-Anand*.

|| Bow to Sri Sai & Peace be to all ||

More on Sai Baba of Shirdi...www.shirdibaba.org ([facebook.com/shirdibaba](https://www.facebook.com/shirdibaba))

Brahmotsav 2013



Friday May 10th
6.00 p.m:
Vishvakshena Puja,
Dwajaroohanam,
Gaja Vahana,
108 Ritvik
Parayana,
Pushparchana,
Mangala Aarthi

*Come in the
evening to recite
Vishnu
Sahasranamam*

Saturday May 11th

9.00 a.m: Garuda Vahana seva, Vasantha utsav

5.00 p.m.: RATH YATRA in Four Prakarams, Music, Dandya, Garba dance

Sunday May 12th

8.00 a.m: Suryapraba Vahana, Maha Narayaniya, Sudarsana Homam

5.00 p.m.: Chandrapraba Seva, Dwajavarohanam, Sangeetha Seva

Contact: Managers@htccofkc.org Priest Srinivasacharya & Atul Trivedi:
913-631-7519

We are seeking volunteers support for this large event. You can donate money for the things that are required to conduct the event, flowers, vastrams for gods, fruits, coconuts, pooja samagri etc, help in preparing food for the different poojas (as groups or individuals) or volunteer your time. Donation forms are available at the temple or at htccofkc.org. Please help us in making this event a grand success.



All patrons of HTCC are welcome to all events at HTCC.

Bal Vihar

Bal Aarti: The temple management along with BalVihar has started a new initiative of ending the class with Bal Aarti at the sanctum. Students sing Aarti Bhajan – Om Jai Jagadesh Hare while performing Aarthi.



Holi Mela: BalVihar students and parents participated in Holi Mela. A stall was setup for BalVihar, items sold were Pongal, Upma, Vegetable Pakoras, Sambar and Chutney. The children and parents had a great time doing the seva.

Seva: One of important values that we teach in BalVihar is doing seva. BalVihar students helped HTCC editor in affixing address labels on Patrika.



Common Class: Common classes are held on first Sunday of every month.

Apart from Bhastrika, students have been learning few other yoga poses during the monthly common class. The students also have learnt a new Bengali song in the common class.

Registration: Enrollment for next academic year has commenced. Please register at the temple website:

Steps:

- Go to <http://www.htccofkc.org/index.asp>.
- Hover over “Online Resources”
- Hover over “Forms”
- Select “Balvihar Enrollment”
- Fill the form completely and hit Submit.

Minimum age to enroll in the Balvihar program is 4 years. Classes are conducted every Sunday from 10:00 – 11:00 AM at the temple. Please contact siruvalure@gmail.com for more details.

Hindi class celebrating its 8th Annual Day

On **May 19**, Hindi class will be celebrating its 8th Annual Day. Language is an important part of how humans communicate with each other. Being able to communicate in more than one language is an even more remarkable achievement. The ability of our children to speak the language of their native country, India, keeps our children connected with their roots and culture. With this in mind Hindi class was introduced to the children of our community in 2005. In addition to learning Hindi we celebrate important Hindu festivals after understanding their religions and social significance.

Hindi-class is a wonderful demonstration of selfless dedication of a team of sincere volunteer teachers, students and parents. Most of our teacher volunteers usually are with us for couple of years, but while they are with us, they demonstrate great commitment and dedication to the class. We have divided the class into three groups; Beginners, Intermediate and Advance. We try to staff two teachers per group. Chandra Gupta has been with us for the last 7 years. Thank you, Chandra, for your dedication.

Please contact us if you are interested in volunteering your time teaching to teach our native language to these wonderful and eager children of our community. We are in need of volunteers for this year.

The most important part of our team is students and parents. We cannot exist without this part of the team. During the last 8 years, I have witnessed some of the most dedicated and committed parents. It is wonderful to see young parents in our community appreciating the value of our native language, culture, heritage and roots, and trying to impart these values to their young children. We have one student- Sayan Grover-, who came on the first day of the Hindi class and is still coming after 8 years. We are proud of his and his parents' (Shveta & Dhiraj Grover) commitment to Hindi class. Please take advantage of the Hindi-class offered through your temple and enroll your child/children today.

Hindi class is now open for enrollment for 2013--2014 session. School year is from August 2013 till May 2014. Membership of the temple is required to enroll. There is an annual fee of \$100.00 per child, which is payable on the first day of the class. Please follow the link to enroll on-line. It is first come first serve. Link: www.htccofkc.org/hindi

Thanks and remember “The potential of a child is the most intriguing and stimulating thing in all creation, use it to its full capacity”.

Hindi class coordinator

Swapnam Kumar swapnamku@gmail.com

Spiritual significance of Shree Rama

ramaaya rambhadraaya ramchandraaya vedhase raghunaathaaya naathaaya sitayaah paataye namah |

The main objective of *Ramcharitamaanasa* is to realize that the attributes and dis-positions of every human being are new expressions of the thoughts of Lord Shree Rama. We generally find the three versions of the Ramayana: *Valmiki Ramayana*, *Yoga Vasistha Ramayana*, and *Ramcharitamanasa* by Sant Tulsidas. Lord Rama was born to king Dasharatha and queen Kaushalya after the king per-formed a fire ceremony for a son by Sage Rishyasringa. It was ninth moon of the bright fortnight of *chaitra* (march/april). Lord Rama's birth was at midday when the Sun was in its full glory, shining brightly in the sky. Seeing infant Rama's di-vine beauty and playfulness, all hearts were filled with bliss except *Chandra*, the moon. Moon was sad because he could not see Lord Rama till the evening. The sto-ry goes that Lord Rama approached *Chandra* in the subtle form asking why the moon was sad. Moon told eve-rybody got the chance to see you as soon as you were born but I am denied that opportunity until sunset. Pleased with the devotion of *Chandra*, Lord Rama assured him 'Today you are unhappy about seeing me last but in my next incarnation as Lord Krishna I'll be born in the lunar dynasty at midnight. After my parents, you will be the first to see me.' *Chandra* said 'also promise that your name will be with my name all the time as Ramachandra, not only Rama.' Lord Rama is commonly known as Ramachandra.

In the scriptures there are three names of Lord Rama: Parshurama - the sixth incarnation of Lord Vishnu, Ra-machandra - son of Dasharatha, and Balaraman - the eighth incarnation of Lord Vishnu, the elder brother of Lord Krishna. The spiritual meaning of Rama is *ramate iti raama* – one who is roaming inside us giving peace and happiness is Rama. In this body, in our life, the soul is Rama. The phrase also means one who plays. Each human life is the playground of the soul.

Every human body is a Ramayana. Shree Rama is its main actor. Though he pervades in every atom of human beings, he dwells as *nirguna Brahma* in the *kutastha* (soul center or third eye). If the aspirant is well estab-lished in the *kutastha*, in the cave of the *Brahman* and meditate on Shree Rama, all demoniac qualities, like *rajasic* and *tamasic*, are subdued and give rise to *sattvic* qualities. To constantly stay in that place means the funeral of all sorrows.

The abode of Shree Rama is *Ayodhya*. The state of intense meditation is the state of *Ayodhya*, as God is fully immanent in every human body. If, through practice, human beings subdue and control their demonic and low-er attributes, they ascend to the *sahasrara* (fontanel or God center) and realizing *atmarama* there, they remain in God intoxicated joy. The goal of every human being is to realize the indwelling self as Shree Rama.

Shree Ram chandra charanau manasaa smaraami Shree Ram chandra charanau vachasaa grinaami Shree Ram chandra charanau Shirasaa namaami Shree Ram chandra charanau Sharanam prapadye (The above article is a compilation from teachings of Kriya Yoga guru Paramahansa Prajnanananda)

Contact : Kriya Yoga Center Kansas (www.kansaskriya.org).

HTCC Celebrates HOLI

Hindu Temple and Cultural Center celebrated Holi Poornima on March 30th. Holi is the festival ushering in spring when all people, young and old, apply colors on each other.

Holi's religious aspect is tied to Lord Vishnu's Narasimha Avatar.

Hiranyakashipu's son Prahlada is an ardent devotee of Vishnu. In spite of several threats from Hiranyakashipu, Prahlada continues offering prayers to Vishnu. He survives several of Hiranyakashipu's attempts to kill him and is protected by the Lord. Finally, Hiranyakashipu ordered young Prahlada to sit on a pyre in the lap of Holika, Hiranyakashipu's demoness sister, who also could not die because she had a boon preventing her from being burned by fire. Prahlada readily accepted his father's orders, and prayed to Lord Vishnu to keep him safe. When the fire started, everyone watched in amazement as Holika burnt to death, while Prahlada survived unharmed. The salvation of Prahlada and burning of Holika is celebrated as Holi.

At HTCC, this year's celebration as always was a true **"United in Colors"** event. The different regional organizations served the 2000 or so people that came in delicious food. The food was a great representation of what is cooked in the different regions in India, a potpourri of items (sweets and snacks)



and tradition and thanks all the patrons for making this a grand success.

Cultural programs included songs and dances by individuals and groups. The event culminated with people playing with colors, dancing to music and walking around the sacred Bonfire. *HTCC is glad and honored to bring people closer to their culture*



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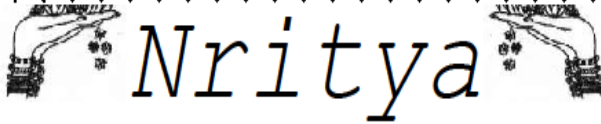
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UPCOMING PERFORMANCE - FEBRUARY 24, 2013

FELLOW SHIP HALL AT 4.00 PM

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND

Schedule for next two months

MAY 2013		JUNE 2013	
07 Tue	Temple Anniversary	03 Mon	Sri Hanuman Jayanthi
09 Thur	Amavasya	07 Fri	Krittika
10 Fri	Krittika	08 Sat	Savitri Amavasya
12 Sat	Akshaya Tritiya	20 Thur	Sri Koorma Jayanti
15 Wed	Shankara Jayanti Ramanujacharya Jayanti	23 Sun	Devasnana Poornima
25 Sat	Buddha Poornima	26 Wed	Sankarahara Chathurthi
28 Tue	Sankarahara Chathurthi		

6th Annual Children Camp

Hindu Temple & Cultural Center of Kansas City & Science of Spirituality
present 1 Day Meditation/Spiritual Camp for Children between 5 and 15 year

4th May, 2013(Saturday) 10:00AM - 4:00PM

Balance the Body and Mind with Meditation

IT'S VALUABLE. IT'S EFFECTIVE. IT'S FREE!

Children will learn meditation to develop the inner strength, achieve balance and realize true potential in their lives, all in a fun filled environment.

Meditation Yoga Camp songs Activities GaMes Pizza

Venue

Hindu Temple of Kansas City

6330 Lackman Road, Shawnee, KS 66217

There are limited seats. Please Pre-Register.

Aabha: **913-706-2692** Or email soskcinfo@gmail.com **ASAP**

Science of Spirituality is an international, nonprofit, multi-faith organization

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Under the direction of Sant Rajinder Singh Ji Maharaj, dedicated to love, unity and peace

BRAHMOTSAV

– May 10th, 11th and 12th

:Page 8 mid-page

Dwajaroahanam

Dwajaroahanam (hoisting the flag or garudadhwaja) signals the start of the Brahmotsavam. The temple officials hoist the flag (with a picture of Garuda on it) to the chanting of Vedic mantras by the temple priests. It is believed that Garuda goes to Devalokam to invite Gods like Brahma, Indra, Yama, Agni, Kubera and Vayudeva and sages like Vasistha and Vishwamitra.

Vahana Seva

The Lord is taken in a procession around the streets of Tirumala on different vahanas (vehicles). Each vahana has its own significance, and conveys the Lord's message in its own way. Gaja Vahana, Garuda Vahana, Suryapraba Vahana, Chandrapraba Vahana, Naga Vahana will be used in the Brahmotsav

Sudhashana Homam

Mahasudersanam is the famous weapon of Mahavishnu. The mighty power of this weapon is proved many times by Mahavishnu, using this weapon to kill his enemies. Sudarsana homa is regarded as the best protection from all evils, removal of all enemies, accidents and other dosha nivaranam. It is first recently for avoid and eliminate the evil spirit in the house. Conducting this homa once in a year is essential for removal of all enemies and other problems.

Hindu Temple & Cultural Center of Kansas City

6330 Lackman Road

Shawnee, KS 66217-9739

<http://www.htccofkc.org>

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