

Meditation Class at Temple started March 12
Join us Saturdays from 9 am-10 am.



Hindu Society of Central Florida
1994 Lake Drive,
Casselberry, FL 32707
Tel: (407) 699-5277 • Fax: (407) 699-0633
Website: www.hindutempleorlando.org
Email: hscf@hindutempleorlando.org

Temple Hours:
Monday - Friday
8:30 AM to 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM to 8:30 PM
Saturday & Sunday
8:00 AM - 8:00 PM

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AMRUTVANI

Hindu Society of Central Florida

1994 Lake Drive, Casselberry, FL 32707



Website: www.hindutempleorlando.org - Email: hscf@hindutempleorlando.org



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321-527-9226

Sri Ashok Shukla
407-913-8080

Sri Bhavin Trivedi
407-808-1819

Sri Subraya Bhagvat
407-255-9814

President's Message

On behalf of Hindu Society, I would like to wish you a Happy New Year. We celebrated the New Year's Day with Ganesh Puja and Abhishekam.

Our team has been working hard to address the immediate needs of our temple. You may have already observed some of the changes. Our Fixed Asset committee chair will outline our achievements in the past 60 days in this newsletter.

We are starting new programs for our community. Free meditation classes started in March and a free music / dance concert every quarter showcasing the talent of the children that are learning classical art forms at our temple. We plan to introduce Sunday lecture and Satsang this summer. Our team has outlined the projects we feel that need attention, after speaking with several members of our community.

We are also planning to develop the 6.5 acre property on center drive for senior housing for 40 attached single story villas.

We had a successful celebration dinner and fundraising event on February 27th.

Our first project that we plan to complete is the parking lot. This was approved a long time ago and our devotees have expressed the need to complete this since our community is growing and parking has been difficult on our premises.

We are now raising funds to complete the parking lot, by sponsoring a parking space for \$ 551.00. You may sponsor one and have your name or a loved one's name on a beautiful brick in the front area of the improved parking lot. This allows the whole community to participate in this improvement project that is needed.

We are also working on getting a new sign at the entrance that is lighted and beautify the landscape in the whole campus.

We are open to any suggestions that you may have to better our community and serve its spiritual, social and cultural needs. We will keep you informed with our newsletter Amrutvani.

We aim to bring transparency to our organization, stay focused and show results.

I urge you to get involved. We are in need of lots of volunteers to run the temple efficiently.

Thank you for your continued support with donations and involvement.

- Mrs. Mala Karkhanis



Sai Janaki- Musical concert.
Performance by Dr. Vasundhara Iyengar's student



Monthly Programs*First Friday*

Lalitha Sahasranamam

7:00PM

First Saturday

Sri Venkateswara Kalyanam

4:00PM

First Sunday

Sri Ganapati Atharvashirsha

9:30AM

Second Friday

Sri Lakshmi Abhishekam

7:00PM

Second Saturday

Sri Navagraha Abhishekam

9:00AM

Sri Ayyappa Abhishekam/Bhajan

6:00PM

Second Sunday

Sri Rama Bhajans (Amrit Vani)

5:00PM

Third Friday

Sri Andal Abhishekam

7:00PM

Third Saturday

Sri Radha Krishna Bhajans

7:00PM

Fourth Thursday

Sai Baba Bhajan

7:00PM

Fourth Friday

Sri Durga Pooja

7:00PM

Fourth Saturday

Subramanya Abhishekam

6:00PM

Weekly Programs*Every Sunday*

Venkateswara Abhishekam

7.30am

Every Monday

Shiva Abhishekam

7.00pm

Every Tuesday

Hanuman Chalisa

7.00pm

Every Full Moon Day

Sri Satyanarayana Pooja

7.00pm

Temple Hours**Monday—Friday**

8.30am—12.00 Noon

5.00pm—8.30pm

Saturday & Sunday

8.30am—8.00pm

Canteen Hours**Friday**

6.00pm—8.30pm

Saturday & Sunday

9.00am—5.00pm

We hit the road running at the start of the year by outlining plans and setting goals that can be accomplished this year. Our objective is to improve the experience of the members and visitors by enhancing the physical look and feel of the facility.

Our team worked together along with the other members of the GC to accomplish the following in the first 60 days:

- **New landscape around the temple is completed .**
- **High Efficiency (LED) landscape lighting is already installed**
- **New water well 250 ft deep going into Florida Aquifer for irrigation has been done. This will help us maintain the landscape even in times of drought.**

We want to take this opportunity to thank the **Krishnan family** for their generous donation to accomplish the above projects.

Our Governing Council has outlined the following projects that in our opinion are in need of immediate attention within 6-8 months:

- **Parking --- current status, drawing provided to the county for comments**
- **Front entrance landscape -- quotes received, it is under evaluation**
- **Temple Signage --- quotes received , under evaluation**

Our Fixed Assets team, consisting of Dr. Harinath Seela and Ramkumar Kozikote, wants to thank you for the opportunity to serve the temple.

Mr. Promod Dubey

Makar Sankranti

Makara Sankranti is being celebrated all over India: This happens in the second week of January marked by start of Sun facing Northern hemisphere of Earth. Millions of devotees on the Makara Sankranti evening assemble in the Sri Dharma Shasta temple on Sabhari Hill in Kerala to watch most auspicious "Makara Jyothi". Sri Ayyappa is being worshipped as son of Sri Siva & Sri Vishnu. Sri Ayyappa is the symbol of Hindu unity. The devotees of Sri Ayyappa has to be physically and mentally clean for 5 to 6 weeks prior to visiting the temple: by that time every one of them must have transformed to "Ayyappa". The worship of Sri Ayyappa takes us to the supreme philosophy of Advaita or "That Twamasi"



Dr. Arvind Pillai



Please visit our temple website for event updates: www.hindutempleorlando.org

Lohri Celebrations at the Temple

Over 200 people celebrated the Lohri Bonfire Celebrations at HSCF Community Hall on Saturday Jan 16th, 2016. Lohri is the harvest festival of the Indian State of Punjab (often known as the bread-basket State of India), and celebrates the happiness of an abundance of food, goodwill and sharing amongst Community, as well as thanking the Lord for all the blessings. Lohri is usually celebrated in the outdoors around a bonfire. Family and friends gather around a bonfire, dancing and singing to the rhythmic beats of the Dhol. Excellent food is in abundance and atmosphere is filled with celebrations. It may be considered the Indian equivalent of Thanksgiving.”

Keeping up the spirit of celebration and friendship alive, we enjoyed an excellent evening of stage performances and dances by local Community children as well as the popular Punjabi dances of Giddha and Jaago performed by ladies dressed in traditional costume. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed dancing around the Lohri bonfire singing “Sundar Mundariye”. There certainly was plenty of warmth and cheer in the harvest season of Lohri! The Lohri Bonfire Celebrations are organized by HSCF's Sri Durga Ma Puja Group who also organize the monthly Sri Durga Ma Pujas and the Dusshera Celebrations.

- Mr. Pradeep Vedi



Keerthana Band

The HSCF Keerthana Band gave a grand 2016 performance. The group of 52 children rocked the stage with an electrifying music to a crowd of over 350 fans. The band raised a net of \$ 6161 for HSCF and we want to thank the parents.

The all youth band gave a 3 hour performance with 19 light music songs from six Indian languages. The Shloka/Bhajans were sung in choir style. The Keerthana choir was coached by All India Radio (AIR) retired artists Keshav and Meera Akolia. We thank the Akolias for their efforts in coaching the youth.

Chief Guest Pandit Nanda Kishore Mule and HSCF President Mala Karkhanis congratulated the graduating seniors Meesha Naveen and Akshay Prasad.



THAI POOSAM CELEBRATION

Thai Poosam is celebrated on the full moon day of the Tamil month of Thai. The festival symbolizes victory of good over evil. On this day, the 'vel' (the holy lance) was given to Lord Muruga by her mother Goddess Parvathi to annihilate Tharakasuran (a powerful but evil Asura) and his three brothers.

We were very fortunate to celebrate it on the exact day of Thaipooasam, since this year Thaipooasam fell on a Saturday.

Braving the unusual cold, record number of devotees thronged to our temple and started the event with a procession around the temple with ladies in, colorful attire, carrying the palkudam (holy pots of milk) and men and boys carrying the Kavadi (the burden of penance) around the temple. Singing and dancing persevered throughout the procession.

After the procession Abhishekam and Alankaram of the Lord was performed by our dedicated priests, while devotees including women, men and children performed live skits, dances and songs in praise of the lord. The event culminated with Mahaprasad that included the traditional vada, payasam & rasam.

All in all, it was a divine experience of godly presence for the devotees and, in addition, an illuminating one for the children.

- Dr. Muthusamy Swami



SAT Math Class at Hindu Temple

Jay Desai got 2360 in the most recent SAT and his super score is 2390. He has 800 in Math and Writing and 790 in reading. We want to thank you and all volunteers who made the SAT classes in temple possible. We want to express our gratitude for Vyas sir and Balaji Sir for their guidance.

We have so far one child who has 2400 out of 2400 in SAT exam . We have 29 children who have received from 2100 to 2390 out of 2400 in SAT Test. It is the first time we have 8 students who received 800 out of 800 in reading and writing English . Three children just appeared in PSAT test. One child has 1500 out of 1520 and two have received 1450 out of 1520. It is a matter of great pride that one child who recently took the new MCAT exam is among the top 1% in the country.

Children taking Mock SAT

- Mr. Vijay Nayyar



Republic Day Celebrations

Indian Americans at Orlando, FL celebrated India's 67th **Republic Day** with patriotic fervor at the Hindu temple auditorium in Casselberry. This celebration attracted a large crowd from all around Florida.

To mark the occasion, little children, dressed in traditional Indian attire and carrying Indian flags, held an impressive parade. This was followed by a recital of Indian and American National Anthems. The audience had a treat in store as they witnessed a medley of dance, music and various performances from local talents. Neha Saoji hosted this 2 hour entertainment program with class and style.

Mrs. Jayshree Shivamogi, Director, Office of External & Competitive Scholarship from Rollins College graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. She delivered a inspiring speech about patriotism in today's youth and ten commandments for Indians to be successful in America. Mr. Madan Arora delivered the Vote of Thanks.

The celebration was covered by TV Asia.

Mr. Prashant Saoji
Programs Committee Chair



HSCF NEW AGE GROUP

New Age Group is dedicated to the well being of Seniors (50+) and its events are held on 1st Sunday of every month from 1.30pm to 5.00pm at Community hall of the Temple. The program generally includes one seminar; social hour; games like Bingo; Antraakshri; Carrom Board, Chess, Playing Cards + Tea/Coffee and snacks.

The Planning Group of the NAG decided to have year-end party by conducting an excursion to Hard Rock Café in Tampa. A chartered bus was hired. Our good luck - the bus company's name happened to be HAPPY BUS. Every passenger was given a brown bag containing breakfast and water bottle. On the bus, we had several interesting games including An-takshri. On arrival at the Hard Rock Café, we were warmly greeted by their staff. Everyone was keen to try their luck on the slots or other Las Vegas style games. Every one was fully entertained.

On Jan 31, 2016 New Age Group launched a service at **Give Kids the World Village** which works in collaboration with Make a Wish to help the Cancer suffering children.

- Mr. Madan Arora

New Age Group on Jan 31, 2016
at Give Kids a World Village



New Age Group (50+) in Community Hall

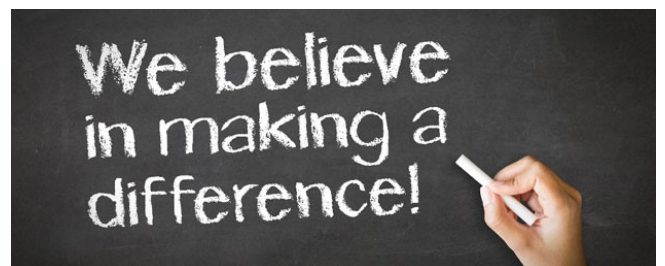


CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

The success of HSCF depends on its Volunteers. We are always in need of helping hands for different activities like garland making, answering telephones, mass mailings, etc. Even a few hours a month is much appreciated.

You can sign up to become a volunteer using the following link:
<http://fs9.formsite.com/hscftechnology/VolunteerSignUp/>

We are looking for a dynamic Volunteer Coordinator and a Garland Maker.



“THE HEART OF A VOLUNTEER IS NOT MEASURED IN SIZE, BUT BY DEPTH OF THE COMMITMENT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS.”
-DEANN HOLLIS

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Originally contained HSCF Profit & Loss Statement