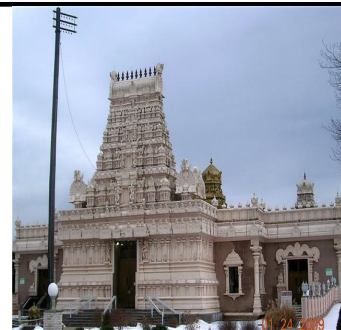




# VISWA VANI

The Newsletter of the  
**Hindu Temple & Cultural Society of USA, Inc.**  
**Sri Venkateswara Temple (Balaji Mandir) & Community Center**  
(Non-Profit Tax-Exempt Organization)  
1075 US Hwy 202/206, Bridgewater, NJ 08807  
Tel: (908) 725-4477  
[www.venkateswara.org](http://www.venkateswara.org)



Volume 13 Issue 1

January 2013



Dear fellow devotees:

We had our biennial elections to open positions in the Board of Trustees towards the end of last year. In early January the newly elected trustees have been sworn in and as we do every two years, we also elected a new team of officers. Most of these officers have held important positions in the past as well. Before I proceed any further, it is my duty to thank the three trustees whose terms have concluded. Mr. Madhusudhana Rao Chava, Mr. Baburao Obilichetti and Mr. Sekhar Vemparala truly exemplify the spirit of selfless service. Through their steadfast dedication to the temple and to the ideals of volunteerism, they have set an example to others. Mr. Chava served as a Chairman of the Board and did yeoman's service heading our Engineering & Construction Committee. Please join me in thanking all three of them for their contributions to the temple.

New Year's Day celebrations this year have been well-organized and well-attended despite the cold weather spell. We had an unexpectedly large turnout of devotees during Vaikuntha Ekadasi on Sun, Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>. Devotees attending the temple both on New Year's Day and on Vaikuntha Ekadasi were treated to a rare delight with Sameepa Darshanam of Lord Sri Venkateswara.

Your temple has grown considerably in just over the past few years and needs participation by dedicated volunteers who can bring varied skills to bear in the service of the Lord. I thank you for your continued patronage and please consider volunteering your services at the temple as well. May Lord Sri Venkateswara shower you and yours with His blessings for a rewarding New Year.

I thank the Almighty for giving me the strength to serve as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the past two years. I pray that I will have the strength to continue to serve Him as a volunteer during my remaining years.

Sincerely yours,

**Yugandhara Rao Vallabhaneni**

Chairman, HTCS Board of Trustees

## Shanti Prayers

Our temple priests recited Santhi Mantras on Nov 4<sup>th</sup> 2012 and Dec 17<sup>th</sup> 2012 in memory of victims of super storm Sandy and Sandy Hook elementary school Newtown, CT victims, respectively.

## Election

The Nominations/Elections Committee (EC) successfully conducted the election (by mail) of four new trustees by the HTCS membership. In addition, the Committee conducted the cooption (election) of two more trustees by the outgoing Board of Trustees (BOT) and one trustee by the new BOT. The newly elected trustees are: Bala Andrapalliyal, Srinivas Bolla, Naidu Bonthu, Ramakrishna Gogineni, Venkat Golthi, Siva Lakshmanarao Kakarala, and Mohanram Myneni. They will serve on the 25-member BOT for 6 years beginning on January 1, 2013.

EC has also conducted the election of Officers of the new BOT. All the officers have been elected unanimously. They are: Siva Lakshmanarao Kakarala (Chairman), Naidu Bonthu (Vice Chairman), Sreenath Kakarla (Vice Chairman), Hari Tummala (Secretary), Krishna Pamidimukkala (Joint Secretary), Venkat Golthi (Treasurer), and Ravi Erukulla (Joint Treasurer). They serve a 2-year term, until the next BOT Officers election in January 2015.

## New Year's Day

The temple remained open till midnight New Year's Eve with homas, bhajans and Veda Parayan being carried out throughout the day. At 12.01am, Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013, a special Harati was given welcoming the New Year and hundreds of devotees received darshan of Lord Sri Venkateswara at midnight.

It is an extensive undertaking for the temple to plan, organize and set-up systems and facilities to receive the more than 10,000 devotees who visit our temple each year on Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> and this year was no different. The organizers spent numerous hours over several weeks, planning and preparing for the day to take care of the visiting devotees and to make their 1<sup>st</sup> visit of the year to our temple a pleasant and rewarding experience. To this end, the planning began with organizing an army of volunteers and setting them up into teams for providing parking, buses, designing paths, providing tents, coat and shoe racks, smooth darshan, continuous poojas and haratis, prasadam and food distribution and keeping the devotees comfortable in the cold weather.

The volunteer team did an excellent job of achieving its objectives for the day and the volunteers deserve applause for carrying out this huge and complex task as smoothly as they did. The temple is blessed and thankful to have such a dedicated team.



After Abhishekam to all Deities, devotees were invited to enter Srivari Mukhamandapam to have Sameepa Darshan of Lord Sri Venkateswara. Laddu Boondi prasadam was distributed to all devotees.

## Religious Events

In **October**, 2012 Navagraha Abhishekam, Tailabhishekam and Sani Pooja on Sani Trayodasi were preformed. Devi Navaratri festival was celebrated from Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> to Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup>. On all 9 days, Kalasa Aradhana, Parvati Devi Abhishekam, Lalita Sahasranama Pooja, Veda Parayanam and Chandi Parayanam were performed. Also on all 9 days, 9 different special Alankarns were made for Devi. The celebrations were attended enthusiastically by devotees.



In **November** Deepavali and Nagula Chaviti were celebrated. Sri Ayyappa Swamy Mandala Pooja was performed which was attended by many devotees. Pavitrotsavam, a once a year event was celebrated. We celebrate Pavitrotsavam in Karthika Masam to correct and overcome any lapses or mistakes that might have occurred while conducting daily religious rituals, or in administration as well as for Loka Kalyanardham. Ekadasa Vara Rudrabhishekams were performed for Lord Siva.

The month of **December** was a busy month at the temple. The special month-long Dhanurmasa Pooja offering to Lord Vishnu and Lord Siva began on Sat, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> and continued through Sun, Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>. Upon completion of this month-long Dhanurmasa Pooja, on Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>, our priests performed Sri Goda Devi Kalyanotsavam and several devotees participated in and sponsored the Kalyanotsavam. Our priests performed Sri Subrahmanya Swamy Homam and Abhishekam for Sri Subrahmanya Shashthi.



Sri Venkateswara Jayanthi was on Vijaya Dasami day, Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>. Ashtottara Sata Kalasabhishekam was performed for Sri Venkateswara in the morning while in the evening Garuda Vahana Seva for Sri Venkateswara Utsava Murties and Unjala Seva were performed.

### Sankranthi Celebrations

Sankranthi was celebrated on Sunday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013, in the Temple auditorium. The program was conducted as a Folk Dance festival with folk dances from several regions of India. The Pinnal Kolkattam (Jada Kolatam) presented by students of Ambika Raman was very impressive. The grand finale, KAVADI ATTAM by students of Radhamani was a stunning performance to a house full audience. The inaugural dance Thiruvathira was unique - performed by an adult group from Kerala.

### Gita Jayanthi and Vaikuntha Ekadasi

Geeta Jayanti and Vaikuntha Ekadasi were celebrated on Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>. After Dhanurmasa Pooja in the morning, a specially decorated Vaikuntha Dwaram was opened at 7.00am for Darshan of Sri Venkateswara Swamy, Sri Sri Devi and Sri Bhudevi while our priests recited melodious Sri Venkateswara Gadyam. Hundreds of devotees arrived for this darshan. Devotees were allowed to enter Srivari Mukhamandapam for a Sameepa Darshan of Sri Venkateswara Swamy until midnight. Devotees attended the temple in unprecedented numbers on this auspicious day. Over 3500 devotees attended throughout the day. The cultural committee arranged programs for devotees. Gita Jayanthi celebrations were held in the Kalyanamandapam for the first time. We had 195 children (ages 6-16) participate in the program of which 72 children chanted Vishnu Sahasranamam; several groups of children chanted several chapters from the Bhagavadgita from memory. Five children (students of Dr. Yagna Subrahmanyam) chanted all 18 chapters of Gita from memory to a loud applause from the audience. Over 35 children chanted Thiruppavai and Thiruvempavai. Purusha Suktham and Narayana Suktham were chanted by some children. It was an amazing performance by the youth that received a standing ovation by the adult attendees.



## Community Affairs

**Soup Kitchen Dates @ Ozanam Shelter, 89 Truman Drive, Edison.**

**Sunday, February 10, 2013**

Sponsor/Coordinator: **Radha Ananthakrishnan**

Ph. (732) 548-5584 or E-mail: [akrishna@optonline.net](mailto:akrishna@optonline.net)

**Sunday, March 10, 2013**

Sponsor/Coordinator: **Prema Andrapalliyal**

Ph.(908) 470-0486 or E-mail: [premaaus@yahoo.com](mailto:premaaus@yahoo.com)

**Food Drive:** Please contribute generously to the Temple Food Drive. Containers are located near the gift shop and the main office.

For more information, contact **Bharati Penupatruni**, Chairperson, Community Affairs at (732) 329-4135 or email [adidev@juno.com](mailto:adidev@juno.com)

### Children's Day Celebrations

This annual event was conducted on November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012 in the HTCS auditorium, following the hurricane Sandy disaster. The response was overwhelming despite many families continuing to suffer from lack of electricity & access to computers. A total of 190 children participated performing 82 different items.

**Viswa Vani** is the newsletter of Sri Venkateswara Temple (Balaji Mandir) & Community Center and is published by the Hindu Temple & Cultural Society of USA, Inc., 1075 US Hwy 202/206, Bridgewater, NJ 08807 – a Non-Profit Tax-Exempt Organization.

**Editors:** Sowmya Rajesh, Jogendra Suryadevara, Manivannan Varadan and Hanumantha Rao Marepalli

**Distribution & e-subscription:** Suresh Makam and Prasad Wunnava

Email: [newsletter@venkateswara.org](mailto:newsletter@venkateswara.org)

नास्ति बुद्धिरयुक्तस्य न चायुक्तस्य भावना ।  
न चाभावयतः शान्तिरशान्तस्य कुतः सुखम् ॥ ६६ ॥

*nāsti buddhir ayuktasya na cāyuktasya bhāvanā  
na cābhāvayataḥ śāntir aśāntasya kutaḥ sukham*



**Gift Shop**

The temple, through the services of its Gift Shop has been providing the devotees with the needed materials to fulfill their religious and cultural needs such as books, CDs, DVDs, pooja materials, idols and photos of Gods, among other items. Numerous volunteers are involved in running the Gift Shop on weekends and on special occasions. Thanks to Meghna Mendu, our youngest Gift Shop volunteer who took up the responsibility of scheduling from the large pool of volunteers to run the Gift Shop and carried out the task with dedication and in a timely manner. For the year 2012 the Gift Shop has contributed over fifty thousand dollars to the temple from its sales proceeds while playing an important role in meeting the devotees' needs.

**Women's Forum**

Women's forum organized the Bathukamma celebrations for devotees on Oct 20, 2012 to mark the Dussera festival. The group also organized a "Sandy Relief" Fund Drive to collect and donate funds on behalf of HTCS. Both these activities would not have been possible without the tremendous help from our dedicated volunteers and we take this opportunity to convey our heartfelt appreciation to each one of them.

**Education Committee**

HTCS had ongoing classes in Kannada, Marathi, Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, Sanskrit (advanced) and Vedic Hinduism. In Fall 2012, new beginner-level Sanskrit classes were started for adults and children. This was well received and is progressing well. The Vedic Hinduism class which was suspended two years ago is back to its full vigor. There are more than 30 students receiving basic education in Hinduism, yoga, etc. in this class. Thanks to more than 40 teachers and volunteers who help run the regular classes every week around the year. Please refer to the HTCS education pages which are regularly updated with all the necessary information and teaching materials.

**Hindu Temple and Cultural Society of USA, Inc.  
Sri Venkateswara Temple (Balaji Mandir) and Community Center  
1075 US Hwy 202/206, Bridgewater, NJ 08807 Ph:(908) 725-4477  
<http://www.venkateswara.org/education>  
**HTCS VIDYALAYA SCHEDULE, SPRING, 2013\*****

Class	Day	Time	Room	March Dates	April Dates	May Dates	June Dates
Sanskrit Advanced **	Sat.	9:00-12:00 PM	1	2, 9, 16, 23, 30	6, 13, 20, 27	4, 11, 18, 25	1, 8, 15
Sanskrit for Beginners (Adults) **	Sat	9:00AM-10:30AM	C				
Sanskrit for Beginners (Children)**	Sat	2:00-3:30PM	1				
Telugu	Sun.	9:00-10:30 AM	C, 1, 2	3,10, 17, 24, 31	7, 14, 21, 28	5, 12, 19, 26	2, 9, 16
Vedic Hinduism**	Sun	10:30-12:30 AM	C1,0				
Marathi	Sun.	12:30-2:00 PM	C, 1, 2				
Malayalam	Sun.	2:00-3:30 PM	C, 1, 2				
Tamil	Sun.	3:30-5:00 PM	C,1, 2				
Kannada**	Sun.	5:00-6:00 PM	C1,2				
<b>VidyalayaDay</b>	<b>Sun.</b>	<b>10AM-1:00PM</b>	<b>Aud</b>				<b>9</b>

\* Dates are Subject to change by the Education Committee and by the teachers in charge.

\*\* Some of these classes might start earlier than the published date. Please check with the teachers in charge for details.

Note for new Students: Please contact the teacher before coming to the class

For contacts and details on all the classes, visit <http://www.venkateswara.org/education>

*One with an uncontrolled mind cannot have spiritual intelligence, one devoid of spiritual intelligence never meditates on the Ultimate Truth and for one who never meditates on the Ultimate Truth there is no peace and for one destitute of peace where is happiness?*  
*Bhagavad Gita, Chapter 2, Verse 66*

## Up coming Events — February and March 2013

### February 2013

**FEBRUARY 14, 2013 THURSDAY**

**Vasanta Panchami**

7.00 pm Sri Saraswati Abhishekam Puja, Harati, Mantrapushpam Prasadam

**FEBRUARY 16, 2013 SATURDAY**

**Ratha Saptami**

9.00 am Arunaparayanam

10.00 am Navagraha Abhishekam, Special Puja To Sri Suryanarayana

Bhagavan, Harati, Mantrapushpam, Prasadam

**FEBRUARY 18, 2013 MONDAY**

**Madhwa Navami**

9.00 am Pavamana Homam

10.30 am Sri Krishna Abhishekam, Puja, Harati, Mantrapushpam, Prasadam

**February 21, 2013 THURSDAY**

**Bheeshma Ekadasi**

9.30 am Sri Krishna Abhishekam, Vishnu Sahasranama Stotra Parayanam, Puja, Harati, Mantrapushpam, Prasadam

7.00 pm Sri Satyanarayana Swamy, Puja

**FEBRUARY 23, 2013 SATURDAY**

**Sani Trayodasi**

9.45 am Navagraha Abhishekam, Taila Abhishekam, Special Puja to Sani, Harati, Mantrapushpam

**FEBRUARY 24, 2013 SUNDAY**

**Kumbha Masa Prataha Kala**

**Sukla Chaturdasi**

**Nataraja Abhishekam**

9.00 am Nataraja Abhishekam

### March 2013

**MARCH 7, 2013 THURSDAY**

**Temple Anniversary Day**

9.00 am Sarva Devata Homam

10.00 am Sri Venkateswara Swamy, Abhishekam, Puja, Harati,

Mantrapushpam, Prasadam

**MARCH 9, 2013 SATURDAY**

**Temple Anniversary Day**

**Celebrations Sani Trayodasi**

**Maha Sivaratri**

**Temple Is Open Whole Day And Night**

9.00 am Sri Maha Ganapati Homam, Rudra Homam, Sarva Devata Homam

9.45 am Navagraha Abhishekam, Taila Abhishekam and Special Puja To Sani, Harati, Mantrapushpam

10.30 am Sri Siva Abhishekam, Sri Parvati Abhishekam, Sri Venkateswara Swamy Abhishekam, Kavacha Alankaram, Puja, Harati, Mantrapushpam, Prasadam

**PHASE 1 Abhishekam in the Evening**

5.30 pm Mahanyasa Parayanam

6.30 pm Sri Siva Abhishekam, Rudra Trisati Nama Archana, Harati, Mantrapushpam

**PHASE 2 Abhishekam in the Night**

10.30 pm Sri Siva Abhishekam Bilva Ashtottara Sata Nama Archana, Harati, Mantrapushpam

**PHASE 3 Abhishekam After Midnight of Saturday**

1.00 am Sri Siva Abhishekam, Siva Sahasra Nama Archana, Harati, Mantrapushpam

**PHASE 4 Abhishekam In The Early Hours of Sunday**

4.00 am Sri Siva Abhishekam, Nandeeswara Abhishekam

Siva Ashtottara Sata Nama Archana, Lalita Sahasranama , Puja To Parvati, Harati, Mantrapushpam, Prasadam

**MARCH 10, 2013 SUNDAY DST Begins**

**Maha Sivaratri Celebration**

4.30 pm Siva Parvati Kalyanam

**MARCH 26, 2013 TUESDAY**

**Holi Vasantotsavam Panguni Uttaram**

**Sri Mahalakshmi Jayanti**

9.00 am Sri Lakshmi Homam

10.30 am Sri Lakshmi Abhishekam, Puja, harati, Mantrapushpam

7.00 pm Sri Subrahmanya Swamy, Abhishekam, Puja, Harati Mantrapushpam

#### Directions

#### Temple Hours

Weekdays: 8:30am to 11:30am

4:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Weekends, National Holidays and

Festivals: 8:30 am to 8:30 pm

**From PA & S. Jersey:** Take US 1 N or NJ TP N to exit 10 to 287 N to Rt.22 (exit 14B). After about 3 miles, take 202/206 N (Morristown). Continue on 202/206 N to Pluckemin (about 1.6miles). Pass Sanofi-Aventis Pharmaceuticals on your left (approx. 3 miles). Turn left at the Brown Rd. light into the Temple grounds.

**From NY City:** Take GW Bridge or Lincoln/Holland Tunnel to NJ Turnpike South. Take exit 14 to 78W. Take exit 29 to 287 N. On 287 N, take exit 22A for Rt.202/206 S. Pass 5 lights (abt. 3 miles) and pass Old Farm Road. Turn right at the Brown Road light (6th light) into the Temple grounds.

**From Rt. 80:** Take 287S to exit 22 (Pluckemin); keep right and immediately follow jug handle U turn to 202/206 S. Pass 6 lights (abt. 3 miles) and pass Old Farm Road. Turn right at the Brown Road light (7th light) into the Temple grounds.

Current Resident or

Non Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit # 708  
New Brunswick, NJ



**Hindu Temple & Cultural Society of USA, Inc.**  
**(Sri Venkateswara Temple**  
**(Balaji Mandir) & Community Center**  
1075 US Hwy 202/206, Bridgewater, NJ 08807