



# HINDU TEMPLE SOCIETY

4200 Airport Road Allentown, PA 18109 Ph: (484) 616-9001

[www.hindutemple-lehighvalley.org](http://www.hindutemple-lehighvalley.org)

February 2022

## NEWS LETTER

Volume 35 Issue 2

\* Om asato maa sadgamaya, tamaso maa jyotirgamaya, mryormaa amrtam gamaya.....Om Saantih,Saantih,Saantih \*

### HTS PROGRAM UPDATES

Priest Anand ji (512) 545-9657

ALMANAC (Panchang)	JAIN ALMANAC	UPCOMING PROGRAMS
February 11 : Ekadashi February 13 : Pradosham February 26 : Ekadashi February 27 : Pradosham February 19 : Sankata Haran Chaturthi February 16 : Pournami	Feb 5 - Maha Sud Paacham Feb 9 - Maha Sud Aatham Feb 15 - Maha Sud Chaudas Feb 21 - Maha Vad Paacham Feb 24 - Maha Vad Aatham	March 18 : Holi April 1 : Ugadi April 10 : Sri Rama Navami April 14 : Vishu/TNY/ Mahavir Jayanti May 21 : HTS virtual fundraiser

Event	Date & Time	Facilitator
Pradosha Pooja	Sunday, February 13 & Sunday, February 27	Anand ji (Please contact the priest for timings)
Ekadasi pooja	Friday, February 11 & Saturday, February 26	Anand ji (Please contact the priest or timings)
Sai Bhajan	Saturday, February 12	(Flyer on page 7)
Pournami Pooja	Wednesday, February 16	Anand ji (Please contact the priest or timings)
Sankat Haran Chaturthi Ganesh Pooja	Saturday, February 19	Anand ji (Please contact the priest for timings)
Boxed Vegetarian Indian Meal	Saturday, February 19	(Flyer on page 8)

### PUBLIC DARSHAN TIMINGS

**Weekdays: 8 a.m. – 12 Noon; 5 p.m. – 8 p.m. Weekend & Holidays: 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.**

- Evening Arati will be at 7 p.m.
- Vahana Puja/Archana ends at 7:30 p.m.
- Temple will discontinue Zooming evening Arati.
- Devotees needing priest presence, please check with Anandji: (512) 545 9657/sastrigalanand@gmail.com

## TEMPLE ADMINISTRATION

## Executive Council

***Please remember! We all share the Temple. Let us work together to keep it safe & clean. Remember to tidy rooms when finished using them. Please refrain from horseplay on temple property. Thank you for your understanding.***



**President:** Neela Bera 610-417-1068  
**Vice-President:** Jitesh Rohatgi 862-324-2939  
**Secretary:** Sarvana Govindasamy 732-379-9611  
**Treasurer:** Venkat Balabhadra 610-530-7863  
**Asst. Treasurer:** Ravi Chitluru 610-349-0662  
**Program Director:** Nirmala Sivakumar 610-909-7865  
**Asst Program Director:**  
**Editor:** Swathi Anantasagar 484-772-5210  
**Asst Editor:**  
**Balvihar Director:** Pratibha Purani 610-390-9316  
**Balvihar Asst. Dir:** Purvi Bhojani 484-903-1954  
**Comm. Relations Dir:** Vindya Raghavachari 610-709-4066  
**Webmaster:** Sridhar Venkatnarayanan 630-363-0673  
**Asst. Webmaster:** Sameer Phadke 484-695-8761

**Members-at-large**  
 Nirav Shah 215-450-9987  
 Seema Garg 404-200-3239  
 Vinay Satyanarayan 610-628-4101  
 Pratima Patel 646-479-0142  
 Surender Dayal 610-392-5851  
**Program Committee**  
 Rimmi Dawar 610-261-2050  
 Rakesh Shroff 610-504-9412  
 Sujata Singh 610-730-0845  
 Shaila Shah 484-347-7749

**Maintenance Committee**  
 Satish Patel 646-479-0142  
 Manish Desai 610-223-7367  
 Urvish Shah 484-695-3534  
 Babulal Chauhan

## Board of Trustees

**Chairman:**  
 Pattabi Neelakantan 610-351-1710  
**Vice Chairman:**  
 Chetan Pandya 610-336-0454

**Secretary:**  
 Vikas Joshi 610-360-1210

**Audit Committee:**  
 Shaila Shah - (484)347-7749  
 Shankar Natraj - (610)360-8755

**Education Committee:**  
 Ajay Soni - (908)391-3959

**Finance Committee:**  
 Raju Shah - (610)462-3108  
 Parveen Gupta - (610)867-9604  
 Chetan Pandya - (610)442-4387

**Membership and Community Relations:**  
 Chatargy Kaza 610-614-0128  
 Susheer Gandotra (570) 620 6219  
 Kripa Singh 610-391-1540

**Projects & Planning Committee:**  
 Vikas Joshi - (610)360-1210  
 Rajan Pawar - (570)578-3161  
 Parveen Gupta - (610)867-9604  
 Shaila Shah - (484)347-7749  
 Kripa Singh - (219)308-4606

**Ex-Officio Member:**  
 Neela Bera 610-417-1068

## Publication Identification

**Title:** HTS News Letter  
**Issue Date:** Monthly / February 2022  
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 4200 Airport Road Allentown, PA 18109

### **!!NO PARKING ON THE CURB!!**

**Note the yellow “no parking” lines next to the curbside of the temple. Violations will be strictly enforced by the local police.**



***\*\*No Eating in the Temple Sanctorum\*\****  
***Only small quantity of dry Prasad is allowed in the temple sanctorum. No plates and cutlery allowed. Please exit out of the temple sanctorum into the main lobby area to eat more Prasad. prasad.***

***Please refrain from bringing unused items from your home and leaving it at the temple in boxes labeled “FREE”.***



## Advertisement in the News Letter

Full Page(7.5" x 10")	\$ 70	<b>Temple Tax ID #23-2064729</b>
Half Page (7.5" x 5")	\$ 50	
Quarter Page (3.5" x 5")	\$ 30	

Please e-mail your ad (in WORD / PUBLISHER ONLY) AS PER THE ABOVE GUIDELINES to the editor [htseditor@gmail.com](mailto:htseditor@gmail.com)  
 Send the check payment (made out to *Hindu Temple Society*) directly to the Temple address. Please note the purpose of the check in the memo field.

## RENTAL DONATIONS FOR THE TEMPLE (EFFECTIVE FROM JANUARY 2019)

Temple Hall & Lower Level	0 - 3 hours	\$250; Each additional hour \$75
Temple Hall	0 - 2 hours	\$100; Each additional hour \$50
Lower Level	0 - 3 hours	\$200; Each additional hour \$75

The above rates are for **Paid Members only**. Non-Member rate is total bill + 20%. Charges are based on current (or) prior year Membership.

A refundable deposit of \$100 is **required** to make the above reservations. Deposit will be returned in entirety if temple is left in the same condition as prior to the rental.

Payment in full is **required** two weeks prior to the rental day. Payment can be made online or with a check payable to HTS given to Temple Management.

Lower Level, Stage only	0 - 2 hours	\$30
Upper Level, Krishna Room	0 - 2 hours	\$20
Upper Level, Yamuna Room	0 - 2 hours	\$20
Upper Level, Ganga Room	0 - 2 hours	\$30
Folding Chairs	Each	\$1

Please visit "[www.hindutemple-lehighvalley.org](http://www.hindutemple-lehighvalley.org)" for CURRENT newsletter, donation links and other information.

## **Temple Timings From Tuesday, July 1, 2021**

Dear Devotees,

Since most of our devotees are fully vaccinated against Covid-19, the temple management is pleased to restore public darshan timings starting from Thursday, July 1, 2021, as follows.

**Weekdays: 8 a.m. – 12 Noon; 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.**  
**Weekend & Holidays: 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.**

- Evening Arati will be at 7 p.m.
- Vahana Puja/Archana ends at 7:30 p.m.
- Temple will discontinue Zooming evening Arati.
- Devotees needing priest presence, please check with Anandji: (512) 545 9657/  
sastrigalanand@gmail.com

We request visitors to follow all prudent measures including hand washing, social distancing etc. so that the temple continues to be a safe place for all our devotees. Thank you.



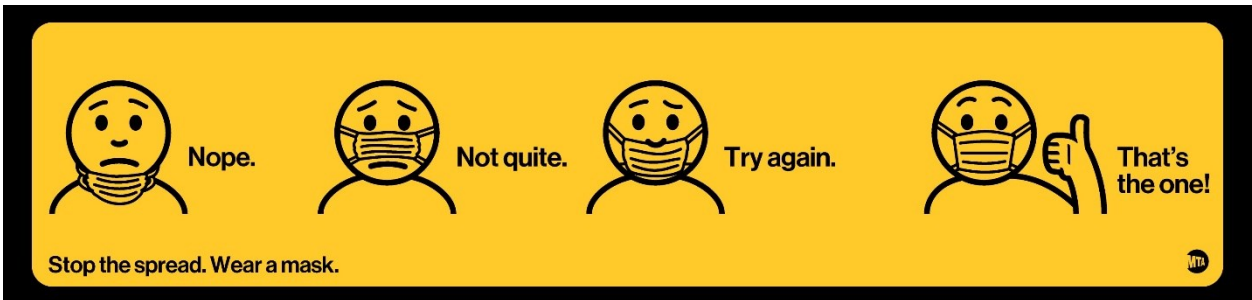
**Temple Management**  
**The Hindu Temple Society of Lehigh Valley**



## **MASKS REQUIRED**

Dear Devotees,

Given the prevalence of Delta variant of the Covid-19 virus in Lehigh Valley and surroundings, please **always wear masks during your entire stay inside the temple premises.**



Also, please maintain 6 feet of social distancing whenever possible and follow other usual hand hygiene protocols like avoiding handshakes, frequent handwashing, use hand sanitizers etc.  
Thank you for your cooperation.



TEMPLE MANAGEMENT  
The Hindu Temple Society of Lehigh Valley

# TEMPLE BULLETIN BOARD

## **BHAGAVAD GITA VICHAR GROUP**

***Bhagavad Gita and Vedanta Studies Group  
Sessions are held every Thursday, 7:00 PM  
to 9:00 PM . Text: Bhagavad Gita Home  
Study by Swami Dayanandaji***

***Zoom Video Conference, call Dipakji (484)  
597-0981***

***Private Puja ,  
call Anandji: (484) 616-9001 or  
Nirmala: (610)909-7865 for more details***

## **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP**

***Go to below website  
<https://www.hindutemple-lehighvalley.org/>***

***to begin / renew HTS Annual  
Membership of \$151***

## **PUJA PROGRAM**

**Saturday, February 19**

Sankata Hara Chaturthi pooja

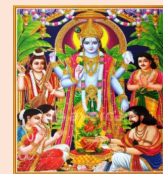
(Please contact the priest for details)



**Wednesday, February 16**

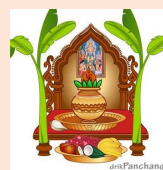
Satyanarayana pooja . ( Pournami pooja)

(Please contact the priest for details)



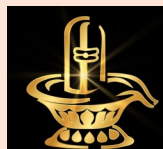
**Friday, February 11 &  
Saturday, February 26**

Ekadasi Pooja: Vishnu Sahasranama Archana  
followed by Aarthi. Sponsors are solicited



**Sunday, February 13 &  
Sunday, February 27**

Pradosh Shiva Abhishek  
Devotees are welcome to sponsor the Pooja





## Starting New Year with a Great News

Dear Devotees,

Some of you may know that in order to strengthen our financial base, an earlier HTS Board offered the community an opportunity to rename any of the three rooms at the back of the temple for a significant donation (\$100K for the Ganga Room and \$50K for Krishna or Yamuna). One of our founding members, who was also the longest serving Board Chair, Shri Gopal Krishna (Kris) Kapoor (fondly called Kapoorji) and his wife Smt. Preeta Kapoor recently donated \$100,000 when the temple finances are going through some challenging times due to the pandemic.

It is important to point out that Kapoorji led the temple during many HTS milestones. He spearheaded the efforts toward Temple Ground Breaking, Construction, Pran Pratistha of Radha-Krishna, Sthapna of Guru Granth Sahib and Gabhara Opening and Jain Snatra Puja during his first two terms (1983-1987) as the Board Chair. During his next stint as Board Chair (2007-2013), Kapoorji managed the Vidya Mandir Project that was close to his heart and expanded the back of the temple with additional rooms for the growing Balvihar Program, renovated the temple kitchen in the basement, finished the temple office in the lobby area and most importantly helped raise sufficient funds to fully payoff the mortgage loan for the Vidya Mandir Project. Kapoorji remained as one of the largest donors from the beginning and it is no surprise that he took the leadership again and donated \$100,000 to inspire others to follow suit.



Left to Right: Kris & Preeta Kapoor, Priest Anandji & Board Member (another founding father) Kripa Singh

On behalf of the temple management and the larger community, we wholeheartedly thank Kapoorji and Preetaji for their very generous donation. We hope that their generosity will encourage other large hearted donors to follow his lead and rename the other two rooms with a large donation. Please help us minimize the mortgage loan toward the current temple expansion efforts that are in full swing.

We were humbled by Kapoorji's following words; "*Prabhu, I came to this world empty handed and I will go empty handed. Oh Lord, it is You, who gave me. It is You, who is giving; not I.*"

Neela Bera  
President, EC



Pattabi Neelakantan  
Board Chair

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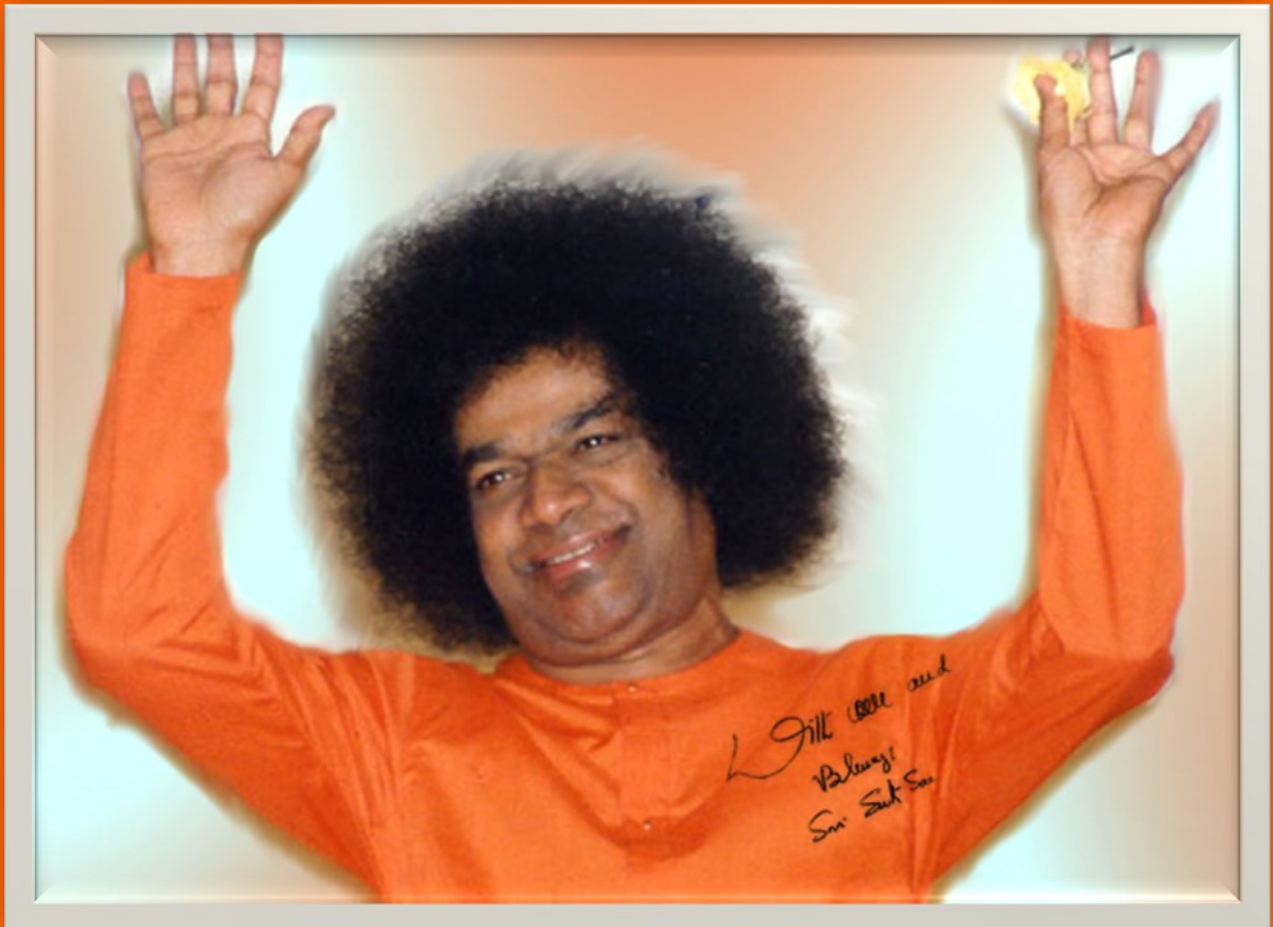
## HTS Milestones

(Kapoorji's Term as Chair)

Adoption of Constitution:	Nov. 12, 1977
Purchase of Building Site:	Jan. 14, 1982
Ground Breaking:	Aug. 27, 1983
Construction Completed:	November 1985
Radha-Krishna Pran Prathistha	Dec. 22, 1985
Guru Granth Sahib Stapna	Dec. 28, 1985
Gabhara Opening and Snatra Puja	Dec. 29, 1985
Shuklaji joined as first resident priest	1987

First Expansion (basement, priest apartment)	1990
Merged temple land with adjoining land	2003
Vidya Mandir Construction begins	2006
Vidya Mandir Inaugural Puja	Dec 1, 2007
HTS Kitchen Renovation Completed	Nov. 2010
Temple Office Completed	2011
HTS Mortgage for Vidya Mandir Paid Off	Jan. 2012
Shuklaji retired	Dec. 2014

# Sai Bhajan



**On Saturday, February 12th**

**From: 5:00 PM To: 6:00 PM**

**In Temple Main Hall**

**Program: Namavali  
Bhajans  
Harati**

**Also On Temple Zoom**

**Zoom Meeting ID is: 263 071 1139**

**Link to Zoom: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/2630711139>**

# Balvihar Update

Namaste

HTS Balvihar continued with their annual Lehigh Valley Hospital Diwali to Christmas Toy Drive by dropping off our donations for the 11th consecutive year in Dec 2021.

Due to the rise in cases, we had to postpone our plans to start the Balvihar Class in person and continue to teach Balvihar online in 2022. Our Uttarayan Class was celebrated by teaching Balvihar Families how to perform Suryanamaskar. Smt. Sumedha Kashalkar, Aneesh and Kaustubh Kashalkar showed the 12 step Yoga during Satsang.

This is our 8th year of introducing the Balvihar students with the values and benefits of starting Suryanamaskar during the auspicious time of Uttarayana, we hope this skill will help them in healthy growth, and promote an optimistic frame of mind.

HTS Balvihar.



## Hurrah!!!Boxed Vegetarian Indian Meal on Weekends

The Hindu Temple Society is pleased to announce that starting Saturday, February 19, 2022, a limited number of simple Boxed Indian meal will be available for purchase by devotees during weekends from 5—7 p.m. on a trial basis. The boxed meal will be \$5 each. Till mid-March 2022, the box will be available for an introductory price of \$3 each. If there is sufficient interest from devotees, the temple will make this boxed meal idea permanent. **Cumin N Eat**, which is providing the boxed meal will donate all proceeds to the temple during the first three months.





## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

HTS introduces a Community Outreach Portal on the Temple website to provide a place where you can post any help needed. This portal is not a sales listing but purely provides a venue to seek for help. You will find it under the Community Tab on the HTS website.

<https://www.hindutemple-lehighvalley.org/>

Note the following requirements:

- Send help request (up to 500 words) with contact information and requestor name (optional) to [htscommunityrelations@gmail.com](mailto:htscommunityrelations@gmail.com)
- No sales ads please



Please become a paid member or renew your membership. Start every January by mailing your membership check of \$151 per family. For your convenience, we accept all major credit cards at our secure website

<https://www.hindutemple-lehighvalley.org/>

(Click on **Make a Donation**) or mail your check to the temple address (payable to "Hindu Temple Society").

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership : \$151 \_\_\_\_\_ Gift For a Day: \$401 \_\_\_\_\_ Patron: \$5000 \_\_\_\_\_

Gift for Multiple Days: \$1000 \_\_\_\_\_ \$2000 \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Donation:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

Please mail your Tax Deductible Donation to HTS at the above address OR go to our website to pay by credit card.

<https://www.hindutemple-lehighvalley.org/> (Click on **Make a Donation**)



## **Executive Council Election – Sunday, April 24, 2022**

### **Nominating Committee**

The next HTS Executive Council will be elected for a two year term 2022 – 2024 in coming months. Following are the members of the nominating committee (more may be added), who will present the slate at the General Body meeting to be held on Sunday, April 24, 2022. Please call/email any of the nominating committee members to volunteer/recommend.

Pratibha Purani	<a href="mailto:bharooch@gmail.com">bharooch@gmail.com</a> ;	610-390-9316 – Chair
Nirav Vyas	<a href="mailto:nirav.vyas28@gmail.com">nirav.vyas28@gmail.com</a> ;	484-353-2698
Shaila Shah	<a href="mailto:shailadshah@gmail.com">shailadshah@gmail.com</a> ;	484-347-7749



## **Hindu Temple Society Cordially Invites You**

### **Maha Shivaratri Puja** **Tuesday, March 1, 2022**



Temple will be open for Public Darshan: 11:00 AM-4:00 PM

Rudra Laghu Abhishekha: 4:00 PM-5:00 PM  
(Sponsorship: \$51)

5:30 PM—7: 00 PM: Maha Abhisheka followed by arathi  
(Sponsorship—\$101)

**Puja can be viewed on Zoom as well Zoom ID: 263 071 1139**

*To sponsor or for more information, contact: Priest Anandji (512) 545 9657  
or Neela (610) 417 1068 or Nirmala (610) 909 7865*

In adherence with COVID-19 Guidelines, during Maha Abhisheka and Abhisheka, only puja sponsors (2 per family) will be allowed inside the temple. All others are requested to come during general darshan. Sponsors are requested to call ahead of time to reserve their spot. Walk-ins during puja will not be permitted. Please bring proof of vaccination. Masks are required at all times inside the temple premises.



**The Hindu Temple Society**  
**4200 Airport Road, Allentown, PA 18109**  
**(610) 264-2810**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED.....**

Non-Profit Org.  
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Lehigh Valley, PA  
Permit No.22

### **Upcoming 2022 HTS Events**

*Mark your  
calendar for these grand HTS events & look out  
for further updates in the HTS email blasts  
newsletter & WhatsApp group!*



**Temple: (484) 616 9001**

March 18 : Holi  
April 1 : Ugadi  
April 10 : Sri Rama Navami  
April 14 : Vishu/TNY/ Mahavir Jayanti  
May 21 : HTS virtual fundraiser  
Aug 5 : Varalakshmi Vratam  
Aug 11 : Upakarma  
Aug 18 : Janmashtami  
Aug 24 - 31 : Paryushan  
Aug 30 : Ganesh Chaturthi  
Sep 26 - Oct 4 : Navratri  
Oct 12 : Karwa Chauth  
Oct 22 : Dhanteras  
Oct 24 : Diwali



*Scan the above QR code with your phone's camera  
to join the HTS Events & News WhatsApp group!  
Let's stay connected.*