



# HINDU TEMPLE SOCIETY

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

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

April 2022

## NEWS LETTER

Volume 35 Issue 4

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

### HTS PROGRAM UPDATES

Priest Anand ji (512) 545-9657

ALMANAC (Panchang)	JAIN ALMANAC	UPCOMING PROGRAMS
<p>April 01 : Ugadi  April 12 : Ekadashi  April 13 : Pradosham  April 26 : Ekadashi  April 27 : Pradosham  April 19 : Sankata  Haran Chaturthi  April 16 : Pournami</p>	<p>April 06: Chaitra Sud Pacham  April 09: Chaitra Sud Atham  April 15: Chaitra Sud Chaudas  April 23: Chaitra vad Aatham  April 29: Chaitra Vad Chaudas</p>	<p>April 01 : Ugadi  April 02 : Vasanta Navaratri Begins  April 09 : Sai Bhajan  April 10 : Sri Rama Navami  April 14 : Vishu/TNY/ Mahavir Jaya  April 15 : AAPI Blood Drive 12-5 pm  April 24 : EC election  April 30 : Kannada Koota Ugadi  May 15 : Thyagaraja Aradhana  (Flyer on page 7)</p>

Event	Date & Time	Facilitator
Pradosha Pooja	Wednesday, April 13 & Wednesday, April 27	Anand ji (Please contact the priest for timings)
Ekadasi pooja	Tuesday, April 12 & Tuesday, April 26	Anand ji (Please contact the priest or timings)
Sai Bhajan	Saturday, April 9	(Flyer on page 5)
Pournami Pooja & Hanuman Jayanthi	Saturday, April 16	Anand ji (Please contact the priest or timings)
Sankat Haran Chaturthi Ganesh Pooja	Tuesday, April 19	Anand ji (Please contact the priest for timings)
"Taal Se Taal Mila" Virtual Fundraiser	Saturday, June 4	(Flyer on page 10)

### 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 / April 2022  
**Volume:** 35; Issue # 4  
**Published by:** Hindu Temple Society,  
 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
Half Page (7.5" x 5")	\$ 50
Quarter Page (3.5" x 5")	\$ 30

**Temple Tax ID**  
**#23-2064729**

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 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**

**Tuesday, April 19**

Sankata Hara Chaturthi pooja

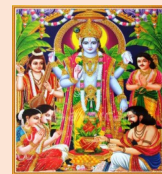
(Please contact the priest for details)



**Saturday, April 16**

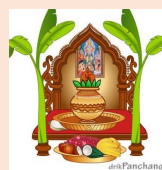
Satyanarayana pooja . ( Pournami pooja)

(Please contact the priest for details)



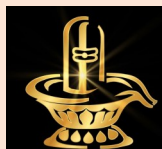
**Tuesday, April 12 &  
Tuesday, April 26**

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



**Wednesday, April 13 &  
Wednesday, April 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

\*\*\*\*\*

## HTS Milestones

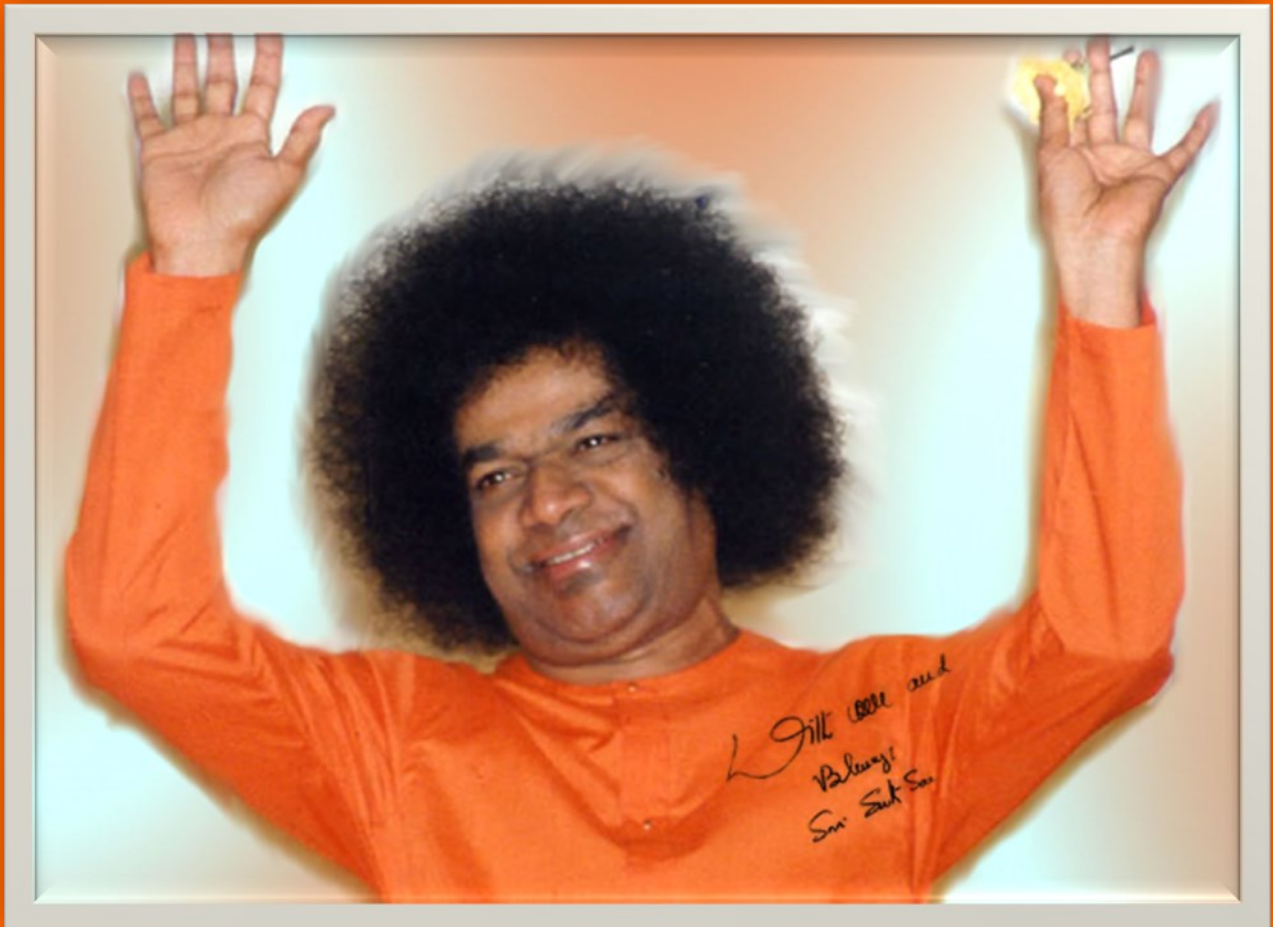
(Kapoorji's Term as Chair)

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, April 9th**

**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

Hindu Temple Balvihar conducted three online classes in March.

We are now gearing up for our in person Holi celebration in April!

In spite of being online, our interactions with students is engaging.

Our senior Religion 5 students are presenting online Satsangh with interesting topics like "Shivaratri" and "Bharatiya Practice and Inventions that changed the world".

Religion 1 and 2 students made arts and crafts with the help of Videos and guidance of Class Teachers and Youth Teachers.

**HTS Balvihar Team**



## Hindu Temple Society

Presents

# TYĀGARĀJA ARĀDHANĀ

## ON MAY 15, 2022



Date: Sunday, May 15, 2022

Venue: Hindu Temple Society, Allentown, PA

### Agenda

Timings	Program <sup>†</sup>
8:00am – 8:30am	Sri Tyāgarājā Puja at HTS
8:30am – 10:00am	Pancaratra Kritis by Lehigh Valley Aradhana Group
10:00am – 11:30am	Concert: Samyukta Neeraj* (Vocal), Vidvath Neeraj (Violin) and Mr. Prakash Rao (Mrudanga)

*\* Featured artist Ms. Samyukta Neeraj is currently a freshman at Princeton University. She has been training in Carnatic music since a very young age. Samyukta is a regular performer at music festivals and temples*

<sup>†</sup> [Individual participation is deferred to later this year]

*Children and adults are welcome. Request your generous donations to the Hindu Temple Society.  
Please follow temple policies on requirements of mask and vaccination proof, while inside the premises*

Hindu Temple Society, 4200 Airport Road, Allentown PA 18109

## **Annual General Body Meeting & Executive Council Election**

**Sunday, April 24, 2022; 2 p.m.**

**Venue: Ganga Room**

The agenda for the GBM includes,

- (i) Annual report from the President and the Treasurer
- (ii) Elections for the next Executive Council of the Hindu Temple Society, 2022-2024
- (iii) Vote of thanks from Chairman, Board of Trustees

All good standing members of HTS are welcome and are highly encouraged to attend the meeting. Not a member yet? – Become a family member by paying \$151 and get Lord Krishna's Special Blessings :) .

The Board thanks the following Nominating Committee members for their hard work and dedication.

*Pratibha Purani (Chair), C.B. Ananthan, Shaila Shah & Nirav Vyas*

The Nominating Committee met several times and recommended the following slate of candidates to serve in the Executive Council for the next two years (2022 - 2024).



### **Proposed Slate of candidates for the next Executive Council**

President – Neela Bera

Vice President – Nirmala Sivakumar

Secretary – Amita Pallod

Treasurer – Minal Babaria

Program Director – Heena Parekh

Editor – Krishna Jhaveri

Community Relations Director – Paresh Kashalkar

### **Members at Large**

1) Sunil Gupta

2) Pratima Patel

3) Vindhya Raghavachari

4) Vinay Satyanarayan

5) Anita Singhvi

### **Appointed Members**

Bal Vihar Director: Venkat Veerisetty

Webmaster: Sridhar Venkatanarayanan

Maintenance: Satish Patel

Nominations of other people can be made at the time of election.

**Due to the pandemic, all attendees are required to be fully vaccinated and always wear a mask inside the temple.**



**Please come, enjoy hot tea & samosas at the end :)**



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**)





## HINDU TEMPLE SOCIETY

4200 Airport Road, Allentown, PA 18109

Tel: (484) 616 9001

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

<https://www.facebook.com/HTSLV/>

Dear Friend,

The HTS is proud to host **“Taal Se Taal Mila”**, a **Virtual Fundraiser** on **Saturday, June 4, 2022**. This virtual cultural entertainment program will provide a platform for children and adults to showcase their talents and share in their rich ancestral culture with the greater Lehigh Valley community.

We all are excited that our temple is slowly coming back to life with devotees visiting for darshan in increasing numbers every day. Spring is generally the busiest season for our temple with many activities like pujas, havan, and festivals. They not only bring our community together but also raise significant funds to support year-round temple expenses. As you all may know that our temple revenue is drastically down during 2020 and 2021.

So, this Virtual Fundraiser is crucial for temple's financial position.

General sponsorship towards the fundraiser \$100. In appreciation for your General Sponsorship, your family can participate as a sponsor at any one HTS puja during 2022.

As part of our celebration, we are also publishing a color brochure for the program. Please support this fundraising effort by sponsoring an advertisement in the Brochure.

The advertisement rates are:

Full Page Ad: Height 10" x Width 7.5" & Half Page Ad: Height 5" x Width 7.5"

**FULL PAGE: \$100**

**HALF PAGE: \$50**

Please send your advertisement in JPEG/ BMP/ Word/PDF format to [htsnirmala@gmail.com](mailto:htsnirmala@gmail.com).

Donations and financial contributions to the Temple are fully tax deductible! The Temple's Tax ID is **23-2064729**. Please make all checks payable to the **Hindu Temple Society** and please write in the memo space **"2022 Fundraiser Brochure Advertisement"**.

Thank you.

Pattabi Neelakantan  
Chairman  
[Pattabi.hts@gmail.com](mailto:Pattabi.hts@gmail.com)

Neela Bera  
President  
[Neela1030@gmail.com](mailto:Neela1030@gmail.com)

Nirmala Sivakumar  
Program Director  
[HTSNirmala@gmail.com](mailto:HTSNirmala@gmail.com)



**Please send your advertisement and payment by April 15th, 2022.**



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

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

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Lehigh Valley, PA  
Permit No.22



**Shri Rama**  
**Navami Puja**  
Sunday, April 10  
At 3 PM,

**Sunderkand**  
**Paat**  
4-6:30 PM

Followed by Aarti  
and dinner.



**Temple: (484) 616 9001**

April 01 : Ugadi  
April 10 : Sri Rama Navami  
April 14 : Vishu/TNY/ Mahavir Jayanti  
April 15 : AAPI Blood Drive  
April 24 : General Body Meeting/EC election  
April 30 : Kannada Koota Ugadi  
May 15 : Thyagaraja Aradhana  
June 04 : HTS virtual fundraiser  
June 12 : Srinivasa Kalyanam  
Aug 05 : 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  
Nov 12 : Mata ki chowki



Scan the above QR  
code with your  
phone's camera to  
join the HTS