

HARI Times...

SITA-RAMA * RADHE-SHYAM

JAN-FEB 2005

TEMPLE PRIEST:

Rev. Seetharamaaswamy (Punditji)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President:

Mrs. Priti Patel 732-2345

Sr. Vice President:

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Secretary:

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Treasurer:

Mr. Anant Kulkarni 761-5375

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Mrs. Shobhana Patel 766-6256

School Director:

Dr. Mukul Parikh 728-9801

School Youth Forum Director:

Mr. Haresh Bharucha 975-3432

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Chairman:

Dr. Ray Kathiresan 790-0786

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Mrs. Rekha Arora 761-5225

Dr. Ramesh Bhatia 560-1405

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Dr. Neelima Parikh 728-9801

Mr. Subodh Patil 731-9398

Mr. Ashok Shukla 737-1919

Mr. Raghu Tadavarthy 697-1555

WE WISH YOU A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS 2005

We request you to make your first check of the New Year payable to HARI. We earnestly thank all lifetime members for their unwavering support. Membership dues are:

Annual (Jan to Dec): \$51.00 (Sr. Citizens: \$25.00)

Lifetime: \$600.00 (Sr. Citizen: \$300.00)

NEW YEAR HAVAN

Saturday, January 1, 2005 at 11:00 am

Followed by Lunch Prasad

Lunch Prasad Sponsored by HARI Committee
members

MAKAR SANKRANTI / PONGAL

Saturday, January 22, 2005

Dance Recital: 5:30 pm

Presented by the Students of Natya Kala Mandir

Artistic Director: Mrs. Vatsala Srinivas

Followed by Dinner Prasad at 7:00 pm

Dinner Prasad Sponsored by
Harrisburg Area South Indian Families

301 Steigerwalt Hollow Road * New Cumberland * PA 17070 * (717) 774-7750

www.haritemple.org

COMMUNITY CORNER

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION			
Priest Service Requests for outside of HARI premises	Priti Patel	01-14-2005, Friday	Makar Sankranti / Pongal
Hall Rental Requests	Priti Patel or Anant Kulkarni	02-13-2005, Sunday	Vasant Panchami
Dinner Coordinator for HARI Sponsored Programs	Shobhana Patel	03-08-2005, Tuesday	Maha Shivaratri
Lunch Coordinator for HARI Sunday School	Alka Amin 540-5380	03-25-2005, Friday	Holi
HARI Times Editors	Hiten Amin 732-0513 Ashok Shukla	04-09-2005, Saturday	Gudi Padva
		04-18-2005, Monday	Ramanavami
		04-22-2005, Friday	Mahavir Jayanti
		04-24-2005, Sunday	Hanuman Jayanti
		05-11-2005, Wednesday	Akshay Tritiya
		07-08-2005, Friday	Rath Yatra
		08-19-2005, Friday	Raksha Bandhan
		08-27-2005, Saturday	Krishna Janmashtami
		09-07-2005, Wednesday	Ganesh Chaturthi
		09-18-2005, Sunday to 10-03-2005, Monday	Pitr-Paksha (Shraddh)
		10-04-2005, Tuesday to 10-11-2005, Tuesday	Navaratri Mahotsav
		10-12-2005, Wednesday	Vijaya Dashami
		10-20-2005, Thursday	Karva Chauth
		11-01-2005, Tuesday	Deepavali (Diwali)
		11-02-2005, Wednesday	Vikram Samvat 2062

EKADASHI, PURNIMA, AND AMAWASYA DATES

	January 2005	February 2005
Shukla Ekadashi	Safra Ekadashi Friday, January 21	Jaya / Bhishma Ekadashi Saturday, February 19
Krishna Ekadashi	Putrada Ekadashi Friday, January 7	Shattila Ekadashi Saturday, February 5
Purnima	Tuesday, January 25	Thursday, February 24
Amawasya	Monday, January 10	Tuesday, February 8

HARI Times is a monthly publication of Hindu American Religious Institute (HARI), located at 301 Steigerwalt Hollow Road, New Cumberland, PA 17070. You may send your comments, suggestions, religious writings (original work only) and important announcements to HARI Times Editors using the address provided on the HARI website www.haritemple.org

PONGAL or MAKAR SANKRANTI

India is a land of festivals. A majority of the population here depends on agriculture. As a result, most of the festivals are also related to the agricultural activities of the people. These festivals are celebrated with different names and rituals in almost all the states of India. Pongal is one of such highly revered festivals celebrated in Tamil Nadu to mark the harvesting of crops by farmers. Named after a sweet rice dish, Pongal starts on January 14 of each year, it is the time when the people get ready to thank God, Earth and their Cattle for the wonderful harvest and celebrate the occasion with joyous festivities and rituals. Pongal continues through the first four days of Thai month that starts in the mid-January and spreads to mid-February. The houses are cleaned, painted and decorated. Kolams (ground patterns made out of rice flour) are made in the front yards of the houses and new clothes for the whole family are bought to mark the festivities.

RITUALS

All the four days of Pongal have their own significance as separate deities are worshipped each day. On the first day, Bhogi or Indra, the Rain God, is worshipped. It is believed that it was on this day Lord Krishna lifted the Govardhan Mountain and sheltered his people and save them from being washed away by the rains and floods. The day begins with a Sesame oil bath and in the evening there is a bonfire in which all the rubbish in the house is burnt.

The second day is that of the Surya or Sun Pongal. The puja place, usually the courtyard or open terrace, is washed, smeared with cow-dung, and left to dry. Pretty kolams are drawn, which are special to the occasion. A delicious concoction of rice, moong dal, jaggery and milk is cooked in a new earthenware pot, tempered with cashews and raisins and is offered to the Sun God in gratitude for bestowing his blessings on the land and the harvest.

The third day is that of the Mattu Pongal or the cattle worship. On this day, the cattle are caparisoned and paraded in the village after they have been offered the Pongal.

The fourth and final day marks the Kanya Pongal, where birds are worshipped. Major attractions of this day are bull and bird fights.

This festival is celebrated all over India on the same day but has different names in each region. Although, being a harvest festival, bonfires and feasts are the main thing common to all the celebrations of this festival. In northern India, the festival is known as Lohri while in Assam it is called Bhogali Bihu, in Western and Northern India it is known as Sankranti, and in Andhra Pradesh it is celebrated as Bhogi, where each household puts its collection of dolls on display.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Spelling Bee Hints and Tips Class: Saturday, January 15, 2004. Two spelling bee sessions – one in the morning, the other in the afternoon -- are planned for children interested in learning hints and tips of the spelling bee competition. Please contact Beena Krishnamurthy at 732-8845 or Shreedhar Krishnan at 975-2527 for more information.

Bhishma Ekadashi: Saturday, February 19, 2004, chanting of Shri Vishnu Sahasranama from 11:00 am to 12:00 noon, followed by Aarti.

Importance: Bhishma Ekadashi is dedicated to Bhishma, the Grand old warrior of Kurukshetra and the son of Ganga & king Shantanu. It is celebrated on the bright fortnight in the month of Magha. Bhishma Ekadashi is particularly sacred and important, as it was on this day that Bhishma voluntarily gave up his life on the battlefield of Kurukshetra. It was just before this that he initiated Yudhishtira into the most powerful and efficacious of all mantras viz., the Vishnu Sahasranama.

ORGANIZATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENT

At the General Body meeting on Saturday, November 13, 2004, the following office bearers were declared elected:

2005 Executive Committee:

President: Mrs. Priti Patel

Sr. Vice President: Mr. Srinivasan Subramanian

Secretary: Mr. Manpal Singh

Treasurer: Mr. Anant Kulkarni

Vice Presidents (alphabetical order):

1. Mr. Sunil Desai (York area)
2. Mr. Mohit Parikh
3. Mr. Ramesh Parmar
4. Mrs. Minaxi Patel
5. Mrs. Shobhana Patel

Board of Trustees (three-year term, from 2005 through 2007):

1. Mr. Harish Doshi
2. Dr. Neelima Parikh
3. Mr. Raghu Tadavarthy

Chairman of the Board of Trustees:

On November 23, 2004, a joint organizing meeting of the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee was held. The Board of Trustees unanimously selected **Dr. Ray Kathiresan** as its Chairman for the year 2005.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HARI Sunday School...

HARI Sunday school offers courses for children ages five and up in Hindu Religion, Gujarati, Hindi, Tamil, Indian Classical Dances, Indian Folk Dances, Classical Vocal, SAT preparation, and Stress Free Life (Yoga). A one-time registration fee per child per school year is required. Necessary information is provided at the time of registration or contact HARI School Director Dr. Mukul Parikh at 728-9801.

For Classical Dance, please contact Bharatnatyam teacher, and the director of Natya Kala Mandir, Mrs. Vatsala Srinivas at (410) 561-0414 or send her an email at vatsalasinivas@hotmail.com.

HARI Membership...

It is time to renew your Annual HARI Membership. Please consider making your first check of the Year payable to HARI. Membership dues are as follows:

Category	Annual Membership	Lifetime Membership
Regular Membership	\$51.00	\$600.00
Sr. Citizens (Age 65 & up)	\$25.00	\$300.00

If you have any questions regarding HARI membership or need more information, please contact any HARI committee members.

Temple Hall Rental...

The lower level hall at HARI is available for member's private use at nominal rate. All rentals are subject to the prevailing HARI Rental Policy. To reserve the temple hall for private events, please contact HARI Treasurer Anant Kulkarni at (717) 761-5375 or President Mrs. Priti Patel at (717) 732-2345. To review the current HARI rental policy, please visit us at www.haritemple.org.

SYMPATHY

Our heartfelt sympathy to the family of Mrs. Vimla Patel who lost her beloved mother Mrs. Shantaben B Patel on November 18, 2004

Our heartfelt sympathy to the family of Dr. Pravin Gadani who lost his beloved father Ramjibhai R Gadani on November 24, 2004

... MAY THE DEPARTED SOULS ATTAIN PARAM SADGATI ...

HARI MEMBERSHIP AND DONATION FORM

Name: _____
Last Name First Name MI

Spouse's Name: _____
First Name MI Maiden Name (optional)

Address: _____

Tel. No: (____) _____ - _____ E-Mail: _____ @ _____

Regular Membership:	Annual: \$51.00	Lifetime: \$600.00
Senior Citizens Membership:	Annual: \$25.00	Lifetime: \$300.00
HARI Trust Fund Donation: \$_____.		General Donation: \$_____.

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

- Yes, please add or correct the above entry in the upcoming HARI directory**
- No, please remove the above entry from the upcoming HARI Directory**

ARCHANA

Archana is a puja performed to seek the blessings of the Lord. It can be performed at anytime; particularly on birthdays, anniversaries, and other personal special days (actual). For a token donation of **\$10.00 per person**, our Priest will perform *Archana* on the specified date and prasad will be mailed to your address. If you do not know the *Gotram* and the Birth Star, the *Archana* could still be performed on the *Janma Natchathiram*.

Name: _____
Last Name First Name MI (if any)

Address: _____

Tel. No: (____) _____ - _____
_____ @ _____

E-Mail:

Date of Archana (mm/dd/yy): ____/____/____ Gotram: _____

Note: If you do not know the Gotram and the Birth Star, the Archana could still be performed on the Janma Natchathiram.

Names for Archana to be performed

Birth Star

2005 HARI CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	PROGRAM	SPONSORED BY
Saturday, March 12	Maha Shivaratri	Shiva Abhishek / Bhajans by Dr. Usha Bhargave	
Sunday, March 27	Holi / Dhuleti	Cultural Program	
Saturday, April 9	Gudi Padva		
Friday, April 22 and Saturday, April 23	Shri Ramanavami	24-Hour recital of Shri Rama Charit Manas	Family of Shri Biharilal Parikh
Sunday, April 24	Shri Hanuman Jayanti	Chanting of Sri Hanuman Chalisa	
Saturday, April 30	Shri Mahavir Jayanti		Jain Center of South Central PA
Sunday, June 5	HARI School Graduation	HARI School Program	
Saturday, August 27	Shri Krishna Janmashtami		
Saturday, September 10	Shri Ganesh Chaturthi		
Tuesday, October 4 to Tuesday, October 11	Navaratri Mahotsav	Durga Puja Raas-Garbaa	N/A
Friday, October 7	Kolu Puja	Kolu Puja by HARI Devotees	N/A
Saturday, October 15	Dasherra	Durga Puja	
Thursday, October 20	Karva Chauth	Puja by Devotees	N/A
Saturday, November 5	Diwali	Diwali Annakot, HARI Annual Meeting	HARI Devotees

To sponsor any of the above events and/or dinner prasad at any of the above events, please contact Mrs. Priti Patel at (717) 732-2345.

Hindu American Religious Institute
301 Steigerwalt Hollow Road
New Cumberland PA 17070
www.haritemple.org

Nonprofit Org
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Harrisburg, PA
Permit No 304

Directions:

Exit 39A, Lewisberry Road, off I-83
Make left at the STOP for Route 114 West
Go 1/3 mile; make Left on Steigerwalt Hollow Rd
Go 1/2 mile to HARI Temple on right
Phone: (717) 774-7750
www.haritemple.org

Satyanarayan Katha

Tuesday, January 25 at 7:15 pm
Thursday, February 24 at 7:15 pm

Satyanarayan Puja is performed on a full moon (Purnima) day to seek Lord's blessings for good health, peace, and wealth. The puja is performed with total devotion, offering fruits, flower, ghee, milk, yogurt, butter, wheat flour, sugar, and honey to Lord Satyanarayan. After the puja, the story of Lord Satyanarayan is read and the Prasad is distributed to all attendees. The puja thus performed brings in fulfillment of one's wishes and prosperity.

Monthly Havan

Sunday, February 13 at 5:30 pm

HARI observes a monthly HAVAN on the second Sunday of each month, followed by Aarti and Dinner Prasad. Devotees are invited to attend the Havan with their friends and family members. Devotees who wish to sponsor the monthly Havan and/or Dinner Prasad at the monthly Havan are requested to contact any of the HARI committee members.

Note: The January Havan will be performed on Saturday, January 1, 2005.