

ॐ HINDU PATRIKA ॐ

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DECEMBER/JANUARY 2012 Vol 17/2011



Hindu Temple & Cultural Center of Kansas
City

A NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION

6330 Lackman Road
Shawnee, KS 66217-9739

<http://www.htccofkc.org>

Day

Mon - Fri
Mon - Fri
Sat & Sun
Sat & Sun

TEMPLE HOURS

Time

10:00am-12:00pm
5:00pm-8:00pm
9:00am-8:00pm

Aarti

11:00am
7:30pm
12:00pm
7:30pm

Tel: (913) 631-7519 (Temple)

Tel: (913) 962-9696 (Priest Shrinivas)

Tel: (913) 749-2062 (Priest Atulbhai)

Board of Trustees

| Term | Name |
|-----------|------------------------|
| 2009-2011 | Vishal Adma Chairman |
| 2010-2012 | Deb Bhaduri Vice Chair |
| 2009-2011 | Sanjeev Goyal |
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| 2010-2012 | Sadhana Bisarya |
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| 2009-2011 | Vishal Adma |
| 2010-2012 | Manu Rattan |
| 2011-2013 | Mohan Gupta |
| 2011-2013 | Priti Mohan |
| 2011-2013 | Govind Patel |
| 2011-2013 | Mana Pattanayak |
| 2011-2013 | Eashwer Reddy |
| 2011 | Neelam Kumar |
| 2011 | Sridhar Harohalli |

Vision of HTCC

To promote Hinduism's spiritual and cultural legacy of inspiration and optimism for the larger Kansas City community.

Mission of HTCC

- Create an environment of worship that enables people to say "yes" to the love of God.
- Cultivate a community that nurtures spiritual growth.
- Commission every devotee to serve the creation through their unique talents and gifts.
- Coach our youth with the spiritual and cultural richness and the diversity they are endowed with
- Communicate Hinduism – A way of life to everyone we can and promote inter-faith activities with equal veneration

Hindu Temple Wishes a Very Happy New Year to all the Members

Please remember to renew your annual membership which runs from January to December.

Your Current membership status is printed on the mailing label.

Non-Members need to renew their membership to avoid missing next issue of the Hindu Patrika.

Message from Srini Bhagavan (President, 2011)

On this unseasonably warm December evening, I close my eyes for a few moments to reminisce the incredible year that has no doubt left an indelible mark. Before long I am transported to a state of consciousness wherein every cell in my body is endowed with the Lord's grace and a sense of gratitude having served Him. I then take a deep breath, muster a wry smile as I acknowledge this ethereal experience is forever entrenched in my soul!

Dear Divine Souls of HTCC,

As I pen this, I approach the inevitable change of guard - my role as President of our beloved HTCC has come to an end! It is my privilege to hand over this precious baton to **Sri Sunil Prabhu** who I am confident will catapult us all to new spiritual and cultural heights as we welcome another year of our lives.

Treat it as you would your own child and leave everything in a better state that you found it in was the sage advise that the entire Sevak team inked into their hearts and wore up their sleeves as they tirelessly worked long hours of Seva the entire year. Please allow me to express my sincere gratitude - which barely skims the surface as there are too many of you ... even though my heart echoes all your names.

I constantly drew undying inspiration from Vice President and my brother **Makarand Deshpande, the core team members Usha daGreat Saha, Ravi Mehra, Venkatesh Gopal, Bhaskar Krishnamurthy, Atul Agarwal, Ram Guduputi, Sanjeev Goyal, Smt. Suma Hegde, Smt. Sadhana Bisarya, Chandra Venkat; Smt. Akhila and Dinesh.** Yes indeed, I was very fortunate to be surrounded by a talented group of individuals who took pride in meticulously planning and executing every event. It is a unique privilege to have worked with each and every one of you.

Our dear respected Priests **Sri Srinivasji** and **Sri Atulji** set the stage for all of us, performing all the poojas with utmost devotion and blessing us all starting from New Year's Day 2011 through the recently concluded Navagraha Homam. I would be in remiss if I didn't mention the divinely contributions of Rithviks led by **Govindachari, Ravi Kallur** including **Rao Saripalli, Surya Ramamurthy, Murari, Ramakrishna Hegde, Seshagiri, Raghu Mylavarapu, Srini Vedantam, Ravi Somyajalu, Ram Mahopatra, Sri Ulhas Sanjanwala, Mani Subramaniam,** etc., (so many of you ...) Truly enchanting indeed - Thank you!

We had a successful year largely due to the outstanding support and guidance of our **Board of Trustees** under the charismatic leadership of sevak **Sri Vishal Adma** and also vice chair **Sri Deb Bhaduri**. Our fundraising chair **Sri Ravi Mehra** was instrumental for the successful planning and execution of our Fundraising event along with **Raja Govindrajan**, as we institutionalized the **Art of Giving**. Wow! That is some serious brain power folks!

Thanks to our managers **Sri Goyalji, Sri Hariji, and Sri Raoji** without your devoted seva, it would be impossible to run the Temple. Special thanks to **Sri Pyare Mohanji** for his excellent volunteer manager seva earlier this year. Thanks to **Sri Pankajbhai** and **Smt Smitaji** for their contributions as well. Great job everyone ... not an easy task esp. when thousands of devotees visit the Temple each month.

I also want to thank our founders/leadership team of **Sri Abhay Bisarya, Sri Hasu Doshi and Sri Swaran Jain** ... Thank you for your support, guidance and faith in this year's committee. Your dedication towards HTCC over the decades continues to be a source of inspiration to all of us! Amazing! **Vibrant** is the word that jumps out if I were to describe our Temple today which throbs with life perennially. There is a reason for that ... an intelligent, passionate, caring community with relentless positive attitude. The leadership teams of every regional organization did an outstanding job in partnering with HTCC for the events that were dearest to their hearts and also for both Holi and Diwali mela. We were blown away by your passion and dedication ... proving **Our Strength is in our Unity!**

2011 witnessed several historic events, and some that will go down as firsts in the annals of HTCC. In addition to established events like Godha Kalyanam, Shivratri, Ramnavami, Rathayatra, Gurupoornima, Navaratri, Annakut, etc., to the devotee's delight **Bramotsavam, Hindola, Kandashasti homam, Navagraha Homam** were added to our repertoire of annual events which is absolutely thrilling. HTCC also hosted the **Tagore150 and Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving dinner** which were both very successful. All this is possible and testimonial because of the generosity of all the devotees and sponsors... Thank you!

This year we attempted to streamline a lot of process, internal documentation, infrastructure improvements (many in progress as well), green/recycling initiative, etc., to the best of our abilities. I

beg for your forgiveness if we inadvertently did something that was not to your satisfaction. Please treat that as a great opportunity to pitch in, take ownership and correct ... after all, Temple is **our**child. **Progress is always cumulative** which the new team will continue to refine and the community continues to reap dividends long term!

HTCC also entrenched the **HTCC Hindu Academy** which is very active organization teaching monthly Hinduism classes, external talks on Hinduism, etc., by community scholars. We supplemented this education wing to include the **Hindi Class, Balvihar and Marati Class**. Eventually, we plan to add more heritage along with the ongoing **Yoga classes** and music components like the **HTCC carnatic music association**. Having a serendipitous vision will also help external messaging tremendously as we build a strong community image. Please support these activities by contacting the lead sevaks if you are interested to serve.

Finally, I want to thank my **parents** for instilling in me the tools to recognize the opportunity to serve, my two lifelines **Druv and Mayan** for not complaining not having their dad around most weekends and my dear wife **Harini** without whose support, none of this would even be possible!

With that, I leave you with this parting thought ... In one of the snow storms last winter, my son and I cleared 5" of snow from an elderly neighbor's driveway unbeknownst to them. The next day, it snowed 4-5" again and my son said *Papa, isn't it interesting that they would have 9-10" to clear today had we not helped the previous night and the best part is, they still don't know who cleared their driveway.* Well my friends, while it was life lesson for my son, two things stuck me from that remark ... **Seva is done regardless of anyone watching and even more, it reduces or even eliminates the burden for someone else. Trust me, they will bless you for making it so – every single time!**
Thank you all for the opportunity to serve!

Happy New Year!
Your humble HTCC sevak,
Srini Bhagvan

Message from Makarand Deshpande (Vice President, 2011)

Dear Friends, Namaste!

First of all I wish a very happy and prosperous new year to all of you. 2011 has been very exciting for executive committee and my family. I hope everybody in the community has felt the same way and inspired by festive/religious power of our culture. I would like to extend my thanks to you all for your support to the committee and to the temple through 2011 and hope you will continue to do so in coming years. In 2011 we had many functions which were well attended with great participation from various regional communities. And HTCC very much appreciates that.

My sincere thanks to Srini and executive committee members for their hard work, and carrying out various important functions throughout the year with precision and excitement, as well as making 2011 a grand success. Everyone worked tirelessly to carry out various administrative responsibilities necessary to make temple events run smoothly. Sometimes, we tend to forget that they are all volunteering their precious family time and they deserve our recognition. So big Thank You to you all. I feel very proud of the team and can't say thank you enough. I must also recognize BOT Chairman and members for their guidance and seva to HTCC.

Not only we have wonderful community and Sevak, but we are also blessed with great priests. We value their commitment and hard work and we must continue supporting them. My heartfelt thanks to rutviks/Sevak who helped panditji to complete each event smoothly throughout the year.

Once again, thank you all for your support and SEVA to HTCC.
Have a great 2012.

Sincerely,
Makarand Deshpande

Current Charges For Puja and Priest Services

| | At temple | At home |
|---|---------------------|---------|
| Abhishekam | \$ 75 | — |
| Abhishekam with kalasa puja | \$ 101 | — |
| Aksharabhyasam (beginning of writing) | \$ 75 | |
| Anna Prasana (first feeding) | \$ 51 | \$ 101 |
| Any other Puja (< 2 hours duration) | \$ 65 | \$ 151 |
| Archna (fruits provided by Temple) | \$ 11 | - |
| Atma Shanti/Tarpanam | \$ 31 | \$ 101 |
| Baby shower. | \$ 151 | \$ 201 |
| Barsi/Annual Ceremony | \$251 | \$ 301 |
| Cremation services | Call Temple Manager | |
| Grihapravesham & Sri Sathyanarayana Puja/Katha | — | \$ 301 |
| Grihapravesham (house warming) only | — | \$ 151 |
| Havan | \$ 101 | \$ 151 |
| Hiranyasradham | \$ 75 | \$ 101 |
| Kalyanutsavam (Kanyadan) – Individual | \$ 151 | — |
| Mundan (Hair offering)* | \$ 75 | \$ 151 |
| Namakaranam (naming of baby) | \$ 51 | \$ 101 |
| Navagraha Archna- One Graha only | \$ 21 | — |
| Navagraha puja. | \$ 101 | \$ 201 |
| Sahasranama Archna (1000 names of God) | \$ 51 | — |
| Sri Sathynarayana Puja/Katha | \$ 75 | \$ 151 |
| Samohika Satyanaryana Puja/Katha | \$ 31 | - |
| Sashti poorthi shanti (60 th birthday) | \$ 201 | \$ 251 |
| Satyanarayana Puja & Basement Rental | \$ 175 (4 hours) | |
| Sponsor Puja | — | — ** |
| check with priest/manager. | | |
| Upnayana Sanskara (Sacred thread ceremony) | \$ 251 | \$ 351 |
| Vahan puja | \$ 31 | - |
| Vivah (Wedding)# | \$ 701 | \$ 501 |

* HTCC will not be responsible in arranging the hair stylist.

Basement Hall inclusive.

Note. Minimum charges for any puja performed outside Hindu Temple. \$ 101

Any Puja performed outside KC Metropolitan area \$ 251

Above suggested charges do not include Dakshina (donation) to the priest and it should not be less than 25% of suggested service charges.

All pujas booked in Advance should be paid in advance. One cancellation or postponement permitted. For more than one cancellation/postponement 50% of the service charge will be deducted before any refund is made.

HTCC List of Events for December 2011- January 2012

| EVENT | SPECIFICS |
|------------------------------|---|
| PRANAYAM YOGA | 6:00pm -7:30pm Contact Ajay and Sadhana Bisarya @ 913-764-3521 |
| PRANAYAM YOGA | 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM every Sat Contact Ajay Bisarya @913-764-3521 |
| SHRI SHIRDI SAI BABA BHAJANS | At 7:30pm every Thursday |
| HTCC SUNDAY EVENTS | SPECIFICS |
| BAL VIHAR | 9:30am – 10:30am Contact GAnesh Thiagarajan@ 913-685-0344 |
| HINDI CLASS | 11:00am – 12:00pm Contact Swapnam Kumar @ 816-554-2454 |
| YOGA | 9:30am-10:30am Contact Dr. Vijay Kumar@913-894-6454 |
| SUNDAY LUNCH | 10:30am-1:30pm |
| CELEBRATIONS | SPECIFICS |
| NAVGRAHA HONAM CELEBRATION | 18 TH DEC. @ 10:30 AM |
| | |
| MOON PHASES | SPECIFICS |
| AMAVASYA | 24 TH DEC, 23 RD JAN, 21 ST FEB |
| PURNIMA | 10 TH DEC, 9 TH JAN, 7 TH FEB |
| EKADASHI | 6 TH & 21 ST DEC, 5 TH & 9 TH JAN, 3 RD & 17 TH FEB |
| KRIKA | 9 TH DEC, 15 TH JAN, 12 TH FEB |

Please refer our temple website www.htccofkc.org for more information about our July/August events and celebrations.

Contact manager or visit www.htccofkc.org for updates

Please contact Manager during temple hours for scheduling any puja at Temple or at Home. You can even email your information for scheduling puja at managers@htccofkc.org. We request the devotees to cooperate with the managers who will make their best efforts in scheduling puja with the priest that you have requested.

SOUP KITCHEN

Every month on last Monday to feed the less fortunate soup kitchen is organised by Suma Hegde. Everyone is encouraged to participate. To contribute please contact Suma Hegde at (913) 491-1969.



Diwali Celebration in Hindi Class at HTCC

By Dr. Shveta Grover

Hindi class teachers and volunteers followed the annual tradition of organizing Diwali party for their students on Oct 23rd in the Fellowship Hall of HTCC. Nearly 200 people including students, parents, grandparents, siblings, teachers and volunteers attended this celebration.

Mrs. Swapnam Kumar commenced the ceremony inviting the beginner students to say a sentence in Hindi. Narration was excellent, considering the fact that some of these students do not belong to Hindi speaking families. Intermediate group students rendered brief speeches on the legendary stories and history behind the festival.

Hindi class teacher volunteers, Mrs. Chandra Gupta and Mrs. Neelam Kumar made all necessary preparation ahead of time for students to make and take Diyas, Rangoli wall hangings and goody bag decoration. It takes a significant amount of time and effort to prepare such things and their contribution is appreciated. Students were very excited to make their own Diyas and decorations. There were around 75 kids, students, siblings and some alumni. Parents participated in volunteering to help with Diwali crafts.

Students were interviewed in between the program to see what exactly Diwali meant to them. Rishit, upper intermediate student, commented that it is good program to learn about Diwali and his family celebrates by lighting Diyas and performing Pooja. Sayan enjoyed making diya and other decorations and is excited to use them for Pooja on that day. Gauri said, she enjoys fireworks and sweets on this festival. Aditi Dubey likes pooja at home and enjoys gifts on this occasion. Jhanvi celebrates Diwali with lighting candles, making rangoli and fireworks. Rachna was proud of her decoration on the Diya. For the youngest students of Hindi class Suhana and Amiya, Diwali is all about *Patakhas* and *Phooljhadis*.

Mouthwatering delicious food including Idlies, Samosas, Pakodas, Poori, Aaloo Sabzi, Ccholey, Rice, Raita, Gulab Jamun and Jalebi etc. were served to everybody. The crowd quickly swelled as many Hindu temple patrons joined the Hindi class celebrations. So much so that we ran out of food that was thought to be abundant at the start of the program. Pradeep Dubey took a leadership role in managing the food for this event and was supported by parent volunteers in the kitchen.

Credit for the success of this celebration goes to one and all, especially parents who have shown great enthusiasm by attending this occasion with their kids, bringing food, volunteering to help teachers with crafts and cleaning up after. Efforts of these parents are recognized and well appreciated.



More pictures:

<https://picasaweb.google.com/113168285964729085618/HindiclassDiwali2011?authuser=0&authkey=Gv1sRgCNPm057WnpSs2QE&feat=directlink>

BalVihar

On August 21st, BalVihar commenced the activities for academic year 2011-12. BalVihar is value based moral education for children, with an emphasis on Indian Culture and Spirituality. Classes are held between 9:30 AM and 10:30 AM every Sunday. Classes have been divided into three groups, Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced. There are a variety of activities planned for this year, apart from learning to sing Bhajans and Slokas. Weekly lesson plans are based on the core human values of Satya(Truth), Dharma(Right Conduct), Shanti(Peace), Prema(Love) and Ahimsa(Non Violence).

Students celebrated Deepavali in October. Kids were dressed in their traditional Indian attire. We discussed how and why Deepavali is celebrated. They had a great time singing bhajans, lighting diyas and concluded celebration with aarthi. Later they had snacks and sweets.



In November, Bal Vihar students hosted a stall at Anand Mela. Participants were to throw bean bags into the basket and the winner received a treat of their choice. It became popular game with kids of all ages. Students challenged themselves with the opportunity to lead the event, showed camaraderie, raised funds and took pride in hosting the stall during the mela.



There are several more activities planned for this academic year. Course work includes learning *Atchutham Kesavam*, *Aarthi Mantram*, *Kshama Prathana*, *Hanuman Chalisa*, *Mantra Pushpam*, *Hiyagreeva Mantram*, *Purusha Suktam*, *Shiva Panchakshara Stotram* and *Lakshmi Ashtakam*.

APEX L.L.C.
TAXATION & ACCOUNTING SERVICES

Krishna Dave

KANSAS CITY OFFICE
7180 W 107TH STR, SUITE 2
OVERLAND PARK, KS 66212
913-649-7400/785-608-9876

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P.O. BOX 4070
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785-273-7191

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Compliance Audit & much more....

HTCC of KC Priest's Travel Form

Date:

Dear Devotee:

Please check applicable item, sign and return this form to Priest upon completion of the scheduled puja services at your home.

- Priest was picked up from the Temple/home at
..... a.m. /p.m. and was dropped off at
..... a.m. /p.m. at the temple/home.
- Priest drove to my home in his car for puja and we paid
mileage @\$0.51 per mile
- We arranged for a taxi for the priest and paid the taxi
charges

Name:

Address:

Hindu Rituals and Routines

Why do we ring the bell in a temple?

Is it to wake up the Lord? But the Lord never sleeps. Is it to let the Lord know we have come? He does not need to be told, as He is all knowing. The ringing of the bell produces what is regarded as an auspicious sound. It produces the sound *Om*, the universal name of the Lord. There should be auspiciousness within and without, to gain the vision of the Lord who is all-auspiciousness.

Why do we apply the holy ash?

The ash of any burnt object is not regarded as holy ash. Bhasma (the holy ash) is the ash from the homa (sacrificial fire) where special wood along with ghee and other herbs is offered as worship of the Lord. Or the deity is worshipped by pouring ash as abhisheka and is then distributed as bhasma. The word bhasma means, "that by which our sins are destroyed and the Lord is remembered". *Bha* implied *bhartsanam* ("to destroy") and *sma* implies *smaranam* ("to remember"). The application of bhasma therefore signifies destruction of the evil and remembrance of the divine. Bhasma is called *vibhuti* (which means "glory") as it gives glory to one who applies it and *raksha* (which means a source of protection) as it protects the wearer from ill health and evil, by purifying him or her.

Why do we do pradakshina (circumambulate)?

We cannot draw a circle without a center point. The Lord is the center, source and essence of our lives. Recognizing Him as the focal point in our lives, we go about doing our daily chores. This is the significance of *pradakshina*. Also every point on the circumference of a circle is equidistant from the center. This means that wherever or whoever we may be, we are equally close to the Lord. His grace flows towards us without partiality.

Sunday Lunch Guidelines:

1. Prepare 4 items for 100 People.
2. At least 4 of your family and friends would be needed in the Kitchen to help for Sunday Lunch Program. Temple will provide one helper to assist you.
3. Kitchen is available to use as early as 9 am. Sunday lunch times are 10.30am - 1.30pm.
4. Try to cook most of the items in the Temple Kitchen. But you can prepare some items at home and bring it to temple also.
5. If you want to cancel your Sunday lunch, arrange with some one in your family and friends or tell us at least 2 week in advance.



For Sign up call manager or send email to Prasad@htccofkc.org.



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HTCC Carnatic Group presents Prof. Nagamani Concert.

Sunday, November 13th was a special day for the Carnatic Music enthusiasts of Kansas City. On that day, for the first time, HTCC Carnatic Group presented fine Carnatic vocal music by Prof. Mysore Nagamani Srinath. She was vocally supported by Smt. Seema Kasthuri of St Louis, MO and accompanied on violin by Sri. Shiv Sankalp of Columbia, MO and mridangam by Sri. Shivananda Narasimhamurthy of Overland Park, KS.

Prof. Nagamani Srinath is a highly acclaimed musician, musicologist, composer and author who was trained in the traditional "Gurukula system" under Late Sri. Ramnad Krishnan in Chennai, India. Prof. Nagamani has composed more than 200 compositions such as varnams, tillanas and kritis in rare and difficult ragas in Kannada, Telugu, Tamil, and Sanskrit.

With the younger listeners in mind, Prof. Nagamani started the concert with a varnam in the raga Mohanam. Then she captivated the audience with compositions in Sriranjini, Vasantha Bhairavi and Lathangi. Sensing the pulse of the audience from moment to moment, Prof. Nagamani built up the concert to a raga of popular appeal. The inspired yet methodical exposition of Hindolam (=Malkauns) was preamble for an elaborate rendition of Papanasam Sivan's composition "Sama gana lolane" with scintillating chittaswaram, niraval and kalpanaswaram. Shiv Sankalp's violin accompaniment and "Thani" in Adi thalam by Sivananda were excellent. She followed this with other compositions including "Krishna Nee Begane" in Yaman Kalyani and concluded with "Kondal Vannanai" Virutham in Ragamalika.

The priests presented the artists with bouquet of flowers, angavasthram and nominal sambhavana. Dr Latha Venkatesh delivered the vote of thanks on behalf of HTCC Carnatic Group.

HTCC Carnatic Group was formed as an affiliate of HTCC Art Institute (HAI) by committed volunteers to promote and present Indian Classical Music, especially Carnatic Music. HTCC Carnatic Group Executive Committee for 2011 comprises the following individuals: Latha Venkatesh, Shyamala Krishna, Hema Sharma, Nirmala Muralidharan, Jyoti Tata, Srinu Baghavan, Sreekumar Nair and Bhaskar Krishnamurthy.

Carnatic Group relies on its members and sponsors to make a program successful. We encourage you to become member of HTCC Carnatic Group to promote quality programs and avail concessions. Please write to carnaticcc@htccofkc.org for membership and regarding your wish-list and suggestions.

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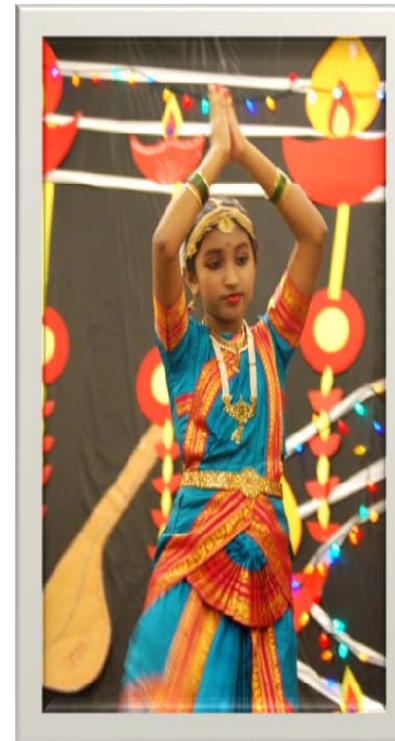
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Heartland ADL Holds 27th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving at the Hindu Temple & Cultural Center – November 20, 2011

by Rev. Dr. Kara Hawkins

The Heartland Chapter of the Alliance of Divine Love (ADL) held the 27th *Annual Sunday Thanksgiving Interfaith Ritual Dinner* at the Hindu Temple and Cultural Center (HTCC) in



Shawnee, Kansas, November 20, 2011. The Dinner was the Heartland's 2nd Interfaith Thanksgiving event having been selected in 2009 to continue the dinner by its creator, The Reverend Dr. Vern Barnet of the CRES Foundation (Center for Religious Education and Study) after he had hosted it for 25 years. The Heartland's first dinner in 2010 was co-hosted by Johnson County Community College's Office of International education and its Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, partnering with other multi-faith and multi-cultural organizations in the greater Kansas City community.

Srini Bhagavan, President of the HTCC, welcomed all to the annual interfaith dinner and introduced the Hindu

Priests to bless our gathering. The Rev. Dr. Kara Hawkins and Rev. Mary McCoy led the Thanksgiving Convocation, conducted in form much like a Jewish Seder; commemorating the Pilgrim's exodus from religious tyranny, their early contact with the Eastern Woodland Wampanoag's, and their first Thanksgiving together, with narrative, songs, prayers, readings and feasting. Over 18 faith groups offered Words of Gratitude for the occasion; and multi-faith youth and adults participated in a studio reading of the ritual on stage. To honor the religious traditions of the Hindu people, only vegetarian

food was served; the first vegetarian Interfaith Thanksgiving in 27 years! Earlier in the day the Hindu Temple had offered tours of the Temple for the community.

One of the highlights of the Thanksgiving Dinner is to honor one who has been an active and visible interfaith presence throughout the community. The Heartland ADL was proud to present its second *Vern Barnet Interfaith Service Award* to Barb McAtee. Ms. McAtee among her many life-long interfaith contributions, serves as the Baha'i member of the Greater Kansas City Interfaith Council, as well as its Secretary and is a Director of Cultural Crossroads, a multicultural educational organization for children and their families.

The Hindu Temple recognized four members for their significant interfaith work and for representing the Hindu Faith in the Greater Kansas City community: Anand Bhattacharya, Arvind Khetia, Kris Krishna, and Deb Bhaduri.

Hema Sharma, Director of the Nritya Dancers, introduced her dancers, who performed the *Bharatnatyam*, one of the seven classical dance forms of India, at the event's conclusion.



Honoree Barb McAtee and Rev. Dr. Vern Barnet

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Sunday, November 13th was a special day for the Carnatic Music enthusiasts of Kansas City. On that day, for the first time, HTCC Carnatic Group presented fine Carnatic vocal music by Prof. Mysore Nagamani Srinath. She was vocally supported by Smt. Seema Kasthuri of St Louis, MO and accompanied on violin by Sri. Shiv Sankalp of Columbia, MO and mridangam by Sri. Shivananda Narasimhamurthy of Overland Park, KS.

Prof. Nagamani Srinath is a highly acclaimed musician, musicologist, composer and author who was trained in the traditional "Gurukula system" under Late Sri. Ramnad Krishnan in Chennai, India. Prof. Nagamani has composed more than 200 compositions such as varnams, tillanas and kritis in rare and difficult ragas in Kannada, Telugu, Tamil, and Sanskrit.

With the younger listeners in mind, Prof. Nagamani started the concert with a varnam in the raga Mohanam. Then she captivated the audience with compositions in Sriranjini, Vasantha Bhairavi and Lathangi. Sensing the pulse of the audience from moment to moment, Prof. Nagamani built up the concert to a raga of popular appeal. The inspired yet methodical exposition of Hindolam (=Malkauns) was preamble for an elaborate rendition of Papanasam Sivan's composition "Sama gana lolane" with scintillating chittaswaram, niraval and kalpanaswaram. Shiv Sankalp's violin accompaniment and "Thani" in Adi thalam by Sivananda were excellent. She followed this with other compositions including "Krishna Nee Begane" in Yaman Kalyani and concluded with "Kondal Vannanai" Virutham in Ragamalika.

The priests presented the artists with bouquet of flowers, angavasthram and nominal sambhavana. Dr Latha Venkatesh delivered the vote of thanks on behalf of HTCC Carnatic Group.

HTCC Carnatic Group was formed as an affiliate of HTCC Art Institute (HAI) by committed volunteers to promote and present Indian Classical Music, especially Carnatic Music. HTCC Carnatic Group Executive Committee for 2011 comprises the following individuals: Latha Venkatesh, Shyamala Krishna, Hema Sharma, Nirmala Muralidharan, Jyoti Tata, Srini Baghavan, Sreekumar Nair and Bhaskar Krishnamurthy.

Carnatic Group relies on its members and sponsors to make a program successful. We encourage you to become member of HTCC Carnatic Group to promote quality programs and avail concessions. Please write to carnaticec@htccofkc.org for membership and regarding your wish-list and suggestions.

Winter Hours

- Winter hours, new aarti time in effect till DST starts in March
- Temple Closure will follow Shawnee mission school district
- No Vaahan pooja after 6:30 PM

New Year Samoohik Satyanarayan Puja

5:00pm to 6:00pm - Bhajans and Kirtans
6:00pm to 7:30pm - Samoohik Satyanarayan Puja
7:30pm - Aarati

Archana \$5 - all day
Samoohik Satyanarayan Puja \$11

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**Do you have feedback to share or comment, OR
even if you need help contact:**

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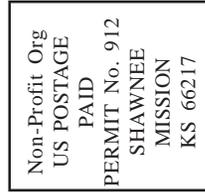
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