

THE TRISTATE HINDU TEMPLE AND CULTURAL CENTER



Bhagavad Gita

*avināśhi tu tadviddhi
yena sarvam idaṁ tatam
vināśham avyayasyāsyā
na kaśhchit kartum arhati*

SYNONYMS: avināśhi—indestructible; tu—indeed; tat—that; viddhi—know; yena—by whom; sarvam—entire; idam—this; tatam—pervaded; vināśham—destruction; avyayasya—of the imperishable; asya—of it; na kaśhchit—no one; kartum—to cause; arhati—is able

TRANSLATION: That which pervades the entire body, know it to be indestructible. No one can cause the destruction of the imperishable soul.

Festivals this month:

Pongal, Makara Sankranti: January 14, 2021

Pongal is a Hindu festival which is observed by people of Tamil Nadu. Pongal is a four day festival and the most important day of Pongal is known as Thai Pongal. Thai Pongal which is the second day of the four days festivity is also celebrated as Sankranti. The same day is observed as Makar Sankranti in North Indian states when people take holy dip in river Ganges.



The day before Thai Pongal is known as Bogi Pandigai. On this day people clean their homes and light bonfires to discard unused items. In Punjab the same day is celebrated as Lohri by Sikh community.

Markara Sankranti is the day dedicated to the worship of Surya Devata - the day heralds the beginning of the season of increased light in the northern hemisphere. This journey of the sun, called uttarayana, is mirrored by the inner journey that takes place inside a human being, it symbolizes the prana-shakti moving upward within one's being, an inner uttarayana through the various chakras and toward the thousand petaled sahasrara. It is one of the few Indian holidays that is based on the solar cycle.



Panditji has been doing Puja and Aarti using Facebook live and we would like all devotees to join him in the functions. If you have not joined the temple email or whatsapp group, please join the group to stay up to date with temple activities and announcements. You can contact any of our committee members OR email tsht.newsletter@gmail.com to join.

[Join on Facebook live – Tristate Temple](#)

Please also see information in Whatsapp group on Guruma Ji's Geeta Satsang Live information on Saturdays on Zoom and Facebook Live platforms.



Did you know

- *Hinduism is the world's third largest religion with over 1.25 billion followers, 90% of the Hindus live in India*
- *The term was initially used for people living beyond the 'Sindhu' or Indus river. Gradually the distinction became primarily religious, rather than ethnic, geographic or cultural.*
- *Hinduism believes in a circular concept of time (rather than linear) - Time is divided into four ages/ yugas - Satya, Treta, Dwapara and Kali yugas*
- *Hinduism is the oldest religion in the world, dating back to 5000 – 10000 BCE. The Rig Veda is the oldest known book in the world.*
- *Hinduism has no founder or origin*
- *Have you wondered why several mantras are recited 108 times. 108 has a special place in Hinduism, maybe you can read about the many explanations. According to Vedic cosmology, 108 is the basis of creation, representing the universe and our existence. (108 Upanishads, diameter of Sun is 108 times of the Earth, distance from Moon is 108 times diameter of Moon, 108 marma points in Ayurveda .. and so on).*



Please renew Temple Membership 2021

Dear Temple Family,

This year, more than ever, the Temple needs your membership dues. As you all know, due to the ongoing pandemic, temple income has been less, and we need to meet expenses for maintenance of the temple and the new construction expenses.

The annual membership is 365 dollars per year and the Premium Membership is 1000 dollars.

You can make membership payments on our website OR mail your checks to Tristate Hindu Temple.

Regular Membership (365 dollars per year) offers:

- 1. Opportunity to participate in Temple committees**
- 2. Use Temple hall for ceremonies on priority basis**
- 3. Discounted member rates for priest services, priority over nonmembers in availability of priest for puja services.**
- 4. Opportunity for children to learn about their culture, religion and heritage (Sunday school, Summer Camps)**
- 5. Opportunity for children to perform on stage for various functions/festivals in a friendly supportive environment**
- 6. Opportunity to participate in decision making by voting in General Body Meetings**
- 7. Run for office for temple management**
- 8. Membership comes with one Temple Sponsored archana in the year for any special date/event.**
- 9. Above all, your membership helps maintain a beautiful, vibrant temple for you and family**

Annual Puja Membership (1000 dollars per year): In addition to above, premium membership includes sponsorship for several pujas and celebrations round the year, without having to pay the 51 dollar puja sponsorship each time.

Have suggestions for topics to be included in the newsletter? Please write to tsht.newsletter@gmail.com

This newsletter is a humble attempt to keep the community updated on the events and activities at the Tristate Hindu Temple and Cultural Center. We would like to hear your suggestions and comments.