



Dear Patrons , Members & Well-wishers,

Social distancing; telework while kids are home, managing the anxiety; last few days have been challenging in many ways. To make sure we respond positively, together, HGH continued to align with Hindu leaders, every week, getting updates on community, temple operations and proactively finding areas to help. Setting up prayer sessions to help heal the community, raising funds to the tune of \$100,000 to help SEWA International, pulling together Yoga experts, cardiologists, mental health professionals to help the community in coping with stress and build up immunity, **HGH is right here with you.** [Read More...](#)

Many states begin to reopen, including Texas, and a new set of questions we have started asking ourselves. When would temples open? When can I visit a mall? How about visit to a close family friend? A sit-down restaurant meal? & before we even realize, our commitment to social distancing can start eroding. As experts say "Reopening does not equate to getting everything back to normal and we can't pretend that the virus has gone away".

HGH urges the community members to use best of their judgement, while adapting to the new normal.

[COVID-19 Texas Page](#) | [Texas COVID-19 Test Collection Sites Map](#) | [SEWA International Non-Medical COVID-19 helplines](#) | **Houston** (281) 909-7392 , **San Antonio** (210) 595-0717

In the month of "Vaisakha", among others, we have celebrated "Harvest arrival (Pôhela Boishak, Vaisakhi)", as well as many "Jayantis (Birthdays) of the greats we worship & draw inspirations from (Buddha Purnima; Narasimha Jayanti, Adi Shankara Jayanti; Vaikasi Vishakam as Lord Murugan's birthday)". Further, while celebrating festivals from **current month of "Jyeshtha"**, it's worthwhile to take a pause, reflect on the spirit behind the rituals & note how Hindu way of living life, being in unison with nature, has remained so sustainable over the ages.

Ganga Dussehra - 10th day of waxing moon, marks Ganga avatarana to earth. *(Celebrate Rivers)*

Vat Purnima - 15th day, Women pray to a banyan tree, tying threads *(Celebrate Trees)*

Nirjala Ekadashi - 11th day, the most sacred Ekadashis among all 24 *(Celebrate fasting / well-being)*

HGH extends **season's best wishes to you & your families.**

Hindus of Houston in Transition (HHIT) : An HGH initiative for all affected by job transition, in Greater Houston area, due to current macro situation. A series of programs, include weekly seminars on job search, networking sessions, etc., are being launched to assist individuals in transition. More to follow. For now, we are looking for volunteers who: **1) Be a part of core group, helping connect his organization's hiring needs with HHIT. 2) Be a mentor, providing advice, guidance, and feedback; share their experience and expertise as appropriate; act as a sounding board for ideas and action plans.**

To contribute, please send a note to **Ramesh Anand** at rhappy@gmail.com or call **832-731-6133**.

Hindu Heritage Youth Camp (HHYC) : What it means to be a Hindu? How do we inspire the younger generation by teaching them the rich values and ideas of their heritage? This was the simple idea with which the first Hindu Heritage Youth Camp (HHYC) started in 1985. Since then, every year, HHYC takes place over two 5 day sessions, divided by age, led by young HHYC counselors, many of whom are former campers.

For 2020 HHYC, team is actively monitoring the COVID-19 situation and exploring the possibility of having an outdoor camp. Also in consideration, the idea of having virtual camp and accordingly feedback from parents' group is being sought. Update to follow shortly at [HHYC Webpage](#).

HGH sends "Condemnation Letter" to "Home Ministry of India" and "Home Ministry of Maharashtra State" demanding swift action on recent "Hindu Sadhus Mob lynching": On 16-Apr'20, near Mumbai, India, two Hindu sadhus (Sri Sushil Giri, Sri Kalpvriksh Giri), along with their driver (Nilesh Telgane) were attacked & brutally lynched to death by an organized mob. [Read More 1. 2.](#) Sadhus are not for one community. They are there for all, for lok kalyan, for serving humanity.

HGH condemns this unfortunate event & expects that all the guilty would be punished to the fullest extent of the law, bringing justice to the grieving community.

Interfaith Ministry Houston Tapestry Gala: This year, took place on 30-Apr'20. Like other events in town, this was a virtual one with people joining from home, supporting bringing diverse faith traditions together for dialogue, collaboration, and service. [Read More...](#)

We are together. COVID-19 Update:

- **Blood Drive:** HGH, along with Arya Samaj, is hosting the blood drive on **31-May'20, SUN 9:00 am to 1:30 pm at 14375 Schiller Rd**. The Houston Blood Bank needs blood and platelet donors In these times of crisis, and we are fortunate to witness the best of humanity come together to roll up a

sleeve. Wear Face Masks or one will be provided. Call **Gaythri Kapoor** 713-791-7723 or [register here](#)

- **Arya Samaj Food Distribution Program:** Provides a pack of vegetarian food and grocery items for free. Open to everyone, first come first served while the supplies last, **Every Sunday afternoon 12:00-1:00 pm, 3rd May onwards, at 14375 Schiller Rd.** All the applicable protocols related to the current pandemic will be strictly adhered to. The driver to enter through the entrance gate and follow directions, open its car trunk while remaining inside, and a volunteer will put the food stuff in the trunk and close the cover. Then the car can be driven away. 2-4 masks for every family are added in the food-grocery pack.
- **SEWA International** is at the forefront, helping community during Covid-19. **To Volunteer.** please [register here](#). **To Donate,** please visit the [LINK](#).
- **VPSS Mask Drive:** VPSS has taken on a project to distribute 5000 to 10000 masks in the Houston area. If you'd like to contribute please visit the [LINK](#).
- **BAPS Charities** Supports Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital with \$5,000 and hot snacks for healthcare providers. [Read More...](#)

Temple Events Update, Links:

- **Houston Durgabari Society** classes are online now. | [Kalabhavan Classes](#) | [Bangla School](#)
- **Arya Samaj of Greater Houston (ASGH)** | **Sandhyaa & Havan** SUN 10:00 AM CST [Zoom Link](#) Meeting ID: 692 403 389 | **Pravachan** SUN 11:00 AM CST [Zoom Link](#) Meeting ID: 242 421 974 |
- **Patanjali Yogpeeth (PYP)** , **USA Yoga sessions** Every SAT & SUN from 8:00 AM to 9:30 AM CST and every TUE & THU from 5:15 PM to 6:15 PM CST through [Face Book LIVE Link](#)
- **Brahma Kumaris Raja Yoga Meditation Center** has resumed in-person courses and visiting hours at the center. Limit 6 persons per course. Email info@bktexas.com to find out COVID-19 requirements for attending.
- **BAPS Shayona** is open for online ordering and curbside pick up THU through SUN, 3pm to 5pm. Visit [here](#).

HGH is committed to bring Hindus together and with this newsletter aims to bring you the info/services from various temples and organizations in greater Houston area, at one place. If you have a story, event info, links, you find useful for the broader community, please write to us at info@hindusofhouston.org. Let's pray almighty to give us strength and blessings, steering through these times.

Abhayaṃ mitrā-dabhaya-mamitrā-dabhayaṃ jñātā-dabhayaṃ paroḁṣāt.

Abhayaṃ nakta-mabhayaṃ divā naḥ sarvā āśā mama mitraṃ bhavantu. Atharva Veda.19.15.6

May there be no fear from a friend; no fear from a foe, no fear from one known to us, no fear from the unknown one. May there be no fear at night, no fear in the day for us. May all regions be friendly to me.

ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः ॥

Best Wishes,

HGH Board



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