



Sri Lakshmi Temple

117 Waverly Street, Ashland, MA 01721
Phone: 508-881-5775, www.SriLakshmi.org



Newsletter and Calendar

January, February, March 2014

President's Message

Dear SLT devotees and NEHTI members,
Namaste.

On behalf of NEHTI, I wish you all a very happy and prosperous 2014. On behalf of the Sri Lakshmi Temple and the trustees, we would like to thank you for your contributions and support. We appreciate your donations and hope that you will continue to extend your generous support during this holiday season. Through your contributions, you are helping to sustain our place of worship for the Hindu community and building an enduring legacy for our youth and future generations.

We would like to thank the priests, staff, tireless and passionate volunteers and the Temple Operations Committee in making this year's festivals, pujas and events a grand success. We celebrated various events like Ganesh Chaturthi, Purattasi Saturdays, Navaratri, Diwali and various functions throughout the year. All of these events were enjoyed by an overwhelming group of devotees. This year our temple community graciously welcomed and supported our new priest Sri Sivaraman and religious cook Sri Sairam who proved to be a great addition to our existing team. We are happy to experience an increased interest from our devotees in volunteering with various tasks.

Our temple was inspected by the Ashland Town Inspectors based on a complaint from a current trustee and found only to have non-critical violations. We will be fixing these immediately. I wish that this trustee brings this to us before bringing the town officials. I am sure our NEHTI board will handle this in an appropriate manner.

You may have noticed that the focus for this year so far is to spruce up the existing infrastructure. This includes various maintenance activities and much needed repairs and renovations. This includes expensive maintenance performed on our buildings including the main mahamantapam. You will see some repair work done on the main roof, heating systems and painting the interior. We seek your help and cooperation in accomplishing these tasks.

You may have utilized the newly reclaimed space for parking during major functions. This was due to the clearing of our landscape/ledges near our parking lot to make room for the expansion. Our expansion activities came to a sudden halt as we were exiting the design phase with the contractor declaring bankruptcy and we are re-grouping while dealing with various procedural issues and road-blocks. The good news is that we secured utility easements from our neighbors for our public sewer connection to replace our septic system. We are praying to Sri Lakshmi that this expansion will be restarted in the near future as planned.

Please support your temple generously so that we can serve your family's religious needs with enhanced facilities and services.

May the blessings of Sri Maha Lakshmi be always with you and your family!

Sincerely,

Ranjini Ramaswamy

President

Margazhi – Danur Masam

Margazhi (Tamil)—Maga shirsha (Hindi) corresponding to mid-December-mid-January--is the coolest month in the country, and is dedicated to devotional activities. The early morning air in South India reverberates to the sound of music and chants wafting through the air. Lord Krishna says in the Bagavad Gita, where he lists the best of everything where he resides, that he prefers Margazhi among the 12 months. This month is dedicated to spiritual activities. Bhajans are sung and sacred texts recited. Elaborate kolams (decorations) with yellow marigolds on top of a dollop of cowdung catch the eyes in front of homes. Procession of the deity is taken out early in the morning. Brahma Muhurtham (4 a.m. to 6 a.m.) is considered a good time to perform puja. Throughout Margazhi month, the Brahma Muhurtham is especially dedicated to the Devas. Tiruppavai and Thiruvempavai are rendered in the early morning in all temples and houses.

In many temples, the Adhyayana Utsavam is held for 21 days. Recitation of the first 1000 verses of Tiruvaimozhi by Nammalwar--the most important part of the 4000 Divya Prabandam Pasurams in honour of Lord Narayana--takes place during the 10 days prior to Vaikuntha Ekadasi. This period is known as Pahal Pathu. Starting from Vaikuntha Ekadasi, for the next ten days, the remaining 3,000 verses of the Divya Prabandham are recited. This period is known as Rapathu.

Ekadasi is the eleventh day (occurring twice) in the Hindu lunar calendar. The significance of Vaikuntha Ekadasi falling in the month of Margazhi is talked about in the Padma Purana. The Purana tells of Lord Vishnu taking the form of Ekadasi--female energy--to kill the demon, Muran, in the month of Margazhi. Impressed by Ekadasi, Lord Vishnu gave her the blessing that whoever worshipped him on this day would reach Vaikuntha, his heavenly abode.

Vaikuntha Ekadasi is celebrated in the early hours of the tenth day of the Adhyayana Utsavam. Symbolically, the Svargavasal--the doors to the heavens (a specially designated doorway in every temple)--are opened in all temples and throngs of people wait in the early hours of the morning to enter the gates.

As on all Ekadasi days, devotees fast and stay awake the whole night, engaged in meditation, prayers and singing Hari Kirtanam. Rice is not eaten on the ekadasi day. The belief is that the demon, Mura, finds refuge in the rice eaten on Ekadasi.

Saint Andal's 30-versed composition Thiruppaavai, is recited. One verse is chanted everyday of Margazhi. The final two verses are also chanted in most temples every day.

Religion, spirituality and the Bhakti margam are used to promote good health and community activities in the cold months, when people tend to become lazy because of the cold weather. Hence the encouragement of early rising and visit to temples.

Other important festivals in this holy month are Arudra Darshan (12/18) Hanumanta Jayanti and the culmination of the pilgrimage to Sabarimala. Margazhi also denotes the music season, especially in Chennai. After a month spent in prayer, religious activities and music, a new dawn comes in the form of the month Thai and Pongal, launching an auspicious period... Thai Piranthal Vazhi Pirakkum; i.e., with the beginning of the month of Thai, a period of prosperity and good tidings will commence.

Taken from <http://www.Tattvaloka.com>

Dhanur Masa Puja Schedule from December 16-January 14

Suprabatham starts 5:45 AM ♦ Thiruppavai starts 6:15 AM ♦ Thiruvempavai Utsavam starts 6 AM

Regular Puja Services

Temple Hours

Weekdays: Morning: 9am – 12 noon,
Evening: 5:30 – 9pm

Saturday, Sunday & Holidays: 9am – 9pm

Regular Puja Services

Daily: 8:15p Sri Lakshmi Arati, 8:45p Ekanta Seva
Every

Monday - Rudra Abhishekam 6 : 30 -8pm

Tuesday - Sri Lalitha Sahasranamam 7-8pm

Friday - Sri Mahalakshmi Abhishekam 9:30-11am,
Sri Mahalakshmi Sahasranama Archana 8pm

Saturday - Sri Venkateswara Abhishekam 8:30-11a

Sunday - Sri Vishnu Sahasranama Parayanam 6pm

1st Saturday - Ayyappa Abhishekam 6-8pm

1st Sunday - Sri Sukta Homam 9:30-11am

2nd Friday - Sri Mahalakshmi Utsavam 7-8pm

Please Note:

Program times/dates are subject to change due to weather or other factors. Please check the Temple website www.SriLakshmi.org for detailed AM/PM event information and for the latest schedule, or call the Temple front-desk at 508-881-5775.



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Return Service Requested



Some of our volunteers on Ganesh Chaturthi day

Pradosham - Rudra Abhishekam 6:30-8p

Sukla Sashti - Sri Murugar Abhishekam 6:30-7:30p

Sukla Chaturthi - Ganesha Abhishekam 6:30-7:30p

Sankatahara Chaturthi - Ganesha Abhishekam 6:30-8p

Punarvasu - Sri Rama Abhishekam 10-11a

Swathi - Sri Garuda Abhishekam & Sri Narasimhar Abhishekam 10-11a

Pournami - Samootha SatyaNarayana Puja, Weekdays 6:30-8p, Weekends/Holidays 3- 6p

Sukla Ekadasi - Sri Venkateswara Utsavam 10-11a

Sravanam - Sri Lakshmi Venkateswara Utsavar Abhishekam 10-11a

Amavasya - Sri Hanuman Abhishekam 6-7:30p

Call for Volunteers

We need dedicated volunteers for making garlands, managing the temple floor and for the front office. If you can volunteer some time to serve Sri Lakshmi Temple and our community, please email your contact info and availability to

volunteer@srilakshmi.org

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Events Calendar

2014 January

Important Functions	
New Year Celebrations	1/1/2014 Wed
Vaikunta Ekadesi	1/11/2014 Sat
Ayyappa Mandala Puja – Finale	1/12/2014 Sun
Makara Sankaranthi	1/14/2014 Tue
Maha Sivaratri	2/27/2014 Thu
Ugadi	3/31/2014 Mon

DANUR MASA PUJA - Dec 16 - Jan 14	
Dhanur Masa Puja – Suprabatham	5:45 AM
Dhanur Masa Puja – Tiruppavai	6:15 AM - 7:00 AM
Thiruvempavai Utsavam 6-6:30	6:00 AM - 6:30 AM

Adyayana Utsavam Jan 1 - Jan 21	
Jan 1 - Jan 10 Pagal Pathu Utsavam	7:00 AM - 8:00 AM
Jan 11 - Jan 20 Raa Pathu Utsavam	7:00 AM - 8:00 AM



Thai Fridays Jan 17, 24, 31, Feb 7	
Thai Velli - Sri Lalitha Thrisathi for Sivakami	5:30 PM - 7:00 PM
Thai Velli - Unjal Uthsavam for Srilakshmi	7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Maha Sivaratri Feb 27 Thursday	
Maha Rudra Yagnam (Feb 19-27 morning)	10:00AM-12:00PM
Maha Rudra Yagnam (Feb 19-27 evening)	6:30PM-8:30PM

Sathyanarayana Puja	
1/15 Wed Pournami - Sathyanarayana Puja	6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
2/14 Fri Pournami - Sathyanarayana Puja	6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
3/16 Sun Pournami - Sathyanarayana Puja	3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Hanuman Abishekam (Amavasya)	
1/1 Wed Sri Hanuman Abishekam	7:30 AM - 9:30 AM
1/30 Thu Thai Amavasya Hanuman Abishekam	6:00 PM - 7:30PM
3/1 Sat Sri Hanuman Abhishekam	4:30 PM - 6:00 PM
3/30 Sun Hanuman Abishekam	6:30 - 8 pm

Jan	Dy	Starts	Event
1	We		NEW YEARS DAY (Temple open from 9-9)
		7:30 AM	Amavasya - Hanumath Jayanthi Sri Hanuman Homam & Abhishekam
3	Fr	9:30 AM	Sri lakshmi Abhishekam
		10:00 AM	Sravanam - Sri Venkateswara Uthsavar Abhishekam
4	Sa	8:30 AM	Sri Venkateswara Abhishekam
		6:00 PM	Ayyappa Mandala Puja - Abhishekam Alankaram, Bhajan, Padippattu, Alankara Deeparadhana, Namaskaram (Lokaveeryam..), Harivarasanam, Annadhanam
		6:30 PM	Sukla Chaturthi - Ganesha Abhishekam
5	Su	9:30 AM	Sri Suktha Homam - Srilakshmi Abhishekam
6	Mo	6:30 PM	Shiva Abhishekam
		6:30 PM	Sukla Sashti - Sri Murugar Abhishekam
7	Tu	7:00 PM	Sri Lalitha Sahasranamam
10	Fr	9:30 AM	Sri lakshmi Abhishekam
11	Sa	5:00 AM	Vaikunta Ekadasi - Suprabatham
		5:30 AM	Vaikunta Ekadasi Dhanur Masa Puja - Tiruppavai Sorga Vasal opens 6:15AM
			Koodaravalli
			Thiruvempavai Utsavam 6-6:30
		8:30 AM	Sri Venkateswara Abhishekam
		6:30 PM	Ayyappa Mandala Puja Alankaram, Bhajan, Padippattu, Alankara Deeparadhana, Namaskaram (Lokaveeryam), Harivarasanam, Annadhanam
		8:00 PM	Vaikunta Ekadasi Uthsavam
12	Su		Vaikunta Dwadasi
		8:30 AM	Ayyappa Mandala Puja - Finale - Morning Program 8:30 AM-10:30 AM - Irrumudi Kattu 10:30 AM - 2 PM - Eve Prog 3:30 PM - 8:30 PM
13	Mo	6:00 PM	Pradosham - Shiva Abhishekam
		7:00 PM	Bogi - Godha Kalyanam
14	Tu	9:30 AM	Sri Lakshmi Abhishekam Utrayana Punya Kalam Pongal Makara Sankarandhi (Good Time after 4:30 PM)
		6:30 PM	Makara Jyothi Aarthi
		7:00 PM	Sri Lalitha Sahasranamam
15	We	10:30 AM	Kanu Uthsavam
		6:30 PM	Pournami - Sathyanarayana Puja
16	Th	10:00 AM	Punarvasu - Sri Ramar Abhishekam
		6:00 PM	Thai Poosam - Seshavahanam for Perumal
17	Fr	9:30 AM	Srilakshmi Abhishekam
		5:30 PM	Thai Velli - Sri Lalitha Thrisathi for Sivakami
		7:00 PM	Thai Velli - Unjal Uthsavam for Srilakshmi
		6:30 PM	Thai Poosam - Sri Murugar Abhishekam
18	Sa	8:30 AM	Sri Venkateswara Abhishekam
19	Su	6:30 PM	Sankatahara Chaturthi - Sri Ganesha Abhishekam
20	Mo	10:00 AM	Pooram - Andal Abhishekam
		6:30 PM	Shiva Abhishekam
21	Tu	7:00 PM	Sri Lalitha Sahasranamam
24	Fr	9:30 AM	Srilakshmi Abhishekam
		10:00 AM	Swathi - Sri Garuda Abhishekam
25	Sa	8:30 AM	Sri Venkateswara Abhishekam
27	Mo	6:30 PM	Shiva Abhishekam
28	Tu	7:00 PM	Sri Lalitha Sahasranamam
		6:30 PM	Pradosam - Rudra Abhishekam
30	Th	6:00 PM	Thai Amavasya - Hanuman Abhishekam
31	Fr	9:30 AM	Srilakshmi Abhishekam
		10:00 AM	Sravanam - Sri Venkateswara Uthsavar Abhishekam

February 2014 Events

Feb	Dy	Starts	Event
01	Sa	8:30 AM	Sri Venkateswara Abhishekam
		6:00 PM	Ayyappa Puja - Abhishekam, Bhajan and Aarthi
02	Su	9:30 AM	Sri Suktha Homam - Srilakshmi Abhishekam
03	Mo	6:30 PM	Sukla Chaturthi - Ganesha Abhishekam
		6:30 PM	Shiva Abhishekam
04	Tu	7:00 PM	Sri Lalitha Sahasranamam
05	We	6:30 PM	Sukla Sashti - Sri Murugar Abhishekam
06	Th	6:30 AM	Ratha Saphami - Aruna Parayanam
07	Fr	9:30 AM	Srilakshmi Abhishekam
		6:30 PM	Thai Kirthikai - Subramanya Abhishekam
		5:30 PM	Thai Velli - Sri Lalitha Thrisathi for Sivakami
		7:00 PM	Thai Velli - Unjal Uthsavam for Srilakshmi
08	Sa	8:30 AM	Sri Venkateswara Abhishekam
10	Mo	6:30 PM	Shiva Abhishekam
		8:00 PM	Ekadasai Uthsavam
11	Tu	7:00 PM	Sri Lalitha Sahasranamam
12	We	10:00 AM	Punarvasu - Sri Ramar Abhishekam
		6:30 PM	Pradosam - Rudra Abhishekam
13	Th	5:30 PM	Natarajar Abhishekam
14	Fr	9:30 AM	Srilakshmi Abhishekam
		6:30 PM	Pournami - Sathyantarayana Puja
15	Sa	8:30 AM	Sri Venkateswara Abhishekam
16	Su	10:00 AM	Pooram - Andal Abhishekam
17	Mo	6:30 PM	Shiva Abhishekam
18	Tu	10:00 AM	Maha Sankatahara Chaturthi Ganapathy Homam
		6:30 PM	Sankatahara Chaturthi - Sri Ganesha Abhishekam
		7:00 PM	Sri Lalitha Sahasranamam
21	Fr	9:30 AM	Srilakshmi Abhishekam
		10:00 AM	Swathi - Sri Garuda Abhishekam
22	Sa		Sri Venkateswara Abhishekam
25	Tu		Sri Lalitha Sahasranamam
27	Th	10:00 AM	Maha Sivaratri -Maha Rudra Yagnam
		10:00 AM	Sravanam - Sri Venkateswara Uthsavar Abhishekam
		6:30 PM	Pradosam - Rudra Abhishekam
		7:00 PM	Maha Sivaratri (7PM - 3AM Friday)
28	Fr	9:30 AM	Sri Lakshmi Abhishekam

Letter from a Devotee

Namaste! We would like to humbly introduce ourselves as devotees of Sri Lakshmi temple for almost 14 years. We also volunteer in various temple activities including the Front Desk, many special events such as Diwali, New Years day etc. We wanted to take a few moments to think how fortunate we are to have Sri Lakshmi Temple, so close to where we live. Having traveled half the way around the world to make a career and living in this country, we all are united by our religious leaning, found a common ground at our Temple. Sri Lakshmi Temple not only unites us by our faith, it also teaches our children (most of the next generation children are born in this Country) our roots and our heritage. We should thank the Founders of Sri Lakshmi Temple who did a great service to the Indian community living in the New England by building such a wonderful temple and we are enjoying the fruits of their dream, vision and hard work.

Sri Lakshmi Temple has come a long way, hosting a great number of Uthsavams including Brahmotsavam, Aadi pooram uthsavam, Purattasi, Margazhi month uthsavams, Ganesh Chaturthi, Ayyappa Pooja, Navarathiri celebrations & special events for many of our festivals Diwali, Pongal, New Year day etc. So many Youth Cultural and Educational programs are also conducted at our Temple. Couple of years back our Temple also has started distributing free prasadam to the devotees. We were at the temple on most of the important events in the last few years as devotees as well as volunteers and have personally witnessed several thousand visitors coming to the temple on the festival days. Temple administration has been doing a remarkable job of managing the crowd with the available resources, managing the maintenance of the temple and at the same time planning and executing temple expansion projects. While thanking the Founders, Priests, Staff, Volunteers, we also thank the Board members of SLT who have been doing a commendable job. We humbly request all the devotees of Sri Lakshmi Temple to support the Temple in every possible way and strengthen the hands of our Temple Board and Management. Our prayers to the Dhivya Dhampathi to continue to bless us all.

Balaji Raghavan & Jaishree Balaji

March 2014 Events

Mar	Dy	Starts	Event
01	Sa	8:30 AM	Sri Venkateswara Abhishekam
		4:30 PM	Amavasya - Sri Hanuman Abhishekam
		6:00 PM	Ayyappa Puja - Abhishekam, Bhajan and Aarthi
02	Su	9:30 AM	Sri Suktha Homam - Srilakshmi Abhishekam
03	Mo	6:30 PM	Shiva Abhishekam
04	Tu	6:30 PM	Sukla Chaturthi - Ganesha Abhishekam
		7:00 PM	Sri Lalitha Sahasranamam
06	Th	6:30 PM	Sukla Sashti - Sri Murugar Abhishekam
07	Fr	9:30 AM	Srilakshmi Abhishekam
08	Sa	8:30 AM	Sri Venkateswara Abhishekam
10	Mo	6:30 PM	Shiva Abhishekam
11	Tu	10:00 AM	Punarvasu - Sri Ramar Abhishekam
		7:00 PM	Sri Lalitha Sahasranamam
12	We	8:00 PM	Ekadasai Uthsavam
14	Fr	9:30 AM	Srilakshmi Abhishekam
		6:30 PM	Pradosam - Rudra Abhishekam
			Karadayan Nonbu (Good time 10:00 PM To 10:20PM)
15	Sa	8:30 AM	Sri Venkateswara Abhishekam
16	Su	10:00 AM	Pooram - Andal Abhishekam
		3:00 PM	Pournami - Sathyantarayana Puja
17	Mo	6:30 PM	Shiva Abhishekam
18	Tu	7:00 PM	Sri Lalitha Sahasranamam
20	Th	10:00 AM	Swathi - Sri Garuda Abhishekam
		6:30 PM	Sankatahara Chaturthi - Sri Ganesha Abhishekam
21	Fr	9:30 AM	Srilakshmi Abhishekam
22	Sa	8:30 AM	Sri Venkateswara Abhishekam
24	Mo	6:30 PM	Shiva Abhishekam
25	Tu	7:00 PM	Sri Lalitha Sahasranamam
26	We	10:00 AM	Sravanam - Sri Venkateswara Uthsavar Abhishekam
28	Fr	9:30 AM	Srilakshmi Abhishekam
		6:30 PM	Pradosam - Rudra Abhishekam
29	Sa	8:30 AM	Sri Venkateswara Abhishekam
30	Su	6:30 PM	Amavasya - Sri Hanuman Abhishekam
31	Mo	9:30 AM	Ugadhi Lunar New Years Day Sri Lakshmi Moolavar Abhishekam Sri Venkateswara Uthsavar Abhishekam
		6:30 PM	Vasanth Navarathri
		6:30 PM	Shiva Abhishekam
		7:30 PM	Sundarakanda Parayanam

Notable quotes from our devotees

- Sri Laxmi Temple Management has strived to do their best, hence delivering excellent results that future younger generations will cherish and work for greater uplift of Temple activities
- ...Your Temple is maintained well. Congratulations..
- Please bring back Ladoos back. Really miss them
- Prasadam was so good and
- Nice initiative by putting mats @ the entrance, Very much needed for the Winter
- It would be better if we impose a proper "dress code" for visiting the temple...

Please check our website, weather reports and local advisories during inclement weather regarding Temple Closing information. Please use your own judgment before venturing out and drive carefully!