



HINDU
SOCIETY OF
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

TURIYA MARGA

"Path to Consciousness"

The Newsletter of The Hindu Society of South Australia Inc.
3A Dwyer Road, Oaklands Park SA 5046



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Shri Ganesha Temple, 3A Dwyer Road, Oaklands Park, 5046

Oct 2020

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and Treasurer's Message
AGM Date and Agenda
Goodbye from your Editor

Executive Committee

2020

President:	Mrs Usha Rajagopalan	0412158334
V/President:	Dr Nitin Bhise	8276 1959
Secretary:	Mr Madhav Bhat	0429 698 198
Ass/Secretary and Editor:	Ms Ganga Sivanathan	0421 474 685
Treasurer:	Mr Siva Selvakulingam OAM	8338 4519

Members

Mr Shasith Janarthan	0403 405 740
Mr. R. Thiyagarajah	0417 809 452
Dr Swapna Sengupta	8379 5945

Co-opted Members

Mr Subrahmanyam Kuppa	0403 582 253
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Chief Priest

Sri Skandarajah Kurukkal	8298 1278
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Assistant Priest

Sri Ashok Sharma	8358 3615
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Temple Phone Number	8358 4005
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Edited and published by Ganga Sivanathan for
the Hindu Society of South Australia Inc

Turiya, the Fourth State of Consciousness

Turiya is not that which is conscious of the inner (subjective) or outer (objective) worlds, nor that which is conscious of both, nor that which is a mass of consciousness.

It is not simple consciousness nor is it unconsciousness.

It is unperceived, unrelated, incomprehensible, uninferable, unthinkable and indescribable.

The essence of the Consciousness manifesting as the Self in the three states, It is the cessation of all phenomena.

It is all peace, all bliss and non-dual.

This is what is known as the Fourth (Turiya).

This is Atman and this has to be realised.

— — — Mandukya Upanishad VII

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Devotees,
Greetings to one and all dear members. May the blessings of our beloved Lord Siddhi Vinakaya be upon all of us.

Two important events have occurred over the last couple of months. First, the **Special General Meeting** with our members was successfully held at our Community Cultural Centre - the treasurer's report attached will provide you with all the details. Secondly, I am delighted to announce on behalf of the HSSA Committee that we **have repaid in full the loan/overdraft** raised to complete the Community Cultural Centre. The Hindu Society can proudly say that there is no debt outstanding. Once again thanks to all our devotees, generous members and the support of the State Government which has made this possible.

For the last six months our community has risen to the occasion and we are continuing to manage and implement the social distancing required to halt the spread of COVID-19. **A very big thanks** to you all for complying with the social distancing and other safety measures introduced at the Temple while at the same time continuing to visit and support the Temple. Your support has enabled us to celebrate the recent festivals of Janmashtami and Ganesh Chaturthi well. We hope you will continue to support the temple celebrate the up-coming Navrathri and Diwali festivals.

We request that you continue to **strictly follow the social distancing, hand sanitising and all other requirements** needed to keep our families and communities safe. We intend to review the situation in early November and announce changes if they are possible.

The advent of the Zoom era has enabled HSSA to stream the celebrations at the Temple on these occasions.

Continued overleaf.....



**President's Report continued**

We also introduced Zoom-based Vedic Chanting classes and lectures on Santana Dharma and many of our members are taking advantage of these. Sanskrit classes are also being held online following the success of the first batch of students. This has formed part of our Well Being plan for our members. During the **Navrathri period we are planning to stream the cultural program** so please connect via Zoom and participate.

We have recently launched a collection drive of non-perishable food items to **supporting our international students and new migrants** impacted due to job losses. We are very grateful to the overwhelming generous support from you - Thank you.

Wishing you all a joyous family celebration during the upcoming festivals, and invoking the blessings of Lord Ganesha upon all of our families & entire community.

Best wishes,

Usha Rajagopalan

**FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK**

Dear Members, Friends and Supporters,

We are living through a difficult and historic moment. We have played an important role keeping our community safe by observing the national social distancing protocol while maintaining our services to our members.

As many of you may remember our **Temple was closed from 23rd March to 11th May 2020** due to the COVID-19 restrictions. Community gatherings are an integral part of people's lives and the COVID-19 outbreak has been the most disruptive crisis we have seen in generations. As devotees were not allowed to come to the Temple during this period, we offered live video streaming of our services. Many of our local members and members from interstate were very pleased about this service and our priests have done an excellent job.

Our two priests and the Committee members also successfully completed the **prescribed COVID Marshal training**. The training module covers the fundamentals of infection prevention and control for COVID-19.

On Friday the 31st July we celebrated the **Varalakshmi Vrith** at the Temple under the current COVID-19 restrictions of 1 person per 2 sqm. It meant a limit of only 55 people sitting down and performing the puja at the Temple. Entry was allowed only to those who made advance booking. Fifty women participated in the celebration. Spouses of

**SHRI GANESHA TEMPLE
OPENING TIMES**

The Temple is **open** but adhering to COVID-19 social restrictions.

HOURS**Monday to Thursday & Saturday**

7.00-8.00 am; 6.00-8.00 pm

Friday

7.00-8.00 am; 6.00-9.00 pm

Sundays

8:00am-11.00am; 11:00am-1:00pm for

Vedanta Group, Hindu Seva, Private

Functions;

6.00-8.00 pm

**TEMPLE SERVICE CHARGES**

Archana: \$12.00

Milk Abhishekam: \$50.00

Panjamrita Abhishekam: \$100.00

Hawan & one Kumbham \$150.00

Printed service vouchers, each \$12.00, are available from the Priest, Siva Selva, and Nitin Bhise. Devotees are advised to consult the Chief Priest regarding charges for ceremonies such as marriage, house-warming, home puja etc. Pujas and Prayers can be streamed online.

participating women and their children were accommodated in the Community Cultural Centre which also had a limited capacity of 75 people. Only pre-packed food was served.

Ganesha Chaturthi was the next major festival that we celebrated under the COVID-19 restrictions, on 22 August. As it was a Saturday, we kept the Temple open for an extended period in the morning as well as in the evening. This helped to maintain the number of visitors to the Temple at any given time within the allowed limit and social distancing requirements.

Recently **two families have become HSSA Life Members**. I'm thrilled to introduce Mrs Prema Srinivasan and Mr Srirama Srinivasan, and Dr Seshu Krishna Boda and Dr Radha Dara as our new Life Members. I am excited to have the new life members on board and look forward to their contribution to our community. Please make them welcome to the Society.

This is a challenging situation for international students, who have lost their part-time jobs and finding it very difficult financially. The President took the initiative of delivering emergency relief to such those struggling. Thank you, all donors who have donated generously.

I would like to share a **story of a young lady** who met me recently while distributing the emergency food relief to international students.

Continued next page.....

Secretary's Report continued

She approached me to say that she too was standing in a queue to receive food support just two months ago. I asked whether she needed a food packet. She politely declined. Later, the young lady approached me to say she got a job in Melbourne and will be relocating soon and wanted to donate money to HSSA. She donated a substantial proportion of her fortnightly pay. Her story really touched my heart. She was a recipient of food donation from another organisation. That organisation itself received donations from other anonymous donors. She saw that we were helping the students without discriminating their nationality, religion or beliefs and she decided to express her appreciation by donating to the Hindu Society.

Madhava Bhat
Secretary



Temple Closed



Streaming prayers and puja directly into people's homes during COVID-19 lockdown - even interstate and overseas.

Sanskrit Classes

Sanskrit classes are being conducted by a local Sanskrit teacher Srirama Srinivasan who has been teaching Sanskrit to members and children in the community who have an interest in this ancient language. One group of students have already completed the programme and the second group is currently underway.

Vedic Chanting Classes

Likewise, Vedic Chanting classes have been held via zoom, with participants practicing chants and learning new ones each week. Our local teacher is Raghuram Ramachandran. The classes have had an excellent emphasis on correct pronunciation. The class will be chanting in the Temple during Navrathri, on 23rd October at 6:30pm.

Readers may please note

The views and other contents published in this newsletter are either accessed from different sources or are provided by many individuals and groups. The Editor takes no responsibility for any errors, omissions or the contents published in this newsletter, although constructive suggestions to improve the quality of the Newsletter are most welcome.

Contributions are most welcome. Please provide them to the Temple President or email the editor at editor@shriganeshatempleadelaide.com.au.

THE TREASURER'S REPORT

Dear members,
HARI OM NAMASIVAYA

Our 33rd AGM held in November last year saw a dramatic change with a decision to have the last three years accounts audited by a registered auditor. In view of the Community Cultural Centre (CCC) building costs, the 3 years annual turnover was averaging over \$400,000. Our accountant was not present at the meeting to confirm whether we needed a registered auditor or just an independent auditor. However, we supported the motion for a registered auditor.

We produced accounts for the three years as well as a separate file covering all of the invoices paid by cheque only for the Community Cultural Centre project. Usha and myself spent at least 50 hours each answering their questions and requests for further documents. Our accountant Ramaiah also joined us at various meetings with the auditors.

In the end the auditors did not find any misappropriation of funds. They were quite impressed with how all the invoices for the CCC were maintained and provided.

The auditors also gave us some valuable advice, some of which we have already introduced from January 2019. We are in the process of implementing all of the recommendations of the auditors and have introduced some additional checks while counting/accounting for of the Hundi collection and Archana payments.

The other recommendations made were regarding the need to introduce an asset register incorporating value of assets, providing employment contracts for the Priests, and provision for long service leave for the Priests: These are already in progress and will be completed for the HSSA 2021 AGM meeting.

Now, turning to the Special General Meeting held last month. We first of all circulated the auditor's report to all members and invited them to submit questions on the reports before the meeting. This allowed the Committee sufficient time to review the questions and prepare answers. Seven members sent their questions and raised some concerns. It was an incredibly stressful time to get the answers ready for all the questions by the time of the SGM. Some of the questions were raised by more than one member.

I must say, our President did an excellent job, answering calmly all the questions, at times referring to the auditors who were present for part of the meeting. She also gave me a time slot to say a few words.

What I said was that the payments made to the priests from the Archana cash collections of 40%:20% has been stopped. We no longer make cash payments even to Handymen which we used to after obtaining a "Received with Thanks" receipt. In fact, we only make payments against tax invoices after approval by the President and only online payments done jointly by the Secretary and the Treasurer.

Now our bookkeeping is being done by our Committee member Rajah Thiyagarajah.

Motion of appointment of independent auditor: The motion towards appointing an independent auditor was passed in the SGM. However, in this meeting the auditor's report was passed and selection of the independent auditor referred to the Committee. The Committee has since appointed Mr. Lakshman Mehra as the HSSA Auditor 2019-2020.

Please be assured not a single payment was done in the past without a tax invoice or "Received with thanks" receipt.

I'd like to finish with some exciting news, which the President has already shared in her report. In contrary to our Auditors recommendations we have just **paid in full the loan of \$50,000 and the overdraft of \$70,000 is now closed**. Thank you for your continued support in these difficult times.

GOD BLESS YOU ALL! **Siva Selva OAM, Treasurer**



FUNCTION VENUE FOR HIRE

Our beautiful new Community Cultural Centre can be hired for Weddings, Family Events, Community Functions, Classes and other Events.

For more information, contact the Hindu Society SA President or our Priest. Contact details are on the front page.



Recently the family and friends of one of our devotees came for prayers after her passing, and planted 2 rose bushes in the garden. She was a great supporter of the Temple and HSSA and left a donation in her will.



The response from devotees in providing food for those in need was immediate and generous. Thank you so much. Our recipients were overwhelmed with gratitude.



NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 29th November 2020, at 4:00 pm

Venue: Community cultural Centre, 5 Dwyer Road
Oaklands Park SA 5046

Or Join remotely via zoom:

Topic: HSSA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Time: Nov 29, 2020 04:00 PM Adelaide

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97886228260?pwd=MU5jNjk4MEpwK3oxT21hSjEjEjURkZz09>

Meeting ID: 978 8622 8260

Passcode: 300146

AGENDA

1. Invocation and Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the AGM held on Sunday 10th November 2019
4. Minutes of the SGM held on Saturday 29th August 2020
5. President's Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Secretary's Report
8. Matters Arising
 - a. Activities organised by the HSSA
 - b. Other organisational matters/business/discussion
9. Election of the Office Bearers for 2020-2021
10. Appointment of a Returning Officer
11. Appointment of Public Officer
12. Endorsement of appointment of Mr Laxman Mehra as the auditor of HSSA
13. Any other Business (for which at least fourteen days' notice has been given to the Secretary (Rule 10.3 (viii)))
14. Views of members on general issues



NOMINATION FORM FOR OFFICE BEARERS 2020-2021

Nominations for the following positions in the Executive Committee of the Hindu Society are called for in the prescribed form given below. The nominations to be duly completed and signed by financial members should reach the Returning Officer no later than close of business on Friday the 13th of November 2020

1. President
2. Treasurer
3. Vice President
4. Two Committee Members

Position:

Nominee:

..... Proposer's name Proposer's signature

..... Secunder's name Secunder's signature

Acceptance of Nomination:Signature of Nominee

Rule 10.5 states: Nominations for the offices must be called for at least 28 days before the Annual General Meeting and such nominations must be lodged with the Returning Officer on a prescribed form signed by two financial members, a proposer and a seconder, qualified to vote and assented to in writing by the nominee 14 days before the Annual General Meeting. Notwithstanding the above, the Annual General Meeting shall have the power by a simple majority to accept any further nominations in respect of any office.

All valid nominations should be forwarded to the Returning Officer Dr Rengasamy, 3 Wattle Street, Fullarton, SA 5063 or email him at pichu.rengasamy@adelaide.edu.au to reach him by close of business on Friday 13th of November 2020

TURIYA MARGA

For mankind, the manifested world of time, space and causality exists. Its nature is change and movement. It is always in flux - the direct antithesis of the One Immutable, Transcendent Reality. But there is and there can be only One Reality, which is infinite and omnipresent, and so that also must include this world of apparent change. How the One Perfect, Changeless, Eternal and Infinite Reality can also be the transient world of creation or manifestation is the ultimate mystery of mysteries, which by its very nature can never be comprehended by the human reason.

—-Introduction to Songs and Sayings of Yogaswami

Laugh a Little...

The definition of a perfectionist: Someone who wants to go from point A to point A+.

Two guys stole a calendar. They got six months each.

Did you hear about the racing snail who got rid of his shell? He thought it would make him faster, but it just made him sluggish.

My dad is so cheap that when he dies, he's going to walk toward the light and turn it off.

I ate a clock yesterday, it was very time-consuming.

Have you played the updated kids' game? I Spy With My Little Eye . . . Phone.

Q. What's the difference between ignorance and apathy? A. I don't know and I don't care.

Velcro—what a rip-off!

Thou has made me endless, such is thy pleasure. This frail vessel thou emptiest again and again and fillest it ever with fresh life.

This little flute of a reed thou has carried over hills and dales, and hast breathed through it melodies eternally new.

At the immortal touch of thy hands my little heart loses its limits in joy and gives birth to utterance ineffable.

Thy infinite gifts come to me only on these very small hands of mine. Ages pass, and still thou pourest, and still there is room to fill.

—- Gitanjali, Rabindranath Tagore

ALL IS YOU

Father and Mother are You. Dear brothers and sisters are You. Incomparable wife is You.

Precious sons are You. The devas and all gods are You. This great earth is You, and that which guards and governs me is also You.

Mantra and tantra are You. This life and the next are You. All beauty and loveliness are You, and our protector too is You.

You are the one without end. You are the Lord who is my Father. You are in truth the Changeless one. You are that which is in the heart. You are he who has no parts. You are also all beliefs. You are that which is known through search. You are order and perfection.

—- Yogaswami

THANK YOU FROM OUR DEPARTING EDITOR

It has been over 7 years since I took over as the Editor of the Turiya Marga. From 2021 the reins are being passed to another HSSA member. Thank you all for kindly reading each edition, forgiving mistakes and passing on feedback. It has been a joy to be able to put together each edition and provide a balance of news, humour and spiritual content. In the time that I have been editor, we have reduced the editions to 2 per year, as Social Media, especially our Facebook pages, now play the role of providing day-to-day information. Again, thank you so much, and best wishes to you.



THE HINDU SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC

Tel: 08 8298 1278

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
OR UPDATING DETAILS**

I hereby apply for membership of the society and agree to abide by the Provisions of the Hindu Society Constitution, Rules and Regulations. My details and the type of membership I seek are advised below:

GIVEN NAME: _____
 SURNAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 CITY: _____ STATE: _____ POST CODE: _____
 TELEPHONE NUMBER: () _____ MOBILE: _____
 EMAIL: _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP SOUGHT: (Please tick one)

Ordinary Member (\$20 per annum) Ordinary Family Member (\$40 per annum)

If family membership, please provide names of family members

Name of Spouse: _____
 Other members of the family: _____

Associate Member - Student (\$10 per annum)
 Associate Family Member – Family with no Australian permanent visa (\$30 per annum)
 Life Member (\$500 once off)

Subscription paid: \$ _____

Date: _____

Payment options : EFT or Cash or Cheques made out to Hindu Society of SA Inc

Internet Transfer to Bank of South Australia: BSB 105:086: 054577940, Reference: **Member** followed by name

Please forward completed form with payment to The Treasurer, The Hindu Society of South Australia Inc, 3A Dwyer Road, Oaklands Park SA 5046

Membership of Hindu Society of South Australia

Being a member of the Hindu Society of South Australia (HSSA) has many benefits. It is a show of support to the Society and its works, to the Temple and to our Hindu community. It gives you a voice in the way that the Temple and Community Cultural Hall is managed and the events that are organised. You can attend, comment and vote at the AGM. You can be nominated for a place on the Executive Committee. You will also receive the Society newsletter, but mostly the membership is about what you can offer, not what you will receive.

Our members have helped us build our new Hindu Community Cultural Centre - Hindu Society South Australia. They manage our beautiful Shri Ganesha Temple. They have provided the new lights for the carpark. The glorious picture of Ganesha in the new Community Cultural Hall was painted by a member. They cater for events, clean the Temple, tend the gardens, sweep the paths and weave garlands. They teach classes. They manage our social media pages and provide information on upcoming festivals, classes and programs. They liaise with the government so that temples all over Australia can bring Priests. They negotiate with Cemeteries to have final rites for Hindus. They give talks to schools on Hinduism. And so much more.

Become a member by completing the membership form in this newsletter. There are annual fees and life memberships.