

S.V. Temple Newsletter



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Shri Tallapaka Annamacharya—First Singer Poet

Shri Tallapaka Annamacharya - A saint-poet (May 9, 1408—February 23, 1503)

Shri Annamacharya, the greatest scholar of the Tallapaka family, was the mystic saint composer of the 15th century. He was known as the earliest singer-poet of South India.

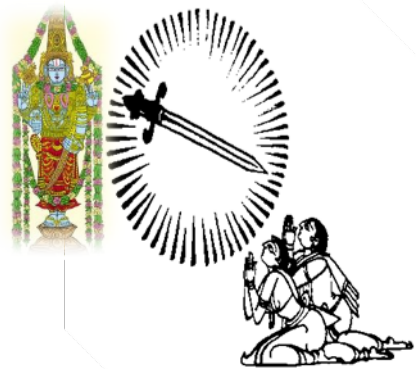
Tallapaka Annamacharya, with his overwhelming love and devotion towards the Lord Venkateswara, composed and sang over 32,000 sankeertanas (only 14,000 available today), wrote 12 satakas (sets of hundred verses) (only 1 available today) and many other books like Venkatachala Mahatmyam, Sringara Manjari, and Ramayana in Dwipada format. He was one of the first few scholars who brought social awareness with his keertanas. He chose Morality, Dharma and Righteousness as subjects in his Sankeertanas. He was the very first vāggēyakāra (Singer –Poet) in Telugu. He is widely regarded as the Pada-kavita Pitaamaha (grand old man of song-writing) and sankeertanacharya of the Telugu language.

Annamayya was the first to introduce bhajana sampradaya paddhathi in south India. In Kaliyuga, this is the most effective medium to attain salvation. Many south Indian mothers sing annamacharya's most famous compositions "Chandamama rave - Jabilli raave", "Jo achyutha nanda jo jo mukunda" to their kids as lullaby songs in his or her early childhood.

Annamayya's Birth and Childhood

Shri Tallapaka Annamacharya was born to Narayana Suri and Lakkamamba on Vaishakha Shuddha Pournami May 9, 1408 AD in a small village called Tallapaka which is currently in Cuddapah District of Andhra Pradesh, India.

Narayana Suri and Lakkamamba had no children for a long time. Lakkamamba used to regularly worship Lord Venkateswara and plea for a child. They once visited Tirumala Temple for the divine darshan of Lord Venkateswara. While the couple were prostrating in front of the Dhvajasthambham (Holy Mast) a dazzling brilliance from the sword of Lord Venkateswara struck them like a lightning. Eventually a boy was born, Annamayya - who is believed to be the incarnation of Lord Venkateswara's nandaka (Sword).



From his early childhood, Annamayya showed all signs of being a great devotee to Lord Venkateswara. As a toddler, he ate food or drank milk only after he was told that it was the prasadam of Lord Venkateswara. He would not sleep until his mother sang lullabies on The Lord. When Annamayya was five years old, his



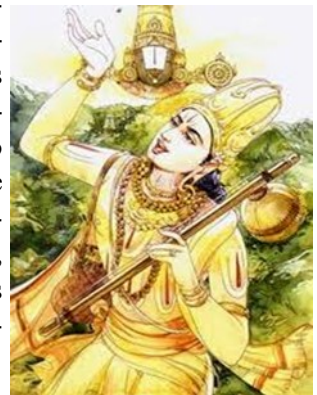
father Narayana Suri performed his Upanayanam or thread ceremony, and got him ready for Vedic education. He learned it with ease and great dedication. The boy was able to talk about profound philosophies at that age. As born and brought up gracefully with inimitable divinity, Annamayya developed great love for music and devotional compositions.

Annamayya becomes Annamacharya

Though Annamayya was born in a Smarta family, he was greatly influenced by the hymns of Alvars and became attracted to Sri Vaishnava Sampradaya. He also became an ardent devotee to the gurus, like Shri Ramanujacharya and Vedanta Desika, of Shri Vaishnavism. Some of his songs are verbatim translations of Alwar's pasurams and Swami Desikan's Daya Satakam. Annamayya decided to have his Pancha Samskaram and completely converted to Sri Vaishnavism. From then on he became Annamacharya and devoted his entire life in the service of Lord Venkateswara in singing his glories.

His dream come true

At the age of sixteen, with his unbroken love and worship towards Lord Venkateswara, Annamayya once had a vivid dream in which he saw the Tirumala temple complex. In that dream, he also saw the Lord in His full glory along with His crown, conch (Shankhu) and discus (Chakra). Annamayya described this dream in one of his compositions. From then on he started writing and composing sankeertanas with great devotion towards Lord Vishnu. Having realized his dream and purpose of his life, Annamayya decided to move to Tirumala and started his journey. On his way, he visited several other important shrines and composed innumerable songs on deities like Rama, Krishna, Hanuman, Narasimha and Vitthala; as he viewed them all as the forms of Lord Venkateswara, **the Ultimate Reality.**



Blessings of Goddess Alamelumanga

Annamayya, on his way to Tirumala, reached one of the seven hills. There he was completely exhausted and fell asleep. In his sleep, he had another dream in which he had the darshan of Goddess Alamelumanga. She spoke to Annamayya in his dream as lovingly as a mother would speak to a child in pain. She advised him to walk the rest of the hills with bare foot and respect the sanctity of the sacred place Tirumala. Also, she gave him Swamy prasadam and nursed him as if a mother nourishes her child. Annamayya thought that this was a real incident and not a dream anymore. At that very instant, he composed a satakam (100 poems) on Alamelumanga called Alamelumanga Satakam which was his first, biggest and the only one satakam available today out of his twelve satakas.

With the blessings of Goddess Alamelumanga, Annamayya, renewed his energy, continued his journey to Tirumala and had the real darshan of the Lord in His full glory. He was stuck by the immense spirituality of the deity and spontaneously wrote several songs describing his love on Balaji swamy. He then decided to stay in Tirumala swamy sannidhi for the rest of his life.

His Marriage Life

Annamayya hesitated to get married but with his guru's guidance and advice he finally agreed to get married. With heavy heart Annamayya moved from Tirumala to Tallapaka. There he got married to his uncle's twin daughters Timmakka and Akkamma. This life changing event made Annamayya to expand his thoughts to new levels of his compositions. The contribution of the Tallapaka poets was recognized by many other poets of future generations.

Sankeertana Bhandaagaaram (Treasury of Sankeertanas)

Annamacharya wrote his sankeertanas on palm leaves and later his successors got them engraved on copper plates. But for reasons not known, most of these copper plates were unnoticed and lay hidden for centuries in a niche of Shri Venkateshwara temple at Tirumala. In 1922, twenty-five hundred copper plates, comprising of about 14,000 sankeertanas and a few other works, were found in a



rock built cell, later named as Sankeertana Bhandaagaaram, opposite to the hundi (donation box). During his last days, he spent most of the time in Srihari Sannidhi organizing the Kalyanotsavas and Brahmotsavas. Annamacharya lived for about 95 years and when the time has arrived, his Jeevathma unified into Paramatma on February 23, 1503.

Tribute to Annamacharya all over the world

The Annamacharya Project was established by TTD (Tirumala Tirupathi Devasthanams) in the year 1978 with a view to propagate the Annamacharya's music and literature among public.

Indian Government also made many efforts to popularize Annamacharya. In 2004, annamacharya stamp was released by The Union Ministry of Communications.



To mark the birth place of Annamacharya, many renovations took place in Tallapaka Village which is currently located in Rajampet town, Kadapa district, Andhra Pradesh. In the year 2010, the 108 feet tall statue of Shri Tallapaka Annamacharya was built and placed.

Annamacharya Jayanthi celebrations are taking place every year all over the world especially in Tirumala and in Tallapaka.

As part of this, our S.V.Temple also celebrates Sri Tallapaka Annamacharya Jayanthi celebrations with Annamacharya Aaradhana by singing his Sankeertanas.



Swarakalpana of Uncomposed Annamacharya Sankeertanas

SV Temple founders Dr. Jyothsna Reddy and Sri. Madhusudhana Reddy have taken special interests to bring the uncomposed Annamayya songs in CD format with grants from their Reddy Foundation. They formed a team with Parthu Nemani, famous singer in India, to release Annamayya songs in 10 volumes and so far 2 volumes are released. Dr. S.P. Balasubrahmanyan and Dr. K. Vishwanath have given introduction and narration to the CDs and one of the famous singers like Smt. Sunitha and Smt. S. Janakamma also took part in Pahimam series. The CDs are available at temple for sale and all proceeds will go to the temple only. Let us support this noble cause from our community.



S.V. Temple Updates and Future Plans

Free Health Clinic

SV temple in collaboration with SEWA - AIFW is starting a Free Health clinic, where patients will get free blood glucose readings and Blood pressure checks and counseling. Also will have a volunteer physician onsite who will see patients and guide them in right direction for their medical cares on Every 3rd Sunday from 11 am – 2 pm, effective June 2016. Privacy and confidentiality will be maintained. Free and Open to Everyone so anyone who wants to be seen for any medical reasons are welcome.



HEALTH CLINIC
SV Temple Organizing in Collaboration with SEWA-AIFW

Welcomes all to
FREE MONTHLY HEALTH CLINICS!

Location
SV Temple
7615 Metro Blvd, Edina, MN 55439

Time
11:00 am to 2:00pm

Every 3rd Sunday of the Month

Volunteers will be available to provide:

- Blood Pressure Measurements
- Glucose Testing
- Medical Consultations
- Referrals to low-cost, Culturally sensitive health services

For More Information
Call SEWA-AIFW
From 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
at 763-234-8301 or
Email: info@sewa-aifw.com
www.sewa-aifw.org

Come to the Health Clinic to receive FREE advice on health concerns!!

Formation of Temple Operation Committees

Effective May 1, 2016, SV Temple operations committees formed and has started working. Duties of all chairpersons are documented and approved by Temple Founders Dr. Jyothsna Reddy and Sri Madhusudhana Reddy and the present Board members.

Name of the Committee	Chairperson
Publications/Marketing Committee	Nagender Mankala
Building committee	Sirish Samba
Cultural Committee	Vishala Pamulaparthi
Finance committee	Murty Mogalapalli
Religious committee	Maruthi Nallamalli
Operations committee	Vivek Addagudi
Volunteer committee	Suresh Mynam
Education committee	Gopal Udupi
Moola Virat Planning committee	Ram Tallapaka
Food Committee	Kalpana Murty
Legal & Governance committee	Sudhir Nandamuru
Events committee	TBD
Development/Fundraising Committee	TBD

Vigraha Pranapratishtapana

Sri Venkateshwara Temple of Minnesota in Edina is happy to announce Pranaprathista of Sri Venkateswara Swamy, Sri Mahalakshmi, Sri Godadevi (Sri Bhodevi), Sri Ramanujacharya and Parivara devathas from Aug 4th 2016 to Aug 7th 2016. Pranaprathista is the ceremony through which the sacred murthis are consecrated in a Hindu temple and the murthis are infused with the breath of life. These sacred rituals are complemented by a prescribed series of hymns, mantras, poojas and havans (Homams), in accordance of ancient traditions. During this celebration, the murthis representing the lords in various forms are immersed in water, bathed with an offering of milk and honey, and decorated with fragrant flowers. The Pranaprathista will be performed under the guidance of Sri Narasimhacharya, lead priest from California Sri Panchamukha Hanuman temple.

S V Temple invites everyone to join and be a part of this auspicious occasion. There are multiple ways you could participate and get involved in this process of serving God by:

- ◆ Participating in Poojas and Havans (Homams)
- ◆ Volunteering for various activities
- ◆ Invite your friends and family to the event
- ◆ Sponsorships and Donations for temple development activities
- ◆ Becoming member of the temple and get involved in committees

Special Poojas and Havans will be performed every day morning and evening throughout the completion of this event. This event represents a major milestone of our temple and the culmination of years of work. Let's come together to share the joy and excitement by being a part of this very unique occasion and receive the blessings from Lord Sri Venkateswara Swamy.

Please visit the Temple website www.svtemplemn.org for more information on the event details and program schedules. For Temple latest updates and developments devotees can follow us on [Facebook](#) too.

Mandala Abhishekam

As per Agama Sastra, after prana prathishta of Sri Venkateshwara Swami, it is mandatory to worship the lord with rituals. In order to attain the eligibility to conduct the offerings and rituals, the Maha Mandala Abhishekam should be done after 40 days of Prana prathishta. Mandala means 41 days, so 41st day should be celebrated with Abhishekam and other rituals including Kalyanam. It is believed that by doing Mandala pooja, it will bring auspiciousness to the temple and the community. SV Temple will perform the Mandala Abhishekam and Kalyanam on September 15th.

Religious/Cultural Events since September 2015

Below is the recap of the cultural/religious events that took place since September 2015. We thank all the volunteers and organizers who made all these events a great success. We are looking forward to your support in the coming years.

Ganesha Chaturdhi – September 16, 2015. This year there was a special workshop for kids called ‘Ganesha workshop’ where kids made Ganeshas for Ganapathi Pooja. As every year, this year also a Ganapathi laddu was prepared by the food committee and was auctioned. All nine days special poojas were performed with Maha Ganapathi Panchaanka Utsavam. And on 9th day Ganapathi Navarathri ended with Ganesha Nimarjanam and Homam.

Dasara / Sharannavaratri – October 13-21, 2015. The nine days of Navarathri celebrations were held in the temple with Ashta Lakshmi Kumkumaarchana, Lalitha Sahasranama Parayana along with Bommala Koluvu, Saraswathi Pooja & Samuhika Aksharabhyasam and Samee Pooja.

Diwali Cultural Talent Show – November 7, 2015. Kalanjali- Cultural wing of SV Temple organized a cultural Talent show for Diwali festival. Participants showed their talent by performing in various cultural activities like dance, music, skits etc., and was a grand success like every year.

Diwali – November 10, 2015. Diwali, also known as the festival of lights. In order to bring the Indian community together, every year SV Temple invites devotees along with their families and friends to take part in the Grand celebrations of Diwali Festival. Temple management organize fireworks and food along with 5 days of Visesh Lakshmi Pooja. More than 2500 people attended.

Discourse by Sri Shantaram Bhandarkar – November 22, 2015. Spiritual Living in Modern Times by Guruji Sri Shantaram Bhandarkar.

Karthika Deepotsavam – November 25, 2015. Rituals like Sri Satyanarayana Swami Vratam, Karthika Deepa Pooja, Deepa Daanam took place in the temple. Like every year Karthika masam, essentially on Mondays, temple priests perform Sri Rudraabhishekam to Lord Shiva.

Dhanurmasam – December 16, 2015 to January 14, 2016 (Thiruppavai chanting for 30 days).

Gita Jayanthi – December 20, 2015.

Vaikuntha Ekadashi – December 21, 2015.

Nammalvar Paramapadotsavam – December 26, 2015.

New Year Celebrations – January 1, 2016. More than 1500 people attended all day long and a feast was provided by food committee.

Makara Sankranthi – January 13-15, 2016. Three events (Bhogi, Sankranthi and Kanuma) were celebrated on three successive evenings at the temple with religious fervor and gaiety. Starting from the event Bhogi Pallu for children and ending with Goda Kalyanam people with great devotion came and offered special prayers and traditional delicacies in the temple.

Rathasaphthami – February 14, 2016.

Mahasivaratri – March 7, 2016. Maha Rudraabhishekam with special poojas were held for Lord Siva in the temple. People crowded the temple with great devotion and offered prayers and bhajans on that day. This year special- devotees did their own Siva Abhishekam to the individual small lingams temple provided. More than 1000 devotees participated.

Natya Manjari – April 9, 2016. In an effort to celebrate Hind New Year, an Indian cultural mélange celebrated in different regions of India every year around this month. Kalanjali cultural wing of SV Temple provided a platform to stimulate and encourage personal growth and help people to excel in something they enjoy as well as giving a sense of achievement. A dance competition in the name of Natya Manjari has become an exciting competition to encourage all local dancers to improve their dancing and performance skills. There were 120 participants and 9 panel of judges. This effort was led by the Kalanjali team Venkat Devulapalli, Sailaja Grandhi and Vishala Pamulaparti with the support of Temple Founders Dr. Jyotsna Reddy & Sri Madhusudhana Reddy. The success of the event was only possible due the help of all the volunteers selfless dedicated hours. The audience got to witness different kind of classical and non-classical forms of dances. The program received tremendous response and has seen growth in last five years. Kalanjali team is looking forward to continue this momentum for future.



Ugadi/ Cheti Chand/ Gudi Padwa – April 7, 2016.

Sri Rama Navami – April 14, 2016.

Nadotsavam – May 14-15, 2016. It was the 7th consecutive year that Kalanjali, Cultural wing of SV Temple successfully presented exclusive music fest to Minnesota Carnatic music lovers. As part of this festival, Carnatic and Devotional Concerts by popular artists from India and Local Artists have been arranged. As our tradition, SV Temple also gives an opportunity to music lovers to rejoice the feast of Devotional and Carnatic Concerts by popular artists and talents from India and USA. Group Ensembles of local talents in USA have also been arranged. Theme for this year Nadotsvam Music festival is MS Subbalakshmi centenary special. Vocal concert by Aishwarya Srinivasan (Great Granddaughter of MS) and Grand finale concert by Carnatic Brothers (KN Shashikiran and Ganesh Sudarshan) are highlights of this music festival. Competitions in various categories have been conducted. Around 200 participants took part in competitions and it is so encouraging to see participants coming all the way from Omaha (NE), Illinois, Madison and other neighboring states. Carnatic Star (exclusive Carnatic music competition) and Bhakthi Sangeeth Star (exclusive devotional music competition) are two categories in which kids and adults of different age groups and of different music levels take part. In order to bring out the local talents, SV Temple is giving a good opportunity to all the participants. This competition includes both vocal and instrumental in various levels of Carnatic music like geetham, varnam, krithi along with multimedia presentations and Manodharma Sangeetha. Also, under Bhakthi Star, Bhajans, Shlokas, Group namavalis, Harikatha, Vishnusahasranamam, Suprabhatham were included to bring out the Cultural Values in our Kids. Vidwans Thanjavur Murugabhoopati, Nagai Sriram, Sundarkumar and others gave trophies to winners in various categories. Programs grand sponsor is Reddy Foundation.



Annamacharya Jayanthi – May 21, 2016.

Hanuman Jayanthi – May 31, 2016. Ramayana parayanam for 40 days was done at temple by priest pavan swamy and on the day of Hanuman Jayanthi Sri Rama Pattaabhishekam program was done in the morning and Hanuman Abhishekam was done with AKU Pooja with VADA mala samarpana in the evening.

Temple School Anniversary – June 5, 2016. Please see details under SV Temple School Updates.

SV Temple School Updates

On June 5th, we have celebrated our school 7th Anniversary. Director Dr. Jyothsna Reddy welcomed everyone. School Principal Mr. Gopal Udupi talked about school teachers, classes offered and program details. Program was MC'd by Aditya Acharya and Meghna Rajulapati, (students of SV Temple School).

All the kids from different levels of Language classes (Telugu and Hindi), Music and culture classes have performed on stage and entertained with skits, Shlokas and songs close to 150 audiences that consists of parents, grandparents and guests. Mr. Scott Neal, Edina city manager was our chief guest and gave an encouraging speech to kids about maintaining their heritage.

Program lasted for 2 hours and very successfully. Felicitation of all primary and substitute teachers was done on stage by our priest Vamsi Kanduri in the presence of Mr. Madhu Reddy, Founder & president of SV temple and Mr. Scott Neal, Edina city manager.



All our school teachers are volunteers and they have promised to come back next year to teach again ----Thank you everyone for all the service to community and effort to maintain our heritage.

School will be open again after Labor day holiday for next year. Registration forms will be available on website (svtemplemn.org) and since seats are limited (first come basis only), we encourage parents to register their kids soon. We have added Hindi level 3 to our next year.

Special announcement -- Adult Gita class was started 2015-16 school year on Sundays when school is in session and it is open to anyone who wants to attend and free. This year we had 30 adults attending the class every Sunday for 1 hour and a 3-day camp was conducted recently which was well attended.



Upcoming Events and Festivals

Date	Event
June 26	Moola Virat Yantra Japam & Dhanyadi Vasam
July 15	Toli Ekadashi (Chaturmasya Vratam Begins)
July 19	Vyasa Poornima / Guru Pournami
August 4-7	Vigraha Prana Prathista
August 12	Vara Lakshmi Vratam
August 17	Rakhi Pournami & Rik Yajur Upakarma
August 24	Krishnashtami
September 3	Varaha Jayanthi
September 4	Ganesh Chaturdhi
September 13	Vamana Jayanthi
September 15	Maha Mandala Abhishekam
October 1	Devi Navaratri Begins
October 11	Vijaya Dashami
October 29	Naraka Chaturdashi
October 30	Diwali
October 31	Karthika Masam Begins
November 3	Nagula Chavithi
December 16	Dhanurmasam Begins

Comments and Articles

We are inviting all readers, devotees, followers, students, teachers, and writers, etc. to submit devotional stories, essays, and experiences to SV. Temple Newsletter editor. After newsletter committee's review, selected articles will be published in the upcoming issues of the newsletter. Editor of the newsletter will have all the rights to modify the articles to address language, grammar, and space-constraint issues. Since the audience of this newsletter comes from various age groups, we request you to send articles that everybody can understand. Make sure that your articles are helpful in educating the readers in devotional field and encourage them to follow *dharma*. Also, you can send comments on the published articles and ideas for new articles that you want to see. You can email your articles to Uma Vempati and Gayathri Vempati at news@svtemplemn.org.



Vishnu Shodasanama Stotram

Oushade Chinthaye Vishnum, Bhojane cha Janaardhanam, Shayane Padmanaabham cha, Vivaahe cha Prajaapathim, Yuddhe Chakradharam devam, Pravaase cha Trivikramam, Naaraayanam Thanu thyage, Sreedharam priya sangame, Duswapne smara Govindam, Sankate Madhusoodhanam, Kaanane Naarasimham cha, Paavake Jalashaayinam, Jalamadhye Varaham cha, Parvathe Raghu nandanam, Gamane Vaamanam Chaiva , Sarva Kaaryeshu Maadhavam, Shodasaithani Naamaani, Praathar uthaaya ya padeth, Sarva paapa vinirmuktho, Vishnu lokam samopnuyath.

Meaning:

The 16 names of Vishnu that one must chant when doing different activities in one 's life . While taking medicine chant Vishnu nama, while eating - Janardhana, while sleeping - Padmanabha, at marriage - Prajapati, during war - Chakradhaari, on travel -Trivikrama, at the time of death - Narayana, with loved ones - Sreedhara, to avoid bad dreams - Govinda, while in sorrow - Madhusoodhana, while in the forest - Narasimha, while fire is raging - Jalasayina (Agnideva), while in water - Varaha, while climbing mountain - Raghunandana, while on the move - Vamana, for everything - Madhava. One who reads these 16 namas every morning will get rid off all sins and attain moksha.

Thanks from SV Temple:

SV Temple earnestly thank all the generous donors, wonderful devotees, learned priests and dedicated volunteers that help to make our Temple a marvelous place of worship.

Temple Hours:

The temple is open weekdays from 9:30 AM to Noon & 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM
Saturday and Sunday from 9:30 AM to 8:00 PM
Please visit www.svtemplemn.org for updates and details.