

Hindu Temple Society of New Mexico,
Mailing Address: P.O.Box 51616, Albuquerque, NM – 87181
Temple Location: [Hindu Temple, 8418 Zuni SE \(SW corner of Zuni & Utah\) Albuquerque, NM 87108](#)

Special Interest Articles

Durga Pooja was celebrated on Oct 9, 2011 at HTSNM

Next....Ankut or Chappanbhog on Friday October 28th, 2011, 6:00PM to 9:00 PM at HTSNM

And

Karva Chauth Pooja at HTSNM on Oct15, at 4:00 PM

Individual Highlights

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On September 30, 2011 HTSNM paid \$30,000 to lower the mortgage principal on the Zuni/Utah building loan, thanks to the generous donations by devotees like you. After this payment, the mortgage balance stands at \$147,035. The original loan amount was \$300,000. The members of the HTSNM Board greatly appreciate your past and future donations! Thank you.

Durga Pooja



Durga and her family at Bagbazar Sarbojonin, North Kolkata

Durga Puja is widely celebrated in the Indian states of West Bengal, Bihar, Assam, Jharkhand, Orissa and Tripura where it is a five-day annual holiday. In West Bengal and Tripura which has majority of Bengali Hindus it is the biggest festival of the year. Not only is it the biggest Hindu festival celebrated throughout the State, but it is also the most significant socio-cultural event in Bengali society.

Durgotsava: Festival of Durga is an annual Hindu festival in South Asia that celebrates worship of the Hindu goddess Durga. It refers to all the six days observed as *Mahalaya, Shashthi, Maha Saptami, Maha Ashtami, Maha Navami* and *Bijoya Dashami*. The dates of Durga Puja celebrations are set according to the traditional Hindu calendar and the fortnight corresponding to the festival is called *Devi Paksha* ('Fortnight of the Goddess').

Devi Paksha is preceded by *Mahalaya*, the last day of the previous fortnight *Pitri Paksha*, and is ended on *Kojagori Lokkhi Puja*, 'Worship of Goddess Lakshmi on Kojagori (Full Moon Night)'. Durga Puja includes the worship of Shiva, who is Durga's consort, and worship of mother nature through nine types of plant (called "kala bou") representing nine divine forms of Goddess Durga.

"Gurur Bramha
 Gurur Vishnu
 Gurur Devo Maheshvara,
 Gurur Shakshat
 Parabramha
 Tasmay Shri
 Gurave Namaha!"

"Om Jayanti, Mangala,
 Kali, Bhadrakali, Kapalini.
 Durga, Shiba, Kshama,
 Dhatri, Swaha, Swadha
 Namahstu Te.
 Esha Sachandana
 Gandha Pushpa Bilwa
 Patranjali, Om Hring
 Durgaoi Namah."



Chhappan Bhog and Annakut



The highlight of the functions is the 'chhappan bhog', literally meaning 56 food preparations offered to Lord Krishna. What is the significance of 56 offerings? "It is a symbolic thing. Like the lotus has eight petals, surrounded by 16 and then 32, which makes it 56, it is this symbol that makes the count. But as the many 'gopikas' who brought different offerings for Krishna, the 'bhog' is always more than 56. It can be any number. This time there is a wide variety." The 'bhog' consists generally of different types of sweetmeats. But even rice, vegetables can be offered, after all if someone brought curdled milk as offering did Krishna not accept that, he says philosophically. And so his family prepares the grand 'bhog' with the help of several people from his group of 25. Come discover the true spirit of celebration. Sponsored by Gujarati Samaj of New Mexico.

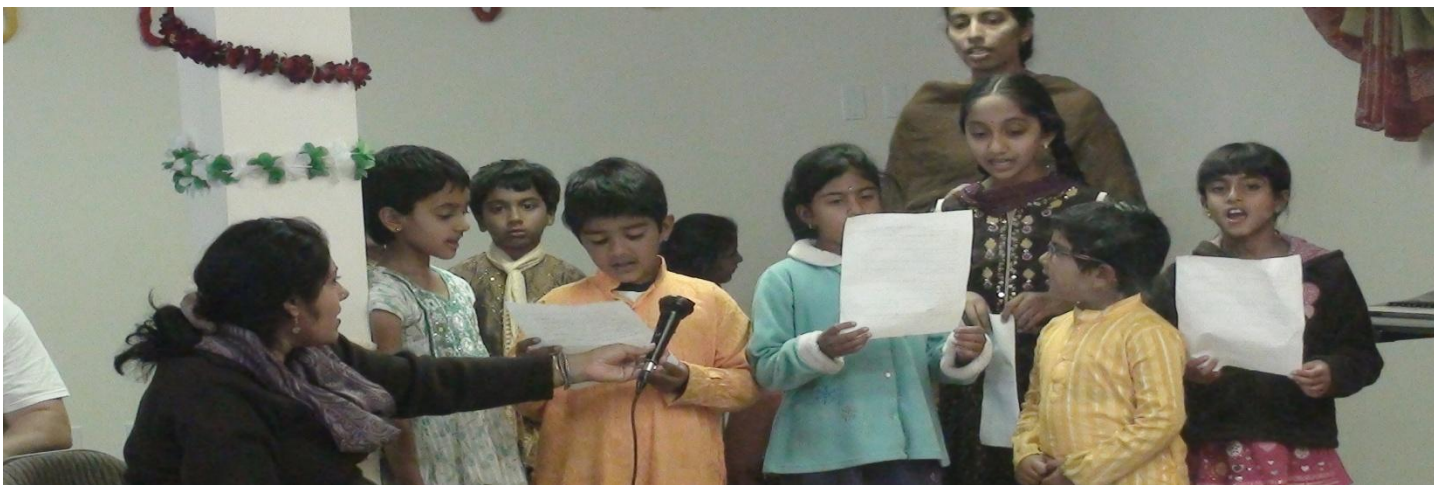
Recently some building safety equipment such as fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, CO2 detectors, and emergency exit lights have been installed and upgraded in the Temple building on Zuni/Utah. Most of the expenses for these safety improvements were paid from targeted donations made by various community members. We are still short by about \$1,000 for this expense. Please contact any Board Member if you would like to help with this deficit.

Looking to serve the Hindu community? Devote your time to serve on the Board of HTSNM. Please look for email from HTSNM regarding election for new Board Members.

Some photos from Navaratri



Photos from Durga Pooja at Temple



Om
Shanti
Shanti
Shantihi!



We are on the Web!

See us at:

www.htsnm.org

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About Our Organization

Welcome to Hindu Temple Society of New Mexico's (HTSNM) website. The mission of the non-profit HTSNM is to foster Hindu culture, values and provide a forum for religious services, discourses, and spiritual activities.

Want to share a family event, good news, achievement with the community. Please send details and photos to Hemant Sule, at mercuryivoryusa@msn.com; if appropriate, the information will be added to subsequent news letter based on the space available and editor reserves the right to include or exclude any and all information.

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NAME
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