



CU Hindu Cultural Society Information Sheet



*Vakratunda Mahaakaaya,
Suryakoti Samaprabha;
Nirvighnam Kuru Me Deva,
Sarvakaaryeshu Sarvadaa.*

O Lord Ganesha, with your curving trunk, your titanic body, from you shines the light of a million suns, may you remove all obstacles from the path of all my endeavours

Programme for the evening

7:30 – Ganesh Vandana

8:00 – Ganesh Pooja

9:00 – Arti

The Story Of Lord Ganesh

Lord Ganesh is worshipped in the beginning of any auspicious performance for blessings and auspiciousness. He is also well known to have written the Mahabharata verse by verse from the dictation of Sri Vyasadeva.

The Appearance of Ganesh

When Lord Shiva, was away fighting for the demigods, the lady of the house, goddess Parvati was alone at home. On one occasion, she needed someone to guard the house when she was going for a bath. Unable to think of an alternative, she used her powers to create a son, Ganesh. She instructed Ganesh to keep strict vigil on the entrance to the house and not to allow anyone into the house. Ganesh agreed and stayed on the strictest of strict vigils.



In the meantime Lord Shiva returned happy after a glorious victory for the demigods, only to be stopped at the entrance by Ganesh. Ganesh, acting on Parvati's orders verbatim, did not allow Shiva to enter the house.

Lord Shiva, not knowing whom this person was stopping him from entering his own home, became enraged beyond control and in a fit of rage slashed the head of Ganesh.

Parvati came out from her bath and was aghast at the scene. She was very angry at her Lordship for what had happened and explained him the situation.

Lord Shiva wanted to make it up to Parvati and agreed to put life back into Ganesh by putting the head of the first living creature that came across. He sent his soldiers to go in search of the creature. The first creature they came across was an elephant. So Lord Shiva re-created his son with the head of the elephant.

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Parvati was still not totally happy so Shiva granted Ganesh a boon that before undertaking any task people would worship Lord Ganesh.

Ekadanta – The Lord With One Tusk

Parashurama, one of the Vishnu avataras (incarnations), was born on Earth to teach wisdom to the governing class, the Kshatriya, who had become arrogant and oppressed people. Parashurama meditated on Shiva and obtained the divine axe, Parashu. This axe helped him to fight against all the corrupted rulers. He destroyed the Ksatriya class twenty-one times.

Deeply grateful to Shiva, he went to Mount Kailash to bow to his guru. But Ganesh, who was guarding the entrance of the palace, did not allow him to proceed. Ganesh told him to wait for Shiva's permission. Parashurama thought: "I am a Shiva devotee, such a rule cannot be applied to me".

Ganesh persisted in barring his way. Parashurama threw his axe at Ganesh. The axe struck the right tusk of Ganesh and broke it.

Then Shiva and Parvati arrived and blamed Parashurama who bowed down before Ganesh and begged to obtain his forgiveness and blessing. From that day Ganesh was named Ekadanta, "The Lord with one tusk".

The broken tusk symbolize intellect, and the full tusk symbolizes faith. You can never know what to do in every situation – knowledge is never complete, but if you have full faith, this is the most important thing, and will get you through.

Symbolism of Lord Ganesh

A unique combination of his elephant-like head and a quick moving tiny mouse vehicle represents tremendous wisdom, intelligence and presence of mind. Ganesh meaning God or Lord of the *ganas* (people) represents the qualities that a leader should have.

- A leader should listen to everybody, therefore the large ears.
- He should have nose to scent out the smallest problem; which a large trunk does with sensitivity.
- It is important for a leader not to let out all that he knows or all that he has been told; that is why Lord Ganesh has a large stomach.
- His corpulent body, awkward gait, broken tusk and guffaw tell us that outward beauty has no relation to inner perfection.

Ganesh Vandana

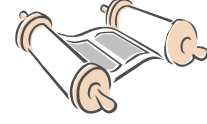
Ashvini and Kirthi shall open the puja with "Siddhi Vinayakam", a Dikshitar Krithi in Raaga Shanmukhapriya (Rupaka Taalam), followed by Adi Shankara's "Shiva Panchakshara Stotram" in Ragamalika (Kanda Chapu). Both are Sanskrit compositions, performed in Carnatic classical style.

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Shlokas

These are a few of the more well known shlokas which will be recited during the pooja. Please feel free to join with reciting them.

**Asato Maa Sat Gamaya;
Tamaso Maa Jyotir Gamaya;
Mrityor Maa Amritam Gamaya.
Om Shanti, Shanti, Shanti**

From untruth, lead me to truth
From darkness, lead me to light
From death, lead me to immortality
Om, Peace, Peace, Peace.

**Aum Bhur Bhuva Svaha,
Tat Savitur Varenyam;
Bhargo Devasya Dheemahi,
Dhiyo Yo Naha Prachodayaat.**

May we meditate on the Glory of the Lord, the Remover of pains and sorrows, the Bestower of happiness, Who has created the universe, and Who is the embodiment of knowledge and light. May the Lord, enlighten our intellect in the right direction by destroying all our sins and ignorance.

***Gurur Brahma Gurur Vishnu,
Gurur Devo Maheshwaraha;
Gurur Shaakshaat Parabrahma,
Tasmai Shri Gurave Namaha.***

The Guru is Brahma (the Creator), the Guru is Vishnu (the Preserver), the Guru is Shiva (the Destroyer of all evil). The Guru is the Supreme Lord Himself, I bow to that Guru.

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