



**Hindu American Seva Charities**  
**BUILDING COMMUNITIES THROUGH SEVA**

**FestivalSeva (UtsavSeva)**  
**- Connecting Community Service, Seva with the Cultural Heritage-**

October 7, 2010

Dear Temple Chairperson/President of the Board

We request you to promote seva activities within your temples. The strength of the Dharmic culture (Hindu and other eastern faiths) is the multitude ways in which the Puranic, (ancient traditional stories and epics are brought to life through festivals. These festivals play an important role in expressing the spiritual significance in a celebratory, joyous ways while bringing people together. And, during this time, our traditions encourage seva in diverse ways.

Following that tradition, HASC is encouraging the many communities within homes, secular or faith based cultural associations and organizations, in schools and in the temples/ashrams/spiritual centers to take the lead in organizing seva events connecting them with the cultural heritage, the spirit of the festivals. HASC is developing theme based seva resources/toolkits to bring awareness of the festivals, contemporary relevance in our life and ways to learn and inspire each other. Click to download from our [website](#)

In October, Navaratri is a celebrated. It honors the many aspects of Devi; symbolically of women's strength and of value enrichment within one self. HASC is suggesting [ShaktiSeva](#) to highlight and bring this to the forefront during the celebrations, through dialogues, telling and sharing stories, helping women's organizations. "Listen, Learn and Inspire" each other. Additionally we request you to invite your members to a conference call organized by [Asian Indian Women in America](#) featuring Tina Tchen, Executive Director of Council on Women and Girls.

In Diwali, removal of ignorance with the light of knowledge and triumph of goodness over evil is celebrated. The theme is [DhanaSeva](#) – resources empowerment (serve as resources of wealth of knowledge, goodness and economic empowerment) to do seva projects to promote education, economic help, awareness of the festival, job fairs, canned/boxed food to replenish local food banks for Thanksgiving, etc. within and outside our community.

During December HASC suggests [SarvaDharmaSeva](#) – Interfaith service – in which the Dharmic people (Hindus, Buddhist, Jains and Sikhs and other eastern faiths) continue to foster respect and understanding. And, in the spirit of inter-faith cooperation: working on the holy days, (Christmas, Chanukah, Muharram, Kwanza) of other faiths.

HASC is also working with the White House to bring awareness of women's programs, economic empowerment and wealth creation to Indian Americans, secular and of all faiths and get our voice heard. More details of seva activities for the annual calendar to come.

Please contact us with any questions you may have.

On behalf of Hindu American Seva Charities

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