

# Hindu Temple Society of the Capital District, Inc.

invites you to participate with your family & friends

## THAIPUSAM CELEBRATIONS

6:00 PM Tuesday, January 30<sup>th</sup> 2018

The word *Thaipusam* is a combination of the name of the month, *Thai*, and the name of a star, *Pusam*. This particular star is at its highest point during the festival. The festival commemorates the occasion when Parvati gave Murugan a Vel "spear" so he could vanquish the evil demon Soorapadman.

Offering Kavadi to Lord Muruga is of great significance as it brings peace and good luck. The story of taking Kavadi is associated with Lord Murugan testing Idumban of his determination and duty towards his Guru. The Kavadi that each devotee carries symbolizes his/her burden like the two hills carried by Idumban. It is believed that the burden in the life of a devotee who carries Kavadi is lessened by Murugan. Taking Kavadi to Murugan temples during Thaipusam is considered highly auspicious.

The usual Kavadi is a small wooden structure with an arch covered with a piece of cloth and is held on shoulders. The two sides of the Kavadi are covered with feathers of peacock – the vehicle of Lord Muruga. The sides also contain two bags to carry offerings to the Lord.



Milk Pots (Palkudam) are also carried and offered to Lord Muruga. Palkudam pots are available at Temple. Those who are participating in Palkudam please bring half-gallon milk.

Those who are interested to participate in Kavadi/ Palkudam please send an email to [albanythaipusam@gmail.com](mailto:albanythaipusam@gmail.com).

**06:00 PM - Kavadi & Palkudam Devotees Preparation**

**06:30 PM - Ratha Uchavam with Palkudam Procession**

**06:45PM - Kavadi Procession**

**07:15 PM - Abhishekam**

**08:00 PM - Alankaram, Skandha Sashti, Prayer Bhajans**

**08:15 PM – Deepa Arathi**

**08:30 PM - Prasad**

### **Kavadi/Palkudam Sponsorship: \$15**

Those who are interested to volunteer for prasad preparation please contact one of the below volunteers:

*Vasanthi Jayakumar - (518)4659747*

*Gayathri Puviyarasu - (518)6084011*

*Valli Ragavan - (518)320-8474*

<http://www.hindutemplealbany.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Thaipusam2018.jpg>