



Tamil New Year Celebrations 2019



**April 14th Sunday
10:30 am to 4 pm**

Sri Varasidhi Vinayakar Abhishekam 10:30 am
Panchanga Padanam 12:00 noon followed by
Traditional Lunch and Cultural Program

Tamil Puthaandu or New Year's Day falls on April 14th this year or Tamil month Chithirai 1st. The Tamil New Year of 2019-2020 is called "Vikari". The Tamil New Year, based on solar calendar begins on the vernal equinox, when Sun is deemed to enter into the constellation of Aries. People clean their homes, decorate it and draw Kolams in the front yard and inside with rice powder or rice paste. Mango leaves are tied with thread and hung over the doorways which are called Maavilai Thoranams.

Brass Lamps are cleaned and lit with cotton wicks. Women prepare a traditional lunch with rice, payasam, vadai, sambar, lentil and vegetables. A special dish called Mangai Pachadi is made with mango, neem flowers and jaggery to remind people of the mix of good and bad times in one's life. It's considered auspicious to visit the temple and worship God and pray for a great year ahead. The temples would have festive mood, and in some temples the Chariot of God (Thaer) is drawn by people.

AHT is offering a special meal with 12 items served on a banana leaf on this day. Don't forget to reserve your meal at the link given below. The cultural program will include Iyal (prose and poetry reading), Isai (music and singing) and Nadagam (dance and drama) performed by children and adults from Austin and surroundings. Please register to perform, volunteer, and donate any amount to sponsor at the following link and participate in Tamil New Year celebrations.

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