

**Sri Venkateswara Annamacharya Society Of America  
(SVASA)  
(A Non-Profit Organization)**

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**Presents**

**“SRI TALLAPAKA ANNAMACHARYA”  
602nd JAYANTHI COMMEMORATION FESTIVAL**

**Place: Shree Ram Kabir Mandir, 530 E. 231st St., Carson, CA 90745**

**Dates: May 29, 2010 (Saturday) 3pm to 8pm**

**PROGRAM**

**1. LIFE & WORKS OF ANNAMACHARYA** *By Satya V. Duvvuri*

**2. SANKEERTHANA RECITAL**

SVASA Core Singers: *Smt. Annapurna Duvvuri, Smt. Sudha Kotha  
(with group)*

Music Schools: *Smt. Vasantha Batchu & Students  
(Ragaswara School of Music)*

Other Singers: *Vasanth and Priya Tatta & Group  
Smt. Jyothi Sadhu and Group, San Diego*

**3. MANGALAM**

**PRASADAM will be served after the Mangalam**

***Admission Free. Donations Accepted***

*Take Avalon Blvd Exit #35 on Interstate 405, Go south for about 1.5 miles, Make right on Bayport St. The temple will be on your left. Parking is available inside.*

***For more information please contact,***

SVASA TEL: (951) 369-8768 OR Email: [svasausa@hotmail.com](mailto:svasausa@hotmail.com)

## **Sri Tallapaka Annamacharya (1408-1503)**

*By Satya Duvvuri*

On May 27, 2008 it will be 602 years, per the Telugu calendar, since the Avatar of Tallapaka Annamacharya Came on to the Earth. Annamacharya is believed to be the re-incarnation of Sri Venkateswara, the deity of Seven Hills (Tirumala, India) where unbroken worship is being offered for over 13 centuries. A rhyming couplet of poems called "Dwipada" in Telugu language written by Tallapaka Chinnanna, grandson of Annamacharya, enabled us to learn about Sri Tallapaka Annamacharya, his life and works. Annamacharya was born on Vaisakhapoomnima in the year Sarwadhari (May 9, 1408) in Tallapaka, a remote village in Andhra Pradesh, and lived for 95 years until Phalguna Bahula Dwadasi (12th day after full moon) in the year Dhundhubhi (February 23, 1503). Sri Tallapaka Annamacharya, the contemporary to Bhakt Kabir of the 15th century, is the earliest known musician of South India to compose devotional songs called "Sankeerthanas" in praise of the Almighty Sri Venkateswari. Devotees worship Sri Venkateswara as the most powerful force, having the compounded power of Vishnu, Shiva, and Aadi Shakthi. Aadi Shakthi is also known as Bala Tripura Sundari and hence the name "Balaji" for the Almighty Sri Venkateswara.

During his long and prolific career, Annamacharya composed and sang thirty two thousand (32,000) Sankeerthanas, 12 Satakas (sets of hundred verses), Ramayana in the form of Dwipada (rhyming couplets), Sankirtana Lakshanam, Sringara Manjari and Venkatachala Mahathyam. His works were in Telugu, Sanskrit and a few other languages of India. Annamacharya's Sankeerthanas are noted for the excellence of their lyrics and the beauty of their music. His Sankeerthanas pattern later shaped the keerthanas of the Carnatic music's trinity, viz., Thyagaraja, Deekshithaar, and Shyama Sasthy. The characteristic style and technique of the sahithya (lyrics) of Thyagaraja Krithis were first found in Annamacharya Sankeerthanas. Annamacharya's Sankirthanas were both Adhyathmic (spiritual) and Sringara (romantic) based on where he interpreted mystic experience in terms of both "Virakti" (disinclination) and "Rakti" (inclination) while "Bhakti" (devotion) was common to both.

Annamacharya was not a mere musician but he was the combined force of a musician, poet, prophet, guru and a social reformer. He is believed to be the form of Sri Venkateswara's Nandaka (sword) and his Sankirtanas as Mantras (holy hymns) that are tools to eradicate social evils. Annamacharya's disciples wrote the Sankeerthanas on palm leaves while he was singing extemporized Sankeerthanas in a state of bliss. Later his son Tirumalacharya got them engraved on copper plates. But for reasons not known, most of these copper plates lay hidden in a rock built cell opposite to Hundi in the Tirumala temple unnoticed for over 400 years. In 1922, twenty five hundred copper plates, comprising of about 14000 Sankeerthanas and a few other works, were found in the rock built cell. Ever since the discovery of this lost treasure, Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) and other organizations in India have been working hard to promote the Sankeerthanas of Annamacharya.

Sri Venkateswra Annamacharya Society of America (SVASA), based in Riverside, California has been promoting the music, literature, and philosophy of Annamacharya in the United States for the past two decades. As part of its mission, SVASA is organizing the 602th Jayanthi (day of birth) Commemoration Festival of Sri Tallapaka Annamacharya at Shree Ram Kabir Mandir, Carson, CA on 29th of May 2010. The spiritual event is open to all those interested in the Sankeerthanas of Annamacharya.