



*Sri Gurubhyo Namaha*  
श्रुति स्मृति पुराणनामालयं करुणालयं ।  
नमामि भगवत्पादशंकरं लोकशंकरं ॥



Challa Kashi Shastri  
240-461-3368 (c)  
301-947-0553 (c)

## ***Shravana Upakarma (Avani Avittam)***

Dear Devotees,

Upakarma (/upaakarma/) means "Beginning" or "Arambham", i.e. to begin the study of the Veda (Veda Adhyayanam). It is believed that Lord Sri Brahma got the Upadesam of Vedas (also called Brahma Upadesam) from Sri Bhagavan on this day. We have been celebrating this function annually for generations.

Gayathri is the name of one of the most important Vedic hymn, which is addressed to Surya who is the supreme force. She is shown as having five heads and is seated on a lotus. The four heads of Gayathri represents the four Vedas (Rig, Yajur, Saama, and Atharvana) and the fifth head represents the almighty.

It is believed that by performing this function and by chanting the Gayathri Mantra, we not only receive the blessings of Goddess Gayathri but also remove our sins and save the world from calamities. It is also believed that by chanting the Gayathri Mantra, our wisdom and intellect get enlightened to reveal the true nature of the supreme lord.

**The Yajur Upakarma (Avani Avittam) for this year falls on Saturday, August 29th. I have made arrangements to conduct the ceremony with homam at my residence.**

**1st Batch starts at 8:00 am (Please arrive by 7:45.)**  
**2nd Batch starts at 10:30 am (Please arrive by 10:15)**

I will arrange all the necessary items for everybody. You only need to bring in these items:

Pancha Pathram, Udharini , Thambalam (Plate), Thamboolam (2 Betel leaves and nuts, and 2 bananas)

The contribution for Guru Dhasksina is proposed at \$25 per person.

Venue:

12128 Polo Dr. Apt.413 (413 is on the parking level only)  
Fairfax, VA 22033

**Please email/call me if you are planning on attending the function.**

**Phone: 703-268-5727 (H) 301-947-0553 (C) 240-461-3368 (C)**

**Email:challaks@yahoo.com**

**The Gayathri Japam falls on Sunday, August 30th.**

**The Sama Upakarma falls on 14th Sept, and Rig Upakarma falls on 24th Sept. 2015.**