

Paschimavaahini Yugadi Get-together 2004- A report - By Poornima Ramaprasad Milpitas, California

Paschimavaahini, the western chapter of NASA, met on April 10th to celebrate Yugadi. As usual about 100 people attended the function. Plenty of entertainment programs for people of all ages, address by NASA President Dr. M S Nataraj, formation of a new committee together with great mouth-watering sankethi food made this program a blast. The Warm-Springs recreational facility in Fremont, California wore a very festive look, no less than any "maduve mane" that day.

The program started off with the Ganesha Pancharatna sung by Smt. Vasanthalakshmi and Party, followed by Vedaghosha by Sri. Vishwanathiah and Party. After pleasing the almighty, there was a snack break followed by introductions, recognitions and acknowledgements. Next our president Dr.Nataraj addressed the group and educated about the various activities that NASA is doing and called all the participants to become members of NASA to which a few responded immediately. Then Dr. Nataraj and KV Ramaprasad, who is the founder and has thus far been involved in organizing activities for Paschimavaahini, helped in the formation of a 5 member committee headed by Kiran SreenivasaMurthy to take care of all the activities of Paschimavaahini for the next year.



Next was the entertainment section. An orchestra with keyboard and guitar accompaniments from local sankethi artists was the first in line. Then, there was a unique sing and dance along program to which kids bravely went up to the stage and danced to their best. This was enjoyed by one and all with an ending comment of "Once more". This was followed by a kannada/sankethi skit "Paschimavaahini Sankethi Medium College" based on the famous song "Nodamma Hudugi" of the famous kannada movie of yesteryears Premaloka which was supposedly a re-make of Greece 2. After this was Dr. Nataraj's drama "Appa Amma Americakke Bandiddu", a hilarious drama, enacted well and got a very good response. To continue the mood of celebration and get into the mood of eating, a nicely tailored medley in sankethi/kannada/hindi was sung in the end. The speciality of this song was that it had the whole menu for that day in the form of a song, written on the grounds of "Vivaha bhojana idu". Needless to mention, the food was sumptuous and Yummy in the terms of our kids.



Another thing worth mentioning is, Dr Nataraj donated some hats with NASA logo which were sold and upto \$200 was collected. The committee is thinking of using this towards some service activities with Sankethi sangha in Mysore or Bangalore.

Over-all, it was a great evening and we're awaiting the next. We would like to take this opportunity to invite other members of NASA to attend our programs whenever possible. Please check NASA website often to get updated on our activities.