



NASA Navarathri Get-together
Held at the Hindu Temple, Middletown CT
September 30, 2006
Master of Ceremonies: Puneeth B Kumar

Program:

12:00 - 1:00	Arrival/Check in/Light Lunch
1:00 - 1:15	Invocation and Welcome speech by NASA President
1:15 - 1:45	Kids Program Mahathi and Apoorva: Violin Kethaki, Malaya and Ameya: Hindustani Music
1:45 - 3:00	Bharatha Vachana Mrs. Geetha Dathari & Prof. Dathatri
3:00 - 3:15	Coffee Break
3:15 - 4:15	Music Concert <u>Vocal:</u> Mrs. Sandhya Nagaraj, <u>Violin:</u> Deepak Varma, <u>Tabala:</u> Balakrishna Annigeri
4:15 - 4:30	Why we do Navarathri? - Dr. Sheenu Sinivasan
4:30 - 5:15	Lalitha Sahasranama group chanting by devotees
5:15 - 5:30	Bombe (Doll) Arathi
5:30 - Close	Closing remarks and Dinner

We are happy to report that we had a great get-together with friends that came from as close as Middletown CT and as far away as India. The event was attended by over 70 adults and children. Three new life members were added to NASA: Leela and Neelakantiah, Vijaya and Janardhan, and Sudha and Nagaraj.

Our get-together started off with delicious lunch. We had Gojavalakki and mosaranna for lunch along with home made banana chips. Cultural events started with Invocation and welcome speech by NASA President S. Sridhara. It was followed by a good Violin Duet by Mahathi Kumar and Apoorva Ramesh. They played a theme from Titanic, Lightly Row, French Folk Song, and Ode To Joy.

We then had the pleasure of listening to a wonderful performance in Hindustani music by Kethaki, Malaya and Ameya. This was followed by Vishvaroop Darshana of Lord Krishna through Bharatha Vachana. We don't think our community needs description of how joyful it was to listen to Bharatha Vachana by Mrs. Geetha Dathari & Prof. Dathatri.

Audience took a break to enjoy some snacks and coffee. Music concert followed coffee break. We were fortunate to find our own Sankethi singer Mrs. Sandhya Nagaraj who now lives in Stamford CT accompanied by Violin: Deepak Varma of Middletown CT, Tabla: Balakrishna Annigeri from Glastonbury CT. We heard several music pieces appropriate to the festival season on deities including Lord Ganesha, Goddess Sharadadevi, and Goddess Lalitha.

Sandhya sang the following songs:

- 1) Vaatapi Ganapathim bhaje Hamsadhwani Deekshitar
- 2) Annapoorne Vishalakshi Saama Deekshitar
- 3) Shringapuradhiswari Kalyani Padmacharan
- 4) Naarayana ShuddhaDhanyaasi Purandaradasa
- 5) ShriChamundeshwari Bilahari Mysore Vasudevacharya
- 6) Krishnaneebegane YamanKalyani Vyasarayana
- 7) ShriChakra raaja Raagamalike Agasthiyar
- 8) Manikya Veenam Raagamalike Kaalidaasa(This composition is from Shyamala Dandaka).

Amurtha Vishvanath thanked the artists and expressed interest in listening to their music in future events. We then had the opportunity to listen to Dr. Sheenu Srinivasan on Navarathri and why we do Doll Arathi etc. His remark that no program in television comes even close to Navarathri celebrations and Doll Arathi was really eye opening.

Devotees chanted Lalitha Sahasranama in a large group and this was followed by Doll Arathi. Evening concluded with Dinner which included authentic Chomai (or Ottu shavige), ambode, majjige huli, obbattu and other delicious Sankethi favorite items. All the food items were lovingly prepared by our own Sankethi members. Vote of thanks was proposed by S. Sridhara. Good - bye and clean up followed.

We thank all volunteers for making this event possible. All expenses to this event were covered by donations. Some pictures taken at the event have been posted on the website.

Reported by
Keshava Kumar, Secretary
NASA BOD

Mrs.Sandhya Nagaraj: Mrs. Sandhya Nagaraj, a Sankethi, hails from Channarayapatna in India. Secured 2nd rank in "Vidwath" from Karnataka Education board. (It is a State Level Exam). Got trained under well known artistes like Vidwan R.K.Srikantan , Vidwan R.K.Suryanarayana , D.J.Balakrishna (disciple of T.V.Shankaranarayana) and Vidushi Kiranavali Vidyashankar. Grade "B High" Artist at All India Radio. Given various concerts in Karnataka and has also performed in San Diego, California She can be reached at Ph No: 203-588-1686 Email: sandhya_pathra@yahoo.com