

First Canadian Sankethi Get-Together
Meadowvale Village Hall, Mississauga,
Ontario, Canada (Toronto Region)
October 28, 2006

PROGRAM REPORT

We are very happy to inform that the “First Canadian Deepawali Get-Together” was a success. This program was sponsored by NASA and 55 people turned up for the even including children. Several founding members and current board of directors of NASA graced the occasion by their presence. In the end, three families embraced NASA as new life members.

The program started off with light snacks such as Ambode/cookies and coffee. This was followed by Lakshmi Pooja for kids. Lakshmi Pooja arrangements were made by Divakar Rudrapatana’s family and Dr. Ramaswamy brought photos of goddess Lakshmi to be given to every kid. The Pooja was conducted by Shri Harave Keshava Murthy, a very senior, visiting Sankethi from India. Pooja was followed by Purusha Sookta chanting led by Dr. Jayaram, Divakar Rudrapatna, Shri Keshava Murthy and joined by many in the hall. Smt. Vimala Srinivasa coordinated the singing of bhajans by participants subsequent to Veda chanting.

The spiritual event was followed by inaugural session conducted by Smt. Kavitha Prakash as MC. The program started with invocation by Smt. Sudha Subbanna and welcome address by Dr. Ramaswamy - a member of the organizing committee. Dr. Ramaswamy introduced the other members of the organizing committee, Shri Divakar Rudrapatna, Smt. Jayashree Hanasoge and Shri Sreekanth, and welcomed the distinguished guests Shri Keshava Murthy - a senior member of the Bettadapura Sankethi community, Dr. Sridhara - the current president of NASA and other dignitaries. Dr. Sridhara inaugurated the program by lighting the lamp. Shri Harave Keshava Murthy enlightened the audience with a key note address on “Sankethis – A Historical Perspective”. He spoke about the origin of Sankethis as well as contribution of sankethis to the greater society. He also spoke about contribution of renowned Sankethis in the contemporary world. Dr. Sridhara spoke about NASA, its objectives and the socio-cultural benefit of being a member of NASA for all of us. The inaugural session was concluded by vote of thanks by Shri Divakar Rudrapatna.

The inaugural session was followed by lunch which provided a very good opportunity for all Sankethi members to get to know each other. The lunch coordination was done by Smt. Anupama Nagaraj and Smt. Sudha Subbanna. In addition, a lot of volunteers had prepared delicious items from home for the event. Kosambari, Saaru, Anna, Puliogere, Majjige Huli, Chapathi, Chole, Champakali, Mosaranna, Pickles, Banana chips, Adike etc. were available and everyone enjoyed the food.

In the post-lunch session, Shri Keshava Sundareshan gave a demo - presentation on “Sankethi Geneology S/W” which was liked by all. This presentation was followed by melodious “Bhaava-Geethe” presented by Smt. Vinutha Sheshachala who entertained all of us. Prof. Ramaswamy exposed the myths of Sankethi foods and enlightened us about the good, and the not so good

aspects of our food. He encouraged us to eat healthy and stay away from unhealthy food. This presentation will soon be available in the NASA page for anyone who wants to read it.

Smt. Vinutha Sheshachala had packaged a wonderful entertainment program by various people. First, all the Sankethi kids introduced themselves and their parents one by one in SANKETHI. All our hearts filled with joy listening to our kids speaking Sankethi in front of so many people. This was followed by various talent shows from kids that included singing songs, jokes and dance. Smt. Lakshmi Ramaswamy, entertained all of us with Yoga demonstration highlighting simple asanas that can be practiced by most. Her message was if I can do it, so can you, and we should do it to keep ourselves healthy. There was also a very effective multimedia presentation “Ganesha vandana” which involved participation from several children and was presented in an electrifying manner with mythical dress, dance and music. In summary, kids and adults alike performed with enthusiasm and were cheered by the audience.

The final piece of entertainment program was the melodious music by Smt. Geetha Dathatri which kept everyone glued to their chairs. Why could we not have this performance for a longer time? – this was the reaction from many. Smt. Geetha Dathatri sang various Devara Naamas scripted by Late Birur Chidambara Jois and composed by her father Late Vidwan Shri Ramasastry.

The official program was concluded by vote of thanks by Shri Sreekanth who thanked all the volunteers, attendees, performers, donors and NASA.

Followed by the official program was the dinner/Coffee for all the members. Idli/Sambar, Saaru, Anna, Carrot Halwa etc. were provided for Dinner. Some entertainment was plugged in to this as well with Kannada songs set to motion in sankethi and some talented mono-acting by Lakshmish Koushik. Every one left around 6:30 PM.

Shri Subbanna from Buffalo and Smt. Geeth and Shri Vijaya Rao from Indiana donated \$100 each on the spot to make up the cost of the event. Smt. Vimala Srinivasa donated \$20. We the organizing committee members and NASA are very thankful these families.

Dr. Barlow and Associates and Mr. Hardial Jandu covered the cost partially by agreeing to advertise in the event. We are thankful to them as well.

We also thank all the members who donated \$20 per family to cover the cost. In addition, we thank all the volunteers who worked diligently to make this event very successful. In the end, if there was any deficit, it was taken over by NASA.

The pictures of this event are published in the NASA page.

New Life Members of NASA.

Nagaraja Rudrapatna/Anupama Nagaraja/Akshatha Rudrapatna/Nagaprasada Rudrapatna

Bettadapura Sheshachala/Vinutha Sheshachacala/Kushal Sheshachala/Nidhishree Sheshachala

Sri Sreekanth/Sudha Subbanna/Supritha Sreekanth/Susmitha Sreekanth

