

North American Sankethi Association
Regional Meeting

Houston, TX
January 13, 2007

At

Iswari and Prasanna Murthy's House
1815 Sugar Crossing Dr.
Sugar Land, TX 77478

Before Lunch:

- Invocation – Samhitha Murthy
- Welcome – Prasanna Murthy
- Introduction – Sridhara
- Introduction of everyone
- Any other item – All

LUNCH

After Lunch

- Importance and Significance of Sankranthi Festival – Nataraj

Cultural Program

- Invocation – Samhitha
- Carnatic Music Piece – Harsha
- Orchestra – Shamsundar, Asha Bhaktavatsalam, Bhuvana Krishnan, Vimala, Chitra & Vamshi
- Surprise Duet – Sridhara and Rajeshwari

- Hindustani Piece – Iswari
- Chandrakantha and David Courtney
- Samhitha's Experience – her stay in Vrindavan, India
- Swaroop
- Short Mono Acting – "Namma Taatana Dinacharigalu" – Prasanna Murthy

List of Attendees

	Name	Children
1.	Rajeshwari & Sridhara	Srinivas & Shankar
2.	Iswari & Prasanna Murthy	Samhitha & Apoorva
3.	Sudha & Umesh Somanahalli	Pooja & Santhosh
4.	Shubha & Nataraj Mysore	
5.	Pushpa & Satyanaraya Somanahalli	Nandan & Neela
6.	Chitra & Ashok Rao	Swaroop & raj
7.	Surabhi & Sudhir Laxminarayan	
8.	Rekha Anand Kumar	
9.	Vanaja & Shamsundar	
10.	Harsha N	

About 10 Sankethi families from Houston, Austin and College Station from (TX), New Orleans (LA), Pennsylvania and Maryland gathered on January 13, 2007, Saturday at Prasanna Murthy and Iswari's house in Sugar Land, a suburb of Houston, Texas. Sridhara and Rajeshwari came all the way from Maryland and Satya from Pennsylvania for this event. Umesh joined us from Austin, Nataraj and Shobha from New Orleans. It was a pleasant social and cultural atmosphere through out the day.

The program started with Invocation to Goddess Lakshmi by Samhitha Murthy and lighting of the auspicious Sankranti deepa by Sridhara and Rajeshwari. This was followed by Purushasooktha recital by Sridhara and Prasanna Murthy. Sridhara updated everybody about the past activities, mission, and vision of NASA. Everybody got acquainted with each other.

We had an authentic home made lunch with Lemon rice, khara and sakkare pongal, usali, majjige huli and Mosaranna. All of us enjoyed Jayaram's Uppinakaayi and it was indeed a great Sankethi treat. At lunch time we had the traditional shloka singing by Sridhar. After a short afternoon lull, we started the cultural program with an invocation by Samhitha Murthy. Harsha a student at Texas A&M University, originally from Rudrapatna gave a wonderful rendering of kritis and Tillanas. Houston's own Sham Sundar on the flute with his orchestra group on Veena, Violin and Tabla played four delightful kritis of Thyagaraja and Muttuswami Dikshitar. Sridhara and Rajeshwari gave a beautiful Bhajan. This was followed by Hindustani music. Iswari Murthy sang a madyalay and a dhrut composition in Raga Hamsadhwani. Then Iswari's Guru Smt.Chandrakanta Courtney sang raga Marwa, Abhogi and Bhairavi. Chandra was supported on the tabla by her husband David Courtney. Swaroop Rao also a student of Chandra sang a Bhajan. Samhitha Murthy who had just returned from Mathura/Vrindavan, Bharat, spending the past six months for a service project at Vatsalya Gram (study abroad program though Texas A&M Uni), shared her experiences. All this was topped by a monoacting of episodes from Kittajja's life by Prasanna Murthy. Sridhara proposed vote of thanks and all of us enjoyed the dinner catered by Udipi café. Harsha and Sridhara continued their singing late into the night!

It was a wonderful get together and we can hope to have such events with more participation and enthusiasm.