



North American Sankethi Association (NASA)
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Dear Sankethi Family and Friends,

It gives me great pleasure to inform you that the BOD will host the 2005 Annual NASA Get-Together & Festival from Friday, July 1 through Monday, July 4, 2005 at the New Windsor Conference Center. Yes, it is the same place as the last several years. I know many of you desired to have a better place. We did extensive research and found that any other facility would cost us at least 50% more, so we have planned the meeting for the same location this year.

We have just started planning the activities. Here is a tentative list of highlights.

- Nature Walk: an old favorite
- Veda Chanting: a Sankethi tradition
- Yoga Exercises: new this year!
- Group Pooja: our experience suggests that most children and young adults do enjoy participating actively in this. We hope you will encourage your children to "experience" this religious event. (please provide us with the name, age and gender of your child participating)
- Vedic Mathematics: our own Dr. Ramachandra Shastry (NASA Cultural Secretary) will conduct this session. This should be of interest to people ages 8 to 80 (and perhaps beyond!)
- Family Tree: we conducted this family tree family activity a few times some years ago. We found it an enriching experience to go back to the roots and know how little we know about our forefathers. This should be of interest to all at the NASA function.
- Youth Forum: we are trying to assemble a group of young adults roughly in the age group 18 – 30 to talk about their job/study/ research programs. We want this group to be as diverse as possible. The main intent is to help people widen their horizons for career and programs available, in addition to "traditional career paths".

We will send more details in the next Newsletter, and look forward to seeing you all in July.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,
K.V. Srikantiah, President

2005 July 4th Annual Get-Together

We are all looking forward to seeing each of you at this year's Annual 4th of July NASA Get-Together. Please find below a preliminary list of activities that we have planned. Please feel free to provide us with your feedback in the attached form so that we can consider your input as we finalize the schedule of events for the weekend. We look forward to your active participation. Thank you.

Youth Talent Show

We would like to have a session dedicated to "Young Sankethis' Talent". We would like to encourage everyone to participate in this. If you are willing to do so, please call or email Madhulika Nataraja or Ramachandra Shastry with the following information: Name, age and activity ie., Vocal Classical – Karnatic, Vocal Classical-Western, Flute, Clarinet, Mono-acting, Dance, etc... Or you may also complete the attached form and mail to one of the addresses listed.

Indoor Games

Anthakshari: While this is always a very interesting activity, we would like to form teams such that it would make it even more interesting and entertaining. Please come forward with your own ideas on how we can do so.

Jeopardy: We would like to have a Jeopardy tournament on with a Sankethi theme. Please let us know if you have ideas for format or questions.

Indoor Games: As in the past we will have competitions in Carrom, Chess, Skipping, Basket Ball Shoot and Pagade. Cards session (Bridge/Rummy) for adults only will be organized depending on the level of interest. If you have any of the equipment for these, please bring them with you.

Outdoor Games

We have tentatively planned for the following: 25 feet dash for children under 5; and 50, 100 and 200 feet race for ages above 5; three-legged race and lemon and spoon race. Cards session (Bridge/Rummy) for adults only will be organized depending on the level of interest. Please indicate your item of interest by phone or email to Mahesh Rao or Niranjan Hanasoge. Again, you may also complete the attached form and mail to one of the addresses listed.

Cultural Programs

We are pleased to inform you that Mrs. Padma Gopal has kindly consented to give a Vocal concert in the Hindusthani style of music. Padma has thrilled the NASA audience some years ago. Needless to say, she is a very versatile musician and her performance should be a treat to all at the upcoming NASA function.

Effort is under way to add more cultural programs. Details will follow when finalized. If you know of any Sankethi artist who will be in the U.S. at that time, please let me know so we could try to arrange for their performance at NASA.

High School and College Graduation Awards

NASA takes pride in recognizing our young men and women who are graduating from High School & College through the High School Graduation Award (HGA) and College Graduation Award (CGA). The recipient's achievements will be presented to the audience in a colorful ceremony. The HGA carries \$100 cash and a certificate, while the CGA recipients will receive a silver coin and a certificate.

The following are the eligibility requirements for the awards:

1. Graduates from Fall 2004 through Spring 2005 will be recognized. (Note: Graduates from Spring 2004 will be recognized only if they had not been recognized last year).
2. Awardees, or parents as the case may be, must be members of NASA in good standing. (Life members or current annual members).
3. The graduate must be present at the meeting.

Please notify Srikantiah by phone or email if you have someone to recognize for one of these awards, or you may complete the attached form.

Community News

Mahesh Rao, son of Swarna Rao of Raleigh NC, married Anupama, daughter of Geeta and Raghavendran of Bangalore, India, in Bangalore in January 2005. The wedding ceremony was on a grand scale. NASA congratulates Mahesh and Anupama, and welcomes Anupama to the NASA fold. NASA wishes Mahesh and Anupama a Very Happy Married Life.

Uday Shankar and Rekha welcomed their new baby Nisha Sarika, weighing in at 5 pounds 15 ounces and 19 inches long in February 2005. The baby and parents are doing fine. NASA welcomes Nisha and extends its Best Wishes to the newborn.

In Memoriam

Geetha Krishna Murthy, wife of M.S. Krishna Murthy of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, passed away in January, 2005 in Ottawa. Geetha was just 53 years old, and was suffering from lung cancer for about a year.

Geetha and Krishna Murthy had made their home in Ottawa for over twenty-five years. In those twenty-five years a small group of just about four Kannada families in the mid-70s has grown to over fifty families in 2004. Geetha touched everyone of those Kannadigas, as well as hundreds of other people of Indian origin in Ottawa.

Geetha was an extremely talented person. She was a "natural" at folk songs, Light Classical music, film songs and Kolata. She was also a very good Bharatha Natyam dancer and teacher. Through her dynamism, enthusiasm and, above all, willingness to volunteer, the community was able to offer many cultural and social programs with participation from several of the community members. In particular Kannada folk songs and Kolata had become "permanent fixtures" of every Ugadi celebration of the Kannada Group of Ottawa.

Geetha leaves behind her husband Krishna Murthy in Ottawa, son Sanjay who is doing his medical Internship at Winnipeg, Manitoba and daughter Anjali who is studying Law in Australia. Geetha will be very much missed. NASA prays for strength and fortitude for the Krishna Murthy family to bear their irreparable loss.

Regional Activity

NASA has always counted on regional programs to help keep all of its members in-touch and active throughout the year. If you are interesting in hosting or helping to plan a regional event in your area, please contact Mahesh Rao.

Email and Mailing Address Updates

The Board of Directors is eager to keep in touch with our membership, know what is happening in their world, and to keep them informed of NASA Get-Togethers so that they could participate. Please contact Latha Shanthi Ramakrishna or Keshava Kumar with any updates. We would request all our NASA members to take a little time and let us know of their phone number, email and postal addresses whenever they move. This will help us keep "connected". Also, please share the content of this newsletter with your relatives.

And please remember that NASA functions are open to all. So feel free to bring your relatives, friends and visitors to NASA functions, regardless of their NASA membership status.

Thank you all for your continued enthusiasm for and support of NASA. We look forward to seeing all of you in New Windsor in July.

Sincerely,

L. Shanthi Ramakrishna
General Secretary, NASA

NASA Annual Get-Together Program Registration Form

If you or your child would like to participate in any of the NASA Annual Get-Together programs, please complete the form below and mail to one of the following individuals:

Madhulika Nataraja, 2525 N 10th Street, #502, Arlington, VA 22201
Ramachandra Shastry, 28 Isaac Drive, Dayton, NJ 08810
K.V. Srikantiah, 12 Philo Curtis Road, Sandy Hook, CT 06482

Participant's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ email: _____

Description of Program: _____

Time Required: _____

Youth Talent Show Participant's Age: _____

I would also like to participate in (pls indicate with P) or help organize (pls indicate with O) the following activities:

____ Indoor Games (Anthakshari, Sports, Jeopardy, etc...)

____ Outdoor Games (Running Races, Three-Legged Race, Lemon and Spoon Race, etc...)

____ Yoga

____ Family Tree

____ Youth Forum (Profession/Area of Study if you wish to present: _____)

I can bring the following games or sports equipment: _____

I would be most interested in seeing the following programs: _____

High School Graduation (HGA) and College Graduation Award (CGA) Candidates:

Name: _____ Indicate HGA or CGA: _____

Person who will speak about the Candidate: _____

Name: _____ Indicate HGA or CGA: _____

Person who will speak about the Candidate: _____