



**North American Sankethi Association (NASA)**  
**20017 Doolittle Street, Montgomery Village, MD 20886**  
**<http://www.sankethi.org>**

May 19, 2003  
Volume 20, No 2.

Dear NASA Members,

Greetings from the NASA Board of Directors.

This year we have conducted two main regional programs: (1) a music concert and Satyanarayana pooja in the national Capital area on March 8, 2003; and (2) Ugadi function held on April 5, 2003 in the Midwest (Detroit metropolitan area). Please read the details of these two programs in the attached newsletter. In addition, we also supported Paschima Vaahini (Western Sankethi Chapter) when they had their spring get-together of 2003. As it has been in the previous years, all elements of typical Sankethi tradition have been maintained. Many thanks to all the volunteers who supported in making these events successful.

We are preparing for the annual GBM 2003 that is scheduled to be held during the July 4th week end at New Windsor, MD. It will start at 3pm on Thursday, July 3rd and conclude by 11:00AM on Sunday, July 6th. As always, we are putting in enormous effort to make this event a very valuable & enjoyable one. The cost per family of the event this year is more or less the same as previous years. The New Windsor conference center accommodates about 180 people. In order to avoid a financial loss, we need your cooperation in assuring a good turnout at this year's event. Please also note that Annual General Body meeting will be held on Saturday, 5th July. Some members (especially, the youth) have complained about the way in which we drag our GBM proceedings. As you know, the NASA constitution requires us to hold the annual GBM. We need your help and cooperation in allowing the BOD to conduct the BGM in a professional and business-like manner by sticking to the agenda and showing the needed courtesy to all those attending the GBM. With your help, I am sure we can make even the GBM an interesting experience!

We invite you all to participate in the festivities and make this a big success. This will be a great opportunity for families and friends to have a reunion with very little effort and at low cost. Remember, some of us had the opportunity to attend the 'car-festivals' (Rathotsava) in our native villages like Koushika or Matthur? This get-together is the closest substitute to such a festival for our children here!

We encourage members to bring friends and relatives. We are a very open association; anyone who is a friend of a Sankethi, or anyone who is related to a Sankethi by marriage, or anyone who believes in our goals is welcome. Also remember to take advantage of the pre-registration rates by sending in your registration before June 18th, 2003. The room allotment will be done on a "first-come, first served" basis like previous years. Quality of entertainment will depend on strong involvement on the part of both our talented youth and adults. For participation in cultural events, please contact our Cultural secretary. We welcome your helpful suggestions, please tell us what we need to do to make your stay enjoyable, comfortable and worth your time.

Hoping to see you all,

M.S. Nataraja, NASA President

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**Notification of the Year 2003 General Body Meeting**

**May19, 2003**

Dear Members,

The 2003 Annual General Body Meeting will convene on Saturday, July 5th at 2 PM at the New Windsor Conference Center, New Windsor, MD.

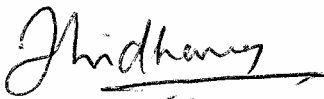
The order of business will be as follows:

1. Roll call
2. Reading of the minutes of the preceding meeting
3. Reports of committees
4. Reports of officers
5. Old and unfinished business
6. New business
7. Good and welfare
8. Adjournments

Please also note that per our bylaws **only members in good standing as of the Record Date, i.e., June 25th, 2003 may vote** on any formal motion. **We urge all the annual members who have not renewed their membership to do so before the Record Date.**

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. I look forward to seeing all of you at the Annual Function.

Yours Sincerely,



Sri Sridhara, General Secretary, NASA, May 19, 2003

**2003 Annual Event: July 3-6 at New Windsor Conference Center, New Windsor MD**

As in the past, we have secured the entire facility at the conference center. The facility which is very well known to all of you by now is located in a rural environment, about 50 miles west of Baltimore MD. About 180 people may be accommodated in the three buildings, two of which have rooms with attached bath rooms. The buildings are climate controlled including the well appointed huge dining hall. The Center provides beds and pillows, sheets and towels. Please see attached Directions to reach New Windsor.

Food arrangements: We are working with two well known south Indian restaurants in this area to cater delicious food. You will understand that it is not easy to satisfy varying wishes from members ranging from very simple two meals a day with no sweets at all, to full three meals and snacks with good appetizers and sweets! We will try and keep your inputs in mind while finalizing the menu. Please let one of us know if any of you have special needs. We would like to thank Latha Shanthi Ramakrishna, Dr Uma Ramakrishna and Dr Mahalakshmi Nataraj for sponsoring late evening snacks. We welcome sponsors for any other meal or event.

Registration and charges: Details are included in the attached form. We have increased full registration charges for adults by only \$5 to \$130 for adults, but reduced the rates for young adults to \$80 from \$100, while introducing a new category for visitors and students from India at only \$100 to encourage their participation. The key to breaking even is for you to attend in large numbers.

**The Activities:**

The Board has taken the many inputs and recommendations from last year's Panel Discussion in encouraging Regional Meetings this year, and in coming up with this year's activities. However, as always, we welcome any suggestions from you in this regard. A Program Overview is attached and it will be fine tuned by the date of the event. Following are some of the special programs for this year:

- **Music and Dance appreciation sessions followed by concerts in each by well known Sankethi artistes.**
- **Segment on Hinduism and other religions, and scriptures and Vedic chanting followed by Group Pooja.**
- **Exhibition of Paintings by two Sankethi painters, and an appreciation session with live demo outdoors.**
- **General Body Meeting (Updates from last year's panel discussions, Board of Trustees Concept, Sankethi Cruise proposal, Revival of Chiguru, Ideas for the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations, etc) while keeping GBM brief, and no elections this year.**
- **Kannada Movie**
- **Fireworks (subject to approval by local authorities) sponsored by Dr Jai Rangappa.**
- **Sports activities including some new events.**

### **High School Graduation and College Graduation Awards:**

NASA takes pride in recognizing our young men and women who are graduating high school & college through High School Graduation Award (HGA) and College Graduation Award (CGA). As customary, the awards for this year will be presented in New Windsor. 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. Please use the attached Annual Event Registration Form to provide us with the details.

The following are the eligibility requirements for the awards:

1. Graduates from Fall 2002 through Spring 2003 will be recognized. (Note: Graduates from Spring 2002 will be recognized only if they have not been recognized last year).
2. Parents must be members of NASA in good standing. (Life members or current annual members).
3. The graduate must be present at the meeting.

### **Membership Dues**

We encourage all participants to become Life members, if not already so. If you are not already a member, we strongly invite you to become a Life Member for a fee of \$200 payable in one or more installments within a period of one year or an Annual Member for \$25. Please use the attached Membership Form to send us your membership dues.

Remember, You are required to be an active member in order to participate in the Elections & General Body proceedings.

NASA congratulates and welcomes the following new members to participate in and contribute to NASA's endeavors.

#### Life Members:

Dr Keshava Datta  
Indrani and Sampath Seetharam

#### Annual Members :

Narasimha Kumar

### **Regional Activities:**

We are very happy to include a report each on the following two successful regional programs held since March:

## **DC Area**

NASA Regional Get-together in the National Capital Area, Grand Musical Concert and Satyanarayana Pooja.

Srimathi. Sithalakshmi Madhavan, enthralled the Washington area music lovers with her delightful rendering of well-known compositions of vaaggeyakaara's of Karnataka. Her selections included compositions by Mysore Vasudevacharya, Muthiah Bhagavathar, Maharaja Jayachamaraja Wodeyar, Purandara Dasaru and many others. More than two hundred music lovers attended the concert at the Sri Siva Vishnu Temple on March 8th. The local Sankethi devotees gathered at the temple the following day (March 9, 2003) to conduct Satyanarayana pooja (family style). These two programs

were made possible because of the generous donations made in kind and cash by the following families to whom we are very grateful: (1) Padmini and Ananth Rao; (2) Indrani and Sampath Seetharam; (3) Roopa and Shankar Rao; (4) Meena and Sanjay Rao; (5) Sundarimani and Natesh Magge; (6) Radha and Jayaram; (7) Sithalakshmi and Vasanth Madhavan; (8) Suneetha and Lakshminarayana (9) Lakshmi and Arun Kumar (10) Rajeshwari and Sridhara; and (11) Geeta and Nataraja. (A number of donors remain anonymous!). Although the two day event was very successful, we had a bit of confusion in food arrangement on the evening of the music concert. There were two main reasons for it; first, we had an extra-ordinary attendance; and second, the temple kitchen volunteers with whom we had made arrangements were unable to distinguish between those attending the concert and the other temple devotees who took advantage of the food being served. We express our sincere regrets to those who might have experienced discomfort due to the situation. We have taken note of the lessons learned.

## **DETROIT NASA UGADI PROGRAM**

The NASA Ugadi function held in Novi, Michigan on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2003 was a great success. Over 70 people from the Midwest area and Washington DC, Virginia, Indiana, Chicago attended the function. Thanks to the organizers (Mrs. Jayashree Sastry & Mrs. Mahalakshmi Honasoge) and all the volunteers for their strong support in making this event a great success for the fourth year in a row. The commitment of NASA members residing outside Michigan to attend this function was gratifying and added enthusiasm for the organizers.

The program started off with the chanting of Rudra by Nataraj Honasoge, Avinash Hanasoge, Aravind Hanasoge, M.G. Prasanna, Narasimha Kumar, Arun Chickmenahalli, Dr. Ramakrishna, and Dr. M.S. Nataraja.

Dr. M.S. Nataraja eloquently spoke about the significance of Ugadi and welcomed the Swabhaanu Samvatsara. Due to severe winter weather patterns, Bevu was not available this year for distribution – therefore, only bella (in Vobattu form) was distributed.

The religious activity was followed by authentic, delicious home cooked Sankethi food prepared by many Sankethi families. Dr. Sridhara initiated lunch with a prayer. We thank all those who generously offered their services.

The superb performance on the Violin by Sri. Srikanth (disciple of Smt. Kanya Kumari) and Smt. Pavani (disciple of Sri. R.R. Keshava Murthy) accompanied by Sri. Vinod Seetharam on the Mridangam was very melodious and captivating. Thanks to the artists for accepting our invitation to perform at NASA UGADI.

The variety entertainment program continued with several Sankethi youth showcasing their talents in an assortment of sorts. Dr. M.S. Nataraja's Kavana, and a rendition of his Sankethi Geethe followed this.

The cultural program officially concluded with a vote of thanks from Dr. Sridhara thanking all the attendees for making this program a grand success.

The pictures are available on the NASA website [www.sankethi.org](http://www.sankethi.org) for viewing. Thanks to all the participants who made this a colorful and memorable event.

### **NASA Community News:**

#### **New Arrivals:**

Rajiv and Rachna now have a baby girl Rani, and Ranjini Srikantiah and Dale now have their first baby boy Tejan. Our Hearty Congratulations to both these couples!

#### **Recognitions:**

We are very proud to recognize our NASA President Dr M S Nataraj for receiving the famous "Gorur Award" from Bangalore, Karnataka, for his collection of poems "Madhuchandra-Sirikendra". This literary award is given by the Goruru Prathishtana for books published in Kannada in the year 2002. The Gorur Trust is established and run by the family, friends and admirers of the late Sri Goruru Ramswamy Iyengar. Dr Nataraj attended the awards ceremony on the 13th of April at the Bharatheeya Vidya-Bhavan, Bangalore.

Dr. Anantha Rao, well-known Cardiologist, received the Maryland Governor's Award for the year 2002. Our Congratulations to Ananth who has been a founding NASA member and an ardent supporter of our activities.

Sangeetha Kalaanidhi, Sri. R.K. Srikantan and his son Sri. R.S. Ramakanth visited the National Capital area and gave concerts and conducted Karnatic music workshop during April/May 2003. Many music lovers enjoyed their multiple concerts and took advantage of the valuable training he gave to music lovers (including many Sankethi enthuciasts). Many local area Sankethi's entertained the Srikantan family (most notably, Dr. Ananth Rao and family, NASA general Secretay Dr. Sridhara and family, and NASA president Dr. Nataraja and family). NASA too joined in the various felicitations by giving the Octogenarion artiste a token purse, flowers and fruits.

We request our members to please send us information about any news items such as new arrivals in your family, weddings and accomplishments, so we may share your joy with all families.

### **Charitable Contributions:**

We encourage all our members to take advantage of the facility available to all of you to send charitable contributions to tax-exempt reputable institutions such as Kowshika and Bettadapura Sankethi Sanghas in India through NASA. If you need any clarifications, please contact the President. This year, MKVD Pathashala (Bangalore), Bettadapura Sankethi Sangha, Koushika Sankethi Sangha, RSPAS Charitable Trust (Ragigudda Temple, Bangalore), and Sri Ramakrishna Students Home (Bangalore) have benefited as a result of NASA members' generosity.

### **Sankethi Tamboola:**

NASA encourages all Sankethi families to send in a Sankethi Tamboola to mark family celebrations like weddings, upanayanas and new arrivals.

## **NASA Annual Festival – 2003** *Program Overview (will be fine tuned by July3)*

### **Thursday, July 3, 2002**

3:00 PM	Registration / Check In Begins
6:30 PM	Dinner
8:00 PM-10 PM	Bingo and Sankethi Link Kannada Movie (TBA)

### **Friday, July 4, 2002**

6.30 AM and 7:00 AM	Nature Walk / Vedic Prayers
8:00 AM	Breakfast
9:00 AM	Sports Activities (TT, Carrom, Musical chairs, Tug of War etc) Painting Workshop and Display outdoors: Mayura Simha
12:30 PM	Lunch outdoor weather permitting
2:00 PM	Music Concert (TBA)
3.30 PM	Coffee break
4 PM-6 PM	Talent show from youngsters
6:30 PM	Dinner
7.30-9 PM	Dance Appreciation session and Recital (Shrutiranjani, Madhulika and Vidya)
9-10.15 PM	Cultural activities followed by Fire works display
10.30 PM	Cake and Cookies followed by Kannada Movie (TBA)

### **Saturday, July 5, 2003**

6.30 AM and 7:00 AM	Nature Walk and Vishnu Sahasranaama
8:00 AM	Breakfast
9 AM	Hindu Scriptures and Vedic Chanting session lead by Dr K Ramakrishna
9.45 AM	Hinduism and International Religions: Dr Hebbar
10.45 AM	Pooja appreciation session and Group Pooja lead by (TBA)
12:00PM	Lunch

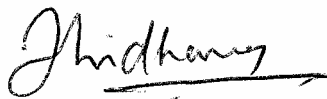
2:00 PM	GBM, including updates on Last year's panel recommendations including Board of Trustees concept, Chiguru and Sankethi Cruise
4 PM	Coffee break
4.15 PM	Recognize Sankethi Achievers, Graduation and Sports Awards Presentation
6:00 PM	"Back to our Roots" - Formal Served Dinner
7:30-9PM	Music appreciation session followed by Concert: Dr Amrutha Vishwanath
9 PM	Talent Show by members
10.30 PM	Pizza/Member Mixer ("social hour")

**Sunday, July 6, 2003**

6.30 AM and 7 AM	Nature walk and Morning Prayers
8:30 AM	Brunch
10:00 AM	Start Check Out and complete by 11 AM

For participation in cultural activities, please contact Veda or Ramesh ASAP (contact info on the Registration Form). More information on Sports activities will be available on arrival on Thursday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>; Coordinators will be Shekhar, Jayanth and Vaani.

Thank you and with best wishes,



Sri Sridhara, Gen. Secretary, NASA  
May 19, 2003



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