



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

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Dear Fellow Sankethis of North America,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to wish you all a very happy Ugadi! May the New Year ("tAraNa" Samvatsara) bring happiness and peace of mind to all of us. I am happy to announce that we are starting our 20th Anniversary celebrations with an auspicious Ganapathi Homa and Sri Satyanarayana Pooja at the Sri Shringeri Saadhana Center in Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania on March 28, 2004. Many of you may have fond memories of attending annual meetings in that beautiful setting.

We are ambitious in our planning for the 20th Anniversary celebrations. I am happy to report that we will have top quality music concerts from highly acclaimed artists like Sangeeta Kalanidhi R.K.Srikantan (supported by his son Sri Rudrapattanam Ramakanth) and another well-known visiting artist from Bangalore, Srimathi Vasantha Madhavi. There will be many other interesting items to keep you all totally engaged. We are also planning to repeat the outdoor dosa camp and other items that gave us high marks last year! Those of you who wish to present cultural items (group items), please get in touch with us as soon as possible.

After having searched for other locations, we have settled on the New Windsor facility, which seems to be the best one available for our purpose and in our price range. We are investigating the possibility of using the local school auditorium for certain segments of the program. We are planning to publish a souvenir and a directory to mark the occasion. In addition to all this, many senior members and past presidents have suggested that we do some other worthwhile activities to commemorate the 20th Anniversary that will touch some Sankethi hearts in a way that is hard to visualize, but will generate a great deal of goodwill. (Please see the 20th Anniversary activities sponsorship section below) Our program will be a reflection of your generosity, so please write a check and mail it today with your instructions as to how we might put your charitable donation to good use.

A special request to our Paschimavaahini brethren to please sponsor events as a group and attend in big numbers and present your own group items. How about inviting all NASA members to celebrate the 25th Anniversary on the West Coast? In all, we want this year to be a special one. We can do it, only if you all chip in. We look forward to your enthusiastic physical, moral and financial support. Give us your feedback, pledge your donations in advance and help us finalize our plans. Let us be proud to be Sankethis.

Sincerely,

M.S. Nataraja, President

Dear Friends:

It is our great pleasure and pride to present to you with this newsletter. Please visit our website www.sankethi.org where upcoming events are regularly posted and updated. As always, please send us your comments so we can continue to improve our organization.

Membership Update

Congratulations to our new Life and Annual Members!

Life Members:

Saraswati Rao
Arun and Lakshmi Kumar
Jyothi and Manohar Jagalur

Annual Members:

Basavapatna K Swamy
Aparna Swamy
Srivani K Srikantiah

NASA 20th Anniversary Celebration

The NASA 20th Anniversary Celebration will begin on Friday morning, July 2, 2004, and will be held in New Windsor, MD. Cost for the full weekend is expected to be \$160 for each adult (12 and over), and free for children (under 12). As mentioned in the President's opening letter, the July get-together will feature music concerts by R.K. Srikantan and Vasantha Madhavi. Our own young and talented dancer Sangeeta Sastry is producing a dance drama depicting Sankethi history, especially for this occasion. Mayank Keshaviah who has consistently provided good entertainment during several past meetings has graciously agreed to present a special production of his own. And the famous Rajarajeshwari Theater will present its fourth Kannada drama!

NASA would like to include various special events as part of the 20th Anniversary celebration. Some such activities are a "santarpaNe" at the Kowshika Rathotsava, sponsorship of a day at the various Sankethi hostels in Mysore, Hassan and Shimoga, support of cultural activities at the Gamaka Parishath in Hosahalli, Sangeeta Sabhas at Mattur and Rudra Pattana, or promotion of educational activities in institutions like Gayathri Veda Pathashala in Hosahalli, or institution of a scholarship.

Sponsorship of Activities

But these activities require money, a lot more than we normally spend during our annual meetings. Our only resource is the registration money paid by attendees, but the money thus collected will not even cover the expenses of food and lodging. This forces us to seek sponsors for various items. With many successful members, NASA should not be in such a tight situation financially. One very easy way you can all help is to attend the program in large numbers and be willing to pay a little more in return for the quality and comforts that you expect so that no one is burdened unnecessarily. Having said that, we need additional donations and sponsorships of various activities if we must do something worthwhile, something more than the routine. The donors can pick and choose which activity they would like to support. Please consider sponsoring the following activities: (1) a cultural event during the 20th Anniversary program; (2) a meal (breakfast, lunch, dinner, snack, dessert, paan etc... either entirely or in part) especially suited to those families which have just celebrated big events of their own; (3) your pet cultural/educational/charitable Sankethi projects in Karnataka. Please see the attached sponsorship form to donate funds to support the activities listed above.

Souvenir Article Requests

As you know, we are planning to publish a souvenir that will be released during the 20th Anniversary function in July. We invite you to submit articles/poems/essays/stories and advertisements either in English or in Kannada (or in Sankethi written in Kannada – please use Baraha 5.0 or MS Word format). Articles should be short (upper limit is two pages) and should be relevant to NASA membership in general. Those of you who wish to contribute to the souvenir (poems, essays and other writings of general interest to NASA membership) please contact M.S. Nataraja at mysreena@aol.com, immediately for details of formats, specifications and selection of topics. Please pass this invitation on to any NASA members who might be willing and capable of contributing to the souvenir.

For those who choose to submit an article, please also include a short resume (one paragraph) and a passport size recent picture (scan and e-mail as an attachment.) We are also soliciting advertisements and sponsorship from doctors/businesses/lawyers and other interested individuals at a very nominal cost. (Back cover is \$200, Inside covers are \$150, full page is \$100, half a page is \$50, and visiting cards and complementary messages are \$25.) We are also negotiating with the "Sankethi Sangama " to co-produce this special issue and thus your

writing and advertisements/messages can potentially reach a larger number of Sankethi families. This is an excellent opportunity for all the members to show their generosity and support to NASA.

Directory Information Requests

In the spirit of celebrating 20 years of NASA, we'd like to celebrate its members. The dedication of families strengthens the fabric of our organization. This year, we request each family to submit a picture of their family, along with some accompanying details i.e. hobbies, quotes, interests, occupation, etc. Please look forward to being contacted by a member of the Board of Directors to collect this information.

Regional Activity

East Coast – Ugadi Celebration on Sunday, March 28, 2004 in Stroudsburg, PA

The Event: Ugadi Celebration (TARANA SAMVATSARA)

When: Sunday, March 28, 2004 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Where: Sringeri Saadhana Center, Stroudsburg, PA

As an inaugural function for the 20th Anniversary, NASA is planning a regional get-together at the Sringeri Saadhana Center, Stroudsburg, PA, on Sunday, March 28, 2004, with a Ganapathi Homa, Saamoohika Sathyanarayana Pooja and a cultural program. Please come in large numbers and help us make this inaugural event a memorable one. Your sponsorship of the Ganapathi Homa and/or Satyanarayana Pooja would help raise resources for charitable, cultural and religious activities of the association.

Program:	8:30am	Ganapathi Homa with 108 Modakas
	10:30am	Saamoohika Satyanarayana Pooja
	11:30am	Panchanga sravana, devotional music
	1:00pm	Lunch
	2:00pm	Bhaaratha Vaachana

Sponsorship:

- (1) Both Ganapathi Homa and Satyanarayana Pooja: \$101
- (2) Either Sathyanarayana Pooja or Homa: \$51
- (3) Participation without Sponsorship: \$25 per family

Please RSVP regarding your participation, sponsorship, and help in food preparation (if possible) to either:

M.R.Balakrishna (518) 371-6852 mrbalakr@hotmail.com or

Prof. Y.N.Dathatri (631) 847-0595 dathatyn@farmingdale.edu

Please provide your Name, Gothra and Nakshatra.

Please make checks payable to NASA Inc. noting "Ugadi" in the memo. You may donate additional amounts and designate your choice of support towards charitable, cultural, or religious activities of NASA as part of the 20th Anniversary celebration. Also please note that those who are unable to attend may still sponsor the homa/pooja. Checks can be sent to M.S. Nataraja at 20017 Doolittle Street, Montgomery Village, MD 20886.

Please feel free to invite other non-Sankethis (like minded families and friends) to participate in the celebration and encourage them to sponsor the events. For those who may want to arrive on Saturday, limited overnight accommodation is available on a reservation basis. For directions to the venue visit www.svbf.org

West Coast – Ugadi Celebration on April 10, 2004

Bay Area Sankethis will conduct Ugadi Celebrations on April 10th with variety entertainment – Including gamaka, sangeetha, orchestra, drama, etc. They would like to invite all NASA members to participate if possible.

Charge for Processing Donations

Due to recent more rigorous review of donations made to non-profit organizations, NASA must require that anyone who wishes to make a tax-deductible donation through NASA be at least an annual member in good standing. Therefore, any donations made by non-members will be subject to a \$50 processing fee, which will include the cost of annual membership. Donations made by members in good standing will be subject to a \$25 fee, to cover the time and expenses involved in making donations through NASA.

NASA Community News

NASA congratulates Mrs. Shubha and Dr. M.S. Nataraj on their daughter's wedding conducted in January 2004 in New Delhi. Our best wishes to the newlyweds, Meera and Amit.

NASA would like to congratulate the following parents and welcome all new NASA babies!

- Ranjini Srikantiah and Dale Poage welcomed Thejan on May 8, 2003
- Seetha and Harish Aiyer welcomed 8 pound, 19 inch Sanjay Aiyer on June 12, 2003
- Santosh and Ami Govindaraju welcomed 5 pound 12 ounces, 19 inch Vinay Govindaraju on November 5, 2003
- Maitrayee Sundaresan and Mahesh Vadali welcomed 6 pound 8 ounce, 21 inch Avinash Krishnasurya Sundaresan Vadali on February 18, 2004
- Vikram and Sangeetha Kashyap welcomed their 3rd child, Rohit
- Rukki and Mark Mirotznick welcomed their 2nd child, Benjamin

NASA would like to congratulate Dr. Y. N. Jayaram, founding president of NASA, on his retirement from the US Army, and receipt of the Legion of Merit Award.

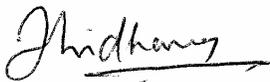
NASA was very sad to hear the news of the passing of Nagalakshmi Rao, 70, the loving wife of Ramachandra Rao for an amazing fifty eight and a half years, on October 28, 2003. She touched a wide circle of relatives and friends with her incredible generosity towards all, her warmth, her love of people, her laughter and her humanity. She will be greatly missed.

NASA was also very sad to hear the news of the passing of Chaya Rao (younger sister of NASA past president, M.R. Balakrishna), who was killed in an accident (hit by a car while crossing the street) on Thursday (Dec 4, 2003). Cremation was on Sunday afternoon (Dec 7, 2003). We pray for the departed soul.

Sankethi Cruise

The Sankethi Cruise was cancelled due to lack of participation.

We look forward to seeing you all at the Ugadi celebration later this month, and at the Annual Celebration in July. Best wishes to all of you from NASA!



S. Sridhara, Gen. Secretary, NASA

L. S. Ramakrishna, Asst. Secretary, NASA

NASA 20th Anniversary Celebrations Sponsorship Form

If you would like to sponsor any of the activities listed below, in honor of the NASA's 20th Anniversary Celebration, please complete the form below, make checks payable to NASA, Inc., and mail to M.S. Nataraja, 20017 Doolittle Street, Montgomery Village, MD 20886.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ email: _____

Amount of Donation: _____

Purpose of Donation (please include details in the space provided below):

___ Ugadi Celebration (please select activity)

___ Ganapathi Homa and Satyanarayana Pooja (\$101)

___ Either Sathyanarayana Pooja or Homa (\$51)

___ 4th of July Annual Meeting Cultural Event(s) (could include concerts by R.K.Srikantan or Vasantha Madhavi)

___ 4th of July Annual Meeting Meals (could also include snacks, cold drinks, dessert, paan etc...)

___ Sankethi cultural, educational, or charitable projects (please specify in the space provided below)

___ Sponsorship of Souvenir advertisement space (please specify placement of ad)

___ Back Cover (\$200)

___ Full Page (\$100)

___ Best Wishes Message (\$25)

___ Inside Cover (\$150)

___ Half Page (\$50)

___ Any other activity (please specify in the space provided below)

Sponsorship Details or Advertisement/Message Text:



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