



North American Sankethi Association (NASA)
2154 Radcliffe Dr., Troy MI 48085
www.sankethi.org

Date: January 8, 2002
Volume 19. No 1.

Board of Directors

President

Jayashree Sastry

(248) 879 0794

jsastry199@aol.com

Vice-President

Nataraj Honasoge

(248) 855 8161

honasoge@mediaone.net

Gen. Secretary

Dr. Rajeshwari Sridhara

(410) 418 4024

rsridhara56@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Mayank Keshaviah

(202)232-7371

mayank@alum.dartmouth.org

Secretary –

Constitution/Bylaws/

Financial Planning

Santosh Govindaraju

(813) 784 8901

sraju@paragonfinancialco.com

Web/e-media coordinator

Saroja Hanasoge

(212) 759 3353

shanasoge@yahoo.com

Cultural Secretary

Sangeeta Sastry

(248) 879 0794

sangeeta99@aol.com

Dear NASA Members,

The Board of Directors would like to wish you all a happy, peaceful and prosperous New Year!

In light of recent events, we would like to express our heartfelt sympathies to the families affected. Also, we would like to inform everyone that all NASA members are accounted for and safe.

After a long break, we are sending out the first newsletter for this year. Before we move on to the planned events for the year 2002, I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the success of the 2001 GBM.

Despite the fact that it was a 5 day long event with scarce attendance, the event turned out to be a huge success. It was very encouraging to see many new faces and talents. Due to the number of planned activities and poor attendance, NASA incurred a substantial deficit that was recovered by generous contributions by the members at large. The board is very appreciative of their generous donations.

In 2002, we are planning to hold a Ugadi Function in Detroit, Michigan on Saturday, April 13th. Further details regarding this event can be found inside the newsletter.

I would like to encourage NASA members to volunteer and participate in organizing regional events. Such events not only enhance & strengthen the Sankethi network, but also will forge stronger bonds within the community.

The annual GBM will be held at New Windsor Conference Center, Maryland, from July 4th through July 7th 2002. Any suggestions regarding the upcoming events are welcome.

I look forward to your continued involvement and support in NASA's endeavors. Our next communication will be sometime in May, announcing the details about the annual GBM 2002.

Sincerely,

Jayashree Sastry
President, NASA Inc.

Report on the New Windsor Get-Together.

The annual get-together was held in New Windsor, same place as last year, with over 120 attendees. A survey was also conducted towards the end of the meeting to get participants opinion on the annual get-together. This survey is currently being analyzed and will be published in our next newsletter. Overall the sense was that it was good that the event was spread out for 4 days with more time to mingle and participate. Although Food was Good, it could have been better with less oil and sugar.

Our membership increased significantly this year. Our **new members** are:

Life Members:

Vidya and Madan Mohan
Hema Magge
Anjana & Rohit Harve

Annual Members:

Srinivas Sridhara
Shankar Sridhara
Keshava Datta
Parvathi Rangappa
Viajaya & Somashekhar Saligrama
Sandya Magge
Sandhya & Nagaraj Anantashesha

Congratulations & Welcome! We look forward to your continued support. We particularly thank the record number of new youth members and urge all our youth non-members to consider becoming members in the year of 2002!

Summary of Activities

July 4th, Wednesday:

This year's event was kicked off with a Kannada Workshop conducted by visiting Professor. Dr. N.D. Krishnamurthy in three parts. The participants of this workshop were: Rumya Honasoge, Rachna Naik, Suchetha Sastry, Vikram Rao, Nikita Rao, Nitya Lohitsa, Pramod Saligrama, Anjali Krishnamurthy and Shankar Sridhara.

Rapid Fire Antakshari, where the NASA Youth faced off with the NASA Seniors in a race to sing first in any language with a given word, followed this. Eventhough everybody participated in this game, the credit for the members responsible for the winning teams goes to Suchetha Sastry and Geetha Krishnamurthy.

July 5th Thursday:

The day commenced with the All Day Picnic at Centennial Park, organized by Rajeshwari Sridhara and family. It was an excellent day for perfect execution of all the activities planned at the venue for fellow Sankethis. The Park was very well equipped, with facilities for boating, canoeing, hiking, etc complete with tennis, basketball and volleyball courts. The Sankethis also enjoyed traditional Indian sports like Lagori along with regular picnic games like 3-legged race, ping pong ball and spoon race, volleyball, etc. A sumptuous meal completed the experience.

Back at the Conference Center, this was followed by another round of the Kannada Workshop and then a Kannada Movie Matinee – Beladingala Bale, starring Anant Nag. Directed by Sunil Kumar Desai, this movie won rave reviews and 3 National Awards .

July 6th Friday:

The day opened with the third and final round of the Kannada Workshop, where Dr. Krishnamurthy and the participants were awarded with a Certificate of Appreciation and a Trophy as a token of recognition. This was followed by Sports Activities. The competitive sports included Table Tennis, Free Throw Basketball, Jump Rope (Adults and Kids) and Musical Chairs (Adults and Kids).

Lunch was followed by a Web-Page Seminar organized by Saroja Hanasoge. This discussion involved the definition of community in the context of Web site development. The formation of a web site for a cultural organization inevitably hits on how members of the cultural organization view their community membership. Essentially, when the web site is created we are looking at the characteristics of the web-page uniquely describe a particular cultural community. Heated and passionate discussions about the definition of Sankethi community arose on Friday. Side questions that also came up were whether the web site ought to be viewed solely as a reflection of

the NASA organization or the sankethi community at large in North America. It was felt that perhaps it was not necessary to distinguish between the organization and the sankethi community. Sundareshan indicated that an operational definition of the Sankethi community might be based explicitly on geographical origin. Also suggested was linguistics. It might be said that additional discussions need to be set up for focusing solely on the community definition, as many seem to have slightly varying opinions. Ultimately, it is important to have a definition of the community within the Web context. Critical evaluation of what functionality and content to provide on the Web site relies upon what members perceive one does within the community and most importantly what the community is.

The General Body Meeting in turn followed this and the minutes of the meeting are attached. Next came a Debate on International Trade conducted by Aruna and Veena Vishwanatha.

Following people participated in the evening Cultural Programs:

- Vocal - Geetha Nataraja
- Vocal – Dr. Sridhara
- Vocal – Mrs. Savithramma
- Vocal – Rumya Honasoge
- Saxophone – Vikram Bhargava
- Vocal – Samhita Bhargava
- Violin – Shivram Manjunathiah
- Poetry – Dr. M.S. Nataraja

This program is yet another display of the professional level talent we have in our community. Congratulations to all the participants. All participants at the event were awarded with a Certificate of Appreciation as a token of recognition from NASA. We would like to thank Dr. Srikantiah for his assistance in completing the Certificates of Appreciation and Graduation Awards with his penmanship. Trophies were also awarded to outside artists along with the Certificates.

July 7th Saturday:

A Discourse followed by an open floor discussion by Swami Chidananda of Vedanta Society, Chicago began the day covering topics such as Hinduism today, Brahminism, customs and norms, etc. Nasa members contributed over \$250 at the meeting which was donated to Vedanta Society , Chicago.

A Panel Discussion was organized and conducted by Saroja Hanasoge, covering a range of topics based on the Sankethi Heritage which involved specific discussion on our identity. Six members spoke on 6 different questions presented to them prior to the panel discussion. Jai Rangappa, Veena Vishwanath, M.S. Nataraj, Wing Commander Ramachandran, and Uma Ramakrishna, Mahalakshmi Honasoge, were the panel members. They spoke on the following questions respectively.

Question 1: Comment on whether or not your sankethi heritage has influenced your personal life (e.g. family, marriage, anything you might construe as personal). If so, why has it? how has it? If it hasn't - why hasn't it? Question 2. Do you think that affiliations such as Sankethi, Telugu, Tamil impede the development of a more universal solidarity amongst Indians?

Question 3. Comment on whether or not you see a distinction between your Indian heritage and your Sankethi heritage. Why do you delineate it this way? Do you primarily perceive your heritage to be Sankethi or Indian? Why? Does your Indian heritage play a role distinctly from your Sankethi heritage in your personal/public life? How and why? or why not?

Question 4. Is there a Sankethi view of femininity? If you don't believe that there is a Sankethi view - why? If you do why? What is it? If you believe that there is a Sankethi view of femininity - do you feel that this view primarily aided or hindered the development of Sankethi women you have known (including potentially yourself). Why? Why not?

Question 5. How do you feel about the fact that the implementation of the Brahmin culture in recent centuries has been one driven by birthright and privilege? How do you feel about the fact that the Sankethi heritage is categorically a Brahmin one? Is your attitude towards your Sankethi heritage influenced by the fact that it is also a Brahmin heritage.

Question 6. It seems that in India cultural and social activity typically occurs in a multi-generational setting. Do you think that NASA contributes to multi-generational dialogue? If it does - how? If it doesn't - what would you suggest? By multi-generational, I don't mean simply teens to adults, I also mean grandparents to adults, grandparents to 20-somethings, children to teens, etc....

After panel members concluded with their 3 to 5 minute answers. The floor was opened to audience question and responses. Some of the responses from panel and audience members that were generated included that universal solidarity was not impeded by community affiliations such as Tamil, Telugu, and Sankethi. Some felt that there was no significant view of femininity within the Sankethi context while others did. Still others reacted to the fact that women were excluded from the performance of certain religious rituals. Regarding a delineation between Sankethi and Indian heritage, panel members pointed out that it depended on the context. For example if one was interacting with a member of a different nationality, being Indian was more significant than being Sankethi. However if one were communicating with someone from Karnataka, then the Sankethi heritage would be of more relevance. Regarding the influence of the Sankethi heritage on personal life, one panel member wondered half-jokingly whether marriage with a Sankethi instead of their current partner would have resulted in a better quality marital experience. Still others felt that tight Sankethi definitions may impede a sense of welcome and belonging for Sankethis who have married non-Sankethis. In conclusion, the fact that audience members seemed to want

the discussions to continue beyond the allotted time, and that there was passionate involvement, indicates that there is a deep need for more discussions regarding identity, Sankethi heritage, and socio-cultural implications.

This was followed by an excellent Gamaka Vachana by Sri. Ramachandra Shastri and Smt. Meenakshi. Afterwards, Graduation Awards were presented to this year's NASA Graduates. They are:

High School Graduation Awards (HGA):

Deepa Magge
Bina Premkumar

College Graduation Award (CGA):

Rupa Magge
Sandya Magge
Hema Magge
Mark Jayaram

The sports awards were then distributed to the following winners.

Basketball Free Throw:

First Place: Mayank Keshaviah
Second Place: Sunil
Third Place: Aparna Keshaviah

Jump Rope: (Over 30):

First Place: Ganesh Rao
Second Place: Amrutha Vishwanatha
Third Place: Nandini Hashe

Jump Rope: (Under 30)

First Place: Shankar Sridhara
Second Place: Sandya Magge
Third Place: Aruna Vishwanatha

Musical Chairs: Adults:

First Place: Ramachandra Rao
Second Place: Geetha Krishnamurthy
Third Place: Shubha Dathatri

Musical Chairs: Kids:

First Place: Mira Hashe & Cayla Hashe (Tie)
Second Place: Amith Lohitsa

Table Tennis:

First Place: Shankar Sridhara
Second Place: Srinivas Sridhara

The Traditional Served Dinner, 'Back to our Roots', organized by Mahalakshmi Honasoge was enjoyed by all. Mahalakshmi Honasoge also organized Catering services for the entire NASA Event and she even prepared the 'upma' breakfast by herself for all on Thursday, 5th July. NASA thanks her for her valuable time and effort.

The Cultural Programs and the participants that came next are as follows:

- Invocation – Ashwini Srikantiah
- Sankethi Song – Geetha Dathatri
- Vadya-Vrinda – Jayanti Rajagopal on Veena and Lalitha Subbarao on Violin.
- Bharatanatyam – Vidya Mohan
- Modern Harikatha, a Mono-Acting – Geetha Krishnamurthy
- Skit – Sankethi Survivor, Bettadapura vs Kowshika – NASA Youth

Once again the program displayed the variety and the best professional level talent of our community. Congratulations to all participants.

A spectacular Fireworks Display, followed by soothing Fruit salad and Ice cream concluded the event.

July 8th Sunday:

Dispersal of the NASA gathering.

This overview gives you a few glimpses of yet another wonderful experience at our annual gathering.

Member /Family Directory: Last Call!

Compilation of all the forms we have received thus far has begun. There are still many missing specially from the long time life members & supporters of NASA. Please visit our web site at www.sanekthi.org to down load the form & mail the completed form as early as possible.

We once again believe the member family directory will be a very useful book for communication. Advertisements are solicited from members who own a business establishment or wish to send greetings or announcements. Full page \$150; Half Page \$100; Quarter page \$50; Business Card size \$25 Please send your ads with the check to 2154 Radcliffe Dr. Troy, MI 48085

NASA Community news:

Sankethi Sangama Publication:

Many of you have been receiving a free copy of Sankethi Sangama – Kannada/Sankethi publication mailed from India. This is an excellent publication covering various topics of interest & news of our community. NASA encourages you to extend your support by subscribing to this publication. For details please contact Sri.Y.N. Dathatri, at Tel: (631) 847 0595 or dathatyn@snyfarva.cc.famingdale.edu

Weddings:

Congratulations and best wishes to Santosh Govindaraju & Ami Doshi. Their wedding took place in Mysore on August 26th, 2001

Congratulations and best wishes to Dr. Monica Bettadapura & Dr. Umesh Khot; their wedding took place at Cleveland on November 12th, 2001

Charitable Contributions:

Aid the Weaker Trust: Following is a summary of an appeal from Prof N.D. Krishnamurthy, who lead the Kannada conversational workshop in our annual sankethi meet. This unique trust has been fully supporting destitute women, 18-35 years of age since 1985. The trust trains about 30 women per year in all skills related to Kannada and English Printing. All women are provided with free accommodation and food during the training for an year, and are helped to find gainful employment. It is gratifying to note that over 300 such trained women are self reliant today, and may be happily married. Early financial help received from Norway, Spain and Canada, and other sources are not available now. The trust is working towards an ambitious plan to set up a trust for Rupees one crore (about \$200,000), so all activities may be continued without interruptions from the interest gained. The Trust appeals for your valuable donations and asks that you keep in touch with its activities, and visit them when you are in Bangalore. We encourage NASA members to donate for this worthy cause. You may send your tax-deductible contribution through NASA along with a \$5 administrative cost to cover expenses. Please make check payable to NASA and mail it to the attention of Jayashree Sastry, 2154, Radcliffe Dr., Troy, MI 48085.

Events for 2002:

UGADI 2002 on April 13th:

We are organizing the UGADI function on Saturday, April 13th, 2002. The function will take place near DETROIT, Michigan at KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Hall. Directions to the Knights Of Columbus Hall (K. OF C.) & the detail program itinerary are listed below. The function will commence at 10:00 am and conclude at 7:00 pm. A contribution of \$10 for individuals(over 10 years of age) will be solicited. We strongly encourage all of you to participate & make this a successful event again! In order for us to better plan and organize please confirm your attendance as soon as possible, preferably no later than April 6th, 2002 at the following: email: jsastry199@aol.com or Tel. no: (248) 879-0794. The Program details are also posted on our Web site. Looking forward to seeing you all at the Ugadi Function. We wish you all a Joyous and a Prosperous New Year as we welcome Sri Chitrabhanu Naama Samvatsara.

Program Itinerary: Event: **NASA - UGADI 2002**

Date: **Saturday, April 13th, 2002**

Venue: **KINGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL** (K. OF C.)

2299 West Twelve Mile Road Berkley, MI 48072

Phone: (810) 546 - 2752

Time: 10:00 am - 7:00 pm

Schedule:

10:00 am - 12:00 pm - Registration/ Vedic Prayers

12:00 pm - 12:30 pm - Member introduction /Bevu Bella distribution

12:30 pm - 2:00 pm - Lunch / Socializing 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm - Variety / Cultural Programs

3:30 pm - 4:00 pm - Coffee Break

4:00 pm - 5:30 pm - Variety / Cultural Programs

5:30 pm - 6:30 pm - Dinner

7:00 pm - Disperse

Program Coordinators: Jayashree & Hanasoge Sastry Ph: (248) 879-0794, Mahalakshmi & Nataraj Honasoge Ph: (248) 855 - 8161; **Cultural Programs Coordinator:** Sangeeta Sastry Ph: (248) 879-0794

DIRECTIONS TO: KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS. (K. Of C. Hall) 2229 West 12 mile Road, Berkley, MI 48072 Phone: (810) 546 - 2752 (Located on Twelve Mile Road between Woodward Av and Coolidge Hwy/Rd)

Coming from Pittsburgh, PA

I 80 / I 90 W - Ohio Turn Pike, Before Toledo Take Exit to I-280, to Detroit. Take I 75 N to Detroit. Follow I-75 through Detroit. Take exit at 12 Mile Road. At end of exit, Turn Left on to 12 Mile Road. Drive west on 12 mile road. Drive past Woodward Ave. Drive three blocks. Knights of Columbus is on left side (South side), two blocks before Coolidge Hwy/Rd.

Coming from Flint MI

Take I 75 South to Detroit Take exit at 12 Mile Road. At end of exit, turn right on to 12 Mile Road. Drive west on 12 Mile Road. Drive past Woodward Ave. Drive three blocks. Knights of Columbus is on left side (South side), two blocks before Coolidge Hwy/Rd.

Coming from Indiana, IN

I 80 / I 90 East - Ohio Turn Pike Before Toledo Take Exit to US 23 North, to Ann Arbor/ Flint. Continue on US 23 N to Flint. Take exit to 96 East. Drive on I 96 East. Keep on left lane and continue on I 696 East. Exit at Lodge Freeway and immediately exit to Telegraph Road North. At 2nd light, (Marathon Gas Station), Turn right to 12 Mile road East. Drive past Coolidge Hwy. Knights of Columbus is on right side (South side), two blocks after Coolidge Hwy/Rd.

Coming from Chicago, IL

I 94 East Before Ann Arbor, keep on left lane. Take Exit to M 14 East, to Ann Arbor/ Flint. Keep on left lane. Continue US 23 N to Flint. Take exit to I 96 East. Drive on I 96 E. Keep on left lane, and continue on I 696 East. Keep on left lane and continue on I 696 East. Exit at Lodge Freeway and immediately exit to Telegraph Road North. At 2nd light, (Marathon Gas Station), Turn right to 12 Mile road East. Drive past Coolidge Hwy. Knights of Columbus is on right side (South side), two blocks after Coolidge Hwy/Rd.

Coming from Lansing, MI

Come on I 96 East. Keep on left lane, and continue on I 696 East. Keep on left lane and continue on I 696 East. Exit at Lodge Freeway and immediately exit to Telegraph Road North. At 2nd light, (Marathon Gas Station), Turn right to 12 Mile road East. Drive past Coolidge Hwy. Knights of Columbus is on right side (South side), two blocks after Coolidge Hwy/Rd.

Annual GBM – 4 July 2002 – 7 July 2002

Our annual event will be held at New Windsor, MD from July 4th to July 7th, 2001. Planning is in progress. Feel free to contact the board with any suggestions.

Minutes of the 2001 General Body Meeting¹

Nov 20th, 2001

The 2001 General Body (GB) Meeting (GBM) started at 4:10 PM on Friday, July 6th at the New Windsor Conference Center, New Windsor, MD.

1. **Welcome:** The meeting began with an invocation by Mrs. Sundari Magge. The meeting was then called to order by the president, Jayashree Sastry who then welcomed all the members to the 17th GBM. She introduced the board members and briefly went over the agenda for the meeting. She also made a general appeal to the members to come forward with donations to cover the deficit of funds of the event. Most of the deficit was covered by the generous contributions of the members.
2. **Reading & Approving of preceding GBM minutes:** Rajeshwari Sridhara asked everyone to read the 2000 GBM minutes that was earlier handed out. In the interest of time, members waived reading of the minutes. It was approved by the GBM by a voice vote.
3. **General Secretary's Report:** Rajeshwari Sridhara gave a report on the activities and accomplishments of the board for the year. In the year 2000-2001 four newsletters were published and three board meetings were conducted. A regional meeting at Detroit celebrating Ugadi function on April 14th, 2001 was conducted, which was a great success with over 100 people participating in the event. Rajeshwari introduced the new life and annual members to the community. The motto of this board is education and promotion of our culture, and this board has tried to accomplish it by having a Kannada speaking workshop, outdoor picnic, inviting Sri Swami Chidananda of Vedanta Society, Chicago, having gamaka vachana, traditionally served dinner, etc., in this year's July annual event. Also a web-page has been initiated with relevant and interesting information for our members. All the board members and the volunteer members were thanked for their hard work to make the event a success. The commitment and contributions by the members at large were deeply appreciated.
4. **Reports of committees:**
 - a) Santosh Govindaraju and Mayank Keshviah presented the financial statement (see attached) for the year 2000. The GB adopted the 2000 financial statement. (*Santosh please provide the financial statement*)
 - b) Santosh Govindaraju presented a summary report (see attached) of the investment committee (Santosh Govindaraju, Mayank Keshviah, Manju Madhavan, and Sunderesan & Govindaraju (consultants)). He briefly summarized the investment policy and the investments made. (*Santosh please provide the word document – 'learning experience'*)
5. **Old and unfinished business:** The members at large reminded that the task of compiling by law changes that were instituted by the previous BOD should be completed. The president agreed that the by law committee will work on it.
6. **New business:** Two items were covered as part of new business:
 - a) Suggestions such as publishing souvenirs, increasing registration amount, etc., were given to raise funds to cover the deficit of the annual meeting.
 - b) A discussion on amendment of voting rights to be instituted such that members with a minimum of two years standing should have the voting rights was requested. The president deferred the matter in the interest of time that this matter would be considered and deliberated by the board and then presented to the members for their due consideration.
7. **Good and welfare:** After wishing all members, the President, Jayashree Sastry adjourned the meeting.

Rajeshwari Sridhara
General Secretary, NASA (2000-2002)

¹ The minutes were approved on Nov 20th, 2001 by the BOD in office at the time of the GBM.



North American Sankethi Association (NASA)
2154 Radcliffe Dr., Troy Michigan 48085

Volume 19. No 1.