



Chiguru

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North American Sankethi Association (NASA)

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Yellarukku Namaskaru.

Seasons Greetings and Happy New Year. Let me apologize for the delay in sending out this newsletter. Due to a hectic work schedule and other commitments, the BOD could not put this together sooner.

I would like to thank those who joined us for the 2011 annual July 4th get together. It looks like attendance is dwindling. Please let us know what programs you would like to see. What will inspire you all to attend our annual gathering? We can all find excuses not to attend. But many of us found reasons to attend. Please provide us with feedback even if you could not attend. This feedback will help us structure our annual gathering to many peoples' liking. The theme of the 2011 get together was "Sankethi Language, Culture and Heritage". We completed several activities to support these themes. Please see the body of the Chiguru for details.

Our Sankethi community has lost a giant: Padma Bushana Matthur Krishnamurthy. This is a loss not only to our community but to the rest of the world as well. He was a visionary, a scholar and most of all a great human being. May his soul rest in peace.

Thanks to those families that have donated at least \$100/- or more towards the Sankethi Samudhaya Bhavana (Community Hall). Smt. Seethalakshmi and Dr. K. Manjunathiah of Bangalore have donated an 50ftX80ft site to KSS for the purpose of building Samudhaya Bhavana (Community Hall). Vision of the community hall includes facilities to help Sankethi Language, Culture, Heritage and much more. I believe this aligns strongly with NASA's aims and objectives. I am requesting that each family contributes at least \$100/- towards the Community Hall in Bangalore.

As the saying goes "Hani Koodidare Halla" (small drops can fill a lake) if all NASA members contribute at least \$100/- (or more) we can make a substantial contribution towards the Community hall and help establish a center that can support Sankethi Language, Culture and Heritage. Please donate generously to this cause.



NASA President Keshava Kumar & BOD

1. NASA Ski Trip 2012

It's that time of year again: ski season! The snows have already started falling and the plans for this year's NASA ski trip are being made. The dates for this year's trip are either Martin Luther King's birthday (Jan 14-16 2012) or Presidents' Day (Feb 18-20, 2012). If you are interested in participating, please email Sheela Nagaraj (sheela71384@gmail.com) or Ganesh Rao (ganesh_rao@yahoo.com).

2. Sandhyavandana Challenge

Abhiram Vijayasathy has generously put forth the Sandhyavandana Challenge. Are you ready to accept?

Eligibility: Any Brahmachari who is less than 22 years of age, and is a Nasa member or whose parents are Nasa members.

Challenge: From now till the next annual meeting, the Brahmachari must perform at least 300 "full" sandhyas (including 108 Gayatri). In theory, since one can (should) perform 3 sandhyas every day, he can successfully complete the challenge even if he starts just 100 days prior to the next NASA meeting.

Verification: Mostly honor based. That being said, the parents of the Brahmachari must confirm that their son completed the challenge successfully, and he must participate in next year's Samohika Sandhyavandhanam, where his performance will be judged by a committee. But don't worry, it will be very lenient.

Scholarship Amount: 500\$ / person with a max net payout of 2,500\$ across all the Brahmacharis. If we exceed the cap, then we will prorate the amount across all the successful participants. So for example, if only 3 are successful, they will each get 500\$. However if, by God's grace, 10 Brahmacharis complete the challenge, then they will each receive $2,500 / 10 = 250\$$.

Submission Deadline: Apr 1, 2012

Repeat Participation: A Brahmachari will not be allowed to win > 500\$ by participating multiple years.

How to Enter: Please email Abhiram Rudrapattana Vijayasathy at abhiramrv@gmail.com

3. Mathoor Krishnamurthy Passes Away

It is with great sadness that NASA notes the passing of Mathoor Krishnamurthy in Bangalore on Oct. 6, 2012. Mathoorji was a recipient of the Padma Shri and also a renowned Gamaka artist, Sanskrit scholar, author and Executive Director of the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan (BVB), Bangalore. The eighth child of a poor Brahmin family in Mathur, he learned Sanskrit and the Vedas at a young age. Later, he became interested in Gamaka and mastered the art. After working several odd jobs, he joined the BVB in 1969 and founded the London branch in 1972. He also gave many Gamaka concerts, authored several books and worked for the BVB after returning to India.

4. New Windsor Conference Center Closing

The NASA BOD has just received word that the New Windsor Conference Center which hosted so many get-togethers in the past is now closing. The Center will close in May 2012. The NASA BOD has started to make plans for next year's GBM in light of this development. Please contact the BOD with questions or suggestions.

5. Navarathri Program Oct. 2, 2011

The Navarathri Get Together was held at Smt. And Sri. Manjula Ganesh Murthy's residence. NASA thanks Ganesh Murthy and Manjula for opening up their residence and providing food for all the attendees. The event consisted of Saraswathi pooja which was followed by chanting of Lalitha Sahasranama, ashtothra, bhajans. After the pooja, everyone enjoyed delicious food that was prepared on site at Ganesh Murthy's residence. Thanks to Manjula and others who worked tirelessly to prepare food for everyone. Thanks to Dr. Jayaram for delicious pickles while helping NASA. The pickle sales raised cash which was donated to NASA.



6. GBM Donors

The NASA Board of Directors would like to thank everyone who attended this year's get-together. We would also like to thank the donors whose generous support helped make the event possible.

*Dr. Ramachandra Sastry
Dr. and Mrs. Kumar*

*Dr. and Mrs. Jayaram
Drs. Amrutha and K. Viswanath*

*Dr. and Mrs. Rangappa
Dr. and Mrs. Rao*

7. Highlights of the 2011 Annual Get-Together

For a brief video posted online by M.D. Kowshik, please visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SMz8JYOr3bA>.

Friday July 1

Friday was check-in and people arrived and got settled in. Before dinner there was *Saamuhika Sandhyavandana* conducted outdoors under the trees. Then, after a delicious meal, there was Minute to Win It! Teams participated in challenges taken from the popular show. Congratulations to the winning teams: Shruti/Mayank, Anuja/Deepika and Sneha/Jayaram!

Saturday July 2

After the morning's nature walk, the children and young people gathered in the main auditorium to perform Saraswati Puja. Prema Kumar and other NASA members led the puja which the children enjoyed. Then the day got really busy! There was Lalitha Sahasranama performed in the auditorium along with the unveiling of the Sankethi Grama Posters brought back by President Keshav Kumar from the Vishwa Sankethi Sammelana. Sankethi language learning, sports, cards and M.D. Kowshik's magic show for kids also followed. After this show, the children followed him around the rest of the weekend! There was also a cooking class organized by Prema Kumar that was a big success.

The highlight of the afternoon was the Navarasa Deepika music program, which integrated orchestral harmony with the ancient raga traditions of India. This beautiful composition was led by Vidushi Vasudha Narayan, disciple of Smt. Jayamma, and H.R. Leelavati. Mrs. Narayan is a renowned music composer, master of the veena, and a great light singer. She was accompanied by Sushma Narayan on piano, Asha Gopalan on veena, Roopashree Hariprasad on veena, Vandana Mamidanna on veena, and Sughosh Narayan on tabla. The program was produced and directed by Mr. Satya Narayan, the award winning technical director of Aruna Kalavidaru who has extensive experience in music composition and writing / directing ballets.

That evening, M.D. Kowshik performed his philosophical Kagga Magic show and enthralled everyone. The night was capped with a fireworks display to celebrate Independence Day.

Sunday July 3

After the nature walk, Yoga classes were held on Sunday and Monday, the 3rd and the 4th of July. Classes began with simple warm up exercises and continued with Suryanamaskara along with chanting of Mantras (Names of Surya Deva). Doing these namaskaras 13 times a day, especially in the morning, seems to suffice and gives exercises to whole of the body. That is why this Suryanamaskara is also called "Sarvaanga Sundara Asana". We continued to form different Yoga postures that included, trikonaasana (triangle pose), three different postures of Yodhasana (warrior pose). We concluded the classes with Veerbhadradasana, Bhujangaasana (Snake pose), and Dhanuraasana (Bow pose) Last but not the least was Shavaasana (dead pose). On popular demand the second day was one full hour compared to 30 minutes of first day!

Several people also took advantage of the good weather to perform "Saamuhika Sandhyavandana" outdoors under the trees. Abhiram also gave a presentation on Sandhyavandana. The day's big event was the General Body Meeting which went off well. For details, please read the minutes later on in this newsletter. There was also a children's program in which the youngest members of NASA displayed their talents from Sankethi shlokas to tabla rhythms to American pop tunes.

Our Sunday afternoon musical program began with a Carnatic vocal concert by Sandhya Nagaraj, a disciple of Vidwan RK Srikantan, Vidwan RK Suryanarayana, and Vidwan RK Padmanabha and a "B High" artist on All-India Radio. Sandhya started the concert with a Varnam in Kedaragowla Ragan composed by a Sankethi from Rudrapatna. The main piece was an excellent rendition of the Thyagaraja Kriti "Chesinadella marechitvo" in the Raaga Todi followed by a few Daasa Krithis.

The second concert of the evening was by K.R. Srinidhi, a disciple of Sri. K. Rama Rao and Ganakalabhushana Vid. Sri. R. K. Padmanabha. He has many awards, scholarships and performances to his credit including first prizes in classical vocal competitions conducted by GAYANA SAMAJA Bangalore, ANANYA Bangalore, KALASAMBHRAMA Bangalore and a recipient of senior scholarship by "KARNATAKA SANGEETHA NRITYA ACADEMY" for the year 2009. Srinidhi began

his concert with the Ata-taala varnam Vanajaksha in Varali Ragam followed by a melodious performance of Vallabha Nayakasya in Begada. The concert also consisted of Annapurne Vishalakshi and a beautiful shloka followed by the popular Daasa krithi Jagadodharana. Both concerts were harmoniously accompanied on violin by Vivek Rudrapatna.

Monday July 4

The end! Everyone had breakfast and bid farewell to their fellow Sankethis... until next time!

8. 2011 GBM Meeting Minutes 7/3/2011

Roll Call – 42 Members signed in and quorum was declared.

Review of the 2010 Minutes – Minutes of the 2010 GBM were made available to members in the September 2010 Chiguru and were available online. Motion to accept the minutes was approved.

By-Law Committee Report: The report of the By-Law committee was presented to the membership. The proposed changes were made available to members for review. There were several comments by members including that this was merely the beginning of the change process and that the process was incomplete (K. Sundaresan). There was also a suggestion to include members outside the BOD in the process (H.S. Aswathanarayana).

Motion to Recess was proposed and accepted. This was followed by a break during which the KSS made a presentation via Skype.
GBM resumed at 11am

President's Report:

- Charitable Activities – The proposed Sankethi Community Hall project in Bangalore was presented to the General Body for their consideration. The President also thanked the donors whose contributions helped support the current GBM.
- Vishwa Sankethi Sammelana – The President had attended the Vishwa Sankethi Sammelana along with many other NASA members and the event was a grand success.

Secretary's Report:

- As of June 20, 2011 NASA had 203 Life Members.
- NASA was able to organize a Regional Meeting in Michigan, a Ski Trip and a concert by Padma Bhushan R. K. Srikantan.
- The President and several members traveled to India for the World Sankethi Meeting

- Three editions of Chiguru have been published since the last GBM. We urge more members to take advantage of electronic delivery.
- NASA now has a Facebook page for publicizing its activities.

The motion to accept the Secretary's Report was approved.

Treasurer's Report:

The corrected 2009 balance sheet was presented. The motion to accept the balance sheet was proposed and accepted. The 2010 balance sheet was then presented. The taxes for 2010 were filed on time. A question was raised about the Fidelity Money Market account and K. Sundaresan responded that the account may have been closed due to low balances.

Auditor's Report:

This year, the report was completed early! NASA should work to collect the funds that it is owed at meetings as this may be the reason for the \$189.15 shortfall. A question was also raised as to whether NASA should remain a 501c(3) as our collections are so low. If we do not maintain that status, then we do not have to be as rigorous in vetting recipient organizations. Are there repercussions to relinquishing the status? There may be tax consequences of a withdrawal and long term benefits to keeping the status. A recommendation was made to form a committee to study the issue and the President concurred. A motion was made to accept the auditor's report and it was seconded. The auditor, K. Sundaresan, abstained believing the report to be incomplete.

Old and Unfinished Business:

By-Law Changes

The changes to the By-Laws were presented to the GBM and there were several comments including the recommendations not to define a Sankethi and to require more checks and balances in the process. Other members requested more time to review the proposals. There was also a request for a redlined version of the document. There was a motion by K. Sundaresan to extend the comment period and postpone the vote. The motion was seconded and approved.

Rajata Timeline

New information may change the timeline. The 1992 meeting appears to have been held at Vraj Bhoomi and not the Sringeri Sadhana Center as printed in the Rajata. There was an idea floated to have a NASA historian to maintain the records of the organization. H.S. Aswathanarayana has a Chiguru saying there was no GBM in Hampton which he presented to the board. He also said the Rajata should be sent to the Library of Congress. K. Sundaresan presented evidence that the 10th anniversary GBM was held at Siddhachalam. These and other items will be reviewed.

New Business:

In Memoriam – There was a moment of silence to remember those who passed in the prior year including Dr. S.N. Subbanna, Prakash Keshava in L.A., and Mr. Bhat (uncle of Rama Shastry).

Good and Welfare:

- Congratulations to Abhiram Vijayasarathy on his engagement.
- Congratulations to Sheela Nagaraj on her marriage.
- Congratulations to Latha and Ravi on the birth of their daughter, Roma Lalitha.
- Sunil Rao graduated from high school and will attend Stanford in the fall.

- Congratulations to Dinesh Rao on his engagement.
- Rupa Magge wrote an episode of the TV show “In Plain Sight.”
- Congratulations to M.S. Nataraj on the publication of his book.
- Congratulations to Juny Sridhara on his engagement.
- 5 NASA members attempted the ascent of Mt. Kailash and made it to 18000 ft: Sailaja and K.V. Srikantiah, M.R. Balakrishna, Nalini and K. Sundaresan. Rupa and Ashok Rudrapatna completed the Parikrama 2 years ago.
- Congratulations to the authors of the Sankethi Language Project.
- Abhiram Vijayasarathy proposed a scholarship for Brahmacharis to do daily Sandhyavandanam.
- Cruise: Sheela is considering organizing a cruise for the end of the year.

Motion to adjourn is approved.

Ganesh Rao
Secretary

9. Community News

- Congratulations to Mark Jayaram (MAcc, MBA) on being appointed to the position of Staff Auditor with the Texas State Auditor’s Office (SAO). Texas SAO is the prime watch dog agency that ensures that governmental monies are spent appropriately. The department is responsible for conducting audits and reviewing the performance of the executive branch of state government, public institutions of higher education, independent state authorities, local governments and school districts.
- Juny Nirjar Sridhara married Denise Marie Oliver on Saturday, Oct 8 in Hauppauge, NY. Congratulations to the happy couple.
- Lalitha Saroja Hanasoge and Dmitry Khavulya welcomed baby Savithri on Sunday, Oct 9 at 11:45pm. Best wishes to the family and the new NASA member.
- Best wishes to Suresh Magge on his engagement
- Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Manjunath and Prabha Hassan on the wedding of their daughter, Varsha, to Rahul Mandiga on October 9, 2011. The wedding was held in Houston, Texas. All the best to the Newlyweds!
- Dr. Vivek Rao has been named the new Head of the Division of Cardiac Surgery at University Health Network, effective October 1, 2011. Congratulations to Dr. Rao on this achievement.
- Congratulations to Mayank Keshaviah and Louise Abnee on their engagement. NASA BOD and all of its members send their best wishes to the couple.

STEVE JOBS

1955-2011

*Steve Jobs passed away at the age of 56,
An innovator,creative genius,a magical
mix,
Enriched the young and old with gadgets
fix,
Revolutionary communication with few
clicks.*

*Did think out of the box, a great inventor,
Started in his garage & built a computer,
Visionary,made information revolution
fun,
Lived everyday as the last under the Sun.
Touched all with his gadgetry communion.*

*A co founder of Apple computers company,
Was a mentor, a leader to students many,
Influential thinker, creator and
entrepreneur,
Joined the music,film industry,as
entertainer.*

*Man with such a control, was a rare
original,
Baby he nurtured, time and again, the
Apple,
Will stay around as a legacy for many
people,
World over his technology remains a
Temple.*

*A genius who did think out of the box,
A gem for his fans among many rocks,
A creative man with a passion,
Apple was his magic mansion.*

*He took all the risks to innovate,
As others were scared and late.
He was always miles ahead,*

Reinventing the phone head.

*A charismatic man, others inspired,
Apple went down,when he was fired,
A Job-less company got very tired,
Apple shot up as Jobs was rehired.*

*World corporations were pissed,
Now a visionary will be missed,
Beat Microsoft, and was even,
Jobs is mourned, is in Heaven.*

*Apple product is in great demand,
By the gadget nerds in command,
With many Apple stores at hand,
The users form a world wide band.*

*Changed way to listen to music,
I-pod changed the music industry,
Time and time again with magic,
Changed way of user technology*

*World over young want i-phone/i-pad,
3 years back got an i-phone,am glad,
With Steve Jobs gone,I feel very sad,
People using i-magic, won't be mad.*

*"Apple is about people, who think
outside the box", and don't shrink,
Said Jobs at the Stanford graduation,
Inspired students with his persuasion.*

*Thanks to Steve Jobs for his legacy,
Changed a world with his prophecy,
Brought many people together as one,
To live in love and peace under the Sun !*

Jai Rangappa

10-5-11

*Mailbox too full?
Want to help save trees?
Want to see the Chiguru in full color?
Sign up for electronic delivery today!*



NASA wants to reach you!

*Please update your postal and
email addresses in time to get in
the next address book!*



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