

3. 2013 NASA Get-Together and General Body Meeting May 25-27 in Cleveland, NY

The long awaited 2013 NASA annual meeting was held this year at the Vanderkamp Meeting and Retreat Center near Syracuse, NY over the Memorial Day weekend.

The event began on Saturday afternoon with a delicious traditional Sankethi lunch. Following lunch, attendees were given time to explore the beautiful 840 acre property and participate in various activities including indoor table tennis and boating on Vanderkamp's private lake. The afternoon consisted of our talent/cultural programs in which our Sankethi kids impressed the audience with singing, mantra reciting, plays and karate demonstrations! Adults showed off their talents in a recital of popular Kannada devarnamas.

After a brief break, a hosted financial planning informational session was held by Prudential with a question and answer session in which audience members of all ages were provided information on how to plan for their futures. Dinner expenses for all the attendees were offset by Prudential. After dinner, the Ah! Mature Millennium Artists group (AMMA) performed a hilarious skit depicting the life of a Sankethi couple....completely in Sankethi!! The evening concluded with a lovely bonfire under the stars and the lighting of Chinese lanterns. This was one of the highlights of the weekend. All the kids enjoyed participating in lighting the lanterns, letting them float away over the lake. Seeing the lanterns glow in the darkness as it floated away was a sight to see.

Sunday began with Veda gosha (group chanting) that included chanting of various suktas followed by recitation of Vishnu Sahasranama. This was followed by Breakfast. After this the main activities of the day were kicked off with the annual GBM, in which the president gave a detailed report outlining the current state of NASA and his thoughts for the future. Key items including charitable donations to organizations in India were discussed - please see the GBM notes for a full report.

Following the GBM we had lunch that included dosa, vada and other savories. After lunch participants made the most of the beautiful surroundings of Vanderkamp. Several people took part in Field Day, where red team battled the blue team in several games and activities including a three legged race, ball toss, musical hula hoops, and a sari relay race. Meanwhile, other NASA members enjoyed hiking trails and pedal boats.

The late afternoon program started with the children's talent show, followed by a lecture on Hindu Spirituality by Mr. Naganarayana. After a delicious dinner, everybody gathered in the main hall for story time - lesser known tales from Mahabharata told by Dr. Y.N. Jayaram.

On Monday morning a Ganesha puja and Rudrabhishekha followed by Lalitha Sahasranama chanting took place. After having brunch and saying farewells, we left Vanderkamp - looking forward to the next NASA adventure to come!

The results of the 2013 Annual Celebration survey is located on our website, www.sankethi.org. Please visit for more information!

