

Chiguru

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North American Sankethi Association (NASA)

34 Knollcroft Road, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920-1971, USA

<http://www.sankethi.org>

March 2013

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Yellarukku Namaskaro!

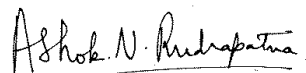
To follow up on an email requesting you to save the date for the NASA 2013 Retreat, the NASA Board of Directors invites you to the 2013 Annual Meeting and Retreat during the upcoming Memorial Day weekend. Because of the late arrival of *Ugadhi* this year (due to the *Adhika Bhadrapada masa*), we are combining the *Ugadhi* event with the annual function. We are looking forward to celebrating the arrival of *Vijaya Nama Samvatsara* together with NASA family and friends during this year's Retreat.

We have found an excellent venue – Vanderkamp Center – near Syracuse, NY which will serve as an ideal retreat location for us. Here we will have the opportunity to reconnect with one another and celebrate our Sankethi heritage and traditions! The NASA BOD has worked very hard to find an appropriate venue for this year's Retreat and we are confident that it will meet the needs of our organization and its members. Please note, however, that *Vanderkamp Center can provide overnight accommodations for 90 people. In the event that we receive registrations in excess of 90 individuals, we will arrange accommodations at local hotels, which will be subject to a registration surcharge. Registrants will be provided accommodations at Vanderkamp Center on a first come, first serve basis, so please be sure to send your registrations in early.*

Please also note that *beginning with this issue and going forward we will not be mailing the Chiguru/Newsletter via US Post.* The efforts and costs for mailing are proving to be too high for a voluntary organization like ours. Hence, *we will distribute them only via email (Please be sure to keep your contact details up to date with our secretary so you will not miss receiving any of our notifications).* Thus this is the only copy you will receive of this issue. *So be sure to print out the registration forms, fill them in, and mail them along with your check.* We are also exploring on-line payment and registration methods. We will hopefully have it available for use next year.

The NASA BOD and the Cultural Committee are working very hard to coordinate an excellent program that holds broad appeal for our community members. This edition of the *Chiguru* contains details about the 2013 NASA Retreat venue, including program highlights. As we finalize the Retreat schedule, we will share with those details on our NASA website (www.sankethi.org). We sincerely welcome any suggestions you have, so please feel free to contact us with your thoughts about enhancing our annual event programs.

With Best Regards and Best Wishes,



Dr. Ashok N. Rudrapatna, President, NASA,
& NASA Board of Directors

1. Announcing NASA 2013 Annual Meeting:

Celebrating the Sankethi Heritage across Generations

After an extensive search of numerous sites at which to hold our annual NASA meeting, we are pleased to announce that this year NASA will host its annual retreat from Saturday, May 25 (noon) through Monday, May 27 (noon) at the Vandercamp Retreat Center (<http://www.vk.org/>) located in **Cleveland, NY** (*not to be confused with Cleveland, OH when making travel arrangements!*) about 45 minutes from Syracuse, NY.

Vandercamp Center is an 840 acre, wooded retreat center located north of Oneida Lake, less than an hour from Rome, Oswego, and Utica, NY. Vandercamp Center will offer our retreat attendees good opportunities to reconnect, recharge, and revitalize our Sankethi spirit in a peaceful and tranquil setting with comfortable accommodations. We will have access to:

- a Community Center with a meeting area of appropriate size for our group,
- spacious dining facilities
- accommodations with bedding, linen, and towels with fireplace in each building
- a private 45-acre lake that has been pristinely preserved with each of the buildings facing the lake
- canoeing / kayaking / row-boating / swimming activities
- fields for arranging sports activities (i.e., soccer, volleyball, cricket, field activities, low rope activities)
- indoor activities such as table tennis (ping pong), and foosball
- ten miles of scenic trails for hiking and biking
- BBQ and campfire facilities

We have also secured commercial kitchen facilities at Vandercamp Center in which the caterers for our event will prepare our traditional tasty and nutritious meals throughout our retreat weekend. The dining facilities have also been coordinated to accommodate our group's needs. While it was quite a challenge to find a venue to accommodate *all* of our needs, we are confident that Vandercamp Center fits the bill in many regards. We are enthusiastic about holding our annual event in this new location and are certain that the venue and programs being planned will hold broad appeal to you and your family!

a. Announcing the 2013 General Body Meeting (GBM)

This is to formally announce that we will be holding the 2013 Annual GBM on Sunday, May 26 at around 9 AM during this Annual Meeting and Retreat. We will provide you more details later.

b. Program Overview

The programs we are planning for this year's Retreat are exciting and innovative! While you can count on programs that have traditionally been popular among our community members, we are also pleased to coordinate innovative programs that will appeal to different generations of Sankethis. While the program and schedule are in the process of being finalized, the following list highlights the programs that we are actively considering for the NASA 2013 Retreat:

- Carnatic music *cacheri* / concert
- Sankethi skit
- *Dosa* cookout / picnic (and, of course, high quality traditional food throughout the weekend!)
- Workshops, discussion sessions, and *puje* around the theme of *Ugadhi*
- *Veda parayana*
- Nature walks / hikes
- Music / story / chat circle around a bonfire
- Sports activities
- Boating & swimming (with a lifeguard on duty)
- Sankethi field day (team-based activity)

- Children's arts & crafts workshops

And there will be “surprise” elements to the programs that you'll need to attend the NASA 2013 Retreat to experience! The full program schedule will be posted on the NASA website, so please stay tuned... and get your registrations in as we're excited to see you in New York over the 2013 Memorial Day weekend!

2. NASA Event Reports

a. Navarathri 2012 Program

On Saturday, October 20, 2012, NASA held its annual Navarathri celebrations at the home of our gracious hosts, Drs. K. V. and Amrutha Viswanatha. The morning began with a Saraswathi pooja led by Prof. Y.N. Dathatri. The pooja, which included translations and explanations in English, was followed by Lalitha Sahasranama chanting. Individual pooja samagri were provided so the attendees could participate in the pooja. After a brief break following the pooja, NASA conducted an interactive session in which youth and adults participated in a game to better understand Sankethi traditions around the Navarathri festival. Various aspects of the Navarathri festival and traditions were incorporated, such as the significance of each of the 9 days of the festival and associated customs, Mysore Dasara festival, Gombe presentation, and of course... habbathe chutu! Appropriately, a delicious lunch was served after this interactive game. After lunch, Mrs. Geetha Dathatri led a melodious bhajans program with audience participation. The afternoon concluded with an impromptu musical session involving local Sankethi youth and adults.



b. Halloween Bash 2012

NASA held its first Halloween Bash on Saturday, October 27, 2012 at the Coffee Shop Lounge/Restaurant in NYC. Sankethi young adults dressed up in their finest costumes for a "spook"tacular night out on the town!



c. Ski Trip 2013

On President's Day Weekend 2013 (Feb 15-18), NASA held its annual ski trip. This year's location was at Camelback Mountain in Tannersville, PA. Local (and not so local!) Sankethis spent the weekend at a gorgeous cabin at the Villages of Camelback equipped with a cozy fireplace, access to indoor pool, hot tubs, sports, and overlooking the entire Camelback Mountain region. Friends and family spent a weekend of skiing and winter fun for all ages!



3. NASA on the World Wide Web!!!

Have you visited www.sankethi.org recently? If so, thanks and please keep surfing to our website! If not, please visit NASA online where you can find news and information about our events and activities, the latest information and updates on our upcoming Annual Retreat, as well as interesting reading about the Sankethi heritage and traditions. You can also read this and previous editions of Chiguru online.

We are in the process of revitalizing our website and online presence, with an emphasis on centralizing all member communication and community news. We welcome your suggestions in moving this revitalization effort forward. Specifically, we welcome your contributions to the section on the webpage titled "Sankethis in the News" in which "Famous Sankethis" are described. We know there are many notable Sankethis (many of whom are in your families) and their cultural and societal contributions to recognize on our website. So please send a brief write-up about these individuals along with relevant photos to be included on this page of our website to Ashwini Srikantiah, our web coordinator (srikantiah@gmail.com). In the meanwhile, stay tuned for a more dynamic www.sankethi.org!

4. Helping NASA Better Communicate with You

NASA is committed to keeping in touch with members and sharing community news in a timely and efficient manner. Please help us stay in good touch with you by keeping us apprised of any changes to your contact information (i.e., email addresses, postal mailing addresses, phone numbers, etc.). Our renovated website will provide you with a mechanism to update your contact information independently, but until those renovations take effect, please send this information to Dr. Dinesh Rao (dineshrao1@gmail.com).

We have moved to an entirely electronic mode of communication, particularly with respect to sending you the Chiguru / NASA Newsletter. If you are not yet receiving electronic editions of the Chiguru / NASA Newsletter, please help us to include you on our electronic mailing list by providing an email address at which you wish to receive such correspondence.

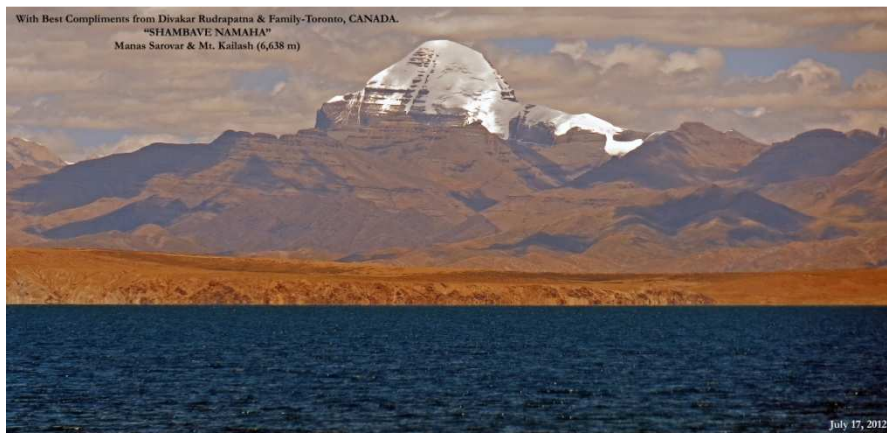
5. Community News

NASA members appreciate being able to keep up with news about fellow Sankethis all over the world, so please send any news you wish to share to Dr. Dinesh Rao (dineshrao1@gmail.com) to be included in upcoming editions of the Chiguru / NASA Newsletter.

i. Pilgrimage to Mount Kailash

Om Shambhava Namah

Namaste astu bhagavan vishveshvaraya, mahadevaya, tryambakaya, tripurantakaya, trikagni kalaya, kalagnirudraya, nilakanthaya, mrutyunjayaya, sarveshvaraya, Sadashivaya, shriman mahadevaya namah.



ಸಂಕೇತಿ ಬಂಧುಗಳಿಗೆ ದಿವಾಕರ ರುದ್ರಪಟ್ಟಂಡೆ ನಮಸ್ಕಾರೋ,

ಉಂಗಳೆಲ್ಲ ಮುಂಗಡಮ ಶ್ರೀ ವಿಜಯ ಸಂವತ್ಸರಕ್ಕೆ ಶುಭಾಶಯಂಗಿ. ನಾ ಎಂದೆ ಸಂಸಾರ ಸಮೆತ ಮಾನಸ ಸರೋವರೋ ಕೈಲಾಶ್ ಪರ್ವತೋ ದರ್ಶನೋ ಪಣ್ಯಂಡು ವಂದೆ ೨೦೧೨ ಜುಲೈ ಮಾಸಕ್ಕೆ ಎಂಗಡೆ ಅನುಬವೊ ನಾಸಾ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ ಉಳ್ಳೆ ಪಂಚ್ಯಂಡ್ರಾಣೆ.

ಉಂಗಳೆಗೆ ಸಮಯೊ ಶಿಕಿನ್ನವೊ ಓದೊಂಗೊ.

Dear Sankethi Bandhus,

"Sri. Vijaya Samvathsara" Ugadhi wishes to you all from Divakar Rudrapatna in advance. My family and I visited Manas Sarovar and Mt. Kailash in July 2012. We have shared our experience of this holy pilgrimage on the NASA website. Please read the full article with photographs at your leisure and kindly drop a line (divakar.rudrapatna@gmail.com) if you need any clarification / information, including 2013 Mt. Kailash Yaatra details.

ii. Sankethis in the News

Subrahmanya (affectionately known as Mari) is well known to many of us. He is an entrepreneur, a philanthropist, a community (particularly a Brahmin) leader, and a social activist. He has led the way and excelled in all activities he gets involved in. In recognition of his achievements, BNV Subrahmanya was conferred a doctorate at Karnataka's Raj Bhavan (Governor's mansion) in Oct. 2012. Dr. Subrahmanya's achievements are a great source of pride for all of us Sankethis.



iii. KSS Inauguration of Samudaya Bhavana

The Kowshika Sankethi Sangha inaugurated the Samudaya Bhavana in Bangalore on December 9, 2012.

iv. In Remembrance

Smt. Seethalakshamma (mother of Tandav, Natesh and Shankar Magge) passed away on January 9, 2013 in CT. A vital 88 year old, she passed away peacefully enjoying a good health until the end. NASA sends our heartfelt condolences to the family.

NASA 2013 Conference Registration Form

Vanderkamp Retreat Center
337 Martin Road, Cleveland, New York, 13042
Phone: 315-675-3651, <http://www.vk.org>

Saturday, May 25 – Monday, May 27

Vanderkamp Center has reserved 90 beds for our NASA group, so please be sure to register early to secure your reservations.*

Family Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Number of Participants:

Adults (Ages 21+) _____ Young Adults (Ages 13-21) _____

Children (Ages 5-12) _____ Young Children (Age <5) _____

E-Mail Address: _____ Telephone: _____

Expected Arrival Date: _____ Time: _____ Expected Departure Date: _____ Time: _____

Signature*: _____

** By this signature and registering for this event, you agree that NASA will not be held liable for injuries or damages, if any, received in connection with any NASA Function.*

Payment: *Please print and complete these forms and make checks payable to NASA Inc. per the following schedule, and send by mail to:*

NASA, Inc.
c/o Ashok N Rudrapatna
34 Knollcroft Rd.,
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920-1971

Fee for Members (Non-Members add \$50/person)^

		Any Person Age 12 & over	Older Children Age 5 – 11	Younger Children Age 4 & under*
Full Program Registration	Registrations Postmarked Prior to May 6, 2013	\$200	\$150	Free
	Registrations Postmarked After May 6, 2013	\$230	\$175	Free
Partial Registration (Sunday only, no accommodations)	Registrations Received Prior to May 6, 2013	\$100	\$75	Free
	Registrations Received After May 6, 2013	\$130	\$100	Free
Partial Registration (one night only accommodations)	Registrations Received Prior to May 6, 2013	\$160	\$120	Free
	Registrations Received After May 6, 2013	\$190	\$150	Free

♦ Children 4 years and under will have to share a bed with their parents or siblings per the venue's pricing policy. If you wish to have a separate bed for children four years and under, please register them as older children with the corresponding fee as described. No separate bed, linens, or towels will be provided for children 4 years and under unless they are registered in the older category.

^ Please contact Ashok Rudrapatna (908-647-8469 or email events.nasa@gmail.com) with any questions or if you have a special circumstance. Non-members are invited to become members of NASA and avail of the lower member fees for this event. Family Membership dues: Life membership - \$200, Annual Membership - \$25.

* Please note that in the event that the NASA 2013 Retreat party exceeds the 90-bed limit at Vanderkamp Center, we will need to arrange accommodations at nearby hotels, which may require additional registration fees (amount TBD based on alternative accommodations).

Please indicate your interest in participating in the following activities:

Children's Talent Showcase

Please indicate name of participants, age, and talent(s) to be shared/performed

Cultural Programs, Special Presentations, etc.

Please indicate name of participants and provide a brief description of the program, presentation, etc.

Would you be interested in child care services at a fee of about \$25/child?

Please indicate names and ages of children.

High School Graduation (HGA) and College Graduation Award (CGA) Candidates:

Name: _____ Indicate HGA or CGA: _____

Person who will speak about the Candidate: _____

Name: _____ Indicate HGA or CGA: _____

Person who will speak about the Candidate: _____

Name: _____ Indicate HGA or CGA: _____

Person who will speak about the Candidate: _____

For questions regarding the NASA 2013 event, please contact:

- Sheela Nagaraj (201-543-9434, sheela71384@gmail.com)
- Sujaya Rao (609-750-1340, 15sujaya@gmail.com)

NASA 2013 Sponsorship Form

We request your generous support for the NASA 2013 event. If you would like to sponsor any of the activities occurring at the NASA 2013 Annual Retreat, please complete this form, make checks payable to NASA, Inc., and mail both to:

Ashok N Rudrapatna
34 Knollcroft Rd.,
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920-1971

Please contact Ashok Rudrapatna (908-647-8469 or email: events.nasa@gmail.com) with any questions regarding sponsorship.

Name: _____

Home Address:

E-Mail Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Amount of Donation*: \$ _____

*Your kind donation/sponsorship may be used to cover the costs of the following items/services. If you would like your donation to be used for a particular purpose listed here, please check the box next to the relevant items/services below.

(Please note that it is not required to cover the full cost of any of the items, partial sponsorships are most welcome.)

- Snacks/Coffee/Tea/Cold Drinks/Fruits (\$500)
- Late Night Snacks (\$250)
- Lunch and Dinner Saturday, 5/25/13 (\$1200 each)
- Breakfast Sunday, 5/26/13 (\$750 each)
- Lunch and Dinner Sunday, 5/26/13 (\$1200 each)
- Brunch Monday, 5/26/13 (\$1200)
- Featured Music Concert (\$1500)
- Children's Materials / Equipment (i.e., balloons, art supplies, games, sports equipment, moon bounce/climber) (\$300)
- Other (please specify item): _____

Many Thanks!!!



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