



North American Sankethi Association (NASA)
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<http://www.sankethi.org>

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Dear Sankethi friends,

Happy Ugadi and may Virodhi Nama Samvatsara bring joy to every one. Recently, several NASA members embarked on a skiing trip to Vermont. It fills me with happiness to see we Sankethi's adapting to extracurricular activities this great land has provided. Pictures of the skiing trip will be posted at www.sankethi.org shortly.

Currently, the NASA BOD is striving to do its part to become "greener." Our first step, as many of you know from our recent survey, is to send newsletters and other notices by e-mail to those who prefer electronic communication. (Please note that the GBM meeting notices will still be sent out via postal mail.) To date, we have received about 55 responses from the community (thank you!). If you have not returned your survey response, please send it in as soon as possible. Help us do our part in reducing paper consumption.

Looking forward, NASA as a community will be celebrating Ugadi. On April 11th we will be gathering in Raleigh, North Carolina. I encourage all of you to attend. Details of the Raleigh program can be found on our web site.

Finally, the NASA BOD is excitedly preparing for the NASA Silver Jubilee celebrations during the July 4th weekend in New Windsor, MD. We request that all of you attend the celebration, one that will be remembered for years to come. NASA cannot function without its volunteers and sponsors. They are without a doubt the backbone of an organization like NASA, and we greatly appreciate all of you who have contributed to our success. This year, we have many sponsorship opportunities for you to consider:

1. The NASA Silver Jubilee Publication – About 100+ pages, with articles from several authors, NASA history etc. Copies will be printed and provided to all life members. Sponsorship of the entire publication is about \$4,000/-. Space in the publication is available for commercial advertisements or personal messages. Rates are included in this newsletter.
2. Lunch or dinner during the 2009 Silver Jubilee get-together at New Windsor, MD - The cost will be around \$1,250/-
3. Cultural activities (music, dance, or drama), or religious activities (Rudra Abhisheka or Satyanarayana Pooja) at the 2009 Silver Jubilee get together at New Windsor MD - The cost of sponsoring one of the events starts around \$1,000/-
4. Subsidy of the 2009 Silver Jubilee event fee for students or others who might find it hard to pay for the event - Cost TBD
5. Publication of one of the volumes of a Sankethi history book written by Dr. Haran of Mysore - Cost of making this publication is about \$4,000/-
6. Donations to KSS/BSS as part of the Silver Jubilee program - Cost of this sponsorship \$2000/-

I am pleased to inform you that the Seethalakshmi Vasanth Madhavan family has volunteered to sponsor one of the dinners at this year's event. In addition, in memory of Poojya Lakshminarayana, all the Magge families will be jointly sponsoring one dinner. Also, Deepa Ramesh and Ben East have pledged their support for the Silver Jubilee. Dr. B.R. Manjunath & Vijayalakshmi have pledged \$1000/- to support the activities above. We are extremely grateful to have these advance contributions, and I look forward to thanking these members in person for their generosity. I have also received about \$450 in pledges towards Dr. Haran's Sankethi History Book Collection. Although the sponsoring of the items above may seem costly to many individuals, together as a community we can achieve our goals. Any contribution to NASA regardless of amount is always greatly appreciated. If you would like to participate in full or partial sponsorship, please contact any BOD member.

Yours truly,

Keshava Kumar

NASA President Keshava Kumar & BOD

NASA Ski Trip 2009

You wake up and climb out of your comfortable bed and get ready. As you head downstairs, the smell of fresh avalakki guides you to the kitchen. "Odappa, yecchro aacha?" It's Dr. Jayaram, head chef, greeting everyone. Adults and children are enjoying their breakfast, chatting and planning their day - a typical Sankethi gathering except for the fact that you're dressed in ski-pants and a turtleneck, gazing at a wintry wonderland outside the windows of a historic mansion in Vermont.

For one weekend in February the Cavendish Inn was home to the Skikethis (Skiing Sankethis). After enjoying a sumptuous breakfast, we made our way to the Okemo Ski Resort where beginners and experts all had fun skiing. Jathin Rao and Tejan Poage tested the ultimate limit of ski harnesses (and the limit of Ganesh, Ranjini and Dale's patience!) from the top of the mountain, while Jai K. Rangappa and Andy Dodd coaxed Paras down the bunny slope. Shruti Garodia, Rangappa's friend's granddaughter, also joined us for her first-ever ski experience. Rajeev Balakrishna enjoyed the black diamond runs with Suresh Magge on Day 1 when Rohan and Rani took an all-day ski lesson, but he enjoyed skiing the blues with the kids on Day 2. Dr. Jayaram found out firsthand that all good things must come to an end - after many years of loyal service, his boots shattered during a mid-day run. Luckily he was able to enjoy Day 2 with a pair of rented boots. At the end of each day, everyone relaxed by the warm fireplace, exchanging stories and enjoying snacks. After a delicious dinner, also prepared by Dr. Jayaram, the children played while the adults chatted. It was a wonderful winter get-together thoroughly enjoyed by all. We hope to make this type of trip an annual NASA tradition! (For pictures of this year's Skikethis, visit: www.sankethi.org)

NASA 25th Anniversary Publication: Invitation for articles and artwork

In order to celebrate NASA's Silver Jubilee, we will be publishing a souvenir book highlighting the ideas and achievements of our community. On this occasion marking twenty-five years of NASA, we thought it might be interesting to explore the theme "Seasons of NASA." Along those lines, we hope to organize submissions in the following manner:

Spring – The origins of NASA and the Sankethis, as well as the rising generation of future Life Members

Summer – The years in which NASA spread its wings and grew as an organization, growing up Sankethi, education and educational journeys, and highlighting Sankethi traditions

Fall – The maturation of the Sankethi Association, careers, and NASA "youth" who are now adults with their own families

Winter – Honoring the senior members of NASA, spirituality, traditions, and the "silver" retirement years

In addition to these suggestions, any essays, artwork, poetry, photography or other creations you submit can incorporate the theme of 'seasons' as you see fit. We definitely need contributions from all of you to make this a success and we encourage you to be creative. Submissions may be in English, Kannada or Sankethi, with articles and artwork by children especially encouraged. Also, if you have pictures of NASA gatherings or events, put together a collage and we'll print it!

Finally, we will be soliciting submissions for a cover art contest. While the front cover of the publication will be designed by Sankethi artist Mayura Simha, who has graciously donated his time and effort, we are looking for an illustration for the back cover and/or the table of content page (inner front cover). To enter, you may submit artwork in any medium that can fit into standard letter dimensions (8.5"x11"). The winner will not only have his or her artwork on the cover, but will receive a \$50 discount on his or her NASA registration.

Please send all items – articles, artwork, photo collages, etc. – and any questions to Mayank Keshaviah or Ganesh Rao by **April 30, 2009**, preferably by e-mail. See page 1 for contact information. We look forward to your creative best!

Fee Schedule for Advertisements/Well-wishes in the 25th Anniversary Publication

We invite you and/or people you know to submit a business advertisement, personal greeting or family photograph at the following rates to help us offset printing costs:

- 1) Full page (8 ½ by 11 inches) \$250/-
- 2) Half Page (8 ½ by 5 ½ inches) \$125/-
- 3) 1/4 Page \$75/-

Send your information to Mayank Keshaviah or Ganesh Rao today! (or no later than **April 30, 2009**) See page 1 for contact information.

Ugadi Regional Event in Raleigh, NC on APRIL 11TH, 2009 10:30 AM - 8 PM

AGENDA:

*FRED. BOND COMMUNITY PARK - KIWANIS SHELTER
(801 HIGH HOUSE ROAD; CARY, NC 27513) (919-469-4100)*

10:30 AM – ASSEMBLE AT BOND PARK – KIWANIS SHELTER
11:00 AM – 12:30 PM – SPORTS ACTIVITIES
12:30 PM – 1:30 PM – LUNCH
1:30 PM – 2:40 PM – CONTINUE SPORTS
2:40 PM 3:00 PM – TEA BREAK (Then relax a bit and leave for the Oak Hall.

(Facility available to freshen up and change dress prior to evening program)

*FRED. BOND COMMUNITY CENTER – OAK HALL
(801 HIGH HOUSE ROAD; CARY, NC 27513) (919-469-4100)*

4:00 PM – 6:30 PM – ENTERTAINMENT
6:30 PM – 7:30 PM – DINNER
7:30 PM – 8 PM – CLEAN UP AND LEAVE

In the evening, we will have cultural programs – kid's entertainment and a music concert by Siri and Smitha (carnatic music artistes from Cary, NC).

NASA Audit Committee Chair announcement

Mr. K. Sundaresan has been appointed as the chair of the NASA audit committee from June 2008 - June 2010.

In Memoriam

On January 2, 2009, Sri , Subbaraya Nagappa Rudrapatna, father of NASA member Nagaraja Rudrapatna, passed away in Bangalore due to complications following a coronary artery bypass surgery. NASA sends its condolences to Nagaraja and his family.

On January 31, Smt. Vaidehi Shivashankar, wife of Sri R. R Shivashankar (NASA past-VP, ~1996-98) passed away while visiting her daughter, Seetha in Pennsylvania. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Mr. Shivashankar, Seetha and their families during this difficult period.

Visit Our Website: www.sankethi.org

Are you looking for information about Sankethi culture? Do you want to see pictures of past events? Would you like to see past newsletters? Are you not yet a life member but interested in becoming one? And most importantly....Do you want up-to-the-minute information about the Silver Jubilee? Just view our homepage!

All this and so much more! New information is added often. Visit www.sankethi.org today!



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