



North American Sankethi Association (NASA)
161 Natsisky Farm Road, South Windsor CT 06074, USA
<http://www.sankethi.org>

Volume 26, No 3
May 11, 2009

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Dear Sankethi friends,

I am happy to inform you all that we had a successful gathering at Raleigh NC on April 11, 2009. About 40 to 45 people were in attendance. The weather was great! The day was filled with sports, music and of course wonderful food. More details can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

NASA BOD is excited to welcome you all to our Silver Jubilee Celebrations at New Windsor, MD starting Thursday, July 2nd, evening and ending on Monday, July 6th morning. The BOD has put together several fun-filled programs, details of which can be found in this newsletter. We are happy to announce that we will be hosting a concert by RK Padmanabhan, during which we will also honor him for his accomplishments in the field of music. In addition, you will be treated to delightful dance programs by three different groups including two of our own and one coming to New Windsor all the way from Magge, India. And finally for our Sankethi thrill-seekers we are planning a group trip to Six Flags amusement park in Bowie, MD. The park has rides of all types as well as a waterpark, and all ages are encouraged to participate at a group discount rate of about 50% off normal ticket prices!

The BOD is also delighted to inform you all that New Windsor has upgraded their kitchen facility. We will be bringing in cooks to prepare food on site, in addition to obtaining some catered dishes.

As communicated in earlier newsletters we invite you all to submit articles to be included in our Silver Jubilee publication. Please send your articles to Ganesh Rao (ganesh_rao@yahoo.com) or Mayank Keshaviah (keshaviah@alum.dartmouth.org). We also welcome you to advertise in this publication. Rates for the publication can be found in this newsletter. Please submit all articles by **May 31, 2009**.

As we celebrate our 25th anniversary, we invite you to provide your input as to what should be the next steps for NASA. What additional activities should NASA undertake? How do we get more youth involved in NASA activities? We will be arranging some time to discuss these items during our annual get together. We should all take responsibility in shaping the future of NASA. We welcome and look forward to your active participation. Please remember to send in your registration form and payment before June 15th to take advantage of our early bird discount!

Yours truly,

NASA President Keshava Kumar & BOD

Regional NASA Event – Ugadi Celebration in Raleigh, NC– April 11, 2009

A regional NASA meeting was held in Raleigh, NC on April 11th, 2009. It was a fun filled day with NASA folks driving from far off places like CT, NY, NJ, DE and VA. Altogether about 45-50 attendees participated. The morning session, filled with sports events, was held at a park while the evening talent showcase was conducted in a local hall. In the morning, local NASA members prepared sumptuous food that ranged from paav bhaji to huli anna. Then the sports were a blast – organized by Mahesh Rao. It was the perfect mixture that made not only the kids but also the adults enjoy the games and competitions. Mixed into the fun was a game of informal cricket played by some of the NASA members, while others watched and cheered every shot that was hit.

Then all the folks went to Shubha and Ramesh Nagaraj's residence for coffee and snacks and to freshen up for the evening program. The evening program at a local hall started with a display of the wonderful talent of our own NASA kids which included songs on the keyboard, ballet, carnatic music and light music. The highlight of the evening was a carnatic music vocal concert by Smt. Smitha Prasad, who was accompanied by Sri. Sudhindra Rao on the mridangam. The program ended cheerfully with excellent food once again prepared by our beloved local NASA volunteers as well as a couple of items catered from the local Indian restaurant. NASA would like to thank all the volunteers who helped out in the food preparation and the sports function. Big thanks go to everyone who came and made the function a grand success. Pictures will soon be available at www.sankethi.org.

Member News

NASA deeply regrets to inform you that Smt. Lakshmidamma (aka Puttanamma) wife of the late Sahukar Channappaiah (Aathreya Gothra) passed away at the age of 95, on Saturday, April 11, 2009, at Christiana Hospital, Newark, Delaware. She is survived by 7 children: Saligrama Somashekar, Vedavathi Govindaraju, Saligrama Subbarao, Manjula Laxminarasimhiah, Saligrama Vamadeva, Shambhavi Vijay, Vasudha Narayan; 17 grandchildren; and 3 great-grandchildren. NASA's prayers go out to their family.

Congratulations to Ananth Murthy (Ganeshu) and Emily on the birth of their daughter, Kiran Monica Murthy. She was born on April 25, 2009. We look forward to welcoming the new addition to our NASA family soon!

NASA 25th Anniversary Publication: Invitation for articles

We are still collecting articles for our 25th anniversary souvenir book highlighting the ideas and achievements of our community. Please feel free to submit essays, artwork, poetry, photography or other creations along these themes:

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

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!

We are also seeking all interested artists to submit an illustration for the back cover and/or the table of content page (inner front cover). 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.

Advertisements/well-wishes may be submitted according to the following fee schedule:

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

Please send all items – articles, artwork, photo collages, advertisements, well-wishes etc. – and any questions to Mayank Keshaviah or Ganesh Rao by **May 31, 2009**, preferably by e-mail. See the first page for their contact information. We look forward to your creative best!

Notification of the Year 2009 General Body Meeting (GBM) July 4, 2009

Dear Members:

The 2009 Annual GBM will convene on Saturday, July 4, 2009 at 9.00AM at the New Windsor Conference Center, New Windsor, MD. The order of business will be as follows:

1. Roll call
2. Reading/Confirmation of minutes of the preceding meeting
3. President's address
4. Secretary's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Reports of Special Teams
7. Old and unfinished business
8. New business
9. Good and Welfare
10. Adjournment

Please note that per NASA bylaws only members in good standing as of the Record Date (June 23, 2009) may vote in any formal motion or election of office bearers. We would encourage nonmembers desirous of joining NASA to consider life membership instead of annual membership. Membership form may be printed from our website www.Sankethi.org. 2008 NASA GBM minutes published in our newsletter Volume 25. No.3 dated August 5, 2008 is included below for your ready reference.

2008 NASA GBM Minutes

The 2008 NASA GBM was held on July 6, 2008 at the New Windsor Conference Center at 10:00 am

1. Welcome speech by Dr. Sridhara, NASA president
2. Roll call was taken. 40 registered members were in attendance. Quorum for 2008 GBM was established.
3. Copies of 2007 GBM minutes were made available to members. 2007 GBM Minutes had also been sent to all members in May 2008 newsletter. Sundaresan identified that the 2008 GBM notification published in the May 2008 newsletter was not signed by the secretary. A corrected 2008 GBM announcement will be added to NASA records, which will include the secretary's signature for the notification of 2008 GBM. A second correction was also noted. Item 19 of 2007 GBM minutes stated no need for filing tax returns. However, due to average gross receipts exceeding limits established by IRS, the implications for tax returns due for previous years have to be addressed. Sundaresan motioned to accept 2007 GBM minutes along with the correction. Dathatri Seconded. 2007 GBM minutes were accepted.
4. When the meeting was called to order, the general body observed a few moments of silence for those Sankethis who passed away this past year, namely, Mrs. Lakshmi Rao, Dr. S.N. Subbarao, Dr. K. Ramachandra Murthy and Harave Keshavamurthy.
5. Dr. Sridhara started president's speech by thanking BOD and their spouses/families for their excellent work. He commented on the difficulty the BOD had with regard to the fulfillment of treasurer's functions in a timely manner. He thanked Satyanarayana and Mahesh Rao for putting in long hours to get papers in order. He also pointed out NASA's aims and objectives and made references to several NASA activities that met NASA's aims and objectives. He thanked the founding fathers for well defined NASA's aims and objectives. He highlighted the key goal of the outgoing NASA Board in building the spirit of community and enthusiasm among Sankethis around North America including Canada and how this has been accomplished very well by numerous regional meetings and well attended annual events. As many as 20 new life members representing all parts of US and Canada joined NASA during the last two years. Active participation from the Texas region is a testament to this. He mentioned that the new NASA Directory was just published and that it would help in building new relationships. The directory includes NASA Aims and Objectives and the Sankethi Anthem.
6. While the spirit of the community is growing, he called on all members to take stock and engage in productive and constructive participation and communication to build the community during this Silver Jubilee year. The president thanked NASA's Silver Jubilee Committee for their contributions.

7. Sundaresan made a motion of special thanks to the president and BOD for all the hard work. Nataraja seconded the motion, which was then duly accepted.
8. Sundaresan pointed out that the term of all committees appointed by Dr. Sridhara would expire along with his presidency. The appointment of any committees during the next two years is the responsibility of the new president.
9. Sundaresan made a motion to thank the Silver Jubilee Committee and it was seconded by Dathatri whereupon the motion was accepted.
10. NASA secretary Dr.Keshava Kumar presented the secretary's report. In his report, he mentioned that the maintenance of the NASA website is free of charge to the members. No confidential information has been provided to the website administrators. He acknowledged that the website needed many upgrades which are being discussed with the website administrators. He also noted that many successful NASA regional events were held thought the year.
11. Dr. Jayaram made a motion to accept the secretary's report. The motion, duly seconded, was accepted
12. NASA treasurer Satyanarayana presented the treasurer's report.
13. A request was made to expand abbreviations in the treasurer's report. Treasurer's report was accepted
14. Report of special teams was taken up. Sundaresan presented the Audit Team report. It was noted that 2006 Treasurer's report would be revised to reflect changes and entered in to NASA records.
15. There were no other committee reports.
16. There was no old or unfinished business.
17. No new business items were discussed.
18. NASA President S. Sridhara requested Dr. Jayaram, who had been identified as the election officer in the May 2008 newsletter, to conduct the election of office bearers for the 2008-2010 term.
19. Election officer Dr. Jayaram conducted the elections and the following President and BOD members were elected uncontested for 2008-2010 term:
 - a. President: Dr. Keshava Kumar
 - b. BOD members (* indicates members elected in absentia)

Arun Chickmenahalli *	Ganesh Rao
Lalitha Hanasoge	Shanthi Keshava Rao*
Mayank Keshaviah*	Divakar Rudrapatna*
Ramki Nagaraj	Ranjini Srikantiah
20. Good and welfare discussions marked the completion of the last item of the agenda.
21. Motion of thanks to the Chair and BOD, duly made and seconded, was carried unanimously.
22. 2008 NASA GBM meeting adjourned.

NASA General Secretary
Ranjini Srikantiah

NASA 2009: Silver Jubilee Celebrations **Thursday, July 2 – Monday, July 6**

The NASA BOD is extremely excited to invite you to participate in our NASA Silver Jubilee Festivities. Program highlights are as follows:

Thursday, July 2:

- Check-In & Welcome
- Dinner (Boxed Dinner will be available for late arrival till 11 PM)
- Game Night (Scrabble, Pictionary, Trivial Pursuit, etc.)

Friday, July 3:

- Rudra Abhisheka*
- Soundaryalahari**
- Stories from the Epics (as narrated by children and adults)
- Art Lessons by Mayura Simha
- NASA: Beyond Our Silver Jubilee – Open Discussion with breakouts by age group
- Evening Performance: R.K. Padmanabhan Music Concert

Saturday, July 4:

- NASA General Body Meeting
- Sports Competition
- Youth Talent Show
- Young Adult Mentorship Panel
- Seetha Aiyer Music Performance
- Seethalakshmi Madhavan Music Performance
- Silver Jubilee Celebration and High School Graduation Awards
- Evening Performance: Kuchipudi and Bharathanatyam dancers from India and the US

Sunday, July 5:

- Group Outing to Six Flags Theme Park in Maryland (additional fees will apply – see registration form)*
- Adult Talent Show
- Kids' Art Lessons (same as Friday?)
- Poetry by Dr. Nataraja
- Rummy Tournament
- Kollata
- Adult Drama

Monday, July 6:

Morning: Breakfast/Packed (or Boxed) Lunch and Check out

Can you believe that these are just the highlights?? Throughout the weekend there will be arts, music, games and sports activities for all ages, in addition to the programs listed above. We look forward to welcoming you to NASA's Silver Jubilee Celebration! Send in your registration form today!

**Rudra Abhisheka Participation: If you are interested in joining chanting Rudra and Chamaka during the 25th Anniversary Celebrations, please send your name to Dr. Dathathri by contacting him at (631) 847-0595 or via email at dathatyn@farmingdale.edu. This will help us determine if we have enough people for Ekadasha abhisheka. As always you are welcome to join in the chanting even if you don't provide your name in advance.*

***Soundarya Lahari: If you are interested in chanting Soundarya Lahari please contact Prema Kumar at (860) 648-9798.*

New Windsor Conference Center Map and Directions



From Baltimore:

Take 695W to 795NW to 140W thru Finksburg to Westminster to Rt. 31 (flashing light). Make a left onto Rt. 31. Go 7 miles to New Windsor. Sign is on the right.

From Washington, D.C. and Points South:

Take 495 to 270N & exit Father Hurley Blvd (Rt. 27). Follow 27N thru Damascus (27 curves left here) & Mt. Airy to Taylorsville (Rte 26). Cross over 26, go 2 miles & make left onto Rt. 407. Make right at Rt. 31 when 407 ends. Bear right on 31 as you enter New Windsor. Center is on left about ½ mile.

From Frederick:

Take 70E to Mt. Airy exit, Rte 27N and turn left. Continue on 27N to Taylorsville (Rte 26) & then follow DC directions above.

From Pennsylvania:

Take Rt. 97 or Rt. 27 into Westminister. Take 140W to Rt. 31 and follow the Baltimore directions above.

New Windsor Conference Center

P.O. Box 188 · 500 Main Street · New Windsor, Maryland 21776
 Toll Free 800-766-1553 · Local 410-635-8700 · Fax 410-635-8719
nwcc_gb@brethren.org · www.brethren.org/genbd/nwcc/

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Ganesh Rao	(781) 322-7946, ganesh_rao@yahoo.com
Mayank Keshaviah	(310) 287-0988, keshaviah@alum.dartmouth.org

NASA 2009 Conference Registration Form Thursday, July 2 – Monday, July 6

Family Name: _____

Home Address: *(Please make any necessary corrections in the address label below)*

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:** _____

- * I/We will NOT be arriving on Thursday, July 2, 2009
- * I/We will NOT be staying at New Windsor on Sunday night, July 5, 2009
- * I/We plan to join the outing to Six Flags Theme Park and will need ___ tickets. (Children under 2 - free)
Add \$25 per ticket to the registration fee schedule as outlined below to reserve a space. This is 50% off the normal ticket price but must be purchased in advance, and will therefore apply only to Early Bird registrations..

Signature*:

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

Payment: Please make checks payable in US dollars to NASA Inc. per the following schedule and mail along with these completed forms to

NASA, Inc.
161 Natsisky Farm Road
South Windsor CT, 06074

Registration Fees*:

	Early Bird (Postmarked by June 15, 2009)	Standard (After June 15, 2009 or at the door)
Full registration (over age 12)	\$170	\$210
Temporary visitors and students from India	\$65	\$105
Child care/activity fee** (ages 3-12)	\$25	\$25
Six Flags Theme Park ticket	\$25 (group discount applied)	Pay at park (\$25 ~ \$50)

*: Registration fees include all meals and lodging.

** : Please include children's names in the space provided on the back of this registration form

♦ Please call Keshava Kumar (860) 648-9798, email kbkumar@cox.net; or Lalitha Hanasoge (917) 848-4071, email sah2101@gmail.com if you need any travel assistance or a registration fee waiver.

Please indicate your interest in participating in the following activities:

Community Service (1-2 hours to be scheduled during the program)

Rummy Tournament

Please indicate number of participants: _____

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.

Child Care Service (ages 3-12)

Please indicate names and ages of children

For questions regarding participation in any of these events, please contact our Event Coordinators:

Ramesh Nagaraj (919) 380-1344 Email: ramkinagaraj@hotmail.com

Mayank Keshaviah (310) 287-0988 Email: keshaviah@alum.dartmouth.org

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: _____

For questions regarding HGA or CGA, please contact:

Ranjini Srikantiah: (201) 835-5081 Email: ranjini@alum.mit.edu

NASA 2009 Sponsorship Form

We request your generous support for the NASA 2009 event. If you would like to sponsor any of the activities occurring at the NASA 2009 conference, please complete this form, make checks payable to NASA, Inc., and mail both to Keshava Kumar, 161 Natsisky Farm Road, South Windsor, CT 06074 . Please call at (860) 648-9798 (Email: kbkumar@cox.net) with any questions.

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 sponsorship is welcome)

- Snacks/Coffee/Tea/Cold Drinks/Fruits (\$500)
- Late Night Snacks (\$250)
- Dinner Thursday (\$500)
- Breakfast Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday (\$500 each day)
- Lunch Friday, Sunday and Monday (\$1000 each day)
- Dinner Friday, Sunday (\$1250 each day)
- Cultural Events/Activities (For complete or partial concert sponsorship please call Keshava Kumar)
- Children's Materials / Equipment (i.e., balloons, art supplies, games, sports equipment, moon bounce/climber) (\$300)
- Child Care / Babysitting Service (\$300)
- Other (*please specify*): _____

Many thanks!!!



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