



Chiguru

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North American Sankethi Association (NASA)

161 Natsisky Farm Road, South Windsor CT 06074, USA

<http://www.sankethi.org>

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Dear Sankethi Friends,

Namaskara and Happy Ugadi.

Vishva Sankethi Sammelana- WOW! What a beautiful event! Several NASA members attended the Vishva Sankethi Sammelana that was held Dec. 31, 2010 through January 2, 2011. Four to five thousand people assembled in Mathur/Hosahalli for three days to celebrate various traits of Sankethis and recognize distinguished Sankethis. Prema Kumar and I were requested to inaugurate "Sankethi Darshini": an exhibition of Sankethi artifacts and our history. We were delighted to be part of this celebration of Sankethi history through this wonderful exhibition. Our very own, Dr. M.S. Nataraj, was recognized for his contribution to Kannada literature. The event was filled with various music programs, discussion forums, religious activities etc. The NASA contingent (myself, Prema, Sundaresan, Dr. M.S. Nataraja, M.R. Balakrishna, Jaya Balakrishna, Geetha and Prof. Dathathri, Abhiram and his mother) gathered on stage to sing the Sankethi Anthem. The Mathur & Hosahalli residents opened up their homes and their hearts to all visiting Sankethis treating them as their own family. Arrangements for food, venue and other logistics were second to none. To commemorate the event, NASA donated \$500.00 to the Sankethi Vriddhashrama. Overall, it was a great experience for Prema and me. We hope to bring elements of this to our annual gatherings.

The NASA BOD is very busy in making arrangements for the 2011 annual meeting. We need your participation. Please register early and bring your friends and family. This year's event will be held on July 1, July 2, July 3 and July 4. Please give us your ideas on what you would like to see in these gatherings. This year's event will be held at the New Windsor Conference Center in New Windsor, MD.

The KSS has undertaken task to build Samudhaya Bhavana in Bangalore. Please donate generously to help build this community center. BSS and KSS organizations are in need of funds for various projects. Please donate generously and support these organizations and their activities.

Looking forward to seeing many of you at New Windsor

With best wishes

Yours truly,



NASA President Keshava Kumar & BOD

2011 Annual Get-Together and General Body Meeting July 1-4, 2011

The NASA BOD is pleased to announce the 2011 Annual Get-Together and General Body Meeting July 1-4 at the New Windsor Conference Center, New Windsor, MD. We have many exciting activities planned. If you would like to volunteer or if you have any ideas, please contact the BOD. The registration form is provided in this newsletter.

- **Music Concert by Dr. T.S. Satyavathi and group**
- Music Workshop by Dr. T.S. Satyavathi
- Pooja program for children
- Lalitha Sahasranama and Vishnu Sahasranama chanting
- Saamohika Sandhavandana
- Vishva Sankethi Sammela Report (with one surprise event you don't want to miss)
- Cooking classes for delicious Sankethi dishes
- Philosophy round table discussions
- Youth discussion
- Fireworks on July 3rd night
- Sankethi Speaking classes and Demonstration of Sankethi Language project
- Compete to show off your Sankethi language skills (start learning kids!)
- Sports including Kho-kho, Kabbadi, Table Tennis etc.
- Rummy Tournament
- 28 Tournament
- Delicious food prepared on-site
- Yoga
- Professional networking event
- Music by youth singer SriNidhi
- Navarasa Deepika by Vasudha Narayan and team (accompanied by panchaveenam, keyboard, tabla and more)
- Watch Nacharamma movie and learn how our ancestors migrated from Sankottai. This movie is in Sankethi and acted by Sankethi artists.

Padma Bhushan awarded to Sri. R. K. Srikantan

Sangeetha Kalanidhi Rudrapatna. Krishna Shastry Srikantan, the eminent Sankethi Carnatic vocalist, was awarded the Padma Bhushan this year. R.K. Srikantan was born in Rudrapatna in 1920 and has been singing Carnatic music for over 70 years. The noteworthy features of Srikantan's music are strict adherence to sruti, clear-cut pronunciation of the text and emphasis on rhythm with simultaneous concentration on bhava and bhakti. The Padma Bhushan is among the highest civilian awards conferred by the Government of India and it is a matter of pride for the whole community that he has been honored this way. NASA sends its wholehearted congratulations to Vidwan Srikantan on this great achievement.



Concert by Padma Bhushan Sri. R.K. Srikantan on May 8, 2011 in CT

NASA and the RAGA club of CT proudly present Padma Bushana Sangeetha Kalanidhi Dr. R.K. Srikantan and his son Prof. Vidwan Rudrapatna S Ramakanth in concert. They will be accompanied by Akshay Ananth on Mrudanga and Sushas Rao on Violin. The concert will be held on May 8th at 4:30 PM at The Maharaja Hall, Bollywood Grill, 2333 Main Street, Glastonbury, CT 06033 (Tel:860-734-0001). General admission is \$10/- per person. NASA thanks Dr. B.R. Manjunath, Keshava Rao & Shanthi Keshava Rao, Shankar Magge & Uma Magge, Dr. Janardhan Iyengar & Vijaya Iyengar, Dr. Keshava Kumar and Prema Kumar, Nagaraj Ananthasesha & Sandhya Nagaraj for sponsoring this concert.

During the concert, NASA will have a brief ceremony to recognize the achievement of our own Sankethi Padma Bushana Sangeetha Kalanidhi Dr. R.K. Srikantan. With his extraordinary credentials and phenomenal achievement Vidwan Dr. RKS at the age of 92 still actively performs and teaches Carnatic Music all over the world. He is the oldest living legend of classical Carnatic music and can be truly called as one of the wonders of the music world. Please join us on this auspicious occasion of recognizing one of the greatest Sankethis: Dr. RKS.

On the day of the concert, out of towners are welcome to join Prema and Keshava Kumar for lunch at noon at their residence. Please let them know if you are planning on joining them [\(860\) 648-9798](tel:8606489798).

Concert by Padma Bhushan Sri. R.K. Srikantan on May 21, 2011 in NY

Shruti Laya (<http://www.shrutilaya.org/>) presents Sangeetha Kalanidhi R.K. Srikantan in concert at 4:00 pm on Saturday May 21, 2011 at PS 115 Elementary School, 80-51 261st St., Floral Park, NY 11004. He will be accompanied by Smt. Sandhya Anand (Violin), Prof. R.K. Ramakanth (Vocal), T.S. Nandakumar (Mridangam), and Akshay Ananthapadmanabha (Kanjeera). General admission is \$15 and children under 18 and Shruti Laya members are free.

Samskritam as a Foreign Language

SAFL is a three-year online distance education program for high school students (8th - 12th graders) who wish to learn Samskritam (aka Sanskrit) in the US. The SAFL program introduces high school students to the rich language of Samskritam through the medium of Samskritam itself thereby developing the students' speaking, reading and writing skills. No prior knowledge is required for beginner-level classes, however familiarity with an Indian language is recommended.

SAFL is designed solely for high school students and thus tailors to their specific learning needs and interests. To further cater to high school students the course is conducted via teleconference and web. Through multimedia, online materials, instruction and residential camps, opportunities are provided for students to interact in Samskritam.

Upon completion of the SAFL program, students are prepared for further study at the university level. To learn more about this program and register, please visit: <http://safl.samskritabharati.org>.

NASA Ski Trip over Martin Luther King Weekend



This past January, Sankethi young and old from Connecticut to Virginia enjoyed a weekend on the slopes at Camelback Mountain in Pennsylvania. This year's crew included a fairly large group of first-time skiers in addition to a few veterans. Under the able tutelage of Jai K. Rangappa, (and with a little instruction from the Camelback ski school), all had a great time. Since this year's trip coincided with Sankranti, we were treated to the culinary talents of Suhas Ravish who woke up extra early on Saturday morning to prepare excellent pongalu so we could all enjoy it in front of the warm, crackling fireplace at the end of the day. Padmini Rao and Jai K. Rangappa also contributed to our feast – a fun time was definitely had by all! Check out the pictures and Dr. Rangappa's poem inspired by the weekend. Be sure to join us next year for more "Ski-kethi" fun!

– Submitted by Sheela Nagaraj and Ranjini Srikantiah

NASA Snow Skiing Story

Uncle Jayaram and his Sankethi company,
Took to snow ski slopes to learn merrily,
Over two decades back, in early eighty,
Forming a tough band of young skiketi.

In American south in VA, in early eighty,
Rangappa with Menaca, Renuka did ski,
He started at 'over the hill' age of forty,
They all became very bold and sporty.

Jayaram & Rangappa joined company,
Over a fermented drink of red cranberry,
And planned to take all active Sankethi
Kids & adults to snow mountains to ski.

Every Christmas, Sankethi young and old,
Drove with them to snow mountains cold,
In NY, Vermont, New Hampshire to ski,
To learn and fall and teach skiing merrily.

Thanks to Jaya & Balakrishna's hospitality,
For hosting in their home, hordes of Sankethi,
Wild kids & the adults in home in NY, Albany,
We all graciously thank them for generosity.

Many years did J&R team sow the 'ski' seed,
Young Sankethi kids grew up into a new breed,
Made them all very active & friendly, truly bold,
Face white snowy mountains and ski in cold.

Now many NASA kids have grown older,
Married, spouse & children to shoulder,
Have started snow ski trips, grown bolder,
With little help from Jayaram, their mentor.

Uncle Jayaram and Rangappa are happy,
Leave behind a snow skiing sport legacy,
Worked hard, getting together kids Sankethi,
And transform them all into a jolly skiketi.

Ganesh Rao and all but one Sankethi friend,
Got together & on mail & the internet find,
The ski resort in Okemo, VT in Feb 2009,
Asked Jayaram to cook, Rangappa to join.

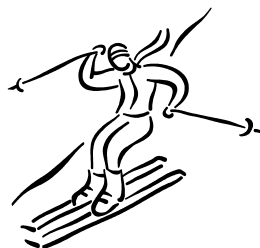
Stayed together in 20 room cottage home,
With their spouse and children and some,
Enjoyed skiing and friendly rapport happily,
Thanks to one & all, was done very grandly.

In year 2011 on MLK weekend of January,
Sheela & other Sankethi youths with Ranjini,
Gathered together for skiing in Pennsylvania,
At cold mountain Camelback resort to ski.

About twenty of them, mostly young Sankethi,
From the "Bettadapura" clan to ski the 'betta'
With uncle Rangappa and aunt Rao Padmini,
Stayed together for 2/3 nights at ski resort.

All told there were twenty persons come to ski,
With three kids & 17 adults with one in seniority,
Many took ski lessons from Rangappa fearfully,
In two days some of them were skiing very happily.

Jai Rangappa
Jan 20 2011
Camelback Ski Resort
Pennsylvania



Photos from Vishva Sankethi Sammelana – More at the NASA GBM!



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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<http://www.sankethi.org>

Official News

- **Please update your addresses!:** If your address, phone number or email address has changed, please send us the updated information. Also, if you would rather receive the newsletter via email (in full color!) please opt for e-delivery. Send your requests and updates to Ganesh <ganesh_rao@yahoo.com>.
- **Website Maintenance:** NASA would like to thank Samartha Infosolutions Pvt. Ltd. (<http://www.samarthainfo.com>) for agreeing to maintain our website (<http://www.sankethi.org>) for free. Samartha Infosolutions is a Sankethi-owned company and a member of the Samartha Group. Established in 2006, the Samartha Group is a collection of companies with the goal of being the leader in providing simplified IT to the customer through innovation. The group also contains the companies SuVeechi Technologies, ShriDhama Solutions, and Samartha Test Solutions.
- **Chiguru Articles:** If you have an article you would like to submit, please send it to the BOD for consideration.

Community News

- NASA sadly notes the passing of Dr. Suresh Harve, uncle of Roopa Rudrapatna, on September 27, 2010.
- Sheela Nagaraj (d/o Shamala and G. Nagaraj and our Assisand Secretary) and Pramod Dhikshith (s/o RS Vijayalakshmi & Ganakalabhushana Vid. RK Padmanabha) were engaged on 9/12/2010 and the wedding will be in Bangalore on 4/22/2011. Congratulations to the happy couple.
- Congratulations to Sruti Nataraja and Dinesh Shankar on the birth of their daughter Hamsika Shankar on February 4, 2011. This elevates Geeta and M.S. Nataraja to Grandparents!
- NASA would like to welcome new Life Members Dr. Sridhar and Smt. Supriya.
- In the GBM minutes of the last newsletter, we wrote “Ramachandra Shastry’s mother, Bhageerathamma...” when we meant “Ramachandra Shastry’s mother, Meekshamma, Swarna Rao’s aunt, Bhageerathamma ...”. We regret the error.

Photos of NASA Navarathri 10/2/2010 in Michigan



NASA 2011 Conference Registration Form

Friday, July 1 – Monday, July 4

Family Name: _____

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

E-Mail Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Number of Participants:

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

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

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.*

Registration Fees*	Early Bird (Postmarked by June 20, 2011)	Standard (After June 20, 2011 or onsite)
Full registration (over age 12)	\$170	\$210
Partial registration (arriving Sat. or without rooms)	\$150	\$190
Temporary visitors and students from India	\$75	\$105
Child care / activity fee** (ages 3-12)	\$25	\$25

**: Registration fees include all meals and lodging.*

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

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**

Sponsorship Form

We request your generous support for the NASA 2011 event. If you would like to sponsor any of the activities occurring at the NASA conference, please complete this form, make checks payable to NASA, Inc., and mail both to the above address. Please call at (860) 648-9798 (Email: kbkumar@cox.net) with any questions.

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 Friday (\$500)
- ☐ Breakfast Saturday, Sunday and Monday (\$500 each day)
- ☐ Lunch Saturday and Sunday (\$1000 each day)
- ☐ Dinner Saturday or 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) (\$300)
- ☐ Other *(please specify):* _____

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

Please indicate your interest in participating in the following activities:

_____ Childrens' Pooja

Please indicate name and age of participants

_____ Rummy Tournament

Please indicate number of participants: _____

_____ 28 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.

_____ Cooking Class

Please indicate names of participants

_____ Music Workshop

Please indicate names of participants

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

Keshava Kumar kbkumar@cox.net (860) 648-9798

Abhiram Vijayasathya abhiramrv@gmail.com

Ganesh Rao ganesh_rao@yahoo.com (617) 903-0726



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