



*Chiguru*  
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*May 2017*

# North American Sankethi Association (NASA)

161 Natsisky Farm Rd, South Windsor, CT 06074

<http://www.sankethi.org>

May 2017

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**1.**



## **President's Note**

Dear NASA Members,

We are all happy to inform you that the 2017 NASA Annual get together that will take place on July 7 - 9 at the Incarnation Center in Ivoryton, CT-06442. Please mark your calendars as we are planning an event filled with various activities. See the detailed program in this edition of Chiguru.

The Incarnation Center in Ivoryton, CT is similar to the facility in New Windsor, MD where our annual event was held for many years. We are very excited to have found a retreat center with accommodations, a gym, hiking trails, a lake, good meeting facilities and the ability to prepare our own food, all about 100 miles north of New York City and 130 miles south of Boston. Vijaya and Shridhar Rao have agreed to cook for us, ensuring we will all be in for some delicious meals!

Accommodations will be on a first-come, first-served basis - we do have a limited number of rooms. Please return your registration forms as early as possible to guarantee your spot!

You may remember that we had been planning to hold this year's annual event in California. Unfortunately for a number of reasons, it did not work out this year. We are sorry to disappoint those who were getting ready to travel out West and to those of you in the San Francisco Bay area. We will try again in a future year.

Please enjoy this Chiguru edition which includes information about our upcoming annual meeting, but also about our regional Navaratri event held in October 2017 in Stratford, CT, and interesting and exciting community news, including Ganakalabhushana Vidwan RK Padmanabhan's Vadiraja Aradhane activities that have been going on this spring.

We look forward to seeing you this summer at the Incarnation Center!

Sincerely,

Prema Keshav Kumar  
NASA President

## **1. Notification of the General Body Meeting (GBM) to be held July 9, 2017**

Dear Members:

The 2017 Annual GBM will convene on Sunday, July 9, 2017 at 10.00AM at the Incarnation Center, Ivoryton, CT. 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

*Any member in good standing may introduce a motion from the floor with the permission of the Chair. Such permission shall not be denied if the member has given written notice of such motion to the corporation at least ten days but not more than fifty days prior to the scheduled date of the meeting. Provided however that the advance notice requirement may be waived if the estimated additional financial exposure to the corporation from the proposed motion is less than US\$500 in the relevant fiscal year(s).*

9. Good and Welfare
10. Adjournment

Please note that per NASA bylaws only members in good standing as of the Record Date (June 28, 2017) 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](http://www.Sankethi.org).

Minutes from the 2016 GBM were published in October 2016 in Chiguru Vol 33, No. 3. We are currently experiencing technical difficulties and have been unable to update the NASA website with the meeting minutes and the updated by-laws as ratified by the membership ([www.sankethi.org](http://www.sankethi.org)). We ask for your patience as we sort through this matter. In the meantime, if you wish to receive a copy of the 2016 meeting minutes for review, please contact us at [NASASecretary@gmail.com](mailto:NASASecretary@gmail.com)

Subsequent to the posting of the 2016 meeting minutes, several issues were identified that may impact the vote of the membership regarding the handling of certain restricted funds in the NASA organization. This matter is currently under investigation, and a report will be provided prior to, and at the General Body Meeting.

Submitted by:  
Ranjini Srikantiah  
Secretary

## **2. Announcement: NASA 2017 Annual Get-Together and General Body Meeting**

Join us for a wonderful summer get-together at the Incarnation Center in Ivoryton, CT. We are very fortunate to have found this venue with accommodations, access to nature, a meeting hall and dining hall that are ideal for a NASA get-together!

### **Venue:**

Incarnation Center  
253 Bushy Hill Rd, Ivoryton, CT

### **Dates:**

Friday, July 7 – Monday, July 9, 2017

### **Program (subject to change)**

#### **Friday, July 7**

3:00 - Arrival

4:00 – 5:00 - Social hour snacks and coffee.

5:00 – 6:00 - Lalthashastranama

6:00 – 7:30 - Dinner

**7:30 – 10:30 – Sankethi Family Game Night!** Featuring fun for all including (but not limited to) Sugama Sageetha, Anthakshari, Kolatta, Chowka Bhara, Pagade, Apples to Apples, Uno, Charades, Sankethi Jeopardy  
10:30 Ice Cream/Watermelon Social

#### **Saturday, July 8**

6:00 – 8:00 – Nature walk, Yoga

8:30 – 9:30 - Veda chanting

9:00 – 10:30 - Breakfast

**11:00 – 12:30 - Hindustani classical concert by Nandan Ramachandra Shastry**

12:30 – 4:00 – Sports Day (including swimming onsite!) & Lunch

4:30 – 6:30 – Talent Show Part 1, Youth Programming

6:30 - 8:00 Dinner

**8 30 – 10:00 Veena concert by Dr Amrutha Vishwanatha**

10:00 Ice Cream/Watermelon Social

#### **Sunday, July 9**

6:00 – 8:00 – Nature walk, Yoga

8:00 – 9:00 - Vedic chanting

9:00 – 10:00 – Breakfast

**10:00 – 11:00 – General Body Meeting**

11:00 – 1:00 – Talent Show Part 2

1:30 – 2:30 – Lunch

3:00 – Program Close



**Note:** Accommodations will be provided on site in single and double occupancy rooms with shared baths. As total beds are limited, assignments will be made first-come, first-served according to receipt of registration forms and payment. Please ensure you return your registration form promptly to ensure onsite accommodation. Once onsite rooms are booked, you will need to make your own arrangements.



### 3. Regional Event: Navaratri, October 2016

In October 2016 we had a successful regional event in Stratford, CT. About 50 people participated in the festivities, which included Lalitha Sahasranama, Bombe Aarathi, children's talent show and a wonderful concert by our own Sandhya Nagaraj, accompanied by Sujatha Kidambi on Violin and Krishna Sunil Palya on Mridangam. I think all will agree that the event was a success!





#### 4. Vadiraja Aradhane, Edison, NJ

Students of Ganakalabhushana Vidwan R K Padmanabha, known as RKP Balaga USA, organized a Vadiraja Aradhane event in Edison, NJ on April 29. The event was very well attended, with many Sankethis performing and helping behind the scenes to make the event a grand success. All in attendance were treated to a full day of great music and dance. Ganakalabhushana Vid. RK Padmanabha honored every singer, dancer, musician, from young to old, on their dedication to the arts and on their ability to bring Vadiraja's compositions to life in such a wonderful way. At the end of the day, Vid. RK Padmanabha himself performed. On behalf of NASA, President Prema Kumar and Past President Keshava Kumar recognized Vid. RK Padmanabha for his achievements and contribution to the arts. Based on the dedication and involvement of all in the area, and the quality of the performances, Vid. RK Padmanabha has told us he will organize next year's Vadiraja Aradhane in the New Jersey area. We look forward to the event! We will provide more details as they become available. Congratulations to Sheela Nagaraj-Dikshith, Sandhya Nagaraj and Rajashree Sridhara on their wonderful performances, and special congrats to Sheela for organizing a tremendous event!



## 5. Community News

Members of the community are invited to submit articles of interest for publication to: [nasasecretary@gmail.com](mailto:nasasecretary@gmail.com)

**Congratulations:** We would like to congratulate Sandhya Nagaraj for an excellent job in organizing Purandara Dasa's Navaratna Malika on Dec 3rd, 2016. It was a memorable event of Dasa Sudha. Purandara Dasa's music, in true Haridasa tradition is a beautiful blend of Sangeeta Sudha and Jnana Sudha. The event began with "Navaratna Maalika" (Garland of Nine Gems), nine kritis of Shri Purandara Dasa led by [Sandhya Manjunatha](#) Nagaraj followed by impressive group and individual presentations sung and played by children and adults. Teachers - Sandhya Manjunatha, Janaki Ramanan, Anu Kothandaraman, Sujata Kidambi and Parvathi Subramanyam - were there with their students plus other individual singers (children & adults). The accompanying artistes were - Sujata Kidambi, Sriram Ramanan, Tarun Sriram, and Sudhanva Nagaraj. There were three Sankethi's that participated in this event. See more at: [Purandaradasa-Aradhana-2016](#) ([https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqLc-f\\_5Bu\\_2wdMR5EQbN0HEcviZHLvls](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqLc-f_5Bu_2wdMR5EQbN0HEcviZHLvls))

**Birth announcement:** Congratulations to Dinesh & Soudamini Rao on the birth of their son, Rithvik, Kaushik Rao on May 1, 2017. Mom, Dad and big sister Mythili are doing well!

From the NASA President and first family (Mahathi, Puneeth, Prema & Keshava Kumar):

**Wedding announcement:** Dr. Keshava Kumar's sister Mahalakshmi & brother in law Balasubramanya's son Chi| Ry| Pranav will be wed with Chi| Sou.| Nagashree (D/O of S.K. Natesha and K.V. Lakshmi) on Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> May 2017, in Bangalore.

From NASA President Prema Kumar's sister Sunanda Chickamenahalli and brother-in-law Ramanath Narasipura:

**Birth Announcement:** Baby Myra Sorab was born to our eldest daughter Vidya Ramanath and son-in-law Santhosh Sorab on March 19th, 2017, making us proud first time grandparents. Myra is first among the next generation for Chikkamenahalli family and thus instantly promoted all family members to their respective senior spots

**Engagement Announcement:** Our second daughter, Ramya Ramanath got engaged to Ankit Singhal on November 20th, 2016 in Dehra Dun, India. Ankit has recently accepted a position in Seattle, with Microsoft Corporation. Ramya & Ankit will be relocating to Seattle after the wedding.

### **Voyage to Costa Rica!**

The recent adventures of our elder Sankethis reminds us that it is never too old to experience new things! Jai K Rangappa shared the following account of the trip that several Sankethis took to Costa Rica in February 2017:

All of us left individually or in small groups for San Jose, Costa Rica on February 20 2017 to spend a week on a Caravan bus tour of Costa Rica. We stayed at different hotels for six nights and had vegetarian food which was good to tolerable. During our trip, we saw a coffee plantation and processing, and took a river canal cruise where we could experience local wildlife including birds, tortoise, alligators, monkeys and herons in their natural habitat. We also saw 2 volcanic craters up close (not active, of course!) and walked through a natural rain forest crossing rope bridges and paths uphill and downhill. One of the hotels that we stayed at was located very close to Arenal, an active volcano, and we could clearly see the volcano spewing out steam from two of its peaks. Some of us had fun Zip lining from tree to tree with instructors. One day all of us had refreshing, water fun in the hot springs filled by water coming from the volcano. Some days our group of 10 celebrated with our own Sankethi snacks and drinks. We spent two days at the Pacific Beach Hotel for rest and relaxation.



Sankethi Adventurers plus their tour guide, bottom left

Tour director Ruth Gonzales (included in the picture below) who is an airline pilot in training and aspires to command an Airbus 380 in a few years, was a talented story teller and gave us the interesting history of Costa Rica which does not have a standing armed forces. People are very nice and agriculture, tourism and hospitality are the main ways of life. Many Americans have retired there and enjoy the warmth and lower cost of living.

We all enjoyed the trip and returned home safely. Time to plan another next year with those who are interested in traveling far and near!

Jai K Rangappa



## 6. Health Corner

Travel season is upon us! Before you pack up your bags and head out, be sure to consult travel health websites such as those maintained by the CDC or Health Canada to make sure you are up-to-date on all recommended vaccinations and health tips: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list>, <https://travel.gc.ca/destinations/> Outbreaks change often, as does our individual immune status so be sure to check often!

## 7. Thoughts to Ponder

### THE LIGHT BULB

Buying the simple light bulb is bewildering,  
Being in the dark about lumen is hindering,  
Choosing a light bulb was so easy in the past,  
Now with an array of bulbs all are so aghast.

Handful of bulb choices differed by brilliance,  
The hundred watt bulb blazed a brilliant light,  
The sixty watt bulb emitted a good radiance,  
While a 40 watt shed a gentle glow, not bright.

With the LED and an array of the more efficient  
Bulbs, throw bright light more than incandescent,  
But with the low wattage LED and many lumen more,  
The old Edison bulb has disappeared from shop floor.

The incandescent bulb is a real antique,  
Giving us an old twentieth century peek,  
100 watt bulb sheds 1600 lumen of light,  
10% energy used and 90% wasted as heat,  
LED ( light emitting diode ) produces bright  
Light with 14 watts of energy and is so neat.

Energy is consumed and rated in Watt,  
As the brightness is measured in lumen,  
After 130 years Edison light falls short,  
With LED a bright 21st century has begun.

Jai Rangappa

3-22-17



# NASA 2017 Conference Registration Form (p. 1 of 2)

## Friday, July 7 – Monday, July 9, 2017

**Family Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Expected Arrival Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Expected Departure Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

**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.*

We are pleased to offer different pricing options to suit different needs. Please indicate the number of participants accordingly.

	Adults (18+)	Qty	Youth (11-18) / Full Time Students	Qty	Kids (4 to 11) / Visitors from India	Qty	Kids Under 4	Qty	\$ TOTAL
July 7,8 and 9 - including accommodation	\$130		\$100		\$80		Free		
July 7,8 and 9 - no accommodation	\$90		\$75		\$50		Free		
Day Tripper July 8 Saturday only - no accommodation	\$50		\$40		\$25		Free		
Day Tripper July 9 Sunday only - no accommodation	\$30		\$25		\$15		Free		

Please make checks payable to NASA Inc. per the following schedule and mail along with these completed forms to

**NASA, Inc.**  
**25010 Mineral Springs Cir**  
**Aldie VA 20105**

♦ Please call Prema Kumar (860) 648-9798; email [keshavprema@gmail.com](mailto:keshavprema@gmail.com) or Raghunath Kanagal (703) 483-9212; email [NASATreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:NASATreasurer@gmail.com) if you need any travel assistance or a registration fee waiver.

**NASA 2017 Conference Registration Form (p. 2 of 2)**  
**Friday, July 7 – Monday, July 9, 2017**

**Please indicate your interest in participating in the following activities:**

☐ Rummy Tournament (Adults, Saturday afternoon 7/8/17)

*Please indicate number of participants:* \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Talent Showcase (Adults and Children)

*Please indicate name of participants, age, and talent(s) to be shared/performed. Due to time constraints we ask that each person only perform once during the weekend. Thank you.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

☐ Special Programs or Presentations

*Do you have something special you'd like to share? Please indicate name of participants and provide a brief description of the program, presentation, etc.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**For questions regarding participation in any of these events, please contact:**

Sandhya Nagaraj (203) 588-1686 sandhyamanjunatha@gmail.com

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

## NASA 2017 Sponsorship Form

We request your generous support for the NASA 2017 event. If you would like to sponsor any of the activities occurring at the NASA 2017 conference, please complete this form, make checks payable to NASA, Inc., and mail both to Raghunath Kanagal, 25010 Mineral Springs Cir, Aldie VA 20105. Please call at (703) 483-9212 or email ([NASATreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:NASATreasurer@gmail.com)) 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 Friday July 8 (\$500)
- ☐ Breakfast Saturday, Sunday and Monday (\$500 each day)
- ☐ Lunch Saturday, Sunday and Monday (\$1000 each day)
- ☐ Dinner Saturday or Sunday (\$1250 each day)
- ☐ Children's Materials / Equipment (i.e., balloons, art supplies, games, sports equipment) (\$300)
- ☐ Other (please specify: \_\_\_\_\_)

***Many thanks!!!***

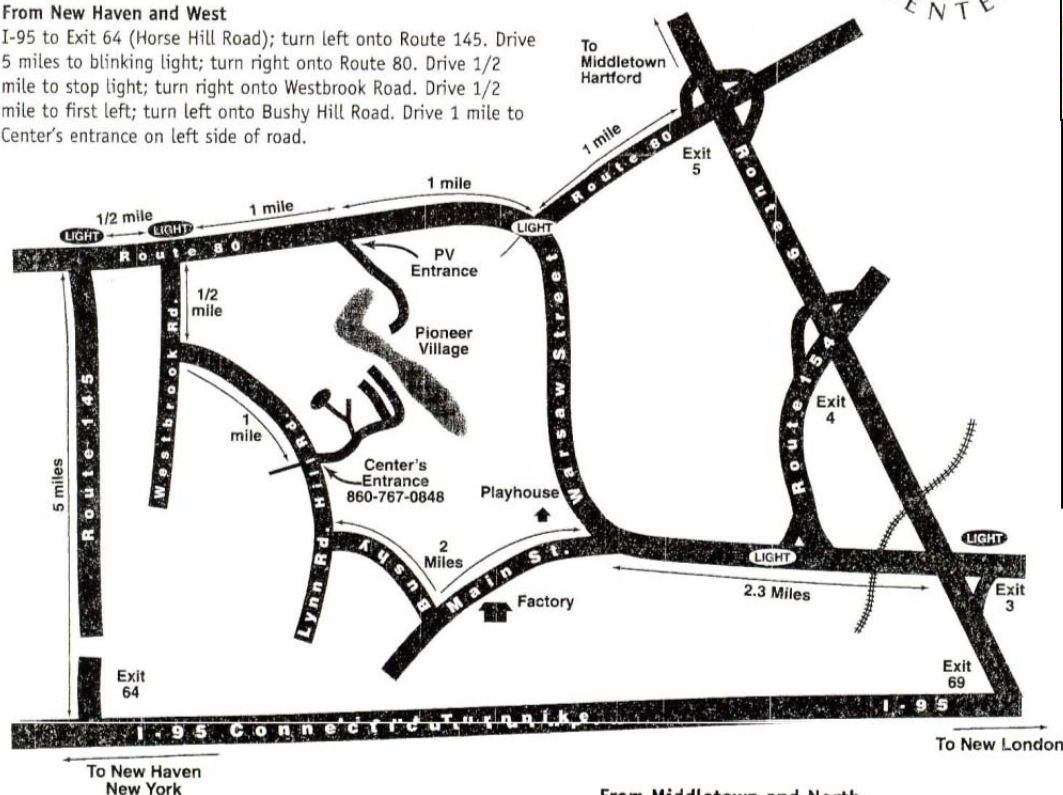


# Incarnation Center Directions



## From New Haven and West

I-95 to Exit 64 (Horse Hill Road); turn left onto Route 145. Drive 5 miles to blinking light; turn right onto Route 80. Drive 1/2 mile to stop light; turn right onto Westbrook Road. Drive 1/2 mile to first left; turn left onto Bushy Hill Road. Drive 1 mile to Center's entrance on left side of road.



## Incarnation Center

[www.incarnationcenter.org](http://www.incarnationcenter.org)

253 Bushy Hill Rd  
Ivoryton, CT 06442

2 hours from Boston  
2.5 hours from NYC  
1 hour from Hartford.

Nearest AMTRAK train  
station is Old Saybrook.

## From New London and East

I-95 to Exit 69; right onto Route 9 and north to Exit 3 (Route 154) Left off ramp through stop light and over railroad tracks. Straight through second stop light into Ivoryton. Keep Playhouse on right and take Main Street out past factory. Turn right at stop sign onto Bushy Hill Road. At top of hill turn right with Bushy Hill Road. Center's entrance is second on right.

## From Middletown and North

Route 9 South to Exit 5; turn right onto Route 80. Drive 1 mile to blinking light; continue right on Route 80 for 2 miles to stop light; Turn left onto Westbrook Road; Drive 1/2 mile to first left; Turn onto Bushy Hill Road; drive 1 mile to Center's entrance on left.

## For more information please contact:

Incarnation Center  
P.O. Box 577  
Ivoryton, CT 06442-0577  
(860) 767-0848  
Fax: (860) 767-8432

## NASA Contacts:

Contact Names	Numbers
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