



# *Chiguru*

Vol 29, No. 2  
September 2012

# North American Sankethi Association (NASA)

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

<http://www.sankethi.org>

Sept. 2012

## Board of Directors

### *President*

Ashok N. Rudrapatna, PhD  
908-647-8469

[President@sankethi.org](mailto:President@sankethi.org)  
[ashok.rudrapatna@gmail.com](mailto:ashok.rudrapatna@gmail.com)

### *Vice President*

Divakar Rudrapatna  
905-608-9351

[divakar.rudrapatna@gmail.com](mailto:divakar.rudrapatna@gmail.com)

### *General Secretary*

Dinesh Rao, MD  
919-609-3328

[dineshrao1@gmail.com](mailto:dineshrao1@gmail.com)

### *Treasurer*

Lalitha Hanasoge  
917-848-4071

[sah2101@gmail.com](mailto:sah2101@gmail.com)

### *Assistant Secretary*

(Web & Young Adults Coordinator)

Ashwini Srikantiah  
917-832-5573

[srikantiah@gmail.com](mailto:srikantiah@gmail.com)

### *Assistant Secretary*

(Regional Coordinator)

Nagaraj Ananthashesha  
203-588-1686

[banag74@gmail.com](mailto:banag74@gmail.com)

### *Assistant Secretary*

(Cultural Programs)

Sheela Nagaraj  
201-543-9434

[sheela71384@gmail.com](mailto:sheela71384@gmail.com)

### *Assistant Secretary*

(Program Development & Planning)

Shubha Dathatri, PhD  
650-799-9744

[sdatha916@gmail.com](mailto:sdatha916@gmail.com)

### *Assistant Secretary*

(Cultural Programs, Adjunct)

Sujaya Rao  
609-750-1340

[15sujaya@gmail.com](mailto:15sujaya@gmail.com)

Yellarukku Namaskaro!

On the occasion of the Gowri and Ganapathi habba, it gives me a great pleasure to wish all of you Healthy, Happy, Prosperous, and Worry Free life. Also if you haven't received my previous newsletter, I greet all of you as the new President of NASA for the 2012-2014 term. I look forward to working with all of you to make our NASA a great organization in which we all enjoy participating. In addition to electing me as your President, the NASA General Body at its recent meeting on August 19, 2012 also elected eight members to the Board of Directors. They are a dynamic group, full of ideas and energy, who want to make a difference in our community; I am very fortunate to have their support. They are shown on the side bar along with their primary roles in serving on the Board.

We have already begun to plan out themes and programs for the coming two years. We will share these programs with you as they are more fully developed. We welcome any suggestions you have in making our NASA better meet your expectations, so please feel free to get in touch with any of us to share your thoughts.

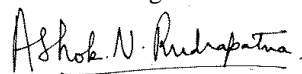
We are pleased to announce the first program being planned during the time of the Navarathri festival this year. Drs. K. V. and Amrutha Viswanatha have generously offered to host this program at their residence (5 Kinzel Lane, West Orange, NJ 07052; 973-669-3828). The NASA celebration of the Navarathri festival will take place on **Saturday, October 20, 2012 starting at 9:30 AM**. The program will commence at 9:30 AM *sharp* (due to Rahu Kala constraints) with a Saraswathi Puje followed by Lalitha Sahasranama chanting, and will conclude with lunch. We are also trying to arrange a Navarathri related children's program and possibly an informal music session. We strongly encourage all of you to attend and to encourage your children to participate. If you are interested please contact one of our cultural secretaries.

We hope this announcement will help you to save the date to attend our NASA Navarathri celebrations. You should have also by now already received a separate electronic invite to this event. In order to help us make the appropriate plans, please use that invitation to electronically confirm **by October 5, 2012** your attendance along with the number of people who will be attending with you. Please note that there is **no fee** to attend this function; however, in order to sustain our NASA and to defray the expenses the **Suggested Donations** are: Members - \$10/Adult, \$5/child (3-12 yrs. old). Non-members: \$15/Adult, \$5/child; Kids under 3 free.

Enclosed please also find the latest issue of our Chiguru. This covers a complete coverage of the recent annual meeting/GBM and community news. If you have any news you would like to share with the larger North American Sankethi please contact our Secretary.

All of us on the Board of Directors look forward to working together with all of you during the coming years to further enhance our community spirit. Thank you for bestowing your trust and confidence in all of us. We will do our best to live up to your expectations. We look forward to your enthusiastic participation and support in our work and participation in the upcoming NASA Navarathri program and in all future NASA activities.

With Best Regards and Best Wishes,



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

## **1. Navarathri Program, October 20, 2012**

RSVP Deadline: 05 Oct 2012

Time: 9:30 AM (see President's letter above for details)

Location: Home of Drs. K.V. and Amrutha Viswanatha; 5 Kinzel Lane; West Orange, NJ 07052; Telephone 973-669-3828

Suggested Donation: Members: \$10/Adult, \$5/child (3-12 yrs. old). Nonmembers: \$15/Adult, \$5/child; ages 3 and under free

## **2. Highlights of the 2012 Annual NASA Meeting**

### **Wonderful Music Concert by Harsha Nagarajan, Suhas Rao and Senthuran Tharmaraja**

Harsha Nagarajan gave a wonderful vocal concert, accompanied by Suhas Rao on violin and Senthuran Tharmaraja on mridangam.

They started off with a Poorvikalyani varnam, a composition of R K Padmanabha. He then sang Vandisuvudaadiyali in the raaga Naata with a short swara prastharam. The next item was Nada Loludai in the raaga Kalyana Vasantha with a wonderful raaga aalapana and swara prastharam. Suhas followed him very well.

Then he sang Ranga Puravuhara. Harsha took up Bhairavi as a main piece. He explored the raaga very well from mandra shadja to tara daivata. Suhas played Bhairavi brilliantly. He sang the famous Balagopala composed by Deekshitar. He did neraval to neela neeradashareera very well. He sang a brilliant swara prastharam in two kalas. Suhas' accompaniment was enriching. Senthuran's handling of the mridanga was excellent. His playing of the tani was exemplary.

Harsha sang a beautiful Purandara Dasa kriti Kayalareno Krishna in the raaga Hamasanandi. Then the concert concluded with a Senchuruti tillana and Mangalam. Overall it was an excellent khacheri.

- Sandhya Nagaraj

### **Office Max CEO Mr. Ravi Saligram's address to NASA gathering:**

The guest speaker for the 2012 NASA event, Mr. Ravi Saligram gave his talk on Saturday, Aug 18. Mr. Saligram joined OfficeMax as President and Chief Executive Officer in Nov 2010. At that time, he also became a member of the OfficeMax Board of Directors. Mr. Saligram is responsible for leading the company through its next phase of growth and driving shareholder value. He brings to OfficeMax significant expertise in managing professional services organizations and growing businesses and brands. Mr. Saligram presented a very inspirational and candid speech in which he described his journey from a humble student in Karnataka to the CEO of a Fortune 300 Company. He explained how his Sankethi upbringing and family support helped motivate his achievements as well as his experiences in business as a minority. Mr. Saligram also explained his struggles of balancing his personal and professional lives. Following the talk, there was a Q&A session where the audience asked about lessons learned and for advice for young and aspiring professionals. Mr. Saligram was truly an engaging speaker and made us all very proud to be Sankethis!

- Sheela Nagaraj

### **Other Memorable Events**

- Children participated in a Lakshmi Puja on Sunday morning. Thanks to Mr. Satyanarayana, Mr. Srikantiah, and Mr. Keshava Kumar for helping make this a success.
- Sports: Everyone enjoyed the outdoor sports available at the Somerset hotel
- NASA children showed off their skill in music, dance, and art. The future of NASA is very talented!
- Prerana and Srikesh Rudrapatna talked about their pilgrimage to Mt. Kailash

## **3. 2012 Annual NASA Meeting Donors**

The NASA BOD would like to thank the following sponsors for their generous support of the 2012 annual NASA meeting:

- Natesh and Sundari Magge
- Drs. K.V. and Amrutha Viswanatha
- Nandini Srikantiah and Srikanth
- Dale and Ranjini Poage



#### 4. NASA GBM Meeting Minutes 8/18/2012

Quorum was obtained and verified as per the sign-in sheet.

Minutes from 2011 were presented to the body as presented in the Chiguru Vol 28 no. 3. Motion to accept the minutes passed.

##### **President's report**

It was a busy year and I feel I could not put into NASA the time that I wanted. Prema, Mahathi and Puneeth stepped in to help make arrangements for this get-together. It was also an exciting year. We held a Navarathri program in NJ with about 40 people. Jayaram's pickles were a big hit at the function. Several other gatherings were tried and some were successful. There was no Ugadi festival this year. The New Windsor Conference Center also closed which created a big task for the BOD. Members went personally to visit three places before selecting this venue. None of the others met our requirements. Rama Shastry recommended this place and we hope you all enjoy the facilities. Thank you all for attending and for your continued support of NASA.

##### **Secretary's report**

- As of August 1, 2012 NASA had 207 Life Members and no annual members.
- Sheela Nagaraj is a new Life Member
- Three editions of Chiguru have been published since the last GBM. We urge more members to take

advantage of electronic delivery and contribute articles.

- Navarathri Program in October hosted by Ganesh Murthy and Manjula
- New Windsor Conference Center closed in 2011

Moved and accepted.

##### **Treasurer's report**

If we are funding charities in India we should be verifying the charity and fund as the IRS is becoming stricter in its enforcement of the funding of foreign entities.

Question from Srikantiah: what is KSS BGH?

BGH= boys and girls hostel. DRF – disaster relief fund, ERF= emergency relief fund

OAH = old age home; OSSF = overseas Sankethi support fund.

We need to verify that funds given to the KSS are verified. We need to keep records and copies of the BSS and KSS annual reports.

In future, donations to KSS should refer only to the KSS general fund if that is where the donations end up. The OSSF may no longer be used. We need to verify if this fund is still used.

Question: why did we overspend this past year? KK = we assume attendance and base the per person cost based on those assumptions and the fixed cost to host the event. Last year, we had lower attendance and the fixed costs could not be covered. We made several requests of members to sponsor events but they were not enough to cover our costs. In the silver jubilee year, we made a profit. So there is fluctuation in the amount of money taken in. The same is true this year. We cannot overprice events as this will reduce attendance.

Comment: Can there be an explanation of expenditures and shortfalls in the future?

Comment: Financial report should be signed before presenting to the General Body.

Why the discrepancy in the CD returns? => Wells CD was Wachovia CD and one of the CDs automatically rolled over which resulted in lower rates.

BSS updates their website monthly with donors and information. KSS does not. Perhaps we should also post regular updates? Should we convey our concerns to KSS also?

Question: Can we get a financial advisor to help members and to underwrite costs by paying to present at a meeting? Is there a way to get someone offering services to present to NASA and pay money at the same time? KK => This was done in Rajata with ads and during the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary we considered having a financial advisor present to members. At the time, it was not deemed in NASA's interest to host a financial advisor as we may be held responsible for the advice or seen as endorsing the product. This may be considered in the future, however.

Suggestion: use more Sankethi or Kannada during the GBM.  
Suggestion: Have a benefit show to raise funds, open to the public.

Question: donation to KSS OAH: discrepancy in funds. KK => we disbursed a donation to OAH as a donation in that year. In the future we will add footnotes on expenses, especially those from NASA funds directly.

Motion to accept treasurer's report: seconded and passed.

#### **Audit committee report – K. Sundaresan**

Many of my questions were addressed in the discussions of the treasurer's report. The financial statement is accurate but not without flaws. My comments have been conveyed to the board. The Treasurer's report is accepted by the audit committee. Some suggestions from previous meetings should be followed. Like following up on the 501(c)3 status and whether or not we should maintain it.

Comment: tax returns for 2011 have been filed and we are current. But given the busy nature of the BOD members, this may be difficult in the future without a CPA.

#### **Old business: by-law updates**

There was a conference call to discuss the proposed changes attended by 4 NASA members and 2 BOD members.

Comment: These changes should be filed with the IRS and other authorities after they are incorporated into the By-Laws.

Proposal #1: clerical changes  
Proposal accepted unanimously

Proposal #2: Definition of Sankethi  
Proposal to modify amendment to include partner, spouse or family. Another proposal was to remove the reference to those who identify with Sankethi, as that is not necessary.

Proposed new wording defining Sankethi:

**A Sankethi is a person whose mother tongue is the Sankethi language or whose ancestors' mother tongue was the Sankethi language.**

Change IIa to: **to provide a forum for members, hereinafter defined, to meet and maintain Sankethi religious, cultural, charitable, linguistic, educational, cultural and other community activities.**

Proposal No. 2 passed.

Proposal to table other proposals for future consideration. Seconded and accepted. This will be continued next year by the next board or later in this get-together.

#### **Rajata Timeline Update**

- 1992 GBM entry which was listed as Sringeri Sadhana Center was in error and should be changed to Vraj Bhoomi
- The meeting held at the home at J. Rangappa in 1990 was in fact a GBM with an election and is correct as printed in the Rajata. Another meeting was held later in that same year presided over by the new president.

#### **New Business:**

In Memoriam

- Mathoor Krishnamurthy
- Prof. K.V. Arkanath

Graduation awards

Srikesh Rudrapatna – High School  
Prerana Rudrapatna – B.Sc.  
Ashwini Srikantiah - MBA

#### **Good and Welfare**

- Juny Sridhara married Denise Oliver
- Ramya Hanasoge and Sridhar Rao married
- Lalitha and Dmitry welcomed their daughter Savithri
- Suresh Magge married Becky Monroe
- Varsha Manjunath married Rahul Mandiga
- Mayank Keshaviah and Louise Abnee are engaged
- Dinesh and Soudamini Rao were married
- Aruna Viswanatha married Joydip Kundu
- Col. Y.N. Jayaram received an Army Commendation Medal for Meritorious Service
- Mayank Keshaviah's play "Rangoon" performed Off-Broadway
- Vivek Rudrapatna performed on the radio in NYC
- Rupa and Kurt welcomed their daughter Kareena
- Vivek Rudrapatna got his PhD



- Abhiram Vijayasarithi married Ritu Kulkarni
- Mark Jayaram got his Certified Fraud Examiner certificate

**Meeting Adjourned**

## **Election Report**

According to the North American Sankethi Association (NASA) bylaws, the election of the President and the Board of Directors should be held every two years.

Annual meeting was held at Double Tree Hotel in Somerset, NJ

During this annual meeting on 18 August 2012 the elections were conducted.

There were no nominations received by the election officer either by mail or e mail. Hence nominations were solicited from the floor.

First the presidential election was held.

There were several nominations with appropriate "seconding" so that the name can go on the slate. After establishing the slate of 7 nominations, opportunity and time was given to the nominees to accept or decline the nominations. Six candidates withdrew/declined the nomination. Mr. Ashok Rudrapatna accepted the nomination with humility. The general body unanimously approved him by voice vote. Hence the election of the president for the 2012-2014 was unanimous. He was declared president of NASA for the next two years.

Board of Directors Election.

There are eight slots for the Board of directors.

Nominations from the floor were solicited for the BOD. There were eleven nominations to the eight positions. All these nominations were appropriately "seconded". The slate was established and again the opportunity and time was given to the nominees to accept or decline the nominations. Following eight persons accepted the nomination and the others declined with different reasons explaining their inability to serve at this time.

Persons who accepted nominations are

1. Ashwini Srikantiah
2. Sujaya Rao
3. Lalitha Hanasoge
4. Shubha Dathatri
5. Dinesh Rao
6. Divakar Rudrapatna
7. Sheela Nagaraj
8. Nagaraj Ananthashesha

All these candidates were unanimously approved the general body. Hence all the above were declared elected as members of Board of Directors for the 2012-2014 period

Respectfully submitted,  
Yelleshpur Jayaram  
Election Officer  
18 August 2012



*Samartha InfoSolutions*

*Proud Host of NASA*

<http://www.samarthainfo.com>

<http://www.sankethi.org>

## 5. Community News

### *New Life Members*

- NASA welcomes Sheela Nagaraj and Pramod, Sujaya Rao and Sridutta, and Ashwini Srikantiah as new life members! We welcome Sheela, Sujaya, and Ashwini not only as new life members but also as members of our BOD!

### *Weddings and Engagements*

- Congratulations to Keshav Magge on his engagement to Monica Batra!

### *In Remembrance*

- NASA notes the passing away of Mr. Nagaraj Bettadapur on 3 July 2012. Our condolences go out to the grieving family.
- It is with deep sadness that we are conveying the news of Sri Sudarshanji's passing. Sri Sudarshan was the RSS chief for several years and he also spoke at NASA in 2010. He was a dedicated individual and he gave it all and solely to the cause of Sanatana Dharma, preserving our way of life, and safe guarding the rights of Hindus. He was an inspiring leader and a role model for all of us. He will be deeply missed. Mr. K.S. Ramesh (brother of Sri Sudarshanji), in collaboration with RSS workers, have planned "Vaikunth Samaradhne" function on Sept 26 at 11AM at Krishna Dhama, Saraswathipuram, Mysore. Mr. K.S. Ramesh welcomes any of us who is in Mysore at that time or wishes to come from the USA to attend the function.

Dr. Jai Kumar Rangappa, cousin of Mr. Sudarshan, wrote the following poem in his memory.

### K.S.SUDARSHAN IN MEMORIAM 1931 - 2012

As an Indian patriot & for India spoke loud,  
For his Sankethi Brahman roots made proud,  
Former [2000-2009] RSS Sarsanghachalak  
Led Hindu Sangh of Rashtriya Swayamsevak.

On 15 September 2012 passed away in Raipur,  
As a very dedicated and lifelong Hindu leader,  
Followed Hindu tenets of Guruji and Hedgewar,  
Strong Swadeshi, was seen as RSS hardliner.

Born in Raipur town in nineteen thirty one,  
In colonial British India, a first born son,  
Attended a RSS Shakha when nine years old,  
Impressed with discipline had found his gold.  
He studied well and turned bright engineer  
In Telecommunications, degree with honor.

Trained for the BE degree in All India Radio,  
After half year left finally to be a Sangh Pro,  
Was made Prant Pracharak at thirty three,  
Became a life long Celibate to travel free.

Appointed Pracharak in nineteen ninety four,  
He brought all Sangh members to the fore.  
To Matru Bhumi (Nation) full time dedicate,  
Convinced & persuaded with love, not hate.

A very strong supporter of a Hindustan,  
Surprised Muslims as a scholar of Quran,  
From Holy book did recite few quotation,  
Convince Muslim to live in peace in Nation.

Sudarshanji had the very rare distinction,  
He did hold 2 posts on different occasion,  
As a Sharirik ( physical ) Pramukh (Chief ),  
And Baudhik (intellectual) Pramukh (Chief),

Hailed by Indians as a great Hindi orator,  
Broke Hindu dogma & ritualistic barrier,  
Wise in science and a spiritual mentor,  
Friend of scientist and Vedic scholar,  
Was to many millions a father figure.

He always did fight for justice fair,  
Having seen the Partition nightmare,  
Hindu by birth and action all the way,  
Sudarshanji did never waver or sway,  
For his Soul to rest in peace, do pray.

-Jai Rangappa  
9-17-2012





**North American Sankethi Association (NASA)**  
**34 Knollcroft Rd**  
**Basking Ridge, NJ 07920-1971**