

NASA 2007: ***Bringing Generations Together in Cultural Celebration***

Program Highlights

Harsha Nagarajan Concert (Saturday Evening Cultural Program)

The evening cultural program will feature the vocal prodigy Harsha Nagarajan, a graduate student at Texas A&M University. He has won numerous prizes in Carnatic music competitions and has performed extensively in India and the US. His musical achievement is particularly remarkable and poignant given his young age. Harsha will be accompanied by two very accomplished and well-known Washington-area musicians, Sandhya Srinath on violin and Srinath Bala on Mridangam.

“Music of India”

At this year’s conference, we are very excited to present a very special musical treat featuring the Sitar and Mandolin along with percussion accompaniment. The Sitar will be performed by Ms. Sudha Iyer and the Mandolin will be performed by Vikram Keshav. Both of these musicians are inspiring and thrilling to hear.

Sudha Iyer is a gifted musician and has formal training in sitar in the North Indian classical style of music from Hamid Hussain of Baltimore, MD. Although her profession is in the field of toxicology, she has pursued music as a hobby for many years. Even though her first love is Indian classical music, she also enjoys experimenting with other forms of music. To date she has played with ensembles that included Japanese, Western, Middle Eastern and African instruments. In addition to performing, she also teaches sitar.

Vikram is the grandson of the great Sri R.R. Keshava Murthy and has studied Carnatic music under his grandfather’s tutelage since the young age of four. Vikram plays six different instruments and has trained in vocal Carnatic music. He will be playing the Electric Mandolin during this music presentation. Although very young, Vikram has given many concerts, and is most recently exploring fusion music. Vikram is a graduate student at Pace University.

“Aham Brahmasmi”

We are privileged to show a DVD presentation of the highly-acclaimed Sanskrit drama “Aham Brahmasmi” about Sri Shankaracharya directed by Divakar Rudrapatna. The presentation will be accompanied by narration during the showing and followed by discussion afterwards. For more information and reviews about the drama, please visit: www.kannadamma.com.

Children’s Religious Mini-Camp: “The Ramayana through Yoga”

On Sunday morning, we will have a religiously-oriented session for children where they will hear the epic story of the Ramayana in abridged form and then learn to depict the story through yoga poses. We will begin and close the session with prayers and children will also learn a few devotional songs. Children will later take the stage for a unique and original dramatic presentation of the Ramayana. In order for children to be comfortable learning yoga poses, we ask that they wear leggings or sweatpants, in either white, navy blue, or red, with a fitted white top.

“The Roots of the Sankethi Family Tree”

Throughout the weekend we have interactive intergenerational activities planned. Come prepared to be surprised, learn about our heritage and origins, laugh until your sides hurt, burst with pride, and reinvigorate your Sankethi ties.

Day at the Lake:

NASA has reserved a pavilion at the lovely Cascade Lake (www.cascadelake.com) for an enjoyable and relaxing day at the lake (please see page 6 for additional details). The venue offers swimming, boating on the lake, water slides, a splash park, volleyball/basketball/soccer fields, and intermediate hiking trails. The lake also features an area of beach entry that gradually deepens to four feet. Those who are interested in swimming in the lake (10ft+ deep) must pass a freestyle swimming test for 140 feet. The Teen Day Hike (with trained guides) will take place after lunch on location at Cascade Lake. Admission and Picnic Lunch (hulianna, sandwiches, fruit, drinks, etc) will be provided by NASA. When you arrive at the park, please inform the attendant that you are with NASA.

Golf Outing:

Golfers can enjoy a round at the beautiful and challenging Wakefield Valley Golf Course in Westminster, MD (website: www.wakefieldvalley.com/golf.html). Proposed tee times are 8am or 1:30pm on Friday, July 6, depending on player arrival times. Please contact Jayanth Jayaram (e-mail: jayanth.jayaram@gmail.com, cell: 240-997-2160) if you are interested in joining the group. The golf course is also located close to Cascade Lake and golfers will be able to join the Day at the Lake either before or after their game.

Night Out on the Town:

On the evening of Friday, July 6, interested members, ages 21 and older, are invited to a “Night Out on the Town.” This event is for both singles and couples. The selected venue is called “Tabaq Bistro” in the U Street area of Washington, DC (website www.tabaqdc.com). Tabaq is elegant, trendy, and the perfect place to renew old acquaintances as well as to make new ones. NASA has also made efforts to invite interested individuals from the local Kannada and Tamil associations in the Washington area in an attempt to foster broader social networks. In this vein, please feel free to invite any of your friends who are interested in joining us on this night as well. In order to coordinate carpool transportation from Windsor to Washington, DC and to make appropriate space reservations at Tabaq, please register for the annual meeting right away and indicate your interest in joining the “Night Out.” If you are planning to meet us at Tabaq Bistro, please RSVP to Lakshmi (lj@jhu.edu) or Shubha (shubha@post.harvard.edu) as soon as possible for planning purposes. This event promises to be exciting and memorable!

Children’s Fun Fair

The Fun Fair will feature games and activities for children, such as balloon animals, face painting, children’s manicures and pedicures, craft projects, our traditional “races and contests,” water balloons, a bouncer, and miniature obstacle course.

Program Schedule

Friday, July 6

8am or 1:30pm	Golf Outing at Wakefield Valley Golf Course
11am	Meet at Cascade Lake
12noon	Picnic Lunch at Cascade Lake
1-4pm	Enjoy hiking, water & leisure activities at Cascade Lake
4pm	Check-In begins at Windsor (families may arrive earlier as well)
6-6:30pm	Children's Dinner
6:30-7:30pm	Adult Dinner Hour
8-9pm	"The Roots of the Sankethi Family Tree: Family Introductions featuring our Villages of Origin"
9:30pm	"Night Out on the Town" – participants travel to Washington DC
9:30pm	Rummy and "28" Tournament
9:30pm	Teen Open Gym – basketball, board games, ping pong, music and more!
9:30pm	Feature Movie Presentation

Saturday, July 7

6:30-7am	Nature Walk
7-7:30am	Yoga
7:30-8am	Vedic Chanting
8-9:30 am	Breakfast
8:30am	Idly Eating Contest
9-11am	Children's Fun Fair
9:30-10:30am	General Body Meeting
10:30-11am	Update on Emergency/Disability Relief Fund, and Kowshika & Bettadapura Sankethi Sangha activities
11am-12pm	Interactive Intergenerational Games & Fun!
12pm	Children's Lunch
12:30-1:30pm	Adult Lunch Hour
12:30-2pm	Children's Movie Presentation
2-3:30pm	"Music of India" featuring the Sitar & Mandolin
3:30-4pm	Coffee/Tea/Snack Break & Ice Cream Social
4-5:30pm	Children's Talent Showcase & Graduation Award Presentation
5:30-6pm	Adult Talent/Light Entertainment Program
6-6:30pm	Children's Dinner
6:30-7:30pm	Adult Dinner Hour

8pm	Evening Cultural Program featuring Carnatic Classical Music
8pm	“Children/Teen Dance Workshop: Introduction to Garba & Bhangra”
10pm	Fireworks
11pm	Late Night Teen Movie Presentation
11pm	Poker Tournament

Sunday, July 8

6:30am	Nature Walk
7am	Yoga
7:30am	Vedic Chanting
8-9:30am	Breakfast
9-11:30am	Children’s Religious Mini-Camp: “The Ramayana through Yoga”
9-11am	DVD Presentation of “Aham Brahmasmi”
11-11:30am	Devotional Songs “Open Mic”
11:30am-12pm	Children’s Ramayana Presentation & Aarathi
12pm	Children’s Lunch
12:30-1:30pm	Adult’s Lunch Hour
1:30pm	Farewell Remarks & Musical Slideshow Presentation
3pm	Check-Out

**During the cultural programs, infants and toddlers may nap, be fed, etc, in a room just adjacent to the auditorium. For the most part, we have planned concurrent activities for preschool-aged children and up. However, children are always welcome to join the cultural programs in the auditorium. And if they become restless, we will also have quiet activities in the back of the auditorium to engage children as well.*

Note About Childcare and Meals:

Two known and trusted individuals (Lakshmi Jayaram’s personal acquaintances and babysitters), Sohni Sharma and Zeel Desai, will join our meeting to provide child care assistance throughout the weekend, and particularly at meal times, the fun fair, the religious mini-camp, and during cultural programs. Sohni and Zeel are both students at the University of Maryland – Baltimore County and are very caring, nurturing, and trustworthy individuals. Also, to our great fortune, they are skilled in Bhangra and Garba Dance and will conduct a workshop for interested children and teens on Saturday evening. Sohni and Zeel will be at Windsor at check-in time -- please introduce yourselves and your children to them. They are excited to meet you!

This year, we are trying something new with the meal schedule. We plan to have the children (10 and under) eat first at a “children’s table” where they can socialize and dine together. The children will be served traditional South Indian foods that are not spicy and an alternative vegetarian option (such as pasta) as well. Once the children’s meal is complete, Sohni and Zeel will keep them busy at their table with coloring, play dough, legos, etc, while the parents finish their own meal. If the children get restless and the weather permits, they may play outside as well.

Cascade Lake

www.cascadelake.com

3000 Snydersburg Road, Hampstead, MD 21074
(410) 374-9111 / (410) 239-4708



How Fun Is This Place!

Directions:

FROM BALTIMORE: I-695, exit 19 to I-795 to Rt. 30N to Hampstead, left on Rt. 482, right on Snydersburg Road.

ALTERNATE FROM BALTIMORE: I-83 to Mount Carmel Road (Rt. 137) to Rt. 30N to Hampstead, left on Rt. 482, right on Snydersburg Road.

FROM WESTMINSTER: North on Rt. 27, right on Rt. 482, left on Snydersburg Road.

FROM HANOVER: South on PA Rt. 94 or MD Rt. 30 to Hampstead, right on Rt. 482, right on Snydersburg Road.

<http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&hl=en&q=new+windsor+MD&ie=UTF8&om=1&z=15&iwloc=addr&num=10>

Directions from Cascade Lake to New Windsor Conference Center (copy will be provided at the lake)

Tabaq Bistro

<http://www.tabaqdc.com/>

