

Nagesh Shirali

1843 Fumia Place

San Jose CA 95131

PANCHADIK

Ugadi Function

Date: Saturday, April 1st, 2006

Location: Sunnyvale Hindu Temple, 420-450 Persian Dr, Sunnyvale CA 94089.

Time: 3:30PM - 10:00PM

Program Fee:

Members (with RSVP)- \$12; Children - \$8; Children under 5 – Free

Non-Members/ Members (No RSVP)- \$17; Children - \$10; Children under 5 - Free

Membership Fee:

KAOCA membership fees cover the cost of membership from January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006.

KAOCA 2006 membership fees for a family - \$30

KAOCA 2006 membership fees for one person - \$20

RSVP by payment only by Mar 19th, 2006.

Note: Entrance fees cannot be refunded or adjusted after RSVP date.

Payments for membership and Ugadi can be made preferably by sending a check payable to

KAOCA

(c/o Mr Uday Nayak)

3319 Pinkerton Court

San Jose, CA 95148

You can also pay through Paypal at www.kaoca.org.

From the President's desk...

Namaskaru! Ugadi marks the onset of spring and is the traditional start to our Konkani New Year. This year, please join us in celebrating Ugadi on Saturday - April 1st, 2006 at the Sunnyvale Hindu Temple.

Our KAOCA 2006 committee is planning authentic food items and an evening of entertainment for people of all ages, as our theme this year is YUGANTAR (Diversity over time...). Come with your family to find out more, have fun and enjoy the food. We thank all members for their overwhelming response to participate in the entertainment items.

We are happy to announce that KAOCA will continue as a sister organization to ICC (India Community Center). As you know, ICC provides conference facilities year round & discounts to members. We hope this will help promote KAOCA as an organization.

On Feb 5th, 2006, KAOCA was one among many bay area organizations invited to participate in a sister organization mixer where ICC unveiled their plans and solicited our feedback for a new expanded facility, which will open in early 2007. For more details, please visit their web site at <http://indiacc.org/>.

We plan to continuously update our KAOCA web site (<http://www.kaoca.org>), about our activities through the year, and urge you to check it periodically to ensure that your information is up-to-date, as this will be the foundation for the Konkani directory. We also plan to use the email addresses to send periodic reminders and updates on the major events.

In our quest to make the KAOCA web site more useful, we are offering free classifieds to the members of our community. If you are interested, please contact our Webmaster at skshilpa@gmail.com.

In addition, we are planning a new project to connect all Konkanis in Northern America. The **Konkani Directory** is a service that aims to create a comprehensive listing of all Konkanis in USA and Canada. We feel this could be very beneficial to our members and the idea has been well accepted by members of several Konkani Associations across the country. KAOCA too has decided to register with The Konkani Directory. To read all about this project please visit <http://www.ctara.com>.

It will indeed be a pleasure to *see you all at the KAOCA Ugadi function.*

Dev Baren Karo.
Sridhar Chellappa

Births:

Baby girl Kaya to proud parents Laxmi and Harish Nayak was born on Sept. 29th 2005 in Los Gatos, CA.

Baby girl Anjali to proud parents Sahana and Raghu Pai of Cupertino, CA was born on Nov. 4th 2005 at San Jose. Her 7 year old brother is Anirudh Pai. She is grand daughter to Late Mr. Sridhar Pai and Late Mrs. Sitaratna Pai and Mr. Venkat Rao and Mrs. Ranjani Rao of Bangalore India.

Baby girl Esha to proud parents Sneha and Sunil Shenoy of Sunnyvale, CA was born on 16th Feb 06 at San Jose. She is the granddaughter of Nirmala and Late Krishna J. Shenoy of Mumbai, India and Sujatha and D.V.Sudhakar of Agumbe, India.

Engagements:

Vedant Kulkarni was engaged to Rucheeta Gholkar on August 20, 2005. Vedant is the son of Ranjana and Ashok Kulkarni of San Jose, California. Rucheeta is the daughter of Ujjwala and Amol Gholkar, of Phoenix, Arizona.

Naveen Bhandarkar, son of Dilip and Jayanthi Bhandarkar and grandson of Mrs. Ammani and Late M. Venkat Bhandarkar and Late S. Narasimha and Chandravathi Shenoy is engaged to Saritha Dhruvakumar, daughter of Banur Dhruvakumar and Ramani Nayak.

Ugadi – An auspicious beginning...

Ugadi as we know it is the beginning of the Hindu New Year and it is celebrated by different names all over India. In Kashmir it is called Nau Roz, in Punjab it is Baishakhi, in Assam it is known as Goru Bihu, Naba Barsha for Bengalis, in Maharashtra they call it Gudi Padva, Puthandu for the Tamilians, Vishu for the people of Kerala and of course as Ugadi in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

On Ugadi day the air is filled with joy, enthusiasm and gaiety. People wake up before the break of dawn and take a head bath. After this, they decorate the entrance to their houses with fresh mango leaves. The significance of tying mango leaves relates to a legend; it is said that Kartik (or Subramanya or Kumara Swamy) and Ganesha, the two sons of Lord Siva and Parvathi were very fond of mangoes. As the legend goes, Kartik exhorted people to tie green mango leaves to the doorway, signifying a good crop and general well being.

Ritualistic worship is performed, invoking the Lord's blessings before the start of the new year. It is a time to reflect on the past year and pray for health, wealth, prosperity and success in the new. Ugadi is also the most auspicious time to start new ventures. The celebration of Ugadi is marked by religious zeal and social merriment. It is a season for giving and sharing. Special dishes are also prepared for the occasion.

For Konkanis in particular it is the day of "Nave jevche" where new grain is tied to the house and a few of the same are added to the traditional food cooked on that day such as bibbo upkari, madgane, hubbati, phodis and chane ghashi. It is also the onset of the Mango season and hot summer days. Konkani women in India start planning their nonches, happol, pappod, vodis, and ghovan shevais, which they make in summer to last them until the next summer and is relished by the whole family. In the old days, when married daughters with kids in tow would come home to their kular in summer, their mothers would pack these items for them to take back to their own homes. In keeping with this tradition and cherished memories, many of us still bring back choice 'eats' when we visit our loved ones in India. This day coincides with the school vacations for children in India and is marked by the purchase of new clothes, sumptuous food and reveling.

The mention of Ugadi reminds one of an oft quoted line from the romantic poet Shelly's famous 'Ode to the West Wind' : "If winter comes can spring be far behind?" The festival of Ugadi instills this kind of hope in the minds of the people.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

April-1: KAOCA Ugadi function at Sunnyvale Temple.

May-6: Sports Day at ICC: Table-Tennis, Chess, Carroms, Billiards and Video Games.

Aug-26: KAOCA Picnic.

Nov-4: KAOCA Diwali function.

THE KONKLISH PROJECT (Update)

A core group of Konkani volunteers are working on a Konkani tutorial. We are calling it Konklish. The target group is any one amongst us who is Konkani challenged. The objective is to provide a reference book that will enable the practitioners to speak simple konkani. The book will have two versions- a Gowd Saraswat book and a Chitrapur Saraswat book. It will have a pronunciation guide, a glossary, and 14 lessons. We are using the Romanagri script. The lessons will also be recorded on CD to study Konkani while driving. The ultimate objective includes a web access to learn as well. The book is just about ready to go for print. We plan to formally release the book at the Konkani convention in July. The book will be sold at cost. We are printing limited copies and those interested should buy a copy at the convention as soon as it is released.

Ramesh Kamath
For the Konklish Team

My Parents Have The Flu Today!

My parents have the flu today
They both are sick in bed
And thoughts of thing to do today
Are swimming through my head
My nimble brain is bursting
With ways to misbehave
I'll give my sister's teddy bear
A haircut and a shave
Perhaps I'll make a mud-pie
In my sister's silly hat
Attach my mother's earrings
To the puppy and the cat
Hang carrots from the ceiling
Stuff bananas into shoes
Set the clock to different times
It's certain to confuse
Switch the salt and the sugar
Scatter meatballs on the rug
Hide spaghetti in the closet
And refrigerate some bugs
I'll paint my father's underwear
A dark kind of blue
My options are unlimited
My parents have the flu!

-- Nitika Chellappa (Age 8)

The Song of Yugadi(Translated to English)

by D.R. Bendre

Ages after ages,
Millennium after millennium,
The Yugadi keeps on coming!
Bringing with it new joy
of the new year and of a new life.

As the green leaves of Mango,
in all their magnificence,
wait for the arrow of Kama,
I can see the fleet of parrots,
camouflaged amidst the leaves, rejoicing
and singing the sweet music of a great harvest.

I can hear the melody of the love-struck beetle,
on the golden lush fields.
As the Yugadi fills my 'neem'-filled life
with the aroma of a tender flower,
renewing the magic of the Master!