



# VEERASHAIVA SAMAJA OF NORTH AMERICA

January 2006

VSNA Quarterly Newsletter

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

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## From the Desk of President ...



Dear VSNA Member,

I wish you and your family a Happy and prosperous New Year!

Year 2005 is a good success in moving forward VSNA to the next level. We as an organization met our objectives in terms of membership drive, resolving the New York Chapter issue, inducting new chapter & a successful VSNA National Convention at Maryland. Our marketing mantra *Maryland 600* yielded positive results. We started a new initiative of e-News letter. However, we fell short on publishing print edition of news letter. We carefully evaluated "cost-benefit" analysis of the print edition & it was eliminated in 2005. We discussed this topic at great length in BOD meetings. After working with many printing companies, we found a low cost proposal and hence we decided to publish quarterly newsletter in 2006.

Year 2006 provides greater challenges and opportunities to build a stronger VSNA. As you already know, we are hosting 2006 VSNA Convention on cruise to attract next generation youth to our conventions. This is exciting but at the same time, it is very challenging. We have signed a contract with "Maharaja Cruise". This is a 3-day cruise from June 29 through July 2nd. Based on our market research, we expect at least 500 people for this convention. I am highly optimistic about this and need your support.

I would like to encourage you all to contribute to the Newsletter in the form of articles, Vachanas, news etc. I also highly encourage articles from the youth. Please visit our website at <http://www.vsna.org> for the newsletter, updates, forms and other resources. We are updating the website on a weekly basis and your thoughtful suggestions are most welcome! Thank you!

**Prabhu Patil**  
**President, Central VSNA**

*I am Proud of VSNA*

Email: [Prabhu@eLagna.com](mailto:Prabhu@eLagna.com)

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## An Appeal ...

As you all know, in order to run any organization we need money. My goal is to increase VSNA Membership to 300 this year. Annual Family membership cost \$35.00 and Life Family Membership cost \$500.00 (you can pay in two installments). As you can see \$35.00 is not that high. You can make check payable to VSNA and mail it our Treasurer Uma Sajjan. The application form is available online [www.VSNA.org](http://www.VSNA.org).

Personally, I am a Life member since 2000. My family and I enjoy all VSNA functions and we feel VSNA is our extended family.

This is my humble request to non-members. Please consider becoming a member and experience the great VSNA. My sincere thanks in advance.

**Raj Adapur**  
**VSNA-Secretary**

*I am Proud of VSNA*

## Featured Articles

### Lending a Helping Hand --- or Two

Last year it was the tsunami that hit Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, and Thailand. This year it was Hurricanes Katrina and Rita that hit the City of New Orleans, and the states of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Texas. While both governments and private charities rushed-in to help each time, there is never too much help at such times for the victims. The American Red Cross states that it provides relief for approximately sixty-five major disasters a year worldwide. This is just one of hundreds for such relief organizations. All serve comfort, compassion, and charity. Still there are more disasters, both natural and man-made, where help is needed great and small.

At its Ganesh Chaturti celebrations this year, Basava Samiti President **Jayashree Kori** and Vice-President **Urmila Hiremath** called for a project to assemble "health kits" for victims of disasters. These health kits provide quick help to the victims to maintain their daily hygiene and are a good visible way of performing dharma. This is also a way for the youth to participate and feel connected to the community's dharma efforts and to feel that they are also contributing. Each kit consisted of: a hand towel, wash cloth, comb, nail clipper, soap, toothbrush, tooth paste, and band aids --- all sealed in a one-gallon plastic zip-lock bag. These kits will be used as the need arises both here in America as well as in other parts of the world.

Basava Samiti members, with help from some members of the Maryland chapter, assembled and delivered eighty-four health kits to the Church World Service center in New Windsor, Maryland to coincide generally with the Gandhi Jayanti weekend. Some members provided completed kits while others offered monetary contributions to help pay for the items in the kits. In total, this project constituted an offering of over \$1000 in the value of the kits to help victims of disasters. Although this effort was done with humility and the contributors wish to be in the background, **Basava Wani** sends a special thanks to them: Durgada & Uma Basavaraj; Deepak & Lisa Kenkeremath; Suresh, Medha, Deepa & Devraj Kori; Uday & Shruti Palled; Urmila & Sada Anand; Jayashree & Rachappa Kori, C.B. & Saraswati Hiremath; Payasada & Chandra Kotrappa; and Rajiv, Leena, Prateek, & Viraj Paul.

Also at this meeting, a plea was made for volunteers and cash contributions for feeding approximately 3800 homeless people in the Washington, D.C., Virginia, and Maryland area on **Gandhi Jayanti** on October 2, 2005. For over twenty years, the Indian community in this area, including members of Basava Samiti, have been buying the groceries and preparing the food for homeless shelters associated with D.C. Central Kitchens, a shelter started by Mitch Snyder which serves poor and homeless. Volunteers spend 4-6 hours in the morning cleaning, slicing, dicing, cooking and packing a nutritious vegetarian meal. A typical offering includes a vegetable curry, a bean curry, vegetable pulao, a big salad, and fruit or some other desert. Approximately eight hundred of these meals are served at the D.C. Central Kitchen itself, while another three thousand meals are sent out to six other homeless shelters in Maryland and Virginia. **Sulochana Ayya**, one of the lead coordinators of this program says, "It is a kind of a day for our community to thank the American community we live in. At a time when we are afflicted with anger and hatred in the world, resulting in violence to each other, it is very well for us to remember the ideals of **Mahatma Gandhi**. He espoused non-violence, universal brotherhood and compassion." This is also one way **Sulochana** follows Shri **Basaveshwara's** call for unselfish acts of dharma.

### "SPEAK NO EVIL"

by [the late] **Vimala Channabasappa**

*"Satyam bruyat, Priyam bruyat, ma bruyat satyam apriyam."* My father often used to quote this Sanskrit saying to us. It means: Speak the truth, Speak the pleasing, do not speak the truth if it is unpleasant. If we follow this ancient wisdom, most of our human relations would be improved. *"Ayya endade Swarga, yelawao endade Naraka, Deva bhakta jayajeeya emba nudiyalage Kailasavidudu,"* says Basavanna. Being polite and humble, saying respectful words brings one closer to God.

*When you speak, your words should be like a string of pearls,  
When you speak, your words should be like the luster of a ruby,  
When you speak, your words should be like the flash of a crystal beam,  
When you speak, your words should be such that God would say Bravo.*

said **Basavanna**. How wonderful it would be if our words are as beautiful as pearls, as brilliant as rubies, and as pure as crystals. **Lord Shiva** will be certainly pleased.

**(Source: Basava Samiti, Washington, D.C. and Virginia Chapter of VSNA)**

## VSNA Chapters News

Here are our chapters ...



### VSNA-MD Chapter

Thanks to outgoing President Mrs. Leena Paul. She has done outstanding job in 2005 Maryland VSNA convention. New Executive Committee for 2006-07

- President: Mr. Prakash Motagi
- Vice President: Mrs. Suma Bellary
- Secretary: Mrs. Meera Lingayat
- Treasurer: Mrs. Poornima Kori
- Youth Secretary: Ms. Ananya Hiremath

### VSNA-Detroit Chapter



Detroit is all geared up to celebrate 25th Anniversary. The chapter invites all VSNA members to the event. The event details are:

**Date:** 20 May 2006 @ 6 pm EST

**Location:** Southfield Civic Center

### VSNA-Toronto Chapter

Toronto Chapter invites you all to Toronto.

- Ratri on 4th March 2006.
- Basava Jayanti, around mid May 2006
- Picnic: around Aug 2nd or 3rd Sunday
- AGM / Cultural Event: 1st Saturday of Nov. or last Saturday of October.

We can be reached at [vsnatoronto@hotmail.com](mailto:vsnatoronto@hotmail.com)

**Regards. Vijay Aivalli, Toronto VSNA**

## People in the News ...



### Dr. Chandrappa Reshmi for Rajyotsava Award:

Dr. Reshmi is a pioneer in intraocular lens implant surgery and known for popularising it in India in 1982, was selected for the award for Kannadigas living abroad in recognition of their services in their respective fields and upholding the culture of Karnataka.



### Dr. Bhimu Patil for Rajyotsava Award :

Mr. Bhimu Patil, Ph.D. works as a Director at Vegetable and Fruit Improvement Center and also works as an Associate Professor Department of Horticultural Sciences Texas A&M University.

### **Central Officers**

- Mr.Prabhu Patil – President
- Dr.Chandramouli – VP
- Mr.Raj Adapur – Secretary
- Mrs.Uma Sajjan - Treasurer

### **Board of Regents**

- Mr.G. Chankar – Chairman
- Mr. P. Shankar (ON)
- Dr.Sajjan Shiva (AL)
- Mrs.Manjula (OH)
- Mr.Sateesh Kavi (MI)
- Dr.H.C Nanjundaswamy (PA)
- Mr.Rudresh Bihalli (GA)

### **Board of Directors**

- Mr.Ravi Bhoplapur (ex-officio)
- Mr.Jayadev Hindiskere
- Dr.Jagadeesh
- Mrs.Rohini Mensinkai
- Dr.Udaya Setru
- Dr.M.D. Patil
- Mr.Vijay Gowda

### **Chapters and Chapter Presidents**

<b>Chapters</b>	<b>President</b>	<b>Contact Number</b>	<b>Email</b>
Alabama	Mr. Shivashankar ST	205-345-3424	tumkur@comcast.net
California (North)	Mr. Ravi Handyal		rhandyal@yahoo.com
California (South)	Dr.Kavita Kotrappa	909-392-1454	kkotrappa@hotmail.com
Chicago	Mr.Arun Bommannavar	630-305-6165	bommannavar@yahoo.com
Detroit	Mr.Ravi Shankar	248-619-9622	ravishankar@mylowfare.com
D.C. & Virginia	Mrs.Nanda Kori		nandakori@yahoo.com
Florida	Dr.Somashekar Palegar	941-741-8333	sompallegar@hotmail.com
Georgia	Mr.Salil Gulve	770-232-7571	gulveusa@yahoo.com
Maryland	Ms Leena Paul	301-956-1636	leenakpaul@yahoo.com
North Carolina	Mr.Vishwatheja T.	919-303-2490	vtaruve@hotmail.com
Ohio	Dr.Suresh	614-846-1037	ssuresh@aol.com
Pittsburgh	Mrs.Jaysheela Murthy	412-367-4127	jaya55@hotmail.com
Tennessee	Mr.Shivaputrapa Patil	901-363-0738	sbpatil@utm.edu
Texas	Mr.Basavaraj Patil	972-462-0445	bpatil@mindspring.com
Toronto (Canada)	Mr.Vijay Aivalli		vsnatoronto@hotmail.com
West Virginia	Mr.Harish Gorli	304-925-8070	gharish@aol.com
CA (Central)	Dr. Nagabhushana M.	559-325-8155	malakda@pol.net
New England	Mr.Basavaraj Mudenur	508-685-5-63	basusm@yahoo.com
New York	Dr.Niranjan Banav	732-951-1578	nsbanav@mcihispeed.net

### **2005 Income Statement**

- Total Revenue = \$29,382
- Total Expenses = \$11,101
- **Surplus Budget = \$18,280**

### **Accounts & Finance**

- Checking Account \$28,713.97
- Savings Account \$10,954.21
- Convention Trust Fund I (in money market) \$83,945.65
- Restricted invested Convention Trust Fund \$293,804.00
- **Total Balance = \$417,417.83**

### **VSNA needs Volunteers!**

VSNA is always looking for volunteers to help this organization. VSNA has 3 BOD positions. Please send your self nominations to Dr.Shivakumar Kapsi at kapsis@juno.com

See us at [www.vsna.org](http://www.vsna.org) for up to date information!

## Vachana of the Quarter

### What else you want ? - mahAdeviyavara vachana

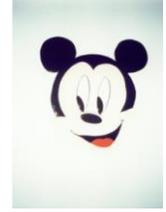
ಅಕ್ಕ ಮಹಾದೇವಿಯವರ ವಚನಕ್ಕ ಮಹಾದೇವಿಯವರ ವಚನ  
ಹಸಿವಾದರೆ ಊರೊಳಗೆ ಭಿಕ್ಷಾನ್ನಂಗಳುಂಟು  
ತೃಷೆಯಾದರೆ ಕೆರೆ ಪಾವಿ ಹಳ್ಳಂಗಳುಂಟು  
ಶಯನಕ್ಕೆ ಹಾಳುದೇಗುಲವುಂಟು  
ಚೆನ್ನಮಲ್ಲಿಕಾರ್ಜುನಯ್ಯ ಅತ್ಮಸಂಗಾತಕ್ಕೆ ವಿನೇನಗುಂಟು.

#### Meaning:

If hungry, there is food in the town to beg for.  
If thirsty, there are lakes, wells and streams.  
For sleeping, there is discarded buildings.  
Oh Lord chennamallikArjuna, as the  
company for the soul You are there.

1. How many people postpone their happiness making it conditional "only when so and so situation prevails, I would be happy." ! Even those who have not fulfilled their basic needs like food and shelter can be happy for sure, if they know to enjoy the bliss our Lord showers !
2. "As robe I have a loin cloth, To sleep the outside verandah is there, To eat there are the dry leaves, To drink there is enough water. As the company the name of Lord riding the bull is there. Who worries about whether the north pole goes up or the south pole goes down for the moon.

## Kids Corner ...



### Learn - How to speak in Kannada

#### Greetings

Hello	Namaskara
Goodbye	Hogi Barthene
How are you?	Neevu hegiddheeri?
I Like Udupi	Nanage Udupi ishta
You are beautiful	Neevu chanda iddiri
I am fine	Naanu chennagiddene
Thank you	dhanyavadagalu

#### Introduction

My name is Vasantha	Nanna hesaru Vasantha
I am from (country name)	Naanu (country name) deshavadanu
Happy to meet you	Nimmannu bhetimaadi santosha agide
Sorry I'm late	Kshamisi, naanu thadavaagi bandhe

#### Directions

I want to go to (place name)	Naanu (place name) hogabeku.
I have lost my way	Naanu dhari thappidhene
Go to the left	Yedakke hogi
Go to the right	Balakke hogi
Opposite	Yedhurugade
Straight ahead	Neravagi mundhe

## Why Join VSNA? - Here is our Value Proposition

VSNA provides the following services to its members. The services include New Member kit that has Welcome Kit Materials like brochures, programs, Help, CDs etc., Kids and Youth Program Kits that has reading material for kids and youth.



### New Service – Helpline

Helpline is a supporting network that helps members who need it. For example, if you need help on funeral service or *Lingadharana* or if you caught into any emergency situation that needs moral support, this helpline provides a list of domain experts who are a phone call away to help.

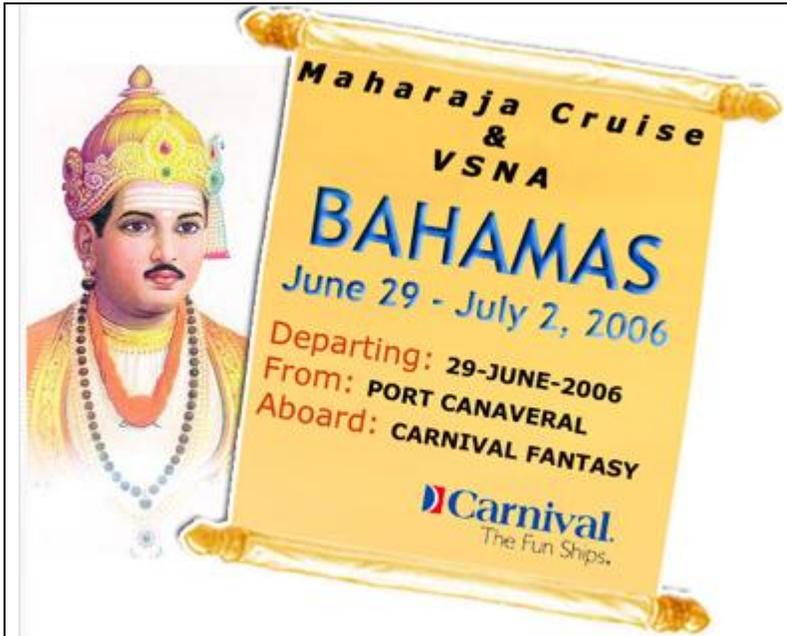
For more details go to

<http://www.vsna.org/president.mht>

## 2005 -2006 Projects

Project	Objectives	Project Manager	Status
1. Rejuvenate VSNA	1. Induct New York Chapter 2. Improve Communication between BOD and BOR 3. Improve Communication between BOD and Chapter 4. Improve Communication between BOD and general members	Prabhu Patil	Achieved #1, #2, #3, 4 in progress
2. Membership Drive	Increase our membership by at least 20%.	Raj Adapur	Achieved
3. Maryland 600	Bring at least 600 people to Maryland convention	Leena, Jayashree, Shiva Anand	Over achieved
4. Program for Kids		Deepak Kenkeremath	In Progress
5. Membership Kit	Develop Welcome Kit that includes Material like brochures, programs, Help, CDs etc	Vijay Gowda & M D Patil &	In Progress
6. Program for Youth	Develop compelling youth program that attracts and retain VSNA youth.	Yet to be identified	Initial Stage
7. Regular News Letter	Rejuvenate VSNA News Letter	Prabhu Patil	Restarted
8. Helpline	Provide hempline to support the needs of VSNA members.	Dr.Chandramouli	In Progress
9. VSNA Fund Raising	Raise funds for VSNA with plan to achieve \$1 MM	Mrs.Manjula Sankrappa	In Progress
10. VSNA Fund Investment	Analyze the current portfolio investment & make proper investment for growth	TBD	In Progress

**Join Us for Exciting 2006 VSNA Convention!**



**VSNA 2006 Convention  
BAHAMAS**

*29th Annual Convention*

**VEERASHAIVISM FOR  
TODAY AND TOMORROW  
Cape Canaveral, Florida**

*June 29th thru  
July 2nd, 2006*

Hosted by VSNA-Florida Chapter

For more details go to  
<http://www.vsna.org/cruise>

**Veerashaiva Samaja of North America:** *Our mission is to preserve and foster Veerashaivism (Lingayatism) in the North America and to impart the Lingayata spiritual heritage, its universalistic, democratic values to the posterity through the teachings of Basavanna and his contemporaries.*

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