



Bandhavya

Veerashaiva Samaja of North America

Winter 2007

In This Issue

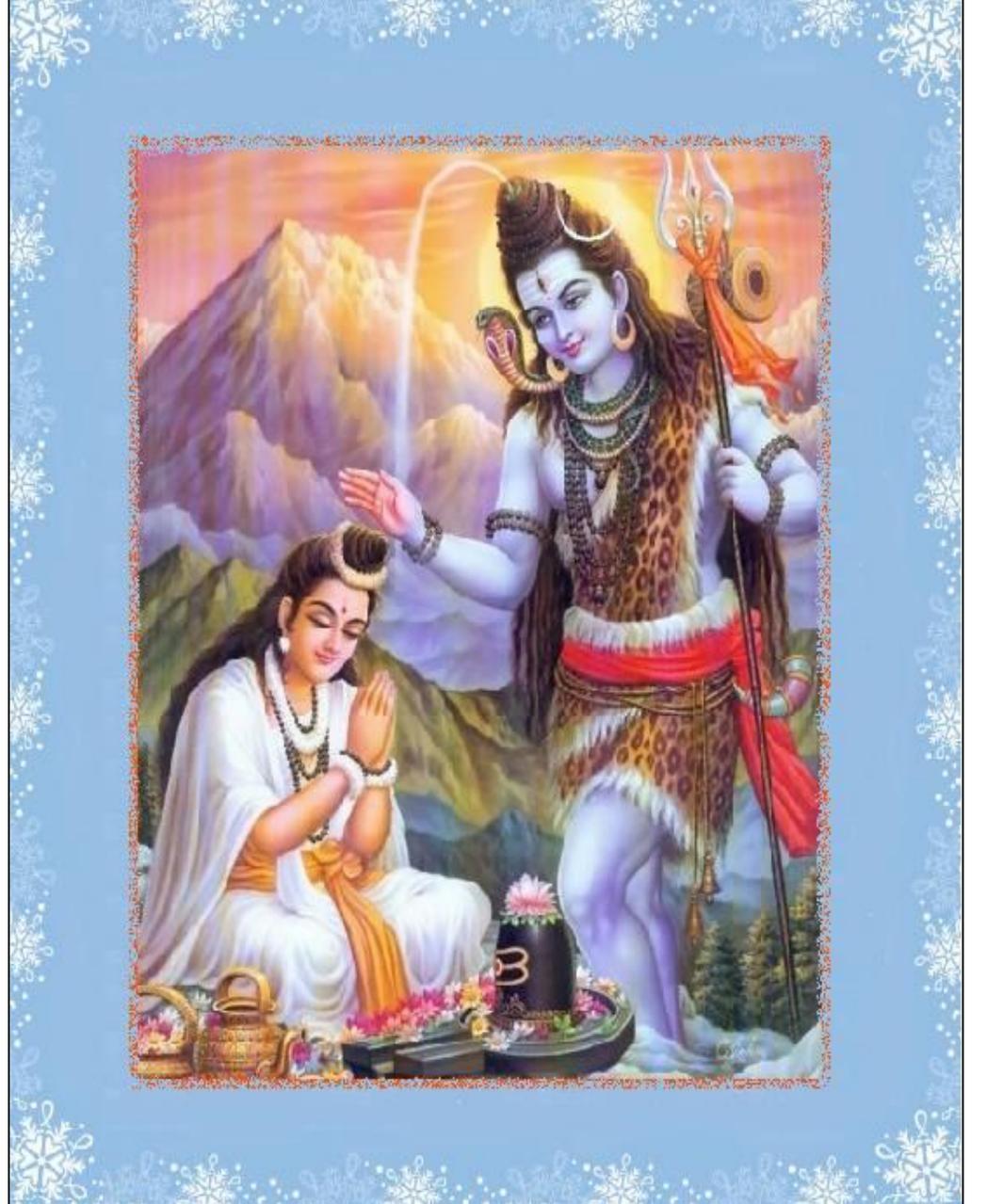
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Editors' Note

Dear Veerashaiva Members,

Thank you for your continued support to help us bring the second issue of Bandhavya to you. We have received many encouraging notes from our readers. Keep sending those in as often as you can.

We can make this newsletter more worthwhile to every VSNA member regardless of age and gender with your encouragement, support and continued input of articles and ideas.

In this issue,

- We are focusing on Akka Mahadevi as our featured sharane and her contribution to Veerashaivism. We have received two good articles from our readers and a new dedicated page to one of her vachana is included.
- We are trying to expand on Kids' Corner page with more information on Veerashaivism.
- Many central VSNA updates as well as news on 30th Annual VSNA convention in Detroit

Our next issue focus will be on Allama Prabhu, his philosophy and contributions to Veershaivism. Please send in your articles.

Some guidelines to send in articles:

- Articles can be English or Kannada; Prefer an electronic version in a Word or Rich Text format
- Length should be no more than a 81/2X11 page; Send your articles and suggestions to vsnanewsletter@yahoo.com or moodb@hotmail.com or vidullatha@hotmail.com

As we look for ways to contain cost of printing this newsletter, we are exploring and experimenting to out source printing in India and still maintain the quality and the look as before. Given that we regret this quarter's issue is coming to you couple weeks late.

In the same token, we are also very interested in financial support through advertisements and announcements for both commercial and personal matters. This newsletter will be coming to you every quarter; feel free to send us your advertisements and financial support to Bhavani Moodabagil at 110 Niles Avenue, Lake Forest, IL 60045. The cost structure for newsletter advertisement is very simple – ¼ page - \$50; ½ page \$100; full page \$200.

Thank you for your continued support and look forward to receiving many more.

Bhavani Moodabagil

Vidya Betkerur

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SUNIL DESAI, M.D.

NEXT ISSUE FOCUS – ALLAMA PRABHU- Please send in your articles!



From The Desk of President Prabhu Patil

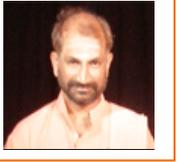


Dear VSNA Member,

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

We made a landmark in 2006 by successfully conducting VSNA convention on cruise. Members had fun along with religious journey and fabulous entertainment by Maharaja Cruise. We had great participation by young adults. We as an organization achieved many of our objectives and laid the foundation for upcoming years by reevaluation and retooling through Boot Camp. In this letter, I would like to highlight a few of our programs.

VSNA Program	Update
<p>1. VSNA – GO Global</p> 	<p>During my visit to India during December '07, I visited many places from Delhi to B'lore. Our India is growing with leaps and bounds. I thought, VSNA could leverage India's outsourcing capabilities and economy of scale. I visited a few printing companies and got samples. I was surprised and encouraged by the quality of work and low cost. So, I gave a contract with a printing company we already got our VSNA flyers, convention brochures and yes, this newsletter is "<i>Made in India</i>".</p>
<p>2. VSNA Program for Children & Youth</p> 	<p>Tumkur Swamiji took up a project from VSNA and wrote a book for VSNA children. This is completely developed and we reviewed it. It will be printed and delivered to members within a couple of months.</p>
<p>3. VSNA Elections</p> 	<p>2007 VSNA elections successfully conducted by our election commissioners Dr.Shiva Kapsi and Dr.S.Munavalli. I thank them for hard work and helping our organization to follow democratic process. Please see results in next sections.</p>
<p>4. Young Adult Leadership Board</p> 	<p>I am excited to announce that VSNA finally elected the YLB (Young adult Leadership Board). The elected members are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neetal Jagadeesh President • Shruthi Chandramouli VP-Communication • Chandoo Kalmath VP-Education <p>YLB charter includes develop programs, youth directory/networking, youth programs at convention and every chapter level etc.</p>
<p>5. VSNA–Going Forward</p> 	<p>VSNA has still long way to go forward to achieve our goals. We have put lots of programs for next two years. We will showcase many of them during our National Convention at Detroit. We have great location and great program planned. You will get information in mail and also visit frequently to our website at www.vсна.org</p>



ಎಲ್ಲರಿಗೂ ಮಹಾಶಿವರಾತ್ರಿ ಪರ್ವಕಾಲದ ಶುಭಾಶಯಗಳು.
ಮಂಗಲ ಸ್ವರೂಪಿಯಾದ ಶಿವನು ಸಕಲರಿಗೂ ಸನ್ಮಂಗಲವನ್ನುಂಟು ಮಾಡಲಿ.

1. ಭಾರತೀಯ ದೇವತಾ ಪರಂಪರೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಶಿವ ಓರ್ವ ಅತ್ಯಂತ ವಿಲಕ್ಷಣ ದೇವತೆ. ಉಳಿದೆಲ್ಲ ದೇವತೆಗಳು ಒಂದು ತರನಾದರೆ ಈತನೇ ಒಂದು ತರ. ಉಳಿದೆಲ್ಲ ದೇವತೆಗಳು ಕಿರೀಟಧಾರಿಗಳಾದರೆ ಶಿವ ಗಂಗೆಯನ್ನು ಶಿರೋಧಾರ್ಯವಾಗಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಅವಳನ್ನು ತನ್ನ ತಲೆಯ ಮೇಲೆ ಇರಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರಿಗೆ ಪ್ರಪ್ರಥಮ ಬಾರಿಗೆ 'ಕಿರೀಟಪ್ರಾಯ' ಗೌರವವನ್ನು ಕೊಟ್ಟ ಚಾರುಕೀರ್ತಿ ಆತನದು. ಶಿವನನ್ನು ಮಹಿಳಾ ಮೀಸಲಾತಿಗೆ 'ಅಥಶ್ರೀ' ಹೇಳಿದ ಮೊಟ್ಟ ಮೊದಲ ದೇವತೆ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದರೆ ಅದೇಕೆಂದು ಕೇಳುವ ಧೈರ್ಯ ಅದಾರಿಗಿದೆ?

2. ಭಾರತೀಯ ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಶಿವನಿಗೆ ಬರೀ 'ದೇವತೆ' ಎಂದು ಮಾತ್ರ ಪೂಜೆ-ಪುನಸ್ಕಾರಗಳು, ಗೌರವಾದರಗಳು ಸಂದಾಯವಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಶಿವ ಭಾರತೀಯ ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ಲೋಕದ ಹರಿಕಾರನಾಗಿ ಮತ್ತು ಆಧಾರಸ್ತಂಭವಾಗಿ ಮನ್ನಣೆಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆದಿದ್ದಾನೆ. ಆತ ನಾದಪ್ರಿಯನಾಗಿ, ನಾಟ್ಯಪ್ರಿಯನಾಗಿ, ಗಾನಪ್ರಿಯನಾಗಿ ತನ್ನನ್ನು ಗುರುತಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾನೆ. ಹಾಗೆಯೇ ಶಿವ ನಾದ-ವೇದಗಳ ಮತ್ತು ಮೋದಾಮೋದ-ಪ್ರಮೋದಗಳ ಪಂಚಗಂಗಾ ಸಂಗಮ!! ಶಿವನು ನಾಟ್ಯಾಧಿದೇವತೆ. ಆತ ನಟರಾಜ!! ಆತನ ತಾಂಡವ ನಾಟ್ಯ ಖ್ಯಾತ, ಸುವಿಖ್ಯಾತ.

3. ಶಿವನು ವೈರಾಗ್ಯಪ್ರಧಾನ ದೇವತೆ. ಶಿವನು 'ಅರಮನೆ ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿ'ಯ ದೇವತೆಯಲ್ಲ. ಆತ 'ಮಹಾಮನೆ ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿ'ಯ ದೇವತೆ. ಮಸಣವನ್ನೇ ಮಹಾಮನೆಯನ್ನಾಗಿಸಿದ ದೇವತೆ ಶಿವ.

4. ಶಿವ ಒಲಿದರೆ ಅಭಯಂಕರ. ಆತ ಮುನಿದರೆ ಭಯಂಕರ.

ಆತ ಒಲಿದರೆ ಪುರಾರಿ. ಆತನೇನಾದರೂ ಮುನಿದುಕೊಂಡರೆ ಆತನ ಮುಂದೆ ನಿಲ್ಲದೆ ಆಗಬೇಕು ಪರಾರಿ!!

5. ಸ್ತ್ರೀಪರ ದೇವತೆ ಶಿವ. ಸ್ತ್ರೀ ಸಮಾನತೆಯನ್ನು ಬೆಂಬಲಿಸಿದ ಶಿವನನ್ನು ಸಮಸ್ತ ನಾರೀ ಪ್ರಪಂಚವು ಕೃತಜ್ಞತೆಯಿಂದ ನೆನಪಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು.

ತನ್ನ ಧರ್ಮಪತ್ನಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಧ ಶರೀರವನ್ನು ಕೊಡುವ ಮೂಲಕ ಅರ್ಧನಾರೀಶ್ವರನಾದಾತ ಶಿವ.

6. ಶಿವ ಲೋಕಹಿತಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಕಾಲಕೂಟ ವಿಷ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ಮೂಲಕ ಇಂದಿನ ಪ್ರಜಾನಾಯಕರುಗಳಿಗೆ ಪಾಠ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದಾನೆ. ಪ್ರಜಾಕಲ್ಯಾಣಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಎಂಥದೇ ಮತ್ತು ಯಾವುದೇ ತ್ಯಾಗಕ್ಕೂ ಸಿದ್ಧನಾಗಬೇಕು ಎಂಬುವುದೇ ಆತನ ಸಿದ್ಧಾಂತ. ಪ್ರಜಾಪಾಲಕರು ಆತ್ಮಾಹುತಿ, ಬಲಿದಾನಗಳಿಗೂ ಕೂಡ ಸಿದ್ಧರಾಗಿರಬೇಕೆಂಬ ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟ ಮತ್ತು ಅತಿಸ್ಪಷ್ಟ ಸೂಚನೆಯನ್ನು ನೀಡಿದ್ದಾನೆ ಶಿವ.

ಆದರೆ ಇಂದೇನಾಗಿದೆ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ? ನಮ್ಮ ಪ್ರಜಾಪಾಲಕರು, ಪ್ರಜಾನಾಯಕರು ತಾವು ವಿಷ ಕುಡಿಯುವುದಿಲ್ಲ, ಪ್ರಜೆಗಳಿಗೆ ವಿಷ ಮತ್ತು ವಿಷದ ಅಣ್ಣ-ತಮ್ಮದಿರನ್ನು ಕುಡಿಸುತ್ತಾರೆ. ನಮ್ಮ ಪ್ರಜಾ ಪ್ರತಿನಿಧಿಗಳು ಶಿವನನ್ನು ಆದರ್ಶವಾಗಿಸಿಕೊಂಡರೆ ಸಾಕು, ನಮ್ಮ ಭಾರತ 'ಸತ್ಯಂ ಶಿವಂ ಸುಂದರಂ' ಖ್ಯಾತಿಯನ್ನು ಮತ್ತೊಮ್ಮೆ ತನ್ನದಾಗಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ವಿಜೃಂಭಿಸುವುದರಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂದೇಹವೇ ಇಲ್ಲ.

7. ಇಡೀ ಪ್ರಪಂಚದ ದೇವತಾ ಇತಿಹಾಸವನ್ನು ಜಾಲಾಡಿದರೂ ನಮಗೆ ಶಿವನ ಹಾಗೆ ಧ್ಯಾನಸ್ಥನಾಗಿ ಕುಳಿತುಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ಇನ್ನೊಮ್ಮೆ ದೇವತೆ ಕಾಣಬರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಶಿವನೋರ್ವನೇ ಧ್ಯಾನಸ್ಥ ದೇವತೆ!!

8. ಕಾಮನ ಕರಾಮತ್ತುಗಳಿಗಿಲ್ಲ ಕವಲೆತ್ತಿನಂತೆ ತಲೆಹಾಕಿಕೊಂಡಿರದೆ ಮತ್ತು ಕಾಮನನ್ನು ಅನುಸರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಹೋಗದೆ ಮೊತ್ತ ಮೊದಲ ಬಾರಿಗೆ ಕಾಮನ ಮೇಲೆ ದಾಳಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಆತನನ್ನು ಸುಟ್ಟು ಭಸ್ಮ ಮಾಡಿದ ಏಕೈಕ ದೇವತೆ ನಮ್ಮ ಶಿವ.

9. ಉಳಿದೆಲ್ಲ ದೇವತೆಗಳು ಹಗಲು ಪಕ್ಷಪಾತಿಗಳಾದರೆ ಶಿವ ಮಾತ್ರ ರಾತ್ರಿ ಪಕ್ಷಪಾತಿ.

ಆದ್ದರಿಂದಲೇ ಶಿವರಾತ್ರಿಯಂದು ಶಿವನನ್ನು ರಾತ್ರಿಯ ತುಂಬೆಲ್ಲ ಸ್ಮರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದರೆ ಶಿವನು ಕೂಡಲೇ ಅಂಥ ಭಕ್ತರನ್ನು ಉದ್ಧರಿಸುತ್ತಾನೆ.

10. ಶಿವನು ಆಶುತೋಷ. ಆಶು ಅಂದರೆ ಕೂಡಲೇ, ತೋಷ ಎಂದರೆ ಸಂತೋಷ ಪಡುವಾತ. ಶಿವನನ್ನು ಕೂಡಲೇ ಸಂತೋಷಪಡಿಸಬಹುದು. ಇನ್ನುಳಿದ ದೇವತೆಗಳ ಹಾಗೆ ಭಕ್ತರನ್ನು Waiting Listನಲ್ಲಿಟ್ಟು ಕಾಯಿಸುವ ಮತ್ತು ಸತಾಯಿಸುವ ನೀತಿ ಆತನದಲ್ಲ.

ಆತ ನಿರ್ಮಲ ಮನಸ್ಸಿನ ಭಕ್ತರ ಮನವಿ, ಪ್ರಾರ್ಥನೆಗಳಿಗೆ ತಕ್ಷಣವೇ ಸ್ಪಂದಿಸಿ

ಅವರ ಮನೋಕಾಮನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಸಹಕರಿಸುತ್ತಾನೆ.

ಇಂಥಾತ ನಮ್ಮ ಶಿವ. ಇಂಥ ಶಿವನನ್ನು ನಾವೆಲ್ಲ ಶಿವರಾತ್ರಿಯ ಪರ್ವಕಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ನಾವೆಲ್ಲ ಭಜಿಸಿ, ಸ್ಮರಿಸಿ ಆನಂದಿಸುತ್ತ

ಶಿವಾನುಗ್ರಹಕ್ಕೆ ಪಾತ್ರರಾಗೋಣ, 'ಶಿವಾನಂದ'ವನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯೋಣ.

Akkamahadevi

Guru Bale

The twelfth century is considered the golden age for Veerashaivism. During this century, Basavanna led the sharana movement and he revitalized Veerashaivism. Basava built Anubhavamantapa, the great hall, where sharanas held open discussions of social, economical and religious problems. The discussions resulted in the removal of many social, economical and religious barriers. They established equality between men and women, eradicated the caste system, and elevated individuals to new levels through the dignity of labor. The proceedings of the Anubhavamantapa and the discussions are recorded as Vachanas. These Vachanas are the basis of Veerashaiva Philosophy.

The Veerashaiva religion took rebirth in the twelfth century because of the atrocities committed by Vedic followers. In the name of religion, Vedic followers were persecuting people born in lower caste. Women were treated as second-class citizens. According to the Vedic philosophy, a woman could not get salvation without being a slave to her husband. In those days, women were excluded from participating and performing religious acts. Women did not have any religious rights in the society.

Basavas' religious and social revolution attracted many people and from as far away as Kashmir. The king of Kashmir, Mahadevaraya Bhuapala with his wife Mahadevamma came to Kalyana to witness the religious and social revolutions. Having seen and participated in the discussions of Anubhavamantapa, they renounced their kingdom and decided to stay in Kalyana. The king and the queen gave up their princely estate and followed the sharana way of life. For their living, the king sold wood that he collected in the forest. Selling wood was his daily routine and it became his Kayaka.

People of all castes joined the Veerashaiva movement and followed the sharanas' way of life. As more people joined this revolution, the Vedic followers began to lose their grip on people resulting in loss of revenue. They began to conspire against sharana movement and waited for an opportunity to revolt against the sharana movement. It came when Basava and other sharanas agreed and performed a marriage between a Sudra groom and a Brahmin bride.

Basava and his followers condemned pilgrimages, worship of idols, bathing in holy rivers in seeking salvation. They denounced being lazy, lying, stealing, and collecting wealth improperly. They suggested association with learned persons and encouraged kayaka, or engage in work. They established dasoha, for dissemination of excess wealth and to feed the poor. The caste system, that prevailed in India and had divided Indians by depriving them of opportunities, was eradicated. Women enjoyed social and religious

freedom. Their participation in Anubhavamantapa discussions resulted in numerous vachanas.

Veerashaivism is a distinct religion, even though it is similar to Hinduism. Veerashaiva religion is not well known outside Karnataka. Many feel that Veerashaivism is part of Shaivism. This has prevented its recognition as a distinct religion. Some of the contributing factors are:

The revolution that took place in the twelfth century for preventing the spread of Veerashaivism ended Basava's social reforms in Kalyana. Anubhavamantapa, where sharanas discussed many sociologic, economic and, religious issues was destroyed. Vachanas containing their deliberations either were lost or burned by the Vedic followers.

Sharanas, for their safety, left Kalyana and settled in other parts of Karnataka. Some carried vachana tablets with them resulting in the fragmentation of vachana writings.

Sharanas wrote about 1.7 billion vachanas. So far a few thousand vachanas have been found. Yet, they portray vividly the social, economical, and religious revolution that took place in the twelfth century.

The vachanas are in Kannada the language of Karnataka. People outside Karnataka cannot read them leading to the obscurity of their existence. In recent years, efforts have been made to translate and publish vachanas in English and other languages of India.

Vachanas are the basis of Veerashaiva philosophy and they are also literary marvels of Kannada. The twelfth century sharanas have given us their knowledge and wisdom through vachanas. They reveal the core knowledge of sharanas experienced wisdom. By reading or just by listening to vachanas, one can understand its meaning as well as the underlying truth about God.

Chennabasavanna, the nephew of Basava and a highly acclaimed scholar of Veerashaivism, describes vachanas the following way:

Without rope and tools
Can you get water from a deep well?
Possible with steps!
With vachanas
Our elders built steps
To reach the heavens!
To clean man's taints
Sharanas gave us the vachanas
Illuminated with knowledge
Kudala Chennasangaiah!

Water in a deep well is useless without a rope and a vessel. They are not required if steps exist to reach the

water. Similarly, knowing that heaven exists is not enough. Persons should possess the knowledge to reach it. Chennabasavanna says that Sharanas gave us the vachanas. Vachanas contain the knowledge required to reach heavens. Knowledge removes ignorance just like light dispels darkness. Vachanas are steps to the heavens.

Religious freedom for women encouraged them to participate in the Anubhavamantapa discussions. Many women actively participated. They have contributed in excess of 600,000 vachanas to Veerashaiva literature. Of these, Akkamahadevi wrote about 360,000 vachanas. So far, 314 of them have been found. About Akkamahadevi, Chennabasavanna says:

Look Siddaramanna, it
Took sixty vachanas for sharanas
While twenty for Basava
Took twenty vachanas for Basava
While ten for Allama
Took ten vachanas for Allama
While five for Ajaganna
Took five vachanas for Ajaganna
While one for Akkamahadevi
Kudala Chennasangaiah

Akkamahadevi could express in one vachana that took five for Ajaganna, 10 for Allama, 20 for Basava and 60 for other sharanas. She was blessed with literary power.

Uduthadi is a village in Shivamogga district, Karnataka State, India. Shivamogga is the abode for many devotees of Shiva including Allamaprabhu, the first president of the great spiritual house Anubhavamantapa.

Mahadevi was born in Uduthadi. Her parents were Sumathi and Nirmala. They were devotees of Shiva and as such Mahadevi had a great influence in the Shiva ways of life. Mahadevi was in love with the invisible Lord Chennamallikarjuna.

One day, the king Kausika while returning to his kingdom passed in front of Mahadevi's house. The king saw the youthful Mahadevi who was watching the king's pageantry from the balcony. He fell in love with her beauty. Later that day, he sent his ministers to her house asking for her hand in marriage. Her parents did not want their daughter to marry a Jain king. They also knew the punishment for not agreeing to the wishes of the king. Mahadevi, recognizing the situation of her parents, agreed to marry the king if the king met her condition that "she would not consider herself as his wife till he accepted the Shiva faith". The Jain king, full of lust, eagerly agreed to her conditions. The king and Mahadevi were married. But the marriage was short lived. After marriage, Mahadevi spent most of her time either in worshipping her Istalinga or hosting a stream of jangamas. She was spending enormous wealth from the treasury for hosting jangamas. The king was not ready to spend the wealth the way Mahadevi was spending. The

king broke the premarital agreement made with Mahadevi. Soon after, Mahadevi left the king. While she was leaving, the king taunted her for wearing clothes that belonged to him. On hearing this, she took her clothes off and walked out of the palace naked. To those who looked at her with lust, she said:

Lump of meat, pot of urine!
Structure of bone, spring of pus!
Burn this body!
Spoil not
For stomach sake
But learn the mark
Chennamallikarjuna!

The body is made of muscles and bones. It springs pus. It collects urine. This body should be burned. Most time is spent filling the stomach. She suggests learning the truth about God is the way to overcome the body's needs.

Before her departure to Kalyana some of her close friends and her parents pleaded her not to go. They asked her what she would do for her food and shelter. Her answer was:

Satisfy hunger by
Begging for food in town
Satisfy thirst
From wells, streams and water holes
For sleeping
There are dilapidated temples
Soul mate, I have Chennamallikarjuna!

For hunger, I can beg for food in towns. For thirst there are wells, streams and water holes. There are ruined temples for sleeping. For company I have Chennamallikarjuna with me.

Her goal was to reach Kalyana to seek the path of salvation from the sharanas. When she left the king, she was in her early 20's. However, through her vachanas, she has demonstrated knowledge that persons cannot acquire in their entire life.

In this vachana, Mahadevi suggests giving importance to learning the truth about God.

After enjoying the fruit
Do we care who cut that fruit tree?
After husband leaves
Do we care whom she is with?
After having no crop
Do we care who tills the soil?
After learning Chennamallikarjuna
Do we care if dog eats this body?
Or disposed in water?

After enjoying the fruit of the tree, we do not give much attention to that tree even if it is cut. When husband leaves his wife, we do not care who lives with her.

When land becomes barren, none gives attention about its cultivator. After learning and enjoying the company of the Lord Chennamallikarjuna, Sharanas will not care if the body is eaten by dogs or disposed in water. In this vachana, Mahadevi says that once the soul joins the Lord the body is rigid and it is disposed.

In the following vachana, Mahadevi suggests that we should face good and bad both equally. She says:

Constructing a house on top of a hill
Can you be afraid of animals?
Constructing a house on ocean shore
Can you be afraid of waves?
Constructing a house in market place
Can you be afraid of sound?
Listen O lord Chennamallikarjuna!
After being born in the world
With praises and blames
Should be calm without anger!

Building a house on top of a mountain, can we be afraid of animals. Building a house on the shore of an ocean, can we be afraid of waves. Building a house in market place, can we be afraid of noise. Similarly, after being born in this world, we will be praised as well as blamed. When praised or when blamed we should face the situation calmly without being angry.

Dr. Shivakumara Swamy of Sri Tharlabalu Mata cited the following story to make us aware of birth, life and death. A person while walking through the forest was chased by an elephant. He ran and ran and finally saw a well. To escape the chasing elephant, he jumped into the well. While falling he managed to catch a bush. The elephant waited near the well and began to shake the tree nearby. This shaking of the tree disturbed the bees domiciled in the tree. As he looked up, he saw bees swarming with anger. At the same time, honey from the beehives started to drip into the well and directly into his mouth. He enjoyed the taste of honey and forgot his troubles.

After reciting this story, Swamiji explained that the elephant is the time that never stops and chases every one towards death. The joy of honey is the joy of life between birth and death. During this period, every one should enjoy fruits of life.

In the next vachana Mahadevi suggests to be kind and helpful:

Without shade!
What good is a tree?
Without compassion!
What good to have wealth?
Not ripe, for a hungry
What good to have that fruit?
Without character
What good to have beauty?
Without understanding
What good to have separation?

Without your knowledge
What good to be alive?
Chennamallikarjuna!

People will not gather under a tree that has no shade. Person with wealth but without compassion is like the tree without shade. Unripe fruits cannot take away hunger. Beauty without character is of no good. Separation without understanding is impossible. After being born, person should possess the knowledge of God. Without knowledge there is no difference between animals and people. Knowledge is essential for every human being. Mahadevi expresses her love towards God.

Mahadevi arrives in Kalyana naked. She enters Anubhavamantapa covering herself with her long hair. Basava introduces Mahadevi to Allamaprabhu (also known as Allama, and Prabhu), the president of the Sunya Peeta (chair) in the Anubhavamantapa and to the sharanas that were assembled for that day. To the surprise of Basava and the sharanas, Allamaprabhu subjects Mahadevi to a rigorous test. Allama tells her to answer his questions before taking a seat in the Anubhavamantapa.

One of the questions was: "You say that you have conquered lust. Then why are you covering your sex organs?" Without hesitation, she answered Allamaprabhu by reciting the following vachana

Color of the skin changes
When fruit is ripe!
To prevent you from pain
Covered myself!
Do not tease
I am with Chennamallikarjuna!

The color of the skin will not change till the fruit is ripe. I have covered myself to relieve you from pain that brings from its sight. Do not tease me further for I am with Chennamallikarjuna

Allamaprabhu interrogates Akkamahadevi with many difficult spiritual and social questions. Without hesitation Mahadevi answers all the questions to the satisfaction of the sharanas. The sharanas accept her as their sister and call her as Akka. Thus Mahadevi becomes Akkamahadevi by winning the respect of sharanas, including Allamaprabhu, Basava, and Chennabasavanna.

Akkamahadevi stayed in Kalyana for a short period. She was eager to leave Kalyana in search of her lover Mallikarjuna. She says that Mallikarjuna is formless, but he is beautiful. Allamaprabhu advised her to go to the Kadalivana, the banana plantain grove in Srishaila. There she will receive her salvation. Before leaving Kalyana, Akkamahadevi expressed her gratitude to sharanas for their kindness and praised Basava with 52 qualities.

Akka spent some time in Kalyana attending and participating in the Anubhavamantapa discussions. As time passed by, she was eager to depart Kalyana. The sharanas were not ready for her departure, but they were willing to send her off, with great sadness.

Allamaprabhu instructed Akkamahadevi to go to the Kadalivana, in Srishaila, Andhra Pradesh. There she would attain her salvation. Before departing Kalyana, she took time to praise the sharanas. Her vachana praising Basava is the most significant one. It summarizes the sharana philosophy of life as the qualities of Basava.

Akka praised Basava with the following vachana on the eve of her departure from Kalyana. Thus, she accomplished two things, praising of Basava and consolidating the discussions of the sharanas in the Anubhavamantapa. The following vachana by Akka expresses the Veerashaiva philosophy as the qualities of Basava.

Without the beginning or the end
 Shiva the Lord, who is with form and without
 Who knows the truth about you!
 Everlasting Vedas can't pierce you
 Hidden from Puranas
 Cannot be seen by Agamas
 Logic cannot infer about you
 You are above all prayers and praises

O Lord Shiva
 Some say you are Sakala (for all times)
 Some say you are Nikhala (void)
 Some say you are Sukshma (delicate)
 Some say you are Sthula (heavy)
 With these kind of thinking
 Hari, Brahma, Indira, Chandra
 Ravi, Kala, Kama and Daksha,
 Including all Devas and Manavas
 Neither seen you nor realized you
 Their ignorance made them bavis in this world
 Expect them not to die as bavis
 Our Basavanna came as a savior of this world

ELECTION RESULTS

S. Munavalli, VSNA- Election Commissioner VSNA Election 2007

Following nominations received by the Election Commissioner within the deadline set up by BOD

#	Candidate	Office	#	Candidate	Office
1	H.S.Jayaswamy (IL)	BOR	1	S. Yajaman (Windsor)	BOD
2	D. Shivanna (AL)	BOR	2	V. Korategere (MI)	BOD
3	Jayakumar (CA)	BOR	3	C. Kambayal (IL)	BOD
4	G. Shankar(MI)	BOR	4	Vijaykumar Goud (NJ)	BOD
			5	Basavaraj Mudenur (MA)	BOD
			6	Ravindra Patil (Atlanta)	BOD

Youth Leadership Board

- 1 Neetal Jagadeesh President
- 2 Shruthi Chandramouli VP-Communication
- 3 Chandoo Kalmath VP-Education

Recently the elections were held to fill the openings on Board of Directors and Board of Regents. Since the openings on both the BOD and the BOR corresponded with the number of nominations received, in other words, the same number of nominations were received by the election commissioner as the number of vacant positions, all candidates have been elected unopposed.

Note: Of the six members on the BOD, three members will serve for one year team and is determined by lottery during Detroit Convention BOD meeting.

The same is true of the recently instituted Youth Leadership Board. All the three candidates have been elected uncontested. We would like to congratulate the winners and wish them good luck as they are poised to undertake the work of rejuvenating and revitalizing the VSNA and harnessing the untapped creative energy of the Veerashaiva youth.

Raj Adapur,
 VSNA Secretary

UNIVERSAL MAN – BASAVESHWARA

Shashi Gowdar

Shashigowdar@hotmail.com



Down memory lane, even half a century later, the image of my hometown in Mysore, India kept coming back to me. While reminiscing, I had an urge to evoke the *New Jersey to Mysore connection*. Yes indeed, first wonders go deepest! Clearly, it was my maiden name Shashi Murthy, replayed like a kaleidoscope, the colorful reflections of my life. For the moment, Shashi Murthy has taken over Shashi Gowdar. Between the names, I see the *days of yesterday and the days of tomorrow!* Along the way, through the eyes of a Veerashaiva, I've felt the echo between Ignorance and Knowledge, Joy and Sorrow, Land and the Sea. I asked myself, "isn't it good fate that brought me to New Jersey to recall my spiritual heritage?" From 21st century vision, I endorse how appropriate the Basaveshwara philosophy of 12th century is - *with the nodding of my head and widening of my eyes!*

It is a delight that I was born into a Hindu family and that meant I would live as a Hindu and die as a Hindu. My forefathers thought the universe made sense only through "Hindu Eyes". Little did they know how my religious landscape would evolve in the coming generation! As a Hindu, I believe in Karma or deed that governs all life and the conquest of Karma lies in intelligent action and dispassionate reaction. As a Lingayat, what I appreciate foremost is Basavanna's concept of compassion and tolerance towards all living beings! With this notion in my mind, I see my place in the Universe. Wow, 900 years ago, *Basaveshwara restructured the society with democratic values; progressive paths, emphasizing universal love!*

Looking back, it seems like harmony had visited my heart. Paradoxically, every morning I would wake up to the Islamic prayers in a Hindu home from a mosque nearby. It was astounding. The chanting was soothing and slow, as one man's voice was calling out for Allah... It was as deep as the universe. I liked hearing the sound again and again. My Muslim friends always said that Islam is a beautiful religion of brotherhood & devotion and they recommended Khalil Gibran books to read. Indeed, it was fun to greet my friends in Urdu as Salaam alykum "good to see you" and to peek at the Masjids with them. While some of them

saw Allah inside them, some of them took it upon themselves to defend god outside! I treasure the inheritance I gained from Basava on transcending barriers, integrating faith and opening new doors. *Basava has left a legend of freethinking behind when it comes to harmony and coexistence!*

Despite the paradigm shift in my consciousness, my grandma's voice would beckon me with the sound of Mantras. In the Pooja room at home, idols of gods would be decorated with Jasmine flowers; oil lamps lit, bells clanging and scented incense sticks would be burning. It certainly delighted all the senses of sight, sound and smell. I felt at home here on the vast planet of earth. Even more than the rituals, Hinduism is about soul and liberation - the "ATMA" & "MOKSHA". Atma is an individual's soul that touches god's soul. In other words, "ATMA MEETS THE PARAMATMA". Moksha is about liberation of the birth cycle. MOKSHA is through the bank of KARMA, where each of our liberation account is credited and debited depending on our actions. My mother summed it up as, "if you take two steps towards god", she said "god runs to you". *The more I learned about Basava and Ishta Linga, the less I wanted to leave them.*

Christ the King Convent run by nuns, is the convent school that I was educated in and learnt English as well. The nuns and missionaries in my eyes are icons of sacrifice and ultimate moral. I enjoyed being in the school Choir singing Christmas carols. I enacted as Cinderella in the English play, living the magical moments of a fairy tale and savored the elocution and poetry contests. Many times, I sneaked into the quiet chapel to listen to the piano and to kneel and pray to Jesus & Mary. I could see the smile on Mary's face and she lovingly smiled at me. We rejoiced the many religious holidays for the rest of our school lives. We shared the plum cake at Christmas & Obbatu at Gowri festival & Veggie Biryani after Ramadan. *This reminded me of "Dasoha", Basava's concept of Sharing and oneness in humanity. I felt gratitude for him, like the gratitude one feels before the sunset and before the sunrise.*

It was a pulsating mix of energy. I was born in a Hindu home, waking up to Islamic prayers, enjoying education in a Christian school. I relished the fusion. It seemed as though the trees, the rivers, the air & the Sun all spoke one language of unity in Mysore. I like Veerashaivism for promoting harmony and equality while adoring the teachings and essence of all the other religions too. Like Mahatma Gandhi rightfully said "*ALL RELIGIONS ARE TRUE*". I have read Khalil Gibran, Jehovah witness, Bhagavad-Gita & Basveshwara - these books are a must read. It opened the gates of my mind; I chuckled to myself, Oh Lord ... some day I should march on a universal pilgrimage to *BASAVA KALYANA, VARANSI, MECCA & JERUSALEM!!!* To me life seems worthless without beliefs. Without beliefs, positive energy and imagination would be sacrificed at the altar. *Perhaps "beliefs should be seen through the windows of our heart and not with our eyes"*.

I entered Mount Carmel's College in Bangalore with political science as my major. Perhaps, it's my father's influence over me. He was in politics since 1952 and enjoyed the vote bank of all Hindus, Muslims and Christians. His political career spanned for over half a century and I now know why! He certainly has the blessings of *BASAVA, MOHAMMED & JESUS*. He is secular in nature and strongly believes in "*work is worship*" like Basava. At age 84, he is still the sitting member of Parliament in Rajya Sabha - could he possibly ask for anything more? Proudly, I can say that he is the father every daughter wishes for! He grew up in the world of experience, where hearts understand each other intuitively, and the spirits matured with knowledge. I find myself thinking... "*Wisdom*", what are these things? *I realize the resolve is to read books of Basava to gain exposure to the widest possible breadth of thought. Most certainly, it lights a match in one's dark mind!!!*

I grew up in Bangalore that has the same buzz like New York or London. We interacted in English, Kannada and Hindi and watched Hollywood & Bollywood movies as well. We heard Mozart, Rock, Vachanas, Hip Hop, Flute and Sitar. Needless to say, we are multicultural and multilingual. Perhaps to enjoy the fusion as much, maybe I could have been born as a Muslim or a

Christian and Basava could have fused me into a Lingayath. Why not? It's time to retrace his steps. *Didn't Basava repudiate castes and classes? Didn't Basava usher in gender equality? Gracefully, I had auctioned my heart to him!!!*

People move in life for a better future. In 1975, I uprooted everything and left for a great horizon beyond the unknown. Besides *MOTHER INDIA*, I left behind the *KARNATAKA RICE FIELDS, the CAUVERY RIVER, SACRED KUDALASANGAMA and the CHAMUNDI HILLS!* This clearly defines the roots I cherish - it has made me who I am and where I come from! I landed in the United States of America - the land of freedom, equality and liberty for all. While Mysore felt like the placid river of Ganges, New York felt like the bustle of the rush hour. My small circle coincided with the center of a larger circle - "*BASAVA MEETING THE CHRIST*". It all made perfect sense, yes *Basavanna emphasized on a Universal man* and I am in perfect sync with the world. Better yet, I learned that the world that moves with you is "your heart".

My heart still skips a beat during Christmas season after a night of snowfall. New Jersey is my sweet home and it is breathtakingly beautiful when the fine snow is falling through the air creating intricate lace work and the sun shines on the trees. What I had before my eyes stole my heart and enthralled me. Amen!!! Walking on the fresh white snow, leaving footprints, I saw...I felt...something supremely regal. After a silence, it was overwhelming, "They were there" and "so was I" - a vision beyond vision. I saw all the gods looking down at me with love and kindness, even the *Angels, Imams & Swamis*. My heart beat with fear and joy. The reassurance is "*THE PRESENCE OF ALL GODS IN ME IS THE FINEST OF THE REWARDS*"

Coming full circle in my final intuitive recognition, the answer is the same all over the world - the world is not made for us and that we have to be made for the world. Like Basava said, "*IT'S ONLY THE INTEGRATED MAN WITH HIS HEART, MIND AND WILL POINTING TO THE SAME STAR THAT CAN BE A UNIVERSAL MAN*". This is the 12th Century wisdom needed for a global man in the global world.

Ohio Chapter

Shalini Kanthi

We started 2007 VSNA get together by electing new chapter committee members.

Elected members are:

Shalini Kanthi – President; Kavitha Vagaralli – Secretary
Geetha Nagaraja – Treasurer
Rayshma Suresh Sharoff – Youth Representative
Dr. Suri Suresh – Outgoing President is our guiding force and acting consultant to the new team.

Our next get together was on February 16, for Maha Shivarathri celebration at Shalini and Bhagavan's residence. About 30 people participated in this event. We all did abhisheka and linga pooja, Shiva bhajans and concluded the pooja with Bilvashtakam and aarathi. Event ended with delicious potluck dinner.

Ohio chapter currently has many Veerashaiva families in Columbus and other nearby cities like Akron, Dayton, Cincinnati and Cleveland. We make constant efforts to bring new members.

On behalf of Ohio chapter, we would like to thank Detroit chapter for hosting 2007 VSNA convention and we wish them a grand success!



Veershaiva Samaja of Southern California

Shanta Dandappanavar, President, Southern California Chapter

The Southern California chapter had a wonderful last quarter, concluding with a grand Deepavali celebration in San Diego. Mr. Jayakumar and Nirmala were kind enough to let us use their home for the function, which included 70 people, many of whom traveled a long distance. The program included prayers, shlokas,

Astothara (108 names of Devi), bhajans, and concluded with Aarti. Following a study circle on the meaning of Deepavali, as well as a discussion of upcoming events and activities, the group enjoyed a delicious potluck dinner. The entire evening was beautiful and left a lasting memory for everyone who attended.

VSNA Florida Chapter

Somshekar Pallegar

It gives me a great pleasure to inform the activities of VSNA Florida chapter activities of 2006. It was a very busy year for us in organizing the first ever VSNA Cruise convention. We felt that it went well and the attendees enjoyed and took good memories from it. This will be the first time members can see the convention on their living room televisions. Our DVD production is almost complete and all the members who attended the convention will be receiving their copy soon. Due to high inaccuracies of the VSNA directory, some families may not receive so we will distribute the copies at the Detroit convention.

Request a DVD copy by writing to vsnadvd@yahoo.com or to 1509 64th St. ct. east, Bradenton, FL 34208.

During our chapter meeting in November 2006 at Dr. Jagadish & Udaya Jagadish's home in Jacksonville, we

elected new office bearers.

President: Kalpana Malligere 407 388 1089

kmalligere@cfl.rr.com

Vice President: Suresh Belthur 904 771 6153

belthur@yahoo.com

Secretary: Girish Budibetta 407 384 3349

girishbudibetta@gmail.com

Board of Directors of Florida Chapter:

Somashekar Pallegar 941 741 8333

sompallegar@gmail.com

Shivashankar Nanjappa 904 464 0054

nshivashankar@hotmail.com

Udaya Jagadish

904 642 1377

bjagadish@hotmail.com

We collected \$150.00 from Aarthi and donated the amount to Homeless shelter in Jacksonville.

Toronto Chapter

Vijay Aivalli

2006 celebrations - Shivaratri festival was held at Vaishnodevi temple, over 100 people attended. 18 kids performed a 40-minute drama involving vachanas with background of cricket and politics, directed by Suchitra Mensinkai. Shivarathri will be celebrated on March 3rd.

Nearly 100 people attended the Basava Jayanti celebration. Apart from many devotional songs, Lingasthaka was performed as a dance. Later this was repeated at Kannada Sangha Ugadi celebrations.

Vachanotsavas: since March of 2006, under the guidance of Yuvaraj Patil we conduct Vachanotsava at a member's house regularly where 20-25 members attend. One of the members introduces a Sharana (like Akkamahadevi / Siddarama) and sings their vachanas and then we discuss about sharana and his/her vachanas. This is done seriously and it going on very well. Kids workshop: It is a regular item and now is done simultaneously with Vachanotsava every six weeks.

Others: Picnic in summer, donation to food bank and plans to put Basaveshwara's bust in Vishnu Mandir are underway.



Chicago VSNA

New office bearers were elected during Deepavali function held at Mr. & Mrs. Indushekar's residence. Elected members, Mrs. Bhavani Moodabagil as President, Mrs. Dhanashree Suresh as Vice President and Mrs. Kusuma Indushekar as Treasurer started the 2007 activities with a zeal. Members thanked the outgoing officers – Mr. Arun Bommonavar- President, Mrs. Anita Kishore- Vice President; and Mrs. Sujata Desai – Treasurer for their outstanding contributions.

The first event for 2007 – Makarasankranthi celebration at Schaumburg park district community center with over 100 people in attendance, including many new members. This event is mainly devoted to youth talent show, almost every kid participated to demonstrate their talents. Reciting, singing, playing violin, cello and even comedy skits, and also a presentation on Kudala Sangama by Abhinav Reddy. Mr. Jayaswamy spoke on the significance of Sankranthi and how the date (January 14 –15) are slightly off in 2007 due to the movement of the Sun. At the conclusion, Dr. Chandramouli updated members on Central VSNA activities and requested all local members to become central VSNA members. The evening ended with the scrumptious Sankranthi potluck dinner.

Also celebrated Maha Shivarathri festival on February 17 at Mr. & Mrs. Basanth Goud's residence. On this very

cold day, we had more than 40 members in attendance. Mr. Jayaswamy led several groups to perform Shiva linga pooja with abisheka offering of 11 different items. Following the pooja, Abhinav Reddy and Sacchin Suresh played Lingashatakam song on violin and others singing. Kids also recited songs and bhajans on Shiva. Evening ended with delicious potluck Shivarathri palahara.

Our next event is Basava Jayanti celebration on April 22, 2007, at the Hindu Temple in Lemont., IL.



Basava Samiti of Washington DC & Virginia

Urmila Hiremath

Basava Samiti, the Washington, D.C. & Virginia chapter of VSNA celebrated four festivals in 2006 hosted by various members: Shivaratri, Ugadi, Ganesha Chaturthi, and Deepawali.

In addition, jointly with the Maryland chapter of VSNA and Kaveri we celebrated Basava Jayanti at the Sri Shiva Vishnu Temple in Lanham, Maryland. To round

out our schedule with social activities, we held a picnic at Lake Fairfax in Reston, Virginia in the summer jointly with the Maryland chapter of VSNA and we closed out the year with a Holiday Party. We have continued the publication of the chapter newsletter Basava Wani highlighting our activities, member accomplishments, and cultural and religious articles. This effort has been lead by Deepak Kenkeremath.

Vachana of the Quarter

Who is more re warded than me – By Akka Mahadevi

JġÀBAvÉ
ŸÀĀtāAUÉAiÀÄÝªÀgÀÄAmÉ?
JġÀBAvÉ
ªsÁUÀāAUÉAiÀÄÝªÀgÀÄAvÉ?
TġÀBġÀġÀAvÀŸÀà
é – ñ ò ò ñ ò ñ ñ ñ .

ennaMte puNyaMgeydavaruMTe?
ennaMte bhAgyaMgeydavaruMte?
KinnaranaMtappa sOdaranenage!
ELELu janmadalli shivabhaktarE
baMdugaLenage!
cennamallikAriunanaMtappa qaMDa nODA

Let us dig deep – The insights of this vachana.... *As submitted by Mr. H.S. Jayaswamy*

Is there anybody who has got so much of merit as me?
 Is there anybody who is so much blessed like me?
 kinnara like are my brothers!
 In the seven generations the devotees of
 Lord shiva are my relatives!
 My husband is chennamallikArjuna Himself, you see!!

Akka Mahadevi was an ardent devotee of Shiva. She called Shiva as "Channa Mallikarjuna." That is her pet name for Shiva. She loved Shiva as her lover and treated him as her husband. Of course, in Veerashaivism one has to devote oneself as "sati (wife) to "pati" (shiva.)

Here Akka feels happy to marry Chenna Mallikarjuna and thinks that was good fortune. She wonders, if there is anybody as lucky as her. She elated herself to the abode of Shiva where devotees of Shiva called Kinnaras singing around, and treating them as brothers.

It is a tradition in Karnataka, that elders ask newly wed girl (bride) to pray God to bestow her, the benefit of marrying the same groom for next seven births. So in the same way, Akka Mahadevi wishes to consider all devotees of Shiva as her relatives for seven births; because her husband is none other than "Chenna Mallikarjuna.

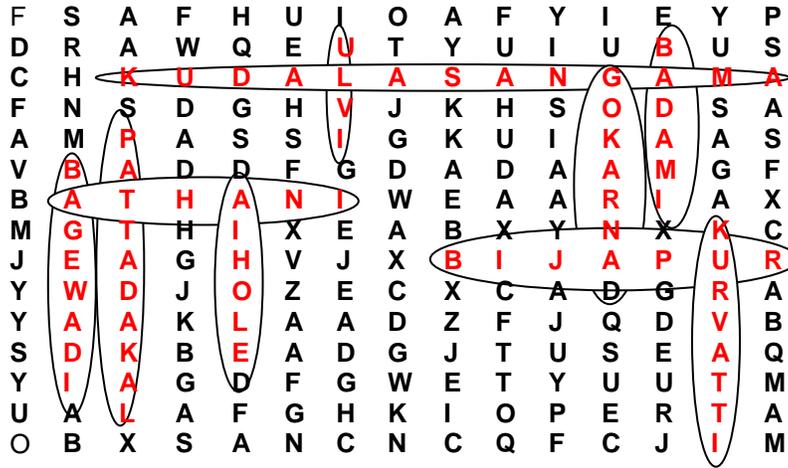
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 ¹PÀÛ¹¼" JAzÀÄ, °ÉÄ¹¼Àª¹¼Ä JAzÀÄ
 °ÉÄ¹¼ÄªvÁÛ¹¼É. CzÉÄjÁw CPÀÌ ºÀÄ°ÁzÉÃ«,
 K¹¼ÉÄ¹¼ÄÄ d£ÀäPÉÌ ZÉ£Àß
 ºÀÄ°èPÀdÄð£À£ÉÄ UÀAqÀ£ÁUÀ° £À£ÀUÉ,
 CzÀjAzÀ K¹¼ÉÄ¹¼ÄÄ d£ÀäPÀÄÌ ²ÀªsÀPÀÛgÉÄ
 £À£ÁUÉ ŞAzÀÄUÀ¹¼ÁUÀ° JAzÀÄ
 YÀæyð,ÀÄvÁÛ¹¼É.

FªAZÀ£AzÀ°è ºÀÄ°ÁzÉÃ«AiÀÄ GvÀÛªAzÀ
 'YÀw ºsÀQÛ' ZÉ£ÀßªÀÄ°èPÀdÄð£À£À ºÉÄÄ-É
 ¦æÁw AiÀÄAPÀÛ ºsÀQÛ EªÀÁUÀ¹¼ÄÄ
 YÀæPÀªÁUÀÄwÛ¹¼É.

Answers from Last Issue's Name Search of Veerashaiva related holy places around Karnataka



Holy Veerashaiva places:

- Kudala Sangama
- Athani
- Bijapur
- Bagewadi
- Pattadakal
- Aihole
- Ulvi
- Gokarna
- Badami
- Kurvati

Match the author of the Vachana to his or her signature (mudrika)

This is where you can get some help from the adults. Here is a list of Vachana authors and their signature ending. As an example we have shown the most popular Vachana author Basavanna's signature ending. Like wise match all the authors to their signatures and send your answers to the editors (moodb@hotmail.com or vidullatha@hotmail.com), we will publish your name in the next issue of the VSNA Newsletter. Adapted from Ganaka Vachana Samputa by Taralabalu.Org

Vachana Authors	Vachana Signatures
Akkamahadevi	Agajeswara Linga
Akkamma	Basavannapriya Cennasangayya
Allamaprabhu	Cennamallikarjuna
Basavanna	Dasapriya Ramanatha
Cennabasavanna	Gangapriya Kudalasangama
Duggale	Guheswara
Gangambike	Immadi
Konde Lakkama	Kudalacennasangamadeva
Nagalambike	Kudala Sangama Deva
Molige Mahadevi	Ramesvari Linga

Learning to Speak Kannada... Negotiating for vegetable with the grocer on the street

<u>Kannada Version</u>	<u>English Translation</u>
Tomatoge yeshtu bele?	How much are the tomatoes?
Hadinaidhu rupayi kilo	15 rupees a kilo
10 rupayi madi kondu kodi	Give it to me for 10 rupees
Illa saar – tomato season illa...	No sir – this is not tomato season
Illa illa bere kade ella 10 rupaye ide. Adare nimma tomato chenaagide	No, no, it is 10 rupees in other places, but your tomatoes are good
Ayithu 13 rupayi kodi	Fine, give me 13 rupees
Ayithu yeradu kg kodi	Ok fine, give me 2 kgs

“Kayakave Kailasa” as I am experiencing it

It has been my great privilege to be associated and working in VSNA since 1980. I had the unique occasions to serve in various positions both in local and central offices.

Looking back 25 years, I ponder over the happenings and question, what did I learn and gain from VSNA. I wish to summarize my findings in a few words.

Working in VSNA was the beginning of using the once in a lifetime opportunity to serve the fellow countrymen, voluntarily, truthfully, tirelessly and honestly. This was done time after time and countless number of times. The end result was the

discovery of my own potential in various fields and capacities. The art of rendering the service was carried to “ Kannada Koota “ in Detroit and Cleveland and also to the Kannada drama group “ Gelayara Balaga “, here, in Detroit.

In a nutshell, I found great satisfaction and achieved the eternal joy by the accomplishment of giving my whole self for various services without any selfish ulterior motives. In this way, I have realized the true meaning of “Kayaka “. I have understood, experienced and am enjoying the pinnacle of happiness of being in Kailasa, as stated in the principle of Veerashivisam “Kayakave Kailasa “.

G. B. Shankar, Ohio
Sharanu Sharanarthy

VSNA Awards Form 2007

Application Deadline April 30, 2007

VSNA calls for nominations for Outstanding Service Award and Professional Achievement Award

Criteria for VSNA Awards:**1. Outstanding Service Award**

- The nominee should be the Life member or a member in good standing for at least 3 consecutive years
- The nominee should have a keen interest in the activities of VSNA and have served in the chapter or central office.
- The nominee should have committed to the primary goal of VSNA and have rendered selfless service to the VSNA
- The nominee should not have held office in VSNA in past 3 years.

2. Professional Achievement Award

- The nominee need not be a Life member or a member in good standing. However, the nominee should be a Veerashaiva.
- The nominee should have been recognized in his/her professional field at state/national/international level
- The nominee should have a keen interest in the activities of Veerashaiva and contributed to the success of our community.
- The nominee should have committed to the primary goal of Veerashaiva and have rendered selfless service to the Veerashaiva community.

Please send application materials before April 30, 2007 to:

Prabhu Patil
22181 Arbor Lane,
Farmington Hills, MI 48336

VSNA Scholarship Form 2007

Application Deadline April 30, 2007

I _____, Veerashaiva High School Senior college student am residing in North America. I am applying for the Scholarship program to pursue college education. I enclose the following documents, which I understand must be submitted for eligibility.

1. Evidence of VSNA Membership

- My parents are VSNA members since (year) _____.
- My parents _____ belong to _____ chapter since _____ year.

2. Evidence of Veerashaiva Community Service

- Letters of Recommendation from the chapter president regarding the following activities:
- Involvement in community activities, conferences and attend chapter activities.
- Evidence of similar activities in general also be submitted, however, preference will be given to VSNA community service.

3. Qualifications

- Academics - Demonstrate academic initiative
- Service - Provides dependable and organized assistance selflessly
- Works well with others
- Volunteers in community activities responsibly

4. Two supporting letters from school

- From School
- A Teacher

5. Name of the college you plan to attend

6. An essay explaining why you should be selected for this scholarship (one page)

7. Parent Endorsement:

I am a Central VSNA member for the current year.

Parents Signature

Students signature

Note: The applicant has to submit all of the above items to qualify for the scholarship. The decision of the scholarship committee will be final in awarding the scholarship.

Please send application materials before April 30, 2007 to:

Mrs. Manjula Sankarappa
1367 Wingate Drive
Delaware, Ohio 43015
Email: msankarappa@yahoo.com

30th Annual VSNA Convention

July 7 & 8, 2007



VENUE

Ford Community & Performing Arts Center

15801 Michigan Avenue
Dearborn, Michigan 48126 USA
Phone: 313-943-2350

Convention Highlights

- Anubhava Goshti
- Religious Workshop
- Banquet Dinner
- Business/Health Seminars
- Competitions: Vachana, Dance
- Linga Pooja/Meditation/Yoga
- Entertainment
- Youth Forum

ACCOMODATION

CONVENTION HOTEL

Doubletree Dearborn
5801 Southfield Service Drive
Detroit, Michigan 48228
Phone: 800-222-8733

NEAR BY HOTELS within 2 miles

Hyatt Regency 800-233-1234
Courtyard by Marriott 800-321-2211
Residence Inn 800-222-6543
Ritz Carlton 800-241-3333

Convention Rate \$ 89.00/night

Single and Double room occupancy
Rooms are limited. Please act soon to reserve a room

AIR TRAVEL DISCOUNTS

Ravi Shankar 800-688-0051
MyLowFare.com

REGISTRATION FEES

	Before 5/15/07	05/15/07 -6/15/07	After 6/15/07
Adults (Above 12)	\$ 89.00	\$ 99.00	\$135.00
Children (5 -12)	\$ 59.00	\$ 75.00	\$100.00

Visit us Online at
WWW.VSNA.ORG/2007
Online registration starts on 04/01/07

- Non members add \$35.00/Family
- Children under 5 free

SOUVENIR ADVERTISEMENTS

Back page in color	\$2000
Inside back page in color	\$1500
Inside front page in color	\$1500
Full page inside in color	\$1000
Half page inside in color	\$ 600
Full page inside black and white	\$ 750
Half page inside black and white	\$ 400
Quarter page inside black & white	\$ 200
Business card size (best compliments)	\$ 100

DEADLINES

Cultural Programs May 15, 2007
Souvenir ads/articles June 10, 2007

BE A DONER

Donations are Tax Deductible
Tax ID No. 51-0245255

Silver Patron \$1000

Free Registration for Family of Four

Gold Patron \$1500

As above plus Accommodation for 2 nights

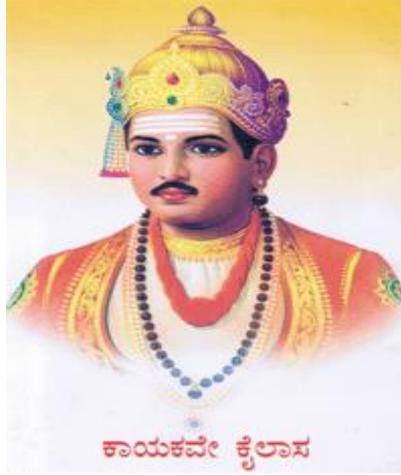
Platinum Patron \$2500

As above + half page b/w ad in the Souvenir

Diamond Patron \$5000

As in Gold Patron + full page b/w ad in the Souvenir

30th Annual VSNA Convention



Hosted by the Detroit Chapter
July 7th & 8th 2007

Mailing Address:

Mr. Prabhu Patil
22181 Arbor Lane
Farmington Hills, MI 48336
patil@gitmd.com

**Central
Officers:**

President:
Mr. Prabhu Patil

Vice President:
Dr. Chandramouli

Secretary:
Mr. Raj Adapur

Treasurer:
Mrs. Uma Sajjan

