

SANGAMA

A PERIODICAL NEWSLETTER OF VSNA-TX CHAPTER

VOLUME 7
DEC 2013



Veerashaiva Samaja of North America
37th Annual Convention: July 4th – 5th, 2014
Venue: Hotel Intercontinental, 15201 Dallas Pkwy, Addison, TX 75001
Hosted by: VSNA – Texas Chapter



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- VSNA Convention 2014 Destination Dallas- July 4th

[http://
www.vsnaconvention.com/2014/
HTML/index.html](http://www.vsnaconvention.com/2014/HTML/index.html)

- VSNA -TX service Project coming up soon. Please watch for date and time.

- Shivrathi Celebrations March 1 st- Watch for details

•details in

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Sharanu,

The VSNA-TX chapter is hosting the 37th Annual VSNA Convention here in Dallas on July 4th and 5th of 2014. This will be the first time in VSNA history the convention will be held in Texas. There is a lot of excitement and activity in progress already. The Annual convention will bring like-minded individuals and families that are practicing the tenets of Veerashaivism (Lingayat) together. It will be an occasion that will allow our Texas Veerashaivas to network, bond and build bridges with fellow Veershaivas living in the sub-continent of North America.

The event is a “festival” that will consist of cultural, religious and social activities. The participants will come from various parts of North America including a few renowned and distinguished guests from India. Some of the key activities that will be conducted include:

Religious Discourse of our esteemed religion.

Discussion Panels to share and learn about our roots, views and beliefs,

Youth Activities -The VSNA considers its youth to be its leaders in waiting. To make certain the youth are ready when the opportunity knocks on their door, has created a VSNA Youth Board. The youths meet under the leaders.

Yoga, Meditation, Linga Puje, Youth activities (excursion, discussion, workshops and entertainment).

Anubhava Ghosti -This is an open forum discussion of religious topics of general interest to laymen. The idea behind this group discussion is to provide the participants an avenue to engage and exchange information on religious matters.

Business Workshop - This is a panel discussion to help aspirants to participate and learn from successful entrepreneurs.

Health (medical professionals expound and explain about medical trends and general well-being in a question and answer setting.

The convention will bring together various VSNA officers to not only meet and greet but to rethink, reassess and redirect the organization going forward.

Most of the Activities are in their planning stages with small groups of individuals leading the effort. Specific committees have been formed for each of the Activities that are necessary to conduct the convention. They are - Fund raising, Registration, Website, Youth Activity, Entertainment, Program Management, and Food to name a few.

Finally, the specifics of the 37th VSNA convention are as follows:

Convention Dates: July 4th – 5th, 2014

Venue: Hotel Intercontinental, 15201 Dallas Pkwy, Addison, TX 75001

Contact information: [Email: convention2014committee@vsna-tx.org](mailto:convention2014committee@vsna-tx.org)

URL: <http://vsnaconvention.com>

Sharanu Sharanaarathi.

Convention committee

Vachana of the edition Prashasth Udgiri

HasivAdare UroLage bhikShAnna gaLunTu
TRuShey Adare kere bAvi haLLa gaLunTu
Shayanakke HALudE gulavunTu
CennamallikArjunayya AtmasangAtakke neenenagunTu.

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.

Even those who have not fulfilled
their basic needs like food and shelter can be happy
for sure if they know to enjoy the world god has given us.
They will always be happy and god will be there.

- This piece was picked from Vachana Sangama on Facebook.

From the President's Desk

Dear VSNA family,

I would like to wish you all great holidays and very happy prosperous new year. hope everyone is enjoying the break and looking forward to have a fresh start with the New Year's resolutions.

This upcoming new year 2014 is really special for all of us. It is a great pleasure to announce that the Texas chapter is hosting the 37th annual VSNA convention for the very first time in Dallas. I am very sure it will ne an awesome fun-filled experience for everyone. With all your support it will be a memorable event of spirituality. I would like to invite each one of you to come to this wonderful event , participate and make it a great success. Hats off to our convention committee and all the volunteers for their time, hard work, and commitment.

Let us start the great new year with guru Basavanna's teachings and blessings:

Jnaanada Baladinda Ajnaanada kedu nODayya

Jyotiya Baladinda Tamandhada kedu nODayya

Satyada Baladinda Asatyada kedu nODayya

Parushada Baladinda Avalohada kedu nODayya

Kudala Sangama Sharanara Aubhaavadinda Enna Bhavada kedu nODayya

Translation:

Power of knowledge is a great key to success.

Great philosopher "Socrates" said, " Only true wisdom is in knowing you know nothing. I can not teach anybody anything,I can only make them think."

Thank you so much to our fantastic news letter team for doing such an excellent job of giving us the SANGAMA. It is looking better every time.

Sharanu sharanarathi.

Anu Benakatti

Sirigere - Akul Gowder



It is the summer of 2013 and I am in Davangere, Karnataka. It is a city in India where my father was born and brought up. My family, my cousin Kiran, and I are about to go visit my father's guru, Dr. Shivamurthy Shivacharya Mahaswamiji, in his Ashrama.

As we enter his beautiful forest-like front yard we see a white house that shines in the sunlight. Already we are amazed at all the beauty of his house and can't wait to see the guru. As we wait we play cricket in the huge yard that the guru owns, and of course Kiran wins since he has been playing pretty much all his life, and finally we are called to meet the guru. We go up 6 floors and enter the room the guru is waiting for us in. As we enter we see rows of spiritual books and sofas set in a "u" shape and a single chair at the very where the guru is sitting. At first we just talk about how long it has been since we have seen each other and how much we have grown and then we moved to the guru's dining room and had some sweets for guruji's birthday.



After we celebrated a little Dr. Shivamurthy had to go so we decided to go and check out the mini forest that the guru had next to his Ashrama. We walked through the beautiful coconut trees and saw stunning wild peacocks. We passed by a small lake and tried to skip stones and eventually we came upon a small tower. We went up and stood in silence as the gorgeous, golden, sun set in the horizon with faint peacock cries in the background. As we stood there I finally realized the beauty of nature. We started to return home and took one last glance of the guruji's Ashrama and we left for the long journey back home.

Editorial Committee:

Veda Nashi

Sparsha Nanda

Prashasth Udgiri

Meghana Prakash

Rishika Prakash

Sanjana Hiremath

Akul Gowder

Arya Gowder

Let us know your feed-back, thoughts and suggestions. Please address all comments to newsletter@vsna-tx.org

Service in Religion - Meghana Prakash

A couple weeks back I had the privilege of attending the Akshaya Patra Dallas benefit event. As most of us are aware, Akshaya Patra not only focuses on feeding children in need, in addition provides children with educational foundation that will allow them more opportunities in the future. After attending the event, it really makes me think more about what we do as members of the community. We need to reach out to those who are not fortunate enough to have what we have. Being Lingayats, what role do we play in this society and what is it we should be focusing on? And, the first thought that came to my mind was Basavanna; there was bound to be a greater importance of doing service by seeing it through our religion.

Basava Dharma, the principles that Basavanna deemed necessary to reach personal peace and contentment. The two main aspects being Dasoha and Kayaka, the former representing the principle of community sharing and co-operation and the latter is defined by earnings from honest, social labor.

Basavanna once said "*Kayakave Kailasa*" meaning "*Work is Worship*". Everything we do, we should do in the eyes of worship, no matter how insignificant or lowly the job may seem we must commit to working to the best of our ability. And only after this has been accepted and implemented into one's daily life, it can be said that Kayaka has been performed. Closely tied with the meaning of Kayaka, Dasoha essentially means the seeking of God through service to human kind. By helping others, whether it be providing resources to the underprivileged or contributing to the community, we get closer to God and closer to reaching Basava Dharma, or self-actualization.



Service Projects by VSNA TX Youth

At the Diwali Celebration we were able to collect 100 lbs of canned and packaged food. This was donated to Irving cares, an organization that supports the needy in Irving.



More than 50 toys were collected for The Annual Toy Drive for the Scottish Rite Hospital.



A BIG THANKS FOR ALL
YOUR

GENEROSITY

Ganesha Chaturthi September 15, 2013



Veerashaiva Samaja of North America – Texas

Ganesh Chaturti 2013

The Ganesha Chaturthi was an event filled with fun. The kids were able to reenact the Chaturthi from India and bring it straight to VSNA TX. Everyone participated in chanting and walking the Ganesha around the event center, the Idol was then washed. The kids learned a lot about how this would take place in India as well. There was singing and dancing by the members and many new members were introduced to VSNA here in North Texas. It was an amusing event to everyone, and a great success as well.





Veerashaiva Samaja of North America - Texas Deepavali 2013

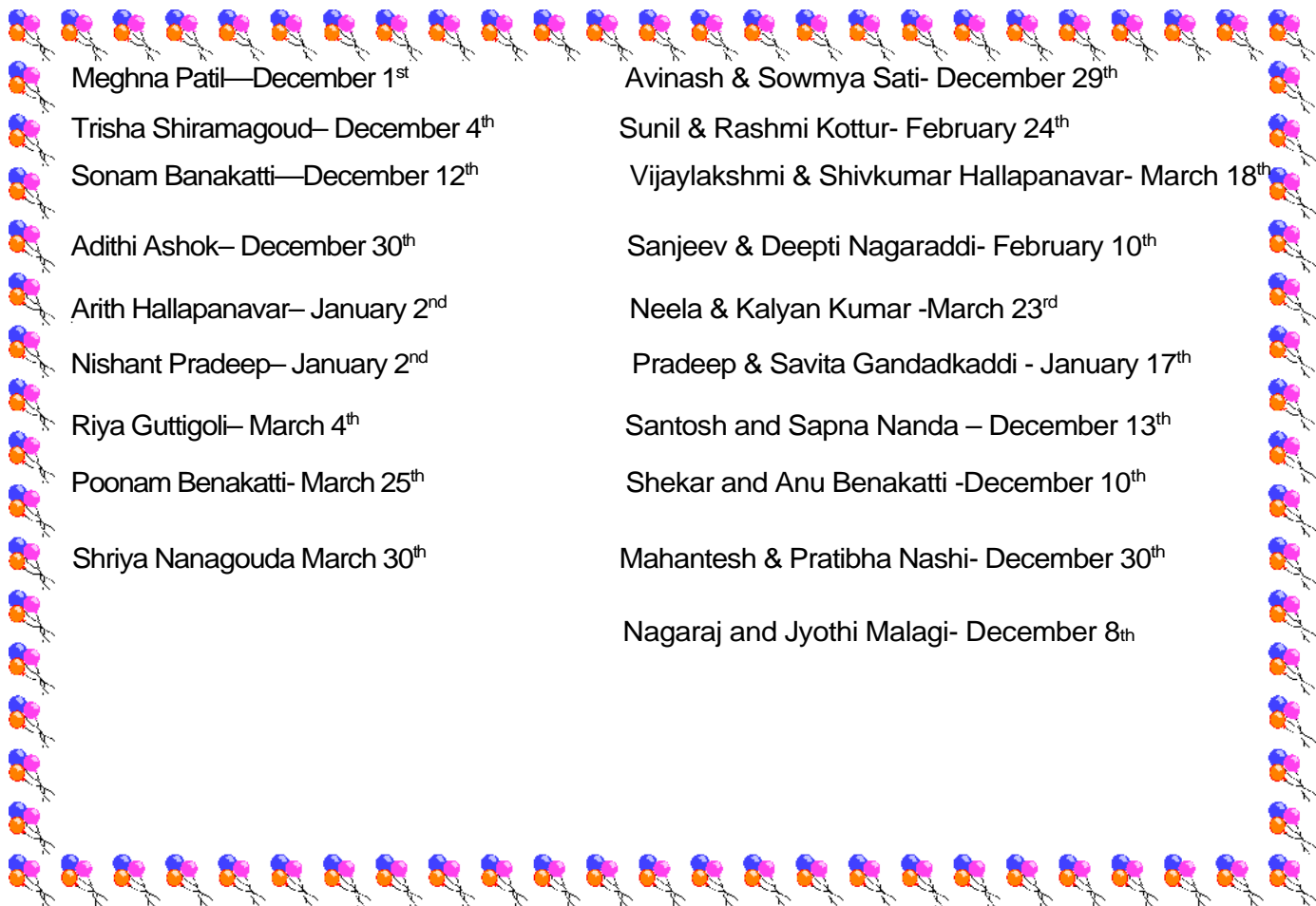
It is time for the Deepavali celebration once again. The VSNA Committee organized an outstanding event to acknowledge everyone's talents in the spotlight. Pieces were performed by many members including traditional and modern singing, dancing, acting and much more. All the performances were outstanding! The performances started with the kids and as the evening went on the adults showed their creative sides. Afterwards we all socialized and celebrated with each while eating the delicious food. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make this event possible.



Happy Happy Wishes!!

Happy Birthday!!!

Happy Anniversary!!!



Meghna Patil—December 1st

Trisha Shiramagoud— December 4th

Sonam Banakatti—December 12th

Adithi Ashok— December 30th

Arith Hallapanavar— January 2nd

Nishant Pradeep— January 2nd

Riya Guttigoli— March 4th

Poonam Benakatti- March 25th

Shriya Nanagouda March 30th

Avinash & Sowmya Sati- December 29th

Sunil & Rashmi Kottur- February 24th

Vijaylakshmi & Shivkumar Hallapanavar- March 18th

Sanjeev & Deepti Nagaraddi- February 10th

Neela & Kalyan Kumar -March 23rd

Pradeep & Savita Gandakaddi - January 17th

Santosh and Sapna Nanda – December 13th

Shekar and Anu Benakatti -December 10th

Mahantesh & Pratibha Nashi- December 30th

Nagaraj and Jyothi Malagi- December 8th

Apologies if we missed your special Day. Please send the Month and Day to newsletter@vsna-tx.org. We will include it the next time.

Congratulations!!

To **Amey Halappanavar** for winning 2nd place in UIL Dictionary Skills competition.

To **Isha Kere** for winning the 1st Place in the Allen City-Wide Recycled Art Contest!(sculpture)

The ceremony was held at Allen City Hall with the mayor awarding prizes and winner's certificate

To **Veda Nashi** for earning the Silver Award in Girl Scouts. Veda worked with the City of Irving to install Traffic safety signs around a public play area.

To **Meghana Prakash** on Completing her Bharatnatyam Arangetram. A fantabulous performance showcased over 10 years of hard work in dance

MANY MANY GOOD WISHES TO ALL OUR SHINING STARS ON THEIR HARD EARNED ACCOLADES

HAPPY NEW YEAR

New Year's Word Search

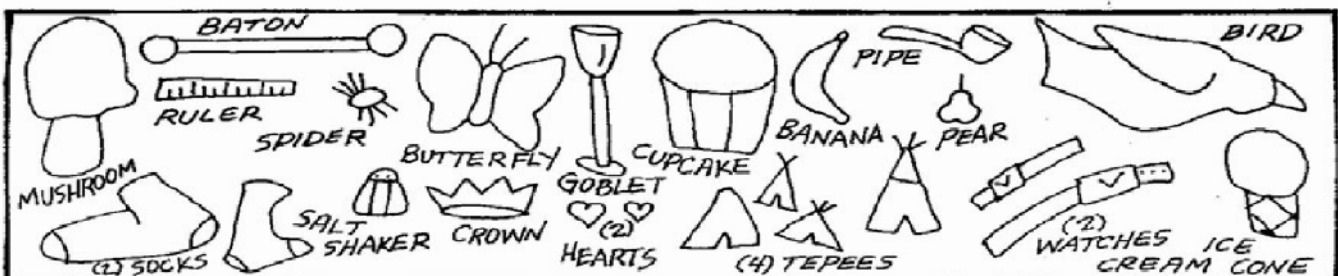
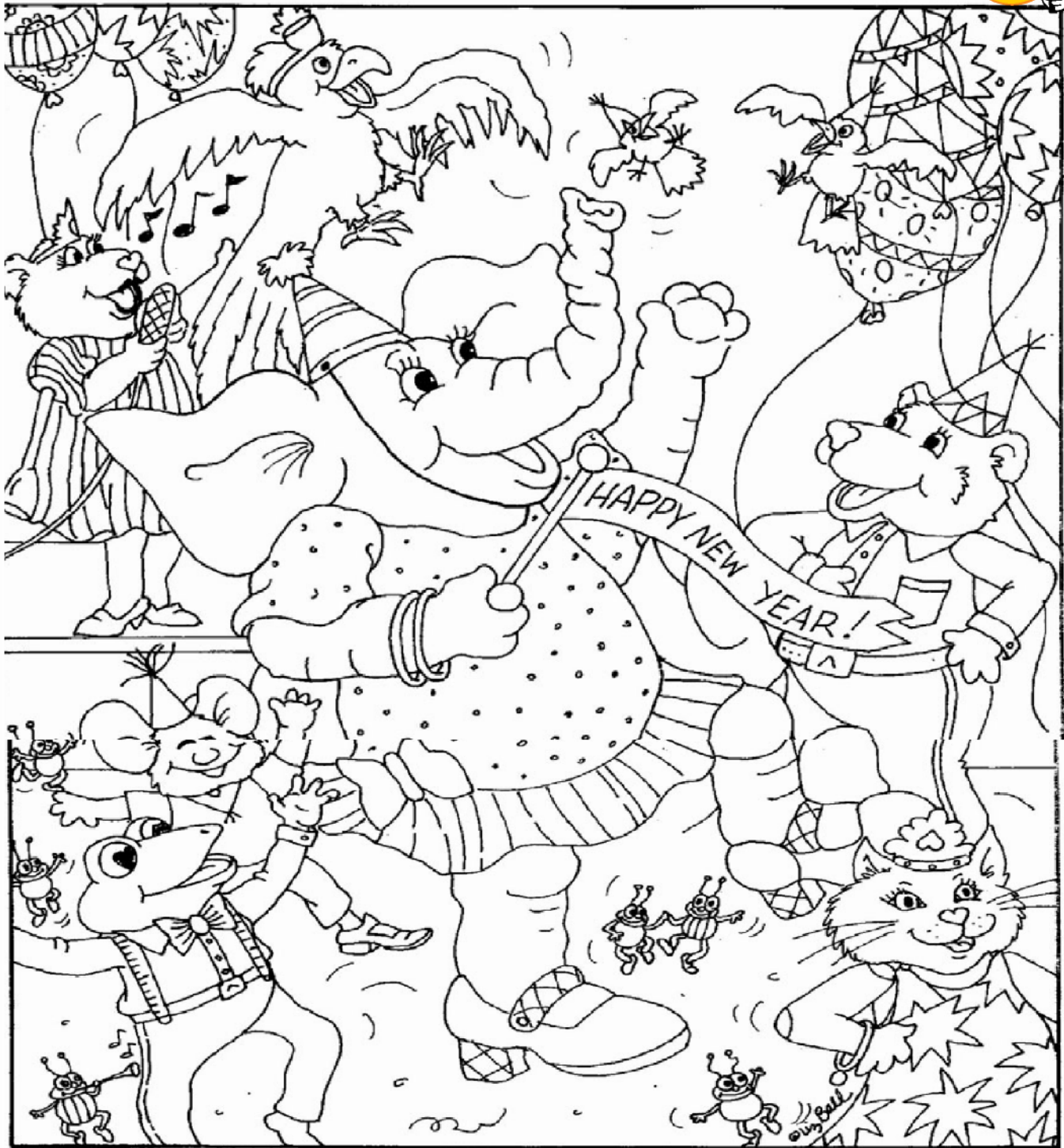
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CALENDAR
EVE
MIDNIGHT
YEAR

CELEBRATION
FIREWORKS
PARTY

COUNTDOWN
JANUARY
RESOLUTION

Spy Find Objects listed in the Small box



Coloring page

