

NEWSLETTER

KONKANI ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
18369 Van Ness Avenue
Torrance, CA 90504

Webpage: www.kasc.org
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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK:

Dear Konkani Family,

KASC Diwali was on Sunday, Nov. 22nd, 2015 in Torrance. The write-up describing this occasion is in this newsletter. Thanks to Kartik Gadiyar for writing it. Thanks to Jaidev Chandavarkar for sending us the write-up on all our new KASC Committee Members. **This is the only newsletter for Bhajan, Holi and Yugaadi events.**

Our first get-together for this year is **KASC Shivaratri Bhajan** which will be held on **Saturday, Mar. 5th, 2016** in Los Angeles. Jaidev and Meena Rao have graciously offered their home to host the bhajan. **Please RSVP via Evite by Sat. Feb. 26, 2016.** It will be a potluck event. Our new KASC Committee has planned to have **Holi** celebration this year. Please mark your calendar for the events planned by the committee. **Holi** celebration is on **Sat. April 2nd, 2016** in Arcadia. **Please RSVP via Evite by Sat. Mar. 26, 2016.** **Yugaadi** is on **Sat. May 14th, 2016.** The venue for this event is not decided yet. You will get an evite for this event. **Please come and enjoy the fun-filled celebrations.** Hope to see you all there. Please contact any committee members, if you want to perform for the Yugaadi.

At Yugaadi event, it is the time to renew your yearly membership. **The yearly dues are \$25.00 per family and \$15.00 for singles** and checks are payable to **KASC.** **We welcome more members to contribute material for the newsletter.** Please send us any updates/corrections and information about new Konkanis in Southern California.

HAPPY, HEALTHY, AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR !
Happy Holi! HAPPY YUGAADI!

Yours truly,



Vivek Ullal

KASC DIWALI 2015

By Kartik Gadiyar, Irvine, CA

The festival of lights, Diwali was celebrated with pomp and enthusiasm by KASC with young and old all joining together to have a joyful evening with good music, good food and a lot of fun. The venue was *Bombay Tandoor* Restaurant in Torrance, California on November 22nd, 2015 from 4:30 to 8:00 pm. The event featured dances, songs and even flute and whistling performances.

The event began with the offering of prayers to God and all attendees performed the aarti to God. Following this, our MC for the evening, Priya Gadiyar, welcomed everyone. All attendees introduced themselves one by one. Evening snacks were served which included *samosas*, *pakodas* and coffee.

Following the introductions and the snacks, the evening's entertainment started. The entertainment included dances by both adults and children to songs as varied as "*Uptown Funk*" to "*Gallan Goodiyaan*". There was also a whistling recital to the song "*Nammamma Sharade*" by Archini Nayak. Vivek Ullal played old Hindi film songs on flute. In addition, there were also Karaoke performances which included the songs "*Kaisi Paheli Zindagani*", "*Chura Liya Hai*" and "*Main Shayar Toh Nahin*". All the performances were greatly appreciated by the guests. There was also a "*Are you smarter than a fifth grader*" game which was won by Gautam Shanbhag.

There was also a Mithai competition held which had entries like a *Nutella Laddoo*, Pineapple pudding, *mysore pak* etc. The winner was Prafulla Shenoy for her tasty paper thin *Bombay Halwa (Mahim Halwa)*. Following all this, the dance floor was thrown open to everyone and KASC members were given a chance to shake a leg to hits such as "*Baby Doll*", "*Laila Main Laila*" among others, Our KASC President Srinivas Pai also gave us a karaoke performance of "*Chookar mere man ko*" to encourage further dancing. The dancing helped us build an appetite for the scrumptious dinner that followed. We thank all Committee members, volunteers and other members for making this event a great success.

HAPPY SHIVARATRI!



Aum Namah Shivay!

Lord Shiva

Trident represents the three powers of knowledge, desire and implementation

Drum symbolizes sound which represents the words of the Vedas, the holy scriptures given by the Lord to guide us through life.

Serpents on neck signify the ego which once mastered can be worn as an ornament

Rudraksha beads denote purity. The mala or rosary in the right hand symbolizes concentration.

Face on head represents the Ganges, the holy river, signifying the flow of scriptural teachings passing wisdom from one generation to the next.

Moon on forehead symbolizes that the Lord is the master of time and is himself timeless.

Large oval dot on forehead is the third eye of knowledge which, if opened, reduces to ashes the person in its vision. It is a symbol of the Destroyer of evil and ignorance.

Wearing a tiger skin Shiva is said to be fearless.



SHIVARATHRI BHAJAN

**Saturday, March 5
5:00 PM**

**7301 West 87th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90045**

RSVP on Evite by February 26

Welcome to KASC New Committee Members

By: Jaidev Chandavarkar, T.O. CA

Srinivas and Gayatri Pai, Presidents

Srinivas and Gayatri Pai came to the USA in early 2001. They are blessed with two children – Siddharth, who is now in his first year of college and Shreya, who is in her sixth grade. They have been local Southern California residents now for over 12 years. Srinivas works as an IT professional for LAUSD, and Gayatri works in the Accounting Department of Reed's, a leading producer of non-alcoholic beverages.

Srinivas, in spirited defiance of Gayatri's employer, is very much into pairing food with the right kind of alcoholic wine. He is a passionate cook and experiments with different cuisines and wines that would complement the flavors of these cuisines.

They both feel that Konkani cultural traditions need to be nurtured and developed, right here, on American soil and to raise general, non-Konkani community awareness of Konkani culture among host communities.

Rahul and Divya Kamath, Vice Presidents

Rahul Kamath is a school teacher and has been in the USA and the Southern California region for about 15 years. Divya, who is a financial analyst, joined him in the US in 2008. They both love travelling, watching movies and being in the great outdoors that everyone in Southern California is lucky to enjoy.

They want to stay active in the Konkani association and are hoping to contribute to a good mix of fun and cultural events.

Ramakant and Sangeeta Shenoy, Secretary

Ramakant and Sangeeta Shenoy came to the United States in June 2001 and have lived in Torrance, California for last 15 years. They have 2 boys - Mihir (13 years, currently in 8th grade) and Mayank (7 years, currently in 1st grade).

Ramakant has management background and is working as an IT professional with SoCal based company. His interests are in playing sports such as Tennis, Ping Pong and traveling and exploring new places. Sangeeta is Paraprofessional in Torrance Unified School District. Her hobbies include watching movies and sitcoms from all eras, learning and cooking new dishes. Their older son, Mihir is an active boy scout and likes to take part in school curricular activities and competitions. And younger son, Mayank likes to play soccer and basketball.

They both look forward to actively participating in local and national konkani events in the United States.

Karthik and Priya Gadiyar, Cultural Coordinators

Karthik and Priya came to the United States in January 2012, which is a little over four years ago. They moved to Southern California within four months of their arrival in the US and have been in this area since then.

Karthik is a Strategy and Risk Consultant. He enjoys reading and watching movies. Priya is doing graduate work in University. She is a big reader too, but she loves the outdoors and spends time biking in her neighborhood.

They both look forward to actively participating in local and national Konkani events in the United States.

Sharath and Shruthi Shenoy, Treasurers

Sharath came to the US in 2001. A year later, Shruthi joined him, and three years later, in 2004, the couple moved to Southern California, the year we hosted the Konkani Convention in Garden Grove. They have a son, Shravan, who is now 15 years old.

Sharath works as an IT consultant and his hobbies are option trading and travelling. He wants to promote Konkani culture in Southern California. Shruthi is an IT Business Analyst at National Oilwell Varco in Orange. Her hobbies are gardening and cooking.

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KONKANI SAMMELAN 2016

The Atlanta based Konkani group, KAOG (Konkani Association Of Georgia) will host Konkani S sammelan in July 1-3, 2016. Please register for the S sammelan and attend the fun-filled long weekend with your family and friends from US, India and other parts of the world.

Please check out their website: <http://www.konkanisammelan.com/> .



**HOST:
KASC COMMITTEE -**

KASC Holi Celebration 2016

SATURDAY, APRIL 2 AT 11:00 AM

**Arcadia Park
405 South Santa Anita Avenue Arcadia, CA 91006**

Please RSVP via evite by March 26, 2016

This card is designed and contributed by Shantala Kaisare. Thanks to her.

Happy Ugadi!

