

# TASA Sankranthi Sambaralu

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*January 18, 2014*

*A report by Venkatesh Adivi*

Following the hugely successful 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations in October 2013, TASA met for the first time in 2014 to kick off the New Year with Sankranthi Sambaralu on Saturday, 18 January 2014. TASA President, Sreeram Padala, rallied his Executive Team to deliver an outstanding program that the community actively participated in (90 kids!) and enjoyed immensely. The over 3 hour program kept the audience in their seats, with the MCs finally having to announce that it was over, before all present reluctantly got up to leave!

By the time most of the audience began arriving for the evening's events, Bhogipallu, Muggula Potilu, and Chakra Pongali Potilu had already been conducted. A delicious dinner prepared by several community members awaited the arriving audience.

Opening the evening's cultural program with an invocation song, Varun Patamalla ably delivered a Sri Susarma composition. A classical dance by Kalalaya students was followed by a solo Telugu cinema songs' dance performance by Phani Marella to hoots and whistles. What followed then mesmerized the audience. A little girl, VedaSri Bodanapu, proceeded to recite slokas from the Bhagavad Gita. The display of memory recall, diction, poise and dedication moved the audience. Many kudos to her and her mom for this remarkable accomplishment. A solo performance of a medley of songs by Nikhita Pathapati was followed by a skit, The Clock, by kids role-playing the hands of a clock to show the importance of time. Akhilandeshwari, a classical dance, and kids dancing to Telugu movie songs were the next items. The Telugu Badi kids put on a skit based on the Sankranthi theme.

Remarkably, there were two solo violin performances this year, unusual for a TASA program and indicative of the growing musical talent in the community. MVN Kiran Kumar and Ananda Yogi both performed at different times in the program to audience applause. A Bharatanatyam dance set to Ra Ra Venu Gopa Bala by Kaveri students was followed by a solo song by Neelima Chinnam. Several dances set to Telugu movie songs and entertainingly performed by kids and grownups kept the audience asking for more. Another Telugu Badi kids skit, Akbar Birbal, showcased elaborate costumes and Birbal's wit. The evening's program was capped by a dance by the Marella couple. Smt Sailaja Tam Tam sponsored the trophies presented to all the kids for participation. The MCs Aditya Gosala and Nivedita Nanda did an able job and moved the program along quickly.

The Sankranthi Sambaralu were well organized and smartly conducted. Audience members left the event looking forward to upcoming TASA events (Ugadi Utsavalu on 5<sup>th</sup> April, and a picnic in June).