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Telugu Association of San Antonio

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### TASA UGADI REPORT

The Telugu Association of San Antonio (TASA) continued its 2011 cultural activities with a well-attended and well-organized Ugadi Vedukalu at the Mahalakshmi Hall on Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011. As people came in, they were greeted with Ugadi wishes and Ugadi Pachadi.



The evening started with a delicious Pandaga Bhojanam with Bobbatlu, Gulabjamoon and Rasmalai accompanying a sumptuous feast. The cultural program started with the invocation song “Ekadantaaya Vakratundaaya”, sung by visiting singer Sri Viswa Mohan Ammula, which struck a chord with the audience and set the mood for the night. The classical Thyagaraja pancharatna krithi, “Sadhinchene O Manasa”, sung by Mr. Vamsi Eevani, a visiting music student from Vermont, captivated the audience and drew appreciative applause. This was followed by the Fashion Show with participants Meghana, Nirjarapriya, Adithya, Akshit, Siddarth, Vamsikrishna, Mahasvin, Srijan, Sujay, Unnati, Mithil, Jahnavi, Mounika, Siri, Gayatri, Kushi, Veda, Varsha, and Samyatha representing a wide range of ages.



Panchanga Sravanam by HTSA Priest Sri. Ramalinga Sastry garu highlighted the rashi phalaalu for the year 2011. After felicitations to Sri Sastry garu, the program moved on to presentation of TASA scholarship to students for the UTSA-ISA scholarship fund. TASA president Sri Murthy Patamalla presented a check to the Indian Students Association president Mr. Puraskar. This was followed by felicitations to Sri. T. Venkateshwar (Raj)

Goud on the occasion of his receiving the “Hind Rattan Award” presented by NRI Welfare Society of India, New Delhi for his charitable activities in the healthcare and educational fields. TASA presented flowers, shawl and a plaque to Smt. Geetha Goud and Sri Raj Goud.



The highlight event of the evening was a grand musical program (live singing) by Sri Viswa Mohan Ammula from Kansas and Smt. Sarada Akunuri from Houston. Both singers are familiar to San Antonio but they sure brought a breath of fresh air with a mix of old and new melodies, fast beat and a few classic songs. Sri Viswa Mohan’s energy was contagious; at one point, he even jumped off the stage to mingle with the audience while singing. His dance moves on stage to song tunes were a treat to watch.



Door prizes were awarded intermittently throughout the program. Both artists were presented with memento trophies as a token of sincere appreciation of their talents and for giving us a memorable performance. This was followed by vote of thanks by the Secretary, Phani Atluri, and the final medley song by the artists brought everyone to their heels, completing the evening’s celebrations on a high note.