

Karnataka Rajyotsava celebrated in style in Albany, NY.

(A report by Mrs. Anjana Tolpadi)

The Kannada Koota of Capital District held their annual Rajyotsava celebration on Saturday November 20th, 2010 at the Hindu Cultural Center in Albany NY. Community stalwarts, Dr. Divakaramurthy and Mr. Purushottam Bangalore, ably handled the Emceeing duties. The event was kicked off by a prayer invocation “Maha Ganapathi” sung by Mrs. Sunitha Vijay. It was followed by a delightful “Kali-Nali” dance choreographed by Mrs. Uma Benki & Sharmila Siddesh where Suraj Kadajji, Avaneesh Benki, Ritwik Raj, Pranav Jonnala, Shamanth Murundi, Ashutosh Yaligar and Pranati Jonnala taught the audience the Alphabets of Kannada. After this was a dance medley choreographed by Kirthana Bhat and performed by Varuna Bandargal, Maya Bhat, Anushka Kanihal, Samhitha Reddy, Rhea Shetty, Siona Shetty, Niranjana Srihari, Meghna Tetambe, Gayatri Tyagi, and Priyanka Vijay.

The highlight of the evening was the music program by Mr. Ram Prasad a renowned playback singer who has sung along with famous singers like Vani Jayaram, Chitra, Kavita Krishnamurthy, Shreya Ghoshal etc., in many Kannada movies such as Preethi-Prema-Pranaya, Amrutha Dhare, Nanna Pritiya Hudugi, Miss California, Tamashegagi etc. His disciple Miss Sohini started the musical program by singing a Managalarathi. Our very own Aniket Tolpadi accompanied Ram Prasad and Sohini on the tabla.

During a short break the outgoing KKCD president, Satish Bhat, gave a report on the state of the KKCD finances. Satish thanked the audience for their support of his committee members Roshni Achar (Secretary) and Ravi Pilar (Treasurer). He also introduced web master Ravi Yaligar, who created the wonderful website for KKCD (www.kkcd.org).

The incoming President, Mr. Basavaraj Benki introduced his committee: Mrs. Anjana Tolpadi (Secretary) and Mr. Satish Bhat (Treasurer). He outlined his vision for KKCD, which included plans to start Kannada classes for kids of all ages, screening of Kannada movies and participating in the 2012 AKKA convention, etc.

Ram Prasad and Sohini continued to delight the audience by singing to Karaoke music. Their repertoire ranged from nostalgic to religious, Kannada to Hindi, songs that delighted the audience regardless of their age.

The event culminated with a scrumptious dinner prepared by our volunteers Mrs. Mythili Murthy, Mrs. Sheela Jayasimha, Mrs. Sujatha Kumar, Mrs. Sandhya Prabhu, Mrs. Mallika Raikar, Mrs. Sharmila Siddesh, Mrs. Sunitha Vijay and Mrs. Anjana Tolpadi.