

President's Message



తెలుగుకూసమితి సభ్యులకు, మిత్రులకు నా నమస్కారములు. Let me start by wishing you and your family "Happy Holidays" and a "Healthy and Prosperous New Year". I hope you get a chance to meet and enjoy the company of family, friends and good people.

As many of you have seen or heard, TFAS Executive Committee has been extremely busy over the past two months and we were hoping to take a breather. As it turns out, Sankranti is just around the corner. I guess it is true that time truly flies when you are having fun. It is fun when you enjoy what you do. I am fortunate to be blessed with very hardworking trustees, who take ownership of the tasks and make sure that things go smoothly.

When we started planning for Deepavali function back in March, it seemed like long time in the making. But by the time we realized, there were several other events planned throughout the tri-state area and especially in New Jersey. As many of you are aware, majority of the people attending these events are essentially the same with some minor variations. We were very nervous to be the last event of the season and how successfully we can pull the event off with minimum losses. With your support, we have been able to deliver another successful program with over 850 people in attendance. We received excellent feedback from many and one or two criticisms for the "Tollywood Damaka" program. We have explained to the artists what our organization is and what our membership expects ahead of the event. We also took comfort in the fact that they have performed for other Telugu organizations throughout USA. When we saw the first dance number, we ran to the artists and requested them to tone it down drastically and they did. Although we want to and need to cater to different tastes, we do hold what TFAS stands for and what its membership expects; a very high standard for family entertainment.

We had approximately 400 children participate in the singing and dancing programs leading up to the November 20th event. We have improved our competition judging significantly over the years and yet we received one or two complaints that the selections did not go the way some expected. It is our intent to make every child who participates to feel like a winner and we need all of your support in making sure you reinforce the same.

No TFAS program is successful without generous support from our sponsors. For this year Deepavali program I want to extend special thanks to Ram and Girija Kolluri, Ravindra Thota and an anonymous donor who sponsored the trophies for all the winners. Special thanks to Ramakrishna Seethala garu and Saradhi Nara for conducting the annual TFAS tennis competitions. There are several individuals who have volunteered their time and services before and during the program. We are thankful to their efforts. Radha Kasinadhuni, Vaidehi Sasidhar, and Bharati Bhavaraju arranged the literary session on November 20th at the TFAS Deepavali event. The theme of the session was Maha Kavi Sri Sri Sahitya Vedhika. Many people attended the event and enjoyed a scintillating discussion. We are grateful to the TFAS well-wishers for putting such an exciting program.

I would like to let you all know that we have shuffled our Executive Committee as one of the positions has become vacant. Our Youth Committee chair Girija Kolluri has stepped up and taken the position of Vice President. Our first alternate, Bindu Madiraju garu, has been appointed as the Youth Committee chair. We are excited about the new appointments and look forward to working with them. Congratulations Girija garu and Bindu garu and thanks to our Advisory Committee Bhavaraju Murty garu, Satyaveni Rao garu and Damu Gedala for their valuable guidance and steering us through this process.

TFAS has been and continues to promote community services in India through sponsorship programs of our members. Bhavaraju Murty garu and Rohini Kumar garu have generously contributed with matching funds from their respective employers. Through these foundations, help is being rendered to visually and hearing impaired and underserved people in India. We worked with the Vegesna Foundation in conducting the Gantasala Anniversary program and the Annual HELP Foundation event. We encourage all of our members to become active and help in any way you can.

Again, "Happy Holidays and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year!"

Looking forward to seeing you at Sankranti celebrations on January 22nd ... Until next time.....

Your President, Anand Paluri

Deepavali Program

The TFAS Deepavali program was conducted in a grand style on November 20th 2010 at Plainfield High School. The program started with American National Anthem. In the month of October, TFAS conducted the Annual cultural competitions very successfully at the Bridgewater Temple community center. The Prize distribution for all these events was held on the stage. Our President Sri Anand Paluri had great encouraging words for the children who won prizes. Selected prize winners were given an opportunity to perform on stage to showcase the talent we have locally in NJ.

Manju Bhargava coordinated the stage events including the decorations. The MCs did a splendid job of announcing names of winners and keeping the audience engaged with light hearted jokes. Under able guidance of our Membership Chair Vasant Naidu, TFAS hosted variety of vendors. People were able to shop and even take financial advice. Our treasurer Suresh Makam managed the registration very successfully. Our youth chair Jai Kureti helped us with ushering and was available where ever we needed him.

Dinner was served around 7 pm with many volunteers helping with serving the food. People relished the food which included *authentic pappu, wada, laddoo, mukkala pulusu*, okra and eggplant curries.

After the dinner, the auditorium was packed with TFAS members and guests for the prime time event. '*Padagalava*', a unique interactive singing program envisioned by Girija Garu was a great success. The audience enjoyed and encouraged the local talent. The MCs for this show were Simha and Soujanya.



TFAS recognized on the stage our Life Member Professor Vemuri Venkata Ramanadham garu, an Economist, on the occasion of his 90th birthday. A special '*Sanmana Patram*' was read by Anantha Sudhaker. TFAS presented a recognition plaque and a shawl. Telugu Jyothi editor Murty Bhavaraju spoke about Ramanadham garu's contributions to Telugu literature (has written plays, poetry, operas, novels, and stories). He has been writing articles under '*meRapulu*' in Telugu Jyothi for the last 20 years. Both the Telugu Jyothi Editorial Committee and the EC committee were also on the stage participating in this recognition.

The President introduced his entire team of trustees to the audience. He noted that every trustee volunteered time and played a unique role in the success of this program.

The evening then was filled with non-stop entertainment. The talented singer and MC, Simha from India and our local SA RE GA MA PA winner Soujanya sang a lovely mix of old and new songs. This was followed by mimicry by Reverse gear Guru Swamy whose unique talent to sing in reverse had audience in splits. TOLLYWOOD DHAMAKA dancers from India entertained the audience with dances to numerous Tollywood numbers and also impersonated artists like NTR, ANR and Krishna. Manju Bhargava gave the vote of thanks and the show ended at 11 pm with the Indian national anthem. See DEEPAVALI PHOTOS on tfas.net "Galery".



- Manju Bhargava