

KKCD Kannada Rajyotsava-2012

Report By : Siddesh Kadajji



A festival atmosphere descended over New York's Capital Region on Saturday 3rd November 2012 when expatriate Kannadigas settled around the Capital Region in Albany, NY congregated at Hindu Temple Cultural Center annex of The Hindu Temple of Albany to celebrate 57th Kannada Rajyotsava marking the anniversary when Karnataka State was formally declared with the passage of States Reorganization Act in 1956. The official Kannada Rajyotsava day, however, falls on the 1st of November each year.

The celebrations were held under the auspices of Kannada Koota of Capital District (KKCD) and its community members.

The evening began with the social hour when members began gathering at the Cultural Center for snacks and mingled with other families and friends. Kids dressed in traditional attire were seen in the hallway enjoying the evening adding to the festive mood.

The team from NAVIKA 2013 Convention in Boston led by Dr. Rajur had set up a booth in the hallway to promote the upcoming annual convention celebrating Kannada language and culture. A booth was also setup by Appa Madiwale to promote Vidya Poshak, a charity organization based out of North Karnataka empowering impoverished and meritorious students through education in rural parts of India. Community members were seen checking out the booths showing their support for the good cause.

Cultural events inside the auditorium started when KKCD treasurer Satish Bhat introduced the Master of Ceremonies Mythili Murthy and was followed by a prayer invocation by Mangala Harish.

The celebrations began in earnest with the ladies of KKCD dressed-up in traditional saris of Karnataka walking down the aisle and up the auditorium stage holding lamps cupped in their hands to the tune of "Hachchevu Kannadada Deepa" composed by Dr. D.S. Karki.

Outgoing KKCD President Basavaraj Benki took the stage to address the gathering and began with a welcome to all members of the community and gave a warm welcome to

Chief Guest Dr. Rajur and his team from NAVIKA 2013 Convention from Boston. Basavaraj walked down the memory lane recollecting major events that were held under the patronage of KKCD and under his stewardship during the last two years and thanked all members of the community who helped in organizing those events and making them a grand success. KKCD Committee members Satish Bhat and Anjana Tolpadi were thanked for their support and help by the President.

Chief Guest for the evening Dr. Sharanabasava Rajur was the next to take the podium who spoke eloquently about the importance of teaching Kannada language to the kids who are growing up here in the United States and called upon the gathering to promote Kannada language and culture. Dr. Rajur also spoke about the upcoming NAVIKA 2013 Convention in Boston and cordially invited KKCD members to participate in the cultural activities and join hands in organizing the NAVIKA 2013 Convention.

The incoming new KKCD President Kashinath Prasad introduced his committee members Satish Bhat as Treasurer and Meena Krishnappa as Secretary and thanked the community members for having elected him as the President. Kashinath then went on to present his vision and action plan for next two years based on the survey feedback including starting a Kannada Movie Club and other initiatives.

After the speeches it was time for the grand celebrations with cultural programs performed by the community members and their children.

The first act to set the stage on fire was a dance number performed by the kids to the song “Huttidare Kannada Naadalli Huttাবেಕು” from the Kannada movie AAKASMIKA and the participants were Anuraag Sharma, Ashrith K. Rao, Ashutosh Yaligar, Avaneesh Benki, Madhav Raj, Pranav K. Rao, Raghav Raj, Ritwik Raj, Sandeep Alampalli, Shamanth Murundi, Sudhanva Rao, Suraj Kadajji and Hamsini Sampathkumar as Kannada Maate(Mother Karnataka). The kids looked adorable dressed with a yellow headband and a red waist band representing the patriotic colors of Karnataka flag.

When the stage cooled down after a roaring performance by the kids Bhargavi Seshadri graced the stage to perform a devotional number in Bharatha Natyam to the song “Baagilanu Theredu” calling upon lord Hari(Vishnu) for blessings and the song was composed by the renowned 16th century composer and poet Kanaka Dasa.

After the audience was walked down the devotional path it was time for a folk dance from Karnataka. KKCD members dressed in traditional sari’s performed to the folk song “Ghallu Ghallenutha Gejje” and was choreographed and performed by Alka Rao, Latha Patil, Mamatha Thumilan, Sharmila Kadajji, Sunita Vijay & Uma Benki.

The folk dance was followed by an enchanting performance in Kathak by Maya Bhat and choreographed by Urmi Samardar. The audience gave a thunderous applause at the end and was mesmerized by the young talent.

The Kathak Dance soon gave way to a Kannada song medley performed by Sudhanva Rao, Suhani Iyer and Vinishasree Thumilan and was choreographed by Mamtha & Thumilan.

After the song medley it was Aneesha Achar who took the stage to perform “Om Namah Shivaya” from the movie Sagar Sangamam and choreographed by Bindiya Prasad. An excellent performance by young Aneesha.

Following the young talent were the young-at-heart couples who took the stage to perform a dance medley and the participants were Smita & Ravi Yaligar, Alka & Praveen Rao and Mamatha & Thumilan and was choreographed by Thumilan

The auditorium went dark and just when everybody was wondering if it was a power outage it was James Bond Theme music being played on the stage when two shadows from either end of the stage walk to the middle and lights come on just in time when the two shadow figures point the microphones in their hand at the audience like the classic James Bond points his gun and takes aim at his nemesis! Those two shadow figures were Purushotham Bangalore and Divakar Murthy making a grand entrance celebrating 50 years of James Bond movies and put the audience in a sea of laughter with their version of “Varthegalu” from Karnataka mocking, and often time serious, the corruption and current state of affairs in Karnataka.

KKCD Secretary Anjana Tolpadi presented Vote of Thanks thanking all members and volunteers in particular for making the celebration a grand success.

The much awaited comedy drama written by Sri. H. Dundiraj and directed by KKCD member Sujatha Kumar “Cine Mahatme” was next. The hilarious drama narrated the story of an unsuspecting author who is cheated by a movie producer after agreeing to write a story for a movie to make ends meet. The cast included Satish Bhat, Ravi Yaligar, Kashinath Prasad, Sheela Jayasimha with supporting roles performed by Rathna Nagaraj, Vijay Rattehalli, Basavaraj Benki & Mythili Murthy.

After the hilarious drama it was time to conclude the celebrations with hot and delicious dinner that was waiting to be served by the many volunteers of KKCD.

Members of the community left for the night having enjoyed the songs, music and drama from Karnataka concluding the celebrations.

Please visit the following useful links and support for the good cause:

[NAVIKA 2013 Convention](#)
[Vidya Poshak](#)

