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Monthly Newsletter - July 2008

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**From your Editor,**

My dear friends,

Hope you all are having a nice summer in spite of the scorching temperatures. Schools are out and we all have a good time with our families. At KCS also, we are all busy preparing for the upcoming Onam celebrations, the cultural events, and are getting started on our magazine “Vartha”. We would very much like to see that each of you take a personal interest in making this celebrations an unprecedented success. This involves, not only attending the functions with your family, but also in bringing your non Malayalee friends so that they can get a feel of our tradition, culture and values.



A word about Vartha: It has been decided that this year’s cover page will be selected on a competitive basis. It is open to all of you. Come up with your bright ideas, put them on a paper or canvas and submit it. The winning entry will adorn the cover page of the magazine, and the winner will be awarded a prize at the Onam celebrations by the chief guest. Your photo will be included. Details about this can be found elsewhere in this Masika. Also, I urge each family to contribute family greetings with innovative messages, your family photo and with all that your imagination takes you. Remember, this will be an issue in full color. Get the information to us as early as possible. May I also ask you to help us with getting advertisements for Vartha from your business friends, stores you shop with or companies. This will be greatly appreciated. The advertisement rates and details can also be found in this Masika. Be careful when driving during these holidays, meet your friends, and have lots of fun; remember the above request as well! Some of us may be on vacation, visiting India or out of town on business. You can send your information to any one of us.

Regards,  
Dr. Gabriel D. Roy  
Editor

Editorial Board:  
Dr Gabriel Roy , Anil Nair, PVR Prasad, Rajesh Warriar, Ajish Punnackal, Jayan Variyam





‘തിരുവോണപ്പുലരിതൻ  
 തിരുമുൽക്കാഴ്ചവാങ്ങാൻ  
 തിരുമുറ്റമണിഞ്ഞൊരുങ്ങി...  
 തിരുമേനിയെഴുന്നള്ളും സമയമായി  
 ഹൃദയങ്ങളണിഞ്ഞൊരുങ്ങി...

“മാവേലി നാടുവാണിടുംകാലം  
 മാനുഷരല്ലൊരുമൊന്നുപോലെ  
 ആമോദത്തോടെ വസിക്കുംകാലം  
 ആപത്തങ്ങാർക്കുമൊട്ടില്ലതാനും;  
 തന്നെ.. തന്നെ..  
 കള്ളവുമില്ല ചതിയുമില്ല, എള്ളൊള്ളമില്ല പൊളിവചനം;  
 കള്ളപ്പറയും ചെറുനാഴിയും  
 കള്ളത്തരങ്ങൾ മറ്റൊന്നുമില്ല.



*UTSAV 2008*  
**KCSMW**  
**Onam Celebration**  
 Sunday September 14th 2008

*A Unique performance of Indian Dance, Music and more!  
 Dance Choreographed by Mr. N Srikanth*

*We are looking for talented people, age 5 and up, who are willing to participate in any cultural events. Please contact one of the following members by August 10th for a slot to show what you are capable of!!!!*



*Manjula Das:  
 240-381-8585  
 Anisha Davis:  
 240-620-8455*

## ".... the dancer who stole the show...."

Time and again critics and rasikas have showered praise such as this by Sri. T.S. Parthasarathy in the Indian Express.

Since the age of 6, Srikanth has been at home on the stage, first as an actor in the Bhagavata Mela dance drama of Mellattur, Tamilnadu, and then also as a dancer in the tradition of Bharathanatyam. Srikanth has trained under several illustrious Gurus, including Sri. Shanmugasundaram Pillai, Dr. Saraswati, and Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam, at whose institution he broadened his horizons in the art of Natya as expounded by Bharatha Muni. He has also performed with leading dancers like Chitra Visweswaran, Lakshmi Viswanathan, Radha, Krishnaveni Lakshmanan, Malavika Sarukkai, Anita Ratnam, etc. Srikanth has been a regular performer in the sabhas of Chennai and has performed all over India, Andamans and abroad, in Thailand, France, Indonesia, Canada, the U.S.A., U.A.E and Reunion Islands, etc. Srikanth is a graded artist of Doordarshan and an empanelled artist of ICCR. Among other recognitions, he is the recipient of the 1997 Yuva Kala Bharathi Title, 1998 Tamil Nadu Iyali Nataka Manram Award, 2000 Talent promotion Award and 2001 Award of Excellence, 2005 Lakshmi Viswanathan Endowment for Abhinaya, 2005 Pandanallur Shanmuga Sundaram Pillai Memorial Award and 2006 Nartana Kishora Sundaram. Srikanth has been awarded with the Junior Fellowship from the Dept. of Culture, Govt. of India.

Srikanth has won over his audiences with his complete involvement and exact understanding of Natya, through which he brings alive his art. In the all-male Bhagavata Mela, he has specialised in performing female roles, such as Sita, Devaki, etc. The perfection Srikanth has attained in these roles and in his dance has won him accolades from all who have experienced his performances. He successfully balances and makes effective use of the Lasya and Tandava aspects in his dance choreography and innovations. His grace and poise have endowed him with an impressive stage presence.



Srikanth has acted in a few documentary and feature films including 'Srinivasa Ramanuja' for BBC, 'Charukesi' for ZDF channel, West Germany, 'Sculptures that come alive' for the International Film Festival, 'Ragam Sangeetham' and 'Bharatham' for Raj TV, Chennai, G.V.Iyer's film Swami Vivekananda and has also danced in 'Shishu Sadhana' - a DVD Produced by Kala Bharathi, Canada. A dancer, actor, and nattuvanar, Srikanth training in music and inherent love for literature add a greater depth to the artiste in him and make him a true exponent of Natya.



## ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS ON VARTHA

~ Wish Everyone A Very Happy Onam in Your Own Words ~

We value your contribution to the Kerala Cultural Society of Metropolitan Washington (KCSMW) through your Advertisements and Compliments. We plan to publish our biannual publication – **Vartha** for UTSAV 2008 (Onam Sadya & Celebrations with KCSMW) to be celebrated on September 14<sup>th</sup> 2008. This year, **Vartha** will be 1000 copies published in full color. Your advertisement will target more than 1000 people in Metro area.

1. Back Cover (Color) : \$1250
2. Front & Back inside Cover (Color) : \$600
3. Last Page (Next to back inside cover (Color)) : \$300
4. Full Page Ad or Compliments (Color) : \$150
5. Half Page Ad or Compliments (Color) : \$100  
\$75 (For KCSMW Members Only)
6. Vendor's table (on September 14) : \$100 per vendor
7. Become a Sponsor for Utsav 2008
  - A full page Ad in Vartha
  - Banner + table at event location
  - Recognition during the show: \$600

*For Further Information, Please Contact:*

Dr. Gabriel Roy : 703-352-0485 | Anil Nair : 443-822-4828 |  
Gopakumar Nair: 703-652-3804 | Raj Kurup : 410-790-3851 |



## On the lighter side

When I was a graduate student, we did not have the luxury of modern computers. Our computer laboratory, about the size of a large living room, housed the then state-of-the art IBM 1130, which could hardly do the functions of today's PC. The room has to be maintained at a steady temperature and dust free. We have to punch our data cards, stand on line to get our chance to feed the computer with our work, followed by long wait to receive the results. Frustrated with all these, one of my class mates, Terry, wrote this:

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SUBROUTINE ODE (TO, THE, 1130)
GO TO 262
72  IN A ROOM THAT WAS AWFULLY DIRTY
    THERE LIVED AN 1130
    ITS PRINTER WAS SLOW
    AND IT JUST WOULDN'T GO
    IF YOUR PROGRAMS WERE JUST A BIT WORDY
69  CONTINUE
    THERE WAS A YOUNG PROGRAMMER, EY
    AND THOUGH I NEVER KNEW WHY
    YOU COULD GIVE HIM ABEER
    AND AFTERWORDS HEAR
    THE FIRST SIXTEEN DECIMELS OF PIE
7   CONTINUE
    THERE ONCE WAS A STUDENT NAMED RAY
    WHO KICKED THE COMPUTER ONE DAY
    HIS LABOR WAS IN VAIN
    ALL IT FURNISHED WAS PAIN
    AND THE LESSON THAT CRIME DOES'NT PAY
269 CONTINUE
    GO TO 72
    RETURN
    END
```

**Do you know who said the following?**

“It is better to wear out than to rust out”  
“O Lord – if there is a Lord, save my soul, if I have a soul”  
“Just in ratio, as knowledge increases, faith diminishes”  
“Every man is a volume if you know how to read him”

*Let us know your answer. Winner will be announced in the next Masika*

**Traffic cop:** When I saw you driving down that road, I said to myself “Fifty five at least”

**Woman motorist:** Well, that is not right. It is only this hat that makes me look that old.

**British guide** (showing places of interest): It was in this room that Lord Wellington received his first commission.

**American tourist** (suddenly interested): How much was it?

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### **An older lady gets pulled over for speeding**

Older woman: Is there a problem Officer?

Officer: Ma’am, you were speeding.

Older woman: Oh, I see.

Officer: Can I see your license please?

Older woman: I’d give it to you, but I don’t have one.

Officer: Don’t have one?

Older woman: Lost it, four years ago for drunk driving.

Officer: I see, Can I see your vehicle registration papers please?

Older woman: I can’t do that.

Officer: Why?

Older woman: I stole this car.

Officer: Stole it?

Older woman: Yes, and I killed and hacked up the owner.

Officer: You what?

Older woman: His body parts are in plastic bags in the trunk if you want to see.

The officer looks at the woman and slowly backs away to his car and calls for back-up. Within 5 minutes police cars circle the car. A senior officer slowly approaches the car, clasping his half drawn gun.

Officer 2: One of my officers told me that you have stolen this car and murdered the owner.

Older woman: Murdered the owner?

Officer 2: Yes, could you please open up the trunk of your car?

The woman opens the trunk, revealing nothing but an empty trunk.

Officer 2: Is this your car madam?

Older woman: Yes, here are the registration papers.

The Officer is quite stunned.

Officer 2: One of my officers claims that you do not have a drivers license.

The woman digs into her handbag and pulls out a clutch purse and hands the license to the officer.

Officer 2 examines the license. He looks quite puzzled.

Officer 2: Thank you madam, one of my officers told me that you didn't have a license, that you stole this car, and that you murdered and hacked up the owner.

Older woman: Bet the liar told you I was speeding too!

Lesson: Don't mess with old ladies!

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### **A Tragedy that made an impact on all of us.**

*You might have heard about the great tragedy that hit our community lately. (e-mail from Vinson Palathingal, President, KAGW on 7-17-2008). Raju Soundararajan, his wife Jayanthi, daughters Priya and Lakshmi were killed in an auto accident during their vacation in India. His sons Pavan and Sai Ram and the driver escaped. Raju's eldest daughter Padma did not accompany the family in this trip. Given the situation of the surviving sons, both with very special needs (Pavan with cerebral palsy and Sai Ram with autism), there is a tremendous responsibility on the shoulders of young Padma. There are plans to create a Memorial Trust. Let us all pray for the departed souls, ask God Almighty to provide strength and courage to young Padma and her brothers, and support them financially to the maximum we can.*

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of Metropolitan Washington**

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