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2014 - 2015  
Ugadi Habba

President <b>Jyothi Mysore</b>	Vice President <b>Shubha Bhaskar</b>	Secretary <b>Hemanth Kumar</b>	Treasurer <b>Raghu Pandurangi</b>		
Member <b>Amoolya Shetty</b>	Member <b>Sujatha Manjunath</b>	Member <b>Shrikanth Gopalan</b>	Member <b>Rekha Megharaj</b>	Member <b>Jayanti Hariprasad</b>	Member <b>Laxman Milli</b>



Dear Sangama members,

We welcome you all to our Ugadi Habba celebrations on,

**Date:** April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Sunday

**Program details:-**

General Body Meeting and Executive Committee Elections (For Active Members)

3:00 pm – 3:45 pm

Socializing – 3:45- 4.00 pm

Cultural Events – 4.00 pm – 7 pm

Dinner – 7.00 pm – 8.00 pm

**Venue :** Mahatma Gandhi Center

717 Weidman Road, Ballwin, MO 63011

Please RSVP to the Ugadi Function Evite at your earliest to help us plan for food. The dinner tokens for those who have RSVP'd will be held at the reception desk at the Ugadi event.

## SIGNIFICANCE OF UGADI

According to the Gregorian calendar, the whole world may celebrate New Year on 31st December - 1st January, but according to the lunisolar Hindu calendar, the New Year falls in the month of March or April. This New Year, also known as Ugadi, is celebrated in the states of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh and by other names in many other states of India. The significance of Ugadi stems from mythological times when Lord Brahma, the creator of the universe, began a series of wonderful creations, including that of the earth and all the life forms that live in it. The festival of Ugadi is celebrated to acknowledge that very day on which Lord Brahma started with the task. It is not only a New Year according to the Hindu calendar, but also sets the new astronomical cycle into motion. The celebrations and prayers that follow fill people's hearts with joy and contentment

Leaving the past behind and starting afresh with positive expectation is one of the key aspects of Ugadi. The day also marks the beginning of spring season, which is considered to be the first of all seasons, with plants, shoots, and leaves coming to life and therefore, the day is believed to set things rolling for a fresh and successful new beginning. Devotees perform ritualistic pujas and seek blessings from God for health, wealth, prosperity, and success in businesses and work as well. It is for this reason that it is considered the best time to take on new ventures or personal goals for betterment of oneself. The day is preceded by the pre-Ugadi preparations that begin a few days before the actual day. It includes thoroughly cleaning the entire household and shopping for new clothes and other items that go with the requirements of the festival.

The day starts with devotees waking up before dawn and taking oil baths according to the ritual, after which they decorate their houses: the front with extensively prepared colorful rangolis and the doors and windows with strings of mango leaves that signify good crop and general well-being over the year. Ugadi Pachhadi, a unique dish of six different tastes, from sweet to bitter, is prepared on the day, which is also the first dish to be eaten by the devotees. Made up of neem buds, jaggery, green chili, salt, tamarind juice and unripe mango, the dish signifies different experiences in life that should be absorbed and to keep walking the good walk. It is also a day when mantras, chants and predictions for the coming year are made by the pundits. Apart from people visiting the temples and other gatherings to hear these predictions, live telecast of it from various religious places is aired on television. Family gatherings, feasts, and fanfare follow on this auspicious day of Ugadi.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Membership Renewal:** We look forward to your continued support to SANGAMA by renewal of your membership and updating relevant member information (address, email, phone #s) (if you have not already done so). You can renew membership with either of these three easy options:

- 1) Front desk at the Ugadhi event- cash or check or debit card on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015
- 2) Mailing a check to the treasurer, Mr. Raghu Pandurangi, 573 Lexington Landing Pl, St Charles, MO 63303
- 3) Paypal- On the Sangama website at [www.sangamastl.com](http://www.sangamastl.com)



### **KSR Conference:**

Sangama is hosting the 7<sup>th</sup> KSR conference (literary conference, *Vasantha Sahithyotsava*) on May 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> here in St. Louis. Early bird registrations begin at the Ugadi event.

This year's theme is "**Anuvada Sahithya**" (Translations), and some of the conference highlights include, new book releases, book discussions, author intros, panel discussions and book sales. The well-known, translation specialist from India, Dr. Pradhan Gurudatta, is the invited keynote speaker. Conference registrants enjoy special publications by KSR, entertainment and networking. The 2-day conference includes breakfast, lunch and refreshments on both days and banquet on the first evening. Children and youth learning the language through Kannada Shale (schools) and Kannada Koota members are encouraged to participate in the cultural program that is held the evening of the conference. Opportunities to exhibit your writing and cultural talents are also available, in addition to sponsorship, advertising and publicity opportunities. Kindly register, support the event & help promote Kannada literature and heritage!

Venue: Marquette High School

Address: 2351 Clarkson Rd, Chesterfield, MO 63017

For further information, please contact any of our KSR Special Events Committee chairs at the reception desk or contact us through our website at:

[www.sangamastl.com](http://www.sangamastl.com)

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Sangama's web site : site (<http://sangamastl.com/Members.aspx>)

This year has been successful due to the support, encouragement and participation of all of you. We sincerely thank you and request you for continued support of Sangama and related activities.

**Dhanyavadagalu,**  
The Sangama Committee (2014-2015)