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Telugu Association of Minnesota (TEAM) – Ugadi Celebrations



Telugu Association of Minnesota (TEAM) celebrated Ugadi festival on April 3rd 2010 at Jefferson High School Bloomington, MN. A packed house of about 1000 Telugu Minnesotans attended the Telugu new year celebrations welcoming Vikruthi nama Samvatsaram and spring.

The stage was decorated with Ugadi theme with mango trees and traditional kalasams to bring festive mood. The program started at 5 pm with social hour and followed with 3 hours of non-stop entertainment. TEAM executives and our young volunteers welcomed guests with traditional Ugadi greetings. More than 20 local businesses put up their booths supporting the Telugu community. Our platinum sponsor this year is India Spice House – an Indian Grocery store and Restaurant located in Eden Prairie.

The program started with the invocation of Lord Ganesha by singing a melodious Stotram by a local singer. TEAM Event Coordinator Mrs. Shailaja Mamidanna started the program, welcoming the guests and extending Ugadi greetings. The announcement of 200 participants performing for about 3 hours got a thunderous applause from the packed audience in anticipation of exciting evening. Shailaja briefed about the program and sought the support from the crowd, as the TEAM participants have practiced for 3 months to put together an excellent mix of programs ranging from classical, folk, movie songs, vocal performances from all ages of children and grown ups. She extended special thanks to all parents for their patience with little kids and helping in their practice sessions amidst their busy schedules. Shailaja introduced the MCs of the evening, Priya Chowdari and Santoshi Vemuri to start the cultural program.

Program started with Ganapati Stotram followed by a semi classical dance performance for Ayigiri nandini song by little kids. Classical dance performances of Kuchipudi and Bharatanatyam from reputed dance schools and individual performers have shown the love for our traditional arts and were well received by the audience. As the popular movie song performers started performing, the crowd became jubilant. Top hits like Magadheera, Om Namo Venkatesh, Adurs, and Ringa Ringa . song performances have rocked the auditorium of 1000 strong crowd who thoroughly enjoyed the evening. Colorful costumes for every program were a special highlight of the evening which added color and sparkle to the event. Moms and dads performing to popular tunes was one the highlights of the evening with highest uproar. Finally, the program was culminated with dance dhamaka where every one from the audience was invited to dance on the stage to the latest Tollywood songs.

TEAM President Mr. Vasanth Chaganti talked to the audience about community activities, and future strategy of TEAM and sought for continued community support to preserve and promote Indian, Telugu heritage and traditions. TEAM Vice President Mr. Hari Pallemupati presented the new website with advanced features and encouraged the community and members to use it as a go to portal. TEAM General Secretary Mr. Purna Gurrum delivered the vote of thanks to all the sponsors, supporters, participants, parents and volunteers for making the event a grand success. He also thanked TEAM Board members, Executive committee, Extended committee and numerous volunteers who worked tirelessly behind the scenes. TEAM Exec cmt members, Vasanth Chaganti, Hari Pallemupati, Purna Gurrum, Sudhir Nandamuri, Padma Beravole, Saladi Naidu, Shailaja Mamidanna, Eswar Penmasta, Extended Cmt members Surya Duggirala , Ramesh Akula, Raju Dantuluri, Durga Jonnalagadda, Board members Murthy Uppaluri, Ram Tallapaka, Urmila Hejibu, Sireesha Kakumanu, Kishore Pandari, Srinivas Kuncham and many volunteers have helped making the event a big success.

TEAM also announced the date for 2010 summer picnic which will be held on August 1st at Hyland Reserve Park, Bloomington.

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