

VPA WEST NEWSLETTER - FALL 2019



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UGADI

VPA annual Ugadi celebration was held on April 14th, 2019 at Warwick Elementary in Fremont. People in the community love coming together and sharing a good time through festivals and celebrations. Festivals are a great way to experience local culture. By attending cultural events, you experience firsthand the diverse offering of culture and artistic expression found in a community. During Ugadi, people dress up in ethnic attire, ladies in silk sarees and men in traditional panche/shalya.

Flowers have played an important part in folk festivals, religious ceremonies, and public celebrations. The creativity team at VPA WEST built a wall of flowers, which also acted as a photo back drop. The flower arrangement was consciously put together to create an overall effect that is as beautiful as a composition. Lord Ganesha acted as a focal point at the center creating a soothing ambiance along with other floral accessories.



The GoBoys team spent the previous day marinating chicken, lamb, and goat. The ladies group did the prep work for maddur vada and beeda the night before. Sit down lunch was served on authentic leaf plates, where the menu included raggi mudde, nati koli saaru, oligae, biryani, etc.



Since the earliest days of human civilization, music has been a key tool for communication of stories that carried emotions through them. A group of enthusiastic individuals presented a flash mob for foot-tapping numbers. The show was well-received by the audience which kept them thoroughly entertained.

Fun games were conducted for both adults and kids. There were waves of laughter and happy faces as people mingled with their fellow vokkaligas.



Like all good things should come to an end, the event was concluded (cleanup/packing) with the help of dedicated volunteers at around 3 pm.

RUN4VPA

Health and fitness have increased in popularity over the past few years here at VPA. There is no question that the fitter you are and the more exercise you do, the longer you live and the better your quality of life. Running is an appealing exercise because it doesn't cost a lot to take part and you can run at any time that suits you. Some runners choose to participate in fun runs, athletics races or marathons conducted by local organizations. What started as an initiative to participate in Ragnar and other events has grown under new committee to an exclusive VPA event. We thank Satish Vasudeva, Shanthakumar, Vinod Keremane for their passion and commitment to promote health and fitness in our committee. Thanks to all the volunteers and sponsors for making this event happen.



The race began sharp at 7 am at Elizabeth lake, Fremont. There were participants of all age groups who signed up for 5K and 10k Run/Walk. Our youngest participant was 4years of age and there were about 100+ runners. The aid station was set up at intervals with water, fruits, and electrolytes. The youth team volunteered to hold signboards and helped the runners stay on the trail.

All runners were greeted with masala dosa and chicken biryani at the finish line. Souvenir magnets were handed to the attendees. As promised, 50% of the money collected from the run event was donated to Alameda County Community Food Bank and Go fund me page for Rudra.



BBQ

VPA WEST BBQ 2019 was held at Lake Chabot Regional park, Hayward.



The act of barbecuing involves finding the correct type and cut of meat, followed by getting the perfect marinade or rub and the perfect sauce to get the perfectly barbecued piece of meat. The Goboy's team are now experts when it comes to prepping and marinating the night before.

On the day of the event, the committee members

arrived early to get the grill going. It was time to grill meat, chicken, and seafood. The smell of the grill made people hungry, and they flocked around the BBQ pit. Our youth volunteers helped with setting the table and cutting fruits. Watermelon, cantaloupe, jack fruit and cucumber proved to be ideal appetizers for a hot day.

We had (2) visiting guests from outside state that joined us in the park. Dr Rajiv Gowda and family from India and Dr Babu Keelara from New Jersey, President VPA Convention. Babu made special efforts to fly to California and personally invited each of the community members to attend VPA convention at New Jersey.

Well shaded picnic tables provided perfect ambience for people to relax and chit chat. The play structure and kayak rentals kept the kids busy with outdoor activities. Post lunch, there were games for adults and kids. Several one-minute games were organized.



In conclusion, BBQ party with extended VPA family and friends is something that we all look forward to.

VPA CONVENTION

VPA is a cultural & charitable organization which promotes Vokkaliga community in USA and Canada. It's a non-profit organization that came into existence in 1992. The community organizes conferences once in 2 years and so far, we have witnessed 16 VPA conferences. The 2019 conference was held at Forrester Village park, New Jersey.

Sri Sri Nirmalanandanatha Swamiji graced the occasion with his divine blessings and lighting the lamp. More than 700 people attended the event. Attendees included affluent professionals like Doctors, Engineers, IT field professionals and Business people. Several dignitaries from US and India were present at the Conference. Sri HD Kumara Swamy, honorable chief minister of Karnataka did the groundbreaking ceremony for Kalabairaveshwara Temple. Naveen Sajju, Shamitha Malnad, Prof. Krishnae Gowda and Dr Sanjay Shantharam were other celebrities who enthralled the audience by their performance.



Forums like CME, Business, Womens, Health and Wellness were part of the three day program. State of the art entertainment program was presented by star performers from Karnataka, national and local VPA talent. Authentic and delicious food was served. It was a wonderful opportunity to network and socialize with fellow Vokkaligas.

VPA west presented dance and drama.