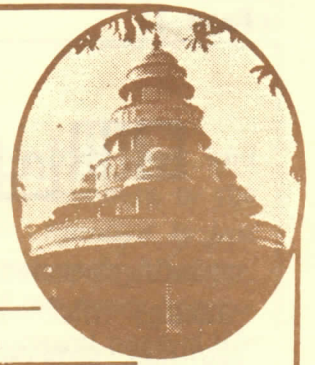


Gurudarshanam



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കുമാരനാശാൻ

ഉദയഭാനു.

എല്ലാ ജീവിതമണ്ഡലങ്ങളിലും നിസ്വാർത്ഥവും കിടയറ്റതുമായ സേവനം കേരളത്തിനു കാഴ്ചവച്ച കുമാരനാശാൻ ജനിച്ചിട്ട് നൂറ്റിരുപത്തിയഞ്ചു വർഷങ്ങൾ പിന്നിട്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. കേരളം ആശാന്റെ ജന്മത്താൽ ധന്യമാണ്.

വിഘടിച്ചുനിന്ന ഒരുവലിയ ജനവിഭാഗത്തെ സംഘടിപ്പിച്ച് കേരളത്തിലെ ഒരു നിർണ്ണായക ശക്തിയാക്കി മാറ്റിയ മഹാനാണ് അദ്ദേഹം. കുമാരനാശാൻ പരിതഃസ്ഥിതിയുടെ സൃഷ്ടിയായിരുന്നില്ല. പരിതഃസ്ഥിതികളെ സൃഷ്ടിച്ച്, അവകാശങ്ങൾ നേടിയെടുത്ത ഒരു കർമ്മകുശലനായ ധീരനേതാവായിരുന്നു അദ്ദേഹം. പ്രഭാവപൂർണ്ണമായ ഒരു വ്യക്തിത്വമായിരുന്നു അദ്ദേഹത്തിനുണ്ടായിരുന്നത്.

ഉദ്ദേശശുദ്ധിയോടുകൂടി നിഷ്പക്ഷമായി വിമർശിക്കുവാനും (അദ്ദേഹം ദൈവമായിത്തന്നെ കരുതിയിരുന്ന ഗുരുദേവനെപ്പോലും)

സൃഷ്ടിപരമായി നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങൾ നൽകുവാനും അദ്ദേഹം എപ്പോഴും തയ്യാറായി.

ഗാംഭീര്യവും പ്രാഡ്ഢ്യവും യുക്തിയും അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ ഒരോപ്രവർത്തിയിലും നിറഞ്ഞുനിന്നിരുന്നു. ആദർശധീരനും ദീർഘവീക്ഷണനും നിർഭയനും ആയ ഒരു നേതാവായിരുന്നു ആശാൻ. അവഗാഹമായ അറിയും അഭിപ്രായഭ്യൂതയും അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ പ്രവർത്തികളിൽ എപ്പോഴും ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു.

ഉൽക്കൃഷ്ടവും പരിശുദ്ധവുമായ ചിന്താസരണിക്കും സ്വഭാവത്തിനും പെരുമാറ്റത്തിനും ഉടമയായിരുന്ന കുമാരനാശാൻ സ്വാർത്ഥചിന്തയില്ലാത്ത ഒരു കർമ്മയോഗിയായിരുന്നു എന്നത് ഒരു കേവല സത്യമാണ്. അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ നവീകരണപ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ കേരളത്തിലെ സമസ്ത ജനങ്ങളെയും ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചുകൊണ്ടുള്ളതായിരുന്നു. ലക്ഷ്യപ്രാപ്തിക്കുവേണ്ടി ദൃഢപ്രതന്തോടെ പ്രവർത്തിച്ചിരുന്ന മഹാനായിരുന്ന ആശാൻ, തുടങ്ങിവച്ച പലതും പൂർത്തിയാക്കാനാവാതെ നമ്മോട് വിടപറയുകയാണുണ്ടായത്.

ഭാരതഭൂമിയിൽ നടന്ന ഏറ്റവും വലിയ സാമൂഹ്യശാന്തവിപ്ലവത്തിനു നേതൃത്വം നൽകിയ ആ മഹാദ്മാവിന് ബഹുകോടി നമസ്കരങ്ങൾ.

സാമൂഹ്യ-രാഷ്ട്രീയ-സാഹിത്യ മണ്ഡലങ്ങളിൽ അതുല്യമായ സേവനങ്ങൾ ചെയ്ത കുമാരനാശാൻ എന്നെന്നും നമ്മുടെ മാർഗ്ഗദർശിയായിരിക്കട്ടെ.

ഒരു പ്രാർത്ഥന

സകലാസ്രതമായി രാത്രിയും
പകലും നിന്നെരിയും പ്രദീപമേ,
ജഗദീശ, ജയിക്ക, ശാശ്വതം
നിഗമം തേടിനനിൻപതാംബുജം

അരുണോദയമായി പൂക്കൾപൊൽ
വിരിയുന്നു കരുണോൽക്കരം വിഭോ
തിരിയെഞ്ഞെയുന്നു ഹന്ത! നീ
തിര നിക്കുന്നൊരു ലോകരംഗവും

ഒരു ഭിതിയെഴാതെ കാത്തു ദു-
ഷ്കര! സാംസാരിക പോതയാത്രയിൽ
കരകാട്ടുകനിന്നു നികുപാ
കര! ഞൻ ദിക്കറിയാത്ത നാവികൻ

ഗുണമെന്നിയെരാൾക്കുമെന്നിൽ നി-
ന്നണയുത്വാൻ തരമേകണം വിഭോ
അണുജീവിയിലും സഹോദര-
പ്രണയം തൃൽകൃപയാലെ തോന്നണം.

ഉളവാകണമാദ്മതുഷ്ടിയി-
യെളിയോനിങ്ങനെ പോകണം ദിനം
ഇളകാതെയുമിന്ദ്രിയാർത്തിയാൽ
കളിയായും കളവോതിടാതെയും

അകിലോപരിയെന്റെ ബുദ്ധിയിൽ
സുഖദുഃഖങ്ങളിൽ മാറ്റമെന്നിയേ
ജഗദീശ തെളിഞ്ഞുനിൽക്കണം
നിഗമം തേടിന നിൻപദാംബുജം.





A PLACE TO WORSHIP.

UMA MAHESWARA SWAMI TEMPLE.

By GEETA

India is a land of great culture and philosophy. At the southern tip of this country, there lies the palm-fringed paradise of Kerala. Kera meaning coconut and one legend is that Kerala is the land of coconuts.

Kollam, the ancient Harbor City is not far from Thiruvananthapuram, the capital of Kerala. The UMA MAHESWARA TEMPLE lies in the heart of Kollam town. Walking from the clock tower junction of Chinnakada and turning westward through the main road, you come to the entrance of SREE UMA MAHESWARA SWAMI TEMPLE.

According to tradition, Lord Shiva and Parvathi who arrived at AGASTHYAGIRI continued their journey northward. The variegated sylvan scenes - dense forests, herds of tuskers, swinging monkeys, springing tigresses, wild bisons, peacock pirouetted hills, vine - netted arbors, woodland streams, facades of hermitages, enchanting anchorite virgins - provided festive delight to the eyes of the divine couple, Gauri and Shankar. At dusk Lord Girish poised on NANDI, the Divine Bull and Girija perched on her lion, traveling the ethereal zones above the sequestered streets shaded by verdant woods issuing fragrance, reached KOLLAM the ancient city of King Jayasimha, Lord Shiva who surveyed the beautiful homesteads, gorgeous gardens, salubrious baths, busy streets and majestic highways of that holy city told his consort that the city is so homely that it tempts one to spurn one's

own home. Goddess Parvathi captivated by the city's charms suggested to Induchooda that they would put up for the night at Kollam, which surpassed even the celestial regions in its glory.

Accordingly Uma and Maheshwara reclined on the sand bed at the foot of the towering Banyan tree in the middle of the city. The cool breeze from the Arabian Sea derived ecstasy by caressing the divine couple. Heavens rained flowers upon them. Spirits kept vigil. In the presence of Parvathi and Parameshwara the precincts attained the holiness of Mount Kailasa.

There dwelt connoisseurs of architecture and sculpture near the Banyan tree that offered respite to Uma and Maheshwara. The house of VEKETESHWARA the palace sculptor was also there. That night the pious Venketeshwara received a message in a vision a benign bidding to construct a temple in the divine land where Uma and Maheshwara rested. Venketeshwara, with the King's consent built a pedestal at the foot of the Banyan tree which bestowed shade for the wayfarers and shelter for the birds and installed the clay icons of Uma and Maheshwara. Ashtadikpalakas bore witness to the act. Celestial maidens showered flowers. Heavenly virgins chanted hymns. Kollam became a holy city. It attained the grandeur and glory of MOUNT KAILASA.

No other place on earth has the privilege of having a temple adorned with the images of Parvathi and Parameshwara on the same pedestal. Parameshwara is auspicious when appears with his consort Parvathi. The concept of Shiva in union with Parvathi fulfils all that you can wish for. Parvathi is beautiful and transcendent. Uma and Maheshwara are the

embodiment of spiritual being beyond the universe.

A short walk down the main road from Chinnakada, which was the China Bazaar of olden days, brings you the entrance of the UmaMaheshwara Temple. Ganesha and Muruga remain at the entrance to the shrine and Nandikesha is in the front.

In times of yore, when Kollam was a famous port, the Portuguese, the Dutch, the Parsis and the Chinese used to flock to the temple to worship Uma and Maheshwara. They offered gold and money at the feet of the cosmic couple. The temple transcends all barriers of race and religion.

Special poojas in the form of Swayamwara Archana, Uma Maheshwara Pooja, Ganapathi Homam and other holy Pooja are duly performed for those young men and women whose marriages are delayed on unfavorable horoscopes. Lord Shiva and Parvathi dispel all obstacles in the way of their matrimony and bless them for a happy conjugal life. Countless people have received graceful favors from the divine pair leading to marital bliss.

With the onset of the monsoons, Lightning and rainbow-cast skyline, the festival unfolds at the Uma Maheshwara Temple in the month of Edavam (May-June) during the days of Punartham and Pooyam. The Mahadava delights himself in the Kuri bhabhishekam. He goes on showering his blessings upon the Universe.



Youth Forum Report

The current Youth Forum officers were elected in the month of February. All five officers were elected unanimously. The general body accepted the proposal of Youth

Forum. They were (1) Raising the age limit to 30 years. (2) A Youth section in the newsletter (3) Classes about Sree Narayana Guru, His philosophy and Indian Culture. (4) Malayalam classes for children. (5) Other classes of interest and need to Youth. (6) More participation of the youth in S.N.A. functions.

The first Youth Forum meeting and inauguration were held at Mr. Aravindakshan's house in Elmont. Dr. Raju Pullarkat inaugurated the Youth Forum in the presence of all the advisors and nearly thirty Youth members. We revived the Youth Forum with a lot of high hope and energy. We want it to grow and work well to make this the best Youth Forum among other associations. The first youth executive meeting was held at Mr. Udayabhanu's house. All five Youth officers and five out of six other members were present. Dr. Nanu Kandiyil, who forced his way into the Youth Committee as an advisor, was the one missing at that meeting. In fact he never attended any meeting of the Youth Committee. In fact he never attended a Youth Forum Committee meeting.

At the very first meeting, the Youth officer's proposals were (1) The newsletter (2) The 1997 picnic (3) 1997 Gurudavajayanti Celebrations, in which the Youth Forum will have increased participation. The proposals were accepted. The Gurudarshanam with the first Youth Section was published. There were mixed opinions to that as to everything else. But we continued to collect and write articles. The newsletter was Turing to be a success. But shortly, like everything else in our association, it also started to fade. The reason for this was very simple, Dr. Kandiyil didn't have the same views as the Youth, and he refused to attend the meetings and acted

like a dictator. He seemed interested more in his personal beliefs rather than encouraging the Youth. He refused to publish articles that we gave, telling us to write religious articles only. He denied publication of our works. A legitimate explanation was never given.

The Youth Forum did the 1997 picnic. We thank our advisers for the gaudiness and help they provided. The persons we selected as our advisors and Mrs. Sujatha Somarajan truly helped and believed in us. From our point of view, the picnic was very successful. We are very proud to say that the Youth Forum was the main part of the organizing team.

The 1997 Gurudavajayanti celebration was one of the most memorable as far as the involvement of Youth concerned. The Youth Forum surprised a lot of people. The fashion show was a controversial item in the planning stages. But the items presented by the youth including the fashion show, Bangada, solo and group dances by the Youth Forum were highly appreciated by the audience. The people who said, "The Youths are here to mess up this program." were astonished. When the smoke cleared, Youth Forum was enjoying their most successful year. We are proud to say that we made the 1997 Gurudavajayanti a successful event.

We, the officers of Youth Forum would like to thank our advisers, members of S.N.A. and the Youth Forum in supporting us during the course of the year.

We thank you all.

YOUTH FORUM



SREE NARAYANA ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA, INC., — *A Look Back* —

.....
By Dr. Nanu M. Kandiyil

Inspired by the universal ideals and visionary spirit of Sree Narayana Guru and encouraged by the enthusiastic insistence of Mr. P. Udayabhanu, a small group of Sree Narayana devotees assembled at the Astoria, New York, residence of Mr. Udayabhanu on September 22, 1979. They were Messrs N.S. Thampi, R. Prasannan, K.G. Janardhanan, P.N. Sadasivan, P.K. Babu, and K. Sasi. (In the absence of record this list of names may be incomplete and incorrect.) The avowed purpose of the meeting was consideration of the "dream idea" of founding an association of Sree Narayana devotees. The gathering dispersed after deciding to convene another meeting very soon, inviting and including more devotees.

A letter dated October 8, 1979 was sent by Mr. Udayabhanu to a number of known devotees requesting them to attend a meeting at his residence on October 28, 1979. This letter was followed up by telephone calls by him and others.

The meeting convened as scheduled. The happy participants were Messrs N. Damanan, N. S. Thampi, M.R. Vinod, K.G. Janardhanan, P.N. Sadasivan, Baby Madhavapanicker, R. Prasannan, K.M. Viswambharan, K.K. Gangadharan (Ala), K. Sasi, G. Appu, P.K. Babu, K.K. Gangadharan (Kozhenchery), P. Udayabhanu, Mrs. Leela Udayabhanu, Mrs. Prasanna Appu, Mrs. Sumati Babu, and Mrs. Lakshmikutty Gangadharan. Mr. P.P. Lakshmanan presided.

Addressing the gathering Mr. Udayabhanu expressed the burning desire and need for an organization for Sree Narayana devotees and laid out worthy aims and objectives. Then and there, the Sree Narayana Association was born and unanimously elected office bearers for 1979-80 were Mr. N. Damanan, President, Mrs.

lakshmikutty Gangadharan, Vice President, Mr. P. Udayabhanu, Secretary, Mr. R. Prasannan, Joint Secretary, and Mr. P.K. Babu, Treasurer. Other elected Committee members were Mrs. Prasanna Appu, Mrs. P.N. Sadasivan, M.R. Vinod, and C.K. Madhu. A partial list of the office bearers to date is given on page 47.

The Association was incorporated as a Religious Society on January 12, 1980. The incorporating document was witnessed and signed by Messrs N. Damanan, G. Appu, and P. Udayabhanu. The elected trustees who were to hold office until the second annual elections after one year were Mr. G. Appu, Messrs C.K. Madhu and P.N. Sadasivan. In the same year the association secured nonprofit tax exemption status.

A sound and resilient constitution for the Association was written and approved for authority and guidance.

The name of the Association was changed to Sree Narayana Association of North America. A Youth Forum of the Association was formed in 1992 and its first office bearers were Ms. Lynn Venugopal, President, Ms. Leatha Udayabhanu, Secretary, and Mr. Biju Damodaran, Treasurer.

To raise fund for the Association, it sponsored famed Mr. Sambasivan's "Kathaprasangam" tour of America in 1986. A drama performance by Sangamam Theatres of Kerala in 1991 and a major fund raising Raffle in 1994 were also organized.

The recorded aims of the Sree Narayana Association are as follows:

- "1. To introduce Shri Narayana devotees to each other and create a common platform for their coordinated work of uplift of human life."

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

While I set out to draft a message, I remained myself of the huge responsibility placed on me. I should not state or hint at any thing that may aggravate the extreme difficulties the Association is facing now. Ideally my message should mend ruffled feathers and soothe hurt feelings. At any rate, it should not widen the chasm seen to-day in the Association. This is easier said than done. If I write something which does not touch relevant issues in a meaningful way, it would not help the Association. Therefor, I cannot gloss over things; in some areas, I have to call a *spade a spade*. Any one who may feel bad about it is requested to remained himself/herself that it is done with only one intention that is to help the Association, the families that are its members and also its well- wishers in the wider Indian and American communities. Very recently, I happened to discuss Sree Narayana Association with an American Jewish Clergyman. He was very happy to here that ours is a family Association. He had asked me if women attend our meetings. I stated that some of the meetings, women were a majority because basically ours is family association. I requested him to address one of our meetings and tell us about the concepts of God, possibility of life after death, Heaven, Hell, Good and Evil etc. , in his religion. He respond that he would be very happy to do that.

The word 'happy' was used in above sentence. What happened to ours happiness? Many members know that our happiness has been related to the work and characterstics of Dr. Nanu Kandiyil. In his home I have been a guest of Dr. Kandiyil and family more than once, we consider each other a friend; actually Dr. Kandiyil is *VERY MUCH* responsible for the position in which I find myself now. It was on his insistence that I given my nomination paper as Vice Presidency two and half years ago. I am

thankful to the Association for electing me unopposed. About a year ago, I wish to resign and on the insistence of many I did not press my resignation.

I was not happy about the direction the Association was taking under Dr. Kandiyil's stewardship. I felt that he and some others had unrealistic notions about buying a property, that too relatively large property. I always felt that the Association should only bite that it could swallow. Only such a step would be in the Association's long term interest. I thought that buying a property the price of which could be between two and three lakhs of dollars might be with in our reach and may be, at later date, when the Association is a bigger one with greater financial resources, it could go for a bigger building and property. In this area Dr. Kandiyil and some of his colleagues committed many mistakes. Grandiose plan were made; buying a property became almost the exclusive agenda of the Association; many other areas where good work could be done were *NEGLECTED*. Though this point may be contested, much pressure was placed on members and some degree of unhappiness was injected into the day-to-day work of the Association because of this issue and by stile of functioning of some. A member who had donated nearly Dollar Five Thousand for the building fund told me some days ago that he did it under severe pressure. In fact, from month one of the Dr. Kandiyil's administration of which I too was a part, I had foreseen this complication. I thought that at least some of the members would lose part of the joy in associating with SNA if this kind of demand was made of them. I did mention it at meetings. I stated that members and their families should be happy about attending and participating in SNA's activities; so that more people join SNA and will gladly donate whatever they can afford for the building fund. Using that, we could buy a property. But from early Dr. Kandiyil seemed

to have his own agenda and set out to push it roughshod with out regard for fact SNA and its members should be handled with respect. The suggestion that Dr. Kandiyil perhaps did not treat Sree Narayana Association with respect, may surprise some readers. *In mental science there is a concept that anyone who makes excessive demand on an individual or an institution does not respect the later.* It is clear that Dr. Kandiyil did not respect SNA from day one onwards of his administration.

Sree Narayana Guru and Mahatma Gandhi were very effective fund raisers. Both had considered fund-raising as sacred work and engaged in it only after inspiring great confidence in the prospective donors. I am not quoting the proverb to make fun of any of anyone, but to drive home an important point. The proverb is "**BEWARE OF THE NACKED MAN WHO GIVES HIS SHIRT**". Dr. Kandiyil and other active members did raise some amount of money. *Not even a penny was raised from 'outsiders' and all of it came from members who any way would have donated it in due course!* If Dr. Kandiyil has great energy and enthusiasm to do outstanding creative work, he can choose one or more larger Associations / institutions for that kind of work.

One should not be left with an impression that the current dissension in SNA was due to the building buying issue, alone. All of us want a building for SNA. A difference of opinion is regarding its size and accessibility. But from month one, the Kandiyil administration manifested a steam-roller attitude. In fact its initial plan was to buy a plot and build a temple. Dr. Kandiyil change that plan only after realizing that huge amounts of money were not pouring in. He seemed to be having a compulsive need to establish a name for himself as the one who brought a building. SNA was not founded and developed just for a building; it was mainly intended as a social forum for

families and as vehicle for imparting our culture to future generations and to spread the Guru's message. Having a building was only one of SNA's goals, but that goal was exclusively pursued at the cost of other goals.

Bringing some unhappiness in the day-to-day functioning was perhaps the biggest disservice of Dr. Kandiyil. I know that all do not share this view, but many do. *In fact who worked closely with Dr. Kandiyil became unhappy, more serious Dr. Kandiyil lost their trust.* I repeat that some members some of those elected to the Executive Committee and to the Board of Trustees claim that they do not share the above view.

It has come to my attention that some members dislike a few they are others and attempting to use Dr. kandiyil as a counterfoil to those whom they resent. To put it bluntly, this thoughtless and self-defeatist act. Look how our beloved Association sufferers because of that like the S. N. D. P. Yogum in Kerala. SNA is one of the oldest Indian Association in America. An Association like this does not emerge in a day. Scores of families had worked very hard for developing and nurturing it and continue to render that service. If some of them resented some others, they ought to have reminded themselves that SNA is a democratic Association operating in democratic society and that a minor problems like the above could be resolved in friendly and positive ways. Some kind of group formation is common in any Association. In the heyday of Indian National Congress, a group seemed to operate against Subhash Chandra Bose and even Mahatma Gandhi played a part in it! Through groupism should not be promoted, we should tolerate group formation to small extent, because that seems to be human nature. But groupism should not be allowed to reach a malignant stage. Dedication to groupism is a charge against Dr. Kandiyil and colleagues. Why that kind of groupism in a

small and family- based Association like SNA?. I am told that Dr. Kandiyil started to associate with SNA a little less than three years ago. May be there were minor alliances prior to that time also. But there is a charge that Dr. Kandiyil and colleagues raised groupism into a destructive art.

There is an accusation that big plan with a secret protocol was hatched and SNA was zeroed in for implementing it! *Why a simple and humble Association like SNA was singled out for this kind of enterprises is beyond comprehension!* I am surprised several of my friends including two Janardhanans seems to go along with it! As a student of history Mr. A. Janardhanan need to take only a second look in order to understand what is going on. Some ask the question that if things were going quiet bad, why it was not brought to the attention of General Body in time?. Here we enter a very complex field. Many had difficulty saying things in confronting, angry and open manner. The tendency of many was to withdraw from too much involvement because all the character in this drama are friends and colleagues. Also the Kandiyil administration were made several attempts to manipulate the General body by violating the constitution of SNA to admit new members and membership due collections..

I had raised a criticism that in the past two years there was lack of interest in activities other than fund-raising. It is stated that I did not pursue an activity that was entrusted to me. This pertained to conducting workshops on communication/public speaking. I had to postpone it as enough young participants did not come forward. We are now planning to get 'oldies' also interested in it.

DR. Kandiyil and some followers have been making a big issue of 'dragging the name of our beloved Guru into the New York court'. In fact it was Dr. Kandiyil and Ayyappan Janardhanan

who went to the Legal Authority first and turning the name of innocent members to the district attorney's office. *Dr. Kandiyil is just playing Goebbels, Hitler's propaganda Minister, who stated that a lie, repeated ten times become the truth.* The court are the integral part of life in democracy. Even huge Association like Teamsters union who have millions of members have been saved from disaster by the Court. Recently some members of the Board of Trustee of SNA after numerous attempts at resolution of problems failed felt that only a Court could save it from serious troubles and serious violation of our constitution. Therefor, they went to the court. Usually the Courts do not admit petition if there is no prima facie case. Of course suits are expensive and should not be resorted to, for subjective reasons like paranoia. In Sree Naryana Guru's time, institutions under Guru had sued rich Ezhava families who did not pay the donations promised by them. The Guru approved genuine suits!

I do not miss the sadness in a recent article published by Dr. Kandiyil and Ayyappan Janardhanan in their own Gurudarsanam(what happened to the elected publishing committee?). But the sad situation is their own creation. They seemed to revel in the lap of power! They did not respect the Treasurer Mrs. Sujatha Somarajan who done and doing her duties outstanding manner. It appears that some time in the past, Mrs. Somarajan lost her full confidence in the President and later in the General Secretary also. It is commendable that she did not resign, instead she stood her ground and continued to serve the Association that had elected her to an important position unanimously. When women come forward to render public service, they should be treated with extra gratitude because women face more difficulties in assuming public roles, compared with men. Perhaps many of us miss the point that it was a woman Mrs. K. R. Gauri Amma who attained highest achievement for woman in

Government. Her Land Reform Bill was copied and emulated by almost all other states in India and a few other countries in the world!. As is well-known, Mrs. Gauri Amma was not treated well by most of her colleagues.

I am now the President of SNA, depending on whom you ask. We believe that we represent real Sree Narayane Association of North America Inc. I appeal to those who stay away, to come back to the real SNA. Mistakes have been committed by many. Let us build a new future for the community and the larger Indian society. To a great extent, human folly has to be forgotten and forgiven and our minds have to be focused on the future and its promises for creative work. Is this not what Sree Narayana Guru taught us?

Due to the Universality of the Guru's teaching and the qualities of the community, others view SNA and SNDP yogam with great goodwill. Are not all of us who belong to traditional and unique culture trying to accomplish a very difficult task? We are trying to the positive aspect of Indian in the very different American contest. This *TAPASYA* or *YAGNA* can be accomplished only by a momentous unified effort by all of us!. Much cultural educational and religious activities can be and should be done. What a person can do would not be much; but members, the community and others jointly can accomplish that *Yagna*!. My colleagues and I extend an invitation to all, to participate in it.

N. Chandra Guptan, MD,
President, Sree Narayana Association of North America Inc.

PRAYER SERVICES

Sree Narayana Association of North America, Inc., cordially invite you to participate the regular Prayer Services scheduled at 11.00 AM on Sunday May 31, 1998 at 247-11 Union Turnpike(Glen Oaks Community Center), Bellerose, NY. The families of Dr. N. Chandra Guptan,MD, Sasikumar Rajendran and Haridas Karunakaran are sponsoring this Prayer Services and the News letter publication.

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The views expressed in this news letter are those of the contributors and not necessarily of the Association. In future Association prefer to publish the writings of members especially younger generation and all article must be send to Gopinatha Panicker, publishing committee chairman on or before second week of every month.