

# eyelights



Sankara Nethralaya OM Trust Inc.,

**Sankara Nethralaya  
OM Trust, USA**

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**AMERICA**

June 2015

## Sankara Nethralaya makes a high impact debut in Chicago



## Dynamic SN OM Trustee's life and achievements get chronicled



### 35th North American Bengali Conference

Organised by Tagore Society of Houston

### Swagatham... Susswagatham from Sankara Nethralaya!

**Date: 10th, 11th and 12th (Friday, Saturday and  
Sunday) of July 2015**

**Venue: George R Brown Convention Center,  
Houston, Texas, USA**

We take great pleasure in expressing our  
hearty Namaskar and our most Warm Welcome to  
all our Bengali brothers and sisters  
living in the USA and Canada to this  
high octane event and to the  
Sankara Nethralaya Ophthalmic Mission Trust booth  
at the venue !

We look forward to the pleasure of meeting you !!



## Sankara Nethralaya makes a high impact debut in Chicago

The premiere launch of Sankara Nethralaya fund raising campaign in Chicago was a grand success. A novel program targeting the Tamilian Community was organized at the Sri Venkateswara Balaji Temple in Aurora on April 18 2015. The theme of the program was "Ilayaraja Salutes Tyagaraja" and was a journey on how Music Maestro Ilayaraja creatively adapted Tyagaraja Krithis to compose and deliver evergreen South Indian movie melodies.



Since this was a premiere launch in Chicago, we had anticipated an audience of 200 but 30 minutes into the program we had a capacity audience of 350. It was a fantastic opportunity to showcase and raise awareness for the outstanding social cause and reputation Sankara Nethralaya epitomizes. Shri Sudhakar Mattu the Chicago trustee welcomed the audience with an introduction to Sankara Nethralaya and highlighting key strengths and achievements in the area of vision care. In addition, a video of Super Star Rajinikanth extolling the virtues of Sankara Nethralaya at a public function and his commitment to donate his eyes to Sankara Nethralaya further added to the appeal. One of the patrons shared her life changing story and personal experience with the hospital.

May 8th was an additional memorable day for Sankara Nethralaya and Michigan Tamil Sangam. The latter, based in Detroit, celebrated their 40th anniversary and had organized an Eegai Vizha to support a Charitable organization. Recognizing the profound impact Sankara Nethralaya has had on the community, the Sangam made a decision to nominate Sankara Nethralaya as a recipient of the funds collected that day.

The Detroit Eegai Vizha drew an audience of approximately 400 well-wishers. Well known Tamil comedian R.Pandiarajan was the Chief Guest for the event. Shri Sudhakar Mattu the Chicago trustee represented Sankara Nethralaya at the event. During the dinner break, six highly impressed well wishers enquired to Shri Sudhakar Mattu on how they could make recurring contributions to Sankara Nethralaya. It was a most heartening outcome to the outreach effort.

## Thoughtful contributions from old friends add great value to Sankara Nethralaya's teaching and training initiatives.



The most noble part of charity it is said is giving the right thing to the right person at the right time. Sankara Nethralaya's friends and well wishers have a glorious tradition of adhering to this dictum, they have an uncanny knack of knowing the needs of the institution they cherish and hold in high regard and make generous contributions to fulfil its needs with great humility and grace. It was a memorable day for the Elite School of Optometry, the academic arm of Sankara Nethralaya when its old friends and well wishers Lion Raghavan, Shrimathi Revathi, Shrimathi Bhavini and Shri Rajan Gopalan rose gloriously to the occasion to meet its critical teaching, training

and diagnostic needs by presenting 'Slit Lamps' an indispensable device in eye examinations as aids towards the same.

The simple function at the Elite School of Optometry campus on the 15th of April 2015, began with a melodious invocation by the students of the ESO, this was followed by a warm welcome to the esteemed donors and the entire gathering by Dr. R. Krishna Kumar, Principal, Elite School of Optometry after which a poignant note on the genesis of the generous gesture of the day and the graceful people behind it was made by Shrimathi Anuradha Narayanan, Lecturer and Vision Screening Coordinator - Elite School of Optometry. The new implements were inaugurated by Dr. Pramod Bhende, Director, Medical Affairs, Sankara Nethralaya in the August presence of Lion Captain Venkat Rajaram, President Lions Club of Central Madras, Lion G.V.Raman, Lion Raghavan, Lion Revathi Raghavan, Lion S.N.Harinarayanan and Lion Andal Rajaram, to the thunderous applause of the gathering. The Elite School of Optometry expressed its profound gratitude by honouring the donors Lion Raghavan and Shrimathi Revathi, Mrs. Bhavini and Mr. Rajan Gopalan of Atlanta, USA.

## Life and achievements of a long time friend of Sankara Nethralaya, dynamic SN OM Trustee and wife get chronicled into Houston's glorious history.

Texas based 'The Foundation For India studies' (FIS) dedicated to the objective of highlighting and promoting India's contribution to the world in the field of languages, literature, arts, sciences, engineering, politics, economics and spirituality has embarked on an ambitious initiative titled 'The Houston Indo-American Oral History Project' in collaboration with the Houston Public library (HPL) and Houston Community College System (HCCS) to develop a centralized oral history archive on the experiences of first generation Indo-Americans settled in Houston, through first person narratives. The archive would help researchers, educationists, historians better understand the life, experiences and contribution of early settlers from the sub-continent and next generation Indians to trace their roots.

Shri Sam Kannappan and his wife Shrimathi Kannappan among the most prominent, versatile and multifaceted early Indian settlers with a glorious record of contributing both to their motherland and their country of adoption and to fellow American Indians were interviewed as part of this project.

The interview was later covered by 'Voice of Asia' the largest Asian American weekly in Texas.

We take great pride and pleasure in sharing the same with our readers.



### ***We want to pay back in a small way***

Sockalingam Sam Kannappan and his wife Meenakshi Kannappan were interviewed by Govindan Somaskanthan for the Foundation for India studies' Indo-American Oral History Project on December 17th 2014.

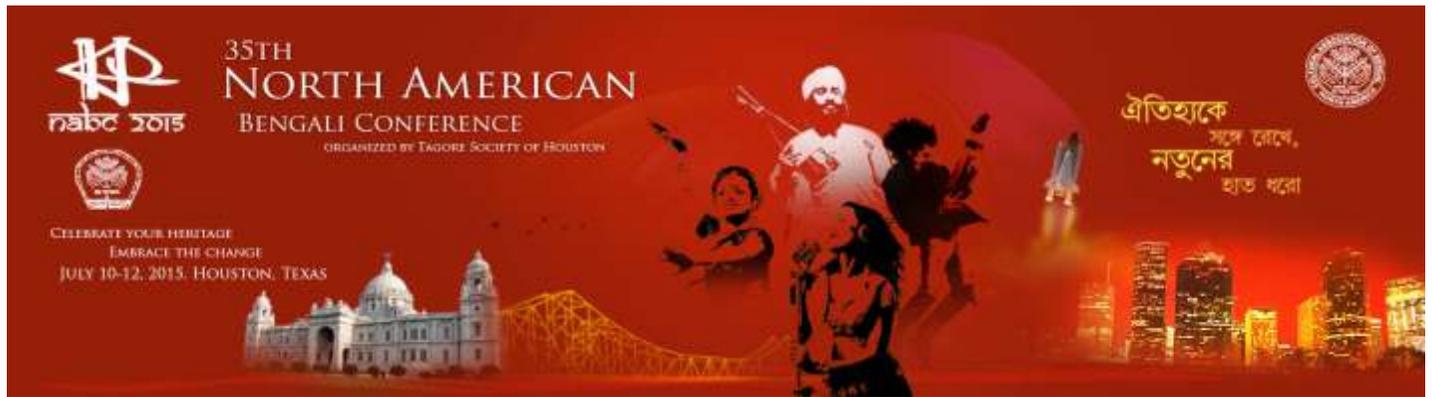
Kannappan was born in Nattarasankottai village in Chettinad area in Tamil Nadu state in 1943.

Kannappan came to America for further studies and joined graduate studies in Mechanical Engineering at University of Texas at Austin on September 9, 1968.

Kannappan formed Patients Hospitality Committee under India Student Association, University of Houston in 1972 to help heart surgery patients. When about seven patients died without next of kin in Houston, Kannappan performed last rites with the assistance of Mr. P.H.Desai, First Secretary, Embassy of India, Washington DC.

Kannappan served as Editor of Jothi of the Hindu Worship Society of Houston from 1973. He is the Co-Founder of Bharathi Kalai Manram in Houston in 1974. He is the Founder Secretary of Sri Meenakshi Temple Society (MTS) in October 1977 and was instrumental to purchase first five acre land in May 1978. Recently, Kannappan was elected the Honorary President of MTS which has evolved into a multi-million dollar organization. For his role in building the Sri Meenakshi Temple, the Mayor of Pearland Tom Reid commented "I am after all the Mayor of Pearland, but Sam is the Mayor of Sri Meenakshi Temple".

Whether it is a fundraiser for the widow of a Texan firefighter or for the victims of the Gujarat earthquake, he has swung into action immediately. He developed Tamil Fonts with voice synthesizer to assist M.G.R, former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in 1984. He was the Co-Chairman for the India's Millennium festival on January 27, 2001. As Chairman of India's Disaster Relief Committee, he oversaw the reconstruction of 200 homes in Krishna Nagar, Kutch after Gujarat earthquake from funds collected in Houston. He started GOPIO Houston Chapter. His leadership in helping victims of Hurricane Katrina and Ike was very much appreciated by Americans. He was given tile of Sevai Thilakam (Service Star) in Chennai on June 7th 2005. He is listed as one of 20 leading Business leaders from Tamil Nadu by India Today on July 8th 2009. Kannappan is the author of textbook "Introduction to Pipe Stress Analysis" and Piping analysis software EZFLEX. Kannappan could not have done all this had it not been for the support from his wife, Meenakshi who is a modest woman and who understands her husband's mind and helps him in his service to the society.



**Bring the Light of Vision, the Cheer and the Smile back on the face of the visually impaired!**

Help Sankara Nethralaya take the  
**“Light of Vision”**  
 to the darkest corners of India!

All Contributions to OM Trust enjoy 100% IRS Tax Exemption under section 501 (c) (3) in the USA.

For more details on Sankara Nethralaya OM Trust and how you can play a role in their noble mission

Please Contact  
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**How to donate in the United States of America...**



**Sankara Nethralaya OM Trust Inc.**

9710 Traville Gateway Drive, No. 392, Rockville, MD 20850, Phone : (301) 251-0378  
[www.supportsankaranethralaya.org](http://www.supportsankaranethralaya.org)

**Tax Exempt ID No. 52-1611548**

For additional details, feel free to contact S. V. Acharya at (301) 251-0378



**Donating online at Omtrust.org** - All your donations are securely routed through [www.groundspring.org](http://www.groundspring.org).

**United Way** - Mention the above information on your authorization form. Local chapters will remit your contributions to the SN OM Trust Inc.

**Combined Federal Campaign** - If you are a US federal employee, make your donations to Sankara Nethralaya OM Trust Inc. CFC No. 68803.

**Employer Matching Program** - A number of US employers match *dollar for dollar* to employees' contributions. You may be able to double your contributions to SN OM Trust.

**Appreciated Stocks** - You may donate appreciated stocks to SN OM Trust Inc. and avail of a tax deduction. For additional information, please contact the Trust at the aforementioned phone number.

**Contributions by check** - Simply make your check payable to SN OM Trust Inc. and mail to the above address.

**Payroll Deductions** - Please check with your HR office if they are programmed to withhold from payroll and remit to a non-profit organization. A number of organizations provide this as a public service.

**Draft from Checking Account** - Download from our website [www.omtrust.org](http://www.omtrust.org), the direct debit authorization form and forward your authorization with a 'void check' to the above address. We will draft the funds on the 15th of every month. You can stop your authorization any time by a simple notification to us.

**Donate on Special Occasions, as a tribute** Festivals, birthdays, wedding anniversaries, in memory of a loved one and provide support in the form of a bequest.

**All donations to SN OM Trust are 100% IRS Tax Exempted in US, IRS Registered 501 (c) (3)**

**How can you help us?**

Sankara Nethralaya OM Trust owes its existence and success to its committed volunteers. To realize our mission of 20/20 by 2020, we need many more volunteers. You can be one of our volunteers and can help us by:

- Spreading the word about Sankara Nethralaya.
- Supporting Teleophthalmology & Glass dispensing vans.
- Conducting events for fundraising.
- Helping with accounting, web management.
- Arranging for American students to undertake summer projects at Sankara Nethralaya.
- Personally making small donations

**The following employers have supported us through GIFT MATCHING or PAYROLL DEDUCTION programs!**

- Microsoft
- Deutsche Bank
- American Express
- Merrill Lynch
- J P Morgan Chase
- GE Foundation
- The Bank of New York Mellon
- Google
- eBay Foundation
- Qualcomm
- Educational Testing Services
- Cadence
- Charles Schwab Foundation
- First Data
- McGraw Hill Cos.
- Merck
- Verizon
- Northern Trust