

Kannada Sangha was formally established in July 1973. Prior to 1973, there was no formal Kannada Sangha. I believe Dr. Ramaswamy used to organize Kannadigas to celebrate festivals and social get together.

Starting of Kannada Sangha:

The concept of Kannada Sangha started as a result of discussions between Dr. Shankara Sastry, Ram Murthy and Nagaraja Rao. It was decided to formally start Kannada Sangha, Toronto by performing Ganesh pooja on Sunday, July 8, 1973 at 30 Charles Street West, Toronto.

Founding Members:

1. Dr. Shankara Sastry - now in St. Louis, Missouri, U.S.A.
2. Nagaraja Rao – in Markham, Ontario
3. Ram Murthy - in Mississauga, Ontario

First Ganesha Pooja to officially start Kannada Sangha:

Date: July 8, 1973 Place: 30 Charles Street West, Toronto.

Close friends and relatives who attended the inaugural Ganesha Pooja were:

1. Dr. Shankara Sastry – now in St. Louis, Missouri, U.S.A.
2. Ram Murthy
3. Somasundar – now in Bangalore, India
4. Nagaraja Rao & Sharada
5. Sundaresh and Ramadevi – now in Houston, Texas, U.S.A.
6. Dr. Ramaswamy and Rajalakshmi
7. Dr. Vijaya Kumar and Pramila – now in Montreal
8. Subramanyam and Seetha – now in Houston, Texas, U.S.A
9. Mahabaleswar Bhat and his wife – now in U.S.A.

On July 8, 1973, it was decided to start and name our Kannada Association as “Kannada Sangha, Toronto” and to send a letter to Kannadigas announcing the formation of Kannada Sangha and

inviting them to attend the picnic at Edward Garden, Don Mills, on July 22, 1973 to chart the future course for Kannada Sangha.

Kannada Sangha's Address in 1973:

30 Torbolton Drive, Apt. 18, Rexdale, Ontario.

1st Function in 1973 - Picnic in July 1973:

- Picnic was arranged on Sunday, July 22, 1973 at Edward Gardens, Don Mills to chart out the future course of action.
- More than 80 people attended the picnic and supported the formation of Kannada Sangha.
- Several Committees were formed to conduct Kannada Sangha's business. Please see the attached list for the names of people who served on these committees.

2nd Function in 1973- Ganesha Habba:

- Ganesha Habba was organized on Sunday, September 2, 1973.
- Place: 30 Charles Street West, Recreation Centre.
- About 100 – 120 people attended the Ganesha Habba.

3rd Function in 1973- Nada Habba:

- Nada Habba was organized in the basement of Fairlawn United Church on Saturday, November 3, 1973.
- We presented 1) Kolata directed by Mr. Balakrishna 2) a Kannada skit written by Dr. Shankara Sastry.
- Food cooked by our ladies was served.

4rd Function in 1974- UgadiHabba:

- Ugadi was celebrated on Saturday, April 6, 1974 at Birchmount Park Collegiate Institute.
- Food cooked by our ladies was served.

Other Information:

- This essentially set the pattern for our future functions - Picnic where elections were held for Executive Committees, Ganesha Habba, Nada Habba and Ugadi.
- The financial year for Kannada Sangha was – July to June of next year.
- Food, cooked by our ladies, was provided at all our functions.

- Membership fee at that time: Family Membership \$5.00, Individual Membership \$3.00.
- Entrance fee for functions: \$1.00 for Members and \$1.50 for non-members.

Registration:

- Kannada Sangha was registered as a non-profit cultural Association on May 27, 1976 with the registration number 318489.

Important Milestones:

- In 1975 Kannada Sangha organized Hindu rites for Mr. Agraharm Narasimha who died in Toronto. Raised funds and donated to his mother in Bangalore. Local newspapers reported this item. Paper clip available.
- In 1977 Kannada Sangha presented a report on racial discrimination to Walter Pitman Committee appointed by the Ontario Provincial Government.
- In 1979 Kannada Sangha hosted Dr. Raj Kumar and party. Organized a musical night on
- In 1986 Kannada Sangha hosted Mr. C.R. Simha and his play "Typical Kailasam".
- In 1987 Kannada Sangha hosted the first Canada-U.S. Kannada Conference in Toronto. This was the first of its kind. Mr. Ramakrishna Hegde, the then Chief Minister attended the conference.
- Kannada Sangha has conducted several seminars and workshops for youth to encourage youth leadership.

Executive Committee in 1973-74 & 1974-75		
1973-74 being the first year of operation, the Executive Committee was an ad hoc Committee consisting of members as below.		
The Ad hoc Committee was responsible for managing the Kannada Sangha affairs.		
Membership Fee: Family \$5.00, Single Membership \$3.00		
	1973-74	1974-75
Coordinator	S. Ram Murthy	S. Ram Murthy
Joint Coordinator	M.V. Nagaraja Rao	M.V. Nagaraja Rao
Treasurer	Komala Prabhakara	Komala Prabhakara
Members	Ramadevi Sundareshan G.P. Subramanyam Mahabaleswara Bhat	Ramadevi Sundareshan G.P. Subramanyam Mahabaleswara Bhat
Newsletter Editor	M.L. Shankara Sastry	M.L. Shankara Sastry
Joint Editor	S. Ram Murthy	S. Ram Murthy
Other Committees in 1973-74		
1. Membership Committee	2. Cultural Committee	3. Constitution Committee
Mr. P. Prabhakara	Smt. Rajalakshmi Ramaswamy	Prof. B. Ramaswamy
Dr. H.S. Radhakrishna	Smt. Ramadevi Sundareshan	Mr. K.S. Sundareshan
Mr. Satyanarayana Segu	Ms. Sharavati Rao	Mr. M.V. Nagaraja Rao

Prepared By: Ram Murthy

Date: August 23, 2013