

# SREE NARAYANA ASSOCIATION TORONTO, CANADA

## NEWSLETTER 2014

Newsletter 2014



### Mission:

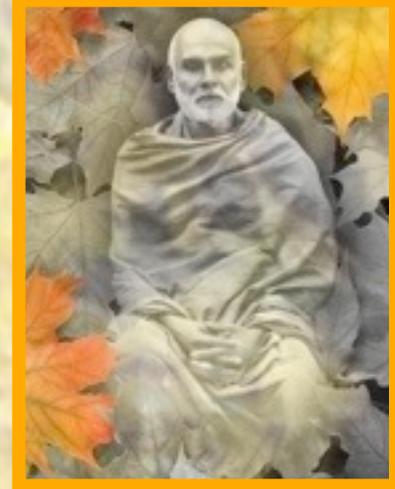
To unite all those respectful of Sree Narayana Guru's philosophy and strive to learn, understand, practice, preserve and perpetuate the Guru's Upanishadic wisdom and its doctrines of universal brotherhood and multicultural co-existence in Canadian society.

The Sree Narayana Association ('SNA'), Toronto, is dedicated to Sree Narayana Guru (1855-1928), the admired sage, poet and philosopher from South India, whose wisdom teachings emphasizing human equality have inspired and improved the lives of millions over the last century. The Guru's philosophy continues to influence current generations towards an intellectually enriching life of spiritual enquiry and self-realisation, while also instilling socially responsible thinking such as non-violence and multicultural coexistence.

SNA, established in 2004, is a not for profit corporation that aims to unite all those who are respectful and desirous of learning and practicing Sree Narayana Guru's noble teachings in their everyday lives. SNA operates as an open organisation for intercultural learning activities, extending membership to those resident in the Greater Toronto Area ('GTA') and neighbouring areas.

### Objects of SNA:

1. Uniting the residents of Greater Toronto Area ('GTA') and neighbouring areas who are respectful of the philosophy and teachings of Sree Narayana Guru.
2. Preserving the traditions of Sree Narayana Philosophy by members engaging in learning the philosophy and works of Sree Narayana Guru;
3. Perpetuating the noble tenets of Sree Narayana Philosophy, in particular the values of universal brotherhood and multicultural co-existence in Canadian society;
4. Hosting relevant literary, musical and other educational and cultural events and conventions, including festivities for the preservation of the common heritage of people of South Asian descent;



### SREE NARAYANA GURU SNA's Guiding Light

Towards the end of the 19th century Narayana Guru emerged as a wisdom teacher with his gifted poetic skills in Malayalam and Sanskrit languages.

Through poetic expressions he began to clarify mind-matter interactions, based on Upanishadic wisdom and contemporary social conditions. Living as a jnana yogi with his monastic disciples in the serene environments of his spiritual abodes (Ashrams), he often stepped outside as a karma yogi, mixing with ordinary folk, empathizing with their plight and working alongside reform aspirants, instilling in them hope and rationale for a spiritual and social renaissance and their political self-determination.

### Objects of SNA : contd...

5. Promoting interests of members and mutual aid and assistance to new settlers and senior citizens; and
6. In the longer term, establishing and maintaining a centre for multicultural activities in line with Sree Narayana Philosophy.

## SNA Annual General Meeting and Vishu Celebration

April 2014

Sree Narayana Association celebrated Vishu and conducted its Annual General Meeting on April 27, 2014 at Quality Inn and Suites, 754 Bronte Road, Oakville, Ontario.

During SNA's previous year's discussion SNA identified the need for a constitution which explicitly states our mission and objects of this organization. Thus a group of dedicated members with this mission in mind worked on our constitution and modified our constitution which reflects SNA's values, our focus and social objectives.

SNA welcomed more than 65 members for 2014 Annual General Meeting (AGM). The AGM was a unique and important opportunity for the Executive committee to share SNA's 2013 programs, governance and financial highlights with our members.

Chairman of SNA's Board of Trustees gave Vishu kaineettam to children and wished all participants a very happy and prosperous 2014. One of our members graciously donated \$100 to be used for future year's Vishu kaineettam. We thank the member on your behalf.

The afternoon was filled with presentations, delicious food, social interactions, dialogue, discussion on the draft new constitution and even a sneak peek or two about what is to come this year and in future years. The discussions were excellent and necessary fodder for planning SNA's future activities and direction. During the AGM, members voted to approve the new constitution for SNA.

During the AGM, nominations from members for the Executive committee was received by SNA's Returning Officer, Sree Umasankar,. Based on the nominations and consent received from the General body and as per the SNA's constitution, the elected Executive Committee members are to nominate/elect SNA's office bearers. As such, following the AGM, the newly nominated/elected Executive Committee members held a meeting at Quality Inns & Suites and nominated/elected the following office bearers through a process of consensus to serve SNA Toronto in 2014:



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## SNA Annual General Meeting and Vishu Celebration

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### SNA Executive Committee

Udayan Purushothaman - President  
Sreekumar Janardhanan - Vice President  
Sajeev Khodhot - General Secretary  
Sree Umasankar - Joint Secretary  
Sanu Shadevan - Treasurer  
Sajikumar Pankajakshan - Jt. Treasurer  
Pravilal Pravibhavan - Event Convener  
Suresh Ponnann - Website Coordinator  
Shiju Sasidharan - Web Coordinator  
Asib Kumar - Social Responsibility Officer  
Praveen Haran - Social Media Officer  
Sanal Kumar Gunavathy - Event Coordinator  
Biju Mundakal - Event Coordinator  
Prasoon Sivadas - Publications Editor  
Shamita Tarun - Public Relations Officer  
Sini Pengat - Legal Advisor  
Saritha Asokan - Committee Member  
Mala Kelangath - Committee Member  
Vinod Surendran - Committee Member  
Vinod Sankarshanan - Committee Member  
Harikumar Sreedharan - Committee Member

### SNA Subcommittee

Sujith Sivanand - Website Review  
Tarun Biju - Website Review  
Manoj Kottiyur - Website Review  
Shiju Sasidharan - Website Review  
Salini Das - Entertainment  
Cynthia Vinod - Entertainment  
Suhara Sreekumar - Entertainment  
Lekha Suresh - Entertainment  
Smitha Jayadas - Entertainment  
Manju Udayan - Entertainment  
Divya Sajeev - Entertainment

### SNA Youth committee

Dhasya Prasoon - Youth Coordinator  
Aiswarya Sanal Selina - Youth Coordinator  
Surya Kumar - Youth Coordinator  
Veena Vidyadharan - Youth Coordinator

## SNA Summer Picnic

July 2014



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SNA celebrated its Annual Picnic and Sports Day with record participation, quality social interaction, productive arts and craft kiosks, vibrant sports competitions, amazing food and above all kind nature and great weather. What an enthralling

combination for a fun filled day. 2014 being our 10th anniversary, SNA acknowledges with pride, that this was our best picnic and sports day we organized till date.

## SNA 10th Anniversary and Onam Celebration

September 2014

Newsletter 2014



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SNA celebrated in grandeur its 10th anniversary along with Onam celebration on 13th September, 2014. Dipika Damerla, the Hon. Member of Provincial Parliament (MMP) and Associate Minister for Health and Long Term Care was the Chief Guest and inaugurated the evening events in connection with the 10th anniversary and 2014 Onam celebrations by lighting the traditional lamp. She praised the Sree Narayana Association (SNA) of Toronto for its various social activities and initiatives, including its efforts to keep up the traditions, maintain an open culture and work on humanitarian efforts (manava seva).

Ms. Damerla remarked that it was important “for us to keep our traditions alive here in Canada, because when we do that we remake Canada in our image, and we become

Canadians, and Canada becomes a little more Indian, and that's how this country will continue to evolve”. Applauding the various activities of SNA Toronto, the Hon. Minister remarked that she was particularly impressed with all the roles of Sree Narayana Association. “Not only they are ancient and timeless roles, they are also modern roles. And even at the time of Sree Narayana Guru himself, when we think of the Guru we think of him also as karmayogi, when we think, without a karma yogi how can this world move forward? I congratulate Sree Narayana Association for embracing the “karma yogi” form of Sree Narayana Guru”. She further added that “I understand SNA is going through a rebooting and resetting itself with new goals, and their wish to expand” and she wished all the best in SNA's initiatives.

**SNA 10th Anniversary and Onam Celebration**  
**September 2014**

Newsletter 2014



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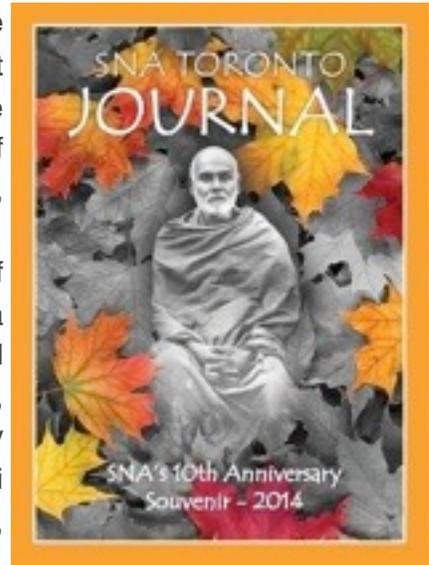
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Minister Dipika Damerla also released the 'SNA Toronto Journal' a souvenir publication that includes 21 articles by authors from around the world, on subjects such as Life and Philosophy of Sree Narayana Guru, Multicultural life in Toronto, Cultural Exchanges.

SNA Toronto Journal is a compilation of 21 articles of enduring value on Sree Narayana Guru, Multicultural life in Toronto, and Cultural Exchange. This Journal, edited by Sujit Sivanand, features articles by Scotts Teitsworth, Nancy Yeilding, Dinakaran Meenamkunnu, Satyabai Sivadas, Dr. Sherly P. Anand, K. Muraleedharan, Maris Sverns, Dr. Burton Cleetus,

Dr. Vasanthakumar Rajappan, P. R. Sreekumar, Kris Unni, K. Mahesan, Ananda Bose, Reshma Rajeevan, Krishna Chaitanya, N. Ravindran, Herun Tarun, Rasesh Thakkar, Ananda Nadayogi, Priyadas G. Mangalath, and Harvi Karatha.

The 'SNA Toronto Journal' with its scholarly authorship, fine design, relevant content, global readership received global acknowledgement and world-wide attention among the Advaita Philosophy community.



**ശ്രീ നാരായണ അസോസിയേഷൻ ടൊറന്റോ പന്താംവാർഷികവും ഓണാഘോഷവും**

Venue: 105, Erin Gate Dr, Toronto, ON M9C 3Z7 (Michael Power High School Auditorium)

ശനിയാഴ്ച സെപ്റ്റംബർ 13, 2014, 5.00PM

**SREE NARAYANA ASSOCIATION TORONTO, CANADA**

**Not-for-Profit Corporation**

The Sree Narayana Association (SNA), Toronto, is dedicated to Sree Narayana Guru (1850-1924), the seminal sage, poet and philosopher from South India, whose wisdom teachings enlightening human equality have inspired and improved the lives of millions over the last century.

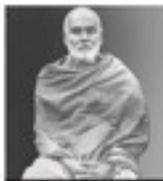
The Guru's philosophy continues to influence current generations towards an interfaithly enriching life of spiritual enquiry and self-realization, while also instilling socially responsible thinking such as non-violence and multicultural co-existence.

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SNA operates as an open organization for international learning activities, extending membership to those resident in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) and neighbouring areas.

**Sree Narayana Guru**

Towards the end of the 19th century Narayana Guru emerged as a religious teacher with his gifted poetic skills in Malayalam and Tamil languages. Through poetic expressions he began to clarify social justice interventions, based on Upanishadic wisdom and contemporary social conditions. Living as a jester



Sree Narayana Guru SNA's Guiding Light

- OUR CORE VALUES**
- Righteous thinking & action
  - Multicultural brotherhood
  - Multicultural co-existence
  - Ethical operations
  - Corporate Social Responsibility

www.snatoronto.com

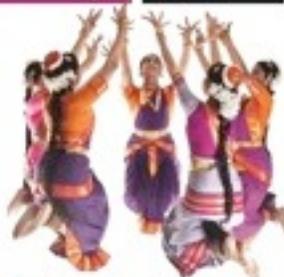
with his monastic disciplines in the serene environments of his spiritual abodes (Ashrams), he often engaged outside as a karma yoga, mixing with ordinary folk, empathizing with their plight and working alongside reform agencies, instilling in them hope and resolve for a spiritual and social renaissance and their political self-determination.

**SNA's Activities at a Glance**

SNA primarily promotes the philosophy of Sree Narayana Guru. Also annually, SNA organizes two path chanting events in fall and spring. SNA members and programs volunteer for this activity. This is an opportunity for young members to bank volunteer hours. SNA regularly promotes member activities to build a close and green environment and a socially responsible generation.

In December each year, SNA holds a fund drive for non-profitable fund used as funds for the preservation of the same. SNA donated 420 lbs of food to Wagoner Table Fund Bank in Brampton from our December 2013 drive (2013 to 2012 to Mississauga Food Bank). SNA, when pride in the steady

and increasing support from donors, and appreciates their noble gesture of cooperation and brotherhood. SNA participated in the ongoing goal of the City of Mississauga's strategic plan of planting one million trees. By 2012, SNA planted 120 trees with 67 volunteers, the 1st of 60 participating social organizations, we were ranked 13th by www.mississauga.ca.



ശ്രീ നാരായണ അസോസിയേഷൻ ടൊറന്റോ പന്താംവാർഷികവും ഓണാഘോഷവും സെപ്റ്റംബർ 13, 2014, 5PM മുതൽ 10PM വരെ മൂലനാഥപുരം, മൂലനാഥ് വെസ്റ്റ് സെന്റർ സെന്ററിലെ റീൽ ടൈം ഓൺ എന്റേണൽ റിഫ്റ്റ് സെന്ററിൽ. ഓൺ ടൈം ഓഫീസിൽ സൗകര്യമുള്ള പ്രായം അനുസരിച്ചുള്ള അതിർപ്പില്ലാത്ത എല്ലാവർക്കും ഏർപ്പെടാനും സൗകര്യമുള്ളതാണ്. ഓൺ ടൈം ഓഫ് ടെലിവിഷൻ വൃത്താന്തങ്ങൾ കാണേണ്ടതല്ല. ഓൺ ടൈം ടെലിവിഷൻ വൃത്താന്തങ്ങൾ കാണേണ്ടതല്ല. ഓൺ ടൈം ടെലിവിഷൻ വൃത്താന്തങ്ങൾ കാണേണ്ടതല്ല. ഓൺ ടൈം ടെലിവിഷൻ വൃത്താന്തങ്ങൾ കാണേണ്ടതല്ല.

**PROGRAM GUIDE**

Date   September 13, 2014 Time   5pm - 10pm	7:00 PM	Followed by 15 minutes of Chanted Sanskrit by Wagoner Table Fund Bank
Venue   105, Erin Gate Dr, Toronto, ON M9C 3Z7 (Michael Power)	8:00 PM	Prayers
PROGRAM DIRECTION   647-867-0334	8:15 PM	Various Cultural performances including Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Odissi, Ball, Bharati, Contemporary Dance, Hip, Bollywood songs, etc.
Subject   Open House	8:30 PM	Lucky Draw
7:00 PM   Prayer	8:45 PM	Grand Final Bollywood Dance
7:15 PM   Prasad/Address		
7:30 PM   Inauguration by Hon. Associate Minister Dipika Damerla		

Give yourself a chance to WIN Laptop, Tablet, and much more (prizes are available only with ticket)

**SNA TORONTO - A MODEL ORGANISATION:** SNA Toronto is an independent organization where membership and admission to events and initiatives are open to any individual of good standing. SNA is an entity where management positions and leadership opportunities will be open, based solely on meritocracy and sans prejudices. In practice an organization, set on the principles and virtues that came from Sree Narayana Guru.

## SNA 10th Anniversary and Onam Celebration

September 2014

Newsletter 2014



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SNA's 10th Anniversary and Onam celebration offered Greater Torontonians with a splendid display of Athapookalam, a festive feast and an evening full of delightful entertainment.

The evening started with the 100 year old prayer song Daivadasakam. Sree Nārāyana Guru wrote Daivadasakam in 1914 when he was living at his Shivagiri Ashram. At the Ashram, there were some poor children living under the Guru's care. He used to teach them. The Guru used to also listen to these children reciting

their evening prayers. He wanted the children to have a new prayer - a prayer which was universally acceptable to everyone. For the children, he wrote ten melodious verses of poetry, in Malayalam, as a prayer song. Daiva-Dasakam means ten verses of meditation in God. On the face of it, the prayer sounds simple, although it is built on the Advaita Philosophy of oneness - of all living beings as the extension of God.



## SNA Tree Planting September 2014

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On September 20th 2014 Sree Narayana Association (SNA) volunteers came together once again to take part in the City of Mississauga's plan of planting one million trees by 2032. Volunteers successfully planted 100 trees.

Many of the youth members were involved and this gave them the opportunity to learn about the

environment and that no matter how insignificant it may seem we should do our part in helping the world that we live in. There is no message that is more powerful to them than to watch their parents and mentors work beside each other to make their community a better place and more environmentally friendly world.

## SNA Biannual Park Cleaning May and October 2014



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Sree Narayana Association (SNA) Toronto, has organized its park cleaning event as a mandate towards its philosophy. Annually, SNA organizes two park cleaning events in spring and fall.

On May 24, 2014, a group of 30 very enthusiastic SNA members along with our young energetic youth members volunteered to clean the Thorncrest Park in Mississauga, Ontario. SNA is proud to announce that the group collected 12 bags of trash from the park and SNA was able to contribute 60 volunteer hours.

In continuation of the spring park clean-up volunteers once again

gathered on October 5, 2014 to fulfill their commitment to keep the Thorncrest Park in Mississauga clean. SNA is consistently cleaning this park for the second year.

SNA fulfills its collective responsibility for the environment and upholding Narayana Guru's philosophy on the cleanliness of body, mind and the environment. This is an opportunity for young members to bank volunteer hours. SNA regularly promotes similar activities to build a clean and green environment and a socially responsible generation.

## SNA Talk: Life, Philosophy & Works of Narayana Guru

November 2014

Newsletter 2014



Introduction to the  
Life, Philosophy & Works of  
Narayana Guru

Sree Narayana Association,  
Toronto  
9 November 2014



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### DARSANAMALA – Garland of Visions



### 'The What of Vedānta'

The Philosophy of Narayana Guru



Sunday 9 November 2014 witnessed a public talk on Sree Narayana Guru's 'Life, Philosophy and Works' in Canada. Under the auspices of Sree Narayana Association (SNA) of Toronto, the event was held at the Winston Churchill conference facility of the Country Inn Hotel at Oakville in Greater Toronto Area. This event was the first ever public talk on the subject of Sree Narayana Guru in the multicultural social history of Canada.

Udayan Purushothaman, President of SNA, said that the talk was arranged in line with SNA's mission that "we will ourselves strive to learn, understand, practice, preserve and perpetuate the Guru's Upanishadic wisdom". Also Udayan added that SNA will build a collection of relevant books and teaching aids, and that its members with an elective interest will strive to learn more about Narayana Guru's life and philosophy.

The main speaker, Sujit Sivanand, presented three introductory modules- 'The Life and Works of Narayana Guru', 'The What of Vedanta', and 'Jeeva Karunya Panchakam' (Mercy to Living Beings), which are lecture modules created by the educational network Narayana Philosophy Society (NPHIL) in association with Narayana Gurukula Foundation of Varkala, India. The module 'The What of Vedanta' is the multimedia educational representation of the relevant parts of Guru Muni Narayana Prasad's book 'The Philosophy of Narayana Guru'; which is a book of high academic value, originally authored in view of teaching the subject in universities and higher education institutions. The Malayalam version of the book is titled "Narayana Guruvinte Advaita Darsanam".

### SNA Food Bank Donation

December 2014

Newsletter 2014



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SNA was able to donate 1058 lbs of non-perishable food to Salvation Army Burlington Community and Family Services on last Saturday, November 29, 2014.

SNA is consistently donating to Food Bank since it has identified this as one its major Corporate Social Responsibility in 2011. SNA holds food drives for non-perishable food conducted in December of every year. We were able to donate 422 lbs of non-perishable food to Knights Table Food Bank in Brampton from our December 2013 food drive compared to our previous year's contribution of 315 lbs to Mississauga Food Bank.

SNA due diligently identifies the most deserving Food Bank . In 2014, SNA identified Burlington area. There was a report in Burlington Post about the food shortage faced by the Food Banks in Burlington area.

Sree Narayana Association is proud to point out the steady and increasing support from the donors, in this gesture towards brotherly compassion towards all life forms. Each year SNA beats its previous year's record on the quantity of food donated.



# SREE NARAYANA ASSOCIATION

TORONTO, CANADA

*'A Model Organisation'*

[www.snatoronto.com](http://www.snatoronto.com)

