

Swaminathan Palaniappan, son of Palaniappan Palaniappan and Theivanai Palaniappan, married Abiramasundari Solayappan, daughter of C.Solayappan and S.Ramani in Nachandupatti, India on June 8, 2006.



Shankar Thirunavukkarasu S/o M. Thirunavukkarasu & Laksmhi Thirunavukkarasu married Akila Natesan D/o Natesan & Prabhavathi Natesan in Devakottai. , on Sep 10<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

#### **Births**

Congratualtions to Kannan Ramaih and Visalakshi on the birth of their baby boy Ramu Kannan on Sep 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2006.

	<b>PHILADELPHIA NEWS</b>
	<b>By SOUNDARAM SOMASUNDARAM</b>

#### **Philadelphia Nagarathars in the Tamil Sangam Executive Committee**

Four of our Philadelphia area Nagarathars are in the Executive Committee of the Philadelphia-based Tamil Association of Greater Delaware Valley: Dr. Somalay Somasundaram - President, Mrs. Indra Visvanathan - Vice President, Mr. Swaminathan Ramanathan - Web Administration and Dr. Chellappan Ramasamy - Committee Member. The committee's initiatives include a new quarterly magazine, Sangamam, Thirukkural Thiruvizha for children, and humanitarian projects in association with the Tamil Nadu Foundation.

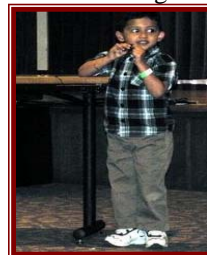


**Caption for Photo 1:** Chellappan Ramasamy, Somalay Somasundaram, Swaminathan Ramanathan and Indra Visvanathan - Tamil Sangam Executive Committee.

#### **Winners at the Inaugural Thirukkural and Writing Bee Contests!**

Tamil Sangam's inaugural Thirukkural and Writing Bee Contests were held at St. Joseph University in Philadelphia on May 7, 2006. It was a wonderful educational experience for all, both children and their parents. It created an awareness of the Tamil language. Kids were motivated to speak and write in Tamil and parents were motivated to teach their kids the same!

Congratulations to the winners: Lakshmi and Lakshman Somasundaram won first place in both the Thirukkural and Writing Bee Contests. Chimbu Chinniah won second place in both the Thirukkural and Writing Bee Contests. Karthik Sundar was one of the youngest participants. He was really cute in reciting his kural. Way to go Nagarathar kids!



**Caption for Photo 2:** Karthik Sundar on a star performance at the Philadelphia Thirukkural Thiruvizha Winner at the North-South Foundation Contest!

Congratulations to Lakshman Somasundaram! Lakshman, a fifth grader won first place at the Junior

Essay Writing contest and third place at the Math Bee contest.

#### **Inaugural Vaikasi Visakam at South Jersey Raja Ganapathy Temple**

Nagarathars took the lead in establishing the Vaikasi Visakam festival tradition at the Raja Ganapathy Temple in Sweedesboro, NJ. The temple is under construction and the deities to be installed include Swamimalai Swaminatha Swamy, Sahasralingam and Raja Ganapathy. Vaikasi Visakam, celebrating the birth of Lord Muruga, was initiated by Somalay Somasundaram at the request of temple authorities. Chinthamani Sukumar coordinated the function activities. Nagarathars from NJ, DE and PA participated. Swaminathan Ramanathan has volunteered to organize next year's Vaikasi Visakam which will attract many more devotees as we expect the temple to be built by that time.



**Caption for Photo 3:** Paal Kudam and Kaavadi at the Vaikasi Visakam festival.