



**MISSOURI & VICINITY NEWS**

By **VENKAT ARUNA**

**Pillaiyar Nonbu**

Pillaiyar Nonbu will be hosted by Latha and Ramasamy Sithambaram at their residence, Overland Park, KS, on Dec. 23rd/2006. They can be contacted at (913)681-7601. All out-of-town Nagarathars can stay at Overland Park and spend the night there. A brunch has also been planned, for the following day.

**Relocations:**

Lakshmi, Kathir Lakshmanan and their son Pranav have relocated to New Jersey area, from Overland Park, KS, recently. We wish them well at their new location. They can be contacted at 973-810-3982.

Uma, Thiagarajan Chokkalingam and their son Thiagarajan have relocated to New Jersey area, from Denver, CO, recently. We wish them well at their new location. They can be contacted at 732-763-9874.



**ATLANTA NEWS**

By **MEYYAPPAN S CHETTY**

**Annual Picnic**

Summer is a time for the Atlanta Chettians to come together and cherish each other's company before committing to life's busy schedules. To ensure some guaranteed relaxation this summer, the seventh annual picnic organized by Muthiah uncle and Somu uncle provided fun, food, and eventful entertainment.

This year's location, High Falls Park, was quite a stretch away but well worth the drive for its serene nature and picturesque waterfall. To start off the day, fifteen families sauntered in to the picnic site with their share of the potluck adding on to the array of delectable foods. Fresh appetizers such as vegetarian shish kabob, corn, and chicken caused a sensation as they cooked over flames. While the chicken, a yearly favorite, grilled to perfection under Krishnappan uncle's diligent care, traditional Indian appetizers, such as *bajee* and *chutney*, also made their way into the stomachs of many.

The day, however, was not just consumed of cooking and relishing the Atlanta Aachis' prized meals. Various games and relays fit to delight all age groups were conducted to offer amusement as well as exercise. A kids' relay race with the simple objective of passing and popping balloons proved to be flabbergasting as little ones struggled to pop and win. Men, women, and kids competed in the next event; a game with a

multicultural twist, where the group must peel and stick *pottus* on numbers arranged on paper. The only catch, the numbers were scrambled! Another game for all age groups incorporated some Chettiar culture, when everyone was asked to name common Chettiar villages. The kids team made numerous parents proud when the group of children skillfully listed an impressive number of native towns.

When it was time to eat, everyone had a healthful appetite due to running and playing in the hot sun. A round of "*morru*" cooled most while people ate a flavorsome menu put together by Valli aunty.

A healthy day was maintained soon after the meal as some went on walks, played Frisbee, and cooled off with a round of water balloons. Finally, a rigorous game of dodging balls and hitting bottles was played to pump some blood into everyone before the drive home. The day ended with the satisfaction of exercise, a full stomach, and the insurance of a good night's sleep for all.

Once again, the Atlanta Nagarathars proved that they know how to have a fun time in the sun.



Men at work, grilling chicken



Kids competing in pop-the-balloon contest



Soda Can race – Women's round