

# eyelights



Sankara Nethralaya OM Trust Inc.,

**Sankara Nethralaya  
OM Trust, USA**

Number : 8



**AMERICA**

February 2013

9710, Traville Gateway Drive No.392,  
Rockville, MD 20850 e-mail : acharya@omtrust.org



**His Holiness Sri Bharathi Thirtha Mahaswamigal  
gives darshan at Sankara Nethralaya**



**A New Sankara Nethralaya in Andhra Pradesh**



## Sankara Nethralaya Ophthalmic Mission Trust

In this edition of Eyelights America, we profile a new trustee who has lent unstinting support to Sankara Nethralaya's initiatives and is always exploring newer ways of raising funds to support Nethralaya's cause.

### Leela Krishnamurthy

*Trustee, SN OM Trust*

Shrimathi Leela Krishnamurthy is a librarian by profession and an active champion of literacy and social causes and a patron of arts. A graduate in Library science from the Clark University, Atlanta, Georgia she has served in some of the major libraries in the US. A multifaceted personality she has worked for the Second Harvesters food Bank, served as President of the Indo American Charity Foundation, Bharathi Kalai Manram and currently serves as Treasurer of India Cultural Center. She is on the Board of 'Habitat for Humanity', Houston, serves as Director of Development for the Children's bureau and is on the Advisory Board of the UNICEF. She co-chaired the 25th gala for the 'Habitat for Humanity' with her husband in November 2012 which helped in raising 1 million dollars for the homeless the world over.



Shrimathi Leela Krishnamurthy joined the OM Trust as a member in 2012 and demonstrated her organizing and fundraising skills by playing a key role in the fund raiser event organized by the OM Trust during the Memorial Day holidays at the Tamil Nadu Foundation's stall at Houston in the same year.

## His Holiness Sri Bharathi Thirtha Mahaswamigal gives darshan at Sankara Nethralaya



*Chairman Dr.S.Bhaskaran offering salutations to His Holiness Sringeri Sri Bharathi Thirtha Swamigal*

His Holiness the Sankaracharya of Sringeri Sarada Peetam gave his divine consent to give darshan at the main premises and bless the staff members.

The swamiji was escorted to the 5th floor of the building where he inaugurated the newly named Shri R.S Mehta Jain Department of Biochemistry and Cell Biology after which he gave darshan to the gathering from the dais of the Sri VD.Swami Auditorium

Dr SS.Badrinath explained in an emotion filled voice that it was the grace, blessings and seed capital received from His Holiness Abinava Vidya Thirtha Swamigal of Sarada Peetham that saw the inception of Sankara Nethralaya.

Dr. SS.Badrinath announced the renaming of the Cell biology and Bio-chemistry department after Shri R.S Mehta in deference to the

wishes of Shri Ashok Mehta a long time friend, well-wisher, donor, board member of the Medical Research Foundation and the Chairman of Jain Housing. Shri Ashok Mehta and Shrimathi Ashok Mehta paid their respect to the Seer and presenting him with a cheque for Sankara Nethralaya and receiving his blessings.

The Swamiji delivered an Anugraha Bhashanam for the benefit of the gathering. He was very touched by Dr SS.Badrinath's recollection of the help and grace that he received from the 35th Pontiff of the Saradha Peetham Sri Abinava Vidya Thirtha Swamigal. He exhorted that everyone should do some form of paropakaram within his capacity. The Pontiff of the Sringeri Matam closed his speech with the observation that Dr SS.Badrinath is a true epitome of Seva and Sacrifice.

## A New Sankara Nethralaya in Andhra Pradesh

Sankara Nethralaya would soon be making its presence in the Tamil Nadu-AP border at Nellore District. The proposed eye care facility will be inaugurated at the Sri City Special Economic Zone, Sulurpeta, on the auspicious occasion of Tamil New Year on 14th April 2013. The MoU for the joint initiative was signed by Shri Ravindra Sanna Reddy, MD, Sri City and Dr S.Bhaskaran, Chairman, Sankara Nethralaya on 5th December 2012. Speaking on the occasion Shri Ravindra Sanna Reddy observed that it would be Sri City's initiative to provide healthcare to the locals in addition to local employment through industrial support. The hospital would provide both in-patient and outpatient care and function on a small scale similar to the Sri Srinivasa Sankara Nethralaya, Tirupati and the RS Falor Hospital, Rameswaram.



*Mr.Ravindra Sanna Reddy MD, SEZ, Sri City and Dr.S.Bhaskaran, Chairman SN, signing the MOU*

## Visit of dignitaries to Sankara Nethralaya

As an institution guided by spiritual values and a strong belief in the dynamics of acquisition and dissemination of knowledge, Sankara Nethralaya organizes regular visits and interactive sessions by subject matter experts and eminent people as well as spiritualists and sages to keep the mind and soul of its members refreshed. We take pleasure in sharing some visits that happened in the last quarter which made a difference to the institution and its members.



Visit and guest lecture by Prof CNR Rao on the topic 'Celebration of Science' October 2012



Visit of Yug Diwakar Param Pujya Namra Muniji, November 2012



Visit and interactive presentation by Mr. David Springfield and Dr Linda Lucas, University of Alabama, Birmingham, November 2012



Visit and interactive session by delegates from the Indiana University, November 2012



Visit to the Elite School of Optometry and interaction by Dr Sarita Soni, Professor Indiana University and Dr Shrikant Bharadwaj, Associate Director, IOL from the LV Prasad Eye Institute, November 2012



Visit and interaction of Professor Lingxue Kong from the Deakin University, Melbourne, November 2012.



Visit and guest lecture by Dr. John H. Kempen, Associate Professor of ophthalmology, University of Pennsylvania, December 2012



Visit and guest lecture by Dr Arup Das from the University of New Mexico, December 2012



Visit and guest lecture by Dr Trichur Vidyasagar, University of Melbourne, December 2012

## World Blind Cricket Council and the State Commissioner for the differently abled seek Low Vision Clinic's expertise



Blind Cricket team being selected by Ms. Sarika, Low Vision Care Specialist

It was a great honour for India, a testimony to the expertise of Sankara Nethralaya's optometrists when the World Blind Cricket Council (WBCC) appointed a team of optometrists from Sankara Nethralaya to select the Blind Cricket team for the League matches and the World Cup match. The optometrists selected the team by applying the guidelines prescribed by the SBCC to the last detail, the selection process involved calculating of Functional Acuity Score (FAS) and Functional Field Score (FVS). In another instance demonstrating the trust of the government in the expertise of the LVC the State Commissioner for the differently abled invited Ms. G. Sarika, Head, Low Vision clinic to finalize the vision aids to be provided by the government to the visually disabled. A demonstration of the electronic devices currently available and used by patients with different low vision complaints, made by Ms. Sarika, led to a better understanding of their functionalities and advantages, helping the members to finalize the same.

## 24th Graduation Ceremony of ESO & VIBS



Graduation Ceremony of ESO and VIBS

The 24th graduation ceremony of the Elite School of Optometry (ESO) and the Vidyasagar Institute of Bio-Medical Sciences (VIBS), started on a colourful note at the Sri V.D.Swami Auditorium with the Chief Guest Lion P.Haridas, Senior Advocate and Secretary, D.G Vaishnav College, Dr SS.Badrinath, Chairman Emeritus, Dr.TS. Surendran, Vice-Chairman, Sankara Nethralaya, Dr HN.Madhavan, President, Vision Research

Foundation, Sankara Nethralaya, Dr Vasanthi Badrinath, Director, Clinical Services, Sankara Nethralaya, Dr Lily Therese, Professor and HOD of Microbiology, L & T Microbiology Research Centre, Vision Research Foundation, Sankara Nethralaya, Dr S.Meenakshi, Director, Academics, Sankara Nethralaya, Dr K.Krishna Kumar, Principal, ESO, Sankara Nethralaya and Dr Bharathi, BITS coordinator going on a procession in their ceremonial gowns and convocation caps and taking their place on the dais.

The Chief Guest, Shri Haridas, introduced by Dr.T.S.Surendran, recalled the small role he was fortunate to play in the formation of the Elite School of Optometry and the history of the institution with a reference to the visit of the legendary Dr JM.Enoch.

Dr R.Krishna Kumar, Principal, ESO spoke on the developments at ESO.

The graduation ceremony came to an end with a Vote of thanks by Ms Anuradha, Lecturer, Vision Screening Coordinator, Elite School of Optometry.

## 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) 529 7377  
[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) 529-7377



**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