

## **Message from the President**

Samasta San Diego Marathi Janatela saadar pranam!

Winter is in full swing in San Diego! It's as difficult to get out of your warm bed in the morning as it's easy to get into it at night!! Many of you must be busy tuning up your finances at the last minute in an attempt to minimize your taxable income. At the same time, a lot of energy is also going into preparing for the winter holiday vacation. This is really the only time of the year when your professional life takes a back seat and the personal life takes over. No wonder it is the most wonderful time of the year!

Your 2010 SDMM Committee is gearing up for a fun filled Makar Sankranti function. You should have already received the invitation and I really hope each one of you would join us in the celebration. I would also request you to show your support to the SDMM by becoming a member. Please find the further details on membership benefits and on how to become a member at our website <http://www.mmsandiego.org>. **This year our intention is to introduce the Paypal based secure on-line payment option for your convenience.** You do not need a Paypal account to use this option. Please take advantage of this facility and help us reduce queues at the registration desk.

As you know, beyond the kick-off event of Sankranti, we have an exciting line-up of events throughout Year 2010. **Now is a great time for you to submit your proposals for performing in one or more events hosted by SDMM.** In your proposal, please indicate the nature of the event, time duration, SDMM resources (equipment, volunteers etc) you would need, preferred SDMM event in which you would like to perform and any other relevant information. Our desire is to give opportunities to as many qualified performers as we possibly can while maximizing the variety of our programs.

2010 Committee would like to really listen to your thoughts, ideas, talents and suggestions about how you would like to play your part in the SDMM community. **You should soon be getting a call from one of the fellow committee members.** I'd request you to set aside some time and openly talk to the Committee member. We are also continuously looking for volunteers in a number of areas such as photography, video shooting, web-programming/hosting, stage props, sound/lights for stage programs, food distribution, transportation, kids activities and many more. I'd request you to come forward and pitch in whatever ways you can to help us.

I'd take this opportunity to apprise you of one of the exciting ideas we are putting together for the younger members of the SDMM community. **Idea is to create Yuva Mandal catering to the age group of 13 yrs to 22 yrs.** Yuva Mandal would have its own sub-committee and would be responsible for planning its own activities under the guidance of adult committee members. It would be a great opportunity for its members to hone leadership skills, to experience the joy/satisfaction of volunteering, to gain close exposure to the cultural element and also to gain credit for the community work required for graduation. If your kids fall under this age-group, please encourage them to join the Yuva Mandal. **You can convey your interest by writing email to [committee@mmsandiego.org](mailto:committee@mmsandiego.org).**

It is my earnest desire to continue to mobilize and bring the community together. Closer nit we are, stronger we would be! It would not only help us raise the quality of our local programs, but also open doors to numerous possibilities from bringing renowned artists to San Diego to hosting a BMM convention, to raising our impact/interaction with the larger Indian Community in San Diego and so on. With a small step at a time in the right direction, I'm sure we would reach many of the milestones in the long run. Your enthusiastic participation is key to each step we take.

Finally, let me share some interesting information and announcements with you -

- **Interested in a Marathi audio channel?** Listen to Marathi Vaibhav on every Saturday from 12:00 noon thru 1:00 pm New York time for Marathi gani, gappa, and Marathi Vishwa's aagami program announcements. It is live on the web [www.dhoomfm.com](http://www.dhoomfm.com). Alternatively you can listen on the phone 732-867-9500. For streaming of missed programs visit [www.marathivaibhav.com](http://www.marathivaibhav.com).

- **Do you know writing in Marathi is literally at your finger-tips?** There is no reason or excuses for you not to write marathi emails to your loved ones back home. Thanks to Google! Try the following transliteration link today: <http://www.google.com/transliterate/indic/Marathi#>
- **BMM and Marathi Naatya Parishad have organized National Ekaankikaa**  
**Competition:** The National Competition will happen in Chicago in late March/early April 2010. The top 3 winners from the competition will be invited to present their Ekaankikaa at the 1st Vishwa Marathi Naatya Sannelan in New Jersey during May 29-31, 2010. Deadline to submit entry is December 31, 2009. Please send mail to [committee@mmsandiego.org](mailto:committee@mmsandiego.org) for further details if you are interested.
- **New Marathi movie "Sukhaant"** starring Jyoti Chandekar, Atul Kulkarni and Kavita (Lad) Medhekar dealing with the sensitive issue of Mercy Death. Check out the website for the movie at <http://www.finalwishthefilm.com>. The film deals with a sensitive issue of 'does one have right over one's death?'. Personalities like Vikram Gokhale, Smita Talwarkar, Vandana Gupte, Bharati Achrekar, Sachin and Supriya Pilgaonkar, Reema Lagoo, Sonu Nigam, Mughdha Godse, Sonali Bendre and other have given excellent opinions on the way the film has dealt with the subject and for the outstanding performance by actors Atul Kulkarni, Kavita Medhekar and Jyoti Chandekar.
- **MAIYTRA 2010 Convention:** MAIYTRA or Maharashtra Association of Indian Youth Together Representing America is a sub-organisation of BMM. You can find further details at <http://www.bmmonline.org/maiyytra.htm>. MAIYTRA convention for the year 2010 will be hosted in Washington, D. C from July 2 - 5.