# OSA Newsletter ⊚

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#### Dear Friends,

This is a special issue of OSA Newsletter with a reminder of upcoming OSA election 2009. This issue also contains message from the President, minutes of BOG meetings and convention updates as well as chapter news from NY/NJ and Can OSA.

We thank all, who contributed to this issue. Please send your news items and literary articles for the next issue along with comments and suggestions to osaeditor@orissasociety.org.

Wish you all a very Happy and Prosperous New Year!

Thank you.

#### Editors

### Message from the President

Dear Members:

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family happy holidays. With the world economy down with a severe financial crisis - America is facing a new challenge to recover and prosper. It affects all of us in our jobs, mortgages, expenses, and savings etc. Terrorism in India and world is on rise making our travel risky. Natural calamities and communal violence in Orissa has hampered our families and friends. For crisis like this - we are more united and more prepared. As a community, we must be together and support each other.

We have only six months left to execute our responsibilities. We came with a vision of unifying the society, integrity, increasing the memberships, simplifying the procedures, fiscal transparencies, making OSANet a tool of communication, effective National-Chapter relationship, closer to member's concerns and compliments etc. All these could not have been achieved without your support. But still there are lots to be done in next six months. Some of the current initiatives are:

**Regional Drama Festival**: An unique idea of making the chapters participate in a cultural event.

**Orissa Flood Initiatives**: OSA has been able to generate funds for 2008 Orissa Flood Relief. Collected donations will be sent to the Ramakrishna Mission, Chief Minister's Fund, and AID in accordance to the preference of the donors.

**Auditing/IRS Filing**: OSA has hired a permanent Certified Public Accountant (CPA) - Raj Marwada for auditing the consolidated OSA accounts including the convention and local chapter financial reports. OSA has filed the IRS Tax Returns for 2007 to make our fiscal status current.

**Financial Transparency**: OSA has become more financial transparent. Sandip babu, our Treasurer has been working hard to keep it simple, straight, and accountable.

**Directory of Oriyas Living Abroad (DOLA)**: DOLA is an unique database of all OSA members at OSA website. It is a milestone. We have also introduced Opinion Poll to seek our member's opinion before making any decision. Credit goes to Priyadarsan, our Secretary for creating such tools.

**OSANet**: A daily digest system at OSANet has brought a lot of relief to our members and our members can glance through the OSANet e-mails at their convenience.

**Revising Constitution:** A committee chaired by Surya Mishra and Somdutta Behura and Pradip Tripathy are in process of completing a revision of our OSA constitution to make it more functional. Revisions will be communicated to our members for comments.

Membership Benefit: We are working on some benefits to our members by bringing a special discount from a web-based travel, telephone calls to India, and a travel insurance company. Details will be posted later.

Membership Drive: There is a new initiative of a 5year annual membership for \$100 has been recommended. Even though members are urged to be a Benefactor or Patron or a life member. But at least a 5 years membership at \$100 has more financial savings to our non-members.

Insurance for OSA: OSA Board of Governors has decided to purchase insurance for all the OSA activities including OSA convention, Regional Drama Festival etc. Local chapter can also ride on the policy by paying a rider ship fee for usage towards convention, Kumar Purnima or any other cultural event.

40th OSA Convention by NY/NJ Chapter: NY/NJ chapter is hosting the 40th annual OSA convention with Uma Mishra as the Convenor. Lalatendu Mohanty, President of the chapter is working with lots of volunteers to make it the best convention ever. The Patriot Center (Performances) adjacent to a Marriott Hotel has been booked for the convention to be held on July 2- 4, 2009. Ashutosh Dutta, Vice-President is also one of the Co-convenors of the event, who will coordinate the efforts from the OSA national.

OSA Office Bearer for 2009-11: It's almost time for new OSA office bearers soon. Purna Mishra and his committee of Arizona will be conducting the election process.

Again, I thank our Editorial Board Sikhanda, Subhhagyalaxmi, and Payal for doing a wonderful contribution. On behalf of Ashutosh Dutta, Priyadarsan Patra, and Sandip Dasverma, I wish you a happy holidays and happy New Year.

Pratap Das. President, OSA

Washington DC

December 20, 2008

#### From the Secretary: OSA BOG Conference call minutes- (12/7/08)

Agenda items and the minutes are as follows.

- OSA's initiative on flood and closing of the fund 1. raising. We have received about \$7820 as donations for flood rehabilitation in Orissa. All the collections will be sent to the following organizations in Orissa.
  - i. Ramakrishna Mission:
  - ii. AID (Aid India's Development), and
  - iii. Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

Direct deliveries to the individual organizations, delivery through individuals travelling to Orissa, etc. were discussed.

Status report on the Regional Drama Festival: 2. Srigopal Mohanty is the OSA coordinator. So far three of the regions (Northern, Eastern and Southern) are participating.

Note: This is not a competition. This is a Regional Drama Festival. The goal is to develop congeniality and flourish the culture.

OSA will give \$500.00 to each region participating in the festival. Additional amount should be raised possibly by the host chapter.

Lalatendu babu brought up the issue of insurance for the festival. It was decided that OSA would have an umbrella insurance, which will support these activities including the convention.

OSA insurance will be finalized in the next several weeks - OSA president will work with NYNJ Chapter president to figure out details and cost sharing.

It's also expected that the saving overall to the organization will be large, and chapters should share in the cost, which is expected to be pretty small for an individual chapter.

Summary of activities from various regions is given below.

Northern Region: Following chapters will participate -Canada, Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, Minnesota (unknown)

- An initial conference call has been held.
- Overall, the response has been very positive.
- Jogesh babu has kindly agreed to be the festival • coordinator of the Northern region.
- Oriyas travelling to the Northern region festival • should contact Jogesh babu for accommodation.

Eastern Region: Following chapters will participate in the festival - New York Chapter, New Jersey Chapter, Washington Chapter, South East Chapter

- Debaki Chaudhury has kindly agreed to be the coordinator for the Eastern Region.
- A conference call has been held. Conference call participants were Biswajit Mohapatra from the New York Chapter, Debaki Chaudhury and Shikha from the Washington Chapter and Ullasini Sahoo from the South East Chapter. There was no representation from the Maryland Chapter.
- April 11th and 18th are two possible dates for the festival.
- NY /NJ chapter raised a concern that the Drama Festival is too close to the convention and may detract some drama participants from attending the convention. While recognizing a slight risk of any such possibility, the others thought that the risk is significantly lower than the rewards of the Regional Drama Festival. It might even ignite interest for OSA convention through small, regional gatherings and exchanges. But the concern was duly noted.

#### Southern Region:

The discussion is in the early stages. Dallas, Houston and Austin will participate. Arkansas will likely join. We will have more information in the January BOG meeting.

- 3. **5-year membership**: It was agreed by everyone at the meeting to move ahead with the 5-year membership.
- Status of the 40th OSA Convention by New York/ New Jersey Lalatendu babu gave an update on the 40th convention.

Convention will start on July 2nd and end on July 4th.This is the 40th OSA Convention and special preparation is being made to make it a memorable convention. The theme of the convention has been kept as "Sata samudrara pare".

Convention venue is Marriott Hotel. Contract has been signed. Cultural programs will be held in the theater (name??) next to the hotel. Final details of the contract are being put together.

The convention will have three categories of registration as shown below.

Super Early Bird	- \$120.00
Early Bird	- \$130.00
Onsite	- \$150.00

It was proposed that Super Early Bird deadline should be given as Feb. 28,09. Lalatendu babu will discuss this proposal with his committee.

Website is being developed. Details will be posted in OSAnet soon.

Cultural program development process has started. Soon individual chapters will be contacted. Seminar topics discussion is being done. Discussion has started in getting effective youth engagement. Saradindu Mishra will be the Souvenir Editor. Souvenir printing is being explored in Orissa. It was brought up that OSA editors should be kept in the loop.

#### 5. Other:

Pratap babu brought up the issue that some of the regulars at the OSA convention are not participating. He asked whether there is a way to bring these people back into the convention. Suggestion was made to post this in OSAnet for discussion and brainstorming.

#### OSA BOG meeting minutes- (11/9/08)

- Roll call was taken by Priyadarsan Patra. (We should further speed this up by having one be there by start time. Sikhanda also has some suggestions to improve the BOG meetings)
- 2. President Pratap Das appointed Anadi Naik as the moderator.
- Flood relief effort was discussed by Priyadarsan. The calling of nearly 2000 Oriyas in North America and e-mailing them was highly appreciated.
- 4. Sandip Dasverma, Treasurer explained that 44 donation checks have been received of which 43 are from individuals and 1 from DC chapter. And a total donation of \$7113 has been received.
- 5. It was found out from it's President that Chicago chapter donated through Bharat Sevashram Sangha rather than through OSA, National, jointly. It was pointed out to Chapter President, why it would have been better to act together, though chapter selection of agency was good.
- 6. Pratap Das, President wanted to await NY/NJ chapters tonight's Kumar Purnima festival. It was agreed that they will let Treasurer know the amount and the payment can be sent to Orissa, asap.
- 7. Treasurer read the status statement from President of NY/NJ which follows:
  - Committees have formed for various activities and they have already started discussing the basic logistics. They will be reaching to OSA executives and other chapters for additional help.
  - A "40 Year of OSA" group has formed who are busy in archiving last 40 years of memories
  - Theater (almost) & Hotel is already booked (side by side)
  - A fund raising packet is made detailing about what OSA, convention and various sponsoring opportunities available. We would like this to be circulated to various individuals who can convince organizations to participate
  - Early registration have started internally
  - Website is almost ready and will be made to public in week or two.

- BOG approved \$5000 advance by OSA to her NY/NJ chapter for the convention. Recognizing the increase in costs, etc. over the years, an advance of \$5000 (compared to the customary \$2000) was appreciated. The money is sent by OSA to NYNJ chapter in preparation for the 2009 convention.
- 8. It was discussed that there is a need for continuity of operations of OSA. Various suggestions came up and Priyadarsan was authorized to come up with a draft of ideas to be sent to constitution committee.
- 9. Sandip K. Dasverma raised the status of Regional Drama Festival and appointment of Dr. Srigopal Mohanty as the coordinator of it. Chapter Presidents from Chicago, New England, and MD & DC expressed their satisfaction at the steps being taken by Sri Gopal Mohanty to organize the regional drama festival.
- 10. Priyadarsan proposed the idea and mechanism for including all chapter websites under the OSA Web server umbrella -- for reason of consistency, unified service to members, cost and labor saving, and for archival advantage. The chapters will have separate sub-space and account to maintain their chapter websites within this umbrella. He informed that NYNJ chapter is already using it, as is the 2008 Convention. Every chapter appreciated this move and affirmed to take steps in this regard by starting their internal conversation with the web technologist. CanOSA will check with their Web developer as they may have a unique situation.
- 11. The last item was moved by President Pratap Das on expenses he made during Governor of Orissa visit. It was discussed at length in answer to a question from Sri Anadi Nayak: treasurer explained why he wanted BOG approval before filling the bill, though it was within the President's powers, Finally a vote was taken, those present appreciated the significance of guideline/process; those present unanimously approved the expense.

Priyadarsan Patra Portland, OR



## 2009 OSA ELECTION AND ANNOUNCEMENT FOR NOMINATION

The Election Committee is soliciting nominations for the offices of President, Vice-President Secretary and Treasurer of Orissa Society of Americas for 2009-11. As per the constitution, the positions of President and Vice-President will be in one slate. The position of the Secretary and Treasurer will be in independent slates.

The nominees and the nominators must be permanent members (life, patron or benefactor) of OSA at the time of nomination. In addition, the nominees must be at least 21 years or older as of June 30, 2009. The nomination must include a short introduction of the candidates in less than 300 words. Photocopy of driver's license, or passport, or birth certificate or a notarized statement to the effect that the nominee is 21 years or older as of June 30, 2009 must be attached for the nominee's age verification. All nominations must include the contact information (address, telephone number, and email) of the nominees and the nominator. All nominations must be sent to the election committee (and postmarked by February 2, 2009) at the address below with complete contact information of the nominees (including other additional details) and the nominators.

OSA 2009 Election Committee

7147 E Burnside Trail, Scottsdale, AZ 85266

In addition to sending the nomination by mail, an advance copy can optionally be faxed to (480) 406-6475 or emailed to OSAElection2009@gmail.com by February 2, 2009.

Any correspondence on the election subject will be electronic (via email) only. All emails on this subject must be sent to OSAElection2009@gmail.com.

#### **Election Committee Members**

Purna C. Mishra (Chair)

7147 E Burnside Trail, Scottsdale, AZ 85266

(480) 703-4600, purnamishra@hotmail.com

Chitta Baral (Member)

445 S. Lake Mirage Drive, Gilbert, AZ 85233

(480) 539-2550; chitta@gmail.com

Debendra Mallik (Member)

1210 N. Judd Place, Chandler, AZ 85226

(480) 705-4128, dmallik@ieee.org

#### Election 2009 Calendar

 Deadline for the official ballot list to be received from OSA Secretary January 15, 2009

<ul> <li>Deadline for the nomination to be received by the election committee February 2, 2009.</li> <li>Election ballots will be sent to voting members on or before March 22, 2009</li> </ul>		<ul> <li>Ballots must be received by the election committee with postmark no later than April 28, 2009</li> </ul>		
		<ul> <li>Ballot will be counted and the election resul will be announced on May 9, 2009.</li> </ul>		
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#### Relevant Articles from OSA constitution

## ARTICLE V: OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

#### Section 1

The ultimate authority of OSA shall be vested in the membership. The members from USA and Canada shall choose the elected officers by mail ballot.

#### Section 3 (as amended on July 1, 2004)

The President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected for a term of two years. These four executive officials must be life members or patrons or benefactors of OSA in good standing and must be 21 years of age or over. The Vice President shall be a running mate of the President. A vote for the President shall mean a vote for his/her running mate. The Secretary and Treasurer will be separately elected, but will work as a team with the President for smooth operation of the OSA. The President shall appoint the Editor of the OSA Newsletter.

#### ARTICLE VI: ELECTION Section 1

All life members and annual members of OSA have the right to vote and participate in the election.

#### Section 2

All elections are to be conducted by a secret ballot. The election procedures shall be described in the By-Laws.

#### Section 3

No two members of the Executive Committee at any time shall be from the same immediate family (e.g. Husband & wife, parents & children, siblings) of any Executive Committee member.

#### Section 4

In case, a current office bearer such as, President, Vice President, or Secretary-Treasurer, decides to run for re-election or for another position, he/she shall give up all his/her election related responsibilities as defined in the By-Laws.

#### BY - LAW III: ELECTION PROCEDURE Section 1

A three member election committee with one as chairman shall be appointed by the Executive Committee and will be announced to the general body for approval by majority at the annual convention preceding the election year.

#### Section 2

No member of the Executive Committee is eligible to be a member of the election committee.

#### Section 3

The Secretary of the OSA shall prepare a list of members who have paid their dues by Dec. 31 of the year preceding the election year. This list along with the list of life members and patrons shall be submitted to the chairman of the election committee by Jan. 15 of the election year.

#### Section 4

Nominations for the various offices shall be invited by the election committee chairman through the OSA newsletter of September-December quarter, preceding the election year. In case of contests, the names of the candidates shall be announced in a special letter to be sent by the election committee along with the position statement of each contesting candidate.

#### Section 5

The Secretary of the OSA shall print and supply the ballots to the election committee. All ballots must be sequentially numbered or coded.

#### Section 6

The ballots shall be mailed in the fourth weekend of March of the election year. The ballot number or code must be noted against the master membership list held by the election committee. For a returned ballot to be valid, it must be postmarked by the date on or before the 4th Monday of April of the election year.

#### Section 7

The election committee shall open a post office box address to which the ballots shall be mailed to by the voters. The ballots shall be counted in the presence of the election committee members and the candidates or their representatives on the second Saturday of May of the election year. The results of the election shall be announced then and there with a written statement of the results sent to the President of the OSA. All the election materials must be sealed and signed by the election committee members and the candidates or their representatives, and will be preserved by the election committee chairman for a period of six months after the election.

#### Section 8

The President of OSA shall submit the results to the Executive Committee for approval and for a publication in a special Newsletter by May 30th of the election year.

#### Section 9

The election committee shall adopt prudent ways to insure the secrecy of the voting system.

#### Section 10

All expenses for the election shall be reimbursed by the Secretary-Treasurer of OSA upon the submission of the expense report. The committee shall caution to keep expense within the budget.



#### Section 11

Any charge of election irregularity or fraud shall be reported to the President and the members of the Executive Committee for resolution.



The planning for 40th OSA Convention, 2009 is underway. Very soon all members will be receiving a personal invitation for this. The convention is scheduled to be held on 3rd (Fri) & 4th (Sat) July, 2009 at Trenton, New Jersey. The team is working towards finalizing the contracts with parties involved with the venue.

The Convention will mark a major milestone in OSA history. Please join to celebrate the 40th year of our organized existence in North America; cherish our achievement, pride, sacrifice, and most importantly celebrate "All of Us" and our success together.

The proud Organizing Team from OSA NY/NJ Chapter is actively pursuing various activities to suite every taste, whim and pleasure.

Please book your calendar and ready to meet many friends & fellow odiyas around the world; share the pride of our rich culture blended with musical & dance extravaganza and enjoy an up-close & personal evening influenced by odiya food, dress, language, social customs & festivities that you always cherish even in saata dariyaa paare.

Things will definitely be challenging with the current economic conditions, but they are confidant to wither away through your help and active cooperation.

Sincerely,

Convention 2009 Team.



#### CanOSA Orissa Flood Relief Fundraising

Jibanjit Tripathy

#### October 1<sup>st</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Another year brought another calamity to Orissa and this time Orissa was reeling under worst floods since Independence in the Mahanadi river system and battling to save millions of people trapped by overflowing rivers. Though it was time for rehearsal & preparation for Kumar Utsav 2008 in less than 3months of producing successful Toronto convention, yet CanOSAans living with the tradition of reaching out with help during Super Cyclone, Tsunami & Kedarnath Senapati again donated generously a total of \$3,043 in the timeline of October  $1^{st} - 15^{th}$ , 2008 by responding to the call for a fundraising effort through Bharat Sevashram Sangha-Canada.

The collected donations were deposited immediately following the completion of fundraising, to facilitate Bharat Sevashram Sangha's on the ground flood relief work of providing food, shelter and medicine to reach those in needs at the critical time.

#### CanOSA 2008 Kumar Utsav – A Gala Event Saturday, October18th 2008

Jibanjit Tripathy

The spirit of Kumar 2008 Kumar Utsav celebration brought together more than 200 people from across the community including friends and families from the Greater Toronto Area, with surrounding communities of Guelph, Sudbury, Barrie, Hamilton, Burlington and Waterloo including families from US also came to attend the event to Brampton's Cyril Clerk Library Theatre on Saturday October 18th 2008 evening to celebrate Kumar Purnima.

This autumn festival started with traditional Tulasi Chaura puja followed by welcome speech by the CanOSA President by explaining the significance of



Kumar Punei in Oriya culture, thanking the community, donors and volunteers for the Orissa Flood Relief Fundraising effort and most importantly the outgoing executives & board members for their hard work & new initiatives.

Soon after the evening programme started with opening folk dance by little girls & puchi khela to the familiar music & song "Kumar Punei Janhago Phula Baula Beni", directed and choreographed by Sushree Sangeeta Mishra Kar.



This year's cultural festivities continued with the children drama Gautam Buddha, a superb performance by young children depicting life history of Gautam Buddha destined

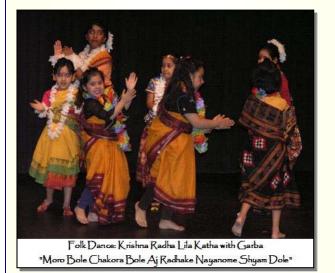
To luxurious life as a prince and how his father shielded his son religious teachings or, knowledge of human sufferings. Despite his father's effort to remove the sick, aged and sufferings from the public view, Gautam Budha was said to have seen an old man and at the age of 29, he left the palace for renunciation. Also this play insisted that Budha's first two disciples were two Sadhavas from Orissa.

This play was written by Arjun Purohit and Sumitra Padhi, Direction by Prafulla Pujapanda.



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Little girls were back again and this time with another folk dance directed and choreographed by Sushree Mishra Kar, based on Krisna Radha Lila Katha with Garba – ""Moro Bole Chakora Bole Aj Radhake Nayanome Shyam Dole" was appreciated by one and all.



The Oriya community was honored to have Mrs. & Mr. Arun Nagarajan, President & CEO, Sate Bank of India (Canada) as the Chief Guest to grace the occasion and gave away prizes to all the talented young participants of the event.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Guest Mr. Nagarajan praised CanOSA's constant endeavor to promote Oriya culture and contribution to multiculturalism in Canada. Also he elaborated SBIC's association in such efforts in its several years of presence in Canada offering value based services to the Canadian community.

In their dazzling Odissi Group dance – Guruvandana, dance concept & choreographed by Sushree Mishra Kar, young youth artists Prachi, Ineka, Somyashree & Lisa cast a spell on the audiences.





And guess what was in store for all? The all time famous and innumerable times performed yet remain fresh for its legendary writer Fakir Mohan Senapati, the substance of the story, and dramatization by Gopal Chhotray in the name of Srimati Samarjani & music direction by none other than Akhsay Mohanty. Your guess is right, *Patent Medicine*.



Unstoppable laughter, clapping to the tune of each song the audiences were enjoying every moment of the 45minutes play. The highlight of the drama though was introduction of totally two new actors on stage Amit & Satyajeet who own everybody's appreciation. Again this drama was produced in a shortest time, ably directed by Prafulla Pujapanda who added some whole new unique acting styles that made the difference.

It was closing time and time for everyone to come together and dance to the tune of Barsho Re Megha Megha, performed by young children before saying good bye for now and meet everyone very soon.

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Bhakti Sangeet: Prafulla Pujapanda, Pratap Satpathy & Abhijoy Mishra



Prafulla Pujapanda and his team Abhijoy Mishra on harmonium & Pratap Satpathy on Table presented Bhakti Sangeet.

Mr. Rabindra Sabat, CanOSA secretary presented vote of thanks to all volunteers, participants specially kids who were able to rehearsed for less than 6 weeks and yet produced some exemplary performances, donors, sponsors, audiences and the parents of Oriya community without their dedication, commitment and support could not have been possible to stage the event soon after producing successful Toronto Convention after a yearlong hard work.

How can this entertaining evening could have finished without another CanOSA spectacle of Drama performance by Adults?



Those in attendance feasted on sumptuous snacks and dinner. The ambience of the event was such that the Cyril Clark Library had been converted to a miniprovince of Odisha. The festivities continued till late into the evening. Voices of the excited people, adults and children alike, could be heard over the hum of the melodious Odiya music.

Please visit CanOSA Kumar Utsav 2008 to view photos.



# NY/NJ Chapter Kumar Purnima Celebration

Lalatendu Mohanty

NY/NJ Chapter had their Annual Kumar Purnima function at Gandhi Centre, New Jersey on Nov 08, 2008. It was one of the largest gathering in recent chapter history with close to hundred families from tristate area.

There were record number of participants who performed in the show and entertained the audience for four hours.

The grand non-stop cultural extravaganza continued over four hours. The program started with the recital of our Indian National Anthem by group of little kids followed by varieties of performances including prize winning performances from 2008 OSA Convention. There were lot of new little faces and voices on the beautiful stage with a backdrop of palm tree with full moon from typical odiya villages.



electrifying entertainment list included rhythmical dances on the tune of ollywowood, bollywood and classic Oriya 'Chatashali' songs. The chapter (kid) events from OSA 2008 (at Toronto, Canada) were restaged on popular demand by local audience. The performance also included beautifully choreographed dance ballets, drama, Chitra Giti by Society members. This was really a flag bearer for the next 40th OSA convention in New Jersey to be held during July 2009. The early bird registration counter for 40th OSA Convention was inaugurated during the event.









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