

UTKARSA OSA NEWSLETTER

A Reflection of Odia Life in The Americas

December 2011

VOL. # 43 ISSUE



Photo: OSA NY – NJ Drama Festival & Kumar Purnima 2011



From Editor's desk...

In few moments 2011 will bid farewell from us. But forever, it has imprinted many springs in our hearts. Arab spring has given hope of freedom and liberty to many where these are un-heard of. Anti-corruption up rise in India has once again promising people to dream of better life. OSA has been striving to stay transparent. Negative forces in OSANET has been transforming to positive discussions, suggestive and constructive ideas. All these are signifying good days are ahead but we have miles to go. Let us make a pledge in New Year that we will keep our area clean wherever we eat, wherever we live, whatever we talk and whomever we talk to. Let us pray to GOD to keep our thoughts clean and give us courage & strength to be determinative.

Sridhar Rana
Julie Acharya Ray
Babru Samal
December 29, 2011

Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| President's Message | 3 |
| Secretary's Desk | 4 |
| October OSA BOG Meeting Date: 10/02/2011 | 4 |
| November OSA BOG Meeting Date: 11/06/2011 | 6 |
| December OSA BOG Meeting Date: 12/04/2011 | 8 |
| Treasurer's Report | 10 |
| Welcome aboard, New Members! | 10 |
| Flood Relief Drive | 11 |
| Chapter News | 13 |
| OSA Washington - DC Chapter | 13 |
| CANOSA Report of 2011 winter | 15 |
| New York – New Jersey Chapter | 17 |
| OSA Michigan Report | 21 |
| MUSINGS | 23 |
| Sankalpa | 23 |
| Udyanara Samparka | 24 |
| OSA Domino Effect | 28 |
| Pratisruti | 30 |
| Odia Drama Festival in Americas | 34 |
| Chaal Odia Shikhiba | 38 |
| OSA-2012 Convention in Seattle, WA | 40 |
| Event/Cultural/ Awards: | 41 |
| Vice President's Message | 41 |
| Section 2: Award Details | 43 |
| Highlights of OSA Activities in Odisha during December 2011 | 48 |
| Workshop on Higher Education & Research | 50 |



President's Message

My dear fellow members of our beautiful Odia community,

Greetings! May the New Year bring each one of you Peace, Good Health and Prosperity.

There has not been a single dull moment since we took office in July 2011. It is hard to imagine that 2011 is almost over, but it is. Another couple of weeks and 2012 will be knocking on our door...I am wondering how did that happen?

So far it has been a great experience to work with you all! While serving the OSA adds to my workload, it has given me the opportunity to get to know my fellow officials better and reach out to the greater Odia community in the North America. Truly speaking, my involvement with the OSA gives me a tremendous sense of happiness and gratification. I take this opportunity to share with you the things we have been doing since last July.

1. We have made every effort to make the OSA an inclusive organization by involving fellow Odias from different parts of the Americas. Consciously, we are trying to develop an inclusive OSA community giving due weight to each and every member in the organization. Our membership drive has been going on in full swing and has reached over 850. Please do help us in reaching 1000 by the end of March 2012.

2. Through our BOG monthly conference calls and committees, we have involved different chapters and their voices in the decision making process of our organization. We have also been in contact with various members of our community through Internet as well as through our ejournal, Utkarsa.

3. The Orissa Society of the Americas (OSA) organized successful fundraising programs in different parts of the USA to help the flood affected people in Odisha. Since we, the members of the OSA learned about the devastating flood situation in Odisha last September, 2011

Fellow Odias in different regions of the country have been contributing funds to the OSA flood relief campaign. So far we have sent \$5,000 to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund and more than \$8,000 to the Ramakrishna Mission in Odisha. We the OSA officials feel happy that our organization has come to the assistance of the flood-affected people of Odisha by raising donations through its members and various chapters.

4. We have also tried to connect with our state Odisha by organizing a forum on Higher Education Opportunities in North America, in collaboration with Utkal University, Odisha on 22nd December 2011.

5. I am happy to announce that the 43rd OSA convention is going to be held in Seattle, Washington from 5-7 July 2012 and we are in constant communication with the Pacific Northwest chapter for the planning of the convention. Mr. Amulya Das has been nominated as the convener of the OSA 2012 convention by the Pacific North West chapter. Congratulations Amulya Das for your willingness to come forward and help lead the his chapter in organizing this convention. The local officials are in constant contact with the OSA officials in planning the convention. Please save the date, 5-7 July 2012.

"Many hands make light work" and that is our motto for the OSA. It is the communal effort and being part of this team has so many rewards. I hope you will consider taking some time out of your busy schedule to come forward and participate in any of the OSA activities you like.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continuous support to the OSA. My husband and I wish you all a very happy and safe Holiday Season.

Sincerely,
Annapurna Pandey
President, OSA



Secretary's Desk...

October OSA BOG Meeting Date: 10/02/2011

Meeting Location: Conference Call

Recorded By: Leena Mishra

Attendance:

| No | Name | Title | Organization | Present |
|----|---------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|---------|
| 1 | Annapurna Pandey | President | OSA | Yes |
| 2 | Kuku Das | Vice President | OSA | Yes |
| 3 | Leena Mishra | Secretary | OSA | Yes |
| 4 | Sushant Satpathy | Treasurer | OSA | Yes |
| 5 | Nisikant Sahoo | President | OSA- New England | Yes |
| 6 | Bigyani Das | Past President | OSA | Yes |
| 7 | Nihar Nanda | President | OSA – New England | Yes |
| 8 | Priya Darshan Patra | President | OSA – Pacific Northwest Chapter | Yes |
| 9 | Amar Pani | President | Southern Chapter | Yes |
| 10 | Lalatendu Mohanty | President | OSA – NYNJ Chapter | Yes |
| 11 | Sabita Panigrahi | President | CanOSA | Yes |
| 12 | Gopala Mohapatra | President | South West | Yes |

Meeting Location

Conference Call

Meeting Start

Meeting Schedule Start: 9: 00 pm Eastern time

Agenda

- 2011 Convention Issue

Meeting Details

- Formal Introduction by everyone in the meeting
- Bigyani Das brought a motion to approve the past minutes. Treasurer Sushant Satpathy seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.





Flood Drive Update

- It was suggested in BOG to find a proper communication from Red Cross before sending the money.
- Some members in BOG suggested considering Chief Minister Relief Fund as an option.
- It was decided to keep Oct 30th as the deadline for Flood Drive. President Annapurna Pandey Suggested forming a committee who will work on adding visibility to OSA.

Chhanda Champu Competition:

- Bigyani Das agreed to form a committee to work on the initiative of promoting Chhanda and Champu.

Membership and Chapter Affiliation

- It was suggested in BOG to reach the chapter members and ask them to login to DOLA and update the chapter affiliation.

Transparency in OSA

- BOG has decided to post the agenda of the BOG meeting in OSANet much before the OSA BOG meeting.
- Members will be given opportunity to suggest any issue that they want to be discussed in BOG

Meeting End

- Meeting Actual End: 12:25 pm Eastern time

Post Meeting Action Items

| Action | Assigned To | Deadline |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|----------|
| Promotion of Chhanda Champu | Bigyani Das | |
| proposal for adding visibility to OSA | Sushant Satpathy | |
| Conflict Resolution | Amar Pani | |

Decisions Made

Next Meeting:

Location: Conference call – phone



November OSA BOG Meeting Date: 11/06/2011

Meeting Location: Conference Call

Recorded By: Leena Mishra

Attendance:

| No | Name | Title | Organization | Present |
|----|----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------|
| 1 | Annapurna Pandey | President | OSA | Yes |
| 2 | Kuku Das | Vice President | OSA | Yes |
| 3 | Leena Mishra | Secretary | OSA | Yes |
| 4 | Sushant Satpathy | Treasurer | OSA | Yes |
| 5 | Nisikant Sahoo | Past President | OSA- New England | Yes |
| 6 | Bigyani Das | Past President | OSA | Yes |
| 7 | Nihar Nanda | President | OSA – New England | Yes |
| 8 | Priya Darshan Patra | President | OSA – Pacific Northwest | Yes |
| 9 | Amar Pani | President | Southern | Yes |
| 10 | Lalatendu Mohanty | President | OSA – NYNJ | Yes |
| 11 | Sabita Panigrahi | President | CanOSA | Yes |
| 12 | Gopala Mohapatra | President | South West | Yes |
| 13 | Radhagobinda Mohanty | President | OSA-Ozark | Yes |
| 14 | Anadi Naik | President | OSA- MD/VA | Yes |
| 15 | Prabhat Mohapatra | Elected President | OSA – NYNJ | Yes |
| 16 | Rakesh Pattanaik | Member | OSA – Pacific Northwest | Yes |
| 17 | Manoranjan Acharya | Member | OSA – Pacific Northwest | Yes |
| 18 | Debashish Panda | Member | OSA – Pacific Northwest | Yes |
| 19 | Arat Rout | President | Ohio | Yes |
| 20 | Pranabesh Das | Member | OSA – Pacific Northwest | Yes |
| 21 | Pradeep Sahoo | Member | OSA – Pacific Northwest | Yes |
| 22 | Amulya Das | Convenor- 2012 Convention | OSA – Pacific Northwest | Yes |
| 23 | Chita Baral | Member | OSA | Yes |

Meeting Location

Conference Call

Meeting Start

Meeting Schedule Start: 8: 00 pm Eastern time

Agenda

- OSA 2012 convention hosted by the Pacific North West chapter. (The chapter President and a few community members to brief the BOG on their planning the 2012 convention.)
- NROFC meeting in Bhubaneswar, Dec 18th 2011. (Prof. Chitta Baral to brief us on a workshop, " Buddhist heritage and tradition" planned on this occasion.)
- Treasurer's report
- Secretary's report
- Question & Answer Session



Meeting Details

NY/NJ Chapter President

- President Annapurna Pandey welcomed elected NYNJ chapter President Mr. Prabhat Mohapatra to the group. Everyone in the group joined Ms. Pandey to welcome Mr. Prabhat Mohapatra.

NROFC Update

- Mr. Chita Baral briefed everyone on his findings on Buddhist cave in Khandagiri and the planned workshop in Utkal University, Orissa..
- The date of the workshop is not finalized yet. The tentative date of the workshop is 18th/ 19th of December.

Convention Update

- Mr. Amulya Das delivered a thank you message to the group updated the team about convention.

Treasurer's Report

Flood Drive:

- Sushant Satpathy informed the team that he has received \$9700 for flood drive so far and there are pledges for another \$1200. \$7,500 has already been sent and any amount in excess of \$7500 will be sent to RKM very soon.

Membership Drive:

Sushant Satpathy updated the team on Membership Drive with the following information:

- OSA currently has 852 members which include all types of membership and in last two months 28 new members (life and 5-year) have joined OSA.
- They are planning to follow-up with annual members on this.

Secretary's Report

- The past meeting was approved in the BOG even though it was considered approved in the email before.
- Anadi Naik suggested to send the OSA events/activities to Odia News paper.
- Lata Mishra and Bigyani Das are working on the promotion of Chhanda and Champu .

General Discussions on 2012 Convention

Everyone in the team joined to share their ideas, comments and opinions about solving the 2012 convention issue.

Meeting End

Meeting Actual End: 11:45 pm Eastern time

Post Meeting Action Items

| Action | Assigned To | Deadline |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|----------|
| Promotion of Chhanda Champu | Bigyani Das & Lata Misra | |

Decisions Made

Next Meeting:

Location: Conference call – phone



December OSA BOG Meeting Date: 12/04/2011

Meeting Location: Conference Call

Recorded By: Leena Mishra

Attendance

| No | Name | Title | Organization | Present |
|----|-------------------|----------------|--------------------|---------|
| 1 | Annapurna Pandey | President | OSA | Yes |
| 2 | Kuku Das | Vice President | OSA | Yes |
| 3 | Leena Mishra | Secretary | OSA | Yes |
| 4 | Sushant Satpathy | Treasurer | OSA | Yes |
| 5 | Anadi Naik | President | OSA- MD/VA | Yes |
| 6 | Bigyani Das | Past President | OSA | Yes |
| 7 | Amar Pani | President | Southern Chapter | Yes |
| 8 | Lalatendu Mohanty | President | OSA – NYNJ Chapter | Yes |
| 9 | Sabita Panigrahi | President | CanOSA | Yes |
| 10 | Gopala Mohapatra | President | South West | Yes |

Meeting Location

Conference Call

Meeting Start

Meeting Schedule Start: 8: 30 pm Eastern time

Meeting Actual Start: 10:35 pm - please list one time

Agenda

1. Convention update
2. Greater Seattle Chapter
3. Treasurer's report
4. Secretary's report

Meeting Details

- President Annapurna Pandey welcomed ever one to the meeting.

Convention Update

Annapurna Pandey updated BOG members about convention from the e-mail update sent by convener Mr. Amulya Das.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Leena Mishra briefed the following items:

- December Utkarsha Announcement
 - The last date to receive the report for Utkarsa is 15th Dec
- OSA's sponsorship for International Odissi Festival 2012.
 - A vote was taken to find out the decision about OSA's sponsorship for International Odissi festival. Everyone in BOG was in favor of this proposal.
 - OSA was invited to become a sponsor of the International Odissi Festival being organized in Odisha during December 23- 26 by IPAP and other prominent cultural organizations in Odisha and India.



- BOG members voted that OSA should participate as a sponsor. As currently OSA does not have enough discretionary fund for this sponsorship, it was decided to request BOG members and anyone else interested to sponsor this event with \$1000.

- Updates on chapter Relation Committee
- Improve relationship with Indian Embassy

Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer Sushant Satpathy updated the BOG about the membership drive.

Greater Seattle Chapter Issue

There was discussion regarding Greater Seattle Chapter Application received by secretary on October 31st 2011. It was pointed out that in the chapter application for the new chapter the geographical area for the chapter is missing. It was decided that secretary should get clarification on that point before BOG can make a decision.

Meeting End

Meeting Actual End: 12:25 pm Eastern time

Post Meeting Action Items

| Action | Assigned To | Deadline |
|---------------------------------|------------------|----------|
| Respond to Debadutta Dash | Leena Mishra | |
| Contact BOG for Odissi Festival | Sushant Satpathy | |
| Updated Membership Form | Anadi Naik | |

Decisions Made

OSA will be a Sponsor for International Odissi Festival.

Next Meeting

Next Meeting: 8th January 2012

Location: Conference call – phone



Treasurer's Report...

Welcome aboard, New Members!


Dear Friends,

Please join us in welcoming our new members to the society. We are thankful for their decision to be part of OSA. We look forward to a lasting positive relationship and hope this will bring new ideas to our organization and invigorate all of us in carrying out OSA's mission 'the pursuit of excellence in the promotion and propagation of Oriya culture in Americas by bringing together all the people interested in Orissa through socio-cultural events, and developmental activities'. We are hoping all of you can reach out to someone who is currently not a member of OSA and request him/her to consider being a member and help carrying out OSA's mission. And if each one of us try we can reach 1000 members soon. We all need to contribute our own way by bringing our friends or family to be part of the organization.

Once again let's heartily welcome following members who have joined over last 2 months:

Rakesh Patnaik and Sangeeta Katha, WA, Life Member
Niranjan Senapati and Itishree Bastia, MA, Life Member
Satyakam and Mitali Madhusmita Das, WA, 5-year Member
Anwasha Das and Ashish Narrain, WA, 5-year Member
Habib M Habib and Sakina Habib, WA, 5-year Member
Madhusmita Sahoo and Jayaprathap Parameswaran, WA, 5-year Member
Murthy Kalkura and Aarthi Kalkura, WA, 5-year Member
Sukanta K Nanda and Namrata Panda, WA, 5-year Member
Rita Meher and Brandon McIntosh, WA, 5-year Member
Sambit Behera and Sasmita Behera, WA, 5-year Member
Pallavi Baral and Rahul Lal, WA, 5-year Member
Ratna Roy and David Capers, WA, Life Member
Mitrabhanu Sahu, WA, Life Member
Dina Krushna Ray and Ratna Ray, WA, 5-year Member
Nihar Ranjan Dash and Samita Satpathy, WA 5-year Member
Swaroop Mishra and Anna Mishra, WA, Life Member
Debabrata Panda and Renuka Mishra, CA, 5-year Member
Ashok Jena and Pushpanjali Jena, CA, Life Member
Sandip Biswal and Anita Biswal, CA, Life Member
Marc Dareau and Pragati Misro, CA, Life Member
Prasanna Mohanty and Sarita Mohanty, CA, Life Member
Brian T Feeley and Sarina Behera, CA, Life Member
Reina Haque and Ralph Vogel, CA, Life Member






Gati Kar and Anuradha Kar, CA, Life Member
Ashok Das and Sanghamitra Pattnaik, WA, 5-year Member
Dillip Behera and Priyadarsini Behera, NH, Life Member
Biswabhusan Sahoo and Mamata Sahoo, MA, Life Member
Srinivas P Tutika and Padmaja Tutika, MO, Life Member
Sishu Shankar and Sushila Marhata, CA, Life Member
Kedarnath Nanda and Tapati Dash, MD, Life Member
Tusar Das and Rnajita Das, OH, Life Member
Chinmaya Panda and Monalisa Tripathy, CA, 5-year member

We want to take a moment to thank everyone who have worked hard to introduce these members to OSA. We are looking for member-volunteers from each chapter or region to help with our out reach effort. It is our sincere request to all of you to do your part to grow this organization and together we can !

Flood Relief Drive

Dear Friends,

Namaskar!




I want to thank you all for your support for the Flood Relief drive. At the conclusion of this drive OSA received \$13,144.12 from 118 donors (new donors are listed below). The funds received have already been disbursed: \$5,000 to Chief Minister's Relief Fund and \$7,917.41 to Rama Krishna Mission. The transaction details are in the attached document with explanation. Also, I have attached communications/documents received from RKM regarding their plan for funds utilization that I received prior to transfer of last installment to RKM.

SO Cal high school students Aditi Patnaik, Surya Kar, Soumya Kar, Komal Rout, Milan Mohanty, Nayan Behera, Ricky Spandan, Sheetal Rout, Shibani Mohanty, Shreya Maharana and Shruti Khandai with the help of their parents and community had organized a talent show on Nov 20th to raise funds for the Flood Relief drive. My heartfelt thanks to parents and everyone involved for engaging children for a good cause and raising \$2126 in the process.

Also, I want to thank MD Cricket team for their effort and helping us with \$1100 for this drive.

New Donors (no particular order except the order entered):

Anonymous IL
Sarada and Rupa Mohapatra IL
Debashish and Liti Panda IL
Lalatendu Mohanty and Namrata Das NJ



Gopal Mohapatra TX
Sandip Dasverma WA
Surya and Minakhi Panigrahy IL
NY Life (Matching Fund - Lalatendu
Mohanty) NJ
Biswa Mohapatra MD
Kedarnath Nanda MD
Sajesh Saran MD
Bimal Mishra MD
Jitendra Prusty MD
Kiran Ambatipud MD
Subrat Rout MD
Sambit Kumar MD
Subrat Mohanty MD
Anil Das MD
Rajani Rath MD
Alok Ray VA
Anonymous CA
Ashok and Pushpanjali Jena CA
Basant K Sahu CA
Biswajit Khandai CA
Gautem and Madhmita Das CA
Gitanjali and Sribardhan Patnaik CA
Harsha Pattnaik CA
Jhili CA
Jyostna Patnaik CA
Kasturee and Deba Mohapatra CA
Santosh and Kabita Mishra CA
Kirtan and Mamata Behera CA
Mir Mahiuddin CA
Atreya Das and Lisa Mohanty CA
Manoj and Gouri Mishra CA
Naba and Bijaylaxmi Kar CA
Nandita Behera CA
Nirod and Sneha Mohanty CA
Prabin Bishoyi CA
Prasanna Panda and Nibedita Acharya CA
Pushpita Chandan CA
Raja Epsilon and Babita Mohanty CA
Rajesh and Pinky CA
Rita Mohanty CA
Sabyasachi and Banita Panigrahi CA
Sanjay and Yogapriya Das CA
Saroj and Suniti Behera CA
Saroj Mohapatra and Manisha Mishra CA
Satya and Punyatoya CA

Satyabrata Nayak and Sunita Rout CA
Laxmi and Shakuntala Bhuyan CA
Sitaram and Shivangi Susarla CA
Sitikantha and Shakti Mohapatra CA
Pradeept Sahoo and Smita Das CA
Aparajita Patnaik CA
Smruti Rout CA
Sudhir and Sasmita Maharana CA
Jitendra Sarwate and Swati Pandit CA
Gouri Sankar Kar and Swayam Pati CA
Tapas and Shelly CA
Varun CA

I received following suggestions that I wanted to share:

1. It will be helpful to preselect organizations best able to carry out these type of effort suggested names : RKM , BSS, Rotary Club and Samaj Relief Fund
2. OSA should create a fund (\$2500-\$5000) for humanitarian cause and should be able to send the amount for immediate relief
3. On-line payment will be easier
4. Give different option to donors to publish name and amount or combination there of (no name and no amount, no name but amount, name and amount, name and no amount). I could not do that because of time and possibility of commission/omission on my part (as it is manual).

If you have any question or suggestion, please send it to treasurer@orissasociety.org.
Once again I want to thank you all not for the amount raised through this flood drive rather the way we all came together as community.

Best Regards,
Sushant Satpathy
Volunteer/ Treasurer, OSA



Chapter News

OSA Washington - DC Chapter

Kumar Purnima 2011

This is our first Kumar Purnima event since we took over as office bearers of the OSA DC chapter.

This year the DC chapter observed Kumar Purnima on October 16 at the Hindu temple Maryland with grandeur. Young girls and boys participated in the cultural programs with enthusiasm. The program started with Gayatri bandana and was followed by a description of the festival. It was incredible to see the kids dancing to the tune of ethnic Oriya and modern Bollywood songs. Kids also showcased their talent in Indian classical music and classical dance forms. A well made Oriya drama about Lord Jagannath was also presented by our chapter's kids on this occasion. Thus the evening was full of merry making and festivities. The cultural program was coordinated by Susmita Sahu and Dharitri Banerjee.



Mr. Amulya Balwantaray, a prominent Odissi dancer, was our distinguished guest for the evening. He enraptured the audience with an Odissi performance.

Life time achievement award from national OSA was conferred on Mrs Anu Biswal for her outstanding contribution to Oriya community in USA. The award was presented by our past presidents Dr Bigyani Das and Pratap Das on this occasion.



Chanda puja was arranged by Meera Mohapatra and Urmila Sahu. All children and adults performed the rituals of Chanda puja by offering Chanda bhoga to moon. Our traditional "Chanda bhoga" was distributed to all the attendees. The celebration ended with distribution of trophies to all the participants. Finally, dinner comprising traditional Oriya food was served by the food Organizers.





Our special thanks to Dr Babru Samal and Kedar nath Nanda for posting pictures and videos of our Kumar Purnima event.

Pictures are taken by Dr Babru Samal and can be seen at <http://www.babru.com/KPurnima11>.

Also the news was telecast in OTV, Odisha. The news snippet has been uploaded by Kedarnath Nanda at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E3-SxeSGpqc>.

Volunteers : Our special thanks to following volunteers for their support and contribution in making this event successful.

Raj Patnaik, Anup Bakshi, Sanghamitra Sahu, Ipsita Das , Girija Sahoo, Gaurav Nanda, Anil Das, Bala Dixit, Shivasis Hota, Deepak Dhala, Debasis Patnaik , Hemant Biswal ,,Supriya Pattanyak, Asmi Panigrahi, Sarthak Sahu, Urmila Sahu, Bandita Mishra, Sangeeta Nayak, Parameeta Kanungo, Manaswini Sahu, Leena Mishra, Madhabi Das , Lali Tripathy, Ashim Dey, Kalpana Panigrahi & Susama Panda.

Upcomming Event:

The DC chapter is going to observe Saraswati puga on January 26, 2012 at Hindu Temple Maryland.

Chapter Web Page :

A website for the OSA DC chapter has been created and can be reached at www.osa-dc.org . Our special thanks to Ayaskant Sahu, Surya Sahu & Laxmikant Dash for their efforts in putting it up.

We look forward to next event in 2012.

Visit us at www.osa-dc.org for any news announcements, forum updates and events.

Thanks,
Gatikrishna Tripathy, President
Maushumi Pattanayak, Vice President
Upendra Das, Treasurer/Secretary



CANOSA Report of 2011 winter

By Sabita Panigrahi

Kumar Utsav Celebration

CANOSA celebrated Kumar Utsav at the Chinguacousy Secondary School auditorium in Brampton. It was a typical autumn afternoon in the Greater Toronto Area. The curtains opened with the song “Kuanara Punei rati lo, Kuanara Punei rati”. The young girls danced to the tune with joy. The dance was choreographed by Nandita Gantayet and directed by Madhusmita Gharai-Patra. That was followed by a Ganesh Vandana dance which was choreographed by Nandita Gantayet and performed by Arpita and Nikita Gantayet, Ineka Panigrahi and Prachi Mishra. The audience was mesmerized by their flawless synchronization and beautiful professional performance. The children presented a play in Odia based on the folklore of Odisha called “Taapoi”. 30 children participated in this play starting from age 2 to 13. It was written by Sumitra Padhi and directed by Nibedita Patnaik.



The tabla recital by Satwik Pattanaik, Amitabh Mohanty and Pratap Satpathy was quite fascinating.



It was directed by Pratap Satpathy. For the first time, a play by the name of *Ama Parivara*, performed by ladies only, was presented on the stage. It was quite hilarious to listen to the squabbling of ladies from different regions of Odisha (Cuttack, Baripada, Berhampur and Sambalpur).



Another angle of this play was to put emphasis on Dhaga Dhamali (proverbs) of Odisha and they were frequently used in conversations. That created laughter often among the audience. The play was written by Niyati Mohanty and directed by Sabita Panigrahi. Ayushi Sharma and Neena Jayarajan from Menaka Thakkar Dance Company (MTDC) presented a beautiful Mangalacharan, Pallavi and Moksha of Odissi dance. At the end, a *suanga* style comedy play *Sesha Bichara (Last Judgement)* written and directed by Niranjana Mishra, was presented. The tempo of the play picked up slowly and ended with a big laughter. Vote of thanks was given by Sujata Patnaik and Sudeshna Patnaik.



Prizes were given by the Chief Guest Dr Menaka Thakkar to the children who participated in the program. Dr Menaka Thakkar is one of the pioneers to bring Indian Classical Dances to North America. The cultural program was conducted by the three emcees Rinki Mohapatra, Madhumita Das and Swapna Patro. The program was coordinated by Nibedita Pattanaik, Sumitra Padhi, Sudeshna Patnaik, Madhusmita Gharai-Patra, Nandita Gantayet, Niyati Mohanty, Pratap Satpathy and Niranjana Mishra. The sound and lights were managed by Suvendu Mishra, Abani Pattanayak and Prasad Rao. The stage was managed by Gagan Panigrahi with his young volunteers, Bibhu Mohapatra, Suyash Pandey and Sidhant Mishra. Rekha Mishra, Manoj Panda and Suvendu Gantayet took care of still photos and videography. Good food was possible due to Sujata Patnaik and Amitabh Mohanty. Hara N. Padhi was in charge of registration. The whole event was managed by Sabita Panigrahi. This year we had 41 children participants out of 65. The event was attended by a high number of 195 people.

The event was not only an evening of joy and festive mood but also a true picture of promoting and preserving the arts, language and heritage of Odisha by showcasing Odia culture and showcasing talents by both children and adults.

Fund raising for Odisha Flood Relief

CANOSA did a fund raising drive for the Odisha flood relief and raised \$2329. The money was sent to build cowsheds for the affected people in Gop Area. CANOSA board thanks Vaishno Devi temple of Oakville, Ontario for providing CRA (Canada Revenue Agency) tax receipts to the Canadian donors.



New York - New Jersey Chapter

Orissa Society of Americas, New York & New Jersey Chapter

Eastern
Region
Drama
Festival



Kumar Utsav '11

30th October, 2011 at Gandhi Center Auditorium, Wayne, New Jersey

This year's event will remain as one of the memorable event in the history of New York & New Jersey Chapter. A historic October snowstorm crushed New York tri-state area with heavy snow and howling winds paralyzing the whole area with two feet of snow, blocked roads, broken trees and power cuts.

Regional Drama Festival

The Management team did not have much choice but to postpone the event to next day and took up the challenge made sure that show goes on. The storm catastrophe could not deter the up-beat enthusiasm of the organizers.

The grand event was a hit success. New England team decided to march forward and spent an extra day in the warmth of NY-NJ hospitality. All Participants came forward to take part in the event even with the power cuts at home or some even had spent overnight at their friends. Thanks to their audacity!

The Drama Festival was inaugurated by Mrs Lata Mishra, a strong advocate to Nataka, Chhanda, Champu & Odissi. In her speech she expressed her pleasure of to see drama festival here for the first

time. There was a minute of silence to remembering life of Dr Kasinath Sahoo, a local OSA Member who passed away recently. Mrs Mishra recollected few of his past memories and & Mr Lalatendu Mohanty, President OSA NY-NJ, wished his soul to leave in peace.

The Drama festival started with "Bapi Baha Heba", a presentation by New England Chapter, mimicking the modern wedding plans. Other Dramas included were "Chaatasali" & "Konark" by DC Chapter, "Galani Kapur Drarichu Kana" by NY-NJ Chapter. Due to inclement weather condition, DC Chapter could not participate in spite of their bold attempt.



New Executives
President
Prabhat Mohapatra



Vice-President
Sanghamitra Pati



Secretary
Sanat Pattanaik



Treasurer
Suman Samal

Kumar Utsav 2011

The Evening started with OSA NY-NJ's Annual event of Kumar Utsav. "Swagatam Subha Swagatam", a classical Odissi presentation, welcomed the audience to the evening full of colorful programs. While "Lights, Camera & Action", a beautiful combination of many kinds of dance styles including Contemporary, semi classical, Pun-

jabi, Bollywood free style ,hip hop and Disco, gave a flavor of bollywood, "Chitra Geeti" gave the flavor of seventy years of Odia movie songs. "Maha Raasa", an Odissi depiction of Krishna Raasa Leela, gave the evening the autumn fulfillment of His Maya with a rapturous divine musical. Many other



Champu & Chhanda



artists showcased their performance. A Odiya Band was exclusively formed for the event with many odiya artists from Tri-state area. True energy blushed out with the start of Jajaabara and kept the crowd

animated until the Rangabati brought the fire. It was a real packaged deal filled with brilliant music, great appearance & superb presentation. Other activities including Face Painting and stand-up comedy was a great hit.



"The folio"

Art & Science Exhibition

Another attraction was "The Folio", an Art & Science Exhibition. To promote the artistic minds and scientific thinking of our kids, this exhibition was arranged. The kids from all ages demonstrated their skills and interests by explaining their display. There were fifteen participants from 1st grade to High school with many interesting projects like "Clean Dirty Pennies", "Daily Science", "Circuit Game", "Spiral Wishing Well", "Hand-Eye Coordination", "The



Science of Electricity", "Growing Crystals", "Sense of Smell", "Floating Water", "The Light Spectrum", "Innovative Arts", "Collage of Arts", "Natural Beauty", "Evolution of Life", "The Golden Ratio" and "Prosthesis".



New Executive Team

It was also the time to elect the new leadership in the Chapter. With term of the current executives teams getting over, a new executive team was nominated and was accepted by the members. Mr Prabhat Mohapatra, Mrs Sanghamitra Pati, Mr Sanat Pattanaik & Mrs Suman Samal will be the new President, Vice-President, Secretary & Treasurer effective from 1st January, 2012. Mr

Pitambar Sarangi thanked the current Executives for their hard work for last 4 years and described how things have come a great way since the old days where participants are only the organizers. Mr Akhil Patel welcomed and congratulated the new Executives and reiterated the support and cooperation for coming days.



Thanks to Current Executives and Event Coordinators

Event Coordinators

Kumar Purnima
Pradeep Mohapatra

Drama Festival
Sridhar Rana

Exhibition
Sanat Pattanaik

Choreographers
Seema Senapati
Bani Ray

Soumya Sarita
Somna Pati
Sangeeta Sharma
Eva Mohanty
Riti Mohanty

Comparer
Julie Khandei
Lisa Pradhan
Natasha Mohanty

President

Lalatendu Mohanty
lives with wife Namrata & Daughter Natasha



Vice-President

Eva Mohanty
lives with husband Jagannath Mohanty and two daughters, Ellora & Emma Minerva



Secretary

Jeetendra Pradhan
lives with wife Lisa and son Aanish



Treasure

Antaryami Panigrahi
lives with wife Monalisa, daughter Gargi & son Tejas





For more photos, [click here](#)

A Few relaxing Moments...



OSA Michigan Report

Kumara Purnima 2011.

The Oriya Michigan community celebrated Kumara Purnima 2011 with excellent participation of the Community members at Kalakshetra, Farmington Hills on Saturday Nov 12, 2011.

Community members turned up in record numbers and enjoyed a wonderful evening. The evening festivities got underway with the invocation of 'Mangala Charan' and paying due respects to Lord Jagannatha, the Lord of the World. Community elders led the prayers. This was followed by the beautiful rendition of the 'Kumara Punei Jhana lo' song by all the community members especially the tiny tots and the seniors.

Some of the highlights of the program was Odia Drama, Fashion show, Bollywood Bhangra, electrifying performances of the kids and adults in various dance and song numbers.

The entire community comprising of senior community members to tiny tots turned up for the program making it a grand success and occasion to remember. We had excellent participation from many Volunteers among the community members. This ensured that the programs were conducted smoothly and with excellent participation.

The OSA Michigan website at <http://www.osamichigan.org/> was launched.

OSA MI President officially welcome the members with an inaugural address. Vote of Thanks was proposed by Vivek Das, General Secretary. Financial Statement was prepared and put on the website by Pramod Satapathy, Treasurer. Together they formed the executive committee in charge of organizing the Kumara Purnima 2011.

The programs ended with a mouth watering dinner. This was followed by a group dance in which all the community participated to excellent Odia and Bollywood beats. Following the dance, all community members pitched in to clean up the premises.

The entire list of programs was carefully chosen to give an opportunity to all community members to participate and show case their talents. A lot of college going kids from the community were involved in the festivities and took part in many activities. Volunteer certificates were given to high school kids in the community who volunteered and helped make this program a grand success.

There was a true sense of community spirit and nostalgia for our heritage and community members enjoyed the occasion. Many new members who had come recently to Michigan also showed up making this an occasion to truly cherish and remember.



| Name of the program | Program coordinator | Choreographer/Director |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Jagannath Bandana | | |
| Kumar Punei Janha lo | Swati Mishra | |
| Dance by Desi BoyZ | Ranjita Das | Ranjita Das |
| Dance Dhamaka | Geeta Sahoo | Reshma Das |
| Tu bji nach le ve | Swayam Kar | Swayam Kar |
| | Sunita Mahapatra | Sunita Mahapatra |
| Drama-"Dhinki" | Written by Jogesh Panda | Jogesh panda & Sudipta Mishra |
| Rangabati | Krushna Panda | |
| Rocking Rythms | Roshni & Ishani | Roshni & Ishani |
| Break | Break | Break |
| Jhankar | Subhasis Mohanty | All of them |
| Bollywood Bhangra | Swayam Kar | Ananya Kar |
| Amplifying boyz | Pushpita Bhuyan | Pushpita Bhuyan |
| Dhadak dhadak | Seema Rout | Seema Rout |
| Dance pe dance | Geeta Sahoo | Reshma Das |
| Fashion Show | Nutan Satapathy | Nutan Sathpathy |
| | | Punjab |
| | | Odisha Tribe |
| | | Gujrat |
| | | West Bengal |
| | | Kashmir |
| | | Maharastra |
| | | Rajasthan |
| | | Andhra Pradesh |
| | | Odisha |

Many of the photographs and Videos can be found at our website.
<http://www.osamichigan.org/>



Sankalpa

ସଂକଳ୍ପ

ସ୍ଵପ୍ନଲତା ମିଶ୍ର(ରଥ)

ନାଁ,
କେବଳ କଥା କଟାକଟି
ବଳ କଷାକଷି
ହାର ଜିତ୍‌ର ହିସାବରେ
ଗତେଇଦିଅନା ଯେତେ
ଦୁର୍ମୂଲ୍ୟ ମୁହୂର୍ତ୍ତ ।

ଦେଖତ,
ଯାହା ପାଇଁ ଏତେ ଦୃଢ଼
ଏତେ ମନାନ୍ତର
ସେ ଜୀବନ ନିଶ୍ଚିତ ହିଁ କେମିତି
ଆଜ୍ଞୁଳାରୁ ପାଣି ପରି
ନିଃଶବ୍ଦରେ ମୁହୂର୍ତ୍ତ ମୁହୂର୍ତ୍ତ ।

ଭାବତ,
ଦୃଶ୍ୟଶୂନ୍ୟ ଚଉଦିଗେ
ନିରକ୍ଷ ଅନ୍ଧାର ଛତା
ଆଉ କ'ଣ ବାକିଥାଏ
ସରିଗଲେ
ଅନ୍ଧିମ ମୁହୂର୍ତ୍ତ ।

ଆସ ବନ୍ଧୁ!
ଆସି ଖୋଲିବା ମୁହୂର୍ତ୍ତକୁ
ସକାଳ ବୁଝିବା,
ଅନ୍ଧାର ଆସିବା ଆଗରୁ
ଅବଶିଷ୍ଟ ଆୟୁଷରେ
ଅମୃତର ନିର୍ଯ୍ୟାସ ଭରି
ବିଷାଦିତ ପୃଥିବୀକୁ
ସରସ କରିବା,
ଜିଇ ଯିବା
ଅବଶିଷ୍ଟ ପ୍ରତିଟି ମୁହୂର୍ତ୍ତ ।

ମାଲୋମ୍, ମିତିଗାନ୍



Udyanara Samparka

ଉଦ୍ୟାନର ସଂପର୍କ

(ଚତୁର୍ଥ ଭାଗ - ପୂର୍ବ ପ୍ରକାଶିତ ଉତ୍ତାରୁ)
ବିଜ୍ଞାନୀ ଦାସ, ଡେବନ୍, ମେରୀଲାଣ୍ଡ

ହଠାତ୍ ଘରପଟାଆଡୁ ପାଟିତୁଣ୍ଡ ଶୁଭିଲା । କିଏ ଯେମିତି ପାଗଳ ହୋଇଯାଇଛି କି କାହାକୁ କାଳିଶି ଲାଗିଛି । ଶୀତଋତୁ ପ୍ରତିଭା ବସିଥିବା ଦିଗକୁ ଆସୁଥିଲେ, କିନ୍ତୁ ଘରଦିଗକୁ ପ୍ରତ୍ୟାବର୍ତ୍ତନ କଲେ । ଅନ୍ୟ କେତେ ବୟୋଜ୍ୟେଷ୍ଠ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିମାନେ ମଧ୍ୟ ସେ ଦିଗକୁ ଧାଇଁଲେ । କିନ୍ତୁ ପିଲାମାନେ ସେମିତି ବସିରହିଥିଲେ ଓ ଗପଗପ, ଖେଳକୁଦରେ ମଜ୍ଜିଯାଇଥିଲେ ଯେମିତି କି ପୃଥିବୀର କୌଣସି ଶକ୍ତି ବି ସେମାନଙ୍କର ସେ ଆନନ୍ଦରେ ବାଧାଦେବାକୁ ସମର୍ଥ ହୋଇପାରିବନି । ତକ୍ଟର ଶର୍ମା ସେମିତି ବସିରହିଥିଲେ । ଏମିତି ପାଟିତୁଣ୍ଡର ଶବ୍ଦ ତାଙ୍କ ଉପରେ କିଛି ପ୍ରଭାବ ପକାଇ ପାରିନଥିଲା ।

ପ୍ରତିଭା ପଚାରିଲା, “ସମସ୍ତେ ସେ ଦିଗକୁ ଧାଇଁଛନ୍ତି ଯେ, ଆପଣ ଜାଣିଛନ୍ତି କଣ ହେଉଛି?”

“ଏଥିରେ କିଛି ନୂତନତା ନାହିଁ । ସବୁବେଳେ ସେ ପ୍ରଧାନ ଏମିତି ଗଞ୍ଜେଇ ଖାଇ ଅଭିନୟ କରେ ।”

“ମାନେ ଏଠି ଜଣାଶୁଣାରେ ଲୋକ ଗଞ୍ଜେଇ ବି ଖାଆନ୍ତି । ହେଲେ, ଗଞ୍ଜେଇ ତ ସରକାର ବ୍ୟାନ୍ କରିଛନ୍ତି; ଏ ପରିସ୍ଥିତିରେ ପୋଲିସ୍‌କୁ ଜଣେଇଦେବା ଉଚିତ୍ ନୁହେଁ କି ।”

“ପୋଲିସ୍‌ରେ ଦେବ କିଏ ? ତା ସାଙ୍ଗ ସେ ଯେଉଁ ନରସିଂହ ବାବା ଅଛି, ସବୁଠୁ ବଦମାସ୍ ହେଲା ସିଏ; ଚୋରା ଅପମା, ଗଞ୍ଜେଇ କାରବାର ସବୁ ତାର । ହେଲେ କେତେଟା ଭଲକାମ ବି ସିଏ କରିଛି; କେଉଁ ଦରିଦ୍ର ପିଲାକୁ ପାଠ ପଢ଼ିବାରେ ସାହାଯ୍ୟ କରିଛି ତ କାହାର ରୋଗ ହେଲେ ନେଇ ଡାକ୍ତରଖାନାରେ ପହଞ୍ଚାଇଦେଇଛି । ଆଉ ସେଇ ସବୁ ବଦାନ୍ୟତାର ଗ୍ରାହକ ମାନଙ୍କ ଭିତରୁ କିଏ ପୋଲିସ୍ ଅପମାସ୍ ତ କିଏ ଜିଲ୍ଲାପାଳ । ସେସବୁର ଫାଇଦା ଉଠାଉଛି ସିଏ ଯେହେତୁ ସେମାନଙ୍କ ମୁହଁ ବନ୍ଦ । ତେଣୁ ସେ ଠକବାବାର ବ୍ୟବସାୟ ଠିକ୍ ଚାଲିଛି ।”

“ହେଲେ ତକ୍ଟର ପ୍ରଧାନ ତ ଜଣେ ଉଚ୍ଚଶିକ୍ଷିତ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି । ତାଙ୍କର ଏତେ ଅଧଃପତନ ହେଲା କେମିତି ?”

“ପ୍ରଧାନ ଉଚ୍ଚଶିକ୍ଷିତ ଯେ, ହେଲେ ଆଚାର ବ୍ୟବହାର ତାର ଖରାପ; ସବୁବେଳେ ସେଇ ଉଚ୍ଚଶିକ୍ଷା ପାଇଁ ପ୍ରବଳ ଅହଂକାର; ସେଥିପାଇଁ ସେ ନାଁ ଭଲ ଶିକ୍ଷକ ହୋଇପାରିଲା, ନା ଭଲ ଗବେଷକ; ନାଁ ଭଲ ପଢ଼ି ହେଇପାରିଲା ନାଁ ଭଲ ପିତା । ଏବେ ସବୁ ବିଫଳତାକୁ ଭୁଲିବା ପାଇଁ ଗଞ୍ଜେଇ, ଅପମା ନିଶା କରିଛି । ନିଶା ଥାଉ କି ନଥାଉ, ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ସେ ଏକ ନଷ୍ଟ-ମସ୍ତିକ୍ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି ।”

“ହେ ଭଗବାନ, ଏସବୁ ତ ମତେ ସିନେମାର କାହାଣୀ ଭଳି ମନେ ହେଉଛି । ତେବେ ନରସିଂହ ବାବା ତ ଜଣେ ମୁଖ୍ୟ ଭଳି ମନେ ହୁଅନ୍ତି । ପାଠଶାଳା ସେମିତି ପଢ଼ିନାହାନ୍ତି, କି ଏମିତି କୌଣସି ବିଶେଷ ଯୋଗ୍ୟତା ନାହିଁ ତାଙ୍କର । ତକ୍ଟର ପ୍ରଧାନଙ୍କ ସହିତ ତାଙ୍କର ଏ ଯୋଗାଯୋଗ ହେଲା କେମିତି?”

ପ୍ରତିଭାର ଏ କୌତୁହଳ ଦେଖି ତକ୍ଟର ଶର୍ମା ହସିଲେ । ତାଙ୍କ ମୁହଁରେ ଏ ହସ ଦେଖି ପ୍ରତିଭାକୁ ଭଲ ଲାଗିଲା । ଅନ୍ୟମାନଙ୍କ ସମସ୍ୟା ଉପରେ ବିଚାରକୁ ନେଇଆସିଲେ ମନଭିତରୁ ନିଜର ଦୁଃଖଗ୍ଳାନି କିଛିଟା ଲାଘବ ହୋଇଯାଏ । ତକ୍ଟର ଶର୍ମା ତାଙ୍କ ନିଜ ଜୀବନର ଦୁଃଖ ଭିତରୁ ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ତକ୍ଟର ପ୍ରଧାନଙ୍କ ଜୀବନ ଭିତରକୁ ନିଜ ମନକୁ ନେଇଆସିଥିଲେ । ହସିହସି ସେ କହିଲେ, “ବନ୍ଧୁତା ଓ ସଂପର୍କର ଏ ଯୋଗାଯୋଗ ଏକ ଅଜବ ଜିନିଷ । କୃଷ୍ଣ ସୁଦାମାଙ୍କର ବନ୍ଧୁତାର କାହାଣୀ ତ ତମେ ଶୁଣିଥିବ । ହେଲେ ଏ ଗଞ୍ଜେଇଖୋର ମାନଙ୍କର ବନ୍ଧୁତା ବି ଆଉ ଏକରକମର ବନ୍ଧୁତା । ଏସବୁ ତକ୍ଟର ଦାଶଙ୍କର ସଫଳତାର ଇର୍ଷାରେ ହିଁ ସୃଷ୍ଟି ହୋଇଛି । ଯଦିଓ ପ୍ରଧାନ ତକ୍ଟର ଦାଶଙ୍କର ନିଜ ଗାଁର ଲୋକ, କିନ୍ତୁ ତକ୍ଟର ଦାଶ ତାଙ୍କଠାରୁ ହଜାର ଗୁଣରେ ସଫଳ; ସେଇଥିପାଇଁ ପ୍ରଧାନର ଇର୍ଷା । ଆଉ ନରସିଂହର ଇର୍ଷା ଅନ୍ୟ କାରଣରୁ । ନରସିଂହ ଅତି ହୀନ ଜୀବନ ଦେଇ ବଞ୍ଚିରହିଛି, କେବେ ମାଓବାଦୀ ସାଜିଛି ତ କେବେ ଭିକ ମାଗିଛି; କେବେ ଚୋରି କରିଛି ତ କେବେ ଜେଲ୍‌ଯାଇଛି । ତକ୍ଟର ଦାଶଙ୍କ ଭଳି ଲୋକଙ୍କ ସାଙ୍ଗରେ ମିଳାମିଶା କରି, ଫଟା ଉଠାଇ, ଗୋଟିଏ ପ୍ରକାରର ସାମାଜିକ ଖଟସ୍ ଗଢ଼ିବାକୁ ଇଚ୍ଛା ତାର । ହେଲେ ତକ୍ଟର ଦାଶ ସେଇଟା କରାଇ ଦିଅନ୍ତିନି, ଯେଉଁଥିପାଇଁ ସିଏ ନିଜର ଯୋଜନା ଖଞ୍ଜିବସିଛି, ତକ୍ଟର ଦାଶ ଓ ତାଙ୍କ ସୁନାମ ଉପରେ ଆଞ୍ଚ ଆଣିବାପାଇଁ ଏକ ବିଧିବଦ୍ଧ ଯୋଜନା; ସେଇଥିରୁ ସାଙ୍ଗ କରିଛି ପ୍ରଧାନକୁ, ଗଞ୍ଜେଇ ଦେଇ ।”



ପ୍ରତିଭାକୁ ବହୁତ ଦୁଃଖ ଲାଗିଲା । ଏମିତି ସବୁ କୁସୁଭାବର ଲୋକଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ହିଁ ଆଜିର ସମାଜର ଏ ଅଧଃପତନ । ବିଶେଷତଃ ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ଲୋକମାନଙ୍କ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଏସବୁ ଛୋଟକାଟିଆ ଇର୍ଷା, ଦ୍ଵେଷ ବେଶୀ । କେହି ଉପରକୁ ଉଠିବାକୁ ଚାହଁଲେ, ତାକୁ ତଳକୁ ଟାଣିଆଣିବା ପାଇଁ ଯେତେ ରକମର ଷତଯନ୍ତ୍ର । ଏସବୁ ଷତଯନ୍ତ୍ର ପୁଣି ଆଉ କାହାର ନୁହେଁ, ନିଜ ଜଣାଶୁଣା, ପୁରୁଣା ବନ୍ଧୁମାନଙ୍କର ହିଁ ବେଶୀ ।

ଡକ୍ଟର ପ୍ରଧାନଙ୍କ ପରିବାର ବିଷୟରେ ଜାଣିବାପାଇଁ କୋଡୁହଳ ଜାଗିଲା ପ୍ରତିଭାର ମନରେ; ତେଣୁ ସେ ଏ ବିଷୟରେ ଡକ୍ଟର ଶର୍ମାଙ୍କୁ ପ୍ରଶ୍ନ ପଚାରିଦେଲା । ଡକ୍ଟର ଶର୍ମା ଉତ୍ତରରେ କହିଲେ, “ନରସିଂହ ସହିତ ବନ୍ଧୁତା କରିବା ଦିନଠାରୁ ପ୍ରଧାନର ସ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଏ ସହର ଛାଡ଼ି ଏକ ଦୂର ସହରରେ ଚାଲି କରାକୁ ଚାଲିଗଲା । ତାର ଦୁଇଟା ପୁଅ ମୁଖହେଲେ, ଗୋଟିଏ ତ ବଡ଼ ଡରକୁଳା, କିଛି କାମଦାମ କରେନାହିଁ; ତା ମା ତାକୁ ତା ପାଖକୁ ନେଇଯାଇଛି । ବଡ଼ପୁଅଟା ଏଇ ପାଖ ଗାଁରେ ଗୋଟିଏ ଅର୍ଥନେତ୍ରରେ କାମକରୁଛି, ହେଲେ ବାପକୁ ପଚାରେନା ।”

ପ୍ରତିଭାକୁ ଏତିକିବେଳେ ଡାକିବାକୁ ମିସେସ୍ ଦାଶ ଆସିଲେ । “ଶ୍ରୀଜୟ କହୁଥିଲା ତମେ ଫେରିଯିବ ଆଜି, ଆସ ଖାଇଦେବ; ତାପରେ ତମକୁ ଶ୍ରୀଜୟ ଯାଇ ଛାଡ଼ିଆସିବ ।”

“ସେ ଗଞ୍ଜେତର ନିଶା ଛାଡ଼ିଲାଣି ନା ନାହିଁ ?” – ଡକ୍ଟର ଶର୍ମା ପଚାରିଲେ ।

“ତମେ କଣ ଜାଣିନ ? ତା’ ନିଶା କଣ ସହଜରେ ଛାଡ଼େ । ଶ୍ରୀଜୟ ଡାକ୍ତରଙ୍କୁ ଫୋନ୍ କରୁଛି; ତା ପୁଅକୁ ବି ଫୋନ୍ କରୁଛି । ସେମାନେ ଆସି ତାକୁ ଏଠୁ ନେଇଯିବେ । ତା ପୁଅ, ବୋହୂ ଅଛନ୍ତି; ସମ୍ଭାଳିବେ ।”

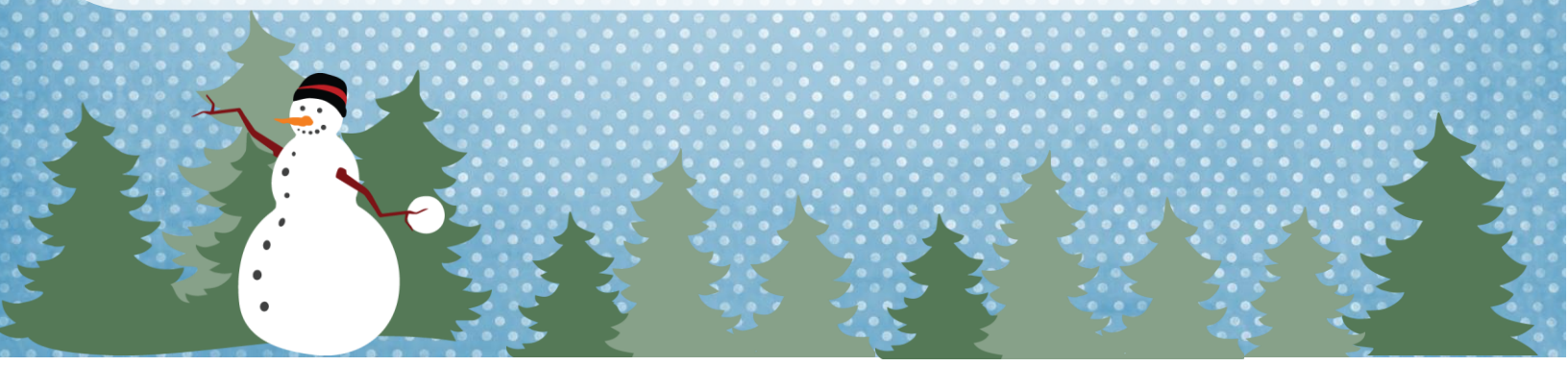
ଶ୍ରୀମତୀ ଦାଶ ଡକ୍ଟର ଶର୍ମାଙ୍କୁ ବି ଡାକିଲେ । କିଛି ସମୟ ପରେ ଆସିବେ କହି ଡକ୍ଟର ଶର୍ମା ପୋଖରୀ ଚାରିପଟେ ବୁଲିବାକୁ ଚାଲିଗଲେ । ପ୍ରତିଭା ଶ୍ରୀମତୀ ଦାଶଙ୍କ ସହିତ ଘରକୁ ଆସିଲା । ସୁଲଗ୍ନା ଦୁଆର ପାଖରେ ଠିଆ ହୋଇଥିଲା । କହିଲା, “ଅପା, ଆସ ଦେଖିବ ଗଞ୍ଜେଇ ଖାଇକରି ପ୍ରଧାନ ମଉସା କେମିତି ତ୍ରାମା କରୁଛନ୍ତି ।”

ପ୍ରତିଭାର ବି କୌତୁହଳ ହେଉଥିଲା । ଏ ଭଦ୍ର ସମାଜରେ ଉଚ୍ଚଶିକ୍ଷିତ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିମାନଙ୍କର ଏମିତି ଅଭୂତ ଆଚରଣ ଯେମିତି ଏକ ଆଉଟ୍‌ଲାଇନ୍ । ଶ୍ରୀମତୀ ଦାଶ ଶ୍ରୀମତୀ ଖାଇବାକୁ ଫେରିଆସିବାକୁ କହି ରୋଷେଇଘର ଆଡ଼କୁ ଚାଲିଗଲେ । ସୁଲଗ୍ନା ପ୍ରତିଭାଙ୍କୁ ବୈଠକଘରକୁ ନେଇଆସିଲା । ସେମାନେ ଘରଭିତରକୁ ନଯାଇ ଦୁଆରପାଖରେ ଠିଆହୋଇ ଭିତରର ଦୃଶ୍ୟ ଦେଖିବାକୁ ଚେଷ୍ଟାକଲେ । ସେତେବେଳକୁ ଡକ୍ଟର ପ୍ରଧାନ ବକ୍‌ବକ୍ କରୁଥାନ୍ତି । ତାଙ୍କ ଆଖି ଲାଲ ପଡ଼ିଥାଏ ଓ ସେ ବଡ଼ ହିଂସ୍ର ଦେଖାଯାଉଥାନ୍ତି । ତାଙ୍କୁ ଘେରିକରି କୋଡ଼ିଏ ପଟିଶ ଜଣ ଲୋକ ଜମା ହୋଇଥାନ୍ତି । ଶ୍ରୀଜୟ କି ଡକ୍ଟର ଦାଶଙ୍କୁ ସେ ସେଠି ଦେଖିଲାନି ।

“ଜାଣିଛ ସମସ୍ତେ, ଏ ଉଦ୍ୟାନରେ ଯେତେ ଗଛ ଲାଗିଛି, ତାକୁ ସବୁ ମୁଁ ବିତ୍ କରୁଛି । ଏଇଟା ମୋ ଗବେଷଣାର ଉଦ୍ୟାନ । ପଚାର ସେ ଦାଶକୁ, ସିଏ ସବୁ କହିବ ।”

ଡେ଼଼ା, ପତଳା ହୋଇ ଜଣେ ପଟିଶ-ତିରିଶ ବୟସର ଯୁବକ ତାଙ୍କୁ ଏନ୍‌ଗେଜ୍ କରି ରଖିଥାଏ । ସିଏ ଉତ୍ତରଦେଇ କହିଲା, “ସାର୍, ଆପଣ ନଥିଲେ ଏ ଉଦ୍ୟାନ ଅସମ୍ଭବ ହୋଇଥାଆନ୍ତା; ପିଙ୍ଗ୍ ସାର୍, ଏ ଉଦ୍ୟାନର ଲଙ୍କର୍ମ ରକ୍ଷଣାବେକ୍ଷଣ କରିବାପାଇଁ କିଛି ଗୋଟିଏ ଟ୍ରେନିଙ୍ଗ୍ ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା କରନ୍ତୁ ନା!”

ଏଥିରେ ଆହୁରି ଉତ୍ତେଜିତ ହୋଇଗଲେ ଡକ୍ଟର ପ୍ରଧାନ । ପୁଣି ପ୍ରକାପ କରିଚାଲିଲେ, “ଦାଶ ଆଉ ମତେ ପଚାରୁନାହିଁ । କେତେଜଣ ମୋ ବିରୁଦ୍ଧରେ ମିଛକଥା କହି ତା ମୁଣ୍ଡ ଖାଇଗଲେଣି । ମୁଁ ହଜାର ଧର କହିଲିଣି, ଗୋଟିଏ ବାର୍ଷିକ ଟ୍ରେନିଙ୍ଗ୍ ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା କରିବାକୁ; ମତେ ଆମେରିକା, ଜାପାନ, ଜର୍ମାନି କେତେ ସବୁ ଦେଶରୁ ନିମନ୍ତ୍ରଣ ଆସୁଛି ଟ୍ରେନିଙ୍ଗ୍ ଦେବାକୁ; ହେଲେ ସେମାନଙ୍କୁ ମୋ ଜ୍ଞାନଗୁଡ଼ା ଦେଇଦେଲେ ଏ ଉଦ୍ୟାନ ପ୍ରତି ବିଶ୍ଵାସଯାତକତା ହେବ । ହେଲେ ମୋର ଏ ସାକ୍ଷିକତାକୁ ବୁଝୁଛି କିଏ ?”



“ଆଜ୍ଞା, ମୁଁ ଏ ପ୍ରଯୋଜାଲ୍ ନିଷ୍ଠୟ ଆଣିବି ।” - ସେ ତେଜା ଲୋକଟି ଜବାବଦେଲା ।

“ତୋ କଥା ସିଏ କଣ ମାନିବ ? ତା ଜୁଆଁଇର ଜଣେ ସାଙ୍ଗ, ମାନେ ନାରୀବନ୍ଧୁ ଆସି ପହଞ୍ଚିଗଲାଣି ଯେ ଏବେ ଦାଶ ତାରି ହାତରେ ଉଠିବ ସ୍ତ୍ରୀ । ସିଏ କୁଆଡ଼େ ଉଭିଦ ବିଜ୍ଞାନରେ ବିଶାରଦ । ମୁଁ ତ କହୁଛି, ନାରୀ ବୁଦ୍ଧି ପ୍ରକାଶକରୀ; ସେଇ ନାରୀ ହିଁ ସବୁ ଧ୍ୟାସ କରିଦେବ, ଦେଖିବ ସମସ୍ତେ ।”

ପ୍ରତିଭାର ବିଶ୍ୱାସ ହେଲାଣି ଯେ ସିଏ ନିଜ ବିରୁଦ୍ଧରେ ଏମିତି କଥା ଶୁଣୁଛି । ତା’ ସହିତ କେତେ ବା ପରିଚୟ ଯାଙ୍କର? କଣ ବା ଜାଣିଛନ୍ତି ସିଏ ପ୍ରତିଭା ବିଷୟରେ? ତଥାପି ତା ବିରୁଦ୍ଧରେ କଳ୍ପିତ କାହାଣୀ ଆରମ୍ଭ କରିଦେଲେଣି ଏ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି ।

ବହୁତ ଦୁଃଖ ଲାଗିଲା ପ୍ରତିଭାକୁ; କାନ୍ଦ ବି ମାଡ଼ିଲା । ଯଦିଓ ଏ କଥା ସେ ଗଞ୍ଜେଇନିଶାରେ କହୁଥିଲେ, ତଥାପି ଏସବୁ କହିବାଦ୍ୱାରା ତାର ଯେଉଁ ଅପମାନ ହେଲା, ସେଇଟା ତ ସାମାନ୍ୟକଥା ନୁହେଁ । ଇଚ୍ଛାହେଲା ସେଇ ମୁହୂର୍ତ୍ତରେ ସେ ସେ ସ୍ଥାନଛାଡ଼ି ପଳେଇଯାଆନ୍ତା । “ସେଇ ନାରୀ ହିଁ ସବୁ ଧ୍ୟାସ କରିଦେବ”, କେତେ ମିନ୍ କଥା ସେ କହିପାରିଲେ ସତେ ?

ସୁଲଗ୍ନାକୁ ଏ କଥା ବି ଭଲଲାଗିନଥିଲା ଓ ସେ କହିଲା, “ତାଲ ଯିବା; ଏ ଗଞ୍ଜେଇ କଥାରେ କିଛି ବାଗବାଇଶ ନାହିଁ । କାହାକୁ କେତେବେଳେ କଣ କହିଦେବ ।”

ପ୍ରତିଭାର ଇଚ୍ଛାହେଲା ପଚାରିବ, “ଗଞ୍ଜେଇ ବୋଲି ଜାଣି ମଧ୍ୟ ଏ ଲୋକଙ୍କୁ ଏତେଟା ପ୍ରଶୟଦେବାଟା କଣ ଭଲ ? ଘରଟା ତ ତକ୍ତର୍ ଦାଶଙ୍କର; ଏ ଉଦ୍ୟାନ ବି ତକ୍ତର୍ ଦାଶଙ୍କର; ଏଭଳି ଲୋକକୁ ନିଜ ଘରୁ, ଉଦ୍ୟାନରୁ ବ୍ୟାନ୍ କରିଦେବା ଉଚିତ୍ ନୁହେଁ କି ?”

କିନ୍ତୁ ପ୍ରତିଭା କିଛି କହିପାରିଲାନି । ମନଭିତରର ସମସ୍ତ ଆବେଗ ତାର ମରିଗଲା ଯେମିତି । ଏ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି ତା ନାଁରେ ଆଉ କଣ କହିଥିବ କିଏ ଜାଣେ ? ଖରାବେଳର ଜଳଖିଆର ସ୍ୱାଦରୁ ରାତିଭୋଜନର ଯେଉଁ ପ୍ରବଳ ଆବେଗ ତା ମନଭିତରେ ଜନ୍ମିଥିଲା, ସେ ଆବେଗ ବି ତାର ମରିଗଲା ।

ପ୍ରତିଭାର ମନକଥା ବୁଝିପାରିଲା ଯେମିତି ସୁଲଗ୍ନା । “ବାପାଙ୍କୁ ମୁଁ ବହୁତ ଥର କହିଲିଣି, ପ୍ରଧାନ ମଉସାଙ୍କୁ ଏ ଉଦ୍ୟାନ ଇଭେଣ୍ଟ୍ ସମୟରେ ବ୍ୟାନ୍ କରିଦେବାକୁ; ହେଲେ ଆଜିକାଲିର ପଲିଟିକ୍ସ୍ ସବୁ ଏତେ ଜଟିଳ ହେଇଗଲାଣି ଯେ, ଏଇ ସାମାନ୍ୟ କଥାଟାକୁ ନେଇ ବଦନାମ ଗାଇବାକୁ ବାପାଙ୍କର କେତେ ଇର୍ଷ୍ଟକ ସୁଯୋଗ ଉଣ୍ଡି ବସିଛନ୍ତି । ସେଥିପାଇଁ ବାପା ଏତେ ଟିକ୍ଟର୍ ହୋଇପାରୁନାହାନ୍ତି ।”

ପ୍ରତିଭା କିଛି କହିଲାନି । ଜୀବନରେ ବହୁତଥର ସିଏ ଏମିତି ଅନ୍ୟାୟର ସମ୍ମୁଖୀନ ହୋଇଛି; ତାର ନିଜର ଦୋଷ ନଥାଇ ବି ଦୋଷୀ ବୋଲି ଅଭିଯୁକ୍ତ ହୋଇଛି; ଅନ୍ୟାୟର ପ୍ରତିବାଦ କରିବାକୁ ଯାଇ ଅନ୍ୟାୟ କରୁଥିବା ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିମାନଙ୍କର ରାଗରୋଷର ସମ୍ମୁଖୀନ ହୋଇଛି । ତେବେ ଏମିତି ଅତିଥିଭାବେ ଆସି ଗୋଟିଏ ଗଞ୍ଜେଇ ମଣିଷର ତା’ ପ୍ରତି ଏମିତି ଶବ୍ଦପ୍ରୟୋଗ ତାର ଅସହ୍ୟ ହେଉଥିଲା ।

ହଠାତ୍ ପୁଣି ଚହଳ ପଡ଼ିଗଲା । ତକ୍ତର୍ ପ୍ରଧାନଙ୍କ ପୁଅ ତାର ଦୁଇ ଜଣ ସାଙ୍ଗ ଓ ତାଙ୍କରଙ୍କୁ ନେଇ ପହଞ୍ଚିଲା । ତକ୍ତର୍ ଦାଶ ଓ ଶ୍ରୀଜୟ ବି ସେମାନଙ୍କ ସହିତ ଥିଲେ । ଜଣାପଡୁଥିଲା ସେମାନେ ଏ ତାଙ୍କରଙ୍କ ପାଖକୁ ହୁଏତ ନିଜେ ଯାଇଥିଲେ । ତାଙ୍କର କଣ ଇଞ୍ଜେକ୍ସନ୍ ଦେଲେ ଓ ତାପରେ ତକ୍ତର୍ ପ୍ରଧାନଙ୍କୁ ଗାଡ଼ିରେ ବସାଇ ସେମାନେ ସବୁ ବିଦାୟନେଲେ ।

ସେତେବେଳକୁ ସଞ୍ଜରୁଡ଼ି ଆସିଲାଣି । ଆକାଶରେ ପଡ଼ିଥାଏ ତୋଫା ଜହ୍ନ । କେତେ ତାରାଫୁଲ ବି ଆକାଶର ବିସ୍ତୃତ ବନ୍ଧକୁ ଶୋଭାନ୍ୱିତ କରୁଥାଆନ୍ତି । ସମସ୍ତେ ପୁଣି ଲନ୍ କୁ ଚାଲିଗଲେ । ସେମାନେ ଛୁଟି ମନେଇବାକୁ ଆସଛନ୍ତି, ଯେତେ ମଉଜମସ୍ତି କରିପାରିବେ ।

ପ୍ରତିଭାକୁ ଧରି ସୁଲଗ୍ନା ଖାଇବାଘରକୁ ଆସିଲା । ସେଠି କେବଳ ମିସେସ୍ ଦାଶ ଥାଆନ୍ତି । ପନ୍ଦର-କୋଡ଼ିଏ ରକମର ଖାଦ୍ୟ ସବୁ ସଜା ହୋଇ ରହିଥାଏ । ଖାଦ୍ୟର ମହକରେ ସବୁ ଦୁଃଖ ପୁଣି ଭୁଲିଗଲା ପ୍ରତିଭା । ଦୁଃଖକୁ ଯେମିତି ଜୀବନର ଏକ ଅଙ୍ଗ ଭଳି ଗ୍ରହଣ କରିନେଇଥାଏ ଓଡ଼ିଆପ୍ରାଣ । ବାତ୍ୟା, ବନ୍ୟା, ଝଡ଼ ସବୁ ଆସେ ଏ ଓଡ଼ିଶାରାଜ୍ୟର ଜୀବନରେ; ପୁଣି ଏ ଓଡ଼ିଶାବାସୀ ନୂତନ ଆଶାରେ ମଜ୍ଜିଯାନ୍ତି । ଦୁର୍ଗାପୂଜା, କାଳିପୂଜା, ବାଲିଯାତରାରେ ପୁଣି ସେଇ ହୋହଲା, ସଂଗୀତ, ଯାତା, ତ୍ରାମା, ଗହଳଚହଳରେ ହୁଲ୍ ହୁଲ୍ ହୁଏ ଗାଁ, ସହର, ବଜାର ସବୁଜିଛି ।



ସୁଲଗ୍ନା ଓ ମିସେସ୍ ଦାଶ ବି ପ୍ରତିଭା ସହିତ ଖାଇବାକୁ ବସିଲେ । ଯିଏ ଯାହା ଖାଇବାର କଥା, ବଡ଼ ଟେରେ ସବୁ ବାଢ଼ିଆଣି ଟେବୁଲ୍ ଉପରେ ରଖିଲେ । ଖାଉଖାଉ ସୁଲଗ୍ନା ତା ମାଙ୍କ ପାଖରେ ପ୍ରଧାନଙ୍କ ନାଁରେ ଅଭିଯୋଗ କଲା ଓ ପରାମର୍ଶଦେଲା ଯେ ସେ ଯେମିତି ତକ୍ତର ଦାଶଙ୍କୁ କହି କିଛି ସମାଧାନ କରନ୍ତି ।

ମିସେସ୍ ଦାଶ ଏକଥା ଶୁଣି ପ୍ରକୃତରେ ବିଚଳିତ ହୋଇପଡ଼ିଲେ; ପ୍ରତିଭା ଆଡେ କରୁଣଦୃଷ୍ଟିରେ ଚାହିଁ ଅନୁରୋଧ ଭରା କଣ୍ଠରେ କହିଲେ, “କିଛି ଭାବିବନି ମା । ଏ ଦୁନିଆ ଏତେ ଜଟିଳ ହୋଇଗଲାଣି ମା, ଠିକ୍ କାମଟିଏ ବି କରିବାକୁ ମଣିଷକୁ ହଜାର ଚିନ୍ତା କରିବାକୁ ପଡ଼ୁଛି । ମୁଁ ତ ଭଗବାନଙ୍କ ପାଖରେ ବି ହଜାର ପାର୍ଥନା କଲିଣି ଯେ ଏ ନାଟର ଗୋବର୍ଦ୍ଧନ ନରସିଂହ ବାବାର ଯଦି ସ୍ୱର୍ଗବାସ ହୋଇଯାଆନ୍ତା, ତେବେ ସବୁ ଠିକ୍ ଠିକ୍ ହୋଇଯାଆନ୍ତା । ହେଲେ ଭଗବାନ ବି ଏତେ କପଟିଆ, ଏ ନରସିଂହ ବାବା ତ ମରୁନି, ବରଂ ଆହୁରି ପାପୀଙ୍କୁ ସବୁ ତାଲିମ ଦେଇଯାଉଛି । ହେଲେ ମୁଁ ସେ ପ୍ରଧାନର ପୁଅବୋହୁଙ୍କୁ କହିବି, ସେମାନେ ତାକୁ ନିୟନ୍ତ୍ରଣରେ ରଖନ୍ତୁ ।”

ଉତ୍ତରରେ ପ୍ରତିଭା ହସିଦେଲା । ମିସେସ୍ ଦାଶଙ୍କର ଉପସ୍ଥିତିରେ ସିଏ ନିଜ ମାଙ୍କର ଉପସ୍ଥିତି ଅନୁଭବ କରୁଥିଲା । ତାଙ୍କ କଣ୍ଠରେ ଥିଲା ସରଳତା ଓ ସ୍ନେହର ସ୍ୱର୍ଣ୍ଣ । ସ୍ନେହର ସେଇ ଦୁଇପଦ କଥା ଯେମିତି ମନଭିତରେ ପଶିଆସିଥିବା ସମସ୍ତ କୁଭାବନାକୁ ଦୂରୀଭୂତ କରିଦେଲା ।

“ତମେ କଣ କାଲି ଘରକୁ ଫେରିଯାଉଛ? ” – ମିସେସ୍ ଦାଶ ପଚାରିଲେ ।

“ନା! ମୁଁ ପଅରିଦିନ ଫେରିବି । ଟେନ୍ ଅଛି ୧୨ଟା ବେଳେ ।”
“ତେବେ କାଲି ଆସୁନା! ତମ ପ୍ରତି କେମିତି ଗୋଟିଏ ମାୟା ଆସିଗଲାଣି ।”

“କାଲି ସକାଳେ ତ କନ୍ଦୁକରନ୍ତର ଶେଷ ସେସନ୍ ଅଛି । ଉପରବେଳା ଭାବିଛି ଚିକେ ବଜାରରେ କିଛି କିଣାକିଣି କରିବି ।”
“ତେବେ ସନ୍ଧ୍ୟାରେ ଆସ । କାଲି ସନ୍ଧ୍ୟାରେ ଏଠି ଗୋଟିଏ ସଂଗୀତ ସମାରୋହ ହେବାର ଅଛି । ତମକୁ ନିଷ୍ଠୁ ଭଲଲାଗିବ ।”
“ସତରେ! କିଏ ଆସୁଛନ୍ତି ଗାଇବାକୁ ।”
“ତରୁଣ ମହାନ୍ତି ଓ ତାଙ୍କ ପାର୍ଟି ।” – ସୁଲଗ୍ନା ଜବାବଦେଲା ।
“ତାହେଲେ ତ ମୁଁ ନିଷ୍ଠୁ ଆସିବି । ତରୁଣ ମହାନ୍ତି ମୋର ଫେଡ଼ୋରାଲଟ୍ ସିଙ୍ଗର୍ ।” – ପ୍ରତିଭାର ଆନନ୍ଦ ଓ ଉତ୍ତେଜନାର ସୀମା ରହିଲାଣି । ଏ ଉଦ୍ୟାନ ପ୍ରତି ତାର ଶକ୍ତା ଯେମିତି ଆହୁରି ଗୋଟିଏ ଗୁଣ ବଢ଼ିଗଲା । ଏଇ ଜମା କେତିକି ସମୟ ଭିତରେ ଏ ଉଦ୍ୟାନ ତାକୁ ଯେମିତି ସୁଗତିର ଇତିହାସ ବୁଝାଇଦେଲାଣି । ପୁଣି ତରୁଣ ମହାନ୍ତି ପାର୍ଟିର ସଂଗୀତ ଆସର । ଇଏତ ପୁରାପୁରି ସ୍ୱପ୍ନ ଭଳିଆ ଲାଗୁଛି ।

ପ୍ରତିଭାର ଆନନ୍ଦ ସହିତ ସୁଲଗ୍ନା ଓ ମିସେସ୍ ଦାଶଙ୍କର ଆନନ୍ଦ ବି ମିଶିଗଲା ।

ଏହି ସମୟରେ ମିଷ୍ଟର୍ ଶର୍ମା ଓ ଶ୍ରୀଜୟ ଖାଇବାପାଇଁ ଆସି ପହଞ୍ଚିଲେ ।

(କ୍ରମଶଃ.....)



OSA Domino Effect

Bigyani Das, Dayton, MD

Happy Holidays!

My best wishes to all fellow OSA members for the New Year! I wish our OSA members more prosperity and prominence in transforming our communities into sanctuaries. I have thought about some of the ways that it can be done in effective manner where there would always be positive feedback amplifying member inputs in Domino effect. It is like courtesy which is contagious. I state these thoughts in the following three main points in each of the two categories, Philosophical and Professional.

Philosophical

1. We all are masters of our own minds, i.e., we have choices

At any point of time we do have choices to make, the choices to build, to dignify, and to protect, or to demolish, to disgrace and to destroy. These choices are all ours; nobody can determine our choices for us since we are the masters of our own minds. Certain times, we do adapt ourselves to the choices of our loved ones; however, that is also our choice. There are plenty of choices in OSA to contribute positively, please choose one.

2. OSA is optional and we are above OSA

OSA is optional in life. There are more Odia non-members than OSA members in this country and they are also leading a happy and successful life. We have associated ourselves with OSA in our own will for our own interests and we have options to be completely involved, partially involved and/or not involved at all in various OSA affairs. Since OSA is optional, we are above OSA. OSA needs our donations, our volunteer time, our love and care. We do not need donations from OSA; neither do we need anything in return from OSA. From above, we can see OSA and hence we are in a position to help OSA. Let us be happy that OSA gives us opportunities to exhibit affection, humanity, kindness, leadership and many good things. Let us not depend on OSA. When members start depending on a voluntary organization, it cannot sustain the load.

3. Take a break and say “NO”

It is better to take a break from stress causing agents and say “NO” to requests that may cause commitment beyond your capacity. Time has its limits and volunteering time has too much limits. Use your volunteering time and energy wisely on productive activities.

I believe that if members think about and implement the above three rules, it would always pour love and kindness towards the organization and create Domino effect in organizational effectiveness

Professional

1. Organization is a System, not Isolated Components

Like human body, when one thing happens in some part of the organization, it affects the rest. Some factors may have less effect than the others, however, every incidence and occurrence becomes a cause to create its effect in other areas. Hence, system engineering principle must be applied for the control of the organization always considering the organization as a complete system.

2. Time Limiting Focused Discussion and Focused Action

From time to time many ideas float from members, sometimes they are new and sometimes times they are recycled. Some of these ideas float for years with enough experiences and discussions. Hanging over like this in circles at times becomes time wasters and brings no value. Assigning time limits for focused discussion on issues that affect the organization and concluding the discussion part on time in preparation for the action part would make the organizational goals achieved at a faster rate.



3. Implementation

Having a rule is fine. However, when rules are broken, enforcing discipline becomes an issue often in OSA as OSA officials are threatened with many types of harassment tactics. Sometimes the harassment comes directly, “Keep our demand, or else we will” or “We will not obey the rule; if you interfere we will”. In that case, only two choices are left, either allow the rules to be broken or take the risk of doing your duty according to the rule book subjecting yourself to harassment. While the second choice is straight forward with the risks, the first choice is more complicated. Even though the first choice seems to be simple, it brings a lot of complications making the organization vulnerable. My thinking in this case is to follow the books, i.e., constitutional document as it is. When there is any doubt, take it to the general membership. It is members that make up the society and when something is put for the decision by the general membership that becomes the rule.

According to my thinking when members and the leaders think the above 3 points, they would think the organization more professionally above their isolated personal problems in life and always add value to the organizational system. Even though human relationship is nonlinear, maintaining professionalism in organizational dealings can control the detrimental effects of that nonlinearity.

Thank you all the members for giving me the opportunity to serve you two years with a lot of learning experience which have also created a mark in my thinking process. I say “Thank You” to you through my poem “Bandhu He” and wish you all a happy and fulfilled life.

Happy New Year!
Bigyani Das
Life Member and Past President of OSA (2009-2011)

ବନ୍ଧୁ ହେ,
କେଉଁ ଭାଷାରେ ଅବା ମୁଁ
ତୁମ ପ୍ରଶସ୍ତି ଗାଇବି
ସେଥିପାଇଁ ଭାଷା ଖୋଜି ପାଏ ନାହିଁ
ଭାଷାର ଉର୍ଦ୍ଧ୍ୱରେ ତୁମେ ଯେ
ବିଶାଳତାର ମୂର୍ତ୍ତି ହୋଇ ବିରାଜିଯାଇଛ;
ଉପକାର କରିସାରି
ତୁମ୍ଭେ ବିଦାୟ ନେଇଛ;
ଯେମିତି କର୍ତ୍ତବ୍ୟ କରିବା ତୁମ
ନିତିଦିନିଆ ଧର୍ମ
ସେଥିପାଇଁ ଦ୍ୱିଧା ନାହିଁ
ଶଙ୍କା ନାହିଁ
ଅନୁରୋଧକୁ ଅପେକ୍ଷା ନାହିଁ,
ତୁମେ ଯେମିତି ସବୁକଥା
ଷଷ୍ଠ ଇନ୍ଦ୍ରିୟ ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ
ବୁଝିପାର, ଜାଣିପାର
ସମୟ ଆସିଲେ
ଠିକ୍‌ବେଳେ ପହଞ୍ଚିପାର
ରକ୍ଷାର କବଚ ହୋଇ;
ଭାଇ ଭଳି, ବନ୍ଧୁ ଭଳି
ଭୃମିକା ସବୁରେ
ଅଭିନୟ କରିସାରି
ଫେରିଯାଅ ତୁମ୍ଭେ
ଅବସର ନଦେଇ
ତୁମକୁ ଧନ୍ୟବାଦ ଦେବାପାଇଁ ।
ଆଜି ଏ ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠିତ ମୁହୂର୍ତ୍ତରେ
ସେଥିପାଇଁ ମୁଁ ପ୍ରାର୍ଥନାକରେ
ଲକ୍ଷ୍ମରଙ୍ଗ ଚରଣରେ
ତୁମ ସୁଖ ଆଉ କୁଶଳତା ପାଇଁ
ହୃଦୟ ତୁମର
ଏମିତି ଶୁଭାକାଂକ୍ଷୀ ରହୁ
ଖୁସି ବାଞ୍ଛିବାକୁ;
ଧନ, ମାନ, ଶକ୍ତି, ସାମର୍ଥ୍ୟରେ
ଚିରଦିନ ପାଇଁ,
ଆଭୁଷିତ ହୋଇ ତୁମେ ରୁହ
ଅନ୍ୟମୁଖେ
ହସମୁଲ ମହକ ଛୁଟାଇ



Pratisruti

ଓଡ଼ିଆ ପତ୍ରିକା ଓ ପ୍ରବାସୀ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଦୃଷ୍ଟିକୋଣ

ସତ୍ୟ ପଟ୍ଟନାୟକ

ବେଳେବେଳେ ଅତୁଟ ଖିଆଲ ମଣିଷର ମନ ଭିତରକୁ ପଶିଆସେ । ଏମିତି କିଛି ଦିନ ତଳେ ମନରେ ଗୋଟିଏ ବିଚିତ୍ର ଖିଆଲ୍ ଆସିଲା ଉପେନ୍ଦ୍ରଭଞ୍ଜଙ୍କ କାବ୍ୟକବିତା ପଢ଼ିବା ପାଇଁ । ଯଦିଓ ଇଚ୍ଛାଟା ଅହେତୁକ ନୁହେଁ, ହେଲେ ଆମେରିକାରେ ଉପେନ୍ଦ୍ରଭଞ୍ଜଙ୍କ କାବ୍ୟ କେଉଁଠି ମିଳିବ - ଏମିତି ଗୋଟେ ଚିନ୍ତା ନେଇ କିଛି ବନ୍ଧୁଙ୍କ ସହିତ ପରାମର୍ଶ କଲି । କିଏ ହସି ଉଡ଼ାଇଦେଲା ତ କିଏ କଥାଟାକୁ ଗୁରୁତ୍ୱ ଦେଇ ବିଶ୍ଳେଷଣ କରିବାରେ ଲାଗି ପଡ଼ିଲା । ଅନେକ ବନ୍ଧୁ ଅନେକ ରାସ୍ତା ବତାଇଲେ କେମିତି ଉପେନ୍ଦ୍ରଭଞ୍ଜଙ୍କ ସାହିତ୍ୟକୁ ଆମେରିକାରେ ଉପଲବ୍ଧ କରାଯାଇପାରିବ ।

ଜଣେ ବନ୍ଧୁ ଯୁକ୍ତି ରଖିଲେ ଯେ “ଇଚ୍ଛା” କୁ କିଛି ସମୟ ପାଇଁ ଭୁଲି ଆଉ କିଛି କାରଣ ଖୋଜିବା । ୧୯୫୨ ରେ ପ୍ରଥମେ ପାଞ୍ଚ ଜଣ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଆମେରିକା ଆସିଥିଲେ । ତାପରେ ପ୍ରତିବର୍ଷ କିଛି କିଛି ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଆସିବାକୁ ଲାଗିଲେ । ଗଲା ଦଶ ବର୍ଷରେ ଆମେରିକାରେ ଓଡ଼ିଆଙ୍କ ସଂଖ୍ୟା ବହୁତ ବଢ଼ିଗଲାଣି । ହେଲେ ଓଡ଼ିଆରେ ପଢ଼ିବା ପାଇଁ ପତ୍ରିକା ଖଣ୍ଡିଏ ଆରମ୍ଭ ହୋଇନି । ଏବେ ଏଠି ଓଡ଼ିଆ ମାନେ ଭିନ୍ନ ଭିନ୍ନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ଷେତ୍ର ରେ ଅବସ୍ଥିତ, ଅନେକ ଗୃହିଣୀ ବି ଅଛନ୍ତି । ପତ୍ରିକାଟିଏ ବାହାରିବା ନିହାତି ଦରକାର ।



ଆଉ ଜଣେ ବନ୍ଧୁ କହିଲେ ଯେ ବିଗତ କିଛି ବର୍ଷରେ ଆମେରିକାର ଆର୍ଥୀକ ସ୍ଥିତି ଯେଉଁ ପରିମାଣରେ ହ୍ରାସ ପାଉଛି ଏବଂ ଭାରତର ଆର୍ଥୀକ ସ୍ଥିତି ଯେଉଁ ପରିମାଣରେ ବୃଦ୍ଧି ପାଉଛି, ଆଗକୁ କଣ ହେବ କିଏ ଜାଣିଛି । ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କୁ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଶିଖାଇବା ନିହାତି ଆବଶ୍ୟକ ଜଣାଯାଉଛି । ଆର୍ଥୀକ ସ୍ଥିତି ଛାଡ଼ନ୍ତୁ, କାଲି କି କାଲି ଆମର ଆସନ୍ତା ପିଢ଼ିରୁ କିଏ ଜଣେ ଯଦି ଏହି ମୌଳିକ ପ୍ରଶ୍ନକୁ ଆମ ସାମ୍ନାରେ ଆଣି ରଖିବ ଯେ ସେମାନଙ୍କୁ ତାଙ୍କର ମୂଳାଧାର ସହିତ ଯୋଡ଼ି ରଖିବା ପାଇଁ କଣ ପ୍ରଚେଷ୍ଟା କରାଯାଇଛି, ଆମେ ତଳକୁ ମୁହଁ ପୋତିବା ବ୍ୟତୀତ କଣ ଉତ୍ତର ଦେଇପାରିବା ? ଏବେ ସ୍କୁଲ, କଲେଜ ରେ ପଢୁଥିବା ଏବଂ ଆସନ୍ତା କିଛି ବର୍ଷରେ ସ୍କୁଲକୁ ଯିବା ଓଡ଼ିଆ ପିଲାଙ୍କ ସଂଖ୍ୟା ଏତେ ବେଶି ହେବ ଯେ ସେ ଶକ୍ତିକୁ ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ମୂଳ ଶକ୍ତିରୁ ଅଲଗା ରଖିବା ମସ୍ତବତ ଭୁଲ ହେବ । ସେଥିପାଇଁ ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କୁ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଶିଖାଇବା ଆବଶ୍ୟକ ।

ଏ ସବୁ ଯୁକ୍ତିର ନିର୍ଯ୍ୟାସ ହେଲା ଯେ ଆମେରିକାର ପ୍ରବାସୀ ଓଡ଼ିଆଙ୍କ ପଢ଼ିବା ପାଇଁ ପତ୍ରିକାଟିଏ ହବା ଉଚିତ ।

ଓସା ୨୦୦୪ ର ବିବରଣୀ ପଢ଼ିଲା ବେଳେ ଦେଖିଲି ଜଣେ କହିଛନ୍ତି ଯେ ଆମେରିକାରୁ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ପତ୍ରିକାଟିଏ ବାହାରିବାର ସ୍ୱପ୍ନ ତାଙ୍କର । ସୁନ୍ଦର ସ୍ୱପ୍ନଟିଏ । ତାଙ୍କ ପରି ଆହୁରି ଅନେକ ଏମିତି ସ୍ୱପ୍ନ ଦେଖିଥିବେ । ୨୦୧୨ ରେ ସେ ସ୍ୱପ୍ନ ସତ ହେବାକୁ ଯାଉଛି । ଆମେରିକାରେ ଥିବା ଓଡ଼ିଆଙ୍କର ଟେବୁଲ ଉପରେ ଅଥବା ବହି ଷ୍ଟାଣ୍ଡରେ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ପତ୍ରିକାଟିଏ ରଖିବାର ସ୍ୱପ୍ନ ସାକାର ହେବାକୁ ଯାଉଛି ।



ଗଲା କିଛିଦିନ ଭିତରେ ଅନେକ ସଫଳ ସାହିତ୍ୟକାରଙ୍କ ସହିତ କଥା ହେଲି । ତାଙ୍କୁ କହିଲି ଯେ ସେମାନେ କେବଳ ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ପାଠକ ମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଲେଖୁଛନ୍ତି । ବିଦେଶରେ ବି ଅନେକ ପାଠକ ରହୁଛନ୍ତି. ସେମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ବି କିଛି ଲେଖନ୍ତୁ । ଆମେରିକାରୁ ପତ୍ରିକାଟିଏ ବାହାରୁଥିବା କଥା କହିଲି । ସମସ୍ତେ ଶୁଣି ହେଲେ, ଉତ୍ସାହ ଦେଖାଇଲେ । ପ୍ରତିଭା ରାୟ ଗୋଟିଏ ଦିନରେ ଚାରିଟା ଗପ ପଠାଇଲେ । ମନୋଜ ଦାସ ତାଙ୍କର ଆଶୀର୍ବାଦ ସହିତ ସମସ୍ତ ସହଯୋଗର ପ୍ରତିଶ୍ରୁତି ଦେଲେ । ବିଭୂତି ପଟ୍ଟନାୟକ ଆମେରିକାର ପ୍ରବାସୀ ଓଡ଼ିଆଙ୍କୁ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଜଣାଇଲେ । ଦେବଦାସ ଛୋଟରାୟ କହିଲେ ଯେ ପତ୍ରିକାର ନାଆଁ ଟା ବହୁତ ସୁନ୍ଦର ହୋଇଛି । ରମାକାନ୍ତ ରଥ ଓ ସୀତାକାନ୍ତ ମହାପାତ୍ର ଆମେରିକାରେ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ପତ୍ରିକା ପ୍ରକାଶନର ପ୍ରଚେଷ୍ଟାକୁ ସାଧୁବାଦ ଦେଲେ ।

ଆମେରିକାରେ କିଛି ସହରରେ ଏବେ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଶିକ୍ଷା ଦିଆଯାଉଛି (ଚାଲ ଆମେ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଶିଖିବା), ମଝିରେ ମଝିରେ ସାହିତ୍ୟ ପାଠକ୍ର, ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଡ୍ରାମା ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ କିଛି କାମ କରାଯାଉଛି । କିନ୍ତୁ ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନର ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଲୋକସଂଖ୍ୟାକୁ ନେଇ ସେ ଅଧିକ ନୁହେଁ । ଯେଉଁ ସହର ମାନଙ୍କରେ ଏପରି କିଛି ହେଉନାହିଁ ସେ ସବୁ ସହରର ଓଡ଼ିଆ ମାନଙ୍କୁ ଅନୁରୋଧ ଯେ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ସାହିତ୍ୟ ଓ ସଂସ୍କୃତିକୁ ନେଇ କିଛି କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ କରାଯାଉ । ମୁଁ ଓସାର କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକର୍ତ୍ତା ମାନଙ୍କୁ ଅନୁରୋଧ କରିବି ୨୦୧୨ କୁ ଆମେରିକାରେ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ସାହିତ୍ୟ ଓ ସଂସ୍କୃତିର ବର୍ଷ ବୋଲି ଘୋଷଣା କରାଯାଉ ଓ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ସାହିତ୍ୟ ଉପରେ ଅନେକ କାମ କରାଯାଉ ।



ଏକୋଇଶି ଜାନୁଆରୀ ଦୁଇହଜାର ବାର ରେ ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ଅନେକ ସୁନାମଧନ୍ୟ ଲେଖକଙ୍କ ସହିତ ଆମେରିକାରୁ ଲେଖୁଥିବା ଲେଖକ ମାନଙ୍କ ଲେଖାକୁ ନେଇ “ପ୍ରତିଶ୍ରୁତି” ର ପ୍ରଥମ ସଙ୍କଳନ ପ୍ରକାଶ ପାଉଛି । “ପ୍ରତିଶ୍ରୁତି” ଓଡ଼ିଆ ସାହିତ୍ୟ ଓ ସଂସ୍କୃତିକୁ ଆମେରିକାରେ ରହୁଥିବା ପ୍ରବାସୀ ଓଡ଼ିଆମାନଙ୍କର ଜୀବନଧାରା ସହିତ ସୁଦୃଢ଼ ଭାବେ ସଂଯୋଗ କରିପାରିବ ବୋଲି ଆଶା ଓ ବିଶ୍ୱାସ ।



Odia Drama Festival in Americas

Friends,
With the Northern/Midwest Drama Festival we come to the end of 2011 OSA Regional Drama Festival. Three Festivals were held.

North Eastern DF
Host: Ohio Chapter
Place: Columbus
Date: September 3
Participation: Ohio (Columbus, Cleveland), Michigan and Canada

Eastern DF
Host: NY-NJ Chapter
Place: Wayne, NJ
Date: October 30
Participants: New England, NY-NJ

Northern/Midwest DF
Host: Chicago Chapter
Place: Chicago
Date: November 5
Participants: Ohio (Cleveland), Chicago

South Western region is an enthusiastic DF base. Somehow after Dallas OSA Convention the organizers are saving their energy to open 2012 Festival with a bang in April/May.

There is a promising wave arising in Atlanta/ Central South this year in order to take shape in 2012.

We hear similar rumbling from California and who knows we may be blasted by a lion's roar in 2012. You all know the power house of talents.

Nevertheless, this year's Festival witnessed significant qualitative presentation both in dramas and children's items.

The contemporary social themes such as dowry, exploitation of unemployed young people, corruption dominated but the style of presentation was invariably humorous. The scripts are the production of creative local talents and the stage presentations are superb.

As I understand and whatever I have witnessed our community is endowed with very unusual talent of all sorts. I must say DF has been an avenue for their expression.



I was at Columbus DF as part of Canada team. Let me make a couple of observations, strictly of my own. Cleveland Team's "Operation Successful" play has a black humour - no doubt the operation was successful in removing a large tumor but the patient died. It has a serious message, such as quick tangible economic benefit at the cost of environmental devastation, finishing a project to the detriment of people for whom the project is meant to benefit. In the play I was impressed by Basant Mohapatra's acting as the fourth patient. His movement reminded me of the flexible body movements of Charandas, the thief in the famous play "Charandas Chor" of Late Habib Tanbir - an eminent dramatist in India.

I may be allowed to make the observation that Canada team unlike other groups specializes in bringing Odisha's drama and literary tradition, such as Baishnaba Pani's opera, Mohan Goswami's GEETINATYA and presenting Gopal Chhotray, Fakir Mohan Senapati etc. This time it presented a "SUANGA" - jatra based on folk humour. The theme was based on a story in " Abolkara Kahani".

Thank you all for your cooperation. I know the drama people are just taking a temporary pause. Thank you and thank you. A special thanks to the organizers and their team of volunteers.

Adieu and see you again,
Sri Gopal Mohanty
on behalf of
Brajendra Panda
and
Sandip dasverma
(Are you asking who are these guys?)

PS: let me include a message from Basant Mohapatra from Cleveland and encourage others to write your own. Birendra Jena's note of appreciation is sent by Sandip Dasverma separately.

Dear Sandipbabu,

I congratulate Gyanababu (Patnaik), Ashokbabu (Bob Parida) and all their organizing team and participants for hosting a very successful MidWest OSA Drama Festival of 2011 in Chicago on Nov 5, 2011.

It was one amazing experience for our Cleveland team (representing Ohio OSA) to be a part of such an event. We all enjoyed the great performances of all the young and experienced talents of Chicago chapter.

Inauguration:

The program got started very traditionally with inaugural prayer and blessings by Swami Sankarananda Giri. I thank Kamal and Timi Khuntia for arranging this.

The first program 'Tera Mera Manwa Keise' (by Ritcie, Kitty, Shivank, Shivam) was very enjoyable. My special thanks goes to Sunita Mishra and Sarita Parida of Chicago for the hard work in this regard and also for their great individual dance performances.



The Chicago Kids' Program:

I was glad to see the emphasis to include the children in such a program as I am a strong advocate for that. This is very important to strengthen our rich Odia culture in North America for now and future. I thank all their parents for the genuine efforts to get their kids involved. All the child artists from Chicago and Cleveland not only lived up to but exceeded the expectations with their superb performances.

The own choreographed dance by young Chicago talent Anya Agrawal and happy Dewali song by Chicago Kids' (Shivangi, Triya, Samyak, Pallavi, Shivansh) were very entertaining.

The drama Bhasmasura

(Pallavi, Payal, Triya, Mythilli, Sabrina, Rosni, Samyak, Shivank, Shivam, Dev, Ayush) directed by Ipsita Satpathy was immensely enjoyable.

Odia song and bollywood dance by artists Donna and Payal & Mythilli respectively got a lot of appreciation.

Cleveland Kids' Program:

The classical Kuchipudi Dance ' Mudugare Yashoda (Balakrishna)" by young talent Marisa Mohapatra (Youngstown, Ohio) was well received and ended up with rhythmic applause. The Cleveland Kids' (Abhipsa, Anwesa, Sana, Shreya, Marisa) kept the crowd enthralled with their beautiful group dance "Padare Pada Chhanda" choreographed by Lusina Satpathy .

Chicago Drama:

We all enjoyed greatly the drama by Chicago team (" Kari Karau Thae Muhin" written & directed by Salil Mishra) filled with artistic talents like Saurjya Khandai, Manoj Mohapatras(2), Bob Parida, Debashish Panda, Gokul Mishra, Sushant Satpathy, Prasant Padhy, Manisha, Jhara Das, Rosy Samantray, Sujata Patnaik. Their individual performances were nothing short of pro.

The play was really nicely scripted and directed by talented Salil Mishra and the crowd enjoyed every bit of it. It was well rounded filled with humor, devotion, music, great dances, superb acting and a positive message.

Cleveland Drama:

Our relatively inexperienced Cleveland drama team led by veteran Birendra Jena presented humoros play " Operation Successful' (Written & Directed by Dr Basant Mohapatra).

I thank my artists (Birendra jena, Soubhagya & Shreela Parija, Anjan and Arpita Basa, Sanjib & Jhara Nayak, Abani Mishra, Rabi Sahoo, Basant Mohapatra and moderator Madhusmita Mohapatra) for their willingness and enthusiastic participation with a long drive. In spite of lack of rehearsals due to their busy schedule, all of them performed very well and were able to bring out waves of laughter and applause from the Chicago crowd.

I apologize from our team's behalf if we fell short. This is our only second attempt (2nd play) in past two years when we travelled to Toronto, Columbus (twice) and now Chicago. We gained good learning experience from veteran drama groups of Toronto and Chicago. Our cultural team got further inspired by exposure to the powerful acting display of Chicago team, after mesmerizing performances of Toronto team led by veterans Gagan & Sabita Panigrahi, Niranjana Mishra, Srigopal Mohanty at Toronto and Columbus Drama Festivals.





The whole program was very well moderated by veteran Salil Mishra and multitalented Sujata Patnaik. The stage and sound set up was great and food was delicious, and the whole atmosphere was very festive.

I specially thank Gyana Patnaik for his leadership in superbly organizing the program. Our team expresses deep gratitude for our hotel accomodation (special thanks to the Best Western hotel owner couple and great artists Manoj & Manisha Mohapatra) and all the hospitality provided by the whole Chicago group.

I also thank you and your team for your continuous effort to encourage the chapters to organize the Regional Drama Festivals.

Regards.
Basant Mohapatra,
Ohio



ଚାଲ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଶିଖିବା

Chaal Odia Shikhiba

ପ୍ରିୟ ବନ୍ଧୁଗଣ,

ଆପଣମାନଙ୍କୁ ନବ ବର୍ଷର ଅନେକ ଅନେକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା । ପୂରୁଣା ବର୍ଷଟି ବିଦାୟ ନେବା ପୂର୍ବରୁ ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକକୁ ଦେଇଯାଏ କିଛି ସ୍ମୃତି ଆଉକିଛି ଅନୁଭୂତି । ସେଇ ଅନୁଭୂତିକୁ ନେଇ ପୁଣି ଆମେ ସ୍ୱପ୍ନ ଦେଖି ରଙ୍ଗବିରଙ୍ଗ ବସନ୍ତର । କେବେ ଏହି ନୂତନତା ଆଣିଦିଏ ମନରେ ଏକ ନବ ଉନ୍ମାଦନା କିଛି ନୁଆ କରି ଗଢ଼ିବାର ତ, ଆଉକେବେ ଉତ୍ସାହ ଦିଏ ଅସଜଡ଼ା କାମଟିକୁ ସଜାଡ଼ିନେବାର, କିଛି ଅସମ୍ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ କାମକୁ ସମ୍ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ କରିବାର, ସମୟର ସ୍ରୋତ ହୋଇ ବହି ନିଏ ଆମକୁ ଆଗକୁ ଆଗକୁ । ଏମିତି କିଛି ଆଶା ଓ ବିଶ୍ୱାସ ନେଇ ଆଜି ଆମେ ଆରମ୍ଭ କରିଛୁ ଆମର ପ୍ରକଳ୍ପ “ଚାଲ ଆମେ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଶିଖିବା” । ଏଥିରେ ଆପଣମାନଙ୍କର ଶ୍ରଦ୍ଧା ଓ ସହଯୋଗ ପାଇଁ ଆପଣମାନଙ୍କୁ ଅଶେଷ ଧନ୍ୟବାଦ ।

ଆଜି ଆମେ ଯୋଉ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଭାଷାକୁ ଭୁଲି ଆଗକୁ ବଢ଼ି ଚାଲିଛୁ, ଅତୀତର କିଛି ପୁଷ୍ପ ଖେଳେଇଲେ ଜାଣିବାକୁ ମିଳେ ଏଇ ମାତୃଭାଷା ପାଇଁ କେତେଯେ ସୁନାମ ଧନ୍ୟ ନମନୀୟ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି ତାଙ୍କ ଜୀବନର ସବୁ ସୁଖକୁ ଜଳାଞ୍ଜଳି ଦେଇଛନ୍ତି । ସେମାନଙ୍କ ମଧ୍ୟରୁ ଉତ୍କଳମଣି ଗୋପବନ୍ଧୁ ଦାସ, ଉତ୍କଳ ଗୌରବ ମଧୁସୂଦନ ଦାସ, ବ୍ୟାସ କବି ଫକିର ମୋହନ ସେନାପତି ଅନ୍ୟତମ । ସ୍ୱଭାବ କବି ଗଙ୍ଗାଧର ମେହେରଙ୍କର ଭାଷାରେ –“ମାତୃଭାଷା ମାତୃଭୂମିର ମମତା ଯାହୁଦେ ଜନମି ନାହିଁ, ତାକୁ ଯଦି ଜ୍ଞାନୀଗଣରେ ଗଣିବା ଅଜ୍ଞାନୀ ରହିବେ କାହିଁ?” ଏହି ଉକ୍ତିଟି ମନେପଡ଼ିଲେ, ଆଜିର ସମାଜରେ ସୁଶିକ୍ଷିତ, ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠିତ, ପ୍ରତିଟି ଓଡ଼ିଆ ନିଜ ପାଇଁ ଗର୍ବ କରିବା ଯେ କେତେଦୂର ଠିକ୍ ହେବ, ଏହା ଭଲଭାବେ ଅନୁଭବ କରିହୁଏ । ବ୍ୟାସକବି ଫକୀରମୋହନଙ୍କ ଭାଷାରେ “ଭଲ ଗୋଟେ ମାତୃଭାଷା କିସ ହେବ ଭାଇ, ଚଳିଯାଉଛି କାମ ରୁଣ୍ଡାଇପୁଣ୍ଡାଇ, କୁକୁର କି ପାଇଁ ଗୋଟେ ବନାଇବ ଘର, ଚାଟିରୁଲେ ବାରମିଶା ଅଇଁଠା ପତର ।” ଯଦିବା ଏଇ ଦେଶରେ ରହିବା ପାଇଁ ଇଂରାଜି ବା ଯୁନିଶ ଭାଷା ଭଳି ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଭାଷାର କୌଣସି ଆବଶ୍ୟକତା ନାହିଁ ହେଲେ ମାତୃଭାଷାକୁ ଉପେକ୍ଷା କରି ଆମେ ନିଜେ ହିଁ ନିଜର ପରିଚୟକୁ ଇତିହାସର ପୃଷ୍ଠାରୁ ବିଚ୍ଛିନ୍ନ କରିଦେଉଛୁ ।

ସମୟ ପୁଣି ଫେରି ଆସିଛି, ଆଉଥରେ ଆମ ଭାଷା ଓ ସଂସ୍କୃତିକୁ ଆଦରି ନେବାର । ଚିରସ୍ମରଣୀୟ ମହାପୁରୁଷ ମାନଙ୍କ ଦ୍ୱାରା ତୋଳାହୋଇଥିବା ଭାଷାର ସେଇ ମନ୍ଦିରଟି ଭୁଷୁଡ଼ିଯିବା ଆଗରୁ ଆସନ୍ତୁ ଆମେ ପୁଣି ଥରେ ତାକୁ ଆଦରରେ ଗଢ଼ିନେବା ନିଜର କରି ।

“ଉଚ୍ଚ ହେବାପାଇଁ କର ଯେବେ ଆଶା ଉଚ୍ଚ କର ଆଗେ ନିଜ ମାତୃଭାଷା”(ଗଙ୍ଗାଧର ମେହେର) । ଏହି ମହାନ ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟକୁ ସାକାର କରିବାର ଆଶା ନେଇ, ୨୦୦୦ ମସିହାରେ ଆମେରିକାର କାଲିଫର୍ନିଆ ରାଜ୍ୟରେ ଶ୍ରୀମତି କୁକୁ ଦାସଙ୍କ ସହଯୋଗରେ ଆରମ୍ଭ ହୋଇଥିଲା ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଶିଖିବାର ଅଭିଯାନ । ଏହାର ସଫଳତାରୁ ଅନୁପ୍ରାଣିତ ହୋଇ ତଥା ତାଙ୍କର ଶିକ୍ଷା ପଦ୍ଧତିକୁ ଅନୁସରଣ କରି ଆମେରିକାର ମେରିଲ୍ୟାଣ୍ଡ ଏବଂ ଓହାଇଓ ରେ ଆରମ୍ଭ ହୋଇଛି ଦୁଇଟି ଘରୋଇ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନ “ଚାଲ ଆମେ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଶିଖିବା” । ଏହି ଯୋଜନାକୁ ଆଗେଇ ନେବା ପାଇଁ ଆମେରିକା ଓ କାନାଡାର ଅନ୍ୟ ରାଜ୍ୟମାନଙ୍କରେ ମଧ୍ୟ ଲୋକମାନେ ଆଗ୍ରହ ପ୍ରକଣ ଅରିଛନ୍ତି । ସେଥିପାଇଁ କୁକୁନାନୀଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଧନ୍ୟବାଦ ।

ଆଜି ଆମେ ଗର୍ବ କରି କହିପାରିବା କି ବିଦେଶରେ ରହି ମଧ୍ୟ ଆମେ ଆମ ଦେଶ, ଆମ ରାଜ୍ୟକୁ ଭୁଲିନାହିଁ, ଭୁଲିନାହିଁ ଆମ ଭାଷା ଓ ସଂସ୍କୃତି ।

ଧନ୍ୟବାଦ

କୃପ୍ତି





OSA-2012 Convention in Seattle, WA

**WELCOME TO THE 43RD OSA CONVENTION IN SEATTLE,
WASHINGTON
FROM JULY 5TH-7TH, 2012**

Pacific Northwest Chapter, a very recent chapter established June 15, 2011, is organizing the 43rd OSA Convention in Seattle, Washington for the first time.

Seattle truly earns its nickname "the Emerald City." It is a picturesque combination of lush green hills and trees, and breathtaking views of snow-capped mountain ranges. Seattle is also home to the Pike Place Market (You know, where they throw the fish?), The Experience Music Project and Jimi Hendrix. This is the most popular departure port for a cruise to Alaska, Victoria and British Columbia.

We, all Oriya families of Pacific Northwest and all the volunteers of the convention organizing committee, invite you to come to Seattle and be the part of this convention. We feel proud and honored to be part of this historical event and are very happy to get the chance to host the Convention in Seattle.

Many volunteers who have never been to an OSA convention have come forward to volunteer. They are learning and trying to build the community in wonderful ways. This is essential for bringing younger and newer generation to participate and bring new ideas. The whole team is working hard to create exciting programs for you to enjoy during your stay. We hope that you will participate and have lots of fun.

Our planning began a bit late in October of 2011 but now we are underway, creating the foundation of this event and working on site selection, hotels and formation of various committees. In addition, we took the opportunity to talk to past Host Committee leaders and Conveners. They have shared some great tips and ideas which will help us tremendously in planning for the upcoming convention. With our strong vision and dedication, we assure you that 2012 may be the best convention yet!

Our web site is under construction.

<http://www.orissasociety.org/conventions/conv2012/>

We invite you to explore this website for more information about the convention.

If you need to contact us for any reason, please e- mail to:

convention2012@orissasociety.org.

With your participation, we hope to make OSA Convention 2012 a platform for building unity among Oriyas in North America and carrying forward the torch of Oriya heritage and culture for our future generations.

Thank you,

With best regards,

Amulya Das and all Pacific NW Odiyas



Vice President's Message



Dear Friends,

I wish you all a very Happy and Prosperous New Year 2012! On behalf of the OSA executives allow me to thank all of you for the help, guidance, and encouragement you've given to us to complete our first six months at OSA office. California has been home to me for the last twenty years. Keeping in touch with community members and serving the community is my passion. Coming out of my sweet home, and getting connected with all of you from near and far gave me an immense feeling of belongingness. My heartfelt gratitude to OSA for giving me this opportunity. It's such an excitement for me to get to know so many like minded people those who are working towards the same mission, the mission of preserving and promoting our beautiful Odia language and culture in this foreign land.

With enthusiastic OSA member volunteer's help and support, many committees have formed in OSA to make our two years tenure more productive and meaningful. In this process I get a chance to work closely with the committees of 'Let's Learn Odia', Convention Management, and Events/Cultural/Award.

Convention Update:

OSA Convention 2012 at Seattle, Washington is in full swing. Our friends in the Pacific Northwest chapter have graciously taken this enormous responsibility. As we realize, it takes the

- whole community to make a community event successful, please plan to attend and assist in the convention organizing process.
- Please have a look at the attached invitation letter from the convener.

Event/Cultural/ Awards:

Like previous years, this year OSA is inviting its members to nominate the deserving candidates for OSA awards in various categories. The deadline for sending the nominations for OSA awards is March 31st, 2012.

I would request Chapter representatives and local Odia community leaders (where OSA chapter do not exist) to circulate the following information in their local community networks. Following are the Award categories.

- 1) Distinguished Oriya Award
- 2) Utkalamani Gopabandhu Dash Memorial Award
- 3) Subrina Biswal Award for Academic Excellence (Competition)
- 4) Kalashree Award
- 5) Youth Volunteer Award
- 6) Yuva Kala Vikas Award
- 7) Meghna Memorial Awards for Creative Writing (Competition)
- 8) Samik Singh Kalinga Youth Entrepreneurship Award (Competition)



Section 1: General Guidelines

***If no suitable candidate is found in a particular year for a particular category, no award may be given.**

*In the event of a tie, or if the awards committee decide that more than one person deserve the award, the number of awards may be increased to two in any given year.

*The nominator of an award must be a *member of OSA* at the time of nomination.

***Self-nominations are not accepted** except for Subrina Biswal Academic Excellence Award.

*Nominator will include references who should be willing provide supporting information regarding a nominee if contacted by the selection committee. Referees should be familiar with relevant contributions/accomplishments of a nominee in the specific award category. The contact information of the referees (telephone no., email address etc.) must be provided in the nomination form. Referees should be prepared to provide verbal or written recommendations when requested.

With the exception of Subrina Biswal award, no member of the national executive and award committee including family members may be nominated for any award to maintain transparency of the award process.

* Nominators are encouraged to include any relevant documentary evidence of a nominee's contribution/recognition along with the nomination form.

One person may not be nominated for more than one award category in a single year. One person cannot win the same award again but one person may win different awards over multiple years,

Please see below for any specific guidelines for individual awards in addition to these general guidelines.

Nomination Submission:

Nominations for all awards (except for Meghna Memorial Award and Kalinga Youth Entrepreneurship Award) should be sent to Award Coordinators at osaawards@orissasociety.org

Awards requiring documentary proofs such as recommendation letters for Subrina Biswal Memorial Award must be mailed by US/Canada post to Mr. **Saurjya Kanta Khandai, 2423 Angela Lane, Aurora, IL 60502, USA.**

Nominations for Meghna Memorial Award & Youth Entrepreneurship Awards should be sent to specific contacts mentioned in those award sections below.

General Process of Selection:

1. A three-member selection panel appointed by the award committee on behalf of the Executive Committee will select the recipient for each award.
2. The decision of the awards committee is final.
3. The Award will be presented in the form a plaque in a special OSA meeting or in the Annual convention.
4. Schedule permitting, a biographical sketch of the recipient will be featured in next issue of the OSA Annual Souvenir.





General Time Line:

1. Last date for nomination: March 31st (post-marked/ electronic)
2. Judging process: April 1 through May 10 (*may vary for some awards*)
3. Announcement of result: June 15 (*may vary for some awards*)
4. Award presentation will be made during the OSA Convention

Section 2: Award Details

1. DISTINGUISHED ORIYA AWARD

The Distinguished Oriya award is the highest award presented by the Orissa Society of the Americas, a non-profit organization operating in North America to preserve and promote the culture, heritage, and customs of Oriya speaking people.

Criteria for Recognition

Selection is based on contribution in one or more of the following areas:
The nominee must have:

- *Proficiency in professional disciplines with outstanding accomplishments in arts, theatre, literature, science, technology, medicine and /or similar fields.
- *Rendered public service with innovative application of resources to enhance literacy, health, education, hygiene, child care, community service and similar other humanitarian and philanthropic service with direct contribution to Orissa, the land and its people.
- *Proficiency in and outstanding contribution to Oriya Art, Culture, Heritage and Literature
- *Leadership to bring forth social justice in Orissa.
- *Entrepreneurial skills to cultivate resources in order to provide economic stimuli and opportunities for employment and economic growth in Orissa
- *Patriotic idealism to uphold the honor and dignity of Oriya people.
- *Acts of heroism directly contributing to the cause of Orissa and its people.

Eligibility Requirements:

1. The nominee must be a member of the OSA with good standing or have, in case of nominees from overseas, must have contributed to the OSA in a tangible and visible manner.
2. The nominator must be a member of the OSA with good standing.



Submission Requirements

Nominator should submit

- 1.Nomination form
- 2.Names of 3 referees

2. KALASHREE AWARD

The Kalashree Award is an honor in recognition of an individual's continued service to Oriya art, literature, music, dance, and similar cultural and heritage-based activities in North America. The Award will be presented in form a plaque in a special OSA meeting or in the Annual convention.

Criteria for Selection

Selection will be based on contributions in one or more of the following areas:

The nominee:

- 1.As a promoter of Oriya art and culture, must have outstanding record of cultural activities such as promotion of Oriya language and literature, hosting of events featuring Oriya cultural programs including visiting artists.
2. As a performing artist, must have demonstrated high quality artistic productions, training, and choreography in areas such as Odissi Dance, Odissi Music, Folk dance and music of Orissa, and similar other traditional art of Orissa including production of Oriya films, Oriya dramas, (and, if in any other language, must feature Oriya culture and heritage), hosting of conventions promoting Oriya artists and artistic endeavors.
3. As an established author, must have demonstrated high quality authorship in areas such as novels, stories, poetry and such other literary activities in Oriya.
4. Only activities and/ or accomplishments performed in North America will constitute grounds for consideration

Eligibility Requirements:

- 1.The nominee must be an OSA Member at the time of nomination.
2. The person should have several years of active participation in cultural activities of the OSA.
3. The person must be, during the year of the Award, living in North America.

Submission Requirements

Nominator should submit

- 1.Nomination form
- 2.Names of 3 referees. One of the referees must be from the Chapter to which the nominee belongs, so that he/she can report on the role of the individual in the Chapter's cultural and literary activities.



3. UTKALAMANI GOPABANDHU DAS MEMORIAL AWARD

The Award is presented to an individual in recognition of his/ her outstanding contribution to Orissa in areas of humanitarian and community service. The recipient demonstrates a role model to the Non-resident Oriya community for his / her philanthropic accomplishments, dedication and selfless service to humanity.

Criteria for Selection:

The nominee must have made outstanding contribution to the land and people of Orissa in areas such as, but not limited to,

- *Social work
- *Addressing and resolving women's issues and rehabilitation
- *Improving economic well-being of disadvantaged persons
- *Relief operation
- *Community service, community health,
- *Relief of poverty
- *Advancement of education at various levels and in various sectors
- *Advancement in services in the Health Sector
- *Similar other philanthropic endeavors in Orissa.

Eligibility Requirements

Nominee must be a member of the OSA with good standing.

Nomination Process:

Nominator should submit

1. Nomination form
2. Names of 3 referees

4. SUBRINA BISWAL AWARD FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Every year, the Orissa Society of the Americas, in joint sponsorship with Dr. Nilambar and Annapurna Biswal and Dr. Sitakantha Dash, presents the Subrina Biswal Award for Academic Excellence to honor an outstanding high school graduate selected from OSA families.

Recipients are selected based on their academic achievements, extra-curricular activities including community service and personal qualities. This award which provides the recipient with one-time scholarship of US \$1000.00 was initiated in 1990 by members of OSA in the loving memory of Subrina, daughter of Dr. Nilambar and Annapurna Biswal of Maryland.

Eligibility Requirements:

The nominee must be a graduating high school senior from any School in the USA or Canada.

Criteria for Selection:

Assessment will be made on all of the following criteria:

- *Academic achievements.
- *Extra-curricular activities including community service
- *Personal qualities demonstrated by career goal and objectives in life





Submission Requirements:

- 1.High School transcripts
- 2.Two letters of recommendation including one from a teacher of the school attended.
- 3.A curriculum vitae identifying academic achievements and extra-curricular activities including community service
- 4.A short essay by the applicant highlighting career goal and objectives in life.

5. YOUTH VOLUNTEER AWARD

Award to recognize a youth (16-40 years of age) for community service in North America, Orissa, for service to OSA or Chapter, organizational leadership, volunteer work etc. Presentation of these awards will generate interest in other youth to participate in community events.

Eligibility Requirements:

- *Must be between 16 to 40 years of age,
- *Must be an OSA member or belong to an OSA member family.
- *Must be resident in North America

Submission Requirements

- 1.Nominator should submit
- 2.Nomination form
- 3.Names of 3 referees. One of the referees must be from the Chapter to which the nominee belongs.

6. YUVA KALA VIKASHA AWARD

Award to recognize a youth for outstanding contribution in promotion of Oriya culture, literature, arts, music, dance etc in North America. Presentation of these awards will generate interest in other youth to participate in Oriya culture and OSA events.

Eligibility Requirements:

- *Must be a High School student/ graduating High School student
- *Must belong to an OSA member family
- *Must be resident in North America.

Submission Requirements

1. Nominator should submit
2. Nomination form
3. Names of 3 referees. One of the referees must be from the Chapter to which the nominee belongs.



7. MEGHNA MEMORIAL AWARD FOR CREATIVE WRITING

After the sad demise of Meghna Mahapatra, daughter of Santosh and Lipika Mahapatra, in a tragic road accident on 5th November 2005, members of the Michigan Chapter of the Orissa Society of the Americas have set up the Meghna Memorial Fund, managed by the Meghna Memorial Trust. This was made possible through generous contributions from many people, including Meghna's parents. To commemorate Meghna and pay tribute to her creative spirit, it was deemed appropriate to institute the —Meghna Memorial Award for Creative Writing|| . The Meghna Memorial Award was started in 2007.

There are two awards:

1.The Junior Award is for Children of ages between 7 and 12

2.The Senior award is for children of ages between 13 and 18.

The winner in each group will be recognized at the OSA Convention, receive a certificate, a check for \$150, and a copy of the Souvenir issue in which his/her article is published.

Criteria for Selection

*A panel of judges will look at all the writings by children in the Junior and Senior age groups will be judged for exceptional creativity and quality of writing. The formats and styles are wide open. Examples are poems, short stories, letters home from a trip, or just the child/youth's view of the adult world.

*Each contribution should not be more than four printed pages. Both Oriya and English writings are welcome.

Eligibility

All children of Oriya origin residing in North America (USA and Canada) in the age group of **7 to 18** are eligible to participate. The parents or children need not be members of OSA at the time of nomination.

Nomination Process

Writings can be sent in by children or their parents. All articles submitted to the Souvenir will automatically be considered for the award.

(Keep your articles ready! The submission address will be followed by soon.)

8. SAMIK SHING KALINGAYOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARD

Idea Submission (Phase I) (**due date: 31st March, 2011**)

The Business Idea Competition is phase I of the entrepreneurship competition. There is no format restriction and no prior business plan writing experience is required. Submit a 1-page business concept describing your business idea, its market potential and how you plan to bring it to market.



Eligibility

The competition is only open to **high school and college going youth**. There is no restriction to number of members in a team. Please note that applicants should only apply if they plan to attend the 43rd OSA Convention.

Prize Amounts

Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three winners of the youth entrepreneurship competition.

Submission

The idea submission is to be submitted electronically in Microsoft Word (preferred) or Adobe PDF format to RanjanKumarDash@GMail.com. The email or a cover page should contain the business name, contact person's name, e-mail and telephone number.

Every year OSA recognizes its members for their talent, service and contribution to OSA community and Odia Community in general. Your continuing support makes these activities possible and successful.


The deadline to send your nomination for awards is March 31st, 2012. Please keep all your needed materials ready. More information on nomination form, mailing address etc. are on the way!

Highlights of OSA Activities in Odisha during December 2011

Recently during my two weeks trip to Odisha in December, I was privileged to attend Invest Bhubaneswar-Odisha Symposium and Prabasi Odia Divas held from 16th to 18th Dec 2011. These two events were hosted at the Crown Hotel in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. With OSA Life member Purna Mohanty as the convener, many dignitaries joined the Invest Bhubaneswar symposium. Several OSA members including Dharendra Kar, Shradhanand Mishra, Pratap Das, also attended the event on December 16th and had the opportunity to discuss the current Odisha development status in different sectors with various entrepreneurs. I had the privilege of meeting many entrepreneurs from all over the world who are interested in investing in Odisha. I am glad that the idea of Invest Bhubaneswar as a business symposium germinated at the OSA2010 convention held in California now has taken shape and is doing so well!!

On December 18th, 8th Prabasi Odia Divas was organized by the Non-resident Odia facilitation centre (NROFC). Several OSA life members such as Dr.Sitakantha Dash, Dharendra Kar, Prof. Laxmi Narayan Bhuyan, Sandip Dasverma were among others were present on this occasion. On behalf of the OSA executive committee, I have extended an invitation to all the attendees to come and participate in the forthcoming 2012 OSA convention in Seattle, Washington. I would like to thank Mr.Sahadeva Sahoo, the president and Prof.Dr.Chita Ranjan Das, the secretary of NROFC for organizing this wonderful event.





On December 22nd, 2011 OSA with collaboration with Utkal University organized a workshop on Higher Education and Research Opportunities in North American Universities at Conference Hall, PG Dept. of Commerce, Utkal University, Vani Vihar, Bhubaneswar. Prof. P.K. Sahoo (VC), Prof. Durga M. Mishra, Prof. Niranjana Tripathy, Dr. Sukant K. Mohapatra, Prof. K.B. Das, Dr. Sitakantha Dash, Mr. Hemanta Biswal, Dr. Julie Acharya Ray, and Prof. S. Moharana were amongst many eminent people who joined this great event. Because of some unavoidable circumstances I couldn't attend this workshop but keeping in mind that this is just the beginning. This definitely will bring a very bright future to many students. OSA is grateful to Prof. Samson Moharana who has been instrumental in organizing this gathering on the campus.

On behalf of OSA, I would like to congratulate to all the organizers of International Odissi Festival to stage this spectacular Odissi show being held from December 23rd to 30th, 2011. The festival was organized by Odissi Research Center together with IPAP, an USA based organization lead by Pratap Das, a longtime OSA member and a past OSA president along with many of our OSA members from the Americas were involved in organizing this show and were helpful in the successful implementation of this program. It was amazing to watch so many dancers came from all around the world and put their best in this magnificent show.

On December 24th, 2011 I was invited as a special guest to attend at the annual function of S.S.I.T.C and prize giving ceremony of National School of Decency, Udayagiri. Among others were present Smt. Arundhati Devi, Dr. Sitakantha Dash, Padmashri Dr. Prativa Ray, Amar Prasad Satpathy, M.L.A. Badachana, Minati Devi, and Dr. Brajendra Panda. It was a great pleasure to spend some hours in a unique environment where everybody's mission is to work for world peace and prevent indecency and develop decency in every department of human life for a better, healthier, decent, blissful and peaceful world.

With having so many memorable experiences, time came for me to bid farewell to 2011 and embrace a new year 2012! Let this New Year inspire us to work together for the betterment of the society.

With Warm Wishes,

Kuku Das
Vice President, OSA
On behalf of the OSA Executives



Workshop on Higher Education & Research

Dec 22, 2011

Utkal University, BBSR

Orissa Society of Americas organized a workshop on Higher Education & Research Opportunities in North American Universities in collaboration with the P.G Department of Commerce, Utkal University, BBSR, Orissa.

The function was inaugurated by the Vice Chancellor of Utkal University Prof Prashant Kumar Sahoo and conducted by Senior Prof Samson Moharana, Ex-HOD, P.G Dept of Commerce. The OSA invited speakers were Prof Durga Mishra, Prof Niranjana Tripathy, Dr Sukant Mohapatra and other attending members such as Dr Sitikanta Dash, Dr Laxmi Narayan Bhuyan, Sri Hemanta Biswal and Dr Julie Acharya Ray. The workshop was attended by over 200 students including faculty members. The speakers gave detailed information for the requirements for applying for MS/PhD programs at various North American universities. This included an evaluation of the GRE, TOEFL scores, program goals and resources, the curriculum and the admissions processes and criteria. In addition to this, effective ways of writing letters of interest, gathering reference letters from referees in sufficient advance, choice of universities and programs, visa information, accommodation and medical insurance for students was also discussed. The speakers also provided information on collaborative research and visiting faculty opportunities, cost of living: assistantships and scholarships, research grant opportunities, post academic opportunities as well as recent sponsorships provided by laboratories and universities to deserving students from Orissa.

It was a 3 hour interactive session where questions from faculty and students were systematically answered.

The workshop was very successful in arousing interest and also being the first such organized workshop where students were given detailed first hand information by professionals, it gave an impression of approachability and positive attitude of academically successful Oriyas living abroad.

Detailed information on the presentations can be available from the speakers:

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4th International Orissi Festival, BBSR, Odisa



Forcing a stupendous entry into the world's most coveted Guinness Book of World Record, 555 Orissi dancers performed at the opening ceremony of the International Orissi festival in Bhubaneswar at Kalinga Stadium. Bhubaneswar turned from being the city of temples to the city of dancers. Dancers from 17 countries and local artists enchanted the city from Dec 17th to the 30th. Rabindra Mandap, Utkal Mandap, and Sangeet Mahavidyalaya premises remained jam packed all day. Workshops during the day, presentations during the evening continued for the first half followed by dance performances by renowned artists during the second half of the festival. Odissi dance has grown enormously in popularity over the years and it was showcased by the choreography and number of foreign students performing the dances; Japanese students who spoke fluent oriya, Russian dancers who emoted Ardhanarishwar with clarity and American performers who brought tears to the eyes of the audience with "Ahe NilA SaiLa...". Odissi has come a long way thanks to the gurus who have matched tradition with globalization. I had the opportunity of conducting an evening's program on the 23rd Dec where IPAP along with the department of tourism and culture and Sangeet Mahavidyalaya hosted a great show. Shri Lalit Mansingh (chairperson Odissi International Festival 2011), Honorable Orissa Minister of Tourism and Culture along with the Principal Secretary and other dignitaries inaugurated the show and gave away the IPAP 2011 awards to the following luminaries in Odissi scene:

Category:

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1 Dancer | Padmashree Kum Kum Mohanty |
| 2 Guru | Late Padmashree Guru Gangadhar Pradhan |
| 3 Music | Guru Ramahari Das |
| 4 Scholar | Dr. Subhas Pani |
| 5 Critic | Mrs. Leela Venkatraman, Hindu |
| 6 Institution (India) | Utkal Sangeet Mahavidyalaya, Bhubaneswar |
| 7 Institution (Overseas) | The Sutra (Malaysia) |
| 8 Promoter | Mr. Akshaya Parija, Oman |
| 9 Visionary | Sri CV Krishnamurti |
| 10 Special Recognition | Mr. Jayant Kastuar |

The evening's program began with a performance from Padmavibhushan Dr Sonal Mansingh and continued with spellbinding performances from Padmashree Ileana Citaristi, Shashwati and Piyali from Kolkata, local artists under the auspices of Srjan Dance academy, Nupur Dance School, students of Guru Smt Aruna Mohanty, scintillating performances by Guru Sujata Mohapatra, Guru Niranjana Rout and other stars of the field.

The enormous amount of ground work done by Shri Pratap Das (IPAP), Smt Anu Biswal, Shri Bidhu B Mohanty, patronage from Shri Lalit Mansingh along with the co sponsorship of Sangeet Mahavidyalaya and Orissa department of tourism and culture showed the world the beauty, grace, power and reach of Odissi.















