



From the Editor's desk:

Welcome to the September issue of Utkarsa. In this edition you will find a compilation of the successes of OSA 2010, a call for OSA 2011 election, reports from office bearers, current status of OSA, chapter reports as well as some highlighting moments of OSA from the past few months. Also enjoy poetry, culture and literature. Auspicious Durga Puja wishes to you from the editors of Utkarsa!



Editors:
Sridhar Rana (from NJ)
Julie Acharya Ray (from UT)



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President's Message

ପ୍ରିୟ ଓସା ବନ୍ଧୁଗଣ

ନମସ୍କାର !

ଦୁଇମାସ ତଳେ ୨୦୧୦ ମସିହା ଜୁଲାଇ ୪ ତାରିଖରେ ଅଖିଳେଶ୍ଵର ପଟେଲ, ଅନୁପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣା ପାଣ୍ଡେ, ପ୍ରଦୀପ ମହାପାତ୍ର ଓ ମୁଁ ଓସାର କର୍ମକର୍ତ୍ତା ହିସାବରେ ଏକବର୍ଷ ପୂରଣ କଲୁ । ଆପଣମାନଙ୍କର ସ୍ନେହ, ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା, ଓ ସହଯୋଗ ବଳରେ ସମସ୍ତ ବାଧାବିଘ୍ନ ଅତିକ୍ରମ କରି ଆମେ ଓସାକୁ ସଫଳତାର ମାର୍ଗରେ କିଛିଟା ବାଟ ଆଗେଇ ଆଣିପାରିଲୁ । ଆଉ ଯେଉଁ ଦଶଟି ମାସ ବାକି ରହିଲା, ସେଥିରେ ଆପଣମାନଙ୍କର ସହଯୋଗ ମିଳିବ ବୋଲି ଭରସା ରଖିଛୁ ।

ଓଡିଆ ଭାଷାର ପ୍ରଚାର, ପ୍ରସାର ଓ ବ୍ୟବହାର ଥିଲା ଆମମାନଙ୍କର ଏକ ବିଶିଷ୍ଟ ଲକ୍ଷ୍ୟ, ଯେଉଁଟାକି ଏପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ଅସଂପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ରହିଛି । ତେବେ ଯେତିକି ସମୟ ଆମ ପାଖରେ ଅଛି, ଆମେମାନେ ସେହି ସମୟ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଏ ଯୋଜନାଟି କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ କରାଇବାରେ ଚେଷ୍ଟିତ ରହିବୁ ।

ଆମମାନଙ୍କର ଆଉ ଗୋଟିଏ ବିଶେଷ ଲକ୍ଷ୍ୟ ଥିଲା ନୂତନ ପିଢିର ଓଡିଆ ମାନଙ୍କୁ ଓସା ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ସଂଗଠିତ କରାଇ ଓସା ଓ ଓଡିଶା ପାଇଁ ଉନ୍ନତିମୂଳକ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟରେ ନିଯୁକ୍ତ କରାଇବା ଯେଉଁଟାକି ଓସା ମହାବାଦୀ ମାନଙ୍କର ନିଷ୍ଠୁର ଓ ନିର୍ମମ କୋର୍ଟକେସ୍ ପାଇଁ ବିଶେଷ ଭାବେ ବାଧାପ୍ରାପ୍ତ ହେଲା । ଯେଉଁମାନେ ଉନ୍ନତିମୂଳକ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକରିବା ପାଇଁ

ଉତ୍ସାହିତ ଥିଲେ, ସେମାନେ କହିଲେ, “ଯେଉଁ ସମାଜର ସଭ୍ୟମାନେ ସମାଜ ବିରୁଦ୍ଧରେ ବାଦୀ ସାଜି ମଜଲିସା କରିବାକୁ କୁଣ୍ଠବୋଧ କରନ୍ତି ନାହିଁ, ସେଭଳି ସମାଜର ସଭ୍ୟହୋଇ କିଛି ଉତ୍ତମ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ କରିହେବକି?”

ହେ ମୋର ନୂତନ ଓ ପୁରାତନ, ଉଭୟ ପିଢ଼ିର ଭାଇ ଓ ଭଉଣୀ ମାନେ, ମୁଁ ପୁଣି ଥରେ ଆପଣମାନଙ୍କୁ ଆବାହନ କରୁଛି, ଓସାର ଏ ଘଟିସନ୍ଧି ମୁହୂର୍ତ୍ତରେ ନିରୁତ୍ସାହିତ ନ ହୋଇ ଆମମାନଙ୍କର ସହାୟତା କରନ୍ତୁ । ତନ, ମନ ଓ ଧନ, ଯେଉଁଥିରେ ଇଶ୍ଵର ଆପଣମାନଙ୍କୁ ବିଭବଶାଳୀ କରିଛନ୍ତି, ସେଇ ବିଭବରୁ କିଛିଟା ଦାନକରି ଓସାକୁ ବିଭବଶାଳୀ କରାନ୍ତୁ । ଓସାରୁ ଏ ଚରମପଦ୍ଧୀ ମନୋଭାବର ମୁଲୋପାଟନ ହେବ । ଓସାରେ ଏକ ସୁନ୍ଦର ଓ ସମ୍ମାନିତ ବାତାବରଣର ସମାଗମ ହେବ । ଆପଣମାନଙ୍କର ସାହାଯ୍ୟ ଓ ସହଯୋଗ ବଳରେ, ସମସ୍ତ ଅଧାରୀମାନର କୁହ୍ମିତ ଭାବନାର ଅପସାରଣ କରାଇ ଆମେ ଓସାକୁ ସମୃଦ୍ଧି ଓ ସଫଳତାର ଆଲୋକରେ ଉଦ୍ଭାସିତ କରାଇବା । ଏ ଶୁଭକାର୍ଯ୍ୟରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ କରିବାକୁ ମୁଁ ଆପଣମାନଙ୍କୁ ଆମନ୍ତ୍ରଣ କରୁଛି ।

ବିଜ୍ଞାନୀ ଦାସ, ପ୍ରେସିଡେଣ୍ଟ, ଓସା

SAVE OSA: President's Message

Dear Fellow OSA Members

Welcome to OSA New Year 2010-2011! Wish you all a very happy and prosperous journey through this New Year!



I congratulate OSA editors Sridhar Rana and Julie Acharya Ray for a job well done. Editing is not an easy task and to appreciate that hard work, I request you all to read each and every section to be updated on OSA and its activities.

On July 4th, 2010, Akhileswar Patel, Annapurna Pandey, Pradeep Mohapatra and I marked our one-year anniversary as Treasurer, Secretary, Vice President and President of The Orissa Society of the Americas (OSA). Thank you all for the support you provided during the most challenging year in OSA's life. It is because of you that OSA had a most enchanting convention in its history. It is because of you that we had made exceptional achievement in grace, growth and glory, all three aspects of our goals during our first year and it is because of you that OSA won the legal challenges on May 26th, 2010.

We are honored and humbled to serve you another ten months. For these ten months we look forward working with you and work for you with “SAVE OSA” mantra and create a legacy with our collective imagination, contribution, and collaboration.

What is SAVE?

“S” is to serve, support and safeguard

Serve OSA, support OSA and safeguard OSA. One year ago, I took office with my team-mates in a very dramatic atmosphere, after 50 minutes of deliberations against OSA and against OSA 2009 Election Committee, who not only worked hard 10 months to complete their job, but were subjected to abusive words and harsh treatment. Two OSA members had become OSA plaintiffs. So, we acted, immediately and aggressively, and one year later, I am happy to inform you that OSA won the lawsuit filed against it on May 26, 2010 at the circuit court of Maryland.

But the devastation remains. More than 50,000 dollars are spent since OSA attorney has to respond to every harassment tactics used by the plaintiffs and the charge compounded. Now our task is to replenish that and get back the financial health of the society to a better level so that we can promote other OSA activities, help a student in Orissa to reach his/her goals, build a public library and establish an OSA headquarter to centralize OSA business.

Please serve OSA so that we reach out to each and every member, support OSA so that OSA can support and make a difference in somebody’s life and safeguard OSA so that OSA-plaintiff minds disappear forever. Let us work together to create a “Lawsuit Free” Future OSA!

“A” is to appreciate, assist and act

Appreciate OSA, assist OSA and act for OSA. Although OSA is comparatively a small organization, yet the contribution it has made to Oriya communities in USA and Canada is no way less than other ethnic communities established in North America. We must appreciate the founding members that established this organization and nurtured it so that we can enjoy, have an extended family in our adopted new country and also have a venue to express, explore and entertain ourselves. New Oriya arrivals to this country do often ask, “Why should I become a member? What will I get?” The answer is “You get something that is unseen, unexplained and untold; it is a secret satisfaction code for your heart and soul”.

Should not we assist and act for something that we appreciate, something that fills our heart with the sacred memories of our motherland and sings the songs of our childhood pouring down the memories of our parents and grandparents?

“V” is to value, volunteer and vow

Practice OSA’s core values and value OSA, volunteer for OSA and vow to protect the honor and dignity of the organization through your action and achievements. OSA stands for its core values, the values of friendship and fellowship, the values of cultural preservation and propagation and the values for helping the motherland. Please volunteer to be a member of any OSA committee to protect these values. OSA needs your volunteering time more than before. It has grown and there is much demand in special service needs that must be customized for different people in different stages in life. Starting from souvenir distribution to keeping accurate membership records, in every sector, there is need for voluntary service and we request members to respond to these service needs.

Demands of our work place and family responsibilities leave very little time to volunteer for community services and other humane activities that our soul seeks for. Yet, irrespective of high demands in their lives, many OSA members do volunteer and we request you to save a fraction of your time to volunteer for OSA.

“E” is to endear, enrich, empower

Endear this organization, enrich OSA with your richness in wealth, talent and time, and empower OSA to enhance the quality of life of Oriyas in this country and elsewhere in the globe.

OSA members are millionaires, OSA members are great scientists and artists, and OSA members are caring, nurturing human beings. These characteristics of OSA members are highly reflected during our annual convention. Let us reflect these characteristics more often so that members who miss the convention do not miss this richness of OSA members. We have created special web documents to highlight OSA talents and OSA generosity. Please visit OSA web page often and know your society and its members.

Let OSA patriotism be built among all OSA members naturally.

SAVE OSA!

Bigyani Das



Message from Secretary

Engaging in virtuous activities is a bit like bringing up a young child. Many factors are involved, and, especially at the beginning, we need to be prudent and skillful in our endeavors to transform our habits and dispositions. We also need to be realistic about what we can expect to achieve. It took us a long time to become the way we are, and habits are not changed overnight.” His Holiness [Dalai Lama](#)

My dear brothers and sisters of OSA,

Namaskar and Greetings! Even before we realized, one year of our term as the OSA executives is over. We had a remarkable convention in San Francisco, California. Those of you who could attend it and participate in many of its activities, my heartfelt thank you to all. Those of you who could not, the convention DVD is coming out soon. Please do make sure to get a copy and do let us know as to how as an OSA team, we can improve in the future.

The OSA 2010 convention was put together entirely by the efforts of the younger generations of Oriyas. Those of you who came all the way to California, will agree with me that it was such a beautiful demonstration of the enormous talent and the variety of it our young people possess. It was gratifying to see how the enthusiastic young Oriyas of the Bay area got together and put their varied skills to make the convention a great success.

Like life itself, the convention planning was an interesting journey. Many of you wondered why California took it upon itself to organize the convention. As you all know, Washington DC had offered to host the 2010 convention but could not do it because of circumstantial factors. Does not it apply to us? So many times we are determined to set a goal for ourselves and work on it. But, things always do not materialize as planned and we move on. Likewise, OSA convention fell into our lap. After making the resolution to hold the convention in 2010, I was amazed to see the dedication, commitment and fellow feeling among our younger generation to make it happen. And it happened. Our initial break was to persuade Kuku Das to become the convener and Prasanta Behera to join the team as the co-convener. Their dedicated effort helped us to recruit all the leaders of different organizing committees. The planning and organizing of the convention was truly a team effort and every volunteer contributed meaningfully towards its success.

This year the convention was unique in many ways. First and foremost was the fundraising. The first person who came forward to support the convention, was our own Nita Panda. She arranged her family's company IMFA in Orissa to support the convention with a gift of \$10,000. What an auspicious thing it turned out to be! It gave us confidence to undertake this enormous task of planning the convention. As we all know without funds it is simply not possible to produce such a mega event. Then our own Nita Tripathy from the bay area came forward with a huge support of another \$10,000 through her uncle's company (Orissa Stevedores Limited) in Orissa. Both the Nitas deserve our heartfelt gratitude. Personally I feel so much indebted to them that I can never thank them enough for their generosity. Our fund raising chief, Mahesh Pakala called people relentlessly and made sure that we had enough money to support the kind of activities proposed by different organizing committees. These three had never participated in OSA conventions before and what a good luck it was for OSA 2010 that they blessed us with their efforts. Personally as well as a member of the fund raising committee, I would like to thank each of our sponsors who contributed financially towards the success of this convention.

The second task was to find a venue. The husband and wife team, Rina Rao Pakala and Mahesh Pakala found the great Sofitel, the landmark hotel near San Francisco. With its French ambiance and unique location, it must have stolen everybody's heart who attended the convention. My sincere appreciation and a big thank you to both Rina and Mahesh.

Our main goal for this convention was to involve the second generation young Oriyas who are going to bear the torch in organizing future events. And you can

see from the list published in the OSA Souvenir and the convention report that we succeeded in achieving that goal. My sincere hope is to learn from this convention and encourage our younger people to continue the trend initiated so successfully in this year's convention.

This convention has brought us closer to one another in our larger Oriya community both here as well as back home in Orissa. We never expected that so many dignitaries and luminaries from Orissa would grace us with their presence. They not only did that but they took active part in so many of the activities at the convention.

This brings me to make some personal observations by way of concluding this report. This convention made me realize how proud I am of my brothers and sisters from Orissa! On a personal note, I would like to mention that whenever I made a call for financial and all the other organizing support, no one ever said no. Just to give one example, when I asked Rudra and his wife Jayashree Kar who are known to us in the bay area for their wonderful esthetic talent to take over the decoration for the convention, their simple response was, "Of course, Nani, whatever you say, we are with you." It certainly says something about them and I can easily make similar observations about so many others who volunteered their talent and time to the benefit of the entire Oriya community in the USA.

The perennial question one hears is "what has OSA done for me?" Anybody who attended the convention can clearly see that it brought us together, people from Orissa as well as the diasporic Oriyas from every part of North America. The convention reaffirms our community identity, our cultural bonding and brings us, the Oriyas closer to one another. I am a proud Oriya. My diasporic brothers and sisters make me so proud of my Oriya identity!

Bande Utkal Janani!

Annapurna Pandey

BOG Meeting of July 3, 2010

5:30 PM

Executive Board Room: Sofitel Hotel

Members Present:

Surya Misra, Pratap Das (past President), Bigyani Das, Pradeep Mohapatra, Annapurna Pandey, Akhileswar Patel, Anadi Naik, Hara Padhi (CanOSA), Bigyani Das, Durga Mishra (NYNJ), Babru Samal (DC), Debashish Panda(Arizona), Srinibas Mohapatra (MI), Gopal Mohapatra, Dharendra Kar (South East) and Dharendra Kar.

1. Quorum: Minimum Number Requirement

BOG Input: Everybody except Anadi Naik voted that the Quorum in GBM should be considered as the members that attend the GBM. Everybody agreed that members should be encouraged and informed various ways to attend the meeting and attempts should be made to have larger numbers in the GBM.

Proposed by Surya Misra and seconded by Gopal Mohapatra.

2. Acceptance of Election Committee Members

OSA 2011 Election Committee Members consisting of

Dr. Durga Mishra (Chairman)

Abani Patra

Hara Narayan Padhi

BOG approved and accepted the election committee.

Motion to accept brought by: Pratap Das

Seconded by: Gopal Mohapatra

Everybody Accepted except Anadi Naik

3. Acceptance of Awardees. The vice president announced the award winners. Dr. Durga Mishra made a motion to approve all the awardees and Dhira Kar seconded it. Everybody accepted the award recipients except Anadi Naik who had no vote.

4. Convention 2011 in Texas

Gopal Mohapatra formally proposed.

Motion to accept brought by: Pratap Das

Seconded by: Dharendra Kar.

5. How to get back OSA's financial stability? Everybody agreed that replenishing the financial damage done by the frivolous lawsuit can financially help OSA.

6. How to prevent the lawsuit?

The consensus was to develop an arbitration process. Dr. Durga Mishra suggested a non-voting member to be present in the board as the legal expert. Secondly, he proposed to retain a law firm for any legal issues. Also, there was a talk of getting legal insurance to cover the legal fees of a non-profit organization like OSA.

GBM Meeting of July 4, 2010

Main Ball Room

11:55 AM

1. Pradeep Mohapatra acted as Sgt-At-Arms and called the meeting to order
2. President's Remarks: Bigyani Das presented OSA's performance in the last year and projected activities for the year 2010-2011
3. Parliamentarian Announcement: Bigyani Das announced Dr Digambar Mishra as the parliamentarian
4. Member Recognition Awards: Vice President: Pradeep Mohapatra announced member recognition awards for members that contributed to the betterment of OSA during 2009-2010
5. Secretary's Report, Reading of 2009 GBM Minutes: Annapurna Pandey read 2009 GBM meeting minutes and it was accepted. Then she asked for votes on Resolution 3. There was one comment from Amiya Mohanty to name Resolution 3 as Grievance Hearing Process.

Annapurna Pandey informed that since July 2010, OSA has obtained seventy new life members. It includes one benefactor and three Patrons.

Grievance Hearing Process: It is hereby recommended that OSA adopt the following process for mediating any disputes that may arise with respect to its constitution or by-laws through an amendment of OSA by-laws: A complaining member must file a complaint with the OSA's Executive Committee outlining in detail the nature of the complaint. Within 30 days of the filing of the complaint, a 3 member Mediation Committee shall be convened by the Executive Committee. The Mediation Committee shall consist of one member selected by the Complainant, one member selected by the Executive Committee, then these 2 members shall select a third member of the Mediation Committee and choose the committee Chair among the three. The Mediation Committee shall hear the complaint and issue a written decision of its findings within 60 days of the

convening of the Mediation Committee. If the Mediation Committee could not be formed or either party is not satisfied with the findings/decision of the Mediation Committee, any party may proceed on the matter to a court having proper jurisdiction. The complaining member losing the proceedings, which they bring in court, shall pay the legal costs, including but not limited to the attorney costs, of the prevailing party. Motion to approve was brought by Priyadarsan Patra, seconded by Durga Mishra

6. Treasurer's Report: Akhileswar Patel presented treasurer's report. \$16,259.99 – CD 1, \$25,165.92 – CD 2

The treasurer also informed the GBM that so far, \$33, 695 has been paid towards legal fees.

7. At that time Sitakantha Dash brought the document that was given to Anadi Naik from Udaya Nath Dash about his mention of making OSA as a beneficiary to his charity. The report was approved by Durga Mishra, seconded by Surya Mishra

8. Election Committee Declaration and Voting: Bigyani Das declared next year's election committee as

OSA 2011 Election Committee Members consisting of

Durga Mishra (Chairman)

Abani Patra

Hara Narayan Padhi

Motion to accept brought by: Pratap Das

Seconded by: Gopal Mohapatra

9. New Constitution/Amendments: Quorum was suggested by an exact number 50 by Priyadarsan Patra. Sandip Dasverma seconded it. This was discussed and then finally accepted.

10. Cultural: Request that OSA makes it a mandate to organize a cultural segment completely dedicated to Odia classical music style such as Odissi, Chhanda, and Champu to increase interest among the new generation Oriya children in their cultural heritage. – Lata Mishra – Lalu Mansinha brought the motion. Seconded by Manaranjan Pattanayak. After the discussion, this was voted and accepted.

11. Announcements: Next Year's Convention in Dallas, Texas: TX members led by its president Gopal Mohapatra and Dallas members Tapan Padhi, Niranjana Tripathy, Hari Arjun Patra etc. invited all the members to attend the convention

12. OSA Communication: OSAnet is to be considered as a virtual GBM and polls can be conducted by members or executives. The results of the polls will be mandatory with immediate effect. – Suggested by Deva Narayan Pattanayak to

be implemented by August 1. It was a new constitution revision item and the parliamentarian suggested that it should have been completely researched and developed before brought to GBM.

Our democratic way of conducting the discussion by acknowledging everybody who wanted to speak took a lot of time. As a result, we could not cover all the items we had on the agenda.

TREASURER’S REPORT

| Report of the Treaurer OSA | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|---|-------------|
| RECEIPTS | | | |
| Membership Fees | \$19,222.72 | Fixed Deposit CD-1 | \$60,522.99 |
| Donations | \$1,500.00 | Fixed Deposit CD-2 | \$25,166.92 |
| Interest Income | \$1,313.75 | | |
| Receipt from 2009 convention | \$12,878.83 | OSA Defence Fund Received | \$3,150.00 |
| Fixed deposit Cashed | \$32,637.28 | OSA Defence Fund Pledged | \$17,500.00 |
| Other | \$15.09 | | |
| TOTAL | \$67,567.67 | | |
| PAYMENTS | | | |
| Program Related Expenses | \$10,269.73 | Report Prepared by OSA Accountant Raj Maruvad | |
| Legal Fees | \$28,918.12 | Ph. 856 246 7141 Office | |
| Election Expenses | \$1,294.45 | Email: raj@cparaj.com | |
| Registration etc. | \$686.99 | | |
| Conventin Advance | \$6,000.00 | Recent Payment to Lawyer \$6000 and \$\$783.00. | |
| Administration Expense | \$1,877.67 | | |
| TOTAL | \$49,046.96 | Total Legal Fees= \$35,701.12 | |
| | | Akhileswar Patel. | |

Welcome New Members

Dear New Members of OSA

On behalf of the members and OSA National Executives of the Orissa Society of Americas (OSA), I welcome you to our organization. We will soon place your name on the member list of OSA and you will soon be able to enjoy all the benefits membership has to offer.

Please check OSA website <http://www.orisasociety.org>.

Becoming a member of OSA shows your commitment for the preservation and propagation of Oriya culture in Americas. It also shows your commitment for the Oriya community in general. While at the OSA website, we suggest you review the constitution and by-laws of OSA. You also have the opportunity to upgrade your membership at any time (click on **Membership** from OSA website to know more about various options).

OSA was established in 1969 by a few visionary Oriyas who thought of establishing Oriya identity in the adopted land. Today OSA is a strong organization with 800 or more individual and family members. This is due to individuals stepping forward to support different activities of OSA with innovative ideas which, when implemented, benefit us all. OSA conducts its business through a National governing body and 14 local chapters. Please read the information about OSA chapters and various OSA activities at OSA website.

The work of OSA is done by its volunteer members, working in groups, committees or individually. Many OSA members work through other non-profit organizations for the causes that affect Oriyas in Americas as well as in Orissa and elsewhere in the world. They contribute in the fields of sustained economic development, educational development, and promoting Oriya art and culture in Americas. After reading the description of work currently being done by each of our many devoted members, please contact the respective members or any member of the executive committee to join the project you are most interested in serving on.

The Board of Governors (BOG) consists of OSA National executives and the Chapter representatives. OSA BOG acts as the centralization point of information and decision-making. Progress of committees and individuals is collected and

archived occasionally, and any concerns of members are aired. We are committed to keeping members informed of the workings of the organization.

You are now a part of the OSA membership list, and will receive ongoing emails. Please feel free to express your opinion in to any discussion on the OSA affairs. Do not hesitate to introduce an issue or ask a question. We are a very supportive association, and always try to help each other out.

We are very pleased that you have joined us!

If you have any questions about your affiliation with us, do not hesitate to contact an OSA BOG member. Our emails are posted on the website.

Once again, let me welcome you and tell you how pleased I am to be able to list you among the ranks of so many dedicated and committed Oriyas.

Welcome to the Orissa Society of Americas!

Sincerely,

Bigyani Das

President of the OSA

On behalf of 2009-2010 Executives

(OSA new member list is published in another section.)



OSACAL 2010: Cultural Extravaganza and Behind the Scenes

It has been 2 months past the 2010 OSA convention and people here in California are still talking about it. Those who made it to the convention are proud to have attended it while those who missed can't wait to attend the next one in Bay Area, CA. This year's convention has seen an increase in dance/music classes by Odias. The OSACAL 2010 surely has added a newness to our lives; new Odia friends, new talents, new leadership and renewed excitement in knowing Odia culture and heritage.

The cultural program for this convention has received the highest rating during a post survey executed by the registration team. OSACAL 2010 has proved that OSA convention is much more than just a few days of cultural programs. We offered a lot of choices for kids, teens and nG's other than routine cultural programs, dramas and seminars. The food was excellent and decorations beyond imagination; many have eulogized it as the best in the history of OSA.

I still remember the very first meeting for the convention and what a difficult decision it was for iGurukul members as we had to miss the 10th anniversary of our Odiya School. Finally we chose to have the convention in the Bay area and the cultural team was formed in Sep 2009 by choosing various Bay Area talents in the fields of music, dance and drama. We had several discussions with the 2009 cultural team and collected a lot of information from them which helped us immensely. The cultural team established a common goal of achieving quality and entertaining 'Cultural Programs for all Generations' laced with a diversity of traditional and contemporary art forms which would connect us to our motherland

(Orissa/India/Americas). We had to justify the theme “Ei Mati, Sei Dhwani: Coming Together”.

The first milestone was to choose and set different categories of cultural programs, their rules and guidelines and building a cultural event participation form. The next one was to get a proper theater/auditorium with a good stage lighting and sound. Our most challenging project was the opening ceremony. Tarun Tripathy kindly agreed to lead this effort along with Amrita Pati, Madhabika Nayak and many others. We planned to present highlights of Odisha’s unique art forms such as the beautiful classical Odissi, popular Sambalpuri folk, acrobatic Chhou, colorful Ghoda Nacha, resonating Ghumura as well as Odiya songs and the lost art forms such as Das Kathia and Giti Natya. For this we had 16 items rolled in back to back that ran a nonstop on a single track. To accomplish this we had 95 participants from ages 5-60.

The rehearsals started in Dec 2009 when we had people come in for initial warm-up. No one really knew which event or item they would be a part of in the final program but everyone joined in to practice folk and contemporary steps! Geetika Patjoshi and Amrita Pati taught these classes. This exercise helped both the participants and the teachers in assignment of people to items. Rigorous choreography started towards the end of January; 3 hours every Sunday which continued till the end of June 2010. We had close to 100 hours of official rehearsals, 4 Run-Thrus (12 hours) and 1 stage rehearsal (5 hours). And apart from that participants met many times to practice among themselves. Music composition and editing took countless hours. Tarun composed original music pieces for “Bande Utkala Janani”, “Kuanra Punei Janha”, percussion, Ghumura and many filler pieces. Tarun also painstakingly put all the pieces together to weave it into the final version. Amrita Pati choreographed the beautiful Sambalpuri dance with the stunning Fusion. It might be interesting to mention that the lyrics to the Sambalpuri dance was written by Shraddha Sahu and sung by Amrita herself. Chhou was choreographed and taught by Guru Jyoti Rout. The Odissi pieces were choreographed by Niharika Mohanty, Gayatri Joshi and Guru Jyoti Rout. Ghoda Nacha and Kuanra Punei Janha dance pieces were choreographed by Gayatri Joshi. Das Kathia was written by Anasuya Mohanty and Mona Bebortha. Flag dance was choreographed by Ishani Behera. The script was written by convener Kuku Das. The props (Las Vegas style drapes, Konark structure with lights and the huge drum) were created by Rudra Kar, Jayashree Kar and the decoration team. We paid special attention and time to costumes which were mostly shipped from Odisha. This was a 1 hour nonstop, gargantuan production with live music and dance

comprising of 95 people. We were nervous as well as very positive presenting “Ei Mati Sei Dhvani”.

With Lord Jagannath’s blessings, the opening ceremony was spectacular, flawless and one of its own kind. Response from the audience was overwhelming. It took me an hour to reach Tarun to congratulate him and a couple of hours to reach my parents! Needless to mention that it ended with a standing ovation and endless cheers from the audience. My husband Manoj mentioned later on that many in the audience were almost in tears during the final bow. He was even a little upset that I could not come to the front to receive the grace from the audience. Little did he know that I was busy reading the vote of thanks from behind the screen! To say the least, it has been one of the most satisfying moments of my life when I took in the deep breath of success and accomplishment-thanks to the tireless team work and talented artists. Hats off to Tarun and the executive team for the opening ceremony (Dheeren Bebortha, Anup Nayak, Sangram Pattnaik, Achyuta Acharya and many other volunteers).

The Friday evening band was a last minute addition with the help of Satyajit Sahu and provided a rocking start to the convention.

There has always been special interest to Odia Drama. This convention presented very unique and creative dramas as part of the Pramod Pattanayak Drama Competition under the leadership of Manoj Sahu and Chakradhar Kar. Varying from social dramas like “Sabuja Bibaha” to creative Sambalpuri drama “Odisha-A Discovery” to comedies like “Bohu Katakiani”, “Olata Palata” and “Tana Tana Tana Dho”. We witnessed fine dramatists of our communities; some of them in their debut roles.

Saturday evening’s cultural program was theme song (written and composed by Subhash Kashnabish http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=slk_-yQ0LDM), which was a mixture of classical, semi classical dance and music. The show began with Prashanta Nanda’s short thank you speech, followed by the opening song “Sarvesam” and ended with a beautiful dance “OSA Janani”. Our guest artist from Odisha “Rahul Acharya” presented a memorable dance “Shivastakam”. “Mahakali” presented by Pallavi Das was graceful as well as energetic. Odissi music by Anu Satpathy was nostalgic. The power packed “Dasa Avatar” by Jyoti Kala Mandir students under the guidance of Gayatri Joshi was the highlight of the show as per many viewers. The southern California kids’ Odiya drama “TaPoi” stole everyone’s heart.

It was surprising to see a big audience for OSA Got Talent. In fact it was the perfect ending to the Saturday night. There were 19 items and 90 minutes. Archana Panda, the emcee and mehfil lead executed it skillfully and kept the audience connected. After watching the show, I was thinking we should rename this event as “OSA Got Super Talent”!

Sunday’s program began with one of the most popular events “Sisu Sansara”/ “Tiny Tot” with leads Bidish Mohanty and Rashmita Baral. They showcased Odissi, Bollywood, Geeti Natya, instrumental music and many more events by 41 kids from ages 0-8 years.

The Champu, Chhanda and Odissi solo music competition was very impressive. The 11 little kids that sang Odissi music amazed one and all. This program was introduced by Lata Mishra and led by Achyuta Acharya and Rashmita Baral.

We were also fortunate to conduct the last show of the Subrina Biswal Prize this year. We had maximum participation this year, including 27 entries and 50 participants. Amrita Pati and Geetika Patjoshi did a wonderful job in starting and completing the show on time.

Sunday evening’s program was a mixture classical Odissi, semi classical dance, Fashion show lead by Geetika Patjoshi and a hilarious talk show by Sunny Tripathy were memorable events. Odissi songs by Madhabika Nayak accompanied by, Nirmal Rout on the mardal was a treat. The highlight of the show was “Shambhu Sata Rutu”-a dance drama by the collective efforts of California Odissi gurus Nandita Behera, Jyoti Rout, Vishnutatva Das, Niharika Mohanty, Gayatri Joshi, Pattanayak sisters and guest artist Rahul Acharya. The audience was left spell bound. Never in the history of OSA had all these gurus performed on the same stage! The melodious music for the dance drama was composed by Guru Jyoti Rout who distributed the music among the 5 gurus to choreograph independently. Each guru got only 2 rehearsals for choreography and practice! There were a total of 30 Odissi dancers who presented this show.

The final musical show by guest artist “Ira Mohanty” was flawless and memorable. The songs varied from old Odiya to new Odiya and old Hindi to new Hindi songs. The concluding song was none other than “Rangabati” that left half of the crowd dancing on the floor.

For my part, it was an honor to lead the cultural event as part of the OSA convention 2010 with the support of convener Kuku Das, co-convener Prasant

Behera, OSA leads Annapurna Pandey and Dr Bigyani Das. Thank you to all the volunteers who supported me in this journey and to OSA for giving me the opportunity to contribute to my own community.

Gayatri Joshi, Cultural Chair OSA 2010

***Gayatri Joshi is a software engineer with Hewlett Packard, Co-Founder of International Gurukul and an Odissi dancer, teacher and choreographer.

Visit: www.gayatriodissi.org

"Music & Dance gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything." ~ Plato ~



The Intellectual Ambience and Seminars of OSACAL 2010: A Brief Report

OSA Convention has been quite popular from the very beginning because of its cultural programs and variety shows. However, for last few years the leadership has shown excellent results of creating an equally engaging ambience for the intellectuals as well. The pioneers of OSA Seminars, just to name a few: Sandip Das Verma, Debi Mishra, Annapurna Pandey, Chitta Baral, Dharendra Kar, Sukanta Mohapatra and a few more have made significant quality and structural improvements in the recent years and have raised the bar high enough. This message was constantly passed on by the organizers of the OSA Convention of 2009. For me it was a bigger challenge, primarily due to lack of time to coordinate all the efforts while supporting many other teams such as cultural, theme (lead),

registration and others. However, thanks to timely advice from Sandip Bhai and Annapurna Apa, the small Seminar team consisting of me, Kishore Mishra and Sangram Pattanaik was able to bear the burden of high expectation.

Our starting point on the Business Networking meeting with K G Ganapathi and Dr. Sitikantha Das set the tone for our Seminars. Movie Star Prashanta Nanda's live presence during the movie screening event on the Friday night was a very intelligent choice to keep our participants engaged. The inputs from all the speakers including Dr. Bhagbanprakash, the honorable Minister Debi Mishra, Dev Pattanaik, and the inspiring support from the second generation leaders such as Barnali, Sarina, Akash, Sudesh, support from our volunteers and the enthusiastic participants including the young delegates from Orissa made all our interactions meaningful and insightful. All together we put over 30 hours of quality seminar time!

The most challenging tasks were getting participants for the Kalinga Entrepreneurship Award. However, thanks to the remote help from Ranjan Das and the active effort from Kishore Mishra and the sponsor Shradhananda Babu, we were able to make it happen. The Popular Seminar Series on Odisha Development was well done with the leadership from Dr. Bhagbanprakash and Dr. Dhanada Mishra, of course with the active participation from our all time heroes such as Dr. Subhash Mohapatra, Dr. Priyadarshan Patra and others. The Women's Forum was a big hit with Dr. Vrnda Chaitanya, Jyotsna Pattanaik, and Annapurna Pandey. "Wired to Care" key note speech by Dev Pattanaik was of very high business standard and added much to the quality of our Seminars. On the lighter side the Kabita Patha event by Swetapadma Das (Bui Nani) was well attended and appreciated. I was privileged to guide a group of very enthusiastic participants including Dr. Norma Pati and Dr. Akhileswar Patel for daily yoga walks and laughter yoga. The bhajans by Deba Mohanty, spiritual discourses by Jnan Das and Dr. Kabi Mishra and the special workshop with Yogendra Arun Kumarji made our "Health and Wellness" track the most visible as you can see in the schedule below. With so many parallel sessions (the schedule of the Seminars is given below for proof) it was often a challenge to get enough audience to pep up the speakers, especially when the neighboring room with a popular subject is full with audience.

We had some funny idea of advertising on the back of our shirts to carry a banner and move around and sometimes just pull the younger kids from their favorite stuff and push them to attend the seminars. Our creative marketing consultant Sangram Pattanaik came up with a brilliant idea of putting raffles for the participants and that worked! Sangram's help on getting, setting and loud speaking on the audio,

video equipments in all the seminar rooms cannot be over emphasized. My job was to keep him hidden from the sight of the cultural team lead Gayatri Joshi and the convener Kuku Das so that he is not over dragged to the Ball Room for setting up his personal projector. Anyone who watched the movie “The Living Ghost” on the Friday evening can only tell about its power and efficacy. Although our core team was small, our spirit was not! We got the support from all speakers, delegates, audience and other team leads to make our seminars equally interesting and intellectual. Please take a look at the schedule below and I am sure you will agree with me that all our discussions, forums and seminars during the convention has justified the theme of OSACAL 2010 “Ei Mati Sei Dhwani: Coming Together”!

RECAP:

Day 1: Friday, July 2nd 2010

Session – S1 (Mahanadi, 5 – 7 PM)

Business Forum

Inauguration & Business Networking

Chair: Sitikantha Dash

Panelists: Dharendra Kar, Kishoree Mishra, Manoj Joshi

Moderator: K G Ganapathi, Vice-President, Qualcomm

Coordinator: Sangram Pattanaik

Session – S2 (Mahanadi, 8 – 10 PM)

Socio Cultural

Movie Screening (Living Ghost)

Speakers: Prashant Nanda, Mr. Parija,

Coordinator: Manoj Sahu

Day 2: Saturday, July 3rd 2010

Session – S3 (Out Door, 6 – 7 AM)

Health and Wellness

Group Walking and Laughter Yoga Around the Lagoon with Manoj Joshi

Coordinator: Dolly Mishra

Session – S4 (Mahanadi, 7 – 8 AM)

Health and Wellness

Gentle Yoga with Manoj Joshi

Session – S5 (Ball Room, 2 – 4:30 PM)

Business Forum

Building Innovating Universities in India:

Chair: Prof. Yogesh Pati

Moderator: Mahesh Pakala

Speakers: Prof. Prasant Mohapatra, Prof. Laxmi Bhuyan, Prof. Chitta Baral, Prof.

Triloki Pandey, Dr. Nihar Nayak, Prof. Digambar Mishra, Devdas Chhotray, Dr.

Binayak Rath, Dr. Arun Pujari, Dr. Dhanada Mishra

Session – S6 (Byasa Vihar, 5 – 7 PM)

Business Forum

Kalinga Youth Entrepreneurship Competition

Sponsor: Shradhananda Mishra

Moderator: Kishoree Mishra

Coordinator: Sangram Pattanaik

Session – S7 (Sriram Chandra Vihar, 5 – 7 PM)

Business Forum

Invest Orissa: Extending Invest Bhubaneswar Experience with OSA: A Strategic Discussion

Chair: Sri Debi Prasad Mishra, Minister, Higher Education, Culture and Tourism in Orissa.

Moderator: Dr. Bhagbanprakash

Speakers: Dr. Dhanada Mishra, Mr. Surya Narayan Patro, Minister of Revenue, Mr. Ramesh Chandra Majhi, Minister of IT, Mr. Purna Mohanty, Convener Invest Orissa

Coordinator: Dharendra Kar

Session – S8 (Mahanadi, 5-7 PM)

Business Forum

Wired To Care: How Empathy Drives Innovation

Speaker: Dev Patnaik Coordinator: Manoj Joshi

Day 3: Sunday, July 4th 2010

Session – S9 (Vani Vihar, 7 – 8 AM)

Health and Wellness

Bhajan and Satsang

Chair: Deba Mohanty

Coordinator: Anup Nayak

Session – S10 (Mahanadi, 7 - 8 AM)

Health and Wellness

Reiki Healing Meditation

Chair: Dr. Binodini Debi

Moderator: Sudam Sahoo

Coordinator: Manoj Joshi

Session – S11 (Vani Vihar, 9 – 11 AM)

Health and Wellness

Need of Spirituality in Daily Life

Moderator: Jnan Dash

Speakers: Yogacharya Sriramchandran, Dr. Kabi Mishra, Rahul Acharya, Kiran Pattanaik

Coordinator: Sirish Pal

Session – S12 (Jyoti Vihar, 9 – 11 AM)

Health and Wellness

Emerging Health Concerns for our Aging First Generation

Moderator: Dr.Sarina Behera

Speakers: Dr. Brian Feely, Dr. Rajesh Dash, and Dr. Sarita Mohanty

Coordinator: Sangram Pattanaik

Session – S13 (Bhanja Vihar, 9 – 11 AM)

Orissa Development

The New Trends in Orissa Education

Moderator: Jyotsna Pattanaik
Speakers: Dr. Dhanada Mishra, Aruna Goradia
Coordinator: Basanta Panda
Session – S14 (Mahanadi, 8:30 – 11 AM)

Orissa Development

Facets of Odisha Development

Moderator: Dr. Priyadarshan Patra
Speakers: Dr. Sandip Dasverma, Dr. Subhash Mohapatra, Dr. Bhagbanprakash,
Dr. Abani Patra, Dr. Lalu Mansingh
Coordinator: Kishoree Mishra
Session – S15 (Vani Vihar, 2 – 4 PM)

Women Forum

Women's Wellbeing: Health and Spirituality

Moderator: Annapurna Pandey
Speakers: Dr. Vrnda Chaitanya, Anjali Agrawal, Kasturee Mohapatra
Coordinator: Jyotsna Pattanaik
Session – S16 (Jyoti Vihar, 2 -3 PM)

Youth Forum

Planning Ahead: College and Beyond

Moderator: Barnali Dasverma
Speakers: Sudhesh Sabat, Nanu Das, Akash Pandey
Coordinator: Pratik Mishra
Session – S17 (Bhanja Vihar, 3 – 4 PM)

Business Forum

Financial Investment and Growth for Retirement

Moderator: Sunil Sabat
Speakers: Akhileswar Patel, Santosh Mishra
Coordinator: Shesa Nayak
Session – S18 (Mahanadi, 2 – 4 PM)

Orissa Development

Odisha Development: Key Factors and Possibilities

Chair: Dr. Bhagbanprakash
Speakers: Dr. Guru Prasad Mohanty, Professor Gopabandhu Behera, Dr.
Priyadarshan Patra, Delegates from Orissa
Coordinator: Manoj Joshi
Session – S19 (Vani Vihar, 4 – 5 PM)

Socio Cultural

Kabita Patha

Chair: Swetapadma Dash
Coordinator: Subhadarshi Mishra
Session – S20 (Jyoti Vihar, 4 – 5 PM)

Socio Cultural

A Mixer Exploring the Diaspora of Oriyas in America: What does being Oriya American really mean? A Chance to meet Oriyas from all over Americas

Moderator: Arati Misro

Coordinator: Jayantika Das

Day 4: Monday, July 5th 2010

Session – S21 (Mahanadi, 8 – 10 AM)

Health and Wellness

Yoga, Meditation and Samapti

Coordinator: Manoj Joshi

Special Discourse: Yogendra Sri Arun Kumarji

Manoj Joshi, Seminar Lead

***Manoj Joshi has been an environmental scientist, software engineer for 2 decades and now he is a full time yoga and spiritual teacher. Tune in to his popular radio show “Wellness By All Means” on KLOK 1170 AM every Tuesdays at Noon, if you are in the Silicon Valley. Email: WellnessGuruManoj@gmail.com



Special OSA Awards

OSA Life Time Achievement Award

OSA Life Time Achievement award was presented to Mr Prashanta Nanda for 50 years of service to Oriya Cinema as actor, director and music director. [WASITRAC was a co-sponsor of the award.](#) OSA thanks Mr Debadutta Dash, president WASITRAC for this co-sponsorship.

For the year 2009, Mr Nanda's film [Jianta Bhoota](#) won [National Film Awards](#) under [National Film Award for Best Non-Feature Environment/Conservation/Preservation Film](#) category. The film also won awards at the Independent South Asian Film Festival in Seattle, Washington.

Mr. Prashanta Nanda started off his career in the film industry as an actor with the film "Dasyu Ratnakar" in 1959 and since then he is involved in the industry in many ways. He received National Award for his acting in 1960 with the film "Nua Bou".



Mr. Prashanta Nanda has received National Award in 1966 as an artist for his performance in "Matira Manisha" directed by Mrinal Sen and in 1969 for his film "Adina Megha". Mr Nanda is the only man in the Film industry in Orissa who has mastered in Acting, Story Writing, Screenplay Writing, Dialogue Writing, Lyrics Writing, Music Direction, Direction, Playback Singer and Producer.

Executive Awards

The following awards were presented by the executives for the extraordinary service rendered by the following personalities during 2009-2010 for the betterment of OSA and its members.

1. Distinguished Service Award

[Presented to Pratap Das](#)

For serving OSA as President during 2007-2009 term and extending his service through 2010 helping OSA get through the difficult legal challenge.

2. Distinguished Service Award

[Presented to Dr Ashutosh Dutta](#)

For serving OSA as Vice President during 2007-2009 term and extending his service through 2010 helping OSA get through the difficult legal challenge.

3. Distinguished Service Award

[Presented to Dr Priyadarshan Patra](#)

For serving as Secretary during 2007-2009 term and extending his service through 2010 helping OSA get through the difficult legal challenge.

4. Distinguished Service Award

[Presented to Sandip Kumar Dasverma](#)

For serving as Treasurer during 2007-2009 term and extending his service through 2010 helping OSA get through the difficult legal challenge.

5. Distinguished Service Award

[Presented to Purna Mishra](#)

Election Committee Chairman, OSA Election 2009 for serving in the important role with dedication and diligence and extending his service through 2010 helping OSA get through the difficult legal challenge.

6. Distinguished Service Award

[Presented to Dr Chitta Baral](#)

Election Committee Member, OSA Election 2009 for serving in the important role with dedication and diligence and extending his service through 2010 helping OSA get through the difficult legal challenge.

7. Distinguished Service Award

[Presented to Debendra Mallik](#)

Election Committee Member, OSA Election 2009 for serving in the important role with dedication and diligence and extending his service through 2010 helping OSA get through the difficult legal challenge.

8. OSA Patriot Service Award

[Presented to Sradhananda Mishra](#)

Chair, OSA Defense Committee, 2009-2011 for serving in the important role with dedication and diligence and making every effort to protect the dignity of OSA and its objectives

9. OSA Service Leadership Award

[Presented to Mrs. Manju Mishra](#)

Coordinator, New Chapter, Grand Canyon Chapter, 2009 for taking leadership in establishing the first chapter in US Western region, and the first chapter that was established in the 21st century

10. New Chapter Certificate

[Presented to Grand Canyon Chapter](#)

Established, November 22, 2009

11. Service Innovation Award

[Presented to Sridhar Rana](#)

Editor, Audio Souvenir, 2009 for adding innovation to propagate OSA's message to the world

12. OSA Service Leadership Award

[Presented to Kuku Das](#)

Convener, 2010 OSA Convention for going extra miles and taking the leadership in hosting the convention

13. OSA Service Leadership Award

[Presented to Prasanta Behera](#)

Co-Convener, 2010 OSA Convention for going extra miles and taking the leadership in hosting the convention

14. Communication Service Leadership Award

[Presented to Dr. Gagan Panigrahi](#)

OSANet Moderator from 2007, for diligently managing and moderating OSA Communication network, sometimes in the face of tough communication challenges

15. OSA Patriotic Service Award

[Presented to Sujit Mohanty](#)

OSA General Counsel from 2008, for providing legal counseling service diligently to protect the organization. (Note: This will be presented to him in a special event)

16. 2010 Kalinga Entrepreneurship Awards

[Presented to Adarsh Patra \(OR\)](#)

17. 2010 Kalinga Entrepreneurship Awards

[Presented to Erika Baral \(CA\).](#)

18. Member Achievement Award

[Presented to Akshay Kumar Parija](#)

Producer, Presidential Award Winning Movie "The Living Ghost", for going extra miles for his passion and bringing glory to the Odia race as well as to OSA

OSA 2010 OSA National AWARD DETAILS Pradeep Mohapatra, Vice President

Distinguished Oriya Award - Pratap Das, Poolsville, MD

Gopabandhu Award - Chitta Baral, Gilbert, AZ

Kalashri Award - Jayashree Mahapatra, Winchester, MA

Youth Volunteer Award - Atasi Gantayat Raina

Youth Kala Vikash Award - No nominations

Subrina Biswal Memorial Award for Academic Excellence - Dev Raj Praharaaj, Huntsville, AL

Meghna Memorial Award for Creative Writing

Junior: For the Poem "Beauty", awarded to Rutwik Das Age:9, Grade:4, School: Laurelwood Elementary San Jose, CA. 2919 Queens Estate Ct, San Jose, CA-95135 .

Senior: For the essay "Where do I belong?" awarded to Ayesha Misra (better known as Richa Misra), the 16 year-old daughter of Manoj and Gouri Misra. She lives in Aliso Viejo, California, and has a passion for both Bollywood and classical dance, as well as writing.

Distinguished Oriya Award: Pratap Das



Pratap Das, has been a member of the Orissa Society of Americas since 1974. He works for the United States Department of Agriculture (Head Quarter) as a Senior Acquisition Management Professional at Washington DC.

Mr. Das was the Secretary-Treasurer of OSA in 1983-85 and the immediate past President of OSA for 2007-2009. He was the Convener for two OSA Annual Conventions in 1983 and 1990 at Washington DC. He was the first Kalashree Award recipient at the OSA Convention held at Chicago, IL in 1991. He was also the Senior Vice President of the India Cultural Coordination Committee (ICCC) in 1997-80, Vice President for Community Affairs for Asian Indian (CAAI) in 1998-2000, and Chairman, Membership Committee for the Federal Asian Pacific Asian Islander (FAPAC) in 1997-1999. He was the Special Emphasis Program Manager for both Asian Pacific Islander and American Indian Native Alaskan Special Emphasis at the United States Department of Justice from 2001-2010.

He brought a new leadership in rebuilding and restoring confidence in general membership at OSA. He believes in taking ownership in OSA, promoting and preserving Oriya culture in United States. Besides the organizational leadership, Mr. Das's contribution to promote Oriya music and dance in North America is second to none. He sponsored and promoted the first Oriya artists such Akhaya Mohanty and Dr. Minati Mishra in 1979. He has sponsored more than 50 Oriya artists to United States for promoting Orissan art and culture in past 15 years. He established a non-profit organization called India Performing Arts Promotions Inc. (IPAP) in 1986 to promote Odissi worldwide. IPAP organized International Odissi Festivals to promote Odissi dance and music worldwide.

He organized the 3rd International Odissi Festival at Bhubaneswar, the largest Odissi dance festival assembled ever. At present, he is planning to organize the 4th International Odissi Festival scheduled to be held at Kolkata in December 2011. Mr. Das is married to Pushpa and has two children – Swagat & Pallavi. He lives in Poolesville, Maryland.

Utkalamani Gopabandhu Award: Dr. Chitta Baral



This year the Utkala Mani Gopabandhu Das Memorial Award goes to Dr. Chitta Baral of Arizona State University. At Arizona State Dr. Baral is Professor and Chair of School of Computing and Informatics. A current research interest of Prof. Baral is development of software tools to interpret and refine the huge volume of biological information such as gene and protein structure and interactions. His researches have led to CBioC, which is an attempt to digest and refine some half million new papers in biological sciences and biomedicine published every year, added to the some 20 million existing articles.

CBioC joins and refines human and computer interpretations to proceed towards a correct result.

Alone among Odia academics in United States and Canada, Prof. Baral has been devoting considerable time and resources to higher education and infrastructure development in Odisha. He was instrumental in getting the program in Computer Science started at Utkal University. Prof. Baral is very aware of the injustice and unfairness in allocation of central funds and resources to Odisha. He has written a number of Op-Ed pages (guest editorials) in national newspapers in India on this

aspect. When the Central Government reneged on its earlier decision to set up a IIT in Odisha, moving the IIT to another state, Prof. Baral campaigned through emails and newspaper articles, and gathered sufficient pressure for the central government to revert. Against all odds, Prof. Baral 's efforts led to the establishment of a new IIT and a NISER at Bhubaneswar. Prof. Baral maintains a blog specifically to discuss higher education in Odisha, and another blog on infrastructure development in Odisha. Prof. Baral is working on improving the rail network and international air connectivity in Odisha.

With his researches, Prof. Chitta Baral is improving the world of knowledge; with his focus on Odisha, he is helping to bring progress to our State. With the Gopabandhu Award, OSA affirms primarily Prof. Chitta Baral's services to Odisha. At the same time OSA also recognizes his achievements in research in computer science and bioinformatics.

Kalashree Award: Jayashree Mohapatra

Jayashree Mohapatra started her career from early childhood with initial training at Kala Vikash Kendra, Cuttack, Orissa. She is a direct disciple of world-renowned Odissi Gurus, Late Shri Kelu Charan Mohapatra and Late Guru Shri Raghunath Dutta. She holds bachelor's degree, Nitya Prabha and master's degree, Nritya Bhusan in Odissi.



She was one of the recipients of "Central Sangeet Natak Academy" Fellowships and had received several other Awards in the realm of Odissi Dance including felicitation from the former President of India, Shri N. Sanjeev Reddy for her exuberant excellence in performing and propagating the lyrical purity of Classical Odissi.

Contributions towards Odia Culture:

She has been promoting the Odia culture in the form of Odissi Dance, Odia Drama, Sambalpuri Folk Dance, and Odissi Style Bhajans in USA and Canada via live dance performance by herself, and by her students in various socio-cultural organizations not only in Odia community but also in non-Odia community. Her expressive "Abhinaya" and charismatic dance in "Pallavi" transcends the audience into the dream - world of form and rhythm.

She had Odissi dance performance in Montreal TV channel. Bengali Association of Montreal has recognized for her performance on Odissi. She has been well recognized for her fund raising efforts for Satsang Balgokulam, Satsang Center, THRIVE through Odissi Dance programs.

She has been leading the efforts to have Odissi programs in Bagong Kulturang Pinoy Inc of Philippines, International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKON), Indian Association of Greater Boston (IAGB), India Society of Worcester (ISW), and many more.

This year she has choreographed the dance drama “Kanchi Abhijan” by OSNE junior artists, directed the Odissi dance, acted as the main character of the Odia drama “Dinu Kaka Thika Kahuthile” for the 2nd OSA Regional Odia Drama Festival in Orissa Society Of New England (OSNE).

Today, she nurtures the ambition to bring refreshing enthusiasm into the original Odissi form. As an Artist, she holds a great promise. She believes in creating a new horizon in Classical Odissi Tradition. Currently, Jayashree teaches Odissi at Winchester, MA.

Youth Volunteer Award: Atasi Gantayat Raina

Atasi Raina is the finest of all youth volunteers in the Bay Area of California. She has always found time to get involved in life around her; be it OSA convention, be it Indian Independence Day parade, be it Rath Yatra, she will be there smiling and providing support. She is dedicated, energetic, positive and persevering in whatever she undertakes to do. There is not a single Oriya function that is organized without Atasi being involved.

Atasi is generous, caring and considerate. She took a leading role and worked with Oriya Sevaks in raising \$5000 to help the Katrina Hurricane victims. She helps out with local charity groups on a regular basis.

She has been a source of pride to the entire Oriya community for her accomplishments both inside and outside of our community. She is a role model for the second generation Oriya kids and deserves our special recognition.

Subrina Biswal Award for Academic Excellence: Dave Raj Praharaj

Dave Raj Praharaj, son of Dr. Sarat Chandra Praharaj and Mrs. Minnie Praharaj of Huntsville, Alabama, is a graduate of the Virgil I. Grissom High School. Dave is headed for Stanford in Fall 2010, with an ultimate goal of being a neurosurgeon and research in neurosciences. Dave has received national awards for his research in Huntington Disease and Multiple Sclerosis. Some of the awards include Intel Science Talent Search (Semifinalist), Siemens Westinghouse Competition in Science and Mathematics (Semifinalist), and three-time Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (Finalist). Dave has served as Director of the Rocket City Math League, which is the only student-run math competition in the US. Dave enjoys playing a wide range of sports, and has played on the Alabama Division I state champion club soccer team. Dave has had the unique pleasure of a phone conversation with Astronaut Michael Finke from the International Space Station, who then wished him 'Happy Birthday' from space.



Current OSA Status and Highlights of Projected Activities for Future

Souvenir Distribution

OSA life members, patrons and benefactors that did not attend the convention will soon receive their souvenir and directory copies by mail or through a volunteer distributor. Some members that regularly attend their chapter events living in NY, NJ, PA, MD, VA, MA, and NH will receive their copies during Ganesh Puja. Others will receive copies sent to their individual addresses. If you do not receive by September 30, 2010, please inform us immediately. Check the following web page for tracking.

http://www.orissasociety.org/osaftp01/Souvenir/souv_distribution_2010.htm

OSA Newsletter Utkarsa Publications

Four issues of the newsletter will be published in September 2010, December 2010, March 2011 and June 2011 respectively. Please send your articles to the editors by respective due dates. Apart from official reports and announcements, short stories, poems, skits, travel stories and essays would enrich the newsletter.

A New Chapter in California

Petition has been filed for a new chapter in California. According to the constitution, the chapter will be ready to be established any time after September 11, 2010. Thanks to all the California members and specifically Dr Purna Patnaik for taking leadership.

Drama Festival

OSA is thankful to Dr Brajendra Panda for his consent to be the Drama Festival coordinator for 2010-2011. We thank Sandip Dasverma and Dr Sri Gopal Mohanty for their commitment to help and their continued support in this important cultural undertaking.

Odia Language Propagation

We request volunteers to organize one to two weeks of Odia language training for younger generation Oriyas. Such activities are directly in accordance with the objectives of the organization. If you are interested please contact any of the OSA executives or BOG members. Please check the following OSA page about “Chhabila Madhu Barnabodha”.

<http://www.orissasociety.org/osaftp01/barnabodha.htm>

OSA Convention 2011

It took the whole California village (community) to create OSA 2010 convention legacy. The next convention will be organized by South West chapter members in Dallas, Texas. We thank OSA South West chapter members for undertaking this task and we invite all OSA members to be a part of this celebration. Please check OSA web page often to get updates.

Specifically members that have not attended any convention in years must make an attempt to attend the convention to understand the organization and its people. A time that is gone, is gone forever. It cannot be brought back or bought back. A moment that is lost is lost forever. Please do not miss convention 2011 and be ready to create your own extraordinary moment of magnifying your friend circle during OSA 2011 convention.

Constitution Final Draft

We thank Purna Mishra for volunteering to lead in this task as the chair of OSA Constitution and By-Law Committee. We thank past committee members led by Surya Mishra and their recommendations. We also thank many OSA members including Amiya Nayak for their many valuable comments. All these comments have to be put in a proper draft format, reviewed by an attorney and then sent to members for voting. This could not be done in 2010 as OSA volunteers had to devote time for other important issues.

OSA Archive Committee

OSA Archive Committee members Kula Mishra, Lalu Mansinha and Manoranjan Pattanayak had prepared to make a presentation during OSA 2010 GBM which could not happen because of time constraints. However, they are getting ready for their production and we will hear from them when they are ready for any major release.

OSA Got Talent

Our members are highly talented people, great musicians, dramatists, singers, dancers and writers. We are in the process of creating web documents for OSA talents. We are also creating web documents for OSA music. In the years OSA has created unique music for various conventions. Soon they will be available to OSA members and to the general public. Stay tuned!

OSA Election 2011

OSA 2011 Election Committee was formed and accepted in GBM 2010. They are
Durga Mishra, NJ - Chair

Abani Patra, NY - Member

Hara Narayan Padhi, Canada - Member

Please check the announcement in this issue of Utkarsa and following web page for more details.

http://www.orissasociety.org/osaftp01/OSA_election_2011.htm

Please publicize among your peer groups, chapter members and local OSA members. Please note that annual membership will not be accepted from anybody after July 31st, 2010. This is according to our constitution **ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP.**

OSA Awards 2011

OSA 2011 award process will soon start. Please look for the announcements from OSA Vice President Pradeep Mohapatra.

Thanks to OSA Vice President Pradeep Mohapatra and 2010 Award Coordinator Manoj Mohapatra for conducting OSA 2010 award process. There are many accomplished OSA members with significant contributions to the organization in years. We thank the nominators who sent their nominations to recognize the work of some of such individuals. Congratulations to all the award winners in 2010.

Details of the awardees are available in OSA award web page
<http://www.orissasociety.org/osaftp01/awards.htm>

Apart from the core awards, several awards were presented by the executive team to recognize the service of OSA members during 2009-2010.

Oversight Committee: Looking for Volunteers

We will try our best to perform our duties confirming to the constitution and by-laws and applying common sense when constitution is silent on specific matters. Irrespective of our careful attention and well meaning thoughts, we still might forget something or do some mistake. We request members to inform us immediately if some mistakes have been made or something is not done on time or in proper manner. Thank you in advance for your help.

We are looking for volunteers to serve in OSA Oversight Committee. The task is to check if everything is done on time and in proper manner and then report to the Executives and BOG. If you want to volunteer, please contact any of the OSA executives.

Secretary's Committee: Volunteer Positions

Constitution mandates one GBM and one BOG meeting per year and maximum two BOG meetings. However, because of the unforeseen challenges, frequent meetings are being held which overburdens the volunteers and we need extra hands. Dr Annapurna Pandey is forming a Secretary's Committee. Mrs Sarita Panda of California has volunteered to serve in the committee and help Dr Annapurna Pandey in membership management tasks. She lives in California and was a great volunteer in 2010 OSA Convention registration committee.

Member Questions

OSA web documents and newsletters contain in-depth information about OSA and its activities. If you have any questions, we request you to visit its web page at <http://www.orissasociety.org> and browse through the respective documents by following right links. If you still have problems, you may ask your questions to any

of the executives. If the questions need a reply, we will reply to you within 3-7 days.

Documentary/Movie on OSA

We plan to produce a documentary or movie on OSA. The founding members of OSA are slowly disappearing from the scene and with them the history of OSA may be lost forever. With this in mind and also for making the community dynamic, we plan this production. In this regard we need many volunteers as financiers, producer, director, story writers, actors and production team members. If you like to volunteer, please contact any of OSA executives or BOG members.

OSA Headquarter

The time has come for OSA to choose a permanent headquarter somewhere where at least 10-15 volunteers can be available to manage some of the important OSA business sincerely. Bi-annual changes in leadership is fine, however, communication address and regular mailings etc. should be done properly. This is something for OSA members to think about.

OSA Music Page

We have created OSA music page to present you OSA creativity throughout these years. Please check at
http://www.orissasociety.org/osaftp01/Music/osa_music.htm

OSA Legal Status

OSA plaintiffs Mr Amit Nayak, Anshuman Bal and Agni Jandhyala have filed for en banc review. Please check
<http://casesearch.courts.state.md.us/inquiry/inquiryDetail.jjs?caseId=316120V&loc=68&detailLoc=MCCI>

Please check following OSA web page to access all lawsuit related documents.
http://www.orissasociety.org/osaftp01/Legal/osa_legal_information_gateway.htm

You may explore the complete transcript of May 26th hearing
http://www.orissasociety.org/osaftp01/Legal/trial_transcript_07262010.pdf

If you are interested in just judge's ruling, please check at
http://www.orissasociety.org/osaftp01/Legal/judge_ruling_transcript.pdf

The plaintiffs Amit Nayak and Anshuman Bal have caused enough damage to the organization by disregarding its members, its administration, its objectives and values and to its financial health. You all know very well that if the plaintiffs could have not included OSA, the organization in the defendant list, OSA would not have to pay a single penny.

If you go through the deposition documents of Agni Jandhyala, the 3rd plaintiff who was not even a member of OSA and his testimony on May 26th, 2010, and the testimony of Mr Shreekanta Nayak at the witness stand, you would very well know the plaintiffs and their associates, specifically how Mr Agni Jandhyala was misguided by Maryland/Virginia chapter members about OSA.

As OSA officers we feel it as our duty to inform OSA members to use caution in their communications with plaintiffs and plaintiff's aides so that their names do not appear in the court records. There were some simple communications that the plaintiffs and their aides had made with Chandra Mishra, Nirode Mohanty, Sukant Mohapatra etc. during February 2010, which were submitted by the plaintiffs to the court.

Re-Energize OSA: Call of Duty for Every OSA Member

Some of you are probably thinking why all the details of the lawsuit were not shared with OSA members before. The answer is because the plaintiffs were nobody but OSA members. It was OSA attorney's advice to be cautious of what and how much we release to public.

OSA's financial status is recoverable. However, the moments that are lost from OSA's life and from the lives of OSA's 9 volunteers will never be brought back.

Human experiment cannot be repeated. We cannot say what could have happened if there would not have been any court case and OSA 2009-2011 officers could have started their term with all favorable circumstances for OSA's growth and development.

The time has come for the members to take the decision about the organization and how to stop these frivolous lawsuits in future. We need to ask if the organization could sustain if dragged to lawsuit for such trivial and frivolous reasons! OSA constitution allows members raising their grievances. We could add additional procedures to provide additional avenues for the members to express their complaints and grievances within the organization. We just cannot afford lawsuits

as it would kill the very OSA that we are so fond of. We need to ask: How can we accommodate members who take OSA to court without giving OSA an opportunity to redress their complaints within the organization? Can we really afford my way or lawsuit way as the growth strategy for growing OSA?

However, the urgent and important task is now to replenish the financial loss that OSA has been subjected to deal with the legal challenge. The lawyers charge for reading emails, for telephone conversation, for doing research in understanding our society, for replying to opposite attorney's communication and demands, and for any tiny task they do with regard to the case.

If each one of us can contribute \$1 per day for a year, just \$1, not more, it would be more than enough to show your support as OSA struggles to come out of these lawsuits.

Re-Energize OSA and say a loud "NO" to frivolous lawsuits and contribute what you could afford.

We are confident that you will join us in this noble task!

If you have pledged, we say "Thank You". Please send your check to OSA treasurer at the following address. Your contribution is tax deductible.

Dr Akhileswar Patel
Treasurer, The Orissa Society of the Americas
49 Cannon Road
Old Bridge, NJ 08857
USA

If you have not pledged yet, we would like to see your name at

<http://www.orissasociety.org/DOLA/Pledge/>

Let this particular moment today, be the time for our affirmation that we will make OSA free from lawsuits, free from any evil and free from the plaintiff mindset.



2011 OSA ELECTION AND ANNOUNCEMENT FOR NOMINATION

The OSA Election Committee as constituted by the General Body is soliciting nominations for the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer of Orissa Society of Americas for 2011-13. As per the constitution, the positions of President and Vice-President will be candidates on the same slate. A vote for a presidential candidate will imply a vote for his/her running mate. The position of the Secretary and Treasurer may be from independent slates.

The nominees and the nominators must be permanent members (life, patron or benefactor) of OSA at the time of nomination. In addition, the nominees must be at least 21 years or older as of June 30, 2011. The nomination must include a short introduction of the candidates in less than 300 words. Photocopy of driver's license, or passport, or birth certificate or a notarized statement to the effect that the nominee is 21 years or older as of June 30, 2011 must be attached for the nominee's age verification.

All nominations must include the contact information (address, telephone number, and email) of the nominees and the nominator. All nominations must be sent to the election committee, postmarked by February 14, 2011 at the address below with complete and correct contact information of the nominees (including other additional details) and the of nominators. Incorrect contact information may lead to the rejection of the nomination. If the candidates wish to include their position statement with the ballot they may include it with the nomination form in a separate sheet. Please note you must nominate a candidate for President and Vice

President simultaneously. Nominations for secretary and treasurer may be independent.

OSA 2011 Election

PO Box 330

Getzville, NY 14068

Any correspondence on the election subject will be electronic (via email) only. All emails on this subject must be sent to OSA.Election2011@gmail.com.

Election Committee Members

Durgamadhab Misra (Chair) OSA.Election2011@gmail.com

Abani Patra (Member) OSA.Election2011@gmail.com

Harinarayan Padhi (Member) OSA.Election2011@gmail.com

Election 2011 Calendar

Deadline for the official ballot list including all members eligible to vote to be received from OSA Secretary January 15, 2011

All nominations must be sent to the election committee postmarked by **February 14, 2011**

Election ballots will be sent to eligible members on or before **March 27, 2011**

Ballots must be received by the election committee with postmark no later than **April 25, 2011**

Ballot will be counted and the election results will be announced on **May 14, 2011**

OSA Election 2011 Nomination Form

Nominee for President: _____

Membership Status: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Short Introduction:

Nominee for Vice President: _____

Membership Status: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Short Introduction:

Nominee for Secretary: _____

Membership Status: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Short Introduction:

Nominee for Treasurer: _____

Membership Status: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Short Introduction:

Nominator: _____

Membership Status: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Nominator Signature: _____

Secunder: _____

Membership Status: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

Secundered Signature: _____

Relevant Articles from OSA constitution

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1

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

Section 3 (as amended on July 1, 2004)

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

ARTICLE VI: ELECTION

Section 1

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

Section 2

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

Section 3

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

Section 4

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

BY-LAW III: ELECTION PROCEDURE

Section 1

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

Section 2

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

Section 3

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

Section 4

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

Section 5

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

Section 6

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

Section 7

The election committee shall open a post office box address to which the ballots shall be mailed to by the voters. The ballots shall be counted in the presence of the election committee members and the candidates or their representatives on the second Saturday of May of the election year. The results of the election shall be announced then and there with a written statement of the results sent to the

President of the OSA. All the election materials must be sealed and signed by the election committee members and the candidates or their representatives, and will be preserved by the election committee chairman for a period of six months after the election.

Section 8

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

Section 9

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

Section 10

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

Section 11

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

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!!!!!!CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!!

Congratulations Graduates

Congratulations to all OSA high school and college graduates!

You have accomplished the distinction of becoming a graduate and OSA is proud of your accomplishments. Be a good citizen of the country and OSA. Please join OSA when you start a job. May God bless you with a successful and enjoyable journey through your career!

Congratulations to OSA 2010 Award Recipients

Congratulations to all OSA 2010 Award recipients. You have worked for the society and contributed for its well being. You have propagated Oriya culture and promoted its values. You have accomplished something for your satisfaction and something for the community to appreciate for. Congratulations to you all for receiving the award and for all that you have done for the society.

Congratulations for Tying the Knot

Congratulations to Swati Mishra of VA and Swarup Misra of MI for tying the knot. Swati and Swarup's marriage is a success story for OSA. They and their parents met during OSA convention 2009 in Trenton, New Jersey. That meeting was transformed to a life-long commitment. We will publish more about this story later.

Congratulations to Swaroop Misra of MD and Anna for tying the knot.

Congratulations for Odissi Manchprabesha

Congratulations to Divya Bose Das of VA for completing her Odissi dance graduation. Divya is the daughter of Siddharth and Alpana Das. Divya is a student of Konark Dance School and she was trained by the school's director Jayantee Paine Ganguly.

Congratulations to Mrunali Das of MD for completing her Odissi dance graduation. Mrunali is the daughter of Naresh and Bigyani Das. Mrunali is a student of Konark Dance School and she was trained by the school's director Jayantee Paine Ganguly.

Congratulations for Accomplishments

Congratulations to Akshay Parija for receiving Ruchi Bharat Gourav Award by Honorable Governer of Orissa.

Congratulations to Dr Abhay K Pati for establishing his Biotech Park AYUR NAGAR (www.biotechayur.com) in Seragargh and Khantapara in Balasore, Orissa

Congratulations to Nisha Desai Biswal for being appointed as the assistant administrator for Asia in the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Nisha is the daughter-in-law of veteran OSA members Nilambar and Anu Biswal of Maryland.



Chapter Reports

GCC OSA report

By Debashish Panda

This nascent chapter of OSA started its life in 2010 with the celebration of Saraswati Puja as its first event. Saraswati Puja was celebrated on 23 January, 2010 at Horizon Park and Community Center, Scottsdale. The event was attended by many families and children and was a great success due to the excellent coordination done by Chandana Misra.

The chapter participated in India Festival on 20 February, 2010 hosted by Indo-American Foundation of Arizona. Chapter members hosted a food booth at this festival. The booth was nicely decorated with Odiya artifacts such as mathia, kula, pankha, chandua and beautiful Sambalpuri saris. Special recognition is given to Arundhati Mallik and Manasi Misra for the nice decorative work at the booth. Sumptuous Odiya dishes such as Dahibara, Pakudi, Matar Chat, Shingada, Meetha Paana and Shaved Ice were prepared by all participating families. In spite of the rain and bad weather, food was almost sold out. The GCCOSA food booth received the 2nd prize for the decoration, organization, food and cleanliness. This was a wonderful coordination done by Neeva and Tushar Waghmare.

The next event was the Spring Picnic on 04 April 2010 at the scenic Cany on Lake, on the outskirts of Mesa, Arizona. About ten families



drove along the winding Apache Trail, past the Goldfield Ghost Town and Lost Dutchman State Park. A few new members also came along to join the fun. Kids had a great day outdoors and adults spent their time eating, chatting, singing and joking around. A very special recognition is due to the ladies for cooking delicious food.



Lastly, we celebrated Ganesh Chaturthi at Mountain View Community Center, Scottsdale. The event was a huge success due to the excellent coordination done by Uttam and Jheena Behera. Twelve families joined gathered to pray Lord Ganesh along with many new members. Soulful bhajans were sung at the conclusion of the puja. Puja was followed by various prasad and dinner.

The chapter is planning on its next event, Kumar Purnima on 23 October, 2010 and also plans to participate in greater Indian community events.



CANOSA report

One day picnic

The CANOSA one day picnic was held on 26th of June at Mississauga Valley Park. Around 90 people attended the picnic. Though it was cloudy and rainy day it did not hamper the enthusiasm of the participants. The food was prepared on the spot under the shade. The high light of the picnic was kabadi, golf, volley ball match and other musical games. Overall it was vey successful picnic which was enjoyed by everybody.

Cottage Picnic at Rice Lake

The major attraction for the members was the renowned cottage picnic. This year the picnic was organized at Rice Lake's SunriseTourist resort, Peterborough from the 30th of July to the 2nd of August. People from Sudbury, London and Greater Toronto participated in the picnic. The weekend was loaded with cultural activities, games, sports, fishing, boating and many other activities. People made new friends, shared stories and laughter. Delicious food was served, ranging from halwa, upma meat curry. It was not just cottage picnic but indeed a summer retreat.



India Day celebration

It was a wonderful India Independence Day celebration at the Yonge and Dundas square organized by Panorama India with the support of Consulate General of India. It was a proud occasion for us

Odias to be part of this great event. We are also proud that CANOSA took part to represent Odisha. This year CANOSA participated in parade and in cultural program as we have done in the past. For the first time this year we got a float exclusively for us to represent Odisha that brought a new dimension to our event.

Sand Sculptor Sudarshan Pattanaik in Toronto



The world famous sand sculptor Mr. Sudarshan Pattnaik was in Toronto. He was one of the six invited artists to the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) Pavilion. Others were from Singapore, Holland, Russia, USA and Canada. Around 40 art lovers from Odia community of GTA gathered to felicitate the artist. Mr. Pattnaik CNE sculpture "Ganesh "was

photographed and projected during the discussion on the screen and people asked various questions pertaining to the art work. He also projected some of his favorite works around the world. The discussion was very stimulating and provided various clues to the intricacy of sand carving. On behalf of Toronto Odias a small token of Canadian souvenir was presented to him. A poem written for the occasion was recited and presented. The program ended with a sumptuous dinner. Truly it was an evening of art, artists and art lovers. We are proud that he received the Fan Favorite award from the competition at CNE.

OSA Washington DC Chapter Report

OSA DC celebrated Ganesh Puja at Hindu Temple on September 11, 2010. It was a very well organized event where children took part directly in puja activities. Pandits of Hindu temple performed the puja. Many parents visiting their children also



participated. The puja was followed by a short bhajan program with local artists and music talents such as Dr Surendra Ray and Debaki Nandan Chowdhury.

Ganesh Puja pictures are available at the following web site.

<http://www.babru.com/gpuja10/>

Souvenir copies were distributed to OSA National members that were present for the puja event. Some more copies are available with Mrs Sikha Sen, Washington DC chapter president. OSA National members residing in Maryland, Virginia area may contact Mrs Sikha Sen to receive their copies.

OSA DC members participated in OSA convention 2010 in various events and presented a drama “Sabuja Bibaha” which was very well appreciated by the audience and received second prize.

OSA DC will celebrate Kumar Purnami in October and it will also conduct chapter election. OSA DC invites all OSA National members residing in Maryland, Virginia and Washington DC area to join OSA DC as a member.

NY-NJ OSA report

By Lord Ganesha's blessings and devotees overwhelming participation, OSANYNJ members celebrated Ganesh Puja at Ved Mandir, Milltown, NJ on 11Sep2010(Sat). Around 200 people participated in this event comprising of puja, coconut breaking, *Arati*, *Pushpanjali*. 11

Kids started their knowledge acquisition process by doing *Vidyarambha/Khadichuan*.

Members prepared *Rasi Ladu*, *Boondi Ladu*, *Chuda ghasa*, *Chenapoda* and offered fruits for the pleasure of Lord Vigneswara. Members also enjoyed the delicious lunch Prasad.



OSA NY-NJ Website Name Change

OSA NY-NJ Website name is changed. It is now osanynj.orissasociety.org instead of www.osanynj.org. With this change, it will be hosting the site without any cost to the Chapter.



Kumar Purnima 2010

OSA NY-NJ will celebrate its Annual Kumar Purnima Function during November



of this year. Event coordinators are in a process of finalizing the Date and Location. The organizers are planning this event in a big way with professional quality performances similar to OSA conventions. Preparation for a cultural extravaganza has started in full swing.

If you are interested in participating and/or choreographing any cultural program, please contact Ranjita Mishra at ranjitam@yahoo.com by 10/01/2010.



Orissa Booth wins First Place in Festival of India

Arata Rout, Ohio



Orissa booth has won the first place in the state booth showcase competition in the Festival of India (FIA) organized by Federation of Asian Indian Association, Columbus, Ohio. There were more than ten thousand visitors attending this event with local City and State representative.

The purpose of hosting Indian Festival is to create awareness about Indian culture,



adding to the cultural diversity of Ohio. FIA hosts many events throughout the year in Central Ohio that involves the local community in productive activities. The festival is one of its own kind, presented by the Indian community annually, bringing the diversity of Asian Indian culture with all its splendor and



entertainment to central Ohio. It also attracts the largest gathering of the Indian community in a single event in Columbus from Ohio and surrounding states. The event is extremely popular in Columbus and surrounding areas, attracting college students, faculties, health professionals, vendors from across the country, entertainers, artists, people interested in Indian culture, those seeking Indian style entertainment and ethnic artifacts.



The following members from the Oriya community have put their efforts in making this successful:

1. Arata Rout
2. Kaumadi Mohanty
3. Lipi Mohanty
4. Liza Bhuyan
5. Pravas Prida
6. Saswat Mohapatra
7. Geeta Mohapatara
8. Surit Moharana
9. Nursingh Mohapatra
10. Seema Pradhan
11. Anup Beherav

OSA Chicago report

Kanak Hota,

In charge - Communications, OSA Chicago



The OSA Chicago Chapter family once again came together and had a wonderful Puja celebrated for Lord Bighnaraj at the Bishnu Siva [Shakti](#) temple at the BSS in Aurora last Saturday. This year we were blessed to have our celebration coincide with the real *tithi*. As the priest invoked, installed and offered prayers to [Lord Ganesh](#) – the god of learning and destroyer of obstacles, young members of the community led by Madhura, Trisha, Triya, Shibansh, Payal

and Pallavi, explicated every step of the puja for better comprehension of their friends in lucid English. We can see the act as a unique cultural bridge that demystifies the rituals and *mantras* that are the basics of Hindu worship and lets the kids have a sense of connectedness with our spiritual heritage. Thanks to Bob to have started the trend which definitely is an enlightening exercise for the kids who are learning and enjoying the inner connotation of our great



religion and the tradition that accompanies it. Everyone admired the priest for his lucid and blissful chantings in conducting the puja in precise manner and engaging all the worshippers in the gathering. Ashok Sahoo, who arranged the priest for the [Saraswati Puja](#) from the local [Balaji Temple](#), took special care this time also in arranging the priest from the Lemont Temple. Special thanks to Rupa Mahapatra, the sole puja in-charge, president Bob , wife Sikan, Ashok,

wife Rosy and Debasish Panda for the arrangements and smooth conduct of the puja.

We thank our food coordinators (Jhara Das, absent due to compelling personal engagements), Sandhya Sahoo, Sarita Mahapatra, Sushmita Dash and Sunita Patnaik, who did a wonderful job in roping-in volunteers for the food. They deserve our



appreciation for behind the scene persuasions and allocation of responsibilities to the volunteers in feeding everybody.



The highlight of the celebration was of course the “Gitinatya” *Ganesh Janma* penned by our

impromptu in-house playwright Manoj Mahapatra (Stone Bridge) and directed by Donna Mishra. For the first time the audience sat glued to their seats as Parvati (Sabrina Khuntia) came up with her *Manasa Putra* Lord Ganesh (Shivangi Padhy) as the obedient guard of Kailash who fought with Lord Shiva. The confrontation between Shiva (Shivansh) and his team with Ganesh was entertaining and enjoyed by all. Other important roles in the play were by Samyak (Karthikeya), Shivank (Musika), Shivam Patnaik (Gajaraj), Mythili Mahapatra



(Nandi), Ayush Panda (Bhrungi), Triya Mahapatra (Sakhi), Payal Parida (Sakhi) and Trisha Patnaik (Sakhi). Thanks to all these little masters who delivered their dialogues in Oriya in front of the audience. Sarita Parida and Sunita Dash took great care for the props, costumes and make up.


I feel myself humbled in describing the importance of the puja for Lord Ganesh and do not have the temerity to exhort all to attend the celebrations for the Lord as everyone knows Him. But still, on behalf of OSA Chicago, I would request everybody to attend the observations for our deities, save unavoidable circumstances, to make it a huge success. Our success in observing pujas with devotion will always be regarded as the real triumph for our mundane souls. Also, apart from the adults, the children get a very good lesson in humility and obeisance.




OSA NEW MEMBER LIST



| First Name | Last Name | Spouse First Name | Spouse Last Name | State | Country | OSA Member Type |
|-------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------|-------|---------|-----------------|
| Sarina | Behera | Brian | Feeley | CA | USA | Benefactor |
| Rashmi | Das | Prativa | Mohakud | CA | USA | Life Member |
| Abhay | Dubey | Smita | | CA | USA | Life Member |
| Prabir | Mohanty | | | CA | USA | Life Member |
| Achyuta | Acharya | Swapnanjali | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Meera | Agrawal | Gautam | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Prabin | badhia | Deborah | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Esha | Bandyopadhyay | Rajesh | Dash | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Himanshu | Baral | Rashmita | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Manoranjan | Baral | Dimple | Das | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Dheeren | Bebortha | Monalisa | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Niharika | Behera | Sanjay | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Sandip | Biswal | Anita | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Ranjita | Chakravarty | Alisha | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| sukumar | chand | Soma | Ray | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Sidharth | Choudhury | Namrata | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Prabhat | Chowdhury | Sanghamitra | | AZ | USA | Annual Family |
| Ave | Cope | James | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Amulya | Das | Sachala | | WA | USA | Annual Family |
| Ashutosh | Das | Dharitri | Pattanaik | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Durgaprasad | Das | Rimi | Mohanty | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Kaustubh | Das | Indumathi | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Lokanath | Das | Prativa | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Ram | Das | Jayantika | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Smita | Das | Pradeept | Sahoo | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Suchismita | Das | Rishi | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Debendra | Das Sharma | Snigdha | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Gyana | Dash | Archana | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Prasant | Dash | Sunita | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Sunita | Dash | | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Amlan | Debnath | Chitra | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Sasmita | Dehury | Jasho | Patnaik | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Akhil | Gantayat | Bijoya | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Kunmun | Garabadu | Raj | Murtinty | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Priyabrata | Gharai | Seema | | CS | USA | Annual Family |
| Vasanta | Gollamudi | Raj | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Reina | Haque | Ralph | Vogel | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Ram | Haridasa | Minnie | | CA | USA | Annual Family |

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|---|-----------|--------------------|-------------|----|--------|---------------|
|  | | | | | | |
| Ashok | Jena | Puspanjali | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Satyabrata | Jena | Priya | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Rajesh | Kanungo | Chandrika | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Biranchi | Kar | Nazreen | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Chakradhar | Kar | Ellora | Misra | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Suryamani | Kar | Sujata | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Sasmita | Maharana | Sudheer | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Abinash | Mishra | Meena | | AB | CANADA | Annual Family |
| AMITABH | MISHRA | BIJAYINI | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Anita | Mishra | Bhrungaraj | Behera | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Ashok | Mishra | Geetanjali | Panda | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Biplabi | Mishra | Sarmistha | Dash | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Kishoree | Mishra | Dolly | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Om prakash | Mishra | Debabanita | Acharya | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Pradipta | Mishra | Pradipta | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Pravat | Mishra | Arundhati | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Sambit | Mishra | Moma | Chakraborty | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Sanjeeb | Mishra | Sudestna | Tripathy | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Saroj | Mishra | Sanjeeta | Sarangi | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Saswat | Mishra | Rumna | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Subarna | Mishra | Subhada | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Subhadarshi | Mishra | Namrata | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| KAUSIK | MISRA | MAMTA | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Manoj | Misra | Gouri | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Pratap | Misra | Namita | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Vivek | Misra | Christine | Kim | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Pragati | Misro | Marc | Dareau | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Kashinath | Mitra | Madhumita | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Amiya | Mohanty | Ipsita | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Bidisha | Mohanty | Biswa R. | Karan | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Debaranjan | Mohanty | Mamata | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Gopal | Mohanty | Smita | Das | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Mihir | Mohanty | Sharon | Shyu | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Prasanna | Mohanty | Sarita | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Sumit | Mohanty | Sreemathi | Iyer | WA | USA | Annual Family |
| SUSANTA | MOHANTY | ANASUYA MOHANTY | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Srikanta | Mohapatra | Smaranika | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| subrat | mohapatra | Suneeta | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Sukanta | Nanda | Snigdha | Mishra | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Madhabika | Nayak | | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Nihar | Nayak | Sabita | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Rakesh | Nayak | Sanghamitra | Behera | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Rupesh | Nayak | Reena | Pal | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Satyabrata | Nayak | Sunita | Rout | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Shesa | Nayak | Prabina | | CA | USA | Annual Family |

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|---|---------------|---------------|-----------|----|-----|---------------|
|  | | | | | | |
| Vandana | Nayak | Anup | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Bhanu | Padhi | Lipsa | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Shishrish | Pal | Sujata Das | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Archana | Panda | Shiv | Pachori | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Basanta | Panda | Jaya | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Bikash | Panda | Pragyan | Patnaik | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Debabrata | Panda | Renuka | Mishra | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Kamal | Panda | Nivedita | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| PRADEEP | PANDA | Deepa | Mahapatra | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Sasi | Panda | Aruna | Dash | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Ranjit | Panigrahi | Sonika | Padhi | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Sitikantha | Panigrahi | Namita | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| MANOJ | PARIDA | SWARNALIPI | PATANAİK | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Manas | Pati | SASMITA | MISHRA | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Sushma | Pati | Buno Pati | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Anurag | Patnaik | Nagen | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Dev | Patnaik | Amanda | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Laboni | Patnaik | Manish | Aggarwal | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Rabi | Patnaik | Sobha Patnaik | | VA | USA | Annual Family |
| Shibani | Patnaik | | | PA | USA | Annual Family |
| Sushant | Patnaik | Namrata | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Swaroop | Patnaik | Rekha | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Amulya | Patra | Sanghamitra | Mohapatra | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Mohan | Pattanaik | Anima | Sahoo | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Sangram | Pattanaik | Sarita | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Geetika | Pattjoshi | Subhransu | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Jyotsna | Pattnaik | Kanak | Nath | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| SANJAY | PATTNAİK | MANOJINI | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Subhasis | Pattnaik | Ingit | Mohanty | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Satya | Pradhan | Nishi | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Dillip | Praharaj | Namita | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Vivek | Raina | Atasi | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Kamlesh | Rath | Smrutirekha | Misra | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Bikash | Roy Choudhury | Tapasi | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Sharada | Saha | Arijit | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Amulya | Sahoo | Archana | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Anita | Sahoo | Sunil | Gujrathi | NV | USA | Annual Family |
| Daisy | Sahoo | Victor | Drover | WI | USA | Annual Family |
| Asish | Sahu | Sradha | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Satyajit | Sahu | Deepti | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Prasad | Sastry | | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Bijay | Satpathy | Swati | Mishra | VA | USA | Annual Family |
| Sampurna | Satpathy | | | NY | USA | Annual Family |
| Pratibha | Tripathy | Aurobindo | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Ranjan | Tripathy | Sanjukta | Panda | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| | | | | | | |

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|---|-----------------------------|--------|--|----|-----|---------------|
|  | | | | | | |
| Sunil | Tripathy | Shashi | | CA | USA | Annual Family |
| Shradha | (Chowdhury) Balakrishnan | | | CA | USA | Annual Single |
| Pawan | Bajoria | | | CA | USA | Annual Single |
| Urmila | Chatterjee | | | CA | USA | Annual Single |
| Pallavi | Das | | | MD | USA | Annual Single |
| Rajesh | Dash | | | TX | USA | Annual Single |
| James | Freeman | | | CA | USA | Annual Single |
| Pushpamitra | Khuntia | | | CA | USA | Annual Single |
| Arati | Misro | | | CA | USA | Annual Single |
| Prasanna | Mohanty | | | CA | USA | Annual Single |
| Sneha | Mohanty | | | CA | USA | Annual Single |
| Tanuja | Mohanty | | | CA | USA | Annual Single |
| Neelam | Mohapatra | | | NJ | USA | Annual Single |
| Priyaranjan | Mohapatra | | | CA | USA | Annual Single |
| Biswajit | Nayak | | | CA | USA | Annual Single |
| Pranab | Panda | | | CA | USA | Annual Single |
| Amrita | Pati | | | CA | USA | Annual Single |
| Nilanjana | Roy | | | CA | USA | Annual Single |
| Sidhartha | Sahoo | | | CA | USA | Annual Single |





DURBA OR DUBA (Sanskrit name-Durba/duba; English Name-Bermuda grass)

Dr. Abhay Kumar Pati, CEO Best Nutrition Products Inc. USA, Biotechayur Pvt. Ltd, Orissa, India is an Ayurvedic Physician, Entrepreneur and Industrialist; Ex Student of J.B.Ray State College of Ayurvedic Medicine (Asthang Ayurvedic College) and Hospital, Kolkata, India and Member of State Faculty of Ayurvedic Medicine (MASF) Govt of West Bengal, India

Dr. Pati is an author of several books on nutrition, lifestyle, medicinal plants, fruits and vegetables.

C.E. O. Bestnutrition Products Inc. USA

C.E.O Biotechayur Pvt Ltd, Odisha, India

PHYTOCHEMICAL CONSTITUENTS of DURBA:

Cynodine, Hydrocyanic acid, Triticin, proteins, carbohydrates, Beta-carotene and minerals such as Calcium, Phosphorus, Iron and Potassium

The traditional use of Cynodon is for eye disorders and weak vision; the afflicted are advised to walk bare foot on dew drops spread over Cynodon plant each morning. According to Ayurveda, India's traditional pharmacopoeia, Cynodon plant is pungent, bitter, fragrant, heating, appetizer, vulnerary, anthelmintic, antipyretic, alexiteric. It destroys foulness of breath, is useful against leucoderma, bronchitis, piles, asthma, tumors, and enlargement of the spleen. According to the Ayurveda, Doobi is acrid, sweet, cooling and useful in biliousness, thirst, vomiting, burning sensation, bad taste in the mouth, hallucinations, epileptic fits, fatigue, leprosy, scabies, skin diseases, dysentery, fever,

erysipelas, epistaxis etc. According to Unani system of medicine, Cynodon plant is bitter, sharp hot taste, good odor, laxative, brain and heart tonic, aphrodisiac, alexipharmic, emetic, emmenagogue, expectorant, carminative and useful against grippe in children, and for pains, inflammations, and toothache (Agharkar 1991). Virus-affected discolored leaves of Cynodon are used for the treatment of liver complaints. In Homoeopathic systems of medicine, it is used to treat all types of bleeding and skin troubles.

Cynodon dactylon



Scientific classification

Kingdom: [Plantae](#)
 (unranked): [Angiosperms](#)
 (unranked): [Monocots](#)
 (unranked): [Commelinids](#)
 Order: [Poales](#)
 Family: [Poaceae](#)
 Genus: [Cynodon](#)
 Species: C. dactylon

Binomial name

Cynodon dactylon
 (L.) Pers.

Hair tonic/rejuvenator-The juice of Doobi herb is also considered best medication for hair loss. In case of Alopecia, the healers suggest the patients to prepare a paste by mixing Doobi herb in clay soil and apply the paste on head and sit under the sun for at least one hour. The soil on which Doobi grass grows is normally used for this treatment.

For migraine -According to the traditional healers, it is also good for patients having problems of migraine.

As an eye tonic-The juice of leaves is also applied and used as an eye tonic. It is considered to act against cataract (Motiabind). In case of conjunctivitis, the juice is applied externally on eyelids in order to provide cooling effect to the eyes.

Haemostatic- It stops almost all kinds of bleeding of any etiology, such as epistaxis, Menorrhagia, bleeding from fresh wounds, piles etc.

Antioxidant effect –The water infusion/decoction has remarkable antioxidant and free radical scavenging effect. It saves the body from many degenerative disorders like Parkinsonism, Diabetes, neuronal disorders and Alzheimer’s disease.

Hypoglycemic efficacy –At a dose of 500mg/kg body weight it normalizes the blood sugar level. It also prevents the body from unwanted weight loss and muscular wasting.

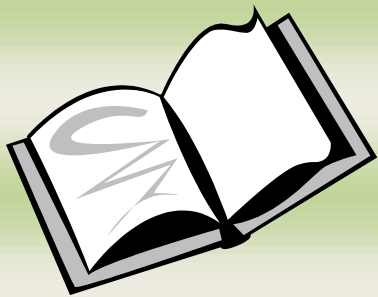
Corrects the lipid profile/ hypolipidemic effect-It reduces cholesterol and the harmful low density lipid in blood. It helps in increasing HDL levels.

Antiulcer properties -Alcoholic extract of Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*) was evaluated for preliminary identification of phytoconstituents and screened at 200, 400, and 600 mg/kg b.w and given orally for pylorus ligated and indomethacin induced gastric ulcer models in albino rats. Results showed the presence of flavonoids and proteins. Alcoholic extracts at 400 mg/kg and 600 mg/kg showed significant (>0.001) antiulcer activity, comparable to the standard drug ranitidine, which may be due to the presence of flavonoids.

Antimicrobial activity Antimicrobial activity of cynodon extract acts with full efficacy and active against -*Staphylococcus aureus*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Streptococcus faecalis*, *Escherichia coli* and *Candida albicans*.

For information, write to: Dr.kumarpati@bestnutrition.com





Literature and Musings



REVISITING DR. SONJEE

By Ghanashyam Mishra (395 Green Winged Teal Road, Johns Island, South Carolina, 29445, USA)

It happened by accident. During the last OSA Convention at Sofitel, California, I was sitting next to an elderly gentleman enjoying his lunch. Being curious by nature, I glanced at him to ask if he was visiting from Orissa. My question remained unasked after I saw his name tag. There was in front of me the wonderful Dr. Sonjee of the famous movie of 1970's, "One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest". Dr. Sonjee aka Dr. Pati's name is known to many older generation Oriyas in USA. In the past, I have read two or three of his fascinating stories in the OSA Souvenir issues. It was my good luck that I ran in to him in person. For about an hour, we had a lively discussion regarding his childhood and college days as well as his early turmoil and triumphs in the segregated USA during the 1950's.

Dr. Prasanna Pati is a real pioneer of his generation. He graduated in the first batch of S.C.B. Medical College, couple of years after India's independence. At that time, there was very limited opportunity to practice medicine in Orissa. There were only six doctors needed as civil surgeons in six districts of the state. Dr. Pati has clear and vivid memories of people and places in the British ruled Orissa. During our conversation, he asked me if I have read his book published in 2001. I confessed that I did not. He promised me to send a copy to my home address in South Carolina.

Last week, I received a copy of his book titled, “Adventures and Misadventures of Dr. Sonjee”. Once started, I could not put the book down. I finished reading all the stories in a day and half. I am an engineer by profession and not a literary critic. But I can say that the book is a master piece. I have read several Nobel Prize winning books, and Dr. Pati’s work is of the same caliber of authorship. The collection of short stories may be fictional, but it portrays human relationship, religious beliefs and cultural differences among the people of all continents. I am truly surprised of his memory and knowledge of history, geography and society’s customs and taboos in India, Europe and North America. In the Woman from Georgia, Dr. Sonjee narrates a story of the cruel Hindu custom of early nineteenth century of burning a widow in the funeral pyre of her dead husband as her relatives and her little boy watching at a distance. This inhuman Sati practice was stopped by the British Government in the 1930’s. The Voices of Old Lahore is based on the aftermath of brutal and bloody partition of India in 1947, and the sad memories of millions of Hindus and Muslims who were uprooted from their ancestral homes. The bitterness of this human tragedy in the history of the Indian sub-continent is still shimmering with anger and frustration on both sides of the Indo-Pak border. My favorite story is the Woman from Auschwitz. In this story, a young survivor of Hitler’s death camp for the Jews travels with Dr. Sonjee to the site of the massacre in Poland. Dr. Sonjee’s kind and compassionate Hindu Brahmin’s heart gets overwhelmed with this atrocious Nazi crime against the humanity, and he blames and prays to Lord Jagannath at Auschwitz with hundreds of mourners from all over the world.

Dr. Pati told me that sales proceeds from his book have been donated to the Anand Foundation in Bhubaneswar. I wish all Oriya families in USA and Orissa to read this book and feel proud of a great human being, physician and an author from Orissa.



ବାଲୁକା ଚିତ୍ରଶିଳ୍ପୀ ସୁଦର୍ଶନ

ଉତ୍କର୍ଷ କଳାର ବିକାଶ ଯେଉଁଠି
ନାମ ତା' ଉତ୍କଳ ଭୂଇଁ,
ସାରା ଦୁଆରେ ଲଭିଅଛି ଖ୍ୟାତି
ସୁସ୍ଥ ଚାରୁକଳା ପାଇଁ ।

ସେହି ଚାରୁକଳା ଜ୍ୱଳନ୍ତ ପ୍ରମାଣ
ସଜୀବ କୋଣାର୍କ ଶିଳା,
ଗୁଣୁ ଗୁଣୁ ସ୍ୱରେ ଏବେ ବି ଗାଉଛି
ବାରଣ' ବଢେଇ ଲୀଳା ।

ଓଡ଼ିଆ ପୁଅର କୁଶଳୀ ଶଇଳୀ
ଫୁଟି ଉଠିଅଛି ଯହିଁ,
ନିହାଣ ମୁରେ ସରସ କବିତା
ଲେଖା ହୋଇଅଛି ତହିଁ ।

ସେହି ମାଟି ପୁଣି ହୋଇଛି ଗର୍ବିତା
ଜନ୍ମ ଦେଇ ଏକ ପୁତ୍ର,
ଯାହାର ସୁରଭି ହୁଏ ବିତରିତ
ଦେଶ ବିଦେଶ ସର୍ବତ୍ର ।

ସୁଦୂର ବଲିକାନାତା, ଜାପାନ
ମଝୋ ସାଉଥ କୋରିଆ,
ଉତ୍କଳ କଳାର ହୋଇଛି ପ୍ରସାର
ଗର୍ବିତ ଆଜି ଓଡ଼ିଆ ।

ରାଜ୍ଯପତିଙ୍କର ପୁରସ୍କାର ଦ୍ଵାରା
ହୋଇଛନ୍ତି ସେ ଭୂଷିତ,
ଦେଶ ବିଦେଶରେ ସମ୍ମାନ ପତ୍ରରେ
ସଦା ସର୍ବଦା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚିତ ।

ଉତ୍କଳ ମାତାର ବରପୁତ୍ର ସିଏ
କଳା ଚାତୁରୀ ଅପାର,
ଅଙ୍ଗେ ଅଙ୍ଗେ ଯା'ର ଭରି ରହିଛନ୍ତି
ଶତ ଶତ କାରିଗର ।

ଯାହାର ପରଶେ ନିର୍ଜୀବ ବାଲୁକା
ପାଇଥାଏ ଜୀବଦାନ,
ଯାହା ପାଇଁ ଆଜି ଗର୍ବ କରୁଁ ଆମେ
ନାମ ତାଙ୍କ ସୁଦର୍ଶନ ।

ଗଗନ ପାଣିଗ୍ରାହି

ପୃଥବୀ ପ୍ରସିଦ୍ଧ ବାଲୁକା ଚିତ୍ରଶିଳ୍ପୀ ସୁଦର୍ଶ ପଟ୍ଟନାୟକଙ୍କ ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ ଟରୋଙ୍କୋରେ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ମାନଙ୍କ ଦ୍ଵାରା
ଆୟୋଜିତ ସମ୍ବର୍ଦ୍ଧା ସଭା, କାନାଡା-ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସୋସାଇଟି ଅଫ ଆମେରିକାଜ୍, ତାରିଖ ୨୪ ଅଗଷ୍ଟ
୨୦୧୦, ଟରୋଙ୍କୋ, କାନାଡା



Sukanti Apa's Garden

By Maushumi Pattanayak

If you wish to experience the joy of accomplishing more than you can imagine then plant a garden, said Robert Brault . This is also the motto of Maryland resident Mrs. Sukanti Ray. Invitation to her garden party led me to explore her creativity and accomplishment.



It is true that her garden requires a lot of water but a lot of it is in the form of her perspiration. Mrs Ray, in her 70's enjoys the smell of soil, gets dirty without feeling guilty and takes the time to soup up a



little peace and serenity through her garden. It is like a disease. It has infected her; she cannot escape it! When she visits people's gardens, her eyes rove around to interrupt the serious cocktail drinking because of an irresistible impulse to get up and pull a weed.

Vegetables, herbs, flowers- you name it, the presence of the greens are absolute in her backyard. Tomatoes, eggplants, pumpkins, green Chilies are some of favorites which she grows annually. Indoor plants are also nurtured and sustained in a

beautiful and topical green house right inside her extended living room due to her love and care.

Mrs. Sukanti Ray whom we call Sukanti Apa, with respect and love, started this as hobby whenever she got time after her daily chores.

She tries to collect plants that intrigue her and put them in her own land of creativity. With her due care and affection the plants grow without interruption.

She gets immense pleasure not only seeing them grow and blossom with flowers and fruits but even more in distributing them to friends, neighbors and family. She cooks and serves traditional Oriya food to friends and family. And according to her she buries a lot of troubles while digging the dirt of her beautiful garden.



If odor were visible as color is, she could see the summer garden in rainbow clouds.

She feels her garden is large place of sentiment; her flowers being the garden of her thoughts and dreams. The thoughts grow as freely as the flowers and dreams are as beautiful.

Mrs. Sukanti Ray resides in Maryland in North Potomac with her husband Dr Surendra Ray in a beautiful house surrounded by lush gardens. Dr. Surendra Ray is a music lover. He plays very good harmonium and tabla and heads many cultural events in the community. His inspiration to youngsters for traditional oriya music has always been a big factor for the success of many cultural events of OSA. Recently the couple celebrated their 50th marriage anniversary. They are the true “Karmoyogis”. They are also prominent members of OSA and JOGA and have been serving these organizations in their unique capacities.

It is said that fertilizer is the gardener’s shadow and this is truly reflected in Sukanti Apa’s garden and her 4 beautiful and accomplished children.



FAITH

By Prajesh Nandini Dash (Nashville, TN)

Life is full of coincidences. We mysteriously stumble upon many things and call them miracles. In Hindu religion there is an old saying which indicates that our personal belief makes us see the manifestation of God even in an ordinary stone.

The temples and worship places of today's India started from such strong beliefs.



For ages, starting from kings and sages to ordinary people, someone began by envisioning, dreaming, believing, and then feeling the presence of a higher power in these strange stones. We know that such mysterious stones are worshipped in various forms including the Shiva Lingam, Goddess Mangala, Goddess Tarini and many others starting from our remotest villages to the most famous temples.

Last week, while travelling to Huntsville Alabama, from Nashville, I had a similar experience. After taking Exit 1 from I-65S, going 15-20miles east bound, (just after the Deer Run street) on the left side of the road, about 40-50 feet above the

highway, I saw an image of Lord Ganesh. Needless to say, this must have been the handiwork of some local. However, for somebody to feel and shape the form, to show a distinct shape of an elephant head which resembles Lord Sri Ganesh on top of a small hill by the side of a secondary highway in America was a blessing. And to me it was a miracle.

ବର୍ଷଟିଏ ବିତିଗଲା

ବିଜ୍ଞାନୀ ଦାସ, ଡେଟନ୍, ମେରୀଲାଣ୍ଡ

ଚାହୁଁଚାହୁଁ ବର୍ଷଟିଏ ବିତିଗଲା
କେଉଁ ଏକ ଅଜଣା ପୃଥିବୀରେ
ପ୍ରତିବାଦୀର ଭୂମିକାରେ
ଯୁକ୍ତିତର୍କର ଅସ୍ତ୍ରଶସ୍ତ୍ର ଗଢିବାରେ
ଲକ୍ଷ୍ୟଭେଦ ଓ ପ୍ରୟୋଗର ପ୍ରୟାସରେ
ଓକିଲାତି, କୋର୍ଟ, କଚେରି
ନୀତି, ନିୟମର ସୁସ୍ଥସୁତ୍ର ବୁଝିବାରେ
ବିଶେଷଣ ଓ ବିଶ୍ଳେଷଣ
କରିବାରେ ଓ କରାଇବାରେ
ନୂଆ ନୂଆ ମଣିଷ-ମନର ସୂତ୍ର
ଆବିଷ୍କାର ଓ ଅନୁସନ୍ଧାନରେ ।

ବର୍ଷଟିଏ ବିତିଗଲା
ସେ ଜଟିଳ, କୁଟିଳ ମନଟିକୁ
ବୁଝିବାର ପ୍ରଚେଷ୍ଟାରେ
କାହିଁକି ମଣିଷଟିଏ
ଏତେ ତଳକୁ ଯାଇପାରେ
ଏତେ ମିଛ କହିପାରେ
ଏତେ ଇର୍ଷା କରିପାରେ
ଏତେ ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦୟ ହୋଇପାରେ
ନିଜ ଆତ୍ମାକୁ ବିକିଭାଙ୍ଗି ସଉଦା କରେ
ଘୃଣ୍ୟ, ଜପନ୍ୟ କର୍ମକୁ ଆଦରେ
ପାପ, ପୁଣ୍ୟ ନ ବିଚାରି

ମାଗଣା ମିଳିଲେ, ସବୁ କରିପାରେ
ଏମିତିକି କୁଣ୍ଡାବୋଧ କରେନାହିଁ
ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦୋଷ ମଣିଷମାନଙ୍କ ବିରୋଧରେ
ବାଦୀ ସାଜିବାରେ

ବର୍ଷଟିଏ ବିତିଗଲା
ପଢ଼ିପଢ଼ି ପୁତିଗନ୍ଧମୟ ଭାବନା ସନ୍ଦେଶ
ଅଶାନ୍ତ, ଦଳିତ ଆତ୍ମାମାନଙ୍କର, ପତିତ ମନର
ସତେ ଯେମିତି ତାହାଣୀ ଲାଗିଛି
କି ଭୂତ, ପିଶାଚ, ପ୍ରେତାତ୍ମା ଗାସିଛି
ସେ ମଣିଷ ଆତ୍ମାଟିକୁ ଆଦରିଛି, ଆବୋରି ବସିଛି
ଦିନ ନାହିଁ, ରାତି ନାହିଁ
ଖରା ନାହିଁ, ବର୍ଷା ନାହିଁ
ଆଉ କିଛି ଚିନ୍ତା ନାହିଁ
ପ୍ରିୟତମା, ପ୍ରିୟଜନ, କେହି ନାହିଁ
ଜୀବନ ଯେମିତି ତାର ମହାଶୂନ୍ୟ
ମୋ ବିରୁଦ୍ଧରେ କୁସ୍ୱାରଚନା
ଯେମିତି ସେ ଜୀବନର ଏକମାତ୍ର
ଶେଷ ସୀମା, ଚରମ ଓ ପରମ କାମନା ।

ବର୍ଷଟିଏ ବିତିଗଲା ଭାବିଭାବି
କହିଦେବି କି ସିଧାସିଧା
“ହେ ନିର୍ମମ, ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦୟ ମଣିଷ
କେଉଁ ଦୁଃଖେ ସାଜିଛୁ ତୁ ଏତେ ଅମଣିଷ
ଏତେ କୁର, ପାଷାଣ, ନିଷ୍ଠୁର
ତୋର କଣ ନାହିଁ କେହି ପ୍ରିୟଜନ
ପିତା, ମାତା, ସାଥୀ, ସହୋଦର
ପ୍ରିୟତମା, କି ଅବା ସନ୍ତାନ, ସନ୍ତତି
କେହିନାହିଁ ଗାଇବାକୁ
ମନରେ ତୋ ସେନେହର ଗୀତି
ବିବେକ, ମଣିଷ ପଣିଆ କିଛି ନାହିଁ ତୋର
ଆତ୍ମାକୁ ବିକିଲୁ କିବା ଦାନବ କତିର
କାହା ପାଇଁ, କେଉଁ ସୁଖ ଅଭିଳାଷେ
ସାଜିଲୁ ଦୈତ୍ୟ, ଦାନବ, କୁହ୍ୱିତ ପୁଞ୍ଜସେ

ମଣିଷ ଆଖିର ଲୁହ ଯିବନି ବିଫଳ
ସେ ପାପ ତୋ ପାଇଁ ଦିନେ ସାଜିବଟି କାଳ ।”

ବର୍ଷଟିଏ ବିତିଯିବା ପରେ
ଚାଲୁଚାଲୁ ଅଜଣା ପଥରେ
ଆବିଷ୍କାର କରିଛି ମୁଁ
କେତେ ଗ୍ରହ, ଉପଗ୍ରହ, ନକ୍ଷତ୍ର ବଳୟ
ସୁରକ୍ଷିତ ପ୍ରଦେଶ, ଅମୃତ ମାନସ,
ସେନେହର ସମାବେଶ
ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛାର ଉପହାର
ଆଶୀର୍ବାଦ ସୁରକ୍ଷିତ ମୁକୁଟ
କିଏ ପୁଣି ଜଗାଇଛି ଅକ୍ଷୟ ଚେତନା,
କରାଇଛି ସାହସିନୀ, ବିଜୟିନୀ
ପରଂବ୍ରହ୍ମ ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣତାର
ବନ୍ଧୁତାର, ବିଶ୍ୱାସର,
ଅମୃତ ଗାଖିଛି ଯିଏ
ତାକୁ ପୁଣି କଷ୍ଟରୂପେ କରିବ ବା କିଏ?

ଦୁଇବର୍ଷ ବିତିଯିବ
ଠିକ୍ ଆଉ ଦଶମାସ ପରେ
କେତେ ଯେ ପରିକଳ୍ପନା
ସବୁ ସତେ ରୂପ ନେବ,
ଓସାରେ ବୈକୁଣ୍ଠ ଭଳି ଘର ତୋଳିହେବ
ସବୁଜ ସପନ ଯାହା ରଖିଥିଲି ମନେ
ସେ ପ୍ରୟାସେ ନିୟୋଜିବି ମନ, ପ୍ରାଣ
ଓସାର ପକାଶ ପାଇଁ
ଓସାର ବିକାଶ ପାଇଁ
ଓସାର ସମୃଦ୍ଧି ପାଇଁ,
ପାଇବାକୁ ତୁମ ସ୍ନେହ,
ସହଯୋଗ, ଧନ ଉପହାର
ରଖିଲି ମୁଁ ନିବେଦନ
ଭରସା କରୁଛି ତୁମ କୃପାକୁ ଆତ୍ମାର