

UTKARSA OSA NEWSLETTER

Volume 43 Issue 1

2011



From the Editor's desk...

The leaves are clinging on for dear life and the cool autumn breeze is threatening to take them away. Orissa is experiencing severe floods-we need to raise funds. Orissi music needs to be revived in a big way. Delve into this issue of Utkarsa to find useful information about OSA 2012. If you could not attend the convention this year, we also have some detailed reports that cover some of the forums organized in July. Membership drive is on and shows very positive results.

Sridhar Rana and Julie Acharya Ray

September 27, 2011

(Photo: Arches National Park; 236 miles South of Salt Lake City, UT)

Contents

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	3
VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	6
SECRETARY'S MESSAGE	7
TREASURER'S MESSAGE	8
Outgoing PRESIDENT'S Message	12
Outgoing VICE PRESIDENT'S 2011 Award Report	13
Distinguished Oriya Award: Saradindu Mishra, NJ	13
Kalashree Award: Jyoti Rout, CA	14
Special Note	15
Meghna Memorial Award for Creative Writing	16
Subrina Biswal Awards (Performing Arts)	16
Odia Debate Competition (13 - 18yrs)	16
Odia Poetry Recital (< 6yrs)	17
Odia Poetry Recital (7 - 12yrs)	17
Champu, Chhanda Awards	17
Life Time Achievement Awards	17
OSA 2011 Appreciation Awards	19
Outgoing SECRETARY'S 2011 GBM Minutes	21
Outgoing TREASURER'S Report	25
OSA 2011 CONVENTION REPORTS	26
42ND ANNUAL OSA CONVENTION (An Overall Report)	26
OSA Development Forums: Part I	36
OSA Development Forum: Part II	37
The Women's Forum at OSA 2011	38
Poetry Reading at OSA 2011	44
OSA 2011 HEALTH SEMINAR	46
CHAPTER REPORTS	48
Orissa Society of New England (OSNE) Chapter Report	49
CANOSA Report	53
The New Kid on the OSA Block: Pacific North West Chapter Report	55
OSA NY-NJ Chapter Report	58
Washington DC Chapter Report	62
The California Retreat over the Long Weekend	65
The OSA-Ozarks Chapter : Genesis, History, Mission, Changes, Developments and Future	66
2011 DRAMA FESTIVAL	69
OSA Northern Regional Drama Festival Report	69
NEWS & VIEWS	79
Why Every Oriya Family in North America Should Join OSA?	79
Champu, Chhanda, Odissi Initiative	81
OSA 2011 Souvenir Distribution Update	82
July 2011 OSA BOG Meeting	83
August 2011 OSA BOG Meeting	86
Odia film maker Ghanashyam Mohapatra honored in OSA 2011	90
MUSINGS	98
Saagar	102
Bandhuta	104
Shatruta	105
Bandhabi Go	106
HEALTH & FOOD CORNER	108
CHEMICALS IN FOOD WITH REFERENCE TO ODIYA FOOD	108



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fellow OSA members,

Namaskar! I hope you all had a restful summer. My team and I are energized and excited to get to work with all of you on making 2011-2013 an outstanding term for the OSA family.

First I would like to acknowledge and thank our previous team, Dr. Bigyani Das, the President of OSA, Mr. Pradip Mahapatra, vice President, Mr. Pitamber Sarangi, interim secretary and Dr. Akhileswar Patel, treasurer, for their outstanding contribution to our community during the last two years. I have had the pleasure of working with the present executives as the secretary of OSA. We have worked like a family. We hope to build on what they have created.

I would also like to thank Mr. Sridhar Rana and Dr. Julie Acharya Ray for continuing their role as the editors of our own OSA journal, Utkarsa. As you all know they have done a splendid job in keeping the OSA family connected and we are looking forward to working with them.

Please let me bring your attention to a few things we are working on:

1. Increasing our membership

Our organization has been active for 42 years, but we still have room to grow. There are many Odias in the U.S. who may not have heard of us. Sometimes it's as simple as someone inviting them to join. *Will you join me in reaching out to fellow Odias and inviting them to be a part of the OSA family?* If we each can invite a new member, we will create a stronger base of support for each other and for the Odia community at large.

Also, the OSA life member fee is reduced from \$300 to just \$200 until March 31, 2012. Please do take advantage of this offer and join us as life members.

Each of us can make a difference.

2. Keeping the OSA family connected

Utkarsa, our online journal, is an invaluable resource for staying in touch with each other, and I'd like to extend a big thank you to our editors, Sridhar Rana and Julie Acharya Ray and thank all of the contributors both past and present. In the coming year we'd like to make it even more content-rich and interactive.

Do you have ideas for new content, whether an article or a regular column? Please let our editors know at sridhar_rana@yahoo.com & ankapa67@yahoo.com

3. Engaging young people

The 2010 and 2011 OSA conventions in particular proved that young people have diverse talent, and when they put their talent together they can achieve miracles. It is heartening to see our younger generation Odias come forward to take leadership roles in OSA. We

must ensure that such people of talent and initiative will continue to play that role and



serve as role models for their contemporaries and the next generation of Odias. As I write this, I am proud to announce that eight young second generation Odia families joined OSA during the Labor Day weekend Odia retreat in Santa Barbara. What splendid news!

4. Strengthen the connection between OSA and the people at home in Odisha.

I'm thrilled to announce that this year our OSA will take an active part in NROFC's annual meeting in Odisha.

As many of you know, the NROFC (Non-Resident Odia Facilitation Center), situated in Bhubaneswar, works as a liaison between Odias in the U.S. and in the state of Odisha. This year its annual meeting will be December 18. Leena Mishra, secretary of OSA, will be coordinating OSA activities for this meeting. If you plan to attend this year or you know any Odia/OSA members planning to visit Odisha during December and would like to attend the NROFC meeting, please let Leena or me know (our emails are leena_mishra@hotmail.com / adpandey101@gmail.com respectively). The more members participate in such forums, the better informed they will be regarding the activities of OSA and the affairs back home in Odisha.

We would also like to establish a concrete base in Odisha. During my last visit, I spoke with various government officials about procuring a house to establish a cultural center in Odisha. We are planning to establish a committee to spearhead this effort. I will be very grateful for any advice any of you can offer for this project.

5. Establish an archive for Odias in the U.S.

The 2010 census revealed that there are more people from India in this country than originally thought. We have to assume that this applies to Odias as well. We must have an accurate record of Odias in the Americas. How should we go about it? Any advice? I would be grateful if anyone can help us devise a scheme for a demographic survey of the Odias in the Americas.

Currently we are in the process of establishing committees for important activities. We have already established a grievance committee led by Dr. Panchanan Satpathy, Dr. Anjalika Pattnaik and Nick Patnaik.

Also, we have formed a Membership drive committee with Pratap Das (Past

President), Radha Gobinda Mahanty (President OSA Ozark chapter) and Manoj Padhi (committed member OSA).

We are also in the process of establishing various committees mentioned below:

- Women's Issues
- Youth issues
- Chapter relations and integration
- Community outreach

I will appreciate to hear how you can help us develop these committees and come forward to join us in whichever capacity you can.

Our community is full of talent, energy, and goodwill. Together we can move mountains.

With my warmest regards and best wishes,

Annapurna Pandey
President, OSA

VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

My heartfelt thanks for your trust and support that you bestowed upon me by giving me the opportunity to serve this noble organization, OSA. Our executive team has already started working on our action plan.

Since I always support and promote our beautiful Odia language and culture, I voiced an appeal through OSAnet to all the OSA members. It was to expand the "Let's Learn Odia" program on the national level, providing basic education in Odia literacy and culture through summer camps, stage plays and dance dramas in Odia language. I have received many encouraging emails from members from different chapters showing support and interest for implementing this program in their areas. Keeping their valuable inputs and suggestions in mind, I am currently working on making the curriculum available on electronic media so that it's easier to send it to all the interested volunteers later. If you are willing to volunteer in this program or want to share your valuable opinion and suggestion about this program, please let me know.

Like previous years, OSA will be inviting members to nominate the deserving candidates for OSA awards in various categories. We are currently in the process of forming an award committee. We will keep you updated with more information in the future.

The fun and excitement of the 42nd convention at Plano, Texas is still fresh in our memory, but the 43rd convention is already knocking on the door. Many members are working their best to make the 2012 OSA convention at Seattle yet another successful convention in OSA history.

With all your support, encouragement and positive energy, we are committing our best efforts for a better and stronger OSA.

Warm Wishes & Best Regards,

Kuku Das
Vice President, OSA
kukudas@hotmail.com.

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

I wish to extend from the Secretariat, greetings to the members of the OSA. I wish you all a great year ahead. I am proud to get the opportunity to serve the OSA community. On behalf of the Current team of OSA officials, I thank you all for electing us to the OSA offices, 2011-2013. We look forward to living up to your expectations for the next two years.

Initially, OSA started with couple of families. Today OSA has nearly 800 members which tells us that we are growing. I am sure all of us would like to see OSA as a larger and stronger organization which can establish its own identity among the Odias as well as in the Indian communities.

As we are growing, we are facing new challenges from various sources and also learning to deal with these challenges in an efficient manner. While doing so, we realize that OSA needs more resources; including number of members, commitments from its members as well as funds to make it a stronger organization.

As OSA officials, we are committed to take OSA one more step ahead during our tenure. Currently we have taken initiative in attaining the following goals:

- Continuing the effort of increasing OSA membership
- Establishing the identity of OSA in Odisha by providing a helping hand in different forms when and where deemed necessary.
- Establishing the existence of OSA in Odias in North America through OSA convention.
- With the initiative from Lata Mishra trying to popularize the Odia Chhanda, Champu and Odissi music among the Odia kids in USA.
- Working on improving inter chapter relationships.
- Working on bringing benefits to its members which is however difficult to achieve unless we have a larger community.

As the secretary of OSA I request all the members/non-members of OSA to come forward and take initiative to increase the membership of the organization and help OSA in any way you can. Also, In this regard, I applaud our colleagues who have committed themselves to the development of OSA in various ways. It is our hope that all the members will do their part in ensuring that the OSA will in fact be one of the important means by which all Odia kids in the region will be able to learn and share the culture and tradition of Odisha so that we can keep our culture alive.

Thank you,
OSA Secretary
Leena Mishra



TREASURER'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

Namaskar! I have provided update on following items. Please feel free to contact me with any question or suggestions.

- Proposed OSA Annual Budget 2011-12
- New Members
- Update of DOLA
- Fund-raising

Proposed OSA Annual Budget 2011-12

Income	Expense
Membership (Life/5-year/Patron/Benefactor): ~ \$20,000	Website : ~ \$1,000
Membership (Annual) ¹ : ~ \$1,000	Awards: ~ \$1,000
OSA Fee (From Convention): ~ \$3,000	Convention Advance: ~ \$10,000
Convention Surplus ² : ~ \$1,000	Drama Festival: \$2,000
Return of Convention Advance ⁴ : ~ \$10,000	Champu/ Chhanda/ Odissi Recording ³ : ~\$1,000
Fund-raising for Flood Relief: ~5,000	Humanitarian: ~\$5,000
Other Donations: ~ \$500	Other Projects: ~\$500

Note:

¹ Only annual membership and the difference between life membership and patron or benefactor membership available for regular expenses.

² Amount is estimate only. Once the convention account is finalized there can be a surplus or shortfall.

³ Champu and Chhanda recording: Approved by GBM 2011.

⁴ \$7500 is already received and rest is expected after the finalization of convention account. The convention committee has till December to finalize the account.

Current Financial Status

All OSA accounts has been transferred from past treasurer's custody to current treasurer's custody. Following are balances in different OSA accounts.

Checking #1 ending with 618:	\$7,330.07
Checking #2 ending with 728:	\$13,965.00
CD #1 (9-month) ending with 599:	\$25,637.43
CD #2 (24-month) ending with 609:	\$62,334.59

A quarterly (July-Sept) income and expense statement will be prepared in October and published in next Utkarsa and posted in OSANet.

New OSA Members (As of August 31st, 2011)

Please join me in welcoming following members to OSA. Also, the reduced OSA life membership of \$200 is available till March, 2012. We should all work towards increasing our permanent members from current 747 to 1000. I request all members to encourage those who are not yet OSA member to take advantage of this opportunity. Also, I request our 5-year members and annual members to upgrade their membership to life membership by paying the difference.

Debasish and Mausumi Chanda, TX, Life Member
 Gautam and Monika Das, TX, Life Member
 Sanjaya Das and Lucy Patnaik, TX , Life Member
 Priyaranjan Dash and Amita Sahu, TX , Life Member
 Sandeep and Mousumi Mahapatra, TX , Life Member
 Suvankar Mishra and Alka Patra, TX , Life Member
 Debasis and Sasmita Mohanty, TX , Life Member
 Jayant and Shernaz Mohanty, TX , Life Member
 Deepak and Prachi Mohapatra, TX , Life Member
 Ashok and Sarojini Nayak, TX , Life Member
 Manoj and Subhashree Nanda, TX , Life Member
 Sribachha and Monalisa Panda, TX , Life Member
 Shovan Prusty and Suchismita Sahoo, TX , Life Member
 Aswinee Rath and Yunuen Perezvertti, TX , Life Member
 Subhendu Rath and Satyasmita Tripathy, TX , Life Member
 Nabaghana and Binita Tripathy, TX , Life Member
 Siddhartha and Ranjeeta Rath, LA , Life Member
 Nalinkant and Suchismita Sahoo, MA , Life Member
 Saradakanta Panda , FL , Life Member
 Dr Sunita Kanumury , NJ , Life Member
 Subrata and Anu Acharya, TX , Life Member
 Pankaj Patra and Chayanika Prusty, TX , Life Member
 Sukant Mohapatra , TX , Life Member
 Pranabesh Dash and Mitali Monalisa, OR, Life Member
 Manoranjan Acharya and Sonia Sahu, OR, 5-year Member
 Suchismita and Gagan Acharya, TX, Annual Member
 Sukanta and Mamta Baliarsingh, TX , Annual Member
 Lisa Bedbak and Ajjai Alva, TX , Annual Member
 Sachidananda and Sumita behera, TX , Annual Member
 Sanjay Bhardwaj, CA , Annual Member

Nil Bisoi and Rashmi Das, TN , Annual Member
 Amitabh and Bratati Das, Karnataka , Annual Member
 Biswajit and Madhusmita (Jinu), TX , Annual Member
 Chinmay and Sumita Das, TX , Annual Member
 Kahnu and Kabita Das, TX , Annual Member
 Priyadarshi Das, TX , Annual Member
 Pravat and Sunita Dash, TX , Annual Member
 Dambaru and Aminah Epili, TX , Annual Member
 Duryodhan and Sabitri Epili, TX , Annual Member
 Anshuman Kar, TX , Annual Member
 Girish Lenka and Jyotshna Jena, TX, Annual Member
 Abinash and Meena Mishra, Alberta , Annual Member
 Sandipan and Asha Mishra, TX , Annual Member
 Soumya and Aurosmitta Mishra, TX , Annual Member
 Subhransu and Sudipta Mishra, Tx , Annual Member
 Subrat Mishra and Kadambari Mishra, CO , Annual Member
 Soumya Mohanty and Lipsa Pattnaik, MA , Annual Member
 Amit and Tanushree Mukherjee, TX , Annual Member
 Satchidananda and Binayani Naik, TX , Annual Member
 Anup Nanda and Aprarajita Mishra, TX , Annual Member
 Sanjeev Nanda and Sima Mishra, TX , Annual Member
 Kashinath and Sandhya Nayak, LA , Annual Member
 Siddhartha and Anuranjita Nayak, FL , Annual Member
 Subrat Pati and Abijita Debata, TX , Annual Member
 Santanu Patra and Suchismita Pradhan, TX , Annual Member
 Subhendu and Niharika Pradhan, TX , Annual Member
 Deepak and Kalpana Rath, TX , Annual Member
 Surath and Sangita Rath, TX , Annual Member
 Ranjan and Smaranika Rout, TX , Annual Member
 Sabeswar and Sujata Rout, TX , Annual Member
 Sandeep Rout and Laika Nayak, TX , Annual Member
 Tapas Sahoo and Smita Sahoo, TX , Annual Member
 Pradipta Sahu and Bharati Sahu, TX , Annual Member
 Sanghamitra Sahu and Srinagesh Tata, TX , Annual Member
 Satya and Subhasmita Sahu, TX , Annual Member
 Girija Samantaray and Sagarika Mishra, TX , Annual Member
 Biswaranjan and Mousumee Jena, TX , Annual Member
 Amit Padhi, TX , Annual Member
 Manoj and Jayanti Dash, AR , Annual Member
 Sangram and Sanchita Panda, VA , Annual Member
 Satya Dutta and Sushri Tripathy, TX, Annual Member
 Sanjukta Satpathy, NE, Annual Member

Update of DOLA (Directory of oDias Living Abroad)

DOLA is the official member registry for OSA. The update of contact details in DOLA is primarily a member responsibility. Members need to communicate to chapter president or

OSA treasurer regarding any changes to their address and/or contact information or they can update those details themselves.

Following are the details as of Aug, 31st 2011:

Life Members: 677
Benefactors: 29
Patrons: 50
5-year Members: 23
Annual Members: 45

Total Members: 824

I am currently verifying the contact details in the directory. Also, I will update chapter affiliation for members based on input from chapter president in the geographic area and wish of the member. I will provide the details regarding the procedure in coming weeks.

Fundraising Plan

Current Flood Relief Effort

OSA has proactively sent \$2500 for flood relief in Odisha through RamaKrishna Mission. Our goal is to raise at least \$10,000 for this effort and send the next installment to Odisha Red Cross Society. As of 9/20/11, I have received checks for \$950 and pledges for another \$400. I will provide you regular updates through OSANet and send it to chapter presidents/representatives. I again appeal for your support for this cause. Please make your donation payable to 'OSA' or 'The Orissa Society of Americas' and mail it to 3916 Gladstone Dr., Naperville, IL 60565.

Chhanda, Champu and Odissi recording

In 2011 GBM passed a resolution that OSA would contribute funds to promote Chhanda, Champu and Odissi music through its chapter by encouraging kids to sing in community events. To achieve that goal we want to record Chhanda, Champu and Odissi music for beginner and intermediate level. Also, we want to keep its cost neutral to organization by raising funds through sponsors in our community and/or selling the produced CD at a nominal price. This will help us to continue to produce artifacts at a regular interval.

Regards,
Sushant Satpathy
Treasurer, OSA
e:susant.satpathy@gmail.com
Cell: 630-430-8258



Outgoing PRESIDENT'S Message

With Every Ending There is A New Beginning

This is a new beginning in OSA. New executives with fresh ideas and new dreams have taken charge as OSA's representatives. Freshness is in the air and this freshness should be nurtured by the members to nurture our society. I welcome the new office bearers Dr Annapurna Pandey, Kuku Das, Leena Mishra and Sushant Satpathy. They have started their job very admirably and I hope you all provide them the same level of support we have received.

My term as the President has ended and I began my role as Immediate Past President for the 2011-2013 terms, from July 4th, 2011. In this role my job is to mentor the new officials and offer a helping hand whenever and wherever needed. Although you won't see me at the front and center much, I will still be around. I feel happy and relieved that I made through two eventful years and accomplished goals that I had set in the beginning. Our good-bye present was a grand celebration, 42nd Annual Convention in Plano, TX. I thank the organizers, the sponsors and the participants for heart touching hospitality and a great show of OSA talents. I feel happy that OSA has been under good leadership and the organization will be taken care of properly.

There are also a few new beginnings in my life and this newness gives me inspiration to appreciate the beauty of this world. Irrespective of my excitement with my new experiments in life, I look forward to maintaining contacts with those I have worked with and those who have given me their well considered thoughts and support during my term.

On a final note, I must say that the OSA's greatest strength is its members. I am hopeful that OSA will continue to be an organization where the executives are closely connected to the membership and the membership is actively participating in ornamenting the organization with grace, growth and glory.

"Let the rich contribute its wealth, let the wise contribute its wisdom, let the honorable contribute its radiance and let OSA glow everyday with newness and vigor with these contributions"

Bigyani Das

ଓସାପାଇଁ ମୋର ଏତିକି କାମନା -
ଓସା ଆମ ପ୍ରକାଶରେ ନିଜ ପରିବାର
ପ୍ରତିରୂପ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ପ୍ରାଣର
ଆସ ସର୍ବେ ମିଳ
ଦେଇ ନିଜ ଶକ୍ତି
ଜ୍ଞାନୀର ଜ୍ଞାନରେ
ଧନୀର ଧନରେ
ମାନୀର ମାନରେ
ଉଦିତ କରିବା ଆମେ ସଭାଗ୍ୟ ରବି
ସୌନ୍ଦର୍ଯ୍ୟ, ସମୃଦ୍ଧି ଆଉ ସମ୍ମାନରେ
ହସାଇବା ନିରନ୍ତର ଓସା ନବରବି ।



Outgoing VICE PRESIDENT'S 2011 Award Report

OSA 2011 AWARDS

We thank all the award coordinators, participants and award sponsors for their support on successful implementation of award process. Several awards could not be given because of lack of participation. Congratulations to all the awardees.

Distinguished Oriya Award: Saradindu Mishra, NJ

Mr. Saradindu Misra came to the United States in the year 1971. Soon after his arrival in the U.S.A., he became a member of the Orissa Society of the Americas which was just started a couple of years before. He passed his M.S. in Management in the year 1976 from famous Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn (now Polytechnic University of New York). Subsequently he joined the Computer Language Research Inc., Micro Vision Software, Inc. in Long Island and UNICEF in New York City before retiring in the year 2005.



Mr. Mishra is very passionate about literature and Oriya culture. He is a prolific writer. He has written extensively in almost all the OSA journals, covering different aspects of life of the immigrant Oriyas. He was editor of Oriya monthly newsletters for many years. He is the only person who documented the history of OSA, its formation and progress through the years, in the OSA journal, and is aptly called the historian of OSA. He was the OSA editor during 1987-89. He also shared the responsibility of editing the OSA journals many times. Recently Mr. Misra was the editor-in-chief of the OSA journal in 2009.

In early 70's no Indian programs were aired in the radio. The Indian Association of Columbia University was the first organization which started airing Indian radio programs in the year 1972, giving different Indian communities a chance to broadcast programs in

their regional languages. Saradindu Babu joined the band wagon, with wife Lata, and started the first weekly Oriya radio program that year. Such programs continued for more than five years and became an eagerly-awaited event among the Oriya families of the tri-state area.

Mr. Mishra, born to a family devoted to social work, is an ardent social worker. He has been contributing in a regular manner for the benefit of less fortunate children at Anath Ashram (Thakkar Bapa Children's Home) in Choudwar, Orissa. Mr. Misra also contributes for a school in Orissa. Mr. Misra is a champion of higher education. As many of the talented students are not financially strong, during 80's he came up with the idea of having three scholarships established in the then universities in Orissa. With a lot of convincing debates with the members of the local chapter he helped establishing these scholarships. Since then many students are getting benefited.

When no other chapter of OSA wanted to take the responsibility of holding the convention in 2003, Saradindu Babu came forward against all the odds to take that responsibility. With the help of a few friends, Mr Misra as convener of 2003 OSA convention hosted a magnificent convention in Princeton, NJ which was attended by some 600 Oriyas.

Saradindu Babu is a man of utmost honesty and integrity. He played a vital role in merging OSANY and OSANJ, two competing OSA Chapters in Greater New York area into one OSA chapter named as OSANY-NJ.

Kalashree Award: Jyoti Rout, CA

Guru Jyoti Rout is the founder director of Jyoti Kala Mandir, College of Indian Classical Arts. She is actively engaged in spreading awareness and appreciation of this ancient art form on the far side of the globe. She has received her training in Odissi dance at Utkal Sangeet Mahavidyalay, Bhubaneswar.



She is a truly gifted performer and choreographer. To witness her dance is to see the ancient temple sculptures come to life. She is most appreciated for her abhinaya. She moves between rage, love, fear and amusement with ease, moving you to empathize with each character. Even within each emotion she conveys the subtle nuances, those imperceptible shifts in feeling - with clarity and genuineness.

She has choreographed more than 50 new odissi items based on odissi traditional music. She is the recipient of an award for her outstanding choreography from the prestigious Ethnic Dance Festival at San Francisco (USA) in 2006. She has been honored by several National and International awards from

around the globe including Pride of India National Award, Shrishetra Mahari Award from Jagannath Puri, Shrestha Odiani and OSA Kalashree award.

Guru Jyoti Rout is an inspired teacher. She has shaped her students into great dancers, several of whom have chosen to move across the country to study with her. She has trained a number of students for their Ranga Puja, many of whom have become successful soloists and Odissi dance teachers. It is fascinating to watch her transform her students, most often from a western ethos, into dancers having the consciousness, sensibility and body language of an Odissi dancer. She teaches Odissi as a spiritual practice, emphasizing relaxation, mindfulness and focus while engaging in rigorous physical practice.

As Brenda Payton of the Oakland Tribune (News paper) rightly observed "Jyoti Rout has no interest in simply making beautiful dances, even though by all accounts her performances are stunningly beautiful. She's after something more profound. As a dancer, choreographer, and teacher of Odissi dance...she is trying to channel and communicate the essence of spirituality." Shyamahari Chakra of THE HINDU (News Paper) said "Ambassador of Odissi Dance".

Special Note

1. No nominations/applications were received for the following Award categories.

- Utkala Mani Gopabandhu Das Memorial Award
- Youth Volunteer Award
- Yuva Kala Vikash Award

2. The following Award categories were canceled due to lack of qualified applications.

- Subrina Biswal Award for Academic Excellence
- Kalinga Youth Entrepreneurship Award

Our sincere thanks are due to OSA 2011 Award Committee members Mr. Saurjya Kanta Khandai, Mrs. Rosalin Samantray and Mrs. Minakshi Panigrahy for diligently carrying out the Award selection processes. Special thanks to Mr. Manoj Mahapatra for guiding the Award Committee in the advisory capacity. We also thank the sponsors Dr Nilambar and Anu Biswal, and Dr Sitakantha Dash for sponsoring Subrina Biswal Award for Academic Excellence, and Sradhananda Mishra for sponsoring Kalinga Youth Entrepreneurship Award. We thank Dr Ranjan Dash, the coordinator of Kalinga Youth Entrepreneurship Award.

Meghna Memorial Award for Creative Writing

Senior Category (age group 13 - 18 years):

- 1st Prize - Sweta Pratyasha Sahu
- 2nd Prize - Ayesha Mishra
- 3rd Prize - Neha Satapathy

Junior Category (age group 7 - 12 years):

- 1st Prize - Aarushi Nayak
- 2nd Prize - Disha Das
- 3rd Prize - Kareena Mohapatra

Note: Our sincere thanks to OSA Convention Souvenir Committee volunteers for executing the program, parents for encouraging young kids to participate and 'Meghna Memorial Trust' for sponsoring this Award.

Subrina Biswal Awards (Performing Arts)

Junior Category:

- 1st Prize: Devak Nanda
- 2nd Prize: Meghna Sahoo, Neha Khuntia, Megha Khuntia
- 3rd Prize: Yogesh Mohapatra

Senior Category:

- 1st Prize: Shweta Sahu
- 2nd Prize: Ishani Sahoo, Malina Maharana, Simantini Mitra-Behura, Smruti Rath
- 3rd Prize: Abhishek Routray

Note: Our sincere thanks to OSA Convention volunteers for executing the program, parents for encouraging young kids to participate and Dr Nilambar and Anu Biswal for sponsoring this Award.

Odia Debate Competition (13 - 18yrs)

- 1st Prize: Abhinav Mohapatra
- 2nd Prize: Sonakshee Shree
- 3rd Prize: Shweta Sahu

Odia Poetry Recital (< 6yrs)

- 1st Prize: Akhilesh Mishra
- 2nd Prize: Swayam Rath
- 3rd Prize: Ipsa Prusty

Odia Poetry Recital (7 - 12yrs)

- 1st Prize: Shreya Prachurjya
- 2nd Prize: Mallesh Maharana
- 3rd Prize: Samay Shashwat Sahoo

Note: Our sincere thanks to OSA Convention volunteers for executing the program, parents for encouraging young kids to participate and “Puspalakshmi Sahu Trust” for sponsoring Odia Debate/Poetry Awards.

Champu, Chhanda Awards

- 1st Prize: Elora Mohanty
- 2nd Prize: Ananya Kar
- 3rd Prize: Simoni Mishra

Note: Our sincere thanks to OSA Convention volunteers for executing the program, parents for encouraging young kids to participate and Mrs. Lata Misra for sponsoring Champu/Chhanda Award.

Life Time Achievement Awards

1. **Shantanu Mohapatra** is one of the rarest gems in the ocean of Odisha’s own music tradition. An alumnus of IIT, Kharagpur (1957); a distinguished Geoscientist by profession who believes in rapid socio-economic development through planned large scale exploration and exploitation of the vast and varied mineral wealth, our state is endowed with. Shantanu Mohapatra, a born singer who as a music director has composed the first ever Ballad Song in oDiA i.e., “Konark Gaathaa”(1956) sung by the legendary Akshaya Mohanty and “Kaali Jaai” (1962)sung by Sikandar Alam. For the first time he introduced legendary Bollywood Greats, Lata Mangeshkar, Md. Rafi & Manna Dey into oDiA film music for



'Suryamukhi' (1963) and 'Arundhati' (1967). The music of those two films is considered as the milestone in oDiA film music. He is the only oDiA Composer to have composed Geet & Ghazals for Doordarshan, New Delhi.

A Rare Feet indeed, especially when considered in terms of his 50 long years of Creative Music Composition & Direction of "All the Hues" from "Light Classical" to "Traditional Folk", "Devotional" and Modern/ Sugam Categories, over 1900 songs tuned and over 108 Singers taught by him by 2009.

Please see the following links for more info on Mr. Mohapatra

<http://cinemasagar.com/2011/05/santanu-mohapatra/>

<http://www.odisha360.com/infopedia/4/254/shantanu-mohapatra>

2. Chitaranjan Jena's musical career spanning over four decades has been a saga of melodious music in oriya film industry. His melody continues to enthrall the Odia audience for last four decades. He is more known for his romantic voice among the



young generation. Born in 1941, he was highly inspired towards music from his parents, Jadumani Jena and Hemanta Kumari Jena. Though he is considered to be a born singer, he received his training in music from guru Sri Pandit Bhubaneswar Mishra.

He stepped into Oriya music industry as a playback singer in 1965 in film "Mana Akasha" music directed by Upendra Kumar and since 1965 his popular discs are "Najare naja gori bali jatra dekhi", "E parabata kunchi kunchi ka"..

along with some all time great film hits "Mo priya tharu kie adhika sundara". This is the song, which brought him him a recognition as a romantic melodious singer.

Its said that his GAYAKI is never straight forward, but with full of minor mids "HARKATEIN". The specialty in those mids are the style and taste of odishi, which differentiate him from others. Like every regional song has its own tune which manifests its culture, Chitta Jena's voice reflects this philosophy about music of Orissa. This was rightly understood by the legendary music director Sri Prafulla Kar and in all his music, he has rightly utilized this voice from the beginning, even in Oriya qawalis like "Tuma Sadhee ra Ranga Nakali" - film Sindoor Bindu.

In his career span, Chita Bhai has rendered voice most often under Prafulla Kar's music. This duo has not only produced melodious songs, but also set up a special category of songs in the music industry. Who can forget songs like "Dekhi se bana mali Radha hele batuli", "Manika alo alo manika", "Dhali dia sara" and many other. He also had the opportunity to work under the music direction of Sri Upendra

Kumar, Sri Bhubaneswar Mishra, Sri Sribasta Pattnaik, Sri Rakhal Mohanty, Sri Basudev Ratha and Sri Akshay Mohanty.

Currently he is residing along with his family in Cuttack, and spends his time in his own recording studio and performing various programs in and out of Orissa and abroad. As a person he is extremely generous and very friendly and at the same time very emotional. People have seen tears in his eyes while singing the famous song "Kahin gale shyama ghana" - film Bandhu Mohanty at a cultural program in Puri.

Although he is known as an inborn artist and made endless contribution to the Oriya music industry, as usual, he is ignored by all the concerned bodies for the kind of recognition he deserves.

OSA 2011 Appreciation Awards

Following OSA Appreciation Awards were presented to OSA members for their support and service to OSA in essential roles. Congratulations and Thank You!

Award Type	Name	Details
Life Time Service Award	Drs Uma B and Shanti Mishra	For years of service to OSA in many roles and continuous support
Life Time Service Award	Saradindu and Lata Misra	For years of service to OSA in many roles and continuous support
Life Time Service Award	Dr Nilambar and Anu Biswal	For years of service to OSA in many roles and continuous support
Life Time Service Award	Dr Sitakantha and Kalpana Dash	For years of service to OSA in many roles and continuous support
OSA Service Award	Bibek Das	Editor, OSA Annual Souvenir (2010)
OSA Service Award	Dr Babru Samal	For creating lasting OSA memories with photography
Cultural Excellence Award	Gayatri Joshi	Cultural Coordinator, 2010 OSA Annual Convention
OSA Communication Award	Sunil Sabat	OSAnet Chairman, 2011
OSA Dignity Service Award	Sradhananda Mishra	Chair, OSA Defense Committee, 2009-2011
OSA Service Leadership Award	Dr Priyadarsan Patra	Coordinator, New Chapter, Pacific Northwest Chapter, 2011
OSA Service Leadership Award	Sandip Dasverma	Co-Coordinator, New Chapter, Pacific Northwest Chapter, 2011
New Chapter Certificate	Pacific Northwest Chapter	
OSA Positive Image	Dhirendra Kar	For continuous OSA support and creating

Award		positive image of OSA in Orissa through NROFC
OSA Positive Image Award	Purna Mohanty	Creating positive OSA image in Orissa through Invest Bhubaneswar Symposiums
OSA Service Award	Dr Durga Mishra	Election Committee Member, OSA Election 2011
OSA Service Award	Dr Abani Patra	Election Committee Member, OSA Election 2011
OSA Service Award	Hara Narayan Padhi	Election Committee Member, OSA Election 2011
OSA Service Leadership Award	Tapan Padhi	Convener, 2011 OSA Convention
OSA Service Leadership Award	Debasis Nanda	Co-Convener, 2011 OSA Convention
OSA Service Leadership Award	Dr Gopal Mohapatra	Chapter President, Host Chapter (South West Chapter), 2011 OSA Convention
Service Innovation Award	Dr Julie Acharya Ray	Editor, OSA Newsletter, 2009-2011
Oriya Cultural Icon and Appreciation Award	Mrs Jharana Das	For Life Time Service and Contribution to Oriya Culture
Appreciation Award	Ghanashyam Mohapatra	For Service and Contribution to Oriya Culture
Appreciation Award	Satyananda Mishra	Chief Speaker, OSA 2011 Convention
Appreciation Award	Minati Mishra	For Service and Contribution to Odissi and Folk Dance
Appreciation Award	Jagi Mangat Panda	Keynote Speaker, OSA 2011 Convention
Appreciation Award	Jim McDermott	Keynote Speaker, OSA 2011 Convention

Outgoing SECRETARY'S 2011 GBM Minutes

Reported by: Pradeep Mohapatra

GENERAL BODY MEETING OF OSA

July 3rd, 2011

Main Ballroom, Marriot at Legacy Town Center

Plano, Texas

Time: 11:40 AM-1:45 PM

Present in the Podium:

Dr Bigyani Das (President): BD

Pradeep Mohapatra (Vice-President): PM

Dr Akhileswar Patel (Treasurer): APL

Sunil Sabat (OSAnet Chairman) as Sgt-At-Arms: SS

Dr Lalu Mansinha (Parliamentarian): LM

Attendance: Around 150 at the start of the meeting and 65 towards the end. There was some inflow and outflow of members in the interim period.

Official in charge of the Floor: Lalatendu Mohanty, Chapter President of NYNJ chapter and BOG member was handling questions from the floor.

(This minutes is prepared by Pradeep Mohapatra, Vice-President of OSA and has been communicated to the above members present in the podium and the current officials of OSA).

Meeting started with the call to order by Mr Sunil Sabat, chairman of OSAnet

President's Report

President Bigyani Das presented the agenda of the meeting.

Then she read the Good OSA Member pledge before presenting the report about the state of OSA. She congratulated the convention organizers for a successful convention and thanked the coordinators of two new chapters, Grand Canyon Chapter and Pacific Northwest chapter that were formed during the administration. She also congratulated all the BOG members and other volunteer members for working hard and overtime for coming up with a final modified draft for the constitution.

The president then announced the parliamentarian Dr Lalu Mansinha.

Vice-President's Report

Vice-President Pradeep Mohapatra announced recognition awards for OSA members that have contributed significantly for the betterment of the society during the current administration. A few members were recognized for their lifelong contribution. They were Drs Uma and Shanti Mishra, Dr Nilamber and Anu Biswal, Dr Sitakantha and Kalpana Dash and Saradindu and Lata Misra.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Pitambar Sarangi was absent as he was out of the country and had shared his report that was read by Akhileswar Patel summarizing the activities. The BOG meeting minutes were regularly published in OSA newsletters. Secretary's report was accepted unanimously. The motion was brought by Digambar Mishra and Dharendra Kar seconded it.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer report was presented by Akhileswar Patel.

Prabir Dash asked about the legal breakdown cost. Manoj Padhi also asked "Give the breakdown of Legal expenses"? Lal Mohanty questioned "What is the Total Legal Expenses"? Akhil Patel replied with following details:

The total dollar amount paid to Richard B Rosenblatt was \$70,105.19, on following dates:

12/10/09	\$5000.00
2/5/10	\$4522.82
3/18/10	\$5395.30
4/21/10	\$6000.00
5/20/10	\$6000.00
6/18/10	\$6000.00
6/30/10	\$ 783.00
7/27/10	\$6000.00
8/26/10	\$6000.00
9/29/10	\$6000.00
11/16/10	\$6000.00
1/30/11	\$6000.00
4/11/11	\$6404.07

BK Rath commented against publishing the names of people who pledged but did not honor it.

Shanti Mishra brought the motion to approve Treasurer Report and Suniti Behera seconded it. Motion carried.

On the topic of "pledge to cover legal expenses" Sandeep Dasverma suggested to do a follow up call with the members".

CA convention had a surplus which had helped OSA in managing the annual expense. Everybody appreciated the fundraising committee and the financial committee of CA convention and their prompt action as regards clearing up the convention account.

Modified Constitution (Presented by Bigyani Das)

Bigyani Das presented the modified constitution and highlighted the parts that are modified from the previous constitution. She stated the legal formalities that are involved in the name change by substituting “Odisha” in place of “Orissa” in the name of the society “The Orissa Society of the Americas”. This would include a new registration, a new EIN number, legal expenses and some paper work.

BK Rath proposed to table the name change, start discussion on email/web later.” LM suggested, in Canada if a new name for the Organization is registered then old Organization could be added to the new one as a subset.

LM conducted the discussion part of the constitution. There have been discussions on various aspects of the constitution revision in which Chitta Baral, Somdutt Behura, Dharendra Kar, Pratap Das, Saradindu Misra, Uma Misra, Digambar Misra, Shanti Misra, Hara Padhi, Shradhananda Misra, Annapurna Pandey, Suniti Behera etc. participated. Most of the discussion was centered on the disciplinary action in which Mihir Dash, Hara Mishra, Manoj Padhi were vocal.

After about one hour of discussion finally the proposal to accept the constitution as it is was brought by Dharendra Kar as a main motion. This was seconded by Pratap Das and was voted by the majority present in the meeting during that time.

For: 46: Against: 6, Others abstained

Topic: Rename Kalashree Award to “Arun Das Memorial Kalashree Award”

Motion was brought by Saradindu Misra & Dharendra Kar seconded it. The motion was approved unanimously.

Topic: Drama Festival

- a) OSA Regional Drama Festivals become an annual event.
- b) The OSA Executive Body and Board of Governors will select three coordinator(s) and announce the names at the General Body Meeting.
- c) After initial appointment, each year one of the coordinators retires so the participation spreads to new volunteers and geographical areas.
- d) Pratap Das brought the motion and Debaki Nandan Chowdhury seconded it.

Topic: Champu Chhanda

OSA shall take additional initiative to invest some funds for creation of karaoke music for Champu, Chhanda and Odissi. This will help the aspirants for this initiative to practice on their own, since we do not have teachers in this area throughout the country.

Saradindu Misra brought the motion and Dhira Kar seconded it.

Next Year's Convention

President Bigyani Das declared next year's convention to be held in Seattle by Pacific Northwest chapter. This was approved unanimously.

Welcome of the Incoming OSA Officials

Bigyani Das welcomed the incoming officials of OSA Dr Annapurna Pandey, Kuku Das, Leena Mishra and Sushant Satpathy and invited them to the podium. She presented the new officials OSA parliamentary plaque as a symbol to preserve the values of the society and take care of the organizational dignity. Dr Annapurna Pandey introduced her staff members and declared the reduced life membership fee of \$200. She asked for every member's help in taking the organization forward.

Topic: Grievance Committee

Dr Annapurna Pandey announced the members of the Grievance Hearing Committee as Nick Pattnaik

Dr Panchanan Satpathy

Dr Anjalika Patnaik

Hara Padhi brought the motion and Babru Samal seconded it. It was accepted unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at about 1:45 PM.



Outgoing TREASURER'S Report

Following is the Account summary of OSA presented at the General Body Meeting of 42nd OSA Convention at Dallas, TX. The details of the account were discussed and approved by the GBM. This was also audited by Raj Maruvada & Associates, P.C. on 5/14/2011.

The Orissa Society of Americas
Receipts and Payments July 1, 2010 to April 30,2011

Receipts:(\$)	Payments:(\$)
Membership Fees: 3,210.00	Program related expense: 1,075.16
Donations : 8,284.00	Legal fees: 37,187.07
Interest Income: 1,260.31	Election expenses: 680.63
Donation Returned: 6,000.00	Convention advance: 10,000.00
Incentive from Bank: 50.00	Postage and printing: 1,773.68
Receipts from 2010 Convention: 12,562.72	
Total Receipts: 31,367.03	Total Payments: 50,716.68

- Excess of Receipts over Payments: (19, 346.65)
- Current Assets as of 8/31/2011 (\$)
- Checking A/C: 7,830.07
- Fixed Deposit : 25,631.81
- Fixed Deposit : 62,224.67

Total: 95,686.55

The OSA account has already been transferred to the signatory of incoming Treasurer Mr. Sushant Satpathy via Bank to Bank Transfer Process.

Akhileswar Patel
Outgoing Treasurer of OSA.

OSA 2011 CONVENTION REPORTS

42ND ANNUAL OSA CONVENTION (An Overall Report)

A Texas Size Meet: the Largest and Best Gathering of Odias outside India



By Tapan Padhi (OSA 2011 Convenor)

Any Texan can tell you that the biggest and best of anything and everything is in Texas, and if it is not, it should be. The 42nd Annual Convention of the Orissa Society of the Americas (www.OSA11.org) concluded in Plano, a northern suburb of Dallas, Texas on July 4, 2011. And, true to the culture of Texas, it was the largest (900 + attendees) and the best of all OSA conventions so far, with a very successful and widely praised business symposium; back to back high quality cultural presentations on stage with artistes from Odisha, and home grown artistes from America; complete with academic

seminars ranging from Higher Education to Women's Issues. The pride in Odisha and her culture was palpable in the ambience.



(Inaugural Stage)

(Wasitrac co-chair Mr Debadutt Dash, Hon'ble congressman Mr. Jim Mcdermott, co-convenor Mr Debasis Nanda)



This OSA2011 is remarkable in that a ranking member of the House, Honorable Congressman Jim McDermott, as the Chief Keynote speaker of the convention, not only knows Odisha and of Odisha, visited Odisha, talked about the up and coming Odisha of the future, and invited the next OSA2012 to his home state of Washington. Mr. McDermott, Congressman from the Seventh Congressional District of Washington State, is a member of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee, and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Trade, and founder and Co-Chair of the Congressional India and Indian-American Caucus. He is indeed a friend of Odisha at high places. Mr. McDermott has been to India 22 times. He spoke fondly of Odisha, and of his discussions with CM Sri Naveen Patnaik and other government and business leaders. He said he intends to visit Odisha many more times. But he also directed Odias in the US to do more in getting Odisha known in the US. He said 'You cannot expect people to invest in a place they never heard of'. In response to Congressman McDermott's invitation, OSA2012 will be in Seattle, Washington.



(Guruji Shri CB Satapathy inaugurating 42nd OSA Convention, accompanied by Convener Tapan Padhi, co-convener Debasis Nanda)



(President Dr. Bigyani Das) (Mr Satyanand Misra, Mr. Shantanu Mohapatra, Ms. Jagi Mangat Panda) (Incoming President Dr. Annapurna Pandey)

The convention was inaugurated by lighting the lamp and offering prayer to Lord Jagannath by Guruji Shri CB Satapathy who talked about cultural heritage and bright future of the OSA. Legendary Music director Mr. Shantanu Mohapatra was the chief guest. Ms. Jagi Mangat Panda, CEO, Ortel and OdishaTV was the Chief keynote speaker - youth and Mr. Satyananda Mishra, Chief Information Commissioner of India attended the convention as the chief speaker. Lifetime achievement award was conferred on Shri Shantanu Mohapatra and famous legendary odia singer icon Shri Chitaranjan Jena. President award winner and producer – director of Odia film “Kanaka Lata”, Mr. Ghanashyam Mohapatra was awarded and recognized on stage for his contribution to Odia cinema by OSA past president Mr. Sitakantha Dash.



(Ms Jagi Mangat Panda and Mr. Satyanand Misra speaking during OSA inauguration)

(OSA Vice-President Mr Pradeep Mohapatra) (42nd OSA Convention Audience)



The Odisha Delegation to OSA2011 in Dallas was led by Shri Surya Narayan Patro, Minister of Revenue and Disaster Management. Other delegates were Shri T. Ramachandru, Industries Secretary; Shri C. J. Venugopal, MD, IPICOL and Dr. Dhanada Mishra, Co-Chairman, Invest Bhubaneswar along with many young Odia entrepreneurs from Orissa. The organizing team of business symposium led by Ashok Khuntia, Deepak Mohapatra, Gopal Mohapatra, Satyakam Nanda and Sribachha Panda did a wonderful job.

Noteworthy is the presence of the Odia entrepreneurs in the business symposium with multinational companies, with presence in Odisha, US, Canada and the Middle-east. Just a few years ago Odisha came as a supplicant, to invite foreign investment to exploit her resources. This time there has been a subtle shift, in that there is a two way movement of investment. In fact many of the main sponsors of the OSA2011 are from outside US: grand sponsor Mr. Akshay Kumar Parija, of Blue Line Shipping, is from the Middle-East; diamond sponsor Mr. Subhas Bhura, of Utkal Builders is from Bhubaneswar; gold sponsor Mr. Nihar Samantara, of IGNIS technology is from Bangalore; Mr. Sradhananda Mishra, of CSDC Systems, started in Canada, but now has offices in US and India; Mr. Dharendra Kar, of BI Professionals, is in US and Odisha. Individuals and companies are to be commended for the support of community events and the support of arts and culture of Odisha.



(OSA 11 inaugural cultural program – “our heritage our pride”)

The inauguration program on Saturday morning “Mahanadi Bahe Dhire” was spellbinding, composed by legendary music director Shantanu Mohapatra and choreographed by local artists under the able supervision of cultural committee chair Tapas Sahoo and advisor Swati Tripathy, depicted the rich heritage of the places where the river Mahanadi has flown in. More than seventy participants played a role in the presentation of Orissa’s rich heritage. The theme “Akshaya Amara Aama Gouraba” – “our heritage our pride” was very nicely portrayed with a strong historical content presentation and displayed during inauguration. The custom stage was thoroughly occupied all the days having one performance to other. Everyone enjoyed the kaleidoscope of performing arts from traditional and contemporary artists. As per Dr. Chitta Baral, “The haunting theme line was "Mahanadi bahe dheere". It was played more than fifteen times and the music and its articulation in the stage still haunt me. The opening cultural program was one of the best opening cultural programs I have seen in OSA and by far the most educative one narrating the history and geography of all parts of Odisha. My hats off to all involved in various aspects of that program.” Tapas Sahoo, Swati Tripathy, Niranjana Tripathy, Subhendu Rath, Debashis Chanda, Saroj Mohapatra, Niki Rout, Liza Nanda, Sanghamitra Sahoo, Iti Behera, Prachi Mohapatra, Sandip Mohapatra and about seventy participants have put countless hours in scripting, choreography and practice sessions to put-together such marvellous show.

Youth participants took the center stage in the inaugural and closing ceremonies. Youth teams led by Reena Patro, Tapannita Padhi, Ravi Epili, Mikash Das, Raj Patro conducted a semi-parallel convention for the youth attendees designed and executed by the youth group which included youth seminars, soccer game, odia jeopardy, BBQ dinner etc. Continuous programs in parallel featuring both cultural and seminars like OSA GOT Talent, Youth Mentorship Seminar, Industrial Seminar, Spiritual Discourse by Guruji Shri CB Satapathyji, Seminar on Youth Career, Complimentary Photo session for OSA attendees, education seminar, health seminar and OSA 2011 Ping Pong Tourney organized by Omkar Rath made it difficult for the attendees to choose which one to attend. OSA Got talent, Subrina Biswal competition of performing arts were presented by our talented youth. NYNJ chapter represented by Lalatendu Mohanty, Eva Mohanty and other talented actors won the best drama in Pramod Patnaik inter chapter drama competition.

On Saturday evening at OSA2011 there were gasps of amazement and tears in the eyes of many, to see an artiste dance and prance his way into the hearts of the audience. He is Guru Nityananda Das, perhaps the only professional Odissi dancer in the world, with only one leg. He was a brilliant young dancer, with a promising future, developing a career in film, television and stage, winning awards in 1997 and 1998. Then his world collapsed, when he lost his right leg in a hit and run, at the age of 25. After the accident, he was like a broken doll. He has overcome his disability, and with a dancer’s agility, on the stage in Dallas along with Guru Shri Bijaya Dash and Guru Shri Amulya Balabantaray, re-enacted the story of his life. In rehab, he stumbles and falls repeatedly. In utter hopelessness, in despair, on the brink of suicide, he received divine inspiration, and persevered. What we see is the fluidity of Odissi dance, executed with one leg. That Nityananda could achieve this with the handicap is a tribute to human spirit. The

audience gave him a standing ovation, many shedding tears of admiration. Organizers thanked past president Pratap Das for his active support and guidance in organizing such a program. Right from inception some 42 years ago, the OSA has supported the classical performing arts of Odisha, providing a US and Canadian performance experience to many singers and dancers. The appearance on the OSA Convention stage is usually a kickoff to a US and Canada tour, with performances at major centers. Composer and music director Shri Santanu Mohapatra and group, devotional dancers Purnashree Rout and Lucky Mohanty, Shipra Mehrortra, Aparupa presented a veritable feast for our eyes and ears. Home-grown talent in singing, music and dance were exceptionally impressive which included talented youth singer of Nashville, Pratik Dash. Lata Mishra conducted a singing competition for the youth in singing *chhanda* and *champu*, two art forms rarely heard in Odisha these days. Yet there they were on stage, Odia youth growing up in US, with sweet rendering of the roots of centuries old Odia traditional songs. It was a lovely feast for the ears. Odissi icon Smt. Minati Mishra at her age presenting an Abhinaya was superb even without any proper costume.



(Odia children singing Champu, Chhanda, Odissi songs) Dr. Minati Misra: Abhinaya
(Gifted Odissi dancer Shri Nityananda Das)

A major highlight of this year's convention was the celebration of 75 years of Odiya cinema. It has been a long journey for Odiya cinema which started in 1936 with the first film 'Sita Bibaha'. To mark this occasion, Houston Odiya presented a feature 'Ollywood Journey: 75 years of Odiya Cinema'. Using live performance and clips from movies of seven decades, they took us down the memory lane. The glimpses into the change that odia movies went through over these 75 years were nostalgic and entertaining. The mythological and religious theme in fifties and sixties changed to social and familial in seventies and eighties which then turned more action and entertainment oriented in the Nineties and the first decade of 2011. From black and white to color, from a relatively low entropy state with less body movements to a high entropy state with bone breaking movements, from implicit dialogues to explicit dialogues – Ollywood movies have gone through it all - which was fantastically portrayed in this presentation. Under the direction and screenplay of Gopal Mohapatra, and editing of Santanu Patra, the combination of live performance and visual projections entertained the audience from the beginning to the end. As a salute to Odiya cinema, legendary personalities who have

brought laurels to Odiya cinema, Mr. Shantanu Mohapatra, an accomplished music director, composer and lyricist was honored with a lifetime achievement award and Mr. Ghanashyam Mohapatra, who first brought national and international fame to Odiya cinema with his film 'Kanakalata' and later produced a lot of documentaries including one on Odissi, was honored with a distinguished service award.

From the very old Odisha to the very modern India - Shri Satyananda Mishra, Chief Information Commissioner of India, spoke on the revolutions towards good governance brought about by the Right To Information (RTI) Act. This powerful law is bringing about fundamental changes in the way India is governed.

Well organized seminars led by Smarak Bhuyan, Sukanta Mohapatra, Sandip Dasverma, Kailash Sahoo included total sixteen hours of eight different parallel sessions on Odia Literature, on Higher Education, on Role of NGOs, health seminars etc. The Women's Forum was crowded, with standing room only. A Mexican videographer, Yunuen Perez Vertti and her husband Aswinee Rath, launched *Aparajita*, a video highlighting lives and times three inspiring women, newspaper editor Manorama Mohapatra, freedom fighter and social worker Annapurna Moharana and tribal leader Tulsi Munda. It is a view of the leaders in our midst with new eyes. The three could be your grandmother or mine, but their gentle demeanour hides a lifelong hard push for social reforms. Many young women, and men, grown up in the luxury, were moved by the message of the three remarkable women.

Sri Gopal Mohanty spoke on the rural revolution being brought forth by the Mahila Shanti Sena, supported in part by the Gandhi Peace Institute of McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada.

Seminar on Propagating Odia Literature, Arts & Culture was chaired by Sura Rath. Invited famous author from Orissa Paramita Tripathy - Commissioner Income Tax, Govt of India - discussed "Mo Mati, Mo Shruti: Native Odia Tradition and the Individual Talent". Award-winning writer Yashodhara Mishra talked about "Odia Mati, Ma aau Sahitya". OSA national co-ordinator Brajendra Panda talked on Propagating Odia Performing Art in US and OSA Drama Festival. These presentations were followed by book signing by the authors and books by Paramita Tripathy, Yashodhara Mishra, and Dr. Bhubaneswar Behera were made available for purchase. Debadutta Dash - Founder of WASITRAC) talked on Partnership & Collaboration Between US & Odisha - A Path Forward. Nihar Samantara, CEO, Ignis Technology talked on "For an Entrepreneur in India - Opportunities and Issues". Sradhananda Mishra, CEO, CSDC Systems "Entrepreneurship in North America Model that can be used in Odisha". This session was moderated by Dambaru Epili and sponsored by "The Orissa Foundation - Devi and Sarojini Misra. Dr. Siddhartha Rath, Trauma Surgeon, Alexandria, LA talked on Opportunities in the Health Care Career - You can make a difference. "Who decides my Career" - moderated discussion on "Pursuing my dreams, dealing with Parent Pressure and Peer Pressure" were presented by Ankita Patro, Reena Patro and Tapannita Padhi.

New executive of OSA took office at Dallas for next two years. The baton was passed by outgoing OSA President Dr. Bigyani Das, vice-president Mr. Pradeep Mohaptara,

Treasurer Mr. Akhileswar Patel, Secretary Mr. Pitambar Sarangi to the new President Dr. Annapurna Pandey and her team: Ms. Kuku Das, Vice President; Ms. Leena Mishra, Secretary and Mr. Susant Satpathy as Treasurer.

The mood was always festive with warm ambience. The decoration team of Sheffy Das, Shernaz Mohanty, Monika Das presented a rich Odia aura in the facility including the ball room, dining hall, registration desk etc. Each day started with Bhajan, Yoga classes, poetry reading session coordinated by Debaki Chowdhury, Tiki Mishra and Bigyani Das which attracted many interested participants. Sumptuous food was abundant and was served until midnight and the whole delivery was well designed and coordinated by Pankaj Patra, Subrat Acharya, Sukant Mohapatra, Jagannath Rath and Hari Patro. The registration and finance team led by Loknath Patro and SriPrakash Das, Sandipan Mishra, Pradeepta Sahoo conducted the smooth process for all three days. Excellent journal and directory were edited and published in time by chief editor Sikhanda Satapathy and Editors Prachee Behera, Ashapurna Mishra. This convention had the most appealing website designed by Santanu Das. Logistics team led by Suvankar Misra and Manoj Nanda were seen busy all three days. Shovan Prusty and Archana Rath arranged for a makeshift daycare for the convenience of parents. Photography team led by Satchi Naik was busy arranging complimentary photograph by a professional photographer for each family as it is done in a cruise ship. Guruji Shri CB Satapathy's presence brought a pious atmosphere during the convention. The spiritual discourse and Jagannath puja at the DFW temple was well coordinated by Mousumee and Biswa Jena. A NIT Rourkela alumnus meeting was conducted by Jayant Mohanty, Sairam Behera, Ashutosh Dutta, Hari Patro, Sandip Dasverma et al. It was heartening to see so many tireless volunteers putting countless hours to look after every minute detail in organizing a grand scale convention.



(Shantanu Mohapatra)



(Prasant Muduli)



(Anindita Das)

As a feather in the cap, this convention had the largest number of legendary guest artists from Orissa in a live music orchestra setting with composer Shantanu Mohapatra and with Singers Chitta Jena, Prasanta Mudaly, Sangeeta Mohapatra (Gosain), Anindita Das and award winning musicians Barada Patnaik, Basant Tihady, Pradeep Gurwara, Premshankar Dash and Ajit Anand Dev Goswami unlike any previous Conventions.



(Sangita Mahapatra(Gosain)(Chitaranjan Jena) (Premsankar Dash(kabu), Ajitananda Dev Goswami)

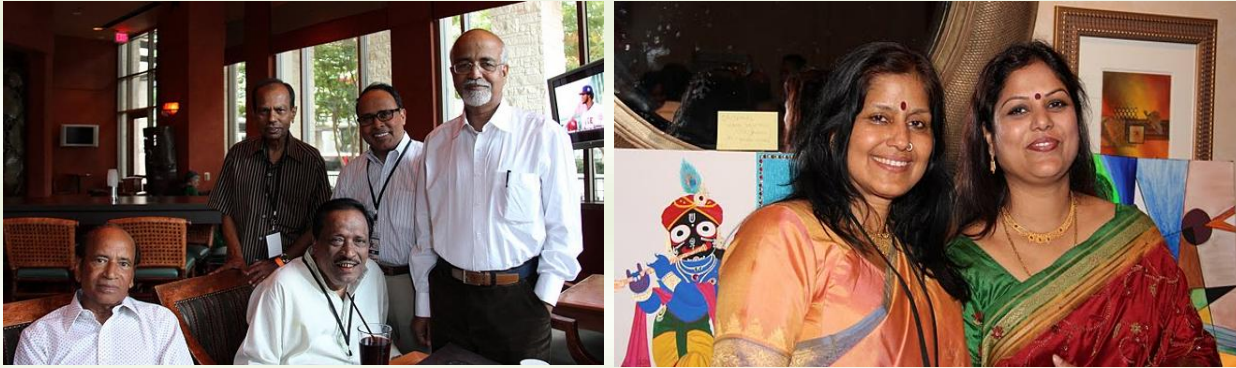


(Barada Patnaik, Pradeep Gurwara) (Anindita and Sangita)

As commented by OSA NYNJ chapter President Lalatendu Mohanty, “The legendary performers from Orissa were very energetic and entertained the attendees until the wee hours that forced the Convener to be too apologetic to end the night due to hotel restrictions. Other artists showcased the rich heritage and the attendees enjoyed the kaleidoscope of performing arts from traditional and contemporary art forms. The voices of Chitta Jena, Shantanu Mohapatra, Prasant Muduli, Anindita Das, Sangita Mahapatra (Gosain) et al revitalized the odia cultural affection within the attendees.”



(Drama by Dallas group- L to R Kailash, Sukant(director), Debajyoti, Kanhu, Debashis, Mousumee, Chitra, Jagannath and kids)



(Odia fans with legendary singer Shri Chitaranjan Jena)
(Incoming OSA President Annapurna Pandey, Vice President Kuku Das)



(Convener Mr. Tapan Padhi)
(OSA Southwest President Dr. Gopal Mohapatra, Co-convener Mr Debasis Nanda)

As per past convener Dr. Lalu Manasinha, “The success of OSA2011 is surely due to the graft of the Texas pride on the Odia culture in this new breed of Texan Odias, or Odia Texans. Convener Tapan Padhi with his team members, Co-convener Debasis Nanda, OSA Southwest President Gopal Mohapatra and Odia Texans Jagannath Rath, Hari Arjun Patro, Niranjan Tripathy repeatedly stated that their goal has been to organise the biggest and the best OSA Convention ever. They did it.”

OSA Development Forums: Part I

Session I: Friday, July 1, 2011

Time: 9:30 PM

Colorado Room, Marriot at Legacy Center, Plano, TX

Attendance: Bigyani Das, Pradeep Mohapatra, Akhileswar Patel, Annapurna Pandey, Saroj Behera, Sunity Behera, Panchanan Satpathy, Nil Bisoi, Rashmi Das, Uma B. Mishra, Prabir Das, Amiya Nayak, Sandip K, Dasverma, Prabhat Nalini Kanungo, Shreeranjana Kanungo, Pratap Das, Sitakantha Dash, S. Satpathy

The first OSA Development Forum was held at about 9:30 PM on July 1st, 2011. Many discussions on OSA's development took place starting from membership growth to member involvement and OSA's stability.

Dr Uma Mishra shared his experience where Odia identity in USA was almost extinct and how deities installed in temples were evicted because of financial situation as well as lack of Odia member involvement. He emphasized that what may happen, Odias and in particular OSA members must make an identity, otherwise you make it extinct. He appealed to everybody to not let some infighting extreme sentiments destroy our OSA identity to rubbles.

Discussion took place on OSA awards and how to make it fare and manageable. Prabir Dash suggested that like some awards in schools that were given by independent communities and trusts, OSA awards may be allowed to be offered by independent establishments. Dr Nalini Kanungo suggested that since it is OSA awards, OSA should

have a protocol for allowing particular trustees or establishments to offer awards through OSA. It was decided to establish an award committee soon and have brainstorming about award guidelines by past award committee members to establish a protocol.

Community disagreements and divisions in local communities were also discussed. All members agreed that disagreements are common. That does not mean OSA should allow multiple chapters in the



same communities/localities and knowingly contribute to division. It would be in the best interest of OSA to associate geographical definition to chapters and do not allow any intersecting multiple chapters that would create division.

Several members showed concern about lack of participation of youth group becoming members. Many also gave examples that youth does become involved. One cannot force anybody to do anything when specifically somebody is an adult. There are also factors such as job, family, professional stress, technology impact etc. which leave very less time for youth in general now-a-days and unless they feel a need, they will not be motivated to become members. It was decided to have some OSA public relation development strategies to attract the youth.

Question was raised about Jagannath Rathayatra conflicts with convention timing. Dr Annapurna Pandey shared their California get-together story which could not help by changing dates to accommodate some other event. Members also expressed concern that changing dates to Labor Day or sometime in August would be able to help. Secondly all other dates would have their own problems, such as members vacationing, children ready for their fall semester, Indian events such as Independence Day etc. It was decided to stick to July 4th weekend and request communities to help.

OSA Development Forum: Part II

July 3rd, Sunday, Pecos Room
Marriot at Legacy Town Center, Plano, TX

OSA Development Forum Part II was held at 2:40 PM on July 3rd, 2011. Many enthusiastic members were present. That included Dr Digambar Mishra, Dr Lalu Mansinha, Dr Panchanan Satpathy, Dr Amiya Mohanty, Dr Lalatendu Misra, Dharendra Kar, Mihir Dash, Manju Misra, Sidharth Nayak, Manoj Padhi, Dr Amiya Nayak, Sunil Sabat, Surya Misra, Mrs Renuka Panigrahi, Radhagobinda Mohanty, Dr Ashutosh Dutta, Debashish Panda together with incoming officials Dr Annapurna Pandey, Kuku Das, Leena Mishra, Sushant Satpathy and outgoing President Dr Bigyani Das.



Issues related to membership, publicity, youth assimilation, chapter divisive issues etc. were discussed. Some veteran members pointed out about the need for older members of the organization. What is for them? What would attract them to come to the convention? Siddhartha Nayak raised a question on how OSA can facilitate local programs where there are no chapters. Annapurna Pandey gave the example of how an event of Odia school was facilitated by OSA executives by following a simple procedure.

Mihir Dash pointed out that OSA web page was not searchable easily and it was difficult to get all the information. Bigyani Das explained that it was not true. Actually people got so much information from the web page that it helped many Odias to keep in touch during critical times. One example was the death of an Odia in which NYNJ members became involved by the correspondence of a colleague from Texas through OSA president and helped the family who live in Berhampur.

Some members raised questions about OSA reaching out for local Odias to assimilate in the society. Dharendra Kar explained how the attitude of assimilation matters more than somebody going to reach out. He gave the example how he went to the community, got involved in OSA by his own initiatives without waiting for somebody to come to him. He went to OSA and assimilated himself in OSA. That is the attitude which matters and if somebody does not have that attitude, assimilating by force would not help anybody.

The Women's Forum at OSA 2011

By Mamata Misra



Mamata Misra, the facilitator of the Women's Forum, is the former Director of SAHELI (Support, Assist, Heal, Empower, Listen, and Inform) for Asian Families in Austin, Texas and the author of Winter Blossoms and Other Poems, a book of poems about women's lives and feelings. Her experience includes peer counseling, legal advocacy, community education, and building women's organizations.

Theme, structure, and content

The theme for this year's Women's Forum was *Women's Empowerment in Odisha and in the Diaspora*. It had a presentation, a documentary film, a drama, and a peer discussion, tightly packed into two hours.

The first part focused on **Women's Empowerment in Odisha**. It started with a presentation by Sri Gopal Mohanty on **Mahila Shanti Sena (MSS)**, a movement to create

an army of peace workers in each village to plan its total life in terms of economy, education, health, and other things pertaining to local life, resolving conflicts and disputes peacefully, using women's creative talents. Sri Gopal Mohanty, an Emeritus Professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at McMaster University and Vice-President (Rural Development) of MSS International, Canada explained, with photographs, the objectives and the training process to achieve them. He discussed activities and impact of MSS since it started in Odisha in 2005 and the future plan to make MSS a statewide movement, including a three-day event at three different locations in Odisha to spread MSS message. For details on Mahila Shanti Sena, to support this effort, or to attend one of the MSS training events, please read Sri Gopal Mohanty's article in the OSA 2011 Convention Souvenir journal and contact the author.

A documentary film, **Aparajita (the Undefeated)**, by Yunuen Perez Vertti and Aswinee Rath followed the MSS presentation. The film inspires grass root activism through conversations with three women leaders in Odisha: Annapurna Maharana, Manorma Mohapatra and Tulsi Munda.

Annapurna Maharana was initiated into the Gandhian tradition of peaceful protest since she was 13. She had marched with her own mother in India's freedom movement. She continued her work in independent India on issues ranging from setting up a tribal residential school for girls, sensitizing dacoits (members of robber bands) to pacifism, and resisting the 1975 emergency, to setting up a nursing training center that recruits and trains young women in maternity services. Her dreams and determination have not altered even at the age of 91.

Manorama Mohapatra, former editor of the oldest and still very popular Odia newspaper, Samaj, has dedicated her life towards literature and grass root social activism in Orissa. She has been bestowed with various awards and honors for her works. After retiring from her editorial job, she dedicates her life in bringing education to underprivileged children.

Tulsi Munda was greatly inspired by Vinoba Bhave's ideals. Although illiterate herself, she opened a school under a Mahua tree for children of tribal mine workers. Today she is known for her mission to spread literacy among the underprivileged and the tribal people through her schools and hostels across Odisha. She firmly believes the seed of education in the village would someday grow into a huge tree to provide shades of relief to the ill fated populace of the area that suffered from abject negligence and lack of development. She was awarded Padma Shri in 2001 by the Government of India. In Aparajita, these three experienced women offer their thoughts about current society, their work, and where they think we are heading.

The film was well received by the audience. The filmmaker, Yunuen, said that she just wanted to meet a few women doing grass root level work during her visit to her husband's home state and of course she never went anywhere without her camera; but she herself was surprised when she compiled the footage and a gem came out. The film is 25 minutes long. Aparajita has now been screened in two film festivals in LA and Seattle since its debut at the OSA Women's Forum. It was inspiring to watch a process like MSS designed

to empower rural women, literate or not, to take leadership of their own lives, families, and communities, and then ‘meet’ three women leaders, literate or not, and see their self empowerment and contribution to society.

The second part of the forum focused on **Women’s Empowerment in the Diaspora**. Many of us are empowered with education, employment, technology, family and community support, and have the freedom to engage in our own pursuit of happiness in a free country. We have struggled to juggle and balance our diverse workloads between work and family, and family and community. While we miss some things we left behind with our migration to the West, and worry about raising children in a culture we did not grow up with, we have by and large adapted well and have already raised a new second generation that has started raising a third generation of children. The Odiya community in North America has grown, and changed from the early days of the 1960s and 70s, and matured in many ways. Accordingly, our concerns must change. As a matured community, we must also look at the issues that may not be affecting each and every family but are affecting some families in a big way. We need to be aware of these issues and do what we can to empower ourselves to do something about them.

The forum introduced some of these issues in a creative, easy, and effective way, with a story called **Mayara Kahani** (Maya’s Story) with a powerful image enacted by volunteers and two narrators, a male and a female. The story is an adaptation of “Blanketed by Blame” by the Asian Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence and Ellen Pence of Praxis International. Birendra Jena has translated the adapted script into Odia, the language in which it was presented at the forum. In the story, Maya is a mother of two children who has been abused by her husband for years. Harder Maya tried to cope, the worse the situation became. Finally, when she could no longer take it alone, Maya attempts to reach out to various people in the community, a friend, her mother, mother-in-law, a neighbor, a community leader, a doctor, a policeman, and even a social worker, hoping for some support or understanding. But the response she gets blames Maya for her troubles, entrapping her further. Then no one hears from Maya. At this point the narrator urges that a civil society could do better in their responses to Maya and a second version of the story is enacted. In the second version, the characters listen to Maya with empathy, and give supportive responses, empowering Maya to live an abuse-free life. Mayara Kahani is an easy-to-use tool because it can be enacted without much preparation or rehearsal. The ‘actors’ don’t have talking parts. They just create an image of entrapment and liberation using blankets while the narrator reads the story. None of the volunteers who enacted the story had any acting experience but they did fine.

While Mayara Kahani by itself, was an eye opener, it was designed as a tool for community awareness to provoke thought and questions. It is most effective when followed by a discussion by participants facilitated by someone who understands all the nuances and dynamics of family violence and is informed about resources available to address it. Therefore, the last part of the forum was a facilitated discussion. The goal was to address the questions and thoughts raised by Mayara Kahani; to provide a list of resources available to empower women in situations similar to Maya’s; and to explore the need for a help-line (**1-800-OSA-help?**) to assist Odiya women and families in crisis. The

interactive discussion was the most desired and most challenging part of the forum as a large diverse group of participants attended and everyone had a lot to say or ask but did not get the chance due to limited time. As a facilitator, I felt that while the forum gave a venue to expose participants to the issues, ongoing and more in-depth participation by a smaller focused group is needed to come up with concrete action items and follow them up. However, several good suggestions came out during the discussion, as part of the written anonymous evaluation, as well as in follow-up discussions with me after the forum.

Attendance

Approximately 50 people attended the forum but not the whole time. This would be considered an excellent attendance when compared with attendance of other seminars and considering that a poetry and song competition as well as an Odiya film were also scheduled at the same time. Most participants were over 40, which suggests that perhaps younger women are either not free to attend such events because of young children, or are occupied with other concerns/interests. Ratio of female to male attendees was 2 to 1.

Evaluation

We received 28 written evaluations. **Average ratings** by participants on a scale of 1 to 5, 5 being excellent, was:

- Overall: 4.5,
- Planning/Organization: 4.2,
- MSS: 4.2,
- Aparajita: 4.7,
- Mayara Kahani: 4.6,
- and Discussion: 4.4.

We also got a lot of written feedback. In response to the question, **“What was most helpful?”** we got the following responses:

- Discussion (5 responses),
- Awareness,
- Mayara Kahani (3 responses),
- Insightful,
- Aparajita Film,
- Knowing about the existence of organizations to help,
- Information, statistics,
- Resources available

In response to the question, **“What was least helpful?”** we got the following responses presented verbatim:

Presentations could be shorter, more concise;

- Order of discussion
- Time
- Too many conversations same time
- Problem solving

- Introduction too long
- Poor facility support
- No statistics
- None (everything helpful)
- Little time for a general discussion

Other written comments, listed verbatim, are:

- Have more such sessions.
I (Anadi Naik) have written a book Song of Satan based on domestic violence; organizations may look it up for use as a handbook.
- Present data.
- Please start no later than 10 minutes.
- Much more on getting opportunity.
The forum should allocate more time in OSA convention; not enough time; we are giving importance to senseless cultural program.
I would like to be trained to do this type of work - how to recognize domestic abuse and how to give women courage to come out.
- Communication.
OSA should also include a women's online forum where women can post comments and ask questions anonymously.
- It is a good group discussion.
I am a clinical psychologist, would be available on phone.
- Women's Forum should be done at chapter level also, not just at national level.
Can't really understand/explore issues in depth in such short discussions.
- Present Mayara Kahani in a drama festival.

Many people talked to me at length afterwards, asking questions, offering suggestions. I have posted answers to some of these questions and resources in the online forum OSAWomenForum@yahoogroups.com created to continue discussions on topics of interest to Odiya women.

What Interested Individuals Can Do

- Join the yahoo group by emailing a request to follow up on this seminar and contribute ideas for future seminars. For those who prefer Facebook, there is a similar facebook group created by Annapurna Pandey.
- Read the article on Mahila Shanti Sena by Sri Gopal Mohanty in the 2011 convention souvenir journal and support MSS with your donation to SEEDS (www.seedsnet.org).
- Do a screening of the documentary Aparajita for your community or friends. It can be done in someone's house. It is better not to combine it with picnics or talent shows where the focus is elsewhere.
- Contact me to enact Mayara Kahani in your city in Odiya or English and have a discussion locally. Women Forums are more effective at local level and in the absence of other distractions. San Antonio South Asians have done them annually for many years.

- Browse through the website <http://apiidv.org/resources/programs-serving-apis.php> and learn about resources for South Asian women available in your area. You never know if someone you know may need them. If you want to be involved in the work the local organizations do, attend their events or take their volunteer training.

Observations and Suggestions for Future OSA Conventions

- It is impossible to start a seminar before 9 am at OSA conventions where music programs continue after midnight. Our seminar started 30 minutes late because neither the room nor the participants were ready.
- OSA participants do not go into a seminar room unless the seminar has started. Since nothing starts on time, they stand outside in the hallway and socialize until something starts.
- OSA conventions are squeezing 4 days' activities into 2 days. Some problems are due to the fact that conventions are trying to do too many things in too short a time. Volunteers seemed to be overworked and overstretched.
- It may be worth considering separating seminars from the cultural programs and competitions. OSA can do a cultural program/competitions focused convention one year and a seminar/symposium focused convention the next, instead of doing everything every year. Also consider doing seminars like the Women's Forum at chapter/city level.

Contact Information

- For MSS, Sri Gopal Mohanty mohanty@univmail.cis.mcmaster.ca
- For Aparajita, Yunuen Perez Vertti yunuen@rocketmail.com or Aswinee Rath aswinee@aswinee.com
- For Mayara Kahani and discussion, Mamata Misra misramamata@gmail.com

Poetry Reading at OSA 2011

By Bigyani Das (Organizer)

Note: Poems are included in scroll down for reading the poems

On July 3rd, Sunday morning we gathered for poetry reading at about 8 AM in Colorado room of Marriot Hotel. Because many poets have gone to Jagannath temple for the darshan because of Rathayatra, the usual big crowd was missing. The session actually

started at 8:30 AM. There were 6 readers and Mrs Sumitra Padhi also gave an introduction of her journey through Odia poetry in her adopted land. The theme of the session was "Souharddya". In the beginning there were only 10 people present in the room. Soon many others joined and the number increased to 25 approximately. Mr Ghanashyam Mohapatra, award winning director of Odia movie Kanaklata was on the podium. The following poems were read.



Sumitra Padhi: Bandhuta o Shatruta



Bigyani Das: Bandhabi Go



Jyotsna Mohapatra: Bandhu and Nari



Anadi Naik: Souharddya



Suchismita Pahi: Spirit



Some of the poems are published in this newsletter. Enjoy the poems. Unfortunately I was given the charge only before 6 days of the convention. My suggestion for the future organizers is to plan this ahead of time to get large participation.

Devraj Sahu: Sagara

OSA 2011 HEALTH SEMINAR



Contributed by Kailash Sahoo Currently working for Presbyterian Hospital, Dallas and has his own hand therapy clinic in Wylie TX. Also the coordinator and speaker at the July 2011 OSA Health Seminar)

Graduated in Bachelor of Occupational Therapy from NIRTAR. Master's in Occupational Therapy from San Jose State University. Certified Hand Therapist for more than 10 years.

Work History of the speaker.

Worked at Hand Rehab and Surgery center, Bhubaneswar.

1--Atasu Nayak., MD, FACC, FACP, FSCAI, FSVM is a board-certified specialist in Cardiology, Cardiovascular Disease, Interventional Cardiology, Nuclear cardiology, Endovascular Intervention, Vascular Medicine and Echocardiography. Dr. Nayak earned his medical degree from Sriram Chandra Bhanja Medical College in Cuttack, India. He completed his internship and residency at the New York Medical College and Lincoln Medical & Mental Health Center. He completed a fellowship in Cardiology at Cornell University Medical Center, University of Missouri, and another in Interventional Cardiology at the Lahey Clinic in Burlington, Massachusetts. Dr. Nayak's special areas of expertise include:

- Interventional Cardiology.
- Peripheral Vascular Disease.
- Endovascular Intervention.
- Interventional trials and research.

Dr. Nayak is a fellow of the American College of Cardiology, the American College of Physicians and the Society of Cardiac Angiography and Intervention and Society of Vascular medicine. He is a Clinical Associate Professor of Internal Medicine-Cardiology at Baylor College of Medicine. Dr. Nayak cares for patients at Kelsey-Seybold's St. Luke's Medical Tower in the Texas Medical Center and Texas Heart Institute at Houston, Texas.

Topic-: **Road to being heart healthy**

1. Why do you care about risk factors for heart disease?
2. What is good for your heart?
3. How do you know your blood pressure and diabetes are well controlled?
4. What happens when you loose weight? Are you going to live longer?
5. It is fun to smoke. Does it reduce your life span?

2--Rashmi Jaitly, MD, is an assistant professor of Medicine in the Geriatrics section at Baylor College of Medicine. Dr. Jaitly completed her medical education at Calcutta National Medical College in West Bengal, India. Her extensive training includes an internship in internal medicine at Calcutta National Medical College and an internal medicine internship at Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center in New York City. Dr. Jaitly has also completed a residency in psychiatry at Central Institute of Psychiatry in Ranchi, India, a residency in neurology at the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research in Chandigarh, India, a residency in adult and child psychiatry at Central Institute of Psychiatry in Ranchi and a residency in internal medicine at Newton-Wellesley Hospital in Boston, Mass. Her medical experience also includes geriatrics and wound care fellowships at Baylor College of Medicine. A board-certified physician, Dr. Jaitly specializes in wound care.

Topic: **How do I know that I am getting old?**

1. How the body changes as we get older; Physiology of aging.
2. How the mind changes when we get old?
3. What can we do to age gracefully?
4. Understanding of ADL(Activity of daily living)/IADL (Instrumental activity of daily living)
5. What do we do about memory loss?

3-Dr. Swapnila S. Das, Ph.D. practicing as a Licenced clinical psychologist in the state Arkansas since 2000. I received my Doctorate in National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS).

My area of interests are , Post traumatic stress disorder, anxiety related disorder, depression, OCD, Marital problems in adults and anxiety related disorder and behavior related disorder in children. In past decade many adult and children have improved and are living a productive and meaningful life.

I will be presenting on a overview of Emotional/Mental Disorder. This will be a interactive presentation would try to clarify any doubts the audience have about emotional and mental health.

4--Dr. Jyotshna Mahapatra is currently working in Regional Institute of Education, Bhubaneswar - important wing of NCERT New Delhi as Associate Professor in Chemistry and is engaged in teaching as well as training of teachers at secondary and senior secondary level for the states of Odisha, West Bengal , Jharkhand , Bihar and North Eastern States of India . She has organised several workshops of NCERT ,New Delhi on Science Education /women Empowerment / Value or Peace Education for last 30 years.She has a good number of contributions in Chemistry as well as literature .She has published several books and has received a number of awards . She has lot of contributions to Oriya Literature being the joint secretary of Odisha Lekhika Sansad (Odisha Writting Association) for several years. She had worked with chemicals in various types of food. Below is an excerpt from one of her presentations on chemicals used in Odiya food.



CHAPTER REPORTS

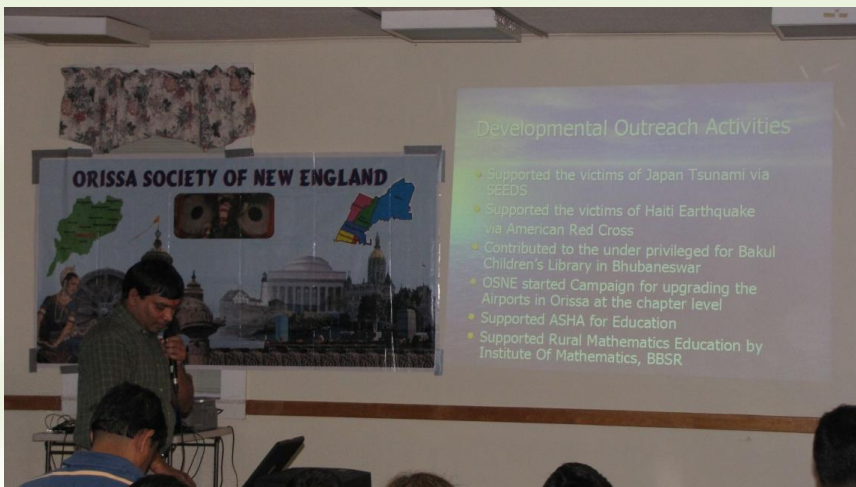
Orissa Society of New England (OSNE) Chapter Report



**By Nishikanta Sahoo,
President, OSNE
2011 OSNE Ganesh Puja**

OSNE has celebrated 2011 Ganesh Puja on Saturday, 10th Sept., 2011 at Trinity Church, Northborough, MA by its members with great enthusiasm. We had 150 plus member participation. Puja was conducted by Sri Laxmi Temple priest, followed by Vidyarambha(Khadichhuan)

ritual for OSNE kids. Mr. Sidhharth Tripathy has made a wonderful Ganesh idol made of flowers. Members were served with Prasad. Mrs. Mamata Sahoo was the emcee of the cultural program. The president provided the updates on OSNE activities, and the treasurer provided the financial details of OSNE. OSNE chapter Income Statement was distributed to all members. OSNE community leaders whose individual contributions helped promoting our culture, language, and interest of under privileged were well recognized by the society. OSA souvenirs were distributed to OSA members. After OSNE updates, General Body Meeting (GBM) and election were conducted, followed by delicious authentic Odia food.



OSNE Elections 2011-2013

Active member participation was encouraged and members were given opportunity to provide valuable feedback online to make the society more inclusive and strong. Members were given the opportunity to nominate online their favorite candidates to lead the Odia Diasporas much before the GBM/Election.

We have the following new executives elected for the duration 2011-2013.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Mr. Nihar Nanda, | President |
| 2. Mr. Bishwa Bhusan Sahoo, | Vice President |
| 3. Mr. Dillip Behera, | Cultural Secretary |
| 4. Mr. Niranjan Senapati, | Treasurer |
| 5. Mrs. Madhusmita Sahoo, | Food Coordinator |
| 6. Mr. Pradeep Kumar Sahu, | Webmaster |

Executive roles 5 and 6 are created to cater the society's growing need. OSA guideline for chapter executives was briefed before the election.

Special Odissi Dance

OSNE hosted a special Odissi Dance on 31st July 2011 in Hopkinton, MA, performed by 42nd OSA National Convention guest artists Guru Lucky Mohanty & Purnshree Raut.



2011 OSNE Annual Picnic



OSNE organized 2011 Annual Picnic in Hopkinton State Park, Hopkinton, MA on 30th July 2011. There were lots of outdoor activities organized for its members. To give a touch of real “Bana bhoji” fresh goat meat was cooked on spot by active volunteers. To provide more authentic Odia touch, sweets from famous Pahal, Odissa was served. Thanks to all

enthusiastic volunteers for their ideas and making it possible to connect the motherland from the adopted land.

Car Festival in CT

New England Odias celebrated Car Festival(Rathayatra) in CVH temple, Middletown, CT on July 9th. Many thanks to Mr. Sushant Das and team for driving the effort for last several years. People got an opportunity to know about the web portal odia.org while registering the events. Historical information about Car Festival and Jagannath culture was displayed in a billboard. After Ratha Yatra, people were served with delicious Mahaprasad having authentic Odia touch. People got an opportunity to enjoy Odissi and



various cultural programs.

Member Activities

1. Mrs. Swati Panda, through her Indian Classical music school Raganjali, raised \$ 20, 000.00 for the project Anjali of Bhubaneswar. More information about Anjali can be seen at <http://www.swabhiman.org/>. OSNE has been promoting this cause



and Anjali journals were distributed to OSNE members during OSNE events. Project Anjali is for people with special need and the founder is Dr. Sruti Mohapatra, a disability activist in India, recognized by CNN-IBN with Real Hero Award in Health & Disability category, recognized by Govt.Orissa with Khyamata Samman Award.

2. Mrs. Shaashwati Pattnaik, led a fund raising event for an orphanage in Bhubaneswar. Lots of members participated in this event.



3. Mrs. Anindita Nanda organized an Odissi Dance having guest artists Guru Lucky Mohanty and Purnashree Raut from Odisha, in CT area with a large number of American and Indian-American audience.
4. Mr Sushant Das has been organizing Car Festival(Ratha Yatra) in CT area for last several years and he is also the founder of internet portal www.odia.org that provides internet resource for Odia language and literature.
5. Dr. Bijoy Mishra conducted Odia poetry session in Harvard University.
6. Mr. Nagen Mallik introduced Odissi dance in Clark University cultural programs.
7. Mrs Jayshree Mohanty received the 2011 Lokvani Spot Light Excellence Award in dance category. She was also the 2010 OSA Kalashree Award winner. [Lokvani is an Indian News portal in Greater Boston area]



CANOSA Report

By Sabita Panigrahi

Summer Retreat/Camping picnic

For the first time ever, this year CANOSA was organizing a full-scale camping long weekend picnic. Around 55 people participated in camping and many day visitors joined the fun in Sibbald Point provincial park. The total number of people touched 70. It was a fun filled three days and three nights event consisting games, sports and cultural activities. The highlight was fishing, swimming, bon fire and marshmallow roasting by the children.

One day picnic

The CANOSA one day picnic was held on 27th of August at Mississauga Valley Park. This year we had record number of people (136) who attended the picnic. We had excellent



weather. The high light of the picnic was Water melon feeding race with blind folded, three-legged race, face painting, tug of war, trivia, laughing contest, volley ball and cricket. Through out the day food was served from Mudhi mixture, Aludum, Pakudi to Chalha, Ghanta Tarakari to Mutton curry. Chalha was such a hit at lunch that it was



repeated by popular demand at dinner. Our

volunteer chefs produced hot-off-the-stove tasty Odia lunch and dinner. Year by year the volunteer expertise in cooking for large groups has increased in our community. Overall it was a very successful picnic which was enjoyed by all ages.

India Day celebration

CANOSA took part in India Day celebration organized by Panorama India at Toronto's Yonge and Dundas Square. The program was supported by Consulate General of India. It was a proud occasion for us Odias to be part of this great event where we participated in float as well as in cultural programs. The theme for Odisha float was Odisha and its festival – Ratha Yatra. For the occasion, volunteers of CANOSA designed and decorated a beautiful Ratha to go on the float. It was appreciated by many. We are also proud to announce that Odisha float received a special award. Many participated in the parade accompanying the float. The children joined the dance performance tuned to the Odia as well as Hindi music.



Northern Regional Drama Festival

CANOSA participated in this regional drama festival on 3rd of September in OHIO organized by OSA OHIO chapter. For the occasion, Niranjana Mishra took the responsibility of

writing and directing the play named Shesha Bichara where 12 actors participated. It was a comedy play and was well appreciated by the audience. About 8 families from Canada drove 7 hours to OHIO to participate in the festival. The children of CANOSA also participated in singing and dance performances.



The New Kid on the OSA Block: Pacific North West Chapter Report

By Priyadarshan Patra



The Pacific Northwest (PacificNW) Chapter of OSA is the youngest chapter that came to “life” on June 15th, 2011. The chapter draws its members from the great pacific northwest region of the Americas that includes Oregon, Washington, Idaho and the British Columbia. The chapter elected the volunteer officials (Priyadarsan Patra as the president and Pradeep Sahoo as the treasurer) at the first two official meetings and approved by all via email. This was also ratified by the OSA BOG as part of the chapter approval process. Please visit our developing website at <http://pacificnw.orissasociety.org>

We are proud to say that we have already newly added 5 more families to OSA since our chapter’s birth. We had a multi-state “bandhu milan” represented by approximately 20 families, both member and non-member, on August 13th at the ISKCON temple in Seattle area. Some additional highlights of this get-together are community service: Cooked and served food to anyone who came to the temple; we raised and donated a few crates of food to the Food Bank, and celebrated the India Independence Day by singing the anthem. We have a short u-tube video that you might enjoy watching, at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fpVbQlznLbg>



2012 OSA Convention was awarded to the chapter at Dallas. Taking advantage of this opening, we are actively trying to introduce OSA to the large number of families in Pacific North West area and bring them into the greater North American Odia/OSA community. Our volunteers have produced a document that introduces OSA and the yearly convention to the uninitiated while articulating the benefits and reasons to join OSA and its young chapter, Pacific Northwest. Several community events have been held in small groups to celebrate together, know each other and answer questions, and help together. It has been a challenging and trying task, but hugely ennobling. People living 250 miles apart have come together to meet and greet each other on one occasion, this August 13th! One of our group photos is included below. In our exploration process, we have discovered there are over 90 families with family connection in Odisha and this reflects that much potential to enrich the greater Odia community.

Our fundamental principles for the community building and the theme for the 2012



convention are to:

- Ensure inclusiveness and participation of the whole community
- Ensure transparency in financial and chapter affairs
- Conduct chapter affairs with mutual respect and dignity for all members
- Advance a friendly hand to one and all
- Remain aware of, and ambassador the cause of Odisha, her people, her culture and heritage to the rest of Indo-American and American community.
- And, finally, all that while having a load of fun!

We plan to continue this momentum and our tradition of community service to be ambassadors of change involve and mobilize others to build our strong Pacific NW Oriya community.

We have been exploring the groundwork needed for the convention. We have also started narrowing down our hotel/venue choices after negotiations and visits; a few hotels in the Bellevue and SeaTac-airport areas are left in the running. We believe you will extend your helping hand to see us be successful, so we thrive together, as part of the greater OSA community. We welcome you to come to Seattle next year and promise to do our best to ensure that together we will have a blast at the 2012 Convention.



OSA NY-NJ Chapter Report

**By Lalatendu Mohanty
President, OSA NY NJ**

OSA NY-NJ celebrates a grand Picnic

OSA NY-NJ had their 2011 Annual Picnic on June 11th at Princeton Country club. More than 300 people joined for a full day of fun, entertainment & gossip. The organizers executed in a grand scale and even the rain could not make a dent to the fun and enjoyment.

Many games and fun competitions were planned for both kids & adults. Many old and new faces were seen and each enjoying in their own way.

In addition to Barbeque, Samosa Chat & Gol Goppa, this year's major attraction was the delicious Pakhala, Bhaja, Dahi Challa, Mango Lassi followed by a khili Pana. Mutton Curry was the all time hit. Lunch was supplied by Hurry Chutney, a restaurant owned and managed by an Odia Entrepreneur.

It was a great show of dedication and team work and would not have possible without the magical touches from local volunteers.



OSA NYNJ Organizes Ganesh Puja



Lord Ganesh Puja was held on September 5, 2011 at the Community Hall of Venkateswar Temple , Bridgewater as planned. Close to two hundred people from Odia Community participated in the Puja. The atmosphere was fully filled with devotion from the beginning. Pitambar Sarangi performed the puja and explained the formalities to all the kids in simple terms as well as translated many of the slokas in plain English. Rabi Tripathy helped out in puja rituals. 11 little kids started their first writing practice with auspicious Khadi Chuan. Eva Mohanty organized a devotional cultural segment presented by several kids.



Many devotees brought fruits & Prasad for the occasion. Lunch Prasad was served at the end. Like previous years, prasad was prepared by Govinda Catering, a voluntary organization in charge of food preparation of ISKCON.

It was a great social gathering with crowds from all parts of the tri-state area, both young and old, enjoyed each other's company.

OSA NY-NJ is the winner of Pramode Patnaik Drama Competition



OSA NY-NJ participated in Inter-Chapter Drama Competition and staged a humorous drama “Baba Antique Boutique”. The play was about how Odiya community is still living with past history without any new story to tell. Many of the contexts were directly related to current real life events including OSA activities. Audiences had great laugh.

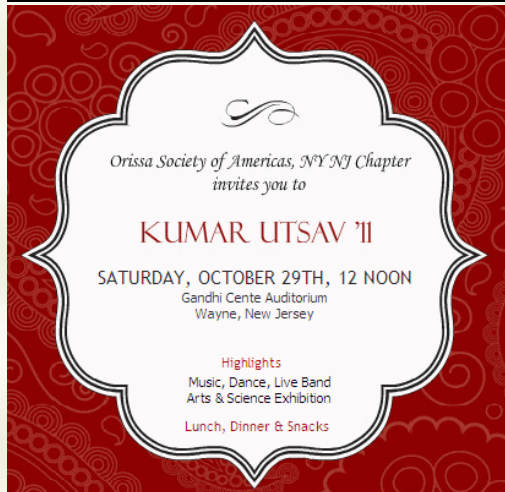
OSA NY-NJ will choose new leaders for 2012-2013

OSA NY-NJ will choose a new leadership (President and Secretary) during Kumar Purnima 2011. Interested candidates may write to the following coordinators about their intention. The candidate must be an OSA Life Member and New York & New Jersey Chapter Member before the Election Day.

Three Panel OSA NY-NJ Election Coordinators

- Durga Misra [dmisra01@yahoo.com]
- Pitambar Sarangi [pitambar_sarangi@yahoo.com]
- Akhileswar Patel [akhileswar.patel@gmail.com]

OSA NY-NJ will celebrate Kumar Purnima on October 29th 2011



OSA NY-NJ will be celebrating the Kumar Purnima on 29th October (Sat) at Wayne, New Jersey. It is going to be a full day event. In addition to Dance & Music, there will be an “Art & Science Exhibition” and “Live Odia Band”.

Kids interested to participate in “**Arts & Science Exhibition**” need to contact [Sanat Patnaik](#)
Interested Instrumentalists & musicians for **Live Band** please contact [Amar Senapati](#) or [Biswajit Mohapatra](#)
For **Cultural participation**, please contact [Pradeep Mohapatra](#) by 10/1/2011
For **Drama participation**, please contact [Sridhar Rana](#)
For **volunteering**, please contact [Prabhat Mohapatra](#)

For any comments or suggestions, please contact Lalatendu Mohanty (lmohanty@yahoo.com)

All Odia Members visiting New York & New Jersey are also invited to attend this memorable event.



Eastern Region Drama Festival on October 29th, 2011 at New Jersey

OSA NY-NJ is organizing Eastern Regional Drama Festival on 29th October (Sat) at Wayne, New Jersey. Washington & New England Chapter will participate in this regional event. All OSA members visiting New Jersey are invited to join this festival. This event will be followed by OSA NY-NJ Annual Program of Kumar Purnima. The Drama Festival is scheduled to start at 2PM. For additional details, please feel free to contact [Sridhar Rana](#)

Dance & Musical Extravaganza at New Jersey



After a long time, a Gala Odia Musical & Dance Extravaganza was held at New Jersey with Eleven reputed artists from Orissa. These artists gave spellbound performance in recent OSA Convention at Dallas and they repeated the same here. Their performance revitalized our past memories of Odisha.

The event was held at Oak Tree Elementary School Auditorium, Monroe, New Jersey on 31st July, 2011. Reputed artists including Santanu Mohapatra (Music Director), Sangeeta Gosain (Vocal), Prashanta Muduli (Vocal), Ajit Dev Goswami (Tabla), Pradeep Guruwara (Keyboard), Barada Patnaik (Key Board), Basata Tihady (Drums), Nityanda Das (Dancer), Bijay Dash (Dancer), Prem Das (Tabla) and Anandita Das (Vocal) performed in this evening. Audience enjoyed the old hits to full extend.

OSA NY-NJ extended a warm welcome to these artists before giving them farewell back when they returned back to Odisha. The event was arranged in a very short notice but all went well as planned.

Washington DC Chapter Report

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

Wow! What an incredible summer that we have had! The Raja picnic, Odia Melody & Odissi dance and Ganesh Puja were awesome events.

Odia Melody & Odissi Dance

In the past, we have arranged many Odissi programs with Odia artists for our local community. Our community is very supportive of these kinds of efforts. We always had good performances. Thanks to Pratap Das (Pratap Bhai) for his persistent effort to promote Odissi through IPAP here in USA.

This time around, the OSA Washington DC chapter and IPAP hosted the Odissi dance and Live Melody show. We had something that was very unique and different program. We had full-fledged Odia Melody performance live in Washington DC. Looking at the stage covered from one end to the other with the musical instruments and accomplished renowned artists was a sight to behold. Legendary singer and music director, Shantanu Mohapatra started the program with his old Odia songs which were fabulous. The melodious voice of Mr. Prashant Kumar Muduli had mesmerized the audience with his singing. Mr. Muduli has a gifted voice and talent like the legendary "Akhaya Mohanty/Khoka Bhai". Sangita Gosain and Anandita Das presented Bhajans/Modern Odia songs that were electrifying. They were accompanied by several instrument artists. These artists were able to bring back the good old memories of melodious Odia songs. Audience got involved by requesting their favorite songs to the talented singers who graciously fulfilled their requests. Also it clearly reminded us of Habib (I might have it spelled incorrectly) melody back in those days in Odisha during puja/college events. In all we had a full blown melody party and Odissi.

Watching live Odissi dance performance presented by Nityananda Das doesn't need to tell anything more than his gifted talent, love and passion for the Odissi dance. Each one of us felt the devotion to Odissi dance and became emotional seeing him perform with one leg. Bijay Dash was perfect dancing duet partner as Lord Krishna. Not only that they can entertain us, dancer like Nityananda Das sets the example and teach us as it goes truly "Mookam Karoti Vaachalam, Pangu Langhayate Girim".

Thanks so much to our Washington Odias for sponsoring the Odia Melody/Odissi Dance with our visiting Odia artists from Odisha. We are very grateful and appreciate your contribution to make this event successful. Not only the financial contribution that everyone made, they were there to cheer up these artists. Your presence at the program meant a lot to our artists and us. We hope you had a good time. Because of the love for Odia culture by our community people it was possible to host this successful event.



Annual Raja Picnic 2011

OSA Washington DC chapter organized its annual Raja picnic and Father's Day celebration on 19th June at Olney Park. Lots of families showed up to celebrate the dual occasions. There were quite a variety of foods including Dahibara, Aludum, Poda Pitha, Boondia, Ghoguni, grilled Chicken, Corn, and many more items. All the dads cut a big cake honoring their hard work whereas the kids had their fun with face painting, Doli and lots of play. We had a good gathering and the weather was perfect and the food was awesome.

We had arranged a Cricket match between Maryland Odias vs. Northern Virginia Odias. The match was a very close game and viewers had similar emotions as you may recollect the emotions that we go through very often when there is match between India vs. Pakistan.

Many families pitched in with the food preparation and setup/cleanup. Many thanks to Bandita Mishra, Urmila Sahu, Illa Ojha, Bigyani Das, Linee Dhala, Sushmita Sahu, Hemant Biswal, Prakash Sahu, Jagyanseni Tripathy, Maushumi Patnaik & Upendra Das.

Ganesh Puja

The OSA Washington DC office bearers are very thankful to those who were able to join us at the Ganesh Puja. OSA DC celebrated the Puja on 3rd Sept at the Hindu Temple. In spite of a long weekend, we were very glad to see so many of you there. Also, it feels more fun when our children are part of the event. For the first time the kids took part in several newly introduced activities like Khadi Chuan, Nadia Bhanga, Sloka recital, etc. By far, this was one of the best puja in our experience and a memorable event for all of us.

We want to acknowledge our sponsors for Ganesh Puja - Sarbeswar Acharya, Hemant Biswal & Upendra Das. We truly appreciate your donation and thank you for your personal commitment and generosity.

Our volunteers for the event were fabulous. Without your helping hand, we can't do much. Thanks so much for your time and help. Just to name a few among our young volunteers, Shivangi Kanungo & Lonika Behera had served food from the start to the end. Alok Mohanty had helped in setting up food serving area and helping in unloading/loading all our event supplies. With the Puja setup and Food preparation/Serving: Urmila Sahu, Sulochana Patnaik, Alpana Das, Dharitri Banerjee, Sushmita Behera, Purnima Panda, Deepak Dhala, Ayaskant Sahu, Pradeep Behera & Sudhir Raju contributed their part. You guys are awesome and job well-done.

Ganesh Puja Photos are here: <http://www.babru.com/gpuja11>, Thanks to Babru Samal.

New Parent

Congratulations to Debasis and Padmini Pattnaik on their baby boy "Vivaan" born last June, 2011.



Upcoming Events

The Kumar Purnima has been scheduled to be celebrated on 16th October, at Hindu temple, MD.

OSA Washington DC chapter is planning to attend the Eastern Regional Drama Festival in New Jersey.

The California Retreat over the Long Weekend

By Jnan R. Dash

Those of us who attended the California Odia Retreat in Santa Barbara this long weekend, felt very privileged indeed.

There were about 140 people including kids - 12 families from North, about 28 families from Southern California and 2 families from Arizona. The Santa Ynez student apartments at UC Santa Barbara became an Odia village for 3 days. One could see kids running around, groups of people gathering at one unit to enjoy pakodas or alloo-chup being fried and served to whoever is around and unstructured chats all over the place. During breakfast and tea times one could wander into any unit and join a bunch of friends for "gapa" and snacks.



The "hangama" began late Friday as families started arriving from all over. A late mehfil went on till 2am, with very animated "antakshari" between men and women. Saturday started with an early morning

bhajan and satsang on a theme titled "why bad things happen to good people". Then the venue shifted to a park nearby. Sports activities (volleyball, cricket, children sports) were organized after lunch. The evening venue was the Goleta Community auditorium and a wonderful evening entertainment program followed. The theme of the songs and dances were "Raat". Videos of the Odia picnic from 20 years back were shown bringing back great memories of this wonderful tradition that spans over 30 plus years.

On Sunday, the morning satsang had the theme of "Bhagabat Gita for daily living". Then the whole group shifted to the Santa Barbara Harbor beach and the Veteran's Hall. Lunch was the wonderful Pakhala, with elaborate dishes. The group engaged in beach activities. Evening was packed again with an entertainment program of music, dance, drama. The children were wonderful with their talents. A final mehfil at the campus apartments went on till late. On Monday, there was a final satsang with the theme "Miracles" before everyone checked out and started driving back.

This year, the second generation (who were kids only few years back) came with their children and had a blast, continuing the tradition forward. This was one of the best picnics ever organized. The facilities were excellent, food was great and the entire event was very economical. Many thanks to Deba Mohapatra and volunteers who organized this most wonderful event.

Kamal took some great pictures:

http://kamal.smugmug.com/People/2011-California-Oriya-Picnic/18896554_Dx2RnV#1465224117_tB8cs3x

The OSA-Ozarks Chapter : Genesis, History, Mission, Changes, Developments and Future

By Amiya Nayak

Genesis and History:

Year 1995 : OSA-Ozarks Chapter was formed by about 9-10 Odia immigrant families living across the mid-west regional states. The chapter consists of OSA members from four regional states: Arkansas, Indiana, Kansas and Missouri.

Although early OSA members (Uday Dash & Family) arrived in St. Louis, MO during 1954, OSA was not formed then. OSA was informally formed during 1969 and first registered during 1971.

The idea of the **OSA-Ozarks Chapter** was conceptualized, named and proposed to the following members by Surya Misra (considered to be the founder of the chapter), because there were no formal chapter in the St. Louis/MO region since the creation of **OSA during 1969**. Infact the post-fix name **Ozarks** was also suggested by Surya Babu, and that was of strategic significance because St. Louis/MO and neighbouring regions are part of the **Ozarks** area. The members present were such as: Surya Misra & Family, Nigam Rath & Family, Ramahari Patra, Amiya Nayak & Family and few women members and perhaps some other non-member Odias. Amiya Nayak had helped in preparing the first informal list of members consisting of 9-10 Odia families, and he remembers the two separate evenings when Surya Misra Babu had proposed the formation of this **chapter**, once in his home during a get together, and second time during a party at Nigam Rath Babu's old house. The co-founding members of OSA-Ozarks Chapter consisted of about 4-5 OSA Member Families. With that small and humble beginning, the **Ozarks Chapter** was born. During the Year 2002, the OSA-Ozarks Chapter's yahoo eGrouplist was created by Radha Kant Padhi. The chapter formation story has been captured through some of the members using down the memory lanes. OSA-Ozarks Chapter has had no formal General Body Meeting (GBM) set up by the chapter as of September, 2011, while we had various small informal meetings.

Mission:

To promote and preserve Odisha/Odia-American socio-cultural activities and related heritages in the OSA-Ozarks Chapter and mid-west region of the America.

Socio-Cultural and Out-Door Activities:

The members of the chapter had initiated the following socio-cultural programs such as: Ganesh Puja, Saraswati Puja, Janmasthanami, Mother's Day and Picnic (summer, outdoor). The Pujas were being organized at the homes and basements of senior members of the community. For few consecutive years the members also had organized Ozarks hide-outs

and get-togethers at Ozarks Lake area in rural Missouri. Event photos, memories, and related collections may be available in the personal files of the members.

OSA-Ozarks Chapter Executive Committees (1995-2011 and Current):

1995-1999 (4 years, 2 terms): Nigam Rath, First President
 1999-2001 (2 years, 1 term): Radha Kant Padhi, President (non-OSA member)
 2001-2005 (4 years, 2 terms): Jeetu Nanda, President
 2005 - 2011 (6 years, 3 terms): Surya Misra, President
 July 2011 - Current: Radha Gobinda Mohanty, President; Sashi Satpathy,
 Secretary/Treasurer

Since the introduction of the Board of Governor's conference call meetings during 2007/08, Surya Misra (2008-10) and Radha Mohanty (August 2011-) have been attending the BOG meetings.

The OSA National Programs:

While the members have had various informal postings, it seems that Jeetu Nanda's write up (with some inputs from Amiya Nayak) in Utkarsa (January, 2004) e-newsletter was perhaps the early formal first publication on chapter history. During the years, Ozarks Chapter members have been participating in OSA programs such as: attendances in OSA Annual Convention, Journal Souvenir articles, Utkarsa e-newsletter, fund-raising, OSAnet electronic communication systems, new constitution and organizational affairs. New generations (second and future), youth, women, childrens programs and OSA National Leaderships and Executive Committee representations are gap areas for the Chapter and need special attention by the Chapter. The development of OSA National-Chapter relationship and information/communication systems are critical to the new changes and growth of the chapter. OSA-Ozarks Chapter's senior member Mr. Prakash C. Patro was the Treasurer (Uncontested) in OSA National Executive Committee during 2005-2007.

Dormant Period of the Chapter:

Prior to Y 2005 - mid 2011: Ozarks chapter activities became dormant because of the emergence of larger Odia/Odisha ethnic community in and around St. Louis (more than 30-40+ families, mostly non-members of OSA) and eventual creation of St. Louis Odias (formerly known as - St. Louis Oriya Group, OSA-Ozarks/St. Louis Metro Oriya Families eGroup). Some of the OSA Members from the Ozarks Chapter had helped in the creation of St. Louis Odias, Saint Louis/St. Charles based Odia community group that has about 15 families members as of mid-2011.

New Changes and Developments:

osa_ozarks chapter eGroupsite

OSA-Ozarks Chapter's eGroupsite name is : (osa_ozarks@yahoo.com)

The Orissa Society of the Americas' OSA-Ozarks Chapter is an Odisha/Odia community organization and the osa_ozarks eGroupsite is a virtual social network for the Arkansas-Indiana-Kansas-Missouri based OSA members.

Current Status (as of July 2011)

The chapter was revived during April-July 2011 following nominations of new ECs, attendance of many members at the OSA 2011 42nd Annual convention at Plano, Dallas and reorganizing the members' new list and eGroupsite. Currently, there are about 20 families that are OSA Members residing across the OSA-Ozarks Chapter state regions. During August, 2011, the chapter's new secretary/treasurer Sashi Satpathy has opened its first and new account using The OSA's EIN number. OSA's veteran prominent member and OSA Archives Committee Member Manaranjan Pattanayak has recently relocated to the Ozarks area and has automatically become a recent member of this chapter.

Future:

OSA-Ozarks Chapter is reflecting on its old sweet memories and early times, and based on The OSA's New Constitution (July 3, 2011), the chapter is trying to reinitiate and reorganize its new socio-cultural programs into an re-evolving mode to further develop and sustain the Chapter and its activities by the Older Members, Current Members and New/Future Generation Members.

2011 DRAMA FESTIVAL

OSA Northern Regional Drama Festival Report

By Lipi Mohanty

This year OSA Ohio chapter hosted the annual Northern Regional Drama festival at the **Peggy R. McConnell Arts Center**, a contemporary multidisciplinary facility with a 200 seat theatre. The festival showcased the artistic talents of participants from Ohio, Michigan and Canada and their kids in a very striking way. The whole audience was thrilled by four melodious plays performed by various teams including some soul thrilling music and dance. The show lasted almost 6 hours but past just like a blink of an eye.

We would like to thank our current office-bearers, President - Arata Rout, Secretary/Treasurer- Lipi Mohanty and regional drama coordinator - Saswat Mohapatra for organising such a wonderful event against all odds with a limited time and resources. The credit must go to our drama directors Srikanta Mishra, Basant Mohapatra, Nirajan Mishra and Swapnalata Rath for their dedication and hardwork in making the whole program a grand success. The MCs, Saswat Mohapatra and Liza Bhuyan deserve the due appreciation for orchestrating the whole program flawlessly, with a great style and grace.

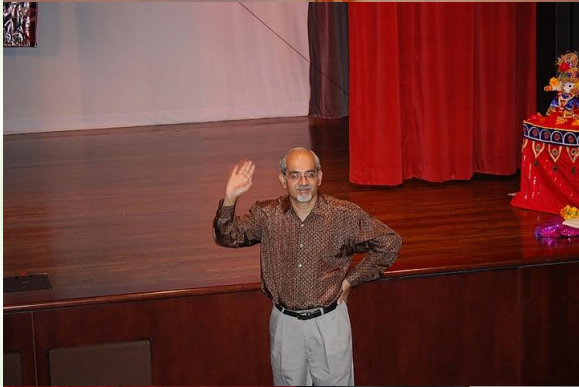
The Host team with their well-structured and perfectly synchronized efforts made the whole program enjoyable with a wide range of offerings such as American and Canadian National Anthems, Bande Utkala Janani, modern dance melody, Kuchipudi and Odissi classical dance, dances to Hindi and Odia contemporary songs including the dramas presented by different Chapters. As noted by our past chapter president - Birendra Jena, this year at the OSA Northern regional drama festival four plays were presented on the same day and everything went on smoothly without a hitch!

The program opened with the inaugural ceremony after that national Anthems and then Bande Utkala Janani followed by folk dances performed by children from Cleveland.

The first drama of the evening was performed by the host team. Srikanta Misra's "NAtaka Prastuti" with well drafted script, direction and above all the catchy dialogues set the mood for the audience. The hilariously comic first part of the drama mocked at the limited knowledge of Odia history and culture, and then the second part with a comic style modern gitinatya "SADDAM DAMAN" left the audience laughing out of breath. This is a kind of Jay Leno type comedy, portraying a developing affair between the Minister of one country and the President of their enemy nation. Srikanta Mishra, Dhabaleswar Panda and Saswata Mohapatra acted in the play including the following individuals, who also showed their talent in the play.









Part 1

Mamata (Seema) Pradhan as Dilliwali
Geetanjali Mishra, Prativa Swami, Snigdha Mishra as Dilliwali's friends

Akshay Pradhan and Pravas Parida as Gulli-khatti group

Part 2

Pravas Parida as Georja Busha
 Prativa Swami as Mantri Kondaleeja Raisa
 Kaumudi Mohanty as Mantri Tarika Ajija
 Arata Rout as Rashtrapati Saddama

The next drama of the evening was performed by the team from Michigan. Michigan Chapter's "Bahurupee Natya Kendra" was about a drama institute in a village in Odisha, whose goal is to help unemployed people to prove themselves as artists and then get them established in the society. The Script and Direction was given by Swapnalata Mishra (Rath) and the cast included are

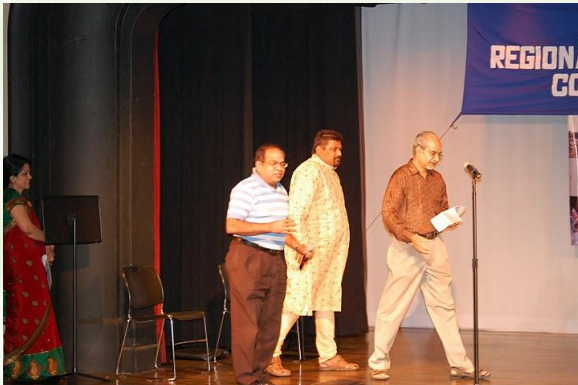
Akshaya Ray, Debasish Acharya, Parag Mishra, and Swapnalata Mishra (Rath).

The CANOSA team performed the comedy play "Shesha Bichara" - The Last Judgement. In the present day world, it is better that you don't accept the blame and always pass it on to others. For a mistake or crime one has committed the safest way to get out of it is to find a reason why it has happened and who is responsible for that. Then the judiciary system will take care of it. Such a real life situation was presented through this Comedy and was adopted from a popular folk tale. It showed how the blindness of the judiciary can do and in this case, a royal judiciary (called Mendha Raja) is nicely depicted through this drama. The learning point of this story was in the end, only the innocent get punished. The drama was presented in a lighter vein and in an opera form. Niranjana Mishra provided the Script and Direction. The cast included : Gagan Panigrahi, Sabita Panigrahi, Niranjana Mishra, Hara Padhi, Shuvendu Mishra , Satyajit Patnaik, Birendra Jena, Pradeep Pradhan, Kanhu Pradhan, and Sri Gopal Mohanty.

The team from Cleveland also presented a humorous play, "Operation Successful", this is about a day of activities that typically happens at a clinic called "The Mohapatra Polyclinic". All the artists from Cleveland acted brilliantly to show the audience how doctors use the most unconventional techniques to treat patients. You name the ailment and they have a treatment for it. The Script and Direction were provided by Basanta Mohapatra. The cast included: Basanta Mohapatra, Abani Misra, Birendra Jena, Arpita Basa, Anjan Basa, Sanjeeb Nayak, Soubahgya Parija, Jhara Nayak, Shreela Parija, and Rabi Sahoo

The Ohio Chapter kids amazed the audience by their scintillating performances throughout the evening. Some of the notable performances such as Madhur Bhuyan's danced to **Kajra Re** , the Basa sisters(Abhipsha and Anwasha) dance to **Radha Kaise Na Jale** was also very charming. From Columbus, Shweta Mohapatra presented an excellently choreographed **Sambalpuri dance**. From CANOSA, Ini Panigrahi's **Odia film dance** and also Lisa Pradhan's **Bollywood dance** song was really outstanding. And finally, the **Kuchipudi Dance** by Marisha Mohapatra gave the audience a treat in Kuchipudi, while Subhra Mohapatra's **Odia song** added a twinkle to the entertainment.

We are very much thankful to our volunteers who worked hard behind the scene with a dedication for making this festival a success. If we want to make the list it will go on and on. But we would like to thank especially to Dr.Srikanta Mishra, Dr. Dhabaleswar Panda, Dr. Jay Narayan Bhuyan, Tushar Das, Saswat Mohapatara, Geeta Mohapatra, Liza Bhuyan, Ajit Swain, Akshay Pradhan, Seema Pradhan, Kaumudi Mohanty, Neelam Mohanty, Lipi Mohanty, Pravas Parida, Sanjukta Parida, Utalika Senapati, and Prativa Swami without their inspiration, hard work and help the program would not have been successful.. Last, but not the least, we are also thankful to all our Chapter members and guests for turning up in large numbers for making this as a great show.









Pictures and Videos from the event can also be enjoyed at the below website
<https://sites.google.com/site/osadramafestival2011/>

Columbus, Ohio
Life Member/Secy.Treasure OSA Ohio Chapter

NEWS & VIEWS

Why Every Oriya Family in North America Should Join OSA?

Dr Prasanna Pati

I am almost eighty-six years old. I am a bit demented and senile, but I wish to invite all Oriyas in North America to join the OSA as Life members.. My wife, Norma and I started attending the OSA Conventions since 1987 at Palo Alto, CA. Since then, I have attended all except the 1994 convention in new Jersey. I am unable to attend the 2011 OSA because of health reasons, but I will miss it. Even the OSA President Annapurna, wanted to dance with me in Plano Convention. I am sorry to disappoint her, but I hope Sandip babu will represent me at the dance, hopefully, to the tunes of Rangavati. I recall going up the stage with the program, "Let us Dance" at Toronto. Annapurna saw an old man dance on the stage and she must have been impressed. Annapurna will be a good OSA President. I love her and I hope, her husband will not be jealous at my statement. She will be a true ambassador of the Oriya culture. Our culture of Jagannath is spreading to North America. I first went to the Temple of Jagannath in 1941 and the last visit was in 2007.



Please read my story, "The Man Who Sought Nirvana" in the 2011 Souvenir issue. It starts with a Ratha Yatra in San Francisco. I visualize a day in the future when the Car Festival will be a major celebration in many cities of North America. The culture and traditions have a message for the entire world.

I request all Oriyas in North America to join the OSA.

My attendance at the OSA Conventions was to re-visit my childhood in Sambalpur car Festival.

It would be like a nostalgic trip to Orissa in the conventions.

We Oriyas miss Orissa daily, atleast I do. Imagine a 84-year old man dancing to the tune of Rangavati at the Toronto Convention. I enjoyed it very much, even though I am a clumsy dancer. I wish the Governor of orissa, who was there, would have come up to the stage and dance with us.

OSA needs you and you need OSA. I can state here with honesty that I have received more from the OSA Conventions than I have contributed.

Also, once we elect officers for the OSA, we should give them full support.

On a personal stand-point, many of my stories got published in the OSA Souvenir issues. One Oriya lady in the east coast told me last year that anytime she would get depressed, she would read one of my stories. I asked her whether she would read the same story again and again and her response was “yes”.

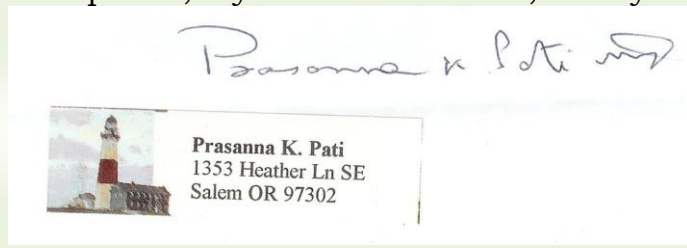
In summary, let us get many many more Oriya families to join the OSA. We might have left Orissa, but Orissa has not left us.

Finally, I make a plea to all OSA members to buy a copy of my book, “Adventures and Misadventures of Dr. Sonjee”, a collection of Short Stories. Please mail me a check for \$18.45 for an autographed copy. I have supported a couple of institutions in Orissa from the booksale.

Dr Sonjee was my name in the 1975 classic Oscar-winning film, “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest”.

Finally, to all Oriyas in North America, join the OSA. Let us not forget that Oriyas left for Indonesia in the 10th or 11th century. Only a few people know about this immigration. In North America, in contrast to Indonesia, let us keep the Oriya culture alive for years to come.

Annapurna, my wife Norma and I, wish you the best as incoming OSA President.



Champu, Chhanda, Odissi Initiative

By Lata Misra



During the 1950s, Odissi dance was not known outside of Orissa. With the tutelage of persons like Kabichandra Kali Charan Patnaik, Kelu Mohapatra, Sanjukta Panigrahi etc., Odissi dance is known all over the world now and has established itself as a premier dance form. Its affiliate, the Champu, Chhanda and Odissi sangeet, do not however, have the same fate. They are dying down from the memories the Odias. This age old form of these classical Odia sangeet needs a revival at this time, at least by the Odias, without which it will be forgotten soon. We the Odias have a moral obligation to see that such a thing does not happen in the future. In Odisha, the lovers of Champu, Chhanda and Odissi music are trying to bring back the age-old tradition of this art form so that it does not fade away from the memories of the people of Odisha. Stalwarts like Balkrushna Das, Shyamamani Patnaik and Bhikari Bal devoted their entire lives to the upliftment of Odissi sangeet, and now its gaining ground in our state.

The Odias living in the United States have never given importance to Odissi sangeet as they have done to Odissi dance. That is the reason why a few Odias are working hard to bring this ancient form of music to the forefront our audience in America. I with a few like minded people made a promise to bring back this classical form of sangeet to our second generation Odias in order to remind them that this sangeet is no less enthralling than the dance form.

In the year 2009, in spite of the skeptics, ten Odia youngsters, ranging from age 8 to 18 were persuaded to learn Champu, Chhanda and Odissi to perform in the 2009 OSA Convention. The untiring efforts of Riti Mohanty, herself an Odissi singer of repute, the children were ready to perform. A few children from outside the area also participated. Together, they sang brilliantly to the amazement of the Convention audience. Many attendees thought that the Odissi sangeet program of the kids was the best program in the cultural segment of the Convention.

Next year, in 2010, the Convention was held in California. The hard work of the Cultural Committee Chairperson, Gayatri Joshi and Kuku Das, paid off. There were 13 participants and they mesmerized the audience with their outstanding performances. The same year, the General Body of OSA approved the inclusion of Champu, Chhanda and Odissi sangeet as an item of the cultural function of every OSA convention. However, the following year of 2011, the initiative did not get any momentum in the Dallas Convention due to the apathy of the Cultural Committee. By June of the year, not a single entry was received for this item. I, in my despair, started calling all over the country and requested parents to support the initiative by enrolling their children in this program. I am grateful for the support I

received in this regard from Riti Mohanty and Ritu Mohapatra of NJ, Debaki Chowdhury and Bigyani Das of MD. They were instrumental in coaching the children for the program. As usual, the program, once again, became a hit among the audience and proved that this initiative is going to stay. The same year, based on the popularity of the program, OSA GBM passed another resolution that it would financially support the initiative.

Now it will be the duty of all Odia parents to encourage their children to continue in upholding this initiative by having regular practice, at least more frequently than once a year. The OSA Convention should not be the only occasion where they hastily prepare, once a year, for this program; rather they must present the program in every possible occasion in their respective chapters. We are also trying to create a CD containing twelve simple Champu, Chhanda and Odissi songs with music which will be followed by karaoke for the children to learn and rehearse them at their spare time without having a trained teacher of Odissi music. We have already started working on the production of such a CD with financial support from the lovers of this initiative, along with financial support from the OSA. Once the CD is made, it will become available to the children interested in such songs. In the meantime, I will urge all Odia parents to infuse interest in their children for this initiative so that the age-old tradition of this Odia music will continue.

OSA 2011 Souvenir Distribution Update

Following Chapter Representatives are provided with multiple copies to help distribute Souvenir to OSA members in their chapter:

Name	# of Copies	Description
Gatikrishna Tripathy	85 each	DC Chapter for Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia
Nishikant sahoo	25 each	England Chapter for NH, MA, CT, VT
Lalatendu Mohanty	85 each	NYNJ Chapter for NY, NJ, PA
Sushant Satapathy	35 each	Chicago Chapter for IL, Wisconsin
Kuku Das	85 each	for CA
Sabita Panigrahi	34 each	for Canada
Debasis Panda		has taken already for AZ
Gopal Mohapatra		has taken for TX
Puspita Bhuyan	34 each	Michigan Chapter for MI
Arata Rout	17 each	Ohio Chapter for Ohio
Priyadarshan Patra	17 each	Pacific Northwest Chapter for OR, WA, BC, Alberta
Binayak Panda	20 each	(for AL + TN)
Kiran Senapati	24 each	For Florida
Amar Pani	5 each	For TN

If you have not received your copy, please contact Tapan Padhi at tpadhi@yahoo.com and/or OSA Treasurer Sushant Satapathy at susant.satpathy@gmail.com.

July 2011 OSA BOG Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: 07/10/2011

Meeting Location: Conference Call

Recorded By: Leena Mishra

Attendance

No	Name	Title	Organization	Present
1	Annapurna Pandey	President	OSA	Yes
2	Kuku Das	Vice President	OSA	Yes
3	Leena Mishra	Secretary	OSA	Yes
4	Sushant Satpathy	Treasurer	OSA	Yes
5	Radha Gobinda Mohanty	President	OSA- Ozark Chapter	Yes
6	Gopala Mohapatra	President	OSA - Houston	Yes
7	Sabita Panigrahi	President	CanOSA	Yes
8	Pratap Das	Member – Past President	OSA	Yes
9	Priya Darshan Patra	President	OSA – Pacific Northwest Chapter	Yes
10	Gatikrushna Tripathy	President	OSA – Washington DC chapter	Yes
11	Amar Pani	President		Yes

Meeting Location

Conference Call

Meeting Start

Meeting Schedule Start: 9:00 pm Eastern time

Meeting Actual Start: 9:15 pm

Agenda

- Introduction
- Membership Drive

Meeting Details

- Formal Introduction by everyone in the meeting
- **Membership Drive Discussion**
- Annapurna Pandey mentioned that the two meetings held in OSA Convention was very productive.
Current OSA Members:
656 – Life Members
50 – Patrons

24 – Benefactors
 22 – 5 year membership
 Total OSA Members: 759

Membership fee is reduced to \$200 till 31st March 2012

Priya Darshan Patra requested the national officials to put emphasis on making members in Pacific North West Chapter.

Pratap Das provided the following suggestions:

- In every Convention OSA Membership booth should be established to provide the following information:
 - Provide membership information
 - Bringing in New members
 - Providing Chapter information
 - Other OSA Activities
 - Membership benefits
 -
- Service sectors should be contacted to provide discounts to OSA members. This will help in increasing the OSA membership immensely.

Priya Darshan Patra suggested that OSA booth idea should be included in the OSA Convention Guideline.

- To find a way to upgrade the current Life members to Patrons by paying a certain amount of money.
- Business meetings should be encouraged. People from odisha should be given the opportunity to attend the OSA business meetings.
- It was discussed that OSA convention DVD or other items can be given to the newly upgraded partons as a benefit.

Following ideas are expressed by Annapurana Pandey, Pratap Das and Priya Darshan Patra for bringing the Youth Member to OSA;

- Organizing Food drive for homeless people under the OSA banner
- Helping hand under OSA banner
- Youth camp funded by OSA
- Youth Seminars
- Stay connected in a OSA forum (Which is already existing, needs to be reactivated)

OSA National & Chapter Relationship:

Mrs. Sabita Panigrahi mentioned that more inter chapter activities like Regional Drama festival should be promoted to improve the relationship between chapter and OSA national.

Amar Pani mentioned that All families with kids between the age 21-39 should be enforced to pay certain amount towards membership fee.

Chhala Ame Oriya Sikhiba: Kuku Das asked the chapter presidents about starting it in their chapter.

Meeting End

Meeting Schedule End:

Meeting Actual End: 10:35 pm Eastern time

Post Meeting Action Items

Action	Assigned To	Deadline
Membership drive	Chair – Pratap das Committee Member – Chair : Pratap Das Members: Radha Gobinda Mohanty Manoj Padhi	ongoing

Decisions Made

OSA Booth should be opened in every convention.

Next Meeting

Next Meeting:

Location: Conference call – phone

Date – TBD in September

August 2011 OSA BOG Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: 8/28/2011

Meeting Location: Conference Call

Recorded By: Leena Mishra

Attendance

Meeting Location

Conference Call

Meeting Start

Meeting Schedule Start: 7:00 pm Eastern time

Meeting Actual Start: 7:20 pm

Agenda

- Souvenir Distribution
- OSA Web page
- CANOSA issue
- Membership drive and the role of Chapters
- Convention 2012 in Seattle
- Chhanda and Champu and the role of the chapters
- Constitution Revised Draft
- Miscellaneous Items

Meeting Details

- Formal Introduction by everyone in the meeting

Michigan Chapter Election

- Pitabasa Panda mentioned that the chapter election has been held and here is the outcome. Current OSA-Michigan Office bearers:
 - Pitabasa Panda – President
 - Secretary – Bibek Das
 - Treasurer – Promod Satpathy

Convention Souvenir Distribution

Sandip Dasverma mentioned that OSA treasurer should have the list of souvenir that is already distributed. He also asked to check with Mr. Nisikant Sahoo proposed to create a process for souvenir distribution which can be used every year. Priyadarshan Patra asked to contact the chapter president about the recipients of souvenir in each chapter. It was decided that Sushant Satpathy will work with Mr. Tapan Padhi, OSA 2011 convenor for directory and souvenir distribution.

OSA Web Page

Annapurna Pandey mentioned that Mr Shantanu Das has been requested to create the web page for this year convention.

Nisikant Sahoo mentioned that Current OSA web page needs more updates and maintenance.

Pitabasa Panda mentioned that Michigan chapter is currently undergoing a change. They have done a good analysis of the contents of the web page. He will provide us the details of information to be in the web page. OSA national can use it if needed.

It was decided that Leena Mishra, Nishikant Sahu and Priyadarshan Patra will discuss the possible improvements. There was a request for others to send their ideas and suggestions to Leena for compilation which will be discussed in next BOG meeting.

CANOSA Issue

Since Sabita Panigrahi was not in the meeting Annapurna Pandey suggested deferring the discussion for next meeting. Everyone was in agreement with that suggestion.

Membership drive and role of the Chapters

Annapurna Pandey asked for updates from all chapter presidents.

Priyadarshan Patra mentioned that Pacific Northwest chapter has been successful in adding 3 new life members and 5 are in progress.

Amar Pani mentioned that all kids over 21 years of age should be approached first before adding members from outside. They should provide a nominal value to be a life member. OSA can decide the fee for them.

He also mentioned to ask the committee members to take the accountability and provide the details about how to address the issue. This information should be published in the website.

Sushant Satpathy has mentioned that Southwest chapter has added 23 life members.

Darshan Babu has mentioned that he has prepared a slide which has the list of advantages of being an OSA life member. He will send it to OSA National. OSA National will go through it and share it with all chapter presidents.

Anadi Nayak commented on membership drive as follows.

- Make all over 21 years as members.
- Try to smooth things between Chapter and Nationals.
- Spread positive news from each chapter and share it with all chapters.

Convention 2012 in Seattle

Priya Darshan Patra mentioned that they are working on the following tasks currently;

- Chapter Build Up
- Convention Work
 - Convention Work includes
 - Working on Finding Hotels. Seattle is first choice since 12 committed families leave in seattle.
 - Created a Chapter Website (PacificNW.Orissasociety.org)
 - Educating people about OSA and OSA Convention.
 - Running Food drive, temple cookout for improving awareness about OSA
 - Working on gathering more families.

Anadi Nayak questioned Priya darshan Patra regarding the possibilities of making it happen in 10 months when the Convenor is not even chosen.

Sandip dasverma joined Priyadarshan Patra with the positive spirit in replying to Anadi Babu. PriyaDarshan Patra also mentioned about extending the community invitation to the greater community of Oriyas in North America.

Annapurna Pandey raised an important question to the BOG that what can OSA national do when a separate group runs and prepares to do convention in the name of OSA.

Anadi nayak raised his concern having two conventions.

Sushant Satpathy mentioned that once the convention is decided it is the decision of the chapter president to choose the convener in consultation with chapter members.

Anadi Nayak mentioned that if there is any possibility of issue over convention OSA national should intervene early in the process.

Chhanda & Champu Competition

Annapurna Pandey has mentioned that Lata Mishra has called her and requested to promote the competition in chapter level.

Nisikant Sahoo mentioned to create some material on this that will help to promote the competition.

Anadi Nayak proposed Annapurna Pandey and Lata Mishra should work together and come up with a plan how to promote it.

Miscellaneous

- Annapurna Pandey mentioned that Utkarsha will be out 1st week of Septemeber so requested all chapter presidents to provide report as soon as possible to editor of Utkarsha.
- It was requested in the meeting to have the agenda of the BOG Meeting distributed with the BOG members 2 weeks before the meeting.
- Next BOG meeting will be held first Sunday of every month at 6:00 Pm Pacific time. It was decided that September meeting should be skipped and should be held in October.
- Pitabasa Panda raised his concern over not getting communication regarding Regional Drama Festival. He requested to keep the Chapter president involved in all chapter related communications.

Meeting End

Meeting Schedule End: none

Meeting Actual End: 9:20 pm Eastern time

Post Meeting Action Items

Action	Assigned To	Deadline
Chapter List for getting Email IDs	Leena Mishra	N/A
Slides on being OSA member	Priya Darshan Patra	N/A
Pitabasa Panda	OSA Michigan website Change Details	N/A

Decisions Made

Next Meeting

Next Meeting: October First Sunday 10/02/2011

Location: Conference call – phone

Odia film maker Ghanashyam Mohapatra honored in OSA 2011

Ghanashyam Mohapatra, Producer -Director is a graduate in Science with DISTINCTION and a DIPLOMA HOLDER IN CINEMATOGRAPHY WITH FIRST CLASS from SJ. POLYTECHNIC, Bangalore in 1955-58 devoting himself to the making of purposeful documentaries, was honored at the 2011 OSA convention. Below is an article written by him accompanied by his photographs and reminscences with the great director Satyajit Ray.

For a recent interview with him read:



<http://www.orissadiary.com/CurrentNews.asp?id=27664>

ଆମେରିକାରେ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ସଂସ୍କୃତି

ଘନଶ୍ୟାମ ମହାପାତ୍ର

ଉପର ଶିରୋନାମାଟି ପଢ଼ି ପାଠକମାନଙ୍କୁ ଲାଗିବ ସତରେ କ'ଣ “ଲଙ୍କାରେ ହରିନାମ” । ହଁ, ସତରେ ଲଙ୍କାରେ ହରି ନାମ । ଯେଉଁମାନେ ସାତ ଦରିଆ ପାରି ସୁଦୂର ଆମେରିକାରେ ପ୍ରାୟ ପାଞ୍ଚ ଦଶନ୍ଧି ଧରି ରହି ଆସୁଥିବା ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଭାଇ, ଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କ (ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ସଂଖ୍ୟା ପ୍ରାୟ ୨,୦୦୦ରୁ ବେଶୀ ହୋଇପାରେ) ମାନଙ୍କ “**ଓଡ଼ିଆ ସୋସାଇଟି ଅଫ ଆମେରିକା**” (ଓସା) ର ବାର୍ଷିକ ଉତ୍ସବ (ବା ସମ୍ମିଳନୀ) ପ୍ରତିବର୍ଷ ଜୁଲାଇ ମାସରେ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠିତ ହେଉଥିବା ନିଜ ଆଖିରେ ଦେଖିନାହାଁନ୍ତି, ସେମାନେ ଏ କଥାକୁ ଆଦୌ ବିଶ୍ୱାସ କରିପାରିବେ ନାହିଁ । ମୁଁ ମଧ୍ୟ ଆଗରୁ ଏହି କଥା ଭାବୁଥିଲି । ସୌଭାଗ୍ୟ କ୍ରମେ ଶ୍ରୀ ଜଗନ୍ନାଥଙ୍କ କୃପାରୁ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ସଂସ୍କୃତିର ପ୍ରତୀକ ପ୍ରାୟ ଚାଲିଶ ବର୍ଷ ପୂର୍ବରୁ ନିର୍ମିତ ଖାଣ୍ଡି ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଚଳଚ୍ଚିତ୍ର (ପଲ୍ଲୀକବି ନନ୍ଦକିଶୋର ବଳଙ୍କ ଉପନ୍ୟାସ ଉପରେ ଆଧାରିତ) **କନକଲତା**, ଏହି ସୋସାଇଟିର କର୍ମକର୍ତ୍ତାମାନଙ୍କ ଦ୍ୱାରା ନିର୍ମିତ ହୋଇ ଏହି ବର୍ଷ ସେଠାର ବାର୍ଷିକ ଉତ୍ସବରେ ପ୍ରଦର୍ଶନ ହେବାର କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ହେଲା ଓ ଏହାର ପ୍ରୟୋଜକ ଓ ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶକ ହିସାବରେ ଉପରୋକ୍ତ ଲେଖକଙ୍କୁ ବିଶିଷ୍ଟ ଅତିଥି ଭାବେ ଯୋଗଦେବାର ନିମନ୍ତ୍ରଣ ମିଳିଲା ଓ ସେହି ବାର୍ଷିକ ଉତ୍ସବରେ ଯୋଗଦେଇ ଚାରିଦିନ ବ୍ୟାପି (ଜୁଲାଇ ୧ତାରିଖରେ ଆରମ୍ଭ ହୋଇ ୪ତାରିଖ ସକାଳ ସୁଦ୍ଧା) ଓଡ଼ିଆ ସଂସ୍କୃତିର ଆକର୍ଷକ ନାନାପ୍ରକାର ଝଲକ ଯଥା - ବିଭିନ୍ନ ପଲ୍ଲୀଗୀତର ଗାନ, ଛାନ୍ଦ, କବିତା ପାଠ, ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଗୀତମାନଙ୍କର ମେହେଫିଲ୍, ବିଭିନ୍ନ ପଲ୍ଲୀ ନୃତ୍ୟ, ହାସ୍ୟରସାତ୍ମକ ସୁଆଙ୍ଗ, ଗୀତିନାଟ୍ୟ ଓ ଓଡ଼ିଶୀ ନୃତ୍ୟ ବ୍ୟତିରେକେ ଏବର୍ଷର ଅଧିକ ଆକର୍ଷଣ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଚଳଚ୍ଚିତ୍ର ପ୍ରଦର୍ଶନ ଦେଖି ଅଭିଭୂତ ହୋଇଗଲି ।

ଅନ୍ତତଃ ମୋ ନିଜର ଦୀର୍ଘ ୬୦ ବର୍ଷର ଅନୁଭୂତିରେ ସାରା ଭାରତର ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକ ବଡ଼ ବଡ଼ ସହରରେ ଯଥା ଦିଲ୍ଲୀ, କଲିକତା, ବମ୍ବେ, ଚେନାଇ ଓ ବାଙ୍ଗାଲୋର ଇତ୍ୟାଦିରେ ପ୍ରାୟ ଲକ୍ଷାଧିକ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଭାଇ ଓ ଭଉଣୀ ବାସକରୁଛନ୍ତି, କିନ୍ତୁ ଏହିପରି ଓଡ଼ିଆ ସଂସ୍କୃତିକୁ ନିଖୁଣ ଭାବରେ ପ୍ରଦର୍ଶନ କରି ବଞ୍ଚାଇବାର ଚେଷ୍ଟା କୌଣସି ଠାରେ ଅଦ୍ୟାବଧି ଦେଖିନାହିଁ । ଯେଉଁ ବିଶିଷ୍ଟ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ବନ୍ଧୁମାନେ ଏହା ପୂର୍ବରୁ ନିର୍ମିତ ହୋଇ ଓସାର ଏହିପରି ବାର୍ଷିକ ଉତ୍ସବ ଥରେ ମାତ୍ର ଦେଖୁଥିବେ, ସେମାନେ ଅକୃଷିତ ଚିତ୍ତରେ ଏହାର ସତ୍ୟତା ସ୍ୱୀକାର କରିବେ ।

ଏହି ବର୍ଷ ଓସାର ୪୨ତମ ବାର୍ଷିକ ଉତ୍ସବ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠିତ ହୋଇଥିଲା । ଏଥିରେ ଉଦ୍‌ଘାଟକ ଭାବରେ ନିର୍ମିତ ହୋଇ ଯୋଗଦେଇଥିଲେ ପ୍ରସିଦ୍ଧ ଶିରିଡ଼ି ସାଇବାବା ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠାନର ଗୁରୁ ମାନନୀୟ ଚନ୍ଦ୍ରଭାନୁ ଶତପଥୀ । ମୁଖ୍ୟ ଅତିଥି ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ପ୍ରଖ୍ୟାତ ସଙ୍ଗୀତ ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶକ ଶାନ୍ତନୁ ମହାପାତ୍ର ।

ମୁଖ୍ୟ ବକ୍ତା ଭାରତ ସରକାରଙ୍କ ଦିଲ୍ଲୀସ୍ଥିତ ମୁଖ୍ୟ ସୂଚନା କମିଶନର ଶ୍ରୀ ସତ୍ୟାନନ୍ଦ ମିଶ୍ର । ମୁଖ୍ୟ କି ନୋଟ୍ ବକ୍ତା ଓରଟେଲ୍ ଏବଂ ଓଟିଭିର ମୁଖ୍ୟ ପରିଚାଳିକା ମାନନୀୟା ଶ୍ରୀଯୋଗୀ ମଙ୍ଗତ ପଣ୍ଡା । ଅନ୍ୟ ସଙ୍ଗୀତକାରମାନେ ହେଲେ ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ବିଶିଷ୍ଟ କଣ୍ଠ ଶିଳ୍ପୀ ଚିତ୍ତ ଜେନା, ପ୍ରଶାନ୍ତ ମୁଦୁଲି, ସଙ୍ଗୀତା ଗୋସାଇଁ ଓ ଅନିନ୍ଦିତା ଦାସ । ବିଶିଷ୍ଟ ଓଡ଼ିଶୀ ନୃତ୍ୟଗୁରୁ ନିତ୍ୟାନନ୍ଦ ଦାସ, ଗୁରୁ ବିଜୟ ଦାସ, ଗୁରୁ ଅମୃତ୍ୟ ବଳବନ୍ତ ରାଓ ଏବଂ ଓଡ଼ିଶୀ ନୃତ୍ୟାଙ୍ଗନା ମିନତୀ ମିଶ୍ର ।

ଆମେରିକାର ଟେକସାସ୍ ରାଜ୍ୟ, ଡାଲାସ ସହରର ବିରାଟ ହୋଟେଲ **ମେରିଥର୍** ଠାରେ ଦୀର୍ଘ ୪ଦିନ ଧରି ଏହି ଓସା ଉତ୍ସବ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠିତ ହୋଇଥିଲା । ଏହି ଓସା ସମ୍ମିଳନୀ -୨୦୧୧ର ବିଶିଷ୍ଟ ଘଟଣା ହେଲା ଆମେରିକା କଂଗ୍ରେସର ଜଣେ ବିଶିଷ୍ଟ ସଭ୍ୟ (ଭାରତ - ଆମେରିକା କଂଗ୍ରେସ ଗୋଷ୍ଠୀର ଦୃଢ଼ ସମର୍ଥକ) ଯେକି, ବାଇଶି ଥର ଭାରତ ଗସ୍ତରେ ଆସି ଭାରତର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ସମସ୍ୟା ବିଷୟରେ ଆଲୋଚନା କରିଛନ୍ତି ଏବଂ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଗସ୍ତରେ ମଧ୍ୟ ଆସି ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାରଙ୍କ ସହ କିପ୍ରକାର ସହଯୋଗ କରିହେବ ସେ ବିଷୟରେ ଆଲୋଚନା ମଧ୍ୟ କରିଛନ୍ତି । ତାଙ୍କ ନାଁ ଯିମ୍ ମ୍ୟାକ୍ ଡରମର୍ (Jim Mcdermott) ଅନ୍ୟତମ ମୁଖ୍ୟ ବକ୍ତାଭାବରେ ଯୋଗଦେଇ ସମ୍ମିଳନୀର ଶୁଭ କାମନା କରିବା ସହିତ ଓଡ଼ିଶାପ୍ରତି ତାଙ୍କର ପୁରା ସହାନୁଭୂତି ଓ ସମର୍ଥନ ଥିବା କଥା ଘୋଷଣା କରିଛନ୍ତି । ଓସା ସମ୍ମିଳନୀରେ ଜଣେ ଆମେରିକୀୟ କଂଗ୍ରେସ ସଭ୍ୟ ପୁରା ସମୟ ଦେଇ ଭାଗ ନେବା ଓ ତାଙ୍କର ପୁରା ସମର୍ଥନ ଘୋଷଣା କରିବା ଏହା ପ୍ରଥମ । ଓସାର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ସାଂସ୍କୃତିକ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ଗୁଡ଼ିକୁ ସେ ଆନନ୍ଦର ସହିତ ପୁରାଦିନ ଦେଖିବା ଆମେରିକାବାସୀ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଗୋଷ୍ଠୀ ପାଇଁ ଏକ ଶୁଭ ସୂଚନା ବୋଲି ଉପସ୍ଥିତ ସମସ୍ତ ଦର୍ଶକ ଅନୁଭବ କଲେ ।

ଆମେରିକା କଂଗ୍ରେସ ସଭ୍ୟ ଯିମ୍ ମ୍ୟାକ୍ ଡରମର୍ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ସଂସ୍କୃତିର ବିଭିନ୍ନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ସବୁ ଦେଖି ଏତେ ଖୁସିହେଲେ ଯେ, ସେ କହିଲେ “ମତେ ଲାଗୁଛି ମୁଁ ଯେମିତି ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଭିତରେ ଅଛି” ଏବଂ ଓସା ସମ୍ମିଳନୀର ଆସନ୍ତା ୨୦୧୨ ମସିହା ଉତ୍ସବକୁ ତାଙ୍କ ନିଜ ରାଜ୍ୟ ସ୍ତ୍ରୀସିଂଟନସ୍ଥିତ ସିଏଟଲ (Seattle) ସହରରେ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠିତ କରିବାକୁ ଓସା କର୍ମକର୍ତ୍ତାମାନଙ୍କୁ ସେହିଠାରେ ନିମନ୍ତ୍ରଣ କଲେ ଓ ତାହା ଘୋଷଣା କରାଗଲା ।

୨୦୧୧ ଓସା ଉତ୍ସବର ଅନ୍ୟ ଏକ ବିଶେଷ ଆକର୍ଷଣ ଥିଲା ବିଶିଷ୍ଟ ଓଡ଼ିଶୀ ନୃତ୍ୟଗୁରୁ ନିତ୍ୟାନନ୍ଦ ଦାଶ ଯେକି ୧୯୯୭, ୧୯୯୮ ମସିହାରେ ସର୍ବଭାରତୀୟ ସ୍ତରରେ ଓଡ଼ିଶୀ ପ୍ରତିଯୋଗୀତାରେ ପ୍ରଥମ ସ୍ଥାନ ଅଧିକାର କରିଥିଲେ । ଦୁର୍ଭାଗ୍ୟବଶତଃ କୌଣସି ଏକ ଦୁର୍ଘଟଣାରେ ତାଙ୍କର ଡାହାଣ ଗୋଡ଼ଟି ହରାଇଛନ୍ତି ଓ ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ଭାରତର ଏକମାତ୍ର ଭିନ୍ନକ୍ଷମ ଓଡ଼ିଶୀଗୁରୁ ହିସାବରେ ତାଙ୍କ ସାଥୁ ଗୁରୁ ବିଜୟ ଦାସଙ୍କ ସହିତ ନିମନ୍ତ୍ରିତ ହୋଇ ସେଠା ଉତ୍ସବରେ ଏକ ଅନନ୍ୟ ଓଡ଼ିଶୀନୃତ୍ୟ ପ୍ରଦର୍ଶନ କରି (ଗୋଟିଏ ଗୋଡ଼ରେ ଆଉ କୌଣସି ସହାୟତା ନନେଇ) ଉପସ୍ଥିତ ପ୍ରାୟ ହଜାରେ ଦର୍ଶକଙ୍କୁ ଭାବବିହ୍ୱଳ କରିପକାଇଲେ । ଏହ କେବଳ ଓସାର ମୁଖ୍ୟ ପରିଚାଳକ ଶ୍ରୀ ତପନ ପାଢ଼ୀଙ୍କ

ସହୃଦୟତାର ପରିଚୟ ଦିଏ ।

ଆଉ ଗୋଟିଏ ବିଶେଷ ପ୍ରଚେଷ୍ଟା ଦେଖିଲି, ଆମେରିକାର ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକ ବଡ଼ ବଡ଼ ସହରରେ ବାସକରୁଥିବା ଓଡ଼ିଆ ସଭ୍ୟମାନେ ତାଙ୍କ ନିଜ ନିଜ ସହରରେ ଗୋଟିଏ ଗୋଟିଏ ଶାଖା ଗଢ଼ି ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକ ବିଶିଷ୍ଟ ପର୍ବ ପର୍ବାଣୀ ଯଥା : ଶ୍ରୀ ଗଣେଶ ପୂଜା, ସରସ୍ୱତୀ ପୂଜା, କ୍ରମାନ୍ୱୟ ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣିମା ଇତ୍ୟାଦି ଖୁସିରେ ପାଳନ କରୁଅଛନ୍ତି । ତାଙ୍କ ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କୁ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଭାଷା ଶିକ୍ଷାଦେବା, ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ପାରମ୍ପାରିକ ଗୀତ, ସଙ୍ଗୀତ, ନୃତ୍ୟ, ଓଡ଼ିଶୀ ଓ ଏକାଙ୍କିକା ଇତ୍ୟାଦି କରାଇବା ଚାଲୁରଖୁଛନ୍ତି ।

ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ମୁଖ୍ୟ ସଂସ୍କୃତି ହେଲା ଜଗନ୍ନାଥ ସଂସ୍କୃତି । ବଡ଼ ସୁଖର ବିଷୟରେ, ଯେଉଁ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀମାନେ ଆମେରିକାର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ବଡ଼ ବଡ଼ ସହରରେ ବାସ କରୁଛନ୍ତି, ସେମାନେ ସେଠାରେ ଶ୍ରୀ ଜଗନ୍ନାଥ ମହାପ୍ରଭୁଙ୍କ ବିଗ୍ରହ ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠାକରି ନିୟମିତ ପୂଜାର୍ଚ୍ଚନା କରାଇବାର ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା କରିଛନ୍ତି । ମହାପ୍ରଭୁଙ୍କ ବିଶିଷ୍ଟ ପର୍ବ ସ୍ନାନପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣିମା ଓ ରଥଯାତ୍ରା ବହୁ ଆଡ଼ମ୍ବର ସହକାରେ ସମସ୍ତ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀମାନେ ଏକାଠିହୋଇ ପାଳନ କରିବା ମୁଁ ନିଜ ଆଖିରେ ଦେଖିଆସିଲି ।

ଓସାର ଏହି ବାର୍ଷିକ ଉତ୍ସବରେ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଶାଖାର ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ନାନା ପ୍ରକାର ପ୍ରତିଯୋଗିତା ନିୟମିତ କରାଇ ଶ୍ରେଷ୍ଠ ପ୍ରତିଯୋଗୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ପୁରସ୍କୃତ କରିବାର ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା ମଧ୍ୟ କରିଛନ୍ତି । ଏବର୍ଷ ଉତ୍ସବରେ ବୋଇତ ବନ୍ଦାଣଠାରୁ ଆରମ୍ଭ କରି ମହାନଦୀ ବୋହିଯାଏ ଏକ ସଂଜ୍ଞାତ ରୂପକ, ଫକିରମୋହନ ସେନାପତିଙ୍କ ରାଣ୍ଡିପୁଅ ଅନନ୍ତା, ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କ ଦ୍ୱାରା କାଞ୍ଚି ଅଭିଯାନ ଯାତ୍ରା, ଓଡ଼ିଶୀ ଛାନ୍ଦ ଚଉତିଶା, ଓଡ଼ିଶୀ ନୃତ୍ୟ (ଜୁନିୟର ଓ ସିନିୟର) ବିଭାଗ ଇତ୍ୟାଦି ବିଶେଷ ଆକର୍ଷଣ ଥିଲା ।

ଏହିପରି ଭାବରେ ସାତ ଦରିଆପାରି ସୁଦୂର ଆମେରିକାରେ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ସୋସାଇଟି ଅଫ ଆମେରିକାର ଓଡ଼ିଆ ସଂସ୍କୃତିକୁ ପ୍ରଦର୍ଶନ ପୂର୍ବକ ବଞ୍ଚାଇ ରଖିବା ଏକ ଆନନ୍ଦଦାୟକ ଘଟଣା ଓ ଏଥିପାଇଁ ସେଠାରେ ବାସ କରୁଥିବା ସମସ୍ତ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀ ଓ ଓସାର କର୍ମକର୍ତ୍ତାମାନଙ୍କୁ ମୁଁ ବିଶେଷ ଧନ୍ୟବାଦ ଜଣାଉଛି । ମୂଳ ଓଡ଼ିଶୀ ମାଟିରେ ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ପାଶ୍ଚାତ୍ୟ ସଭ୍ୟତାର ଅନ୍ଧ ଅନୁକରଣରେ ନାନାପ୍ରକାର ବାର୍ ଦ୍ୟାନ୍ତ, ପପ୍ କଲଚର୍, ଡିସ୍କୋ ଇତ୍ୟାଦି ପ୍ରସାର ଲାଭ କରି ଯୁବଗୋଷ୍ଠୀର ଓଡ଼ିଆ ସଂସ୍କୃତି ପ୍ରତି ଅନାଦର ବଢ଼ିଚାଲିଛି ଏବଂ ଆମର ମୂଳ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ସଂସ୍କୃତି ପ୍ରାୟ ଲୋପ ପାଇବାକୁ ବସିଲାଣି । ଏହିସବୁ ଦୃଷ୍ଟିରୁ ଆମେରିକା ପରି ବିଦେଶ ମାଟିରେ (ଅଳ୍ପ ସଂଖ୍ୟକ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀ ବାସ କରୁଥିଲେ ମଧ୍ୟ) ଓଡ଼ିଆ ସଂସ୍କୃତି ହେଲେ ବଞ୍ଚି ରହୁ, ଏତିକି ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ଇଷ୍ଟଦେବ ଜଗତର ମଙ୍ଗଳକର୍ତ୍ତା ଶ୍ରୀ ଶ୍ରୀ ଜଗନ୍ନାଥଙ୍କ ପଦ୍ମ ପାଦରେ ବିନୀତ ପ୍ରାର୍ଥନା ।



Reminiscences

MY MEMORIES OF A MAESTRO

When I was a student in the Ravenshaw College, Cuttack, from 1951 to 55, I had occasion to see some good Bengali films in the morning shows on Sundays at the Prabhat Cinema at Buxi Bazar, where a majority of Bengali families got together for that purpose. I liked the story and treatment of the Bengali films of that period. Famous among those are films of star pair Uttam Kumar - Suchitra Sen, films like 'Meghe Dhaka Tara' by Ritwik Ghatak' and some other films by reputed Bengali directors. That is how I developed my appreciation of good cinema and love for the film medium.

In July 1955, I got admission in Cinematography at S.J. Polytechnic, Bangalore as a Govt. Scholar from Odisha. It may be informed here that the S.J. Polytechnic, a Govt. of Mysore Institute, was the only one of its kind in the whole of India at that time, having a 3 years Diploma Course in Cinematography & Sound Engineering.

In 1955-56, the first realistic feature film of Satyajit Ray i.e. "PATHER PANCHALI" was released in India and I saw that film at a special morning show in Bangalore on a Sunday at Majestic Circle. At the first instance, I loved that film, so much so, that I have never forgotten some of the scenes like rains on pond

water, the little daughter playfully drenching herself in rain and subsequently falling ill and succumbing to her illness. Her death compelled the family to leave the village. The other scenes I remember are, monkey-play enjoyed by the children and offering of guava fruits by the girl to her old aunt, who was not treated well by her mother.

From that day onwards, whenever there is a show of any of Ray's films, I don't miss it - whether the show is put up at a far-away cinema at Lower Parel or at Dadar in Bombay. I have seen a majority of Ray's films. To name a few: **Apu's Trilogy, Jalasagar, Devi, Teenkanya, Documentary on Rabindranath Tagore, Kanchan Jungha, Abhijan, Mahanagar, Charulata, Nayak, Goopi Gyne Bagha Byne, Aranyar Din Ratri, Pratikhandi, Seemabadha, Shatranj Ki Khilari** & even Doordarshan's commissioned Film 'Sadgati' with Smita Patil.

My first personal acquaintance with the great director began in 1959, after my return from Bombay, when I went to Kolkata and met him at his two storeyed flat in Ballygunj. Actually I went to his 1st small house at Lake Temple Road, where he was first staying with his maternal uncle's family and his mother, who directed me to his Ballygunj residence. A tall figure, standing in front of me near the door,



asked me my name and the purpose of coming to him. **'Tumhara naam ta Ki', 'Tumi Kena Aasheche'**, I replied in broken Bengali. **'Aapaner Kachhe Aami Kaaj Karate Chahi, Taar Janya Ashechi, Aamake Ekta Chance deen'**. Then I informed that I am a graduate in Cinematography with 1st class from S.J. Polytechnic, Bangalore and had also practical experience of working as Assistant Film Director in many Hindi Film Productions at Filmistan studios, Bombay for about one year. He quietly listened to me and then said **'Bhallo' 'Kintu Tumake Bangla shikh te habe, akane kaajre janya bangla bhasa balte chahi', 'aamar kachhe ekhane kichhu khali naye, Tumi Jigish Kare Pare Aesh'** and I returned.

At that time, there was no regular film production activity in Odisha. Nor there was any film studio. Being a film technician I thought why not try myself out in production of Oriya films. I contacted many businessmen, industrialists and even met the then Chief Minister Harekrishna Mahtab and Biju Patnaik but to no avail. Then I contacted some young friends and with their little support I started a private ltd. company "KONARK FILMS" in 1960 and was able to produce some documentary films with a social message on "Maternity and Child Welfare" and also on the subject of "Family Planning". Later on, one of these films won the Govt. of Orissa Best Documentary Award.

Being thus encouraged, I approached the Reserve Bank of India for Bank Finance and produced the first Eastman Colour documentary "Odissi Dance" with exponent Sanjukta Panigrahi, her singer husband Raghunath Panigrahi and Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra in 1971. On the success of Odissi, the Chairman of State Bank of India R.K. Talwar encouraged me by granting finance of 1.5 lakhs for the production of a classic novel "KANAKLATA" written by poet and educationist Nanda Kishore Bal. The novel depicted the life in rural Odisha in the early 20th Century.

The entire full length Oriya feature film "KANAKLATA" was shot in rural locations of some villages, zamindari houses, temples and even Govt. Katcheri, advocates' chambers - all in the true realistic traditions of the Great Master Satyajit Ray, as he did in "Pather Panchali" way back in 1954 -55. In my shooting of the feature film, there was no dubbing even of a single sound-track. All the dialogues of about 20 or more characters are of sync. shooting in Arrieflex 35 and Nagra Recorder. It took me about 40 day shifts

and another 2 night shifts ; one for the marriage-scene and another for Jatra- scene. The song recording, post production work i.e. editing, B.G.M, film processing and printing, titles etc. was all completed at India Film Laboratories, Kolkata under the guidance and supervision of Mr. R.B. Mehta at Tollygunge, where Mr. Satyajit Ray also does his post production work.

When 'Kanaklata' was released in July 1974 in Odisha, it had mixed response. So I invited the veteran Director Mrinal Sen in Puja holidays to preview my film "Kanaklata" and advise me. Mr. Sen was good enough to accept my invitation and previewed the entire film at India Film Lab. Theatre. Sen appreciated my efforts. After hearing of the Film's lack of response in Odisha, Mr. Sen advised me to prepare a new good print in 35mm, b & w and enter the film in the coming 1975 - 5th International Film Festival of India to be held at New Delhi after a gap of 11 years. He also gave me the detailed address of the Directorate of Film Festivals and instructed me about the procedure of making an entry. I followed his good advise.

But by the time of my preparing a new 35mm print of the film, the date of entry for competition section, i.e. October was over as I came to be informed by the DFF office. However the DFF advised me to enter the film in the Information category, since there was no Indian Panorama Section at that festival. It was my bad luck I thought. Satyajit Ray was the Chairman of the 1975 5th iffi that year at Delhi. I took a chance and met Mr. Ray at the Ashoka Hotel and requested him to preview my film "Kanaklata". Mr. Ray was good enough to listen to me as to how, with much difficulty I was able to produce the feature in Odisha where there was no encouragement of any sorts for newcomers and neither any facilities of film production. Mr. Ray was all sympathetic to my cause and told me **'Tumi Jakhan Kolkataya Aasho, Takhan aamake dekha kar, chhabitar dekhibar par aami Tumake Kichhu balte parab, aakhane delhi te aamake subidha habena'** and he gave me his contact phone number and Kolkata address.

After that I had gone to Kolkata and met Mr. Ray several times at his 1/1 Bishop Lefroy Road home. He is so affectionate and sympathetic to me that it is not possible to narrate all those feelings in mere words. **'Aami Jakhan Jigish Karabe Ki dada, aami ekto dekha karate chahi, Takhan uuni ballen 'jigish karo chha ki chalo aasho'**. Mr. Ray always answered his telephone himself and the words were so sweet and

encouraging, as if he was a close relative - always ready to help and advise. When I meet Mr. Ray, he first enquired everything about my film and my Personal well being and frankly discussed several points of his under production film 'Shatranj Ke Khilari' - How he went incognito to the Chor Bazar in Bombay near Crawford market and to old Delhi - Chandni Chowk in search of various property items as also dress material jewellery etc. of that period of Lucknow.

While Mr. Ray sat in his usual chair near the corner window surrounded by all types of his working materials and books etc. in the big and spacious office-cum visiting room, many visitors came and went. But when I asked "Dada, aami aakhan aasab - Takhan uuni ballen Kena, baso" and saying so attended to his other visitors or to any other work. So I sat for long hours in his room and observed his working and talking to other visitors. It was a life time's experience for me to be with the great master on those days.

As I know and felt myself Mr. Ray has all the love and affection and words of encouragement to the young film makers. This was his speciality unlike other big film directors and film personalities. He was always very simple in dress and in behaviour. I felt that there is no comparison of Mr. Ray with any other film celebrity in India. Mr. Ray stands the high pedestal of ideal film personalities I ever met in all my contacts at many National and International Film Festivals, be it at Nitra Czechoslovakia, Wettbewerb Berlin; Amstardam as also at the first International non feature film festival at Leningrad (presently St. Petersburg Russia) as also at many of Mumbai's International Short & Documentary Film Festivals; where the writer was a delegate or Executive Committee Member, Jury Chairman and several times Jury Member.

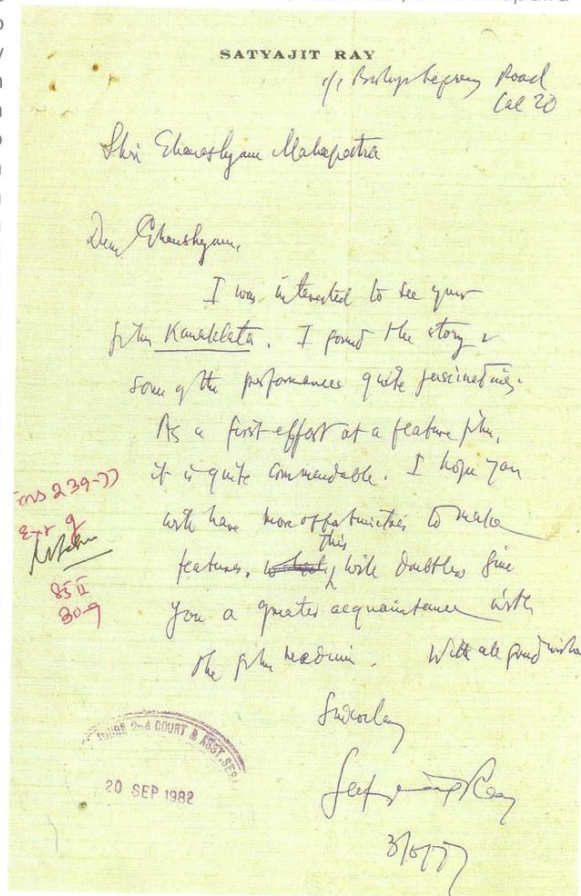
In 1977, during the editing of 'Shatranj Ke Khilari' Mr. Ray being unable to find a two hours gap in his daily work schedule, cancelled one of his editing programmes in order to make time to preview my film at Kolkata India Film Lab. theatre. Mr. Ray was good enough to sit silently for two long hours to preview the Oriya feature Film "Kanaklata". Thus he kept the request I had made to him several times in the past. After the show, he highly appreciated the film and advised me to prepare the English sub -titled

version and try to enter the film in some foreign film festivals. Later on Mr. Ray also favoured me with his letter of appreciation of the Film "KANAKLATA" in his own handwriting, which I have preserved (along with a Photo with him taken earlier at Delhi) till date as most valuable treasures of my life.

Mr. Ray had confided in me that he never liked to see any Indian or regional films of any director or producer either of Kolkata or of Madras or of Bombay because there was nothing new in the film for him to see or know. He would say "Ki dekhbo"? But Mr. Ray was sympathetic to me whenever I met him for his kind advice and guidance. My only sorrow that I could not meet him in his last days of life at the private nursing home in Kolkata, where he breathed his last.

Except his own relations, no private persons were allowed to visit him there. Mr. Ray and his idealism shall remain as leading light to all those young Film makers who love the art of cinema in India and abroad.

by Ghanashyam Mohapatra



April-June 2011

Take One

Reflections on Cinema



Satyajit Ray Film & Television Institute Kolkata



MUSINGS

ଉଦ୍ୟାନର ସଂପର୍କ

...

Udyanara Samparka

(ପୂର୍ବ ପ୍ରକାଶିତ ଉତ୍ତର)

ବିଜ୍ଞାନୀ ଦାସ, ଡେପୁଟି, ମେରୀଲାଣ୍ଡ

ପୋଖରୀଟି ବଡ଼ ସୁନ୍ଦର ଦିଶୁଥିଲା । ଅବିକଳ କାବ୍ୟକବିତାରେ ବର୍ଣ୍ଣିତ ହେବାଭଳି । ପାଣି ଭିତରେ ପଦ୍ମ, କଇଁ ଫୁଲର ଶୋଭା ସାଙ୍ଗକୁ ଚତୁପାର୍ଶ୍ଵରେ ଲାଗିଥିବା ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଫୁଲଗଛର ସୌନ୍ଦର୍ଯ୍ୟ ପରିବେଶକୁ ଆହୁରି ଚମତ୍କୃତ କରୁଥିଲା । ହଂସ, ବତକମାନଙ୍କର ପହୁଁରିବା ସାଙ୍ଗକୁ ମାଛମାନଙ୍କର ଡେଇଁବା ଏକ ଅଭିନବ ଆନନ୍ଦ ଦେଉଥିଲା । ପୋଖରୀପାଖ ଲନ୍ଦ୍ରେ ସିମେଣ୍ଟରେ ତିଆରି ହୋଇ ବେଞ୍ଚ ଓ ଟେବୁଲ୍ ସବୁ । ସେଇଠି ସବୁ ମେଳ ହୋଇଥାନ୍ତି ଡକ୍ଟର୍ ଦାଶଙ୍କର ପରିବାର ଓ ବନ୍ଧୁବର୍ଗ । ଗୀତ ବାଜୁଥାଏ ଓ ପିଲାମାନେ ବେଳେବେଳେ ଉଠିପଡ଼ି ନାଚୁଥାନ୍ତି ଓ ପୁଣି ବସି ଗପସପରେ ମଜ୍ଜି ଯାଉଥାନ୍ତି ଓ ହସୁଥାନ୍ତି । ପ୍ରତିଭାକୁ ଦେଖିବାକ୍ଷଣି ହଠାତ୍ ଗୀତ ବନ୍ଦ ହୋଇଗଲା ଓ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କର ଜିଜ୍ଞାସା ଏକତ୍ରିତ ହୋଇ ପ୍ରତିଭା ଉପରେ ଠୁଳ ହେଲା । ଡକ୍ଟର୍ ଦାଶ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କ ସହିତ ପ୍ରତିଭାର ପରିଚୟ କରାଇଦେଲେ ।

“ତମ ଘର କେଉଁଠି?” – ଜଣେ ମଧ୍ୟବୟସ୍କା ମହିଳାଙ୍କର ପ୍ରଶ୍ନ ।

“ଆମ ଘର ବାରିପଦା ।” – ପ୍ରତିଭା ଉତ୍ତର ଦେଲା ଓ ତାପରେ ଯୋଗ କଲା, “ପ୍ରକୃତରେ ମୋ ବାପାଙ୍କ ଘର ବାରିପଦା । କିନ୍ତୁ ଆମେମାନେ ସବୁ କଟକରେ ରହିଆସିଛୁ । ମୋ ସ୍ଵାମୀଙ୍କ ଘର ହେଲା ଚାନ୍ଦିପୁର, ବାଲେଶ୍ଵର ଜିଲ୍ଲାରେ ।”

“ତମେ ବାରିପଦାରେ ଦେବଦତ୍ତ କରଙ୍କୁ ଜାଣିଛ କି? ସିଏ ମୋ ମାମୁଁ ।

”

“ମୋ ବାପା ଜାଣିଥିବେ । ମୁଁ ବାରିପଦା ବେଶୀ ଯାଇନି ।”

“ତମ ବାପାଙ୍କ ନା କହିବଟି ।”

“ପ୍ରଭାତ ଶତପଥୀ ।”

“ବାପା କଣ କରନ୍ତି ।” – ପୁଣି ସେ ମହିଳାଙ୍କ ପ୍ରଶ୍ନ ।

ପ୍ରତିଭା ଆଶ୍ଚର୍ଯ୍ୟ ହେଲା ଏ ସବୁ ପ୍ରଶ୍ନ ଶୁଣି । ତଥାପି ଭଦ୍ରତା ଖାତିରିରେ ଉତ୍ତର ତ ଦେବାକୁ ପଡ଼ିବ । ତେଣୁ ସେ ଉତ୍ତର ଦେଲା,
“ବାପା ସାମ୍ବାଦିକ ଥିଲେ । ଏବେ ରିଟାୟାର୍ଡ ।”

ପୁଣି ସେ ମହିଳା ପ୍ରଶ୍ନ କରି ବସିଲେ, “କଣ ସମାଜ ଅଫିସ୍‌ରେ କାମ କରୁଥିଲେ ?”

ପ୍ରତିଭା ଭାବିଲା ସିଏ ଆଉ ଉତ୍ତର ଦେବନି । ସ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଲୋକଜଣକ ତା ନିଜ ବିଷୟରେ ପ୍ରଶ୍ନ କରିବା ଛାଡ଼ି ତା ବାପାଙ୍କ ବିଷୟରେ କାହିଁକି ଜାଣିବାକୁ ଚାହାନ୍ତି ?

ସେଇଠୁ ସେ ସ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଜଣକ ନିଜର କାହାଣୀ ଶୁଣାଇଲେ । “ତମ ମୁହଁଟା ଦେଖି ମୋର ସାର୍‌ଙ୍କ କଥା ମନେ ପଡ଼ିଗଲା । ହେଲେ ସାର୍‌ଙ୍କର ନାଁ ଥିଲା ସୂର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଶତପଥୀ । ତାଙ୍କ ବଡ଼ଭାଇ କଟକରେ ରହୁଥିଲେ ବୋଲି ସେ କହୁଥିଲେ ଓ ସମାଜ ଅଫିସ୍‌ରେ କାମ କରୁଥିଲେ ।”

“ମୋ ଦାଦାଙ୍କ ନାଁ ବି ସୂର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଶତପଥୀ । ହେଲେ ସେ ତ ଏବେ ଆମେରିକାରେ ରହୁଛନ୍ତି ।”

“ସତେ କି? ତମେ ତାହେଲେ ସୂର୍ଯ୍ୟ ସାର୍‌ଙ୍କର ଝିଆରୀ । ସେଇଥିପାଇଁ ତ ତମ ମୁହଁଟା ଏତେ ଜଣାଜଣା ଲାଗିଲା ।”

ବାସ୍, ସେଇଠୁ ଆହୁରି ଅଧ୍ୟୟନ ଚାଲିଗଲା କେବଳ ତାଙ୍କରି ସହିତ ଗପିବାରେ । ସେ ସ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଲୋକଙ୍କର ନାଁ ବି ଜାଣିଲା ସେ, ତାଙ୍କନାମ ମାନି, ଭଲନାମ ମାନଶୀ । ଦାଦାଙ୍କ ପତ୍ନୀଙ୍କୁ ଆରମ୍ଭ କରି ତାଙ୍କ ଛୁଆପିଲା ସବୁ କୋଇଠି ପଢ଼ିଲେ, କେବେ ସବୁ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଆସନ୍ତି, ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଖାଦ୍ୟ ହଜମ କରିପାରୁଛନ୍ତି କି ନାହିଁ, ନିଶାଦ୍ରବ୍ୟ ଅଭ୍ୟାସ ହେଇଯାଇଥିବ ଇତ୍ୟାଦିକୁ ମୂଳକରି ଅନର୍ଗଳ ପ୍ରଶ୍ନ ପଚାରିବାରେ, ମନ୍ତ୍ରଣା ଦେବାରେ ଓ ନିଜ ପରିବାର ବିଷୟରେ ଯୋଡ଼ି କାହାଣୀ କହିବାରେ ସମୟ କେମିତି ମାନିଅପାଙ୍କ ସହିତ ବିତିଗଲା । ପ୍ରତିଭା ତା ଜୀବନରେ ଏମିତି ବହୁତ ଗପୁଡ଼ିଙ୍କ ସଂସ୍ପର୍ଶରେ ଆସିଛି; ଅସରନ୍ତି ଗପ ଆଇଠାରୁ ଶୁଣିଛି; କିନ୍ତୁ ଘଣ୍ଟାରେ ଚାରିଟା ବାଜିଯାଇଥିଲା ଓ ସନ୍ଧ୍ୟାହେବା ପୂର୍ବରୁ ତାର ହୋଟେଲକୁ ଫେରି ଆସିବା ଉଚିତ । ଏଇଟା ମନେପକାଇ ସେ ବ୍ୟସ୍ତ ହୋଇଗଲା । କଣ କହି ମାନିଅପାଙ୍କ କବଳରୁ ମୁକ୍ତିପାଇବ ସେଇ ଚିନ୍ତା କରୁକରୁ ଆସି ପହଞ୍ଚିଲେ ମାନିଅପାଙ୍କ ସ୍ତ୍ରୀ । ତାଙ୍କୁ ଗୋଟିଏ ଅଫିସ୍‌କାମରେ ବନ୍ଦେ ଯିବାକୁ ପଡ଼ିଥିଲା; ସେଥିପାଇଁ ସେ ଏ ଉତ୍ସବକୁ ଆସିପାରିନଥିଲେ । ଏବେ ଆସି ପହଞ୍ଚିଲେ । ମାନିଅପା ତାଙ୍କ କଥା ବୁଝାସୁଝା କରିବାକୁ ଚାଲିଗଲେ ଓ ପ୍ରତିଭାକୁ ନିମନ୍ତ୍ରଣ କରି କହିଲେ ପୁଣି କାଲି ଆସିବାକୁ; ସାର୍‌ଙ୍କ ବିଷୟରେ ଜାଣିବାକୁ ତାଙ୍କର ଆହୁରି କେତେକଥା ବାକି ରହିଯାଇଛି ।

ଶ୍ରୀଜୟ ଆସି ପହଞ୍ଚିଲେ ଓ ପ୍ରତିଭାକୁ ପରିଚିତ କରାଇଦେଲେ ପ୍ରଫେସର୍ ଶର୍ମାଙ୍କ ସହିତ । ପ୍ରଫେସର୍ ଶର୍ମା ଗଣିତରେ ଜଣେ ଖ୍ୟାତନାମା ପ୍ରଫେସର୍, ଅଷ୍ଟ୍ରେଲିଆରେ ରହନ୍ତି; ଦୁଇବର୍ଷ ତଳେ ତାଙ୍କର ପତ୍ନୀ ଗୋଟିଏ ଫ୍ରେନ୍ ଆକ୍ସିଡେଣ୍ଟରେ ପ୍ରାଣ ହରାଇଛନ୍ତି । ସେଇଦିନୁ ପ୍ରଫେସର୍ ଶର୍ମା ଡିପ୍ରେସ୍‌ଡ୍ । ନିଜନିଜ ପ୍ରଫେସନ୍‌ରେ ସେମାନେ ଏତେ ଭୁବି ରହିଯାଇଥିଲେ ଯେ ନିଜ କମ୍ୟୁନିଟି ସହିତ ବେଶି କିଛି ସଂପର୍କ ରଖିପାରିନଥିଲେ । ଝିଅଟିଏ ଥିଲା, ତେଇଶି ବର୍ଷର, ସିଏ ବି ହଠାତ୍ କଣ ହେଲା, ଝାଡ଼ାବାନ୍ତି କଲା ରାତିରେ । ହସ୍ପିଟାଲ୍ ନେଇ ଆଡ଼ମିଶନ୍ କରାଇଥିଲେ; ସିଏ ବି ପରପାରିକୁ ଚାଲିଗଲା । ତାଙ୍କର ଡିପ୍ରେସନ୍ ପାଇଁ ପରାମର୍ଶ ଦେଲେ ଭାରତ ଯାଇ କିଛିଦିନ କଟେଇ ଆସିବାକୁ ଓ ସାକ୍ଷ୍ୟାଥୀ ପରିଚିତ ଲୋକମାନଙ୍କ ସହିତ ମିଶି ଆସିବାକୁ ।

ପ୍ରଫେସର୍ ଶର୍ମା କହୁକହୁ କାନ୍ଦି ପକେଇଲେ । ଦିନେ ସବୁ କିଛି ଥିଲା; ସୁଖର ସଂସାର । ଛୋଟ ପରିବାର; ଉଚ୍ଚଶିକ୍ଷା, ଉଚ୍ଚପଦବୀ, ସ୍ୱପ୍ନର ଛୋଟ ସୁନ୍ଦର ଘର । କିନ୍ତୁ ଏମିତି ଏକ ମୁହୂର୍ତ୍ତରେ ପୁଣି ସେଇ ଶୂନ୍ୟତା, ପୁଣି ସେଇ ଗ୍ରାଭଣ୍ଡ ଜିରୋ । “ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣମିନ୍ଦଂ, ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣମଦଂ ...” ।

ଘଣ୍ଟାରେ ପାଞ୍ଚଟା ବାଜିଲାଣି । ଆଉ ଟିକେ ପରେ ଅନ୍ଧାର ହୋଇଯିବ ।

ପ୍ରଫେସର୍ ଶର୍ମାଙ୍କ ସହିତ ଗପକରିବାକୁ ଇଚ୍ଛାହେଉଛି । ବିଚାରା, ଏତେ ଦୁଃଖୀ ଲୋକ, ତାଙ୍କ ଦୁଃଖ ଟିକେ ବାଞ୍ଛିପାରିଲେ ସେ ନିଜକୁ ସୌଭାଗ୍ୟବତୀ ମଣିବ ।

ଶ୍ରୀଜୟ କହିଲେ, “ବାବା ଏଇଠି ଗୋଟିଏ ଏତୁକେସନାଲ୍ ଇନ୍‌ଷ୍ଟିଚ୍ୟୁଟ୍ ଖୋଲିବାକୁ ଚାହୁଁଛନ୍ତି ଓ ମଉସାଙ୍କୁ ଅନୁରୋଧ କରିଛନ୍ତି ଭାରତ ଫେରିଆସି ଏ ଇନ୍‌ଷ୍ଟିଚ୍ୟୁଟ୍‌ର ପରିଚାଳନା ଦାୟିତ୍ୱ ନେବାକୁ । ମଉସାଙ୍କ ଭଳି ଜିନିଅର୍ସ୍ ଲୋକ ଯେ କୌଣସି କାମରେ ହାତଦେବେ, ସେ କାମ ଶତ ପ୍ରତିଶତ ସଫଳ ହେବ ହିଁ ହେବ । କାଲି ଏ ବିଷୟରେ ଆଲୋଚନା ହେବାର ଅଛି । ତମେ ଯଦି ଟିକେ ସମୟ ଦେଇ ଆଗେଣ୍ଟ୍ କରିପାରନ୍ତି, ବହୁତ ଭଲ ହୁଅନ୍ତା ।”

ପ୍ରତିଭା ଦୃଶ୍ଟରେ ପଡ଼ିଗଲା । ଯଦିଓ ତାର ଆସନ୍ତାକାଲି ବି ଅଧାଦିନ କନ୍‌ଫର୍‌ରେନ୍‌ସ୍ ଅଛି, କିନ୍ତୁ ସିଏ ସହରର ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟ ଦର୍ଶନୀୟ ସ୍ଥାନ ସବୁ ଏପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ବୁଲିକରି ଦେଖିନାହିଁ । ତାପରଦିନ ତାର ଫେରିଯିବାର ଅଛି ।

ପ୍ରଫେସର୍ ଶର୍ମାଙ୍କ ଝିଅକଥା ଶୁଣି ନିଜ ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କ ମୁହଁ ଭାସିଗଲା ତା ଆଖିରେ । ଚାରିଦିନ ହେଲା ସେମାନଙ୍କୁ ଛାଡ଼ି ସେ କନ୍‌ଫର୍‌ରେନ୍‌ସ୍ ଆସିଛି । ଏମିତି ତ ତାର ସ୍ୱାମୀ ମାନସ ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କୁ ବଡ଼ ସ୍ନେହକରନ୍ତି । ହେଲେ ବି ବଡ଼ ରାଗୀ । ବଡ଼ଝିଅଟା ତ ସହିଯାଏ, ହେଲେ ସାନପୁଅଟା ମୁହଁ ଉପରେ କହେ ଓ ବାପାଙ୍କୁ ରଗାଏ । ବାପା ଉଦାହରଣ ଦିଅନ୍ତି, “ମୁଁ ଛୋଟ ଥିବାବେଳେ ମୋର ଜମା ତିନିହଳ ସାର୍ ଥିଲା, ତିନିହଳ ପ୍ୟାଣ୍ଟ୍ ଥିଲା, ଗୋଟିଏ ହଳ ଜୋତା ଥିଲା ।” ପୁଅ ଯୁକ୍ତି କରେ, “ତମବାପା ଗାଁରେ ରହୁଥିଲେ, ପୁରୋହିତ ଥିଲେ । ମୋ ବାପା ଚିଫ୍ ଇଞ୍ଜିନିୟର୍, ମୋର ତ ଚିରିଶଟା ସାର୍ ରହିବା କଥା ।” ଏଇମିତି ଛୋଟଛୋଟ କଥାରୁ ଆରମ୍ଭହୁଏ ଚିତ୍କାର, ପୁଅରୁମ୍‌ର କବାଟ ବନ୍ଦ ହୋଇଯାଏ ଓ ବାପା ପ୍ରତିଭାକୁ ଦୋଷ ଦେଇ ସବୁରାଗ ତା’ ଉପରେ ଶୁଝାନ୍ତି ।

ପ୍ରତିଭାର ଅବସ୍ଥା ଦେଖି ଶ୍ରୀଜୟ ବୁଝିପାରିଲେ ଯେମିତି । କହିଲେ, “ସନ୍ଧ୍ୟା ହେଉଛି ବୋଲି ଏମିତି ବ୍ୟସ୍ତ ହୁଅନି । ଘରେ ତ ଅଛି, କୌଣସି ଜଙ୍ଗଲରେ ନୁହେଁ । ମନଖୋଲି ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କ ସହିତ ଗପଗପ କର, ତିନର୍ କରି ଫେରିବ । ମୁଁ ନହେଲେ ବାବା ନେଇ ତମକୁ ହୋଟେଲ୍‌ରେ ନଅଟା ଖଣ୍ଡ ବେଳକୁ ଛାଡ଼ିଦେଇ ଆସିବେ ।” ଶ୍ରୀଜୟଙ୍କ କଥା ସରିନି ଏତିକିବେଳେ ଉଚ୍ଚକଣ୍ଠରେ ଦୁଇଜଣଙ୍କର ଝଗଡ଼ା ହେବାର ଶବ୍ଦ ଶୁଭିଲା । ଆଶ୍ଚର୍ଯ୍ୟ ହୋଇ ଚାହିଁଲା ସେ ଦିଗକୁ ପ୍ରତିଭା ।

“ସିଏ କିଛି ବିଚିତ୍ର କଥାନ୍ତୁହେଁ । ସେପଟକୁ ବାଙ୍କରା ଓ ମୋଟା ହୋଇ ଯାହାଙ୍କୁ ଦେଖୁଛ, ସିଏ ହେଲେ କବି ମଉସା, ସୁଲଗ୍ନାର ମଉସା । କଂଗ୍ରେସ୍ ଦଳର ଆଗେ ମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଥିଲେ । ତାଙ୍କ ସହିତ ଯିଏ ଯୁକ୍ତି କରୁଛନ୍ତି, ସିଏ ହେଲେ, ବାବୁ ମାମୁଁ; ମାନେ ମୋର ମାମୁଁ । ସିଏ ଏବେ ବିଜେଡିରେ ଅଛନ୍ତି । ଉଭୟ ଆଗେ କଂଗ୍ରେସ୍‌ରେ ଥିଲେ, ଭଲ ସଂପର୍କ ଥିଲା । କିନ୍ତୁ ମାମୁଁ ଦଳ ବଦଳାଇଦେବା ଦିନୁ ସେ ଦୁଇଜଣ ସବୁବେଳେ ଭଲରେ କଥା ହେଲେ ବି ଝଗଡ଼ା ଭଳି ଶୁଭେ । ହେଲେ ସବୁଠୁ ଭଲକଥା ହେଲା ଯେ ଆମ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କୁ ସେ ଦୁଇଜଣ ଝଗଡ଼ା ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ମନୋରଞ୍ଜନ କରାନ୍ତି ।”

ପ୍ରତିଭାକୁ ସବୁକଥା ବତ ରହସ୍ୟମୟ ମନେ ହେଉଥିଲା । ଏ ଉଦ୍ୟାନଟି ସେମିତି ବହୁତ କିଛି ନୁଆ ଇତିହାସର ସାକ୍ଷୀ ଓ ମେଲ୍‌ଟିଙ୍ଗ୍ ପାଏଣ୍ଟ୍ । ଏଠି ରାଜନୀତିଠାରୁ ଆରମ୍ଭ କରି ଉଚ୍ଚଶିକ୍ଷାପାଇଁ ନୁଆ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନ ଗଢିବା ଭଳି କାମମାନଙ୍କର ବି ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାହେଉଛି ।

ହେଲେ ପ୍ରତିଭା ଜାଣିଛି, ମାନସ ଏସବୁ କେବେ ପସନ୍ଦ କରିବେନି । ଏମିତି ବି ଏ ଉଦ୍ୟାନ ବୁଲିବାକୁ ଆସି ସେ ଯେ ଶ୍ରୀଜୟକୁମାରଙ୍କୁ ଭେଟି ଏଠି ଆସି ଏମିତି ପାରିବାରିକ ଆତିଥେୟତା ଗ୍ରହଣ କରିଛି, ସେକଥା ବି ସେ ପସନ୍ଦ ନକରିପାରନ୍ତି । ତେବେ ଆସିଛି ଯେତେବେଳେ, ଏ ରହସ୍ୟମୟ ଉଦ୍ୟାନଟିର ସମସ୍ତ ବିଷୟ ବୁଝିବାକୁ ତାର ଅଗ୍ରହ ହେଉଛି । ଯଦିଓ ପ୍ରତିଭା ଜାଣିଛି ଓଡ଼ିଶାରେ ମା, ପୁଅ ବି ବିରୋଧୀ ରାଜନୈତିକ ଗୋଷ୍ଠୀରେ ନିର୍ବାଚନରେ ଠିଆ ହୁଅନ୍ତି; ଭାଇ ଭାଇ ବି ଅଲଗା ରାଜନୈତିକ ଗୋଷ୍ଠୀରେ ନିର୍ବାଚନ ଲଢନ୍ତି, ତେବେ ବି ଶ୍ରୀଜୟଙ୍କ ମାମୁଁ ଓ ମଉସାଙ୍କ ଭେଟ ଓ ଆଲୋଚନା ତାକୁ କେମିତି କେମିତି ଲାଗୁଥିଲା ।

ପ୍ରତିଭା କିଛି ଭାବିପାରିଲାନି । ଏବେ ଫେରିଯିବ ନା ତିନର୍ ପାଇଁ ଅପେକ୍ଷା କରିବ । ସେମିତି ବି ତ ତାକୁ କେଉଁ ହୋଟେଲକୁ ତିନର୍ ପାଇଁ ଯିବାକୁ ପଡିଥାନ୍ତା । ହୁଏତ ଏଇଠି ହିଁ ଖାଇଦେଇ ଯିବ । ଏ ଭିତରେ ବହୁତ ଲୋକ ଶ୍ରୀଜୟଙ୍କ ମାମୁଁ ଓ ମଉସାଙ୍କ ପାଖରେ ରୁଣ୍ଡ ହୋଇଯାଇଥାନ୍ତି । ହେଲେ ପ୍ରଫେସର୍ ଶର୍ମା ସେଇଠି ହିଁ ବସିଥାନ୍ତି । ପ୍ରତିଭା ଭାବିଲା ତାଙ୍କ ସହିତ ଟିକେ ଗପସପ କରିବ । ତେଣୁ ସେ ଶ୍ରୀଜୟକୁ କହିଲା, “ଆଜ୍ଞା ଯୁ ଶ୍ରୀଜୟ, ମତେ ତ ନିଜ୍ଞତା ତମ ଆତିଥେୟତା ସ୍ୱୀକାର କରିବାକୁ ହିଁ ପଡିବ; ନିଜେ ନିଜେ ଅତିଥି ହୋଇ ପହଞ୍ଚିଯାଇଛି ଯେ ?” ଏମିତି କହି ସେ ପ୍ରଫେସର୍ ଶର୍ମାଙ୍କ ପାଖ ସିମେଣ୍ଟ ବେଞ୍ଚରେ ବସିପଡିଲା ।

ପ୍ରଫେସର୍ ଶର୍ମା ହୃଦୟ ଖୋଲି ପକାଇଲେ ଯେମିତି । କେମିତି ମିସେସ୍ ଶର୍ମା ଜଣେ ଅତି ଦରଦୀ ତାଙ୍କୁରାଣୀ ଥିଲେ । ଭାରତରୁ ଯାଇଥିବା ସବୁ ନୁଆ ଲୋକମାନଙ୍କୁ ମାଗଣାରେ ଚିକିତ୍ସା କରୁଥିଲେ । ନିଜ ପ୍ରଫେସନ୍ ଓ ପରିବାର ପାଇଁ ସେ ହିଁ ସବୁ ସମୟ ଦେଉଥିଲେ; ସବୁଠାରୁ ପ୍ରିୟ ତାଙ୍କର ଥିଲା ତାଙ୍କ ବରିଚାଟି । ବରିଚା ଓ ଗଛପତ୍ର ଉପରେ ତାଙ୍କର ଏତେ ସଉକ ଥିଲା ଯେ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଆସିଲେ ସେ ପୟରଦିନ ଏଇ ଉଦ୍ୟାନରେ ହିଁ କଟାଉଥିଲେ । ସେଥିପାଇଁ ପ୍ରଫେସର୍ ଶର୍ମା ଏଇ ଉଦ୍ୟାନଟିକୁ ତାଙ୍କ ସ୍ମୃତିସୌଧ ମାନି ନିଜର ଶେଷ ଜୀବନ ଏଇଠି କଟାଇବାକୁ ଚାହାନ୍ତି । ତକ୍ଟର୍ ଦାଶ ବି ଏଥିରେ ବହୁତ ଖୁସି । ହେଲେ ଦେଖାଯାଉ କଣ ହେଉଛି ?

“ଇଏ ତ ବହୁତ ଭଲ କଥା ।” – ପ୍ରତିଭା ମନ୍ତବ୍ୟ ଦେଲା ।

“କିନ୍ତୁ ଏଇଟା ଏତେ ସହଜ ନୁହେଁ ।”

“ଅସୁବିଧା କେଉଁଠି ରହିଲା ?”

“ଦେଖିଲେ ତ ସେମିତି କିଛି ଅସୁବିଧା ନାହିଁ । ହେଲେ ଜଣେ ପ୍ରଭାବଶାଳୀ ମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କର ନିଜଲୋକ ଏଇଠି ଆଉ ଗୋଟିଏ ଇନ୍‌ଫ୍ଲୁଏନ୍ସ କରିବାର ପ୍ରୟୋଗ ଲଢ଼ି, ଯେଉଁଟାକି ତକ୍ଟର୍ ଦାଶଙ୍କର ପସନ୍ଦ ନୁହେଁ ।”

“ସେଇଟା ବି ସତକଥା । ଶିକ୍ଷା ସହିତ ରାଜନୀତି ମିଶାଇଦେଲେ ଶିକ୍ଷାରେ ଅପମିଶ୍ରଣ ହୋଇଯିବ ।”

“ଏ କିନ୍ତୁ ତାଠାରୁ ଆହୁରି ମାରାତ୍ମକ । ମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କର ନିଜଲୋକ ଜଣେ ବହୁତ ବଡ଼ ଅସାମାଜିକ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି । ମଦ, ଗୁଣ୍ଡାବୃତ୍ତି, ଅସଦାଚରଣ ସବୁଥିରେ ଧୁରନ୍ଧର । କିଛି ଗୁଣ୍ଡାଦଳ ବି ତା ହାତରେ । ସେଇମାନଙ୍କୁ ଲଗେଇ ସହରରେ ଯେତେ ଦଙ୍ଗା ସବୁ କରୁଛି ସିଏ । ଜାଣିଶୁଣି ଏମିତି ଏକ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି ସହିତ ସଂଶ୍ଳିଷ୍ଟ ହେବା ବି ନିଜ ବିଚାରଧାରାର ବାହାରେ ।”

“ଏ ସବୁର ସମାଧାନ ତାହେଲେ କଣ ?”

ପ୍ରଶ୍ନ ପଚାରି ସାରି ନିଜେ ବି ବିସ୍ମିତ ହେଲା ପ୍ରତିଭା । ତାର କଣ ଯାଉଛି ଯେ ଏସବୁରେ ମୁଣ୍ଡ ପୁରାଉଛି ? କାହିଁକି ଏସବୁ ଉଦ୍ୟାନ ସମ୍ପନ୍ନୀୟ କାହାଣୀ ମାନଙ୍କରେ ବାନ୍ଧି ହୋଇଯାଉଛି ସିଏ ?

ଘରେ ତାର ସ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଆଉ ସନ୍ତାନ ଦୁଇଟି । ଅଧ୍ୟାପିକା ଚାକିରିରେ ସମୟ କେମିତି କଟିଯାଏ, ଗ୍ରୀଷ୍ମ, ବରଷା, ଶୀତ ବସନ୍ତ ହୋଇ ବର୍ଷ ସବୁ କେମିତି ବିତିଯାଏ, କିଛି ଜଣାପଡେନି । ସେଥିରେ ଏ ଉଦ୍ୟାନର ମୋହରେ ଏମିତି ଭାବେ ମୋହିତ ହୋଇଯିବାଟା କଣ ଭଲ?

ତେବେ ଉଦ୍ୟାନ ସମ୍ପନ୍ନୀୟ କାହାଣୀ ସବୁ ତାକୁ ଆତ୍ମୀୟ ମନେ ହେଉଥିଲେ । କବି ମଉସା ଓ ବାବୁ ମାମୁଁଙ୍କୁ ଧରି ଶ୍ରୀଜୟ ଆସୁଥିଲେ ତାରି ଆଡକୁ । - କ୍ରମଶଃ

Saagar

ସାଗର

ଦେବରାଜ ସାହୁ

ପ୍ରଳୟର ଆବାହକ ତୁମେ
ମୀନ ରୂପୀ ଅବତାରର କ୍ରୀତାଭୂମୀ ତୁମେ
ଧୂସ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ବି ବେଦର ରକ୍ଷକ ତୁମେ
ବକ୍ଷ ତୁମର ପ୍ରଶସ୍ତ ଅନନ୍ତ ।

ସାଗର ମଛନ ପାଇଁ ସ୍ତ୍ରୀକାର ତୁମର
ତଥାପି ଗରଳ ଉଦଗୀରଣ କାହୁଁକି
ଦାନବ ମାନେ ବି ଆଶାୟୀ ଅମରତ୍ୱ ପାଇଁ
ଅମୃତ ପାନୀୟ ପାଇ ଦେବଗଣ କୃତାଥ ।

ସୁନା ରୂପା ଅଲଂକାର ସମାଧି ଲଭିଛି
ଜାହାଜ ହୁଜିଛି ଇତିହାସ ପୃଷ୍ଠାରେ
ଖୋଜି ଖୋଜି କାନ୍ତ ମାନବ ଆଶା ପାଇଛି
ରବର୍ଷ ବାଲାତକ୍ମ ଅକାନ୍ତ ଉଦ୍ୟମରେ ।

ଆଶବିକ ବୁଡା ଜାହାଜ ଦ୍ୱାର ମାନେ
ରୁଷ ନାବିକଙ୍କ ଅକଥନୀୟ କେଶରେ

ଜାୟା ଓ ଶିଶୁ ମାନେ ଉତ୍ତର ନ ପାଆନ୍ତି
ସରକାରକଙ୍କ ଗଂଭୀର ମୂକ ମନୋଭାବରେ ।

କୃଷ୍ଣ ସାଗର ଜଳରେ ନ ଥାଏ ଅମ୍ଳଜାନ
ଏ କି ଅବତାର ତୁମର
ସମାଧି ଲଭିଥିବା ସାମଗ୍ରୀ ନହୁଏ ନଷ୍ଟ
ଶତାଧିକ ବର୍ଷର ଇତିହାସ ଦେଖାଏ ।

‘ସୁନାମି’ ନାମରେ ଭୟଙ୍କର ଦୁର୍ନାମ ଆଣ
ଲକ୍ଷାଧିକ ଲୋକ ହରାନ୍ତି ପ୍ରାଣ
‘ବନ୍ଦର ତରଙ୍ଗ’ ଖେଳାଏ ଆତଙ୍କ
‘ବାୟେ ଆତେ’ ଠାରୁ କଲମବୋ ପଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ।

ସୋମାଲିଆର ଜଳଦସୟୁ ଦୁଇାନ୍ତ ତୁମ ବକ୍ଷରେ
ନିରୀହ ପେଷାଧାରୀ ନାବିକ ହୁଏ ବନ୍ଦି
ପ୍ରାଣର ଆତଙ୍କ ତାର ଖୋଜି ପାଏନା ପ୍ରିୟାର ଆଶା
ଜାତି କୁଟୁମ୍ବ ଛାଡ଼ନ୍ତି ନିରାଶାର ଦୀର୍ଘଶ୍ୱାସ ।

ସୀମାହୀନ ଅନନ୍ତ ଜଳରାଶୀରେ ଲୁଚାଅ ରତ୍ନ
ବୁଦ୍ଧିମାନ ମଣିଷ କରେ ସେ ରତ୍ନକୁ ଧର୍ଷଣ
ଏହା କଣ ବୁଦ୍ଧି
ନା ବୁଦ୍ଧିର ବାଚାଳତା ?

Bandhuta

ବନ୍ଧୁତା

ସୁମୀତ୍ରା ପାଢୀ

କେ କହେ ବନ୍ଧୁତା ଶବ୍ଦଟି ଅଟେ ବଡ଼ ମନୋହର
 ସ୍ନେହ ପ୍ରୀତି ବନ୍ଧନରେ ବାନ୍ଧିଥାଏ କେତେ ଅନ୍ତର
 ଧରା ବନ୍ଧେ ଜନମେ ଶିଶୁ ହୋଇ ମାତୃ ସଂଗେ ବନ୍ଧନ
 ମା ଦେହୁ ଅଲଗା ହେଉ ହେଉ କରେ ସେ ରୋଦନ
 ରୋଦନ ଥମିଯାଏ ତାର ଆତ୍ମୀୟ ସ୍ଵଜନଙ୍କ ପରଶେ
 ପରିବାର ଓ ବନ୍ଧୁଙ୍କର ସ୍ନେହ ପାଇ ବଢେ ସେ ହରଶେ
 ଦିନୁ ଦିନ ଛୁଆ ନୁଆ ପରିବେଶ ସଂଗେ ହୁଏ ପରିଚିତ
 ନବ ନବ ସ୍ନେହ ବନ୍ଧନରେ କ୍ରମେ ହୋଇଥାଏ ଜଡ଼ିତ
 କିଏ ବା କହେ ବନ୍ଧୁତା ଶବ୍ଦଟି ମଧ୍ୟ ଅତୀବ ପିଞ୍ଜଳି
 ନୁତନ ବନ୍ଧନ ପ୍ରଭାବେ ପୁରାତନ ବନ୍ଧନ ହୁଏ ଶୀତଳ
 ଦୁନିଆରେ ଶିଶୁ ଯେବେ ଧିରେ ଧିରେ ଯାଉଥାଏ ବଢ଼ି
 ପରିବାରର ଦୃଢ଼ ବନ୍ଧନ କ୍ରମେ କ୍ରମେ ଯାଏତ କୋହଳି
 ନୁତନ ସଂସାର ସାଥୀ ବନ୍ଧୁତାରେ ଜନମେ ତାର ଆଦର
 ସଂସାର ର ଭଳି ଭଳି ତିଜ ହୋଇଯାଏ ତାର ନିଜର
 ସ୍ନେହ ବନ୍ଧନ ପୁଣି ଆସେ ହୋଇ ପବିତ୍ର ପ୍ରୀତି ବନ୍ଧନ
 ଜୀବନ ର ସାଥୀ ଧରି ପ୍ରାଣି ପୁଣି ବିତାଏ ତାର ଦିନ
 ଜୀବ ଯେତେଦିନ ଯାଏ ରହିଥାଏ ଏ ସଂସାର ମଧ୍ୟରେ
 ବନ୍ଧୁତା ସେତେଦିନ ସ୍ଥାନ ପାଇଥାଏ ତାର ହୃଦୟରେ
 ପ୍ରକୃତି ସଂଗେ ବନ୍ଧୁତା ବାନ୍ଧନ୍ତି କେତେ କଳାପ୍ରେମୀ
 ସାଧୁ ସନ୍ଥଙ୍କର ବନ୍ଧୁ ହୋଇଥାନ୍ତି ପରମ ଅନ୍ତର୍ଯ୍ୟାମୀ
 ବିଭିନ୍ନ ବନ୍ଧୁତା ପାଇଁ ହୃଦୟରେ ଖେଳେ ବହୁ ଜୁଆର
 ବେଳେ ବେଳେ ବନ୍ଧୁତ୍ରର ଘନତା ଜାଣିବା ହୁଏ କଠୋର
 ବିଭିନ୍ନ ବନ୍ଧୁତା ଭାବ ରଖି ସଂସାରେ ପ୍ରାଣି ହୁଏ ଅଗ୍ରସର
 ସଂସାର ଛାଡ଼ିବା ବେଳେ ନଥାନ୍ତି କେହି ସାଥୀରେ ତାର ।

Shatruta**ଶତ୍ରୁତା**

ଲେଖିକା- ସୁମିତ୍ରା ପାଢୀ

ଶତ୍ରୁତା ଶବ୍ଦଟି ଅତେ ବଡ଼ କର୍କଶ ଓ କଠୋର
 କିଏ ଜାଣେ କେତେବେଳେ ହେଲା ଉତ୍ପତ୍ତି ତାହାର
 ସତ୍ୟଯୁଗେ ନଥିଲେ ତ କେହି କାହାର ଅରି
 ଶତ୍ରୁତା ଭାବ ତେଣୁ ମନମଧ୍ୟେ ନଥିଲା କାହାରି
 ତେତୟା ଯୁଗେ ଯେବେ ରାକ୍ଷସଙ୍କ ବଢ଼ିଲା ଭାଉ
 ପ୍ରଭୁ ଧରାବଶେ ଅବତରି ସାଧିଲେ ତାଙ୍କ ଦାଉ

ଦ୍ଵାପର ଯୁଗେ ଅହଂ ଭାବ ମାନବ କୁ କଲା ଅନ୍ଧ
 କୋଧାନ୍ଧ ହୋଇ ମାନବ ଭୁଲିଲା ଆତ୍ମମୟ ସମ୍ବନ୍ଧ
 ପୁତ୍ରପ୍ରେମେ ଘାରି ହୋଇ ଧୂତରାଜ୍ଞ ଅନ୍ୟାୟ କଲେ
 ଅନୁଜ ପାଶୁଙ୍କ ପୁତ୍ରଙ୍କୁ ଶତ୍ରୁ ପରି ଦେଖିଲେ
 ଭାଇ ଭାଇ କଳି ଶେଷେ ବିରାଟ ଯୁଦ୍ଧେ ହେଲା ପରିଣତ
 ଶତ ଶତ ନୀରିହ ଯୋଦ୍ଧା କୁରୁକ୍ଷେତ୍ର ହୋଇଲେ ହତ

କଳି ଯୁଗେ ଶତ୍ରୁତା ଯୁଦ୍ଧ ବା କର୍ମକ୍ଷେତ୍ର ନୁହେଁ ସୀମିତ
 ଘରେ, ବାହାରେ, ଦେଶେ, ବିଦେଶେ ଦୁଃଖ ବ୍ୟାପ୍ତ
 ବିଂଶ ଶତାଦି ଶେଷ ବେଳକୁ କଂପ୍ୟୁଟର ଯୁଗ ମାଡ଼ି ଆସିଲା
 ନିଜର କୋଧ ଭାବ ଦମନ ପାଇଁ ଆଉ ସମୟ ନହେଲା
 କର୍ମକ୍ଷେତ୍ର, ସାମାଜିକକ୍ଷେତ୍ର ବା ଘରେ ହେଲେ ମତାନ୍ତର
 ଶାନ୍ତ ଚିତ୍ତେ ସମସ୍ୟା ବିଶେଷଣ କରିବାକୁ ନଥାଏ ତର

ପାଶେ କଂପ୍ୟୁଟର ନଥିଲେ ପକେଟରୁ ବାହାରେ ବାକ୍‌ବେରି
 ଭର୍ତ୍ସନା ସହ ଇମେଲ୍ ଦିଆ ହୁଏ ମୁହୂର୍ତ୍ତେ ନକରି ତେରି
 ସଙ୍ଗେ ସଙ୍ଗେ ଆର ପାଖରୁ କଟୁ ଉତ୍ତର ପହଞ୍ଚି ଯାଏ
 ଇମେଲ୍ ଆଦାନ ପ୍ରଦାନରେ ରକ୍ତଚାପ ବଢ଼ିଥାଏ

ଅସ୍ତ୍ର ବା ବାକ୍ ଯୁଦ୍ଧେ ମୁକାବିଲା ହୁଏ କିଛି କ୍ଷଣ ପାଇଁ
କିନ୍ତୁ ବାକ୍‌ବେରି ଯୁଦ୍ଧେ ଯୁଦ୍ଧ ସମୟର ଅନ୍ତ ନାହିଁ

ଇମେଲ୍ ଦଉ ଦଉ ଯଦି ଭୁଲ ବୋତାମେ ବାଜିଲା ହାତ
ତେବେ ଦୁଇ ଯୁଦ୍ଧ ତୁରନ୍ତ ହୁଏ ଗଣ ଯୁଦ୍ଧେ ପରିଣତ
ତେଣୁ ଯୁଗ ବଦଳିଲେ ଶତ୍ରୁତା ର ରୂପ ହେଉଛି ପ୍ରଖର
ଜଣା ନାହିଁ କେବେ ବିଶ୍ୱରେ ଶାନ୍ତିର ହୋଇବ ପ୍ରସାର

Bandhabi Go

ବାନ୍ଧବୀ ଗୋ

ବିଜ୍ଞାନୀ ଦାସ

କହିବ କି କାହିଁକି ବାନ୍ଧବୀ ମୋର
କର ଏତେ ଉପକାର
ଦୁଃଖ ସଦା ବାଞ୍ଛିନିଅ
କଷ୍ଟ ହେଲେ, କୋହ ବେଳେ
ସ୍ନେହ ଦିଅ, ଆଶା ଦିଅ
ସୌହାର୍ଦ୍ଦ୍ୟରେ ବାଞ୍ଛିନିଅ
ପାଶେ ପାଶେ ରହିଥାଅ
ମନକୁ ମୋ ଜଗିଥାଅ
ସତେକି ତମେ ମୋର
କେତେକେତେ ଜନମର
ସଂପର୍କୀୟ, ଅତି ଆପଣାର ।

କିଏ ଆମେ ଥିଲେ କେତେ ଦୂରେ
ପୁଣି ବାଞ୍ଛି ହୋଇଗଲେ
କେଉଁ ସଂପର୍କ ଡୋରିରେ, ସୌହାର୍ଦ୍ଦ୍ୟରେ

ଲାଗିଗଲା ମାୟା
 କେଉଁ ଅଦୃଶ୍ୟର ଇଚ୍ଛାରେ
 ନିଜ ନିଜ ଦୁଃଖ, ସୁଖ
 ସ୍ୱପ୍ନ ଅନୁଚିନ୍ତା
 ବାଞ୍ଛିବାରେ, ନ ରହିଲା କୁଣ୍ଠା ।

ବାନ୍ଧବୀ ଗୋ
 ଆଜି ଏ ଶୁଭବେଳାରେ
 ଜଗତବନ୍ଧୁଙ୍କ ବନ୍ଧୁତାପଣର
 ରଥଯାତ୍ରା ଲଗନରେ
 ତମକୁ ମୁଁ
 ସମର୍ପି ଦେଉଛି
 ବିଶ୍ୱାସରେ, ସୌହାର୍ଦ୍ଦ୍ୟରେ
 ମୋ ଦାୟିତ୍ୱ, ମୋ ଚିନ୍ତା
 ମୋ ମହିଷର ଭାର,
 ସାଇତି ରଖିବ ଗୋ
 ଯତନରେ, ସେନେତ୍ରରେ
 ଏଇ ଓସା ଗରବ, ବିଭବ
 ସ୍ୱପ୍ନସୌଧ ଗୌରବ ଆମର ।

HEALTH & FOOD CORNER

CHEMICALS IN FOOD WITH REFERENCE TO ODIYA FOOD

By Dr Jyotsna Mahapatra

Associate Professor in Chemistry
RIE, BBSR (NCERT, N Delhi)

Chemicals in food is of great concern nowadays. There are about 14000 chemicals in our food. The words FROM LAB TO LUNCH has become true. Grocery shop asks do you need polished dal (lentils) or unpolished dal in India? What is polished or unpolished it is my shoe that needs to be polished not my food item. First let us see why food needs to be added with chemicals. Earlier days it was not required but why now ???

- **Color**

Food coloring is any substance that is added to food or drink to change its color. Food coloring is used both in commercial food production chemicals such as colour, and in domestic cooking. People associate certain colors with certain flavors, and the color of food can influence the perceived flavor, in anything from candy to wine. For this reason, food manufacturers add dyes to their products.

- **Flavors**

Flavor is the sensory impression of a food or other substance, and is determined mainly by the chemical senses of taste and smell. The flavor of the food, as such, can be altered with natural or artificial flavorants, which affect these senses.

- **Food Additives**

Food additives are substances added to food for preserving flavors, or improving taste or appearance. These processes are as old as adding vinegar for pickling. Discussion of some common Indian food and the chemicals added to it, starting from hot jelaibies to fast food. There will be discussion of the 10 most common toxic foods and how we should be careful.

Here are some of the most toxic common foods.

1. **Mushrooms**

While mushrooms available in most supermarkets should be pretty safe to eat, mushroom fans need to be careful about what species they are consuming as many varieties can be highly dangerous and even fatal. Around 100 species of mushrooms are said to be dangerous to humans, with symptoms ranging from headaches to seizures or even death.

In 2010 a small variety of mushroom called the Little White was blamed for an estimated 400 deaths in China.

2. Chillies

Chillies are renowned for their heat, which is what makes them so popular. However, it is actually the chemical that causes this 58 spiciness (capsaicin) which can cause toxic effects such as stomach pain, itchy skin and, in extreme cases, death. For most people eating chillies will do little harm, however capsaicin is best eaten sparingly so make sure to take it easy and avoid any chilli eating challenges!

3. Rapeseed oil

There has been much controversy about this seemingly innocent natural oil, but the general consensus seems to be that it could have many negative implications on our health. Reports state that the rape plant - from which the oil is produced - is extremely toxic, and side effects of consuming its oil could include respiratory problems and blindness.

4. Rice

It is impossible to dispute that rice has many great health benefits. However, like with most things, it may be best eaten in moderation due to its reportedly unsafe levels of arsenic. One study has suggested that one in five packs of American long-grain rice contain potentially harmful levels of the toxic substance, while others have reported concern for the levels of arsenic in rice milk and baby rice. While there is relatively little risk of the odd bowl of rice causing any long lasting harm, the consumption of high levels of arsenic has been linked to cancer.

5. Nutmeg

Perhaps one of the most immediately dangerous foods on this list is also one of the most surprising, and that is the common store cupboard spice, nutmeg. Although, like many of the foods on the list, nutmeg does have reported health benefits, it can also be extremely dangerous when taken in large doses. Containing a toxic substance called myristicin, moderate proportions of nutmeg can cause hallucinations, while larger doses can cause convulsions, palpitations, nausea, dehydration and death.

6. Non-organic apples

Although it is advisable to buy as much organic fruit and vegetables as you can, in reality this is hard to do on most people's budgets. When making decisions over whether or not to go organic, it is important therefore to note that some foods have a higher concentration of pesticides than others, and apples are one of the fruits that top this list. Because apples are vulnerable to insect infestations, growers are liable to coat the fruit in chemical pesticides and fungicides, some of which will absorb into its flesh. To minimise health risks, try to buy organic apples wherever possible, or at least remove the skin before eating.

7. Farmed Salmon:

We may be constantly urged to eat more oily fish, but research has suggested that consuming farmed salmon may not be the best way to do it. A study found that 13 different toxins - including PCBs, which have been Classed as a probable human carcinogen by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are at much higher levels in farm-raised salmon than in wild salmon. Due to the possible health dangers of consuming these toxins, it is advisable to either reduce your portions of farmed salmon (guidelines are for a half to two portions a month, depending on where the salmon is from) or switch to the wild variety.

8. Microwave popcorn

Although eating microwave popcorn is not believed to be particularly harmful, it has been found that butter flavoured versions of the snack contain a dangerous chemical (diacetyl) in the flavouring which releases toxic fumes when microwaved. While this has mainly affected factory workers so far - with many developing a lung condition dubbed "popcorn lung" - one consumer is now known to have also developed lung problems due to this toxin. However, this is clearly a case of moderation, with the sufferer admitting to eating microwave popcorn at least twice a day for 10 to 12 years. Unless you are eating your popcorn in similar quantities, it is most likely safe to consume popcorn at home, just be careful to avoid the fumes when opening the bag.

9. Potatoes

Potatoes may look innocent enough, but did you know they actually come from the same family as poisonous plant the deadly nightshade? Although they are not quite as dangerous as this family member, potatoes do pose certain risks to our health due to them containing toxic compounds known as glycoalkaloids, the most worrying of which is solanine which affects the nervous and digestive systems, causing headaches, weakness, confusion, diarrhoea and vomiting amongst other things. Poisoning from potatoes occurs very rarely but fans of the popular vegetable should take measures to protect themselves by avoiding potatoes with sprouts - which tend to have a higher concentration of glycoalkaloids - and those which have turned green. Although the green colour of the potatoes is harmless in itself, it does indicate that the potatoes have been exposed to light, which can also encourage solanine levels to rise over the safe level for consumption.

10. Peanuts

Not only are peanuts one of the most common food allergens, but the popular snack may also be dangerous to those who don't suffer from allergies. Peanuts are particularly best avoided by those with kidney or gallbladder problems as they contain oxalates which can crystallise and cause kidney and gallbladder stones. However, even for the rest of us peanuts can be toxic due to their susceptibility to mould and the frequently occurring presence of aflatoxin - a highly toxic carcinogen - that is produced by a fungus called *Aspergillus flavus* invading the nuts. If you simply can't resist snacking on peanuts, try to purchase ones produced in arid areas - such as New Mexico - where the soil is dry and the risk of aflatoxins is lower.

On teaching about chemicals in food, teachers are advised to educate the higher secondary students with many more chemicals used in food besides what is there in this curriculum.



Zion (Utah's oldest National Park)
(Photos Courtesy: Abhijit Ray, SLC, UT)