

UTKARSA OSA NEWSLETTER

September Issue, Vol 44

2012



From the Editor's desk:

On the auspicious occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi, we are happy to present to our readers the September issue of Utkarsa - The reflection of Odia life in the Americas. This issue highlights many events and symposiums of 2012 convention. It also depicts the state of our society in terms of executive reports and chapter news as the current executive board has passed through their mid-term period. With fall colors cheering us on the horizon, enjoy your reading.

Editors:

Sridhar Rana

Julie Acharya Ray

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President's Message




Dear Friends,
Namaskar!

My heartfelt thank you to OSA editors Sridhar Rana and Julie Acharya Ray for a great editing job on the online journal, Utkarsa. I know it is daunting to collect all the articles from our community on time and edit them. Each time Utkarsa is due, I tell myself, oh no, here we go again! But Sridhar and Julie both have been persistent and have worked with us all to get the journal published every quarter. Editors, on behalf of OSA, a big thank you! We do appreciate your hard work and request our members to check out all the write-ups and contribute generously to enrich its contents.

On July 5th, 2012, Sushant Satpathy, Leena Mishra, Kuku Das and I completed one year since we took office as volunteer officials of The Orissa Society of the Americas (OSA). Thank you all for the support you have provided us and thanks to you all, we had a very successful 43rd OSA convention in Seattle.

We just celebrated the 43rd OSA 2012 annual convention in Seattle, Washington on July 5 -7, 2012. It was a gala gathering of about five hundred Odias, both diasporic as well as from Odisha. It was held at the Newport Performing Arts Center, Bellevue and was hosted by the Pacific Northwest chapter of the Odisha Society of the Americas. Vidushi Dr. Sunanda Patnaik was the Chief Guest at the Convention. Mr. Baijayant Panda, Member of the Parliament and Mr. Malay Mishra, High Commissioner of India to Trinidad & Tobago were the chief speakers at the convention. The theme of the convention was Eka Mana, Eka PrAna. Eka PrAnta, Eka Chinha: Bringing Odias together. The highlights of this year's convention were the pre-convention symposia- the Symposium on Higher Education in Odisha: Challenges & Opportunities co-ordinated by Prof. Abani Patra and the symposium on the Buddhist Heritage and knowledge institutions of Odisha co-ordinated by Prof. Chitta Baral.

The main foci of the Higher Education symposium were - higher education opportunities in USA for students from Odisha, prospective student/faculty/research exchange programs between North America and Odisha, MOUs, joint-degree programs, academic visits, digital infrastructure to support cross-border collaborations and visits of North American students/faculty/ academic administrators to universities in Odisha. Among the speakers were representatives from the University of California Santa Cruz, California State University Long Beach and Portland State University, Oregon.



The main foci of the Buddhist Heritage symposium was to increase the awareness about Ratnagiri-Lalitagiri-Udayagiri Mahaviharas and make it known that scholars and researchers have compared Ratnagiri with Nalanda. Prof. Thomas Donaldson of Cleveland State University, an author of more than 12 books on the art history of Odisha, was the keynote speaker. He spoke in detail about Odisha's Buddhist heritage and presented several examples from the literature about faculty and student exchanges between Ratnagiri and Nalanda. The participants of the seminar urged several future strategic actions such as pushing NCERT to make corrections to its text on Buddhist sites by including ones in Odisha, and the establishment of an Indian Institute of Archaeology and Art History in Odisha.

Over 500 members attended the convention from different parts of North America. There were also quite a few entrepreneurs, leaders of business and education and media personalities in attendance. The two-day events covered activities both for young and old and fun filled performances like, drama, dance, music, songs, and poetry recital. Seminars and symposia were devoted to youth entrepreneurship, health care, Odisha development, Women's issues and Odia diaspora, among others. The convention was a wonderful occasion to celebrate the Odia heritage, identity and culture and get connected with old friends from Odisha as well as the diaspora. It provided stimulating interactions among people of various generations and regions and got them rejuvenated and recharged.

We already have a fun filled plan for the year 2012- 2013. I would mention a few activities here.

OSA-Odisha Development Committee and Odisha Higher Education Workshops

The OSA - Odisha Development Committee has been strategizing ways to revitalize various sectors of higher education in Odisha. OSA has already organized one workshop on Higher Education opportunities for students in Odisha; it was held at Utkal University in Vani Vihar. A video of this workshop is available on the orisasociety.org. We convened a second workshop at the OSA convention in Seattle and it was a huge success. In December 2012, we are organizing an open house in Odisha with the collaboration of several USA universities, for the Higher Education opportunity in the USA. Also, we are planning a third workshop in the Western region of Odisha in December 2012.

Announcement of Election committee for OSA 2013 election:

We are happy to announce the election committee members for the Year 2012-13:

Chair: Dr. Haralal Choudhury, Ohio

Members: Dr. Duryodhan Mangaraj, Ohio

Members: Dr. Jaya Narayan Bhuyan, Ohio

OSA 2013 Election information will be available from OSA web. Soon, the Election committee will be sharing the announcements on the OSAnet

A New Chapter in California

In the greater interest of California Odias and building a vibrant Odia community, we are pleased that OSA GBM has approved formation of a chapter in California. Two OSA life members, Sunil Sabat from Saratoga, CA and Babita Mohanty from Cerritos, CA have taken on interim leadership role of chapter formation with bye-laws and conducting a fair and open election of formal office bearers in six months.

A hearty welcome to Sunil Sabat and Babita Mohanty to the OSA family who have joined the BOG. A special thank you to Kuku Das for being instrumental in forming the California chapter and finding the representatives for that chapter.

Recruiting New Members

There are more than 10,000 Odias in the North America. But OSA's membership consists of only a nine hundred families. The strength of the organization is definitely measured on the basis of its number. We must grow in order to have a socio-cultural and political presence in the diasporic community. Friends, without your help, OSA cannot grow. Please spread the word, recruit new members and help OSA grow.

Propagation of Odia language

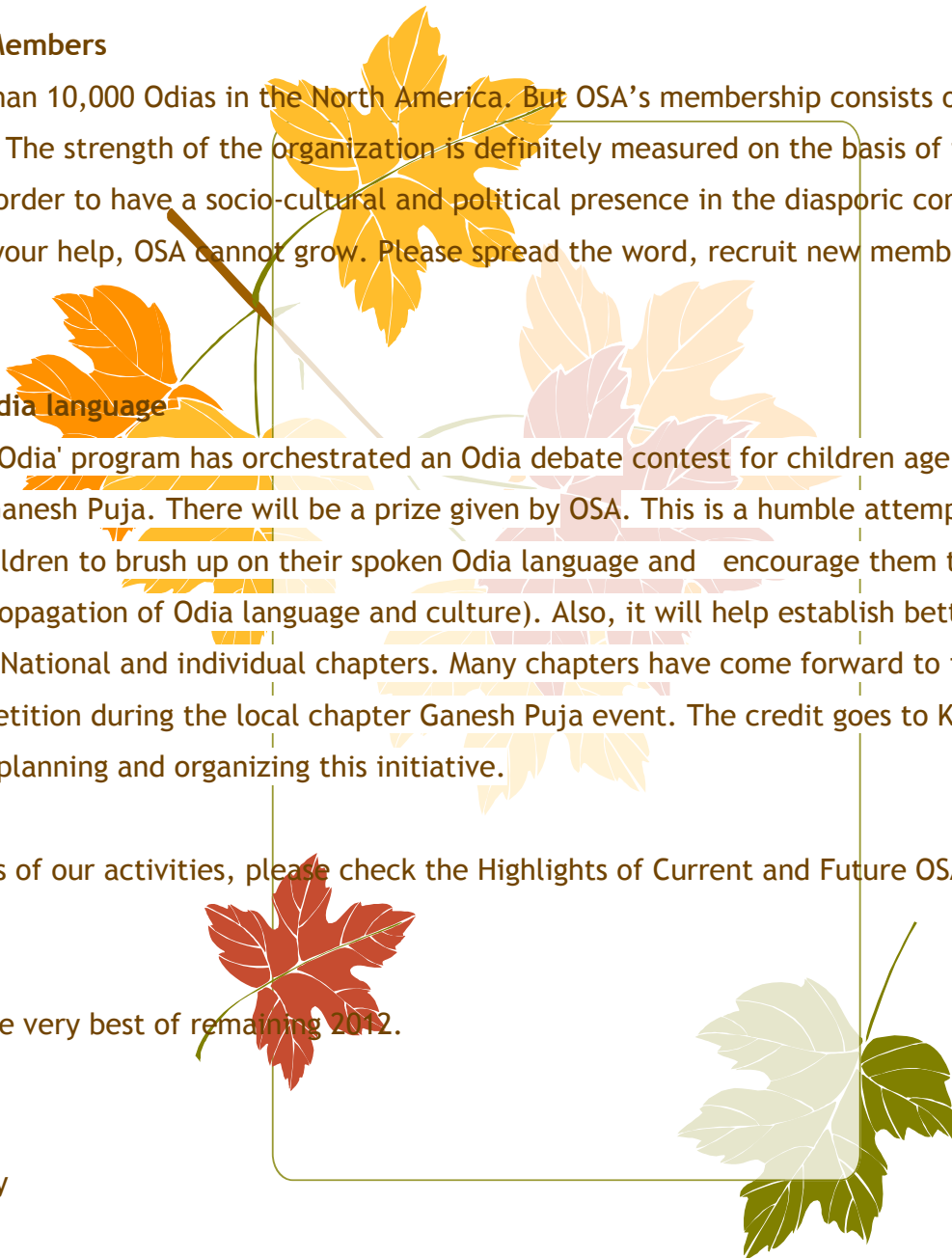
OSA's 'Let's Learn Odia' program has orchestrated an Odia debate contest for children age 7 to 12 at the upcoming Shree Ganesh Puja. There will be a prize given by OSA. This is a humble attempt to encourage our children to brush up on their spoken Odia language and encourage them to speak in Odia language (propagation of Odia language and culture). Also, it will help establish better synergy between the OSA National and individual chapters. Many chapters have come forward to incorporate this debate competition during the local chapter Ganesh Puja event. The credit goes to Kuku Das, OSA Vice President in planning and organizing this initiative.

For further details of our activities, please check the Highlights of Current and Future OSA Activities in this new letter.

Wishing you all the very best of remaining 2012.

With regards,

Annapurna Pandey



Highlights of Current and Future OSA Activities

Since we took office in 2011, we have been involved in many activities. Let us share with you some of our accomplishments and the initiatives we have undertaken in the last year and our plans for 2012-2013.

Flood Relief Drive Raised \$15K

As you all know, more than 2.7 million people in Odisha lost their homes and access to clean drinking water in the severe floods in 2011. Led by our treasurer, Sushant Satpathy, OSA initiated a massive fundraising drive that raised \$15K to help with flood relief. Kudos to the OSA volunteers for spearheading and contributing to this project!

OSA Membership Increased by 10+%

In the last year, OSA membership has gone from 800 families to 900 families. We're thrilled to welcome the new members to our OSA community.

Increased Communication via OSAnet and OSA's website

OSAnet has been revitalized to make it easier for OSA members to contribute their ideas and input. Our website is also in the process of becoming more interactive.

We would like to thank our OSAnet moderators Manoj Padhi and Sunil Sabat, and our web administrator Bikas Panda for their exemplary service.

Additional Contributors for *Utkarsa*, OSA's Quarterly Newsletter: Joining *Utkarsa* Editors Sridhar Rana and Julie Acharya Ray, who have continued their great work, are two new contributors:

- Dr. Babru Samal is now the Special Editor; he put together a special *Utkarsa* issue focused on "The Immigrant Experience" in March 2012.
- Ankita Mohanty, a young graduate of the University of Michigan, has joined the editorial board of *Utkarsa* as our Youth Editor; she represents the second-generation Odia youth and will bring fresh ideas and new perspectives reflecting her age group.

Please check the newsletter out at <http://www.orissasociety.org/osaftp01/index.htm>.

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New Chapter Presidents

There are 15 OSA chapters around the country. Please join me in welcoming the following new local chapter presidents this year:

Mr. Prabhat Mahapatra, President of NYNJ chapter

Mr. Pitabasa Panda, President of Michigan chapter

Mr. Nihar Nanda, President of New England chapter

Mr. Subodh Samal, President of North West chapter

Mrs. Jhara Das, President of Chicago chapter

Mrs. Sujata Nayak, President of the Maryland/ Virginia chapter

Mr. Pramod Mohapatra of Chattanooga (Tennessee), President of the Southern chapter

You will find details on local chapters online at:

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

Champu, Chhanda and Odissi initiative (CCO)

OSA has financed the production of a CCO Karaoke 2 CD set that is now available. The CD set includes 10 songs with accompanying karaoke versions. I would like to thank Mrs. Lata Misra for the promotion of CCO.

Changes to the OSA Constitution Are Under Review

There has been some debate regarding loopholes in the present constitution. We have asked a team of Odia leaders and the Board of Governors to look into this and suggest modifications. Once the suggestions have been approved by the BOG, they will be sent to all our members for their feedback. Finally, we will send get it reviewed by an attorney before bringing it to the GBM at the 2013 OSA convention.

2013 OSA Annual Convention - July 4-6 in Chicago

The annual OSA Convention is the highlight of our year. It is OSA's annual showcase event and attracts Odias from all over North America, Odisha, and around the world. OSA 2013 convention will take place at Chicago from 4th - 6th July 2013. Please save the dates. It is heartening to know that the famous Ratha jatra will be celebrated the week after, so that all the Odias will be able to attend the convention without any conflict. We request members not to schedule any conflicting events such as marriage, thread ceremony, graduation ceremony with this important OSA yearly event. Please plan ahead of time to participate in cultural activities in groups, seminar discussions and spending quality time with friends from all over North America, Orissa and other countries.

OSA Awards

The 2012 OSA awards have been managed by OSA Vice President Kuku Das. Mr. Sourjya Khandai has handled the award nominations very well in the role of Award Coordinator.

OSA's Finance

The Treasurer in a separate document will provide OSA's annual financial report. OSA is a volunteer-run organization.

OSA Committees

Various committees have been formed in the last year to spearhead specific OSA initiatives. Among them are:

- OSA Language Committee and Cultural Propagation Committee
Kuku Das, the Vice President of OSA heads the Odia Language Committee and Mrs. Gayatri Joshi heads the Cultural Committee. The goal is to promote Odia language and culture and create Odia learning material and media that could impact Odias of various age groups.
- Chapter Relations and Activities Committee
All the fifteen chapters have been very active in various cultural and educational activities. We have introduced a new chapter relations committee led by Leena Mishra, secretary of OSA. She and her committee members are working very hard to achieve better collaboration between chapters and the OSA national. Thanks to Leena Mishra, the South East chapter led by Bidhu Das and the North West chapter led by

Subodh Samal have been reenergized and are playing active role in strengthening the OSA community. Kudos to Leena Mishra and her committee for playing an important role in team building.

- OSA Grievance Committee

Our newly instituted Grievance Committee consists of Nick Patnaik, Dr. Panchanan Satpathy and Dr. Anjalika Pattnaik.

Youth committee: Engaging OSA Youth

We are thankful to Kelly Lamphear-Dash who has shown interest in coordinating OSA youth activities. Suchi Pahi and Ankita Mohanty are two-second generation OSA youth volunteers in the committee and will soon start planning for OSA events that the youth would appreciate. If your children would like to be involved, please pass them the message.

Women's Committee

Mamata Mishra, the Women's Committee Chair as well as the organizer of the Women's Forum at the 2011 OSA convention, has kept the conversation going throughout the year. Here are some highlights:

- Ongoing discussions on the OSA Women's Forum yahoo group and the Face book group. Anyone can join the yahoo group at <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/OSAWomenForum/>.
- Two articles published in *Utkarsa*
- The creation of a Q&A document answering questions about domestic violence. This was posted to the yahoo group.

A local Women's Forum meet up, organized in Houston, focused on communication styles and how to communicate with empathy and assertiveness. Yunuen Perez Vertti, the maker of the film *Aparajita* which was screened at OSA WF 2011, volunteered to film the workshop.

- Two Odia women from the U.S. participated in the Mahila Shanti Sena (MSS) state convention in Odisha; one of these women wrote about her experience in the 2012 OSA journal.
- *Mayara Kahani*, a skit that was presented at OSA WF 11, was very well received and we received more than one request to take the message to a wider audience and present it at the Drama Festival. Prachi Behera of Austin organized it at the Regional Drama Festival at Dallas.

Some OSA officers - current and past - have continued to show interest and support to start a helpline. We will need the support and commitment of local leaders to make this possible.

For a full list of committees, their objectives and members, please visit the OSA website - www.orissasociety.org

Drama Committee and Drama Festival 2012 -13

We are proud to announce a 3-member Drama Committee chaired by Sandip Dasverma and with members Priyadarshi Das, California and Priyadarshan Mohapatra, New Jersey. The drama festival committee consisting of Sandip Dasverma, Priyadarshi Das, and Priyadarshan Mohapatra will coordinate drama festival 2012-13. Two OSA chapters - Washington DC and Ohio will host drama festival events this fall. Announcements will soon be available through OSAnet and OSA web page.

New OSA Legal Counsel

Since 2011, Mr. Nick Patnaik has served OSA through pro-bono legal counsel. Now Nick Patnaik has taken a new job, which may not allow him to work as the legal counsel for OSA. Desha Bandyopadhyay has kindly agreed to be the legal counsel of OSA.

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If you are interested in an OSA leadership position, it is the time for you to start campaigning. OSA 2013 Election information will be available from OSA web. Soon, the Election committee will be sharing the announcements on the OSAnet.

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Married son or daughters, integrate them with the community by your OSA membership gift. All OSA members please invite your friends to join. Share with them the great experience you have as a member and how they can get that experience once they become a part of it.

Please note that Recruiting means encouraging non-members, making necessary announcements during events, sharing with them positive experience, providing them the membership form, and directing them to OSA web page and membership procedure document. All of you are ambassadors of OSA. Please help OSA grow the best way possible.

OSA chapter presidents, please make an effort to at least recruit 5-10 new permanent members from your local community. Membership procedure is described at http://www.orissasociety.org/osaftp01/membership_main.htm

With regards,
OSA officials 2011-2013



Vice President's 2012 Award Report

On behalf of OSA, I would like to congratulate all the award recipients of the 2012 OSA Convention (July 5-7) at Seattle, Washington.

Our sincere thanks are due to OSA 2011 Award Committee members Mr. Saurjya Kanta Khandai, Mrs. Rosalin Samantray 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, "Meghna Memorial Trust" for sponsoring Meghna Memorial award for creative writing. We would like to thank Sraddhananda Mishra, the Advisor, Founder of SSKYEC and Dr.Sujay Singh for sponsoring Samik Singh Kalinga Youth Entrepreneurship Award. We thank Dr Ranjan Dash, the coordinator of Samik Singh Kalinga Youth Entrepreneurship Award.



OSA Special Awards

OSA Lifetime Achievement Award

OSA Lifetime Achievement awards were given to Legendary Dr.Sunanda Patnaik for her contribution to Indian Classical Music and to Sri Prafulla Kar for his contribution to Odia Music as a singer, director, composer and lyricist.

Sunanda Patnaik (born 7 November 1934) is an Indian classical singer of Gwalior gharana from Orissa. Popularly known as "guruma", she is considered one of the great dames of Hindustani music. She started singing in 1955 and has done many concerts in India and is known internationally. She is best known for her tarana that she sings at a high pace and



is considered one of the best contemporary interpreters of Odissi music. She received Orissa

Sangeet Natak Akademi award in 1970-71. She received Indian lifetime achievement award in 2009. She is the recipient of sangeet natak academy award (Tagore Akadami Puraskar) for the year 2012. The degree of doctor of literature was conferred to her by the Utkal University in 1999 and the degree of doctor of music was conferred by the *Akhil Bharatiya Gandharva Mahavidyalaya Mandal* in 1975.

Nilamadhada is an National Film Award-winning documentary film about her. The film was directed by Sri Dilip Patnaik and produced by Films Division. It won the "Best Biographical documentary" for the year 2010 at the 58th National Film Awards in India.

For more than four decades now **Praffula Kar** has audiences and fans in Orissa and abroad with his distinctive singing, compositions and lyrics. His position as a performer is pre-eminent and the compelling power of his music continues to attract a large cross section of the listening public. Added to this obvious talent, his precocity as Music Director and Poet has gradually transformed him into a cultural icon of formidable standing.



Prafulla Kar graduated with B.A. and L.L.B. degrees from Utkal University. He subsequently received his Sangeet Visharad from Akhil Bharat Gandharva Mahavidyalaya, Maharashtra under the guidance of Pt. Markandeya Mohapatra, Pt. K. Adinarayana and Pt. J.V S. Rao. His professional Career in music took off in 1960 and he rapidly established himself as an acclaimed (A-Grade) Vocalist, Composer and Lyricist for All India



Radio, Television and large concerts. Prafulla Kar has directed music for an amazing 63 Oriya Films (Released and unreleased) as well as 4 Bangla films. For his outstanding contributions to the field of Film Music, the Govt. of Orissa honored Sri Prafulla Kar with Best Music Director Award for Oriya films on six separate Occasions, a record achievement even at the National level. For this feat, he earned recognition as a celebrity and was honored by the Cine Musicians Union, Chennai. In 1977 the Govt. of Orissa adjudged him as the Best Play

Back Singer for the Oriya Film BALIDAN; and the Critic Circle of India awarded the Best Music Director Award to Shri Kar in 1977 for the Oriya Film RAMAYAN. Today he "is a colossus in the world of pan Indian Music".

Meghna Memorial Award for Creative Writing

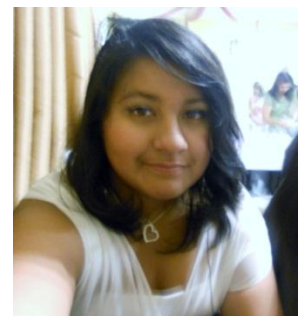
Our sincere thanks to OSA Convention Souvenir Committee volunteers and the judges for executing the program, parents for encouraging young kids to participate and "Meghna Memorial Trust" for sponsoring this Award.

Ayusha Acharya, an eleven years old six grader received the award in junior category for the poem "When May the Lotus Flower Bloom", selected for original thought and choice of theme-the issues of the day brought out in this poem is a delight to read. She lives with her parents Achyuta and Swapna Acharya of San Jose, CA



Senior Category:

Ishani Chanda received the award in senior category for the story "Sisterhood", selected for being brilliantly written with attention to detail and nicely brings out the struggle a younger sibling faces when the older one leaves home for college. It is well-written and addresses the subject of contemporary Indian Diaspora. She is a 10th grade International Baccalaureate student at Clark High School in Plano, Texas. She is 15 years old and lives with her parents Debasish and Mousumi Chanda.



Samik Singh Kalinga Youth Entrepreneurship Award

Kalinga Youth Entrepreneurship Competition is being organized to act as a platform for aspiring entrepreneurs to turn great ideas and dreams into high quality business plans and eventually into successful businesses.

Our heartfelt thanks to Sandip Dasverma, Sukant Mohapatra, the General advisers of OSA seminars, Ranjan Dash, the chief coordinator of SSKYEC, Sraddhananda Mishra, Advisor, founder of SSKYEC, and Sujay Singh, as the sponsor to make this event successful.

Convention seminar coordinator Pranabesh Dash of OR and local seminar coordinator Amiya Tripathy, WA collaborated & contributed to its roaring success.

First Place Winner: Adarsh Patra

Adarsh Patra goes to Westview High School and lives with his parents Priyadarsan and Anu Patra in Portland, OR. As hobbies, Adarsh loves tennis and forensics. He aspires to be an aerospace engineer. Last summer, he worked at the Circuit Research Lab of Intel. His science project work on flood modeling had led him to explore its applicability through an internship at the National Weather Service. He likes to play both board and video games, and enjoys international food and travel.



Second Place: Adam Amar Pani

Adam Amar Pani, age-16 is a senior at White Station High School, Memphis, TN. He has taken courses/Enrolled In (Credit earned with Christian Brothers University, Memphis, TN).

His accomplishments include Certified Soccer Referee (USA, 2012), Rhodes Model United Nations Conference-Served as a delegate from Arab countries for the Commission on Natural Resources and the Environment, Mu Alpha Theta Regional Competition- Member

of WSHS team that won 1st place over Evangelical Christian High School (ECS) (11th Grade), American Regional Mathematics League- Competed at University of Georgia in individual and team contest.

He plays soccer, Ice Hockey and participated in many clubs/organization such as University Interscholastic League Math/ Science Team** (9th Grade); French Club (9th-12th Grade); (10th Grade); National French Honor Society (10-12th Grade); Bridge Builders Leadership Program (10th-12th Grade); Model United Nations (11th & 12th Grade); Mu Alpha Theta Mathematics Club (11th & 12th Grade); Ultimate Frisbee Club (11th Grade); Health Occupations Students of America (12th Grade); WSHS Math Team (10th-12th Grade).



He lives with his parents Amar Kumar and Jayashri Pani, and brother Alex Amar Pani in Lakeland Tennessee.

Consolation Prize:

Amrut Sarangi

Amrit Sarangi is sixteen years old and will be going into eleventh grade this fall at Old Bridge High School. He loves to play piano, tennis, and soccer. He likes to listen to music and read books during his free time. He lives with his parents Pitambar and Anindita Sarangi in Old Bridge, New Jersey.



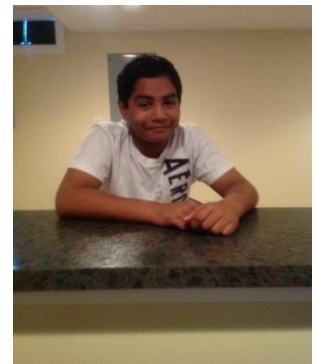
Ricky Pati



Ranjan (Ricky), age-13, will be in 8th grade this fall at Millstone Township Middle School in New Jersey. He plays tennis, is on the track team, and competes on the school Mock Trial team. Ricky enjoys watching and playing sports, as well as reading. He was recently an assistant soccer coach at Millstone Township and coached Kindergarteners as well as children with autism. He was the regional North South Foundation (NSF) Math Bee champion in 2010 and participated in the final contest. He lives with his parents, Niranjana and Sanghamitra Pati, and two sisters in Millstone Township, New Jersey

Arvin Mohapatra

Arvin Mohapatra is a 8th grade student at Cross Roads North Middle school, South Brunswick, New Jersey. He lives with his parents Prabhat and Yasaswini Mohapatra in Monmouth Junction, New Jersey.



Subrina Biswal Awards for Performing Arts

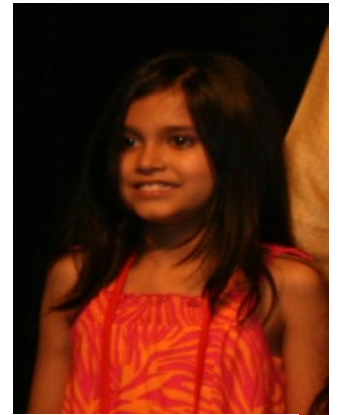
Our sincere thanks to OSA Convention Cultural Team volunteers for executing the program, parents for encouraging young kids to participate and Dr Nilambar and Anu Biswal for sponsoring this Award.

The 2012 winners are:

Junior Category:

First: Simoni Mishra

Simoni Mishra is 8 years old and lives with her parents Bimal Bhusan and Leena Mihra in Potomac, MD.



Anshika Rath

Anshika Rath, who turned 5 in August 2012, lives in Sammamish, WA a beautiful residential suburb of greater Seattle. She just started her kindergarten in Discovery Elementary School. She is very much excited about her new school, new teacher & new friends. She likes to dance, sing, draw paintings, love to play Kinect games and computer games as well. She has been learning Odissi since she was 4. She is the only daughter of Monalisa & Manoj Rath who live in greater Seattle area for last 12 years.

Third: Ria Panda

Ria Panda age 10, lives with her father Bikash, mother Pragyan and younger sister Diya in Martinez, California. She is a fifth-grader at Sequoia Elementary School in Pleasant Hill, CA and is training Odissi dance under Guru Gayatri Joshi.



Senior Category:

First Place: Sanuja Das

Sanuja was attracted to arts at a really young age. At the age of 4, she started her training as an Odissi dancer under the guidance of Guru Jyoti Rout in Jyoti Kala Mandir. Since then she has performed all over the country and abroad in various events,

such as the Ethnic Dance Festival, Himalayan Fair, and International Festival in Odisha. She has also obtained awards in numerous competitions. Last year in Odisha, she received Odissi Shree in the fifth Naven Kalakar Festival, which acknowledges upcoming dancers. Besides dance, she obtained a black belt degree in karate, and also played varsity tennis at Wilcox high school in Santa Clara. She enjoys choreographing dances, and public speaking. She lives with her parents Bibek and Kuku Das and younger brother Anand Anuj in Santa Clara, CA. This fall, she is going to start college at University of California, Riverside.

Second: Vanani Vashundhara

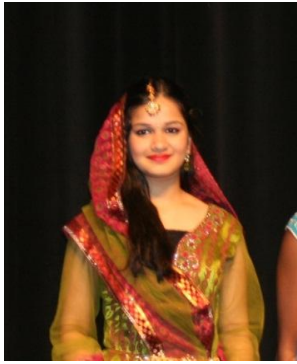
Vanani was attracted to fine arts at a very young age. Her interest in Odissi developed as she watched her mother dance. At the age of four she started her training as an Odissi dancer under the guidance of Guru Jyoti Rout in Jyoti Kala Mandir. Since then, she has performed all over the country in various events, such as the Ethnic Dance Festival, and Himalayan Fair. She has also obtained awards in numerous competitions. Last year in Orissa, she received Odissi Sheree in the fifth Naveen Kalakar Festival, which acknowledges upcoming dancers. Her training in gymnastics has also greatly increased her ability to perform different styles of dances. Besides dance, she played Varsity badminton at Newark Memorial High School, and she enjoys drawing and graphic design. She lives with her parents Manoj and Gayatri Joshi and sister Megha in Newark, CA. In September 2012, she is going to start college at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.



Third Place: Sahara Rout

Sahara Rout is a 7th grader at Stoller Middle School and lives in Portland, OR. Sahara just turned 13 and lives with her both parents (Jyoti Ranjan and Sucheta Rout) and brother (Sambith Rout). Her hobbies include swimming and playing Piano.

Third Place: Ankita Mohapatra



Ankita Mohapatra, turned 13 on July 30th and now in 8th grade at Central Middle School, comes from Parsippany, NJ. Daughter of Priya Ranjan and Aparna Mohapatra, Ankita is a fun-loving yet passionate about whatever she sets her heart to. Odissi has been a loving commitment that she has held on to since six or seven years old. Ankita is a painter and avid reader in her free time, and have been an active participant for OSA, both in NJ chapter functions as well as Conventions.

Champu Chhanda Odissi

Our sincere thanks to OSA Convention volunteers for executing the program, parents for encouraging young kids to participate and Mrs. Lata Misra for her constant guidance.

Champu/Chhanda Award winners are:

First Place: Meghna Nanda, a sixth grader lives with her parents Sukanta and Snigdha Nanda of Santa Clara, California. She likes to play piano, learning Hindustani classical music and Odissi dance.



Second place: Rathik Murtinty a second grade student lives with his parents Raj Murtinty and Kunmun Garabadu of Santa Clara, CA He likes to play basketball. His hobbies include singing, swimming and learning Martial Arts.

Third: Ayusha Acharya lives with her parents Achyuta and Swapna Acharya of San Jose, California.

Pramod Pattnaik Drama Competition:

BANGers(Bay Area Natua Gosthee) from California were presented a drama based on Fakir Mohan's famous novel 'Patent Medicine'.

Artists are: Priyadarshi Dash, Susant Mohanty, Manoj Joshi, Monalisha Bebortha and Anish Mohanty



OSA 2012 Appreciation Awards

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

Distinguished Service Award Bigyani Das (OSA President 2009-2011)

For her invaluable contribution to OSA Affairs

Dr Bigyani Das (Ph.D: Mathematics) is a Computational Research Scientist and currently works for NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration). She lives in Dayton, Maryland with her husband Dr Naresh Chandra Das and three daughters. Dr Bigyani Das has been serving both OSA National and OSA Washington DC in many roles, as Secretary (2005-2007), Editor (2003-2005), Cultural Coordinator (2006), Odia Poetry Reading Organizer (1999-2001, 2003-2005, 2007), Cultural Participant and Representative (1996, 1999-Continuing), Seminar Speaker and Organizing Committee (2003, 2005, 2008). She is a trained leader (Advanced Toastmaster Gold: 2007; Area 42 Governor: 2003-2004; President of Goddard Toastmasters: 2002-2003, 2006-2007; Youth Leadership Coordinator: 2003-2004) and a sincere community volunteer (JOGA, Hindu Temple, MD, Editor of Chirantana, JOGASUTRA etc.). Her recent contribution is "**OSA Member Handbook**". Bigyani's leadership style is based on the theme, "Be the change that you want to see in the world."



Bigyani Das served as OSA President from 2009-2011. Her determination and perseverance brought back OSA dignity that was being challenged in the court. She streamlined many non-functioning chapters by establishing a special committee on chapter relations and facilitating chapter elections. During her term two new chapters were formed and new constitution was passed that addressed several critical issues in OSA. Bigyani Das still serves as a member of BOG as the past president and very actively helps the OSA executive team as well as in the regular publication of OSA newsletter Utkarsa."

Service Leadership Award: Dr. Jay Narayan Bhuyan
(For Spearheading Membership Drive in OSA)

Dr. Jay Narayan Bhuyan is a native of Satabatia, Cuttack. He came to the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in 1985 to pursue graduate studies in Computer Science. After finishing his Ph.D. degree, he has worked in various organizations including universities, government labs, and software industries.



Dr. Bhuyan lives in Columbus, OH with his wife Liza, son Varun, and daughter Madhur. He leads a number of Lord Jagannath related activities in Columbus, Ohio. One of his goals is to contribute to the growth of OSA.

Service Leadership Award: Dr. Amiya Nayak
(For Service and Contribution to OSA- Odisha Development committee)

Amiya Nayak (PhD, MBA) is a generalist and biotechnology management consultant/advisor/expert for global industries and an entrepreneur. Following a career in academia and industry R&D/Technology in India and USA, he has been interested in business and entrepreneurship. Recently, he has drafted a broad-based article on Entrepreneurship Development in Odisha, and published that from Odisha. His other interests are private-public-partnerships and America-Odisha development information exchanges.



OSA Membership/Volunteering: Amiya is an OSA member since 1992, OSA-Odisha Development Committee Member (2011-2013), participated in OSAnet, helped in and contributed to OSA new constitution re-draftings, Utkarsa, OSA Souvenirs and OSA-Ozarks Chapter and so far attended four OSA annual conventions. Amiya enjoys Odishan-Indian-American foods, cultures, peoples and travels within North America and Odisha, although he has not traveled much within Odisha, except the Balasore-Bhadrak-Cuttack-Bhubaneswar-Khurda-Puri corridors. Amiya & his family have been based in the USA for over 20 years, he still misses and thinks about Odisha, India.

OSA communication Award:

Manoj Padhi (OSANet Moderator, 2012)

Manoj Padhi, who has been living in Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex since 2002 is from Berhampur Odisha. He is a Telecommunication Software Consultant by profession and was employed with Tech Mahindra Americas; after office hours, often he blogs, talks and participates in various internet debates and discussion on current affairs, politics, religion and issues that affect people. He strongly believes in



“Free Speech” and is the founder of “Free Voice of Citizens” News/Talk web portal <http://www.hindtoday.com> and Opinion Poll Web Portal <http://WholsYourChoice.com> . He is the founder-moderator of one of the popular internet discussion forums of Odisha - OTN (Orissa Today Network). Currently, the Padhis are trying to get a foot in small business; they are building two e-Commerce ventures <http://Malls2Go.com> (a Virtual Shopping Mall Complex) and <http://WhereIsMyDeal.com> (Deal Publishing Website) with Trademark “STEM Robot”. Of late, for a solicited proposal, they also proposed a “Project based learning model using Software and Robot” to one of the US Government agency, that is intended to improve the quality/statistics of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Education in US Schools in addition to increase the post-High School STEM Registration in US colleges. In addition to OSANet moderation, he also Volunteers for OSA Membership Development. He would love to answer queries about OSA Membership for your friends and relatives and may be reached @ 1-972-786-5818.

Like most standard Odia family, the Padhi family in USA is 2+2. Spouse Epsita is busy in building small-business; Daughter Eesha is in 7th Grade and Son Ishaan is in Kindergarten.



Service Leadership Award

Presented to Amulya Das, Convener 2012 OSA Convention, Seattle, Washington

Amulya Das (M.Tech Chemical Technology) is a material scientist and currently working as Director of Business Development for a Northwest Manufacturing Company. He has various US and International Patents. He is in US for last 18 years and has been involved with Seattle Odia community for last 17 years, organizing various events. He is also volunteering at Seattle Hindu Temple and Cultural Center for last 5 years and currently serving as one of the Board Members. He lives at Seattle Washington, with his wife Sachala, a computer professional and fondly known as Kuni and their two beautiful daughters Sibani and Alisa. He has served as the convener of 2012 OSA convention and very thankful to OSA for giving him the opportunity to serve the Odia community in North America.



Service Leadership Award

Presented to Pradeep Sahoo, Co Convener 2012 Convention, Seattle, Washington

Pradeep Sahoo (M.S. (M.Tech): - Industrial Engineering & Management from NITIE ,National Institute of Industrial Engineering, Mumbai. B. Tech ,Mechanical Eng. is currently working as Enterprise Architect (Solution/Technology) level of Engagement Manager for JDA Software, a world leader in Supply Chain Management. In addition to JDA, he had worked with 4 other companies in different management/consulting roles and provided services to approximately 20+ fortune 100 companies across USA, Canada, India, UK, France.

Born from Cuttack, Orissa, India, Pradeep is currently living with family near Seattle, Washington, married to Sasmita with 2 kids (Ananya 10 yrs and Shreya, 4 yrs). A worldwide traveler, traveled more than 1.5 Million miles. Favorite vacation spot: Hawaii, Alaska or Vancouver, BC.

It was a great opportunity and experience for Pradeep to serve as Co-Convener OSA2012, hosted in Seattle, Washington. He is also serving as Treasurer of OSA Pacific NW Chapter.



Service Leadership Award

Presented to Rakesh Patnaik, Co Convener 2021 Convention ,Seattle, Washington

Rakesh Patnaik, co-convener of OSA Seattle 2012, works as a Senior Program Manager at Microsoft Corporation in their Office division. When he is not designing and developing features for the SharePoint product, he is involved in different community events that strengthens the social fabric of Pacific Northwest. He has been involved with multiple NGOs that work to provide a better life of need back home in India. He is a new life member of OSA and stepped up to mantle the organizing responsibilities when the team required it. He moved to the USA 10 years ago from Bhubaneswar and currently lives in Redmond with his wife and are eagerly waiting for their first baby early in 2013.



Youth Service Leadership Award

Presented to Barnali Dasverma (for her leadership in OSA youth activities)

Barnali Dasverma is a Director with Treya Partners, a boutique management consulting firm that provides spend management advisory services to private equity, mid-market, and state government clients. Prior to joining Treya, Barnali spent five years as a public sector consultant with Silver Oak Solutions (acquired by CGI). Barnali is active with the Orissa Society of the Americas (OSA) and has coordinated and served on youth panels at the 2010, 2011, and 2012 OSA conventions. Barnali has also been active with the San Francisco chapter of Indus Women Leaders, a South Asian professional women's organization, and was on its board from 2009 - 2011. She is also involved with South Asian Americans Leading Together and is currently serving on its San Francisco "Be the Change" Day of Service planning team. Barnali lives in San Francisco and enjoys exploring new SF restaurants, going to the theater, scuba diving, and traveling. Barnali holds both a BA and MA from Stanford University.



Kuku Das
Vice President, OSA

Treasurer's Report

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 2011-13
- Welcome New OSA Members
- Update of DOLA
- OSA Account Statement as of May 31st , 2012

Proposed OSA Annual Budget 2012-13

Income	Expense
Membership (Life/5-year/Patron/Benefactor): \$10,000	Election 2013 \$1,000
Membership (Annual) ¹ : \$2,000	Awards : \$1,000
OSA Fee (From Convention) ¹ : \$2,000	Convention Advance: \$10,000
Convention Surplus ² : \$1,000	Cultural Drama Festival: \$2,000
Return of Convention Advance: \$10,000	CCO: \$500
Donations (Odisha Development) : \$5,000	Odia Language (Speech/Debate): \$500
Other Donations : \$1,000	Odisha Development \$5,000
	Other Expenses: \$1,000

Note:

¹ Only annual membership, OSA Fee and the difference between life membership and patron or benefactor membership available for OSA operational expense.

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

Welcome New OSA Members (June 1st , 2012 thru Sept 15th , 2012)

Please join me in welcoming following members to OSA. Please encourage your friends and family who are currently not members of OSA to join OSA.

Siddhartha and Anuranjita Nayak, FL , Annual Member
Manoj Mishra and Snigdha Hota, MD, Life Member
Ayaskant and Susmita Sahu, MD, Life Member

Raj and Sarita Patnaik, MD, Life Member
Deepak and Itishree Dhal, MD, Life Member
Surath and Sangita Rath, TX, 5-year Member
Bikram Mohanty, GA, 5-year Member
Saswar and Rumna Mishra, CA, Life Member
Subrat and Nishra Biswal, Washington DC, Life Member
Prabhat Chowdhury, AZ, Life Member
Pratap K Mishra, AZ, Life Member
Madhabika Nayak, CA, Annual Member
Manmath Kumar Raut, CA, Annual Member
Pradipta Mishra, CA, Annual Member
Shirish Pal, CA, Annual Member
Tarini P Dash, CA, Annual Member
Mukta Moapatra, CA, Annual Member
Dave Dash, CA, 5-year Member
Dheeren Bebortha, CA, 5-year Member
Saroj Panda, GA, Annual Member
Monica Das, Haryana (India), Annual Member
Rabindra Behera, IA, Annual Member
Sujatha Nayak, IL, Annual Member
Suraj Patnaik, IL, Annual Member
Anshuman Das, NE, Annual Member
Asutosh Misra, NJ, Annual Member
Sanjukta Satapathy, NJ, Life Member
Sonia Panigrahy, NY, Annual Member
Bhisma Prasad Rath, Odisha (India), Annual Member
Jiphun C Satapathy, OR, Annual Member
Pragyan Pathi, OR, Annual Member
Sahana Custer, OR, Annual Member
Satya Mahanti, OR, Annual Member
Subhankar Panda, OR, 5-year Member
Sounak Nick Misra, OR, Annual Member
Alex Amar Pani, TN, Annual Member
Prasanta K Misra, TX, Annual Member
Soumya S Pathi, TX, Annual Member
Sukanya Misra, TX, Annual Member
Ajit Nayak, WA, Annual Member
Amiya Kumar Tripathy, WA, Annual Member
Ansuman Kar, WA, Annual Member
Arun K Mishra, WA, Annual Member
Bikram Mohanty, WA, Annual Member
Jaya Dash Tripathy, WA, Annual Member
Manoj Rath, WA, Annual Member
Manoranjan Mishra, WA, Annual Member
Mriganka Das, WA, Annual Member
Nachiketa Hota, WA, Annual Member
Prasanta K Behera, WA, Annual Member
Rahul Tripathy, WA, Annual Member
Sandeep Misra, WA, Annual Member
Sangram Mohapatra, WA, Annual Member
Sanjay K Mishra, WA, Annual Member



Santosh K Sahoo, WA, Annual Member
Soumya Nanda, WA, Annual Member
Surya Senapati, WA, Annual Member
Una Sai Prasad Patro, WA, Annual Member
Abhijit Ghosh, WA, Annual Member
Gloria Briseno, WA, Annual Member
Sriradha Mohan Mohanty, WA, Annual Member
Sumeet P Dash, WA, Annual Member
Sumit Mohanty, WA, Annual Member
Susanta Samantaray, WA, Annual Member
Sibani Das, WA, Annual Member
Sanjeeb Sarangi, WA, Life Member
Amaika Nayak, WI, Annual Member

2013 is an election year and anyone who becomes OSA member prior to Dec 31st 2012 will be eligible to participate in the election. Per OSA constitution after July 31st no one can join as annual member for current fiscal year (2012-2013).

Update of DOLA (Directory of oDias Living Abroad)

DOLA is the official member registry for OSA members. The update of contact details in DOLA is primarily a member responsibility. We have sent out current contact details to all our members to verify and update their address, phone number and e-mail address and more than 150 updates have been done to DOLA . Currently, there are 60+ records without current address, phone number or e-mail. We are still working to contact those members and at the end will post the list on OSANet to get help from member on the forum.



OSA Account Statement as of 05/31/2012

	Amount	Income/ Expense Category
Opening Balance (9/1/2011)		
Checking A/C #1	\$7,830.07	
Checking A/C #2	\$0.00	
CD #1	\$25,631.81	
CD #2	\$62,224.67	
Total	\$95,686.55	
Receipts		
	\$10,000.00	2011 Convention Advance - Return
	\$1,560.00	Annual Membership *
	\$712.42	2011 Convention Surplus *
	\$2,775.00	OSA Fee *
	\$402.00	Donation *
	\$497.50	Interest Income *
	\$1,300.00	Donation - Rebuild OSA Fund **
	\$13,114.12	Flood Relief Donations****
	\$1,000.00	Donation - Odissi Festival ****
	\$250.00	Donation - Odisha Development Fund (ODF)
	\$20,550.00	OSA Life, 5-year and Benefactor Membership ***
	\$1,500.00	Donation - Awards*
Payments		
	\$10,000.00	2012 Convention Advance
	\$2,500.00	Regional Drama Festival *
	\$412.08	Administrative (Fees , Postage etc) *
	\$13,114.12	Flood Relief Disbursement and Expense****
	\$1,000.00	CCO CD
	\$1,000.00	Odissi Festival****
	\$105.00	Higher Ed - Expense - ODF Fund
	\$200.00	Website *
	\$100.00	Awards *
Closing Balance (05/31/2012)	\$120,916.39	

Remarks

* Items marked are operational income or expense

** Items marked will be transferred to fixed deposit/ CD (donations to 'Rebuild OSA Fund')

*** Items marked will be transferred to fixed deposit/ CD except \$1600 from 2 Benefactor Memberships . \$1600 has been added to operational income.

**** Donations for Flood Relief and Odissi Festival were collected and disbursed separately

The balances are on cash basis, on accrual basis both the opening and closing balance will be 10K higher on account of convention advance as convention advance is expected to be returned in full. So the opening balance will be \$105,686.55 and closing balance will be \$130,916.39 if we take convention advance into account.

**Account Balances as of
05/31/2012**

Checking #1	\$13,955.00
Checking #2	\$18,607.41
CD#1	\$25,696.03
CD#2	\$62,657.95

**Total Balance (as of
05/31/2012)** \$120,916.39

Total Balance(as of
09/01/2011) \$95,686.55

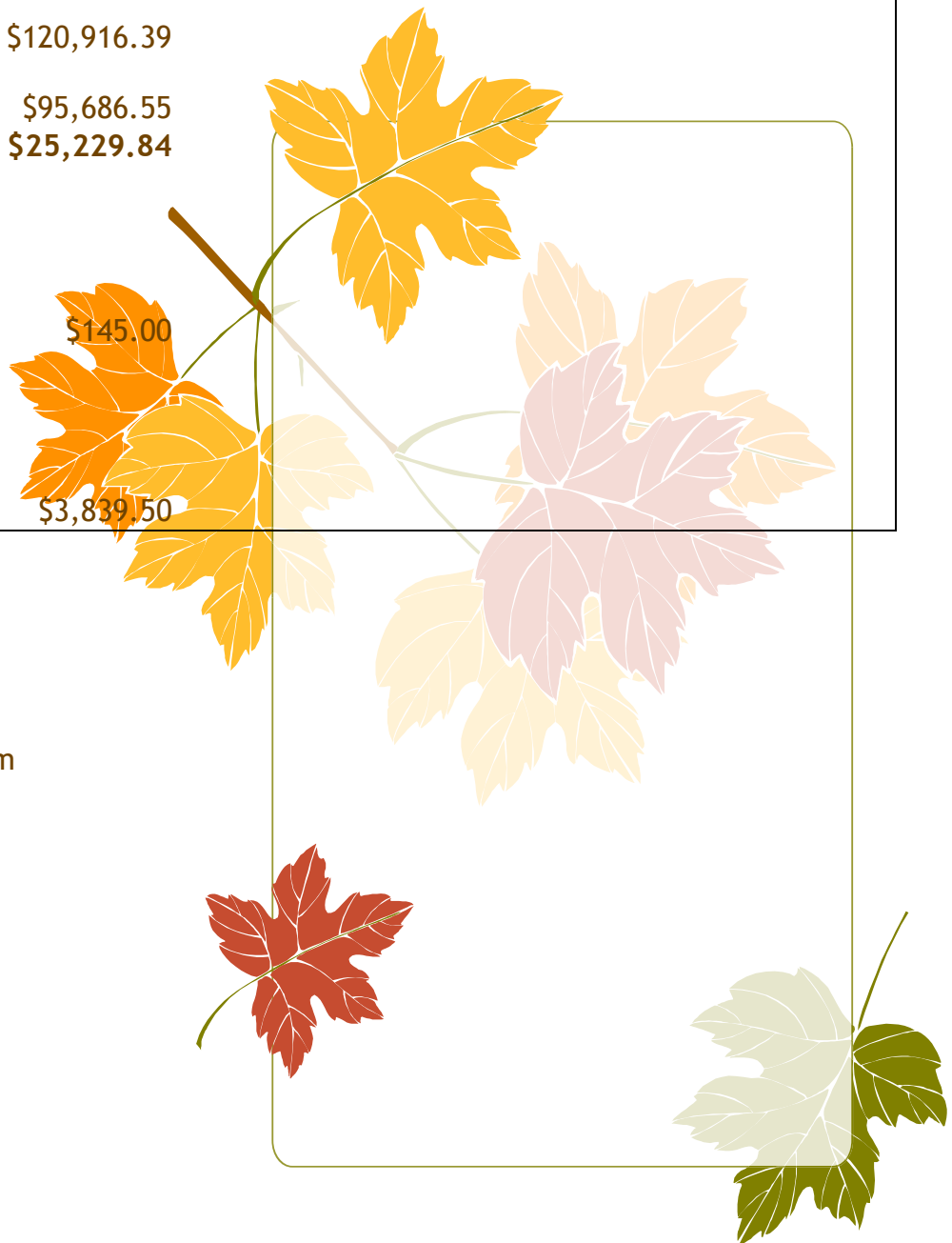
Net Increase \$25,229.84

**Balances under different
funds**

ODF \$145.00

Odisha Development-
(OSA2010 Convention
Directive for the 50% of
surplus) \$3,839.50

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



Secretary's Report

BOG Meeting Minutes (July)

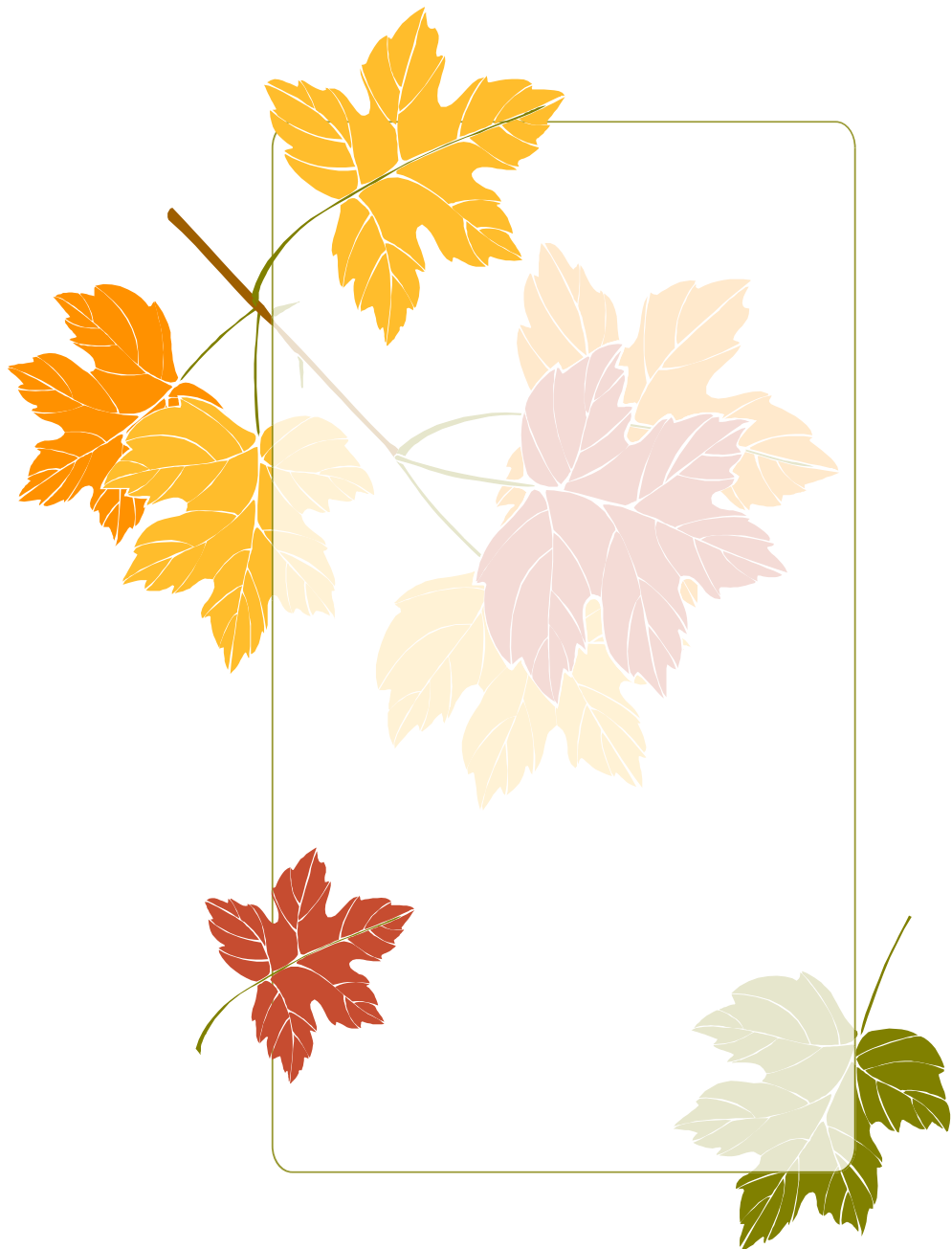
Meeting Date: 07/06/2012

Meeting Location: Seattle Convention

Recorded By: Leena Mishra

Meeting Location

Apart from the chapter representatives, the following people were also present to either discuss different proposals or to represent different chapter.



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	Promod Mohapatra	President	Southern Chapter	No
6	Sujata Nayak	President	OSA - MD/VA	No
7	Arata Tran Rout	President	OSA - Ohio	No
7	Bigyani Das	Past President	OSA	Yes
8	Debashish Panda	President	OSA - Grand Canyon	No
9	Gatikrishna Tripathy	President	OSA- Washington DC	No
10	Nihar Nanda	President	OSA - New England	No
11	Jhara Das	President	OSA - Chicago	No
12	Pitabasa Panda	President	OSA - Michigan	No
13	Prabhat Mohapatra	President	OSA - NYNJ	No
14	Radhagobinda Mohanty	President	Ozark - Central	Yes
15	Sabita Panigrahi	President	OSA - Canada	No
16	Priyadarshan Patra	President	OSA - Pacific Northwest	Yes
17	Sampurna Mohapatra	President	OSA - SouthEast	No
18	Gopal Mohapatra	President	OSA-Southwest	Yes
19	Subodh Samal	President	OSA - NW Chapter	No

No	Name	Title	Organization	Present
1	Amiya Nayak	Member	OSA-2012	Yes
2	Bhagabat Sahoo	Member		
3	Sandip Dasverma	Convention Team Member	OSA-2012	Yes
4	Pratap Das	Member (Represented Washington DC)	OSA-2012	Yes

5	Amar Pani	Member (represented Southern Chapter)	OSA-2012	Yes
6	Dhirendra Kar	Member (represented South Eastern Chapter)	OSA-2012	Yes

Conference Call

Meeting Start

Meeting Schedule Start: 5: 00 pm Pacific time

Actual Start Time: 5:15 PM Eastern Time

Agenda

- California Chapter
- Proposal received from Mr. Bhagabat Sahoo
- Proposal received from Mr. Sukant Mahapatra
- Miscellaneous

Meeting Details

President Annapurna Pandey welcomed everyone to the meeting.

California Chapter

- Leena Mishra shared the details of the verification with the team that was done for the Request received from Kuku Das regarding forming a chapter in California.
- The group raised concern about the responsibility of the chapter and suggested to choose a member to represent the chapter in the interim until a new chapter representative takes charge of the chapter. It was also suggested by the team to find a new chapter representative within 90 days of the declaration of acceptance of the request (7/6/12).

The team came up with the following options for resolving the concern.

- OSA secretary will take the responsibility of conducting the election in California Chapter.

- Kuku Das (from whom the request was received) will be responsible for the California Chapter and forming an election committee to find a chapter representative.
- Find a member who will be responsible for the chapter until the election takes place.

A vote was taken to come to a conclusion. Almost everyone except 3 agreed to give the responsibility to Kuku Das since the request was received from her.

Proposal from Mr. Bhagabat Sahu

- Mr, Bhagabat Sahu mentioned the following facts about this proposal that was forwarded to BOG in the month of June.
- There is a trust fund in the name “Pushpa laxmi Sahu Trust Fund”
- It is meant to promote Odia culture in the name of Essay and debate. There is nearly \$11,000 existing in the fund.
- This fund was approved in the 1985 GBM , OSA
- He mentioned that currently the fund is used for chapter events but the money is not being used every year.
- There is a document describing in detail about the intent of the fund.

[On this note it was suggested by the team to find all the MOU's of OSA and keep it under OSA web.]

OSA & Odisha Development (Proposal from Mr. Sukant Mahapatra)

A proposal was received from Mr. Sukant Mahapatra to add the Odisha Development activity as a preconvention activity. Based on this, the following proposal was proposed by Mr. Gopala Mohapatra.

OSA BOG proposes that the OSA annual convention to be a three day event with the following guidelines/stipulations/Conditions.

- The first day of the event will be focused on showcasing Odisha to encourage people and entities outside of Odisha and India to participate in Odisha development related activities under the banner invest Odisha
- This event will be coordinated by both the OSA national executive body through Odisha development Committee and the Convention organizing committee.
- The event has to be a self-sustainable event(eg. in the minimum) and is expected to generate revenue for OSA treasury and the convention.
- It will not be a mandatory event that the convention holding chapter has to organize and the other 2 day program of the convention is going to be held as usual.

- The guideline for the event will be worked out by the Odisha Development Committee and be approved by the BOG to take effect.

The above proposal was passed by the BOG unanimously.

Meeting Actual End:

Next Meeting

Next Meeting: August 5th at 8:30 pm

Location: Conference call - phone

Action Items:

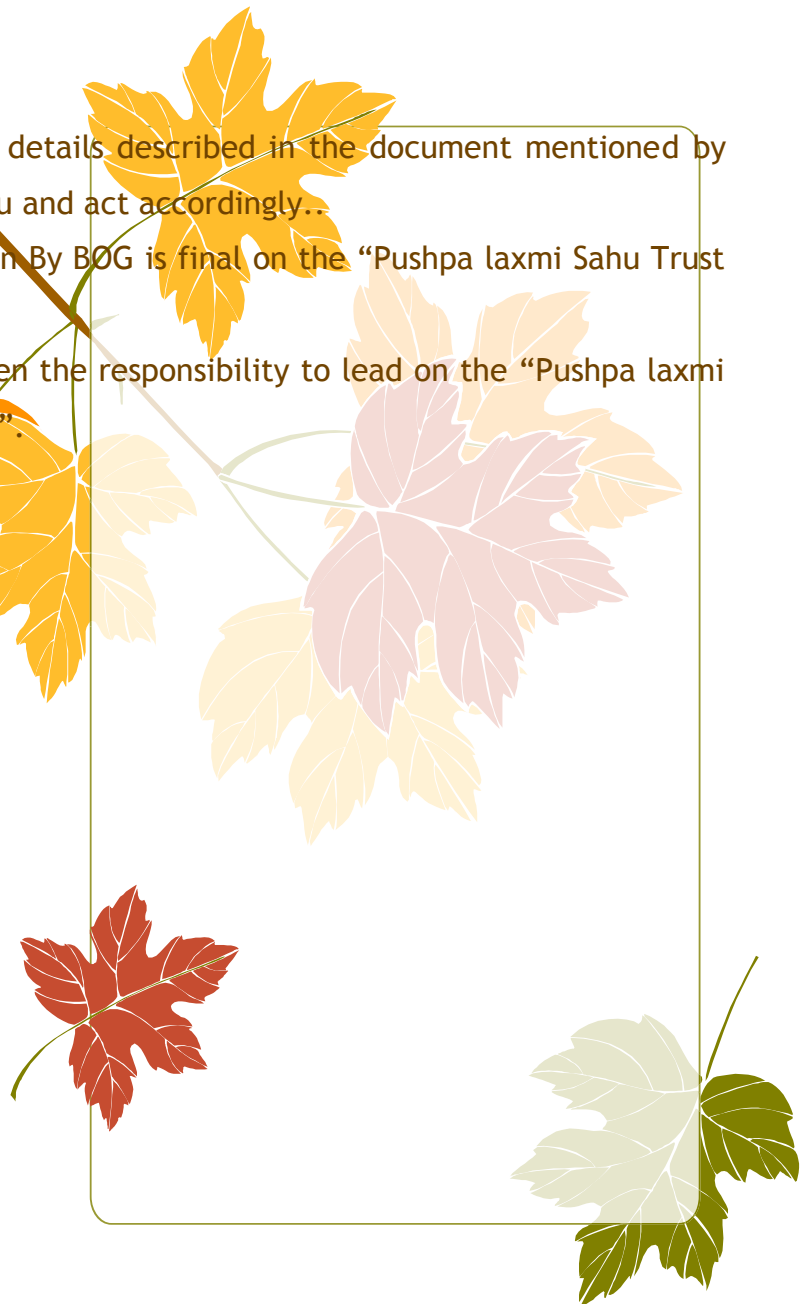
- BOG will see the details described in the document mentioned by Mr. Bhagabat Sahu and act accordingly..
- Any decision taken By BOG is final on the “Pushpa laxmi Sahu Trust Fund” matter.
- Kuku Das was given the responsibility to lead on the “Pushpa laxmi Sahu Trust Award”.

BOG Meeting Minutes (August)

Meeting Date: 08/05/2012

Meeting Location: Conference Call

Recorded By: Leena Mishra



Meeting Start

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	Pramod Mohapatra	President	Southern Chapter	Yes
6	Sujata Nayak	President	OSA - MD/VA	No
7	Arata Tran Rout	President	OSA - Ohio	No
7	Bigyani Das	Past President	OSA	Yes
8	Debashish Panda	President	OSA - Grand Canyon	No
9	Gatikrishna Tripathy	President	OSA- Washington DC	Yes
10	Nihar Nanda	President	OSA - New England	No
11	Jhara Das	President	OSA - Chicago	Yes
12	Pitabasa Panda	President	OSA - Michigan	No
13	Prabhat Mohapatra	President	OSA - NYNJ	No
14	Radhagobinda Mohanty	President	Ozark - Central	Yes
15	Sabita Panigrahi	President	OSA - Canada	No
16	Priyadarshan Patra	President	OSA - Pacific Northwest	No
17	Sampurna Mohapatra	President	OSA - SouthEast	No
18	Gopal Mohapatra	President	OSA-Southwest	No
19	Subodh Samal	President	OSA - NW Chapter	No

Meeting Schedule Start: 5: 00 pm Pacific time

Actual Start Time: 5:15 PM Eastern Time

Agenda

- CCO Fund Update
 - Chapter Relationships
 - Convention / Convention Guideline Update
 - Miscellaneous
-

Meeting Details

President Annapurna Pandey was not present in the beginning of the meeting. Vice President Kuku Das welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Update on Champu Chhanda

- Sushant Satpathy informed the team that Lata Mishra has donated back \$1000 that was spent for producing CCO CD. Also OSA received the sale proceedings from CCO CD. He proposed to maintain this as a separate fund as suggested by Lata Mishra. But the decision was deferred till next meeting as there was no quorum.

Update on Pusalata Fund

- Dr. Sahu had informed about the trust during last BOG
- OSA officials have received the document regarding trust
- The team was updated with the following information.
 - This fund will be used to promote Odia culture and language.
 - The OSA team needs to come up with the ideas of using this fund as described in the document of this fund.
- There was a discussion among the team about the use of this fund. The group didn't come to a conclusion on this. Leena Mishra and/or Kuku Das will follow-up with Dr. Sahu regarding this.

Chapter Relation

There was a discussion to improve the communication between different chapters of OSA and OSA national. The following suggestions came from the chapter representatives.

- OSA national representatives shared the difficulties to reach chapter members with the team and suggested setting up/ adding OSA national executives to their yahoo group for an one way communication.
- Some of the team members suggested to send the message through chapter presidents.
- Some members suggested changing the format of the message and sending the message in the body of the email instead of attaching any document.

Convention / Convention Guideline update

Mrs. Jhara Das informed the team that they will soon meet to discuss the convention among their chapter members. Others suggested to hold the meeting and take next steps.

There are some updates made to convention guideline and once it is reviewed it will be shared with BOG members.

Miscellaneous

Southern chapter president Promod Mohapatra enquired about the process of getting a copy of the souvenir for their members.

Meeting Actual End:

Next Meeting

Next Meeting: September 9th at 8:30 pm EST / 5:30 PST

Location: Conference call - phone

Action Items:

o No action item reported this time.

2012 Convention News

Odia Poetry Reading Session

(Reported by Bigyani Das)

Theme: Staba (Praise, Appreciation, Prayer etc.)

OSA Convention 2012

July 7, 2012, 3:00 PM

Dear Friends

It is my greatest pleasure to share with you the report of the Odia Poetry Reading session that was held during OSA convention 2012 at 3:00 PM on July 7th at Newport Performing Arts Center. The weather was as charming as the Pacific Northwest volunteers were. Seminar coordinator Pranabesh Dash had allotted us the perfect room and the perfect time to exercise our minds with creativity and passion. The convention decoration team had created a very literally inspiring environment with parts of poems of many famous Odia poets put into decorative wall frames. Among us were several distinguished fellow Odias from Orissa, Mr Devdas Chhotray, Dr Adysha Das, Dr Monika Das, Jugal Pattanaik, Mrs Rama Pattanaik and Mausi (Mother of Priyaranjan Mohapatra).

About 35 members were present and participated in the poetry reading, composing, encouraging activity. Thirteen members recited the poem. At the end of the Poetry Reading session, we spent about 7-9 minutes in creating a poem on “Jagannatha”, the topic that was randomly selected out of 3 topics on “OSA”, “Tuma Paain Priya” and “Jagannatha”. The complete poem will be shared once I receive the video clips since it was not possible to quickly capture the lines from different participants. The participants actually were very thoughtful and very quick as regards composing their lines for Lord Jagannath. I am sharing just the lines from 2 members:



Achala Mohanty:
dure muhin bahu dure
AshA kare tora pAshe
pAda chhuin samarpibi
mo jibana Ahutire

Dr Amiya Mohanty:
sei Ahutiki chAhin
sArA jibana mu karibi arpaNa
duniAra bhala pAin
ghara, bAhAra ebang e sansAra

Please find below the table that has the information about the title of the poem and the reader. I thank all the participants that shared their unique creativity starting from “Kalijugara Gajanana” to “Bou”. I specifically thank Ineka for representing the second generation Odias and reciting the poem from her mind (no notes).

The poetry reading was followed by a presentation on "Preserving Our Language" by Dr Monika Das.

Once I collect the video, I will share the video clips after getting permission from the participants.

Sincerely,
Bigyani Das

Poem	Reader	Poet	Theme
tAre Jhure	Bisnupriya Mishra	Bisnupriya Mishra	Praise of Almighty
Bheta Paranabandhunku	Bisnupriya Mishra	Bisnupriya Mishra	Praise of Almighty
Ruturaaja Agamane	Gagan Panigrahi	Gagan Panigrahi	Appreciating Nature
Bhai	Adyasha Das	Adyasha Das	For Brother
Bou Mora	Amiya Mohanty	Amiya Mohanty	For Mother
Nari O' Dharitri	Kuku Das	Kantilata Sahoo	For Women
Kalijugara Gajanana	Sumitra Padhi	Sumitra Padhi	Computer as Lord Ganesha in Kalijuga
Marichikara Maya	Babru Samal	Babru Samal	Unknown Beauty
Anushochana	Kalpanamayi Dash	Kalpanamayi Dash	Repenting
Kataka	Digambar Mishra	Digambar Mishra	For the city Cuttack
Mo Gaan, Mo Maa	Bigyani Das	Bigyani Das	For the Village Haladibasanta
Bharasa	Rama Pattanaik	Rama Pattanaik	God
Akashe Padichhi Andhara	Surya Mishra		For the Nature
Sana Chhadhei	Ineka Panigrahi	Nanda Kishore Bala	For Nature



ଏକ ମନ ଏକ ପ୍ରାଣ-ଏକ ପ୍ରାନ୍ତ ଏକ ଚିନ୍ତା Bringing Odias Together

The 43rd Annual OSA Convention, organized by Pacific Northwest Odia families, concluded in the city of Seattle with all pomp and glory. This two and half day event was attended by about 550 people cutting across different geographies. The Odia diaspora in the North America were treated to some enthralling performances by professional artists depicting the rich cultural heritage of the great state of Odisha. The Emerald City, Seattle, was special not only because of its mesmerizing beauty typical of the Pacific Northwest but also for its special place as the great American city to “bridge” Canada and the USA -- the two primary countries of the North American Odia Diaspora.



The event was inaugurated on 06 July 2012, by distinguished guests that included the Mayor of Bellevue – Mr Conrad Lee, Indian High Commissioner to Trinidad and Tobago – Mr Malay Mishra, Member of Parliament – Mr

Baijayanta Panda and Legendary Hindustani Classical Singer – Ms. Sunanda Patnaik among others. Later Dr. Sam Pitroda gave a live video address exhorting the younger generation to take up the challenges for a prosperous Odisha.

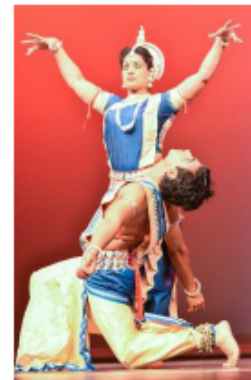
The inauguration was followed by the showcase performance from the local artists who depicted the theme of the event “Eka Mana Eka PrAna, Eka PrAnta Eka Chinha”. It started with a skit by Seattle artists, followed by a musical from the Portland performers and concluded with an Odissi dance performance by the Urvasi Ensemble led by Dr Ratna Roy. This set the tone for rest of the convention and gave the audience a glimpse of what was in store.





The evening line up for both the days was studied with some brilliant performances by legendary artists. Ms. Sunanda Patnaik initiated the proceedings on the first day with a mesmerizing rendition of Hindustani classical. She was accompanied by Mr. Satish Tare on the Tabla and Mr. Mausam on the Harmonium. This was followed with a fashion show by the local women walking to the theme of "Save a Girl Child". One of the most talked about performance was the *Das Kathia* by two budding local artists – Mano Mishra and Manoj Ratha. Their narrative of tribulations of an Immigrant Odia in USA struck a chord with the audience. Suraj Patnaik, a second generation Odia enraptured the audience with his vocal performance singing Gita Govinda. He was accompanied by Ms. Adyasha Das who had flown in from Odisha. The crowd laughed their stomach out with the Late Night Stand Up routine by Sunny Tripathy. This is his second appearance in OSA and like earlier one, he was an instant hit. The first night ended with the crowd being treated to some melodious songs of yester years by Guru Sangeeta Gossain and Sushmita Das.

The second day cultural event was kicked off by a stunning Odissi dance recital by duo Ms. Ellora and Devraj Patnaik from Toronto. The rendition of Dasha Avatar under the glowing lights was awe-inspiring and etched a lasting memory of the audience. On the footsteps was another amazing performance by the Jyoti



Kala Mandir troop from California. The Live Musicians accompanying the dancers added a very invigorating touch to the routine that centered on liberation from material world – *Mokshayada* in the holy city of Varanasi.

Augmenting the cultural line-ups were three competitions that showcased the drama, songs and variety talent in kids and adults. The Pramod Patnaik drama competition which has been a highlight of every convention boasted entries from 6

different chapters. The competition was intense with top notch performances from all the entries but the comedy by the California region bagged the top honors.



Subrina Biswal Competition in Performing arts is considered to be the launching pad of latent talent in kids and this year as well had a packed line up in two categories – Junior and Senior. The crowd was treated to some great performances by young kids that included dance, vocal, piano, keyboards etc. The first prize went to Simone Mishra

and Sanuja Das in the Junior and Senior categories respectively. The event was sponsored by Biswal family and coordinated by Mitali Monalisa. The Odissi, Champu and Chhanda competition that relives this dying music form was another hallmark of the convention. Seeing the young kids sing to the tunes of live musicians was a great experience for



the attending members. This program had 10 contestants vying for the top honors and the judges declared Meghna Nanda as the winner. This event was produced by Ms. Lata Mishra and coordinated by Chinmaya Panda. The event would have been



incomplete without the tantalizing performances by the tiny tots. Saraga Sashi, the hour long program was cuteness personified as the little kids donned the stage and danced to different tunes. It revealed how deep the talent goes in the OSA family. The event was coordinated by Sasmita Sahoo.

The two-day extravaganza brought a lot of smiles and satisfaction to the crowds as they were transcended into a realm of rich art, music and dance that has been central to the ancient tradition of Odisha. It provided a bridge between generations and among people miles apart and away from the Odishan epicenter.

This year we organized unique pre-convention symposia, one focusing on high-education exchange and collaboration between Odisha and the USA, while the



second on Buddhist Heritage and Knowledge Institutions of Odisha. The other main-day seminars such as Women's Forum, Odisha Development, Odia Poetry and Arts, Youth Careers Panel, NRO Community, Jagannath Chetna and the Samik Singh Youth Entrepreneurship Competition drew significant audiences. We had a great effort for a fabulous souvenir journal and directory by the team led by our editors Swaroop, Debu, Anna and Manoranjan. The main program of the convention served a veritable feast of quality events, edifying seminars and speeches, spellbinding stage performances, sumptuous food, great networking opportunities, and shared joy. We will have our website osa2012.org, and our magazines to help you cherish your memories. The website's [epilogue](#) section has a number of video clips and pictures of the various events; the 'seminar' section has more detail on seminars. Pranabesh and a small band of seminar-area leaders coordinated these events.

We faced great resource challenges and had to draw upon only a few leaders' experience. Fortunately, we overcame most of it with dedication and effort. In a separate report, we will demonstrate the fiscal discipline and careful management that was a corner stone of our effort. The hospitality, food, web and program content, and venue were greatly appreciated by many of you. Also of special note is the volunteer matching funds raised by our Pacific Northwest families from their employers as well as chapter volunteering activities done for the local community (such as food bank). Satykam provided high-quality support on the accounting front. Our cultural team and services team provided you superb entertainment and comfort. Web team and youth team were fabulous. We innovated in several areas (i.e. web, checkin, seated food, travel discounts, symposia, etc.) but we also had a few areas of improvement – notably in the areas of program scheduling and time management.



The overall leadership including organization & fundraising was provided by Priyadarsan Patra, Amulya Das, Sandip Dasverma, Pradeep Sahoo and Rakesh Patnaik with the able guidance of the OSA national team. However, the true heroes were all our men/women volunteers who made this possible. In this brief narrative above, I have not attempted to cover all our achievements, special events or fun bits, nor have I mentioned all the 'section' leader names. Some companion articles may describe some of these roles/activities. We list below the volunteers who participated in this demanding execution – some have helped over a few crucial hours and some other unsung heroes have toiled over 6 months or more.

Finally, we thank all of you those who attended, or donated to the convention's cause, or supported us as members, or perhaps even tolerated our shortcomings!

Our Volunteers (pardon us if we missed your name in this massive effort)

Abhijit Ghosh	Jyoti Rout	Nirmala Dash	Sangram Mohapatra
Adarsh Patra	Kelly Lampear-Dash	Norma Pati	Santosh Sahoo
Amiya Tripathy	Kirti Mohapatra	Prachi Mishra	Sasmita Sahoo
Amrita Satpathy	Kuku Das	Pradeep Sahoo	Satyakam
Amulya Das	Lalatendu Mohanty	Pragya Nanda	Seema Choudhury
Ankita Mohanty	Leena Mishra	Pranabesh Dash	Sibani Das
Anna Mishra	Leeta Das	Prangya Nanda	Sishu Shankar
Annapurna Pandey	Mahesh Nayak	Prasanna Pati	Soumya Nanda
Ansuman Kar	Maheswata Nayak	Priyadarsan Patra	Sriradha Mohanty
Anu Patra	Mamata Misra	Rakesh Patnaik	Suchi Pahi
Arun Mishra	Manas Mohanty	Ranjan Dash	Suchitra Patnaik
Ashok Das	Manoj Rath	Rashmi Patnaik	Sujata Sullivan
Bigyani Das	Manoranjan Acharya	Ratna M	Sukant Mohapatra
Bikram Mohanty	Manoranjan Mishra	Sachala Das	Sumeet Dash
Biswa Behera	Mimi Mishra	Sahara Rout	Sumit Mohanty
Chinmaya Panda	Mitali Madhusmita	Saiprasad Patro	Surya Senapati
Daisy Ray	Mitali Monalisa	Samita Satapathy	Sushant Satpathy
Debu Panda	Monalisa Rath	Sandip K. Dasverma	Swaroop Mishra
Deepa Nanda	Mudra Choudhury	Sandip misra	Tapan Padhi
DK Ray	Nachi Hota	Sangeeta Katha	Tarini Dash
Gagan Panigrahi	Nihar Dash	Sanghamitra Pattnaik	Trupti Pradhan

Article by: Priyadarsan Patra on behalf of the [OSA2012 team](#)

Talk Delivered at the OSA convention held at Seattle, usa in July 2012.

Presentation on behalf of Fakir Mohan Foundation, New Delhi

By: **Dr. Monica Das**

Associate Professor in Economics (Formerly)

Gargi College, Delhi University

Fellow Developing Countries Research Centre, DCRC, (Delhi Univ)

Managing Trustee Fakir Mohan Foundation (FMF)

Website: www.fakirmohanfoundation.com

TOPIC

‘Save your language, save yourself’

(In view of the dying use of the regional language amongst the younger generation in particular, FMF wishes to launch a movement to encourage children to take more interest in the Odiya language -their mother tongue)

We in India might be boasting about our Economic growth rates and geopolitical rise, but have lost sight of the deep weaknesses that plague our society and one of them is the education system. Let's face it, our school system, vocational system, colleges and universities are in shambles. Most alarming is the fact of the dying use of regional languages and above all one's own mother tongue amongst the youth of today. This is in view of the increasing use of English and Hindi. All this is market driven which has its own importance but the question is why should it be at the cost of one's own language. After all language is syncretic. Many languages can be handled simultaneously.

World statistics states that every fortnight one language goes extinct. As for Odisha, a survey conducted by ACER reveals that only 33% of students in Odisha use their mother tongue in the course of their education. Now coming to the issue of culture which is inextricably linked to education, it is but common knowledge that in order to understand our culture we need to understand our own language. It is only our own language that helps us to appreciate the richness and the subtle nuances of our culture and tradition. Saving the language is part of our cultural survival. Besides it is a community and heritage issue.

Fakir Mohan Senapati as all Odiyas know in one who saved the Odiya language from extinction. Had it not been for his untiring efforts against all odds, we Odiyas today, perhaps, would not have had our separate and unique identities (all this is portrayed in the 5min clipping from my film ANVESAN made on FM Senapati which I would be presenting today for your benefit). Many other luminaries of Odissa later joined the movement and made their contributions and sustained it. Our special tribute to

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Fakir Mohan Foundation (FMF), is trying to carry this legacy forward, because we are now placed in that kind of a juncture where the mother tongue is facing a serious threat once again. So it is but imperative for us to address this issue and promote, protect and preserve the use of the language with all earnestness. This is what FMF is striving for. It seeks the co-operation of OSA and such other esteemed organizations and urges them to come forward, join the movement and help. We have worked out various steps (We have Fakir Mohan University, Balasore, the Odisha Govt and in due course maybe UNESCO to help us in our venture). The prepared module and logistics is proposed to be discussed in the course of my presentation.

To put the whole matter in context and additionally to give it an expert perspective, I would like to quote "A language is not just words it is a culture, a tradition, unification of a community, a whole history that creates what a community is. Its all embodied in a language" Noam Chomsky.

Then as a tribute to our forefathers, especially here in this context of Fakir Mohan Senapati, i would like to quote- "To be ignorant of what occurred before you were born is to remain always a child. For what is the worth of human life, unless it is woven into the life of our ancestors, by records of history".-Cicero, Quator(46BC).

The use of language in Odisha is in a very deplorable state. Statistics reveals that only 33% of students use the language in their formal education. Besides, linked to the language issue is the economic issue. In fact many of the Economic policy practitioners in International financial institutions like the World Bank and the IMF have begun to look towards cultural factors as key variables explaining successful transition strategies. Language is Syncretic and is more than just words. So the language movement is from all aspects a viable proposition.

The module that we have in mind is as follows. 1/We have thought of working on language related activities as an integral part of the various local religious festivals.2/ Organise games and competitions woven around the mother tongue regional language for children (age group - 7 to 15) during the local festivities and otherwise.3/ Hold workshops periodically in schools and colleges with participation from retired professors and teachers on a voluntary basis.4/ Gram Baithaks (language sessions in rural areas).5/ Lec Dems through cultural programs can be organized using dance & the local music.6/ Social marketing can also be resorted to with the help of street plays & jatras.7/ Providing mobile libraries would definitely go a long way in promoting and sustaining the use of the languages. 8/ The cause of retired /senior citizens occupational issue can also be integrated with the language issue. This group could be meaningfully engaged by way of providing

language training or even conducting story telling sessions for children. This can be highly cost effective.⁹/Volunteers can be mobilized to generate interest in the language by giving lectures in different schools on various topics.¹⁰/ FMF's agenda of imparting exposing children to the Odiya language and popularizing reading Of Odiya literature can be woven with the developmental work of interested NGO's. One NGO that we have in mind is CYSD of Bhubaneswar. This can have special application in the rural and far flung areas of Odisha.

FMF also proposes to have at higher level (University level) indepth studies on comparative Indian literature. Sahitya Akademi also has offered to support us in this venture. We have already spoken to some Vcs as well as leading publishing houses in Delhi for organizing projects based on these.

The intertextuality of fiction and life is sought to be explored through the envisaged Book Readings on the myriad genre of Fakir Mohan Senapati's works.

Panel Discussions on Fakir Mohan Senapati

The complex nature of issues dealt with in Fakir Mohan Senapati's works, is going to be explored by FMF through interactive panel discussions, especially in the context of :

- Intersection of Caste and Class
- Representation of Women
- Other- Vernacular Texts

Workshops on Writing Skills

FMF also intends to have workshops on writing skills by deconstructing the myriad nature of Fakir Mohan Senapati's plays, essays, short stories, novels etc. These activities are being planned in collaboration with universities in Delhi; Sarojini Naidu Centre for Women's Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, Delhi University (and its various Colleges) Literature and Languages Departments, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Guru Gobind Singh University & IGNOU amongst others to explore the gender quotient in academics.

NCERT(National Council for Educational Research & Training) has also been approached for including FMS's writings in their curriculum.

Philately : We have already put in our appeal to the post & telegraphs department Government of India for bringing out a stamp on Manav Dharma with Fakir Mohan's picture and name.

Manav dharm Delhi university students have come forward to take active interest in the matter.

Somebody rightly remarked “Religion does not seem an infallible way of finding either wisdom or solace but I think it’s a great way of finding humility & realising how small you are in the larger scheme of things and how much lies far beyond one’s understanding. It’s a training at least in traditions in mystery and remembering how little you know.”

But the ‘Religion of Humanism’-MANAV DHARM, is perhaps the call of the day. Promoting ‘Manav Dharma’ (The religion of humanism) figures majorly in FMF’s agenda. We have already put in our appeal to the post & telegraphs department Government of India for bringing out a stamp on Manav Dharma with Fakir Mohan’s picture and name. This is under process & would need your patronage for it to happen. We have a logo prepared on the theme and we would be treating it as our event logo hereafter for all our events, besides using the main FMF logo.

Fakir Mohan Senapati stood for religious unity and he practiced what he preached. He embraced Christianity and Brahmoism, his strong beliefs in Hinduism notwithstanding. He along with Madhusudan Das & Radhanath Ray decided to adopt Christianity. He had a liberal outlook so much so that he chose a Brahmo Bengali girl (Hiran Prabha) as a daughter-in-law for his only son Mohini Mohan Senapati.

The ‘Sarva Dharma Samanya Sthambh’ with representations of all religions, Hinduism, Islam and the rest, built by Fakir Mohan stands tall even to this day at his native place in Balasore in the garden called ‘Shanti kanan.’ In fact this is the need of the hour. There should be a clarion call for Manav Dharma- the religion of Humanism. Praise be to Fakir Mohan, who professed it long back maybe with the thought that some day we would need it for sheer survival.

Seminar on the Issue of Underage Marriages

This is one issue about which I feel very strongly about and since I have done considerable work(Including books) on the issue ,I wish to take it up in Odisha in a concerted manner. If nothing atleast generating conscousness regarding the matter and sensitizing the general public about the issue would strongly feature on our agenda. Incidentally we have already carried out programs on river water pollution and environmental protection. All this will be borne out from the report given on our website(www.fakirmohanfoundation.com)

The issue of rising underage marriages and its concomitant bigamy, both of which have an adverse effect on socio-economic factors and eventually in some way on the Human Development Index (HDI) and Gender Development Index (GDI) is also sought to be explored. Questions and studies on this have already been presented by the author at various forums, both national and international.

Now coming back to the language issue, Odisha incidentally is the first state to have been established on the basis of language. In view of the above and in view of the impending peril that is looking us in the face, we solicit your organization's support & encouragement in furthering the cause & carrying forward our mission.

Economic Development has a cultural dimension which needs to be reckoned with. We hope your esteemed organization would come forward & support the cause upheld by the Fakir Mohan Foundation, New Delhi.

I hereby wish to thank all those assembled here as well as all members of OSA to have given me a patient hearing . I also wish to thank them for their support and encouragement. I specially wish to thank Dr Annapurna Pandey the president of OSA, Dr Bigyani Das Smt Kuku Das and many others for their kind words and endorsement so far as the FMF agenda is concerned. I wish to acknowledge their deep involvement with Odiya culture and development . It is indeed a highly commendable effort on their part. I wish them all success.

(The author on request has prepared and put up a feature for OSA members and all prabasi Odiyas a 'FUN FEATURE ON LANGUAGE', based on Odiya Dhaga Dhamali and Odiya Prabada and Lokukti.) This should be available on the OSA Website as well as on Utkarsha the online magazine.

Monica Das
Email Id: dasmonica@gmail.com
Mob: 9899301771(New Delhi, India)

2012 GBM Minutes

Reported by: Leena Mishra

GENERAL BODY MEETING OF OSA

July 7th, 2012

Auditorium at Bellevue, Seattle

Time: 11.30 AM-1.30PM

Present on the Podium

Dr Annapurna Pandey (President)
Kuku Das (Vice-President)
Leena Mishra: (Secretary)
Sushant Satpathy (Treasurer)
Nick Patnaik (Parliamentarian)
Gopal Mohapatra(Sergeant-at-arms)

Attendance: Around 60 at the start of the meeting and 45 towards the end. There was some inflow and outflow of members in the interim period.

Official in charge of the Floor: Gopal Mohapatra, Chapter President of OSA Southwest chapter and BOG member was handling questions from the floor.

(This minutes is prepared by Leena Mishra, Secretary 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 the sergeant- at-arms, Gopal Mohapatra. He invited the OSA officials to the podium.

President's Report

President Annapurna Pandey presented the agenda of the meeting. She congratulated the convention organizers for a successful convention and thanked the coordinators of the convention as well as various committee members. She also congratulated all the BOG members and other volunteer members for working hard in various OSA initiatives.

Announcement of Election committee for OSA 2013 election:

She announced the election committee members for the Year 2012-13:

Chair: Dr. Haralal Choudhury, Ohio

Members: Dr. Duryodhan Mangaraj, Ohio

Members: Dr. Jaya Narayan Bhuyan, Ohio

The motion was brought by Dharendra Kar and seconded by Pratap Das and it was approved unanimously.

Adding a 3rd day to Convention

President Annapurna Pandey brought the following proposal to the table.

Convention will be a threeday event and the first day will be a self-sustainable event showcasing Odisha.

There was lots of discussion on the floor regarding this. Annapurna Pandey, Pratap Das, Dhirendra Kar , Amiya Mohanty and Nilambar Biswal clarified the background of the initiative very clearly and some of them mentioned that through this event there will be a cash flow to OSA in near future.

Anjalika Pattanaik raised a concern regarding the tight activities of the convention and mentioned that this might be one more addition to this. But most of the members agreed that it is a positive initiative by OSA and we must move in this direction.

There was motion on the floor on adding a third day convention by Dhirendra Kar and Pratap Das seconded it. A vote was taken on this it was found that 34 members were in favor of this proposal. 6 members opposed the proposal. This proposal was approved by a sizable majority vote at the GBM.

Fiscal Year Clarification

The proposal was to clarify the fiscal year (From July 1st to June 30th) for OSA in Section 4 of the OSA's Constitution.

The motion was brought by Surya Mishra and it was seconded by Pratap Das. The motion was approved unanimously.

Fund Allocation for any emergency situation for OSA

President Annapurna Pandey, suggested allocating 25% of the membership fee that is raised in that year towards any emergency situation. During discussion Mrs.Tiki Mishra from St. Louis, Washington, suggested to allocate \$5000 towards this fund instead of making it contingent upon membership fee. It was clarified during discussion that any use of this fund will be proposed by executives and authorized by BOG for emergency use. Later the fund can be recouped through donations.

The proposal was brought by Dhirendra Kar and seconded by Pratap Das. A vote was taken and it was approved by 35 members in favor and 7 were in opposition.

The following announcements were made by president Annapurna Pandey.

3-member Drama Committee

- Sandip Dasverma – Chair of the Committee
- Member – Priyadarshi Das, California
- Member – Priyadarshan Mohapatra, New Jersey

Legal Counsel

- Esha Bandyopadhyay has kindly agreed to be the legal counsel of OSA.

OSA Website Administrator

- Bikash Panda has kindly agreed to serve as the OSA webmaster.

Next Year Convention

Annapurna Pandey announced that next year convention will be hosted by Chicago Chapter. Manmath Naik invited everyone to attend OSA 2013 convention in Chicago.

Vice-President's Report

Vice President Kuku Das said that OSA takes pride in recognizing and honoring members for their contributions as well as their achievements in different areas of the OSA community and larger society. But most of the times, for various reasons these members stay unacknowledged. She requested in the future all members should make the extra effort to nominate the extraordinary individuals for different categories of awards.

Kuku Das informed that for this year, there was no nomination for any award except Distinguished Odia Award. There were a few nominations for the Distinguished Odia award but the committee of judges did not recommend anyone for the award. OSA executive committee was honor bound to accept their recommendation. As a result, there was no OSA award given this year.

OSA Lifetime Achievement Award:

OSA Lifetime Achievement awards were given to Dr. Sunanda Patnaik for her contribution to Indian Classical Music and to Sri Prafulla Kar for his contribution to Odia Music as a singer, director, composer and lyricist.

- Dr. Sunanda Patnaik
- Sri Prafulla Kar

Various Competition Awards:

Meghna Memorial Award for Creative Writing:

Junior Category: Ayusha Acharya
Senior Category: Ishani Chanda

Samik Singh Kalinga Youth Entrepreneurship Award:

First: Adarsh Patra

Second: Adam Amar Pani

Consolation: Amrut Sarangi, Ricky Pati, & Arvin Mohapatra

Subrina Biswal Award for Performing Arts:

Junior Category:

First: Simoni Mishra

Second: Anshika Rath

Third: Ria Panda

Senior Category:

First: Sanuja Das

Second: Vanani Vasundhara

Third: Sahara Rout & Ankita Mohapatra

Champu Chhanda Odissi:

First: Meghna Nanda

Second: Rathik Murtinty

Third: Ayusha Acharya

All other participants were given cash prizes.

Pramod Pattnaik Drama Competition:

California

OSA Service Awards

Kuku Das announced recognition awards and few members were recognized for their contribution to OSA.

The awards are listed below:

Bigyani Das (Distinguished Service Leadership Award)

For her invaluable contribution in OSA Affairs

Dr. Jayanarayan Bhuyan (Service Leadership Award)

For Spearheading Membership Drive in OSA

Dr. Amiya Nayak (Service Leadership Award)

For Service and Contribution to OSA- Odisha Development committee

Amulya Das (Service Leadership Award)

Pradeep Sahoo (Service Leadership Award)

(For their Contribution to OSA- Convention 2012)

Manoj Padhi (OSA communication Award)
OSANet Moderator

Bernali Dasverma (Youth Service Leadership Award)
For her leadership in OSA youth activities

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's report was presented by Sushant Satpathy. This report was a detailed report of 2011 OSA Convention account and OSA account. The OSA account had all the detailed information about amount collected and spent towards Flood Relief, Odisha development fund and Champu/Chhanda initiative. There were questions from members regarding various funds and convention advance amount (\$2000 or \$10,000) and were addressed by Sushant Satpathy.

Membership

As of May 31st, 2012 more than hundred new permanent members (Benefactor, Life or 5-year members) have joined OSA. Following is the breakdown of those numbers:

- 2 new benefactors
- 82 new life members
- 21 new 5-year members
- 3 upgrades from 5-yr member to Life Member

Also, Sushant Satpathy appealed to members to motivate their adult children to join OSA and be part of OSA that their parents have built over all these years. He requested everyone to work to bring new members to reach the goal of 1000 permanent members (Benefactor, Patron, Life and 5-year members).

Account Status

The balance at the time of transfer was \$95,686.55 and ending balance as of May 31st, 2012 was \$120,916.39. There is an increase of \$25,229.84, out of which \$20,250 should have been transferred to Fixed Deposit/CD. With the establishment of emergency fund with \$5,000 as seed money, now \$15,250 will be added to fixed deposit. Different funds are maintained under separate heading and fund status will be provided as part of account statement. The account statement is attached along with transaction details. (The balances are on cash basis, on accrual basis both the opening and closing balance will be 10K higher on account of convention advance as convention advance is expected to be returned in full).

Over last year 4 members have donated \$1,300 towards rebuilding of OSA fund. We are still reaching out to others who had pledged to help strengthen OSA finances after the unfortunate legal case.

Sitakantha Dash proposed to approve the OSA's financial statement. Pratap Das Seconded the proposal. It was approved unanimously.

(Attached are OSA Account Statement and Detailed Transaction Ledger as presented during GBM)

Secretary's Report

Secretary Leena Mishra summarized the current activities of OSA. The BOG meeting minutes were regularly published in OSA newsletters and in OSANet. It was reported that elections were held in 6 chapters and new representatives were elected to BOG and also all chapters are in valid status as of today.

She welcomed the new OSA Board of Governors:

Mr. Prabhat Mohapatra, president of New York/ New Jersey chapter

Mrs. Jhara Das, President of Chicago Chapter

Mrs. Sujata Nayak, President of the Maryland/ Virginia chapter.

Mr. Pramod Mohapatra, President of the Southern chapter.

Mr. Subodh Samal, President of North West Chapter

Mrs. Sampurna Mohapatra, President of OSA South East chapter

Secretary Leena Mishra announced in GBM that a new chapter, California is formed recently and Kuku Das is going to be in charge of the chapter until she forms an election committee and find a representative for that chapter.

Secretary's report was accepted unanimously. The motion was brought by Sitakantha Dash and Dharendra Kar seconded it.

The GBM ended on a positive note, announcing the next GBM to be in Chicago in July, 2013. One of the elders remarked that "it was one of the most productive and peaceful General Body meetings he had attended during the past several years".

Report on the First Symposium on Buddhist Heritage and Knowledge Institutions of Odisha

July 5th 2012, Seattle, USA

Executive Summary: The main conclusions of the symposium were as follows.

1. World-renowned scholars agree on the significance of the Buddhist Heritage in Odisha, especially with respect to the early knowledge institution of Ratnagiri Mahavihara and its comparison and relationship with Nalanda. Although the above was observed to be missing in the NCERT textbooks, statements supporting to the above were found in wide ranging texts such as: travel guides, ASI brochures, planning commission documents, and scholarly books. This implies that people with knowledge about this field accept the significance of Buddhist heritage in Odisha and Ratnagiri's comparison with Nalanda.
2. Two such world-renowned scholars of Buddhist art history and archaeology were focal points of the symposium: Professor Thomas Donaldson delivered the keynote speech and Dr. Debala Mitra was quoted extensively. Prof. Donaldson has written many books on Odisha such as: Three volume work titled "*Hindu Temple art of Odisha*" that contains nearly 4000 photographs of Odisha; "*Kamadeva's pleasure garden: Orissa*"; "*Vaishnava art of Orissa*"; Three volume work titled "*Tantra and Sakta art of Orissa*"; Two volume work on "*Iconography of the Buddhist Sculpture of Orissa*"; and "*Iconography of Vaishnava Images in Orissa*". Dr. Debala Mitra was the Director General of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) during 1975-83 and she explored and excavated several Buddhist sites, including Ratnagiri. She wrote several books, including the two volume book "*Ratnagiri*" and the book "*Buddhists Monuments of India*".
3. There are two major aspects to Odisha's Buddhist heritage. (i) Odisha played a major role in the spread of Buddhism and in Buddhism becoming a major religion of the world and as a consequence having significant impact on major civilizations, especially in China and Japan. (ii) The Ratnagiri and (yet to be identified) Puspagiri Mahavihara are among the early proto-university (or centers of knowledge of the world) and are comparable to the more well known Nalanda, Taxila and Vikramshila mahaviharas.
4. The lack of awareness of Odisha's Buddhist heritage among people of Odisha and outside needs to be systematically and immediately addressed starting from making the changes in the NCERT text books and having a follow-up symposium in Bhubaneswar and Ratnagiri at the earliest. Furthermore, a travelling exhibit of Buddhist sculptures in major museums around the world would create tremendous awareness as well as tourism opportunities for Odisha.
5. A lot remains to be excavated in Odisha and interpreted. To do that in a timely manner a first-rate Indian Institute of Archaeology, Epigraphy and Art History needs to be established at the earliest.

The Detailed Report

The First Symposium on Buddhist Heritage and Buddhist Knowledge Institutions of Odisha was held on July 5th in Bellevue (near Seattle), USA as a pre-convention symposium of the 43rd annual Odisha Society of the Americas convention. Professors Chitta Baral, Lalu Mansinha and Dr. Annapurna Pandey organized the symposium. There were about 65 people who attended various parts of the symposium and about 40-45 of them were present through the symposium. Additionally many more people from the conventions heard about the symposium and took the Odisha tourism brochures.

The main goals of the symposium were to spread the awareness about the Buddhist Heritage and Buddhist Knowledge Institutions of Odisha and strategize steps to be taken towards that. The symposium was partly sponsored by the RSB group and Odisha Tourism. Odisha tourism had sent a set of brochures and CDs, which were distributed among the participants of this symposium.

Prior to the symposium, just about a week before, the symposium organizing team discovered that the NCERT textbooks in History did not mention any of the Buddhist heritage sites of Odisha and more egregiously the 12th grade NCERT history book (Title: Themes in Indian History - part 1) carried a map of major Buddhist sites of India in page 95 and this map did not include any from Odisha. That discovery partly set the tone of the symposium.

The symposium started with a short introduction by Professor Chitta Baral laying out the premise of the symposium that while most of us know Nalanda as one of the world's first proto university and an early center of learning, even though scholars and researchers in archaeology and art history have compared Ratnagiri and Puspagiri mahaviharas of Odisha with Nalanda and Bodh Gaya not many among us and in Odisha, let alone in India or outside know about Ratnagiri-Lalitagiri-Udayagiri.

This followed with an introduction of the Buddhist sites of Odisha put in perspective with respect to other sites in India through the 20 minute video "*Orissa a cradle of Buddhism*" by Binoy K. Behl and a power point presentation prepared by the Odisha Tourism giving a quick overview of the Lalitagiri, Ratnagiri and Udayagiri sites and the facilities available there. Former VP of OSA (Odisha Society of the Americas), Dharendra Kar oversaw both of these presentations.

After the introductions, Professor Thomas Donaldson gave the keynote presentation. Chitta Baral told the audience about the various contributions of Prof. Donaldson to the scholarly literature on Odisha's Buddhist heritage and Odisha's art history and introduced Professor Donaldson. In particular, it was pointed out that Professor Donaldson went to Odisha in 1970 and fell in love with it. Since then he has written many books on Odisha such as: Three volume work titled "*Hindu Temple art of Odisha*" that contains nearly 4000 photographs of Odisha; "*Kamadeva's pleasure garden: Orissa*"; "*Vaishnava art of Orissa*"; Three volume work titled "*Tantra and Sakta art of Orissa*"; Two volume work on "*Iconography of the Buddhist Sculpture of Orissa*"; "*Iconography of Vaishnava Images in Orissa*"; and "*Konark (Monumental Legacy)*". His books have been included in the collection at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington DC and in the Library of Congress.

As part of his keynote speech Professor Donaldson presented his paper titled "*Buddhist Sculptural Mandalas in the ASSIA Hills of Orissa*" and illustrated various aspects of the paper through 70+ images. Following are some excerpts from his paper.

Whereas various Brahmanical works criticize the people and religion of early Kalinga, in respect to Buddhism, in various foreign works Orissa appears almost a legendary land. The Chinese traveler Hiuen-Tsiang in the 7th century during the reign of Harsavardhana of Kanauj, mentions a controversy between the Hinayana and Mahayana Buddhists of Orissa. There apparently being no great Mahayana philosophers in Orissa at that time, the Hinayana priests sent a challenge to the Mahayana priests of Nalanda ...

From foreign accounts it is evident that Orissa must have been at the forefront of new developments taking place, particularly in the late 7th and the 8th centuries. In numerous late Tibetan accounts Orissa is even considered as the legendary birth place of Mahayana, Tantrayana, Mantrayana and Kalacakra. According to Taranath (17th century), both Hinayana and Mahayana were being propagated at Ratagiri-vihara during its early phase of development;

... In numerous other texts Odivisa/Odra is associated with Uddiyana, invariably listed as the earliest of the four piths of the Catuspitha concept and often considered to be the birthplace of Tantric Buddhism.

... In the Blue Annals (1476-78 C.E.) it is stated, in connection with the search for the Kalacakra Tantra by acarya Cheluka, that the acarya had read it in the vihara of Ratnagiri, which had been left undamaged by the Turuskas. Cheluka's connection with Orissa and Ratnagiri-vihara is attested by other Tibetan texts as well, including a passage from a late 14th century book in which it is stated that "the great preceptor Cheluka, born in Orissa, studied all the Pitakas and read all the small books of the Pitaka in Ratnagiri-vihara, Vikramshila and Nalanda.

... Other important Tantric siddhas especially associated with Orissa include Saraha, also known as Rahulabhadra. In the Tanjur catalogue it is stated that he belongs to Uddiyana while, according to Taranatha he was born in Odivisa. In the Pag Sam Jon Zang it is recorded that he was born in Rajni in the eastern country, was an adept in both the Buddhist and Brahmanical loses, and became high priest at Nalanda.

Professor Donaldson concluded with the remarks that:

In summary, recent excavations and archaeological discoveries, though not verifying the foreign accounts that credit Orissa as being the legendary birthplace of Mahayana and Tantrayana Buddhism, or as being identical with Uddiyana-pitha, strongly substantiate the existence or knowledge at the sites at an early date of some of the earliest and most important textual sources for the creation, development and dissemination of Buddhist ideology, especially in respect to the formation and iconography of sculptural mandalas.

Following Professor Donaldson's talk of about 50 minutes Prof. Chitta Baral gave a presentation titled "*Buddhist learning centers of Odisha: Lalitagiri, Ratnagiri, Udayagiri and the yet to be identified Puspagiri -- Comparisons with Nalanda*". Professor Baral started off with asking audience about how many knew about Nalanda and how many knew about Ratnagiri-Lalitagiri-Udayagiri and how they knew about them. Almost everyone knew about Nalanda from his or her school textbooks and very few knew about Ratnagiri-Lalitagiri-Udayagiri. He then showed the pages of NCERT books that mention Nalanda (Class VI and XI textbooks) and the page from the Class XII book that had a map of major Buddhist sites of India, which egregiously did not mention any site in Odisha. He then explained the reasons why most educated people in India know about Nalanda while very few in Odisha (let alone India) know about Ratnagiri-Lalitagiri-Udayagiri. He then showed several quotes from various sources that compared Ratnagiri with Nalanda. Some of those quotes were:

From Page 114 of Sunita Dwivedi's "*Buddhist heritage sites of India*":

Lalitgiri, Udaygiri and Ratnagiri in Cuttack district on the banks of river Birupa are famous as the 'golden triangle' of Orissa. ... The triangle is supposed to have been the famous Puspagiri monastic complex mentioned by Hiuen Tsang. It was considered as an important seat of Buddhist learning, next only to Taxila and Nalanda.

From Page 143 from "*Tourism in India and India's economic development*" By Kartik Chandra Roy, Clement Allan Tisdell:

The Ratnagiri Vihara like the Puspagiri Vihara was known throughout the Buddhist world as a great center of learning, and a rival to Nalanda.

From "*Yojana: Volume 43*" by the India planning commission, India Ministry of Information and Broadcasting:

According to archaeologists, a Buddhist University known as Pushpagiri Vihar was located on the hills about 70 kilometers from Cuttack. Since it was as important as Nalanda and Takshila, the Chinese traveller Huen Tsang visited this place.

From "*The Maha Bodhi: Volume 95*":

In about 5th century AD, a Buddhist academy under the title of Puspagiri Vihara came into existence in Ratnagiri. This academy, rather university, was in a very prosperous condition like Nalanda and Vikramashila.

From Professor Thomas Donaldson (in his email):

As you know Ratnagiri was a rival to Nalanda as a site of Buddhist learning and some later Tibetan texts even ascribe the origin of Mahayana and Tantrayana to Ratnagiri. Collectively the three closely situated sites certainly compare artistically to the site of Nalanda ...

From the *Archaeological Survey of India Brochure* made available at the Archaeological Museum at Ratnagiri:

Extensive excavations conducted at the site by the Archaeological Survey of India between 1958 and 1961 have brought to light remains of a Buddhist establishment consisting of stupas, monastic complexes and temples hitherto unparalleled in Orissa and comparable to the well known Buddhist site at Nalanda.

From Debala Mitra's book: "*Buddhist Monuments*" (Debala Mitra was the Director General of Archaeological Survey of India between 1975-1983):

Page 226: *Ratnagiri-mahavihara ... It played a significant role in disseminating Buddhist culture and religion forming itself, like Nalanda, an important religious and philosophical academy, to which flocked the entrants and scholars to take lessons from the intellectual stalwarts of Buddhism.*

Page 226-227: *Indeed, excavations have revealed that here was an establishment that can be compared with that of Nalanda. In the overwhelming number of portable monolithic stupas Ratnagiri can compete even with Bodh-Gaya.*

From Debala Mitra's book: "*Ratnagiri*":

Page 152: *Monastery 1 ... Not a single monastery of Nalanda, which has yielded so far the largest number of spectacular structural monasteries can compete with this one in respect of embellishment.*

Professor Baral then reminded the audience about some of the main goals of the symposium:

- (1) Create awareness about Ratnagiri - Lalitagiri - Udayagiri Mahaviharas. They have been compared in the literature with Nalanda Mahavihara; yet while most of us know about Nalanda, very few of us know about Ratnagiri - Lalitagiri - Udayagiri.
- (2) Revive Ratnagiri and Puspagiri Universities along the lines of the recent revival of Nalanda International University This University may be called Ratnagiri-Puspagiri International University.

He then proposed a systematic way to address the underlying theme that Ratnagiri was a significant knowledge establishment (a proto university) that has been and could be compared with Nalanda, Taxila and Vikramshila. He suggested that comparison between ancient universities require comparison of various aspects of universities such as:

- (a) The facilities such as buildings (they were monasteries in those days);
- (b) The faculty, students, visitors and alumni;
- (c) The academic disciplines;
- (d) The art and architecture; and
- (e) Direct comparisons made in the literature.

In terms of facilities, 9 monasteries of various sizes have been excavated in Ratnagiri - Lalitagiri - Udayagiri while 11 monasteries have been excavated in Nalanda. (It should be noted that in the last few years several additional sites such as Langudi have been found near Ratnagiri - Lalitagiri - Udayagiri and they may have additional monasteries.)

In terms of faculty and schools, Debala Mitra cites Taranatha's 1608 book to state that Ratnagiri had 8 great groups of dharma (religious schools) and 500 monks (teachers). Elsewhere it is mentioned that Nalanda had 2000 teachers and 10000 students. On the other hand, Debala Mitra in her book Ratnagiri in page 18 cites Si-Yu-Ki of Hiuen Tsang (who visited Odisha in 639 AD), which mentions that Puspagiri and other Buddhists establishments of Orissa had 100 Sangaramas (convents) and 10,000 priests (teachers). Note that while many suggest that Puspagiri referred to a subset of Lalitagiri, Ratnagiri and Udayagiri; it is yet to be substantiated by archeological evidence.

In terms of notable faculty, visitors and alumni of Ratnagiri, Debala Mitra mentioned that:

- (i) *"the great preceptor Chilu Pandita (Cheluka), born in Or-bi-sar (Orissa) studied the complete Tripitaka in Ratnagiri-vihara, Vikramsila and Nalanda."*
- (ii) *"At the last moment of the king (Mahipala) Acharya Bitoba came and Vajrapani instructed him to go through magic to Sambhala where Kalachakra would be found. He went there and brought it to Ratnagiri and explained the doctrine to Bhikshu Abadhutipa, Bodhisri and Naropa."*
- (iii) *"From the association of a celebrated savant like Naropa it may be presumed that the general intellectual and cultural level of this seat of learning was high. An older contemporary of the illustrious Atisa Dipankara (circa A.D. 980-1053), Naropa (variously known as Naro, Naropa, Nadapada and Naropada) was an eminent Tantric sage immortalized in the Tibetan works. He succeeded Jetari in the prized chair of Pandita at the northern gate of the Vikramsila monastery and afterwards became the high priest of Vajrasana (i.e. Bodh-Gaya). He was equally well-known for his writings. One of his works is the Sekoddesa-tika, a commentary on the Sekoddesa section of the Kalachakra-tantra."*
- (iv) *"Prajna ... Born in Kapisa, on the western verge of the Indian world, had commenced his studies in northern India, had continued them in mid-India (madhya-desa), that he had resided in Nalanda, visited the sacred places, had this passed eighteen years in learning; afterwards he has settled in the "monastery of the king of Wu-ch'a (Uda, Orissa), of Southern India" to study Yoga there. ... the fact that Prajna, after eighteen years' of learning in various places including even Nalanda, had settled, before he left for China, in a monastery of Wu-ch'a proves beyond doubt that the monastic establishments of Odra (Orissa) had obtained a prized footing in the Buddhist world."*

In terms of academics at Ratnagiri, Professor Baral again presented some quotes from Debala Mitra's books:

- (a) Religion, art and architecture: *"With its nucleus dating at least from about the fifth century A.D., the establishment witnessed a phenomenal growth in religion, art and architecture till the twelfth century A.D."*
- (b) Study and dissemination of Kalachakra-tantra: *"The Tibetan texts also hint at the contribution of the center towards Kalachakrayana, an offshoot of the Vajrayana form of Buddhism. Special esteem appears to have been attached to this seat of learning. ... Acharya Bitoba obtained the Kalachakra-tantra, brought it to Ratnagiri and explained the doctrine to Abodhutipa, Bodhisri, and Naropa. ... Ratnagiri was a renowned center, noted for the spiritual inspiration and lively pursuit of the Kalachakra-tantra in the latter part of the tenth century A.D."*

(c) Text collection: *“In this vihara were kept three sets of Mahayana and Hinayana sastras.”*

Professor Baral pointed out that the various sculptures found in Ratnagiri leave no doubt about the art and architecture of Ratnagiri. In particular, making the point regarding Monastery 1 of Ratnagiri outshining all in Nalanda in terms of embellishment Professor Baral again quoted Debala Mitra saying: *“Notwithstanding its normal monastic plan, it is a singular structural monument not only for its impressive size and symmetrical planning but for the rich but balanced surface-treatment of the front porch and the façade of the shrine. Not a single monastery of Nalanda, which has yielded so far the largest number of spectacular structural monasteries, can compete with this one in respect of embellishment.”*

Professor Baral then summarized his points and reiterated the goals of the seminar and proceeded to discuss some action items. He urged OSA members to:

- (i) Visit Ratnagiri - Lalitagiri - Udayagiri in their next trip to Odisha to get first hand knowledge;
- (ii) Present the Buddhist heritage of Odisha at appropriate venues (Indian gatherings, Ambassadors, National Press Club);
- (iii) Write about it in metro papers such as Washington Post, NY Times, and Toronto Star;
- (iv) Contact travel writers from metro papers;
- (v) Contact international Buddhist organizations (with base in your area) and disseminate this; and
- (vi) Urge the Odisha government on steps they need to take.

He then proposed a follow-up seminar on this in Bhubaneswar and Ratnagiri. The proposed agenda of this seminar would be to have presentations and tours to Ratnagiri-Lalitagiri-Udayagiri; and perhaps to Khandagiri (for the Jain inscriptions), Dhauligiri (Ashoka's edicts) and Sishupalgarh. The presenters would be scholars and researchers from Odisha, India and abroad who share similar opinion on Ratnagiri-Lalitagiri-Udayagiri. The invited audience would be members of various textbook boards (NCERT, CBSE, ICSE, State boards); historians who have written books on history; national & international media, representatives from international and national museums; authors and opinion makers (such as, President Kalam, Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen, Pratap bhanu Mehta, Upinder Singh, Ram Guha, etc.), national tour operators and important political personalities.

Besides the follow-up seminar, Professor Baral proposed:

- (a) Arranging traveling exhibit of items from Ratnagiri-Lalitagiri-Udayagiri at major museums across the world;
- (b) Establishment of an Indian institute of Archaeology, Epigraphy and Art History; and
- (c) Formation of a high power steering committee to develop the parameters of establishing Ratnagiri-Puspagiri International university as a revival of Ratnagiri and Puspagiri Mahaviharas.

Following Professor Baral, Dr. Annapurna Pandey briefly discussed co-existence of Buddhism and Hinduism in rural Odisha. She discussed her visit to Ratnagiri-Lalitagiri-Udayagiri and to Kayama, Jaugada, Kuruma, Banapur and Bauda. In Kuruma village, about 8 km from the famous site of Konark, her team came across an ancient Buddhist monastery and a Buddhist shrine where Buddha is worshipped along with Jama, the death god. She discovered that a Hindu family has tended this temple, known as Jama Dharma temple, for generations. She observed that in Bauda district,

Buddha is known as Budharaja and is regularly worshipped by the Hindus. In the summer of 2007 followed by a return visit in 2011, she conducted ethnographic research among the weavers in Maniabandha and Nuapatna, who are predominantly Buddhists. She noted that there Buddhism has been practiced side by side with Hinduism for a very long period of time and this simultaneity of traditions is reflected in Maniabandhi saris - even though their work incorporates Hindu symbols, the sari's intricate patterns reflects the interweaving of Buddhist and Hindu culture in everyday life. She mentioned that these Buddhist weavers weave the costume for Lord Jagannath with the words from Jayadev's Gita Govinda, the celebrated Vaishnav text and this co-existence of Buddhism and Hinduism has been depicted in many of the arts, paintings and photographs, which appear in the books of Prof. Donaldson. She concluded by appealing that it is high time that the scholars, print and television media and the state government rectify the gap in the record and give the due recognition to the Buddhist history and culture of Odisha.

Following that Professor Lalu Maninha gave a presentation titled "*Honoring Our Roots : Recognition of The Buddhist Culture of Odisha*". He started with a time line of Buddha and Ashoka, mentioned Sishupalgarh, Dhauli, and presented a map and list of various Buddhist sites of Odisha. He discussed many of the main points of the book "Ashoka" by Charles Allen which describes how "a few mysterious stone monuments and inscriptions of Ashoka's time survived (including ones near Dhauligiri), and the story of how these keystones to the past were discovered by British Orientalists and their mysterious lettering deciphered."

The final presentation was by Saroj Mohapatra, the son of late historian Professor Ramesh Prasad Mohapatra. Saroj briefly discussed some of the recently discovered or lesser known sites such as Bhora Saila, Aragarh, Haripur, Kuruma, Langudi, Deuli, Kaima, and various western Odisha sites. He listed various Buddhist sites that are mentioned in epigraphical records. This includes

- Arghyaka Varatika - Dhauli
- Bodhipadraka - Jayarampur
- Chandraditya-vihara - Lalitagiri
- Gauriputra-sangha - ?
- Jayasrama-vihara - Jagati/Talcher
- Madhavapura-mahavihara - Udayagiri
- Pushpagiri-vihara - (Langudi and its environs ??)
- Ratnagiri-mahavihara - Ratnagiri
- Solampura-mahavihara - Solampur
- Tosali - Dhauli and its environs/Sishupalgarh/Bhubaneswar

He also gave a list of Buddhist establishments mentioned in literary works or later histories.

- Bhojakagiri-vihara - Tissa - ? -3rd Century B.C.
- Bhorasaila - Dignaga - Delanga - 5th Century A. D.
- Che-li-ta-lo - Huen Tsang - ? - 7th Century A. D.
- Viraja - Padmasambhava- Jajpur- 8th Century A. D.
- Munjasi sanctuary - Munja - ? - 8th Century A. D.

The above presentations took about 2 hours 15 minutes and the audience seemed mesmerized and listened with pin drop silence and apt attention.

After these presentations there were brief remarks by MP Baijayanta Panda and OTV CEO Jagi Panda. They both promised their help towards achieving the goals of the symposium. Their remarks were followed by a free-flowing discussion. Some of the comments and suggestions that came about during the discussion as well as later during the 2-day convention were as follows:

1. Many were appalled and dismayed that with so much scholarly literature about Ratnagiri, how come it has been ignored by India; especially why it is not mentioned in NCERT textbooks. Some suggested the possibility of a conspiracy. A few asked Professor Donaldson why as a scholar he did not do something about this neglect of Odisha's Buddhist sites by the Indian establishment.
2. Everyone agreed that there should be a follow-up symposium in Bhubaneswar and Ratnagiri along the lines discussed by Professor Baral and the Odisha government should forcefully pursue and make sure that not only the NCERT and state board text books mention Ratnagiri and its comparisons with Nalanda and Taxila but the graduate and post-graduate level History textbooks should do that too.
3. Dr. Nilambar Biswal from Maryland mentioned the Terracotta warriors that were discovered comparatively recently (1974) by a farmer and how they have become world famous very quickly and how China and the local provinces earn huge amount on tourism to this place. Further web search revealed that about 10,000 people visit it daily. When one looks at the wikipedia page http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terracotta_Army one realizes that the various traveling exhibits in various museums across the world played a significant role in its popularization. When such special exhibitions happen in a museum in any city it is written about in the local papers and that creates tremendous visibility and exposure. To really popularize Ratnagiri-Lalitagiri-Udayagiri Odisha must organize such a traveling exhibit in major museums around the world.
4. It was suggested that Odisha and India should honor Professor Donaldson for his work on Odisha's heritage and art history. (Some of his books on Odisha have been listed earlier in this report.)
5. Everyone appreciated the brochures and the CDs that were sent by Odisha Tourism but many wondered why there is not a good web page with all that information. Some suggested that the museums at Ratnagiri-Lalitagiri-Udayagiri should also have their own web pages.
6. Anu Biswal, one of the founding members of IPAP that organized the International Odissi Festival suggested that perhaps some Odissi choreography could be made on the theme of Ratnagiri-Lalitagiri-Udayagiri. This would include some of mudras seen in the Buddhist sculptures of Odisha as well as have a story around Ratnagiri-Lalitagiri-Udayagiri. Other suggestions were to have a story based on Ratnagiri and Nalanda and choreographing an Odissi item with respect to that for the next OSA convention (July 2013) in Chicago as well as developing a part historical part mythical novel. These were discussed among Anu Biswal, Chitta Baral, Annapurna Pandey, Sujata Patnaik, Sushant Satpathy and Adyasha Das.
7. It was suggested that Odisha Tourism should commission (perhaps together with ASI) a small guidebook on Ratnagiri-Lalitagiri-Udayagiri that is sold at nominal prices around India and made available in major tourist spots in India. This guidebook could be similar to the guidebooks on Konark, Udayagiri-Khandagiri and Bhubaneswar published by ASI.

8. Leena Mishra, the secretary of OSA has an email list of office bearers of several similar expatriate Odia organizations around the world. The Orissa Tourism brochures and CDs on Odisha's Buddhist heritage may also be sent to those organizations.

Acknowledgements: We thank RSB and Odisha Tourism for their support of this seminar. In particular, we thank Odisha Tourism for the wonderful brochures and CDs on the Buddhist heritage in Odisha. We thank all the presenters for their presentation as well as for many other contributions by them. We thank Pranabesh Das, Amulya Das, Priyadarshan Patra, Sandip Dasverma and other members of the Pacific Northwest Chapter for their help in the local arrangements of the seminar. We thank Gagan Panigrahi for the video recording of the seminar and Dharendra Kar for taking photographs during the seminar. Finally we thank all the participants of the symposium.

Women's forum									
Topic: breaking our silence and helping our children July 7, 2012 Evaluation form Summary*					Excellent	Good	Average	Fair	Did not respond
Gender: (8) Male (15) Female (4) Did not identify gender Age: (0) Under 20 (1) 20-29 (4) 30-39 (2) 40-49 (3) 50-59 (13) 60+ (4) Did not identify age									
The Forum									
1. The forum topic	23	4	0	0	0				
2. The structure/organization of forum	12	12	2	0	1				
3. The length of the forum	7	17	2	0	1				
4. The amount of information shared in the forum	11	12	2	0	2				
5. Usefulness of the forum	18	9	0	0	0				
6. Resources and handouts provided in the forum	10	13	2	0	2				
7. Overall quality of the forum	17	8	2	0	0				
Educational Training Session									
8. The expertise of the presenter	10	15	2	0	0				
9. The information shared in the training session	12	13	3	0	0				
10. The usefulness of the training session	11	13	3	0	0				
11. The length of the training session	6	15	5	1	0				
Movie (The Children We Sacrifice)									
12. The content of the movie	19	7	1	0	0				
13. The message of the movie	19	8	0	0	0				
14. The usefulness of the movie	17	9	1	0	0				
15. The length of the movie	11	11	3	2	0				
Audience Participation/Discussion									
16. Opportunity for participation/discussion	15	5	6	0	0				
17. The extent of interaction in the forum	13	9	5	0	0				
18. A professional and friendly atmosphere	16	10	1	0	0				

**Gender and Age-specific data available upon request*

Written Feedback

Three things I learned from the forum:

- Cycle of abuse, lasting effects of abuse
- How one can protect a child from abuse
- Ensure that no close friend/family members' behavior towards children is aggressive
- Need better communication between parents
- Preventative action
- How to observe tell-tale signs
- Impact of child abuse victims
- South Asian women being so candid about sexual abuse (in the documentary)
- Mothers working abroad is a factor for sex abuse
- All the different ways in which abuse and violence can be committed
- Trust your child.

- Be open and honest.
- Listen and respect [children's] thoughts or feelings.
- Teach the children to say "no" to touch at private parts.
- Tell the children good things.
- Talk to the parents everything at the end of the day.
- Abuse is mostly from family, friends.
- Building trust with our children—a mentor
- Awareness of the behavior
- [The forum was] a review of what I already knew.
- Awareness and data of child sexual abuse
- The sexual abuse can happen at any age
- The one we trust most are the perpetrators
- How can we educate and give the freedom
- Wonderful experience
- Silence has to be broken
- Provide help
- Awareness

Things that I remain unclear about or would like more information about after the forum include:

- Tell-tale signs [of CSA]
- How can we prevent child abuse? Social education?
- What are the ways/organizations we can support?
- How to help children and women get out of the cycle of abuse
- Family communication
- Preventive action
- Sex education
- We can make sure that the child should talk to someone he/she can trust
- The youngsters should be brought to the forum for free discussion. Ladies, girl children should sufficiently be educated to make clear discussion for development of this (illegible) which is very poor, particularly in India.

Comments and Suggestions for future forum:

- I would like to see more concrete ideas of what the group plans to do to actively increase awareness of topic to help prevent it
- I like the idea of showing the documentary. It was very thought-provoking. In the future, we should consider this approach for other topics.
- More discussion and audience activities.
- Very informative
- Listen to the children every day
- Collect some information about the preventive awareness
- Wider exposure. Most of people attending aware. Good that video available to show to others.
- How do we promote "Swadhar" in Odisha?
- Talk about boys, too.
- Talk loudly everywhere about child abuse. This might educate men.
- Participation-interaction should be emphasized

Women's Forum: Breaking our Silence and Helping our Children
July 7th, 2012

Evaluation Form Summary
Number of reports received: 27

Gender and Age Report

Male: 8

Male ages

Under 20: 0

20-29: 1

30-39: 0

40-49: 1

50-59: 2

60 and above: 3

Did not identify age: 1

Female: 15

Female ages

Under 20: 0

20-29: 0

30-39: 4

40-49: 1

50-59: 1

60 and above: 9

Did not identify age: 0

Did not identify gender: 4

Ages of those who did not identify gender

Under 20: 0

20-29: 0

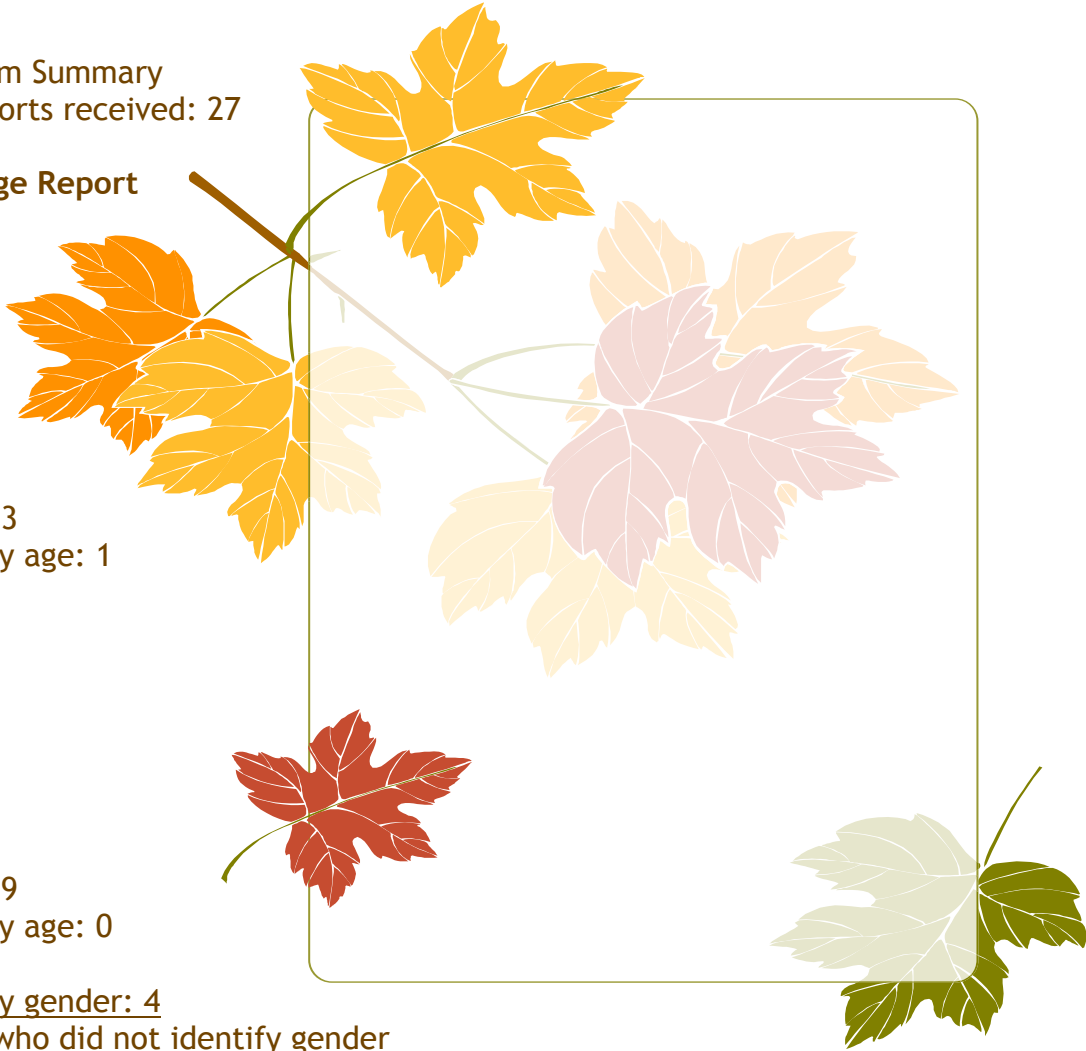
30-39: 0

40-49: 0

50-59: 0

60 and above: 1

Did not identify age: 3



Written Feedback Male Responses

Three things I learned from the forum:

20-29

- Cycle of abuse, lasting effects of abuse

60+

- How one can protect a child from abuse
- Ensure that no close friend/family members' behavior towards children is aggressive
- Need better communication between parents
- Preventative action
- How to observe tell-tale signs

50-59

- Impact of child abuse victims

Things that remain unclear about or would like more information about after the forum include:

60+

- Tell-tale signs [of CSA]

50-59

- How can we prevent child abuse? Social education?

Comments and Suggestions for future forum:

60+

- Talk about boys, too.

50-59

- Talk loudly everywhere about child abuse. This might educate men.

Written Feedback Female Responses

Three things I learned from the forum:

30-39

- South Asian women being so candid about sexual abuse (in the documentary)
- Mothers working abroad is a factor for sex abuse
- All the different ways in which abuse and violence can be committed

40-49

- Trust your child.
- Be open and honest.
- Listen and respect [children's] thoughts or feelings.

60+

- Teach the children to say "no" to touch at private parts.
- Tell the children good things.
- Talk to the parents everything at the end of the day.
- Abuse is mostly from family, friends.
- Building trust with our children—a mentor

- Awareness of the behavior
- [The forum was] a review of what I already knew.
- Awareness and data of child sexual abuse
- The sexual abuse can happen at any age
- The one we trust most are the perpetrators
- How can we educate and give the freedom

Things that remain unclear about or would like more information about after the forum include:

30-39

- What are the ways/organizations we can support?
- How to help children and women get out of the cycle of abuse

60+

- Family communication
- Preventive action
- Sex education
- We can make sure that the child should talk to someone he/she can trust

Comments and Suggestions for future forum:

30-39

- I would like to see more concrete ideas of what the group plans to do to actively increase awareness of topic to help prevent it
- I like the idea of showing the documentary. It was very thought-provoking. In the future, we should consider this approach for other topics.
- More discussion and audience activities

40-49

- Very informative

60+

- Listen to the children every day
- Collect some information about the preventive awareness
- Wider exposure. Most of people attending aware. Good that video available to show to others.
- How do we promote "Swadhar" in Odisha?

Written Feedback Gender not identified

Three things I learned from the forum:

Age not identified:

- Wonderful experience
- Silence has to be broken
- Provide help
- Awareness

Things that remain unclear about or would like more information about after the forum include:

Age not identified:

- The youngsters should be brought to the forum for free discussion. Ladies, girl children should sufficiently be educated to make clear discussion for development of this (illegible) which is very poor, particularly in India.

Comments and Suggestions for future forum:

Age not identified:

- Participation-interaction should be emphasized

CANOSA report of 2012 Summer

by Sabita Panigrahi

Camping picnic

This year CANOSA organized camping long weekend picnic at Valens Lake near Hamilton Conservation Area. Around 40 campers and around 30 day visitors participated in the event. It was a three days and three nights event consisting of games, sports, walking on nature trails, swimming, fishing and of course cooking. This time's highlight was that the board arranged for a pickup truck to transport the groceries and cooking materials.

One day picnic

The CANOSA one day picnic was held on 25th of August at Mississauga Valley Park. Around 140 people joined this year's picnic. CANOSA executives (Alok Patnaik, Surya Sarangi, Nilmani Nayak and Abhijoy Mishra) worked hard and volunteers helped them to make it a successful event. Weather was excellent for the day. People enjoyed themselves by playing cricket, volleyball. There were children's games such as tug of war and watermelon eating. Overall it was a pleasant day to enjoy the weather as well as company of Odia friends of all ages.



Kumar Utsav

This year Kumar Utsav will be celebrated on 3rd of November.

OSA Southern Chapter Report

by Pramod Mahapatra

As we are back to the Southern Chapter tradition to have the Annual Picnic on the Labor Day Weekend, Members, non-members, Friends and Families from near and far places of Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia gathered at the Cumberland Mountain state park on 2nd September, 2012. It was heartening to see everybody driving for long hours to reach the park at 11am in the morning on the day though it was a long weekend.



We started with Masala Mudi and freshly made Alu Chop, Pakadi, Matar Ghuguni along with hot masala Tea in a traditional Odia-way of having snacks. Heavy rain forced us to stay under the shed and chit chat and listen to Odia Adhunik songs for sometime.

Everybody jumped to the play area as soon as the rain stopped to enjoy the Lemon in the Spoon race, game of Frisbee and 3-leg race. While everybody was having fun, our volunteers were busy cooking tandoori chicken which was the most loved food among all. We had the tandoori chicken along with the catered India food from the local Indian restaurant.



At the end of the day we all moved to the Conference room at the park for the Cultural program. The evening was kicked off with the song "Bande Utkal Janani" sung by our forever young ladies Mrs Mishra, Mrs Mohanty, Mrs

Joshi's , Mrs Kanungo lead by Mrs Arati Joshi accompanied by Mr Tushar Mohanty on Tabla and Mr Pramod Mahapatra on bansuri. The cultural program continued for more than 2 hrs. In between Miss Sanjana and Miss Ritika Senapati, beautiful daughters of Mrs Manoj Senapati conducted the quiz on Odissa. Miss Parneeta Mahapatra daughter of Pramod Mahapatra played "Sare Jahan se Achha" on keyboard. The star attraction was Mr. Soohag raja Mohanty with his vocals. He sang beautiful odia and hindi songs while playing guitar by himself. Dr. Ameresh Misra, Mr. Sriranjana Kanungo also sang few songs. A duet by Mrs and Mr Amiya Mohanty was a very old Odia Lok Geet.



Mr Amiya Mohanty recognized Mr Radhakanta Mishra for achievement and receiving the Rajiv Gandhi award for the Entrepreneurship. Also, Amiya Babu introduced the 2nd edition of the book Principles of Geochemistry written by Professor Kula C Misra. We are all proud of his creation.

Chapter President Pramod Mahapatra discussed about the OSA National activities. He requested everyone to attend in big number in the next convention which will be held in Chicago.

Odia Festivals: August - September

Khudurukuni Osha is observed in Orissa on the Sundays in the month of Bhadrab (August - September) by unmarried women and girls. Is to protect their brothers to get back safely from a journey.

Janmashtami (also known as *Krishnastami* or *Gokulastami*) is the birthday of Lord Krishna, the eighth avatar (incarnation) of Lord Vishnu, believed to have been born about five thousand years ago in Mathura in 'Dwapar Yuga'. It is celebrated in the August/September months, on the Ashtami of Krishna Paksh or the 8th day of the dark fortnight in the month of Bhadon and is celebrated over two days. The first day is Krishnashtami or Gokulashtami. The second day is called Kalastami or more popularly Janmashtami.

Gamha Purnima (Rakhi): This day you tie rachis on the hand of your brothers to keep them safe for the year. Originally in Orissa this day marks the worship of Lord Balabhadra. Bullocks and cows are also worshipped by smearing *sindur* marks on their head.

Ganesh Chaturhi is observed by the Oriya community to receive the blessings of Lord Ganesha as is the custom among other communities in India. Students observe fasting in the day till they make a floral offering (pushpanjali) before the image of Lord Ganesha seeking his blessings for acquiring wisdom.

ସ୍ଵପ୍ନ

ସୁଲୋଚନା ପଟ୍ଟନାୟକ

ଏଲ୍‌କରିନ୍, ମରେିଲାଣ୍ଡ

ମନରେ ଅନେକ ପ୍ରଶ୍ନ
 ସ୍ଵପ୍ନ କଣ?
 ସେ ଏକ ମିଛି ମିଛିକା ଖେଳ
 ବଂଚିବାର ଏକ ରାହା
 ଏକୃଷିଆ ଜୀବନର ଏକ ମାତ୍ର ସାହା

ଅନ୍ଧାର ପାଇଁ ଆଲୋକ
 ଗରୀବର ଏକ ମାତ୍ର ଧନ
 ଯାହା କେବେ ହୁଏ ନାହିଁ ଚୋରି
 ସେ ତ ଅଂଧର ନୟନ

ସ୍ଵପ୍ନ ତୁମ
 ତୁପ ଚାପ ନିଧତକ
 ମନର ଗହ୍ଵର ତଳେ ରହି ଥାଏ ଶୋଇ
 ରାତି ତାର ଲୋଡ଼ା ନାହିଁ
 ସ୍ଵପ୍ନ ସିଏ
 ଏକାନ୍ତ ନିଜର
 ଏକ ସୁନା ରାଇଜର
 ଏକ ରାଜ ଯେମାର
 ଏକ ପଖୀରାଜ ଘୋଡ଼ାର
 ଯେଉଁଠାରେ ପଡ଼ିଥାଏ ପାହାଚ
 ସ୍ଵର୍ଗକୁ ଯିବାର
 ସ୍ଵପ୍ନ ଏକ ଆବଶ୍ୟକତା
 ବଂଚିବାର

ଶୋଇବାର ଆବଶ୍ୟକତା ନାହିଁ
 ଆଖି ଖୋଲି ଯଦି ଦେଖୁ ହୁଏ ସ୍ଵପ୍ନ
 ନିଛକ ଦିନ ସ୍ଵିପ୍ନରେ

ସ୍ଵପ୍ନ କଣ?
 ସୁଖର, ଭବିଷ୍ୟତର ଏବଂ ସଂଭାବିତ କାଳିର
 ଅଳିକ ହେଲେ ବି ତାହା
 ଜୀବନର ଏକ ନୀରବ ଅଧ୍ୟାୟର
 ସଂଜୀବନୀ ଏକ ମୃତ ମନର

ସ୍ଵପ୍ନ କଣ?
 ଏହା କେବେ ନୁହେଁ କାହା ଦୁଃଖର
 କେବେ ନୁହେଁ ଅଭାବିତ ଅଂସଗତ ମୁହୂର୍ତ୍ତର
 ଏହା ଏକ ମନଗଢ଼ା ବିଳାସର
 ଜୀବନର କିଛି ଅଭାବର ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣତା

ଜେନିଫର

ସତ୍ୟ ପଳନାୟକ

(୧)

ଯେଉଁଠି ସରିଛି

ମାଇଲ୍ ମାଇଲ୍ ଧରି ଗହମର ଧୂସରିତ କ୍ଷେତ
ସେଉଁଠୁ ଆରମ୍ଭ ହୁଏ ଆପାଲସିଆନର ସବୁଜ ପର୍ବତ
ପାହାଡକୁ ଲାଗି ବହିଯାଉଥାଏ ଛୋଟ ଏକ ନଈ
ନଈକୂଳେ ବସିଥାଏ ଶାନ୍ତ ଏକ ଛୋଟିଆ ସହର
ସେଇ ସହରରେ ଜେନିଫର ଘର ।

ଗୋଧୂଳିର ରଂଗ ମାଖି

ଯେତେବେଳେ ନୀଡକୁ ତାଙ୍କର
ଫେରୁଥାନ୍ତି ଦଳଦଳ ପକ୍ଷୀ
ଯେତେବେଳେ ପବନର ଧରଧର ଓଠ
ରୁଇଁଯାଏ ଗହମକ୍ଷେତର ଦେହ
ଶୁଣାଯାଏ କାହାର ଚାପାଚାପା ହସ
ଓ ଆଦିମ ସୀକାର
ଯେତେବେଳେ ଅପ୍ତରାଗର ସୂର୍ଯ୍ୟ
ତୁବିତୁବି ଯାଉଥାନ୍ତି ପାହାଡ କୋଳରେ
ସେତେବେଳେ ଥମ୍ କରୁ ପାଦ ରଖେ
ଜେନିଫର, ମୋହରି ଛାତିରେ ।

ଖଣ୍ଡାଧାର ପରି ନାକ, ବାଆଁ ନାକେ
ଚିକ୍‌ଚିକ୍ କରୁଥାଏ ମୋତିର ଲବଙ୍ଗ
ନହନହ କଅଁଳିଆ ଦେହ

ମନ ତାର ଭଲଭଲ ଭଲୁଳା ଆବେଗ ।
ଜେନିଫର ଚିତ୍ତି ଦେଖେ, ବହି ପଢେ
ପ୍ରେମ କରେ, ଘୋଡା ଚଢେ
ପ୍ରଜାପତି ମନ ତାର କେତେବେଳେ ଭୁଇଁରେତ
କେତେବେଳେ ଆକାଶରେ ଭଡେ ।

ଜେନିଫର !

ତୁମକୁ ନେଇ କଣ
କେବେ କିଛି ଲେଖି ହୁଏ ଗପ କି କବିତା ?
ଅମାନିଆ ମନର ଭିତରେ
ତୁମେ ଏକ ଅସରକ୍ତି ଗାଥା
ତୁମେ କେବଳ କଳ୍ପନାର ଦର୍ପଣରେ
ହୃଦୟକୁ ରୁଉଁଥିବା ମିଠାମିଠା ବ୍ୟଥା !

(୨)

ଯେତେବେଳେ ରୁଗ୍ଣ ଅର୍ଥନୀତିର
ନିର୍ମମ ଆଘାତରେ
ଭୁଇଁରେ ଲୋତିପତୁଛି ମଣିଷ
ଯେତେବେଳେ ଅଫିସ୍‌ରେ ପହୁଁଚିଲା ପରେ
ପୂରାଦିନ ଅନିଶ୍ଚିତତାର ଭଉଁରୀରେ
ଛନ୍ଦି ରହିଥାଏ ଚାକିରୀଆ
ଯେତେବେଳେ ପ୍ରତିଟି ଆଗଛୁକ ସମୟ
ଆଶୁଥାଏ ବଞ୍ଚିବା ଓ ମରିବାର ପ୍ରଶ୍ନବାଚୀ
ଯେତେବେଳେ ଦିନର ଆଲୁଅ ଓ ରାତିର ଅନ୍ଧାରରେ
ଦେଖାଯାଉଥାଏ କେବଳ ଭୟର ଛାଇ
ଯେତେବେଳେ ସାଧାରଣ ମଣିଷର ଦୁନିଆରେ

ଅହରହ ଆସୁଥାଏ ଭୁକମ୍ପର ଅଲୋଡ଼ା କମ୍ପନ
କବିତା ଲେଖିବାକୁ କହୁଛ ଜେନିଫର ?
ନା ମନ ଅଛି ନା ମନସା
ନା ପ୍ରେମ ଅଛି ନା ପ୍ରତ୍ୟାଶା
ମଣିଷର ପ୍ରତିଟି ଆନ୍ତରିକ ଅନୁଭବକୁ
ତମ ଦେଶରେ କେବଳ ବ୍ୟାପାର ବୁଝନ୍ତି ଜେନିଫର !

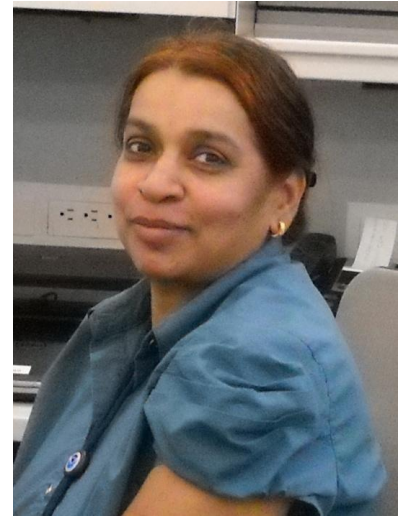
କିଏ ଏଠି ମାପୁଛି କାହା ପେଟରେ କେତେ ଭୋକ
କିଏ ଏଠି ଦେଖୁଛି କିପ୍ରି ନଦେଇ
କାହା ଘରେ ପଡ଼ିଯାଇଛି ତାଲା
କିଏ ଏଠି କାନ୍ଦୁଛି ଯଦି କେଉଁ ପିଲା
ବନ୍ଦ ହେଇ ଯାଇଛି ସ୍କୁଲ
କାହାର ଯାଏ ଆସେ କେତେ ?
ସମସ୍ତେତ ନିଜ ନିଜ ଯାତ୍ରାର ଯାତ୍ରୀ
ବସ୍ତୁବାଦର ପ୍ରାର୍ଥୀ ।

ପବନ ବୋହୁଛି ଶୀତଳତାର ସ୍ପର୍ଶ ନାହିଁ
ମେଘ ଝରୁଛି ମଧୁରତା ନାହିଁ
ଫୁଲ ଫୁରୁଛି ମହକ ନାହିଁ
ହୃଦୟ ଅଛି ଆବେଗ ନାହିଁ
କଳା ମତମତ ରାସ୍ତା
ରଙ୍ଗ ବେରଙ୍ଗ ଗାଡ଼ି
ବଡ଼ବଡ଼ କୋଠା
ଫ୍ରିଜ, ଟିଭି ର ଦୁନିଆ କୁ
ଜୀବନ କହୁଛ ଜେନିଫର ?
କେବଳ ତମକୁ ଛାଡ଼ିଦେଲେ ଜେନିଫର
ଏ ଦେଶରେ ସବୁ କିଛି ଫିକାଫିକା

ସବୁ କିଛି ଅନ୍ଧାର ଅନ୍ଧାର
ଆବେଗର ସ୍ୟାହିରେ ଲେଖା
ତମେ କିଛି ଉଜ୍ଜ୍ୱଳ ଅକ୍ଷର
ତମେ ସତରେ ଥାଅ କି କବିତାରେ
ତମେ ମୋର ପ୍ରିୟତମା, ଜେନିଫର
ତମେ ମୋର ଅତି ଆପଣାର !

ଉଦ୍ୟାନର ସଂପର୍କ

(ସପ୍ତମ ଭାଗ - ପୂର୍ବ ପ୍ରକାଶିତ ଉତ୍ତର)
ବିଜ୍ଞାନୀ ଦାସ, ଡେଗନ୍, ମେରୀଲାଣ୍ଡ



ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କର ଉଦ୍‌ବେଗ ଓ କୌତୁହଳ ବହୁଧାତ୍ୟ । ଶ୍ରୀଜୟଙ୍କଠାରୁ ତରୁଣ ମହାନ୍ତିଙ୍କ ଖବର ଜାଣିବାପାଇଁ ସମସ୍ତେ ଅପେକ୍ଷାକୃତ । କିନ୍ତୁ ଖବର ଯାହା ମିଳିଲା, ସେଥିରେ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କର ନିରାଶା ଅଧିକ ବଢ଼ିଗଲା । ହଠାତ୍ ସମ୍ପତ୍ତି ଯେ ବିରାଟ ଅଘଟଣଟିଏ ଘଟିଯିବ, ସେଥିପାଇଁ କେହି ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତ ନଥିଲେ । ତରୁଣ ମହାନ୍ତିଙ୍କ ଅବସ୍ଥା ସାଂଘାତିକ ନଥିଲେ ବି ଭଲ ନଥିଲା । ତାଙ୍କ କିଡ୍‌ନରେ ତିନିଟି ପଥର ବଢ଼ିବାରେ ଲାଗିଥିଲେ ଯେଉଁଟାକି ଅତି ଭୟର କାରଣ ହୋଇଥିଲା । ତାଙ୍କ ଘରୋଇ ଡାକ୍ତରଙ୍କୁ ଫୋନ୍ କରି ସବୁ ମେଡିକାଲ୍ ହିସ୍‌ଟ୍ରି ସଂଗ୍ରହ କରାଯାଇଛି । ସର୍ଜରୀ କରିବା ନିହାତି ଜରୁରୀ । ତାଙ୍କ ପତ୍ନୀଙ୍କ ନିକଟକୁ ଫୋନ୍ କରାଯାଇଥିଲା ଏବଂ ସିଏ ଯେ କୌଣସି ମୁହୂର୍ତ୍ତରେ ପହଞ୍ଚିଯାଇପାରନ୍ତି । କିନ୍ତୁ ଅସୁବିଧା ହେଲା ଯେ ଆସନ୍ତା କାଲିଠାରୁ ରେଲ୍‌ଓ୍ଵେ ବିଭାଗର ଝୁଲକ୍ କେଡେଦିନ ଝୁଲକ୍ ଚାଲିବ କେଜାଣି, କହିହେଉନି । ତେଣୁ କେମିତି ତରୁଣ ବାବୁଙ୍କ ପରିବାରଙ୍କୁ ତାଙ୍କ ପାଖରେ ପହଞ୍ଚାଯାଇ ପାରିବ ସେ ନେଇ ଶ୍ରୀଜୟ ଚିନ୍ତିତ ଥିଲେ ।

ପ୍ରତିଭା ମନରେ ବି ଶଙ୍କା ପଶିଲା । ଯଦି ରେଲ୍‌ଓ୍ଵେ ବିଭାଗର ଝୁଲକ୍ ହେବ, ତେବେ ସେ କେମିତି ଫେରିବ ? ତାର ତ ଆସନ୍ତା କାଲି ରିଜର୍ଭେସନ୍ ଅଛି । କିନ୍ତୁ ଏ ସମୟରେ ତ ସମସ୍ତେ ତରୁଣବାବୁଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଚିନ୍ତିତ କିଛି ତ କରିବାକୁ ପଡିବ ।

ମେଲୋଡି ପାର୍ଟିର କଳାକାରମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ପାଖ ରେଷ୍ଟ୍ରାଭସ୍‌ରେ ରହିବାର ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା କରାଯାଇଥିଲା । ସେମାନଙ୍କର ଫେରିବାପାଇଁ ରିଜର୍ଭେସନ୍ ଥିଲା ପାଞ୍ଚଦିନ ପରେ । ତେଣୁ ସେମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ରେଲ୍‌ଓ୍ଵେ ବିଭାଗର ଝୁଲକ୍ କିଛି ସମସ୍ୟା ନ ହୋଇପାରେ । ସେମାନଙ୍କର ସମସ୍ୟା ଥିଲା ସହରର ଅନ୍ୟ ଅନେକ ମାନଙ୍କରେ ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା ହୋଇଥିବା କେତୋଟି କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମକୁ ନେଇ । ତରୁଣବାବୁଙ୍କ ବିନା ସେ ସବୁ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ କରାଯିବ ନା ବ୍ୟତୀତ କରାଯିବ, ସେ ନେଇ ସେମାନଙ୍କ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଆଲୋଚନା ଚାଲିଥିଲା । ସେମାନଙ୍କ ମଧ୍ୟରୁ କେତେଜଣ ଚାହୁଁଲେ ତରୁଣ ବାବୁଙ୍କୁ ଭେଟି ତାଙ୍କ ପରାମର୍ଶ ନେବା ବିଷୟରେ । କିନ୍ତୁ ଶ୍ରୀଜୟ ତାଙ୍କୁ ଜଣାଇଦେଲା ଯେ ସେ ସବୁ ସମ୍ଭବ ନୁହେଁ । ତରୁଣବାବୁଙ୍କୁ କ୍ଷେପିଆଲ୍ କେନ୍ଦ୍ରରେ ରଖାଯାଇଛି ଓ ପ୍ରତି ମିନିଟ୍‌ରେ ତାଙ୍କର ସ୍ଵାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ସମୀକ୍ଷା କରାଯାଉଛି । ତାଙ୍କର କେବଳ ଗୋଟିଏ ନୁହେଁ, ଅନେକ ସମସ୍ୟା । ଶରୀରକୁ ଅତ୍ୟଧିକ ଅଧିକ କରି ରଖିଥିଲେ ତରୁଣବାବୁ ଓ ସ୍ଵାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ସମ୍ପର୍କରେ ଅନେକ ଅବହେଳା । ନିଜର ଶରୀର ଯେ ଏକ ଦେବାଳୟ ଓ ସେ ଶରୀରର ପୂଜା, ପନ୍ଥ ଓ ସଂସ୍କାରର ଆବଶ୍ୟକତା ବୁଝିବି, ସେ କଥାପ୍ରତି କେବେ ବି ଧ୍ୟାନ ଦେଇନଥିଲେ ସେ । ବର୍ଷବର୍ଷର ଅବହେଳାର ପରିଣାମ ତାଙ୍କର ଏ ଆଜିର ଅବସ୍ଥା ।

ଶ୍ରୀଜୟ ଆହୁରି ବି ଗୋଟିଏ ଲଙ୍କରେଝିଙ୍କ ସମ୍ପାଦ ଦେଲେ । ଡକ୍ଟର୍ ପ୍ରଧାନଙ୍କ ପୁଅକୁ ସେ ଭେଟିଥିଲେ ହସ୍ପିଟାଲ୍‌ରେ ।

“ଡକ୍ଟର୍ ପ୍ରଧାନଙ୍କର କଣ ହେଲା ?”

ଏମିତି ଜଣେ ପ୍ରଶ୍ନ କଲା, ଶ୍ରୀଜୟ ଉତ୍ତରରେ କହିଲେ, “ଡକ୍ଟର୍ ପ୍ରଧାନଙ୍କର ପାଗଳାମୀ ଅତିଶୟ ଆକାର ଧାରଣ କରିଥିଲା । ତାଙ୍କ ପୁଅ ପାଖରେ ରହି ମଧ୍ୟ ସେ ଏମିତି ପାଗଳାମି ବାହାର କଲେ ଯେ, ଯଦି ଠିକ୍ ସମୟରେ ସିଏ ଘଟଣାସ୍ଥଳରେ ନ ପହଞ୍ଚିଥାଆନ୍ତା, ଅବସ୍ଥା ବଡ଼ ସାଂଘାତିକ ହୋଇଥାନ୍ତା । ପ୍ରଧାନଙ୍କୁ ନେଇକରି ତାଙ୍କ ପୁଅ ନିଜ ଘରକୁ ଯାଇଥିଲା ଓ ନିଜ ମା’ଙ୍କ ପାଖକୁ ଖବରଦେବାରୁ ମା’ ବି ଆସି ପହଞ୍ଚିଥିଲେ । ତେବେ ଗତକାଲି ଗଞ୍ଜେଇ ଖାଇ ପ୍ରଧାନ ତାଙ୍କ ପତ୍ନୀଙ୍କୁ ଗାଳିଗୁଲଜ କରିଥିଲେ । ପତ୍ନୀ ନ ସହିପାରି ଜବାବ ଦେବାରୁ ତାଙ୍କୁ

ଗୋଟିଏ ବାଡିଧରି ପିଟିବାକୁ ବାହାରିଲେ । ତାଙ୍କ ପତ୍ନୀ ଯାଇ ପଡିଶା ଘରେ ପଶିଲେ । ପ୍ରଧାନ ନିଜ ପତ୍ନୀଙ୍କ ପଛେ ପଛେ ଦଉଡୁଦଉଡୁ ନିଶାରେ ପଡିଶାଘର ପାଚେରିରେ ବାଡେଇ ହୋଇ ମୁଣ୍ଡ ଖଣ୍ଡିଆ କରି ଅଚେତ ହୋଇ ପଡିଗଲେ । ଯୋଗକୁ ତାଙ୍କ ପୁଅ ସେ ସମୟରେ କାମସାରି ଘରକୁ ଫେରୁଥିଲା । ପ୍ରଧାନଙ୍କୁ ଆଣି ଡାକ୍ତରଖାନାରେ ଭର୍ତ୍ତିକରିଛି । ଶ୍ରୀଜୟଙ୍କ ସହିତ ଡାକ୍ତରଖାନାରେ ଦେଖାହେଲା ଯେ ବିଚାରା କାନ୍ଦିପକେଇଲା । କେମିତି ବାପାଙ୍କର ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା କରିବ, ସେ ନେଇ ବହୁତ ଚିନ୍ତିତ ଅଛି; ହୁଏତ ପାଗଳଖାନାରେ ରଖିବାକୁ ପଡିପାରେ । ଘରେ ନିଜ ସ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ପିଲା ଅଛନ୍ତି; ସେମାନଙ୍କୁ ଜାଣିଜାଣି ବିପଦରେ ପକାଇପାରିବନି ସିଏ । ତା' ମା' ବି ଏମିତି ପାଗଳ ସ୍ତ୍ରୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ପାଖରେ ରଖି ସୁରକ୍ଷିତ ରହିପାରିବେନି ।

ପ୍ରତିଭାର ଆଉ କାହା ବିଷୟରେ ଶୁଣିବାକୁ କି ଜାଣିବାକୁ ଆଗ୍ରହ ନଥିଲା । ରେଲେଓ୍ଵେ ଷ୍ଟାଲକ୍ ଓ ତା ର ଫେରିବା ବିଷୟ ହିଁ ଥିଲା ତାର ଚିନ୍ତାର କାରଣ ।

ଓଡିଶାରେ ଏମିତି ଷ୍ଟାଲକ୍ ସବୁବେଳେ; ଆଜି ଛାତ୍ରସଂଘର ଷ୍ଟାଲକ୍ ତ କାଲି ବସ୍ତ୍ରାଳକ ମାନଙ୍କର । କେବେ ଶିକ୍ଷକ ସଂଘର ଷ୍ଟାଲକ୍ ତ କେବେ ଛାତ୍ର କର୍ମଚାରୀମାନଙ୍କର । ଦେଖିଲେ ତ ବାହାରକୁ ପ୍ରଗତିର ଛାପ ଚାରିଆଡେ; ଅଧିକ ଯାନ ବାହନ, କାର୍, ବସ୍, ଟ୍ରକ୍, ଚଳାଚଳ ସାଙ୍କୁ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କ ପାଖରେ ମୋବାଇଲ୍ । ଗାଁ ଗହଳରେ ଘରେଘରେ ଚିଢ଼ି, ସହରମାନଙ୍କରେ 'ସାଇବର୍ କାଫେ' ଓ ରାଜଧାନୀ ଭୁବନେଶ୍ଵରରେ ଆକର୍ଷଣୀୟ ମଲ୍ ସବୁ । ତେବେ ଏସବୁ ସତ୍ତ୍ଵେ ବି କେଉଁଠି ଯେମିତି କିଛି ବଡ ଧରଣର କାମଟିଏ ବାକି ରହିଯାଇଛି । ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କ ମନରେ ଅସନ୍ତୋଷ, ସବୁଠି ବିଦ୍ରୋହର ଭାବନା; ବଡ ସହରମାନଙ୍କରେ ଯେତେସବୁ ଅସାମାଜିକ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକଳାପ ।

ସେଦିନ ଖବରକାଗଜରେ ସମ୍ବାଦ ପଢି ଆଖିକୁ ବିଶ୍ଵାସ କରିପାରିନଥିଲା ପ୍ରତିଭା । ଏତେ ଜୟନ୍ତୀକାଣ୍ଡ ସବୁ ଘଟିପାରେ । କିନ୍ତୁ ବ୍ୟବସାୟରେ ଅର୍ଥ ଅର୍ଜନ କରିବାପାଇଁ ନିର୍ଯ୍ୟାତାମୁରେ କିଶୋର ବାଳକଟିର ଜୀବନ ବି କେହି ନେଇପାରେ । ନିଜ ବ୍ୟବସାୟ ବଢାଇବା ପାଇଁ ନିଜ ପତ୍ନୀର, ନିଜ ପ୍ରେମିକାର ନଗ୍ନଚିତ୍ରକୁ ବି କେହି କ୍ରୟବିକ୍ରୟର ଦ୍ରବ୍ୟଭାବେ ବ୍ୟବହାର କରିପାରେ । କନ୍ୟାଶିଶୁଟିଏ ଜନ୍ମକରି ନିଜ ଜନ୍ମଦାତ୍ରୀ ଜନନୀ ବି ଶିଶୁଟିକୁ ରାସ୍ତାରେ ପକାଇଦେଇ ଅନ୍ତର୍ଦ୍ଧାନ ହୋଇଯାଏ ।

ଦୁନିଆରେ ଯୁଗେଯୁଗେ ସମସ୍ୟା ରହିଆସିଛି ଆଉ ରହିବ ମଧ୍ୟ । ଗୋଟିଏ ସମସ୍ୟାର ସମାଧାନ ହେବାପରେ ଆଉଗୋଟିଏ ନୂଆ ସମସ୍ୟା ଆସି ଉପସ୍ଥିତ ହୋଇଯାଏ । ଗୋଟିଏ ଗୋଟାର ନିରାକରଣ ପାଇଁ ଔଷଧ ଆବିଷ୍କାର କରିସାରିବା ପରେ ଆଉ ଗୋଟିଏ ନୂଆରୋଗ, ନୂଆ ଜୀବାଣୁ ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ନିଜର ହାଜିରା ପକାଏ ।

ତେବେ ମଣିଷର ମନ ତ! ଦୁଃଖରେ ଭାଙ୍ଗିପଡିଲେ ବି ନୂଆଆଶାରେ ଆଶାୟୀ ହୋଇ ସେମିତି ସମାଧାନର ସୂତ୍ର ଖୋଜି ଚାଲିଥାଏ । ସେଇ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନରେ ହିଁ ତାର ଆନନ୍ଦ; ତା' ମଣିଷ ଜୀବନର ସାର୍ଥକତା ।

ସମସ୍ତ ଅସନ୍ତୋଷ ସତ୍ତ୍ଵେ ପ୍ରତିଭା ତଥାପି ଆଶା ରଖିଥିଲା ଯେ ନିଜ୍ଞ କିଛି ଗୋଟିଏ ଭଲ ସୂତ୍ର ମିଳିଯିବ ଓ ସେ ସୁରୁଖୁରୁରେ ଯାଇ ନିଜ ପତି ଓ ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କ ସହିତ ମିଳିବ । ଯଦି ବି ଗୋଟିଏ ଦିନ ଷ୍ଟାଲକ୍ ହେଲା, ତେବେ ଅଳ୍ପତଃ ସିଏ ତା' ପରଦିନ ଯାଇପାରିବ ।

ଏହି ସମୟରେ ମିସେସ୍ ଦାଶ ଆସି ପହଞ୍ଚିଲେ । ପ୍ରତିଭାକୁ କହିଲେ, “ଚିଢ଼ିରେ ତ ନିଉଜ୍ ଦେଲା ଯେ କାଲିଠାରୁ ରେଲଓ୍ଵେ କର୍ମଚାରୀଙ୍କର ଧର୍ମଘଟ; ପାଖ ସହରରେ ବି କଣ ଦଙ୍ଗ ଚାଲିଛି; ପୋଡାଜଳା, ବିଷୋଭ ଏସବୁ ଆଜିକାଲିର ଚୋକାମାନଙ୍କୁ ଦିଗଭୁଷ୍ଟ କରାଉଛି । ତମେ କାଲି ଫେରିବ କେମିତି ତେବେ ?”

“ମୁଁ ତ ସେଇ କଥା ଚିନ୍ତା କରୁଛି ।”

“ମୁଁ ଭାବୁଛି ତମେ ଆଜି ଯାଇ ହୋଟେଲ୍‌ରୁ ସବୁ ଜିନିଷପତ୍ର ଧରି ଆମପାଖକୁ ଚାଲିଆସ । ଧର୍ମଘଟ ସରିବା ପରେ ଫେରିବ ।”

“ମୁଁ ଚିକେ ମୋ ସ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଓ ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କ ସହିତ କଥାହୋଇ ରୁହେ ।”

ପ୍ରତିଭା ଏତିକି କହିଛି କି ନାହିଁ, ତା ସେଲ୍‌ଫୋନ୍ ବାଜିଉଠିଲା । ସେପଟରୁ ତାର ସ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଚିନ୍ତିତ ଥିଲେ, “ତମେ କେମିତି ଫେରିବ, କଣ କରିବ, କେଉଁଠି ରହିବ?”

ପ୍ରତିଭାର ହଠାତ୍ ମନେପଡ଼ିଲା ତା ସାଙ୍ଗର ଦାମ୍ପତ୍ୟରେ ରେଲ୍‌ସ୍ଟେରେ ଉପରିସ୍ଥ କର୍ମଚାରୀ ଅଛନ୍ତି; ସେ ସାଙ୍ଗଜଣକ ବି କନ୍‌ସ୍ଟରନ୍‌ସ୍ ଆଟେଣ୍ଟ୍ କରିବାକୁ ଆସିଥିଲା; ସେ ସାଙ୍ଗର ବି ତ କାଲି ଫେରିବାର ଅଛି । ତେଣୁ ସେହି କଥା ସେ ତାର ଚିନ୍ତିତ ସ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କୁ ଜଣାଇଲା । ତା’ ସାଙ୍ଗକୁ ପଚାରି ସେ ପୁଣି ଆସନ୍ତାକାଲି ସକାଳେ ଫୋନ୍ କରିବ ବୋଲି କହିଲା ।

ମିସେସ୍ ଦାଶ ଜଣାଇଲେ ସେ ତାଙ୍କର ଜଣେ ଝିଆରୀଜୋଇଁ ବି ରେଲ୍‌ସ୍ଟେରେ ଉପରିସ୍ଥ କର୍ମଚାରୀ ଅଛନ୍ତି; ଧର୍ମଘଟ ବନ୍ଦ ହୋଇଯିବା ପରେ, ରିଜର୍ଭେସନ୍ ଓ ଟିକେଟ୍ ପାଇଁ କିଛି ଅସୁବିଧା ହେବନି; ଉପରିସ୍ଥ କର୍ମଚାରୀମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ସଂରକ୍ଷିତ ବର୍ଥ ତ ମିଳିଯିବ ନିଶ୍ଚୟ ।

ବୁଝିଲା ପ୍ରତିଭା । ଯେତେ ବଡ଼ ଉଚ୍ଚପଦବୀରେ ଥିଲେ ବି ମଣିଷ ବେଳେବେଳେ ଅସହାୟ । ସମୟ ଓ ପରିସ୍ଥିତିକୁ ଏତେଇଦେବା ଏତେ ସହଜ ନୁହେଁ । ରେଲ୍‌ସ୍ଟେର ଯେତେ ବଡ଼ ଅଫିସର୍ ହେଲେ ବି ଏଭଳି ଛାଇକକୁ ବନ୍ଦକରିବା ସେମାନଙ୍କର ସଂପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିୟନ୍ତ୍ରଣରେ ନାହିଁ । ତେବେ ରିଜର୍ଭେସନ୍ ଓ ଟିକେଟ୍ ପାଇଁ ଅନ୍ତତଃ ଉଦ୍‌ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିଙ୍କର ସାହାଯ୍ୟ ନିଆଯାଇପାରେ ।

ପ୍ରତିଭା ମିସେସ୍ ଦାଶଙ୍କ ସହିତ ଘର ଭିତରକୁ ଆସିଲା । ମିସେସ୍ ଦାଶ ତାଙ୍କ ଝିଆରୀ ଘରର ଫୋନ୍ ନମ୍ବର ତା’ର କଲେ ଓ ପ୍ରତିଭାକୁ ପରିଚିତ କରାଇଦେଇ କଥାହେବାକୁ ପଚାରିଦେଲେ ।

“ଏ ମା, ଏଇଟା ତ ଭାଲୁ, ମାନେ ଭାରତୀ ଭାରତୀ ଶତପଥୀ କେଉଁଝରର ।”

ଏମିତି କହି ଦମେ ହସିହସି ଗତିଗଲା ପ୍ରତିଭା ।

ମିସେସ୍ ଦାଶ କହିଲେ, “ହଁ ମା, ମୋ ଝିଆରୀ ନାଁ ଭାରତୀ, ତାକୁ ସମସ୍ତେ ଛୋଟବେଳେ ଭାଲୁ ଡାକୁଥିଲେ ।”

ପ୍ରତିଭା କହିଲା, “ଆଲୋ ଭାଲୁ, ଆମେ ତ ଭାବିଥିଲୁ ତୁ ଜଙ୍ଗଲରେ କେଉଁଠି ହଜିଗଲୁ । ତତେ ମୁଁ ଏଭଳି ଆବିଷ୍କାର କରିବି ବୋଲି କେବେ ଭାବିଥିଲି ନା ।”

“ହଁ, ତୁ ତ ପ୍ରଫେସର ହେଇଥିଲୁ ବୋଲି ଶୁଣିଥିଲି ଶିରି ଭାଇନାଙ୍କ ଠାରୁ । ତେବେ ତୁ କେମିତି ମାଉସୀଙ୍କ ଘରେ କହନା ।” – ଭାଲୁ ଓରଫ ଭାରତୀର ଅନେକ ଜିଜ୍ଞାସା ।

ଅନେକ ସମୟ ଗପଗପ ହେଲେ ଅତୀତର ଦୁଇ ହଜିଲା ସାଙ୍ଗ । ମନେ ପଡ଼ିଯାଉଥିଲା ହଠାତ୍; ଭାଲୁଟା ବଡ଼ ସ୍ନେହୀ ପିଲାଟିଏ ଥିଲା । ଅନ୍ୟମାନଙ୍କୁ ଖୁଆଇବା ଥିଲା ତାର ହାତ । ସେଇ ଭାଲୁ ପରୀକ୍ଷା ନ ସରୁଣୁ ବାହା ହୋଇଯାଇଥିଲା । ବାପା,ମା ଭଲ ପାଉଁଟିଏ ପାଇଥିଲେ, ରାଜଯୋଗକ; ଝିଅ ତ ଆଉ ପାଠପଢ଼ି ଚାକିରି କରିବନାହିଁ କି ବାପା, ମାଙ୍କୁ ପୋଷିବ ନାହିଁ । ତେଣୁ ବାହାଘର ହୋଇଯାଇଥିଲା ଭାଲୁର ।

ଭାଲୁର ସ୍ତ୍ରୀମାଙ୍କ ସହିତ କଥା ହୋଇ ନିଜର ସମସ୍ୟାଟି କହିଲା ପ୍ରତିଭା । ଭଦ୍ରବ୍ୟକ୍ତି ଆଶ୍ୱାସନା ଦେଲେ, “ଧୈର୍ଯ୍ୟ ରଖନ୍ତୁ; ଯାହା ଜଣାପଡୁଛି, ଝାଇକ୍ କେବଳ ଗୋଟିଏ ଦିନ କି ଅତିବେଶୀରେ ଦୁଇଦିନ ହୋଇପାରେ । ସରକାର ଓ ରେଲ୍ୱେ କର୍ମକର୍ତ୍ତାଙ୍କ ମଧ୍ୟରେ କଥାବାର୍ତ୍ତା ଜାରିରହିଛି ଓ ବୁଝାମଣା ହୋଇଯିବାର ସାଧ୍ୟତା ସମ୍ଭାବନା ରହିଛି ।”

ଭାଲୁ ସହିତ କଥାହୋଇ ଅନେକଟା ଆଶ୍ୱସ୍ତ ଲାଗୁଥିଲା ପ୍ରତିଭାକୁ । ଇଏ କି ପ୍ରକାରର ଚମତ୍କାର ସଂଯୋଗ? ଏତେ ବର୍ଷ ତଳର ହଜିଲା ସାଙ୍ଗ, ପୁଣି ତା’ ସହିତ ଏମିତି ଭାବେ ଯୋଗାଯୋଗ ଦୀର୍ଘ କୋଡିଏ ବର୍ଷ ପରେ । ଇଣ୍ଡରଙ୍କ ଲୀଳାକୁ ମାନିବାକୁ ପଡିବ ହିଁ । ସେଇଠି ନିରାଶା ରଖିଥିବେ, ପୁଣି ସେଇଠି ଦେଖାଇଦେବେ ଆଶାବତୀଟି; ଅତି ଚମତ୍କାର ଭାବେ, ଅତି କୁହୁକବିଦ୍ୟା ସାଧନା ଭଳି । ମନରେ ପ୍ରତୀତ ବି ହେବନି ଯେ ଏମିତି ସବୁ ପଡିଯାଉଛି; ଯେମିତି ଲାଗୁଥିବ କାହାଣୀଟିଏ ପରଦାରେ ଚଳିତ ଆକାରରେ ପ୍ରଦର୍ଶିତ କରାଯାଉଛି ଆଉ କର୍ତ୍ତା ଚଳିତର ପରଦାରେ ନିଜେ ନିଜକୁ ଦେଖୁଛି । ସେମିତି ତ ହୋଇଥିଲା ଦ୍ରୌପଦୀ ସହିତ; ଦୁଃଶାସନକୁ କେତେ ନିଉନ ହୋଇ କାନ୍ଦିକାନ୍ଦି ଭିକ୍ଷା ମାଗିଥିଲା, ଦୁର୍ଯ୍ୟୋଧନକୁ ବି କାକୁଡ଼ି କରିଥିଲା, ଭୀଷ୍ମ, ଦ୍ରୋଣ, ନିଜର ପାଞ୍ଚପତିଙ୍କୁ ମଧ୍ୟ । ଶେଷରେ କେମିତି ଆସି ପହଞ୍ଚିଯାଇଥିଲେ ସେ ମାନରକ୍ଷାକାରୀ କୃଷ୍ଣ । ଛୋଟବେଳେ ଦ୍ରୌପଦୀଙ୍କ କାହାଣୀ ଯେତେ ଶୁଣିଛି ପ୍ରତିଭା, ସେତେ ଭାବବିହୁଳ ହୋଇଛି । କୃଷ୍ଣ ସେଇଠି ଚମତ୍କାରୀ କରି ଦୁଃଶାସନ ଓ ଦୁର୍ଯ୍ୟୋଧନକୁ ଉଲଗ୍ନ କରାଇଦେଲେନି କାହିଁକି? ସେଇଟାହିଁ ସେମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ହୋଇଥାନ୍ତା ଠିକ୍ ବିଚାର । ସେଇ ପ୍ରଶ୍ନ ସିଏ ଜଗନ୍ନାଥଙ୍କ ପାଖରେ ବାରମ୍ବାର ପଚାରିଛି । ରେଡିଓରେ ନାଟକ ଶୁଣିବାପରେ କେତେ କାନ୍ଦିଛି ଯେ ଭଗବାନ କେବେ ବି ଠିକ୍ସେ କିଛି କରୁନାହାନ୍ତି; ତାହେଲେ ଭକ୍ତମାନେ ଏତେ କଷ୍ଟ ପାଆନ୍ତେ କାହିଁକି ? କାହିଁକି ସେମାନଙ୍କ ଜୀବନ ସରଳରେଖାରେ ଗତିକରେନି ? କାହିଁକି ଏତେ ଖାଲ, ଭିପ, ବର୍ଷା, ଖସତା; କାହିଁକି ଏ ସବୁ ?

ଏଇଭଳି ପ୍ରଶ୍ନ ବି ଆସିଥିଲା ପ୍ରତିଭାମନରେ । କଣପାଇଁ ସବୁ ଏମିତି ହୋଇଗଲା? ତରୁଣବାରୁଙ୍କ ସିଜର୍, ରେଲ୍ୱେ ଧର୍ମଘଟ; ଆଉ ପ୍ରତିଭାର ସବୁ ଯୋଜନା ଓଲଟଖାଲଟ । ଯାହାଟି ହେଉ, ଭଗବାନ ତାକୁ ରକ୍ଷାକରିବେ, ସେଇ ବିଶ୍ୱାସ ତା’ର ଅଛି ଛୋଟବେଳୁ । ଆଉ ଏମିତି ଏକ ଦୁର୍ଘଟ ସମୟରେ ଭାଲୁ ଭଳି ସାଙ୍ଗକୁ ଖୋଜି ପାଇବାଟା ଏକ ମିରାକ୍ଲ୍ ବୋଲି ତାର ମନେହେଉଥିଲା ।

ଭାଲୁର ନଶୀଦ ବାହାଘର ଥିବାରୁ ସେ ଧୀ ଉତ୍ସବକୁ ଆସିପାରିନଥିଲା । ନହେଲେ ଏଇଠି ହୁଏତ ତା’ ସହିତ ଦେଖା ହୋଇଥାନ୍ତା । ତେବେ ଏମିତି ଭାବେ ଦୁଇବନ୍ଧୁ ପରସ୍ପରକୁ ଆବିଷ୍କାର କରିବା ବି କିଛି କମ୍ କଥା ନୁହେଁ ।

ସେଥିପାଇଁ ଭଗବାନଙ୍କ ପ୍ରତି କ୍ଷୋଭ ପ୍ରକାଶ କରିବ ନା କୃତଜ୍ଞତା ପ୍ରକାଶ କରିବ, ଭାବିପାରିନଥିଲା ପ୍ରତିଭା ।

(କ୍ରମଶଃ.....)

2013 OSA Convention

Dear Friends,

I am happy to announce that the 44th OSA convention is going to be held in Chicago during the 4th of July weekend, 2013. It was approved at the OSA 2012 in Seattle. The yearly OSA convention is known as our annual jatra where we all get together as an extended community, socialize with one another, renew our bonds and celebrate our Odia culture and heritage. Once a year, we are so proud to come together in one location where we create a memorable experience of love, fellow feeling and social bonding, Our friends from OSA Chicago chapter are already working hard to give the participants a wonderful cultural experience, showcasing our Odia heritage and tradition we have preserved in the Diaspora.

The OSA, Chicago, has unanimously nominated Mr. Gyana Patnaik as the convener of the OSA 2013 convention. My heartfelt congratulations to Gyana Patnaik for his willingness to come forward and help lead his chapter in organizing this convention. On behalf of OSA executives, I thank OSA 2013 Convener Gyana Patnaik, OSA Chicago Chapter president Jhara Das, OSA treasurer, Sushant Satpathy and all the volunteers of Chicago chapter for putting in all their efforts to have a successful convention. The Chicago convention website for the OSA 2013 is in the making and will be announced soon.

On behalf of the OSA administration, I extend my invitation to all of you, your friends and extended family to save the July 4th weekend and plan to attend the OSA 2013 convention. We will keep you posted; please continue to check our website for more news on the venue, cultural programs, seminar and other exciting activities planned for the 2013 OSA convention.

You all will receive separate message and update from the convener Gyana Patnaik regarding our 2013 OSA convention.

With warmest wishes,
Annapurna Pandey

Late Promod Patnaik Memorial Drama Competition

By: Sandip Dasverma

Like every year the OSA annual Drama Competition, named after Late Promod Pattanayak, (a past OSA President and drama buff), was enacted with enthusiastic participation of five chapters. A sixth chapter Chicago cancelled in the last moment. All the dramas were excellent in presentation and thus enjoyable. They were highly appreciated by viewing public at the 43rd convention. They were judged to be maintaining the high quality tradition of OSA. The teams showed high competitive spirit and yet there was high bohemie among the teams.

Late Promod Pattanayak Memorial Shield was won by California chapter. Their drama- "Srimati Samarjani", based on Late Fakir Mohan Senapati's classic - Patent Medicine, was judged the best.

The drama was directed by Anasuya Lal Mohanty & Kuku Das. The hero's role was played by Priyadarshi Das, heroine by Monalisa Bebortha & Makara by Sushant Mohanty.

Our three judges for the competition were: Manaranjan Patnayak of Kansas, Anjalika Patnaik of California & Surya Mishra of Missouri. We are obliged to them, for taking this unenviable task and completing it, with diligence, honor and fairness.

Below is detailed information on the five dramas presented at the convention by the chapter teams, with selected accompanying pictures. After a draw of lot previous night the dramas were presented in the following sequence: CanOSA, South West Chapter, Washington DC chapter, California Chapter & Pacific North West Chapter(hosts).

Beautiful pictures were snapped by Babru B. Samal of Washington DC.

The whole show was organized singlehandedly by Sri Bikram Mohanty of Seattle. A young, new member - he independently ran the competition skillfully, with occasional guidance/inputs from Sandip Dasverma.

Pictures: <http://www.babru.com/osa12.html> and <http://www.osa2012.org/>

CanOSA:



In Picture: Gagan, Sabita and Inika Panigrahi

Name: Sahitya Chasa

Story/Script: Niyati Mohanty

Actors/Actresses: Sabita Panigrahi, Gagan Panigrahi and Ineka Panigrahi

Director: Gagan Panigrahi

Southwest Chapter:



Name: Bill, Jobs aau Kolaveri

Story : In a strange turn of events two big Tech Company owners from US find themselves in BBSR to start an IT project. In this unfamiliar territory they run into people and situations which add spice and fun to this hilarious story.

Actors/Actresses : Treeank Patnaik, Anish Nayak, Anshul Nayak, Meha Mohapatra, Dhara Mohapatra, Sarita Das, Manas Patnaik, Aditya Samal, Atasu Nayak, Pramod Mohapatra, Gopal Mohapatra, Swapna Mohapatra

Director: Manas Patnaik, Sarita Das & Gopal Mohapatra

Script: Sarita Das, Manas Patnaik & Gopal Mohapatra

Washington DC Chapter:



Name: Monira sangeeta sikhya

Story: Bigyani Das. It is about a little girl who is confused with her music learning as she is being influenced by different members of her extended family

Actors/Actresses: Simani Mishra(child), Bigyani Das, Leena Mishra, Bimal Mishra, Naresh Das.

Script: Bigyani Das, improved by input of all participants.

Direction: All participants, cooperatively

California:



Name: Srimati Samarjani

Story: Based on Fakir Mohan Senapati's classic "Patent Medicine"

Script: Gopal Chhotray

Actors/Actresses: Priyadarshy Dash, Monalisa Bebortha, Susanta Mohanty, Anish Mohanty, Manoj Joshi

Directors: Anasuya Lal Mohanty & Kuku Das

Music: Tarun Tripathy

Pacific North West Chapter:



Name: Osa ru Durdasa

Story: It's a comedy of errors - a drama portraying how confusing sometimes things can be.

Script: Seema Choudhury, edited by drama group. Original story.

Actors/Actresses : Mitali Monalisa, Manoranjan Achariya, Priyadarsan Patra, Anu Patra, Pranabesh Dash, Seema Choudhury, Paramita Mohanty, Kirti Mohapatra

Direction: Actors cooperatively.

2013 OSA ELECTION AND ANNOUNCEMENT FOR NOMINATION

The OSA Election Committee as constituted by the General Body is soliciting nominations for the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer of Orissa Society of Americas for 2013-14. As per the constitution, the positions of President and Vice-President will be candidates on the same slate. A vote for a presidential candidate will imply a vote for his/her running mate. The position of the Secretary and Treasurer may be from independent slates.

The nominees and the nominators must be permanent members (life, patron or benefactor) of OSA at the time of nomination. In addition, the nominees must be at least 21 years or older as of June 30, 2013. The nomination must include a short introduction of the candidates in less than 300 words. Photocopy of driver's license, or passport, or birth certificate or a notarized statement to the effect that the nominee is 21 years or older as of June 30, 2013 must be attached for the nominee's age verification.

All nominations must include the contact information (address, telephone number, and email) of the nominees and the nominator. All nominations must be sent to the election committee, postmarked by February 14, 2013 at the address below with complete and correct contact information of the nominees (including other additional details) and that of the nominators. Incorrect contact information may lead to the rejection of the nomination. If the candidates wish to include their position statement with the ballot they may include it with the nomination form in a separate sheet. Please note you must nominate a candidate for President and Vice President simultaneously. Nominations for secretary and treasurer may be independent.

OSA 2013 Election

6565 Spindlewick lane
Cincinnati, OH.45230

Any correspondence on the election subject will be electronic (via email) only. All emails on this subject must be sent to OSA.Election2013@gmail.com.

Election Committee Members:

[Harlal Choudhury \(Chair\), OSA.Election2013@gmail.com](mailto:Harlal.Choudhury@OSA.Election2013@gmail.com)

[Jay Narayan Bhuyan \(Member\), OSA.Election2013@gmail.com](mailto:Jay.Narayan.Bhuyan@OSA.Election2013@gmail.com)

[Duryodhan Mangaraj \(Member\), OSA.Election2013@gmail.com](mailto:Duryodhan.Mangaraj@OSA.Election2013@gmail.com)

Election 2013 Calendar:

Deadline for the official ballot list including all members eligible to vote to be received from OSA Secretary: **January 15, 2013**

All nominations must be sent to the election committee postmarked by: **February 14, 2013**

Election ballots will be sent to eligible members on or before: **March 27, 2013**

Ballots must be received by the election committee with postmark no later than: **April 25, 2013**

Ballot will be counted and the election results will be announced on: **May 14, 2013**

OSA Election 2013 Nomination Form

Nominee for President: _____

Membership Status: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Short Introduction:

Nominee for Vice President: _____

Membership Status: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Short Introduction:

Nominee for Secretary: _____

Membership Status: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Short Introduction:

Nominee for Treasurer: _____

Membership Status: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Short Introduction:

Nominator: _____

Membership Status: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Nominator Signature: _____

Seconder: _____

Membership Status: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

Seconder Signature: _____

Relevant Articles from OSA Constitution

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1

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

Section 3 (as amended on July 2, 2011)

The President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected for a term of two years. These four executive officials must be life members or patrons or benefactors (i.e., permanent members) of OSA in good standing for at least one year before the nomination date and must be 21 years of age or over. These officials must be residents of USA or Canada. The Vice President shall be a running mate of the President. A vote for the President shall mean a vote for his/her running mate. The Secretary and Treasurer will be separately elected, but will work as a team with the President for smooth operation of the OSA. The President shall appoint the Editor of the OSA Newsletter, Public Relations Officer and other joint officials.

ARTICLE VI: ELECTION

Section 1

All dues paying members of OSA residing in USA and Canada have the right to vote and participate in the election.

Section 2

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

Section 3

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

Section 4

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

BY-LAW III: ELECTION PROCEDURE

Section 1

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

Section 2

No member of the Board of Governors shall be eligible to be a member of the election committee.

Section 3

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

the chairman of the election committee by Jan. 15 of the election year. Only the members in this list can be able to participate in the election.

Section 4

Nominations for the various offices shall be invited by the election committee chairman through the OSA newsletter of September-December quarter, preceding the election year. In case of contests, the names of the candidates shall be announced in a special letter to be sent by the election committee along with the position statement of each contesting candidate accompanied with the ballots. All communications from the election committee regarding the nomination will be electronic. The format of invitation for nomination will be determined by the Election Committee.

Section 5

The Election Committee of OSA shall print and supply the ballots. All ballots must be sequentially numbered or coded.

Section 6

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

Section 7

The election committee shall open a post office box address to which the ballots shall be mailed to by the voters. The ballots shall be counted in the presence of the election committee members and the candidates or their representatives on the second Saturday of May of the election year. The results of the election shall be announced then and there with a written statement of the results sent to the President of the OSA. All the election materials must be sealed and signed by the election committee members and the candidates or their representatives, and will be preserved by the election committee chairman for a period of six months after the election. The election committee may adopt electronic voting procedure with the approval of the BOG members. In that case, the voting and counting methods/rules must be approved by the BOG and disseminated to the members electronically by January 1st of the election year.

Section 8

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

Section 9

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

Section 10

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

Section 11

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

Section 12

The ruling of BOG shall be binding on all issues outside the scope of Election Committee.

Disclaimer: We have tried our best to present this information in accurate form. Irrespective of our careful analysis, mistakes still might remain. We sincerely request members that find any mistakes to please bring to our attention so that we can correct them as soon as possible. Thank you for your help.