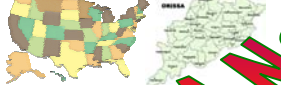


Orissa Society of the Americas

bringing Oriyas together

Utkarsa



OSA Newsletter

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Issue No. 1 - <http://www.orissasociety.org>

Editors: Dr Bigyani Das and Dr Suraprasad Rath

A New Beginning (Editorial)
Bigyani Das

The mission of The Orissa Society of Americas (OSA) is to provide a mutually supportive environment for the better interaction of Oriya immigrants of North American countries, and to enhance the awareness of Orissa and Oriya traditions in North America through cultural promotion, social events, and developmental activities.

Yesterday was a rainy day; today is a sunny day. It is a new day, a new beginning. Now it is the summer season. Green lawns and colorful flowers catch the eyes. The gorgeous blue sky and the fresh breeze of the night create the perfect romantic setting near the blue waters of the ocean. Time for the beach...baseball...cookouts...and reading. The winter is gone and we have a new beginning. The weather changes, the season changes, the year changes, and our roles change. The time has come for the new executives to take charge of our society, Orissa Society of Americas (OSA). It is a new beginning.

Serving the society is a great responsibility. However, with mutual understanding responsibility can be shared and goals can be accomplished. Interest, determination, and patience are the three main ingredients to make a person productive.

Congratulations to the new executive members:

President: Dr Laxmi Narayan Bhuyan
Vice President: Dr Nivedita Mohanty
Secretary/Treasurer: Hari Arjun Patro
Editors: Dr Bigyani Das
Dr Suraprasad Rath

I thank Dr Laxmi Narayan Bhuyan, our current OSA president for giving me the opportunity to serve the community in the role of the Editor sharing my responsibilities with Dr Suraprasad Rath. I will try my best to contribute my best and serve the community in my role.

In the foreign land, we are a great family, sharing the same house, our organization OSA to keep connection with our roots, our culture and heritage. This house can become the

abode of the Lord if all of us can create the fellow feelings by remembering the wise Oriya saying:

baikunTha samAna AhA aTe sehi ghara
paraspara sneha Jahin thAe nirantara

To accomplish that goal, we need everybody's cooperation. We should also remember that the summer season will be replaced by the fall, the green colors of the leaves will change the color and become colorful. The fall will be replaced by the winter. There will be no leaves in the trees and roads will become icy. Before we inhale the fragrance of the summer breeze again spring will arrive with cherry blossoms. The seasons will change, the situations will change and we will have new challenges. However, we will make ourselves stronger to face the challenges to come out as the winners.



Let us have the dynamic New Beginning with new vision, determination and enthusiasm. This dynamism has already started with recruitment of new members by our president Dr Laxmi Narayan Bhuyan. The editorial staff adds to this dynamism with the new Oriya name "utkarSa" for our society's newsletter. The meaning of "utkarSa" is excellence or superiority. Orissa is the land of superior artistic skills (utkarSa kaLara khYetra or Utkala). Let us move forward with the goal to make our society a superior society or "utkarSa samAja".

What's Inside:

Looking Forward: Laxmi Narayan Bhuyan
OSA Coordination Committee

Plans of OSA Coordination Committee Activities:

Humble Message:

Convention Memories:

OSA 2003 GBM Minutes:

OSA Calender

Where are these life members?

Thank you for your gift

**Announcements (Odissi Festival in D.C.,
OSA Convention 2004 in Dallas, TX)**

August Special: Bandhideli mu Aji mo snehara dori

Looking Forward

Dr Laxmi Narayan Bhuyan, President

Dear Friends,

Thank you for electing us as the OSA office bearers for the years of 2003 to 2005. It is a great honor and privilege for us to serve the society. We are determined to carry out the goals that we have set out in our position statements during the election. We will communicate our progress regularly through newsletters and post them in the OSA web page at <http://www.orissasociety.org/>. We would like to reach out to the community at large to reflect the spirit of caring, healing, and personal touch embodied within our Oriya culture. We request you to visit the web page frequently and give us your feedback.

We plan to carry out a number of activities during our tenure. Some of the highlights include introducing more awards to recognize various contributions of OSA members, acknowledging senior Oriyas who are founding members of OSA, helping Oriya students reach higher education, dealing with emergency and welfare activities, promoting cultural activities, and coordinating various Orissa development projects through OSA. We are starting an annual OSA Symposium on Orissa Development in Bhubaneswar beginning December 2003, where many OSA members will present their current development projects. This symposium will also include panels and working sessions to plan future development activities in Orissa. We expect a large number of participants from North America and a high level of participation by Orissa government in this symposium.

Friends, however sympathetic and obliged we may feel to our motherland, let us not forget that we have become victims of our own decision to live in this country. As Oriyas living in North America, we need to do a lot for our own lives and our children's lives. There will be times when our children will feel more lonely because they will not have the pleasure of flying back home to be among their relatives. Our annual OSA conventions are designed to provide that homely feeling and atmosphere within this country. We encourage you to attend these conventions with your children, as frequently as you can, so that they are given the chance

to learn about our culture and Oriya hospitality. They will soon come to realize that we are their family who can and will help them in their time of need.

The Oriya society is still young compared to most other societies of Indian origin. At this time we have only 1000 OSA members even though we believe that there are about 5000 people from our state. If you are not yet a member of OSA, we appeal to you to become a member by sending the application form, available

at <http://www.orissasociety.org/members/mform.html>, together with the membership fee. Due to the fact that OSA is a charitable organization, your membership fee is tax deductible. By becoming a life member/patron/benefactor you will receive printed versions of our newsletter, an annual OSA souvenir, and a new directory every year after the convention. In the future you will never have to pay the membership fee again while attending an OSA

convention. More importantly, you will stay connected, and will be able to take active part in future OSA elections and various activities. The life membership fee is normally \$300.00, but we have announced a sale for \$200.00 until December 31, 2003.

We invite you to take

advantage of this one-time sale now.

In order to carry out various activities of OSA we have formed a coordination committee. The contact information for the Executive committee members and Coordinators for various OSA activities is given in the next page followed by an initial plan of their work. The coordinators are free to recruit volunteers as needed. We encourage you to get in touch with them, give your ideas, and contribute to those committees. We very much appreciate your trust in us, and look forward to receiving your continued support and valuable advice during the next two years.

Thank you.

Laxmi Narayan Bhuyan (President)

Nivedita Mohanty (Vice President)

Hari Arjun Patro (Secretary/Treasurer)

Whenever you think OSA can do something, please give us a call or send us an e-mail. We promise to do our best.



OSA OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES 2003-2005

Executive Committee:

President: Laxmi Narayan Bhuyan (CA) lbhuyan@hotmail.com 909-789-9890

Vice President: Nivedita Mohanty (VA), niveditamohanty2002@yahoo.com

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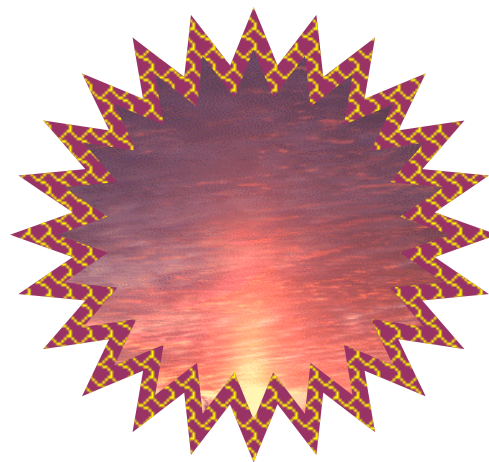
Michigan: Anjali Misra: amisra1986@aol.com 810-733-8219

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Coordination Committees:

(1) **OSA Planning and Constitution:** Sitikantha Dash (MN), dash@uaslabs.com, 952-931-9400 and Amiya Mohanty (KY), amoh@iclub.org 859-623-7146

(2) **Membership Drive:** Prasanna Panda (CA), panda_pk@hotmail.com, (949) 859-4044 and Pratap Dash (MD), pdash@hns.com 301 987-8962

(3) **Educational Activities:** Sukant Mohapatra (NJ), skmohapatra@ieee.org 732-332-0235 and Rabi Mahapatra (TX) rabi@cs.tamu.edu 979-694-1060

(4) **Women's issues:** Annapurna Pandey (CA), pandey@cats.ucsc.edu 831-427-1232 and Lipishree Nayak (MD), lipishree@aol.com 301-216-2254

(5) **Welfare and Emergencies:** Namita Das namitadas@yahoo.com (PA), 814-237-6362 and Nivedita Mohanty niveditamohanty2002@yahoo.com

(6) **Orissa Development:** Devi Misra (AL), dmisra@bellsouth.net 256-883-5499 and Gopal Mohapatra (TX), gkm@aiol.com 281-807-6787

(7) **Art and Culture:** Pratap Das pdas@bop.gov 301-972-8059, Sri Gopal Mohanty mohanty@mcmaster.ca 905-648-0203, and Purna Patnaik (CA), purna.c.patnaik@saic.com 760-436-8277

(8) **OSA Seminar and Awards:** Niranjana Mishra (ONT), nmishra@personainternet.com 705-522-3909 and Birendra Jena (OH), birendrajena@hotmail.com 330-494-2618

(9) **Youth Activities:** Likun Mishra (GA), likunmishra@hotmail.com 404-321-7818

(10) **Electronics e-mail, web, etc.:** Joy Gopal Mohanty (PA), jgmohanty@yahoo.com, 610-461-8757 and Sanjay Sahoo, sanjay_sahoo@hotmail.com, 240-631-0859

The new executive committee members invite comments/suggestions from OSA members for the betterment of the institution. However, to address the issues effectively we would like to have any opinion to reach to us by October 30, 2003. We would prefer to have a single long mail instead of frequent short mails. All the issues will be addressed in the December issue of the newsletter.

PROPOSED PLAN OF WORK BY DIFFERENT COMMITTEES

(Please give your feedback/suggestions directly to the committee coordinators)

From the Newsletter Editors (Bigyani Das and Sura Rath):

According to the present constitution guidelines The Editor is responsible to:

(1) Publish the OSA Newsletter at the end of each quarter. I have set up the calendar as:

Auhust 15th: Welcome to the OSA members by the Executive committee/ members with convention highlights and plans for the coming year (Articles due by July 20th)

September 15 (Additions to August Issue): Articles due by August 22 /Modifications August 31/Publication by September 7/Mailing by September 15

December 30: Articles Due by December 5/Modifications December 15/publication by December 22/ mailing by December 30

March 15: Articles Due by February 20/Modifications March 1/publication by March 7/ mailing by March 15

June 15: Articles Due by May 21/Modifications May 31/Publication by June 7/Mailing by June 15

(2) He/she is also responsible for the contents of the newsletter. I will go through the initial contents by individual authors and if I have questions, I would contact them before publishing any item.

(3) Each Newsletter (except the August issue) shall include, among other items, a) the President' note: 1/2 page (approx.); b) the Secretary's note: 1/2 page (approx.); c) local chapter activities: 1 page (approx.); d) non-political Orissa news and other Oriya news 1 page (approx.); e) a section on the youth and women 1 page (approx.).

[We plan to distribute OSA newsletters only electronically. What is your suggestion? Please contact the editorial team Dr Bigyani Das and Dr Sura Rath by October 30, 2003 with your opinion on this plan. Thanks. If you would like to volunteer for newsletter distribution, we would like to hear from you.]

(1) OSA Planning and Constitution (Sitikantha Dash and Amiya Mohanty):

Constitution and Planning Committee invites suggestions and comments from OSA members if any amendments to OSA constitution have to be made. Please send your comments by November 30, 2003. We have already received some suggestions from our OSA members. These suggestions along with yours will be reviewed and recommended to OSA Executive Committee to review and recommend amendments to OSA constitution if necessary. With due process, which involves the approval of general body, amendments to OSA constitution if any, will be made. Some of the suggestions are:

1. Change the position of Vice-President to President Elect. The President Elect will become President when Presidents term expires to ensure continuity between terms.
2. Management of OSA convention by OSA officials along with host chapter.
3. OSA Finance and management.
4. Establishment of standing committees to maintain the continuity of OSA functions.
5. Membership Dues.

(2) Membership Drive (Pratap Dash and P.K. Panda):

Here is the tentative plan of action for membership drive:

1. We shall contact each current life member through personal emails and phone calls requesting them to become patrons/benefactors.
2. Help will be taken from the presidents of Local OSA Chapters in convincing members in their local chapter who are not OSA life members yet to become a life member before Dec'2003 to take advantage of the lower membership fee.
3. A team of volunteers from the current OSA members will be formed to actively pursue the membership drive in different areas like California, Seattle, Canada, New York, New Jersey, Washington DC, Chicago, Ohio, Dallas/Huston, Atlanta.
4. During May 1st - June 30th, reminders will be sent to the current annual members to renew the annual membership and also at the same time we shall encourage them to become life members.
5. The newcomers will be allowed to register in OSA website even though they do not want to become member immediately. As we shall have their contact information in our database, we can contact them and encourage them to become a member.

(3) Plan on OSA Educational Activities (Sukant Mohapatra and Rabi Mahapatra):

Communication, Recognition and Funding Resource:

- Facilitate consolidation of volunteering efforts in OSA website, enabling effective communication between different organization/individuals and optimal resource utilization to aid educational activities.
- Recognition of individual and groups for their contribution and explicit achievement (e.g., funding a chair position in an Orissa University, training, infrastructure development activities) for educational development of Orissa, via OSA web, news letters etc.
- Coordinate and provide information on funding sources to apply for scholarship (i.e. www.ffe.org) and activate fund raising, specifically for educational development in Orissa.

Primary Education

- Encourage and facilitate OSA members to adapt a primary school in their village/city or area of their own choosing and facilitate development activities with long-term impact.
- Setup some process/activities for encouragement/awareness/competitiveness in the field of science and arts among primary school students.

Higher Education

- Maintain database on OSA website regarding scope of higher education and scholarships in USA & Canada, interested faculty contacts, and student contact list in various universities.
- Inform the faculty of Orissa about the collaborative research/travel program through OSA faculty members abroad.
- Assist with resources for standard tests (GRE, GMAT & TOEFL). Collection and distribution books, journals, and CDs for libraries in educational institute/universities in Orissa.
- Develop mechanism to help technical institutions to avail information on technology trends and how to benefit out of it.
- Coordinate OSA members visit to institutions in Orissa for seminars and short courses in various disciplines in institutes/universities.

(5) Welfare and Emergency (Namita Das and Nivedita Mohanty):

This is an initial proposal and we welcome any new ideas/advice. The main objectives of welfare and emergencies are to:

1. Set up a "SUPPORT GROUP".

We would like to have this support group to help Oriyas in USA & CANADA. More than financially, we are willing to lend ears, listen, and support and help as needed. For example; whenever an Oriya comes to this country he/she can contact somebody from this support group volunteer for help. O.S.A is like our extended family, so let us help our *oriya bhai/bhauni* to succeed in their dream.

2. Set up a SUNSHINE FUNDING GROUP for emergencies:

The Sunshine fund will be used to help an Oriya in a dire financial need. Each case will be reviewed by the executive committee with support from the local chapter to provide possible support. One can contribute to this fund, which is tax deductible. We know that many oriya are doing charitable work individually; it would be nice if it can be under the umbrella of OSA. The fund will be managed by the respectable organizers. We will keep all the information on the web. We would like to hear from anyone who is willing to help us to build this support group.

(4) Women's Issues (Lipi Nayak and Annapurna Pandey):

Women have been an integral part of the success and achievements enjoyed by the Oriya community in America and in pursuing our dreams in all spheres of life. We find ourselves playing a greater and bigger role in shaping our future as well as that of the next generation. This journey however has not been easy. In today's world more than ever as demands to fulfill and perform multiple roles and responsibilities rise, we find we are left with problems of our own to grapple with.

Some of the issues facing us now are as follow:

1. Adjustment in a new culture
2. Marital conflict
3. Lack of preparedness for challenges in life
4. Lack of support
5. Raising a family in a foreign land
6. Balancing multiple roles
7. Lack of satisfaction within ourselves
8. Underachievement
9. Domestic violence
10. Discrimination

As the list grows, we find ourselves needing support and solutions to deal with them more than ever. At this time we invite our fellow sisters to read this and respond to us by sharing their thoughts, concerns, ideas, and advice as they deem fit. We shall review and send a reply. We are hoping to make a discussion forum at our website for providing support to one another. This will increase our awareness of our problems and help us learn to cope with them as well. We are looking for your participation. THANK YOU!

(6) Orissa Development Committee (Gopal Mohapatra and Devi Misra):

Orissa Development Committee's (ODC) goal is to provide a platform to organizations and individuals doing social and charitable work in Orissa to network and build synergy, present their work to a broad audience, and strengthen their financial and technical resources. Various organizations in the U.S and Canada have been doing socio-economic development projects in Orissa for a long time. ODC would like to recognize these dedicated organizations and enhance their visibility so that they can benefit from the knowledge, wisdom and financial strength of OSA members. ODC would also like to generate awareness in Orissa about these organizations, which contribute to Orissa's development in various ways. There is an ongoing effort to hold an annual symposium in Bhubaneswar to bring all non-profit organizations from North America and India and various NGOs in Orissa to foster networking, synergy and above all strategy to build a better Orissa. Please send information about your organization, work and projects being done to gkm@aioi.com to be included in OSA newsletter.

(7) Art and Culture (Sri Gopal Mohanty, Purna Patnaik and Pratap Das):

1. Annual Convention has been the main forum to display Orissa's cultural heritage. OSA should strengthen its efforts to promote Odissa's culture at this forum by encouraging a higher degree of participation related to Orissa's art and culture and recognizing the quality of presentation. Some suggestions are: (i) to allot exclusive stage time for this purpose, (ii) to organize a poster session and/or game-quiz session for youths and children on topics related to Orissa, (iii) to give awards similar to Subrina Biswal Award by IAFF and (iv) to regularize the Oriya poetry reading session and Oriya Section in the Journal.

2. OSA should encourage and support any activity to promote Orissa's art and culture by any other group, organization, and individuals in whatever manner it can best do. For last 20 years, performing artists from Orissa have been brought almost exclusively by Center for World Music in San Diego. Two international festivals on Odissi have been sponsored by IPAP, Washington DC. OSA should keep close working relationship with such organizations. It may be in the form of co-sponsorship or partnership and it may be a simple recognition and appreciation.

3. A list of Odissi schools, dancers, organizations promoting Oriya culture in North America should be published at the OSA web site and annually in the OSA sovenior issue. OSA should thus provide resources for someone looking to learn dance and music of Orissa.

(8) Seminar and Awards (Niranjan Misra and Birendra Jena):

The Awards and Seminars Committee plans to establish guidelines for presentation (including judging) of awards through the OSA and organizing and conducting Seminars during the Conventions.

The following are the preliminary thoughts. With input from interested individuals and past recipients, judges and convention organizers, we will be able to prepare a plan of action for these.

1. Awards and Honors:

- (a) Existing OSA and related awards
- (b) On-hold OSA awards (under review)
- (c) Establishing new OSA awards to recognize outstanding service made by individuals/ groups for Humanitarian Service, Entrepreneurship, and Contribution to Oriya Arts and Culture etc, and to name the awards to commemorate illustrious personalities in Orissa.

(d) Establish awards to recognize Youth and Children involvement in promotion/ presentation of Oriya art and culture in the OSA Conventions as well as for free-lance contribution, humanitarian service (locally and/ globally), and outstanding academic contribution etc.

2. Seminars:

Current OSA Chapter-based seminars are being reviewed.

A priority list will be prepared with flexibility to changes as time and situation warrant.

Recommendations will be made to make the seminars viable (financially) as well as manageable within the time frame of the Conventions.

The Awards and Seminars Committee welcomes input, and suggestions from interested individuals.

HUMBLE MESSAGE

Dr Duryodhan Mangaraj, Ohio

Since I am not being able to come to OSA meeting this year, I want to send this brief message to executive committee and fellow Oriyas.

1. OSA was formed to build a healthy network amongst Oriyas in USA. This objective may be still valid and useful.
2. OSA is an umbrella organization. It derives its strength from the strength and vitality of local chapters. Please make sincere attempt to revitalize the local chapters and establish new chapters wherever possible.
3. Many local chapters have lost their vitality due to infighting. Please encourage fellow Oriyas to excuse small differences and build harmony in the community, for personal happiness and for their children's happiness.
4. Let local chapters take the responsibility of enrolling new members. Let us establish a system so that local chapters may be rewarded for their effort
5. OSA annual convention is the function of OSA, not of the local chapter. Where as the host chapter should be adequately thanked for the function and acknowledged in the meeting, OSA should set up the direction and should participate in its organization.
6. The young people need be encouraged and be recognized for their achievements. Every chapter should inform OSA about this before the annual meeting, in order for them to be recognized in the Annual meeting.
7. Individual efforts to help Oriyas in Orissa should be appreciated. It is difficult to give any substantial help, except in case of natural calamity. OSA will do better in focusing on the organization here.
8. The Indian community has evolved from being office workers to being an economic and political force in this country. OSA, being the oldest provincial organization should find its own place in the greater socio-political framework of Indian community.
9. Very best wishes from the Old -man. Welcome to New Executive
10. My love and prayers for OSA and fellow Oriyas.

Three Days in Doral Forrester **Niranjan Mishra, Subdury, Canada**

Arrival : June 3 evening:

Amidst uncertainties of the travel formalities and other commitments, we chose, at the last minute, to proceed to the 34th OSA Convention in New Jersey.

As we entered the Doral Forrester Convention Centre, the sylvan beauty of the quiet and magnificent landscape created an impression that the Conveners have chosen the best place on earth. Views of the Pipli art, hanging bells, light shades and long banners, made us feel as if we are visiting Convention in Orissa. Durga (Mishra) as usual in any NJ Convention, was the first person to meet, he greeted us with his characteristic smile. Jitu and her sister standing beside made me feel nostalgic about Rourkela (REC) where they grew up and shared many social events and cultural programs with their illustrious parents. Oriya friends, old and new, many whom I didn't know, started arriving, Dr. Routray from the UK, arrived and we shared many lost memories. Complimentary Dinner was served for all registrants. Food was great, hospitality was wonderful, and the touch of at-home given by Lucy and Chitta, Dhyana Ranjan and Pitambar, made us feel that we are guests to our old friends; we are not merely registrants in a Convention. The delicious dinner was followed by an Oriya Movie: AMADA BATA. We couldn't have Mehfil in the evening, there were technical snags and well as lateness in setting it up. The hallway was crowded, a feeling of warmth, and friendliness pervaded everywhere. We looked forward to July 4: events and activities.

July 4th: It was nice to know the Hotel serves the morning breakfast: the breakfast was good. Due to lateness, we missed Jnana's (Dash) Satsang: Inauguration Function started with impressive invocation by our young artists, the lyric featured the glories of Orissa, the music was great. Ambassador Lalit Mansing, in his historic speech, touched the hearts of those who attended the event: I have heard him many times, but the speech he delivered was an eye opener to all of us. He made us feel that dreaming of the glories of the past and getting into deep slumber without hard work, dedication and commitment would take us nowhere. He asked for a soul searching why Hyderabad, not Bhubaneswar could be called Cyberbad. He questioned the strength of the Orissa army not being tested in battle for many centuries, though glorified time and again. He suggested to honor Oriyas in annual conventions: to commemorate and at the same time honor the achievements and accomplishments of Oriyas through awards such as Padmavati (music and art), Madhusudan Das (industry and entrepreneurship), Gopabandhu (humanitarian) awards. He felt Oriyas, most times, fail to recognize their own brothers and sisters. "Bhoke Oriya Nida Jai: and "Khai Soile badhai Ayu" are dhagas he recited to imply that Oriyas are prone to deep sleep and nice dreams. In my view, he called spade-a-spade, and all his remarks are pragmatic. I am looking forward to have Mr. Mansing's speeches in OSA conventions be achieved and put together for future reading. (In fact, the new Executive is committed to working on such an archival process). Consul General Parmathes Rath, as Guest

Speaker, gave an impressive account of his involvement with Oriya entrepreneurs.

Professor Richard Schweder of the University of Chicago, spoke on his experience in Orissa, with the family of Late Nilamoni Senapati (ICS), and life in Tanka Pani Road. (After the lecture, I had a private conversation, and he was surprised that I am from the same village, where he stayed for some time in Prafulla Mishra's house in Jigni PatPur. We shared some thoughts). His recount and analysis of Oriya living, anecdotes, age-old traditions; all brought us home with memories of Bhubaneswar in particular, of Orissa in general.

What need not be taken lightly is that he was dismayed to see the beauty and tranquil environment of KedAra Gauri being ruthlessly destroyed by high rise buildings, and we are all silent observers of a culture-in-decline (decay?). (Privately he asked, "Is there anything that could be done to correct the situation?". I had no answer). Professor Jiten Mohanty, in his key-note speech, made an impressive documentation of his eventful life, of how much he missed Orissa in foreign lands, as he moved from country to country, and continent to continent. His feelings of nostalgia, reminiscences of the distant past, of his village and people, of his visit to the Puri Temple, and of all those he misses every moment in his life, as documented in his autobiography, touched our hearts. He was emotionally moved during the speech, he spoke from his heart. This was a lecture I will never forget.

The inaugural function was concluded with an impressive Odissi Dance by Surama Panda.

We had a delicious lunch with excellent menu on the table. The afternoon sessions included " Orissa's usable Past: Vision of the Future" with Professor Somanath Mishra, identifying the vision for a future.

The Women's Seminar (as my wife told me) was very well conducted and provided an opportunity to share many valuable thoughts.

Dr. Sitakanta Mohapatra's visit was a pleasant surprise, we spent some nice moments with him.

Tribute to Khoka Bhai was very well presented. This was the best honor we could give to our great Oriya lyricist, composer and singer.

The Youth cultural program was overwhelming, both in quantity and quality: enthusiasm ran high, and we all felt that it's not an OSA cultural forum, it looks like an Odissi Festival.

Subrina Biswal award, facilitated by Sri Gopal Babu, announced in clear Oriya, was very exciting

The Dinner that followed was very good. Dinner time socializing was great, we met new friends, and refreshed our memories with old ones. Minu appeared from nowhere and asked, "Are you performing? At least a floor dance?" Sadanand (Barik) recognized me from my voice: we met after a span of 35 years.

The Cultural program included a unique venture to include artists from various regions including Canada: it was the

six-seasons story, featuring Kali Babu sweating heavily in scorching sun in Summer in Orissa, and followed by many artists depicting seasons and stories appropriate with the theme. The Patent Medicine one-act play, musically set by Late Akhsya Mohanty, was a hilarious drama. It was very effective; Sulochana Devi's (Lata Nani) "Chhanchuni pAhara" to Chandramoni Babu (Manoranjan Babu) was the right dose, as we all found next day Manoranjan Babu dressed with a Zamindar's outfit was strolling in the hallway in a very relaxed (reformed?) mood ?

Mohammed Sikandar Alam, and his daughter Nazia presented high class Oriya vocal songs.

Following late night snacks, the Mehfil included, among other things, a pAIA, led by Pitambar (Sarangi), it was very nice of the team to include me as guest artist in the last minute. I enjoyed sharing a pAIA, that I performed last time in 1968 at Rourkela.

July 5:

Morning session on Bhajana was getting late. Jnana (Dash) initiated us into a meditation session and taught us the significance of 20/20/20. Devaki Babu recited beautiful Bhajanas and created a blissful environment.



The Kavita Utsava led by Bigyani was superb: all discussions and deliberations were in Oriya (except of course where English poem translated into Oriya was needed), Mrs Prativa Satpathy's speech was encouraging. Recitation of old poems and original ones by readers took us back to our native land and sometimes to the rural settings in Orissa; some brought light into the realities of life we face everyday. The session left behind lasting impressions. Congratulations to Bigyani for her hard work.

Concurrent events for youth kept many busy. Seminars on various issues kept people tied up.

Time was moving fast.

REC:NIT (Rourkela) alumni met : Ashutosh Babu (Dutta), with his charismatic leadership, provided all facilities. Professor Somantah Misra, long-time Principal of REC (now retired) was the Guest of Honor. He gave an overview of the REC being named National Institute of Technology, and the challenges ahead. Laxminarayan, Jnana and myself were the panelists. It was impressive to see many new faces, most of them young and determined to help REC-NIT in developmental plans and projects. We, on behalf of REC Alumni body, thank the 34th OSA Conveners for providing such a facility.

Orissa Foundation forum was the most eye-catching seminar and best managed.

The cultural program in the evening, Sikandar Alam and Nazia's songs of the past and Classical ones, kept all of us busy.

Mehfil:

The mehfil in the second evening had an overwhelming participation by youth and children, primarily in dances. Many little children stayed late night, sleepy but not tired, still ready to dance. To Little Natasha Mohaptra! prodigious dancer! we will never forget your dances.

I presented an episode from the mythological drama "Chakree" in dedication to my long-time friend Kashab (Dwivedy). He was co-actor with me in this opera in Rourkela 35 years back. Keshab and his wife Bidyut silently enjoyed the fun. We were taken back to our youthful days.

Mehfil was concluded at 3.00 A.M:

Going Home: morning of Junly 6:

Morning breakfast gave the last few available hours to say "good-bye" to each other.

OSA executive had a business meeting.

Last minute sharing of thoughts was visible as friends with identical missions sat together and planned for the future; where to meet and when, what to do for Orissa and the OSA.



During the eventful three-day sojourn, I met many friends, discussed with Ranu (Mohanty) about her philanthropic mission, Subhas Bhaina (Mohapatra) about Agriculture in Orissa, Anadi Bbau (Naik), thoughts on rural upliftment, Sushree Sangita and Kishore (Kar) on Odissi Dance and music, Devi Babu, Sitakantha Bhaina, Amulya Babu, Manoranjan babu, Dharendra (Kar), Sukanta, and many more. It was a pleasant reunion.

We saw Digambar Bhaina (Mishra) desperately attempting to recruit persons for blood testing for a good cause: (bone marrow transplant to Mr. Mohaptra).

Activities were many, topics of discussions numerous, but the goal was one; "We may not be able to do great things, but we can do small things with great love" (Mother Teresa), for Orissa and Oriyas, in many areas, in many ways.

As we have to travel 16 hours on road to the far North in Canada, not much time left to say good bye to each other, nor words to express how much we enjoyed the 34th OSA Convention; we prepared our return journey home.

I didn't have much time to say "good bye" to Dr. Patra who came from Singapore.

All that I could say to Saradindu Bhaina, and Lata Nani " You have done a wonderful Convention, our three-day stay in Doral Forrester will be remembered for ever, I just don't know how to thank you".

Our thank you note to Joy Gopal Babu (Mohanty) : you have done a wonderful job!

There are so many to thank, their countless hours of hard work, cannot be compensated just by a "Thank you".

We brought home many sweet memories to treasure for long time.

We promised to our Oriya friends, old and new, that we will meet, some day, somewhere.

OSA convention is becoming more and more attractive, friendly and educational, and the philanthropic component matches well with cultural and social components. The 34th OSA convention has been so successful and reached heights that it will be a challenge for future Conveners to attain. But we can always look forward and move up.

Lot can be said, but your patience may run out; the posting is long.

This posting is for those who attended, and like to keep things in memory; again for those who couldn't attend, and hopefully will plan to attend in future

A special note:

The General Body has approved a \$200/ discounted (normally \$300) life membership till December 31, 2003. We urge that many consider joining the OSA as life members and take advantage of this offer. Dr. Routray

Yes, it was a MELA

Dr Srigopal Mohanty, Canada

Yes, it was a MELA, the mela we eagerly wait for a year to attend. As a little boy in my village, we spent the whole day watching our bullock cart to be ready to take us to ALANGA MUNI MELA (near Shanti Mishra's village) during the Makara Sankranti time; I would sit snugly with my mother, aunts, brothers, sisters and cousins; the excitement goes up when the bullocks are yoked and finally the cart moves. Later when I grew up, I would prefer to walk the entire distance of three and a half miles to prepare myself for taking my role in the family and in general in my little community, but I must go to the mela. A mela could be at any time of the year and at any place. A mela - the people, colour, sound, food, fun and above all a fare like atmosphere. Yes, OSA Convention provides it all. And this year it was no less.

A wedding ceremony or any ceremony as a matter of fact - the relatives from far and near gather together to reaffirm the ever-longing bonding. A greeting smile to behold the faith of closeness and a sense of sadness wallowing over at the time of departure. Decorated halls, women in brilliantly coloured attire and vying jewellery, sumptuous food, entertainment programs of music and dance and above all time to exchange titbits of no consequence but of immense linking values. In such ceremonies, we as kids used to meet some of our village relatives - apa,dada, khudi,mausa, mausi and their children - often with innocent curiosity. OSA Conventions are ceremonies after all. And this year was no less.

(UK) extended invitation to attend the 25th Year Silver Jubilee Celebration hosted by Oriyas in the UK during the last week of August 2004 (something to consider to attend).

Friends:

Going to the OSA Convention is our pilgrimage. OSA Convention is a shrine, with Lord Jagannath calling us to be near Him, near the land, the people He loves and cares; be it at home in Orissa or in a site the self-exiled Oriyas chose to be together.

Meeting Oriyas in the gathering like this is associating with Bhaktas in a Satsang.

Again and again, we sing together the Glories of the Lord: *JagannAtha SwAmee, Nayana Patha gAmee, Bhavatu me;*

Jai JagannAtha
Jai Utkala

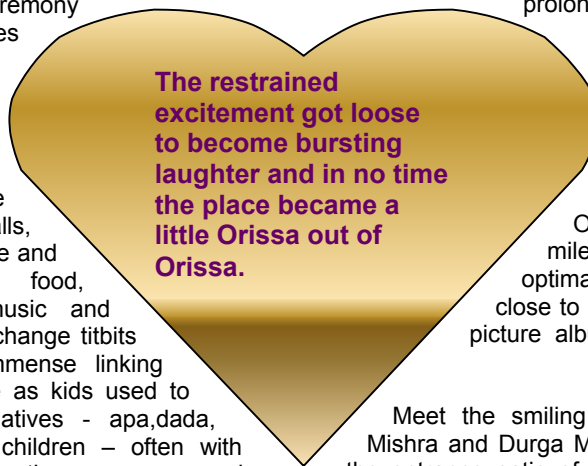
Niranjan Mishra
Life Member

A convention or conference to share ideas and information and to engage in dialogues on contemporary issues; people run to attend sessions, talk on one-to-one basis in some corners, and seriously participate in discussions. There is an intellectual dimension within me which gets expanded in such occasions. Indeed any OSA Convention is a convention in that sense. And this year it was too.

A festival of cultural programs showcasing artists of all kinds on the stage; a feast for eyes and ears; songs, dances, skits and what not; enthusiasm mixed with apprehension of an artist, an audience's stealing wish not to miss anything and to savour every variety of RASA emanated from the artistic presentations and a late night JATRA environment with half asleep children on parents' shoulders. Staying awake whole night to witness jatras, we used to jockey around for a sitting position near the ustad (the director) so as to watch his motions to others, prompting, his singing styles and others in action all of which we could copy later in our little shows. There it is always in OSA Conventions. And the night prolonged the same way this year as well.

A potpourri of all varieties; yes, it was, has been and will be. OSA Convention has evolved to accommodate various features of our interests and traits. A small group of people, that is those from Orissa, dispersed over thousands of miles finds the Convention providing an optimal solution to individual's quest of being close to each other. It is like opening the family picture album and adding a few more pictures.

Meet the smiling faces of Jayanti Mohapatra, Shanti Mishra and Durga Mishra at the registration desk; there at the entrance patio of the Conference Center see Arun Das (Mantu) with his son Ankur hanging the Pipili appliques; in the



big hall the make-shift stage is getting ready for the coming days of celebration. Cars rolling on to the entrance door at frequent intervals; known and unknown people approaching in waves; greet some friends and families with oblong tired-looking faces after a long day's drive. They all have come with expectations. The organizers are determined not to disappoint them. "Hey, Subhas Babu...", "Anu, tama sahita gotie kath thila...", "namaskara..." - the expressions of long awaited meetings, the desire to meet new faces, all coming to fruition and leading to unbounded joy and exhilaration. The loud noise became noisier as the July third night was maturing. The restrained excitement got loose to become bursting laughter and in no time the place became a little Orissa out of Orissa. For many that was their satisfaction.

July 4 - a Nation celebrates. Within that cosmos, a subgroup was celebrating at the OSA Convention. Its inauguration ceremony was one which no one wanted to miss. The opening song was in Oriya, in praise of Orissa, sang by five young men and five young ladies. They might have been in any profession, IT, Engineering or Management, but they wanted to participate.

There were four speakers, each focused on particular aspects of Orissa. Lalit Mansingh, the Ambassador and Pramathes Rath, the Consul General spoke on the theme of uplifting Orissa from its present deplorable situation. Lalit Babu gave three modest suggestions to NROs: invest whatever limited resource one has or join in some development projects, associate with educational or professional institutions to improve present state of affairs and recognize the contributions of NROs. Philosophy Professor Jitendra Nath Mohanty emphasized the importance of the language and culture of a group in its progress, more so when confronted with the onslaught of globalization. On the other hand, Professor Richard Shweder who spent time in Bhubaneswar on several occasions, spoke on cross cultural differences. In this context, his last anecdote was very heart touching. It was like this: A couple finding the father old and invalid decided to carry him in a basket to Puri Bada Danda and leave him there to breathe his last breath. Their son overheard the conversation. When the due day came, he suggested to the father to make sure of bringing the basket back which would be needed to carry the father when confronted with the same predicament. Sometimes I look for such nice stories to tell the children to inculcate certain values. No Oriya function is

other than Surama Panda of OSANY who performed in the ceremony. Either my emotion or habit arouses a certain subtle feeling within me when I hear that unique enchanting music in Odissi at the beginning of any performance. Mind you, this kind of music was not there originally. The great pioneers of Odissi reconstructed it. I must recognize here the genius Late Bhubaneswar Mishra. Well, time to recognize our young talents. They came all the way with their parents just for this opportunity to present whatever they have learnt. The presentation was a mixture of all kinds - songs, folk and classical dances, dance medley, a recitation of sanskrit prayers. The boy who recited Sanskrit slokas spoke in clear Oriya. I was thrilled. Yes, there were Odissi items and a plenty of them, Sambalpuri dances, a dance based on Odissi style. Hello everyone there, did you miss that six year old girl Ananya Kar on the stage? How could you if you were in the audience. Have you noticed her lasya in Odissi and her movements as if she was born as a dancer? Where else I could have met her except in a Convention?



OSANY's Autumn Season Presentation

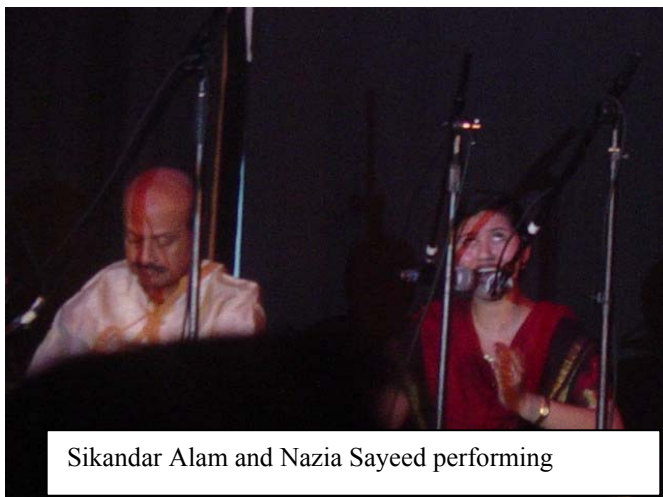
Now the evening time for adults - every evening opened with an Odissi item, the first night by Rajashree Behera and the second by Pallavi Das. Oh, no, Odissi again - murmuring voices echoed. My friends, anything good that you would like to savour or admire goes through a long process. If Bharat Natyam has reached its apex and glory, it is because of the appreciation and criticism it receives from a vast number of patrons who can sit hours to watch. Soon came the opportunity to pay a tribute to the legendary giant Akshya Mohanty, the pioneer of Oriya pop music - a documentary produced by Arun(Mantu) Das. I know him since sixties. He is rare among us with his artistic creativity. Then followed OSANY's own production to pay the tribute, based on Akshya Mohanty's musical rendering of Fakir Mohan Senapati's "Patent Medicine". Whose voice in the background was this for introduction - again our Mantu. I did not know Mantu, you write. Sounds like poetry with romantic touch. And your deep voice. But the audience roared with laughter because of the superb acting of Manaranjan Pattanayak as Chandramani and Lata Misra as Sulochana, the wife and their coactors. Both of them have an inborn passion for acting, specially in that type of roles. OSA remembers three more illustrious sons of Orissa, Manamohan Choudhury - a public figure, Guru Pankaj Charan Das - the so-called Adi-Guru of Odissi, and Gopal Chhotray - the notable playwright. You may find more in the Journal under "Tribute".



Washington D.C.'s Spring Season Presentation:

complete without an Odissi dance. This time it was none

Night moved to give the audience an opportunity to listen to our Sikandar Alam and his party from Orissa. Alam's songs



Sikandar Alam and Nazia Sayeed performing

soothed the ears of oldies- remember the good old college days. Yet, you cannot pretend that you did not notice his daughter. Her voice was a prize to listen to. I assure you she could, one day, be counted at all India level. The night was becoming heavy - start of Mehfil, a traditional program at each convention. The stubborn visitors refused to accept anything but keeping their eyes wide open at that late hours and were delighted to see the PALA presentation by Pitambar Sarangi and party. Now the drooping eyes led the dragging feet to the assigned room. And alas! There is some time left at least to lie down. "No, no. We should go to Kuni's room. I told her so. By the way, where are the children?"

July 5 - another day and another morning. A day devoted for youth sports, seminars and Oriya poem recitation and the General Body Meeting. Afternoon for Pramode Patnaik's Memorial Chapter Competition; another evening of cultural program culminated by another round of Mehfil. The ORIYA KABITA ABRUTI session took me back to my school-college days. Bigyani Das is really a leader in our small community. Everyone spoke Oriya and only Oriya. Bigyani's introduction was colourful. Was there any apathy at that early hour of the morning? Rather, there were plenty of listeners. The guest from Orissa, Prativa Satpathy, made us aware of the recent contribution on topics related to women and by women.

The seminar on developments in Orissa, organized by Debi Mishra, Orissa Foundation, showed a sustained deep interest in Orissa's development and progress by several groups and individuals of NROs. Action Orissa's representative Jnana Dash's crisp presentation on IT in Orissa (mainly at Bhubaneswar) and the future plan, was contrasted by the notable social worker, Ranu Mahanti's challenging experience in rural area and followed by SEEDS spokesperson Lalu Mansinha who narrated the ups and downs of experimenting with the concept of sustainability. Previous day, there was a Women's Forum conducted by Ranu. Experience of raising children was shared by two mothers who were born in Orissa and two who were born here.

Hey, Bigyani again at the Chapter Competition representing Washington Chapter- she is indeed versatile. But the presentation " Ama gaan daktarakhana" by Michigan Chapter was judged to be the best. My goodness! They all write their scripts and act. Talents galore - they are all young.

In the evening program, I must mention Lata Misra singing Odissi. Excuse me, where do you get your energy, Lata? You were in charge of Cultural events, a most demanding job to account for about twelve hours of stage presentation, you coordinated all OSANY's presentation and you acted previous night and now you are singing and that too, Odissi? Rina Patnaik performed a kathak dance. She was as usual marvellous. In the previous night, she and her party from Toronto presented the rainy season in dance form as part of six seasons. Congratulations to you all for receiving the award. The Kwali group in colourful authentic costumes, suddenly turned out to be those on the stage in the opening song. Young professionals.

Yet, the hope
to return was
newly seeded -
another year
and another
Convention.

Tired, exhausted. Remembering the plants to be watered. Only those who would not leave a moment to themselves, lest they might miss much lingered on. There you see Bijoy Misra managing the stage with the assistance of Surya Misra for the entire duration sitting on a chair in a 3 ft by 3 ft space gulping water and water. Tirtha and Eva on light and sound faithfully doing their job. You can hear Tirtha's announcements occasionally to realize what a deep voice he has. What about food? Superb in quality and variety. Thanks to the planning of Dhyananarjan Pattanayak. As you enter the dining area, the volunteers are all eagerly ready to feed you. The face of Chitta Das particularly, could not be missed. Neither one could miss Lalit Mansingh. After inauguration he had to leave to attend other official duties, but was back on July 5. Sitting silently and probably reminiscing his days in Orissa, he shared the Oriyaness that we all possess. There was joy and there was satisfaction.

The Journal - it is big. More want to write and more and more! Oriya Section has increased too! The Directory which one likes to have as a prize possession even you may have web page of addresses - good taste. Pradyot Patnaik, the Editor looked all lost after the last moment's hard work and pressure, but was still smiling. The directory - a Canadian contribution of Hara Padhi and Lalu Mansinha; Hara chased a lot of people to make it as complete as possible. Cheers! The person behind the entire show was our friend Saradindu Misra. He was supported by Joy Gopal Mohanty and a vast team of volunteers. OSA's continuity is mainly through the volunteering efforts by a band of dedicated workers. The Convention has been a must due to these people. This is not true this year only but over other years. We salute to you Saradindu Babu and your team members and by doing so we recognize the contribution of a generation of volunteers. No awards would be enough - perhaps it would not be necessary to grant one. Nevertheless, it is our sincere admiration and the individual's genuine inner call that inspire one to volunteer.

Time to pack up for return journey. Not quite. On July 5, the zeal to meet was not yet diminished. Action Orissa and the new OSA Council headed by Lakshmi Narayan Bhuyan had to meet - one to continue its work in Orissa and the other to initiate action here. I was there in both. Both have new initiatives. The first one is working on a targeted project of transporting books to Orissa, most possibly to Ravenshaw College and the second one in delegating responsibilities to a number of committees on various aspects of OSA activities.

Finally we left. The place looked barren. The glamour and noise waned away; the place looked ghostly. Yet, the hope to return was newly seeded - another year and another

Convention. According to Bijoy Misra (who almost sat in a suffocated corner for half a day everyday), this is an annual pilgrimage. It is a privilege and it is a duty.

Tuesday July 8, 12:03 PM

Oriyas reflect on native land's plight at U.S. meet

By Gloria Suhasini, Indo-Asian News Service

New York, July 8 (IANS) Classical dances, musical performances, poetry readings and some introspection on the poor state of their native land marked an annual meet of Oriyas in America.

The 34th convention of the Orissa Society of the Americas (OSA), one of the oldest federations of Indian American associations, was held at Doral Forrestal Centre in Princeton, New Jersey.

About 800 people, belonging to approximately 300 Oriya families, participated in the convention, according to Saradindu Misra, convener of the three-day event. This year's convention was organised by OSA's New York chapter.

"We had people from all over America and also from Canada and U.K. at our convention," Misra said.

Two sons of Orissa were the chief guest and guest of honour at the convention --Indian Ambassador Lalit Mansingh and Consul General in New York Pramathesh Rath respectively.

Mansingh expressed his concern over the poor state of Orissa's economy, despite the abundance of its mineral and water resources. He quoted a saying in Oriya, which means "if an Oriya is hungry he goes to sleep" while the rest of the world is progressing.

"Get rid of hunger, and we will catch up with others," he said.

The theme of the convention was "OSA in the New Millennium". The convention discussed how the state could be rejuvenated.

OSA president Shanak Patnaik said: "The best thing about the convention is the opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones."

"We are conscious of the present condition of our cultural heritage in Orissa, its glorious past and its rich cultural pageantry...Orissa must face its problems squarely by living in the present and plan to execute its vision for the new millennium," he said.

Cultural programmes depicting the traditions and heritage of the state were held starting from the first evening. An Oriya movie, "Amadabata", was screened, followed by dinner.

Guest speaker professor Richard Shewder of Chicago University, who has been associated with Orissa studies for nearly 35 years and is an esteemed scholar of the state's culture and heritage, spoke on the significance of the rituals and traditions of the villages of Orissa.

Young delegates of the convention gave cultural performances, including dances in odissi, kuchipudi and kathak styles; tabla and poetry recital, on all three days. A fashion show and competitions for children were also held.

The convention featured the exhibition and sale of paintings, jewelery, and costumes special to Orissa. Travel and tour organizers put up stalls at the convention.

Awards were presented to dignitaries.

Orissa Society of the Americas (OSA) General Body Meeting: Minutes

03.07.05: The Doral Forrestal Conference Centre, Princeton NJ

Present on podium:

Leena Dehal, Vice President (LD) {recording}, Lolly Ihrke, Secretary-Treasurer (LI), Likun Mishra, Editor of Newsletter (LM), Nick Patnaik, President (NP), Laxmi Narayan Bhuyan, President elect, Nivedita Mohanty, Vice President elect, Hari Arjun Patro, Secretary-Treasurer elect

Meeting commenced: 10:30

Motions:

Pratap Das (amended)

RESOLVED, if the host chapter for a Convention does not meet its obligations to provide financial statements, a list of new members and all monies due to the national organization within six months of the end of the Convention, said chapter shall not be permitted to host another Convention for a period of 10 years from such date that the host chapter meets the foregoing obligations.

MOTION CARRIED (show of hands)

Announcements

1. UK OSA's Silver Jubilee 25th Annual Convention in Cardiff, UK, August 25-26, 2004; OSA [North American] visitors will be guests of UK OSA (Dr. Routray)
2. Appeal for bone marrow (tissue typing blood test) donors (Digambar Mishra)
3. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, in New Delhi, January 9-11, 2004 (Prasanta K. Biswal)
4. 2nd International Odissi Festival in Washington D.C. Augus 31, 2003 (Pratap Das)
5. *Sale on life memberships*; \$200 US / \$200 CAN until December 31, 2003
(Laxmi Narayan Bhuyan)

OSA Calendar for 2003-2004

July – August:

Make sure OSA executives have gone through the articles about their job responsibilities

August:

First electronic newsletter is published
Executives write about their vision and plan of action
OSA Souvenir and address book copies are sent to the life members, patrons, benefactors and contributors

September:

The chapter in the charge of convention holds meeting and makes a preliminary plan.
The convenor is appointed and the information is sent to the OSA president
Preliminary budget is made for the convention and duty and Responsibility sharing with OSA national is clearly mentioned

October:

Chapters send their updated member list to OSA secretary.

November:

Chapter news and events are sent to the OSA editor/editors to be published in the December issue

December:

Second publication of OSA newsletter. Electronic copies kept in the web page and printed copies are sent to only people who need it.

January: Progress check

February: Articles are due for the March issue of the newsletter

March:

Third issue of the newsletter is published (electronic).
President asks for volunteers to serve in the election committee
Chapter in charge of convention sends convention information to the members
Articles are invited for the Annual Souvenir

April: Progress check of all the committees

May: Articles for the 4th issue of the souvenir due

June:

Fourth issue of souvenir is published
Complete convention information and schedule is available in the Web

July: Convention held

Next year's election committee members are declared in GBM and approved by 2/3rd majority

Missing OSA Members

Likun Mishra

The following addresses were deemed as “undeliverable” and were returned to sender, with no forwarding address
(**Note: some of the addresses with * are traced by now**)

Manok Kumar & Rakhi Senapati
Madhab & Sasmita Maharana
Debadutta & Itu Dash
Jyoti & Sucheta Rout
Samasaran & Saroja Sahoo
Aditya & Yamini Samal
Dhiraj & Lynn Pradhan
Spike & Rica McRoy
Surya & Kabita Sahoo
Debi & Nilima Samantrai
Shankarshan & Kalpana Acharya *
Kishore & Durgesh Nandini
Priyadarshi & Rina Dash
Nagabhusana & Rajkumari Senapati
Sangram Pattanaik
Tarani & Anuradha Mohapatra
Laxminarayan & Sankuntala Bhuyan *
Prasanta & Suparna Behera
Bhanu & Minakhi Jena
Shishir & Krushna Senapati
Niranjan & Sanghamitra Pati
Prashant & Subhasree Joshi
Debakinandan & Anjana Chowdhury *
Manoj & Bilashi Sahu
Prabhat K & Nirmala Misra
Prasant & Pallavi Mohapatra
Sudhansu & Induprava Mishra
Babrubahan & Jayashree Samal *
Debasmita & Nilima Misra
Hosensu Sahoo *
Brajendra & Pratiba Sahu
Sukant & Itishree Panda
Sirish & Sanjukta Mishra
Rabi & Manju Mohapatra
Rajesh & Kelly Dash
Amar & Jayashri Pani
Brajendra & Rashmirekha Panda
Anup & Padmalaya Satpathy
Kalpataru Kanungo
Bijay K. & Ratna Sahoo
Rudra & Jayashree Kar
Chintamani & Baijayanti Sahoo
Nrusingha & Bandita Mishra *
Ranjita Misra *

Membership Information:

The General Body has approved a \$200/ discounted (normally \$300) life membership till December 31, 2003. We urge that many consider joining the OSA as life members and take advantage of this offer. We also request the life members to become patrons. We are thankful to the following members who joined recently either as new members or upgraded their membership to become life members/patrons. They are:

Since July 4, 2003

Benefactor - Saroj and Suniti Behera (CA)

New Patrons - Laxminarayan and Shakuntala Bhuyan (CA), Chitaranjan and Namita Das (PA), Santosh and Kabita Misra (CA), Nirote and Sneha Mohanty (CA), Ajay and Nivedita Mohanty (VA), Srigopal and Shantimayee Mohanty (ONT), Prasant and Pallavi Mohapatra (CA), Gopal and Reva Mohapatra (TX), Mtutyunjaya and Janaki Pani (LA), Prasanna and Nita Panda (CA), Hari Arjuno and Vishnu Vardhini Patro (TX), Sunil and Manasa Sabat (CA)

New Life Members - Jaynarayan and Liza Bhuyan (OH), Sunit and Michelle Das (AK), Gautam and Mitali Das (CA), Ashutosh and Sarmistha Dutta (NY), Rabi and Bijoylaxmi Mahapatra (TX), Binayak and Deepa Mohanty (TX), Sachi and Smita Mohanty (CA), Madhusudan and Gita Mohanty (CA), Dhableswar and Debashree Panda (OH), Nihar and Sarmistha Patnaik (NJ), Harsha and Arundhati Patnaik (CA), Saroj and Puspa Pradhan (CT), Mahesh and Susmita Pujari (CA)

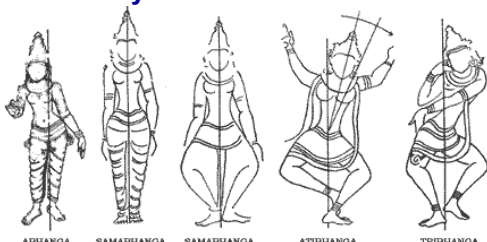
Thank you for your donation of Raffle Ticket



The executive team appreciates the donation received by Manaranjan Pattanayak. (Manaranjan Pattanayak wrote: Dear Bhuyan Babu - In Orissa Convention on July 5th 2003, a Raffle was held for Air India Ticket. I was winner of the Ticket (raffle). I would like to donate this ticket for use in worthy cause. Please contact Mr. Saradindu Mishra, (732) 438-8639. I could not get time to talk to you yester day. With best regards to you both. - Manaranjan Pattanayak)

Announcements: **Indian Performing Arts Promotions Inc.** **Presents Second International Odissi Festival**

Highlights of the performances are by: Padma Bibhushan Kelucharan Mohapatra, Padma Bibhushan Sonal Mansingh, Padmashree Madhavi Mudgal, Padmashree Kiran Segal, Padmashree Ranjana Gauhar, Various North American Dance Schools and Many Others



Tickets For Performances: Any 1 Day (29th, 30th and 31st) \$30/- All 3 Days (29th - 31st) \$75/-

Location: Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center, Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale Campus, 8333 Little River Tpke, Annandale, VA 22003-3743

Performance Time:- August 29 (7.00 PM - 10.30 PM); August 30 (5.00 PM - 10.30 PM); August 31 (3.00 PM - 9.00 PM)

Contact: Ajay (703) 362 4007 ajay@odissi.us; Anu (310) 598 7570 nbiswal@msn.com. Come and Experience Odissi in Washington DC and Visit Us at <http://www.odissi.us>

This event is sponsored by: Embassy of India, Washington, D.C., USA Indian Performing Arts Promotions, Inc, Washington, D.C. USA, Indian Council for Cultural Relations, New Delhi, India Center for World Music, California, USA, Orissa Foundation, Orissa Society of Americas.

OSA Convention 2004 in Dallas, Texas

The 35th OSA convention will be hosted by the South-West chapter and will be held at Dallas, Texas. Please plan to attend, assist and enjoy. For more information please contact Dr Niranjana Tripathy at tripathy@unt.edu.

August Special:

August is a very special month for many reasons; Raksha Bandhan (August 12), India's Independence Day (August 15), Khudurukuni Puja (August 17), Janmastami (August 20). Here we present a song for Raksha Bandhan (Rakhi Purnima) as a sister's joyous day.

Raksha Bandhan: A Sister ties the sacred silken thread on the right hand wrist of her brother as a symbol of love and care. It's the brother who provides protection to the sister at all times.

India's Independence Day: India got independence from the British rule on August 15, 1947. It was the win of non-violence over violence and it symbolizes the power of inner faith that Mahatma Gandhi had on his philosophy of fighting without the sword.


Khudurukuni Puja (bhAlukuNi oSA): This is an unique Oriya celebration. Girls worship mother "Mangala" to protect their brothers. Ta-apoi, the sister of seven brothers had prayed the mother who protected her brothers and they returned back safely after a long trip to foreign countries.

Janmastami (Lord Krishna's Birthday): Lord Krishna has taken birth on the eighth day of the month of "Shravana" as the eighth son of Dabaki and Basudeva who were prisoners of the demon king Kansa.

Kansa tried various methods to kill Lord Krishna. However, Kansa's tricks didn't work and Krishna was exchanged with Devi Mahamaya who was born as Nanda and Jasoda's daughter. Krishna was brought up as the son of Nanda and Jasoda.

ବାରିଦେଲି ମୁଁ ଆଜି ମୋ ସ୍ନେହର ତୋତା


ବିଜ୍ଞାନୀ ଦାସ, ଜଳମୁଖିଆ, ମେଘାଲୀଶୁଭା



ବାରିଦେଲି ମୁଁ ଆଜି ମୋ ସ୍ନେହର ତୋରି
ମୋ ସୁନା ଭାଇର ହାତରେ
ଲଗାଉଛି ଚିଲକ ମୋ ଭାଇ ଜପାଳେ
ସୁମରି ଲକ୍ଷ୍ମୀଙ୍କ ପଦରେ ।ପଦା
ଆଜି ରାଣୀ ପୁନେଇଁରୁ ଏ ଶୁଭ ଦିନ
ଉଡ଼ିବୁଲେ ଆଜାଣେ ମୋ ଭଉଣୀ ମନ
ଭାଳିଦିଅ ମାଆଗୋ ଶୁଭ ଆଶୀର୍ଷଧାରା
ମୋ ଭାଇର ଚଳାପଥରେ

ବିଷ୍ଣୁଦିଅ ମା'ଗୋ ମଲ୍ଲୀ, ଜେତଜୀ ପାଶୁଡ଼ା
ମୋ ଭାଇର ଆଶା ରଥରେ ।ଥ
ଭାଇ, ଭଉଣୀର ଗରବ, ମାନ
ସୁମଧୁର ଅତି ସେ ସ୍ନେହ ବନ୍ଧନ
ଜାଳି ଜ୍ଞାନ ପଦୀପ, ଦେନିଯାଅ ସୁପଥେ
ଦିଅ ବିଦ୍ୟାନନ୍ଦର ସମ୍ମାନ

ଆୟୁଷ୍ମାନ ଆଶିଷେ, ପାରିଜାତ ସୁବାସେ
ଭରିଦିଅ ମୋ' ଭାଇର ଜୀବନ ।୨।



OSA Newsletter "Utkarsa" will be published quarterly. The publication dates for the year 2003-2004 are: August 7, 2003 (electronic), December 31, 2003; March 15, 2004 (electronic) and June 15, 2004. The editorial staff invites articles on chapter news, member opinion, member achievements, OSA convention etc. by December 10, February 25 and May 25 to be published in the respective issues.