

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
Coordination Committee: Laxmi Narayan Bhuyan
Membership Information
Thank you for your gift
Announcements (Odissi Festival in D.C.)
August Special: Bandhideli mu Aji mo snehara dori

The extended version of this newsletter is available at <http://www.orissasociety.org/newsletter/august03>. The extended version contains more on GBM Minutes, OSA Calendar and Convention Memories.

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

Secretary/Treasurer: Hari Arjun Patro(TX), hpatro@flash.net 972-517-8992

Editors: Bigyani Das (MD), bigyanidas@yahoo.com 301-498-3729 and Sura Rath (LA), suraprath@yahoo.com 318-797-7841

Past President: Nick Patnaik (NY) nickpatn@yahoo.com 212-799-2122

Chapter Presidents:

New England: Budhinath Padhy: padhy23@charter.net 508-393-9362,

New York: Joy Gopal Mohanty: jgmohanty@yahoo.com 610-461-8757,

New Jersey: Sujata Parida: supari21@yahoo.com 908-541-9946,

Maryland/Virginia: Lipishree Nayak: lipishree@aol.com 301-306-1995

Washington: Alpana Das: sdas@gmu.edu 703-591-5099

Southern: Prabhir Dash: pdash@home.com 615-790-4099

Ohio: Birendra Jena: jena-1@worldnet.att.net 330-494-2618

Ozark: Nigam Rath: nigam_rath@umsl.edu 314-542-9808

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

Minnesota: Sudipta Tripathy sudiptatripathy@yahoo.com 952-445-7989

Southwest: Niranjana Tripathy: tripathy@unt.edu 940-382-7305

Chicago: Meenakhi Panigrahy: mpujari@core.com 708-985-5767

Canada: Maloy Bisoi: maloybisoi@yahoo.com 647-284-1132

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.

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), Nirode 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 yesterday. 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; Rakhsha Bandhan (August 12), India's Independence Day (August 15), Khudurukuni Puja (August 17), Jannmastami (August 20). Here we present a song for Rakhsha Bandhan (Rakhi Purnima) as a sister's joyous day.

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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.