



Welcome to OSA Newsletter Utkarsa page. Learn about activities and highlights of The Orissa Society of Americas (OSA). Utkarsa means excellence or superiority. The name Utkala for Orissa was used because of the superior artistic skills of Oriyas.

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.

President: Dr Laxmi Narayan Bhuyan

Vice President: Dr Nivedita Mohanty

Secretary/Treasurer: Hari Arjun Patro

Editor: Dr Bigyani Das

Current Issue: No: 3 - January 2004 (PDF version - 879 KB)



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New Year Theme: Trust in God, but lock your car (Be a believer, but be realistic)

Member Opinion: Do you have a question? Do you have suggestions? Do you have any comments/concerns on the functioning of OSA? Please contact OSA National Officers. Thank you.

Join OSA: Be a part of OSA and help this foundation.

OSA Newsletter Distribution: We are planning to distribute the March-April issue of the newsletter by US mail and all other issues electronically.

Errors in OSA Directory: We have found many errors in OSA 2003 directory. At places spouse names are added to unmarried people. Some people have some other people's residential addresses. The errors might be due to various reasons. However, once we find any error, it becomes our duty to correct it. Members are therefore requested to check their information in OSA 2003 directory and report any discrepancy to OSA secretary/treasurer and the membership committee.

Are you in OSA mailing list? It has come to our attention that some members do not get any OSA announcements. If you are a member and you don't get any announcements, please contact Dr Joy Gopal Mohanty (jgmohanty@yahoo.com). If you know some members who do not get OSA announcements through email, please inform them to contact Dr Joy Gopal Mohanty.

Upcoming Events of Interest:

Saraswati Puja: January 26th. OSANY is observing Saraswati Puja on January 25th. Please check with OSANY president Pradip Tripathy. Washington DC is observing Saraswati Puja on January 31st. Please contact OSA-DC president Alpana Das. Check [chapter page](#) for chapter related information.

India's Republic Day: January 26th

Holi: March 6th (Dola Purnima) - Holi in Washington DC area will be celebrated on March 6th. Please check [Holi information](#) page for details.

OSA Convention 2004: OSA Convention will be held in Dallas, Texas from July 2-4, 2004. Please check the [convener's message](#).

Utkarsa will be published quarterly. Current issue: No 3 - January 2004 Publication.

Note: This site is best viewed in Internet Explorer and Netscape 6.0 or above. Browser settings may also affect the display. The [PDF version - 879 KB](#) is also available.

Questions, comments, suggestions: bigyanidas@orissasociety.org

Note: Next issue of Utkarsa will be published in March 2004. Articles for this publication should reach the editorial staff before March 10, 2004.

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By Dr. Bigyani Das

Once upon a time there was a little girl in a remote village of Orissa. Born as the second daughter, her arrival to the world had caused sighs to the parents and to the grandmother. Neighbors had commented, "Ratana again got a daughter". That little girl didn't have shoes to wear to school, neither did she have more than a few pairs of cloths to use. When she was seeing the aero planes fly over her head, she had a dream, a dream to fly in the sky some day. Time changed. She became a celebrity when she passed high school in first division, and she was the first girl of the village to achieve that success. She not only flew in the airplane, but also, today that tiny girl has become a successful researcher and leader in a multi-millionaire company and is leading a group of researchers for AIDS vaccine.



These stories are plenty. Most of the first time Oriya immigrants are from remote villages of Orissa. When they look back, the memory fades away. There is so much difference. They have become able to provide their children the luxury that one day they had only dreamt about. They have become able to explore the possibilities for themselves and for their family members that they had one day only dreamt about. They have made mansions for themselves that they had once imagined as the abode of King Indra in the

heaven.

What is common in all of them? All of them had dreams as everybody has. However, these people made their dreams into their vision, their goals of life. Then they worked hard to do their best in whatever positions they were. That is the story of their success. The vision of “To do the best”, “To aim for excellence” and “To do one at a time” has helped them to reach for the stars that one day had seemed so far to reach.

Their AIM FOR EXCELLENCE only included their hard work without being comparative whether somebody is getting ahead of them fast. Their VISION TO BE THE BEST did not include plotting to show other people down, but just perform the best. Their "DO ONE AT A TIME" included their persistence and patience without being affected by anybody's humiliation for their weaknesses.

So, friends, as we arrive in the first month of the New Year, let's make our dreams as our vision of life. Once we do that, we can then set up a “performance metrics” system to evaluate our performance for reaching the goals of that vision. It's time to ask questions to ourselves, “Am I doing right? Am I performing in my roles effectively? Am I scoring excellent grades in my self evaluation sheet?”

We take many roles. Specifically for immigrants, the responsibilities and the duties are two-fold, to keep up with the demands of the social structure of the adopted land as well as to keep up connection with the values and the culture of the heritage. “Do we perform perfectly in those roles?” Sometimes there can be many constraints to get a perfect score. However, first month of the new year is always a good time to ask these questions and consider of our “performance metrics score” for our different roles. The questions can range according to our involvement level. “Am I a good mother? What should I be doing to be a good mother? Am I a good researcher? Am I a good friend? Am I a good child? Am I a good neighbor? Am I a good Oriya? Am I a good human being?”


Even if we score fifty percent in each, we should congratulate ourselves with a big applause and a certificate printed in our heart that we have reached the distinguished status. That does not mean we should not aim for hundred percent score. However, our aim for the higher score should not unbalance the peace of our mind.

Is not this the time then to evaluate our “performance metrics score” as an OSA member? If once upon a time OSA was formed for social and cultural togetherness, should that then stay as the vision of OSA forever? If we feel that OSA is not doing what it is supposed to be doing, shall we just criticize and be happy with that? Does not it become our duty as members to be involved and contribute to make OSA able to do better, to get higher scores? If once upon a time OSA's constitution was written by keeping the good moral standard and fellow feelings of its members, can that constitution not be modified to solve problems created by conflicts between members? If everything in OSA was happening with verbal assurance and faith in the past, can OSA business be not formalized for record keeping and transparency?

Should the vision of a few founding members of OSA represent the vision of today's OSA with a membership that is more than fifteen times of the original membership? This is the time to think about ethics, record keeping, transparency, exactness and professionalism in OSA's activities even though it is run by volunteers who have full time jobs in other professions. Thus involvement of more members in OSA affairs is a must to carry out different duties with professionalism.

If once upon a time, the little girl was living in a mud-walled thatched house, can that little girl not be able to build a mansion for her to live her dreams? If the little girl can do that, we all can do that. We CAN always try to do our best. We can open our arms to changes, still preserving our values. OSA can adopt the professionalism of the western world while still preserving the sweetness of the Odia culture and traditions.

Let's build our future with the wisdom learnt from our past and with the vision of a strong and prosperous community. I



wish you all a happy and productive new year.

Sincerely,

Bigyani Das

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Happy New Year

President's Message

By Prof. Laxmi Narayan Bhuyan

January 15, 2004

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Orissa Society of the Americas (OSA), I would like to wish you, your family and friends a very happy and prosperous New Year 2004. May God bless you all with professional successes, good health, wealth, and peace of mind? I also welcome you to the first newsletter of the New Year, which is posted at the OSA website: <http://www.orissasociety.org/publications/public.html>.



Many of us just returned from our winter vacation in Orissa. Our visit was marked by a successful organization of the First Annual OSA Symposium on Orissa Development at Bhubaneswar on December 24, 2003 at Swosti Plaza hotel. About 20 families from USA, Japan, and Germany attended the symposium together with a large number of NGO representatives from Orissa. I would like to thank all those who attended the symposium in spite of their pressing engagements with their families and relatives. I would like to thank the symposium organizers, in particular to Dr. Dhanada Misra who devoted considerable time and effort as Local Organizing Chair. A copy of the proceedings that was distributed at the symposium is available at the OSA website. We would like to supplement this with many other development projects being carried out by the OSA members. Please send me a 1-page abstract of your project for posting in the web.

The Chief Minister of Orissa inaugurated the OSA symposium, and promised to open a Non-Resident Oriya (NRO) cell in his office. We are following up on that. The OSA Symposium created much awareness, need, and interest for establishing development projects in Orissa. All major newspapers, radio and TV had wide coverage on the symposium. The education committee of OSA is working on an understanding with Mrs Ashish Garg, Regional Coordinator for India, of the World Links to open a few schools under our Adopt a School program. Mrs Garg who flew from New Delhi for this occasion will provide free teacher training with the financial sponsorship of multi-national institutions. Please contact us if you would like to participate in this program. Also, the OSA volunteers had a series of meetings regarding setting up an IIT in Orissa, and are engaged in developing a solid proposal to the Indian government. OSA also co-sponsored the International Conference on Information Technology (CIT-2003) at Bhubaneswar, which was attended by about 250 people from around the world.

Because I am an academician, it is true that only educational activities have drawn my attention somewhat disproportionately. There may also be other understandings reached between OSA symposium attendees and NGOs. We are trying to gather such information for future dissemination. The attendance in the symposium was good, but fell gradually during the day. About 200 people attended the inauguration, 70 people attended the lunch, and about 30-35 people attended the last session. The overall opinion at the end was that the symposium was successful, and we should organize this symposium every year. However, some members also felt that the symposium could have been better organized. If we hold the symposium next year, we promise to do the best we can.

Regarding other OSA matters, our membership drive has resulted in attracting a good number of life members/patrons/benefactors during the past six months. Even though the promotional membership drive has ended, we will continue to work on recruiting more members in 2004. The 2004 OSA convention will be held in Dallas with Dr. Niranjana Tripathy as the Convener. I am pleased to report that Dr. Kabi Prasad Misra has accepted our invitation to address the convention as the Guest of Honor. I am working on his travel arrangements at present. The convention committee has already finalized the hotel, and is working hard on other arrangements. Please plan to attend. I would like to focus my attention during the next six months on constitution and financial matters of OSA. We would like

to post all the General Body resolutions in the OSA website along with the constitution and bylaws. If needed, we will obtain approval of these bylaws in the OSA general body meeting again during the convention. Let me have your thoughts on this.

With this, I again wish you a very happy New Year. If there is anything that we can do, please feel free to contact us. Thank you for all your support during the past year. Laxmi Narayan Bhuyan OSA President <http://www.orissasociety.org/>

Laxmi Narayan Bhuyan, OSA President
E-mail: lbhuyan@hotmail.com Tel: (909) 789-9890

Greetings - OSA 2004 Convention Committee

Convener's Message

By Dr Niranjan Tripathy

Namaskar,

Warm greetings to all from the members of the Southwest Chapter - Orissa Society of the Americas! We take great pleasure in inviting you to attend the 35th Annual OSA Convention, which will be held in Dallas, Texas on July 2 - 4, 2004.

The convention will take place in Hilton DFW Lakes Executive Conference Center, only minutes away from the DFW International Airport. Designated as a Pinnacle Award-winning business resort, this facility will house all our convention activities, including cultural programs, dinning, seminars, workshops, executive meetings, and organized sports, under one roof. We have been able to negotiate a fabulous room rate of \$69 per night.

This year, the convention registration fee will be \$110 per family if you register before the May 15, 2004 and \$140 after this date. We encourage you to register early, to take advantage of the lower fee and give us the flexibility of planning ahead.

The organizing committee is investing a lot of effort and imagination, in putting together the three-day program, which will consist of a mix of Orissa heritage display, popular and classical performing arts, guest lectures, seminars, workshops, reunions, fine cuisine, merrymaking, and everything else that we have all come to expect from OSA Conventions. This committee also wants to make sure that all of your expectations are not only met, but also exceeded.

With your participation, we hope to make OSA Convention 2004 a platform for building unity among Oriyas in North America and carry forward the torch of Oriya heritage and culture for our future generations.

With best regards,

Niranjan Tripathy
Convener, OSA 2004 OSA Convention, Dallas

First Annual Symposium on Orissa Development

The first annual symposium on Orissa Development was held on December 24th in Hotel Swosti Plaza, Bhubaneswar. Please check the Symposium Report ([PDF version](#)) for details.

Welcome New Members

Hari Arjun Patro, TX, Treasurer

(After the 2nd newsletter, Between 10-14-03 and 12-31-03)

List of OSA New Life members

Susanta and Ipsita Satapathy (IL),
Dharmresh Patel (NJ), Saswata
Mohapatra and Geetanjali Mishra (OH),
Pradipta Kumar and Jyotirmala Kar
(ONT), Kailash and Sanghamitra Sahu
(OK), Jyotiranjana Kar (TX), Birendra
Mishra and Meerabai Mohapatra (CA), Basanta Kumar and



Madhusmita Mohapatra (OH), Narayan and Kalyani Sahoo (NY), Sabyasachi Nayak and Swati Das (TX), Lokanath and Sujata Patro (TX), Uday and Minati Choudhury (CA), Tapan Padhi and Sudhamayee Panda (TX), Sandip K. and Lila Dasverma (WA), Anam C. and Rashmi Sahoo (TX), Surya Narayan and Manju Prava Acharya (Alberta), Prasant and Sabita Subudhi (LA), and Raj and Refern Patro (TX).

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CHAPTER NEWS

Michigan Chapter

Rina Mahapatra, President

MI_OSA (History of Michigan Chapter):

The information is obtained from our long-standing members, Mr. Natabar Khuntia & Mr. Parikshita Nayak who helped us put together this information. Our Prvious office bearers Mrs. Puspa Nayak and Jogesh Panda were instrumental in creating a plaque with names of all previous office bearers.

Facts about our chapter.

Around 1983 there were only 6/7 famalies in Michigan. They used to get together informally in each other's houses to celebrate certain important celebrations.

1988- our first president and Secretary were elected.

Ladukesh Pattanaik – President

Late Hemant Senapati - Secretary/Treasurer

Both of them were instrumental in bringing oriyas together (new to our area). Mr. Pattanaik left Michigan after a short time. Then Dr. Hemant Senapati took over the responsibility of bringing everybody together.

Previous office bearers of our chapter –

1989-2001

Natabar Khuntia – President, Bailochan Behera (S/T)

Raj Mishra - President, Ranganath Mishra (S/T)

Kalyani Mishra - President

Sirish Mishra - President

Nitin Doshi – President

Anjali Misra – President, Prabir Mishra (S/T)

Puspa Nayak – President, Jogesh Panda (S/T)

Current Office Bearers:

Rina Mahapatra – President, Arun Tripathy (S/T)

We elect office bearers in every 2 years. This is the first year we elected officials in a democratic manner. We had an election committee. The names of the candidates were proposed to the committee. As my name was the only one proposed, I got elected. I was asked to elect the secretary/Treasurer and I elected Arun Tripathy to be our S/T. Now we are 40-member family strong. We are a very active community.

Our Chapter gives our members an opportunity to be a part of our Oriya Family and collectively spread Oriya culture in our community. We celebrate 5 funtions. These are Kumar Purnima, Ganesh Puja, Saraswati Puja, Basanta Utsava and Annual Picnic.

MINNESOTA CHAPTER

OSA Chapter -Minnesota

Founded in 1990

Prsident-Sudipta Tripathy

Vice President:- Manoranjan Mishra

Current Membership - 50

Major Functions - Saraswati Puja, Picnic, Ganesh Puja, Durga Puja, Pakhala Party, Ratha Jatra, Mother's Day

Officer Positions - President, Vice President,

Officer Election - Every 2 years (even or odd year), on Saraswati Puja (or any other function) ===== Sudipta Tripathy

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

OSA NJ celebrated Kumar Purnima on October 18th 2003 at Plainsboro NJ. Around 25 families participated in this function. The program was as follows:

The program started with well known Oriya song “Phula Baula Beni” (was published in second issue of OSA newsletter). There was a “Orissa quiz” covering lots of interesting topics on Orissa's current affairs and history. Many participants spoke about the significance of Kumar Purnima festival, shared interesting stories about how they had celebrated this festival in Orissa. We had few exceptional dance and music performances enlightening the audience. Manisha Kintali performed “Mallari” Bharatnatyam dance. Prerana Pradhan performed a Sambalpuri folk dance. She also played violin to the delight of the audience. Supriya Mishra performed an Oriya dance “Rutu Sanghar”. At last we had delighting Oriya food prepared by the participants followed by a well participated Bingo game. Prizes were distributed to the winners in Orissa Quiz, Bingo & cultural program presentation.

OSA NJ is planning to celebrate Saraswati Puja in January 2004.

OSA NJ Office Bearer's are:

Nageswar Prusty - President

Jugal K. Sharma - Vice president

Seshagiri Kintali - Secretary/Tresurer

Sameer Mishra - Cultural

Brajendra Sahu

Basanti Patel - Social

Sujata Kintali

Madhavi Mishra

Sanjukta Prusty

New York Chapter

Pradip Tripathy, President

OSANY, a founding member of Orissa Society of Americas, was Recognized as “New York Chapter of OSA” on October 17th, 1970, at the first OSA convention with Late (Dr.) Krushna Mohan Das as the President. Since then OSANY has been playing an active role in tri-state area of New York, with the objective of bringing Oriyas together by maintaining and promoting the unique cultural heritage of this eastern state of India.

So far OSANY has successfully hosted 8 conventions, including famous Glassboro convention, Silver Jubilee celebration and recently held 34th annual convention at New Jersey in 2003. Time to time this organization has also sponsored several famous Oriya artists from different fields to perform in North America.

There are about 67 life members and a few annual members. OSANY office bearers are elected for two years starting on Kumar Purnima. Every year, large number of people attend Saraswati Puja, Ganesh Puja and Kumar Utsav. OSANY also celebrates events like holi, picnic and concerts. On these events, our focus is to explore our childrens' inherent talents and recognize prodigies along with general entertainment, food and celebration.

This year's Kumar Utsav was celebrated on 25th October 2003 with Odissi dance performances and several kids' activities. Saraswati Puja celebration is scheduled for 25th January 2004.

Recently the chapter management responsibility has been taken over by an enthusiastic group of young people. This group is working cohesively with a strong desire to strengthen this organization and to undertake several developmental projects here as well as in Orissa. New executive team is working hard to generate interest and awareness, especially among younger generations and with a desire to make OSANY a model Oriya organization acceptable to our future generations.

New York Chapter Representatives of OSA:

President: Pradip Tripathy 908-753-2682
tpradip@yahoo.com
231 Lucy Court, South Plainfield NJ 07080

Secretary: Amar Senapati 973-252-0546
jagakalia@yahoo.com

Vice President (NJ): Pradeep Mohapatra 908-684-9506
pagela@yahoo.com

Vice President (NY): Prashant Sahoo 732-331-3684
prashant_vrce@yahoo.com

Vice President (PA): Ms Swapna Mishra 610-631-0789
swapnapushpa@yahoo.com

Cultural Secretary: Ms Julie Acharya Ray 732-828-1255
ankapa67@yahoo.com

Ozark Chapter

Jeetu Nanda, President

The Ozark Chapter was formed in the Year 1997 if my memory serves me right. We are all getting "Somtimers". However, I do remember the two separate evenings when Surya Misra Babu had proposed the formation of this chapter, once in his home during a get together, and perhaps second time during a party at Nigam Babu's old house. Then whoever were present such as: Surya Babu, Ramahari Babu, myself, Nigam Babu and some others had put their names and other information in a paper to prepare an initial list...With that humble begining...the Ozark Chapter was born and now blossomed into a lot (well not a whole lot) bigger than what we started out with.

The idea of the OSA-Ozark was conceptualized by Dr. Surya Misra, because there were no formal chapters in the St. Louis/MO region since the creation of OSA. Infact the name Ozark was also suggetsed by Surya Babu, and it was of strategic significance because St. Louis/MO and neighbouring regions are part of the Ozark area. The Oriya community in MO, Kansas area was small for many many years, however over the years it has grown upto 17 or so families. The OSA-Ozark chaper enlists members from MO, Kansas and Indiana.

Following the proposal, the chapter formed was under the able leadership of Dr. Nigam Rath who was our two-time President and in fact the very first office bearer, who customarily and impromptu had organized various events which included Ganesh puja, picnics, representation in the national OSA. Dr.

Rath with his busy schedule and various other social and political commitments, decided to hand over the reins of governance of OSA Ozarks to Dr. Radhakanta Padhi. Dr. Radhakanta Padhi, was unanimously elected as the 2nd president of OSA Ozark chapter. This was done only after the members were satisfied that they would also have a first lady, Mrs Aseema Padhi. Dr. Padhi's contribution to posterity was the creation of osa_ozark yahoogroups. This immediately put all the members in contact with each other, stringing various backgrounds and locations into one community i.e., OSA OZARK. Dr. Padhi also introduced duet singing in parties, which was appreciated by all. Dr. Padhi accepted a position at the esteemed Indian Institute of Sciences in Bangalore and left the area in December 2003.

Before leaving, Dr. Padhi arranged for nomination for his successor, and in a pseudo election, Jeetu Nanda accepted the position as the new President of the Chapter. And it is too soon to brag about any accomplishments of the new president. Elections in OSA Ozark are held every 2 years. Members to the group are recruited by our star recruiter Anita Panda, who devotes hours of her personal time to graciously help the chapter.

South West Chapter

Niranjan Tripathy, President

South West Chapter will host OSA 2004 convention. Please check the [convener's message](#).

Washington D.C. Chapter

We would like to share the news and information shown below, with our OSA members and other friends.

2003 has been a great year for our Washington D.C. chapter. Our chapter's goal is to provide a forum for families from Orissa, friends, and well-wishers to meet and participate so as to preserve and extend their culture, tradition, and heritage.

We successfully celebrated Saraswati Puja, Annual Picnic, Ganesh Puja,

Kumar Purnima, and enthusiastically participated in the grand Odissi festival held by IPAP and other organizations.

Two children from our chapter – Pallavi (daughter of Pratap & Puspa Das), and Divya (daughter of Sidhartha & Alpana Das) presented solo performances at the Odissi festival held in the Washington D.C. area last year. The following children from our chapter: Bagmi, Mrinali, Sashwati (daughters of Naresh & Bigyani Das), Shriya (daughter of Santanu & Jhinu Chhotray), Rajashree (daughter of Nrusingha & Bandita Mishra), and Pallavi (daughter of Pratap & Puspa Das) represented our chapter in the opening cultural ceremony at the 2003 OSA National Convention.

In sports, two children from our chapter - Amaresh and Vikash (sons of Devaraj & Urmila Sahu) went to the Junior Olympics and the Junior National Table Tennis Competition which was held at Detroit's Ford Field last summer. The Boys Singles gold medal in Junior Olympics was won by Amaresh Sahu. In the under 12 doubles, Amaresh (and Peter Li) won the gold medal. Amaresh also won the team gold medal with three team mates. In the under 10 boy's team competition, Vikash Sahu won the gold medal with three of his team mates. In the under 10 doubles, Vikash (and partner Jonathan Mast) won the silver medal.

We will celebrate the same cultural events mentioned above, and conduct an election for new office bearers for 2004-2006. The current office bearers are Alpana Das (President), Munmun Patnaik (Secretary/Treasurer), and Sangeeta Dey (Vice-President). We have Sushanta Mohanty, Prafulla Nayak, and Ajaya Mohanty in our board of advisors. Our dedicated members have been volunteers for many successful programs and events. We would like to thank them all for their support.

Alpana Das, President

For more information please contact President Alpana(Rina) Das (Alpanadas1@msn.com), Vice-President Sangeeta Dey (sangeetadey@yahoo.com) or Secretary/Treasurer Munmun Patnaik (bpatnaik0234@cs.com).

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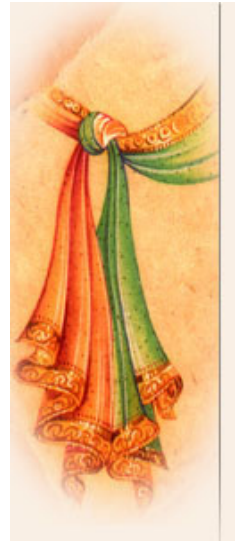
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Congratulations:

Congratulations to Anoop Mishra for tying the knot on December 19, 2003. The marriage was held in traditional Oriya style in Orissa. Congratulations to the proud parents Drs Digambar and Jyotsna Mishra of Alabama.

Congratulations to Raj and Refern Patro (TX) for tying the knot.



Announcements

New chapter presidents:

Congratulations to the new chapter presidents who were elected recently.

New York - Pradip Tripathy

NRI Cell in Orissa State

Secretariat

Governor M.M. Rajendran's Letter to Bijoy K. Misra, Chicago

Subject: Re: Notes of meeting with the

Governor of Orissa

Dear Mr Misra/Mr Sam Pitroda/Shri Arun Kumar

The suggestion to establish a NRI Cell in the Orissa State Secretariat was put across to the Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik by me on my return. I am glad to inform you that the Chief Minister has accepted the suggestion and has issued orders establishing a Facilitation Cell to help the NRIs particularly Non Resident Oriyas who are interested in the development of the State. The Cell will function under the Chief Secretary. The Special Secretary, General Administration Department, who functions under the Chief Secretary, will be the Nodal Officer and he may be contacted for any help/information required for this purpose. Trust your efforts to bring new talents and investments to the State will be successful. I shall appreciate, if you will make this information available to the other interested persons in USA.

Best regards,
M.M. Rajendran

Dr Prasanna K. Pati's Book:

The book, 'Adventures and Misadventures of Dr. Sonjee: A Collection of Short Stories' by Dr. Prasanna K. Pati, is available from the Snehalata Press, 1353 Heather Lane, SE, Salem, OR 97302. Please enclose a check for \$18.45 (\$14.95

plus \$3.50 S & H). A sum of \$5.00 for each book sale will be donated to the Girls' School: Rama Devi Vidya Mandir, at Niharkunta, near Bhubaneswar.

Obituaries

Sangram Mahapatra, Virginia

Sangram Mahapatra, son of Dr. Manindra Mohapatra and Urmila Mahapatra passed away on December 12, 2003. Sangram was a scientist and he has dedicated his body to be used for medical research.

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[Column 1 - Establishing Oriya Identity](#)

[Column 2 - New Year Reflections \(Nababarsara Anuchinta\)](#)

January is the first month of the year. This year we have created a flower garland with four Odia poems on New Year Reflections (Nababarsara Anuchinta). The flowers in the garland are:

- [1. Kain \(Nutana Barsara Shubhakamana - by Shanti Mishra, Rochester, MN\)](#)
- [2. Malli \(2004: Au Eka Nua Barsa - by Tapas Sahoo, Austin, TX\)](#)
- [3. Surjyamukhi \(Atmapratyaya - by Bijoy Misra, Boston, MA\)](#)
- [4. Padma \(E Keun Baidyutika Maya! - by Bigyani Das, Columbia, MD\)](#)

The thread in the garland is the article on "Establishing Oriya Identity" by Mrs Swapnalata Mishra, Michigan. I hope you enjoy our New Year 2004 special columns.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bigyani Das, Columbia, MD

The Thread - EsTABLISHING Oriya Identity

Kumara Purnami in Michigan - Swapnalata Mishra

"Mommy , when is the next kumar purnima?"- asked both of my daughters right after we watched the MI-OSA Kumar Purnima celebration video on the next day of the celebration.

"Next year", I replied. "Why can't it be every month, full moon comes every month", questioned my younger one.

I asked her, "Why do you want kumar purnima every month ?"



She immediately replied, "So I can dance with my friends. We can have fun every weekend ."Without giving me a chance to tell her any thing her matured ten-year old sister replied , "You just have to wait ! ."

Not only this year, but also every year Odia moms of young children like me in Michigan have to go through same experience after kumar purnima celebration. We parents feel relaxed and want to move forward with our pending weekend works. Children miss all the fun they were having during practice time. They want it back !

I remember when I was growing up, for me kumar purnima means "nua jaamaa", "chaunra mula chanda puja", fun with friends in the moonlitt night and the thrill and sensation in the whole town for upcoming Laxmi Puja (famous festival of Dhenkanal).

Now after living here in a different atmosphere with a different social system for a long time, I could feel the same spirit and thrill in the air here two months before the kumar purnima, only because of MI-OSA's kumar purnima celebration as its annual function. I am glad, we are getting an opportunity to share the thrill and pleasure that we had in our childhood during this time of the year, with our children giving them some wonderful experience to save in their memory bank.

My involvement with OSA, MI chapter's kumar purnima celebration started only from 1999 and is comparatively new than the few Oriya families who are living here for more than 30 years. God bless those initiators who decided to celebrate the tradition as the OSA-MI annual function sometime in late 80s. Since there is no record it is hard for everybody to remember who proposed or took the first initiative, but the old-timers still remember how much fun they were having in this yearly gathering .It was always a much awaited event. The motto was worry free fun, so food was always being catered. So that ladies do not have to work. In early 90's by the effort of a few people (with an

artistic heart) like late Dr. Kalyani Mishra, Mr. Shirish Mishra, Mrs. Puspa Nayak and Mr. Amit Chakraborty, the celebration became colorful with the addition of a cultural program to the function. Mostly children were participating in dance and music. All Odia families (about 20) were getting together to have fun in the following Saturday of kumar purnima until 1995.

Michigan Oriyas missed the celebration of Kumar Purnima for 3 years. In the mean time many children had left home for colleges. Many new Oriya families with young children came to live in Michigan. Mrs Anjali Mishra accepted the responsibility as the president of OSA-MiI in 1999. She tried to revive the cultural flow again with her own personal effort by arranging the Kumar Purnima celebration in 99. She organized the annual function of OSA-MI with a cultural program after four years of silence with the support of few Oriya families with young children. Many children got a chance to share their talent with the Oriya community for the first time. Some talented grown ups also came to light. We all enjoyed it so much that we waited for the next Kumar Purnima.

Again in 2000, Mrs Mishra planned it one month ahead of time and we along with our children got a chance for the second time to celebrate Kumar Purnima with cultural program. Again more participants and more fun ! We started planning for next year's cultural show. Annual cultural program became the main attraction of the celebration of Kumar Purnima.

But, Mrs. Anjali Mishra's term got over in 2001. Looking at the growing number of participants and necessary expenses, continuity of the tradition with a cultural program became a question for many of us because of finance and work load. Mrs. Puspa Nayak and Mr. Jogesh Panda accepted the responsibility as the next president and secretary in 2001, and they decided to continue the tradition of Kumar Purnima celebration as the annual function with a colorful cultural program. Mrs Nayak gave me a chance to serve the community by picking me as the cultural coordinator for her term. Surprisingly it became a grand celebration with a big cultural program with delicious feast. For the first time 24 children and 15 adults participated in cultural program. Almost 30-40 families enjoyed the celebration .Many volunteered to help on the spot. The success was definitely a team effort. This is the kumar purnima what helped OSA-MI to be organized and efficient enough to move forward with a we-us and our feeling in the entire Odia community of Michigan.

For celebration of this particular event we needed more money, time and energy. We did not have enough but we decided to move forward with a positive spirit only because of the unique delightful smile we see on our children's face when they are together for the practice and performance. Again 2002 celebration became bigger with a big budget along with almost 40 children's participation in

cultural program and their parent's direct involvement with the planning and organization. There were several committees to take care of responsibilities of the program. As the cultural coordinator I got a chance to witness the selfless service, devotion, sincerity and dedication of some of the members, both new comers as well as the old timer. 2002 celebration of kumar purnima proved the OSA-MI much more stronger and confident than before. That helped OSA-MI to organize Guru Kelu Mohapatra's Odissi dance performance in Michigan in 2003 March. OSA-MI could even help NGO ISWO of Dhenkanal (with Mrs. Ranu Mohanty's supervision) to provide drinking water to a girls school near Dhenkanal, Orissa. Mrs. Nayak lead the chapter to present various cultural programs as a chapter in 2003 OSA convention at New Jersey. OSA-MI own the Pramod Pattnaik award for the second time.



OSA-Michigan chapter got a new name as MI-OSA from 2003 . MI-OSA again celebrated its popular event, Kumar Purnima Celebration on Oct 18th 2003 under the leadership of its new president Mrs. Rina Mohapatra and Secretary Mr Arun Tripathy with delicious dinner and a fabulous cultural show with more than 50 children and 25 adult participating in it. Mrs.Mamlu Tripathy was this year's cultural coordinator. The cultural show of 2 and half hour was full of dance ,music and skits.This year's new addition to the celebration is the stage decoration by Smriti Panda. It was awesome ! The theme took all of us back home villages for a moment with the "Jhotipaka chala ghara" and a banana tree in its front with Devi Laxmi in a corner of the stage . Although I am not yet so clear how much MI-OSA is helping our children to know our traditions and culture by celebrating kumar purnima and other events, however, I am sure it is creating an opportunity for all of us to enjoy an weekend by providing the back home loving atmosphere to our children here in

Michigan with a united spirit.



The sounds of laughter and joy come from the sharing are the best sound of the world .Children know it better than us ,they want to have it again and again ! We need to create opportunitythey will find the connection to our identity ! (I hope....) So tradition should go on !

Thanks,
Swapnalata Mishra(Rath)
Macomb,Michigan

[Next](#)

ଉତ୍କର୍ଷ

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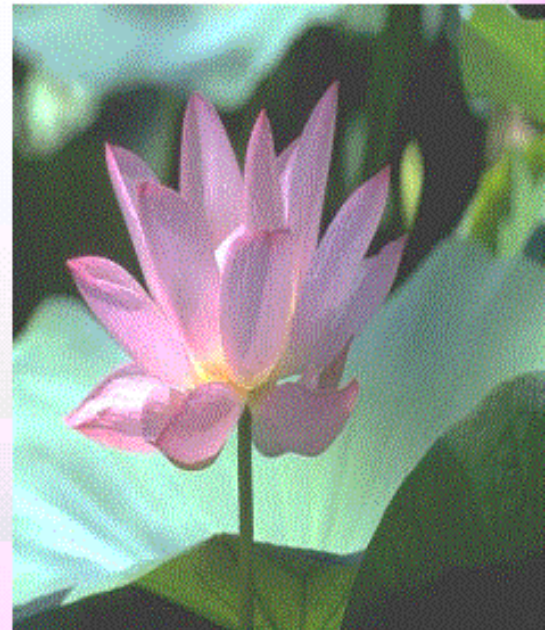
ନବବର୍ଷର ଅନୁଚିନ୍ତା

The FLOWERS - nababarsara anuchinta

Kain - Shanti Mishra, Rochester, MN

ନୂତନ ବର୍ଷର ଶୁଭ କାମନା

ଜେତେ ସୁଖି ଜେତେ ଐତିହ୍ୟକୁ
 ପଛରେ ପକାଇ ଆସିଛି କୁଆ ବରଷ - ୧-
 ଭୁଲି ବିରଷତା, ଭୁଲି ଆବିଳତା
 ସବୁରି ମୁଖେ ପୁଟାକିଛି ହରଷ - ୨-
 ଏହିପରି ଆସୁ ବର୍ଷ ପରେ ବର୍ଷ
 କୁଆ ବେଶ ସାଜି କୁଆ ବରଷ - ୩-
 ଆହ୍ଲାପିତ ଜରି ଆମୋଦିତ ଜରି
 ବିଧି ଦେଇ ଯାଉ ଚତୁର୍ଦ୍ଦିଗେ ହରଷ - ୪-
 ଜିଛି ହରାଇବା ଜିଛି ବି ପାଇବା
 ଗତ ବର୍ଷ ପରି ଆଗାମୀ ବର୍ଷ - ୫-
 ଜିଛି ବିସ୍ମରିବା ଜିଛି ସାଇତିବା
 ଅନୁଭୂତି ସବୁ ହୋଇ ଉଲ୍ଲାସ - ୬-
 ସଂସାର ଗତିକୁ ମାନିବାକୁ ହେବ
 ଆସୁ ଦୁଃଖ ଅବା ଆସୁ ଯେ ସୁଖ - ୭-
 ବିଗତ ଅନୁଭୂତି ଆଗାମୀ ଦିନକୁ
 ନୂତନ ରୂପେ ହେବ ସହାୟକ - ୮-
 କୁଆ ଉଲ୍ଲାସନା ନୂତନ ପେରଣା



ଦତ୍ତ ଉପୁଷ୍ଟ ଆଗାମୀ ପରଦୁ
 ନୂତନ ରୂପେ ହେବ ସମ୍ଭାଷଣ -୮-
 ନୂଆ ଉନ୍ମାଦନା ନୂତନ ପ୍ରେରଣା
 ଯୋଗାଇ ଦେଉ ଏ ନୂଆ ବରଷ -୯-
 ଏଇ ମୋ ଜାମନା ଏଇ ମୋ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା
 ସର୍ବ ବନ୍ଧୁ ବାନ୍ଧବୀଙ୍କୁ ଏ ବର୍ଷ -୧୦

ଶାନ୍ତି ଲତା ମିଶ୍ର

Malli - Tapas Sahoo, Austin, TX

୨୦୦୪: ଆଉ ଏକ ନୂଆ ବର୍ଷ

ପୁଣି ସେଇ ପ୍ରହେଳିକା
 ପୁଣି ସେଇ ଦୃଢ଼ମୟ ଶଶୀ
 ଆଉ ଏକ ନୂଆ ବର୍ଷ, ପୁଣି ସେଇ
 ମିଳନ ଓ ବିଦାୟର ଲୁଗା ଛପା ଖେଳ !

ଅସୁମାରୀ ସମୃଦ୍ଧିର ବିଶ୍ୱାସ ଓ ଆଶା,
 ନୂତନ ବର୍ଷର ଏହି ଆଗମନା ବାର୍ତ୍ତା -
 ନୂଆ ନୂଆ ପ୍ରତିଶ୍ରୁତି, କେତେ ଯେ ପ୍ରତିଜ୍ଞା,
 ହୃଦୟରେ ନୂଆ କେତେ ସଂପର୍କର ଆଭା !

ବିଦାୟ ବର୍ଷର ସେଇ ଉଦାସୀ କେହ୍ନେରା,
 ଭାରା ଭାରା ଆଖିର ସେ ପ୍ରଶ୍ନବାନୀ -
 ସମୟର କ୍ରମ ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ବୋର୍ଡ଼ରେ କି
 ଦବି ଦବି ଆସିଲାଣି ପୁରାତନ ସଂପର୍କର ଭିତ୍ତି ?

ଶଶିକରେ ବିଦାୟର ବିଷୟତା, ଶଶିକରେ ମିଳନର ମୋହ
 ପଲକରେ ପାଲଟିବ ସ୍ମୃତିରେ ଅତୀତ, ଗଢ଼ିହେବ ନୂତନ ଭବିଷ୍ୟତ
 ପୁଣି ସେଇ ଭବିଷ୍ୟତ ପାଲଟିବ ଅତୀତରେ
 ଅନ୍ୟ ଏକ ନବ ବର୍ଷେ, ଅନ୍ୟ ଏକ ଶଶେ ।

ତଥାପି ବି ମଧୁମୟ ଦୃଢ଼ର ଏ ଶଶୀ
 ମିଳନ ଓ ବିଚ୍ଛେଦର ଅପୂର୍ବ ମିଶ୍ରଣେ;
 ଭିଜାଇ ମୋ ଓଠ ଆଜି ହସ ଓ ଲୁହରେ
 ଅନୁଭବି ନିଏ ଏହି ମୁହୂର୍ତ୍ତକୁ ଅନ୍ତରେ -



ମାଳାମାଳା ଓ ବାହୁଡ଼ାରେ ଅପୂର୍ବ ମାଗଣା
ଭିଜାଇ ମୋ ଓଠ ଆଜି ହସ ଓ ଲୁହରେ
ଅନୁଭବି ନିଏ ଏହି ମୁହୂର୍ତ୍ତକୁ ଅନ୍ତରେ -

ସ୍ଵାଗତ ହେ ଆଗନ୍ତୁକ,
ବିଦାୟ ହେ ବନ୍ଧୁ !

ଗପସ ରଞ୍ଜନ ସାହୁ

୧୧୩୧୬ ଜଲିଭିଲ ରୋଡ୍, ୦୩୫୭, ଅଷ୍ଟିନ୍, ଟେକ୍ସାସ୍ ୭୫୯

Surjyamukhi - Bijoy Mohan Misra, Boston, MA

ଆତ୍ମପ୍ରତ୍ୟୟ



ପ୍ରତିଟି ବିନ୍ଦୁରେ ଠାକୁର,
ପ୍ରତିଟି ଜଣରେ ଇଶ୍ଵର,
ପ୍ରତିଟି ଜୀବ ଏ ବିଶ୍ଵର,
ପବିତ୍ର ଅକ୍ଷର ନିସ୍ଵର ।

ପାଣି ପବନ ଭୂ ଆକାଶ,
ଜ୍ୟୋତି ସବିତା ସୁପ୍ରକାଶ,
ଆତ୍ମଭୂତେ ଜ୍ୟୋତି ନିବାସ,
ଅଜାଳ ଅନଳ ପରଶ ।

ଗଞ୍ଜ ଲତା ରଙ୍ଗ ବିରଙ୍ଗ ,
ଜୀବ ପଶୁ ସର୍ପ ବିହଙ୍ଗ ,
ସୃଷ୍ଟିର ସର୍ଜନା ଅନଙ୍ଗ ,
ଅଜଳ ଅତଳ ଅରଙ୍ଗ ।

ଦର୍ଶନ ଶବ୍ଦ ଚଳନ,
ମନନ ଚିନ୍ତନ ବଚନ,
ପ୍ରାଣର ଧ୍ଵଜନ ଜୀବନ,
ପ୍ରାଣର ନାହିଁ ବିନାଶନ ।

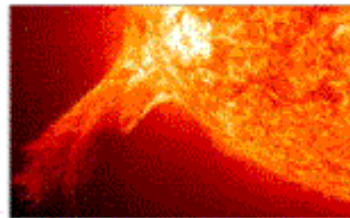
ବାଳ ବାଳା ପୁତ୍ର ବନିତା,
ବୃଦ୍ଧ ଜିଣୋର ପୁତ୍ର ପିତା,
ଜନ୍ୟା ତରୁଣୀ ଜାୟ ମାତା,
ପ୍ରକୃତି ରୂପ ଅଗଣିତା ।

ଜନ୍ମ ମୃତ୍ୟୁ ଜାଳ ଅଧୀନ,
ଜାଳର ରୂପ ଅପ୍ରମାଣ,
ଜାଳର ଜୟ ଜଗଧୀନ,
ଆତ୍ମପ୍ରତ୍ୟୟେ ସୁଦର୍ଶନ ।

ବିଜୟମୋହନ ମିଶ୍ର

Padma - Bigyani Das, Columbia, MD

ଏ ଜେଉଁ ବୈଦ୍ୟୁତିକ ମାୟା!



(୧)

ଏ ଜେଉଁ ବୈଦ୍ୟୁତିକ ମାୟା !
ଶରୀରର ପତିକୋଶେ ଜଗାଏ ଜମ୍ପନ
ଏ ଜେଉଁ ଆଲୋକର ଉତ୍ସ !
ବିସ୍ଫିଦେଲା ହୃଦୟରେ ସଜଳ ଜିରଣା ।

କୁଆ ବରଷର କୁଆ ରଙ୍ଗ
ଚାରିଆଡେ ଲାଗିଛି ମେଳଣ, ମହୋତ୍ସବ
ଛୁଟୁଛି ଆନନ୍ଦର ଢେଉ
ପବନରେ ଭାସିଆସେ କୁଆ, କୁଆ ଭାବ ।

ବିଗତ ଦିନର ଅନୁଭବ
ଅନୁରାଗ, ବିରାଗ, ପାତ୍ତି ଓ ଅପାତ୍ତି
ହୃଦୟର ଶୁଦ୍ଧ ଜେଉଁ ଜୋଶେ
ସ୍ଥାନ ଶୋଜି ରହିଯାଏ ବହି ନାମ "ସ୍ମୃତି" ।

ବିଜ୍ଞାନୀ ଦାସ

କୁତନ ଆଶାର ଯୋତସ୍ଫିନୀ
ମାତିଆସି ମନବନ ଜରେ ଉଦ୍‌ବେଳିତ
ଚେତନା ଭରେ ସୁରଭିରେ
ସଜପୁଲେ ସଜାଇ ଜେ ଦିଏ ଲଜ୍ଜାରଥ ।

ସେ ପୁଣ୍ୟ ରଥେ ଆସାନ ମୁଁ
ଅକ୍ଳେଷଣ ମୋର ଦିବ୍ୟ ଆଲୋକର ପଥ
ଭୟ ନାହିଁ, ନାହିଁ ଭୟ, ଭୀତି
ମୋ ରଥର ସାରଥୀ ସେ ସ୍ଵୟଂ ଜଗନ୍ନାଥ ।

(୨)

ହେ ମୋର ପିୟ ସାଙ୍ଗ, ସାଥୀ
କୁସୁମିତ ହେଉ ତୁମ ଭାଗ୍ୟ ସିଂହାସନ
ଝରୁ ସୁଖ ସୁଧା ନିର୍ଝରିଣୀ
ପରମ ସୁଖ ଅମୃତ ଜର ଆସ୍ଵାଦନ ।

ଏହି ମୋ' ଜାମନା, ପାର୍ଥନା
ସଞ୍ଜର ପଦ ଜମଳେ ଏ ଶୁଭ ଦିନରେ
ପିତି ପାଣ ହେଉ ବିଭାସିତ
ଆତ୍ମାୟ, ସ୍ଵଜନ, ପ୍ରିୟ, ପରିଜନ ମେଳେ ।

