

UTKARSA

NEWSLETTER OF THE ODISHA SOCIETY OF AMERICAS



Volume 47 - September 2013



ଯା ଦେବୀ ସର୍ବଭୂତେଷୁ ବୁଦ୍ଧିରୂପେଣ ସଂସ୍ଥିତା
ନମସ୍ତସ୍ୟୈ ନମସ୍ତସ୍ୟୈ ନମସ୍ତସ୍ୟୈ ନମୋ ନମଃ ।

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UTKARSA

Newsletter of the Odisha Society of Americas
Volume 47 – September 2013

Tapan Padhi
President

Sikhanda Satpathy
Vice President

Sabita Panigrahi
Secretary

Prashanta Ranabijuli
Treasurer

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Cover Credit:
'Suramani Raghunath Panigrahi' by Rabi Narayan Rath



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ସମ୍ପାଦକୀୟ



ନିକଟରେ ଓସାନେର୍ରେ “ଓଡ଼ିଶା”, “ଓଡ଼ିଶୀ”, “ଓଡ଼ିଶାନ୍” ଇତ୍ୟାଦି ଶବ୍ଦମାନଙ୍କୁ ନେଇ କିଛି ଇ-ମେଲ୍ ଆଦାନ ପ୍ରଦାନ କରାଯାଇଥିଲା । “ଓଡ଼ିଆ” କି “ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ଅଧିବାସୀ” କହିଲେ କଣ ବୁଝାଏ ? ଏହା କଣ କେବଳ ଏକ “ଜାତି” ବା “ସଂପ୍ରଦାୟ” ନା କେବଳ ଏକ “ଭୌଗୋଳିକ ସ୍ଥାନ”ର ପ୍ରତିନିଧିତ୍ୱ ? ଏହା କଣ ଏକ ଜାତି, ବଂଶ, ସଂପ୍ରଦାୟ, ସ୍ଥାନ ପାଇଁ ଆତ୍ମୀୟତା ? କାହାକୁ କଣ ଏମିତି କହିହେବ – “ଆଂଶିକ ଓଡ଼ିଆ”, “ପୂର୍ବତନ ଓଡ଼ିଆ” ଇତ୍ୟାଦି ? “ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଅସ୍ଥିତା” କଣ ଗଢାଯାଏ ନା ଅନୁଭବ କରାଯାଏ ନା ବଂଶାନୁକ୍ରମ ଭିତ୍ତିରେ ମିଳିଥାଏ କିମ୍ବା ଏ ସମସ୍ତ ତଥ୍ୟ ସତ୍ୟ ? କି ପ୍ରକୃତରେ ଏହା ମାନେ ରଖିଥାଏ ? ଏମିତି ଅନେକ ପ୍ରଶ୍ନ ସାମ୍ନାକୁ ବାରମ୍ବାର ଆସିଥାଏ ଯାହାର ଉତ୍ତର ମନ ଖୋଜେ । ଏମିତି ପ୍ରଶ୍ନ ଆସିବା ଯଥାର୍ଥ । ଏ ବିଷୟରେ ଆପଣ ମାନଙ୍କ ମନରେ ଯାହା କିଛି ଭାବନା ଆସୁଛି – ଲେଖି ଜଣାନ୍ତୁ । ପରବର୍ତ୍ତୀ ସଂଖ୍ୟା ମାନଙ୍କରେ ବିସ୍ତୃତ ଭାବେ ବାଖ୍ୟା କରିବା ।

ପୃଥିବୀରେ ଏବେ ଶରତ ଋତୁର ଆଗମନ । ଏପଟେ ପୃଥିବୀର ଅଗଣାରେ ପନ୍ଦର ଋତୁର କବିତା ଲେଖାଗଲାବେଳେ ସେପଟେ ନଇପଠାରେ ଲେଖାଯାଉଛି କାଗତଶ୍ରେଣୀ ଛୁଆଁର ରୋମାଞ୍ଚିତ କାବ୍ୟ । ତା ସାଙ୍ଗକୁ ସିଂହବାହିନୀ ଶକ୍ତପ୍ରଦାୟିନୀ ଜଗତଜନନୀ ମାତାଙ୍କର ଆଗମନୀ ପୃଥିବୀକୁ କରିଛି ଉଲ୍ଲାସିତ । ସବୁଠି ଶୁଣାଯାଉଛି ବିଜୟ ସ୍ୱାଗତିକା । ପ୍ରତିଟି ମନରେ ଭରିଉଠିଛି ଉନ୍ମାଦନା । ସକଳ ଆଶା ଓ ଉଲ୍ଲାସ ସତ୍ତ୍ୱେ ଆଜି ଓଡ଼ିଶାବାସୀଙ୍କ ଆଖିରେ ଏକ ଅହେତୁକ ଭୟ । ୧୯୯୯ର ମହାବାତ୍ୟାର ଦୁଃସ୍ୱପ୍ନ ଏଯାବତ୍ ଲିଭିନି ଆଖିରୁ । ଆଉ ଏକ ମହାବାତ୍ୟା “ଫାଇଲିନ୍” ତାର କରାଳ ବାହୁ ମେଲାଇ ତୀବ୍ରବେଗରେ ମାଡି ଆସୁଛି ତାଣ୍ଡବ ରଚକପାଇଁ । ଏ ବେଳ ପ୍ରାର୍ଥନା କରିବାର ବେଳ । ପ୍ରତିଟି କଣ୍ଠରୁ ଶୁଣାଯାଉଛି ମା ପାଇଁ ଆବେଗ ଭର ପ୍ରାର୍ଥନା । ମା ହିଁ ତାର ସନ୍ତାନ ମାନଙ୍କୁ ରକ୍ଷା କରିବ ଏ ବିପତ୍ତିରୁ ।

ମାତ ଦୁର୍ଗେ ! ଆଜି ଚାରିପଟେ ଅପ୍ରମିତ ଅଜ୍ଞେୟ ଅନ୍ଧାରର ଦୁର୍ଗମ ଅରଣ୍ୟ । ତୁମର ତୀକ୍ଷ୍ଣ ତରବାରୀରେ ଏ ଭୟକୁ ଛେଦକର । ଆମକୁ ପ୍ରେମ ଓ କରୁଣାର ସ୍ନିଗ୍ଧ ବରଭୟ ପ୍ରଦାନ କର । ଏ ପୃଥିବୀକୁ ରକ୍ଷା କର, ଆଲୋକିତ କର ମାତେ !

“ଭକ୍ଷଣ” ତରଫରୁ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କୁ ଅନେକ ଅନେକ ଶାରଦୀୟ ଶୁଭକାମନା ।

ସତ୍ୟ ପଟ୍ଟନାୟକ



OSA and Odisha

Tapan Padhi
President OSA

The Orissa Society of Americas (OSA) established in 1969, has been providing a socio-cultural platform for Odia diaspora in the North America. The Odia population in the North America is unofficially estimated to be about 25,000, having a strong and growing relationship with Odisha on social, educational, cultural and economic fronts. There are hundreds of NGOs doing so many types of services in Odisha to make it a better place of tomorrow. We intend to strengthen and expand the beneficial role that the Odia diaspora in the North America plays by providing a formal linkage by way of a dedicated OSA Liaison Office in Odisha.

The OSA has actively promoted Odia culture in America by inviting Odia dance, music and literary experts to its annual conventions. It has facilitated fund raising for relief activities by NGOs during natural disasters in Odisha, and supported educational and developmental activities by organizing seminars in educational institutions in Odisha and at its annual conventions. The OSA members have contributed significantly to promoting and establishing educational and healthcare institutions and investment opportunities in Odisha.

We plan to significantly expand the OSA's activities in promoting Odisha in the North America as well as strengthening the linkages between Odisha and North America. The OSA is already working on initiating a student exchange program between Odisha and USA.

A Global Oriya Conference is planned to be held in Washington DC in July 2015. The vision is to showcase Odisha on the Mall of Washington DC, the Capital of United States. A ceremony of seven days will present the best of Odisha as a land of history, culture, tourism as well as a place full of opportunities for investment and a place of the future. This global Oriya convention will invite all the residents of all countries including but not limited to Great Britain, Australia, Singapore, Japan and residents of Odisha as well as the significant stake holders in Odisha and potential investors and promoters. A massive planning and joint venture activities will be held both at USA and Odisha. In addition to promoting our land of ancestors in the western world, we want to provide a support platform for Odias separated from their families. The OSA can play a significant role as a liaison for aging family members of non-resident Odias, by providing information on educational opportunities to aspiring students and linking potential investors and entrepreneurs.

In order to execute this vision through five wings of the OSA - Social, Youth, Senior Citizen, Cultural and Organizational (SYSCO), we need volunteering and financial support from members and sponsoring organizations. A few Regional Organizations in United States (with similar functionalities as OSA) have opened their Nodal Offices in their respective State-capitals with significant impact. We are requesting the Odisha government to provide a suitable office space for the OSA Liaison Office in Bhubaneswar. The office space will enable a successful pursuit of our mission by actively engaging the Odisha government, intellectual leaders, and various socio-cultural and education organizations, and as a liaison between Odias in North America and the people of Odisha.

We hope to get support for such noble initiatives by a voluntary organization driven by a strong desire to contribute back to its land of origin without any hidden motive of political or financial aspirations. We are looking forward to a positive interaction among our members in shaping our vision for Odisha and the Odia diaspora in the North America.



Sikhanda Satapathy

Vice-President OSA



Dr. Pratibha Ray describes an interesting point of view on the life-journey of a typical Odia in America in her story, “ଚଟିଘର” (chati ghara.) It appeared in the second issue of Pratishruti recently. Krushna Mohana, a smart and brilliant Odia, was featured in newspaper articles titled, “ଯୁବକଙ୍କ ବିଦେଶଯାତ୍ରା” (Youth travels abroad) when he left

India in his vibrant youth. Now that he has seen life for most part, he reminisces whether it was worth it to leave behind loving parents, deep cultural roots and childhood ties for a second-class citizenship in a place where everybody is debt-laden, turned into a “କୂର୍ମ” with back-breaking work, and with no time to enjoy the journey itself. Dr. Ray pines,

“(ଆମେରିକାରେ) ସବୁଜ କାନ୍ଦୁଇ ସ୍ତରରେ ଯେମିତି ସହର ଗୁଡ଼ିକ ଖଣ୍ଡିତ ଖଣ୍ଡିତ ହାତ ଅଜ୍ଞା ଚନ୍ଦ୍ରପଟ, ଘର ଗୁଡ଼ିକ ଯେମିତି ପିଲଙ୍କ ଖେଳଘର । ଖେଳ ସରିଗଲେ ଘର ଦ୍ଵାର ପଡ଼ିଥିବ, ଯିଏ ଯୁଆଡେ ଛୁ । ଦେଶରେ ଜୀବନ, ଯୌବନ କଷ୍ଟକର ହୋଇପାରେ, ବାର୍ଦ୍ଧକ୍ୟ ଆଉ ମରଣ ଏତେ ଦାରୁଣ ଆଉ ନିଃସଙ୍ଗ ନୁହେଁ । ଏଠି ଏକଲ ମଣିଷ ନଜର ମରଣ ଶଯ୍ୟା ବି ନଜେ ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତ କରେ!”

Prodding nostalgic introspection, the article reminds us of the impending misery of such dichotomous thoughts.

Nostalgia aside, the main takeaway for me from that story is the question: what can we do to improve our lot given the irrevocable choice we have already made? Everything said and done, man congregates with its own kind – be it based on a shared cultural heritage, political inclinations, or just a shared dream. We Odias in America are no exception. We have a common cultural origin and are likely to share a similar experience through our adulthood and old age, more or less. How can we make our collective journey more enjoyable and more meaningful? That is the question, in my opinion, OSA strives to answer partly by providing a platform to congregate through chapter and national activities. If we don’t like to turn into another Krushna Mohana of Dr. Ray’s story, we need to support such collective endeavor with active involvement. OSA has been very active in the last quarter as evident from various reports from the current and past executives. I will touch upon two important activities: 2014 Convention and OSA Awards.

OSA convention is the flag-ship cultural event for OSA. Attendees indulge in a 3-day celebration of our language, dance, music, drama, polity, friendship and heritage, with ample opportunities to share our vision for various developmental activities. Preparation for the next convention is underway in full steam. As you may already know, Satya Patnaik has accepted the convener-responsibility. He has shown strong leadership qualities and creativity through publication of two excellent issues of Pratishruti. His team is full of new ideas for the convention. I am sure, with his stewardship, we will have a wonderful convention next year. I urge you to support our convention team with whatever support they need. Please look out for the announcement for early registration window and take advantage of the discounts.

OSA has instituted various awards to celebrate achievements of Odias. More than individual awardees, the awards recognize the focus of the organization and the goals for the members to strive for. Various OSA awards are listed on the OSA website. We will shortly constitute an award committee to help implement OSA award objectives. As an active member, you can nominate award panel members as well as individuals for various OSA awards.

In closing, I will quote a batch mate of mine, who completed his earthly sojourn through an unfortunate boating accident in Florida recently. “Experience is the best teacher of all - “Good judgments come from experience, and experience comes from bad judgments!” So I request you all to “experience and judge” OSA by participating in one of its activities, be it as a committee member, as OSANet moderator, by implementing a worthwhile idea for the Odia diaspora, by attending the Convention, or merely by being an observing participant in our discussions. My salute goes to all, who have given countless hours in the past or are doing so now for the betterment of us all.



Sabita Panigrahi

Secretary OSA

Dear Friends,

I am humbled by and grateful for your support in giving me the opportunity to represent you and serve as Secretary of OSA.

I am proud to be a part of the OSA family whose outstanding volunteerism amazes me. Volunteering fills us with a sense of generosity and goodwill. It's the glue that holds the community together. I am hopeful that in keeping with our mission, we will continue to move forward together and sustain our vibrant Odia culture for future generations through OSA.

As you may know, we conduct the monthly BOG meeting among chapter presidents and OSA executives every second Sunday. We post the minutes of the meeting in OSAnet. I have also included here the past two meeting minutes.

[August](#)

[September](#)

If you have any suggestions or feedback, please contact me at sabitapanigrahi@rogers.com or at secretary@orissasociety.org

I hope that each and every one of you stays actively involved in our OSA family activities and helps us grow as a community.





Prashanta Ranabijuli

Treasurer OSA



Dear Friends,

Thank you for placing your trust and confidence in my abilities to carry out the responsibilities of Treasurer, OSA. It is my honor and privilege to serve in this position. In this report I want to give update on the following items:

Humanitarian Efforts

Soon after we assumed the office there were two sad incidents: untimely death of Mr. Kanungo of Tennessee and Mr. Ambika Kar of Colorado. On both occasions I was happy to see the generosity of OSA members to help fellow member/friend/Odia in times of need. I am pleased to say that through OSA we were able to raise the targeted amount for Mr. Kanungo's family and over \$5K for Mr. Ambika Kar's family. In earlier years OSA members raised fund for Jiban Patra incident, for UT Dallas student, and so on... These are signs of a strong organization and I am proud to be a part of it.

Activities in the past two months & OSA Annual Budget Status

In the last BOG meeting we passed three motions:

- 1) Increasing OSA grant for RDF from \$500 to \$800
- 2) Releasing \$10,000 convention advance for next year's convention
- 3) Continuing support for CCO and Odia Language activities

I congratulate New England & Southwest chapters for successful completion of Regional Drama Festivals and Michigan & Southern chapters for conducting Odia speech contest.

OSA Annual Budget for 2013-14 will be presented in October's BOG meeting and once approved will be shared with everybody.

Current Financial Status as of 28th Sep, 2013:

All OSA accounts has been transferred from past treasurer's custody to current treasurer's custody.

Following are balances in different OSA accounts.

- Checking #1 ending with 618: \$204,574.12
- Checking #2 ending with 824: \$1929.28 *
- PayPal account: \$3144.12 *

Notes: *The entire amount reflects the donations received for Mr. Ambika Kar fund.

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

Membership Drive

An organization is only as strong as its members. I urge each one of you – chapter representatives, leaders, volunteers – to reach out to fellow Odias and ask them to join OSA. Show them the achievements, the progress, the future plans... Ask them to participate in building a stronger OSA.



Niraj Rath

General Counsel OSA

Dear All,

Greetings!

My name is Niraj Rath and I wanted to use this space as a way of thanking you all for reading this wonderful journal and supporting OSA. I also wanted to introduce myself as the new General Counsel for the organization, a position which Tapan Uncle was kind enough to offer me earlier this summer. It is a great privilege to advise the organization on its legal matters given that OSA has been a presence in my life for a while.

I grew up in Dallas, Texas and had the opportunity to attend several conventions throughout my childhood in a variety of locales – from Detroit to Nashville to Houston. I had the good fortune of having parents who wanted me to gain a sense of Oriya culture (thanks, Bou and Nana!) as well as a brother who was always a good teammate in breaking the ice in those ever so awkward teen years. My convention adventures were always fun, rewarding, and filled with great memories. I hope to support a similar foundation of experiences for those younger than me coming up in the Oriya community.

My smooth transition to this role could not have been done without the groundwork of some very smart and savvy predecessors – Esha Bandyopadhyay and Nick Patnaik. Their counsel and advice has been invaluable and I will build on their tradition of sound judgment. There are many projects and goals that I have for the organization going forward and I know the framework they have built will be excellent for launching these initiatives.

Lastly, it is my sincere hope to increase participation amongst my first generation colleagues – a group of future professionals who grew up here and have a good mix of Indian and U.S. sensibilities. We are fortunate that Oriyas have been in this country long enough that there are now generations of adults who have straddled that bridge of both cultures, and can provide a good sounding board as to how best lead the organization. It is also my desire that we continue to collaborate with the many individuals coming from Orissa who have settled in the United States, and whose perspectives are necessary to fulfilling the goals of OSA.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to meeting many of you in the near future!



Annapurna Pandey

Immidiate Past President

Dear OSA family,

Greetings and Namaskar!

We finished our term on July 6th and very happily passed on the baton of OSA's administrative responsibility in the able hands of the elected OSA executives Tapan Padhi, President; Mr. Sikhanda Satpathy, Vice President; Mrs. Sabita Panigrahi, Secretary; and Mr. Prasanta Ranabijuli, treasurer.



Our term (2011-2013) ended with the memorable OSA2013 convention in Chicago. For us the Chicago convention was the most cherished gift - it was beautifully organized, all the programs went extremely well and we were greeted by a smiling face in every corner of Westin hotel. Chicago convention was a culmination of our dreams and efforts in expanding and strengthening OSA family in the last two years. For this, I can never thank enough the organizers of the convention, all the members of Chicago Odia community and the sponsors of various events and activities organized.

According to the reports submitted by OSA treasurer, Sushant Satpathy, the convention account has already been closed in record time. Also, the OSA directory and the convention CDs have been mailed to the OSA members. This is a great achievement – a big thank you to the convention team led by convener Gyana Patnaik, Co-conveners Sarj Khandai and Tarani Mohapatra, Chicago chapter president, Jhara Das, OSA convention treasurer, Debashis Panda and OSA national treasurer, Sushant Satpathy who has been a liason between the OSA executives and the convention organizing committee. I would like to single out Manoj Mahapatra, the cultural lead and his team who worked tirelessly to make the cultural program one of a kind. I was very inspired to see the second generation on the stage presenting very innovative programs. Kudos to the Chicago Odias!

The past two years have been very busy for all of us in the OSA family. We were so engrossed in OSA activities that I do not remember a single dull moment during our tenure. OSA and its affairs kept us on the edge. At home I acquired a nickname as “constantly on the phone”. My husband once told me “the spouses of the OSA executives should get a sympathy and survival award for putting up with their hours and hours of telephone calls.” I would like to thank my team – Vice President Kuku Das; Secretary, Leena Mishra; and Treasurer, Sushant Satpathy for their ungrudging support for and involvement in OSA activities. All of us gave our best and in the process had great fun in contributing to OSA meaningfully and fulfilling our goals and plans for it.

I must admit that it is a relief to be free of the day-to-day responsibilities of OSA. But I will be around and will contribute my bit as part of the BOG and in mentoring and advising the present executives. I am happy to say that OSA is in good hands and I wish all the best to the members of the new team led by Tapan Padhi.



Kuku Das

Past Vice President

Dear Friends,

Namaskar! It was a wonderful experience working with all of you for the past two years. The hard work and dedication of our team has definitely paid off as you can see by the increased OSA members and the OSA fund. Thank you for all your love and support to our team which has helped us achieve our goals, both big and not so big! I feel blessed to be a part of this beautiful OSA family.



As we know, with OSA BOG (2011-2013)'s approval, currently OSA has a revised version of OSA Awards guideline, which will be a very valuable, user friendly document. Thanks to many contributors who helped me to prepare this document, specifically the core team members Anu Biswal, Ranjan Dash, Sampurna Shrabani, Sushant Satpathy, Manoj Mahapatra, Prabhat Mohapatra, Sukant Mohapatra for all their time and effort. Thanks to Gagan Panigrahi for helping us to create the separate nomination forms for each award. Heartfelt thanks to Manoj Mahapatra for his unconditional support and guidance. Thanks to many reviewers, well-wishers for their valuable suggestion and input to bring this document to its current form and shape. Finally thanks to OSA exec & BoG for final review and acceptance of this as formal document for OSA award initiative for now and near future.

It is my sincere request to all of you to take few minutes from your valuable time to recognize/nominate /acknowledge the deserving candidates from the Odia community and help in the award process. On behalf of OSA, I would like to congratulate all the award recipients of the 2013 OSA Convention (July 4-6) at Chicago, Illinois. Our sincere thanks are due to OSA 2013 Award Committee members Mr. Gagan Panigrahi, Mr. Nirannjan Mishra and Mr. Pradeep Mohapatra for diligently carrying out the Award selection processes. A special thanks to Mr. Gagan Panigrahi to maintained an open communication and transparency throughout the process. We thank Dr Sitakantha and Kalpana Dash for their support and sponsorship for 2013 OSA Lifetime Achievement Award to Padma Shri Tulasi Munda. We also thank the sponsors Dr Nilambar and Anu Biswal, and Dr Sitakantha Dash for sponsoring the Subrina Biswal Award for Academic Excellence, and "Meghna Memorial Trust" for sponsoring Meghna Memorial award for creative writing. We would like to thank Dr. Sujay and Gita Singh for sponsoring the Samik Singh Kalinga Youth Entrepreneurship Award. We thank Sandip Dashverma for his guidance and Dr Ranjan Dash, the coordinator of Samik Singh Kalinga Youth Entrepreneurship Award. Our sincere thanks to Dr Bhagabat and Puspalakshmi Sahu for sponsoring the Award for Odia Speech and Debate Competition.

My sincere gratitude to the 2013 Convention Award Coordinator Rosalin Samantray for doing a marvelous job in helping me with every step of preparation and execution of the Grand Award Ceremony. She is an amazing person with a heart of gold! Many thanks from the bottom of my heart.



Leena Mishra

Past Secretary

Dear Friends,

For the past two years, I have had the honor of serving as the secretary of OSA - a true labor of love. Community work has been a part of my life from the very beginning of my career in many different roles. During my tenure, I came across many people, build many relationships and learned many things. It has been truly a great learning experience. However, everything has a time. Though my term has ended, I have no doubt that our organization will continue to grow strong under new leadership and reach a new height and I know that all of you, including our younger generations will continue to play an important part in seeing that it does. I think we all should remember that our active participation in community events and activity is always more important than ever as we face the future.



Wish you all a very Happy Dashera and New Year.

Please see the BOG meeting minutes for the month of May, June, July and meeting minutes for GBM 2013.

Thank you,
Leena Mishra

Board of Governors Meeting Minutes

[May](#)

[June](#)

[July](#)

[2013 OSA General Body Meeting \(“GBM”\) Minutes](#)



Sushant Satapathy

Past Treasurer

Dear Friends,

Namaskar!

Hope you all had good summer and looking forward to a bright and beautiful fall! Just like fall's bright color I see a bright future for OSA.



Everything has a beginning and an end at least for us mortals and so was our term. For many reasons my role did not end immediately after getting the status of 'past' rather got extended until transfer of accounts to incoming team on Aug 31st. In January, I had prepared a plan for rest of our term and we had 2 items in the plan; first to add \$30k to OSA's account balance to recover from the financial losses after legal case in 2009 and 2nd one was to try to reach the milestone of 1000-member families I.e. to add 100+ new member families in the remaining 6-months. Outside of our team I had set another goal with 2013 Convention team to close 2013 Convention Account before Aug 31st. Today, because of hard work of many including that of my team and convention team we are able to reach all three goals!

2013 Convention Account

2013 convention team led by Gyana Patnaik, Sarj Khandai, Tarani Mohapatra, Jhara Das and Debashish Panda not only hosted a very successful one of a kind convention but also finalized the convention account in a record time. I have accepted convention financial report from 2013 Convention team as OSA Treasurer (2011-2013) overseeing 2013 convention finances. Based on the final account the convention ended up with a surplus of \$19,529.63 out of which \$9,764.81 (50% of the surplus) has been transferred to OSA National and rest going to OSA Chicago chapter. Subsequently, the convention financial reports have been reviewed by Rajashree Kanungo, CPA. I take this opportunity to thank all our Chicago Chapter volunteers for hosting such a wonderful convention. Together what Chicago team has accomplished including closing of accounts before Aug 31st is commendable!

The overall success of any convention is dependent primarily on member participation and financial support. We thank you all who were able to join us for 2013 Convention. We are grateful to all our sponsors and donors for their support without which we would not have succeeded what we set out to do. Each one of gave your vote of confidence to 2013 convention team by your financial support. I thank all our sponsors and donors on behalf of 2011-2013 OSA National and 2013 Convention teams.

2013 Convention by Numbers

With 305 registrations **2013 Convention was the 2nd most attended** convention. Following are the total registrations for conventions over last 5 years: **2013 - 305**, 2012- 158, 2011 – 185, 2010 – 293 and **2009- 316** (registration numbers are based on the OSA Fees collected through convention).

OSA National income from convention comprises of OSA Fees, Membership Fees and 50% of surplus (or loss) from convention. **2013 OSA Chicago Convention generated largest income for OSA National** out of all the conventions held so far. Following are the OSA National income (includes OSA Fee, Membership Fee and Surplus) from last 5 conventions: **2013 - \$28,900**, 2012-



\$24,187, 2011 - \$8,402, 2010 - \$18,045 (includes 100% of the surplus) and 2009- \$8,432. Kudos to all 2013 volunteers for their hard work and dedication starting with facilities selection and contract negotiations and trying to do more with less in their own creative ways.

The **surplus from 2013 convention is the 2nd highest** followed by 2012 convention. Following are the surplus from various conventions over last 5 years (**2013 - \$19,530, 2012- \$38,255, 2011 - \$1,424, 2010 - \$7,679, 2009 - \$245**).

Convention team has since mailed **more than 100+ DVD sets and 650+ souvenir and directory** to all our members. It is a quite an undertaking. I thank the team for their goodwill gesture towards all our members. Thanks for going the extra mile!

Out of 108 new members who registered for 2013 convention, 70 joined as life members (66 through convention and 4 through chapters) and one as 5-year member. I welcome all our new members to OSA family and thank them for their decision in joining as life /5-year member. I hope others will continue with OSA by upgrading their membership in due course.

Convention Account Summary is presented below. Convention Transaction detail report was posted on OSANet.

This is one of the few conventions where convention team and OSA national worked hand-in-hand without any major disagreement. I want to thank the convention team on behalf of 2011-2013 OSA officials for their generosity and trust. We could not have asked for anything more! But I do ask for your understanding and forgiveness if there were any mistakes on our part knowingly or unknowingly in the course of convention.

OSA Membership

As of July 2013, OSA had 1052 member families and more than 250-families have joined OSA as permanent or 5-year members in last two years and that is 35% increase in the span of 2-years.

Membership Category	Member families as of July 2011	Member families as of July 2013	Increase in permanent and 5-year member families
Life	655	868	213
Benefactors	28	42	14
Patrons	50	51	1
5-year	21	52	31
Sub-total	754	1013	259
Annual	64	39	
Total	818	1052	

I thank all our new members for their decision to join OSA and believing in this organization. The list of new members who have joined after Jun 10th, 2013 has been provided in a different section.

OSA Financials and Account Statement

OSA's financial position has improved considerably due to 3 reasons: increase in membership, robust surplus from 2012 and 2013 conventions and membership upgrade by many members helped OSA gain its financial footing.

Following is the change in OSA's account balance between September 1st, 2011 and Aug 31st, 2013.



Total Balance (as of 08/31/2013)	\$206,726.58
Total Balance(as of 09/01/2011)	\$105,686.55
Net Increase	\$101,040.03

Out of ~\$100K increase in OSA's Account Balance, we added ~\$30K from 2012 and 2013 convention surplus and increase of ~\$65K resulted due to joining of 250+ new members and several membership upgrades.

Account Statement Summary as of Aug 31st, 2013 is provided below. The spreadsheet with transaction level details has been posted on the OSANet.

Account Transfer is Complete

I take this opportunity to welcome our new OSA officials. They have already taken charge and I hope you will provide them the same overwhelming support we have received. Over last 2 months, I have transferred all OSA financial information including accounts and all related documents to incoming treasurer, Prashanta Ranabijuli while keeping other OSA officials apprised. The account transfer process is complete as of Aug 31st, 2013. The final OSA account handed over to the new team has been reviewed by Rajashree Kanungo, CPA. The transfer also includes transfer of member roster to new team. The new team has a very good start and I will provide them help whenever it is needed. When we came I inherited the pledge list (SAVE OSA pledge list after 2009 legal case) from prior team. I worked very hard following up for the pledge. However, in this transfer process I am not passing on the list to the new team for any further action.

It has been quite an experience. Although at times it has been challenging, looking back I am happy from where we started and where we are now and how we got here. I hope the changes due to transparency, openness and oneness brought over last 2 years will bring more positive changes in the future and the organization will be better for it. It has been an honor and privilege to be part of this organization, part of my team and having the opportunity to work with so many of you. My heartfelt thanks to all of you for your trust and support and my best wishes to Mr. Tapan Padhi and his team.



Final OSA Account Statement as of 08/31/2013 (2011-2013)

Sushant Satpathy Volunteer/Treasurer, OSA (2011-2013)	Amount	Income/ Expense Category
Balances as of 06/01/2013		
Checking #1	\$61,421.15	
Checking #2	\$12,429.54	
CD#1	\$103,479.08	
Convention Advance Receivable	\$10,000.00	
Total Balance (as of 6/01/2013)	\$187,329.77	
Receipts		
	9,764.86	2013 Convention Income for OSA National*
	\$1,280.00	Annual Membership *
	\$4,575.00	OSA Fee*
	\$2,800.00	Membership Upgrade *
	\$23,840.00	OSA new Life and 5-year Membership **
	\$1,929.28	Ambika Kar Fund ***
	\$105.16	Interest Income from CD/FDs *
	\$2,000.00	LTA Awards *
	\$1,250.00	CCO Fund (CD sale)***
Payments	(\$309.40)	Community outreach - YA Community Service
	(\$1,500.00)	Convention Guest Travel
	\$2,088.95	Administrative (Election Expenses, Fees , Postage, Bouquet, Membership Card printing, Paypal Fee etc) *
	\$8,025.00	Membership Award*
	\$2,143.25	CCO Awards and CD Vol II****
	\$50.00	Odia Language***
	\$1,701.35	Awards *
	\$12,329.54	Jiban Patra Fund ***
Net Increase (Decrease)	\$19,396.81	

* Items marked are operational income or expense

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

*** Designated special funds

Accounts Payable

LTA Award for Ms. Tulsi Munda	\$2,000.00
Reserve for 2011/2012 Tax Filing	\$500.00
Ambika Kar Fund	\$1,929.28
SB Award for Academic Excellence	\$1,000.00

Balances as of 08/31/2013

Checking #1	\$204,797.30
Checking #2	\$1,929.28
Total Balance (as of 8/31/2013)	\$206,726.58

Balances under special funds

ODF	\$1,620.80
CCO Fund	\$667.99
Odia Language Dev Fund	\$3,334.50
Emergency Fund	\$7,000.00
Jiban Patra Fund (disbursed)	\$0.00
Ambika Kar Fund	\$1,929.28



OSA 2013 Convention Account Statement

August 31st, 2013

Prepared by Debashish Panda

Repurposed by Sushant Satpathy

Convention Income

51000 - 2013 Convention Income	
51100 - Registration and OSA Fee	\$33,665.00
51200 - Food Receipts	\$56,062.00
51300 - Sponsorship	\$39,755.00
51400 - Donation	\$34,369.00
51600 - DVD Sale	\$1,980.00
51700 - YA Cruise	\$4,400.00
51800 - Souvenir	\$145.00
Total 51000 - 2013 Convention Income	\$170,376.00
52000 - OSA National Income	
52100 - OSA Membership Fee	\$14,560.00
Total 52000 - OSA National Income	\$14,560.00
Total Income	\$184,936.00

Convention Expense

71000 - 2013 Convention Expenses	
71100 - Operational Expenses	
71110 - Bank Service Fees	\$3,373.57
71120 - Softwares and Hardwares	\$110.84
71130 - Supplies and Mailing	\$2,432.34
71140 - Printing	\$13,265.34
Total 71100 - Operational Expenses	\$19,182.09
71200 - Facilities and Equipments	
71210 - Event Insurance	\$724.00
71220 - Convention Center rental	\$8,565.00
71230 - Equipment purchase and Rental	\$3,505.54
71260 - Video and Photography	\$2,875.77
Total 71200 - Facilities and Equipments	\$15,670.31
71300 - Cultural, Seminar and Youth	
71310 - Cultural	
71311 - Decoration	\$2,101.56
71314 - Light and Sound Rental	\$17,464.25
71315 - Showcase Event	\$4,606.91
71316 - Krishna Beura Program	\$6,427.77
71317 - Sniti Mishra's Program	\$3,822.00
71318 - Kuna Tripathy Program	\$1,000.00
71319 - Lighting and Sound Coordination	\$400.00
Total 71310 - Cultural	\$35,822.49
71320 - Youth	
71321 - Youth Cruise	\$6,800.72
71322 - Youth Social & Community Event	\$377.12
Total 71320 - Youth	\$7,177.84
Total 71300 - Cultural, Seminar and Youth	\$43,000.33
71400 - Awards & Prizes	
71420 - Non-cultural awards	\$3,950.01
71430 - Cultural awards	\$1,950.00
Total 71400 - Awards & Prizes	\$5,900.01
71500 - Food Expense	
71550 - Food Package	\$49,500.00
71560 - Food related other Expenses	\$2,960.42
Total 71500 - Food Expense	\$52,460.42
71600 - Hospitality and Guest services	
71610 - Welcome Packet	\$3,157.00
71620 - Flower & Decorations	\$495.60
71640 - Baby sitting expenses	\$180.00
Total 71600 - Hospitality and Guest services	\$3,832.60
71700 - Transportation & Accomodation	
71710 - Travel expense for guests	\$1,946.90
71720 - Hotel expenses for guests	\$2,123.79
Total 71700 - Transportation & Accomodation	\$4,070.69
71800 - Reserve Fund	
71810 - Mailing and Sponsor Package	\$750.00
71820 - Volunteer Appreciation	\$1,000.00
Total 71800 - Reserve Fund	\$1,750.00
71900 - Other Expenses	\$404.92
Total 71000 - 2013 Convention Expenses	\$146,271.37
72000 - OSA National Liability & Refund	
72100 - OSA National life Membership	\$13,300.00
72200 - OSA National Annual Membership	\$1,260.00
72300 - OSA Convention Fee	\$4,575.00
Total 72000 - OSA National Liability & Refund	\$19,135.00
Total Expenses	\$165,406.37
Surplus (Overall Total)	\$19,529.63
50% of Surplus Transferred to OSA National	\$9,764.81
50% - OSA-Chicago Chapter	\$9,764.82

Convener: Gyana R Patnaik

Accepted by Sushant Satpathy, Treasurer, OSA (2011-2013)

Chapter President: Jhara Das

Convention Treasurer: Debashish Panda

Co-conveners: Sarj Khandaï, Tarani Mohapatra, Kuku Das (VP, OSA 2011-2013)



Hearty welcome new OSA Members!

We welcome our new members and thank them for their decision to be part of this organization representing Odia community in North America. Following members have joined OSA after Jun 10th, 2013.

L I F E M E M B E R S	
Abhijit Ghosh ,WA	Pratyush (Prat) Panda ,CA
Akshaya Pradhan and Mamata Pradhan,OH	Pravas Parida and Sanjukta Parida,OH
Amaresh Misra and Ritanjali Misra,NJ	Priyabrata Tripathy and Aradhana Das,NJ
Arabinda Mishra and Mamata Mishra,TN	Purna Das and Anupama Das,IN
Ashish Tripathy and Carol Tripathy,IL	Raj Pati and Arati Pati,WI (Upgrade)
Ashok Mishra and Saswati Mahapatra,MN	Rajashree Kanungo and Pabitra Dalai,IL
Ashok Samal and Biswajita(Jitu) Samal,NE	Ramakrishna Mishra and Chinmayee Mishra,IL
Ashok Das and Sanghamitra Pattnaik,WA	Rashmi Samal and Smita Samal,NJ
Bani Ray ,NJ	Sahana Misra and Christopher Custer,OR
Bhawani Tripathy and Sanghamitra Tripathy,MI	Sanjay Patro and Lekhani Samant Sinhar,PA
Bibhash Banerjee and Sili Banerjee,MN	Sasmita Cramer and Ryan Cramer,IL
Bikram Nayak and Vishali Nayak,NC	Satish Mohapatra and Seemantini Das,PA
Bishwanath Sahoo and Nivedita Bal,NJ	Satyabrata Nayak and Sunita Rout,CA
Debakanta Mishra and Bipasha Deb,IL	Satyajeeta Mishra ,MN
Debashis Rath and Anuradha Rath,FL	Sibo Pani and Gayatri Rath,VA
Debasis Rath and Prathiba Nagaraju,IL	Sidhartha Misra and Amber Renee Misra,CA
Digvijoy Mohapatra and Tanaya Pattnaik,NJ	Sribatsa Das and Chaitali Roy,NJ
Durga Kar and Shreemayee Kar,WI	SriLakshmi Angara and Ravi Angara,NJ
Guru (Ranjan) Choudhury and Babita Choudhury,OH	Subhashish Tripathy and Deepa Bhandari,NJ
Jitendra Pradhan and Priyambada Pradhan,ON	Subhendu Misra and Ekta Misra,NY
Jyotiranjana Pradhan and Sangita Pradhan,MI	Subhendu Gantayet and Nandita Gantayet,ON
Kalyan Dey and Sarmistha Dash,IL	Subrat Mahapatra and Toya Mahapatra,PA
Kishore Panda and Jema Panda,CA	Suchit Dash and Anjali Dash,CA
Krishna Satpathy and Gayatri Mahapatra,NJ	Sudhi Das and Lita Das,PA
Lokanath Patel and Basanti Patel,IA	Sudhir Mishra and Bimala Mishra,MN
Manas Pattnaik and Sikha Pattnaik,WI	Sujatha Nayak ,IL (Upgrade)
Manoj Mohanty and Pragyan Sheela Mohanty,IL	Supriya Misra and Snehanjali Misra,MI
Manoj Mahapatra and Manisha Mahapatra,IL	Suranjan Panigrahi and Debjaya Misra,IN
Mukta Mohapatra ,CA (Upgrade)	Surya Senapati and Trupti Pradhan,WA
Navaketan Mohanty and Sucharita Mahapatra,AZ	Sushil Kumar and Sweta Jena,MN
Pradyumna Dikhit and Seema Dikhit,CA	Susmita Das and Jyoti Das,CA
Prahallad Senapati and Susmita Sahu,NJ	Swapnakant Mohanty and Vijayashree Pydikondala,MN
Prakash Samal and Pragyan Mohanty,IL	Utkal Nayak and Debarchana Singh,OH



Pranteek Patnaik and Cathy Patnaik, AL, LM	
5-YEAR MEMBERS	
Bikram Mohanty and Subhashree Routray,WA Manoj Das and Nivedita Das,FL Sandeep Misra and Ajitha Misra,WA Sanjay Mishra and Sudipti Mishra,WA	Sanjukta Satpathy , NE Satwik Patnaik and Himanandini Mohanty,OR Sumeet Dash ,WA,5-yr Una Sai Prasad Patro and Pallishree Chaudhury,WA

ANNUAL MEMBERS	
Abinash Das ,WA Ambarish Mohanty ,IL Ashish Pujari ,IL Baidehish Dwibedy and Anwasha Dwibedy,IL Bijay Roy and Penny Roy,IL Biswajit Puhan and Reshma Das, MI Biswajit Pattnaik and Leena Patnaik,MI Chandan Nayak ,IL Chinmay Samal and Anita Samal,MO Dayanidhi Mohanta ,IL Debabrata Behera and Lopamudra Behera,IL Deepak Khuntia and Sarita Khuntia,CA Lilamaya Pradhan and Madhu Pradhan,IL Mahendra Mahapatra and Varsha Mahapatra,IL Manoranjan Behera and Sweta Behera,IL Nitai Misra and Monalisa Misra,GA Prasanjit Mohapatra and Amrita Kar,IL Pratyasha Rath and Sudesh Kulkarni,IL Pritish Pattnaik and Bhavna Bharadwaj,WI Ranjan Mohanty and Monica Mohanty,IL	Ravikanth Duvvuri and Satavisha Pati,IL Ruchira Padhi and Abhishek Tripathy,MO Sambit Mohapatra ,MA Sandeep Rath ,NJ Sanjaya Pradhan and Dipti Samal,IL Sanjeet Kamat and Ranjita kamat,IL Sarada Mohapatra and Roopa Mohapatra,IL Satyaban Mohapatra and Monalisa Mohapatra, GA Seema Jena ,NJ Siddhartha Nayak and Anuranjita Nayak,FL Srikanta Sahoo and Shashwati Swain,MI Subal Dang ,CA Subrat Patra and Sasmita Patra,IL Subrata Chatterjee and Rita Chatterjee,IL Suresh Behera ,IL Surya Mishra and Alpana Mishra,IL Swaraj Dash ,NJ Swarup Garnaik and Swati Garnaik,IL Uma Varikuti and Suchi V Swain,MN



The Award Recipients at 2013 OSA Convention

Reported by Kuku Das, Past Vice President OSA

DISTINGUISHED GUEST AWARD



Dr. Satyanarayan Gangaram Pitroda popularly known as Sam Pitroda (born 4 May 1942) is an Indian engineer, business executive and policymaker. He is advisor to the Prime Minister of India on public information infrastructure and innovations and the chairman of National Innovation Council. Pitroda contributed to India's foreign and domestic telecommunications policies. He is considered one among many to be responsible for the telecommunication revolution in India. With many other awards, he had also received Padma Bhushan in 2009 by the Government of India for his contribution to Science and Engineering.



Padmshree Dr. Pratibha Ray is an Indian academic and writer. She was born on 21 January 1943, at Alabol, a remote village in the Balikuda area of Jagatsinghpur district formerly part of Cuttack district of Odisha state. She was the first woman to win the Moortidevi Award in 1991. She is an eminent fiction writer in contemporary India. She writes novels and short stories in her mother tongue Odia. She won Jnanpith Award for 2011, the highest award of the country for literature. "Love and Let Live" is her motto. "Give me your heart, I will give you God", she said.



Dr. Dinanath Pathy is a veteran artist, art historian, poet, author, teacher and administrator. A former secretary of Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi and Bhubaneswar as well as former principal of BK College of Art and Crafts in Bhubaneswar, Dinanath is currently working on various projects of documentation of the art and artists of the state. "Art has its own language and I have been trying to understand this language since last 30 years. I have been trying to portray Oriya language and art through Orissan motifs, forms and colors in my writings as well as paintings," said the master artist. "I try to express Oriya art and culture as a part of the World's culture," he added.



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Padmshree Tulasi Munda is a noted social activist from Indian state of Orissa who was awarded Padma Shri in 2001 by Government of India. Tulsi Munda has done a lot of work to spread literacy among the tribal people. She was born in 1947 July 15. Tulsi Munda is known for her mission to spread literacy among the underprivileged. An encounter with Vinoba Bhave when he visited Orissa in 1963 during the Bhoodan Andolan padayatra set her on the path that was to change the fortunes of her people. On that padayatra' Tulsi promised Vinoba she'd follow his guidelines and principles throughout her life. She has triggered a silent revolution in Serendra - a village about 30 km from the mines city of Joda in Orissa and its vicinity. The mission started by her in 1964 has borne fruit. The village once under the grip of illiteracy and poverty now boasts of a model school which has served as a catalyst for the overall development of the area.

DISTINGUISHED ODIA AWARD

Dr. Uma Ballava Mishra was born in Sundargram, Cuttack, Odisha in 1947, the son of the late Gopinath Mishra and Smt. Nishamani Mishra. As a child, Dr. Mishra witnessed his brother's untimely death from an infection following an injury. This experience inspired him to excel in his academics and study medicine. He began his studies in Cuttack, attending Ravenshaw College and S.C.B. Medical College. Together with his classmates, he provided medical care in the refugee camps created during the 1971 struggle for Bangladeshi independence. During his medical internship in 1972, he met and married Shantilata Mahapatra of Balasore. The couple immigrated to the US later the same year, arriving first in Albany, New York, and Shantilata would eventually obtain her Ph.D. from SUNY-Albany under the mentorship of Dr. Tara Prasad Das. Despite the struggles of adapting to a new culture, a new language and new fatherhood, Dr. Mishra pursued his medical training both in Albany and in Dayton, Ohio, and finally at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York, New York.



In 1986, Dr. Mishra moved from hospital practice in Westchester County, New York to private practice in Newburgh, New York. When the practice was sold in 1992, the family embarked on another new adventure as entrepreneurs, building a new state-of-the-art cancer care facility, the Orange County Radiation Oncology Center (OCROC). Since then, OCROC has provided care to hundreds of patients, regardless of patients' insurance status or ability to pay. OCROC's logo features the eye of Lord Jagannath.

Drs. Uma and Shanti Mishra are longstanding members and past officers of OSANY. Exemplifying the concept of "paying it forward," they have opened their home over the years to countless young Odia students and professionals arriving in or passing through New York,



offering friendly conversation and also paratha to these newcomers and making America seem just a little less foreign. Officially, they are the proud parents of three children and the grandparents of one, but they are also the honorary Bhaina and Nani to dozens of others.

Dr. Uma Mishra has also been closely involved in the establishment and operation of Kalinga Hospital in Bhubaneswar, currently serving as the Chairman of the Board. His lifelong commitment to increasing access for quality healthcare thus has come full circle, back to where it began.

ARUN DAS MEMORIAL KALASHREE AWARD



Dr. Birendra Jena's passion for drama was quite evident from an early age as he had staged a play with the children of his age group by translating the play from Hindi at the age of 11! He has been very much involved in dramatic activities since his school days and was the Dramatic Secretary of Regional Engineering College, Rourkela. Apart from acting in numerous plays he has also written several plays. A compilation of his plays, "Dura Pahada O Anyanya Nataka" was recently published and released during Bhubaneswar Rajadhani Pustaka Mela held in December, 2012.

Dr. Jena has also performed in various OSA conventions and Ohio chapter functions and is quite well known in OSA Regional Drama Festival community. He has participated in various drama festivals held in Columbus, Chicago and Flint and some of his plays have been staged in drama festivals held in various parts of North America . In the year 2010, he persuaded a group of Odias in Cleveland area with no previous acting experience to act in his play "Emiti bi Hue" which was staged in Toronto RDF and subsequently in Columbus and their performances were very well appreciated by the audience.

Dr. Jena is also a short story writer. Two of his short stories were recently published in an Odia magazine the third one is scheduled for publication in the upcoming Puja edition.

He has also been involved in various OSA activities. He was the President of Ohio Chapter. He has also served as OSA awards coordinator for several years. He was instrumental in establishing written guidelines for various OSA awards. Dr. Birendra Jena is a Materials Engineer by profession and currently lives in Niles, Ohio.



YOUTH VOLUNTEER AWARD



Angie (Anjana) Pati is 17 years old and is a high school senior who lives in Millstone Township in New Jersey. Angie has participated in OSA competitions and local chapter dances since very young age. She has continued her activities by directing, co-directing, choreographing cultural programs during Kumar Purnima, Young Adult program, and other festivities organized by OSA local chapters and OSA convention. Her work was creative and was acknowledged by the audience. Aside from OSA activities, Angie challenges herself in school academically, takes rigorous classes (honors and AP), secures perfect GPA and has been recently designated by the College Board as an "AP Scholar with Honor." In addition to her volunteer work, she is a Varsity tennis player, President of her class, President of Science National Honor Society, president of People to People, a member of English Honor Society and National Honor society, and works at the world's largest cell and DNA repository at Rutgers University. Further, she has organized fund raising events for

research for pediatric cancer, cystic fibrosis, breast cancer, and underprivileged children in Afghanistan and Uganda. She also serves as a soccer coach for autistic children. She volunteered in Alzheimer Disease Lab in research and gathered information on Alzheimer's disease using the species *Drosophila* as model organisms, Angie has tutored advanced students for AP and Honors courses. She loves to spend time with her family and friends and enjoys her life fully! Anjana Pati's parents Dr. Niranjana Pati and Mrs. Sanghamitra Pati are Life Members since 1992.

YUVA KALA VIKAS AWARD



Ananya Kar is the daughter of Santosh and Swayam Kar of Michigan. Ananya is classically trained in Odissi dance. She has been learning Odissi since last 10 years under the guidance of Guru Sreyashi dey of Srishti dances and Guru Sri Manoranjan Pradhan of Odissi dance Academy. She has been promoting the Odissi dance in various forums in USA and India. In addition, she also performs other popular Indian dances in pan-Indian cultural forums and multi-cultural events. She also practices the Odissi classical vocal forms of Champu and

Chhanda. She was a finalist in Sony Entertainment's Boogie Woogie Chalo America in 2007 and 2009. In addition to excelling in dance, Ananya maintains equal high standard in academics. She is an honor roll student and a member of National Honors Society.



OSA 2013 APPRECIATION AWARDS

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

Distinguished Service Award



Dr. Sukant Mohapatra has Ph.D degree in Computer Science with research/interest focus on Mobility, NextGen Network, Network Optimization & Management etc. He has been working in senior leadership capacity in telecommunication industries & has taught graduate program in Rutgers University. He has been invited speaker in various forums. Dr. Mohapatra is the founder chairman of National Institute of Science and Technology (NIST, www.nist.edu), Berhampur, established in 1996 as the first NRI educational venture in Odisha. As a patron member of OSA, he has actively contributed for various community causes and OSA initiatives.

Esha Bandyopadhyay has had a highly accomplished legal career, specializing in intellectual property litigation. She graduated from the University of California -Berkeley School of Law at the age of 22, the youngest graduate ever at one of the premier law schools in the nation. At 30, she was named the youngest partner ever at Kirkland & Ellis, one of the leading litigation firms in the country. Besides serving as General Counsel to OSA from 2012-2013, Esha has demonstrated her commitment to Odiya culture through intense study of Odissi dance, and she has danced at several OSA Conventions. She was a student of Srjan Odissi Nrutyabasa, the late Padmabibhushan Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra's dance institution in Bhubaneswar. Since his passing, she has studied with Smt. Sujata Mohapatra and Smt. Niharika Mohanty. As a corollary to that dedication, she has helped organize several international tours by Odissi dancers. Esha is the daughter-in-law of Dr. & Mrs. Surendra and Nandita Dash of Ohio. She lives with her husband Rajesh Dash in San Francisco.



Nick Patnaik has practiced law for twenty years, specializing in investment management law. He did his undergraduate education at the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, graduating with a concentration in accounting and finance. He went on to graduate with honors from the Fordham University School of Law. His career has included stints at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett, one of the leading corporate firms in the country, and The Bank of New York Mellon, a Fortune 100 company and one of the largest asset managers in the world. He now is a Senior Compliance Manager at Schroders plc, a London-based asset manager. Nick was one of the first 'second generation' Odiyas to participate actively in OSA affairs, having served as the President of OSA from 2001-2003 and as General Counsel to OSA from 2011-2012. Nick is the son of Dr. & Mrs. Birendra and Navanita Patnaik of New Jersey. He currently lives in New York City.



Sridhar Rana believes in passion and focus. A day is 24 hours for everybody; it is your focus that saves some time from these hours for your passionate thing, this is what he believes in. His experience of life makes him comfortable to choose ‘Respectable’ over ‘Popular’ if there is any conflict between these two. Sridhar Rana is an IT Architect/Senior Manager and an active passionate volunteer of OSA NY/NJ (since 2003). He served OSA NY-NJ as Secretary (2005-2007) and has been Event Organizer for many events/activities of OSA NY/NJ. His contribution to OSA has been in the capacity of Editor of Utkarsa (OSA Newsletter from

2009-2013), Editor of Audio Souvenir (2009). He is a Member (2010-2012) and Secretary (2012-2014) of the Executive Board of India Cultural Society, NJ. He lives with his wife Bijoylaxmi and daughters Lipika and Deepika in New Jersey.



Dr. Julie Acharya Ray works as an R&D scientist at ARUP laboratories at Salt Lake City, Utah. She is a Ph.D in chemistry by training but her heart and soul lies in the muse. She is an artist, writer and singer. Be it hosting the Sunday Oriya radio program Utkal Prabha while her stay in New Jersey or the year round multi-cultural programs in the Washington DC area while her stay in Maryland or co editing Utkarsa after her move to Salt Lake City, Utah, she has remained in touch with the community. She raises awareness for Orissi among non-oriya residents of Utah by running an Orissi dance

school from her home where her daughter Ankita (who trains regularly at Padmavibhushan Kulu Charan Mohapatra’s Srjan Dance School in India) teaches Orissi. Currently Julie runs a music school in Salt Lake City area and lives with her husband Abhijit Ray and daughters Ankita and Aparna Ray.



Bikash Panda is an IT professional in a Healthcare company and lives with his wife Pragyan and two daughters Ria & Diya in San Ramon, California.

Sunil Sabat hails from Berhampur and lives in Silicon Valley with his wife Manasa and two sons, Sudhesh and Suvam. He has earned B.Tech from NIT Warangal, MS (Computer Engineering) and MS (Computer Science) from University of Louisiana, in 1989 and 1990 respectively. He also has an MBA

(Marketing and Finance) from Leavey School of Business at Santa Clara University, California. He has years of hardware and software industry skills in varieties of roles - Intel circuit design automation to delivering enterprise software solutions involving IBM, Oracle, Microsoft and Open Source technologies. He is one of the founding members of IASF (Odia Sevak) charity organization and also served as the Vice President of NIT Warangal US Alumni. He was treasurer for OSACAL 2010 convention and currently volunteering as the OSAnet moderator. Sunil’s interests include reading, travel, community service and Odia songs/movies.



Service Leadership Award



Since coming to the USA as a student from the early 80s, **Gyana Patnaik** is associated with OSA. He served the community as Chapter Representative of Chicago, OSA Editor, Membership drive Lead and lately as the Convener of our 44th Convention. In order to promote Odia culture in North America and support artists of Odisha, his family works tirelessly sponsoring artists, arranging programs and supporting artist(s) during their whole North America tour. Gyana holds MS in Computer Science and MBA in Marketing from Alabama A&M University and works in Telecom industry. He lives in Naperville, IL with wife Sujata and children Suraj, Saurav and Shivam.

Sourjya Kanta Khandai, Co-Convener of the 2013 OSA Convention, (M.S Industrial Engineering, NIU & B.S Mechanical, VSSUT) is currently working as a senior manager, project management for Alcatel-Lucent at Naperville, IL. He brought his professional skills to convention by managing the programs in a very timely manner. Mr. Khandai is from Cuttack and been in US for last 25 years. He is a life member of OSA and very active in national as well as Chicago chapter activities for last 23 years. Currently he lives in Aurora, IL with his wife Anu Khandai, son Abhisek Chandan Khandai and daughter Ankita Khandai. Mr. Khandai loves to dance, paint, act (drama) and travel.



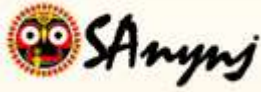
Tarani Mohapatra, was one of the co-conveners for 44th OSA Convention. Apart from working actively in fund raising, program management, award coordination, and communication teams; Tarani was a source of inspiration to all of the convention team members and has significant contribution towards maintaining the unity among the Chicago community.

Tarani currently lives in Buffalo Grove, IL with his wife Anuradha and two sons; Sagar and Swaraj. He works in the field of Information Technology at Abbott Laboratories.

Manoj Mahapatra (Cultural co-ordinator, 2013 OSA Convention) is an OSA member and volunteer since 1987 in NY/NJ (87 to 89), Columbus Ohio (89 to 1999) and Chicago (2002 to present). Lived in UK for a few years from 1999 to 2002. Active participant in OSA events along with wife Sarita and daughters, Trisha and Triya.



New York/ New Jersey Chapter



Southern Chapter



Chicago Chapter for Hosting 44th OSA Convention, 2013

OSA2013.org

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44th OSA Convention
CHICAGO
July 4-6, 2013

The Orissa Society of The Americas



OSA Election Committee 2013

Dr Haralal Chowdhury came to USA as a student in 1968 to study Animal Science. In 1973 he started as a post doctorate fellow in Cincinnati Medical Center. In 1980 he received Professional Board certificate in Toxicology. After that he worked 2 years in National Toxicology Program. In 1984 he joined US Development Protection Association as a Toxicologist. In 1993 he developed a bio kinetic model for children exposed to lead at contaminated sites. This model is still in use by EPA in lead sites assessment to identify children at risk to lead exposure.



Born in the village of Karilopatna of Kendrapara District in 1929, **Dr. Duryodhan Mangaraj** had his earlier education in the local schools. He completed his undergraduate and post graduate degrees at Ravenshaw College, Cuttack and received gold medal for standing first class first in M.Sc. The same year he joined as a lecturer at Ravenshaw College, Cuttack and later on went to England with Govt. of India fellowship. He completed his Ph.D. degree in Polymer Science in 1959 at the University of Manchester and later on joined I.I.T., Kharagpur, where he served as

Assistant Professor of Rubber and Polymer Technology. In 1967 he was invited to join as Professor of Plastics Technology at Harcourt Butler Technological Institute, Kanpur. Later on he served as the Director of the Institute and introduced Rural Engineering as a degree course. He came to USA in 1969 and worked as a senior scientist at the University of Massachusetts and City University of New York, Polymer Research Corporation of America, Phelps Dodge Cable Company, New York and Battelle Memorial Institute, Columbus, Ohio. After retirement he worked as a consultant to many companies including Battelle, METSS and EMCC and Polymer, Ohio. He has numerous publications and patents. He has worked as a visiting scientist and guest speaker at various institutes in India.

He is a founder member of OSA since 1969 and has worked for OSA in different capacities. He and his wife Sakuntala, currently live in Columbus, Ohio and have four children and eight grand children.



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

Dr. Bhuyan lives in Columbus, Ohio with his wife Liza, son Varun, and daughter Madhur. He leads a number of Lord Jagannath related activities in Columbus and is taking an active role in hosting the OSA 2014 Convention in Columbus, Ohio. One of his goals is to contribute to the growth of OSA.



THE MEGHNA MEMORIAL AWARD FOR CREATIVE WRITING



Suraj Jena (Senior Categori, Joint Winner) is a Senior at Neuqua Valley High School in Naperville, IL. He loves sports like Rugby, Cricket, Football and Basketball. He is also a state championship Rugby player for his High School. Suraj involved in the Choir and vocal Jazz. He was selected to go for musical trip to Spain last year with his Choir team from Neuqua. Suraj lives with his parents Dambaru & Chandrakanti Jena and his twin sisters in Naperville, IL.

Abha Panda (Senior Category, Joint Winner) is 13 years old and is an 8th grader at Gahanna Middle School East, Columbus, Ohio. Her hobbies include reading, writing, and spending time outdoors. She loves animals and nature and one day hopes to become a wildlife conservationist.



Resha Panda (Senior Category) is 12 and half years old, an eighth grader at Windermere Ranch Middle school, lives with her parents Kamal and Nibedita Panda in San Ramon, CA. She is a Hindustani Classical singer and a competitive swimmer. In her spare time she loves to write poems and short stories.

SAMIK SINGH KALINGA YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARD



Shivansh Padhy (1st) was born on Aswina Sukla Panchami, October 6, 1997 to Basabadutta Mishra and Prashant Padhy in IL. He lives with his parents, sister Shivangi and grandmother Kanak Padhy in Aurora, IL. He attends Metea Valley High School as a sophomore. He currently holds a diploma as a Senior Tabla player from Prayag Sangeet Samiti, Allahabad. He loves music, sports and having a ton of fun. He has been attending Chimaya Mission since the age of 5. Shivansh is an independent thinker, gets along well with all age groups, helps his sister with her homework, helps mom with her work, assists grandma and discusses Vedanta with Dad. Some of his hobbies are: playing Tabla, basketball, tennis, participating in speech team and reciting Vedic chants and shlokas from Bhagvad Gita. Shivansh is aspiring to have a career in the field of bio-chemistry.



Natasha Mohanty (2nd), 18, daughter of Lalatendu Mohanty & Namrata Das of New Jersey, is a freshman at Case Western Reserve University,



Cleveland Ohio pursuing her career in Biomedical Engineering. She has played a very active role in various OSA New York & New Jersey Chapter activities. She is a passionate Odissi Dancer & Singer and represented the chapter in many OSA Conventions. As a singer & musician, she has performed in many places including Carnegie Hall. As a young local leader & Girls Scout Gold award winner, she is involved many voluntary activities involving cultural exchange and diversity, Autism & Global warming awareness in local communities. She is also a local TV anchor and moderators for local community debates.

She enjoys the higher pace, loves to challenge her, and believes “Setting high goals always has good consequences”. It’s not her sparkling conversation or the dazzling personality or her razor-sharp wit but the ability to create extraordinary rapport that makes others feel exceptional make her charming. She's a loving, sensible girl who cares for elderly, loves kids, unbiased, helpful & trustworthy to her friends. Always cheerful, bubbly, keeps the surrounding charming, dresses professionally to bring a strong & positive self-image.

Pallavi Parida (3rd) is currently a sophomore at Metea Valley High school. She enjoys playing tennis, playing the violin, and classical dancing. She lives with her parents Ashok (Bob) & Sarita Parida and sister Payal Parida in Chicago, Illinois.



Sidhaant (Sid) Rath, age-12 goes to Glades Middle School in Miramar. Sid plays tennis and basketball. He likes to listen to music and play trumpet during his free time. He is a member of the Robotics club in his school. He lives with his parents, Debasis and Anuradha Rath and brother Sobheet in Miramar, Florida.

CHAMPU CHHANDA ODISSI

Ananya Kar (1st) is the daughter of Santosh and Swayam Kar of Michigan. Ananya is classically trained in Odissi dance. She has been learning Odissi since last 10 years under the guidance of Guru Sreyashi dey of Srishti dances and Guru Sri Manoranjan Pradhan of Odissi dance Academy.

She has been promoting the Odissi dance in various forums in USA and India. In addition, she also performs other popular Indian dances in pan-Indian cultural forums and multi-cultural events. She also practices the Odissi classical vocal forms of Champu and Chhanda. She was a finalist in Sony Entertainment's Boogie Woogie Chalo America in 2007 and 2009. In addition to excelling in dance, Ananya maintains equal high standard in academics. She is a honor roll student and a member of National Honors Society.



Ellora Mohanty (2nd) is 16 years old a Junior in Edison high school. She is an honor roll student and chamber singer for last 2 years, has been in girl choir since she was in middle school. She has been learning Hindustani classical vocal music for last 3 years. She is not only an Odissi singer but also a gifted Odissi dancer. She has been learning and performing Odissi for last 9 years. She enjoys competing in various



occasions. Her interest in theater got her a part in high school's theater production this year. She makes us very proud with her down to earth personality, determination to keep up with her grades as she follows her passion for theater, music & dance. She lives with her parents Jagannath & Eva Mohanty in Edison, NJ.



Lipika Rana (3rd) is a high school sophomore in The Math Science & Engineering Academy, Morris Hills. She is a volunteer at a hospital and library and has been in Girl Scout for seven years. She is a varsity tennis player and an honor student in her school. Regarding classical singing, she is not trained by any professional instructor but loves to sing and learn. She adores her little sister Deepika and lives with her parents Sridhar & Bijoylaxmi Rana, in New Jersey.

ODIA SPEECH



Shivansh Padhy (1st)

Abhinav Mohapatra (2nd), a 17 years old Senior in High School. Son of PriyaRanjan and Aparna Mohapatra from Parsippany, NJ. Abhinav has a love for language and is fluent in French, Bangla, Hindi and of course Oriya. He has enthusiastically volunteered in Oriya programs from a very young age both locally in NJ Chapter and OSA conventions. He enjoys soccer, playing his guitar and reading books.



Debanjan Nandan Chowdhury (3rd), 14 years and a 10th Grader goes to Clarksburg High School and lives with his parents Debaki Nandan and Anjana Chowdhury in Germantown, MD. As hobbies, Debanjan loves scouting, acting, swimming and Robotics. He aspires to be a Software engineer. He likes to watch Oriya and Hindi Movies, and enjoys international food and travel.



ODIA VOCABULARY



Ankita Mohapatra (1st), 14 years old, a Junior in High School, comes from Parsippany, NJ. Daughter of Priya Ranjan and Aparna Mohapatra, Ankita is a fun-loving yet passionate about whatever she sets her heart to. She loves to Ski, skate, hike and be active outdoors. Odissi has been a loving commitment that she has held on to since six or seven years old. Ankita loves to paint (participated in Walk of Art in OSA 2013), an avid reader in her free time, and have been an active participant for OSA, both in NJ chapter functions as well as Conventions.

Ayush Panda (2nd), 9 year old goes to Fred Rogers Magnet Academy. He is Junior Black Belt in Karate. Loves to play tabla, and is in swim team. He likes playing with his younger brother and skating too. He is very fascinated with Oriya language and wants to know about our culture.



Anand Anuj Das (3rd) is 13 years old. He is an eighth grader who goes to Peterson Middle School in Santa Clara, California. Besides school, he holds a black belt 1st degree in karate and likes to write poems. He also likes to read books in his spare time. He has participated in many Odia and Hindi dramas in the Bay Area Community. He lives with his parents Bibek and Kuku Das and sister Sanuja in Santa Clara California.

OSA GOT TALENT

Junior



Payal Parida (1st) is 12 years old, 7th grader and attends school at Francis Granger Middle School. She absolutely loves to figure skate, dance, sing and act! She lives with her parents Ashok (Bob) & Sarita Parida and sister Pallavi Parida in Chicago, Illinois.

Adarsh Nanda (2nd) is from Chicago, IL and is 14 years as a freshman in high school. In the future, he hopes to become an engineer. His hobbies are to watch and engage in sports. He's involved in a lot of activities and his favorite ones are competitive football and basketball in which he's very involved in at school. He started dancing recently because of the inspiration of his sister who's a very passionate dancer.



Manaswee Mishra (3rd), currently in 5th grade, daughter of Manoj and Snigdha Mishra, MD. From her childhood Manaswee is very passionate about dance. Her passion is clearly visible in her performance. She performed in several places. Currently she is learning Odissi dance from Jayani Paain Ganguli of MD.



OSA GOT TALENT

Senior



Simoni Mishra, currently in 4th grade is the daughter of Leena and Bimal Mishra, MD. Simoni loves to dance from her childhood. She had given several performances in the Odia community and outside of the community at a very early age. Currently she is learning Odissi dance from Pallavi Das of Maryland.

Lisa Mishra (1st) is in her 3rd year in college, studies Economics at Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington. She loves music since she was born. She is trained in Hindi classical to some extent in India but is more into English/western classical music in which she is properly trained in Chicago. She sings both classical and pop/rock music. She sometimes sings in other languages too - Italian, Arabic, Hindi and Odia.



Rosalin Samantray (2nd) is a resident of Naperville, IL for last 20 years, lives with her husband Ashok Sahoo, daughter Simron and son Rohan. She holds a bachelor degree in biology and master's in computer science. She loves dancing and writing poems in her spare time. She has always been active in Odia community events.

Simron Sahoo (2nd) lives in Naperville, IL and currently is a senior in high school. Simron has a great passion for different dance forms. She has more than 10 years of experience in Bharatnatyam and performed for world dance day, fund raising events, annual dance events, competitions and different cultural festivals. In her spare

time, she loves to paint, draw and listen to Indian music. She is the daughter of Ashok Sahoo & Rosalin Samantray.

Suraj, Saurav & Shivam Patnaik (3rd) are gifted brothers with different musical talents. The oldest of three, twenty years old Suraj is a trained Hindustani classical and Illinois State honored jazz singer. Seventeen years old Saurav is a trained table player and Illinois State honored percussionist. Shivam is currently receiving training in both Hindustani classical vocal and table. Even though the brothers hold different talent, youngest of the three, eight years old Shivam is a perfect blend of his two older brothers who has demonstrated both vocal and instrumental talents. They enjoy discussing music and experimenting with it in their own creative way. The presentation at OSA Got Talent was their first creative attempt to display Acapella style of music. They live with their parents Gyana and Sujata Patnaik in Naperville, Illinois.





SUBRINA BISWAL AWARD FOR PERFORMING ARTS

Junior



Manaswee Mishra (1st), currently in 5th grade, daughter of Manoj and Snigdha Mishra, MD. From her childhood Manaswee is very passionate about dance. Her passion is clearly visible in her performance. She performed in several places. Currently she is learning Odissi dance from Jayani Paain Ganguli of MD.

Simoni Mishra (2nd), currently in 4th grade is the daughter of Leena and Bimal Mishra, MD. Simoni

loves to dance from her childhood. She had given several performances in the Odia community and outside of the community at a very early age. Currently she is learning Odissi dance from Pallavi Das of Maryland.



Shreya Padhi (3rd) lives in Ottawa, Canada with her parents Susant Padhy and Smita Mahapatra and her siblings Shulini and Shreesh. She has been learning Odishi since 2008 from Dr. Ranjeeta Mallick. She likes figure skating, swimming, learning Hindustani and Carnatic Classical music.

Senior



Ineka Panigrahi (1st) lives with her parents Sabita and Gagan Panigrahi and brother Soman in Toronto, Canada., presently 15 years old, has had a passion for dance since childhood. She has danced in annual conventions of the Orissa Society of Americas held in Toronto, New Jersey, Seattle and most recently, Chicago. She joined Menaka Thakkar Dance Company, based in Toronto, in 2011 in order to pursue her interest in Odissi. Along with dance lessons, she has joined the company to dance in the production of Gita Govinda in Odissi style featuring Guru Sujata Mohapatra and Rajib Bhattacharya. She has choreographed and performed folk dances at multicultural, South Asian and Odia events in the community. She regularly performs her choreographed pieces at school. She has also had the

opportunity to attend Odissi workshops at MTDC under Sujata Mohapatra. Along with her passion for dance, she excels in academics and participates in various extracurricular activities, some of them being Student Council, Strings Orchestra and Science Olympics. Her hobbies include biking, singing, fishing, music and video editing as well as baking.



Akash Patnaik (2nd) started playing Flute when he was 5 yrs old. His training began in western flute and later he achieved most training in Hindustani Classical Music from Guru Mohini Mohan Patnaik (Bhubaneswar), a notable exponent of Bansuri. For his love of music, he plays western flute, Clarinet and Saxophone for High School Band, Marching Band and Jazz Music groups. He also plays for Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestra. Akash is a student of 10th grade in Middleton High School, Middleton, WI. He is son of Bikash and Nibedita Pattnaik and elder brother of Akshita Pattnaik.

Adisha Nanda (3rd) from Chicago, IL and is 17 years old, finishing up her journey of high school. Though she is fully dedicated to her studies aspiring to become a pediatric oncologist, she hopes to become a professional dancer as well. She absolutely admires dance and every little part of it. Ever since she was 4, she fell in love with dance and can't seem to keep away from it. She is classically trained in Bharatnatyam for about ten years now and engages in all different forms of dance. She hopes to conquer much more in dance in the following years and hopefully make it far in dancing career.



Simron Sahoo (3rd) lives in Naperville, IL and currently is a senior in high school. Simron has a great passion for different dance forms. She has more than 10 years of experience in Bharatnatyam and performed for world dance day, fund raising events, annual dance events, competitions and different cultural festivals. In her spare time, she loves to paint, draw and listen to Indian music. She is the daughter of Ashok Sahoo & Rosalin Samantray.



PROMODE PATNAIK INTER-CHAPTER DRAMA COMPETITION

“Janani O Jugapurusha” by Chicago Chapter

Writer: Kanak Hota

Director: Sujata Patnaik & Manoj (Tallgrass) Mahapatra

Actors: Ipsita Satpathy, Manoj (Tallgrass) Mahapatra, Sharmistha Das, Sandhya (Dolly) Sahu, Sujata Patnaik, Sunamika Panigrahi



(Moments from the play Janani O Jugapurusha)



Convention Report

ODISHA DEVELOPMENT DAY

Compiled by: Sushant Satpathy, Annapurna Pandey, Sukant Mohapatra , Chitta Baral



Invest Odisha Symposium

The Invest Odisha Symposium was jointly organized by Odisha Society of Americas (OSA) in collaboration with Invest Bhubaneswar as Odisha Development Day, as part of the 44th annual OSA convention in Chicago, 2013. Invest Odisha initiative is planned to continue as an annual preconvention activity dedicated to development of our home state of Odisha.

Some of the key goals for Invest Odisha Symposium are as follows:

- Promote Odisha as one of the best places in India for investment in different sectors like Information Technology, Biotechnology, Education, Healthcare, Green Energy & Infrastructure etc.
- Bring entrepreneurs from overseas & Odisha and help in networking, collaboration, exploration of business opportunity for mutual benefit and benefit of the state at large
- Forum for meeting and collaborative initiatives in higher education/research and between inter-governmental entities/agencies (e.g. City, State, Country, International Organizations)

Highlights of Invest Odisha Symposium, 2013 include:

- a. **Welcome Address** for Odisha Development Day by **Dr. Annapurna Pandey**



- b. **Objective and Goal of Invest Odisha Initiative** under OSA by **Dr. Sukant K. Mohapatra**
- c. **Keynote Address by Dr. Sam Pitroda**, Advisor to the Prime Minister of India and Chairman of National Innovation Council, Govt. of India
- d. **Presentation by Team Odisha (Members of Invest Bhubaneswar)** on potential opportunity for FDI in state of Odisha :
 - a. **Mr. Ayaskanta Mohanty**, MD Tatwa Technologies, Odisha
 - b. **Mr. Debashis Pattnaik**, MD, Hotel Crown, Odisha
 - c. **Mr. Satyabrath Ratho**, Director, PNV Ventures, Odisha
- e. **Entrepreneurs Networking**

Moderator: Dr. Sukant Mohapatra

OSA Higher Education Symposium

Education and in particular higher education has long been regarded as one of the best means for advancing economic and social gains for most nations and civilizations. Like a rising tide, the pull of a vibrant higher education sector can raise the economic and social standards of all segments of society. Over years, OSA & NRO members have been very actively involved in various effort/initiatives for higher education development in our home state of Odisha.

Some of the key goals for OSA Higher Education Initiatives & Symposia are as follows:

- Helping students from Odisha universities/institutes for higher studies in US/Canada
- Help bring together key stake holders from Odisha higher education sector/universities and US university representatives in order to achieve collaborative initiatives for mutual benefit (e.g., student/faculty exchange program, collaborative research etc. between US/Canada & Odisha universities/institutes)

Highlights of **OSA Higher Education Symposium, 2013** includes:

- a. **Higher Education Inaugural Speech** by guest speakers:
 - **Prof. Usha Menon**, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Drexel University, Philadelphia.
 - **Prof. Richard Taub**, Paul Klapper Professor of sociology and chairman of the Department of Comparative Human Development, University of Chicago
- b. **OSA Higher Education Initiatives – An Overview** by **Dr. Sukant K. Mohapatra**
- c. **Panel Discussion:** On subject “**Status of Higher Education in Orissa & Real Needs – Balancing Needs and Resources**” with panelist:
 - **Prof. Chitta. Baral**
 - **Prof. L. Mansinha**



- **Dr. Sukant K. Mohapatra**
- **Prof. T. Pandey**
- **Prof. Asit Pattnaik**
- **Prof. Bikash Pattnaik**
- **Dr. Mrutyunjay Suar**

Moderator: Prof. Abani Patra

Symposia were held on July 4th, 2013 in Westin Hotel Ball Room with large attendance with active participation.

Buddhist Symposium

The Buddhist Symposium was jointly organized by Odisha Society of Americas (OSA) in collaboration with Odisha Tourism as Odisha Development Day, as part of the 44th annual OSA convention in Chicago, 2013. The symposium on Buddhist Heritage and Buddhist Knowledge Institutions of Odisha was held in the afternoon of July 4th 2013, The Westin, Lombard, IL and was attended by about 100 people who were the participants at the convention.

The symposium was based on the premise that Scholars and researchers in Archaeology and Art History have favorably compared the golden triangle of Ratnagiri, Lalitgiri and Udaygiri and the Puspagiri Mahavihar in Odisha with the well-known Nalanda, which is considered one of the first proto universities of the world. However, not many know about this. This was the second International symposium organized by OSA that followed the first one held during the last year's OSA convention in Seattle.

The key goals of the symposium were mainly to strategize to have:

- Ratnagiri Mahavihara mentioned along with Nalanda, Taxila and Vikramshila in high school text books in India.
- Have special exhibitions on Ratnagiri-Lalitgiri-Udayagiri at major museums of the world; Have them listed among UNESCO world heritage sites.
- Establish an Indian Institute of Archaeology and Art History funded by the central government in Odisha; and establish Ratnagiri-Puspagiri International University in Odisha as a revival of Ratnagiri and Puspagiri Mahavihara along the lines of recent revival of Nalanda International University in Bihar.

Highlights of Buddhist **Symposium**, 2013 includes:

- a. **Introduction by Prof Chitta Baral, Annapurna Pandey and Lalu Mansinha**
- b. Presentation of Slides and Video by **Odisha Tourism** on **Odisha's Buddhist Sites and tourism infrastructure**
- c. **Keynote Address by Prof James Freeman**
- d. **Buddhist Knowledge Institutions of Odisha by Prof Chitta Baral**
- e. **Potential applications of computation and hi-technology to archeology in Odisha: Prof. Lalu Mansinha**
- f. **Impression of the Ratnagiri-Lalitgiri-Udayagiri sites: Prof Triloki Pandey**
- g. **Myth of Buddha (Video) By Prof James Freeman and Annapurna Pandey**



Moderator: Prof. Chitta Baral

It started with opening remarks made by Professor. Chitta Baral of Arizona State University. Prof. James Freeman of San Jose State University, in his keynote address, noted that in 1969, while he was working in the village Kapileswar, a suburb of Bhubaneswar, there was hardly any knowledge about the Buddhist sites in Odisha. It was only during 2007, he came to know of the state's effort to recognize the Buddhist Heritage and Culture of Odisha, which led him to go back to Kapileswar 35 years after his initial visit to investigate the spread of Buddhism in Odisha. Thanks to the courtesy of the state, Dr. Annapurna Pandey, Karsten Freeman and Prof. Freeman visited various prominent Buddhist sites in Odisha and made a film, which was screened at the symposium.

Prof. Baral presented a detailed outline of the extent of textual knowledge available in Archeology, Art History, and History books available on Buddhism. Prof. Lalatendu Mansinha, who reviewed the geological knowledge of that region and how the new techniques can be used in interpreting this textual knowledge. The session concluded by a presentation made by Prof. Triloki N Pandey of the University of California, Santa Cruz. He reflected on the information presented at the two-day international symposium on Buddhism organized by the Culture and Tourism Department of the state government of Odisha in February, 2013. He observed that Buddhism flourished in Odisha until about 12th century AD and as Annapurna Pandey's research conducted in Maniabandh and Nuapatna reveals, Buddhism really never disappeared from Odisha. Like Tibet, China, Japan and Korea, it was practiced along with the local religious traditions. In the case of Odisha, tantrism among other various religious traditions of Hinduism continued with the practice of Buddhism.

The session concluded with a positive note with the resolution that a concerted effort should be made to rectify the historical record about Buddhism in India and an appeal should be made to the UNESCO and other national and international bodies to treat the golden triangle in Odisha at par with Nalanda, Takshysila and other Buddhist heritage sites.

Presentation on ADIRE and ODF

Presentation on **ADIRE** (developing Odisha, Green & Smart- one village at a time) by Dr. D.P.Kar: ADIRE (Alternative Development Initiative with Rural Engagement) is a charitable trust with a mission to improve the lives of rural poor by applying appropriate modern technology, renewable energy and local capacity building in cost effective and environment friendly ways in four areas Health & Hygiene, Energy, Learning, and Production (HELP). At present ADIRE works in Salepur and Jajpur areas.

Presentation on **Odisha Development Foundation** by Harihar Behera: ODF is a privately funded, non-profit, research foundation setup as a trust. Its objective is to develop awareness about how Odisha becomes a prosperous state, why it is desirable and how it can be developed. ODF is all along been developing and following a pro-nature, pro-poor, pro-women, pro-child, and pro-sustainable on-farm, and non-farm livelihoods through appropriate technology and knowledge empowerment.



Chicago Convention: My Experience

Gagan Panigrahi

It was weekend of July 4th, I drove with my family and friends to Chicago to attend the largest ever Odia gathering held outside Odisha. Hosted in Lombard, a suburb city of Chicago, it was the 44th Annual Convention of the Orissa Society of Americas (OSA). I arrived with my family at the hotel Westin on the evening of the 3rd. We were greeted with smiling faces and hugs by the convener Gyana Patnaik and his team. I was surprised to see so many guests from Wednesday itself. Soon, many known faces started appearing and that was when the fun began. While checking in I looked to the right side of the long and wide hallway where I found, it was written “Chitra Sharani”. There, I discovered the art exhibition that the organizers had arranged. Out of curiosity, I paid an immediate visit to the exhibition and was amazed to see that so many participants had already put their work up for display. I saw Dr Dinanath Pathy’s artwork displayed in the exhibit. Next day morning I put four of my paintings there for display.

Thursday, the pre-convention day was devoted to Odisha Development and heritage related seminars. Sam Pitroda (an Odia from Sambalpur area, resident of Chicago area and advisor to PM of India) was one of the speakers in the seminar.

I spent a few hours visiting downtown Chicago and took a guided architectural tour with my family to discover the history of the city of Chicago in a nutshell.

Many interesting things happened during the convention, out of which I am mentioning a few that I felt a close connection with.

The opening ceremony began right on time. The national anthems of USA and India were sung by Lisa Mishra who has an amazing voice. She sung the Indian anthem without any accent which impressed me. Accomplished artist Dr Dinanath Pathy, Jnanapitha award winner Dr Pratiba Roy and OSA officials were on the stage. Dr Pathy became very emotional when told the audience that it was his first visit to North America which was made possible by OSA. It was heartening to see that all the speakers including the convener and the OSA president spoke in Odia. This tradition of speaking Odia in the opening ceremony started in the Toronto convention. The opening ceremony was followed by a colourful cultural presentation by different chapters which ended ten minutes before the scheduled time.

Seven enthusiastic and competitive chapters participated in the Pramod Patnaik Interchapter Drama Competition this year. This is most number of chapters that have ever participated at once. All the presentations were quite enjoyable. I personally felt that the Chicago presentation was the best and not surprisingly, they won the prize. It was well presented. I had a long chat with the brilliant actor Manoj Mahapatra (junior) and Ipsita (previous Kalashree winner, Toronto convention) who both acted superbly. Everybody did a great job, but I would like to mention a few participants for their acting. Lalatendu and Sridhar from New York New Jersey, Minnesota drama’s pana bala and middle customer with the sun glasses, Krishna and Swapnalata from Michigan and Birendra Babu from Ohio for his role as minister. I am sorry that I am unable to take everybody’s name. The participant names were mentioned on the screen but not with hard copy.

Adruta group’s presentation of Krishna Leela was very nice and professional. I liked it very much. They came from India.



Walk of Art: The artists within our group of OSA members were invited to showcase their work in the convention. I was delighted to see the corridor filled with the artwork of many participants of all ages. It was headed by the accomplished painter, writer and thinker Dr Dinanath Pathy. I got overwhelming response from the art lovers for my artwork. I even gave a crash course about water color painting to some parents and their children. I appreciate the hard work of Sarita Mahapatra. Her idea of putting our photographs below our paintings helped many to recognize us during the convention. Hopefully next year's convention group will organize the same in Ohio.

Saturday morning Kabita Patha was a big success and there were many in the audience. This year's theme was "Pratikhya". Thanks to Kanak and Salil Mishra for organizing this year's kabita patha. It was quite enjoyable to listen to Dr Dinanath Pathy, Swapnalata Mishra, Jhinu Chhotray, Satya Patnaik, Bigyani Das and others. What more can I want when Jnanapith Award winner is in the audience while I am reciting my poem "chithi".

Pala presentation by Jogesh Panda and his troupe (Pitabasha, Bikash, Satya, Parag and Santosh) was flawless. Hats off to them. The dress, the make-up, the accessories and the recitation were all outstanding. I cannot praise them enough. They put up a marvellous show despite it not being their profession. I thank the organizers for giving them this platform in the prime time.

Odissi, Champu and Chhanda competition. I could not attend this program due to parallel timing but I heard from my daughter and son who did attend, that it was a full house and that many children participated and sang very well without an accent. They could recognize many songs that were sung by the participants as ones that they have heard before at home. Thanks to Lata Nani for initiating it.

Odia Vocabulary competition. It was a houseful program that many participated in. I attended at the beginning but had to leave to prepare for the judging process of Promode Patnaik drama competition. Congratulations to all the kids who joined the vocabulary contest. It is a wonderful thing to be able to participate in an Odia vocabulary contest and keep our Odia language while living in North America.

The programs of the invited artists Krishna Beura and Sniti Mishra changed my thinking. To be honest, I have never been a fan of Bollywood singers in Odia gatherings. But after seeing these two performers, my thoughts on this have changed. To begin with, I discovered that both are proud to be Odia. They spoke in Odia on stage and encouraged everybody to speak in Odia. Both are great singers. Krishna performed on Friday night. He is an amazing Sufi style singer with a deep voice suited to his style. He is really a great entertainer. I enjoyed his performance. Sniti started her concert by singing Sunanda Patnaik's "Jiban Patra Mo Bharichha" which is my personal favourite. She sang many favourite songs in her beautiful voice and she ended the program with a Sambalpuri song. She called Krishna Beura to join her on stage to lend a male voice. Krishna was not dressed for the occasion but without any fuss, he made his way to the stage immediately which was applauded by the audience. Both of them showed their humbleness by sharing the stage. As Odias they need our everlasting support.

Book exhibition was another unique aspect of this year's convention. Thanks to Satya Pattanaik (Editor of Pratishruti) for arranging this high quality book exhibition. I got a chance to buy Manoj Srujani volumes and collected my copy of Imaging Odisha at a better price. I am sure Satya Babu will continue the exhibition with the patronization of OSA in future.

We witnessed three late night humour sessions of Kuna Tripathy. The third and last night went up to 3:15 a.m. What a voice! He has command in Odia language and has command in reciting



Sanskrit Shlokas. His chanting of Shiva Tandava and Durga Stuti were unbelievable. I could sit the whole night listening only to his recitation of Shlokas. We could tell that he is a true Odia from the way he showed his concern for keeping the Odia language. He satirized the way things are happening in Odisha in terms of language through his jokes. He appreciated the effort of OSA after seeing all the programs and meetings by the youth.

Youth presentation: In the prime time on Friday night, the youth of Chicago along with their peers all across USA and Canada, were given the chance to showcase what it means to be Odia in their eyes. Under the name, '*Ama Parichaya, Our Identity*', the youth put up a wonderful show, covering topics of Odisha's festivals, heritage, dance, language, and music. The youth from all the chapters did a fantastic job. I was proud of the CANOSA representation which was quite visible. Arpita, Nikita, Soman and Ineka presented the festivals of Raja and Ratha Yatra through dance which was well appreciated by many. Hats off to all the youth involved in this show. It was a great concept and was well presented.

During mealtimes, I was focused on socializing and meeting with old and new friends. I was unable to pay attention to the items served. I missed many dishes which I came to know about later. However, I noticed that there was variety in the menu and that the amount of food was plentiful. It was an opportunity to meet Odias from the west coast to the east, from California and Seattle to New York and Boston. Making friends with Odias from the south such as Florida and Texas and as north as Canada, all at one venue. What an opportunity. Where else will we get such an opportunity? To meet old friends and make new ones, all we have to do is visit the OSA conventions. I thank OSA for giving us this opportunity year after year. The involvement of OSA National was more than what was received when I was the convener of the Toronto Convention. Things are changing for the better. Hopefully this will continue in the future.

It was a well-organized convention with a great emphasis on very high quality (Shyam Pitroda, innovator, entrepreneur and policymaker, Dinanath Pathy, painter, thinker and writer; Prativa Roy, Jnanapitha award winner, Kuna Tripathy, Sniti Mishra and Krishna Beura), hospitality and timing. At the beginning, just before the opening ceremony, I remember telling Gyana Babu to stick to the time. He took this comment of mine at the beginning and did not say anything and later on must be smiling quietly for his action plan. The timing was on the dot. There are a few flaws not worth mentioning. Thanks to Gyana Babu, Sujata and their entire team (There are many), OSA national, and all the people behind the sponsoring of this wonderful convention. Anything I may have written, "Dihaku Nebenahi, Agyan". Those of you who attended the convention know what I am talking about. There is always something for you at the OSA convention. It brings people from different parts of the continents to a single venue for a three day period. We were delighted to see our old friends. We build a lasting bond between the families. We grow as a community. We meet new families every year. Three days passed just like three hours and it was time to depart with tear-soaked-eyes. In my mind that time I could not resist but thanked the pioneers who built an organization called OSA for which we get an opportunity to meet with our friends and families once in a year and year after year. Without their effort, hard work and vision, in this alien country it would not have been possible. At the same time I thank the hard working volunteers of Chicago chapter under the leadership of Gyana Patnaik, the convener and Jhara Das, the chapter President for organizing such a wonderful convention. We hope and pray this will continue for years to come.

I am sure Ohio Chapter will repeat the history in next year convention in Columbus, Ohio.



Interviews

Gyana Patnaik,
Convener, 44th Convention, Chicago



Utkarsa: The 44th Convention at Chicago was a milestone in OSA convention history. You must be relieved and settled down in your day-to-day activities. What was your immediate reaction after the convention?

Gyana Patnaik: End result was happiness of people. People were very happy the way organization is evolving putting importance on our Younger Generation by empowering them while keeping our culture and tradition in background.

U: What is your idea on a 'good convention' vs 'not so good convention'?

GP: Good convention to me is reenforcing Odia culture and value getting consensus from the community.

U: You have attended many conventions. What's the best convention so far in your opinion and why ?

GP: Usually people in Washington come up with innovative ideas. But as our community is growing we are witnessing very good progress in NY/NJ, California, Toronto, Detroit and Dallas conventions.

U: Attending a convention is different than arranging. After doing a convention, do you think there it is worth doing? Why?

GP: As we go to conventions we always evaluate what is working right and what is not. Given a chance what difference you can make as a community? We like to demonstrate our Odia hospitality.

U: Someone asked me if I liked the convention. I answered 'if this kind of convention is done, I would not mind attending twice a year'. There were some suggestions to have a convention every alternate year. What do you suggest?

GP: If our community is 100% behind holding annual convention, then there is no problem. Instead of being hosted in few per-designated places, conventions should be arranged in different geographic locations like Boston, Atlanta, Orlando, Phoenix, St. Louis, Denver etc.

U: Any area of the convention where you could have done better?

GP: Always there is room for improvement. Some of those are supporting our sponsors advertisement with more visibility, providing complimentary airport transportation, youth sports activities are a few.

U: You had envisioned a convention. Could you see the exact same or less or more? Anything you wanted to implement but could not be done?

GP: Holding Convention where Odia will be the language

U: Could you please let the readers know about your planning process from the day you are assigned the job ? How the total convention evolved from nothing?

GP: Based on past observation, I had four things in mind. First to ensure local people understand it is OSA convention not local chapter festival.

Secondly, for each major activity ensure Odia heritage / culture is in background. Thirdly get the



community involved by empowering each team to do their working keeping goal of the convention in mind. Finally do things in such a way that people get the bang for their buck.

U: You had a superb team to support. How did you choose them ?

GP: We are blessed that there are around thirty five families in Auorra/Naperville area (suburb of Chicago) live within a radius of ten miles. Whatever is done locally this crowd is very actively engaged. This close association based on observation helped to pick leaders and they gladly accepted this community involvement.

U: n number of man hours were spent in meetings. Meetings with your internal teams, local people, across chapters, OSA national and many sideline meetings. What's the value of this n ? Do you think this much of hours were necessary ? If not how the best result could have been possible with spending less number of hours ?

GP: We had nineteen teams to handle different tasks. Most of the work was done in team level. For each team, I had explained the tasks in a high level. Team executed to the best of its ability. I used to work one-one with some teams for a short period of time until team comprehended its role properly. I had set up a Core team consisting leads of IT, Cultural, Fund raising, Food, Logistics, Publication, Light/Stage/Sound Teams along with some other key individuals who had a vision of Convention. We as a Core Team (12/15 people) used to meet once a month for several months followed by bi-weekly meeting and weekly meeting for the last month to ensure each team is rightly engaged. Empowering each team by delegation brought out the best in all of us.

U: What are the critical area of a convention according to you, to have a successful convention?

GP: Hotel, food, cultural, fund raising, IT/registration

U: At any point of time during last nine months have you felt frustrated and thinking to quit ?

GP: No not at all.

U: How many local Odia families did not participate in the convention ? Out of how many families?

GP: Around 45 out of 50 active families were involved.

U: Conflict management is an important aspect of an event management. For a specific issue, few people would choose something, others choose other thing. You might have faced many such scenario. How did you deal with this?

GP: My job was easier as our community trusted my leadership and looked at me to mitigate any conflict. In some instances I used to build consensus and in some instances through persuasion keeping the goal of this event in mind.

U: Involvement of OSA national was up to your requirement ? Or less or more than required?

GP: Both National and Convention Team worked as a team. We knew each others role and responsibilities which helped us to do our jobs well. Whenever there was any question regarding OSA rule, procedure etc. we used to call and get explanation very quickly. OSA National remained as watchdog of the organization with a key role in First day Odisha Development Forum, Inauguration and some notable Awards giving activities leaving rest to Convention team. We continuously consulted with OSA National to ensure we are following organization rules, procedures and conventions. We did not like to give projection of two teams rather we were all one OSA.

U: If you are asked to lead another convention, would you agree ?

GP: I like a 2nd or 3rd Generation to Lead whom we can help if asked for.



U: How was the support from your family, specifically Mrs. Patnaik?

GP: It is a blessing that we have the same vision as it comes to promoting our culture and heritage. She used to give her input on Cultural activities, Inauguration, Seminar, Guest treatment, Public Contact, Fund Raising, Food you name it. Everything she does had either Odia culture, heritage in mind or our sheer hospitality. This was immense help.

U: If you would like to thank one person, whom do you thank?

GP: I have to thank at least 8-10 people including Mrs. Patnaik

U: Any suggestion to the future Conveners?

GP: Have a vision, build a strong core team, empower teams to deliver, be a guide.

U: Anything you want to share which I did not ask?

GP: Love for Odia is a key element. As long as this is the common thread, petty personal conflicts will fall off.



Jhara Das
Chapter President, Chicago Chapter

Utkarsa: Now the convention is over. How are you feeling?

Jhara Das: We were overwhelmed by the affection and fellow feeling of everyone who attended the convention. I am glad it was a great success thanks to everyone's support.

U: How do you measure the success of this convention in a scale from 1-10, 10 being the highest?

JD: I can't tell that. Success is not only for us it is for all of Odiya people. You all can say how much you all had enjoyed. So let everyone decide.

U: I heard that when no one was in favor of this Convention, you single handedly took it. Why did you want to do a convention in Chicago?

JD: I do not think that is a true statement, without the full support of Chicagoans this may not have been a success. We all believed that the time was right for a Chicago convention as it was more than 12 years before we had the last. I was happy to get the support from all to get this done.

U: How did you start the process and convince people for the convention?

JD: We had informal discussion and consensus from everyone.

U: How did you choose the Convener and other positions?

JD: This was done by informal discussions and consensus from everyone.

U: What should be the role of the chapter President in the convention?

JD: The role of a chapter President is the same as the role for any community event, share a common vision and be part of the team working for the common good and be a good host.

U: You had your own vision of the convention. Was it done as per your vision or do you see a gap?

JD: This was a common vision we all shared. I did not see a gap.

U: In this one year time have you ever felt pressure and regret your decision of taking the convention?

JD: Nope

U: People have seen you serving the water to the guests in the dining hall, asking guests to feel comfortable. Your hospitality has been noticed. Your comment please.

JD: We would treat all the guests to have the best experience when they are with us. It is our Odiya tradition to take care of guests and make them feel comfortable.

U: Any special experience during the convention you would like to share?

JD: I felt like it was like a large scale Odisha Family event. Everybody was happy and relaxed. They all were having good time. I hope this family like friendly atmosphere continues.



Dasharathi Ram
Convener, 1984 OSA Convention, Kent, Ohio

Utkarsa: What was your immediate reaction immediately after the recent Chicago convention?

Dasharathi Ram: My immediate reaction was positive. I am impressed with the organization and the cultural programs.

U: Which year(s) you were the Convener?

DR: I was convener for 1984 OSA Convention in Kent, Ohio.

U: What are the changes you see comparing with your convention?

DR: How large it has become since 1984 in the number of participants.

U: What was the strong point of this convention (2013) according to you?

DR: Good management of time.

U: And the area where improvement was needed?

DR: Food service.

U: What is the definition of a 'successful convention' from your perspective?

DR: Complete satisfaction of the participants and their families.

U: Do you think convention helps community building? How?

DR: Convention is a positive step in community building by bringing so many Odias together in one venue.

U: I have heard about 'external interference' in convention? By sponsors, by OSA executives, by Chapter President and other community members. Have you felt or influenced by such interference?

DR: External interferences should be politely ignored.

U: What are the bigger challenges for a Convener?

DR: The biggest challenge for the convener is to keep all the executives, advisors and working friends together until the convention is over.

U: Do you think the Convener should be given free hand to execute the convention?

DR: I think the convener should be given adequate freedom within limits for satisfactory execution of the set goals.

U: What should be the role of an advisory committee?

DR: Advisory committee will assist in many capacities to make convener's job easier in tight situations.

U: Would you like to share any special incident during your convention from your memory with Utkarsa readers?

DR: The convention at Kent in 1984 was attended by less than 200 people. Every one went home happy with good memories.





Pratap Das
Convener of 1983 and 1990 Convention, Washington DC

Utkarsa : What was your immediate reaction immediately after the recent Chicago convention?

Pratap Das: It was successful, record number of attendees, smooth operation, people enjoyed.

U: Which year(s) you were the Convener?

PD: 1983, 1990. I will be one of the architect of the Global Oriya Convention in 2015 at Washington DC

U: What are the changes you see comparing with your convention?

PD: Time has changed. I moved the convention from people's family rooms/ a half a day session to 2 full day session and people staying at the Dorm at Bowie State College, MD

U: What was the strong point of this convention according to you?

PD: Members must meet friends, fun, entertainment programs, children's participation, OSA takes care of its business

U: And the area where improvement was needed?

PD: Scheduling of privately sponsored programs, too many running side by side. It looks one has just joined the Ravenshaw College and running from Room to Room for classes... Less activities and all the special interest must move to 1st day. OSA sponsored programs in next two days. GBM must move to 2nd day after Inauguration and GBM on 2nd day not 3rd day near the lunch time. Registration has also come up with One Day/ 3 Days. Cultural Programs must be ticketed for visitors. Food must be competitive with multiple vendors.

U: What is the definition of a 'successful convention' from your perspective?

PD: High attendance, smooth registration, good food, excellent entertainment, good speakers/seminars.

U: Do you think convention helps community building? How?

PD: Yes. By asking others to join the team. Give the new people the responsibilities to do the job. Ask for ideas and get them involved. Keep your ego down. Everybody is important and select the doers than talkers.

U: I have heard about 'external interference' in convention? By sponsors, by OSA executives, by Chapter President and other community members. Have you felt or influenced by such interference ?

PD: I have felt all the time. But I must work with it. Each one of us have a hidden agenda. So let's see how that fits into our convention arena. If it is good, we will do it, if not just say thanks. Remember, Chapter is doing the program for OSA. Convention is a OSA event. There must be lots of interference and involvements. It's better to know who is doing what. Your success is their glory and vice versa. Sponsors give money and money talks. They ask for favor- return the favor if it is returnable. If not, don't accept donation. Simple!

U: What are the bigger challenges for a Convener?

PD: To gather the own community first, convey the rest of the OSA community about the convention such as how it is different and could be better than Chicago. Do some new things which are doable. Manage the people and events. The other biggest challenge is "MONEY".

U: Do you think the Convener should be given free hand to execute the convention?

PD: You operate within the scope of the constitution. Generally, OSA offers a free hand how to



organize the convention but Inaugural Programs, GBM, OSA sponsored activities are OSA's responsibilities.

U: What should be the role of an advisory committee?

PD: They will be your advisors from their experiences. You listen to them or not - that's your choice. It's always better you listen to all and take a decision that's best for OSA. But explain the advisors why you have taken a different decision. You must count on their best wishes.

U: Would you like to share any special incident during your convention from your memory with Utkarsa readers?

PD: Yes, I will. What's the dead line?



Asoka Das
Convener, 1986 Convention, Toronto, Canada



Utkarsa: What was your immediate reaction immediately after the recent Chicago convention?

Asoka Das: Great Convention and enjoyable one.

U: Which year(s) you were the Convener?

AD: I was Convener in 1986.

U: What are the changes you see comparing with your convention?

AD: Working together for one goal (success)

U: What was the strong point of this convention according to you?

AD: The strongest point of this convention to me was the great unity displayed by all who attended. Very strong sense of community and pride from where they came from.

U: And the area where improvement was needed?

AD: More time should have been set aside in the schedule for socializing and mixing with your fellow Oriyas.

U: What is the definition of a 'successful convention' from your perspective?

AD: Definition of a successful convention from my perspective is when all aspects of the convention from the registration to the closing ceremonies are well managed and planned.

U: Do you think convention helps community building? How?

AD: It provides opportunity to meet at one place, stay together, eat together, and have fun together. It also provides a venue to share your views on the community and provide an opportunity to shape it's future. Also, tell me where you would see so many Oriya friends gathered in one place?

U: I have heard about 'external interference' in convention? By sponsors, by OSA executives, by Chapter President and other community members. Have you felt or influenced by such interference?

AD: That influence is always present.

U: What are the bigger challenges for a Convener?

AD: The convener faces challenge in all aspects of the convention from the beginning till it is over. Because, he/she is completely responsible for everything.

U: Do you think the Convener should be given free hand to execute the convention?

AD: Yes the Convener should be given the freedom to be able to execute his/her vision of the convention.

U: What should be the role of an advisory committee?

AD: Advisors are there to advise as needed but the Convener has final say on the matter.

U: Would you like to share any special incident during your convention from your memory with Utkarsa readers?

AD: What a story! In 1985 I was Toronto Chapter (Utkal Samaj) President. I was determined to bring the Convention to Toronto the following year. Which happened to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the formation of Orissa. We Canadian Oriyas had a burning desire to celebrate both



occasions together. So, both my wife and I, with our two children drove to Kent, Ohio for 1985 convention to convince the executive committee that the Canadian chapter was up to the challenge. When we arrived there the local chapter was still engaged to set up everything in a high School for the convention. My family and I stayed in a nearby Motel. Sometimes during the day in the executive committee meeting (presently known as the B.O.G), the question of next year's convention surfaced, some of the older members stated they have been told Canada is not quite capable of hosting one due to various reasons. I then forcefully convinced the committee that we as a chapter had every right and desire to host it and at the end we succeeded in convincing everyone that Canada was indeed ready to host a convention.

After coming back from Ohio, the real work started and our goal was nothing less than a successful convention. This was essentially a full time job for me. The overall planning, obtaining a proper venue, and the formation of committees, in addition to how to handle the finance etc. was a gigantic job. We did not have big sponsors or any other viable monetary resources. It certainly was challenge for me. Every item I wanted to include in the convention to make it colorful was a challenge. I also remember having to make a trip specifically to Orissa to collect material for the convention, items such as the invitation card (in Oriya), big banners, lead moldings (Dasavatar) for cover page printing of the Convention Special souvenir were all sourced from the motherland. The whole process was quite time consuming and with no financial backing, I surprised myself at how single handedly I managed all the preparations, God was indeed with me! My wife prepared around 700 sweets (Chhena poda and Rasagola). We had around 350 in attendance including children. It was a beautiful venue surrounded by natural scenery. You would feel you are spending 3-4 days within nature. The Canadian Oriyas back then were known to be good cooks, and good hosts so we wanted to bring it to reality by hosting the convention and in the end proved it, especially inside the kitchen! The North American Oriyas who attended were the judges of the wonderful menu that was put together. There is no shortage of raw material, and in fact Toronto is one of the best place abroad next to India to be able to obtain raw ingredients originating from the motherland. It's rare to see that kind of tasty Oriya cooking now. The well-chosen menu, started in the morning with a continental breakfast, followed by lunch, an afternoon snack, and then dinner and finally a late night snack. The ideas and planning you expect of course from one leadership to 200 % effort brought forth a happy conclusion. I carried my responsibility with few reliable and trusted friends.

One particular challenge I fondly remember was when we were in the process of negotiating for a venue at the University of Toronto campus in Mississauga, for hosting our convention. They asked for quite a large deposit that the chapter did not have. The campus was to provide townhouses for accommodation, kitchen, cafeteria, dinning and other facilities for convention. Since summer is busy time for conferences for the University, they wanted to ensure they knew everything about whom they are dealing with. After series of meetings, it took us nearly six months to convince them that we will not fail. Observing our will power and good relationship, at the end they agreed to provide everything we needed. In return we promised them the majority of the payment on second day of convention. In the end, everything worked out fine for both parties.

We had full cooperation from Indian Embassy, Indian Consulate here in Ottawa and Toronto. All related material was supplied from them without hesitation. On opening we had guests and representation from the Federal and Provincial Governments, as well as an opening speech by mayor of Mississauga, Ontario. Since we had the most famous dancers around here, the cultural and drama part was easy for me. All involved knew their game plan and turned out to be outstanding. There were hours and hours of dances, as well as cultural programs and dramas that



amazed the audience.

Despite all the obstacles we faced during course of our preparation, the 17th annual OSA convention was concluded with a high note and friends who attended the convention were happy and satisfied. The convention no doubt had happy ending for all involved. The following year I was elected as President of Orissa Society of Americas (1987-89) for a memorable 2 years. Long live the tradition and OSA! Good luck to Ohio Chapter for next year's convention.



Joy Gopal Mohanty
Convener, 2006 OSA Convention, Washington DC

Utkarsa: What was your immediate reaction immediately after the recent Chicago convention?

Joy Gopal Mohanty: Wow

U: Which year(s) you were the Convener?

JGP: 2006

U: What are the changes you see comparing with your convention?

JGP: (i) More organized (ii) Much more participation from second generation OdiAs (iii) Sufficient time was given to the Convener compared to 2006 (We were asked only in January 2006 to host a convention)

U: What was the strong point of this convention (2013) according to you?

JGP: (i) Better organization (ii) Excellent coordination among volunteers (iii) appears less politics (iv) Much more participation from second generation OdiAs.

U: And the area where improvement was needed?

JGP: Food: Vegetarians were neglected meaning they did not get as much choices or special only for vegetarians while non-vegetarians got enough. Therefore, vegetarians did not get their money's worth.

Cultural: Since there were more participants, solo performances should have been completely avoided. When so many Odissi performers are there now-a-days among US born OdiA artists, they should be given more opportunity (group performances only) than bringing artists from OdishA (cost reduction)

U: What is the definition of a 'successful convention' from your perspective?

JGP: (a) Good entertainment; (b) Good food with equal treatment to vegetarians and non-vegetarians (c) Good accommodation with reasonable cost (d) Same location for lodging and Convention (e) Good opportunity for networking separately among younger and older participants.

U: Do you think convention helps community building? How?

JGP: Yes, particularly for children as they get to see other second generation OdiA friends like them from different parts of the country and understand how other OdiA parents dealing with their children. This also gives them a glimpse of OdishA culture we are missing by staying away from OdishA.

U: I have heard about 'external interference' in convention? By sponsors, by OSA executives, by Chapter President and other community members. Have you felt or influenced by such interference?

JGP: I have heard such influences; but if that is in a positive way, then that is welcome.

U: What are the bigger challenges for a Convener?

Joy Gopal Mohanty: Finding good volunteers having no self-interest.

U: Do you think the Convener should be given free hand to execute the convention?

JGP: Yes, he should be free hand to execute; but there should not be monopoly. He must create committees for things like (i) Fund raising, (ii) Food and catering; (iii) Cultural program; (iv)



Registration and account keeping etc. Convener should give authority to chairman of each committee to reach a successful goal.

U: What should be the role of an advisory committee?

JGP: To advise only. However, it should evolve itself and open-minded to accept new ideas.

U: Would you like to share any special incident during your convention from your memory with Utkarsa readers?

JGP: One instance I would like to share that in 2006: it so happened that two individuals were organizing to bring Odissi artists from OdishA to perform in the convention without my knowledge. When I came to know, I had to convince our committee to allow both groups and as a result, we had to incur more expenses for the artists. Therefore, I suggest to all involved to inform Convener their intention from the very beginning and ideas and should be approved in a committee meeting before being implemented.



Pramod Mahapatra,
President, Southern Chapter

Utkarsa: Please comment on the recent convention from the success perspective?

Pramod Mahapatra: I felt the convention was a big success.

U: Do you think there was a need to improve any segment of the convention?

PM: As I heard from other convention goers about mehfil that it was the time for members whoever has little talent or not, but enjoy themselves entertaining others get chance to present it. But what I see all 3 nights were occupied by the stand up comedy. We enjoyed it, it was boring at the same time seeing the artist running out of ideas to entertain. Other issue I felt was the mehfil started too late due to the programs in the ball room. For instance on the Friday night there was a big confusion where to have the mehfil whether in Ball Room or in Lilac. Some may think it was great to bring artists from India for each night. Sniti Mishra was alone without her troupe and Krishna Beura was alone without his troupe depending on the karaoke tracks. I felt it was not necessary to have it arranged like that, instead both could have combined to perform together with the available accompaniment. The bottom line is these things could have managed little better.

U: How many families were joined from your chapter?

PM: There were 12 families and 3 individuals.

U: How to improve the Chapter participation in the conventions?

PM: This is a tricky question. How many people will attend the convention depends on various factors, i.e. distance, any prior commitment, last minute change in the plan. So I feel the host chapter should try their best what they feel is good.

U: According to you what should be the role of the Chapter Presidents during any convention? (not only when your chapter is doing the convention).

PM: The host chapter president has bigger role. Other Chapter president's role is to co-ordinate with Convention host chapter for any chapter level participation in cultural program, etc.

U: One question off the subject. What are you doing to propagate OSA's image which would translate into membership?

PM: Doing good things in chapter level without any vested interest should create good image among the people who are not yet members. Last two years the OSA executives has done good job to bring in transparency which helps enhancing OSA's image.



Radhagobinda Mohanty
President, Ozark chapter

U: Please comment on the recent convention from the success perspective?

Radhagobinda Mohanty: A grand success from every perspective, probably the best ever.

U: Do you think there was a need to improve any segment of the convention?

RM: Have the invited artists perform during prime time not after 10 PM.

U: How many families were joined from your chapter?

RM: Eight families.

U: How to improve the Chapter participation in the conventions?

RM: Have the convener contact every chapter member personally by email or by phone.

*U: According to you what should be the role of the Chapter Presidents during any convention?
(not only when your chapter is doing the convention)*

RM: Create an affinity towards OSA National and OSA convention by highlighting the tangible and intangible benefits from attending the convention

U: One question off the subject. What are you doing to propagate OSA's image which would translate into membership?

RM: Trying to mitigate the stereotypes about OSA.



Swati Mishra
Secretary, Michigan Chapter



Utkarsa : Please comment on the recent convention from the success perspective ?

Swati Mishra: Music and stage Management was great. All in one Venue is the most likable arrangement Chicago Convention could offer. It was so nice to be in the same hotel for food, cultural activities and stay.

U: Do you think there was a need to improve any segment of the convention ?

SM: They had told to send Video recording DVDs at the end of Convention. People paid money well in advance it did not come in time. On viewing, we found that they had missed the "Pala" recording in it. As people pay for it, the DVDs should have been professionally managed and everything should have been recorded.

U: How many families were joined from your chapter?

SM: Around 16 families for Sure that I know.

U: How to improve the Chapter participation in the conventions?

SM: It's all networking and depends on how you attract people. You can send email to all chapters highlighting what's going to be good in any convention. Any personal touch is a big bonus.

U: According to you what should be the role of the Chapter Presidents during any convention? (not only when your chapter is doing the convention).

SM: He/She has to organize and drive efforts for maximum participation of families from their respective chapter when they are not organizing. When they are organizing, need less to say so many stuffs comes to him/her for management and Supervision.

U: One question off the subject. What are you doing to propagate OSA's image which would translate into membership?

SM: I believe word of mouth is the best way to deliver a powerful message of any thing .I felt good to be at OSA Convention and feel strong about it. I have told so many of my friends in my state and outside, about the same thing. In my Opinion this helps people to think about whether a membership is worth or not.



My India Trip

Aditi Das

It was my Mamu's marriage; I was excited about it because I was going to see and attend an Indian marriage for first time. The other fun part was I will get a chance to dance during the marriage procession.

After reaching Bhubaneswar the very next day the marriage started, I had lots of fun; I also got to see Aja and Aie, and lots of my relatives. Next day I and my Dad went to Puri where my grandmother and Apa (Dad's aunt) live. I had wonderful time there; we have a pet dog named -

Bahadur (according to my dad he is my younger brother). Bahadur always wanted to play with me, but I was very scared looking at his big teeth. He understands everything just like us; he is really a lovely boy dog and was very excited to see all of us.

Then I went to see Lord Jagannath and also to Sea beach. In Puri I also meet lots of my relatives and my Dad's friend. Puri is a beautiful place; it has also some similarity to where I live (Charleston, SC). I also got a chance to drink lots of Paidia pani (Coconut water) and Nali-nadia (raw thin Coconut).

I was so happy to see my grandparents. I spent a wonderful time with Jejema and Apa, but I was sad. When we were coming back I started to cry because I want to see them soon again.

My India trip was amazing.

Grade 4
Charleston, SC



Carlos in Danger Ally

Chirag Mishra

There was a boy named Carlos. His family moved to a new house. Initially he didn't want to move as he didn't want to miss his friends back. But he had to.

When they entered the new house, to his surprise, he found the living room to be too dusty. He moved on to his room. It was not that dusty as the living room. He started unpacking his clothes. When he opened the door of the closet, he found a note on the closet wall, saying "Don't push the wall".

The curious Carlos couldn't stop himself from pushing the wall. On pushing, he found the wall showing him the path to a new room. He found stairs going down....He went down the stairs one by one. When he was on the last stair, he saw a black portal. His curiosity increased and he wanted to explore more. So he got into the portal. On entering, he found himself to be lost and didn't know where to go next.

He wanted to go back, but unfortunately the portal didn't work. He then saw a man standing. He went to him and asked the way back home. The man replied, "There's a gate, 45 degree north, but it goes through a dangerous place called "Danger ally". It's not worth it. When you reach at the end of the Danger ally, you'll find a sword called "Xfinity", which has magical power to open the portal which will lead you back to the portal called "Infinity". But you may have to cross some hurdles." "I don't care, I want to get into the real world" cried Carlos. He went according to the instruction provided by the man. He found the gate to the "Danger Ally". When he went through, he found a tunnel. He went all the way to the end of the tunnel; he found a wand and a spell book. The spell book said "Just say anything you want and it'll be true". Carlos said "Break rock". The rock was broken...but there was lava all around, with monsters around. Then Carlos realized that it must be 'Danger Alley'. He was scared by the monsters but then he realized that he is near to the spell book. So he said "Kill all the monsters". Then the path was all cleared, the monsters were all killed. He ran and saw a bridge. When he crossed the bridge, he saw a sword. He took the sword and said "I want to go back to the real world". He then saw the portal, the man was talking about. He entered the portal. Suddenly he heard his mom, "Carlos, it's time for school. Are you ready yet?".....Carlos then realized that he was in the real world now and those were all his imaginations. He laughed at himself and then began getting ready for school.



Grade 4
Hampton Elementary School
Rochester Hills, MI



Three poems

Akshita Pattnaik

Summer

I loved summer when I was little,
I did such fun things in the summer,
play dates, sleepovers, and vacations
until we would tire out
on the last day of summer vacation.

Sleepovers

In the summer,
I have sleepovers,
sometimes with family,
sometimes with friends.
In the summer,
when I have sleep overs,
we squiggle and squeak,
shiver and shriek,
but never sleep tucked in safe and sound.
In the summer,
when I have sleepovers,
we move back and forth,
from sleeping bag to bed,
from late night to early morning.
In the summer,
when I have sleepovers,
we get carried and dropped,
sometimes scared when told off,
even in the dimmest of light.
In the summer,
when I have sleepovers,
we twist and turn, stretch and yawn,
and say rise and sign.
In the summer, I have sleepovers.





Camping

In the summer,
I wake up at the campsite,
sometimes with family, sometimes with friends.

In the summer,
when I wake up at the campsite,
we pull the covers over our heads,
with a chill down our backs.

In the summer,
when I woke up at the campsite.
we would jump out quickly,
yet quite enough to scare our parents.

In the summer,
when I wake up at the campsite,
We whine to brush our teeth,
even so we do it for we're hungry!

In the summer,
when I wake up at the campsite,
we smell the breakfast cooking,
and hear the clattering of pots, and plates.

In the summer,
I wake up at the campsite.

Grade 5
Elm Lawn Elementary School,
Middleton, WI



Our Backyard Cricket Team

Adeep Das

Me and cricket; I really don't know how I got into the cricket thing. I always heard about 20-20 and 'World Cup' cricket from my parents, but now I am stuck to it. Sometime it feels like a story to me.

It started like that my Mamu (Uncle) who is good cricket player in their Bapuji Nagar (Bhubaneswar) team send me a cricket bat and ball (real one). After getting those I really don't know what to do with them. One day I found one of my friends is playing cricket with his uncle. Then I took my bat and asked them if I can play with them, suddenly many kids joined us, most of them goes to school with me. Soon it was summer vacation and most people during the summer like to play sports like baseball, soccer, basketball, and etc., but this time we decided we will play cricket in our backyard.



We also start having tournaments and fun matches. I myself found out the best bowler and batsman in our backyard team. We mostly play for bragging rights. All the players that play are Adeep, Advay, Mannan, Dhruv, Aditya, Advath, Abhinay, Aneish, Saketh, and Venkat. We all are like a new American-Indian cricket team. Now let me tell you about our cricket team. We mostly have fair teams; at least we try to make fair teams. Sometimes we have one on one match. In those matches we have all time wicket keepers. Also when one of our cricket team wins most of us bet on candy and stuff that are cheap. I don't bet because if I lose then I have give people something and sometimes I may not have not what I bet. Sometimes we play for bragging rights. So we have 2-5 minutes to brag in front of the other teams faces. If you are the one bragging it is really fun, but if you are the one being bragged at it feels horrible. I know from experience. But most of the times we play just for fun.

One day we actually played against the uncles. It was a really close game (52 runs vs. 57 runs). There was one ball left and we needed to get 6 runs to win. I was batting and my friend's father bowled a very fast bowl. I lifted the bat and hit the ball. It went far and ended up a -SIXER. We got 58 runs and won the game. We were running and cheering; we were so happy. The uncles were astonished that a bunch of little kids could beat uncles. That was the best game I ever had, I got 26 runs. I was so happy and when I told my parents we won the game, my parents were very proud of us and took me and my brother (who is also my teammate) to Dairy Queen for Ice cream treat. We always have lots of fun whenever we play cricket.

Grade 6
Power Upper Elementary School
Farmington Hills, MI



Student Council Election

Aditya Pradhan



Today at school I had my student's council election. This was a class wide election. There were two sections, one for boys and the other was for girls. I raised my hand to contest for the election. The class took a preliminary vote; I came in the top 4. Then we took another vote, and I won the election by one vote! I was really happy and excited. Everyone clapped for me, I felt good. Then for the rest of the day I felt happy.

However, I realized that someone who was my opponent in the election, in the first round, voted for me Instead of voting for himself! It was weird and good at the same time. I am very excited about being in the student council. I get to run for the post of Vice president of the school. I am anxious about the campaign and the speech that I must give in the assembly on the day of election. As a reward I get a pool party at the end of the year. But before that I must raise funds for school by selling popcorn and hot chocolate. I get to stay after school on Wednesdays for the council meetings. I hope to win the election and become vice president of our school.

Grade 4

**Grand View Elementary School
Livonia, MI**



Canadian Blue Jays

Sarthak Das

Blue jays, cool jays
They brighten up the bad days
Like a blue crystal
Their voices are so instrumental

Their plays are so digital
With a wing like a blue petal
It flies as fast as a car
It is always an artistic star

They play with full of dare
We cheer for them to be fair
When they are in pain
They listen to the song of rain

Grade 3
Carberry Public School
Brampton, Ontario, Canada





Television Violence

Rohan Ray

Do you think T.V. violence affects the way kids think about it? If a kid reads about something violent, it won't have as much effect on them as if they actually see it on T.V. There are many kids in the world that are addicted to watching T.V. The problem is, the channels that they are addicted to are very violent. If they were addicted to educational channels, it would be all right, but in this case that's not the way it is. One reason is because on T.V. you can actually see, and hear the violence in action. Another reason is because kids are gullible, with little knowledge of what's right and wrong. The third reason is because if kids see things on T.V. they might be interested, and want to try it out.



One reason is because on T.V kids can actually see the violence, and might get inspired by it. They might think that it is right to do all the violent things on T.V. When they grow up, they might just do violent things such as shooting people, just for fun. For example, if a kid reads about something violent, it won't have as much effect as actually seeing it on T.V. This is because if he watches it, he will see all the detail, instead of just imagining it. This will lead to being inspired by the wrong thing, and growing up to be a bad adult and parent. Then you could inspire your kids, or other kids to do the same bad things you are doing. That is one reason why I think television violence has negative effects on people because it promotes violence.

The second reason why I think T.V violence promotes real life violence is because kids are gullible, and don't have much knowledge over what's right and wrong. This means that if a kid sees a rated R movie, and thinks what the criminals in the movie are doing is right, and no one tells him that it's actually wrong, he could grow up to be a bad person. This could also happen if somebody tricks him into thinking this. For example, once when I was a kid, and I was watching a PG 13 movie, my cousin tricked me into thinking that the bad guys were good, and vice versa. For a few days after that, I imitated the bad guy's actions, until when we next met, he told me about the trick. That is the second reason why I think television violence has a negative effect on people because it promotes real world violence.

The third reason why I think that T.V violence promotes real life violence is because if kids see violent things on T.V, they might get interested and want to try it out. This is very bad, even if they only try out the violent thing once, because it could still kill someone or hurt the person really bad. For example, I once heard a story about a 10 year old child who had watched many violent movies. After a while, in his teen years, he unknowingly did bad and violent things. Eventually he was caught and sent to jail, because he didn't know that what he was doing was wrong. That is the third reason why I think television violence influences kids to do stupid and violent things.

Those are the three main reasons why I think television violence is influencing kids to do stupid and violent things. For those of you that think that television violence does not affect most people, I respect that because it's true. But, there are still some people who become criminals because of television violence, and no one wants even one criminal in this world.

Grade 6, Baker Middle School, Troy MI



Time

Parneeta Mahapatra

Time will come,
Time will go.
Live your life,
Like there is no tomorrow.
Or you will never,
Have time to.

Time is a precious thing,
It's worth a million diamonds.
If you lose it,
you'll never get it back.
Unless you go back in time,
But that not possible.

Hours, minutes, seconds,
Time passes by.
Sometimes slow,
Sometimes fast.
But never the way,
You want it to go.

Time will come,
Time will go.
Live your life,
Like there's no tomorrow.
Or you will never,
Have time to.

Grade 8
Chattanooga Schools for Liberal Arts
Chattanooga, TN





Poem of Music

Srujani Das

There is glorious music in the air,
There is beautiful melody everywhere

People talking, even walking,
Throughout music is rocking

Music fades all your cares away,
Memories play back like action replay

Music helps sooth the mind,
Just relax and unwind

Dancing and clapping,
Music will get you tapping

Music is entity that clears your brain,
Clears your stress like drops of rain

Music has no race or color,
Shines like a golden dollar

Music has no language barrier,
It is like a soul carrier

Music includes everyone in the world,
Falling like leaves that are curled

Music deserves a lot of respect,
Just stop, think and reflec



Grade 8

**Tomken Road Middle School
Brampton, Ontario, Canada**



Revisiting “Benji”: Realities of Inner-City Life in Chicago

Akash Pandey

I just got back from a brief trip to Chicago where I spent the bulk of my time in the Hyde Park neighborhood on the South Side. As I strolled around, I was reminded of “Benji”, an installment of the ESPN 30 for 30 documentary series. Released about a year ago on April 20, 2012, this film covers a calamitous event that shook the South Side of Chicago in the mid-1980’s.

Directed by Coodie and Chike, “Benji” tells the story of Ben Wilson, a prodigiously gifted basketball player who took the city of Chicago by storm in 1984 by leading Simeon Vocational High School (now Career Academy) to its first ever State championship and being named as the top player in the 1985 class. Today, Simeon — with its four consecutive state titles — is a certified powerhouse. Nineteen years ago, it was hardly notable. Today, Simeon’s biggest star is Jabari Parker, a high school senior poised to be a one-and-done stud at Duke, with a big contract waiting in the NBA. Nineteen years ago, the legend of the South Side was Ben Wilson, an effervescent scorer whose life was tragically cut short when he became Chicago’s 669th murder victim in November 1984.

Much as they zoomed in and out of footage to showcase Kanye’s ups and down in the “Through the Wire” music video — albeit somewhat hastily — Coodie and Chike weave in and out of game footage, media coverage, animations, and interviews with his friends, family, and notable Chicagoans who have eluded early tragedy (Common, R. Kelly, Nick Anderson, Jesse Jackson, among others) to tell Benji’s tale. Directors for ESPN’s 30 for 30 series are rarely, if ever, A-listers and Oscar nominees. “Benji” is no exception. Outside of sportswriters’ tweets and sports bar banter, the themes of these documentaries are rarely, if ever, probed and picked apart. “Benji” is no exception. Yet something about the film’s treatment of the lacking resources in an inner-city neighborhood, the strength of the family matriarch, the spectacle of tragedy, and the psychology of the urban, teenage black male demands our collective attention and reckoning.

There is a tendency, I find, for intellectuals to detest sports writing and for sports junkies to dismiss academic thought. Academic types see sports fiends as too pedestrian, while the junkies find intellectuals to be too high brow. There should be an effort to join these two hands, to merge the sports world and academic world that are falsely perceived as so distinct from one another. The ideas I bring up here reflect my desire to do so. These ideas flow from my curiosity at the film’s relative lack of serious consideration, rather than from any desire to persuade you of my own perspective. Blurry as my vision gets, I hope to let you all peek into the lenses that hang over my eyes and judge for yourself what to make of Ben Wilson’s story.

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Benji’s story starts and ends with Mary Wilson, his mother. A devoutly religious woman who worked as a nurse, Mary Wilson lorded over her children as a strict mother who inspired both fear



and respect. Her older son, Curtis, helped raise Benji during long nights when night shifts kept Mary occupied. Somewhere along the way, however, Curtis fell into the ever-widening Reagan-era hole of crack cocaine abuse. Mary Wilson persisted, seemingly shedding some of her toughness onto Ben, whose relentless work ethic and competitive spirit fueled his meteoric rise.

For those familiar with the idea of a matrifocal community, the Mary Wilson character may come as no surprise. For those who still consider “Crash” to be a fair meditation on race — a camp I once belonged to — her character may be striking. In the 2005 film, Detective Graham Waters (Don Cheadle) fleetingly looks after his crack-riddled mother whose household mainstays include a rotten milk carton and a mangled tablespoon. As if the idea of an absent father isn’t enough, we’re also led to believe that Cheadle’s character has grown up and risen through the ranks without any sound maternal care. By highlighting the mother’s negligence, the narrative arc of the Detective’s wayward younger brother, Peter Waters, plays directly to the “crack baby” stereotype that pegs Peter as a strain on society who is disposed of by a man who feels threatened by him. The Waters family story may be a reality in some communities, but it’s hard to believe it’s anything but an exception rather than the norm.



The Wilson family story is also somewhat of an anomaly, but in a much different way. Mary Wilson’s composure in the aftermath of her son Ben’s death strikes a chord. Her ability to speak on behalf of her son with poise and power just hours after pulling the plug revealed a form of dignity that few women or men possess. There’s no doubt she was grieving. But she recognized that the sudden nature of the crime elevated the occasion to much more than just her own grief. Her public calm vaulted her to political acclaim as she gained favor with the Reverend Jesse Jackson, arguably the most powerful black leader of the day. She later took on a Eunetta Perkins-type role in Mayor Harold Washington’s political machine until he left office.

By aligning herself with Chicago’s Black political elite, Wilson raised her own profile and put a spotlight on the unjust circumstances circling over her son’s death. In 1985 in Chicago, all Emergency Response vehicles were mandated by law to take victims to the nearest hospital, not the nearest fully staffed hospital or the nearest trauma unit. As a result, Ben Wilson sat bleeding in an ill-equipped South Side hospital for hours before going into surgery. Nobody knows if a trauma unit would have saved Benji’s life, but the legitimacy of the law is clearly debatable.

Racial segregation post-Civil Rights era (even pre-) was carried out largely through city-led urban renewal and redevelopment efforts. The ghetto did not just pop up because poor people gathered in one area. It was built over time with steady doses of political pressure and weak resistance from the communities being affected. “Renewal” and “redevelopment” were simply euphemisms for segregation. As a result, Arnold Hirsch notes in *Making the Second Ghetto*, “The white hostility that isolated blacks spatially necessitated the creation of an ‘institutional ghetto’, a city within a city to serve them”.



A law that forces ambulances to take victims of violent crime in the South Side of Chicago to hospitals in the South Side only, regardless of the institution's resources and staffing, speaks precisely to Hirsch's point. A handful of neighborhoods, labeled publicly as "the ghetto", become "a city within a city" where residents are caged in, receiving hand-me-down public services. The well-to-do doctors and other professionals flee to the suburbs, counting their blessings as they trot their way over. Ben Wilson's story, in effect, may have been quite different if only he had lived elsewhere within the same Chicago city limits.

The laws have since changed. Mary Wilson scored a major victory by suing the hospital that was unable to resuscitate her son. In the aftermath of Ben's death, her political prominence boosted her appeal. But Mary Wilson didn't play her hand perfectly. By allowing her son's death to bloom into a politicized tragedy, his funeral became a spectacle that alienated those who knew him best. The coverage of the funeral procession in "Benji" — a parade of free-flowing emotional gusto — shines light on the shallowness of the mob mentality.

Jam-packed with people who may or may not have ever even met Ben Wilson, the circus surrounding his last rites excluded those closest to him and, worse yet, promoted an exaggerated emotional response. A number of Wilson's childhood friends saw the procession, perhaps rightly, as a contrivance. It wasn't meant to honor their boy's life. In their minds, the organizers had some ulterior motive, showcasing the community's solidarity perhaps. The footage of hoards of wailing men and women highlights the high drama of the event.

I can see the logic of a mob assembling in response to someone's death. Similar to a candlelight vigil for a missing person, it makes sense for an individual to decide to stand with their community in such a gathering. But the sadness circus is shallow. Whether you feel like it or not, you are expected to grieve. Whether you are teary-eyed or not, you are expected to be seen with droplets dribbling down your cheeks. Whether you are able to reel it in or not, you are encouraged to let loose in a space where hysteria has a certain healing power.

This idea of manufactured sadness lurks in the reactions of Ben Wilson's friends. Perhaps they also felt violated in the way we sometimes do when our good friends start to spend more time with new friends that they have made. Others were being shown on the TV screen; others were giving eulogies for the dude they thought they knew best. Death is a tricky beast, one we rarely confront because of the inevitable uneasiness associated with it. Yet death's inevitability gnaws at us, particularly when we remember those we know who became its prey.

Ben Wilson's death, the 669th of the year in Chicago, sent shockwaves across the city. The police quickly nabbed the two adolescent assailants, 15 year-old Omar Dixon and 16 year-old Billy Moore. The media jumped on the story, hastily labeling the perpetrators as "members of a street gang" and "gang members". Moore and Dixon signed statements at the police station acknowledging the crime was a "mugging followed by a cold-blooded shooting". They accepted charges of Armed Robbery and Murder, but later recanted their statements, intimating that they were pressured to accept the story.

An interview with Billy Moore, recipient of a 2009 White House award for exemplary rehabilitation, gives us a glimpse of reality, or at least another version of reality. There are reasons not to believe Billy's side of the story. He is a convicted murderer, as he readily admits. There is no definitive evidence to back him, simply hearsay from witnesses and participants. Yet I find his version of the story to be much more compelling. It's not hard to see how Chicago police officers could have coaxed a confession out of two teenagers. It's even easier to understand why Billy



Moore might have acted the way he says he did in the heat of the moment on a cold afternoon in November 1984.

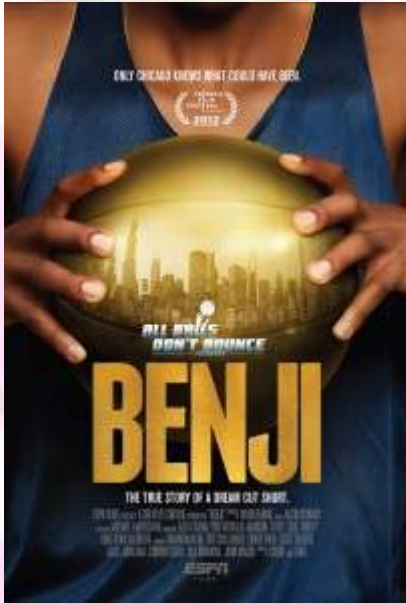
That morning - fourteen months after the premature death of his father — Billy Moore tucked a gun in his pants and headed to Simeon to settle a petty beef involving his cousin and some stolen cash. By the time he got there, the issue was settled. As Moore and Omar Dixon waited for a friend named Erica outside a nearby sandwich shop, Ben Wilson, locked in an argument with his girlfriend Jetan Rush, walked past and shoved Moore. A confrontation ensued. Moore demanded an apology, but the 6'7 seventeen-year old had no intention of backing down. When Moore showed the gun, Wilson snickered, "What? You gonna shoot me?" Two shots later, Moore was on the run while Wilson grappled with the two bullets lodged in his torso.

This was a dispute over pride, over reputation. Moore felt disrespected and Wilson knew better than to surrender his agency. This inability to accept slander of any kind is what makes Marlo yell out "My name is my name!" in the fifth season of *The Wire*. For a teenage male, particularly in an urban environment where individualism is more readily internalized as the only guiding principle, reputation carries weight and it must be protected at all costs.

Billy Moore learned this lesson as a ten year-old when his grandfather told him while cleaning his own gun, "Don't you ever pull a gun on somebody and don't use it". As he stood six years later — gun in hand — before the top basketball prospect in the nation, the old head's words echoed in his brain. Now you could go all Daniel Patrick Moynihan here and yap on and on about immoral family values and yada yada yada. But take a second to consider the logic: If you don't want to be a tough guy, don't act tough. If you do want the reputation, know that being a fake tough guy (coincidentally the same the three words KD directed at Chris Bosh) is akin to being a punk. Thus, taking on a tough guy persona means being willing to do what it takes to take to back that resolve. I don't mean to suggest this is sensible advice, but it is logical. It is also deeply flawed, a reality Billy Moore swiftly understood only after it sunk in that he was responsible for a human being's death.

I can't help but imagine how this story and countless other similarly staged standoffs would be different if there wasn't a gun playing a leading role. In upscale and squalid neighborhoods alike, children vie for attention, importance, and recognition. Competitiveness is stitched into the fabric of American society. Squabbles among males are commonplace in schools. Words are exchanged, bold claims are leveled, and, at times, fists prevail over cooler minds. Fighting is not inherently wrong.

Fistfights - I must rely on others' stories here because I have little experience outside of brotherly bashes - can certainly be transformational, exposing us to our weaknesses and starkly reminding us to build up a stronger self. Fights can also be belittling and miserable, but by prodding us into a time of challenge and controversy it has the potential to reveal the true measure of ourselves (Side note: I feel awfully awkward bringing in the words of Dr. Martin Luther King while defending fistfights but that's just how it makes sense to me right now). Fighting with guns, on the other hand, only exposes us to a world of regret and everlasting pain. Being the perpetrator guarantees a stint behind ironclad bars or perhaps psychological torture; being the victim all but insures a long kiss goodnight.



Yet still current newspaper headlines detail the efforts of a gun lobby to push more guns into schools “to protect the students”. Chicago still has upwards of 500 homicides a year. The Chicago Police Department seizes six times as many guns as the NYPD. This is hardly a political issue we should toss around like it’s a hot potato; this is a public health travesty that has been festering for decades (get educated here).

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“Benji” consciously levels many of the claims I’ve made here, but it also deflects them. It isn’t a film that tells us to confront the problem of guns on the street the way global warming was presented in “An Inconvenient Truth”. It doesn’t beg for our sympathy for the urban youth of Chicago as “Invisible Children” did for Ugandan children soldiers. It is intended for a sports-centric audience (see what I did there?). An audience that responds to the hyper-competitive/relentless work ethic narrative and, of course, the predominant narrative in sports tragedy — a dream unfulfilled. Those who saw Benji play were taken by his electric charm. Those who he held sway over knew him as “Magic [Johnson] with a jump shot”, a statement that stands only as an epitaph today.

By satiating the sports fan’s story-hungry psyche, “Benji” succeeds. But the film reveals so much more about the 80’s-era realities of inner-city life that it would be a shame to watch and to not think, to not discuss, and, perhaps most importantly, to not be curious.

Chicago, IL



Eyes That Captivate, Faith That Holds

Suchitra G. Das

“*Aahe chakaa aakhi , aahe chakaa aakhi, sukhilaani kantha daaki, daaki*” begs Bhikari Bal of his Lord Jagannath. Sri Jagannath is known by many names, ‘*Chakaa Aakhi, Chakaadola, Chakaa Nayana* (‘*aakhi,*’ ‘*dola*’, ‘*nayana*’ meaning eye and ‘*chakaa*’ meaning wheel in Oriya) all referring to the shape of His eyes. Covering half the size of His entire face, Sri Jagannath’s eyes are huge lidless discs of black and white. Visible like beacons in the dark, these eyes hold your gaze and burn into your subconscious. You will never forget; you will never see another such as these. On *Ratha Yatra* Day, the one thing that is visible, floating above the sea of humanity, arresting and stunning, are His Eyes. And thus began the fascination for this unique sight. Why did the sculptor carve eyes such as these, three millennia ago? What was his vision, one wonders.



Of all facial features, the human eyes are the most important subject for art and artistic expression. They are the windows to the soul, reflections of the mind and emotions, which express and reveal, which perceive and foresee, almond-like and lotus-like in shape and size. In the Indian pantheon of divinity, a lot of emphasis is laid on the eyes. So it’s not surprising that another deity has been sculpted with an emphasis on eyes, but only Sri Jagannath’s are made with a difference. Of all the Hindu deities, only He has such unconventional looking eyes, which are not those of in repose, or in rest .They don’t have the heavy lidded look mostly prevalent in stone sculptures and paintings of gods and goddesses of Orissa, or the tranquil look of the Buddha. To me, the eyes seem a childlike rendering of disproportionate facial features. Of course, Sri Jagannath does not fall under the category of traditional anthropomorphic deities of the Indian pantheon either. Instead, His eyes remind me of a more modern parallel, at least in the metaphorical sense, in the context of being ever watchful: the Orwellian Big Brother.

Strange is Sri Jagannath’s appearance and stranger are His eyes. Surely, at that point of time, man had perfected the art of sculpting human faces. Shrouded in the mists of time is the mysterious thought process of the sculptor, who decided in this *kaliyug*, or the Dark Age, that the Black Lord’s eyes should be all encompassing, ever watchful and alert. He is said to be the celestial architect, Viswakarma, who came in the form of an old carpenter and most probably had an eerie sense of foreboding, that the world was entering its darkest period of existence, and would need someone divine to keep a watchful eye on humanity. Perhaps, rendering such unusual looking eyes would help bring humanity back from the brink of disaster by restoring their faith. Of all the symbols--the conch shell, the mace, the lotus, only the *Sudarshan Chakra* stands in readiness by His side, dramatically symbolizing the impending dangers of the coming age which need to be curbed, controlled and destroyed. Perhaps, the carpenter made such prominent and arresting eyes to make up for his inability to complete the images as he was interrupted in his work, signaling man’s impatience and distrust as the harbingers of his own downfall. Or perhaps, he was an ordinary old man, a skilled artist but decrepit with age, and was unable to withstand the rigors of carving out the *darubrahma*, or massive log, and may have failed due to a lack of strength. Fearing for his life, he must have run away, leaving incomplete idols behind. So he fashioned eyes that were very unusual. Extraordinary things always attract attention. Whichever way one looks at it, and whoever has done it, the result is an astounding work of art, and has inspired millions of lives for the last three thousand, and more years.



Sri Jagannath's eyes are concentric circles of irregular thickness. In keeping with the usual eyes of all living creatures--animal and human, the orbs of black are surrounded by circular swathes of white, which form the thickest part of the eye. The outer part of the eye is outlined with red giving the shape of a lotus petal. The eyes are so big; they seem to plow into His forehead, giving it a caved-in look when viewed profile-wise. The gaze is wide-eyed, unblinking, and gives the impression of being tireless and alert. Priests and scholars have interpreted the look and shape of His eyes in a number of ways. Since Sri Jagannath symbolizes the whole universe, His eyes represent the sun and the moon according to Dr. Sidharth Kanungo. They shine with intensity and purpose, symbolizing energy, life and light.

These two round eyes represent the Sun and Moon. We all know that the Sun and the Moon remove darkness and gives us light. Similarly, Lord Jagannath removes darkness from our mind. He is the embodiment of knowledge and source of wisdom. Secondly, we know that circle does not have neither a beginning nor an end. In the same manner, the round eyes of Lord Jagannath teach us that He has neither beginning nor end. Thus we can say that He is Anadi (no beginning) and Ananta (no end).” (1)

The traditional shape of the human eye is usually oval shaped. And this is the shape that we see in the pictures and statues of divinity all over the world. But Sri Jagannath's eyes are round, resembling an animal's like bird, fish, or lemur instead, suggesting round and lidless eyes give more unrestricted view of things than lidded and oval shaped ones. Mahimohan Tripathy is of the view that,

The round lid-less eyes, like that of fish, symbolise that Lord Vishnu or Jagannath is ever active and vigilant. To Him, days, nights and fatigue make no meaning. (2)

In fact, animals equipped by nature with this particular shape of eye enable them to have maximum survival capacity. They follow a wider arc of visibility, and in some animals, the ability to see in the dark.

The concentric circles of colors and unequal thickness represent yet another dimension to Sri Jagannath's eyes. The black, white and red circles present a striking combination of colors. They are in perfect proportion, complimenting each other exquisitely. The thickness of the white band offsets the black iris. The red outline ending in a point near the temples of His head, balance the black and white circles. But then they are not just colors picked at random. The black orb represents mystery, space, infinity, *sunya*. The white represents light, life, reason, rationale, enlightenment, knowledge, and peace. The red stands for heat, energy, and movement. The colors encompass each other in a way that, one cannot be without the other. Opposite and complimentary principles are necessary to understand concepts of difference like the yin-yang, male-female, shadow-light, day-night, fire-water. You can't experience one without the other.

These rings symbolize the human cycle. The black iris is the darkness of a womb where man is born and has the chance to pass from ignorance to wisdom. The white circle, the thickest ring represents an ideal phase of man's life: a period of knowledge and enlightenment, leading to *moksha*. This cycle of birth, death and rebirth is an endless recurrence. On the periphery of existence is the red ring that symbolizes man's most active and productive period. In the process,



he journeys through all the emotions of happiness, anger, passion, pride, success and failure.

Looking into those enormous discs, one gets a feeling of inadequacy, similar to what one would feel when standing at the edge of an ocean. One either drowns, or gets swept away. Either way, His eyes overwhelm with many powerful emotions depending on one's state of mind. Devotees are known to have broken down and wept like children, swooned and fainted in his presence; so overpowering are His eyes, so overwhelming is His form. They watch you, watch over you, and watch what is inside of you. This brings to mind, a modern parallel: Big Brother of George Orwell's prophetic novel "*Nineteen Eighty-Four*". The Orwellian metaphor is ominous and spine chilling. Big Brother, the pseudo-divine leader of Oceania, has a massive following of like-minded individuals, who in turn, control the minds of the people they rule over with constant surveillance, rewriting and subverting history to promote their political dominance, and an agenda that intrudes into private space. In today's world, exposed by whistleblowers like Swartz, Manning and Snowden, we know "eyes" fixed in every building, cubicle, internet, and tele-space, Big Brother is watching, your every move, your every word, everywhere in the realms of public and private space, promising to protect at the cost of invading your privacy. It has millions of eyes, tiny, secretive and sinister as opposed to only one pair of eyes. Sri Jagannath's eyes do not violate private space. *Chaka aakhi sabu dekhuchi* (the Lord sees everything) meaning He sees, perceives, but doesn't intrude like Big Brother who "is watching you" constantly. When one is in His presence, one can feel a benign watchfulness, like a parent watching over a child. Big Brother, on the other hand, seeks to punish. Controlled by an unseen presence, Big Brother is the eyes of scheming and conniving mortals. Chakaadola, on the other hand, is ancient divinity who defies logic, rationality and undermines mortals claim to power.

Coincidentally, I recall a time in the year 1984 when I had been to Puri during *Ratha Yatra*, and had the great fortune of having *darshan* of Sri Jagannath at an unimaginably close quarter. It was the opportunity of a lifetime: of climbing the majestic *ratha*, the imposing *Nandighosha*. On that particular day, the three *rathas* stopped midway to *Gundicha Mandira*. *Pandas*, or priests on the *ratha* put their hands out and pulled me up. And there I was, standing in front of Chakaadola. A shiver ran down my spine and my skin prickled. I stood face to face staring at those enormous eyes now smeared with the black from his body, a result of all the lifting, pushing and pummeling by the *pandas* as they struggled to get his massive form into the *ratha*. Then I heard the *pandas* urging me with *beta maadas* (tapping with thin bamboo sticks), raining on my head to embrace the Lord. When I did, my arms didn't even span halfway across His frame! I just sank to my knees and cried because I was so overwhelmed by the frenzy of movement, the din of sounds, the brilliance of colors, the atmosphere of spellbound devotion, and the thought that I was actually embracing the Lord of the Universe! When I look back on this episode in my life, I realize it was a time; Sri Jagannath's grace was definitely upon me. It was a hypnotizing experience. I never had another opportunity again in the years following. It is only now that I realize if He doesn't call you, you can't come. *Jagannath'nk dori laagilaa*. How true the saying!

The magic continued when I saw Sri Jagannath along with Sri Balabhadra and Subhadra, seated on his throne at the *Gundicha Mandira* the next day. I had the privilege of seeing Him again from within the sanctum sanctorum. During *darshan*, I remained fixated on those eyes. My own eyes dried up just trying to take in the vastness of those eyes. I felt as if I was being stripped of all my ego, id and super ego. I felt so small, so insignificant, like some particle left adrift in the cosmos. Finding it unbearable, I closed my eyes just to rest it. And all I saw were THE pair of eyes seared



behind my eyelids and in my mind. Not daring to look up again, I backed away from the *mandap* towards the entrance and that is where another miraculous thing happened. It didn't matter where I stood, near the images or at the entrance; His eyes looked the same; HUGE, ROUND and PIERCING, in shape and in size whether from two feet away, or twenty feet away! I could feel its mesmerizing effect. I didn't know if my eyes were playing tricks on me, or it was visual effects. The more I looked into those wheel-like eyes, the more I got drawn into them. Those eyes: enigmatic, overpowering and unceasing. I could feel myself drowning in those pools of black and white. It was just Him and me and silence...

As I was leaving the hall, I looked back for a final glimpse, and Sri Jagannath was smiling. At that moment, I just knew...nothing else mattered. The ancient carpenter was so right.

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Relationships – (Do we have to learn about relationships from a Rodent? No Way)

Barun K. Pani



With all the things going on around, I wanted diversion. The economy is still in shambles. There is quantum rise in violence at all levels. All things that are unfit to show are flashing day and night over the television instantly. From a baby rescued to a corpse mutilated, you can see everything on it. The drama of living has been reduced to electronically delivered photons through the big screens unfit to stay in our living space.

I always wondered whether oxygen and photons have any relationship, just from physics point of view. Chlorophyll produces oxygen using photons, though no one knows how. No wonder darkness makes you breathless, impatient.

The way we have developed ourselves over the years, decades, centuries, and millenniums is based on surrounding ourselves with more photons, from the darkness of the caves or rain forests to the neon lights of Las Vegas 24/7. Still we have sufferings, violence, torture, mushroom clouds. We still live in an area of darkness.

I was wondering about these fallacies. How come we have more suffering with more affluence? How come we have more lights with more robbery? How come we have more progress with more breakdowns? It was lunchtime, and I was walking towards the Park, may be my squirrel friend has some answers if he is still sneaking out to check on me.

And there he was! When he wants to taunt me really hard, he stands up with his hind leg, and starts chewing on his acorns. His whiskers, eyes, front legs, teeth all move in some kind of unison, and that produces the irritations for the onlookers, more severe than poison ivy. I knew I have a really difficult question in hand, and I also knew it is more to do with human evolution rather than some philosophical jargons. So may be and just a may be, squirrel will probably take the question to his underground lab, and he has a full quarter to ponder over it. Poor rodent!

And then I heard, “it is not necessary.” I said “what is not necessary?”

The squirrel continued, “I will provide you an outlook to the question you are about to ask. I think one more thing you must realize is that there are a lot of things, we the animals have which you do not. We have a higher spectrum of receiving signals. And if my understanding is correct, your question is with all the developments you guys did to enhance quality of life, why is it that you guys still lead a miserable life; even more miserable than your caveman ancestors ? Did I get it right?”



I said right, almost mechanically. There was no time for me to investigate on the ability of grasping non-verbal communications of this almost hibernating rodent. I was more interested in what will follow.

He scurried a little came near me and said “Sit down on the bench. You will need it.”

My face was almost red, combination of the mid-day sun and my irritation was showing up. I maintained my composure, and said ‘OK. Go on; dump it on me.’

“You have already wasted half of the day trying to find out why more lights did not enlighten your human civilization. You had the clue but never could find out what is relation between oxygen and light. Remember those initial days, when you created orphan tables after tables and then spent night after night trying to write programs with a bunch of tables where relationships are neither understood nor defined. When we the animals build something, we first built the structure, the relationships between each component, and then build the structure. Try spending some time watching the beavers or spiders or the birds when they build their stuff. You will see how they weave the relationships first and then define the entities. If you do not understand relationship of light and oxygen, you have not understood Mother Nature. If you have not understood Mother Nature, you have not understood your existence. That is the darkness you guys suffer from. We in the animal kingdom always abide by the natural rules because we have understood them. So even when we are underground, we have abundance of lights.”

I was listening intensely, though some of it was beyond what I could digest. I interrupted him, “Then you tell me what do you think is the relationship of photons and oxygen?” I just wanted to know his view on how he defines the relationship between light and air.

He grinned and said, "That is so humanly insane."Why do you guys make simple things complex? I would have asked tell me the relationship between sun light and fresh air. You guys rename these two eternal entities as Photons and Oxygen, and then keep searching the relationship. How can you ever get if you do not even name them properly? Once you say Photons and Oxygen, you are stuck with your so called knowledgebase which is miniscule. Then you can go round and round and find something more complex and give another unfamiliar name. If you think you can find the solutions using your methods forget it. That is the reason, you have avoided all fundamental questions and all your designs are far from perfect. Now listen what we the animals have to teach you about relationships. If a cat runs after me, he runs for his lunch, I run for my life, and mostly I win. That is the nature. You have it the other way. The stronger always wins, we have winning and losing defined by the goals. Between light and fresh air, light falls on the tree leaves blossom, and air is freshened. Fresh air helps water evaporate, and then rain comes, clouds clear, and then light blossoms. Do you see the dependence? You guys keep talking about chlorophyll, Oxygen, ignition, and then photons. How in the world you can define the relations? With all the records of broken relations you guys have, I do not even think, you have realized that nature created relations as beautiful and simple collection of interdependencies and interconnectivities. As soon as you bring competitions and complexities into it, the relations suffer from breakdown and the whole structure gets decimated. So quit speaking about photons and oxygen and try to learn the interdependency and interconnectivity of these two entities. They can't live without each other. You light all those lamps and celebrate festivities, and forget that it is the fresh air which keeps them glowing. Then the heat gets rain and when it rains plants



blossom and create more fresh air. What is simpler than this relationship?”

It was almost 1 pm, my lunchtime was almost over. I kind of, sort of, got the message. He wanted to make sure. “Do you get what I am saying?” I did not have time to think over, so I said “OK you summarize it for me.”

He said “The truth is always the simplest. Until it is simple enough, keep working and you will define the relationships”.

I walked back to my office thinking about all my trainings in vocabulary, and idioms, and complex writing skills. Suddenly I realized, truth is always simple, and we create complexities when we do not define the relationships with right words.

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ବାଜି ରାଉତ – “ସମୂହ ସ୍ୱପ୍ନ”ର କିମ୍ବଦନ୍ତୀ

ଉତ୍କର୍ଷ ସଂପାଦନା

ବାର ବର୍ଷର ବାଳକ ବାଜି ରାଉତ । ସେ ଆଜି ବଞ୍ଚିଥିଲେ ୮୭ ବୟସରେ ପଦାର୍ପଣ କରିଥାନ୍ତେ । କିନ୍ତୁ ୧୯୩୮ ମସିହା ଅକ୍ଟୋବର ୧୦ ତାରିଖରେ ନିଜ ଜନ୍ମ ମାଟିରେ ଏକ ବିଷିଷ୍ଟ ଘଟଣାର ମହାନାୟକ ହୋଇ ଠିଆ ହେଲେ । ଗୋଟିଏ ପାଖେ ଶହଶହ ଗ୍ରାମବାସୀ ଓ ଅନ୍ୟପାଖେ ଶାସକ ଗୋଷ୍ଠୀର ପୋଲିସ୍ ବାହିନୀ । ଶରତ ରତ୍ନର ଶୀତୁଆ ସକାଳ । ବ୍ରାହ୍ମଣୀ ନଦୀର କୂଳ । ନଦୀ ପଠାରେ ଏକ ଆନ୍ଦୋଳନର ସୂତ୍ରପାତ ହୋଇଥାଏ । ପୋଲିସ୍ ବାହିନୀ ପୂର୍ବ ରାତିରେ ଗାଁ ମାନଙ୍କରେ ଗତଜାତ ଆନ୍ଦୋଳନକୁ ଦମନ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ଲାଠି ଚାଳନା ଏବଂ ଗୁଳିଚାଳନା କରି ନିଜ ହେତୁକ୍ଷତ୍ରକୁ ଫେରୁଥିଲେ । ପୂର୍ବରାତିରେ ଦମନ ଲୀଳାର କାହାଣୀ ଗାଁକୁ ଖେଳିଯାଇଥିଲା । ହେତୁକ୍ଷତ୍ରକୁ ଫେରିଯିବାପାଇଁ ପୋଲିସ୍ ବାହିନୀକୁ ବ୍ରାହ୍ମଣୀ ନଦୀ ପାରି ହେବାର ଥିଲା । ନଦୀକୂଳରେ ଥିବା ଡଙ୍ଗାଟିକୁ ଗାଁର ଲୋକମାନେ ପାଣିରେ ବୁଡ଼ାଇ ଦେଇଥିଲେ । ଗ୍ରାମବାସୀ ମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଉଦ୍ଦିଷ୍ଟ ଡଙ୍ଗାଟି ଘାଟର ତଳ ଆଡ଼କୁ ବନ୍ଦାଯାଇ ରଖାଯାଇଥିଲା । ଡଙ୍ଗା ପାରକରିବାକୁ ପୋଲିସ୍ ବାହିନୀ କୃତ୍ତ ହୋଇ ଡାକିଲେ । ଉତ୍ତର ଆସିଲା – ଡଙ୍ଗା ଛାଡ଼ିବୁନି । ଆମର ନେତା ମନା କରିଛନ୍ତି । ଭିତ ଭିତରୁ ଉତ୍ତର ଦେଲା ଗୋଟିଏ ଛୋଟ ବାଳକ । ଉତ୍ତର ଶୁଣିବାକୁ ଦୁର୍ଦ୍ଦାନ୍ତ ପୋଲିସ୍ ବାହିନୀ ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତ ନଥିଲେ । ନଦୀ ଘାଟରେ ଦଳଦଳ ହୋଇ ଉତ୍ୟକ୍ତ ଲୋକ ଠିଆ ହୋଇଥାନ୍ତି । କୋଡ଼ିଏ ଜଣିଆ ପୋଲିସ୍ ବାହିନୀ ସାମ୍ନାରେ ଶହ ଶହ ଗ୍ରାମବାସୀ । ରାତି ଅନିଦ୍ରାର କ୍ଳାନ୍ତିରେ ପୋଲିସ୍ ବାହିନୀର ଧୈର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଭାଙ୍ଗିବା ଅବସ୍ଥାରେ । ପୋଲିସ୍ ବାହିନୀ ବାରମ୍ବାର ଆହ୍ୱାନ କରିଚାଲିଛନ୍ତି । କିନ୍ତୁ କୌଣସି ସୁଫଳ ମିଳୁନାହାଁ । ବରଂ ଗ୍ରାମବାସୀ ମାନେ ଧୀରେଧୀରେ ଆଗକୁ ମାଡ଼ି ଆସିବାର ଦେଖାଗଲା । ପୋଲିସ୍ ବାହିନୀ ନିଜ ଶକ୍ତି ପ୍ରଦର୍ଶନ କରି ଗୁଡୁମ୍ ଗୁଡୁମ୍ କରି ବନ୍ଧୁକ ଫୁଟାଇଲେ । ଲୋକମାନେ ଭୟରେ ଛତ୍ରଭଙ୍ଗ ଦେଲେ । କେତେକ ଗିରଫ ହେଲେ । ତା ଭିତରୁ ଜଣେ ନାଉରିଆକୁ ଧରି ଡଙ୍ଗା ଖୋଲି ପୋଲିସ୍ ବାହିନୀ ଗଲାପରେ ଗ୍ରାମବାସୀ ପୁଣି ଏକତ୍ରିତ ହୋଇ ଦେଖିଲେ ଯେ ଗୁଳି ମାଡ଼ରେ ଛଅ ଜଣଙ୍କର ମୃତ୍ୟୁ ହୋଇଛି । ସେମାନେ ହେଲେ – ନୀଳକଣ୍ଠପୁର ଗାଁର ଲକ୍ଷ୍ମଣ ମଲ୍ଲିକ, ନଟ ମଲ୍ଲିକ, ଦୁରୁଷି ମଲ୍ଲିକ ଓ ବାଜି ରାଉତ ଏବଂ ଭୁବନ ଗାଁର ଗୁରୁ ନାୟକ ଓ ରଘୁ ନାୟକ ।

ସେହି ଛଅ ଜଣ ମୃତଙ୍କ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ସର୍ବ କନିଷ୍ଠ ହେଲେ ବାଜି ରାଉତ । ବାର ବର୍ଷର ସେହି ବାଳକ ଯେ କି ମେଳି ଭିତରୁ ଚିକ୍କାର କରି ଶୁଣାଇଥିଲା – ଡଙ୍ଗା ଛାଡ଼ିବୁନି, ଆମ ନେତା ମାନେ ମନା କରିଛନ୍ତି । ଶବ ଗୁଡ଼ିକ କଟକ ସହର ନେଇଯିବାର ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା କରାଯାଇଥିଲା । ଡଙ୍ଗାରେ ଧରି ନଦୀର ତଳଭାଗ ଜେନାପୁର ଘାଟରେ ପହଞ୍ଚି, ସେଠାରୁ ରେଳରେ ନେଇ ଶବଗୁଡ଼ିକୁ କଟକ ସହରରେ ପହଞ୍ଚାଇ ଦିଆଗଲା । କଟକ ସହରରେ ପୂର୍ବଦିନ ଏ ଘଟଣା ପ୍ରଚାରିତ କରାଯାଇଥିଲା । ଏହାର ନେତୃତ୍ୱ ନେଇଥିଲେ ନବକୃଷ୍ଣ ଚୌଧୁରୀ, ଭଗବତୀ ଚରଣ ପାଣିଗ୍ରାହୀ ଏବଂ ଗୁରୁ ଚରଣ ପଟ୍ଟନାୟକ ଆଦି । ଏମାନେ ଏକ ସମାଜସେବୀ ସଂଗଠନର କର୍ମକର୍ତ୍ତା ଥିଲେ । ତତ୍କାଳୀନ ଛାତ୍ରସଂଗଠନର ନେତୃବୃନ୍ଦ ଏ ପ୍ରଚାର କାର୍ଯ୍ୟରେ ମୁଖ୍ୟ ଭୂମିକା ଗ୍ରହଣ କରିଥିଲେ । ଅକ୍ଟୋବର ୧୧ ତାରିଖ ସକାଳ ୮ଟା ବେଳକୁ ରେଳ ଷ୍ଟେସନରୁ ୬ଟି ଶଗଡ଼ରେ ଶବ ଗୁଡ଼ିକ ଲଦାଯାଇ କଟକ ସହରରେ



ଶୋଭାଯାତ୍ରା ବାହାରିଲା । ଦେଶଭକ୍ତଙ୍କ ଧ୍ବନୀରେ ଗଗନ ପବନ କମ୍ପି ଉଠିଲା । ଗଳିକମି ପାରହୋଇ ଶେଷରେ କାଠଯୋଡ଼ି କୂଳ ସତୀଚଉରା ଶୁଶାନରେ ସନ୍ଧ୍ୟା ୭ଟାରେ ଶବଦାହ କରାଗଲା । ଏହି ଶଗଡ଼ ଶୋଭାଯାତ୍ରାର ସଂଚାଳନା ଦାୟିତ୍ବରେ କିଛି ଯୁବକ ଥିଲେ । ତାଙ୍କ ମଧ୍ୟରୁ ସେ ସମୟର ଯୁବକବି ସଚ୍ଚି ରାଉତରାୟ ଥିଲେ ଅନ୍ୟତମ । ଶୁଶାନର ଚିତାକୁ ଦେଖି ସେଇ ରାତ୍ରିରେ ସେ ଲେଖିଲେ :

ନୁହେଁ ବନ୍ଧୁ, ନୁହେଁ ଏହି ଚିତା

ଏ ଦେଶ ତିମିର ତଳେ

ଏ ଅଲିଭ୍ ମୁକ୍ତ ସଳତା

ନୁହେଁ ଏହା ଜଳବାର ପାଇଁ

ଏହାର ଜନମ ଏଥି ଜାଳପୋଡ଼ି

ଦେବାକୁ ଧସାଇ ।

“ବାଜି ରାଉତ” କବିତା ସେ ସମୟରେ ଜନମାନସରେ କେବଳ ଯେ ଉଚ୍ଚ ମାନର ଚେତନା ସୃଷ୍ଟି କରିଥିଲା ତା ନୁହେଁ, ଏହା ଗୋଟିଏ କାଳଜୟୀ କବିତା ଭାବେ ଆଜିଯାଏ ଜନମାନସରେ ଘୋଷିତ ହେଉଛି । ବାଜି ରାଉତଙ୍କ ନାଁରେ ଢେଙ୍କାନାଳ ସହରରେ ବାଜିଚୌକ ଛକ, ଅନୁଗୁଳରେ ବାଜି ରାଉତ ଛାନ୍ଦାବାସ ଏବଂ ଭୁବନରେ ବାଜିରାଉତ ମହାବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ତିଆରି କରାଯାଇଛି । ବାଜି ରାଉତ ଜଣେ ଅଜ୍ଞାତ ଗ୍ରାମୀଣ ବାଳକ ଥିଲେ । ଶିକ୍ଷା, ଦୀକ୍ଷା କିଛି ନଥିଲା । ବାପ ଛେଉଣୁ ବିଧବା ମା ର କନଷ୍ଟ ସନ୍ତାନ, ହେଲେ ତାଙ୍କର ମନ ବଡ଼ ଉଚ୍ଚ ଥିଲା । ହୃଦୟ ଖୁବ୍ ବଡ଼ ଥିଲା । ଦେଶ ପାଇଁ ସ୍ବପ୍ନ ଦେଖୁଥିଲେ । ଜନଗହଳରେ କେବଳ ଦର୍ଶକ ହୋଇ ଛିଡ଼ା ନହୋଇ ସେ ନେତୃତ୍ବ ନେବାକୁ ଚେଷ୍ଟା କରୁଥିଲେ । ସେ ଅନ୍ୟ ମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ସାହସ ଓ ବଳଦାନର ଉଦାହରଣ ହୋଇ ରହିଯାଇଛନ୍ତି ।

୧୯୩୮ ମସିହା ଓ ୨୦୧୩ ମସିହା ଭିତରେ ଦୀର୍ଘ ୭୫ ବର୍ଷ ପାର ହୋଇ ଯାଇଛି । ବାଜି ରାଉତଙ୍କ ଅଞ୍ଚଳରୁ ଗତଜାତ ଶାସନ ହଟିଯାଇଛି । ଭରତ ସ୍ବାଧୀନ ହୋଇଛି । କନ୍ଧ ସମସ୍ୟା ସବୁ ସମାଧାନ ହୋଇ ପାରିନାହିଁ । ସାଧାରଣ ନାଗରିକ ଶାସନର ସୁଫଳ ପାଇପାରିନାହିଁ । କୃଷି ଓ ଗ୍ରାମୀଣ କ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ବିକାଶର ପ୍ରବାହ ପହଞ୍ଚି ପାରିନାହିଁ । ଯୁବକ ଶ୍ରେଣୀ ଜୀବନଯାତ୍ରାର ପ୍ରକୃତ ରଘ୍ଣା ବାଛି ପାରୁନାହିଁ । ଅର୍ଥନୈତିକ ଦୃଷ୍ଟିକୋଣରୁ ଏବେବି ଅନେକ ଦାରିଦ୍ର୍ୟ ସୀମାରେଖା ତଳେ ଅଛନ୍ତି । ନରକ୍ଷରତା ସମ୍ବଳେ ଲେପ ପାଇନାହିଁ । ରୋଗ ବ୍ୟାଧିର ମୂଲ୍ୟୋତ୍ପାଦନ ହୋଇପାରିନାହିଁ । ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ଅନେକ ଗାଁରେ ପାଣି, ବିଜୁଳୀ ଓ ପ୍ରାଥମିକ ଶିକ୍ଷାର ଉଚିତ ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା ହୋଇ ପାରିନାହିଁ । ଆମ୍ଭେ ସମଗ୍ର ବିଶ୍ବ ସମ୍ମୁଖରେ ଛାତି ଫୁଲେଇ ଛିଡ଼ା ହେବାର ଦମ୍ଭ ଓ ଦକ୍ଷତା ହାସଲ କରି ପାରି ନାହୁଁ ।

ଏବେବି ଆମରାଜ୍ୟରେ ଲଢୁଆ ନେତୃତ୍ବର ଆବଶ୍ୟକତା ଅଛି । କଶୋର ଓ ଯୁବବର୍ଗଙ୍କୁ ବାଜି ରାଉତ ସଦୃଶ “ସମୂହ ସ୍ବପ୍ନ” ଦେଖିବାର ଅଛି । ତେବେ ଯାଇ ପ୍ରଗତିର ଚକ ଆଗକୁ ବଢ଼ିପାରିବ ଓ ଏକ ଉନ୍ନତ ସମାଜ ଗଠନ ହୋଇ ପାରିବ ।



A Cinematic Self Discovery

Biswajit Puhan

Subas Babu was sipping a tea from a tea-glass, sitting on a well worn out bench, on the roadside omfed tea stall, just out side Suchana Bhavan. Evening was settling in after a typical hot summer day. Clutching the small tea glass on his slender hand, Subas Babu looked wisely content. We were waiting for the members of the Bhubaneswar Film Society to show up for the monthly film screening. "Do you think the projection guy will come in time? It is already pushing five and the Poetry Society annual function is still in progress", he paused, took another sip of tea. "Of Course, We will start on time", came the prompt reply from a man next to me. Short and roundish in stature, with a white short kurta, which is embroidered with dark patches of sweat; Bhasa Babu's jolliness is hopelessly infectious. He is the go-to man for all situations. He and Subas Babu go back a long way, back when Subas Babu was starting his documentary filmmaking. Whether scouting location for a film shoot, arranging lodging for the night in the interior tribal areas for the film team or to get the auditorium open for the monthly film projection of the film society in capital, all looked to him for solution.



Sitting there I realized this is almost the whole creative unit of a Oriya film unit, right here in front of a tea stall. Jugal Debata the noted cinematographer is sitting on the far end of the bench. How Simple! Is this how they look at life, look at fleeting human reflections, tribulation and struggles, which most of us would not even realize even when pointed to? Is it their common-man look, sensibility and this contentedness? Or is it living live so understatedly which gives them the inkling and creative vision to bring off-beat humane stories of daily life to become visual poetry on screen?

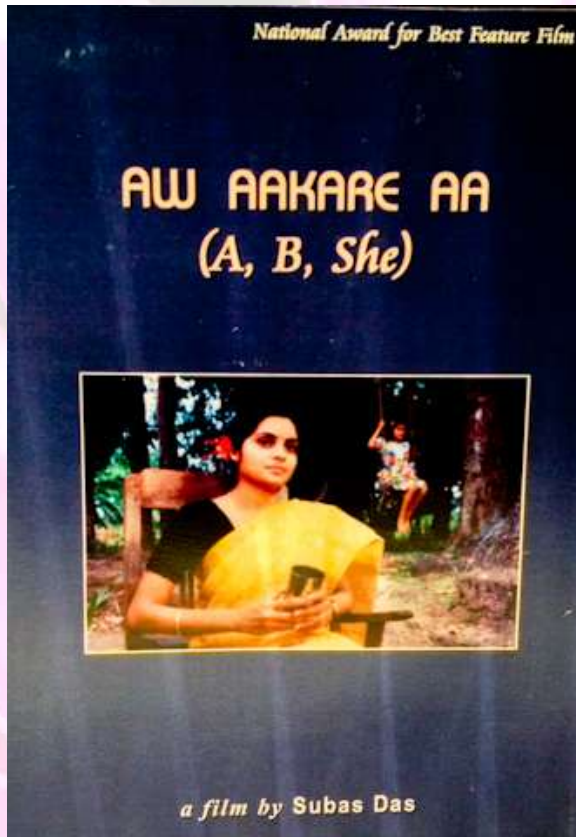
Subas Babu has already accomplished much on a short time, from a notable documentary filmmaker to being showered with a national award recently for his first feature film "ଅ ଥା କା ରେ ଥା". When I came across this film by sheer luck couple of years ago, it was like waking up to a refreshing morning sun. It opened my eyes to the endearing stories modern Odisha filmmakers wanting to tell.

Over the years my perspective of cinema in general has changed greatly. The realistic cinema, so called art-films, which I used to shun away dreading their brooding and overbearing themes, now makes me to seek metaphors of my life in them. I learned to look at cinema as a mirror I guess, to seek to rediscover myself.

Indian nation has made giant strides since that midnight hour well over half-century ago. Our generation saw, felt and lived that incredible leap as the nation got propelled into a global front stage in the last twenty odd years. My dear Odisha, with it's sleepy villages and quaint towns has progressed along as well. But there are something's which did not kept pace with this journey to prosperity, left forgotten in this great rush to modernize our lives.



Just before the 'English medium' schools boomed in all corners of Odisha, even in villages, before the 'tie-wala' uniform with the ornamental logo in chest defining the social status of students, I



remember the primary, school of a small village. The school house which used to be an extension of the lives of people then, tinned roof over brick and mortar walls, broken black boards and worn desks. "Makara Sir trying to sleep when we are doing the class work, but still able to hit the boy on the last bench making fun of him, with a missile duster while his eyes were still closed" It was like a dream now.

State of our primary schools still remains the same. Some how this rush to greater prosperity and modernization has forgotten our primary education system. Did our educationist failed to see the need of change? Did we not cared to invest on grooming of good teachers who would like to teach for the essence of teaching only ? Or as a upward society, in a rush to declare ourselves on level with first world countries we just do not have time to think of our education system? Lot of questions...

When I sat and watched Subas Babu's exquisite little film, as each scenes unfolded, when Mini the lead character journeyed back to her past to find rational in her irrational world and to find her

support, I saw my own reflection on her. My primary school years, Felt "Makara Sir screaming my name and asking me to kneel down outside, the smell of rain soaked earth and *baula* tree". That made me realize I can discover more of myself, this may help me to peel out more layers of feelings which lay buried due to desensitization of modern life, simple films like these, films made in my own language.

"Tukuna is here. Lets go.", Bhasa Babu's voice jolted me up. A young man with the audio-visual equipments neatly piled on a stately trolley had just pulled into the front porch of Suchana Bhavana. We all trooped in to the auditorium. Flurry of activities unfurled with Bhasa Babu in command to set up the projection system. The microphones came alive, the projector fired up and tested. The auditorium has started filling up by now. Looking around I could spot some literary luminaries of Odisha in the crowd as well, Dr. Sitakanta Mahapatra and Dr. Pratibha Roy. I assumed they feel they same pull, the same human connection as we all do via the cinema. The lights dimmed slowly, a young man came up to the stage to give a brief synopsis of the evening's presentation. I was ready, ready to embark upon another journey to my own lost world to explore myself, my roots and connect my past and present. I felt grateful to have the chance.

Farmington Hills, MI



Cover Story



Raghunath Panigrahi: A personal homage

Sri Gopal Mohanty

Raghunath Panigrahi was a cultural icon of Odisha. After Indrani Rahman's world wide tour performing Odissi during late fifties and early sixties, if at all Odissi is known today within and outside India it was due to Sanjukta Panigrahi's immaculate performances accompanied by the unique voice of her husband Raghunath Panigrahi – perfection per excellence. Really the magic spell of Odissi spread throughout the world by the immortal trio consisting of them along with Guru Kelu Charan Mohapatra.

Shree Panigrahi was a reputed music composer and singer on his own right, but he made a choice to sacrifice his own music career and joined Sanjukta and Kelu Babu so as to chart a new trajectory for Odissi and take it to a height none ever could have imagined. Raghunath Babu's loss to pursue his own independent career has been an immense gain to Odissi and undoubtedly to Odisha and her glory.

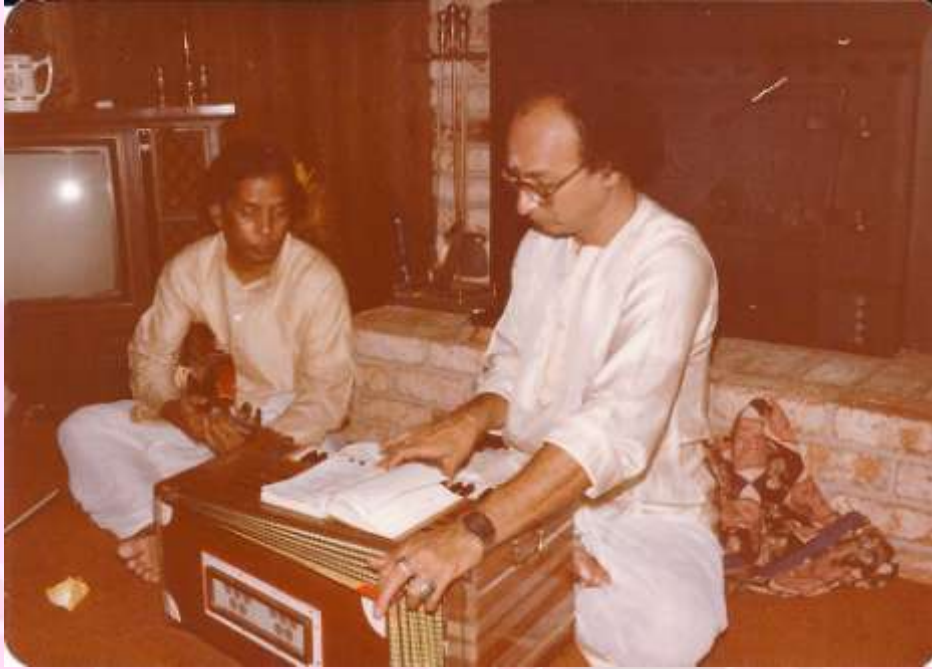


Raghunath and Sanjukta Panigrahi on two sides of Gopabandhu Das's bust at their residence, Ashok Nagar, Bhubaneswar

I had a very special fascination for Odissi because I had a strong feeling that if Odisha were to be known then Odissi should lead the way. In my own pursuit I was looking for any opportunity to promote it. One day, to my uncontrollable ecstasy I found the LP "L'INDE ETERNELLE" in one



record store in Younge Street, Toronto. There it was with a full page picture of Lord Jagannath that almost stared at me to capture every ounce of emotion within me. The writing on the back page was all in French. It did not matter. I recognized names: Raghunath and Sanjukta Panigrahi and Kelu Charan Mohapatra – it was all about Odissi. I just wanted to listen to the music and I listened. I listened not once, not twice but repeatedly until Raghunath Babu's voice in 'Banshi Teji Dela' for Abinaya started clinging inside me.



Raghunath Panigrahi and Sunakar Sahoo

Coincidentally, Raghunath Babu's songs of Jayadeva's "Geet Govindam" were released in a LP in 1975, in the same year as "L'Inde Eternelle". Both are in my view precious treasures in the pioneering stage of cultural expansion of Odissi.

In the back cover of Geet Govindam, the celebrated author Gopinath Mohanty wrote: The style of his (Raghunath Panigrahi) singing is derived from the classical Odisi tradition to which his personality has added its own stamp of individuality.

I and my wife Shanti drove all the way from Bay Area (I was spending a sabbatical year at Stanford University in 1981-82) just to see the famous trio and Sanjukta's performance at LA Arts Museum in 1982. That was our first exposure to her performance as well as meeting three giants together. Raghunath Babu's melodious voice with devotional emotion guiding Sanjukta's intricate but graceful movements arranged through Guru Kelu Charan's choreography was creating an unparallel harmonious unison that could bring blissful fulfillment to the mind, soul and spirit. We were enchanted and thrilled. It was a dream fulfilled.

They along with the other musicians came to the Bay Area before performing at Ali Akbar College of Music. Debaranjan and Mamata Mohanty and we hosted the troupe for a few days. The Odia community got very much excited by their presence. In fact Hara Mishra from Davis, CA arranged a very quick programme for the team in Davis.



In the same tour they came to Canada and with the help of Indian students at McMaster University we arranged Sanjukta's premier performance in Hamilton. I was overjoyed because I as part of India Canada Society and OSA tried to bring them to USA and Canada during 1976 and failed.



Sitting: Jnana Dash's father, Sanjukta Panigrahi, Mamata Mohanty (wife of Debaranjan Mohanty, CA), Meera (Mamata's daughter), Shantimayee Mohanty
On the floor: Hemanta Das, Raghunath Panigrahi, Sunakar Sahu, Ratikanta Mohapatra

By this time we became close to them. Since then we used to visit them every time we were in Odisha. If we happened to be there in the morning it was certain that they would be practicing and would invite us to share that experience with them.

I particularly have enjoyed his earlier songs of Madhusudan Rao, like 'Akasha dishe ki sundara' and a typical folk song 'Benga kahe bengulilo'. His two songs 'Ke pathe bana kalare' and 'Manasija mana mohana' of Gopalakrushna in Odissi as part of production of Odissi Research Centre demonstrate the distinctness of Odissi music.

Raghunath Babu had almost child-like simplicity and smile and was warm hearted and fun loving. He was extremely dedicated to his music and the art form and believed in keeping high standard. He would not like to appease anyone for gaining popularity. The faith in attaining perfection led the couple to bring Odissi achieving international fame and leave a unique land mark in Odisha's cultural renaissance.



Left to right:

Front row:

Father of Jnana Dash (San Jose), Sanjukta Panigrahi, Unknown, Ananda Radha - a disciple of Guruji in Berkley,CA, Guru Kelu Charan Mohapatra, Ratikanta Mohapatra - Guruji's son(manjira)

Back row: Unknown, Raghunath Panigrahi, Hemanta Das (sitar), Sunakar Sahu (violin)

He received the title of Sur Mani by the Sur Singar Samsad of Mumbai, Sangeet Natak Academy Award both from the Centre and the State, Jayadev Samman and Padma Shri for contribution to music. He also happened to be the first Oriya musician to be decorated by the government of France, in the early '70s.

Raghunath Babu became a role model and his legacy continues. His romantic song 'Ketaki go' echoes through the voice of young Suraj Patnaik in Chicago.

Toronto, Canada



Obituary

Dr. Srinibas Mahapatra



On October 30th, 2012, Dr. Srinibas Mahapatra died peacefully in his home in Ann Arbor, Michigan of a heart attack. He was born in Puri, Odisha, India, but spent most of his childhood in Burnpur, West Bengal. After graduating from R.G. Kar Medical School, Calcutta, India, Srinibas immigrated to England for further studies and training.

After their marriage his wife, Chandana, joined him in England. While in England, Srinibas completed his MRCPsych (Member of Royal College of Psychiatry). In 1987 they traveled to Ann Arbor, Michigan where Srinibas completed further training at the University of Michigan. He went on to work at the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System, where he eventually became the Chief of In-Patient Psychiatry and Director of the Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT) program. He was also an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Michigan.

He was respectfully known as Dr. M to the many residents he helped train. They respected him as a great teacher and mentor. He had a good sense of humor and was a great storyteller. Most important, he treated his patients, our American Veterans, with respect, empathy and honesty.

SRI, as he was lovingly called by his colleagues, was respected for his hard work and his years of support for the education and research in the field of Psychiatry. After his passing, his colleagues honored him by naming a Geriatric Psychiatry Education scholarship in his memory.

When not working, Dr. Mahapatra delighted in Indian Classical music and dance. He was involved in organizing multiple performances for ODISSI Dance, a classical dance of India.

He is survived by his wife, Chandana; their two sons, Rahul and Arun; his mother; and four brothers.



Chapter Report

MICHIGAN

Swati Mishra reported

Ganesh Puja

Michigan had its election in July where the new office bearers took the charge. So Ganesh Puja was the 1st function observed after the office bearers took charge. The day started with great excitement as well as bit nervousness as it was the first responsibility. The volunteers arrived 30 minutes before the puja started. The decoration as well as the arrangement for the puja was done with great enthusiasm. Even the kids participated in the arrangement.

Most people arrived in time with their signed up cooked Prasad. As usual Mr. Jogesh Panda and Mrs. Krishna Senapati started with the puja. There were more people than expected.



“Sankha” and “Hulahuli” echoed in the hall. With the blessings of Lord Ganesha, the puja went on smoothly. It was followed by chanting the 108 names of Lord Ganesha and then the arati....

People were offered with the fruit Prasad initially.

There were many new members....the new members as well as their families introduced themselves. We welcomed them heartily. They were overwhelmed meeting so many odia families.

We had an Odia Speech competition the same day. The topic was “Ebarsa tuma school re prathama dinara anubhooti”. We had two groups- senior(Grade 6th and above) and junior (Grade 5 and under).

We had three judges from our community: Mr. Parakshit Nayak, Mr. Sishir Senapati and Mr. Bhawani Tripathy to assess the kids. The kids of both groups tried their level best to deliver the speech.

The results were as follows:

Senior Group:

1. Anwasha Sarangi (Grade 7) Daughter of Mrs. Punyatoya and Mr. Satchi Sarangi
2. Sanjana Sahoo (Grade 7) Daughter of Mrs. Geeta and Mr. Sanjeev Sahoo

Junior Group:

1. Arnav Subudhi (Grade 1) Son of Mrs. Tanushree Patra and Mr. Dillip Subudhi
2. Chirag Mishra (Grade 4) Son of Mrs. Swati and Mr. Parag Mishra



The kids will receive their prizes on the Kumar Purnima 2013.

Lunch followed the speech competition. The awesome food was prepared with lot of effort and devotion. Everybody came forward for cleaning up the hall and the day came to an end with a great satisfaction.

Now we are gearing up for the next grand Occasion, the Kumar Purnima on 26th October.

Sanat Patnaik reported

Annual Picnic

The annual picnic of our NY-NJ chapter for the year 2013 was held on June 15, 2013 at Princeton Country club, New Jersey. Like every preceding year, this year also the guest's presence the attendance of previous years. We had 112 families who attended the event with their families and friends and total attendance crossed 350.

It was a cool but sunny day and the whole day was spent in varieties of sports events for kids and adults alike. There were exciting athletic events for parents and their younger children alike. To keep the mood nostalgic and match "Raja" theme of the event girls and ladies played the swings to the rhythm of popular odiya songs for the occasion. Varieties of competitions were also held to keep the sportive spirits of the children and their excitements high through out the day. The mega event which excited most of the members was the grand lottery - hosted for raising funds to finance the Utkal Prabha radio program (hosted every Sunday from 9.00 am to 10.00 am on 1170.00AM EBC Radio) for the year 2013-14. The picnic ground was filled with cheers, as the winning ticket numbers and their prizes were announced. Fund raising for the ongoing Radio Program Utkal Prabha during the picnic has been a very favourite and regular event for past couple of years in our Chapter.



This year OSA Life Membership drive was also pursued and remarkable success has been achieved by enrolling 6 new Life members during the picnic. In all 12 new Life memberships have been made during the current year in the NYNJ Chapter. At national level also OSA reached a new high by crossing the 1,000 (one thousand) Life member benchmark.

OSA NYNJ Chapter annual Picnic has been a memorable and exciting event for all chapter members for past many years. "Unlimited Food and Unlimited Masti" has been the theme with innovative games, entertainment and food for all participants. This year Katki Dahi Bara and Ghuguni Chat and Dahi Lassi were most favourite in snacks menu apart from varieties of chicken and vegetable kababs.

Again Dahi Pakahala with Badee Ghanta and Bhajjaa, Panasha Biryani with Mutton Roghan josh found great favour amongst the members. Food was delicious and tasty, as could be seen from several helpings taken by all and as they relished the food. We also has wide variety of kababs on the grill on both vege and non-vege platter and to wash them down there was Dahi lassi..



The event, which started in the morning continued till evening and everyone enjoyed it thoroughly. It was almost late in the evening by the time people left the venue after having some games and then ice cream for the kids, hot masalaa tea and paana for the road.



As guest left the venue one by one, the members were all excited, their parents from Odisha very fulfilled and the kids still reluctant to leave their friends and games behind at the picnic ground... it was a day for "Our Odishaa" to come alive across seven seas in Princeton, New Jersey and its nostalgic moments refreshed and relived in our hearts!!

Odia Speech Contest

There are 6,800 languages in the world, and since you can't know where you'll be born, you have to pop from the womb to be able to speak any one of these 6,800 languages. Just imagine, in 12 to 18 months of your being on earth, you will start understanding the language your family members are constantly using around you. How capable our brain is!

Intelligence expands with learning. Learning a new language enlarge our vision. Scientists have already proved through researches that being multilingual offers tremendous benefits to the brain.

Apart from benefit to brain, it is the language which connects one to one's root. A language is not only a spectacular arrangement of letters; it is the mother of literature, poem, song, dance and even sculpture. Language sustains relations among family members. When a grandchild living in New Jersey talks in odia over the phone to grandpa who lives in Odissa, why grandpa feels that as if his grandchild is sitting in his lap and talking to him? Why do the thousands of miles distance suddenly disappear between these two generations?

OSA understood the importance of encouraging odia speaking among our youngsters. OSA NY/NJ as a supporting chapter, has adopted this genuine effort; hence, for the second time, OSA NY/NJ conducted the Odia Speech Contest on Saturday 7th September, 2013 during Annual Ganesh Puja celebration. 13 kids from age 6 to 14 years participated in this contest. This contest was not to win or lose over each other. The contest was to win over the fear, the anxiety to talk in Odia in public. Participants were encouraged to choose any one of the three pre-defined topics and prepare a speech of 2-3 minutes. The contest was conducted by Abhinav Mohapatra who is in his last year of High school. Abhinav is an exemplary to Odia community children on how to continue speaking Odia fluently even if more than half of his day spent in school while speaking English.

Every one of these 13 participants surpasses the expectation of audiences. The small faces were beamed with confidence when the little foots were stepping on to the stage with hesitation. There were streams of stories on Lord Ganesh, from Hindu mythology and some on recent travel experience. No doubt, the little speakers were able to capture the undivided attention of



audiences. Thunderous applause, cheerful noises must have uplifted the hearts of our young speakers to appear in our next year Odia Speech Contest.

Gargi Panigrahi, a High school second year student gave her speech in Sambalpuri, a rich dialect of Odia. She narrated that how speaking in Sambalpuri helped her in her recent visit to a village in Sambalpur to conduct a literacy camp. Ankita Mohapatra and Alisha Senapati, middle school students emphasized on the fact that why should we keep our Odia language and culture alive in America. These teenagers' words filled with experience and facts must have motivated many in audiences to encourage their children to speak in Odia.

There is no doubt that the efforts and will-power of parents made this second Odia Speech contest a huge success. The parents are the ones who inspired their children to come to the stage and speak in Odia. We extend our heart-felt congratulation to all participants and their parents.

Here are the names of kids who participated in "Let's learn Odia" Debate this year 2013.

1. Preety Patel
2. Pratyay Mohapatra
3. Sumedha Jena
4. Tejas Panigrahi
5. Aryaman Mohapatra
6. Trishna
7. Rohan
8. Yogesh Mohapatra
9. Priyanka Choudhury
10. Srihaan Satpathy
11. Alisha Senapati
12. Ankita Mohapatra
13. Gargi Panigrahi



NEW ENGLAND



Bishwabhusan Sahoo, Vice President OSNE reported

It is the great pleasure to report that the OSA-NE regional drama festival was a grand success this year at the New England chapter (OSNE). We have almost 175 people attendance for this event which broke all the time record.

This drama festival on Sep 14 was combined with the Ganesh Puja. Our Executive committee, organizers and volunteers had worked hard to make this event a great success in spite of very tight program schedule which started from 12 noon until 10pm.

The event was celebrated in three parts:

1. Ganesh Puja
2. Kids Science Exhibition
3. Drama and cultural activities

Ganesh Puja Celebration:



Orissa Society of New England (OSNE) has also celebrated the Ganesh Puja on Sep 14 at the Chelmsford Community Center (31 Princeton St, North Chelmsford, MA). The chapter introduced the “*Medha*” and was celebrated with great pride by its members. The puja was performed by the priest from the Chinmaya Mission, Boston followed by “*Khadichuan*” for kids and traditional Prasad.



Kids Science Exhibition:



The chapter also introduced the kid's science exhibition for the 1st time. There are kids from 20 families has participated in the science exhibition. These are the few highlights of the topics presented in the science exhibition: Electrolysis, Go Green, How Battery Works, Invisible message, Color changing solutions, Radio Controlled Lawn Mower, Anti Gravity Machine, Capillary Action, Next Generation Energy from Biological life, Magnetism. Highly qualified Ph.D. scientists were selected as the judge from the out side of the chapter for unbiased judging. My sincere thanks to the Science committee members (Nishikanta Sahoo, Rajesh Panda, Swarup Sahoo, Amresh Panda, Asim Mohapatra and Arun Mohanty) for their dedication and hard work to make this exhibition a grand success. Here are few quotations from our senior members.

Senior OSNE member Arun Mohanty wrote:

“Congratulations to you all for a great success of the kid's science exhibition. It was very appreciative by everybody. It was very enlightening to the kids. We should continue and encourage more young scientists to participate in the coming years”.

Senior OSNE member Leena Mahapatra wrote:

“Thanks the entire dedicated team for bringing out such a wonderful concept. Our enthusiastic OSNE kids had a great time presenting their innovative science projects, and obviously the medals were an incentive, which will motivate them further in participating in future projects. Thanks again for the brilliant effort”



Drama and Cultural Activity:

The festival was started with an overview of the OSA, presented by the chapter president Nihar Nanda followed by inauguration of the festival. The overview highlighted about the OSA and to promote Odia culture and heritage among the members and encouraged to participate and involve more towards the betterment of the society. The cultural secretary, Dillip Behera gave the introduction of the show and introduced the emcee. The 1st program was the kids' drama “*Sri Jagganath*”. Here are the details below.

Name of the Drama: Sri Jagannath

Coordinators: Mamta Sahoo, Prabhu Prasad Sahoo, Satish Sahoo

Directors: Prativa Sahoo & Namrata Mohanty

Script: Prativa Sahoo & Prabhu Prasad Sahoo

Artist: Yash sahuo, Anulekha Sahoo, Ayush Mohapatra, Arnav Mohanty, Shaashwat Sahoo, Anish Panda, Archa Sahoo, Tisha Sahoo, Omprakash Sahoo, Pradeep Kumar Sahu

A short Synopsis: A king called Indrayumna once dreamed Vishnu instructing him to build a temple and worship his idols. Looking for the idol his minister Vidyapati meets tribe king Viswabasu and his daughter Lalita. He later found the idol whom he was searching for was worshipped by king Viswabasu in a cave in a remote area. However when Vidyapati and Indradyumna came back to cave, the idol was vanished. Then Lord Vishnu told him to collect Daru from Sea Shore which can be used to make his idol. The Daru were collected and brought to the temple. Then Viswakarma in the form of an old man requests King and starts making the idol out of Daru. But before 21 days Rani Gundicha asked to open the door and found the old man is not there anymore and Darus were given shape to Lord Jagannath, Balabhadra and Subhadra.





Our next program was “Faces of India”, celebrating and showcasing different states and culture of India. Thanks to Julie Swain for coordinating this and thanks to all ladies of OSNE who has participated for which this program was successful.



The Odissi Dance by Nupur Dance Academy and Upasana Dance Academy enlighten the whole festival. There were almost 17 participants from the two dance group performed during this festival. Thanks to Jayashree Mohapatra, the Director of Noopur Dance Academy and Mouli Pal, the Director from Upasana Dance Academy for coordinating these dances.

In addition to that we had a odia duet performed by Harsheet and Anesha, followed by Bollywood dance by Twisha and Anmol.

A famous Odia writer Santanu Kumar Acharya wrote:

“I express my special commendations for the Odissi dancers and the Director and actors. Our special greeting and blessings to Mrs Jayashree Mohapatra for her commanding personality in announcing the dance numbers and also to those two Bengali Ladies who performed their duet role as a charming pair Odissi dancers that evening on the stage”.



A one act play performed by Kalpana and Bhavana was really hilarious. Here are the details below regarding this play. Thanks to both Kalpana and Bhavana for doing such a wonderful act.

Name of the Drama: Samudhuni

Director: Kalpana

Script : Kalpana & Bhavana

Artist: Kalpana and Bhavana

A short Synopsis: A negotiation of dowry between two mother-in-laws before the marriage.



The adult drama was a great success. Thanks to the coordinators, directors and participant for making this play successful. Here are the details below.



Name of the Drama: BADA GHARA BADA GUMARA KATHA

Coordinator: Bishwa Sahoo

Director: Dillip Behera

Script : Dillip Behera

Artist: Sanjeeb Swain, Sudhira Mishra, Debadutta Behera, Smruti Padhi, Arun Mohanty, Kalpana, Bhabesh Behera, Satyabrata Mishra

A short Synopsis: This is about a "Pati Parayana" wife brings her husband to right path based on the classic novel "Patent Medicine" by Fakir Mohan Senapati.

Distinguished Professor and Famous Odia writer Santanu Acharya Wrote:

"I express my special commendations who participated in the of the Odia play enacted on the model of the famous short story of the doyen of our Odia literature, Vyasha Kabi Fakir Mohan Senapati's Patent Medicine. So also the play based of the theme of Nilamadhaba myth of our beloved Lord Jagannatha. But our longingly affectionate hugs are reserved for all of them; the child dancers and actors who dished out their numbers with so much enthusiasm and often with hilarious comedies and humor".

Founding member of OSNE Satyabrata Mishra wrote:

"Bada Ghara-Bada Gumara": This team pulled off such a great show – the magnum opus of our cultural program – one that OSNE had not seen thus far. I do not know whether to thank Sudhira for her steadfastness as a "loyal spouse", or Sanjeeb for his drunken dance, or the cutting choreography of Dillip (not to mention his dedication and sincerity to drive long distances to teach us what to say and how to render it), or the tech savvy and coordination of Bishwa, or the Makara and Katrina, or the Sundari, or the double role of Arun, or what, I do not know. I am truly amazed that we pulled it off. Best is they all liked it. Audience is King. They have given their votes – and you guys have won with a grand slam. I want to thank you all for enlisting me as a part of a truly energetic team. Please forgive me if I ever pulled that energy level down at any point of time. Last thing: The overall performance yesterday was so outstanding that it brought tears to my eyes – tears of joy, of course. But it also has raised the bar so high. Let's keep it up".





Dr. Sourya Mahapatra, Nashua , NH wrote:

“Thank you all for a wonderfully put together event. We are thrilled at the strides OSNE is making !!

Mouli Pal – Founder of Upasana wrote:

“Thank you for inviting me to perform, also was humbled to receive the honor. Your committee did a fabulous job of organizing and promoting Oriya culture and heritage. No doubt it was a lot of hard work. Many thanks for involving me and Upasana”.



We also had a Odia Book fair this year in this drama festival. Thanks to Nishikanta Sahoo for his dedication and enthusiasm to encourage the younger's and promote odia culture among the community.

Professor Acharya wrote again, *"I never saw earlier during my several visit to the Odia Association functions in my previous visits, I mean the Odia Book Exhibition. It is a commendable new approach to inform our NRIs who need to hold on to their parental culture for a better understanding of their ethnicity and heritage that no mere religious ritualism could ever compensate the loss of identity of a person who has been detached from his or her primary linguistic identity. I congratulate Sri Nishikanta Sahu's pioneering adventures in this respect to venture a step in trying to display Odia poetry books and serious novels and short story books and the literary magazine like " Pratishruti" that is being published here in this country by another Odia enthusiast Sri Satya Pattanayak"*.

We also recognized Jayashree Mohapatra and Mouli Pal for their dedication and hard work to promote the Odia culture by offering a plaque of appreciation. We also recognized the distinguished professor and Sarala Puraskar awardee "Santanu Kumar Acharya by displaying his book".



Thank you the National coordinator Sandip Dasverma, Priyaranjan Mohapatra and Priyadarshi Dash for the support through out this process. Thanks to Priyaranjan for visiting and encouraging us during this event. Special thanks to Sandip Dasverma for his endless support. Thanks to the OSA executives for the support and financial assistance for which this festival was very successful.

Final thanks to the OSNE executives Nihar Nanda (President), Dillip Behera (Cultural Secretary), Niranjana Senapati (Treasurer), Madhumita Sahoo (Food Coordinator), Pradeep Sahu (Communication coordinator) for their support, dedication and hard work to make this festival a grand success.



Through a Visitor's Eyes – Odia Society of New England RDF 2013

*Dr. Chittaranjan Kar
45 Bapuji Nagar
Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India*

Come summer 2013, my wife and I were excited about our visit to my daughter's place in Boston. We were coming after a gap of three years. My two grand daughters have grown up – preparing to cast off their childhood and enter the teens. After reaching Boston, we were invited to the OSNE Drama Festival and were glad for it. We were told it was to be held simultaneously with Ganesh Puja on Sep 14th, 2013. The days preceding 14th were cold and rainy which dampened our spirits but thanks to blessings of Ganesh Mahaprabhu, 14th morning was quite warm and friendly.

The gathering for the dual function was very good – about two hundred persons including kids and visiting guests from India participated. Pooja and Prasad sevan over, stage was set for the dramas.

The first was 'Jai Jagannath' drama performed by the kids. The theme was well known and the little ones worked on it making it quite presentable with music and props. Though there was some understandable difficulty in Odia pronunciation the acting was good and the artists playing Lalita (Archa Sahoo) and Indradyumna (Yash Sahoo) were outstanding.

Next was a bunch of dances - semi-classical Odissi on the theme of Radha-Krishna lila. Guided by Guru Jayashree Mohapatra it was heartening to see the kids enacting the steps and movements of classical Odissi in a foreign land and in an unfamiliar language. Especially dances by Arya, Megha, Neha, Annanya, Shruti, and Priyanka were worth mentioning. Still the efforts were praise worthy – two solo (by Twisha & Anmol) and one-duet dancers (Harsheet and Anesha) were awesome. The two Bollywood dances drew loud cheer from the younger generation.

There was a small one-act play by two 'Samudhunis' (played by Kalpana and Bhavana) on the dowry problem, which was really good, hilarious & well acted.

A classical Odissi recital by Mouli Pal and Shamoyita Mukherjee and Pal was as graceful and pleasing as Odissi can be – a real feast for the eyes.

The last in the list was the magnum opus, adult drama – "Bada Ghara Bada Gumara Katha" based on Fakir Mohan Senapati's classic story "Patent Medicine" with some ingenious modifications. The presentation was also made more modern and more acceptable to the present day with comic inclusions like cell phones, facebook, twitter and Prem Jyotish.

The artists enacted well but the acting of Chandramani (Sanjeev Swain) was truly professional and masterly. The husband and wife duo of (by Arun Mohanty & Lily) visitors to Cuttack drew maximum cheers as also Makara-Katrina (Debabrata & Swati) combination. The climax scene of administering the patent medicine, "Jhadu Prahar" was as usual the most entertaining and enjoyable part of the drama. But, there was one glaring omission - "Usman Tara".

On the whole, the evening was a treat - refreshing, relaxing and memorable; sometimes we forgot we were outside Odisha.



Visiting the Regional Drama Festival at Boston – 2013



*Prof. Santanu Kumar Acharya
Bhubneswar, Odisha*

I and my wife Nirupama extend our heartiest thanks and gratitude to Satyabrata and Dola for offering us a unique opportunity for attending this year's puja ceremony of Lord Ganesh and for observing the cultural activities of our Odia NRIs under the banner of the Odia Society of New England, at Boston, on Sep 14th 2013.

We enjoyed the whole day and the evening in the esteemed company of your family members and many of our old friends whom we came to know during our earlier visits to this country and particularly this very Odisha society function of yours.

My regards and appreciation to the President (Mr. Nihar Nanda) and other members of the Society and particularly the participants of each and every item of the cultural show that kept us enthralled for the whole three hours of our active attention throughout that evening. I express my special commendations for the Odissi dancers, the Director and the actors who participated in the of the Odia play enacted on the model of the famous short story of the doyen of our Odia literature, Vyasha Kabi Fakir Mohan Senapati's Patent Medicine. So also the play based of the theme of Nilamadhaba myth of our beloved Lord Jagannatha. But our longingly affectionate hugs are reserved for all of them; the child dancers and actors who dished out their numbers with so much enthusiasm and often with hilarious comedies and humor.

Next comes my appreciation for the new element of cultural show, a new feature, I never saw earlier during my several visit to your Odia Association functions in my previous visits, I mean the Odia Book Exhibition. It is a commendable new approach to inform our NRIs who need to hold on to their parental culture for a better understanding of their ethnicity and heritage that no mere religious ritualism could ever compensate the loss of identity of a person who has been detached from his or her primary linguistic identity. I congratulate Sri Nishikanta Sahu's pioneering adventures in this respect to venture a step in trying to display Odia poetry books and serious novels and short story books and the literary magazine like "Pratishruti" that is being published here in this country by another Odia enthusiast Sri Satya Pattanayak.

Lastly, but by far most importantly, I am delighted to record my observation about your function is that to my great satisfaction I found all the announcements and deliberations were conducted in neat and perfectly pronounced Odia, on the stage that day. This practice I never found to be so boldly executed by our Odia NRIs in any of their functions I had attended ever in this country. I must congratulate the organizers for this very thoughtful step they had introduced into their Odia Association proceedings and cultural function this year.

As regards use Odia here in this country but our NRIs I must endorse the new psychological findings on multilingualism. It is scientifically proven that every child is born a polyglot (capable



of learning more than one language) and as per the recent most findings by educational psychologists it is proven by experimentation that children knowing and using more than one language fluently are found to be more competent than the monolingual children and their IQs far outweighs others who stick to only one language (vide recent month's Times magazine issue).

With regards to the executive members of the Odia Society of New England and all their members and patrons:

Our special greetings and blessings to Mrs Jayashree Mohapatra for her commanding personality announcing the dance sequence. Two Bengali Ladies who performed their duet role as a charming pair of Odissi dancers that evening on the stage. Of course our heartiest congratulations and praises are reserved for Sri Sanjeev Swain and the lady who played the role of the Zamindar and his wife Sulochana, respectively, in the play: Patent Medicine.

Thank you all OSNE members for the support.

Sincerely

Bishwabhusan Sahoo
Vice President, OSNE



WASHINGTON, D.C.

Prakash Sahu reported

Ganesh Puja

We started with the decoration and setup activities in a feverish pitch prior to devotees joining us for the puja event. Young adults, kids worked with adults with enthusiasm getting the place organized for the occasion.



We thank all the volunteers for the following:

Setup: Meera Apa, Sidartha Mohapatra, Urmila Apa, Alok Mohanty, Sarthak, Sashwat, Moushumi, Pinky, Lonika, Simoni, Leena Satpathy & Amrita

Food Item and Pickup: Urmila Apa and Dr. Manoj Mishra

Puja & ceremony proceedings: Meera Apa as usual played a critical role along with Sanu helping Pratap Dash during the ceremony. Kids were keenly interested and absorbed by the explanations provided by Pratap associated with the puja. They got to enact the puja actions on their respective arrangement of Ganesha. It was amazing to see the 20+ kids as they sat through close to the priest in the puja for almost two hours without ever being disruptive. Surendra bhaina also provided a brief overview with a presentation to help everyone with their understanding of Ganesh Chaturthi during the course.



[Ganesh puja 2013 pictures](#)

Please hit the spacebar to start the slideshow after opening one of the photos, you may have the audio on. Thanks to

[Babru bhai](#) for capturing pictures for the event for us to cherish. He has a classic collection that he captures and catalogues ever so meticulously. If you are interested please sign up with him to receive such notifications.

Food Serving: Urmila Apa, Bindu, Leena, Debasmita, Kirtan, Pradeep

Cleanup: Anup as usual is a life saver! There were many other helping hands, who helped distribute the huge basket of fruits and in getting the cleanup done rapidly.

Bhoga, fruits, followed by lunch and khiri and bundi for dessert, soda and water was enjoyed by all. OSA – 2013 souvenir, Chanda, Champu karaoke CD's was available for folks to purchase.



We thank Sujit Das for kindly accepting to be our chapter coordinator for Regional Drama Festival working with OSA. We still seek four more such coordinators for other purposes – if you wish to help, kindly contact us.

If you attended the puja and forgot to contribute then kindly mail us a check payable to 'OSA DC'



to our treasurer: Mr Bijay Satpathy, 42009 Ural DR, Stoneridge, VA 20105

Our special thanks to our sponsors for their generous contributions they are:

1. Nilambar & Annapurna Biswal
2. Devraj and Urmila Sahu (for puja bhoga)
3. Sarbeswar & Tara Acharya
4. Bhudeep & Moon Moon Patnaik
5. Gatikrishna & Jagyanseni Tripathy

Please excuse us if we missed to mention your name.

We look forward to meeting you on our next event which is Kumar Purnima (KP) planned for 10/19/2013. Please continue with your practice for the KP event and do not forget to reach out to the KP coordinators making them aware about your participation before 10/06/2013 so that they can finalize the schedule.



SOUTHERN CHAPTER

Pramod Mohapatra reported

Annual Reunion and Picnic

Southern chapter had the Annual reunion and picnic during the Labor Day weekend. Beautiful city Chattanooga witnessed the gathering of the many Odia families from Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia. We had the reunion and cultural night on Saturday, August 31st and Picnic on Sunday, September 1st at Fall creek Falls State park.



All the families attended this event gathered on Saturday afternoon at the venue in Downtown of Chattanooga. Then all us went on Tennessee riverboat cruise. The cruise was very special and a very good experience. This is the first of its kind in the Southeast, transports guests downstream into "Tennessee's Grand Canyon", the Tennessee River Gorge". This scenic waterway is home to a remarkable array of plants and animals. An Aquarium naturalist lead our journey and pointed out wildlife and historic points of interest along the way.

We came back to the venue after the cruise, then took a break to get fresh and ready for the dinner and cultural extravaganza. We ordered food from the local Indian restaurant. The food was delicious. After the food we had brief chapter meeting. We were graced by a group of six Odissi dancers from Atlanta. Their dance performance was simply wonderful. Then our tiny stars our kids showed their talent performing bollywood style dances. Every participant in cultural program was awarded with a Trophy from the chapter to encourage them.



This year for the first time we held the Odia Speech Contest in our chapter. It was very inspiring to see excitement among the kids and parents to take part in this. OSA national provided Certificate for every participants and Cash award for the Winners in the senior and junior category. Any Southern chapter reunion/get together is not complete with the game of cards. So after the cultural program the fun time started with the card games until late night.

Next morning after having the breakfast in the hotel, we all left for the State park to have the picnic. We took the food with us from the India restaurant. Started the picnic with Jhal mudhi and hot tea. Then the volunteers got into the act of making tandoori chicken. While the chicken was being cooked kids started playing frisbee, etc. After the lunch some people took their kids to the Olympic sized pool for swimming. Some people went on to explore the park and beautiful water falls.

Southern chapter lost one of it's very active life member Mr Shreerajan Kanungo on August 3rd. Southern chapter and OSA national did a fund raising to help the distressed family. Thanks to all the generous people who came forward with monetary help, God bless them and their family.

[Link to photo album](#)



SOUTH-WEST

Debashish Chanda reported

The Austin Drama Festival: An evening under the lights



The lights begin to dim; the cacophonous chatter in the room turns to murmurs, then agitated whispers that disappear into a loud silence. Heads turn to face the front, their gaze focused on the wooden stage before them. A flourish of sounds sets the tone for the next hour or so; a costumed figure appears and transforms the small hall into a different reality in the warm, buttery light focused on them. The act is on and everyone is mesmerized by the group of figures in front; imaginary stories and dreams come to life. The stage is set for another OSA drama festival.

The Oriyas of Austin welcomed to the Southwest Chapter Drama Festival for OSA with a day filled with comic laughter, dramatic horror, and proverbial good humor. Folks had driven for over 200 miles from Dallas, some taking the chartered bus to get to this event. This event is fast becoming another key mark event on the vibrant Oriya calendar. There were folks from Houston, San Antonio and all the surrounding areas like Waco and College Station. The drama festival is facilitating the congregation of folks from all over the state and has provided everyone the opportunity to come together to make precious memories with friends and family some the providers of the entertainment, others the consuming audience.



We all had arrived at the steps of the Satya Sai Baba Temple in Austin past noon, an auspicious location in a calm wooded space. The sun was already mid-sky and the area basked in of sunshine and green. Namaskars, shaking of hands, lots of Oriya conversation, and the smell of deliciousness in the air. A quick lunch, then the announcement, the show was about to begin. Making our way to comfortable seats in the small dark and compact hall, we settled in to small conversations with new friends and old. It was cool as the only lights focused strongly on

the raised stage ahead of us, a much needed respite from the blazing sun of the Texas summer. As we settled down, the coordinators of the event took the stage and welcomed us all with gracious warmth. The M.C.'s were introduced, young adults still in high school, connecting an age old tradition with the blossoming youth of today. Some perfunctory speeches and then; the show had begun.

Drama after drama kept the audience entranced each ending with some food for thought as well as some well-deserved applause. After an adorable kid's drama from the young ones from Austin about sweets that tasted just as sugary as they looked, Houston took the stage first with its rendition of what truly happens in a community when everyone is assigned a dish to bring. Tears came to our eyes as our stomach ached with





constant laughter when we saw ourselves and our friends portrayed upon the stage enacted by different people. We turned to those sitting next to us, leaning on them for support as the smile never left our faces. It was a beautiful start to the show and it was the perfect way to get the ball rolling.

The next drama was performed by the kids of Dallas. It was the story of the construction of the Konark Temple. Props lined the stage as each detail was accounted for, from a burning dhoop in the temple to the rounded pumpkin atop the thatched home in a village. The children were magical, allowing us to truly escape into the sounds of the waves and the hammering of the tools as the workers went through their difficulties to construct the magical temple. The portrayal of the young Dharmapada and angst of a father torn between the love of his son and his followers, it was spellbinding. It was a drama that truly displayed the wonders of our youth and we were left wonderstruck by their abilities.



After a short snack break to gorge on some samosas and satiate our thirst with hot chai, we were called back to see the hosts, Austin themselves, perform a story of fear and greed. The chill of night and the sounds of darkness were not only portrayed on the stage, they turned the performance hall into the black forest filled with strange noises and creatures that lurked in the shadows. The story about the effects of greed on man and how far he would go to ensure the wealth he believed was his; he would even resort to murder. The drama sent chills down our spines as we watched the horrors of mankind played out upon the stage. It was a play that left your mind reeling and your heart thumping in fear. Brilliantly executed by the Austin crew, it was a drama that folks will remember when things go thump-thump in dark scary nights.



Then there were the hysterical Dallas cast.. Based off the expectations of astrologers and advertisements like Ajmeri Baba, the drama showed the ups and downs of a couple portly Notti and the beautiful Mitti as they navigate the tricks of the trade. After

defeating the notorious Ajmeri Baba at his own game, they lived up to expectations as their drama held all the right punch lines and showed how to trick the trickster. Dallas ended with a bang as a dance party commenced on stage with people from the audience leaping out of their seats to join the music and fun. As the last drama of the night, it ended the day with a shot of fun, mischievousness, and laughter.



The last performance tied the final bow to the day; the Austin ladies presented a wonderful dance that graced the stage with its beauty and synchronization. With a medley of songs resounding in our ears, once again, members of the audience made their way onto the stage to dance along with the ladies of Austin and the fun continued. It ended with the announcement of the awards and a vote of thanks for the kind volunteers who had sacrificed time and put in a lot of effort to to put this phenomenal event together. Houston was announced to have the Best Storyline, Dallas was deemed worthy of the Best Organized, and first place was given to Austin themselves for astounding the judges and the audience with their magical performance. Cheers were cried loudly and the lights switched on, dismissing us to dinner at a restaurant close by where we could enjoy good food and conversation. The night had come

to an end, but memories had been made.

This was an experience most will never forget in a while. The venue, the new and old friends, familiar faces and fun conversations and the fairy dust that had been sprinkled on stage that day to make each and every act live not only in the boundaries of the wooden platform but also in our imaginations. It was a great time for family and friends, some new some old, for laughter and enjoyment, and for connecting with people who are just a little bit closer. The drama festival is the festival of the Oriya families, for the families and by the oriya families; a tribute to a vibrant and culturally rich oriya community.



ରୋଷେଇ

ରଞ୍ଜିତା ଦାସ, ମିତିଗାନ

ଚିକେନ୍ ଗମ୍ବୋ



ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତି ସାମଗ୍ରୀ : କୁକୁଡ଼ା ମାଂସ ୧ ପାଉଣ୍ଡ, କଟା ଭେଣ୍ଟି ୧ କପ୍, କ୍ୟାପ୍ସିକମ୍ (ମଞ୍ଜି କଢା ହୋଇ କଟା ହୋଇଥିବା) ବଡ଼ ୧ କପ୍, ଟମାଟୋ କଟା ୧ କପ୍, କଟା ଅଦା ଅଳ୍ପ, ଛୋଟ ଖଣ୍ଡ ଚିକେନ୍ ଷ୍ଟକ୍ ୫ କପ୍, ରୁନା ରୁନା ରସୁଣ ୬ କୋଲା, ସ୍ୱାଦ ଅନୁସାରେ ଲୁଣ ।

ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତି ପ୍ରଣାଳି : ପ୍ରେସର୍ କୁକର୍ରେ କ୍ୟାପ୍ସିକମ୍ ଓ ଭେଣ୍ଟି ବ୍ୟତୀତ ଅନ୍ୟ ସମସ୍ତ ଉପାଦାନ ପକାଇ କୁକର୍ ବନ୍ଦ ଆଞ୍ଚ ତେଜି ଦିଅନ୍ତୁ ସମ୍ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ପ୍ରେସର୍ ଆସିବା ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ । ଆଞ୍ଚ କମେଇ, ୫/୬ ମିନିଟ୍ ରାନ୍ଧି କୁକର୍ ଓହ୍ଲାଇ ଧଣ୍ଡା କରନ୍ତୁ । କୁକର୍ ଖୋଲି କୁକୁଡ଼ା ମାଂସ ବାଛି ବାହାର କରି ସେଥିରୁ କଣ୍ଟା ବାହାର କରି ଦିଅନ୍ତୁ । ମାଂସକୁ ଛୋଟ ଛୋଟ ଖଣ୍ଡ କରି କାଟନ୍ତୁ । କୁକରରେ ମାଂସ, କ୍ୟାପ୍ସିକମ୍ ଓ ଭେଣ୍ଟି ପକାଇ, କୁକର୍ ବନ୍ଦ କରି ଆଞ୍ଚ ତେଜି ଦିଅନ୍ତୁ ସଂପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ପ୍ରେସର୍ ଆସିବା ଯାଏ । ତାପରେ କୁକର୍ ଓହ୍ଲାଇ, ଧଣ୍ଡା କରି ଗରମ ଗରମ ପରଷନ୍ତୁ ।



ଚିକେନ୍ ଷୁ



ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତି ସାମଗ୍ରୀ : ମଧ୍ୟମ ଆକାରର ଖଣ୍ଡ କଟା ଚିକେନ୍ ୨ ପାଉଣ୍ଡ, ନଡ଼ିଆ କ୍ଷୀର ୪୦୦ ମି.ଲି, ଚାରିକୋଣିଆ ଖଣ୍ଡରେ କଟା ସିଝା ଆଳୁ ୩.୫ ଆଉନ୍ସ, ଗୋଲ ଗୋଲ ଖଣ୍ଡରେ ପିଆଜ କଟା ୨ ଆଉନ୍ସ, ଅଦା, ରସୁଣ ବଟା ୦.୩୫ ଆଉନ୍ସ, ଲଙ୍କା ୦.୩୫ ଆଉନ୍ସ, ଭେରୁସୁଜା ପତ୍ର ୨ଟି, ତେଜପତ୍ର ୨ଟି, ତେଲ ୫୦ ମି.ଲି, ଛୋଟ କଟା ଅଦା ୦.୩୫ ଆଉନ୍ସ, ଗୋଲ କଟା ଚମାଟୋ ୨ ଟି, ଗୋଲମରିଚ ଗୁଣ୍ଠ ୪୦ ଚାମଚ, ଲଙ୍କା ଗୁଣ୍ଠ ଅଧ ଚାମଚ, ହଳଦୀ ଗୁଣ୍ଠ ୧ ଚାମଚ, ଲୁଣ ସ୍ୱାଦ ଅନୁସାର ।

ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତି ପ୍ରଣାଳି : ପ୍ରଥମେ କରେଇରେ ତେଲ ଗରମ କରନ୍ତୁ । ଏଥିରେ ଅଧା ପରିମାଣରେ କଟା ପିଆଜ, ଅଦା ରସୁଣ ବଟା, ଲୁଣ, ହଳଦୀ, ତେଜପତ୍ର, ଲଙ୍କାଗୁଣ୍ଠ ଓ ଚିକେନ ଖଣ୍ଡ ପକାଇ କଷନ୍ତୁ । ଚିକେନ୍ ସିଝି ଆସିଲେ କାଢ଼ି ଏକ ଅଲଗା ପାତ୍ରରେ ରଖନ୍ତୁ । ଏଥର କରେଇରେ ତେଲ ଦେଇ ବଳକା ପିଆଜ, ଅଦା, ଲଙ୍କାକଟା ଓ ଭେରୁସୁଜା ପତ୍ର ପକାଇ ଗୋଳାନ୍ତୁ । କିଛି ସମୟ ଝୋଳ ବହଳିଆ ହେବାଯାଏ ଘାଣ୍ଟନ୍ତୁ । ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତ ହୋଇଗଲା ପରେ କରେଇରୁ କାଢ଼ି କଟା ଧନିଆ ପତ୍ର ଓ ଗୋଲମରିଚ ଗୁଣ୍ଠ ପକାଇ ପରଷନ୍ତୁ ।



ଛତୁ ବେସର

ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତି ସାମଗ୍ରୀ : ବଡ଼ ଆକାରର ଛତୁ ୧ ପାଉଣ୍ଡ, ସୋରିଷ ୨ ଚାମଚ, ଜିରା ଅଧ ଚାମଚ, କଞ୍ଚାଲଙ୍କା ଟଟି, ରସୁଣା ୮ କୋଲା, ସୋରିଷ ତେଲ ୩ ଟେବୁଲ ଚାମଚ, ହଳଦୀ ୧ ଚାମଚ, ତେନ୍ତୁଳି ମଣ୍ଡ ବା ଟମାଟୋ ପ୍ୟୁରି ୧ ଟେବୁଲ ଚାମଚ, ଲୁଣ ସ୍ୱାଦ ଅନୁସାରେ ।

ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତି ପ୍ରଣାଳି : ଛତୁ ସଫାକରି ଧୋଇ ଚିପୁଡ଼ି ହଳଦି ଲୁଣ ଗୋଳାଇ, ତେଲ ଦେଇ ନନଷ୍ଟିକ୍ ପ୍ୟାନ୍ ରେ ଗନ୍ଧ ଯିବା ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ସିଝାନ୍ତୁ ଓ କାଢ଼ି ରଖନ୍ତୁ । ଆଉ ଟିକେ ତେଲ ଦେଇ କରେଇରେ ଫୁଟଣ ଫୁଟାନ୍ତୁ । ଫୁଟିଗଲେ ସୋରିଷ, ରସୁଣା, ଜିରା, ଲଙ୍କାର ପାଲିସ ବଗାକୁ ପକାଇ ୧ କପ୍ ପାଣି ଦେଇଦିଅନ୍ତୁ । ଆଉ ଟିକେ ହଳଦୀ ପକାଇ ଗୋଳାଇ ଆଞ୍ଚ କମାଇ ଘୋଡ଼ାଇ ବସାନ୍ତୁ । ୧୦ ମିନିଟ ପରେ ତେନ୍ତୁଳି ମଣ୍ଡ ବା ଟମାଟୋ ପ୍ୟୁରି ମିଶାନ୍ତୁ । ପୁଣିଥରେ ଫୁଟାଇ ଝୋଳ ଦରକାର ମୁତାବକ ରଖି ଆଞ୍ଚ ବନ୍ଦ କରନ୍ତୁ ଓ ଗରମ ଗରମ ପରଷନ୍ତୁ ।

ସୋରିଷ ବେସର ବାଟିଲା ବେଳେ ଯଥେଷ୍ଟ ପାଣି ଦେଇ ବାଟନ୍ତୁ । ଏ ମସଲା କଷା ଯାଏ ନାହିଁ । ବେସର କଷିଲେ ପିତା ହୁଏ ।



ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସୋସାଇଟି ଅଫ୍ ଆମେରିକା ର
୪୫ ତମ ବାର୍ଷିକ ସମ୍ମିଳନୀ

ହୋଟେଲ୍ ଶେରଟନ୍ ଏବଂ କ୍ୟାପିଟଲ୍ ଥିଏଟର, କଲମ୍ବସ୍,
ଓହିଓ, ଯୁକ୍ତରାଷ୍ଟ୍ର ଆମେରିକା
ଜୁଲାଇ ୩-୫, ୨୦୧୪

ଆପଣ ମାନଙ୍କୁ ଓହିଓ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ପରିବାର ତରଫରୁ
ସପ୍ରେମ ନମନ

ଯେତେ ହେଉ କ୍ଷୟ ଯେତେବି ଉଦୟ
ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଆମର ମୂଳ ପରିଚୟ