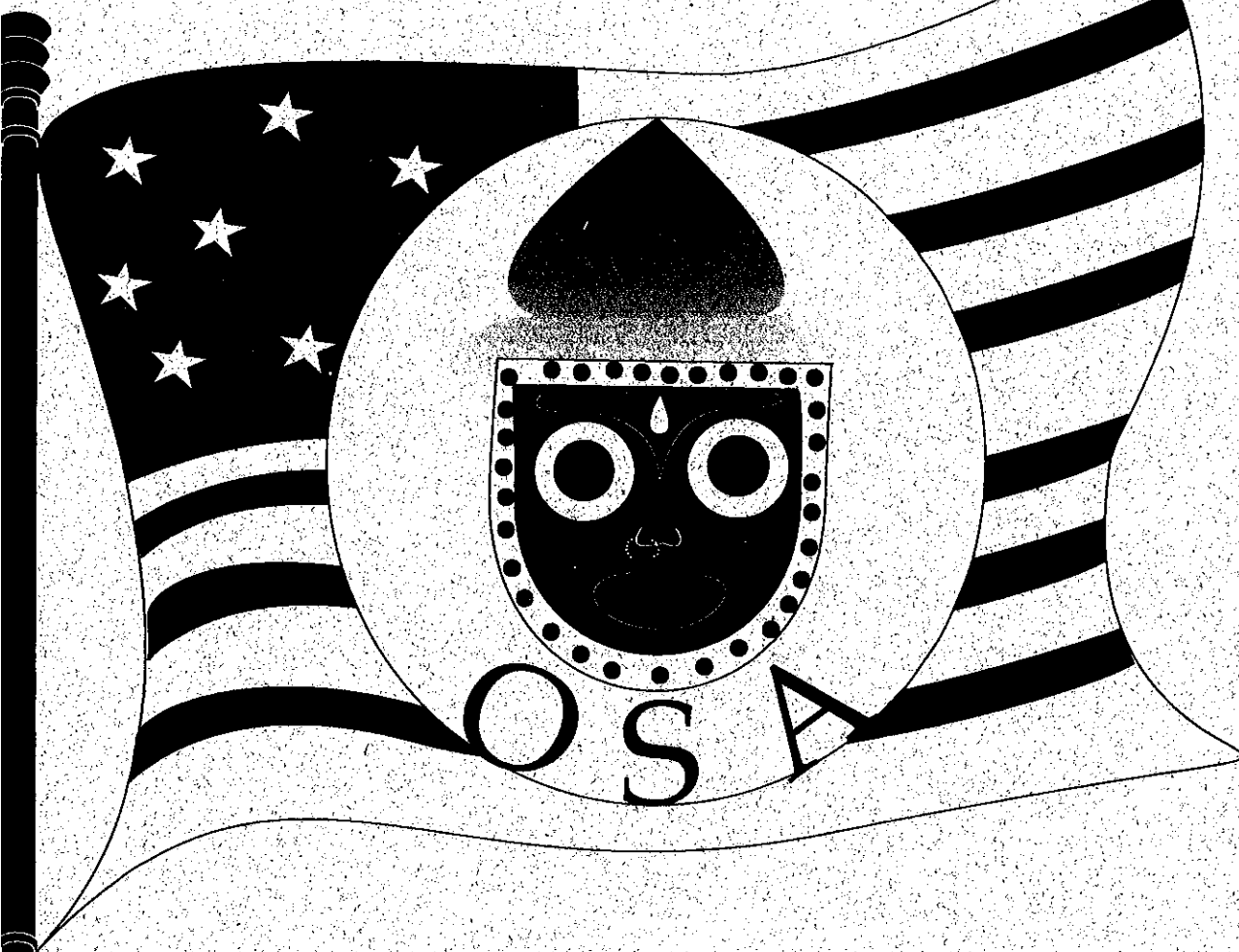
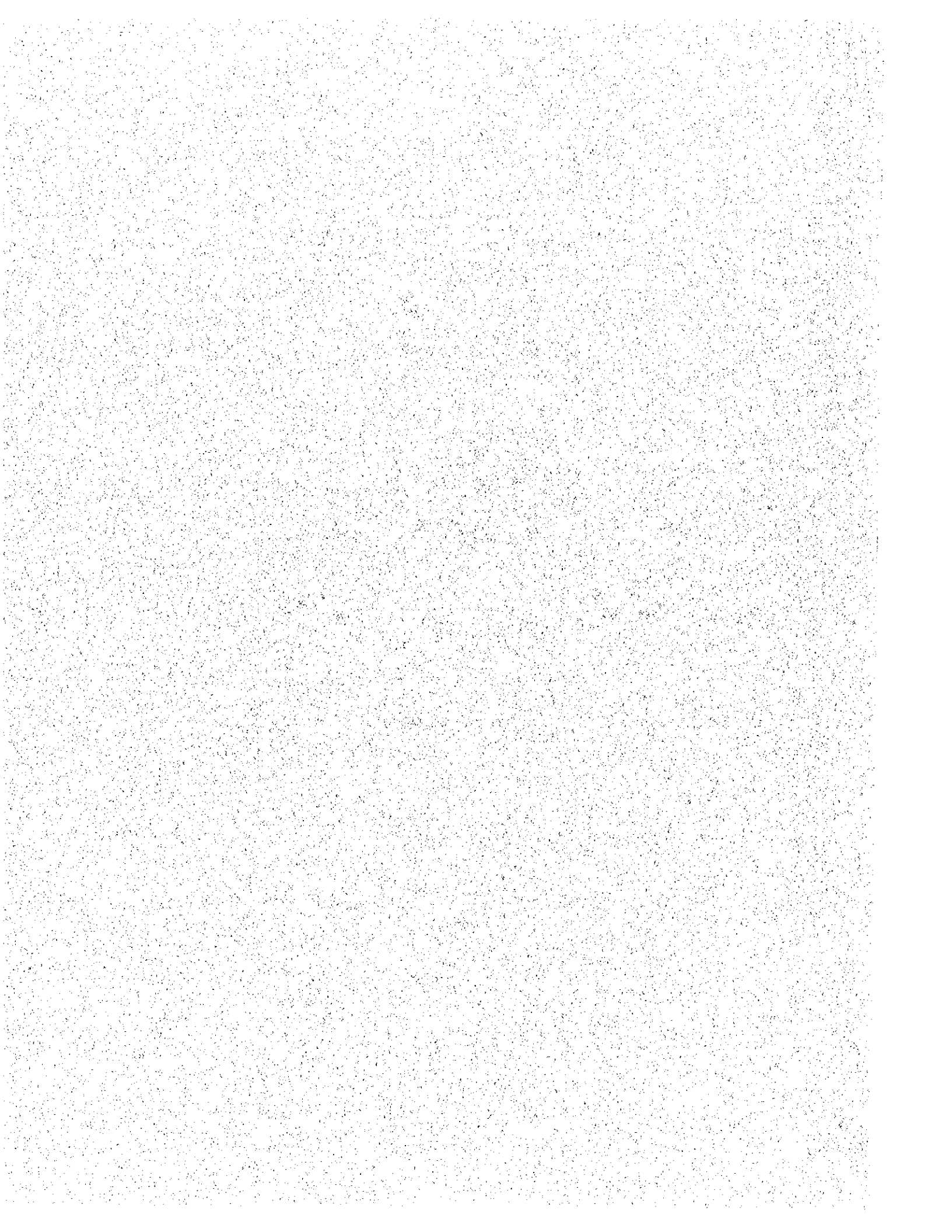



OSA Journal
Winter 1998



Orissa Society
of
Americas



 **Orissa Society of the Americas**

**THE ORISSA SOCIETY OF AMERICAS
WINTER 98**

Editor-in-Chief: Gyana Patnaik

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Gopa Patnaik, *President*
Babru Samal, *Secretary/Treasurer*
Hemant Senapati, *Past President*

Chapter Representatives

Jyoti Das – New England
Sasi Panda - Ohio
Gita Mohanty - Washington, DC
Anadi Nayak - Maryland-Virginia
Brajendra Sahu - New Jersey
Rupashree Dash - North-West
Dibakar Panigrahi- New York
Shreelekha Mohanty - Chicago
Nitin Doshi - Michigan
Sunity Behera - California
Hari Arjun Patro - South-West
Kailash Mishra - South-East
Binayak Panda - Southern
Hara Padhi - Canada

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

President: Gopa Patnaik
Vice President: Annapurna Pandey
Secretary/Treasurer: Babru Samal
Editor-in-Chief: Gyana Patnaik
Student Rep: Arati Misro
Youth Rep: Sachi Panda

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Title	Author	Page
From the Desk of the Editor	Editor	3
Welcome	Editor	3
President's Report	Gopa Patnaik	4
Request for Membership	Editor	5
Proposed Budget 1997-98	Babru Samal	6
Applications for Subrina Biswal Award	Editor	7
Nominations for Kalasree Award	Editor	7
Nominations for Outstanding Oriya Award	Editor	7
Secretary / Treasurer' Report	Parikshita Nayak	
Minutes for 97 Executive Body Meeting		8
Minutes for 97 General Body Meeting		9
OSA Financial Statement		10
OSA 28 th Annual Convention Account	Gopal Mohapatra	11
Invitation to 29 th OSA Convention		12
Memories of the 28 th OSA Convention	Manas Patnaik	13
Invest Orissa Symposium: A Critical Look	Somdutt Behura	15
OSA Convention Guidelines	Gopa Patnaik	17
OSA Committee on Women	Mamata Misra	19
New Immigrants' Assimilation	Purna Mohanty, Soumendra Mohanty	22
An Appeal for MONOVIKAS - An Institution for the Welfare of the Mentally Retarded		23
In Memoriam - Dr. Radhanath Rath		24
A Book - "The Renegade"	Ramesh Chandra Dash	25
Ravenshaw College Development Trust	Amiya Bhusan Tripathy	26
Our Heritage, Our Culture	Manoj Panda	27
Our Lives as Patchwork Quilts	Mamata Misra	30
The Man Who Sought Nirvana	Dr. Prasanna K. Pati	34
Mother! We Remember!	Bijoy Misra	38
A Visit to My Village	Anadi Naik	39
An Appeal: Acharya Harihar Regional Center for Cancer Research & Treatment	Prof. C. R. Nayak	41
News from OSA Chapters	Various	42

From the Desk of Editor

Information sharing is the hallmark of modern society. We (OSA) are a small community with 15 local chapters. We get involved in different community activities like celebration of Holi, Ganesh puja, Kumar purnima, musical evenings, dance programs, philanthropic activities, social/spiritual discourses etc. We need to share above activities as well as any other important events happening within our chapters with rest of our folks. Besides the above mentioned activities, Oriyas are also moving to different geographical locations of the USA. It is nice to find out who lives where. Our community is growing every day. From a group of fifteen families now we have grown to more than two thousand families. So we need to know who are the new members in each of our chapter. My request to our chapter representatives is to provide the above mentioned information to the editor so we can keep our esteemed members informed.

Cover design for this issue of OSA Journal has been laid out by Jayashree Samal of Moorpark, California, a very talented artist who has many innovative designs to her credit.

Sincerely,

Gyana R. Patnaik
Editor, OSA

1235 Camden Lane
Aurora, IL 60504
Tel: (630) 898-9127
gpatnaik@lucent.com

WELCOME

OSA is pleased to welcome the following members in the Benefactor, Patron and Life Member category who have joined recently.

Benefactor

Sankarshan & Kalpana Acharya, IL

Patrons

None

Life Members

Laxmidhar & Shantilata Jena, IL

Biswaranjan Patnaik, ONT

Mahesh Rao, LA

President's Report

February 1998

Greetings!

In this letter, I would like to report some progress and chart out some future plans. I hope you will all take active interests in OSA matters. I can be reached at (760) 436-8277 or gopa_patnaik@gcccd.cc.ca.us Or gopa_patnaik@yahoo.com .

- The OSA Website is complete. The web address is www.orissasociety.org . Please send your comments to the address in the web.
- The address database needs constant update. If you have found error in the last listing, or have new members in your chapter, please send a note to me or our Secretary / Treasurer.
- Our Secretary/Treasurer received \$2520 from outgoing Treasurer, received \$2000 loan payoff from Houston convention committee and \$2230 from new membership at the last convention. In addition, OSA holds two fixed deposits of \$4500 and \$35535. I have set up a committee with Dr. Panchanan Sathpathy (Chair), Dr. Hemanta Senapati, OSA Secretary/Treasurer and myself to oversee prudent investment of OSA funds.
- Dr. Nitin Doshi from Michigan has given \$10000 to OSA as part of his pledge to Fakir Mohan University. The money has been remitted.
- In the past there has been confusion regarding OSA's and the host chapter's role in annual conventions. I have formulated a guideline defining the specific roles played by OSA officers and the host chapter. This is based on my participation in many past conventions and input provided by many past conveners. I am enclosing a copy. Please circulate among interested members in your chapter and provide me with your input.
- Arrangements for the 98 OSA convention in California are proceeding smoothly. The California convention committee has decided not to ask for any OSA loan for the convention. For any convention related inquiry please contact the convener Dr. Saroj Behera directly at (818) 878-0740 or write to osa98@hotmail.com Or saroj@comcore.com .
- **I still don't have any proposal for 1999 OSA convention. Please give some serious thoughts if your chapter wants to host the next one and get back to me promptly.**
- OSA Center at Bhubaneswar has only a room at Utkal University, some furniture and few OSA Journals. There is **no** university catalogs, **no** career/admission guides available now or in the past. Thanks to Dr. Digambara Mishra, he has made Orissa government keep their last year's promise of help. A small grant to manage the center and a OSA Guest house at Bhubaneswar are imminent to materialize. Please help us by sending your local university catalogs to me. I will make arrangement to send them to Bhubaneswar.
- I have had several inquiries for the OSA's FEIN and copy of OSA's tax exempt letter. Please be advised that IRS needs a receipt letter in a specific format from OSA's national Secretary, so the donor can claim a tax deduction. This can happen only if the donation goes through national OSA. To expedite the donation matters, I have asked our Secretary to promptly issue a OSA check to the requested institution as soon as the donation check clears

through OSA's account. He will then mail the check and donation receipt letter to the donor's care for due disposal. This is a very important issue and in a recent telephone call to IRS, they have explained the procedure and the format very well to me.

- Texas convention committee has just finalized their convention account. I am very happy to announce that they have made a record profit of \$2893 and per OSA rules are sharing the profit equally with us. Congratulation to Mr. Pradeep Rath and his team.
- As per my acceptance speech, I have formed several committees addressing the numerous issues facing us. Some of these committees are:

Committee for Fund Raising: Chair Hemant Senapati, Michigan

Committee for Women's issues: Chair Mamata Mishra, Texas

Committee for Recent Immigrants: Chair Purna Mohanty, California

Committee for Youth Affairs: Chair Sachin Panda, California

Committee for Student's Issues: Chair Arati Misro, California

Committees for Elderly issues: Chair Amiya Mohanty

Committee for Continuity of OSA's Goals and Objectives to future Years:

Chair Amiya Mohanty, Kentucky

Committee for OSA's Outreach Activities: Chair Debi Mishra

Please feel free to contact the Committee chairs if you would like to participate and contribute.

Gopa Patnaik
President

REQUEST FOR MEMBERSHIP

We know many of you have been thinking of becoming members, or upgrading your existing membership. Now is the time to act. Only by becoming a paid member you can make your voice heard through the election process. If you are an annual member, please consider seriously touprgrade it to life membership, patron or benefactor status. The present dues for various categories are:

Benefactor, \$1000; Patron, \$500; Life Member, \$300; Annual Membership (July 1 to June 30) Family - \$25, Single - \$10, Student Family - \$10, Student Single - \$5.

Please mail your check payable to OSA c/o Dr. Babru Samal, 11136 Broadview Dr., Moorpark, CA 93021, Tel. (805) 523-2772. Thank you.

SECRETARY / TREASURER'S REPORT

Minutes of the Executive Body Meeting on July 4, 1997 28th OSA Convention, Houston.

The meeting of the Executive Body was held on July 4, 1997 during the 28th OSA Convention at Houston with ten voting members present. President Elect Mrs. Gopa Patnaik was present. In addition, there were five observers. The meeting was presided by Dr. Hemanta Senapati

Dr. Nayak presented the OSA Financial report for the year 1996-97 and as of 6-15-97. The Financial report was audited. The following were the financial figures:

C.D. Account at NBD Bank, Detroit	\$ 35544.81
C.D. Account at Harris Bank, Chicago	\$ 4500.00
Checking Account at NBD Bank, Detroit	\$ 7106 74
Total	\$ 47151.55

Dr. Nayak presented the Election Results to the Executive Body. The newly elected office bearers for the term 1997-99 are as follows:

Mrs. Gopa Patnaik	President
Mrs. A Pandey	Vice- President
Dr. Babrubahan Samal	Secretary/ Treasure

The Executive Body then extended the vote of thanks to Dr. Nitin Doshi, Chairman of the Election Committee for conducting a wonderful job.

The Executive Body then enquired about the running expenses of the OSA office at Bhubaneswar, Orissa. Dr. Nayak pointed out that the expenses for the office were \$400.00 per year for the years of 1995 and 1996 and he has paid the bills of \$800.00 from OSA Account. In the mean time the office has been re-located to an office inside Utkal University campus at Vani-Vihar. Dr. Senapati has given a personal contribution of \$1500.00 towards the re-location and furnishing of the new office.

A number of Music Artists were touring USA and were at Houston to participate at the Convention. Their tour programs and participation at the Convention were arranged by the Center for World Music. It was decided by the Executive Body that the expenses for these Artists (Food, Hotel, and Transportation) would be paid by the Convention. OSA National Chapter would contribute a sum of \$500.00 to these Artists as a token of our Appreciation. Dr. Senapati then declared that he would personally contribute a sum of \$500.00 to these Artists to meet their expenses. The Executive Body then extended a vote of thanks to the Center for World Music.

A number of Executive Body members had raised questions and were anxious to find a way to protect OSA funds. After intense discussion it was decided that the \$40000.00 in C.D. Account at present could not be used to meet the daily expenses of the Association and would be invested for growth.

The Executive Body then decided that Dr. Panchanan Satapathy would be the Custodian for this Investment account. The current President and immediate past President of OSA would be the Advisor for this Account. Dr. Satapathy in consultation with the two Presidents will develop strategy for Investment.

Dr. Parikshita Nayak
Secretary/ Treasurer, OSA
July 4,1997

**Minutes of the General Body Meeting on July 5, 1997
28th OSA Convention, Houston.**

The meeting was held with Dr. H. Senapati President OSA presiding. Mrs. Sujata Patnaik, Vice President, Dr. P. Nayak , Secretary/ Treasurer, Dr. D. Mishra Executive Director were present at the dias. Mrs. Gopa Patnaik, President Elect and Dr. Babrubahan Samal, Secretary/Treasurer Elect were also present.

After the welcome address , Dr. Senapati presented a summary of the results of the Executive Body Meeting. The topics covered were Relocation of OSA office at Bhubaneswar to Utkal University campus, Orissa Development Projects such as Fakirmohan University, Ravenshaw College, SEED, OSA Convention site for the year 1998. He also congratulated the new office bearers and introduced them to the audience.

After the introduction, the major topic of discussion was centered on how to protect OSA savings and generate funds for running the Association. A number of members including the following persons took active part in the discussion and arrived at the following resolutions.

Dr. Keshab Dwibedy
Dr. Gopal Mohanty
Dr. Bijoy Mishra
Dr. Lalu Mansinha
Dr. Ramesh Raichoudhury
Dr. Anadi Nayak
Mr. Srikant Nayak

Resolution 1: OSA has \$40000.00 in CD Accounts This amount is not generating enough revenue to be proud of. It was decided that this sum would be invested. Dr. Panchanan Satapathy will be the Custodian for this Account. Current President and immediate past President will be the advisors to Dr. Satapathy for Investment options.

Resolution 2: Funds from the above Account could not be withdrawn to meet the daily running expenses of the Association. If a situation arises when there are no funds and all avenues are closed to generate funds, the President can withdraw up to a maximum of \$2000.00 from this account after getting approval from the Executive Body.

Resolution 3: Life Membership Fee will be raised to \$300.00 from 7-6-97.

Resolution 4: During Registration at the Convention site, a sum of \$ 15.00 will be collected as a fee to finance National Chapter.

Then Dr. H. Senapati congratulated the local chapter on having done an excellent job of organizing the Convention.

Dr. Parikshita Nayak
Secretary/ Treasurer, OSA
July 5, 1997

OSA Financial Statement from 6-16-97 to 9-17-97

The financial statement from 5-29-96 to 6-15-97 has been published in the 97 Souvenir Issue of OSA Journal. The following statement covers the period 6-16-97 to 9-17-97 when the funds were handed over to the new officers.

Income

Interest from CD at NBD for 3 months	\$ 464.00
Membership	\$ 115.00
Contribution	\$ 500.00
Total	\$1079.00

Expenses

OSA Center Expenses for 95-96 & 96-97	\$1300.00
Travel Expenses to receive CM & party	\$ 945.00
International tel. & mailing (re. CM & group)	\$ 529.06
Reception & Dinner Expenses for CM	\$ 693.82
Purchase of Plaques for Awards at Houston	\$ 290.42
Subrina Biswal Scholarship Award	\$1000.00
Bank Service Charges (checking & CD at NBD)	\$ 49.81
Refund of Excess Contribution	\$ 305.35
Florist	\$ 61.97
Visiting Oriya artists at Houston	\$ 500.00
Total	\$5675.43

Fixed Deposits

CD at NBD cashed & sent to P. Satpathy for investment	\$35535.00
CD at Harris Bank	\$ 4500.00
Total	\$40035.00

Summary

Carry over from Checking Account on 6-16-97	\$7106.74
Expenses	\$5675.43-
Adjustment from fixed deposit	\$ 9.84
Cash on hand (9-17-97)	\$2520.15

A check for \$2520.15 and paper work for the above fixed deposit has been transferred to present Secretary / Treasurer Dr. Babru Samal.

Dr. Parikshita Nayak
Past Secretary/ Treasurer, OSA
March 1998

Note: The account statement has been rearranged for clarity - Editor

OSA 28th Annual Convention (Houston) Financial Report

Gopal Mohapatra, Finance Coordinator

Income

Item	Amount (\$)
Registration	6984.00
Donation	7623.00
Advertisement	7897.00
Raffle Ticket Sale	1255.00
T-shirts	487.00
Food	8893.00
OSA Loan	2000.00
OSA Membership	2230.00
OSA Youth Contribution	500.00
Total Income	37869.00

Expenses

Item	Amount (\$)
Cultural	7269.98
Youth	931.14
Registration	2116.10
Food	7153.45
Guest Expenses	2122.68
Art & Decoration	906.85
Souvenir & Directory	4558.84
Program Committee	4589.50
Bank Payments	97.32
OSA Loan Payment	2000.00
OSA Membership Payment	2230.00
Designated Donation to SEEDS	1000.00
Total Expenditure	34975.86
Profit (Income - Expenditure)	\$2893.14

Invitation to 29th OSA Convention

July 3 - 5, 1998
Monterey, California

Dear Friends,

Please join us for this wonderful annual Oriya tradition in America at Monterey, the beautiful town on California coast. OSA convention has different meaning for different people - to share and celebrate our rich cultural heritage, to communicate these values to the next generation Oriyas, to strengthen our bond with Orissa, to visit friends and have a good time and many more ... the late night mehfil... the gossip session... the good food ...

So whatever is your reason, please plan to attend and be part of this grand tradition. You can even extend your stay and enjoy a nice vacation at the Golden State. We have got an exclusive deal for our convention at Monterey Hyatt for \$79/night. The Monterey Peninsula is famous for its many attractions and recreational activities, such as John Steinbeck's famous Cannery Row and the Monterey Bay Aquarium. Monterey is renowned worldwide for its spectacular coastlines, including Big Sur, Carmel-by-the-Sea, the 17-Mile Drive and Pebble Beach.

If you plan to attend the OSA98 convention, please call any of the contact person or email us. This will help us make sure we send the registration packet to you. So, even if you are not sure but are thinking, please do let us know. If you are interested to participate in any cultural program, please call Kuku Das.

We have sent fliers to all the members of OSA based on the latest address database that we got. However, it is very likely that some addresses have changed or we don't have the address. We hope that ORNET can fill up that gap. If you have any ideas/inputs, please let us know.

Convener:	Saroj Behera	(408)-252-1114
Co-convener:	Kirtan Behera	(310) 547-4800
Registration:	Anup Nayak	(510) 505-0867
	Prasanta Behera	(510) 490-5936
Cultural:	Kuku Das	(408) 730-1715
Email:	osa98@hotmail.com	

Memories of the 28th OSA convention

Manas Patnaik, Houston, TX

The Southwest chapter of the Orissa Society of the Americas (OSA) hosted the 28th annual OSA convention at Houston, Texas from July 3 - 5, 1997. The convention which was attended by 350 Oriyas from all over North America and 50 guests, was held at the Wyndham Warwick Hotel in the Texas Medical Center.

The event flagged off in the late afternoon hours of July 3rd. A Mehefil in the evening of July 3rd gave the ice breaker for the visiting Oriyas and the guests. Devotional songs in the early morning hours marked the beginning of activities on both July 3rd and July 4th. The convention was full of activities as the guest enjoyed hospitality in Houston's flagship hotel- progressive seminars, educational lectures and discussions, entertaining cultural programs, exhibits and tours and a good taste of authentic Indian food with an Orissan touch.

A seminar on "Looking Toward the New Millennium: Directions for Oriya Literature and Culture" dealt with the rich heritage of Orissa and its evolution as we approach the millennium. A lecture on Yoga and its relevance in modern life presented by Swami Atmananda Giri from the Kriya Yoga Ashram, Bhubaneswar, Orissa, was very educational. The convention also presented a seminar on Swastha Hi Sampada (Health is Wealth) by physicians from the state of Orissa, in which Dr. Nik Nikam, a cardiologist from the Baylor's College was the guest speaker. This seminar organized by Dr. Jogesh Raht presented matters important to good health for all age groups. Furthermore the Orissa branch of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPIO) hosted its 3rd annual convention. Women's issues were discussed in the Women's forum and a segment on Immigrant Experience was presented with the help of Video. Members of Sustainable Economic and Educational Development Society (SEEDS) presented "Seeds of Today, Trees of Tomorrow" which discussed its ongoing socio-economic development projects in Orissa.

The inaugural ceremony of the convention was held in the afternoon of July 4th in the Hamman Hall of Rice University. The Chief Guest of this ceremony was Mr. Basant Kumar Biswal, Hon. Deputy Chief Minister from the state of Orissa and the guest of Honor was Mr. Niranjan Patnaik, Hon. Minister of Industries from the state of Orissa. The keynote address was given by Mr. Manoj Das, noted writer and philanthropist from the Aurobindo Ashram, Pondicherry. Mr. Das, in his enlightening speech spoke about the Human Consciousness and its role in ancient, medieval as well as modern times, and Orissa's contribution to India's cultural heritage. Both Mr. Biswal and Mr. Patnaik highlighted the vast business opportunities that state of Orissa provides for foreign investors and encouraged NRI businessmen from Orissa and elsewhere to consider the state as their target for future business. Earlier on June 30, a high level delegation from the state of Orissa led by the Chief Minister Hon. Janaki Ballav Patnaik attended the Invest Orissa Industrial Symposium. The Chief Minister was unable to attend the annual convention as he had to travel back to Orissa on July 1st to attend the CAR festival for Lord Jagannath at Puri. The Invest Orissa Symposium was hosted by the Orissa Society and the Greater Houston

Partnership. The inaugural ceremony of the convention also featured a multi-media presentation that showed different regions of Orissa and their culture.

The convention was filled with two days of cultural extravaganza in the late afternoon and early evening hours of both the days. Odissi dance was the hallmark of this year cultural program. Our youths like Laboni & Shibani Patnaik of California, Debraj Patnaik of Canada displayed their proficiency by eye catching Odissi performances. Guru Manoranjan Pradhan captivated audience with his Odissi and Chhau dance. Kavita Dwivedi from New Delhi enthralled the audience with her Abhinaya. While Odissi dance performances were par excellence, equally captivating were the melodious voices of singers Suchitra Mohapatra and Sangeeta Mohapatra, accompanied by Prasanna Misra on Tabla, all from Orissa. Their team was tireless in entertaining the audience, not only in the main cultural segments but also during the mehefils. Each and every number performed by this talented team was a treat to the Oriyas attending the convention. Late night ashar (Mehfil) was very enjoyable with both professional and amateur artists.

Keeping in tune with the theme of the cultural presentation, Ek Sutra Anek Dhara (One Source many forms), a segment featured evolution of dance forms - from pristine forms akin with nature, to the temple dance forms of Orissa, to the modern dance forms. A special show in the cultural program was a fifty minute video presentation from Orissa Film Academy. The video carried clips of Oriya film songs over last four decades, reminiscing the evolution of Oriya Cinema. The cultural items presented by North American Oriyas were no less entertaining. Diversity was emphasized as children and adults alike, presented a variety of shows that included popular songs, dances, skits, mono acts, instruments and classical dances to name a few. The zest and spirit of children from different chapters of OSA in presenting their talents which was matched by the enthusiasm of adults, was a very positive outcome of the cultural presentation. This underscored the continuing involvement of the Oriya community in upholding the rich culture and heritage of Orissa and India.

This year the Outstanding Oriya Award was presented to scientist, geophysicist Dr. Lalu Mansingh, Professor at Western Ontario university, Canada. Kalashree Award went to popular singer Mr. Sujit Mohanty of New Jersey. Subrina Biswal Award (Academic Achievement) winner was Arabinda Kanha Pani of Baton Rouge, LA. Subrina Biswal Award (Performing Art) sponsored by Indo American Friendship Foundation went to: Laboni & Shibani Patnaik of San Diego, CA - 1st prize, Renuka Rege of Houston, TX - 2nd prize, Suraj Patnaik of Chicago, IL - 3rd prize. Promode Patnaik Memorial Award for inter chapter competition went to Southern OSA Chapter.

The convention also conducted a Bone Marrow drive to register potential donors. There were several program carried to the taste of youth attendees which included a tour of the NASA center at clear lake. The breakfast, lunches and dinners were diligently arranged by keeping in mind both hygiene and ethnic taste of Oriya/Indian cuisine.

The Houston OSA convention drew to a close on July 5th, 1997 as organizers bid farewell to guests, thus marking successfully the end of 28 years of OSA and its legacy. It delivered the

message of “Unity in Diversity” or “Many in One”, by hosting events to define the components of a wholesome life as we approach the new millennium - Intellectual Prosperity, Cultural Excellence, Healthy Living, Youthful Spirit and Tasteful Eating.

PS. Manas Pattanaik was the Program Coordinator of 28th OSA Convention at Houston - Editor

Invest Orissa Symposium : A Critical Look

Somdutt Behura, Houston, TX

The Orissa Society of the Americas (OSA) in collaboration with the Greater Houston Partnership (GHP) was all set to organize “The Invest Orissa Symposium” on Monday, the 30th June, 1997, barely four days before its 28th annual convention, at the Wyndham Warwick hotel in Houston, Texas. The symposium was a one-day business forum to discuss investment and business opportunities for the US, NRIs, NROs, and other international companies, in the state of Orissa. One of its vital purposes, however, was to build the image of Orissa, beyond its usual perspective as a land of great temple builders, maritime traders (whose arms stretched as far as the land of golden islands : Java, Sumatra and Borneo), great warriors, spiritual and philosophical leaders of ancient times, in the US, and send the attendees a very serious message: Orissa means business.

Never ever in the last 27 years history of the Orissa Society of the Americas, an event of this magnitude and importance could be organized in the US, the land of opportunity and prosperity, by the people of Orissa. Most other states of India went ahead again in their march toward prosperity taking advantage of the new era of economic liberalization and openness in the country. Three years ago I pondered why Orissa was left behind. The non-resident Indians from the states like Maharastra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu, in order to push the image of the respective states, organized mini to large scale economic forums in their annual conventions and elsewhere, and educated American businesses on the advantages of pouring money in their respective states. Result was an unprecedented growth of such cities like Bangalore, Hyderabad, Pune and Madras. Once again Bhubaneswar was left behind. I have been still wondering why it is so.

Soon after the permission to host the 28th convention in Houston was granted in the OSA executive body meeting, questions arose immediately as to what should be our deliverables? Manas Patnaik and myself have already been toying with the idea of doing something significantly different than what other conventions have delivered in the past. We started with a very modest goal: to give a new direction to the OSA’s outlook and philosophy that will guide its visions for the new millennium, to reinforce the confidence in the youth leadership, and most appropriately, to give Orissa the visibility and exposure to the world in entirely a different perspective, as a land of thriving economic growth and potential in the South and South-East Asia. The result was “The Invest Orissa Symposium”.

The highlight of this symposium was a high level state delegation from Orissa, led by its Chief Minister, Honorable Shri J. B. Patnaik. Corporate executives from various Indian and multi-national companies including Bang Pakong from Thailand, AES Transpower and Enron Corp. from the US, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, CEPA from Hongkong, TISCO, MESCO group, and Birla group, to name a few, attended the symposium.

To organize such an event and convince Orissa government headed by the Chief Minister to attend it, were not easy jobs. Nobody was ready to buy the idea proposed by two inexperienced youths from Texas. However, we received our ardent support from Pradeep Rath and his wife Swadha Rath. We maintained a low profile until we were very sure we could deliver it. It was an odyssey of pain, frustration and elation - pain because some of us like Gopal Mohapatra, Manas Patnaik, Sarita Das, Pradeep Rath and Lalatendu Misra were dedicated enough to sacrifice their scarce vacation to run from one office to the other to convince Orissa Government in Bhubaneswar to see values in such effort, frustration because of the continuous volatility of the Indian polity and dependability of our success on it, and elation for being able to deliver the event successfully, and until the very last moment, the day of June 30, 1997, had remained so. We learnt a great lesson in the process - self-training in innovative experimentation and gaining experience through sheer diligence, perseverance and will power.

The whole exercise had gone through a series of major turning points which had influenced, in one way or the other, the success of the event. Some noticeable of them were:

- An informal private meeting with Mr. Lalit Mansingh, IFS (Secretary, West, Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India), in Bhubaneswar, where he encouraged me to go beyond mere formal meetings and discussions, and bring true values to the state by direct involvement and spirited action. After this meeting I have never looked back.
- Kumar Purnima festival at College Station, Texas, where Dr. Saroj Behera extended full support to our effort, and asked OSA national body to support this cause. After this meeting we clearly noticed remarkable shift in mood among the other organizers.
- Our organizational tie with the Greater Houston Partnership (GHP). Without GHP's Ms. Pat Foley and Mr. Nalina Pillai (President, India Task Group) this project would not have been a success.
- Our timely help from Dr. Saroj Behera, Sunil Sabat and Purna Mohanty from the Bay area, Mr. Manswi Patnaik from LA, and Prabhu Mohapatra from Arizona. Special mention must be made of the duo, Purna Mohanty and Sunil Sabat, who worked tirelessly to spread the word in the Bay area, and convinced Silicon India to provide the press coverage for the entire event in Houston. Further, without Prabhu Mohapatra's permission to use his account liberally, our Internet web site would not have been possible.
- Mr. Bijoy Misra's (of Chicago) whole hearted support with his management skill and knowledge base, and willingness to work with us.
- Last but not the least, Ms. Sujata Patnaik (of Chicago) and Sarita Das's resourcefulness to provide us with the AES Transpower contact, which brought us sponsorship. This helped us write off some of our organizational cost.

OSA Convention Guidelines

Gopa Patnaik

December, 1997, Revisions: 2/98, 3/98

In the past there have been many confusions, misunderstandings and disputes between OSA and the local chapter which hosts the OSA annual convention. Lacking in written guidelines or rules, conveners and OSA officials often had to look for past organizers or precedence for guidance. Based on my participation in several conventions and input by several past organizers, I have put together the following guidelines. If you have any suggestions, please let me know.

Cultural:

Host chapter is in complete charge of choosing, arranging, and presenting cultural programs without interference from the national office of OSA. However the chapter should generally go by the following guidelines.

- 1) OSA by definition is a socio-cultural organization. Cultural programs should be reflective of Oriya culture as much as possible.
- 2) The host chapter should take advantage of local talents, talents from USA/Canada as well as artists visiting from Orissa. For the later consult the sponsoring organization such as JSA, to minimize expenses.
- 3) Children's programs should be separated from adults and awards should be presented at a reasonable time within the same program.
- 4) Classical, folk and contemporary items should be distinctly categorized. Local committees should do proper screening. Punctuality and adhering to time limits should be maintained as much as possible.

Financial:

OSA will loan up to \$2000 to host chapter convention committee. It should be returned immediately after the convention. The convention committee should not wait till convention accounts are finalized.

- 1) Accounts should be finalized within three months after the convention with complete auditing. Report should be sent to current President and Secretary / Treasurer.
- 2) If a profit is made, the report should be accompanied by a check equal to half the profit. In case of loss, OSA will send a check equal to half the loss after accepting the report.
- 3) For the purpose of accountability, the local financial committee should carry out all transactions by means of checks with a bank account opened specially in the name of OSA convention. Only convention related expenses should go through this account.
- 4) The Secretary / Treasurer of OSA should be a non-active participant but a co-signer of the account. This is the only way that the secretary can certify to the IRS for members seeking tax deductible donations to OSA convention.
- 5) OSA convention is a gathering of its members. So membership should be collected from all participants who are not members. The convention committee should be discrete in giving guest status to some of the participants. The convention committee should

promptly forward all membership dues collected along with membership details to OSA Secretary / Treasure. They should not wait till convention accounts are finalized.

- 6) The convention committee will collect \$15 per registration as OSA Fee and forward it to OSA promptly at the end of the convention (per general body resolution of 7/5/97 in Houston). The committee may wish to include this amount in the General Registration Fee also. In addition, any donation collected in the name of OSA should also be sent to OSA Secretary/ Treasurer promptly.

Programming:

- 1) OSA should be consulted for the overall programming of the convention. In particular, inaugural function, slots for executive body meeting and general body meeting, slots for OSA sponsored guests (if any), slots for OSA award presentation (during inauguration, cultural etc) should be worked out with input from OSA.
- 2) They should provide designated social hours
- 3) They should encourage parallel sessions.

Awards:

The announcement for nominations, appointment of screening committees/judges, award announcement, preparation of certificate/plaques/checks are the responsibilities of OSA for the following awards:

- Kalashree Award
- Distinguished Oriya Award
- Subrina Biswal Memorial Award
- Pramod Patnaik Inter-Chapter Competition

OSA will consult with the convention committee for suitable venues to present these awards. In addition, there is Subrina Biswal Performing Arts Award, which is administered by IAFF (Dr. Subash Mohapatra). IAFF consults with the convention committee directly on the rules and procedures for this award.

Publications:

- 1) The convention committee may negotiate with OSA and take complete charge of publishing the souvenir issue. In this case, the committee may choose to take all advertisement revenue and bear all costs of publishing souvenir and OSA directory or share the advertisement revenue and publication costs with OSA equally.
- 2) OSA Secretary / Treasurer will provide the address data base for publication in the directory. No changes should be made without direct approval of the Secretary / Treasurer.

General:

- 1) The OSA president will seek proposals from local chapters for hosting convention well in advance. If more than one proposal are received, the president at his/her discretion will appoint a committee to evaluate the merits of the proposal. It will be the Board of Governors' decision to make the site selection final.
- 2) Once the site selection is made and communicated to the president of the local chapter, they are encouraged to choose a convenor and/or co-convenor democratically. They and their committee will be the points of contact for the OSA officers.

OSA Committee on Women - Interests: Initial Thought

Mamata Misra

1. Introduction

At the OSA convention at Atlanta, several years ago, a panel of women speakers talked about the Changing Role of Oriya Woman. This panel, the first of its kind to my knowledge, had touched the hearts of many women and had opened a new possibility for Oriya women to get together and focus on subjects that are close to their heart. Since then, many OSA conventions have addressed issues of interest to women with panels of speakers and discussion groups. These sessions have often been praised by the participants of the conventions as the best in the lot.

However, one feels that one session per year is not enough. It limits attendance because not everyone can attend conventions. Even those who do attend conventions, cannot attend every event in the program because the conventions are usually packed with events, there is usually a lot of confusion about what is going on when and where, and it takes time to run the convention, socialize and see new places. Often, the sessions are not evaluated and not followed up. What happened in one panel discussion is not known by those who could not attend because the speeches or evaluations are not usually published.

At the same time, there are many Oriya women who at local levels engage in various kinds of work, professional or voluntary, that is of common interest to women and addresses the needs of women and issues they face. These local efforts remain unknown at a global level and even at a local level if it does not involve Oriyas. Mechanism for networking with women across the nation to share such work is valuable but has not yet been done as an OSA effort.

Recently, OSA president Gopa Patnaik has taken the initiative to form several committees to focus on the needs of Oriyas from different perspectives. One of these committees is focusing on the needs of Oriya women in the USA. For now, let us call it the Committee on Women Interests. Gopa has asked me to chair this committee and to propose a mission, some goals, and functional structure for the same. I have taken the liberty to document some initial thoughts on the topic. Please keep in mind that this is only an initial proposal and its final form, implementation, and success all depend on your participation and involvement.

2. Mission:

The mission of the OSA Committee on Women Interests is to provide a means for Oriya women, of all age groups living in the USA, to share with one another and women of other cultures, ideas, interests, work, issues, and concerns to grow as individuals, to enrich their lives, to build healthy families and communities and to increase awareness, understanding, and appreciation.

3. Structure and Operation:

Because the Oriyas in North America are spread over a large continent, frequent meeting of officers is not practical. Also, global activities can only be offered once a year during the OSA conventions. To fulfill the mission, interactions need to be more frequent. Therefore, I propose a structure that allows local autonomy and freedom for selection and implementation of activities toward the mission. I also propose that global direction and help be given in form of suggestions and the means for sharing one another's work through some medium like the existing journal and/or additional newsletters distributed to all OSA members. Thus, a structure consisting of one Chair, a few Advisors, and many Local Champions and many Local Volunteers makes sense to me. Briefly, the following responsibilities could be assumed by the named roles.

3.1. Chair: The responsibility of the Chair is to recruit, motivate, give suggestions, directions, and support to local champions to carry out activities of their choice toward the mission of the committee. The Chair will solicit advice from the Advisors, and share them with the Local Champions. She will collect and communicate the products and reports of the activities organized by the local champions to the OSA president and editor. The Chair will be the main interface of the committee with the OSA officers, and other committee members.

3.2. Advisors: The advisors are people with expertise or experience who can help the Chair in guiding the Local Champions. They will make recommendations to the committee. They may also advise the Local Champions or be a resource for local activities.

3.3. Local Champions: The responsibility of the Local Champions is to understand, and assess the interests of the local Oriya women, organize activities of interest, motivate women (both Oriya and non-Oriya) to participate in these activities. They will recruit local volunteers as needed to help them in their projects. They will set annual goals and with the help of local volunteers carry out activities to meet the goals. They will be responsible for reporting their goals and activities to the Chair and for publication in an OSA journal or newsletter. Local champions will interact with other local champions to share ideas and suggestions. They will inform the Chair their resource and financial needs to carry out their proposed activities toward the mission. They will be responsible to research local resources and use them to fit their needs.

3.4. Local Volunteers: Local volunteers will help Local Champions in various aspects of the local activities such as organization, publicity, hospitality, obtaining resources, and writing reports.

3.5. Communication: The Chair and the Local Champions will communicate periodically with one another through e-mail, telephone, fax and postal services. The frequency of communication will be mutually agreed upon depending on need. Tele-conferences may be used if needed. Meetings in person may be organized during OSA conventions and whenever possible. I suggest a quarterly status check by phone or e-mail.

4. Ideas and Suggestions for local activities:

It is best if local champions select activities of their own interest and use local resources available to them. Here are some ideas local champions may try in their area to bring women together and motivate them to talk while trying to keep the discussion focused.

4.1 Screening of commercial or documentary movies that would provide food for thought and topic for discussion keeping with the mission. I can suggest titles and resources.

4.2 Inviting someone who can moderate group discussions on topics -- such as inter-generational relationships (parent-teenager, daughter-mother/mother-in-law, child-grandparent), everyday conflicts women face, stress factors, our future etc. I can discuss further when you call.

4.3 Organizing friendship groups where women read and/or write together, paint together, or learn something together. This would be a nice way of keeping in touch with Oriya language, and other aspects of our cultural heritage we are proud of or are afraid of losing. This would also be a way of sharing our culture with women of other cultures and learning from them

4.4 Organizing personal growth classes for women such as assertiveness training, communication skills, goal setting, decision making, problem solving, parenting, coping with loss of a loved one, taking care of aging parents, time management etc.

5. Goals for 1998:

Because this committee is in the process of being formed and currently has only one member, me, it is important that we bring it to a level where it can be functional. It is also true that it takes some initial effort to get things started and time for everyone to grasp what it is all about. With those considerations I have set the following goals for 1998.

(1) Identify as Local Champions at least five individuals of varying ages from areas with larger Oriya population who believe in this mission and are committed to work toward this mission at a local level. Identify at least two Advisors and seek their advice.

(2) Empower each Local Champion to plan at least one local activity for attracting women locally to meet and exchange ideas.

(3) Collect all ideas and agree on a structure and a functional model for the committee.

(4) Choose an appropriate name for this committee.

(5) Report progress of the committee through OSA newsletters and Journal to keep all the Oriyas informed.

6. Budget.

At present, a budget has not been allocated. As Local Champions are identified and activities are planned, a budget can be prepared based on need. It would be best to let the Local Champions manage their own budget -- both income and expenses.

7. What you can do now:

A committee such as this can succeed only if enough women are interested. Because our number is small compared to other Indian groups, it may take all of us to make enough. Therefore, it is very important that you give it some thought and give me some feedback on this proposal. If you are interested in this mission, please get involved.

- ◆ Talk to your friends about this and ask them if they are interested.
- ◆ Share with me your opinion, suggestions, ideas, or resource information.
- ◆ If you have leadership skills or would like to develop such skills by being a local champion or volunteer, please contact me.
- ◆ If you can nominate someone else to be a local champion, please encourage her and if she agrees, nominate her name by contacting me.
- ◆ If you can be a resource person for this committee, please contact me and let me know what skills and expertise you want to share.
- ◆ Suggest a good name for this committee.
- ◆ Give a copy of this proposal to someone who did not get it by not being in the mailing list.

I am looking forward to receiving some feedback from you. You can contact me by phone at (512) 345-9490, by fax at (512) 345-7616, by e-mail at jmaamisra@aol.com, and by mail at Mamata Misra, 4217 Endcliffe Dr, Austin, TX. 78731.

P.S.: I had insurmountable task of converting this file to MS Word. Some places there might be editing error. Sorry for the inconvenience. - Editor

**New Immigrants' Assimilation :
We want you to help us to help your community**

Purna Mohanty & Soumendra Mohanty, CA

In recent times, we have seen an influx of a good number of young Oriyas into Northern America. It is certainly a time to feel happy about. But it is certainly the time to think 10/20 years down the road. Are we going stay as a close-knit community. : we grow? We need to make sure that it does. Let us analyze in brief.

The younger generation of Oriyas can basically be put into three categories:

1. The Oriyas who are born and brought up here.
2. The Oriyas who have come to US/Canada for higher studies and have settled here.
3. The Oriyas who have come here directly on work-visa and have settled here.

The first category of Oriyas do not have hurdles to assimilate into the American Society. But the next two generations usually have initial difficulties to get themselves accustomed to the surrounding, and to their non-Indian friends and colleagues. The second category remains in an advantageous position, being in school and have adequate time to refine themselves before they enter into the American workforce. As such, sometimes the attitude and temperament of these

people vary widely as compared to their third category counterparts. And the most prominent observation is that both second and third generation Oriyas sometimes find it difficult to get along with the first generation and vice versa. This brings us different issues to analyze and problems to solve. The point is that, after all, the America is a land of immigrants. So most of the Americans were considered as foreigners once upon a time. Most of the Indian and non-Indian communities here keep their culture, language and fellow-feeling for ever irrespective of their generation and at the same time, get along very well with other communities. But where do we stand now? We believe, instead of keeping our identity as an Oriya, we are confused and do not know what to do and ultimately, lose our values. We also strongly believe if we want us and the future immigrants to be successful in our lives, we need to attempt these issues now.

This is the motivation behind the formation of the committee, called New Immigrant Assimilation Committee, formed under Orissa Society of Americas (OSA). The original idea came from Mrs. Gopa Patnaik, President, OSA. The committee members are Purna Mohanty and Soumendra Mohanty, who can be reached at purna.mohanty@sanjose.vlsi.com and soumendra.mohanty@sanjose.vlsi.com. The committee needs young and active volunteers to participate in the discussion and analysis and to recommend measures. It is hoped that if all young Oriyas can do a fair analysis of themselves, of their 1st one/two years of stay here as a student and as a professional, it will go a long way in helping a lot of Oriyas who are expected to be here in the next few years and also the most of us, who are already here.

**An Appeal for
MONOVIKAS - An Institution for the Welfare of the Mentally Retarded
Berhampur, Orissa**

Established in 1989 as a care-taker institution for the mentally retarded, it has developed into a Guidance and Educational Centre for Multiple and Mental Retardation (GEMM). The beneficiaries are the special children who learn to read, write and develop skills. They are treated for their physical deformities, taught social skills through sports, stage dramas. They get pre-vocational training to enable them to join the mainstream of the society. The Centre through All India Women's Conference has consultative status with UNICEF, International Alliance of Women, U.N.O. Dehli. The Centre has access to physician specialists, social workers, special educators and other devoted personnel. Future plans include therapeutic and vocational training; community awareness; home-bound service; launching of a special training centre; special project for SC and ST population in Ganjam district; extension of the parents and guardian counseling Centre; development of research and publication efforts; construction of a hostel; etc. An immediate need is for transportation, which was suddenly withdrawn by the government.

OSA members interested to help this worthy cause may directly send their check to Monovikas (GEMM), c/o Mrs. Narmadaa Parhi, R. K. Rath Bungalow, Berhampur 760005, Tel. (680) 21-0887 or contact Purna Patnaik at (760) 436-8277.

In Memoriam
Dr. Radhanath Rath
Doyen of Orissa Journalism

Dr Radhanath Rath, freedom fighter, Oriya litterateur and the country's oldest working editor, died in Cuttack early on Thursday morning. He was 101. Dr Rath, who was bed-ridden for the last month, breathed his last at around 0100 hours at Gopabandhu Bhawan, his home. He is survived by a son and two daughters.

Affectionately called Babuji, he was the editor of the popular and oldest Oriya daily Samaj since 1946. He was a social worker and has held several important portfolios in the Orissa government between 1952 and 1961.

A recipient of the country's third highest civilian award, the Padma Bhushan, in 1968, Dr Rath was born on December 7, 1896 in a poor brahmin family in the then princely state of Athgarh. He took an active part in the freedom movement, and was a disciple of the famous Gopabandhu Das. In 1946, he was elected to the state assembly from Athgarh. Except for between 1961 and 1967, he remained a member of the house from 1946 to 1977. Dr Rath was president of the Servants of the People Society of India for over a decade from May 1981. He was associated with a number of organisations spread over the country. He was a recipient of the Utkal Ratna (1993), the Orissa Sahitya Akademi Award (1967), the Critic Circle of India award (1987) and the All India Anubrata Award (1988).

Manorama and Shanti, Dr Rath's daughters, were at his bedside when the end came. Manorama said he did not respond to calls after midnight. Medical help was immediately summoned, but the doctors could not revive him.

On hearing the news, people from all walks of life -- freedom fighters, journalists, social workers, ministers and leaders of different political parties -- visited the Gopabandhu Bhawan to pay their last respects. Chief Minister J B Patnaik, Deputy Chief Minister Basanta Kumar Biswal and a number of their cabinet colleagues visited the Bhawan and placed wreaths on the body. The Orissa High Court suspended work for the day and organised a condolence meeting.

Last year, the Orissa government had celebrated Dr Rath's birth centenary all over the state. His body was laid to rest with full state honours at Satyabadi near Puri on Thursday evening.

Note: This has been taken from a UNI release posted in ORNET. OSA expresses its deepest condolence to Dr. Rath's immediate family members.

A book - "THE RENEGADE" for our readers

February 17, 1998

To readers of OSA Journal:

This is to invite your kind, personnel attention and to say that I have written an English Novel a socio-ethical work. The theme consists of 381 mining pages and is published by Mrs Snehamayi Dash in the above address. Dr S.P. Rath, Prof. Of English Shreveport USA has written a preface to the book. It was released on 18-05-97 by Prof. Bidhubhusana Das, in Hotel Swosti, Bhubaneswar and has been highly appreciated by readers, though limited so far. The main theme of The book is as follows :-

Gopalkrishna (GK) the protagonist, is a country boy adhering to all the traditional values of faith. With the erosion of innocence which age so insistently ensures in the life of humans, GK goes emotional, and becomes a victim of the love at first sight, eight years after he returns from town on completion of study-M.A.-and in the concourse of events retraces the Then he cares no bar, sentiment, sighs or 'fie's of family and society; and at last, marries her.

Then he enters civil service; chances to meet a stranger, a fellow member of the same service. He is Madan who ,taking advantage of the other's simplicity and innocence, starts luring in to temptations which are hated by our tradition as perversity of character. Every element of virtue i.e. honesty, commitment, monogamy, dutifulness and love are severely debunked and at last GK succumbs and faithfully follows the other, who rather illustrates him from his own life-style.

Time comes, Madan is suspended in service. But a friend Mr. GK girds up his loins, courts risks on behalf of his friend in distress and ultimately restores Madan to his service by ensuring his posting at the place where Mr GK serves. But here again both friends are pitted against a big boss who virtually wedges a war of attrition on them. But in the height of the imbroglio Madan deserts GK and betrays him before the big boss. Shocked GK collapses in a terrible fever pitch of anger and excitement.

Among many an interesting feature the most singular I have made is to capture the same intellectual acumen which Goethe makes Mephistopheles persuade and succeed in bending Faust to his sinful designs.

I would really like an evaluation of this audacity of mine among a few others of the same, by intellectuals of which the O.S.A. is full.

Will you kindly place an order for some copies for at least a test of this aspiration of an Oriya, a senior govt of Orissa Officer, as a fellow brother in the other side of the oceans with an adhoc assurance for an encouraging circulation?

Yours Sincerely,

Ramesh Chandra Dash

Plot No- 13 83/264 1, Bhimatangi

H.B. Phase-2, Bhubaneswar-2,

Orissa, India. Tel-0674402886/425837

N.B. Order may be place on the Publisher in the above address

RAVENSHAW COLLEGE DEVELOPMENT TRUST

January 7, 1998

You are aware that the Ravenshaw college Development Trust which was constituted in 1994-95 to take up developmental activities, has been making efforts to raise funds from different quarters. In this direction we have tried to motivate the Non-resident Oriyas living abroad to contribute their very best to this Trust. About 800 brochures containing the genesis of the trust and its objectives were sent to Shri Digambar Mishra, one of your Ex-presidents, for distribution among the nonresident Oriyas living in the United States and Canada. We were sure that our appeal would generate suitable response from them

The Ravenshaw college which is the oldest Institution in the State and is one of the premier colleges of the country is now suffering from acute neglect because of the mushroom growth of colleges in this state. You are aware that this college apart from being the centre of Independence movement and other cultural movements in the state, has eminent Oriyas in all walks of life. It is difficult to come across a person who has not been a student of this college. Over the years, on account of Government apathy, inadequate infrastructural facilities and overwhelming number of students, not only the standard of the college has gone down but also the buildings are in a dilapidated conditions. All these facts have been explained in the brochure which has been sent to your Headquarters.

During the last two years the response received from the NROs has unfortunately not been encouraging. Few days back we had a meeting of the Trust in which some of your colleagues including Dr.Mishra participated. We also had an interaction session with Dr. Sitakantha Das, one of your Ex-Presidents and also with Dr. Bhakta Bhusan Rath. Both Dr.Mishra and Dr.Das were of the view that if NROs are to be properly motivated the ground work should start right from now and one representative should go to the United States at the time your annual convention. Accordingly the Trust has decided that I should visit the United States during your convention. Before the visit we are writing to selected NROs who can act as focal points in a particular area for generation of resources. Hence this letter.

Many of you might have been students of this College. Those who are not, I am sure, are aware of the contribution of this college to the developmental, educational and cultural standard in this state. I hope you will take pains to act as our ambassadors for your area, get in touch with other NROs and take necessary preliminary steps for Collection of donation/contribution. If the response will be encouraging it will be possible on my part to visit the States and be in your midst during your annual conference. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

AMIYA BHUSAN TRIPATHY
Chairman

Our Heritage, Our Culture

Manoj Panda, Detroit, MI

Jagata sarasae Bhaarata kamala
taa madhyae keshara punya Nilaachala;
thibi jahin muhin Bhaarata bakhshya rae
manibi mun achhi aapanaa kakshya rae;
Bhaaratara sabu shilaa shaalagraama
sabu graama taara Nilaachala dhaama.

So our Gopabandhu portrayed the sanctity and richness of Orissa in these immortal letters. Each word of this composition vibrates with the warmth and brims with the heart felt love for the motherland. The name "Utkala" is etymologically derived from excellence or "utkarshataa" in artistic "kalaa" endeavor. The people from Orissa are known for the magnanimity of their heart by preaching and practicing the maxim of universal brotherhood all over the world by the blessings of the Lord of the Universe or Lord Jagannath.

Awashed gently by the great expanse of Bay of Bengal, dotted with gurgling streams, serene mountains, bustling greenery, wavy valleys, fertile plains and crisscrossed with numerous rivers, the land of Orissa has unfolded her majestic panorama through her equally great children far and wide.

The saga of Kalinga has secured a memorable niche in the historical pantheon for her heroic and prosperous past. Be it in martial conquest or be it in artistic glory or in literary eloquence, the Oriyas of past and present have rendered profusely to enliven our culture.

When the sprawling Magadha empire was expanding, Kalinga was the only kingdom to defy in dignity. Later king Ashoka vanquished them at a great cost, but Kalingans conquered his heart and that became his last war which transformed him from "Chandashoka" to "Dharmashoka" as he devoted rest of his life propagating the tenets of Buddhism and dedicating himself for the upliftment of humanity. And that was the impetus the Kalingans could deliver to transform people by virtue of their love for their motherland.

Numerous temples dotted all over Orissa bears the mute testimony to the elegant craftsmanship of Orissa. The famous Sun temple at Konark built by Langula Narasimhadeva, the awesome Jagannath temple at Puri built by Chodagangadev and the jewel in the crown of the temple city, Lingaraj temple constructed by Yayati Keshari present the graceful creativity. Treasure-filled ships of the Oriya merchants used to sail to the distant islands of Java, Sumatra and Bali to bring back fortune and at the same time disseminating our greatness all over. These were the great legacy of which every Oriya will be proud of.

The pages of history are filled with the reigns of valiant monarchs who ruled over Orissa to take it to newer heights in every field. Following the decline of the Maurya empire Kalinga came under the rule of Kharavela of Chedi dynasty who was also named as Shiladitya. He excavated

spectacular caves at Khandagiri and Udayagiri hills with lots of exquisite works of stone masonry. Among them Raanigumphaa and Manchapuri are famous. Then came the Gupta rule in Orissa for a short period of time which influenced the then art and architecture to a great extent. The accounts of Hiuen-Tsang during the period of Kushaana king Kanishka delineates in great detail about the prevailing social and political situation at that time. He had a great praise for the famous Buddhist monasteries of Pushpagiri, Lalitagiri and Ratnagiri. Then came the dynasty of Sailodbhas the worshippers of Lord Brahma, where Dharmaraja, Madhavaraja, Harmaraja - I. Sarala Das, the author of Oriya Mahabharata, mentions about them. In this dynasty six female members ruled over Orissa. This indicates how the women of the then Orissa occupied a respectable position in the society.

The Somavamsis took over Orissa from them. The great Lingaraj temple and Rajarani temple was built in this period by Yayati keshari . In its trail, in the time of Imperial Gangas the great Chodagangadeva who was a great warrior himself, constructed the famous Jagannath temple. In this dynasty , Narasimhadeva-I was a great king who is credited with building the great Konarka temple. The story of Dharmapada, the 12 year wonder, who could accomplish the difficult task of finishing the steeple the ultimate work before the inauguration of the temple, and sacrificed his life in Chandrabhaaga, an embodiment of selfless action of Oriya spirit.

Then came the Suryavamsis with their great scion Kapilendradeva who expanded Orissa to a greater extent. He was followed by Purushottamadeva who was a great warrior himself, stretched his empire more. The popular legend of Kanchi-Kaveri is associated with him. As we know, the then king of Kaanchi refused to give his beautiful daughter Padmavati in marriage to Purushottamadeva as he was doing Chhera Pahanra during Ratha Yatra in front of Lord Jagannath which king of Kanchi considered the job of sweeper. Purushottamadeva marched towards Kanchi to defeat him, but was defeated. Second time, with the help of Lord Jagannatha and Balarama who rode on black and white horses respectively he won the war. There is also a story of Maanika Gauduni who fed butter milk to the tired Jagannath and Balaram brothers. When the victorious king was returning from Kaanchi he heard the story and established a village Maanikapaatanaa in her honor.

Prataparudradeva ruled Orissa after his father. Even though he went on conquest in the beginning part of the reign, later he was influenced by the great Vaishnavite Sri Chaitanya and devoted himself to a lot of religious activities. The great devotees of Sri Chaitanya of Orissa known as Pancha Sakhaas: Jagannath Das, Balarama Das, Achyutananda Das, Ananta Das and Yasovanta Das spread the Vaishnavism to the nook and corner of Orissa. According to many historians such activities took his focus away from kingly duties and eventually led to the down fall of his dynasty.

Govinda Vidyadhara was a traitor in the history of Orissa who was a general in Prataaparudradeva 's army who manipulated his ways to become the king. After him his dynasty continued for few years, then it was taken over by Mukunda Harichandana better known as Mukundadeva. He was an able administrator and great king. The Muslim general Kalapahara (a convert) serving under the king Sulaiman Karrani, invaded during his reign and some traitors worked against him to defeat him. Kalapahara destroyed a part of Jagannath temple and tried to

take away the images of the deities which were recovered later. Mukundadeva was the last Hindu king of Orissa.

After this Orissa was ruled by Afghans and Mughals. The disintegration of Mughal empire established Maratha rule in Orissa. The Maratha misrule saw Orissa in disarray, fraught with economic disaster and commercial decline. The British rule in Orissa commenced with the grant of Dewani of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa to Lord Clive by the Mughal emperor Shah Alam II. After that the various British supremos ruled over Orissa. The great Paika rebellion of Khurda germinated in Khurda when Jai Rajguru, the first martyr of Orissa against the British, the main adviser of minor Raja of Khurda, revolted against foreign rule. The irregular revenue services of the British enraged the Paikas who rebelled against British under Bakshi Jagabandhu. Although it was suppressed, it was the first Oriya revolt against alien British.

The resistance to British rule manifested in different places after that. Among them was Chakra Bisoi who united the people of Dasapalla, Khondamal, Ghumusar etc. to fight against British. He was followed by Chakhi Khuntia who was a "Panda" in Puri temple who was also religious Guru of Jhaansi Raani Laxmi Bai, played a significant role in Sepoy mutiny the first unified Indian resistance against British rule. Another great revolutionary was Bira Surendra Sai who led a valiant fight against British. The boy Baaji Rout also deserves mention in this regard as a great patriotic martyr during 1942 movement.

Then came 1866. The disastrous Na'anka Durbhikhya, The Great Famine. This crushed the economic backbone of Orissa. The paucity of rain, heavy export, unemployment problem, lack of irrigation, poverty of the people, defective trade system, lack of communication and education can be considered to be responsible for this.

As the British ruled longer they tried to implement their system to run it better. The introduction of English education was one of them. The first university to be established by British in India was Calcutta university by Wood's dispatch which helped in the spread of English education to a great deal. When Ravenshaw College was founded in 1868, it opened up easy avenues for the Oriyas to get English education. And it acted as a catalyst to quicken the awakening of national consciousness among the then elitist Oriyas.

In this socio-political uprising there are some well-known Oriyas who took leading role. They were Chandra Mohan Maharana, Ganapati Das, Mani Mohapatra, Gopala Chandra Praharaj, Gopabandhu Dash, Radhanath Ray, Madhusudan Das, Abhiram Bhanja, Nanda Kishore Bal, Gouri Shankara Ray, Ramsankar Ray, Pyari Mohan Acharya etc. These people spearheaded the movement to give Oriya language a true identity as well as inspiring national consciousness. The weekly news papers like Utkala Deepikaa and Sambada Vihika helped achieving this aim to a great deal. Many socio-cultural associations like Utkala Hitaishini Shabhaa, Ganjam Nisha Nishadhini etc. were formed to tackle socio-cultural and political problems. The witty lawyer, barrister from Satyabhamapur, Madhusudan Das played a great role in achieving Orissa statehood. The establishment of Satyabadi School by Gopabandhu Das and participation of Acharya Harihara Das, Pandit Nilakantha Das, Pandit Godavarisha Mishra and Pandit Krupasindhu Mishra as teachers, helped imparting true traditional education.

When all of India was rallying under Mahatma Gandhi to fight against British, Orissa never took a back seat. In 1920 thirty five delegates from Orissa attended the Nagpur Congress. The non-cooperation and non-violent movement started in Orissa. A great concerted effort of great many Oriyas, was rewarded with the creation of separate Orissa state on April 1, 1936. The people of Orissa state followed Gandhi and joined whole heartedly in the struggle for freedom until India got independence.

We have come a long way since then through thick and thin. We have suffered and we have revelled, we have conquered and have been conquered, we have taught and we have learnt, yet we have survived as a unified people. We have inherited the great strength, talent and virtues of our fore fathers. We are proud of ourselves and have pledged to do things which will kindle our spirit to elevate our achievements to dizzy heights. The great Lord Jagannath always inspire us to be bound by the universal brotherhood and tread the path of truth, non-violence and peace. We have to build our great character to move ahead and provide leadership to all others. Rising above the communalism, and other diverting elements we have to be united to forge ahead as a team. By every means we have to dream for a stronger and greater Orissa in all respect and strive to materialize it. Every individual effort is note worthy and very important in this regard. Each one of us is responsible for this. May be in the state or outside the state. And we are confident we deserve it and we can attain it as the successors of a great nation.

Our Lives as Patchwork Quilts:

A Seminar on What Success Means to Women

Mamata Misra

At the OSA convention in July 1998, I had the honor and privilege of organizing and moderating a seminar that focused on women's lives, particularly, on how women define success and what elements help or hinder in their success. You may ask what patchwork quilts have to do with women's lives? This metaphor was introduced in a book called *Composing a Life* by Mary Bateson. Patchwork quilts are beautiful works of creative composition and have been created by women around the world for ages. They are also improvisations made from odds and ends, scraps and leftovers, in bits and pieces, made as and when time permits. They are not visible until put together. Women's lives, often have achievements and successes that come in bits and pieces because our lives are full of interruptions. We are uprooted from our families to be replanted in our husbands homes. We take time off to give birth, and to raise children. Our career growth can be interrupted by relocation to support career moves of our husbands. We are called upon as caretakers when sickness, death, or other misfortunes hit our families. We frequently stop and go or change directions. Because our successes may not be visible like tall towers, often, we do not think much of them. The purpose of the seminar was to inspire the audience to look at life's successes through this metaphor, and discover the pieces of our life-quilt we are proud of and to encourage one another to admire our life quilts as beautiful pieces of art.

Women have traditionally been regarded as conservative and inclined to stay at home. Going forth to seek adventure and conquer the world has been a male specialty. But conquest may not be the best route to learning. Today, one learns from new worlds not by seeing them to conquer but by seeing them to respect, with sensitivity and adaptation. Sensitivity and adaptation has always been a specialty of women. A traditional patriarchal and patrilocal society like ours, assumes a greater degree of adaptability in women than in men. Marriage calls for minor adjustments for man and phenomenal adjustments for woman. Women have been immigrants through ages migrating from one family to another. Can our immigrant society learn from us? What can we offer? Each life has its ups and downs and requires a sense of balance. Modern suburban living requires the Mom to juggle the demands of home, work, children, and community. What helps her? What hurts? How does she resolve conflicting demands? What choices and improvisations does she make? From where does she draw her strength?

I had invited three speakers: Dr. Shantilata Misra from New York, Ms. Lakshmy Parameswaran from Houston, and Ms. Gopa Patnaik from San Diego -- three successful women of varied skills and experiences -- who had graciously accepted my request to share their personal views of success with a crowd. I had asked them to address three questions. What does the word success mean to you? What elements have helped or hindered your success? What improvisations have you made in your life to get around obstacles to success?

Shantilata emphasized that success is not how high you fly, it is how high you bounce. Shanti's story revealed how one can achieve success through courage and perseverance. "I struggled hard for everything and was too stubborn to give up when success was not apparent. Growing up in the fifties and sixties in a family without much visibility, Shanti excelled as a student. At a time when arranged marriages were the norm, she chose her own life partner (of more than 25 years now) Dr. Uma Mishra. She came to USA in the early seventies on her own merit to pursue graduate studies. She received a Ph.D. in BioPhysics in 1980 from SUNY, Albany, did a fellowship in Medical Physics at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. She raised three children. She resigned from a position of Chief Physicist from Beth Israel Medical Center in N.Y. City to be self-employed as Physicist/Vice President of a free standing Radiation Oncology Center in upstate New York. The place is still running and yesterday they celebrated with 200 people who believe in this. That definitely is success!

Culture or gender barriers were not barriers for Shanti, mainly because, she refused to look at them that way. she never gave up no matter what. Shanti's message was crisp and clear -- You must find what you believe in. You must go for it and must not be discouraged by who says or does what. If you do not give up, you will reach your destination sooner or later. "If you believe in something, you can hang in there with tooth and/or nail. Eventually it will come through. If you call that a success it is your call. I see it as perseverance."

Lakshmy Parameswaran, Director of Outreach Services at the Fort Bend County Womens Center in Houston area and a founding member of Daya, Inc., a non-profit group helping south-Asian women, said that in the small south-Indian town where she grew up, for a woman, success was equated to good fortune -- of being born to parents who are able and caring, of being married to a suitable mate at the right age. She also internalized the messages from her own

parents -- that a college education, a career suitable for a female, ability to manage a home and perhaps a career, and winning the love of a husband and respect of the affinal family were measures of a woman's success. Lakshmy observed that in the US, and among Indians, success is often measured by career, possessions, status, and reputation. But as she went through life and had met the criteria of success according to the good fortune standard of her village, the good girl standard of her family, and the good status standard of the community, she observed that success meant something very different to her -- Finding a challenge in anything I do, accomplishing the task ahead of me whether it is in the house or outside, and striving for new challenges and accomplishments make me feel successful.

What helped her? Lessons from her childhood about the importance of the female role in the house, migration to USA that accorded the responsibility, opportunities to pursue an outside interest intermittently, career opportunities for women starting late, family support, and her own initiative and aspirations were some of the elements she named. Her internalization of the good fortune theory of her village was a hindrance. It takes a lot of effort to uproot a childhood belief that is deeply rooted in you. Lakshmy improvised by waiting patiently for the pieces of her quilt that came slow and in installments, by not combining home, education, and career at the same time. She concluded that often internalized beliefs and fears from the childhood stand in our way as barriers to success and we should challenge them.

Gopa Patnaik, a mother, an Odissi dancer, a counselor, and the President of OSA, described how success has different meanings for different people and how its meaning changes as one matures. For her achieving a delicate balance between family and work is success. Gopa said, "To me success in career is doing something that I love to do and that is congruent with my interests, values, and skills. I cannot do something that is conflicting with my core values or something for which I do not feel a passion." Some of the barriers Gopa named were fear of change, heavy load of unnecessary cultural baggage, and difficulty in clarifying ones own values. It is very scary to stride into unknown realms and take risks. But if we are not willing to take risks we do not give ourselves the chance to experience the full range of possibilities. This makes it impossible for us to achieve our full potential. So leaning into your discomfort zone and savoring the experience is a very important step. By doing so you not only progress and achieve success but experience tremendous personal inner growth. In change, there is growth.

Gopa emphasized that we have to get rid of some of our cultural baggage that we carry consciously or unconsciously. We have stereotypical images about women's roles, barriers from spouse and other familial expectations. So it is important to identify these barriers and think of strategies to overcome them. She is not implying that we give up our cultural upbringing and values but just be aware that we are not the products of our culture only. We are thinking, reflecting, and evolving individuals and we can be what we want to be by examining ourselves and our values and goals. Gopa said that assessing our own values is a very important step to achieve success and happiness. Knowing what you want to do and what makes you happy will promote success in whatever you do. Choosing the right career that suits your personality, lifestyle, values, and ethics, finding a career that fits just like a pair of comfortable shoes is important.

Gopa said that for most women support and encouragement from family is very important. In a recent conference, three Indian women entrepreneurs were asked to share their success story. All seemed to have a common theme. They used their cultural heritage as strength. Family life was very important and they made special efforts to spend time with their children. Each one of them loved what they did with a passion and all had tremendous support from their husbands. It was imperative to find a positive work environment even if it meant less compensation.

The eloquence of the speakers and the close to heart nature of the topic seemed to inspire the audience. The women in the audience had found either patterns, colors, or pieces of their own life-quilts. With a spirit of sharing their patterns and thread, women including the guests from India came up to the podium one by one and told their stories, revealing their strengths to overcome the barriers to success. We could have gone on for another two hours if we did not have to stop for lunch. Inspired discussions and suggestions in small groups continued through lunch and as we walked after lunch to the afternoon programs.

Audience were given evaluation sheets and 28 people took the time to fill in their anonymous evaluation. They were asked to rate their overall reaction to the session, the speakers, applicability and usefulness, understanding, and opportunity to participate. Additional hand written comments and suggestions were requested. The session received a score of 4.6 out of 5 in overall reaction, 4.6 out of 5 for the speakers, 3.7 out of 5 in applicability, 4 out of 5 in understanding, and 4.2 out of 5 in opportunity for participation. Even the lowest score 3.7 for applicability is not bad considering the fact that there were men in the audience for whom it must have been difficult to relate to women's life stories and pick patterns common with their own lives.

One participant came to me shortly after the session and said that the session had inspired her and helped her reach a career related decision. The written comments in the evaluation also echoed this positive sentiment. This should be continued in the present format in future conventions. "Congratulations for starting this series. I liked the speakers largely due to their positive attitudes. Enjoyed the forum and should continue with it in the next forum." Someone from the younger generation wrote, "This was an excellent forum. The speakers were eloquent and sincere, well-spoken. In the future, I would like to hear from people of my generation. It is really wonderful to hear your experiences." We need to hear that and expound upon our own. Kavita Dwibedi, special guest from India wrote, "I am very glad to see this discussion. It is very enlightening and goal-oriented. Thanks and keep it up for years to come. Very interesting. None of the speakers were difficult to understand and I am glad they shared their stories with me."

Some people felt that the forum was too nice not to be attended by more people. I think this forum is great but more men should be present so that they might be able to better understand women, their wives, and even themselves. More time should be allocated for this forum. More people should attend. All executives should be present in such a meeting. Another participant had expressed that she wished her children were present in the forum. They have not ever seen Oriya women speak so well and so clearly. It would have been educational for them.

The evaluation sheet in the future seminars should ask the gender and age-group of the participants and that would enable us to see how the evaluations vary with age and gender. Many suggestions came from the participants. Some were time saving ideas. Distribute brief profiles of speakers before the meeting to save time on introductions and spend time on issues. Do not schedule right after the General Body Meeting; they always take too much time and attendance suffers. Handouts on a few issues for discussion could have been distributed beforehand giving audience time to think. Many felt that there should be more communication between forums. Compilation of issues dealt with in the forum could be distributed in each and every OSA forum and issues could be built upon. My attempt to invite speakers from the younger age group had failed. The lack of diversity by age was noticeable and there were several requests to include younger speakers in the panel. Some of the comments were regarding the topic. Some people wanted the discussion to be more focused and about selected issues from everyday situations. Some comments suggested future topics. May be the forum could be a center of focus on the dynamic of transition or change for Oriya women in a technological era - How ideals have changed for Oriya women!

THE MAN WHO SOUGHT NIRVANA

Dr. Prasanna K. Pati

It had been almost half a century since I attended the great Car Festival of Lord Jagannath at Puri in the Indian State of Orissa. Was it 1947 or 1948 ? I was not sure. My recall of that attendance was extremely spotty. was not even sure if I had gone there as a devout pilgrim or as a tourist on a sight-seeing jaunt, Now it was 1996 and I was looking forward to attending the same festival of Lord Jagannath in America, specifically in the Golden Gate Park of beautiful San Francisco. I had been in private practice of psychiatry here in San Francisco for a number of years. My office at Arguello Boulevard was just a walking distance from the Park and I was keenly waiting for June 23, the date of the Car Festival. Back in India in the 1940's. If I had imagined that in fifty years I would be attending the Car Festival of Lord Jagannath in America, I would have been considered a fit case for a psychiatrist. Sunday, June 23 was a cloudy day in San Francisco. I got up early and on this special day, I read several pages of the Bhagavad Gita, the centerpiece of Hindu philosophy. After all, Jagannath does represent Lord Krishna of the Gita. On my way to Golden Gate, I had breakfast in one of my favorite Chinese restaurants, the Bamboo Curtain. I saw many people of obviously Indian origin, walking towards the Park, I was looking forward to a day of festivity, rituals and Mela, that ageless 'getting together' in the great Hindu festivals of India. I was walking along in a slow, leisurely pace when I heard someone behind me, following me closely and saying, "Dr.Sonjee, please wait for a minute. I hope you do not mind my coming with you to the Festival."

I stopped and greeted this white male with a "Good Morning". I looked at him closely and said, "But I do not think I know YOU." "Dr.Sonjee, I wouldn't expect you to, may be it was three years back I met you briefly at the Asian Art Museum of the Golden Gate Park. There was some sort of a special exhibition of the miniature paintings of the Moghul Empire of India."

I laughed and said, "Lately my memory is not very good and I am sorry, cannot recall the meeting you are referring to." I was ready to keep going towards the main venue of the Car

Festival, when he said, "I am George Hexton and I would very much like to accompany you In this Festival." George turned out to be a very pleasant and friendly companion. He was quite knowledgeable about India and all the great Hindu festival I assumed he might belong to the flare Krishna movement, but he was not in the usual Hare Krishna garb. I had no idea as to why he wished to be with me. Both of us enjoyed the Car Festival very much with the chariot of the Lord being pulled by devotees. It was a miniature version of the Great Festival at Puri, nevertheless, it had a certain spiritual significance for me. George was obviously not a Hindu but seemed to participate well in this unique spiritual experience.

On conclusion of the program, was ready to walk back to my office and I said, "George, I really enjoyed your company. Maybe we will meet again. May the Lord Jagannath be with you."

"Dr. Sonjee, it is almost time for dinner. I am going to China Moon Restaurant. Would you like to join me ? I accepted his invitation. During the dinner we chatted amenably, mostly about Hinduism and festivals. It was relatively pleasant and superficial conversation I was not expecting anything until, at one point, George said, "Dr.Sonjee, you are a psychiatrist. You have studied Carl Jung's Theory of the Collective Unconscious." I was not about to get into any discussion with George on this subject but before I could cut him off he proceeded to tell me that he was haunted by recollections of his previous birth in India. My immediate reaction was that here was another offbeat American, who has had some fascination for Hindu philosophy, and I was not about to listen. George must have sensed this and said, "Dr.Sonjee, have you visited the cremation sites on the River Ganges at Varanasi "George, yes, have been there twice, but why?" George made a startling response, "I can recall that I was cremated there in my previous life,"

I started laughing and said, "George, do you expect me to buy your incredulous story? First, this concept of reincarnation is a matter of faith for the Hindus, with profound philosophical significance, second, the Jungian concept of Collective Unconscious has been debunked, and third, even I as a Hindu, have much difficulty with this concept."

George was persistent that I hear out his story. I was only minimally interested but had enough curiosity about it. I said, "George, if you insist, I will listen to it." We made a date a few days later to meet for dinner at the Empress of China Restaurant in Chinatown. George was very warm and friendly and during dinner, he gave the following story in a rather disjointed fashion. he struggled with it, I will relate his story as much as possible the way he narrated it.

"Dr.Sonjee, do you recall that you had told me on our first visit that you were from the State of Orissa ? I was born in 1880 in your ancient city of Cuttack. Mind you, have never been to India, that is , in my present birth."

My sharp response was, "How do I know that you have not concocted the whole thing?" "Let me finish. Dr. Sonjee, you might be familiar with that city. I was born in a locality called Maria Bazar. My father was a shopkeeper - general goods, spices, oil, rice, sugar etc. I had a brother four years younger than me. My mother was illiterate, but a very devout Hindu lady," I was getting impatient with this story, and just to test him, asked if he could recall his name in this so called previous birth. His quick response was, "Yes, Dr.Sonjee, my name was Nilamani Sahu." I knew it was a typical Oriya name but still I suspected George was a master story-teller, I remained incredulous.

He continued, "In those days, Cuttack was sparsely populated, full of trees. I went to school until the third grade. Around age ten, started helping my father in his shop."

So far, it was not an exciting story. I gently reminded George that it was getting late, and I had a very busy schedule with my patients the next day. "George, let us come to Varanasi, cremation site of your previous birth. Perhaps, I may be interested in that part of your story." George continued, "I had a relatively stable life at Cuttack. As a young man, I took over my father's business, got married, raised a family. I expanded my business, became relatively prosperous. I was a regular devotee of Cuttack Chandi. I made annual trips to the Car Festival of Lord Jagannath at Puri."

I interrupted him, "George, anyone can read about this and make a story out of it," "Dr.Sonjee, let me finish. With prosperity came greed. I became obsessed with money. Money became my God, though I pretended that I was a great devotee of Jagannath. With increasing greed, I went into money-lending business and charged exorbitant interest to people, I even hired local anti-socials to threaten the debtors. Apart from amassing money, I enjoyed the power over these people. On the surface, I pretended that I was a devout Hindu, The rituals and festivals in my house in Maria Bazar were celebrated with pomp, I would go around with folded hands to greet guests. I would frequently utter the various names of Vishnu. When guests would compliment me, I would give all credit to Lord Jagannath."

"George, do you mean to say that you were leading a double life?" "Not necessarily, Dr.Sonjee, I had convinced myself that I was a great devotee of Jagannath, Lord Shiva, and the God Goddess of Cuttack. Money-making was just a part of life. Yes, I was aware on a certain level of my greed and exploitation of people, but I believed that all my sins were washed away daily through my devotion and visits to temples."

"George, do you recall any feelings of guilt? Were you ashamed of yourself? It appears that you harassed, exploited and threatened many, many families. Did you get any feedback from others?"

"Dr.Sonjee, of course, was aware that people might be talking behind my back. I became totally shameless. In fact, I actively cultivated shamelessness because only then could I do anything that I wished."

"George, so far it is not much of a story. The world is full of such people. In summary, you were a shameless, sadistic, selfish, rich man but more dangerous, because on the surface, you had all the pretensions of deep spirituality, and devotion to Lord Jagannath and Shiva and the Goddess Cuttack Chandi."

"Dr.Sonjee, you are getting impatient. There is no summary or finality to such stories. In any event, let me come to the incident that turned my life around. You remember the Durga Puja Festival in Cuttack. I distinctly remember that evening. It was the month of October, very pleasant, I went to the temple of Cuttack Chandi for the special occasion to pray and participate in the ceremonial ritual. I was returning home. On the way back, I had to pass through a mango grove near a pond. It was a bit late. I had come alone on that path many times before. I recalled footsteps behind. I thought, perhaps other devotees were returning home from the temple, I looked behind and could see only a shadowy figure. I had the feeling that someone was stalking me. After I had entered the mango grove. I thought that shadowy figure was just behind me and I heard this voice, "Sir, Goddess Durga has directed me to kill you tonight. She symbolizes the triumph of good over evil."

I started trembling in apprehension. I protested, saying that I was a staunch devotee of the Goddess. He said something like, "Your lackeys have been threatening to kidnap my only child, aged ten, and to kill him if I do not soon pay you back the money I owe you. My child,

wife and I are living in a nightmare day and night, I too went to the Goddess this evening for guidance and she gave me the order."

"George, did he have any weapon in his hand?" "Dr.Sonjee, I could vaguely make out an axe raised over his right shouldered prostrated myself on the ground, touched his feet crying, asking him to spare my life and promising him huge sums of money. Then, I felt the axe strike my left shoulder." "George, I am sorry to interrupt you. Am I to believe that you remember all these details from your previous life?"

"Dr.Sonjee.let me finish. I woke up in the hospital next day. You remember the huge hospital campus near Manglabagh of Cuttack. Luckily for me, the strike from the axe had missed-my neck. It must have been around 1930. On recovery, I transferred all my business to my sons. I became a recluse. I gave up going to temples. I had a dream one night that I should go to Varanasi and wait there for Death to attain Nirvana. My wife accompanied me to Vanarasi,"

"George, is it the end of your Story? You died on the bank of our sacred River Ganges and were cremated and thus, attained salvation? But it seems you did n't attain Nirvana, that is the end of the birth and rebirth cycle and the merging with the Brahman."

"Dr.Sonjee, it seems that way." He smiled.

In due time, this encounter with George had somewhat faded from my memory until I had a business lunch with a psychiatrist colleague in the China Moon. I called George the same evening. A female voice came over the phone. I introduced myself and told this person about my encounter with George. There was a moment of silence. Finally, I had the following response, "Dr. Sonjee, I am Jane. George is my boyfriend. He left for India about three months back, to the Holy Hindu city of Varanasi. Just prior to his departure, he seemed obsessed with the idea that he had to go there to be an ascetic and die there to attain Nirvana. Dr. Sonjee, I love him very much and we were planning to get married. I let him go, assuming that he would get over his craziness and return soon, but so far, I have no words from him. Dr. Sonjee, you are a Hindu. Can you please tell me if he is coming back to me?"

Mother! We Remember !
(Reflections on Mother Theresa, 1910-1997)

Bijoy Misra, Cambridge, MA.
September 28, 1997.

When my hands were weak, feet unstable,
When my hearing was thin, vision was feeble,
When I was down on the road, with no one visible,
I felt your caring touch, your withered face lovable.
Mother, I saw you lifting me up in your arms so gentle,
I pray for you Mother, Mother! we remember!

I had a hard life Mother, world is not so kind,
Everyone is busy Mother, love is little to find,
I tried my best Mother, wealth I could not bind,
I wish to live Mother, I too am God's child!
I cried for help Mother, no one seemed to care,
I looked to my death Mother, with scare and despair,
Mother, I saw you lifting me up in your arms so gentle,
I pray for you Mother, Mother! we remember!

I had been hungry Mother, had not eaten in days,
I had been sick Mother, wounds bleed in me always,
I had been lonely Mother, attention no one pays,
I have been cold Mother, in a rotten rag my body lays!
I wish to smile Mother, I have teeth between my jaws,
I wish to walk Mother, I have bones in my paws.
Mother, I saw you lifting me up in your arms so gentle,
I pray for you Mother, Mother! we remember!

Hope, Mother I need, to run by my last few days,
Love, Mother I need, to be wanted in my perilous phase,
Touch, Mother I need, to feel the warmth of my flesh,
Faith, Mother I need, to lift me to the abode of grace.
Angels, I have heard, come from the heaven, from the King,
Help, Mother I need, let the angel be a human being!
Mother, I saw you lifting me up in your arms so gentle,
I pray for you Mother, Mother! we remember!

Prepared for the Memorial Service for Mother Teresa, at Andover Theological Seminary,
Newton, Mass.

A VISIT TO MY VILLAGE

Anadi Naik

A visit to my village always brings me exciting thoughts. So last October, I arrived there with anticipation and anxiety. Though I have been living in the U.S, for many years the umbilical cord still seems to be connected to that old rural place where I like my father and grandfather was born. When I left for the U,S, for the first time my village was inaccessible to any motorized vehicle . The nearest bus station was 7 miles away reachable by a bullock-cart or a bicycle or a rickshaw. Early on I got into the habit of bicycling long distances. Therefore, in the last couple of trips when a bus or a jeep disembarked me right in the village I felt a sense of exhilaration. No doubt, the village has physically changed. In addition to easy, transportation it has added a couple of tube wells in different neighborhoods so that clean drinking water is readily available to all the people.

My village sits in the delta of three mighty rivers of Orissa -Brahmani, Birupa and Kharasrota. During the monsoon from mid-June to mid-October when it rains heavily the ground becomes muddy. Anyone walking in a flip-flop, a rubber sandal made by the Bata shoe company, gets smeared with mud that flies from the ground up- Monsoon also brings flies. all kinds of bugs and puddles of water in the walk way. This is a time that I always dreaded in the village. The rain also brought floods. I can remember in several occasions that every house in the village , as they were made of dried clay and bamboo, collapsed because the water touched their foundations. The houses simply collapsed. Small neighborhoods based on separate castes became isolated from each other. Along with some older people I had to walk on the collapsed roofs and had to swim from one neighborhood to another to find out if everyone was safe and alive.

Floods always caused devastation. They uprooted trees, washed away roads and ruined rice fields, the wells and ponds filled with dirty water . By drinking the polluted water people became ill. Cholera, a highly contagious intestinal disease always followed the flood water. A year after the country became independent nearly two hundred people in a nearby village Indipur died of this calamitous disease. Because of the Rengali dam on the Brahmani floods to my village do not come that often anymore. Besides, the mouth of the Mahanadi at Paradeep has been widened and dredged. As a result, flood waters run into the Bay of Bengal relatively faster. Previously, the waters from all three rivers used to backup and inundate hundreds of square miles because of the deposited silt at the mouth of the Mahanadi. Lack of flood also has resulted in economic improvement of my village. Now, people are growing peanuts, sun flowers and soy beans as cash crops. A few years ago the government encouraged them to grow Taichung - a hybrid rice from Japan. Due to a lack of reliable irrigation system villagers gave up Taichung in frustration. These new crops do not require much irrigation, Electricity is available. So the village boasts of an oil crushing machine, a rice mill, a wood chopping factory. They employ only a handful of people. Yet, their presence brings a kind of hopefulness that did not exist before. Not only in my own village Bari but in villages around it schools and colleges have mushroomed. They have brought literacy and expectation among the young men and women who are also angry and frustrated because they can't find any employment. One has to bribe a lot of people a lot of money to land a job in the government or in the private sector. In the October of 1997 I found a very few men in my village wear Dhoti anymore-Every one seemed to be going in the Western way-Among the girls, Sari has given way to Salwar and Kamiz. It was

interesting to see a young man with tight fitting trousers negotiating a stream or a college student trying to jump into a canoe with his bicycle in one hand and trying to keep his pants dry in the other. Mr. Brahmananda Biswal, Deputy Chief Minister of Orissa, came to my village to attend a political rally. The youth of the area had raised 1 lakh rupees - roughly \$3000.00 - for various forms of entertainment for the ministerial party. Spending so much money for entertainment only seemed to me a very big amount. However, it turned out that I was thinking in a different time zone. One lakh rupees did not seem to be a big deal compared to their original budget - a sum of 10 lakhs. The money was squeezed from the local contractors who did business with the local government. They submitted bills for works they never did and the local bureaucrats routinely - under threat and cajoling approved the payment. And the money was handed to the youth group. Of course, the money circulated into the hands of an open air theater group, various sculptures, restaurants and day labor.

Through all this it seemed to me that the city life has more or less crept into the village, its pristine environment has taken a beating. People in general seemed to be more interested in material things. Drinking, violence and traffic accidents, unheard of a few years ago have become a common place in my village. I learned on my arrival that a dear friend of mine along with his brother were killed in a traffic accident. The road to the village is still narrow and dirt-filled like many other roads. Yet in the last few years the volume of traffic has increased many fold. This has caused atrocious crowding not only in the road leading to my village but in the roads of Cuttack, Bhubaneswar and Sambalpur.

I have always been proud of, my village Bari because it was on the forefront of the freedom movement, Prominent freedom fighters, many of whom later became top elected officials, often came to my village to consult with Gopabandhu Choudhury and his wife Rama Devi. Because of the presence, of the Choudhuries various Gandhian activities - alternative school system, spinning, eradication of untouchability - took roots in my village. In 1942 during the Quit India Movement scores of people from Bari went to jail, Ordinary house wives started wearing hand spun clothes. British clothes were set on fire. Because of their support of the freedom movement every household in the village had to pay a fine to the government which many of them refused and bore the consequences. In the minds of the younger generation - that is the twenty something generation all that happened a long time ago. This is the 50th year of independence. And they seemed to be gung ho about celebrating the occasion. Basant babu's arrival in Bari was a part of that celebration.

It so happened that while I was in the village Sri Sarat chandra Maharana - age 87 - came to Bari where he had lived for 30 years while conducting experiments on Gandhian education system called basic education. He was a fixture in the village since 1938. People of my age and older are very familiar with him and his wife Annapurna Maharana known as Chuni Appa. However, to one of my nephews he did not look any different from any of the older men with a frail body and white hair. "Uncle, who is this old man?" - He asked me while getting ready to go to college. All of a sudden I realized that the village as well as the villagers have changed. Among the new generation of people I too was like a stranger. In a very nostalgic way I missed those older men -my father and his friends - who always called me by my nickname. To them I was always a lad from the village. Last of the older men died two years ago. The village has not celebrated any of the functions they used to help bring together.

An Appeal

**Acharya Harihar Regional Center for
Cancer Research & Treatment Society**

Cuttack 753 007, Orissa, India, Tel 671-614264 Fax 671-614683

As you may be aware that the old cancer wing of SCB Medical College, Cuttack was upgraded to a Regional Cancer Centre, as a joint venture of Govt. of Orissa and Ministry of Health, Govt. of India under National Cancer Control Programme for dissemination of Cancer detection at primary stage, cancer education, treatment and research facility uniformly throughout the nation. Like this, at the moment 12 such Cancer Institutes are functioning in the country as apex. cancer treatment and Research centres. We are fortunate to have one Regional Cancer Centre in our state at Cuttack out of those 12 Regional Cancer Centres. Our Centre is jointly funded by Ministry of Health, Govt. of India for purchase of instruments and equipment (about 50 lakhs per annum) and by State Govt. for maintenance and staff salary (about 93 lakhs/annum).

The Institute is now functioning in the old erstwhile Radiotherapy building of SCB Medical College on a 6 acres plot. The land is in the process of transfer to this institute by the Revenue Department. Being a Regional Cancer Centre, the institute caters all types of cancer patients from Orissa and adjoining state of West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. The institute is registering about 10,000 new cancer cases and 20,000 old cases coming for follow up every year. Since this is a comprehensive Cancer Care Centre, the institute is equipped with all diagnostic facilities like X-ray, Ultrasound, CT Scan, Gamma Camera with all modern pathological investigation facilities. Besides, we have on therapy side three Cobalt units, Brachytherapy, Medical Oncology and Surgical Oncology including Head & Neck, Gynecology and General Surgical Oncology unit etc. The need and requirement for services is growing very fast due to increase in awareness of cancer all over the world.

However, the facilities in our Centre needs to be augmented to bring this institute in par with other National Cancer Centres of the country and abroad with at least 300 bed indoor facility. Unfortunately due to paucity of funds, the infrastructure, i.e., mainly building required for 300 beds and other associated facilities (as per annexure) are not being made available to this institute.

Therefore, the growth and development of a Institute of this type essentially needs support from nongovernmental organizations, Public sector, Industrial houses, Voluntary agencies, Foundations, firms as well as benevolent individuals. To bring about all round development of our Institute including additional infrastructure and other associated facilities within a reasonable period we essentially solicit assistance from Non-Governmental foundations and trusts etc.

It will not be out of place to mention here that other Regional. Cancer Centres in our country have been greatly successful to get good amount of financial and equipment assistance through their NRI colleagues in UK, USA and other countries.

I would further request you on behalf of the Institute and State of Orissa to kindly initiate your continuous involvement with this Institute. At least the first phase of this project rebuilding and infrastructure may kindly be taken up by your assistance to make this Institute at par with leading cancer centres of the country. Therefore, may I request you to kindly put up our appeal at the appropriate quarters which shall largely render benefit to poor cancer patients in this part of our country.

With kind regards.

Sincerely yours,

Prof. C. R. Nayak
Director
Acharya Harihar Regional Center for Cancer Research & Treatment Society

Donation in the form of cheques/drafts in the name of "Acharya Harihar Regional Cancer Centre Improvement Fund" is accepted.

NEWS FROM OSA CHAPTERS

OSANY

The year, 1997 turned out to be a busy year for the members of OSANY as we held the following functions during the year:

- Saraswati puja
- Annual Picnic
- Reception/dinner for the Chief Minister, Orissa and his party
- Music Program with the Mahapatra Sisters
- Ganesh Puja
- Kumara Utsaba

We celebrated Saraswati Puja in February and Ganesh Puja in September at Ved Mandir, Milltown, New Jersey. Mr. Pitambar Sarangi, one of our members, conducted the Puja on both occasions. Puja seems to attract many of our members as nearly 35 families took part. Our children seemed to take active part in the Puja which is very rewarding. As always, the members prepared delicious food/prasad for which we are thankful.

The annual picnic was held on June 22 at Colonial Park which is located in central NJ. The park provided an atmosphere of quiet and beautiful surroundings with tennis courts and boating facilities. Again, many of our members came and there was plenty of Oriya cooking along with chicken barbecue.

In June we hosted an Oriya music program with the Mahapatra Sisters and a dinner/reception for the visiting Chief Minister of Orissa and his party. Both of these functions were held in collaboration with OSANJ chapter. The reception for the Chief minister was held at the facilities

of the Consulate General of India, New York. Although the reception was attended by about 40 families and was quite a success (thanks to Rajan Panda, Ashutosh Dutta and other volunteers who worked very hard), the music program was not well-attended which was a disappointment to the organizers.

Kumara Utsava was the last gathering of the year. It was held at Holly Spirit Fellowship, Martinsville, NJ in November. There was entertainment followed by dinner. The entertainment program included songs by our own artists as well as by a professional singer, a fashion show by our youngsters (age 7 and younger) and dance performances by Kristina Das(solo) and Shree-Pragna Das and her friend, Vimi panchal (duets).

News provided by Dibakar Panigrahi

OSA, Chicago

It is extremely delightful to see our community grow by leaps and bounds. As we continue to grow, OSA Chicago needs each of you to be actively involved at your convenience, with the various activities. With your support, commitment and involvement, OSA Chicago will continue to prosper as an organization. As Oriyas living in the Chicago area we should find ways to serve the organization which in turn will make us feel proud of our Oriya heritage. Each of you should send us ideas that will enable us to improve, strengthen and grow our organization.

We have had a number of wonderful activities happening in our community. We can make future activities even more enjoyable for all as well as significantly improve the quality of these events with increased involvement from all of us. We can be proud to be Oriyas by working together to further all Oriya causes which in turn will enable OSA Chicago to shine forever.

- Chicago Chapter of OSA organized a musical evening with Mrs. Sangeeta Mohapatra, Dr. Suchitra Mohapatra and Mr. Prasanna Mishra in the month of June. Mohapatra sisters captivated the audience with their melodious bhajans, champu, devotional songs, classical Oriya songs, folk songs as well as some popular Hindi songs.
- On October 4, the Chicago Oriya families held a welcome party for all parents visiting this year. Everyone enjoyed great food, entertainment, and words of wisdom from the parents.
- This year the Chicago OSA Chapter was represented at the Meena Bazaar held on October 5. This is an annual event sponsored by the Women's Club of India. Rashmita Baral coordinated the OSA food booth, with the help of Ratna Mishra, Nivedita Behera, Chandrasri Das, Priyambada Nayak, Sujata Patnaik and Biddu Nayak. Sunita Mohanty and Shanta Mishra participated in the cultural program at the Bazaar. Young artist, Suraj patnaik received an award for his singing and Erika Baral won first prize in the Cutest Baby contest.
- OSA Chicago was invited by the Tri-State Telegu Association to participate in a program titled "National Integrity", the theme of which was to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of the Independence of India. Anna Das and Sweta Mohapatra performed an Odissi dance "Mangalacharan". A folk dance was performed by Jhara Das and Ipsita Satpathy. In addition, an oral Presentation on Orissa was given by Chandan Khandai.

- The Illinois Chapter of Kannada Kuta Vidhyaranya invited OSA Chicago to participate in their 1997 Deepavali celebration. The celebration was held at the Hindu Temple Of Greater Chicago in Lemont, on Saturday, November 8. Our president Shree Mohantv, presented a brief historical overview of Orissa. In addition, Odissi dances were performed by Anna Das, Jyoti Mishra, Sweta Mohapatra, Seetal Mishra and Sunita Mohanty. The dances were very well received by the audience of over 200 people. Ipsita Satpathy choreographed and aided the Odissi performers at the celebration.
- The Chicago area was honored by the appearance of a renowned Odissi dancer Kavita Dwibedi. On November 15, 1997 the Odissi Dance Institute, Aurora in cooperation with the Balaji Venkateshwar Temple, organized an evening for a combined Odissi dance performance by Ms. Dwibedi and Ipsita Satpathy. This event was organized by Ipsita Satpathy, Sujata Patnaik and Sharada Venkatraman and was held at the Balaji Venkateshwar Temple in Aurora. Both the dancers put on a terrific show. On behalf of OSA Chicago, Shree Mohanty presented Ms. Dwibedi with a plaque and commended her outstanding performance.
- In addition to the Odissi dance performance, that day marked the inauguration of the Odissi Dance Institute of Aurora established by Ipsita Satpathy.
- A fabulous New Years Eve Party was organized by OSA Chicago and held at the home of Saroj and Shree Mohanty. All the attendees enjoyed excellent food and entertainment. Saurjya Khandai, Ashish (Monty) Mohanty, Prashanta Mohanty and Rohit Patnaik performed a rousing and colorful bhangra dance that was choreographed by Jhara Das. The highlight of the evening was a surprise Performance by Monty Mohanty, Prashant Mohanty and Rohit patnaik, of the hilarious dance from the Hindi film - Lawaris.
- The Bengali Association of Greater Chicago had invited the Odissi Dance Institute of Aurora to perform an Odissi dance as part of a Saraswati Puja cultural program. An Oriya folk dance to the traditional Oriya song "Kumar Janha Lo" was performed by the following young ladies: Anna Das, Jyoti Mishra, Sweta Mohapatra, Seetal Mishra and Sunita Mohanty. The dance was choreographed by Mrs. Ipsita Satpathy.
- Welcome to the world: Prashant and Donna Pady were blessed with a handsome son on October 6. At birth, Shivans was a weighed 8.2 lbs and 20.5" long. A bundle of joy named Amar was born to Bibi and Radhagobinda Mohanty on November 10. Brother Abinash is delighted with his new brother and playmate. Sarita and Ashok (Babu) Parida were graced with a beautiful baby daughter on November 24. Pallavi (Polly) Parida weighed 7.9 lbs. and was 20" long at birth.
- New faces: There have been many recent new additions to the growing Oriya community in Chicago. Please join us in welcoming the following Oriyas to Chicago and to OSA Chicago.

Shankarshan and Kalpana Acharya
Balaji and Shanta Ekambaram
Sunil and Sunita Mshra
Bikash and Nita Mohanty
Prashant Mohanty
Ranjan and Monica Mohanty
Mrutyunjaya and Urmila Mohapatra
Badri Mund

Subbash Panigrahi
Debendra Patnaik
Dev Patnaik
Rohit Patnaik
Rabi and Sujata Patnaik
Arun and Nivedita Rajan
Dipti and Mama Rath
Bijay Sahoo
Dipak Sahoo
Subodh Samai
Dibyendu and Mita Satapathy

- Upcoming events: Please mark your calendars for the following events in 1998.
Saraswati Puja. to be held on February 7 at the Chinmoy Mission at 10:00 am.
Indian Independence Day Parade will be held on Saturday, August 15.
OSA Picnic will be held either in the month of June or July.
Ganesh Puja is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, August 29 at the Chinmoy Mission.
New Year's Eve Party will be held on Thursday, December 31.

News provided by Shree Mohanty

OSA, New Jersey

A great Kumar Ushab day was celebrated on October 18, 1997 at Whippany, N.J. with a full packed hall of music lovers. In the children's program, marvelous Odissi dances were performed by Ruby Sahoo (Mokhya Nrutya) and Silu Mishra (Abhinaya), vocal songs by Dina Adinollom and an exciting key board played by Raj Sahoo. The invited guests were Bela Bhatt and Satyan Saha. Bela enthralled the crowd singing Bhajans, Ghazals, various folk songs and melodious songs from Indian movies. A young artist Satyan accompanied with her tabla.

Ganesh Puja was held in the residence of Dr. Hazari Muduli with great devotion and children performed Oriya Bhajans. The day the new Executive Committee was installed for the year 1997-99.

The New Jersey Chapter organized a lunch reception for Gajapati Maharaja of Puri and Maharani last May during their visit to America. Everybody received "ashrivad" from him and a wide discussion on Lord Jaganath was held. He emphasized on the value of Jaganath Dharma and Oriya Culture. The well attended party was held at Dr. Muduli's residence.

News provided by Brajendra Sahu.

OSA, South-East

The annual meeting of the South-eastern chapter was held in the Kiawah Island near historic Charleston, South Carolina during May 23-26, 1997. About twelve families participated in this memorial weekend gala. Besides good food prepared by the members, there was an enjoyable entertainment program organized by Tanuja Mohapatra. The highlights of this program were the performances by the children from this chapter. Everybody had a good time and the meeting went smoothly thanks to our local organizer Ghanashyam Mishra.

There are several new Oriya families who have moved to this area from Orissa as well as from other parts of USA. Biswajit Das and family have moved from Raleigh to Austin, Texas. On November 15, 1997 the Oriyas from the Triangle area met in the house of Prasanna and Baruni Samal to welcome four new families from Orissa who have come to Raleigh recently. After a delicious dinner there was vocal music by local artists. This was really enjoyable.

News provided by Kailash Misra

OSA, Southern

The annual meeting of Southern Chapter of the OSA was held in November at Dr. Radhakanta and Geeta Mishra's residence. We all thank them for hosting the group and for providing us with a very pleasant day. Moments were not as pleasant, however, when the Chapter bid farewell to Radhakanta and Puspa Mahapatra as Radhakanta accepted a faculty position in University of Texas at Arlington in the Department of MIS. They were a very friendly, pleasant, and active couple in the Chapter and we all wish them success and glory in their future endeavors.

The Chapter welcomes Abakash and Neesa Samal, both graduates in computer engineering. Abakash works for Bell South in Birmingham. Shyam Sundar Parhi and wife Vidyasri have recently joined the Huntsville community of Oriyas. Dr. Parhi researches on solar corona at Marshall Space Flight Center. While Dr. Parhi studies the star of the day, the night sky of Southern chapter is glorified by the charm and talents of three new bride stars, Rakhi, Miki and Arati of Manoj Senapati, Ashok Mishra, and Surjit Sahoo, respectively.

We are pleased at the relocation of Prof. Jitendra Nath Mohanty of Temple University as he accepts a prestigious assignment at Emory University. Gangadhar Senapati (brother of Nagabhusan Senapati of Columbus, Ohio) has now moved to Nashville with wife Indu and family from Dayton, Ohio. Dr. Indu Senapati works at the Vanderbilt University. Southern Chapter welcomes them all.

News provided by Binayak Panda

