



OSA Georgia Chapter

Chapter Report - Utkarsha Fall 2023 Edition

Period: Jan 1 - Aug 31, 2023

As always, the OSA Georgia Chapter has been very active during the summer months. During the past quarter we hosted multiple cultural events showcasing Odia art, culture and heritage, furthering Odia Eminence in the local Indian and American community. As we are writing this report the entire chapter is actively preparing for Kumara Utsava to showcase Odia culture in a multi community cultural program hosted by us.

Here's a summary of different programs we hosted during this period.

A. AVAHANA - 2023 (January 14, 2023)

ନୂଆ ବର୍ଷର ନୂଆ ସଂକଳ୍ପ ନୂଆ ଉଦ୍ଦୀପନା, ଓ ମକର ସଂକ୍ରାନ୍ତି ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ , ଓସା ଜର୍ଜିଆ ଅଣ୍ଟଲୁଲ୍ୟରେ ଆୟୋଜିତ, ଆବାହନର ତୃତୀୟ ସଂସ୍କରଣ, "ଆବାହନ-2023" କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ , ଅତ୍ୟନ୍ତ ଆନନ୍ଦ ଉଦ୍ଦୀପନା ସହ ଗତ ଜାନୁଆରୀ 14ତାରିଖ ସନ୍ଧ୍ୟା 6:00 ଚାରେ ଆଗ୍ଲାଣ୍ଡା ,ଆମେରିକାରେ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠିତ ହେଇଥିଲା.

ଆମେରିକାର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ରାଜ୍ୟରୁ କୁନି କୁନି ପିଲାମାନେ YOGA ରେ ନିଜ ନିଜର ଦକ୍ଷତା ତଥା ନିପୁଣତା, ନିଜ ଅଭିଭାବକଙ୍କ ସହିତ ପ୍ରଦର୍ଶନ କରିଥିଲେ. ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ ଗୁରୁ , ବୈଦିକ ସ୍ଵଲାର ଓ mind managementରେ ଦକ୍ଷତା ପ୍ରାପ୍ତ କରିଥିବା ଗୁରୁଜୀ ସ୍ଵାମୀ ମୁକୁନ୍ଦାନନ୍ଦ, ମୁଖ୍ୟ ବକ୍ତା ଭାବେ ଯୋଗ ଦେଇ "power of thoughts" ଉପରେ ଗଭୀର ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚା କରିଥିଲେ.



ଆବାହନ-2023ର ମୁଖ୍ୟ ଅତିଥି ଗଜପତି ମହାରାଜା ଦିବ୍ୟ ସିଂହ ଦେବ , ଉପସ୍ଥିତ ଶ୍ରୋତା ଓ ଦର୍ଶକ ଗଣଙ୍କୁ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଉଦାହରଣ ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ, ଆମେରିକାରେ ବହୁଥିବା ପିଲା ମାନେ କିପରି ବେଷ୍ଟ of east ଓ west ହେଇପାରିବେ ଓ ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନର କିଛି ସମସ୍ୟାମୟିକ ସମସ୍ୟା, କିପରି ସମାଧାନ ହେଇ ପାରିବ, ସେ ସମ୍ପର୍କରେ ଆଲୋଚନା କରିଥିଲେ.

ମହାପ୍ରଭୁ ଜଗନ୍ନାଥଙ୍କ ଆଦ୍ୟ ଏବଂ ସର୍ବତ୍ରୟ ସେବକ ଗଜପତି ମହାରାଜାଙ୍କର ବକ୍ତବ୍ୟ ସମାପ୍ତ ପରେ , ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ଶାଲବେଗ, ସିକନ୍ଦର ଆଲାମଙ୍କ, ସୁପତ୍ରୀ Dr Nazia Alam ଅତି ସୁନ୍ଦର ପରିବେଷିତ କରିଥିଲେ ,ଅନେକ ଭକ୍ତ ଶାଲବେଗ ଓ ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟ ମହାକବିଙ୍କ ଅନମୋଲ ରଚନା.

ଆବାହନ-2023ର ଅନ୍ୟତମ ଆକର୍ଷଣ ଥିଲା, ସମଗ୍ର ଆମେରିକା ମହାଦେଶର ବିଭିନ୍ନ କଣ୍ଠଶିଳ୍ପୀଙ୍କ ଦ୍ଵାରା ପରିବେଷିତ ଭାବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଭଜନ । ଏପରି ଭକ୍ତ କୋଟିର ସଂଗୀତ ପରିବେଷଣ, ପ୍ରବାସୀ ଓଡ଼ିଆଙ୍କ ପ୍ରେମ ଓ ନିଷ୍ଠାର, ଏକ ଗୌରବମୟ ଅଧ୍ୟାୟ ଉନ୍ମୋଚିତ କରିବା ସହିତ , "ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ଐତିହ୍ୟ, ସଂସ୍କାର ଓ ସଂସ୍କୃତି"ସହ କିପରି ସମସ୍ତେ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ପ୍ରୋତ୍ସାହ ଭାବେ ଜଡ଼ିତ , ତାହାର ସାକ୍ଷୀ ଓ ପ୍ରମାଣ ପ୍ରଦାନ କରିଥିଲା .



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<https://www.youtube.com/live/3MWUaJoo4k?si=sPDWRp1QKa3wIOOP>

B. Kalyan Jyoti 2023 - 1 (January 21 2023)

On January 21st OSA Georgia volunteers participated in the first Kalyan Jyoti, our community service event, of the year at Books for Africa (BFA), a non-profit organization committed to helping improve literacy and education in Africa by providing books to them. Our chapter members donated 1000+ books for all age groups. Our volunteers collected the books, transported them to the BFA warehouse. They also donated their labor to work alongside the BFA team for well over 4 hours to unload books from the containers, sort those by type and age group and help the team in making those ready for shipping to Africa. All our volunteers, especially kids, highly appreciated the event and are looking forward to doing more to give back to the community.



<https://youtu.be/SFJ3y5NIVEU>

C. Dekha Sakhyat 2023 (February 12 2023)

We had our 3rd edition of Dekha Sakhyat, our annual meet and greet event on February 12, 2023. The weather, although not ideal, was nice enough to allow many of us to join the event and make it hugely successful. The event leadership team (Reetwik, Ranjit, Saphalya, Soumya and Satyaban) planned and executed everything to perfection right from food, Zumba, kids games and Pitha Utsava.



Reetwik and Smitha were fantastic in making sure all of us (new or long timers) got to introduce ourselves to the community. Madhu, Liza and Samikya planned the kids event so we'll and made sure our little ones had a fun time as well. Ananya made us dance to Zumba steps and lose some of the calories we got from the yummy breakfast brought to us by our excellent ELT. Our Pitha judges Smita Nani and Sudhanshu Bhaina's expert comments



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added a new flavor to all the wonderful Pithas prepared by participants. We also had a couple of announcements. Our local Odia School (Barnabodha Shikhyalaya) led by Smita Nani, Micky Acharya, Rani and Ranjita, shared their plans for the local Odia school.

D. Kalyan Jyoti 2023 - 2 (March 26 2023)

OSA Georgia collaborated with Vibha for a community service event involving youth for our second edition of Kalyan Jyoti. Over 40 volunteers from our chapter spent a good 3+ hours at Meals by Grace packing food and supplies and delivering those to the families in need in the local area. Our youth liked it and learned a lot from it. Here's a quick snippet under 3 min capturing our activities this afternoon.



<https://youtu.be/CbxOS4sRWGc>

E. Utkala Dibasa (April 22 2023)

The Georgia Chapter of the Odisha Society of Americas (OSA-Georgia) celebrated UTKALA DIBASA with a lot of fanfare on a sunny spring afternoon of April 22nd, 2023. On this occasion over 300 Prabasi Odias came together with their families to celebrate the 88th foundation day of Odisha at the Auditorium at Lanier High School in Sugar Hill.

Over 130 enthusiastic participants, with equal involvement from adults and kids of all ages, put together this splendid production. The audience were actively enjoying, applauding and cheering the performers. The timely ending of the show was commended by the guests who were



glad to do ଗଢ଼ ସଢ଼ and chat while enjoying the sumptuous Odia dinner. Everyone loved to get a flavor of their favorite Odia food with “ଛେନା ଚରକାରି”, “ଆଳୁ ପୋଚଳ ରସା”. The non vegetarian folks were seen enjoying “Chicken ଚରକାରି”.

This year OSA-GA also welcomed a few postgraduate students who were delighted to find Odisha right here , home away from home.



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https://youtu.be/30wE2H5ch98?si=tJfNxzjE_vltf6ME

F. Kalyan Jyoti 2023 - 3 (July 22 2023)

Keeping with our tradition of giving back to the community through our Kalyan Jyoti initiative, we had our third community service event of the year at 'Save the Horses' on July 22, 2023. They are a non-profit organization run by volunteers, funded by donations, that adopts animals (horses, donkey, pigs, goats, chicken, turkey, peacock and much more - many of them dropped off at their location because of disabilities) and takes care of them giving them a good life. Our own Odia community members actively participated and witnessed first hand how these animals receive love and care just through sheer volunteering work and love for animals.



Our volunteers joined hands with the Save the Horses team to clean their shelters, clean animal droppings, cut and clean trees, fix windows in their shelters and much more. Many children joined the event too and they loved getting close to the animals, petting them, grooming them, taking pictures with them etc. There were about 30 of us including kids and our contribution was visible in accomplishing a lot of work in just half a day.

Here's a little video capturing the activities and insight from today!

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=UT4ahnBZBw8&feature=share>

G. Festival of India by IACA (August 13 2023)

OSA Georgia Chapter participated in the Independence Day celebrations in the Atlanta area hosted by India American Cultural Association (IACA) on Sunday August 13th. Over 5000 people attended the event throughout the day and enjoyed the celebrations. Our folk dance presentation had a creative combination of Chaiti Ghoda dance coupled with Nabarangpur dance. Our dancers' elegant moves in colorful costumes stole the hearts of the audience. Our Chaiti Ghodas were the attraction of the event and many people were lining up to take pictures with them. The Ghodas were made by our chapter members locally in Georgia, and with key input and guidance from Ullasini Apa from the



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South East chapter. This goes to say, how strongly we are bonded as an OSA family across chapters and how we support each other for collective growth.

We also had an OSA Georgia booth where we displayed artifacts and videos about Odisha and its significance. Many people stopped by, gathered information and showed interest in visiting Odisha, India's best kept secret.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rgTv5XFI7TM>

H. Regional Drama Festival (RDF) (August 26 2023)

OSA Georgia hosted our first event involving our neighboring chapters along with us. We had 5 wonderful dramas accompanied by some solo and group performances as well as live singing by our invited artist, Dr Nazia Alam! We had a power packed 4 hours of complete entertainment, with the audience giving rave reviews on all the performances. The dramas came for special praise from everyone. Here are the 5 dramas

- ମାତ୍ର ହାଣ୍ଡି କଥା - by Southern kids
- ମୋ ସ୍ତ୍ରୀର ବାହାଘର - by Georgia adults
- ଶ୍ରୀ ଗଣେଶ - by Georgia kids
- USA vs India life style - by Southern adults
- ସାନ ସିନା ସିନେ, ବାନଟା ମହାନ - by South East adults and kids



The Southern Chapter team took the opportunity to invite everyone to the convention in Nashville.

https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLgJD2FM3uGC5cdPpVZglPhXHTBH5D_9uK&si=todxJ6g1pHQyBs5

I. Barnabodha Shikhyalaya

smitta.panda@gmail.com: kindly update



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J. Youth Activities

OSA Georgia launched a youth activity group during Utkala Dibasa celebration under the leadership of Likun Mishra, Nitai Misra and Taruna Panda. Over 18 families with young children have signed up for the initiative. The goal is to have our youth (and the parents) get to know each other, participate in fun activities, cultivate skills, education and character traits like leadership & STEM. They have been meeting regularly and planning the activities together. There was a great engagement in a recent activity where our kids participated in a rock climbing activity and had fun together.

