

JOGA Holi Celebration on March 22, 2008

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Note: Holi program was arranged by [JOGA, Jagannatha Organization for Global Awareness](#) at [Temple Siva Vishnu Temple Auditorium, 6905 Cipriano Road, Lanham, Maryland 20706](#)

General Overview



The 10th Annual Holi festival organized by JOGA (Jagannath Organization for Global Awareness) and local Oriyas in Washington DC was held on Saturday, March 22, 2008 at Sri Siva Vishnu Temple auditorium in Lanham, Maryland. It was a great event with more than 80 families in the gathering and with spectacular cultural program. The success of the Holi program is attributed to the true friendship in the hearts of involved volunteers. The special attraction this year was the release of JOGA Souvenir Jogasutra Vol II by Dr Indu Mishra and JOGA CD Jogadhara by Dr Prafulla Mishra.

Members of JOGA (<http://www.jogaworld.org>) have been organizing Oriya Holi event for ten years. Oriya style Holi celebration was introduced in USA first by this community in 1998. The traditional procession of deities in decorated palanquins (bimaanas) with kirtan adds uniqueness to this event every year. This year it had no exception. The bhajans by Dr Partha Mohapatra and Arati followed the traditional procession. The creative decorative designs by Sangeeta Dey, Dr Julie Acharya Ray and Sikha Sen added more charm to the event this year.

The theme this year was "Holira Dasha Ranga", i.e., the ten colors of Holi. There were 10 dance items including Odissi, Sambalpuri, Bharatnatyam, Rhythm and Bollywood dances designed to represent the 10 colors. The choreography of the Sabhinaya Pallabi, "Kuhukuhu Koili Gae" by Mrs Jayantee Paine Ganguly, Director of Konark Dance School was superb. The dance by the group involving small and teenage children truly reflected the talents in the choreography and the coordination. The impromptu drama "Mahalaxmi" was full of humor. The participants Debaki Nandan Chowdhury, Dr Nrusingha Mishra, Meera Mohapatra, Leena Mishra, Dr Bigyani Das, Pratap Dash, Sidharth Mohapatra, Anjana Chowdhury, Debanjan Chowdhury, Debanshi Chowdhury, Simoni Mishra, Sulu Das captivated the audience with their acting and the flow of the events. The songs by Bala Dixit, Ayesha Kar and Dr Julie Acharya Ray added extra elegance to the event.

Oriyas from 7 states, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, North Carolina, Delaware, Washington DC and Maryland participated in the event. Three families that were in the beginning of this tradition in 1998 Dhirendra Kar, Dr Subhendu Mattagajasingh and Dr Padmanabha Pradhan who had since moved to other states drove miles to be a part of this historic milestone.

Food coordinated by Urmila Sahu, Bandita Mishra was excellent and excellent stage management by Sanjay Sahoo, Prasanna Nayak and Brahmapiya Sen made the event timely. Mrs Sulochana Patnaik handled the public relation very well. The MCs of the event Brahmapiya Sen, Julie Acharya Ray, Joy Gopal Mohanty, Devraj Sahu and Jhinu Chhotray were very organized and performed perfectly in their roles. The dedicated volunteers not only made the program successful, but enjoyable and memorable.

Melana:

The first part of the program was "Melana". The "bimanas" that had arrived for the procession are:

- Lord Jagannath brought by Nrusingha Mishra's family from Germantown, Maryland;
- Radha-Krishna by Shashadhar Mahapatra's family from Silver Spring, Maryland;
- Radha-Madan Mohan brought by Naresh Das's family from Columbia, Maryland;
- Lord Jagannath brought by Joy Gopal Mohanty's family from Elkridge, Maryland;
- Lord Jagannath brought by Indu Mishra's family from Columbia, Maryland



Sikha Sen had created decorated "Asthaana" for the bimanas to be kept. The bimanas entered the auditorium with kirtan and playing of color. Kirtan lyrics by all the devotees filled the air. The families and friends enjoyed doing the bandapana and putting "abira" on each other. After all the bimanas reached the auditorium stage, devotees came to do Arati and bandApanA.

Registration:

Sulochana Patnaik, Priti Biswal and Bikash Sahu were at the registration desk distributing the program schedule and name tags.

Welcome Speech:

Brahmapriya Sen delivered the welcome speech. He welcomed everybody on behalf of Jagannath Organization for Global awareness, also known as JOGA. He thanked the families that have been participating and supporting this program continuously for ten years. He also thanked the parents and the children that have worked hard in practicing group items with the team spirit to present in today's function. He invited everybody to join hands together and make the community strong.



Bhajan (Theme: Sehi Krushna Sehi Jagannatha):

Dr Joy Gopal Mohanty moderated the bhajan program. The group bhajans were presented by local singers Moushumi Patnaik, Dr Julie Acharya Ray, Debaki Nandan Chowdhury, Dr Nrusingha Mishra, Bandita Mishra, Dr Deepa Das, Dr Bigyani Das, Leena Mishra, Pratap Dash, Meera Mohapatra, Debanjan Chowdhury and Debanshi Chowdhury with instrumental help from Dr Naresh Das.

The special Holi welcome song "Asichi Hori Asichi Hori Re" by the group added dynamism to the event.



Stage Decoration and Stage Management



organizing capability of Prassana Nayak.

The stage decoration by Sangeeta Dey, Dr Julie Acharya Ray, Brahmapriya Sen and Prasanna Nayak and Lalit Behera added extra charm to the event. The special decorative items were hand crafted by Sangeeta Dey and Julie Acharya Ray.



Stage management, lights and sounds were taken care of by Sanjay Sahoo, Prasanna Nayak and Brahmapriya Sen. The items were presented in timely manner with excellent sound management by the experienced and efficient sound controller Sanjay Sahoo and

Cultural Program:

Brahmapriya Sen, the Master of Ceremony for the cultural program welcomed the audience and gave a brief overview of the program. Julie Acharya Ray, co-MC of the event shared background stories that go on behind the scene during the practices and encouraged all the children to continue this team spirit.

There were 14 items in total with more than 30 children participating in the show. All the items were well practiced and of high quality. The special Sabhinaya Pallabi for this occasion was taught by Jayantee Paine Ganguly, the director of the Konark



Dance School, Lanham. The famous holi dance “Holi Holire Holi, Ranga Rangeli Nail” by little children was a big hit. The costumes were specially rented from professional costume providers for all the group items. Some of them were stitched by the parents. Tapasi Panigrahi and Nirpita Daschowdhury enthralled the audience with a special rhythm dance. Both of them are Odissi dancers and their creative choreography could be very well felt in their presentation.

The program details are given below.

1. Sabhinaya Pallabi (Director: Jayantee Paine Gaunguly):

Konark Dance School Students: Mrunali Das, Shashwati Das, Ankita Ray, Raven Holmes, Lonika Behera, Ciaran Guilford, Adishree Nayak, Disha Das, Aparna Ray

2. Bollywood Dance by Virginia Kids (I) (Director: Supriya Pattanayak):

Ashita Sahu, Shreya Tripathy, Satwik Bisoi, Ipsita Das, Urvi Dhala, Neha Pattanyak, Sohail Mohanty, Om Sahu, Amrita Sahu

3. Odissi (Ki Sobha Go Kunje): Shibani Kanungo

4. Bollywood Dance: Supriya Pattanayak

5. Bharatnatyam: Sikha Chaurasia

6. Sambalpuri Dance: Perna Pradhan



7. Holi Dance by Columbia Children (Director: Ankita Ray): Suchismita Ojha, Rene Sen, Harshita Balla, Aparna Ray, Adishree Nayak, Anmol Dash, Neil Sen, Ishaan Dey, Raghav Joshi, Sudip Behera

8. Rhythm Dance: Nirlipta Daschoudhury, Tapasi Panigrahi (Rath)

9. Bollywood Dance (Medley): Rajashree Mishra, Ankita Ray, Shashwati Das

10. Bollywood Dance by Virginia Children (Director: Sudhir Raju): Soumya Pattanayak, Mehul Behera, Sarthak Suman Sahu Rishiraj Kanungo, Akash Raju, Amratya Mohan Banerjee George Price, Shivani Kanungo, Lonika Behera

11. Dance: Pratik Pradhan

12. Song: Ayesha Kar

13. Karaoke Singing: Bala Dixit and Julie Acharya Ray

14. Drama: Mahalakshmi (MC: Jhinu Chhotray)



This drama was about a girl named Laxmi (Good name: Mahalaxmi) and a boy named Malaya (Nick name: Pabana). The events in their life had brought them together for an unexpected outcome.

The drama was formatted and directed by most of the participants, Pratap Dash in particular.



The drama was based on the theme that unexpected events do occur in everyone's life. People plan, people make hopes, aspirations. Lord makes the decision and creates events that are beneficial for everybody. It's His world.

The participants were:

Mahalaxmi: Leena Mishra

Bulbul: Anjana Chowdhury

Police Constable Head: Pratap Dash

Police Constable Junior: Sidharth Mohapatra

Radha Devi: Dr Bigyani Das

Sita Devi: Meera Mohapatra

Hari Purohite: Dr Nrusingha Mishra

Children: Debanjan Chowdhury, Debanshi Chowdhury, Simoni Mishra and Sulagna Dash

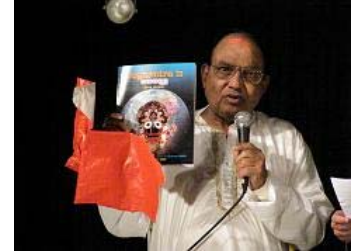
Malaya (Pabana): Debaki Nandan Chowdhury



Jogasutra and Jogadhara Announcements:



Announcements were made by Dr Devraj Sahu for JOGA Souvenir Jogasutra, Vol II and Bhajan CD Jogadhara that were produced to commemorate ten years of Holi celebration. Dr Sahu gave introduction about the mission behind the creation of the above products and invited Dr Indu Mishra and Dr Prafulla Mishra to



announce the formal release.

The souvenir Jogasutra volume 2 contains materials considering the needs of immigrant Oriya families with some spiritual awareness.

Jogadhara is a bhajan CD produced by local singers. Dr Surendra Ray is the music director and Dr Abhijit Ray is the recording director of the CD.



Certificates and Recognition:

Certificates were presented to all the participants of the cultural program. Arun Ojha was in charge of creating certificates. Julie Acharya Ray and Mrs Kanan Mishra distributed the certificates to the children.



Dinner (Prasad) and Snacks (Bhoga):

The major part of the program, food, was managed by Urmila Sahu and Bandita Mishra as coordinators. The food was prepared by Mahashakti Dash of Baltimore Jaganath temple. Other bhoga and Prasad materials were contributed by Itishree Das, Meera Mohapatra, Naresh Das, Bandita Mishra, Sulochana Patnaik and Urmila Sahu.



Memories: Video Recording and Photographs

Credits for most of the pictures in this report go to Dr Babru Samal, Many others have taken pictures as well as made video recordings that will be available later. The following link includes more pictures.

<http://www.babru.com/holi08>

Cleaning:

Everybody who stayed till the end participated in the clean up. Most of the credits go to Surya Sahoo and Anup for cleaning the auditorium.

Holi Sponsors:

Balabhadra Sponsors: *Uma and Shanti Mishra, NY,
Anonymous Donor, MD*

Subhadra Sponsors: *Nrusingha and Bandita Mishra, MD*

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