



Volume 31. Issue No 11. August 2004

ASA Newsletter

News & events of the Assamese people living around the world

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From The Editorial Desk

Water is everywhere. Year after year, people face the same tragic situation as if there is no viable way out of this perennially tragic plight. In the midst of a sea of water, one cannot even find a drop of clean potable water to give a dying child. We are resigned to a lack of solution and the problem of flooding has no end in sight.

We have all the resources, but still we remain poor, not able to make efficient use of them. There seems to be no proper planning and no scientific research of the problem and its solution. Every year the situation becomes more serious. During flood, prices of all commodities increase; newspapers and journalists report heavily on the aftermath; however, it never results in actions. People forget everything once flood is over. Many

people die because of flood or flood related diseases. Nobody has time to think for them for long.

Is it possible to promote some water-based industries in Assam? Can we save the water during flood and make it drinkable and export it to Gujarat, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, and other parts of India where water is not easily available. Or to Europe and all Middle East countries where water is treated as gold? Will it not be a good export oriented business or is it the end of our yearlong flood problem? May be not. May be we all together can change its direction forever, who knows? May be some day some big multinational company will come forward to set up a water treatment plant! *Vavani Sarmah, PA*

New Executive Body

On August 2, 2004, the Chairman, Nomination Committee, Mr. Mahesh Baishya declared he result of the ASA Executive Committee 2004 elections. The elections were conducted over a period of a month through paper and electronic ballots. The results are as follows:

President: Dr. Sanjib Bhuyan, New Jersey
Vice President: Mr. Utpal Brahma, New Jersey.

General Secretary: Mr. Ganesh Bora, Kansas
Member: Mr. Kedar Bhuyan, New Jersey
Member: Dr. Mantu Baishya, Nebraska
Member: Mr. Probal Tahbildar, New Jersey
Member: Mrs. Sangeeta Duorah, California

The new leadership took office on the 8th of August in a formal meeting held in Edison, New Jersey.

From the Desk of the New ASA President

Dear members,

First of all, thank you all for your support and faith in me by electing me to lead the ASA. I appreciate it and promise to do my best to improve our organization to better serve its members and the general Assamese community at large. Of course I'll need all the help, support, and advice I can garner from you (and thanks in advance). We had an excellent beginning - we had a general meeting on Aug 8th at the home of Mukulda (Mukul Chowdhary) where we made concrete plans for several actions, e.g., we're going to have quarterly meetings - dates set and venues selected till Aug '05 (you'll receive more info on this and other matters soon); and publish the ASA newsletter in paper every month - all set for one year. One of my efforts would be to increase the paid membership which at present is much less than the number of potential members.

Additionally, I'd also like to know what our members paid or otherwise, want from this organization in both short and long run. I'd appreciate if you could write to me (bhuyan@aesop.rutgers.edu) your own personal response to this question. Regardless of the number of ASA members who receive this newsletter, I'd like to receive your valuable input and that'll be a great start - thank you! I'm planning to send out a very short questionnaire to ALL members, past and present, and find out what they want from ASA and their thoughts on how to accomplish those wants, and how to improve our organization. We also made several other decisions that will require a greater participation from you, the ASA member, e.g., making the immediate ex-President of ASA as the ex-officio of ASA exec team (national) - this will require an amendment to the ASA constitution. I'm also going to meet Mahesh Kalita (I already talked to him twice), President, AANA as soon as he recovers from his recent car accident to discuss

the future of our "probaxi axomia" community at large. My sincere hope is that despite differences, real or otherwise, we all should try to find ways to work together for greater good. At the same time, we'll continue to build our future irrespective of the outcome of my efforts to have a united - as far as possible - community, at least when it comes to Bihu, Tithi, etc. More on this later, e.g., the NE Regional office of ASA, is in the process of exploring holding the Sri Sri Shankardeva Tithi together with AANA next month - I encourage those of you who are not in the NE to do the same for Tithi and Bihu - please let me know if you need any help. A brief note on the on-going flood relief efforts by AFNA: Although there will be no call to you from me (as the ASA President) to donate money, please feel free to donate either directly to AFNA or come to the music concert on Sept 18th to be held at the Six Mile Run Church, Franklin Park (near Magyar Bank on Rt. 27, NJ) - the decision is your own (for instance, I'm going to donate at this music concert). I'd also like you to think about what we can do to address such natural disasters as flood, e.g., putting political pressure (lobbying) for some engineering/scientific solution to the problem. Finally, I'm counting on you and your friends' support and help to serve this organization and its member interests through various activities that are planned or on the way. Your suggestions regarding what members want and how to achieve that would be a great start - please write to me!



Thank you very much! Regards to one and all.

Sanjib Bhuyan, NJ

An Open Letter to the CM of Assam

At first, let me thank you for leading our home state Assam and making it glorious and prosperous. Also I thank you because in various occasions you have shown your eagerness and earnest desire to visit the US to meet the Assamese people living abroad so that they can participate in the development of Assam. In last few years' Assamese people have come to US in groups and established themselves in prominent positions. However, compared to the other states of India, the number of Assamese people coming to US is very small. At the same token, we have to give credit to people of other states because they have discovered US much before than we did. When they started their own big companies to compete with their US counterparts, we were soliciting employment in those companies. However, you will be happy to know that today many Assamese entrepreneurs established their own companies and doing an admirable job.

Sometimes I go to meetings organized by other Indian communities. Whether it is cultural or religious get together, whoever speaking as President or Chief Guest in those get-togethers the starting line of their speech invariably start with "We are a great Indian community starting from Kashmir to Kanya Kumari in the north south direction and Gujarat to Bengal in east west direction." Are we missing something in this statement? Are there not seven other states beyond Bengal? I think, it is mainly due to their ignorance about geographical boundaries of the Indian continent. At the same time we should blame ourselves for not raising our voice for this injustice imposed by other Indian communities. My appeal to you that it is time, we should work hard to put our name in the Indian Map once and for all. As Chief Minister of the State, you have to carry most the burden to fulfill this objective. We need to do our homework selectively and show that this work has the nation's attention. The following paragraphs describe a few things that we can do effectively to give a movement to achieve that goal.

What I feel, first and foremost, we need a strong presence of the Assamese Community in the US. There are various avenues in the US that we should exploit to achieve this goal. The key to survival in the US is to get a job. Currently, various news and media groups giving a very bleak picture about the US job market. However, if someone critically analyzes the job market, it is vivid that there are at least few areas in which jobs are plentiful. These areas are Information Technology, Hospital Nurse Assistance and Physical Therapy, Biotechnology, Bio-Engineering, etc.

Information Technology (IT) and Biotechnology has lots of future and growth. Many feel that currently, IT has reached its peak and do not see any further growth. However, many trade magazine and other news media are debating and think that it is still in its formative years. Nobody can predict the future but many agree that IT is here for the long run. Assamese people have a fair share of these job opportunities and many intelligent individuals established themselves in a very strong position. However, relative to other states of

India, Assam's share of this pie is very minimal. My feeling is that a state sponsored program in IT will not go waste.

The current statistics shows that about forty percent of the American work force will be retiring by 2010. There is a term widely used as Baby Boomers retiring in 2010. There is prediction that this event will create lots of job opportunities for the Hospital Nursing Assistant and Physical Therapist. The US Commence Department and Labor Department statistics shows that there will be one million Nurse Assistants and one million Physical Therapists will be required by 2010. The local graduates from US in this field will probably fill only about 40% of those jobs. To meet this demand US have to get people from out side the country.

The other Indian States and countries like the Philippines and Indonesia have already started gearing up to take a large share of these job opportunities. We have seen Nurses from southern states of India already working in various hospitals in US.

It is high time we should equip ourselves if we are interested to have a large share of these job opportunities. With a proper training program in place, this can be easily achieved. The kind of jobs I have illustrated may go against the grain of jobs what Assamese people are aware of. Because we are so use to jobs like doctors, engineers, computer scientist etc., but trends are changing and what is becoming important for many is how much we earn rather than what we do. National statistics about average salary by different professions put Nursing and Physical Therapist salary way above than many other professions.

The basic requirements to fulfill the criteria are to go through standard curriculum as it is taught in US. At the same time, the candidates need to have fluency in English and speak English in an American way. We have full confidence that Assamese men and women are brilliant enough to grasp these training programs very easily. We also have full confidence that, by discussion with your colleagues, you can establish training centers, so that graduates from those centers can directly compete for jobs here in US.

It is in the Assam's news media that you are eager to come to US and meet and discuss business deals with Assamese people here so that Assamese people has some investment in Assam. My appeal to you that besides meeting Assamese entrepreneurs please widen your horizon and try to meet groups of Indian communities and make them excited to set up industries and establish training facilities in Assam. Ideal time to visit and meet people is during Indian Independence day (15th August) or Indian Republic day



(26th January). These are the dates when you can take advantage of large gathering of Indian people.

Thanks for reading this letter.

By Dr. Mantu C Baishya, Nebraska

Mousumi Saharia: *A musical career in brief ...*

Mousumi Saharia is a popular name for Assamese music lovers. Her sweet and melodious voice has captured the heart beat of many fans. She started her musical career at the age of 5 years at Mangaldoi, in northern Assam. Her first commercial release was an audio cassette in 1990 which got overwhelming response from her fans. In 1995 her next solo album *Tumi Mousumi* sold more than 100,000 copies. *Moi Mousumi*, *Morimi Mousumi*, *Jauban*, *Mon Nache Ulahot*, etc. are super hit albums released in the subsequent years.

From 1998 to 2001, she had 5 super hit albums released, namely *Rongmon*, *Nache Nache Lage Mon*, *Kokalore Gagoni*, *Hiyar Morom* and *Devi Mantra*, with co-singers like Udit Narayan, Kumar Sanu, Sadananda Gogoi and Zubeen Garg.

Two of her best albums are *Akashi Ganga*, eight nos. of popular songs of

Dr Bhupen Hazarika, followed by *Manuhe Manuhor Babe*. Both the albums were wide accepted by the people of all over. Even Dr Hazarika was thrilled to listen his songs sung by Mousumi and opined as "All the upcoming singers who have sung my songs, Mousumi is the best among them".

Not only in the field of music, but Mousumi has excelled in academics as well. She appeared 10th final examination from T.C. Girls High School, Guwahati and stood 1st with highest mark in Music (93%) in all-Assam basis. In 1998, she stood 3rd in all-Assam basis 12th examination from Cotton College, Guwahati. Mousumi graduated from Cotton College (under Gauhati University) in 2001 and secured 1st Class 1st position with Distinction in Education. In 2004, she completed her post graduation in Education from Gauhati University and secured 1st Class 2nd position.

Mousumi performed in London on the occasion of birth centenary celebration of Jyoti Prasad Agarwalla in 2003, organized by Assam Sahitya Sabha, UK Chapter. Besides, she has also performed in different parts of India. So far, Mousumi has sung in more than 80 albums.

She has also sung for several television shows, films, and video albums.



She is the daughter of Mr. Hem Chandra Saharia & Mrs. Kanaklata Saharia.

By Babul Gogoi, Guwahati.

AFNA Projects

Flood Relief

Coordinator: Paban Sarma
(paban_sarma@yahoo.com)

Unprecedented flooding of Assam creates enormous problem almost throughout Assam. Assam Foundation of North America (AFNA) has started a flood relief fund. The disbursement of this fund will be professionally handled and you will be kept informed about where the money is spent.

Your donation will be disbursed using one or more of the following methods:

Immediate assistance (food medicine) to affected villages of our neighborhood villages in Assam by our own family members. Our friends and family members in Assam will buy food grains and medicine and distribute in those villages.

Help in re-establishing a flood damaged school in a village. More than one if possible. Support the ship-of-hope project initiated by Sanjoy Hazarika led C-NES .

Note: If you know about any affected village in the neighborhood of your residence in Assam please inform Paban Sarma.

Aarohan

Coordinators: Sangeeta Saikia, Debojit Borah and Meghna Goswami (aarohan1@yahoo.com)

An Excellence Center for Children conceptualized and Bhabendranath Saikia. His unfinished dream.



Facilities will include Library, Arts and Crafts room, Music and Dance room, Drama and Poetry room, Indoor Game room, Computer facility, Auditorium etc. Special activities like Science camps, health and psychological counseling etc. will be conducted.

Aarohan will be a place where many of the children in Assam will get exposure to things (Amenities) that our kids in the US take it for granted in this country of abundance.

Developed completely with donations from individuals and organizations.

A community outreach programme geared to bring good quality education to the disadvantaged children not in school and provide them continued support so that they remain in school.

A developmental and resource center which would nurture children in an atmosphere of educational excellence and promote their academic, cultural and emotive development. This center will also serve as a training center for teachers in the community, center for workshops and camps during Phase 2 of the program which will aim at taking the programs at Aarohan to the community schools to ensure a comprehensive education to larger numbers of children across the region.

A platform for collaboration with nongovernmental organizations with similar ideologies and facilitate their entry and activities in the north east which has so far seen only a limited presence of such organizations.

Requirements:

Donation for completing the final work and furnishing the building.

Annual sponsors for day to day operational costs.

Children books and educative games and toys in good condition.

Sanjeevani

Coordinator: Krishanu Kaushik
(krishanukaushik@yahoo.com)

A Rehabilitation Center for Physically and Mentally Disabled Children.

Only NGO of this type in the entire Northern Assam Division. Located in Tezpur, Assam.

Efficiently run by dedicated individuals.

Funded by donations of well-wishers.

Type of Service provided – Physiotherapy and Education Therapy to disabled children.

No of Regular Enrollees – 40. Additional once a week service provided to – 60.

Requirements:

Annual Budget – Rs. 9,38,000 (USD 21,000)

Funding Required for Construction of Hostel Facility – Rs. 21,60,000 (USD 48,000)

C-NES MEDIA Fellowships

Coordinator: Ranjan Das (ranjan@mirimizo.com)

The Centre for Northeast Studies and Policy Research is a New Delhi-based organization to work, research, document, lobby for policy changes and disseminate information on crucial issues related to the Northeast region.

One fellowship for a senior journalist from the Northeast to focus on local governance and the use of communications (particularly information technology) in states such as Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. Another fellowship for a journalist from the rest of India on development perspectives from the grassroots, especially local innovations, in the Northeast.

Conduct Workshops for journalists and Media with prominent Media figures and scholars from rest of India to discuss new technologies and approaches.

Requirements:

Annual budget: Rs. 6,57,000 (US \$15,000)

Total budget for 3 years: 19,71,000 (US \$45,000)

Project Name: SHARP

Coordinator: Vavani P Sarmah (Vavani@yahoo.com)

Scholastic Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) is the forum of Assam Society of America (Asom Xangha) for awarding financial awards to the needy and meritorious school children of Assam. In this program, 20 students have been awarded each for an amount of Rs. 1000.00 pa currently below 12th grade only. The number can be increased based on pledge and donation. Outlined below are the eligibility requirements:

Eligibility for the awards will be based on purely academic merit and/or achievements in sports combined with financial need. The applicant for the academic awards will need to score over 70% in the last two annual examinations and the applicants for the sports awards should have received at least two honors in interschool tournaments or higher forums of games.

Eligible applicants with parental income of less than Rs. 3500/- per month will receive preference. Applicants need to submit copies of the last two annual marksheets and a financial statement from parents on their annual income. Alternately, the applicant can simply send one letter of application quoting the scores of the last two annual examinations and the annual income of their parents, if the headmaster of the school under his/her official seal authenticates the scores and the income.

Presently, only the students between the 5th and the 12th grades residing in Assam are eligible.

Headmasters of the High Schools in Assam are encouraged to recommend names of two students from their schools for these awards by sending a recommendation letter quoting the student's scores for the last two annual examinations and financial status of their parents. Applications with necessary documents should be mailed to:

SHARP Scholarship Program
 Assam Society of America, P.O. Box 254 Mays Landing, NJ
 08330, USA (Vavani@yahoo.com)
 Apart from financial help, a career and higher study
 informative seminar is proposed under this SHARP program
 once/twice a year in Assam.

Requirements:
 Annual budget: Rs. 20,000.00 (US \$500)

By Partha Gogoi, VA

AFNA General Body Meeting – 2004 (Partial Minutes)

Meeting chaired by: Atul Sarma, Debabrata Sarma, Rathin Devchoudhury and Krishanu Kaushik

1. Financial Statement: Balance Sheet of the prior term 2002-2004 was presented by the president of the old committee, the summary of which is as follows:

- A. Amount Received: \$ 73,005.12
- B. Amount Disbursed: \$ 40,239.90
- C. Earmarked Funds: \$ 25,658.00

D. Net Balance (A-(B+C)): \$ 7,107.22

2. Sanjeevani: Krishanu Kaushik gave a presentation on Sanjeevani, a rehabilitation center for disabled children in Tezpur Assam, registered as an NGO.

Pledges for \$1,500 were received from the following individuals: Barada Sarma, Nripen Barua, Brajen Bordoloi, Lohit Duttabarua, Gautam Bothakur, Rajen Barua, Satyajit Dutta, Pallav Bordoloi, Atul Sarma, Jib Talukdar, Jayanta Sarma and Krishanu Kaushik.

3. C-NES Media Fellowship: Adaptation of a presentation created by Ranjan Das of Bay area was presented by Krishanu Kaushik. Pledges for about \$ 2000 have been received so far. A resolution was taken to contribute \$ 500 from AFNA's general fund

4. AID NE-Cell and Ship of Hope: Anand Sivaraman from AID Boston took the attendees through a multimedia presentation which showcased various activities of AID in India in general and the North East India in particular. He also gave a detailed presentation of the Ship of Hope project undertaken by Sanjaya Hazarika led Center for North East Studies. This project won a grant of \$ 20,000 from the World Bank. The total budget is for \$ 30,000. Need an additional \$ 10,000.

5. Aarohan: Dr. Sangeeta Saikia took the attendees on a visual journey from the conceptualization of Aarohan to its current state. Several younger members of the community were impressed by this presentation and came forward to

extend a helping hand. AFNA has committed to a long term relationship with this pet project of Dr. Bhabendranath Saikia.

A resolution was taken to contribute an additional \$ 500 from AFNA's general fund. If there is a surplus in the convention, it will be forwarded to the general fund of AFNA and the new executive committee may increase the contribution from the general fund towards this project.

6. Appointment of New Committee: Dr. Debabrata Sarma announced the names of the new nominees, got approval from the attendees present and formally announced the appointment of the new committee (for the term 2004 July - 2006 July) as follows:

Board of Directors: Krishanu Kaushik (President), Vavani Sarmah (Secretary/Treasurer), Atul Sarma, Rathin Devchoudhury, Debojit Bora, Ruma Barua

Executive Members: Partha Gogoi (Vice President), Udepta Bordoloi (Webmaster)

Committee to Amend AFNA's Constitution and By-Laws: Atul Sarma, Amiya Das, Manoranjan Bezbaruah

Committee to prepare AFNA's 25 Years accounts: Rathin Devchoudhury, Krishanu Kaushik, Debojit Bora

* AFNA will complete 25 years in 2006.

7. Recognitions: AFNA recognized two persons for their outstanding community service. They are Dr. Dilip Kumar Datta from Rhode Island for his individual contribution of more than \$ 25,000 to educational institutions in Assam in the last two years and Mr. Debojit Bora for successfully coordinating a fundraising drive leading to the contribution of \$ 4,600 (About Rs 2 Lakhs) to Aarohan. Dr. Dilip Kumar Datta had donated a considerable amount of money for construction of a Khelghar (Indoor Stadium) in JB college and a Convention Center in Guwahati University.

By Krishanu Kaushik, MI

Volunteering “My life” – a Real Path

How many of us think about volunteering for some good reason. This seems to be a new term in this modern materialistic world, but this is not true. There are several areas an individual can volunteer and learn from its experiences. Here are few of my real experiences.

I was lost in the streets of a small town named Tezpur situated in Assam. My life was full of anxiety, stress and confusion about my career and life.

Finally I drew my attention towards volunteering. In 1999, I joined KIBBUTZ Volunteering program and this was the turning point of my life. This 3 months program in Israel gave me a new vista towards life and chance to see life in a different prospective.

After my experience in Israel I had the opportunity to work for friends from Israel, which gave me more exposure in Europe. I decided to carry my volunteering works for the needy and thus I joined CSV, a reputed NGO of England which works for people with various disabilities like cerebral palsy, epileptic, and developmental disabilities. I worked for this organization for one and half year, which really opened my mind towards this new area of work. I realized how much



affection these people need. I found a meaning of life to live with, I found myself in peace of mind which is hard to define.

After my project in England I went back to India and started helping friends from Israel for the development of new projects.

In the mean time, after many interviews I cleared a place in Camphill Soltane, PA, in USA (www.camphillsoltane.org). This is a non-profit organization that works for people with special needs. So here I am since last one year, contributing for the development people with special needs.

I have been doing all these without any formal education in this field. Since the day I realized my potential in this work, I have always wanted to study social work but never had an opportunity. This time my organization has sponsored me to study social work and so I am studying in USA now and also working for Camphill Soltane at the same time. This is like a dream comes true for me to study in USA.

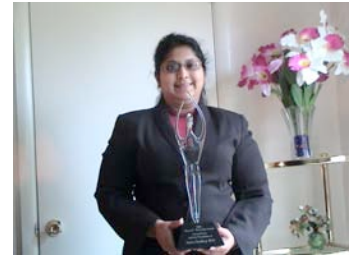
By Utpal Bora, PA (utpal_borah@hotmail.com)

Stewart J McCracken Award to Arpita Choudhury

Arthritis Foundation of Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter has helped millions of Pennsylvanians who suffer from different kinds of arthritis and autoimmune disease like lupus. The foundation also supports outstanding investigators who are making research breakthroughs. The Stewart J McCracken Award is presented annually to the individual who receives the highest-rated research project in the Philadelphia area. The recipient for this year's award is Dr Arpita Choudhury. Dr Choudhury became interested in autoimmune diseases when she pursued her Ph.D at the National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi, India. She is currently pursuing research at the University of Pennsylvania, School of Medicine. Her pioneering studies on "The loss of immune tolerance in the context of lupus" has been widely acclaimed.

Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) or "lupus" is a devastating autoimmune disease that can affect joints, skin, kidneys, heart, lungs, blood vessels, the nervous system and brain. It is characterized by production of autoantibodies against a wide-spectrum of self-antigens and deposition of

immune-complexes in different organs. The prevalence of lupus is estimated to range from 250,000 to more than 1 million people in the United States, typically women between the ages of 15 and 45. SLE disproportionately affects minorities. Lupus occurs three times more often in African-American women than Caucasian women and is also more common in women of Hispanic, Asian and Native-American descent. Lupus is the leading cause of death among women with autoimmune diseases who are in their childbearing years. People with lupus are at greater risk of heart attacks, strokes, osteoporosis and kidney failure than would be expected in those without lupus.



By Rajesh Talapatra, PA

Community News

Manjit Borah & Monima Barua of Los Gatos, CA became parents for the first time; they were blessed with a baby boy- Rishab Narayan in last July. Monima's parents Mr. & Mrs. Babul Barua from Guwahati are with them.

Last July 14 2004, Ankur & Preeti Baishya of Tracy, CA became also proud parents for the first time of a

baby boy- Arian. Preeti's mother Pravjit Kaur Bawa from Bombay is with them. Ankur's parents Mahesh and Lakhimi Baishya are very proud of their new grandson.

Also in the month of July, Mrinal & Smita Baruah of San Jose, CA became parents for the second time. Their bay girl- Nandini, sister of Amithav is doing well.

Dulari Tahbaldar and Keith Catone, both of New York City got married in Bordentown, New Jersey, on the 7th of August, 2004. Dulari's proud parents are Umesh and Pronoti Tahbaldar of Princeton, New Jersey.

Contributed by Mahesh Baishya

ASA Newsletter is a monthly email newsletter. We invite contributors from all over the world. Your valuable feedback, comments & suggestions; and of course news from your part of the world for inclusion in the coming editions are highly appreciated. Sanjib Bhuyan, NJ, on behalf of Assam Society of America, has published this issue of ASA newsletter. Assam Foundation of North America (AFNA) also sponsors the newsletter. Editors: Satyam Bhuyan (Ames, Iowa), Ganesh Bora (Manhattan, Kansas), Babul Gogoi (Guwahati, Assam), Jugal Kalita (Colorado Springs, Colorado), Shymanta Saikia (Wichita, Kansas), Santonu Goswami (El Paso, Texas), Vavani Sarmah (Secane, Pennsylvania) and Ujjal Pathak (Baton Rouge, Louisiana). ASA Executive Committee is composed of Sanjib Bhuyan, President (Kendall Park, New Jersey), Utpal Brahma, Vice President (Burlington, New Jersey), Ganesh Bora, General Secretary (Manhattan, Kansas), Probal Tahildar (Kendall Park, New Jersey), Mantu Baishya (Omaha, Nebraska), Kedar Bhuyan (Mays Landing, New Jersey) and Sangeet Duorah (California).

We are seeking a few additional members to sit on the Editorial Board. The responsibilities include writing occasionally, editing submissions, collecting contributions and disseminating the newsletter to a wider audience. If interested, please contact email: asanewsletter@assam.org or asanewsletter@yahoo.com. This newsletter can also be read online at assam.org/newsletter. If you want a printed copy of this newsletter, please contact us at the email address given above.

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Assam Society of America Newsletter
is brought to you with a generous contribution from
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