

	<p>Volume 33, Issue No 3, December 2004</p> <h1 style="color: red;">ASA Newsletter</h1> <p>News & events of the Assamese people living around the world</p>
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Letter from the President

Dear Probaxi Axomia Friend,

With holidays around the corner, it is time for family, friends, and fun! By now you have probably heard that Assamese Floridians have invited all of us to join them in a community get-together (*Assam 2005*) in the July 4th weekend. I hope you are planning to make *Assam 2005* an integral part of your summer vacation in 2005!

I am grateful to Sunil(da) Nath who is taking the lead in making this 2005 get-together a celebration for all Assamese people. This is in the tradition of common get-togethers of past when the Assamese community in North America was gathering under a single roof of *Assam xxxx*, e.g., *Assam 2002*, which pragmatically avoided crediting such community get-together to either the Assam Society of America (ASA) or the Assam Association of North America (AANA), the two principal Assamese social organizations in North America. Use of neutral names, such as *Assam XXXX*, or something of similar nature, fosters a non-party affiliated atmosphere which was welcomed by the community.

As you may (or may not) know, after the *Assam 2002* (Boulder, CO) and the *Assam 2003* (St. Louis, MO), the plan was to hold the *Assam 2004* in California. Our sister organization AANA cast doubt on the ability of those Assamese people living in California to successfully hold the *Assam 2004*, and thereby rejected California and offered to hold the annual get-together in Austin, Texas. In the spirit of the non-party affiliated annual get-together philosophy, ASA graciously agreed to the change of venue for *Assam 2004*. Unfortunately, things took a turn for the worse soon after the Austin host committee was formed because the Austin host committee

apparently unilaterally changed the name from *Assam 2004* to *Assam Convention 2004*. This change was a clear indication that the Austin get-together was for AANA members and affiliates only. Efforts by ASA to rectify the situation were fruitless and requests for a non-party affiliated get-together fell on deaf ears.



Since becoming the President of ASA in August 2004 I have emphasized working with others in areas of common interests wherever and whenever possible. We have already made some progress in this area and I sincerely hope that more to come. With that goal in mind, I contacted the President of AANA end of summer to discuss the future of Assamese get-together in 2005 and beyond. I learned that AANA was going to have its 2005 annual meeting in Edmonton, Canada (*Assam Convention 2005*; Organizer - Biren Choudhury). I strongly believed that in order to foster a greater community-based relationship among the probaxi axomia, holding the Edmonton get-together in a non-party affiliated mode would be an excellent way to show to the community how much we care about them. AANA President and I discussed this matter at length in person in early November 2004. Unfortunately I was informed by the AANA President in early December that AANA was not interested in changing the 2005 Edmonton get-together to a common, non-party affiliated event -- it will be an AANA get-together (*Assam Convention 2005*). I was very disappointed, to say the least, to see that my efforts to bring the greater Assamese

community under a non-party affiliated roof did not succeed. I thank all those who sent encouraging messages/calls.

Given these circumstances, I am very grateful to the Assamese people of Florida, particularly Sunilda, for organizing a non-partisan Assamese get-together in 2005. As I understand, Sunilda (Nath) has invited Assamese people of all stripes – let's heed his call and make *Assam 2005* a grand success! Not only should you plan to attend, but also get involved in planning the party!

As soon as I learn about the exact location of *Assam 2005* from the organizing committee, I will inform you (or you may know from other sources). I look forward to see ALL of YOU in *Assam 2005*!! Wishing you and yours a very Happy Holiday Season and a Happy New Year!

Sincerely,
Sanjib Bhuyan
President, ASA

Invitation to Assam 2005

To: AANA, AFNA, ASA, UAONA, Asom Sahitya Sabha (USA Branch), American Association of Physicians from Assam (AAPA), Jonaki Group (California), Assamrado Group (Colorado), Texamese (Texas), Assam DC Metro Group (DC), Assamese In Bangalore, Assamese in Dubai, Assam Engineering College Alumni, Assamese from Bangladesh, Second Generation Assamese in North America, Tezpur University Graduates, Assamese in Mumbai, Assamese in Dubai, United Assamese Organization of the UK, Information Technology Practitioners from Assam, and others

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Assamese Floridians, it gives me great pleasure to invite you to join us for an exciting Assamese community get-together during the 2005 July 4th weekend in Orlando. We want you to enjoy your vacation in Florida among family and friends without caring about party affiliations. Therefore, we are calling it "Assam 2005" following past tradition of togetherness and unity. We want to make it a memorable event filled with excellent food, fun, and entertainment. Among the artists who will be performing in "Assam 2005" includes Ms. Elora Bora Singh of Assam who is a well-known dance performer. She is a regular in Doordasan and has dance schools in both Guwahati and Nagaon.

The "Assam 2005" is part of an on-going effort to bring together the scattered Assamese community in North America for a celebration of our heritage and culture. In addition to individuals, we are inviting all the Assamese social groups in North America to make it a community get-together regardless of party affiliations. So far we have received positive response from many individuals and we hope to receive similar response from you and your organization. I also take this opportunity to invite other expatriate Assamese people around the world to join us if possible.



Regarding program details, please look for more information in your regular mail and email in the near future. Tentatively we are planning for July 1st arrival and leaving on July 4th, 2005. Every body is encouraged to organize their own holiday plan afterward. Please distribute this letter as well as the upcoming details among all Assamese family and friends, and any interested parties. I hope to see you and many others in July 2005 to make the "Assam 2005" a greater community event for all.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact me at Nath3312@aol.com, or by phone at (850) 906-0026.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! See you in Orlando!

Sincerely,
Sunil B. Nath
December 7, 2004
Tallahassee, Florida

Partial Minutes of ASA Meeting, October 10, 2004

Hosted by Ritumoni and Kabita Sarma

This is the 2nd quarterly meeting for the 2004-05 term.

1. *Minutes of the August 8, 2004* meeting was approved unanimously.
2. **President's Report**
 - a. *Newsletter*: ASA newsletter is

being mailed to about 150 people around North America including. Each month's issue is being sponsored by either members or well-wishers

b. *Flood relief efforts*: Total money raised for the flood relief effort (concert on Sept 18th) was \$1,516 of which \$350 was paid to Purandar Sharma to cover expenses. The money raised will be

used to provide means to livelihood instead of cash or food, e.g., rickshaw, jal (fish net), etc., to people in flood affected areas. ASA is working with well-wishers in Guwahati ("Guwahati Adda" via Amiya Sharma and Abhijit Sharma) to select a NGO which will disburse the money in the form micro-loans with minimum or no interests.

This will allow the principal to be recirculated among the needy people in d. cooking and eating utensils to the Deaf and Dumb School in Kahilipara, Guwahati) as of Oct is \$1,165. The Phase II of Project Hope will be focused on the Blind School in Nagaon.

e. *Fund raising strategies:* Sanjib suggested to the Project Coordinators and ASA members in general to adopt alternative fund raising strategies, e.g., community garage sale, tie-in with business, Music concert, auction of donated items, taste test of food and drinks popular among Assamese people, etc. Sanjib wrote to the women members of ASA living in the NY/NJ/PA area to take charge of the fund raising efforts – these women include Malabika Brahma, Kabita Sarma, Mousumi Chattarjee, Pronoti Dutta, Anuradha Deka, Ruprekha Bhuyan, Sue Bhuyan, Probina Tahbildar, Nilakshi Thakuria, Suravi Kalita, etc

f. *Volunteering:* The list below shows “who’s doing what” as of Oct 2004. Sanjib urged members to take the initiative and leadership in something you like to do - please select an activity that fits ASA’s mission and put your energy into it on a regular basis.

1. Newsletter preparation work – Jugal, Vavani, and others; 2. Newsletter mailing (email) – Ganesh; 3. Newsletter snail mail – Sanjib, Probal; 4. Website work – Probal; 5. Fund raising: a. Flood relief – Sanjib, Jukti, b. Project Hope – Malabika, Mantu, c. General fund raising – Women of ASA!, d. Project Nikki – Vavani (Shantanu Chattarjee, Vavani); 6. Managing money – Kedar Bhuyan; 7. Creating a

flood affected areas for a longer time.

c. *Project Hope:* Malabika Brahma data base of emails/contacts – Ganesh, Probal; 8. ASAF work – Mukul Chowdhary., Nomal Dutta, Jukti Kalita, Kedar Bhuyan, Mantu Baishya, Mahesh Baishya, and Pranab Sharma; 9. Magazine - Jukti, Utpal

f. *Membership drive:* Two methods were discussed – writing letters which is deemed costly, and making personal calls by current members – cheaper and more effective. Those who were present in the meeting agreed that the second method is better. Sanjib made a call to all to take up recruiting new members as a new charge for everybody!

g. *Assamese Get-together for 2005:* Sanjib reported that there was no response from Mahesh Kalita, President of ASA, who was supposed to contact Sanjib regarding a joint get-together in 2005. Despite such a negative sign, the ASA members asked its President to contact Biren Chowdhury of Edmonton, Canada to explore the possibility. Sanjib agreed to do so and will report back to the general body in the next meetings in January.

3. **Vice-President’s Report:** Utpal Brahma reported that while most of the ASA properties are accounted for, some items are still missing. It was also decided that instead of trying to bring these properties to a central place, these ASA properties should be with those who are currently keeping these at their home SO LONG AS these current safe keepers acknowledge that these properties are public property and will need to be returned as and when asked.

4. **Report from the Treasurer:** In

reported that the total money raised for Project Hope Phase I (to provide the absence of Kedar Bhuyan, who was not able to attend the meeting due to previous engagements, Sanjib Bhuyan provided the ASA balance sheet as of Sept 30, 2004 as follows:

a. Membership fee	\$1,000.00
Project funds	\$2,784.00
Non-project fund:	\$1,929.00
Physical assets (estimated)	\$500.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$5,713.00

(excluding physical assets)

b. Liabilities: Project earmarked (Project Hope, Flood relief, etc.)	\$4,284.00
Publicity related (newsletter, web, etc.)	\$500.00

Legal/accounting fees: \$700.00

TOTAL LIABILITIES \$5,484.00

NET ASSETS \$229.00

5. New Business:

a. **Amendments to the ASA Constitution** – Sanjib urged members to review the amendments proposed by him and others and write to Mantu Baishya who is in charge of the Constitution-related matters. Members were given copies via email as well as hard copies were distributed in the meeting.

b. **A new Yahoo group for the NE ASA community:** Sanjib has informed the members from the NY/NJ/PA region that an alternative Yahoo group will be created for ASA members of this region where community members in the NE USA can post messages. This new Yahoo group is called *ASA_NorthEastUSA*

By Sanjib Bhuyan, New Jersey.

The Newsletter Contacts Dr. Mamoni Goswami in New Delhi

The ASA Newsletter spoke with Dr. Mamoni Goswami on the telephone on the 13th of December, 2004, about the initiative she has taken to set in motion peace talks between the United Liberation Front of Assam and the Government of India. Dr. Goswami’s sole motivation for the initiative has been to help bring peace to her beloved Assam, driven by her dedication to humanistic principles. She realizes that it has been

unprecedented for a single individual in her position to undertake such an initiative and take it all the way to the Office of the Prime Minister of India.

Queried on how she got the process rolling, Dr. Goswami explained that she has known Mr. Paresh Barua, the ULFA Chief of Staff, quite well and that she has been receiving calls from him fairly frequently over the years. When she received the Gyanpith

Award, Mr. Barua had called to congratulate her. Mr. Barua a fan of Dr. Goswami’s work, also made several of her books required reading



for ULFA officers at the highest level.

Dr. Goswami was quite shocked by the Dhemaji bombing incident last year and wanted to bring the two parties to the conflict, the ULFA and the Government of India, together to the negotiating table in pursuit of a negotiated, political settlement. To that end, she composed an appeal to the newly elected Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, to talk with the ULFA and read it over the telephone to Mr. Barua for comments, when he called next time. Mr. Barua requested her to make certain changes to the draft appeal. Dr. Goswami handed the revised appeal, which was approved by Mr. Barua, to the Prime Minister of India, personally.

In response to the appeal, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) sent a letter to

Col. Paresh Barua, which she felt was very well thought out. But, the ULFA responded that three conditions have to be met for them to be able to accept the invitation to the discussion table: 1) The issue of "sovereignty" must be included in the discussions. 2) The invitation to the ULFA must bear the Indian Prime Minister's personal signature. 3) No pre-conditions must be set for the agenda of the talks. They explained that even though the PMO's letter stated "--the two parties should have no pre-conditions", it contained a requirement that the ULFA"-- must abjure violence" before any discussion could begin. The ULFA viewed this as a pre-condition Dr. Goswami said, and characterized the PMO letter as contradictory. Even though the setback was a disappointment, Dr. Goswami told us that she remains steadfast in her goal and is very

hopeful that the PMO (India) will respond favorably to overcome the temporary impediment created by the ULFA reply.



We wish Dr. Goswami success in building on the auspicious beginning she made with her selfless and brave initiative to bring peace to Assam.

Reported by Jugal Kalita, Colorado Springs and Chandan Mahanta, St. Louis

Gauhati University Alumni Association

The University of Gauhati, the oldest in the North East India, came into existence on January 26th 1948. Under the able stewardship of stalwarts the university had grown from strength to strength over the years and had assiduously built a glorious tradition of creating a wealth of trained men and women, spread today far and wide bringing laurels to their alma mater through achievements in all fields of learning and knowledge.

The British council in India has always promoted interaction between the Indian and the British universities for sharing of new ideas and many innovative concepts which link higher education in 21st century.

In February 12th - 13th 2004, a meeting was held in New Delhi jointly by University Grants Commission New Delhi, Higher Education Funding Council of England, UK and British

Council in India. Our Vice Chancellor, Mr. Gajendra Nath Talukdar from Gauhati University also participated in the seminar.

The alumni are the strength and pride of the university, for they disseminate its image through their contributions in the Arts, Science, Commerce, Medicine and Engineering. It is a matter of great pride that the alumni of Gauhati University are to be found today throughout world and are held in high regard in their particular fields of works.

The Gauhati University Alumni Association is going to make a joint effort to project and implement scheme for further development of our university. It is therefore proposed that a united effort be made by the Government public, old & new students to give definition and character to Gauhati University.



For further information, please contact:

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By Rini Kakati, London

An Assamese Dance Duo.

Dear ASA Newsletter Editor,

Firstly we convey our heartiest regards to you. We're Jayanta & Pranami Sarmah Bhagawatiand, a couple of Indian Classical Dance (Kathak & Contemporary), from Assam.

We have a professional Dance Unit named *Bhangimaa*. Though we belong to the field of Indian Classical Dance, we also believe in developing the finest quality creative & contemporary dance styles and shape it into a fusion mood.

We've given several duet & group dance performances in & outside India. Recently, we were invited for a duet performance in Dubai for celebrating the Spring Festival, organized by the Assamese people society (Asom Somaj – Dubai) held on the 15th of April, 2004. Though *Bhangimaa* is a dance unit, we also arrange a total dance & musical show on demand. At present we're trying to establish a fusion show along with some musical artistes from Israel.

We also conduct workshops, seminars, etc. with other dance institutions to give an outlook to our culture and tradition.

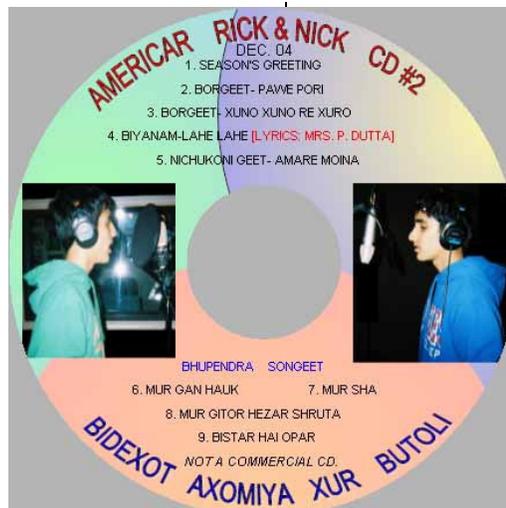
Jayanta & Pranami (pranamib@sify.com , bhangimaa@sify.com)



..a fusion dance gesture along with a German Ballerina; this was held at different places of Germany like The Old Church Ruin, The Indian Embassy, Obersberg, etc. We also performed together this project of blended choreography of German Brass Band & Indian Classical Dance in both India & Germany.

NRA Rick and Nick Release an Assamese Album

A noncommercial version of *BIDEXOT AXOMIYA XUR BUTOLI*, an audio CD by Americar Rick & Nick has been recently released. "Americar Rick & Nick" is the screen name for American- born 14-year-old twins NRA Rupak and Neepak Bhuyan of New Jersey. Pending successful resolution of certain issues, a commercial version of this audio CD will be released in Assam and hopefully will be available in stores in Assam by Rongali Bihu.



From the preliminary reviews received, it appears that this CD is going to win the hearts and minds of the Assamese community. Rick & Nick sing all eight songs incredibly well. Each song is likely to become a hit. Soon their singing will create waves and sensations in the community, particularly to the teenage generation. In fact,

when you listen to their songs, it will be difficult to determine whether it is some famous singer from Assam or it is a couple of unknown American- born 14-year-old adolescents who can't even speak Assamese well.

A few weeks ago TV-40, an NBC affiliate in New Jersey, recorded three of their group Christmas songs for the NBC 40 Christmas Choral. The NBC affiliate had broadcast them on the evening of Dec. 21. It is expected that the NBC affiliate will rebroadcast them during Christmas Eve.

This is just the very beginning. Rick and Nick are only 14, and their whole lives are still ahead of them. The worldwide Assamese community can expect to hear many more heart-throbbing CD from them in years to come.

Jukti Kalita, New Jersey

Hemanga Das of California is a Bollywood Star!!

Hemanga Das of Northern California is all over the Hindi music scene in India. His debut album *Dhadkan Mein Tu Hi Tu* was released by H.O.M. Records (www.homerecords.com) in Mumbai, India in November. The genre of the album is Indipop. Hemanga is the main singer along with Raju Nath, Nintoo Pathak. The lyrics are by Shiv Kumar Verma, Gauranga Lal Das, Ravi Mishra, and Naba, Hemang Das. The music video of the title track has been aired on major channels including MTV, B4U, SAB TV. It has been acclaimed in the press and it's all over the place on the Web. It's getting top listener ratings in sites such as www.bollyvista.com, www.smashits.com, www.dishant.com and www.bollywoodmusic.com. You can listen to audio clips from the album at <http://www.hemangdas.com>.



Hemanga is very well-known in the Assamese community in the USA. He is a lead singer and the lead guitarist for the Jonaki musical group in Northern California. He burst into the Assamese USA scene in 2002 when he sang, played guitar, danced the Bihu, sang the Hoosorie, and took a lead role in an one-act play during Assam 2002 in Denver and won the heart of all those who attended. Hemanga is an artist by birth and a software engineer by education. He received his B.Tech. degree from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur.



Hemanga is very modest. In a phone interview with the ASA Newsletter, he said "It is a small step towards my final goal and if people like it, I'll be happy." Way to go, Hemanga.

By Mahesh Baishya, California

DURABLE DISORDER: Understanding the Politics of Northeast India

Sanjib Barua's newest book *Durable Disorder: Understanding the Politics of Northeast India* was recently published by Oxford University Press, New Delhi. This book analyzes the causes of ethnic conflicts insurgencies in Northeast India and seeks to understand the meaning and significance of persisting political violence. The author argues that prolonged counter-insurgency operations have eroded the democratic fabric of the region and institutionalized authoritarian practices. There is a growing dissonance between the idea of ethnic homelands and the actually existing political economy of the region that makes ethnic violence predictable.

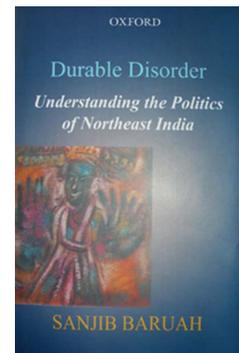
The book explores the economic incorporation of the region into the global capitalist economy in the 19th century and the resultant conflict between global and local resource use regimes. The author argues for a reorientation of India's policy towards the Northeast and for linking it to a new foreign policy towards Southeast Asia.

Sanjib Baruah is Senior Fellow, Omeo Kumar Das Institute for Social Change and Development, Guwahati, Assam, and Professor of Political Studies, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York.

'Sanjib Baruah's *Durable Disorder* explains politics in India's Northeast with brilliant clarity, using history, theory, journalism, personal experience, and participant insight to

the full.' says David Ludden, Professor of History, University of Pennsylvania

'Sanjib Baruah's new book raises the discussion about the Northeast to an altogether higher plane, it brings current debates in political thought to bear upon our understanding of the region in a way that has not been done before.' says Mrinal Miri, Vice Chancellor, NorthEastern Hill University, Shillong



'*Durable Disorder* opens new perspectives in our understanding of federalism, the linkage between domestic and foreign policies, ethnic conflict and the meaning of democracy.' says Susanne Hoerber Rudolph, President, American Political Science Association 2003-04.

In an email interview with the ASA Newsletter, Dr. Baruah said "I am amazed by how much needs to be done at the intellectual level. Indian discussions of the Northeast have become completely dominated by the security wallahs. I hope my book manages to change that a little bit and open up a discussion on the effects on the quality of democracy etc."

By Babul Gogoi, New Delhi

Assam, My Assam!!

Life has been as usual here. Nothing less nothing more, just normal. But certainly there have occurred some changes in my life, the way I represent myself, that it took me sometime to accept that fact that I love my Assam more and more every other day even being thousands of miles away. Why is that so? Well I am not saying that I don't like India. No I am not a new generation freedom-fighter to free Assam. So what is it? Do I want a separate identity than other Indians? Well of course every other Indian already bears same identity from the top but deep inside it varies. Never before, I felt more proud about Assam. The same Assam that I considered to be one of the worst states with politics and corruption now is so much dear to me. Well I don't think "home-sickness" has to do with this surprising development in my mind. In fact I feel I represent the better side of India not just usual "North-South" hoi polloi. Or is it that I look different from other people? Do we look so different that we are sometimes Chinese, Thai, Philippino and what not? Oh wait, probably Mongolians. A better answer. I don't know why I was never considered an Indian here. It's just not me but most of the Assamese people here cannot be pointed out saying "Hey you Indian!" Or is it better not to be an Indian? We might be called "Terrorists", "dirt-bags" and what not! Is this the reason we don't want to be perceived by others as Indian even though we love India as much as any Indian would? May be... May be not.

One of our Computer Science professor

who was from West Bengal said "It is true that more Indians know about America than even Assam but to consider those people as not good Indians cannot not be justified."

Someone from Western India may say you are from the forest then you should immediately say to him well you from deserts!" True, indeed. He pointed me out saying that because of few negative sections of Indians over here, I feel bad about India or Indian people, so indirectly more inclination towards Assam. Some people do play all sorts of spoil-sports giving India a bad name. I don't want to represent India under them. There cannot be India in America. India is in India only. Other side, I fear if rather than this entire talk scenario I do walk the talk, then will I be called a sympathizer of all these new generation freedom fighters? "Love" Assam hate India.

That's what they do right? What a dilemma. So I should "love" Assam or not love Assam? No I don't want to be that type of Assamese. I don't need to be called by others as "Hey you from Banana Republic!" No way.

Few weeks ago, I was invited by a Linguistics professor to give talk about how we speak Assamese. That was actually very exciting. Perhaps that incited me to love Assam more? It could be. Whenever I see an Indian, sometimes they do ask me whether we want to separate from India or not. Then I ask them, "Tell me how many states in India we have now?" And guess what, no answer! So if the person doesn't

even know how many states in India we have, why then he is so much interested in Assam? One day a Pakistani student told me "Assam doesn't like India so join us!" I don't know what to say. Which Assam is he talking about? The one who "love" Assam or the one who love Assam?

No doubt, many Indians think Assamese people are anti-Indians too. The ignorance of people like them makes me dislike them and the "country" they represent. Whenever an American asks me where I am from, I tell them I'm from Assam, a place, famous for Assam Tea. And the persons replies "Oh that Assam! I like Assam Tea". So you must be thinking why I didn't say anything about India? I did. But India is hidden under Assam. I don't want to hide my Assam under India. If you say I'm from Assam, a state that lies in the north-east of India, then people will start asking about North India, South India. Why should I say more about that part of India when the same people from that "India" doesn't know about Assam? Has anyone given a thought about that before?

People feel proud to be Indian because you are from Assam. Love your country through Assam. Then you will understand how great India is because it has a strong state like Assam. That's all I have to say. Love your Assam as much as I do.

By Ujjal Pathak. Ujjal is a freshman at the Louisiana State University.

A New Editor Joins the ASA Newsletter

Umesh Sharma has joined the all-volunteer editorial staff of the ASA Newsletter starting the December 2004 issue Umesh is a graduate student at Harvard University. He joined Harvard in the Fall of 2004. He is originally from Rajasthan. Umesh is a thoughtful writer and is a prolific contributor to Assamnet.

The ASA Newsletter is published monthly. Sanjib Bhuyan, NJ, on behalf of Assam Society of America, has published this issue of ASA newsletter. The editors are Satyam Bhuyan (Ames, Iowa), Ganesh Bora (Manhattan, Kansas), Babul Gogoi (New Delhi, India), Jugal Kalita (Colorado Springs, Colorado, Editor-In-Chief), Symanta Saikia (Wichita, Kansas), Santonu Goswami (El Paso, Texas), Vavani Sarmah (Secane, Pennsylvania), Ujjal Pathak (Baton Rouge, Louisiana), Rini Kakati (London, UK) and Ram Sarangapani (Houston, Texas). The 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 Tabhildar (Kendall Park, New Jersey), Mantu Baishya (Omaha, Nebraska), Kedar Bhuyan (Mays Landing, New Jersey) and Sangeeta Duorah (California).

We invite contributors from all over the world. We appreciate your valuable feedback, comments & suggestions, and of course, news from your part of the world for inclusion in the coming editions. Please send your written contributions to asanewsletter@yahoo.com. If you prefer, you can send your contributions directly to any of the editors listed above as well. Any contribution must be 750 words or shorter in length. Please include a scanned image of the author. We also request you to submit other pertinent photographs if possible.

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