



## OSA Georgia Chapter

### Chapter Report - Utkarsha Winter 2023 Edition

Period: Sep 1 - Nov 30 2023

Fall and winter are seasons of change, celebration, and reflection. In keeping with the theme, OSA Georgia continued the celebration of our Odia culture by hosting the biggest cultural event of the year, Kumara Utsava. We also conducted many more community service and youth engagement programs in this quarter.

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

#### A. YOUTH ENGAGEMENT 2023 - 1 - DIYA MAKING (October 7 2023)

Our youth initiative team has been actively planning and organizing events for kids and youth to keep them excited about such events, connect with each other and develop a strong bond which will last for their lifetime. This is a great platform for young parents to connect, share their thoughts and strengthen the overall support system as well. We had a great turnout for our Youth Meet n Greet with around 20 kids and 30 parents! The pictures capture the spirit of our vibrant kids - happy running around in play and calmly focused on completing their Diya work of art. The Youth Initiative team was very happy to see the motivation by so many parents who showed up to continue cultivating a community of life long bonds and friendships among these young ones. We are just getting started!





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#### B. KALYAN JYOTI 2023 - 4 (October 15 2023)

The “Give back to Community” team organized a very innovative local community connect event in collaboration with the Suwanee Police Department in Georgia. During the event, our kids had the opportunity to explain what Raksha Bandhan means to Suwanee police officers and tied Rakhis to them. The smiles and shared moments were heartwarming. In addition, the children had a chance to explore a police car, adding an extra layer of excitement to the day. We concluded the event with a delightful light lunch, where kids and officers shared a meal and stories, strengthening the bonds of our community.



We are excited to share with you a video that captures the magic, warmth, and unity of our recent Raksha Bandhan Celebration with the Suwanee Police Department.

 <https://youtu.be/F9wjhQKHuRw?si=pC2Jj2OCtYeCyX0o>

A special thank you goes out to the Suwanee Police Department for their support and cooperation in making this event possible.

#### C. KUMARA UTSAVA 2023 (October 28 2023)

ଗତ October ୨୮ ତାରିଖ, ଅପରାହ୍ନ ୩:୦୦ରେ ଆମେରିକା ମହାଦେଶସ୍ଥିତ ଆକ୍ଲାଣ୍ଡ ସହରରେ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସୋସାଇଟି ଅଫ ଆମେରିକା - ଜର୍ଜିଆ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନ ତରଫରୁ ଆୟୋଜିତ କୁମାର ଉତ୍ସବରେ ୩୫୦ରୁ ଉର୍ଦ୍ଧ୍ୱ ପ୍ରବାସୀ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଏବଂ ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟ



ଭାରତୀୟ ଭାଇ ଭଉଣୀମାନେ, ଫ୍ଲୋରୀ ବ୍ରାଞ୍ଚ(Flowery Branch) ଉଚ୍ଚ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟରେ ଏକତ୍ରିତ ହୋଇ ବହୁତ ଆଡ଼ମ୍ବରରେ କୁମାର ଉତ୍ସବ ପାଳନ କରିଥିଲେ. ଦୀପ ପ୍ରଜ୍ୱଳନ କରି ଏହି ମହୋତ୍ସବର ଶୁଭାରମ୍ଭ କରିଥିଲେ ମୁଖ୍ୟ ଅତିଥି Mr. Madan Kumar Ghildiyal Consul (Political, Commerce & Community Affairs). ଦୀର୍ଘ ଚାରି ଘଣ୍ଟାରୁ ଉର୍ଦ୍ଧ୍ୱ ଏହି ଉତ୍ସବୋତ୍ସବ ସାଂସ୍କୃତିକ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମରେ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ତଥା ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟ ରାଜ୍ୟର କଳାକାରମାନେ ଓଡ଼ିଶୀ, ସମ୍ବଲପୁରୀ, ଭାରତନାଟ୍ୟମ, ପ୍ରଭୃତି ନାଟ, ମନମୁଗ୍ଧକର ସଂଗୀତ ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ଓଡ଼ିଶା



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ତଥା ଭାରତର କଳା କାରୁକାର୍ଯ୍ୟର ଉତ୍କର୍ଷତା ପରିବେଷଣ କରିଥିଲେ. ଘନ ଘନ କରତାଳି ବାରା ଉପସ୍ଥିତ ଦର୍ଶକଗଣ ପ୍ରଦର୍ଶିତ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମକୁ ସ୍ବିକୃତି ଦେବା ସହ କଳାକାର ମାନଙ୍କୁ ଉଚ୍ଛାହ ଉଦ୍ଦୀପନା ଜ୍ଞାପନ କରିଥିଲେ. ଏହିବର୍ଷ କୁମାର ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣିମା ଅବସରରେ ଉପସ୍ଥିତ ମହିଳାମାନେ ଚନ୍ଦ୍ରୋଦୟ ସମୟରେ ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କୁ ନେଇ ବିଧୀ ହିସାବରେ ଚାନ୍ଦପୂଜା କରିଥିଲେ.

କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ଅନ୍ତରେ ମନ ଲୋଭା ସ୍ବାଦିଷ୍ଟ ଭୋଜିର ଆନନ୍ଦ ନେଇଥିଲେ ଉପସ୍ଥିତ ଦର୍ଶକ ବନ୍ଧୁମାନେ. ଏହିପରି କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ଆମର ସଂସ୍କୃତି ତଥା ସଂସ୍କାର ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ପ୍ରବାସୀ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ବାସି ମାନେ, ଜନ୍ମ ଭୂମି ଓ କର୍ମ ଭୂମି ସହ ଯୋଡ଼ି ହେଇ ନିରନ୍ତର ଆନନ୍ଦ ଲାଭ କରି ପାରୁଛନ୍ତି ବୋଲି ଦର୍ଶକ ବନ୍ଧୁମାନେ ମନ୍ତବ୍ୟ ଦେଇଥିଲେ.

#### D. IACA DIWALI (November 11 2023)

Our chapter participated in the Diwali celebrations organized by IACA (India America Cultural Association) Georgia at the North Point Mall on Saturday November 11th. It's the first time IACA was conducting the event at the mall, and it was very well received by a large audience present. Many local communities, cultural associations, dance and music schools participated in the event and we were proud to participate as a chapter and showcase Odia eminence in two areas.

a) Folk Dance presentation: Ladies from our odia community presented a beautiful Sambalpuri Dance performance to the melodious Rangabti song by Sona Mohapatra. The performance was highly appreciated by the audience, and people were seen inquiring about the dance, the beautiful attire and jewelry. Our sincere appreciation to the 9 ladies (Chinushree, Mona, Mamata, Sonali, Juhi, Kasturi, Gayathri, Sthittapragyan, Priyanka) who practiced



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a short notice and presented it so well in front of the audience.

<https://youtu.be/-Eln7mdcF8?si=xtry3ykNvuvYAsZb>





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b) Konarka Banner: We had set up a large free standing Konarka banner with the wheel prominently at the center. It was placed centrally near the main stage area and was the chief attraction for the audience to take pictures. Thanks to the prominence of Konarka background at the welcome stage during the G20 summit, many knew Konarka already and were happy to click pictures with it. For the few who didn't know and had questions, it was exciting to explain to them about our rich art and sculpture. Even if a small percentage of the folks make plans to visit Odisha during their next India trip, it would be a great accomplishment for all of us.

In addition to these two items, our Odia families participated in other events as well. Sujaya and Liza participated in a multi-state fashion show, Ranjita participated in a fashion show, Kids (Neerja, Tanishi, Gargi, Mrinal and Uma) from Abhinaya Dance Academy presented a mesmerizing Odissi Dance performance, and our teens (Kashish, Ayushi, Anisha, Anie, Shivangi) participated in one flash mob and Tarushi participated in another.

Overall, these 6 different cultural presentations by 23 different participants and the Odisha banner that strongly demonstrated our Odisha presence at IACA as a strong community in the local Atlanta area. It has been possible because of active participation and leadership by all of us. Let's continue this trajectory and





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continue to showcase Odisha and Odia prominence in the local area.

#### E. YOUTH ENGAGEMENT 2023 - 2 - “BAKING SPIRITS BRIGHT” (December 9 2023)

Our youth initiative team organized another exciting event “Baking Spirits Bright” for our little ones for some holiday fun while they enjoy learning a new skill. Through this activity we discovered a new class of 13 kids who are future culinary connoisseurs - rolling, kneading and powdering their bear claw cookie masterpieces with detail and building a snowy owl with fine craftsmanship. Maybe one day soon they will make a grand luncheon feast for us. The pictures tell the story of how much the kids (and parents alike) enjoyed this fun event!

