



August Newsletter, 2017

AFNA at the Assam convention, July, 2017

Every year we look forward to the two days of Assam Convention's power packed program comprising of Guest Artist performances, Dance, Music, and Food and above all meeting all our friends and family gathered in one place from US, Canada and Assam. This year was another memorable one. The evenings presented both the traditional and modern cultural aspects of Assam. Thanks to the Host Committee of Toronto, Canada for their hospitality and creating some beautiful memories for all of us. The Assamese Diaspora gets a glimpse of Assam in those two days every year.

Again every year we have AFNA General Body meeting in the Convention, where we have the pleasure of meeting all our Donors, Volunteers, Members and compassionate people. This year we had our meeting on July 1st at 9 am. It was a great opportunity for us to meet all the attendees present. It was truly amazing to see such passion and interest amidst the Attendees. They were trying to make a difference in this world through their support, suggestions and generous contributions. We had five current projects displayed. They were SENEH (Adopt-A-Grandma), AKADAMICS, SNEHALAYA, NOWGONG MISSION SCHOOL, SUPPORT-A-Child. We received astounding response from our kind benefactors especially towards SENEH and AKADAMICS. Thank you all for attending our meeting.

The AFNA Volunteers and Members work tirelessly every day towards making these boot strapped projects a success. So it was very rewarding for us to see such compassion and generosity in helping us to achieve our promises. This year our benchmark was to raise \$ 24,000 for our projects. Our kind Donors helped us to achieve half of it through actual donations and Pledges.

We thank our Donors, Volunteers, Members and well-wishers for transforming lives of children and families in poverty, physically and mentally challenged people, destitute Elderly Women who face challenges every day, with your contributions. Please stay in touch with AFNA and help us bring hope in the lives of these hapless people. You should know that you are making a truly wonderful impact – every moment, every day, in times of crisis and for the future.

It was great pleasure meeting you all. Best wishes.

(A summary note by Enakshi Baruah Volunteer & Director, AFNA)



Assam Foundation of North America, Inc. is registered under section 501 (c) (3) of the IRS code with Tax ID# 61-0994468. Donations to the foundation are tax-deductible in the U.S. to the extent permitted by law. Please consult your tax advisor for specific tax advice.

Tree4All – A unique environmental initiative from AFNA

The Tee4All is an Autumn Festival that has been established through the partnership of the Bridgewater Shade Tree Board (Team Arbor) and the Assam Foundation of North America in an effort to call attention to the importance of the diversified tree for greener environment.

This festival started as a community function to honor Padmasri Jadav Payeng from Mazuli/Assam, who is known as "Forest man of India" in 2015. Based on the success of the last two years, Mayor of Bridgewater, Daniel J. Hayes has proclaimed this occasion to be a yearly event. As an Assamese, we all should be proud of this announcement both for the partnership with an Assamese Organization (AFNA) as well as to offer a permanent honor for one of the Assamese pioneers in environment initiatives.

The festival consists of planting trees. The Trees are donated by Local Corporation. The maintenance of the trees is taken care by Township Arborist and Public Works Department. Along with the tree, we have several other functions to bring the entire community together across New Jersey. We have been fortunate to have dignitaries from various state and local counties across New Jersey. In addition, the festival provides various other learning and entertainment activities ranging from lessons to children on how to plant and take care of trees, a multi-cultural international cultural function, fair comprising of community centric activities, various competitions, bird watching, free medical advises etc.

The 2017 festival will be held on October 14th, (Saturday) at Chimney Rock Park in Martinsville. During this time of the year, most trees in North East turn to beautiful fall color and the entire festival provides a unique environment for all children and adults to enjoy the colorful event of Tree4All.

If anyone is interested to volunteer for this festival, the township mayor provides certificate which could be used for any volunteer credit for schools and colleges. Contact, Niren Choudhury (nirenc@gmail.com) for further details.



Get Involved:

Monthly volunteer call:
First Sunday, every month,
10am - 11am PT
Dial in: 641-7153272
Access Code - 457920#

Become A Volunteer:

We need active volunteers to run our projects. Please reach out to us (contacts above) or join our monthly volunteer meetings to know more.

Donate By Check:

Pay to: AFNA
Mail to: Sarfarez Taher, Treasurer, AFNA
439 McMenemy St.
Vadnais Heights, MN 55127

2017 Annual AFNA Essay Contest Results:

This was the second year in a row that AFNA conducted this essay competition among students from the Assamese community of North America, who will be attending grades 8 through 12 in the 2017-2018 academic year. The prompt for this year's contest was "What part of Assamese culture/traditions are you proud of and would love to tell your non-Assamese friends?" The prize money for this year's competition were: 1st Prize - \$250, 2nd Prize - \$150 and 3rd Prize - \$100. Thanks to all students who participated and also to their parents for encouraging them. The first prize-winning essay is published in this issue of Pronaam. AFNA would like to congratulate the following winners of this year's essay competition.

First Prize: Grishma Baruah, Daughter of Pimi and Vikas Baruah from Chantilly, VA

Second Prize: Farasha Mehnaz, Daughter of Farhana and Fardeen Anwar from Gurnee, IL

Third Prize: Shivani Hazarika, Daughter of Kamalakshi and Suranjoy Hazarika from Skillman, NJ

All the winning essays will be published on AFNA's website.

Flood relief for Assam and Texas flood: How can you help?

Flood relief in Assam: Like every year Assam is hit by devastating flood leaving thousands of people homeless. Over 85% of the Kaziranga National Park under water affecting the lives of animals in the park and its surround areas. AFNA is making contributions for flood relief in Assam via AID (Associate for India Development). We are supporting the Flood Relief efforts through AID in order to make a bigger collective impact for a natural disaster that requires substantial resources. Please donate generously. You can donate directly to [AID](#) or you can make a donation to AFNA earmarked as Flood Relief Assam and AFNA will route it appropriately.

Flood relief in Texas: Hurricane Harvey is the first Category 4 hurricane to hit the United States since Hurricane Charley in 2004. Ahead of its landfall, many communities were ordered to evacuate, as fears arose that the hurricane could leave some coastal areas uninhabitable. The storm, which intensified over the Gulf of Mexico before hitting Texas and its surrounding states, brought with it heavy rainfall, damaging winds, and a powerful storm surge. It has significantly impacted communities along the Texas coastline, including Houston, as well as other areas along the Gulf with wind and flood damage. Our heart goes out to the victims of hurricane Harvey in Texas and AFNA would like to help any way we can with your support. AFNA is sending a starting fund of \$1000 right away through Red Cross in the aftermath of this storm and providing assistance to the people and communities affected by it. We would like to encourage you to donate at [American Red Cross](#) directly or donate to AFNA disaster relief fund earmarked as Flood Relief Texas. Looking forward for your support to be able to help people in Assam and Texas.



Checkout AFNA's website at <http://assamfoundation.net/>

Volunteer Email DL:

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