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General Body Meeting 2021 by Enakshi Baruah

The 2021 Annual General Body Meeting was a great successful virtual meeting like last year held on 27th June 2021. Patrons, AFNA Partners, Donors, Volunteers joined from India, Canada, United Kingdom and United States. We had attendance of around eighty to eighty-five people.



GBM Inauguration with AFNA Anthem

This year for the first time in AFNA's history the AFNA Anthem was introduced and launched in the GBM. This Anthem will be played in every GBM from this year onwards. The concept and lyrics was done by Krishanu Kaushik, music was Composed by Joon Jonak and Isha Kaushik and video and editing was done by Krishna Hazarika. The Singers were very talented girls and boys of our Assamese diaspora. Details of the Anthem are available in the AFNA website.

Felicitations were presented to our Partners. Appreciation for their continued support was presented to Atma Nirbhar, Birubala Rabha Mission and Dr. Lohit Datta-Barua, of Datta-Barua Foundation for Orphanage. The invited guests from Atma Nirbhar were President Dr. Mahfuza Rahman and General Secretary Mrs. Urmila Baruah. They both gave updates on Atma Nirbhar Ek Challenge and a note on receiving the Helen Keller Award for 2021. The invited guests from Birubala Rabha Mission were Ms. Anamika Baruah and 2021 Padma Shri Award Winner Shrijuta Birubala Rabha's elder son Shri Bishnu Prasad Rabha and they both spoke a few words about their organization. After that Dr. Lohit Datta-Barua, Founder and Donor of AFNA, gave a talk on his journey and his experience on charitable work.

Reports were given through slide presentations on Flood Relief support in Assam, Natural Disaster Relief support for Texas Storm Relief, Weaving for Care items for Hospitals and Assisted Living in US, AKADAMICS scholarships, AKSHAR Foundation, Support a Child Program of Shed and Pattarkuchi High School, Kalyani Niwas Orphanage, Adopt a Grandma, Weaving for Living – Birubala Mission, Female Hygiene Project, Post COVID Relief. Updates were also given on 2020 operations, Annual AFNA Essay Contest, AFNA Finance, AFNA Roadmap, Focus on current projects, Nomination process of Board of Directors, Membership and Volunteering, Fundraising, Request for Patronage and donations to organizations in India. The Communication's Team gave an update on the AFNA platforms and quarterly newsletter.

This year AFNA took a very bold step towards the biggest fundraising in AFNA's history for COVID Relief by sending Concentrators, Oxygen Tanks, PPE's, Oximeters to hospitals for COVID patients, Doctor's and Nurses in Assam. AFNA President and General Secretary thanked the key people and partners who played a very important and instrumental role in sending the materials and in distribution in Assam hospitals of these COVID Relief items. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

We sincerely thank our Donors, Patrons, Partners and Volunteers for their continued support in our projects and our COVID relief fundraising. It is your kindness and generosity that is making a difference in this world. You may have a look at the GBM Report here: <https://www.assamfoundation.net/a/codes-annual-reports/files/AFNA-GBM-2021-Annual-Report.pdf>

For more information and updates follow us at:





ASSAM FOUNDATION OF NORTH AMERICA

Thank you for your support!
Sarfaraz Taher

AFNA has been blessed to be having the support of all the generous donors and patrons like you. We wanted to express a special THANK YOU for all the trust you have bestowed on us. Just this year alone, you have supported us in extending relief to the Winter Storm disaster in the US in February and then the biggest ever fund raiser in response to the world-wide pandemic which helped us extend support to the communities in Assam and in North America in a very big way and then the flood and post-COVID rehabilitation efforts in Assam. We are extremely indebted to your generosity and care. We want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for being there with us all along. This is the 40th year of AFNA's existence. This organization is in the current shape because of your continuous engagement. The AFNA team and the volunteers are always thankful for all the support we have received. The volunteers get energized and revitalized by your constant show of community service. We hope you are hearing about where your valuable contributions are going and we hope that if you have any questions, you will reach out us at info@assamfoundation.net. Thank you once again for your sustained support!

EXISTING PROJECTS



CONTINUED FOCUS

- **Education:**
 - Support-A-Child
 - AKADAMICS
- **Healthcare:**
 - Adopt-A-Grandma
 - PROJECT KIND
- **Employment Generation:**
 - Support-A-Disabled Worker
 - Vocational Training
- **Disaster Relief:**
 - Flood Relief – Phase 2 and 3

We will continue our work on:

- Tree-4-All, Arbor Day (NJ)
- Ecoblast (NJ)
- International Day Of Yoga (NY)
- AFNA Annual Essay Competition
- Weaving for Care
- Special Projects (all over US)

zoom

EXISTING PROJECTS



FUNDRAISERS:

- AFNA Art Sale (Aug) for Assam Flood- **Thank you donor artists!**
- Calendar Campaign (Oct-Mar) – executed remotely; AFNA volunteers across different states distributed the calendars volunteering their personal time; **Thank you, Volunteers!!**
- AFNA Giving Week (7-days of Bohag Bihu) – **New campaign!!**
- Convention Fund raiser (Jun-July) – **Today!!**
- AFNA Walk & Run (Aug-Sep) – **Aug 29, 2021**

ANNUAL CAMPAIGNS:

- Tree-4-All (NJ)
- Co-sponsoring Int. Day of Yoga
- Annual Essay Contest for Kids



zoom

AKADAMICS Update

The AKADAMICS awardees for 2021-2022 were announced on August 31st, 2021, as per the published schedule. Here is the [link](#) to the announcement on our website.

Here is a quick summary of the 30 scholarships that were added this year:

15 scholarships each for STEM and non-STEM
 16 females and 14 males have been awarded this year
 10 scholarships were awarded to scholars pursuing Professional (MBBS, B.Tech, Bachelor of Pharmacy and Bachelor of Homeopathy) degrees

Here is the breakdown of the disciplines of the scholars that were selected – B.A. (12), B.Sc.(5), B.Com.(1), B.Ed.(1), LLB(1), MBBS(7), B.Tech.(1), Bachelor of Pharmacy(1) and Bachelor of Homeopathy(1)

EDUCATION



AKADAMICS Winners 2020

- **Scholarships for Degree Students:**
 - 8th Year of operation
 - Started with 10 scholarships in 2014
 - 180 scholarships awarded to date
 - 38 more scholarships this year
 - **137** scholars have graduated
 - B.A. (73), B.Sc. (14), B. Ayurvedic Medicine(1), B. Com.(7), B.E. and B. Tech(19), B. Pharm(3) & MBBS(19), B. Homeopathy(1)
 - **2021 Goal – Scale Up!!**

How you can help:
\$350 - Supports 1 student for 1 year

AKADAMICS WINNERS 2020



zoom

This year approximately 2000 applications were evaluated to select the top 30. We thank the AKADAMICS stewards for doing the background work to get to this point. Our thanks go out to the Selection Board as well for accomplishing this in a timely and quality manner.

ASSAM FOUNDATION OF NORTH AMERICA

Covid Relief Sarfaraz Taher

As the second wave of pandemic hit the major metropolitan cities in India in late March and early April, AFNA Volunteers realized that it was only a matter of time that Assam was going to be hit by another devastating wave of misery, death, lockdown, and curfew. Our volunteers assembled quickly to put together the biggest and boldest fund-raising campaign ever to join the fight to defeat the dreaded virus. The AFNA team put together an ambitious goal to raise US\$100,000 (Rs. 70,00,000) in a short period of 3 weeks. With the funds raised, so far, we are pleased to provide the following materials for the immediate care and support of Covid-19 patients and the health care workers bravely fighting the dreaded Corona virus. We would like to acknowledge the partnership of the personnel at the National Health mission, Assam under the leadership of Dr. Lakshmanam for extended unstinted support. We would also like to thank Dr. Ravi Kota, Minister (Economic) at Embassy of India, Washington DC, for his support in this effort.

Oxygen concentrators	47 units
Face Shield	1000 pcs
Facemasks	1500 pcs
Gloves	1800 pcs
Pulse Oximeters	50 pcs
Personal Protective Equipment	1500 pcs

Additionally, AFNA has also partnered with a local NGO, Purbutor Pradeshiya Marwari Yuva Manch (PPMYM) in Assam to procure and deploy 50 oxygen cylinders at 6 different locations in Assam (Lakhimpur, Dhemaji, Cachar, Dhol, Tezpur & Dibrugarh). These cylinders were provided free to patients who could not afford to pay. We have also started post-covid rehabilitation work in partnership with Foundation for Social Transformation (fstindia.org), a very well know NGO in Assam. This is our first venture with them, and we hope that this partnership will flourish in the future. The goal of this effort is to help small business owners re-establish themselves after they had to give up all of their assets during the pandemic.



Together we
can make
a difference ...



Join us



Flood Relief

By Pallav Saikia

AFNA worked with our long-time partner RVC (Rural Volunteer Center, Dhemaji Dist, Assam) to procure and distribute 600 mosquito nets in the flood-prone areas in the easternmost part of Assam. The tributaries of the river Brahmaputra just enter the valley from the Himalayas and cause regular flooding in these areas. During the rainy season, there are a lot of cases of waterborne and mosquito-spread diseases like Dengue and Encephalitis. These medically treated mosquito nets with the capacity to cover 2 or 3 person beds will prevent a lot of such disease outbreaks. The mosquito nets were primarily distributed in the Kobo Chapori area which is a river island.



Weaving For Care

By Kamalakshi Hazarika

AFNA is having a clothing drive for winter. In this effort we request participants to make a self-handmade clothing item to give to charity. We particularly invite children to take part in this drive. The donated item can be a winter hat, a scarf, a blanket or any other clothing item made by craft work such as knitting, weaving or crochet. A child participating will be awarded a certificate for their contribution.

If you wish to donate to this drive, kindly send an email to Kamalakshi Hazarika at goodfund@yahoo.com.

The drive is on the way, and it will end on Nov 7th. We thank all our earlier participants and send our gratitude to them who has supported this cause.




"Weaving For Care"

Please join us to celebrate a tradition of Weaving and Knitting;

The joy of giving

Dear Friends,

The Assam Foundation of North America is having a Weaving and a Knitting drive with a purpose to donate new handmade clothing items to charity.

We welcome your participation and invite your child to volunteer in this drive. Any child, who donates a handmade item that he or she has made, will be awarded a certificate of participation and volunteering hours.

Kindly contact Kamalakshi Hazarika by email at goodfund@yahoo.com to participate. The drive is already underway and the end date is Nov 7th, 2021. We thank you for listening to our request and we wish everyone a peaceful year. With regards –

From the "Weaving For Care" Team

We thank you for taking an Interest in this drive

Become a volunteer today!

If you would like to join us as a volunteer, there are many ways you can help - steward a project, do fundraising, keep our website updated, raise awareness among your friends about the foundation's efforts, discuss great ideas for new projects and initiatives - the possibilities are limitless. Come join us and make a difference!



ASSAM FOUNDATION OF NORTH AMERICA

2022 Calendar Campaign

By Lipika Deka

AFNA will be celebrating the 40th year of AFNA and the 10th year of the calendar campaign in 2022. To acknowledge this milestone, we are doing a few things differently for the 2022 calendar campaign. We will be sending a free copy of the calendar to all our donors as a gift of appreciation for their continued and generous support for AFNA's projects over the years. Without our donors, we will not be able to achieve what we are doing today at AFNA. We will also be printing two versions of the calendar, a wall version as well as a desktop version. Each donor will receive an email from our president requesting to confirm your mailing address and your choice of the calendar version in early November. We are grateful to all our 13 calendar sponsors (the details will be announced later in our next newsletter) whose generous contributions have made it possible for us to do this campaign in this new format. We are happy to let you know that our volunteers are working diligently to have the 2022 calendars printed on time and get the calendars to your door before the New Year arrives. Stay tuned for updates and emails about this from our volunteers in November! If you would still like to buy a calendar for anyone in India or here like you did in the past you will have that option at a minimal cost to cover the printing and shipping expenses. The calendar team is excited about the 2022 calendar, and we hope you will enjoy our calendar as well

Annual Essay Competition 2021 Update

By Krishanu Kaushik

Thanks to all of you who submitted essays for the 2021 edition of Himadri Das Memorial Essay competition organized by AFNA. We regret to inform you that evaluation of the essays is taking longer than expected due to some procedural delays. We are planning to publish the results around Thanksgiving holidays. We appreciate your patience, and we apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

For any queries

Email us at : assamfoundation@yahoo.com

Website: <http://www.assamfoundation.net/>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/assamfoundation>

How to Donate?

Visit AFNA Website to Donate:
<http://assamfoundation.net/give-back/donate>

or

Support AFNA through our Partners
AmazonSmile and **UnitedWay**

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You shop. Amazon gives.

- Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice
- Your AmazonSmile online purchases could help AFNA every time you shop, at no cost to you
- Shop at smile.amazon.com and choose AFNA

**United
Way**



Support AFNA Projects using United Way
charitable Giving at www.unitedway.org

ASSAM FOUNDATION OF NORTH AMERICA

AFNA Walk and Run

By Pallav Saikia

AFNA had a successful Walk & Run in San Francisco Bay Area with enthusiastic participation from 100+ runners & walkers. On top, we had Sarfaraz da supporting us by virtually running on the same day in Minneapolis. We also had two special speakers at the event.

- Ironman Uzzal Barua led the pre-run stretch & warmup session with tips on preparing for endurance sports
- Hedayat Ali, who has climbed all the tallest peaks in Africa, Europe, and South Africa and just had made an attempt on Mt Everest but came back after COVID hit him at the final stage. His talk on gratitude, perseverance, and handling failure was top class.

A HUGE THANK YOU to our participants, donors & volunteers. By getting out there in the trail on a Sunday morning we made a choice to have a healthy lifestyle and also raise funds for worthy causes.

In all, we had 100+ participants in our SF Bay Area event and had a net proceed of \$2000+ towards AFNA's projects.



OBITUARY

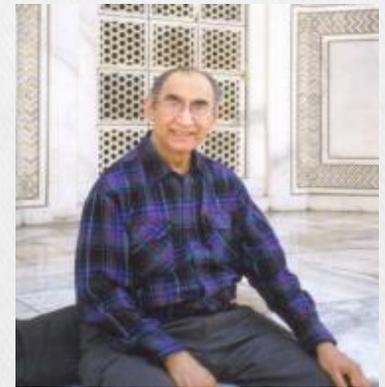
AFNA pays homage to our community elders who left for Heavenly abode. May the departed souls rest in eternal peace.



Anima D. Goswami

On behalf of the entire team of Volunteers, Executive Team and the Board of Directors, AFNA would like to express our condolences on the loss of our community member Mrs. Anima Goswami of Toronto/Denver/Rochester who recently left for the heavenly abode. Late Anima (Baideo/Barma/Jethai/Aita) Goswami was a very active member of the North American Assamese community and had taken part in many activities in bringing and keeping the Assamese community together over many decades. Our thoughts are with the Goswami family, and we offer our prayers for the departed soul as well for the family to get the strength and support to tide over these difficult times.

AFNA team is extremely saddened to hear about the demise of Dr. Kripa Borah of New Jersey. With deep sorrow and respect, we offer our condolences to the Bora family. Dr. Bora (Da/Borta/Khura/Mama/Jetha) was a stalwart of the Assamese Community of North America. He guided the community over many decades during good and challenging times. A man of many talents, the community looked up to him and he was always there to share this experience and advice. We will miss his guidance and presence during the community events. Most recently he graced the 42nd Virtual Assam Convention. We will forever remember him as a pillar who shaped the North American Assamese Community in many ways. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and may the almighty give his family the strength to bear this irreparable loss.



Dr. Kripanath Borah



Habibur Rahman Boruah

It is with extreme sadness that we write this message on behalf of AFNA to convey our heartfelt condolences and thoughts on the passing of our dear Habibur Uncle/Dada/Jethu. We pray that you and the entire Rahman Baruah family get the strength to cope with this unbearable loss, a loss that has touched many from this community. While it is a sad occasion, let us draw strength from Habibur Uncle/Dada/Jethu's strong, calm and smiling character. Let us also celebrate a life well lived. The outpouring of the community is a testimony to how much he was loved and how much he meant to this Assamese community of North America. We will miss Habibur Uncle/Dada/Jethu, but he will remain forever in our hearts as a gentle soul, one who had a pleasing smile and who was always present for the community. We pray that the almighty grant our dear Habibur Uncle/Dada/Jethu, Jannatul Firdaus.

OBITUARY

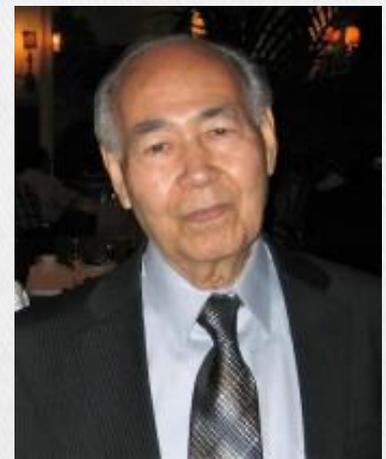
AFNA pays homage to our community elders who left for Heavenly abode. May the departed souls rest in eternal peace.



Dr. Rajen Barua

On behalf of Assam Foundation of North America (AFNA), we would like to express our deepest condolences on the demise of our dear Mr. Rajen Barua. We will miss him dearly. He was a true friend of Assam and his passion and love for Assam which was very evident in his profiling writing and volunteer activities through Friends of Seven Sisters (FASS) and other organizations. He dedicated his life towards activities for uplifting his homeland. As we pay homage to our beloved Rajen Barua (da/khura/mama/peha/jetha/koka) we pray that the almighty gives his family and loved ones the strength and peace to get through these difficult times. May his departed soul rest in peace

Dr. Narendra Kumar Bora (Naren), son of the Late Dr. Bishnuram Bora and Late Mrs. Labonya Bora, passed away on July 29, 2021 at the age of 88, at home surrounded by family. An I.Sc student of St. Edmunds College in Shillong, Dr. Bora completed his M.B.B.S from Assam Medical College in 1959. In 1964, he married Ranjana Phukan (Rina) from Kenduguri, Jorhat and soon had two sons, Nabajyoti (Ping) and Dhrubajyoti (Pong). He came to the USA in 1971 and successfully passed the medical board exams. In 1977, he and his family left NY for Kansas where he worked at Osawatomie State Hospital as its medical/surgical director. In 1980, a final move to West Virginia would lead him to eventually retire in 2002 from the medical/surgical unit at the Huntington State Hospital. In 1999 and 2000, he became a proud father-in-law to Kimberly and Sukanya (Rimjhim), respectively. In 2004, Dr. Bora became grandfather to Devin, followed by Asha a few weeks later and Aleesha in 2006. Dr. Bora will be remembered by family and friends as an honest, humble, sincere, and hardworking man who cared for hundreds of patients and helped others.



Dr. Narendra Kumar Bora

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

You can donate either by check or via online at:

<http://assamfoundation.net/give-back/donate>

You will find all the necessary information about ways to donate in the above link.