



## Assam Foundation of North America

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## Inside this Newsletter

[Page 1: First Virtual GBM of AFNA](#)

[Page 2: AFNA's Flood Relief Activities in Dhemaji, Assam](#)

[Page 3: Orientation Programme on Safe Hygiene Practices](#)

[Page 4: The 5th Annual Essay Contest Results](#)

[Page 5: Weaving for Care-2020](#)

[Page 6: AFNA Art sale](#)

[Page 7: AFNA's Fund Raising Initiatives](#)

[Page 8: International Yoga Day, Calendar Campaign](#)

## First Virtual GBM of AFNA on June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020

*by Sarfaraz Taher*

This year's Annual General Body Meeting was one of the most unique ones that we have arranged in the recent past, to say the least. The pandemic threw in front on us a unique challenge to hold a virtual one, instead of a typical in-person meeting that we hold as a part of the Assam Convention every summer. The team worked together creatively and featured a few different segments at the meeting to liven it up and showcase the excellent work that the volunteers did in the year 2019-2020. We invited the famous singer, Mrs. Sudakshina (Queen) Sarma and her son Mr. Rishiraj Sarma to perform for the audience. It was a very touching and a heartwarming performance, taking the audience through a journey of the all-time classics of the stalwarts of the yester years. We also honored the 3 organization and their leaders who supported us in extending our relief for COVID in various parts of Assam. This GBM featured a number of videos from those who have received support from AFNA during the last year. This helped the AFNA donors connect more intimately with the impact of their support. In fact, this GBM drew the largest audience in the recent years, although it was all virtual. As always, the GBM is a venue for our fundraising and this time too the donors opened their pockets generously, making it a major fundraising success. The support we received during this meeting has inspired us to grow AFNA even bigger and to rededicate ourselves to the cause of community service. My sincere thanks go out to the AFNA volunteers who have been serving dedicatedly even during the tough times and to the donors who have provided their unconditional support. We are looking forward to another solid year of community service and supporting those in need in Assam and in North America.



Performance by Mrs. Sudakshina Sarma and Mr. Rishiraj Sarma



Closing ceremony: Chorus



## AFNA's Flood relief activities

Report by RVC

Assam faced severe floods in the months of June and July increasing the distress of the people amidst the pandemic and lockdown. In view of the numerous problems caused by the flood, AFNA joined hands with its partner Rural Volunteer Center(RVC) in Dhemaji District on this and identified some of the worst affected villages to provide flood relief aid. In consultation with the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), Dhemaji and with Office of the Circle Officer, Jonai Revenue circle a total of 317 houses from 7 of the worst affected villages under Ramdhan Dikhari Panchayat, Jonai Revenue circle had been selected and provided with Hygiene Kit support from AFNA.



The Dhemaji district on the northeast corner of Assam, right at the Arunachal Pradesh foothills where Brahmaputra and tributaries meet the plains, is hit by flood every year severely. AFNA sent a grant of \$5000 to RVC from its General fund to provide support, hygiene kits, and shelter materials and to conduct orientation programme on safe hygiene practices. AFNA also appealed for generous contributions towards this cause to be able to serve more people.

Tarpaulin support was given to the 50 worst affected families who were inmates in the Relief Camp as their homes were damaged by flood. The 50 families comprises of 437 people, 158 males, 152 females and 127 children. The distribution was done in the Makeshift /Relief Camps under Jonai revenue circle.



[Back to Cover Page](#)

## Orientation on Safe Hygiene Practices in the context of Flood and COVID-19

An orientation programme was organized in No.1 Uluoni and Jamuguri villages respectively under Ramdhan Panchayat of Murkongselek Block, Jonai of Dhemaji. Demonstrations on hand washing steps were done with the engagement of the participants from the villages. The key facilitators were Mrs. Labanya Deori, Dilip Mili and Punya Dahal. Inputs were given on Sanitation and Hygiene in times of Flood and Emergency situation. The total participants were 35 from No.1 Uluoni and 37 from Jamuguri villages.



### Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM):

Post distribution monitoring is a process undertaken by RVC following all emergency response intervention to take stock of beneficiaries feedback regarding what has gone well, what could have done better and what should be mid-term (recovery phase) and long term intervention. The same process has been undertaken in the Post-distribution period after the AFNA supported intervention. A standard format is been followed for the same and senior volunteers of RVC facilitated the process.

Mr. Pabitra pran Sutradhar, the President of Village Level Disaster Management Committee of Burisuti Nalapara village extended gratitude to AFNA and RVC for the valuable support in times of need to the flood affected family of 7 villages. He is happy that during the distribution process the norms of COVID-19 was followed and was done peacefully.

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[Back to Cover Page](#)



## The Annual Essay Contest

by Krishanu Kaushik

The topic of the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Essay Contest was  
***“How has the Corona Virus Pandemic impacted your family in America and your relatives in Assam? A comparison.”***

The essay contest was open to Assamese origin students who are studying in the USA, Canada or Mexico and is between the grades of 8 and 12 in the 2019-2020 academic year. We are grateful to all the participants and their parents for encouraging their child to take part in this annual Essay competition organized by AFNA. We also want to thank our esteemed judges for volunteering their time to review the essays. They are: Debabrata Sarma from Seattle, Kamalakshi Hazarika from NJ and Anurag Baruah from MD. This was the 5th year of the Essay Contest. Although we got a little delayed with this year's competition because of the "New Normal" we got very good participation, both from a quality and quantity perspective.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS!

1st Prize: Nimisha Bora, daughter of Geeti and Prantor Bora from Apple Valley, MN (She's won it for the 2nd year in a row!)

2nd Prize: Ridhi Bora, daughter of Anjana and Ankur Bora from Irving, TX

3rd Prize: Tanisha Deka, daughter of Nayanmoni Sundi and Hitesh Deka from Livermore, CA

Congratulations to all the winners and also to all participants. Everyone will receive a certificate of participation within a month or so. Also, the 3 winning essays will be published in the next issue of the AANA Newsletter Pronaam and also in AFNA's website. All of this year's contestants are qualified to participate again next year. So, please continue to participate and help us to spread the word among your friends and in our community so that we can get more participation in the future.

Last but not the least, we would like to thank the family of Himadri Das – Kyoko, Brian and Leo – for offering the first prize of this competition from the memorial fund of Late Himadri Das, who passed away on May 3rd of 2017, after courageously fighting a neurological condition for a long period. Himadri Das was an active community member and closely involved patron of AFNA, who served as a treasurer of AFNA for two terms in the late 90s. From the 2nd year of this competition (2017) we have dedicated this competition to his memory.

[Back to Cover Page](#)

## Weaving For Care- 2020

Report by by Kamalakshi Hazarika

### *"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 will be awarded a certificate of participation and volunteering hours.

Kindly contact Kamalakshi Hazarika by email at [goodfund@yahoo.com](mailto:goodfund@yahoo.com) to participate. The drive is already underway and the end date is Nov 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020. We thank you for listening to our request and we wish everyone a peaceful year. With warm wishes –

From the "Weaving For Care " Team

The Assam Foundation of North America started a drive called the "Weaving For Care" to donate handmade items to charity. Last year participants from North America contributed many knitted items such as scarves, hats, children items, sweaters and booties for the cause. The items were donated to an Organization called CARE TO KNIT. INC. located in North Babylon, New York for charitable distribution. Children are invited to participate in the drive. AFNA will award each child a certificate of participation and volunteering hours for their donation. We thank all past and present participants, volunteers and people who have shown interest in the drive.



Winter Caps for the Drive



Handmade Sweaters, hats , Booties

[Back to Cover Page](#)

## AFNA Art sale

By Pallav Saikia

AFNA has completed a successful fund raising for providing immediate relief and long term recovery for the flood-impacted areas of Assam. Three talented artists from our community came forward to put up their artwork for sale and the net proceeds after framing and shipping were donated to AFNA for Assam Flood Relief. AFNA is grateful to the artists for donating their time and artwork for this cause. Here are their profiles:

Reetom Hazarika (<https://www.35mmnegative.com/>)

Nandana Hazarika (<https://www.facebook.com/ArtManiaByNandana/>)

Mausam Hazarika (<https://www.mausamhazarikaphotography.com/>)

The ten-day-long event resulted in the sale of 17 art items along with very popular participation in a raffle. Anee Buragohain from CA was the lucky winner of the raffle draw. AFNA extends our sincere thanks to the artists for donating their precious arts for this cause and our patrons who participated in the event.



For any queries

Do get in touch with us by sending e-mail to : [assamfoundation@yahoo.com](mailto:assamfoundation@yahoo.com)

Link to the AFNA website: <http://www.assamfoundation.net/>

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

[Back to Cover Page](#)



## AFNA'S FUND RAISING INITIATIVES

**SUPPORT FIRE FIGHTING EFFORTS  
IN OREGON AND CALIFORNIA**

Fund raising to support the fight against the wildfires devastating the West Coast of the US. AFNA has disbursed \$6000 in aid of the fire fighters fighting the fires in Oregon and California. We appeal for your generous contributions to enable us to serve more.

Donate via check or online:  
<http://assamfoundation.net/give-back/donate>

Assam Foundation of North America | [assamfoundation@yahoo.com](mailto:assamfoundation@yahoo.com)

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**PLEASE DONATE  
FOR ASSAM'S  
FLOOD RELIEF**

Assam is facing severe flood situation right on top of the COVID-19 spread. We appeal for your generous contributions to enable us to serve more.

Donate via check or online:  
<http://assamfoundation.net/give-back/donate>

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**ART SALE**  
FOR ASSAM FLOOD RELIEF

A COLLECTION OF ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY TO BENEFIT  
ASSAM FOUNDATION OF NORTH AMERICA (AFNA)

To purchase visit: <https://afna.ticketspice.com/afna-photo-art-sale>

BUY RAFFLE  
TICKET TO WIN  
THIS ARTWORK

**SALE ENDS  
SUNDAY  
23 AUG**

FEATURING ARTWORK BY  
REETOM HAZARIKA  
NANDANA HAZARIKA  
MAUSAM HAZARIKA

AFNA is grateful to the artists for donating their time and artwork for this cause. All proceeds after taxes and shipping will be donated to AFNA for Assam Flood Relief.

Apart from the flood relief drive, AFNA initiated a fund drive to support the services of firefighters risking their lives during the current wildfires raging through the West Coast of the US and causing unprecedented destruction. In urgency, AFNA disbursed a financial aid of \$6000 for the fighters in Oregon and California. AFNA would like to thank all its donors/buyers and well wishers for the successful fund raising campaigns. Hope you continue to help us!

## 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.

## 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!

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[Back to Cover Page](#)



## International Yoga Day

by Niren Choudhury

AFNA sponsored the 6th International Yoga day event which was held this year as a virtual event on 28 June and was web casted by ITV Gold Facebook page. There were more than 20 Yoga/meditation organizations showing different techniques of Yoga and Meditation along with fantastic speeches by Art of Living Founder (Ravi Sankar) and Isha Foundation Founder (Sadhguru). All the organizations were instructed to make their presentation as a learning tool so that one can learn and perform along with the web cast. Making it relevant for the present times, the theme for this year's event was "Yoga at Home, Yoga with Family".

## Calendar Campaign

by Chandan Mojumdar

It's that time of the year again and 2021 AFNA Calendar coming your way!

AFNA is happy to let you know that our volunteers are working hard to have the 2021 calendar printed on time and get the calendars to your door before the New Year arrives. Calendar Drive is one of AFNA's year-end fundraising campaigns; please support our projects by buying a calendar. 100% of the proceeds raised from the calendar drive, after printing and shipping, go to support our projects. Please order your copy of the calendar by [clicking here](#) and stay tuned for updates and emails about this from our volunteers! Please order by November 30th, 2020 to get free shipping in the USA, Canada and India.

**AFNA greatly appreciates the support and contribution of its Patrons, Donors and Volunteers, Thank You!**

### How to Donate?

Visit AFNA Website to Donate:  
<http://assamfoundation.net/give-back/donate>  
 or  
 Support AFNA through our Partners  
**AmazonSmile** and **UnitedWay**

**amazon**smile  
 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](https://smile.amazon.com) and choose AFNA

**United Way**



Support AFNA Projects using United Way charitable Giving at [www.unitedway.org](http://www.unitedway.org)

[Back to Cover Page](#)