Nagaon Friendship Day on Jan 5

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Sanjib Kumar Borkakoti 31 December 2013 8849 views

SOCIETY FOR SRIMANTA SANKARADEVA will celebrate Nagaon Friendship Day on January 5, 2014 in Nagaon. The Nagaon Friendship Day is an event to honor a few individuals who have been contributing to Assamese society specially in the realm of Sankari culture as well as to highlight Nagaon globally. It was Bardowa in Nagaon where Srimanta Sankaradeva spent first half of his eventful life. The culture bequeathed by him is still vibrant in Nagaon region. These individuals selected for felicitation, with their creativity, skill and dedication to the craft, are keeping the great Sankari culture alive. But they are more or less unknown to the public. The Nagaon Friendship Day is an effort to pay tribute to these dedicated individuals. We also hope that the event will stimulate interest among the younger generation, inspire and promote youth involvement in promoting our culture.

On the Nagaon Friendship Day a Friendship Walk will be organized from Dawson School Field near Aditi Hall to Shahid Bhavan along the National Highway in Nagaon town. It will start at 9.30 am. The Friendship Walk will display different facets of Sankari culture like Gayan-Bayan, Naam-Kirtan, Bhaona, Mask, Diha-Naam etc. Several Sattradhikars, leading citizens of Nagaon and nearby areas will take part in the Walk. It is expected to highlight the rich culture across the world through different websites and non-resident Assamese. We would welcome all channels and websites to make live telecast of the Nagaon Friendship Day. Several social organizations like Asom Sattra Mahasabha, Srimanta Sankaradeva Sangha, Batadrava Than, Srimanta Sankaradeva Junior College, Sutradhaar etc have committed to take part in the Walk. Ankur Bora (USA) has played a major role in making it happen.

The participants of the Walk will take a pledge. The pledge is *: I take a vow to do my best to uphold and spread the legacy bequeathed by Srimanta Sankaradeva. I will tell my non-Assamese friends about the life and works of Srimanta Sankaradeva. I will see at least one Bhaona every year. I will read at least two books about life and works of Srimanta Sankaradeva in the current year.*

The Felicitation meeting will be held at 10.30 am in Shahid Bhavan, Nagaon after the Friendship Walk. The artisans who have kept the tradition of mask making, Guru Asan making, Kuhila product making, traditional ink making, traditional fireworks etc alive through their never-say-die spirit will be felicitated in the meeting. These artisans have been selected very carefully. Some of them are financially uncomfortable. Even then they have kept our indigenous art form alive. Our organization SOCIETY FOR SRIMANTA SANKARADEVA is trying to give them some moral support and whenever possible, a little economic help.

The Felicitation meeting at Shahid Bhavan will have Bargeet recital by Bismita Bora and Sattriya Nritya recital by Meenakshi Medhi, Lakhimi Mahanta and Misimi Mahanta. Sri Debananda Deva Goswami (Sattradhikar of Narowa Sattra and President of Batadrava Than), Shantikam Hazarika (Guwahati), Rini Kakati (UK), Gautam Prasad Barooah (Kolkata), Sri Jibeswar Deva Goswami (Secretary of Asom Sattra Mahasabha), Dr Binoy Kumar Bordoloi (USA), Dr Pradip Sarmah (New Delhi), Ankur Bora (USA), Dr Durlov Chamua (MLA of Nagaon) and Dr Minati Borthakur (Guwahati) have been invited to this meeting. There will be a sales counter for some Sanchipat art, 'Mukha' and the Society’s publications. The meeting as well as the event will end at 12.30 pm.

The Felicitation list for Nagaon Friendship Day, January 5, 2014 is given below.

1. *Dharmakanta Mahanta, Raidangia, Nagaon (Guru Asan construction) Age 80 years*
2. *Thuleswar Barua, Bardowa, Nagaon (Kuhila product making) Age 82 years*
3. *Shishuram Barua, Bardowa, Nagaon (Kuhila product making) Age 69 years*
4. *Madhav Das, Nagaon (Khol making) Age 60 years*
5. *Rakhal Das, Nagaon (Khol making) Age 53 years*
6. *Nityananda Goswami, Kuji Sattra, Marigaon (Kuhila product making, Khol making, Fireworks preparation) Age 50 years*
7. *Kaliram Bora, Bheleuguri, Nagaon (Kali playing) Age 66 years*
8. *Jadab Chandra Mahanta, Titabor (Sanchipat preparation, Mask making, Ink making, Costume making), Age 57 years*
9. *Bishnuram Handique, Jorhat (Sanchipat preparation, Ink making) Age 83 years*

10. *Girish Chandra Mahanta, Charing, Sivasagar (Mask making) Age 47 years*
11. *Devakanta Hazarika, Puranigudam, Nagaon (Mask making) Age 37 years*

Sanjib Kumar Borkakoti

BY SANJIB KUMAR BORKAKOTI

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