

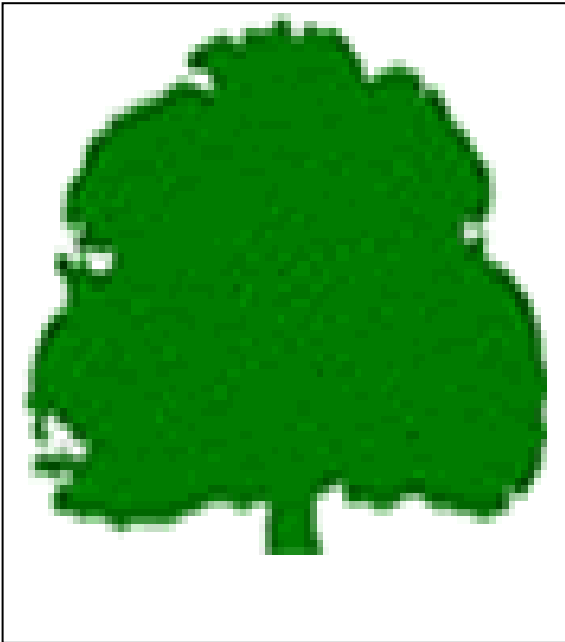
OSA Newsletter

**Oromo Studies
Association**

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In This Issue:

- 1. A Message from OSA President**
- 2. OSA Mid-year Conference**
- 3. JOS Volume 14, Number 1**

1. A Message from OSA President

Dear OSA Family,

It is my pleasure to greet you again with great news OSA is undertaking. OSA is many ways a unique scholarly association. It is a place where immersing Oromo politics are debated, human right advocates present gruesome image of torture, rape and murder, and a place where Oromos meet, socialize, exchange notes and network. In short, OSA is a place where Oromo centered studies presented, creative issues are raised, demonstrated and discussed. The subjects are as wide as Oromia and as unique as the Oromo people are.

There are two very important issues OSA has been trying to address as a scholarly association. OSA annual conference takes place once a year over a period of two days. These two days are usually fully booked and partitioned to the level of fractions of minutes for many panels, featured speakers and a business meeting. There are many important issues that do deserve their own time for thorough discussions and deliberations. An OSA Mid-year Conference that will address important timely issues at length is planned for middle of next month.

2. OSA Mid-year Conference

OSA Mid-year Conference will take place at Howard University, in Washington, DC, on April 14, 2007, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. The theme of the conference is “Strengthening the Core Components of Oromo National Movement.” Oromo National Movement is measure by the political, ideological and

organizational state of the Oromo people. These core components are vital for any viable national movement. Invited speakers will address these issues as they relate to the Oromo National Movement. This forum will examine qualities of successful national political movements, popular ideologies and organizational structures that can be used as models. Integration of all the three core components will produce a coherent and inspired popular support. OSA believes theoretical and practical examination of these topics as they relate to the Oromo National Movement will strengthen the common factors that unite the Oromo people. These common factors will create a unity of purpose and optimize efficient and effective mobilization.

The conference is not a lecture series where a few will speak and the rest will listen. It will be a combination of a town hall meeting and a workshop. Expert presentations will be followed by question and answer session. Then, the audience will be divided into small groups and each group will discuss the same issues, makes its own suggestions and present it to the whole group. At the end of the day, the inputs of all participants in the meeting will be summarized and a common solution will be forwarded. The best means will be engineered to reinvigorate and optimize the current Oromo national political, ideological and organizational state.

OSA believes Oromo scholars can play much more significant roles than what is currently evident. OSA also believes the collective action of the Oromo people is always greater than the sum of individual actions. The Oromo people fundamentally have the same goals as far as Oromo National Movement is concerned. Unison mobilization and actions of Oromo’s can be realized when people are motivated, tolerant to minor differences and mutual respect is abundant. Unity for the common good is

power and accelerates the pace of positive change. Victory will be impossible without strong organization, leadership quality and determination. The forum seeks to rekindle *Oromummaa*, *Safu'u* and *Tokkumaa* as a service to the Oromo people.

Our speakers will be Dr. Addissu Tolessa, Dr. Assafa Jalata, Dr. Bahiru Dhuguma, Obbo Dima Noggo and Obbo Leenco Latta, in alphabetical order. This is an open forum and OSA cordially invites its members, interested Oromos and friends of Oromos to attend and partake in this timely discussion. OSA counts on your full participation to bring about positive change that will empower the Oromo people, revitalize cooperation, and reinvigorate mutual trust and unity.

3. JOS Volume 14, Number 1

OSA has been doing an outstanding job of publishing high quality original research works in the Journal of Oromo Studies (JOS). Because of this very important undertaking, the pools of knowledge and referenced materials have been significantly increased. OSA without JOS will be less than scholarly, and unworthy of its name. Due to financial and other constraints, JOS has been published only once a year for a many years. This year, OSA is able to publish two volumes. Volume 14, No. 1 will hopefully be available at OSA Mid-year Conference. Volume 14, No. 2 will be available during OSA Annual Conference.

It is not easy to publish a quality journal like JOS on time. Getting quality manuscripts, dedicated editors, and format setting for publication are tasking jobs. I would like to thank Dr. Ezekiel Gebissa, JOS editor, for a job well done. I would like to thank also all of you who made this possible. The content page of JOS Volume 14, No. 1 is given next.

Volume 14, Number 1, March 2007

Contents

Editorial Overview

Articles

1 Mereotic/Oromo Ethiopian Continuity – Call for a Research Project

Muhammad Shamsaddin Megalommatis

21 US Support for Democratization in Ethiopia: Diplomatic and Development Tracks

David Shinn

41 The Oromo and the Coalition for Unity and Democracy

Siegfried Pausewang

52 Oromo National Political Leadership: Assessing the Past and Mapping the Future

Asafa Jalata and Harwood Schaffer

Special Feature

79 On the Oromo, Great African Nation often Designated Under the Name “Galla.” By Antoine d’Abbadie. Translation from French.

Ayalew Kanno

Commentary

100 The Significance of Antoine d’Abbadie in Oromo Studies

Mohammed Hassen

Together, we can do more!

Nagaan,

Gabana Huluka

OSA President

<http://www.oromostudies.org>