

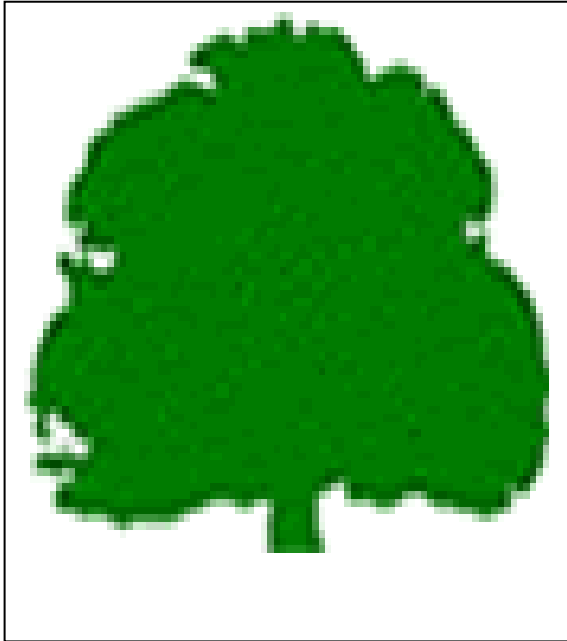
OSA Newsletter

Oromo Studies Association

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In This Issue:

1. **A Message from OSA President**
2. **2007 OSA Annual Conference**
3. **Donation, Donation, Donation...**
4. **Another letter from Dr. Mohamed Hassen**

1. A Message from OSA President

Dear OSA Family,

OSA is marching to its 21st anniversary with anticipations and unwavering dedication to its mission. OSA has gone through many ups and downs but has stood to the test of time. It is that energy and experience that keeps it navigating in pressures within and without because through age comes relevant experiences that belittles theoretical notions. Any scholarly organization that has the support of its members will grow and flourish just as OSA does.

As we have mentioned in this Newsletters several times previously, the 21st OSA conference will be held on July 28 and 29, 2007. Please make your travel arrangement if you did not do so already. Also please note that the Holiday Inn Metrodome OSA Conference rate at \$119.00 will end on July 4, 2007 and the Days Inn Midway in Minneapolis/St. Paul at \$69.00 conference rate will end on July 5, 2007. When making reservations, make sure you ask for OSA conference rate if you are interested to stay at any of these hotels. More detailed information is given at <http://www.oromostudies.org/conference-2006.htm> that includes

additional accommodations. Please send me your name and where you will be staying if you are interested to share a room with someone who needs accommodation.

There are many Oromos who will need transport help from airport, bus terminals and train stations to hotels and from hotels to conference hall. It will be wonderful for OSA if those who have cars will provide transport service to our guests. Please provide me your phone number (mobile number is preferable) if you are willing to help. Hospitality, courtesy and generously for guests are the hallmarks of Oromo tradition and customs. What better opportune time will present itself than this?

My last request is for those of you who live around the Twin-Cities of Minneapolis-St Paul. If you can spare a room for an OSA guest(s) for 2-3 days during July 27-29, 2007, OSA Conference, it will be greatly appreciated. Extending a helping hand to specially our students who are on a very tight budget will be truly appreciated. I do appreciate any help you can provide to make the 21 OSA Conference to be a joyous one and a wonderful experience for all of us. OSA belongs to its members and let us all labor to make it better than what it has been.

2. 2007 OSA Conference

A partial list of topics and names of presenters are listed below in first name alphabetical order.

1. Aba Kalacha: Common Denominators that Mobilize Oromos for Common Causes
2. Addisu Tolessa (Ph.D.): Organizational Models for Oromo National Movement: Lessons from the Past for Present Realities
3. Alemayehu Biru (Ph.D.): Can Democracy Deliver a Compressive Solution to the Complex Problems of the Ethiopia Empire?
4. Ali Birra: Oromo Music: Voice of Oromo Identity and Nationalism
5. Aman Qamsare (M.Sc.): The Past, the Present and the Future of Gadaa
6. Amsalu Bultosa (M.Sc.): Oromia Business Environments and Its Prospects
7. Apee Jobi (M. Sc.): Some Thoughts on the Narrative of Modern Ethiopian Nationalists
8. Asfaw Beyene (Ph.D.) Major Challenges and Opportunities for the Oromo People's Quest for Self-Determination.
9. Asafa Jalata (Ph.D): The Concept of Oromummaa and Identity Formation in Contemporary Oromo Society
10. Asafa Jalata (Ph.D.): Applying Gada Principles to Form and Build the State in the 21st Century Oromia
11. Asmerom Legesse (Ph.D.): Oromo Democracy: Publication of the Second Full Edition and Follow up; My Visit to the Oromo Immigrant Community in "East Leigh, Nairobi"; My Dialogues with Arsi Elders, and My First Ever Field Trip to Tana River Orma.
12. Bahiru Duguma (Ph.D.): International Trends and the Dynamics of Oromo Struggle: Impacts of the First on the Latter
13. Beka Jalataa: Bolivarian Revolution in Venezuela: Lessons for Oromo Struggle for National Liberation
14. Begna Dugassa (Ph.D.): Collective Rights and Public Health: The Case of Oromia.
15. Bengu Qaweti: Siiqqee: An Oromo Women Empowerment Tool

16. Daba S. Gedafa (Ph.D. Candidate): Some of the Challenges and Solutions for Oromo's Self-Determination in 21ST Century
17. Daba S. Gedafa (Ph.D. Candidate): Comparison of Oromo's Gada System with Maasa's Age-set System
18. Damee Ormaa: Oromo Youth in Diaspora: Challenges and Opportunities.
19. Darara Gubo (L.L.M.): Self-Determination Rights in Ethiopia: The Case of Oromia
20. Darara Matti (M.Sc.): Deemsa Guddina og Barruu Afaan Oromoo Keessatti Gahee Maxxansa Burqaa.
21. Desta Galgalu (M.Sc.): Connecting Immigrants to the Financial System of USA: The Case of Oromo Immigrants
22. Dinku Deyasa: The Status and Role of Private Higher Education in Oromia
23. Dima Noggo (Ph.D. Candidate): Leadership in National Liberation Struggle: The Oromo Experience
24. Elfinesh Qanno: The challenges and Roles of Oromo Artists in Diaspora
25. Ezekiel Gebissa (Ph.D.): Political Transitions and Common Fallacies in the Debate on Oromo Liberation
26. Frehiwot Samuel (L.L.B): Human Rights Violations of the Ethiopian Government
27. Gadab Foundation: Empowerment through Education: Building the Future of the Oromo Nation
28. Gelane Gamechisa: A Youth Perspective on the Struggle to Define Oromummaa in the 21st Century: Exploring Internal and External Identity Issues Facing Oromo Youth in Diaspora
29. Gobena Huluka (Ph.D.): "Whose Land is This Land?": The Question of Resource Entitlement in Oromia
30. Guluma Gemada (Ph.D.): Oromo State Formations in Historical Perspective
31. Harwod D. Shaefer (Ph.D.): Agricultural/Economic Policy for a New State in the Horn of Africa
32. Ibrahim Elemo (M.D.): The HIV/AIDS Epidemic in Oromiya
33. Jawar Mohamed: The Origins and Challenges of Regional and Religious Divide Within the Oromo Nation: Possible Solutions for the New Generation
34. Kadiro Amae Elemo (L.L.B.): The Role of Customary Law in the Prevention of HIV/AIDS with Special Emphasis to the Boorana Gadaa System

35. Kebede Feda (Ph.D. Candidate): Family Size and Children's School Attendance in Rural Oromia
36. Kebede Hordofa Janko (Ph.D. Candidate): Preliminaries to Oromo Dialectology: Towards Sub-classification
37. Kulani Jalata: Oromo Nationalist Heroes
38. Lube Biru (Ph.D. Candidate): Oromoo Gadaa System: Unacknowledged Indigenous African Socio-Political Democracy
39. Lube Biru (Ph.D. Candidate): The Importance of Unity and Tolerance for Oromo National Movement
40. Merera Gudina (Ph.D.): The Ethiopian State, Electoral Politics and Oromo People's Quest for Democracy
41. Mesfin Nemara (M.Sc.): Trends and Prospects of Voicing Oromo Issues in Parliament
42. Mike Abebe: Entrepreneur and Business Potential of Oromos in Diaspora
43. Mohamed Adilo Chilalo (M.Sc.): Invasion of Borana Rangelands by Woody Perennials: Climate Change or Institutional Constructs?
44. Mohammed Hassen (Ph.D.): Brutality: The Art of Governing in Ethiopia.
45. Mohamed Muktar Hussien (Ph.D.): Who Owns the Ethiopian Nation-State? Understanding the Ethiopian Somali-Ogaden Conflict
46. Mohamed Rashad Abdullahi Mohamed (Ph.D.): The Early Development of Qubee Afaan Oromo
47. Obang Metho: The Anuake Human Rights Violation
48. Oromo Youth Association of Nashville, TN: Regional and Religious Divide within the Oromo Nation: Facts or Myths?
49. Qamar Yusuf: Role of Oromo Music in Construction of Oromo Identity and Nationalism
50. Rundassa Eshete Hundee (M.Sc): Evaluating the Gadaa System and Compare It to Other Social Organizations Around the World
51. Samuel Gamtessa (Ph.D. Candidate): Playing for the Best Bet in the Non-Cooperative World: Some Lessons from the Theory of Games of Strategy
52. Sisay Assefa (Ph.D): Peace, Democracy and Progress in Ethiopia
53. Teklu Tassisa: Sociology of Oromo Life in Digital Age: My Own Observations

54. Teka Obsa Fogi (D. Dv): Oromo Identity and the Christian Faith
55. Trevor Trueman (M.D): The Human Rights Record of the Ethiopian Government - An American Import.
56. Tsega Etefa (Ph.D.): Pan-Oromo Confederations in the Seventeenth Century: A Legacy?
57. Tolessa Deksisa (Ph.D.) and Bula Atomssa (M.Sc): Deforestation is Putting Fresh Water Resource at Risk in Oromia
58. Zegeye Asfaw (L.L. M): Economic Empowerment and Human Rights Education of Women in Oromia
59. Zeituna Kalil: Cultural Oppression of Oromo Women

Please contact me **immediately** if you have submitted a title and an abstract but it is not included in the above list, or if corrections are needed to your topic title, educational levels and/or if you cannot make your presentation in person or cannot make the presentation at all. Name of your panel, chairperson, time and date of your presentation will be posted soon.

3. Donation, Donation, Donation

In my last letter, I have pleaded for donation and a few of you have indicated you will definitely help OSA through financial scarifies so that deserving scholars from Oromia will be able to attend OSA Annual Conference this year. Even though money is not everything, it can limit OSA's activities unless we all participate through sacrificial giving. We have invited a few well-known and respected Oromos from Oromia who have accepted our invitation and are in the processes of securing their visas. You can pay their expenses by contributing whatever amount you can afford. Even sharing rooms, providing transport and dinner for OSA guests will our conference expenses.

Dr. Ayalew Kanno donated to OSA more than 400 books on THE OROMO: AN ANCIENT PEOPLE, GREAT AFRICAN NATION, by Martial de Salviac that he translated from French last year. We still have most of these books in our possession. You can help by purchasing the book for yourself, your friends or your library for \$25.00 US dollars for North America addresses

and \$30.00 for oversea. All of the money from the sell will go to OSA and it will be a wonderful support.

I know I am repeating myself many times just to encourage you to do your part by donating whatever you can from \$10, \$50, \$100, \$200, even more if you can. Otherwise OSA will be in big financial problem. Please help and I do count on each of you. Please and please, send your tax-deductible check, money order payable to OSA and send it to:

Tsehay Silga
OSA treasurer
P.O. Box 32391
Fridley, MN 55432
(USA)

4. Another letter from Dr. Mohamed Hassen

Dear all,

I have two concerns to share with those who have access to OSA Newsletter. The first is the importance of holding OSA business meeting on the first day of OSA conference rather than on the second day, as we have been doing for the past two

decades. The second is the need for establishing a reliable source of financial support for the Journal of Oromo Studies (JOS). Let me present them one after the other.

The Importance of Holding Business Meeting on the First Day of OSA Conference

During the 2004 OSA Conference, which was held on Georgia State University campus in Atlanta, I suggested to the business meeting participants the importance of holding business meeting on the first day of OSA conference, rather than holding it the last two hours of the second day of the conference. There are several reasons why OSA needs to hold its business meeting on the first day of its annual conference. Let me mention some of them.

First and foremost, after two long days of listening to presentations, we get exhausted. When people are exhausted their attention span is short, their patience is limited. Usually, OSA business meeting is scheduled either for 5:00 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. In my experience of participating in nineteen OSA annual conferences, I do not remember anytime when OSA conference ended on time. It usually ends one or two sometimes even three

hours after the time when OSA business meeting was supposed to start. This means the business meeting never starts on time and ends on time. What is more, there is usually very little time to discuss important issues, which sometimes include amendment of OSA by-laws, election of OSA officers and other contentions issues. On top of this, the conference hall has to be closed at a fixed time. During the 2004 OSA conference business meeting in Atlanta, we had to make \$ 250.00 additional payment for the conference hall rental. The contract I signed with those in charge of the conference hall rental was that the hall will remain open from 8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. We finished our meeting at 9:00 p.m. The man who was responsible for the conference hall was paid for his service from 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. I had to beg him stay and paid him additionally out of my pocket. I mention that incident simply to stress that it was not an isolated event. I remember twice or three times in the past, when a conference hall was closed down and we were forced to hold business meeting outside. It does not need any wisdom to realize that a business meeting that does not start on time and end on time cannot address all issues satisfactorily.

Secondly, after two long days of listening to presentations, some individuals may not have the patience or the energy to

attend the business meeting. I still remember during the 2000 OSA Conference, which was held on York University campus in Toronto, the conference itself ended around 7:300 p.m. I was so exhausted that I never attended OSA business meeting that year. There may have been others who did likewise.

Third, from the experience of several years, it is very clear that some OSA members book their return flight in the evening of the second day of the conference itself. That was what happened to me during the 2003 OSA Conference, which was held on Howard University campus in Washington DC. As a result, I did not attend OSA business meeting that year also. I know several other friends, who missed OSA business meeting at one time or the other because they scheduled their return flight in the evening of the second day of the conference.

Fourth, I suspect that one of the causes of crises within OSA as an organization going back to the 1990s is connected in one way or the other with business meetings. Let me leave that task for future research finding, for now it should suffice to say that when business meeting never starts on time there is very little time to discuss any issue seriously and satisfactorily. Because of pressure of time and sheer exhaustion after two long days of

meetings, contentious issues are not discussed with attention they deserve. Contentious issues are fertile soil in which conflicts mushroom. In the passion of the moment, good individuals forget to leave space even for friendship. It is distressing to me personally to see friendship built over decades, dissolving because of the politics of the moment.

Fifth, I belong to a number of scholarly organizations. None of them hold their business meetings on the last day of their conferences. All of them hold their business meetings before their conferences. They conduct election of their officers by secret ballot through mail. Amendments of by-laws are done the same way. Now they are all doing these activities electronically. No purpose will be served by blaming OSA leadership or OSA members for holding business meetings on the second day of annual conference. What is important for us to draw a lesson for our past weakness, learn from the experiences of other scholarly organizations and change the date of OSA business meeting from the second day to the first day of our annual conference?

Finally, I remember during the 2005 OSA business meeting, it was decided that that OSA business meeting will have to be held on the first day of the conference. I think that decision

was part of OSA minutes of 2005. What is needed this year is to implement the decision that was voted upon in 2005.

The need for Establishing a Reliable Source of Financial Support for JOS

On July 7, 2005, I submitted an 18 page report (including appendices) for OSA Review Committee. That report dealt with how to secure financial and institutional support for JOS as well as how to improve the quality and quantity of articles published; widen the circle of article contributors, assure the reliability of JOS distribution. When I prepared that report, I did not expect that two issues of JOS will be published in 2007. What has been achieved this year is a great landmark in the history of OSA. It is a great joy for those who love the expansion of Oromo studies to see two high quality issues of JOS. If this achievement is to be sustained it needs greater intellectual and financial commitment from OSA members, which makes my report of 2005 more relevant today than it was in 2005. In the next OSA Newsletter, I will summarize the relevant part of the 2005 report for OSA members so that every one understands what is involved in sustaining two issues of JOS annually.

Mohammed Hassen

Thanks Dr. Mohammed for your time, concern for OSA and tangible suggestions. I do salute you for your positive and optimistic views. It is a great encouragement indeed.

I do look forward welcoming each of you in Minneapolis with great optimism, extended menu and comfortable halls to serve you.

Together we can do more for OSA.

Nagaan,

Johana Huluka

OSA President

<http://www.oromostudies.org>