

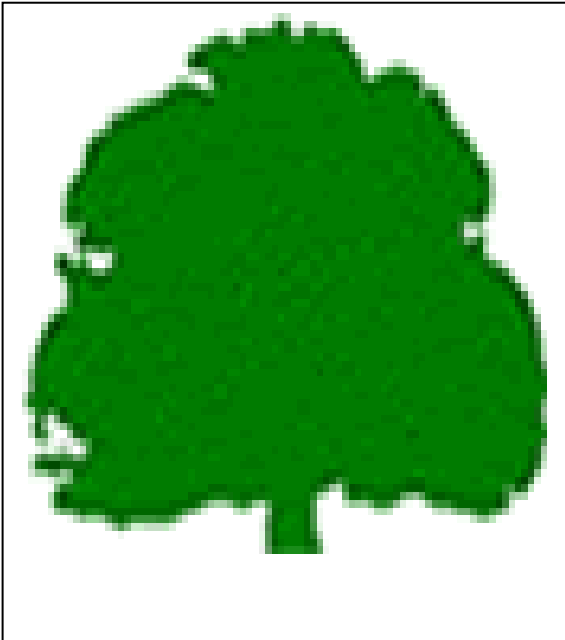
OSA Newsletter

Oromo Studies Association

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**“A commitment is what transforms
a promise to reality”**
Abraham Lincoln, US President

1. A Message from OSA President

Dear OSA Family,

The above quote is attributed to Abraham Lincoln, the 16th US president, who had a one year formal education by his own admissions and the only US President with an invention patent. He is one of my favorite US presidents and I do like the above quote because it matters that our promises change to reality through relentless perseverance and determination. Empty promises mean nothing unless our words are translated to actions. Actions always speak louder than words and our characters are measured not by what we say but by what we do and produce. Commitment is a power that defeats negativism and skepticism through daily devotion to our goals.

You may wonder why I was attracted to this quote that is usually used for motivational and devotional speeches. I wanted to motivate some of you who sent me your conference titles but still

are working on your abstracts. The due day was yesterday, but I have extended for ten more days for you to send it in. Please materialize your promise by sending your abstract before or on **June 10, 2007**. Your abstract will be included in the 2006 OSA Proceedings and will be distributed during the **21st OSA Annual Conference that will be held on July 28-29, 2007**. On the other hand, I would like to thank many of you who did submit your abstracts on time. Some individuals have already submitted their full paper and that will be the trend OSA will be following in the future.

There are still some of who made presentations last year but who did not send manuscripts for OSA proceedings yet. Please send it immediately to Dr. Beyan H. Asoba bhasoba@msn.com. It is good for you as an author and it is good for OSA as academic association to document your presentations. My simple advice is to just do it now and get over it.

2. Accommodations for OSA Conference

The local OSA organizing committee has made reservations group reservations with two hotels and a dorm as indicated below.

1. Holiday Inn Metrodome

1500 Washington Ave S.

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55454

A block of rooms are available to the conference participants.

Please call 1800 448-3663 or (612) 333-4646 and reserve before

July 4, 2007. The hotel rate is \$119.00 + tax

To get this reduced rate one must request for "Oromo Studies Association Conference rate". This hotel is 0.75 miles from the conference hall.

2. Days Inn Midway - Minneapolis/St. Paul

1964 University Ave West St. Paul, MN 55104

phone 651-645-8681, fax (651) 645-0243. It is about 4-5 miles away from the conference hall. The hotel rate is \$69.00 + tax

and 1-4 persons can stay in the room at this rate. To get this

reduced rate one must request for "Oromo Studies Association Conference rate" or OSA or G00016-51.

Reservation must be made before or on June 25th, 2007 and this rate is guaranteed from July 25-31, 2007.

This DAYS INN is in central location to both downtown

Minneapolis and St. Paul. The hotel is 3 blocks away from the Twin Cities Amtrak Station and is 8 miles from the Mall of America and the Twin City International Airport. It is a great location for the people visiting the many attractions of these popular Twin Cities.

This Days Inn has well equipped guest rooms to meet the comfort of the guests. With Tracks bar and grill, an on site full service restaurant and lounge, the dining needs of the guests will surely be satisfied. Relax at the indoor pool, sauna and whirlpool or at the nearby fitness centre or Spa.

3. Additional hotels will be posted at Conference Venue

Thread at <http://www.romostudies.org/conference-venue.htm>.

3. Donation, Donation, Donation...

In my last letter, I have pleaded for donation and a few of have indicated you will definitely help OSA through your 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. We can pay their expenses by contributing whatever we possible afford. Even sharing rooms, rides and other helps will be appreciated.

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 addresses. 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 \$10, \$50, \$100, \$200, etc., today. Doing this not what I wanted to do, but did not a choice. Otherwise OSA will be handicapped without your help and I do count on each of you. I know OSA matters too and I do expect your generous support. Please and please, send your tax-deductible donations or book order now to:

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

4. A letter from Dr. Mohamed Hassen

>>> "Mohammed Hassen Ali" <hismha@langate.gsu.edu>

5/30/2007 2:07 PM >>>

Dear Gobena,

Thank you very much for forwarding all the information to me. I was planning to provide you with three short reports for OSA newsletter. However, I am forced by curcumstance beyond my control to limit myself only to two short reports. I will try the third for the June issue of our newsletter. For now let me present what I have. First let me start with the good news, which will be followed by sad news. I hope you will include both in separate column in tomorrow's OSA newsletter.

Good News about Oromo Studies

The following brief report on "good news about Oromo Studies", focuses on the scholarly achievements of two outstanding Oromo scholars, who have expanded, enriched and placed Oromo studies on the intellectual map of the world. They are Professors Ezekiel Gibessa and Asafa Jalata.

Under the capable editorship of Dr. Ezekiel Gebissa, the Oromo Studies Association has achieved something it has never achieved in its history. For the first time in the history of our scholarly organization, the Journal of Oromo Studies is published twice this year. This is not a mean achievement in itself. It is the product of the labor of love, selfless dedication, truly time consuming hard work and impeccable professionalism of our dynamic editor. Besides producing two issues of JOS, Professor Ezekiel Gebissa has also guest edited Northeast African Studies, which is entirely devoted to Oromo issues. To top it all, Dr. Ezekiel has also edited a new book on Oromo studies entitled "**Contested Terrain**". OSA is blessed to have an editor of Ezekiel's caliber, dedication and energy.

Recently I had the good fortune of reading Professor Asafa Jalata's latest book on "**Oromummaa: Oromo culture, Identity**

and Nationalism". My brief remark about this wonderful book follows.

This book grew out of Asafa Jalata's nineteen speeches delivered between 2000-2007 at several Oromo community organizations and scholarly conferences held in North America. It is the first major book on the powerful concept of Oromummaa "an ideology of human liberation".

Oromummaa as discussed extensively in this admirable book "requires that the Oromo national movement be inclusive of all persons operating in a democratic fashion". Professor Asafa Jalata's approach in this book is very broad. His vision is crystal clear. His purpose is educational. It is to impress upon the Oromo elite and others the importance of mobilizing the human, spiritual and material resources of their people for their own liberation, freedom, human dignity, economic development and democratic governance. Asafa Jalata is a perceptive scholar who has grasped the importance of enabling the oppressed people to see beyond the injustice of their past and work together for building a better future for all of them. It is precisely for this reason that the author forcefully argues that "global Oromummaa enables the Oromo to form alliances with all political forces and social movements that accept the principles of national self-

determination and multinational democracy in promotion of a global humanity that is free of all forms of oppression and exploitation”.

Asafa Jalata is a well-read intellectual, an activist scholar, who expresses his ideas with charm, eloquence and courage. He is one of the most productive Oromo scholars, who is at the forefront of creating Oromo- centered knowledge. Of the many scholars who write on Oromo issues, Asafa Jalata is the most consistent in exposing Ethiopian political tyranny that has imposed on the Oromo and other oppressed people, abject poverty, degrading human condition and serious human right violations bordering on genocide. For the author of this informative, educational and uplifting book, Oromummaa is an ideology that enables the Oromo:

“To retrieve their cultural memories, assess the consequence of Ethiopian colonialism, give voice to their collective mobilize diverse cultural resources, interlink Oromo personal, interpersonal and collective(national) relationships and assists in the development of Oromo-centric political strategies and tactics that can mobilize the nation for collective action empowering the people for liberation”

Oromummaa: Oromo culture, Identity and Nationalism is an inspiring and refreshing book that shows Asafa Jalata’s intellectual maturity and his profound commitment to the cause of the oppressed people in Ethiopia and beyond. His emphasis on linking Oromo people’s liberation with the liberation and freedom and democratic governance of other oppressed people in Ethiopia is admirable. His depiction of the weaknesses of Oromo organizations, low level political consciousness, regional and religious feelings and how to overcome these weaknesses through the deployment of the powerful ideology of Oromummaa, Oromo culture and nationalism with such clarity, honesty and integrity makes this invaluable addition to the growing literature on Oromo studies.

Sad news

Dear all,

It is with deep sadness that I report about the death of Father Ton Leus. He died on April 29, 2007, and buried among our people in Yabello Town in southern Oromia. Father Leus spent 27 years working, teaching and learning among our people in Borana. He loved our people, their culture and tradition. He wanted our culture to flourish and our language to flower. To that end, he

devoted over two decades of his life in writing what is said to be the finest Borana/Oromo dictionary ever. His massive dictionary is the labor of love, observation of Borana culture, listening to the wisdom of Borana elders. His dictionary, the crowning achievement of his life was presented to the public with great acclaim on March 6, 2007 in Finfinnee at the Imperial Hotel. Father Leus was ordained a priest in 1965 and worked in Tanzania in 1966. For the last 27 years he worked among our people, whom he loved and by whom he was dearly loved. He was laid to rest in the soil of southern Oromia "surrounded by all he loved and who love him even beyond grave".

Mohammed Hassen

Thanks Dr. Mohammed for your timely and informative letter. OSA is lucky to have a man of action like you in its midst.

I do look forward welcoming each of you in Minneapolis with Oromo optimism and a big Oromo smile.

Together we can do more for OSA.

Nagaan,

Gabana Huluka

OSA President

<http://www.oromostudies.org>