

#### **Contact Us:**

Email AFNA Website Facebook

#### **Get Involved:**

#### Monthly volunteer call:

First Sunday, every month, 10am - 11am PT Dial in: 641-7153272 Access Code - 457920#

#### Volunteer Email DL:

afna-vols@freelists.org Subscribe here: freelists.org/list/afna-vols

#### Donate:

**By check (**Pay to: AFNA) Mailing address:

SARFARAZ TAHER, TREASURER, AFNA 4391 MCMENEMY ST VADNAIS HEIGHTS, MN 55127

Online using Paypal

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\*\* We need active volunteers to run our projects. Please reach out to us (contacts above) or join our monthly volunteer meetings to know more. \*\*

# <u>Learn about AFNA</u> <u>projects</u>

#### **AFNA Membership**

Become AFNA member today by clicking <a href="https://example.com/here">here!</a> Your membership is what pays for our administrative expenses. As member you will have the opportunity to be a voting member of the organization, you also become one of the insiders who help to make 0% overhead to our donors possible.

## **Assam Foundation of North America**

**Newsletter: November, 2015** 

#### **AFNA 2016 Calendar is here!**

The Calendar team is happy to announce that our beautiful calendar with eye catching pictures of Assam is ready to be shipped. The calendar is priced at \$9.00/each. However, we humbly request you to consider a minimum donation of \$20.00 for each calendar as this is one of the main funding sources for AFNA to support all its projects starting from scholarships for needy children, flood relief, to enhancing employment opportunity for disabled. For order received by 13th of November, we will ship to any address in India and in USA free of charge. Do not miss this opportunity, order your calendar today.



Order your own copy by completeing the google form at <a href="http://goo.gl/forms/kGKWy3bHND">http://goo.gl/forms/kGKWy3bHND</a>.

### **Project of The Month: Parijat Academy**

Parijat Academy has developed into a full fledged K-10 school from a humble beginning in 1999. Its founder Uttam Teron had started teaching kids from near by stone quarry workers in his home in Gorchuk, near Guwahati, Assam which over all these years evolved into a school and important community center in the Gorchuk area. AFNA is involved with Parijat Academy for more than a decade now sponsoring its students, providing financial assistance and networking with volunteers who regularly visit and spend time teaching the kids. Parijat Academy has also taken active part in AFNA's initiatives like Soles For Tots, Guwahati Friendship Day run.

AFNA has been sponsoring 20 students from Parijat Academy for every year for last 5 years under its Support A Child program. AFNA also conducted a very effective Solar Light charging station and rechargeable lantern project with Parijat in 2013. Parijat Academy is planning to expand its school to include Class XI & XII (grade 11 & 12) to provide complete school education to its kids. AFNA is looking forward to help expand Parijat Academy's reach to more underprivileged kids in and around Gorchuk.

For more information check out their Facebook page & the website.



Students learning at Parijat



AFNA volunteer teaching at Parijat



Parijat Students visiting book fair



Exploring science experiment



Art activity for parijat parents



Vocational Training



2016 Calendar
Order your copy of 2016
Calendar by completing the
order form here

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#### **Jadav Payeng Tree Planting Ceremony report**

On 17th October, the township of Bridgewater marked the celebration of "Jadav Payeng Tree Planting Ceremony". Scores of participants joined the festivity at the Chimney Rock Park on the center of the city. The audience was greeted with live music and performances with a medley of Bharat Natyam, Kathak, Punjabi Bhangra, Odissi and Manipuri dancers. Overall, there were 48 participants from different groups to show their various talents in front of the invited guests and multi-cultural gatherings. Unveiling the Plaque and the memorial tree dedication, the Mayor of Bridgewater Mr. Daniel J. Hayes, paid glowing tribute to Jadav Payeng, "It is our pleasure to honor him, raise the awareness level across the continents, and inspire others to join in this noble cause." Mr. Hayes added "The celebration also marks Bridgewater's achievement as recognized Tree City of USA for the 19th consecutive year and honors the community for its commitment to effective urban forest management."

Joining at the ceremony were Chris O. Poulsen, Director of Health & Human Services Bridgewater Township, Mr. Shambhu Amitabh, Vice Consulate of India, Mr. Upendra Chivukula - New Jersey commissioner of Public Utility and the first Legislator from Indian Origin to New Jersey Assembly, Somerset County Freeholders, Councilmen, Council woman, and many other dignitaries. Speaking to the audience, the distinguished guests lauded the Bridgewater Township in creating worldwide recognition and use of trees as part of the solution to global issues. In addition to the distinguished guests, the Hillside Intermediate School presented to show their environmental projects through "Roots and Shoots" program as well as Township presented their Shade Tree Program in display.

"We are glad that Bridgewater Township has given us the opportunity to honor Jadav Payneg for his immense contribution to the environment. Jadav Payeng will be always remembered in this township" said Mr. Niren Choudhury in his closing remark. The function concluded with the Mayor distributing the certificate to all participants and with a boisterous Bihu, by the local Assamese ladies entertaining young and adults alike with the spirit of the Assamese folk dance. The Assamese community in the North Eastern region of USA was fully and wholeheartedly involved in the organization of the event. Special thanks to the entire Assamese community for their support and participation for the event.

The event pictures are available <u>Tree Planting to Honor Jadav Payeng</u>.













### Visiting AFNA supported projects in Assam

AFNA would like to encourage our volunteers to visit our project sites in Assam. This could help you understand the importance of those projects and the visit might inspire you to get involved with our work there. If you are interested in visiting one of our project sites please complete the request form below. We will send you more information about how to plan a productive visit. http://goo.gl/forms/0ocKN5tSrC

Special thanks to AFNA volunteers for providing the photos and reports for this newsletter.