

Assam Foundation of North America



Newsletter - Winter, 2018

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2019 AFNA Calendar

The 2019 AFNA calendar is now ready for distribution. This is a beautiful calendar that features pictures from the North East India with holidays & important dates for India, Assam and the North America.

This is also AFNA's year end fund raising campaign which helps us to kick start our projects for the new year. We suggest a donation of \$20 or more per calendar. You can request your copy of the calendar to be delivered in US, Canada or India [here](#). You can also contact your local AFNA volunteer for your requests.

AFNA is thankful for our sponsors for covering a bulk of the cost of the calendar and our volunteer contributors who took these beautiful pictures.



California Wild Fire Disaster Relief

There were two major wild fires in California that started off on November 8th causing a major destruction of lives and property and displacing thousands of residents. The one in Butte County, the Camp fire was the most destructive in California history with nearly 90 dead and 18,000 structures burnt. AFNA contributed towards rehabilitation efforts for those impacted by these fires with a token amount of \$1000 to each fire affected area working with local community based organizations.



Elevator construction in Tapoban

AFNA had initiated a project to help Tapoban, a home for children with special needs in Pathsala, Assam to add an elevator to the 3 story building it is constructing. AFNA committing to provide \$15,700 to Tapoban that 75% of the cost of the elevator construction. The civil and electrical work for the elevator started immediately in November. We have sent our first two fund installments so far. The elevator is on its way to get fully operational by mid-January.

Tapoban & AFNA sincerely thanks its donors for contributing to this project

Obituary: Dr Shonit Das
[May 28, 1951 – Nov 4, 2018]

A friend who will be terribly missed!

Shonit Das was a very dear friend of ours who we came to know from the early 80s: when both of our families were starting out the American lives in the NE region. Shonit was a research scientist at Colombia University New York City, along with his wife Dr Kamna Das. Our families grew closer with bonds of love and friendship - caring for each other and also creating a lot of fond memories via our shared pains and pleasures during our early lives- raising our boys : Abir and Raj, with Abir's playing the role of the elder brother. They spent many summer vacations together exploring the childhood adventures.

Shonit, besides being a wonderful human being, was also a very helping friend and an indispensable community member. We also got to meet many of their friends, and celebrity guests such as Dr Bhupen Hazarika at their New York City apartment. The breathtaking view of the George Washington bridge from their apartment is still unforgettable in my mind. His sense of humor, diverse hobbies of photography and cooking were very popular in the social media, as seen in the obituary comments of friends and strangers alike whose lives he had touched by his Facebook sharing. With our prayers and best wishes for Abir and other bereaved friends and family.

Debojit Bora



Condolences and Eulogy for Late Dr. Shonit Das.

We are deeply engraved with sorrow for the untimely and sudden demise of Shonitda. It is so natural that only after someone leaves us, our minds get refreshed with the fond memories of departed soul. Shonitda was one of very few in our community that gave the role model example of “be there”. He was always “there” in any community event with his kind gesture to help and with touch of humor coming up with some sort of jokes for everything. May be that is why we miss (and will miss) him a lot. He was a devoted husband, father and a friend.

I think every graduate or undergraduate students, or for that matter, any family came from India since 1984 onwards will remember Shonitda and Kamna Baidew for their kind gesture of offering their place. If anyone has any need for shoulder to unload his/her grief or anger, they know that there is a place in Das family's heart. As most of our communicatee member must have visited their house, they know how delightful and conversation became that time passed quickly.

Niren Choudhury

AFNA wishes everyone a happy new year 2019



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