



# সমাজ সংবাদ



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April 2009

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## Upcoming Events

### Children's Day

- ♦ May 9, Noon to 3 pm
- ♦ Cutting Hall, Palatine (details on back cover)

### Banga Sanskriti Dibas

- ♦ June 27
- ♦ Plainfield South High School
- ♦ Program details will be available soon on BAGC website

## If you move...

... then please let us know your new address by contacting any one of the two newsletter editors (contact phone number on next page).

## —President's Message—

*"Some succeed because they are destined to,  
but most succeed because they are determined to."*

This quote is uniquely fitting to this year's committee members who proved the notion by making 2009 Saraswati Puja a great success through their clear vision, hard work, determination and superb execution. I also must thank God who blessed us with a gorgeous day. January in Chicago is so unpredictable; I was worried about how the weather will turnout, but I can't complain, it was simply great! Finally, thank you all for your active cooperation through the day, which made this celebration a memorable one. It proved again just how much you care for this organization. I received a lot of feedback on how great the facility was; also how we maintained quality and timeliness of all the activities, including Puja, food and the cultural program.



The year started out great with this joyous event, but still there was sadness that burdened our hearts with Subrata Chakravorty's sudden demise. He was a long time member and a true friend of this organization, may God rest his soul.

Now let's switch gear and discuss some important things, which will guarantee this year to be even more successful. You perhaps remembered in my acceptance speech, I mentioned that success of BAGC depends not only on the efforts of the committee members but through volunteerism of all members. Though a lot of you helped us this past event, our committee needs more volunteers simply because it is a daunting task to manage an all day event with limited number of people. So, please volunteer your time to help our committees. Committee chairs will send out requests before each event.

Here are the dates for next two events: 'Children's Day', Saturday, May 9; 'Banga Sanskriti Dibash', Saturday, June 27. For details, please visit our website :

**www.BAGC.net.**

Lastly, a friendly reminder (though I don't want to sound like a broken record or a nag (or maybe both)):

All property of the host school must be thoroughly monitored and protected.

Illinois schools, as part of government property, are smoke free and we must make sure to honor the law.

I wish you all a very happy year!!!

Sincerely,

**Angshuman Chatterjee**

## Editor's Desk

## 2009 Committee Members

নতুন বছর - ২০০৯ আরম্ভ হল আমাদের প্রথম অনুষ্ঠান মা সরস্বতীর বন্দনা দিয়ে। শিকাগোর দুষ্কর শীত ও বরফ কে সেদিন আশ্চর্য ভাবে দূরে সরিয়ে দেবী সরস্বতী আমাদের পূজা গ্রহন করলেন প্রসন্ন মুখে।

এর মধ্যে আমরা হারানাম আমাদের শিকাগোবাসী বন্ধুপ্রিয় শ্রী সুব্রত চক্রবর্তী কে। আমরা সবাই প্রার্থনা করি ইশ্বর যেন চক্রবর্তী পরিবার কে এ দুঃখ সহ্য করার ক্ষমতা দেন।

সমাজ সংবাদ আমাদের সকলের বিভিন্ন চিন্তাধারা ও বিষয়-বস্তু কে একত্র করে আমাদের সকলকে আরো কাছে এনে দেয়। এ ব্যাপারে আপনাদের সকলের অংশ গ্রহন ও সহযোগিতা একান্ত প্রয়োজন। আমাদের সমাজ সংবাদের সীমিত পাতায় আপনাদের পাঠান বিভিন্ন অভিজ্ঞতা ও অনুভূতির বিবরণ, ছোট্টদের লেখা ও আঁকা, বা কবিতা, ও প্রবন্ধ আমরা তুলে ধরার চেষ্টা করব।

নতুন বছরের শুভকামনার সাথে -

আলপনা গংগোপাধ্যায় ও শুভাশিস লাহা

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## শুভ নববর্ষ - ১৪১৬



## -DISCLAIMER-

Articles in *Samaj Sambad* are obtained from individual members. The editors are not responsible for the content of these articles. The opinions expressed in these articles are solely those of the contributors and are not necessarily representative of BAGC.

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\*\*\*\*\*

Event Photography by:

Nirmalya (Shanku) Ghosh/847-677-9884

আকাশে সোনালী রোদের ছটা আর মাটিতে রূপালী বরষা



ফর বিকিমিকির মাঝে আমাদের নতুন বছরের প্রথম উৎসব , সরস্বতী পূজো , মহা সমারোহের সাথে উদযাপিত হলো ৩১ শে জানুয়ারী প্লেনফিল্ড সাউথ হাইস্কুলে ।

বাঁঙালীর মনে ফুলের গন্ধ, ধূপের ধোঁয়া, ঢামকুড়কুড় ঢাকের বাদ্যি যেমন পূজোর আমেজ এনে দেয়, তেমন ই আবার পূজোর উদ্যোক্তাদের মনে এনে দেয় কিছু উৎকর্ষা যেন সবকিছু সুষ্ঠু ভাবে সম্পন্ন হয়। এবার পূজোর কাজের জন্য প্রচুর সাহায্যের হাত এগিয়ে এসেছিলো। তাদের সবাইকে আমরা অজস্র ধন্যবাদ জানাই।

প্রতি বছরের মত এবারও সুমিত রায় তার শত বাস্ততার মাঝেও সময় করে পূজোর জায়গাটা সুন্দর ভাবে সাজিয়েছিলেন। ডাঃ দেবাংশু ভট্টাচার্য গত বছরের মত এবছর ও অতি সুন্দর ও সুষ্ঠু ভাবে, দক্ষতার সাথে পূজোর পৌরহিত্য করেছেন। সুব্রত মুখার্জি পূজোর অনেক আগের থেকেই প্রচুর কাজ নিজ দায়িত্ব নিয়ে আমাদের পূজো ঠিকপথে পরিচালিত করেছেন।

আর যারা পূজোর কাজে ও প্রসাদ বিতরণে আমাদের সাহায্য করেছেন, তারা হলেন - দীপা ভট্টাচার্য, পাপড়ি চ্যাটার্জী, মিঠু সেনগুপ্ত, শর্মিলা বাসু, কাকলী দাশগুপ্ত, দেবলীনা বোস, ভাস্বতী রায়, আলপনা গংগোপাধ্যায়, সোমা চক্রবর্তী, রাজশ্রী বাসু, কাবেরী চক্রবর্তী, চিত্তরূপা ঘোষ, উমা ভট্টাচার্য, রীনা দাস, লিলি সাহা, এবং মিতা ব্যানার্জী। এবছর পূজোর ভোগ করেছেন দেবলীনা চক্রবর্তী, সন্দেশ ও দধিকর্মের হানা করেছেন কাকলী দাশগুপ্ত, সুগতা চন্দ, ও রাজশ্রী বাসু। এদের সকলের সাহায্য ও সহযোগিতা ছাড়া পূজো সুষ্ঠু ভাবে হওয়া সম্ভব ছিলনা। এদের সবাইকে আমাদের ধন্যবাদ জানাচ্ছি। যদি কারো নাম অনিচ্ছাবশত বাদ পড়ে গিয়ে থাকে, সেজন্য ক্ষমা চেয়ে রাখলাম ।

- মনিকা ধর ও মনীষা দত্ত

### Graduation

Arpan, son of Anjan and Bhaswati Roy, has obtained his undergraduate degree from Portland State University in Portland, Oregon, majoring in Linguistics. He wants to pursue his Master's Degree in Melbourne University, Australia. His hobbies include traveling, writing and photography.

Congratulations Arpan !

### BANGA BHAVAN COMMITTEE UPDATE - APRIL 2009

Dear BAGC Members,

Based on feedback of the web-survey and meetings with PFG, we find **Option 2 (Mid-sized facility with \$600K project cost) the most suitable choice.**

**Here are some of the highlights of Option 2:**

- Allows a gathering of 200 to 250 people
- Can be utilized for all our purposes except the BAGC annual functions
- Cultural and literary events can be held at the venue
- It will house our library and our Pratimas
- Will be our heritage center where the community can come together for rehearsals, music, painting, movies, philanthropic activities, discussions and other creative activities

· Our younger members can meet other young friends or learn about the Bengali language, culture and history

We are also aggressively working to implement community feedback to use our facility as a place of worship. A Religious Task Force has been formed to formulate a feasible way to accomplish this. It will reach out to members of the community for input.

### Financial Model for Option 2:

- Project Cost : \$600K; Need to raise: \$450K; Loan : \$250K : On-hand: (\$700K - \$600K) = \$100K
- Total Pledged: \$310K; Special Fund \$75K; Total = \$385; Total Collected \$163K (Outright donation \$106K; in hand \$57K)
- Shortfall in pledge (as of April 2009): \$ 65K

With an assumption of raising \$35K every year, we will pay off the loan in 4 - 6 years. We are working on getting annual pledges from members to cover this amount in advance; some members have already come forward. Please come forward and help us make this long time BAGC dream a reality.

Please note that option 2 and \$250,000 mortgage will be put to vote in the Banga Sanskriti GBM. There is no mandatory assessment on our members.

We look forward to receive your input at mala-palit@ameritech.net or dippriya@hotmail.com (Sandeep Chaudhuri)

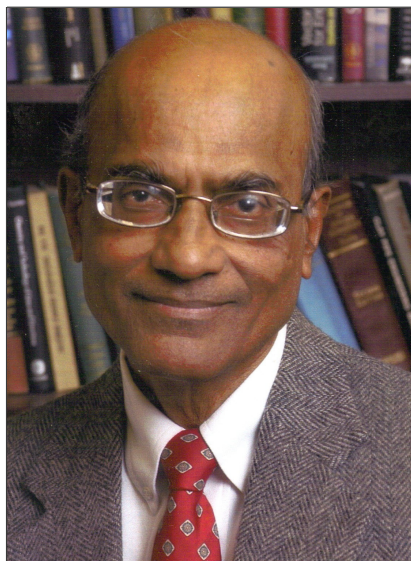
Best Regards,

Banga Bhavan Committee

## —Remembering—

**Dr. Subrata K. Chakrabarti**

Subrata K. Chakrabarti, 67, passed away on January 23, 2009 at his home in Plainfield, IL.



Subrata K. Chakrabarti was a world renowned expert in design and analysis of offshore structures, namely offshore oil platforms. He was a member of the National Academy of Engineers, one of the highest professional distinctions in the U.S.. He had a forty year career in the offshore platform industry, most of it at the Chicago Bridge and Iron Company (CBI) in Plainfield Illinois. His experimental technique for understanding the fluid-structure interaction for offshore structures soon became a world standard. He was involved in the development of several offshore projects including Dubai storage tanks, Gulf of Mexico Submersible, Brazilian Mooring Towers, North Sea Production Platform, and Gulf of Mexico Tension Leg Platform. He had performed research/experiments for the U.S. Navy on such projects as their Submarine Development, Advanced Navy Seal Delivery System, Advanced Torpedo, and USS Midway Aircraft re-design effort. He also founded his own company Offshore Structure Analysis Inc.

He was the author of more than six books on the various subjects of offshore structures, fluid-structure interaction, and design. Professor Chakrabarti joined the University of Illinois at Chicago's College of Engineering five years ago, and possessed joint appointments at two Departments. He was a Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers, American Society of Mechanical Engineers and a number of other organizations. He had over 300 publications, lectured world wide and served as an expert and consultant to the industry. He was a lead organizer of the Offshore Mechanics and Arctic Engineering International Conferences. He was also an excellent teacher both at UIC and in his short courses around the world.

Subrata was born in Calcutta, India, on February 3, 1941. He was a gold medalist in 1963 at the Jadavpur University, Calcutta during his bachelor's degree in Mechanical engineering. He achieved his masters in Mechanical Engineering in 1965 and a Ph.D. with honors in Engineering Mechanics from the University of Colorado in 1968, having arrived in America in 1965 with eight dollars in his pocket.

He was a most beloved husband, dear father, and loyal friend. He loved spending time with his family. He also enjoyed home improvement projects, walking for exercise, and cultural activities of the Bengali Association of Greater Chicago. He was a practicing Hindu. He is survived by wife Prakriti (Nature), daughter Sumita, son Prabal, and granddaughter Sajni..

## Web Sites:

<http://www.uic.edu/depts/enga/coenews/chakrabarti.htm>

<http://www.ooae.org/>

<http://www.geocities.com/osainc/home>



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# Restoring Health in South Asia

Sanjay Basu

The border zone between India and Nepal harbors Asia's highest rates of preventable death. There is less than 1 doctor per 250,000 people in this region, where few people survive to the age of 20.

Nyaya Health, a volunteer-run 501(c)3 organization started by Bengali-American medical students, has built a large clinic in this area, catering to the poorest population in the region.

The organization trains local providers, including nurses, doctors and preventive health workers who roam between villages to provide care to migrants in rural areas. We treat over 150 patients per day in primary care, pediatrics, infectious disease prevention and treatment and obstetrics, including vaccination, malnutrition prevention, HIV and tuberculosis and prenatal care.

Nyaya is now re-building a regional hospital that was destroyed in civil conflict years ago. The hospital will provide a full maternity center in a region where 1 in 100 women die in childbirth. We are appealing to the Bengali-American community to join us in this endeavor. You can contribute by:

**Contributing financially:** Because all of our staff are locals, and all of our foreign staff are volunteers, **100 percent of donations go directly to medical programs.** You can donate online at [www.nyayahealth.org](http://www.nyayahealth.org)

**Contributing your time:** If you are a nurse, physician, or have other medical experience, you can serve as part of our "expert panel" to assist us when local physicians and healthcare workers need advice, equipment, pharmaceuticals and supplies.

We work closely with the community, particularly women and "dalit" groups who form our "patient board of advisors", to reach those without access to health clinics. All of our work builds the local health system to provide sustainable improvements to public health and to train local healthcare providers.

Additionally, all of our budgets and expenditures are fully available to the public, and listed on the Internet for complete accountability and transparency: [www.nyayahealth.org](http://www.nyayahealth.org)

Please direct any questions to:

Sanjay Basu at [sanjay.basu@yale.edu](mailto:sanjay.basu@yale.edu)



The busy regional clinic



Training local healthcare providers



This hospital was built a decade ago, but corrupt politicians moved its equipment to a wealthier location. Locals prevented the Army from taking away the equipment; as a result, many were shot and killed. The government ministers have since been replaced and Nyaya Health has been asked to work with the community to renovate the hospital. 6

## Dolejatra & Holi -

### Celebrations of the Spring

**Achintya Ray**

Dole Purnima or Dolejatra is a Hindu festival celebrated in February/March, most noticeably by the Bengalis. It is a celebration of Radha and Krishna and their boundless love for each other.

About the same time, another Hindu festival, Holi is celebrated in many areas of India. Holi has a very distinctive mythological background. Once a demon king, Hiranyakashipu, ruled India. He became very powerful and demanded that his subjects not worship Lord Vishnu, but himself. His son, Prahlad, an ardent devotee of Vishnu, refused to comply with his father's order. Hiranyakashipu asked his sister, Holika, to carry Prahlad through a burning fire. He knew that Holika, by the power of a boon would not be affected by the fire, but Prahlad would burn to death. The plot of the demon king was so convincing that his subjects started celebrating the supremacy of the king. Drinking and dancing started and continued for several days. In actuality, however, the opposite happened. Holika was burned to death, but Prahlad, with his unshakeable devotion to Lord Vishnu came out of the fire unscathed. This was a potent reason for the devotees of Lord Vishnu to celebrate.

It seems on the face of it that Dole and Holi have very little in common. One similarity is that they are both Celebrations of the Spring. They both manifest in different forms--Vasantosab, or Madanautosob is celebrated for centuries in India. They are manifestations of age-old love between a man and a woman. Radha and Krishna form the archetypal image of this love. Throwing of colored water and colored powder to friends and relatives is an expression of rejoicings as well as the bond between them.

=====

Hello Everyone,

We would like to thank everyone for a great response for the 'Art Competition' during Saraswati Puja. We had a great turnout and some excellent performances. If any of the parents want their child's drawing, I'll have them with me during the Children's Day event.

Our next event is '**Children's Day**', on **9th May 2009** at Cutting Hall, Palatine. This event provides an immense opportunity for our community children to showcase their talents in the area of performing and fine-arts. We are organizing the Talent Show like all previous years and would like all your children to participate in it.

**Please let me know before April 30th, if your child is interested in taking part in the event.**

We are going to have two categories: a) group and b) solo. Prizes will be given according to the category. **Please note that we are NOT going to take 'on the spot' registration.** Make sure you register with me on or before April 15th. We are going to start the program sharp at 12noon, so please be there on time; also please note that all performances must end by 3 p.m. Please prepare for 1-3 minutes of performance. A child can only perform one solo and an additional performance could be a group one. If your group consists of non-BAGC members, we will treat this as an exception, but please make sure you notify us beforehand.

Please note that BAGC will provide snacks for children and parents after the performances, so please make sure your child have lunch before they come to perform.

We encourage you to motivate your kids to participate. It's a great event to share our culture and talent with the whole community. Please let me know as soon as possible. You can call me at 630-410-8785 (after 8PM) or email at linisha.basu@gmail.com.

Please send registration requests as per the following format

**Child's Name :**

**Parents' Name and Phone :**

**Category : Solo/Group**

**Performance Description :**

**Estimated Time of Performance :**

Thank you all for the cooperation.

Regards

Linisha

## International Mayhem

By Ani Biswas

My India trip was great. The food was marvelous; the weather was lovely (unlike the bitter coldness of Arlington Heights), and I had a blast with my cousins. However, the real adventure started just as our journey was about to end. We were all set to leave our heavenly Delhi home. I could see my mother wiping away tears from her eyes as she hugged my grandmother. My dad and I were busily packing up extra wires and cables at the last minute while my brother sat relaxed in the TV room as if nothing was bothering him in the world. Anyway, we were soon ready to leave the warm weather and reluctantly say hello to the cold. Soon, the taxi arrived; and we started hauling 15 baggages out the front door (I still have no idea what we bought and what our relatives gifted us that made us carry this number of baggages). Once most of the bags were stuffed into the van, the rest of them were tied onto the roof. I was nervous, considering that India had really bumpy roads. Anyway, we sat in the car and rattled all the way to the airport. As usual, we took a tediously long time at the check-in and security; but we were still on schedule. Our flight was at 2:00 A.M. and we reached there at 10:00 P.M.

As we sat near our gate, the P.A. said, "Attention, the KLM flight to Amsterdam has been delayed due to thick fog in Delhi. It will now take off at 2:00 P.M., tomorrow. Inconvenience is regretted." The people sitting next to us had their jaws dropped in disbelief. What were they supposed to do for the next twelve hours? Luckily, that was not our flight. The people on the other flight were taken to a hotel to rest for the night. However, many other airlines soon made announcements like this, making us more anxious than ever. Even so, I still hadn't heard anything about the Swiss Air flight to Zurich getting delayed yet. At 1:30 A.M., the plane began boarding. I gave a deep sigh of relief as I walked over to the gate with my family. Soon, we were sitting in the plane, waiting for it to take off. Of course, we couldn't get out that easy. The captain made an announcement that we would be delayed but not to the extent of the other flights. It could be three minutes or three hours. Either way, I decided to get a bit of sleep and soon dozed off.

Tired, I woke up and noticed the plane was on the ground. I was ecstatic to finally land in Zurich! Unfortunately, we just roamed around in a big circle in

Delhi for three hours, waiting for the sky to be a little more visible. The pilot had finally given up and said that we would have to wait until afternoon for our flight. Disappointment wasn't enough to express how I was feeling at that time. Once we got off the plane, we had to take off the tags on our luggage and get unchecked. After that, we lugged our heavy luggage to a bus that would take us to a hotel for the night. Once again, I dozed off.

As I opened my eyes, the sky was completely covered with fog. No wonder the plane crew had delayed the flight. My parents were already awake, and my little brother was in the process of waking up. My dad told me that we would be staying at a five-star hotel. In this state, I didn't care whether it was a five-star hotel or a no-star hotel. I just needed a quiet room with a bed and bathroom. The bus soon stopped at this huge building. The front sign read "The Oberoi Hotel". We disembarked the bus and hauled our bags into the lobby. It was about 5:30 in the morning. Suddenly, an employee appeared and asked us to have breakfast. That was the last thing on our minds at the time. Although we tried to disagree, the employee told us that we couldn't go into our rooms until we've eaten breakfast. Clearly, the man didn't understand how pushy he sounded. Once we went to the breakfast hall, my brother fell asleep once more in his chair. Don't employees think before making rules? I have to admit that this hotel was really fancy. The arrangements of food, the lobby, nothing was below average. But there was nothing at all in the breakfast buffet that I could possibly want to eat. Maybe there was. But I was either too tired or too full to notice. I ended up eating only three slices of watermelon. Once we were all finished with our miniscule breakfasts, my dad checked us into a room on the eighth floor. Just as I entered the room, all thoughts of sleep exited my mind. There was a giant flat-screen TV, a DVD player, and a magnificent view outside (which at the moment didn't look too impressive because of the fog). Also, the bathrooms looked as if they were designed for a king! I leaped onto the bed and started surfing through the channels on TV. However, it could only sustain my attention for so long as I soon fell asleep once more.

Completely fresh, I wandered with my family to the dining room where we had an excellent lunch, compared to the boring breakfast. We had a butter chicken and a type of Indian bread called naan. Once again, we carried our luggage to the bus and went on a long journey to the airport.



## *continue ....*International Mayhem

Like yesterday, we took up lots of time at check-in, customs, and security. Ironically, that day we were on the verge of missing our flight; but we made it just in time. In a matter of minutes, the plane took off; and we were on our merry way to Zurich. I wasted away most of the time by watching movies, playing around with the entertainment system onboard, and, of course, sleeping.

My first encounter with the cold was in Zurich with the temperature being at least 15°F. After landing, we went to the check-in counter asking to know when the next flight to Chicago was, since we missed our connecting flight. Luckily, we got a flight for the next day in the morning, so we would have to stay the night at the airport. No, we didn't sleep on the seats, but we stayed in a "hotel" of sorts inside the airport called Dayrooms. In fact, the room we stayed in looked like a dark alley compared to the Oberoi Hotel. Nevertheless, we had no other option. That night, we skipped dinner and hastily went to sleep.

Coffee and brownies awaited me in the morning when I woke up. But that wasn't the breakfast. In fact, once I checked out the dayrooms, I had a chicken sandwich from Burger King! Anyway, since we had lots of time to kill, we roamed around the various shops and areas in the airport. After two long hours, we made our way to Gate E. To get there, we had to take the airport transit system a.k.a. train. Once we got to our gate, my parents started filling out the various forms needed when traveling across the world. Finally, we boarded the plane and it took off, flew, and landed in what seemed like two hours. In actuality, it was about nine hours. Our long journey had finally come to end when we claimed our baggage and headed back for home, sweet home.

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## *I Am*

Anjan Ghosh

I am always sad but also happy.

I wonder why life goes on.

I hear God's voice talk to me.

I see all the dark light turn on.

I want you to show me the way.

I am always sad but also happy.

I pretend to be normal but no one ever is.

I feel the balance of life surround me.

I touch the water as I touch the sky.

I worry they're bothering you for me.

I cry, to find you, save you if I can.

I am always sad but also happy.

I understand nothing.

I say to the Lord - Why?

I dream that I will soon understand.

I try to make my dream come true.

I hope that you understand.

I am always sad but also happy.

=====



## Dreams

By Aniket Biswas

What is a dream?

No one knows for sure

But once you've experienced one of them

You'll keep on asking for more!

From sailing with pirates

To ruling the world

Or soaring the heavens

Like a majestic bird.

But you'd better watch out

For there comes a time

When nightmares take over

And frighten your mind

Just think of all the possibilities

That a dream can hold

Don't worry about the nightmares

Stand up to them and be bold

You can encounter adventure at every corner

When traveling in unknown lands

Or discover an ancient castle

Standing tall and grand

Only one question remains unanswered:

What is a dream?

To find out you must fill your head with imagination

So much that it pops at the seams

Some call it a portal to another world

And some say it's just a state of mind

Some say that dreams are real

And some shake their heads with a sigh

But no matter what a dream is

You must never let it go

For everything that exists was once a dream

So start dreaming now and let them grow

=====





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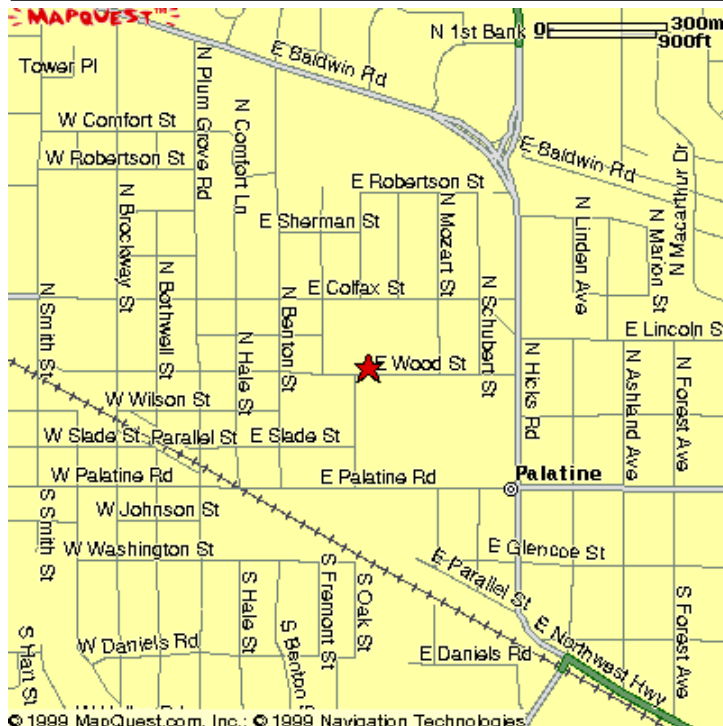
To:



Mark your calendar for upcoming event:

**“Children’s Day”**

**May 9, 2009**



**Venue:**

**Cutting Hall**  
150 East Wood Street  
Palatine, IL 60067

**Directions from South:**

- From 290W, continue on IL-53 N – go 4.1 mi
- Take Northwest HWY exit – go 0.3 mi
- **Right** fork to E. Northwest HWY (US-14 E) – go 1.3 mi
- Turn **Left** on E. Palatine Rd – go 0.3 mi
- Turn **Right** on N Oak St – go 0.2 mi
- Turn **Left** on E Wood St – Cutting Hall on **Right**

**Directions from North:**

- On IL Route-53, continue on N Hicks Rd – go 2.1 mi
- Left on E. Northwest HWY (US-14 E) – go 0.4 mi
- Turn **Right** on E Wood St – go 0.3 mi
- Cutting Hall on **Right** side