

Volume 40 Issue 1 January 2015



EVENT: Saraswati Puja

**DATE:** Saturday, January 24th, 2015

VENUE: Bartlett High School

701 W Schick Road, Bartlett, IL, 60103

### **EVENT SCHEDULE:**

| 10 :00am     | Registration Opens   |
|--------------|--|
| 11:30 am     | Puja   |
| 12:30 pm     | Hathey Khori<br>(Please bring your own Slate<br>Board and Chalk) |
| 1:00-2:30 pm | Lunch<br>(Kitchen Closes at 3:00pm)                              |
| 1:00-4:00 pm | Youth Activities   |
| 3:30 pm      | Snacks   |
| 5:00 pm      | Cultural Program   |
| 7:00 pm      | Dinner   |
| 8:30 pm      | Cultural Program   |

### CULTURAL PROGRAMS:

Kisholoy Presentation (Sudeshna Mozumdar)

Bangla school Kisholoy's budding artists are going to present a taste of this by their cute and charming presentation of songs and dances.

**Litur Mola** (Sarmistha Banerjee)

Presented by BAGC Children & Youth. The children's program centers on the six seasons of Bengal. The seasons will be depicted through song, dance and poetry, performed by children between the ages of 5-16. The music reflects the vast span of Bengali cultural expression -- ranging from traditional folk to Rabindrasangeet to contemporary Bengali music The poetry provides a glimpse of the wealth of Bengali literature. An original script written in both Bengali and English frames a kaleidoscope of performances by the youngest and brightest of our community.

*Frastab* (Mala Chakraborty)

Prastab is an adaptation from Anton Chekhov's 'The Marriage Proposal'. The play revolves around 3 characters, Prangopal Mitra, a young Zamindar who is seeking the hand of Rama Choudhury, daughter of Indrani Choudhury, the widowed landlord from the neighboring estate. This much staged famous Bengali play flows through hilarious twists and turns to bring the audience into splits.

# An evening with Aakash Deep

Aakash Deep a stellar performer with melodious Bengali/ Hindi songs and a 'band'-ish touch. A versatile singer with old movie songs, new age bands and urban styles, his voice is unique and unconventional in terms of tonal quality, overall range and depth.

# "Investing is Simple, but not Easy" - Warren Buffet

Are you investing successfully for the long term?

Despite making enough money, most people struggle to achieve their long term financial goals. They employ trial and error investment strategies, trying to pick the next hot stock or mutual fund. Lacking a clear investment plan and execution strategy, they often assume more risk than necessary and thereby diminish their chances of achieving their goals.

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Successful investors have a well thought out investment plan and strategy, which they execute consistently over the long haul. Just as successful athletes have a plan and strategy in place and achieve success with the help of a coach, successful investors need a good investment plan and strategy that they can execute with the help of a good investment adviser.

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## **President's Message**

Dear BAGC Members,



On behalf of EC 2015, I would like to wish all of you a happy and prosperous New Year! I am honored and humbled by the opportunity to serve as President in 2015. I also consider myself fortunate that such a talented and strong team of volunteers have come forward to join me in the Executive Committee. I would like to congratulate and thank EC 2014 for the great year that they gave us.

As we embark into the New Year, we plan to continue the strong tradition of BAGC events and activities that we have built over the years. We also want to take some strategic steps, which positions BAGC strongly for the future.

We will continue and build on the fiscal control processes put in place by EC 2014. We will engage our youth to larger extent. You will see them more engaged including assisting our members with special needs during the events.

We will also encourage and recruit new Bengali families in the Chicago area to become members. We will continue and build on the relationships with Corporate Sponsors. In order for us to be successful in these initiatives, we will need help and participation from all of you.

Banga Bhavan has become an integral part of our association; we will take steps to promote it more in the Chicagoland area to increase its usage. At the time of writing, we are very close to paying down Banga Bhavan mortgage. I would like to commend EC 2014 for this great achievement and request our members to come forward and help pay down the mortgage completely.

We have published our rates for 2015. We have kept the Annual Membership rates the same and the early registration event rate for Saraswati Puja is lower than last year. We have slightly increased the GFP rates. As pointed out by previous committees, our GFP rates are highly subsidized. We value the commitment our members demonstrate by being GFP; and will encourage our members to continue this practice. The slight increase was necessitated by the cost increases over the past years.

You can pre-register via regular mail or online. I will strongly encourage and request you to do so. You will not only save money, but help us plan and budget the upcoming Saraswati Puja event better.

See you all at Saraswati Puja!

Sincerely,

Sandeep Chaudhuri President, BAGC 2015



## Banga Bhaban 2015

# by Jhumur Palit

Banga Bhavan opened in 2010 with the vision it would become a thriving Religious and Heritage Center;
 that vision is gradually becoming a reality. We are proud to have some well-known singers, musicians,
 poets and Swamiji's grace Banga Bhavan.

The 2015 Executive Committee will strive to continue the trend. The vision and focus for 2015 will be on youth. The Committee will try and have activities at Banga Bhavan conducive to attracting the younger members of BAGC. Community members are encouraged to give any ideas they have on new programming. Our weekly Arati on Sundays will continue, however we would like to add some sponsored Pujas on at least two Sundays a month. There will be a small change in format; we will let everyone know as soon as everything has been finalized.

This year the tentative date for Shivaratri celebrations is on February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015. We will have Puja in the evening followed by a light dinner for everyone. The date for Holi is undecided; it will probably be the first weekend in March. Ramnavami is on March 28th, we will celebrate both Basanti Puja and Ramnavami on that day. Please mark your calendars and come and celebrate.

Finally let us not forget about rentals for the Community area and the Puja area. If you are looking for a space for a Party, Annaprashan, Shower or any other small event please do consider Banga Bhavan and send an e-mail, based on availability we will reserve the hall for you. Rates will be published online. We would like to see people from other Communities utilize the space, if you have friends who need space for an event, please direct them to the BAGC website for information.

The 2015 Executive Committee is excited about bringing new programs and working with the Community to make Banga Bhavan a vibrant and welcoming religious and heritage center. Your continuing support in this endeavor will be appreciated and welcomed. We are looking forward to seeing everyone at Banga Bhavan in 2015.

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বিএজিসির সদস্যদের নতুন বছরের শুভেচ্ছা জানাচ্ছি।

প্রত্যেক বছরের মতন এ বছরও দেবী সরস্বতীর আরাধনায় দুহাজার পনেরো দাল শুরু হচ্ছে – তার মানে পূজো, অঞ্চলি, প্রসাদ, দধিকর্মা, হাতেথড়ি, হলুদ রঙের কাপড় পরা, নাটক, ছোট ছেলেপুলেদের অভিনয়, গানবাজনা, আর সবাই মিলে থাওয়াদাওয়া । সরস্বতী আমাদের বিদ্যা আর জ্ঞান অর্জনের ক্ষমতা বৃদ্ধি করুন ও জড়তা বা মূর্খতার অবসান ঘটান, এই প্রার্খনা করি । সা মাং পাতৃ সরস্বতী ভগবতী নিঃশেষজাড্যাপহা ।

সমাজসংবাদের প্রথম সংখ্যায় থাকল বাংলা পড়ুয়াদের হাতের বাংলা লেখা। আশা করি আপনাদের ভালো লাগবে । বঙ্গভবন শুরু হবার পর থেকে গত কয়েক বছরে বিএজিসির অনেক রকম পরিবর্তন ঘটছে। সারা বছর ধরেই এখন কাজ চলে, সুতরাং দায়িত্ব অনেক বেশি ।

আরো অনেক সুবিধে বা সুযোগ থাকলে ভালো হয়, সে বিষয়ে বিবিধ কমিটির পক্ষ থেকেও কিছু বক্তব্য রাখা হল । আমাদের সাহায্য করার জন্যে আশা করি আপনাদের সহযোগিতা পাওয়া যাবে ।

हिन्तर्ग जानुसाती वार्टलिं शहेश्रुल (प्रथा इत् ।

নমস্বার।

> বাসন্তী বন্দ্যোপাধ্যয়ে সমিতা সরকার

## **Immediate Dast Dresident's Message**

Dear Members,

As you are aware, the 2014 EC launched as a key initiative a donation drive to pay down BAGC's mortgage loan balance. At the GBM on November 1, 2014 we announced we would make a request to the Special Fund Committee to disburse \$50,000 towards reducing the mortgage loan balance; we would pay off the remainder of the outstanding balance from the donations we would raise and the surplus we expect to achieve from the 2014 EC operational budget.

At the time this newsletter goes to press, the outstanding loan balance is \$70,000. We are very happy to announce that the Special Funds Committee has reviewed our formal request and has voted to disburse \$50,000 from the Special Funds towards reducing the outstanding mortgage loan balance. We remain on target to pay off the remaining \$20,000 from the expected surplus of the 2014 EC operational budget. Because of normal timing issues in collecting our accounts receivable, we hope to be able to reach the zero balance goal by April 2015. On behalf of the 2014 EC, I wish to thank all of you for your year-round support and encouragement. We have been able to get this far only because you espoused our initiative with such enthusiasm and ownership. It has indeed been an honor to serve you.

I have said this many times before, and I shall repeat: a fully secured property such as Banga Bhavan is not only a very valuable financial asset to BAGC, but also a grand opportunity to expand its operations to suit the hitherto unmet needs of its members. From the time Banga Bhavan became operational in 2011, our membership has participated in various activities there. During 2014, we witnessed a consistent and increased level of involvement in different types of activities by different groups throughout the year. Particularly in the months preceding the major BAGC events, Banga Bhavan has been buzzing with multiple activities. We only hope that this trend will continue.

We list below some of the activities that have taken place at Banga Bhavan during 2014. In addition, Bangla Class, Vocal Music Lessons for Youth, weekly *arati*, rehearsals, informal *adda* sessions by members, meetings by EC, BOT, and other committees, and private rentals have taken place at Banga Bhavan on a regular basis throughout the year.

**Puja**: Sri Panchami (Feb); Shiva Puja and Mahamrityunjaya Japa (Feb); Thakur Sri Ramakrishna's Birth Anniversary (Mar); Dol Utsav (Mar); Basanti Puja (Apr); Naba Barsha (Apr), Mangolik Session (May), Janmashtami and Naam Sankirtan (Aug); Special Arati (Aug); Mahalaya (Sep), Satsang and Hari Naam Sankirtan (Nov); Discourse and Kirtan on Sri Sri Sarada Ma's Birth Anniversary (Dec)

**Cultural:** Dol Utsav (Mar), Trilogy Music Concert (Apr); Summer Concert 1 – Sarbani Chakrabarty (Jul); Summer Concert 2 – Mousumi Banerjee (Aug), Kumar Bose and Indrajit Banerjee Concert (Aug); Concert by Shreejata Samaddar, Amit Bhattacharya, and Subhasis Mukherjee (Dec)

**Youth Events**: Children's Sit and Draw Contest (Feb), Youth Oration Event (Aug), Children's Day (Aug)

Seminars: Investing Strategies (Oct), Retirement Planning (Nov)

**Sports**: *BAGC 2014 Carrom and Table Tennis Tournament* (Oct)

**Member Socials**: Welcome 2014 Party (Jan); Poush Parban Celebration (Jan); Unveiling of Banga Bhavan Plaque (Jun), Member Appreciation Event (Dec),

**Member Activities:** Book Club (Dec), Play-reading Club (Dec)

Free Movie Nights: Deowa Neowa (Feb); Kalbela (Mar); Chander Pahar (Nov); Apur Panchali (Dec)

Rented Activities: Monthly Cine Club

**Concerts organized by Third Parties**: Aditi Mohsin Concert (May), Concert by Sandeep Bhattacharjee (Sep), Sitar and Vocal Music Concert by Spandan (Nov)

Once again, thank you for a wonderful year.

Warm regards,

Debasish Gooptu (BAGC President 2014)

### Goddess Saraswati and I

Ву

### Banisree Chakraborty

Every morning and every night my mom says to me, "Thakur ke Pranam Karo". Kintu kon Thakur ke? How can I remember the names of so many Hindu Gods and Godesses? It is really hard for me to do that. To resolve this, I came up with one easy way! First I thought a lot which Thakur (Hindu God or Goddess) is best fit for me or matches totally with my hobbies and activities. I love music, fond of reading books and like to write up various articles. I also adore painting and cherish dancing too!

It was difficult for me to decide, which Thakur should I pray to, so that I can get heavenly blessing and support for my activities. Finally I concluded that Maa Saraswati, the Goddess of piety and knowledge fits the best for me and with her blessing I can do better in my activities and efforts.

My dad told me that Goddess Saraswati has many names and my name "Banisree" is one of her names, which made me very happy. I also learned from my dad that Saraswati is one of the daughters of Maa Durga. She is the symbol of knowledge, music, arts, wisdom and learning.

Saraswati is often represented as a beautiful lady dressed in pure white, seated on a white lotus. She not only embodies knowledge but also is experience of highest reality. The lotus symbolizes purity, knowledge and the eternal truth.

The idol of Maa Swaraswati is shown to have four arms but sometimes two. A Hansa (Hans or Swan) is usually located next to her feet. In Hindu religion hansa or swan is a sacred bird which is known to be the carrier or Vahana of Maa Swaraswati.

We worship Maa Swaraswati at the beginning of every year, on Vasant Panchami (the 5<sup>th</sup> day of Spring) at our house and we offer her different Prasad as fruits and home made sweets. My mom prepares all the Prasad all by herself and my dad performs the ritual as our priest. I love to participate in the ritual of Puspanjali as showing devotion to the Goddess. Puspanjali is the part where everybody chants some Sanskrit mantras and offer flowers to the Goddess's feet.

I like to pray to Goddess Saraswati very much and always enjoy the ritual of worshipping her. I everyday pray to Maa Saraswati and ask for her blessing so that I can be better at my studies, painting, and music.

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# গাঁয়ে নামে সন্ধ্যা

শম্পা ঘোষ

উদাসী বাউল গান গেয়ে যায় মাঠের আলে আলে পাখিরা সব ঘরে ফিরে আসে বসে গাছের ডালে।

ধানের ক্ষেতে ঢেউ খেলে যায় সূর্যান্তের আলো রাখাল বালক গরু নিয়ে বাড়ির দিকে গেলো।

দূর আকাশে পশ্চিমেতে সূর্য গেছে ঢলে সন্ধ্যা তখন ঘোমটা দিয়ে ছায়া ফেলে গাঁয়ের কোলে।

বধূরা সব প্রদীপ জ্বালায় আলো জ্বলে প্রতিটি ঘরে তুলসী তলায় প্রণাম করে শঙ্খ বাজায় জোরে।

ছেলেমেয়েরা শান্ত হয়ে বই এর পাতা খোলে দুষ্টু ছেলে পড়তে নারাজ ঘুমের ছলে ঢোলে।

ফোকলা দাঁতে মুড়ি চিবোয় হাতে কাঁসার বাটি মশার কামড় পড়লে পিঠে দাদু করে যে ছুটোছুটি।

উঠোনে বসে পা ছড়িয়ে ঠাকুমা মালা জপে কানে শোনেনা চোখে দেখে কম হাতটা একটু কাঁপে।

> রান্না ঘরে খুন্তি হাতে বউ থাকেন বড় ব্যস্ত কর্তার গলা পেলে পরে হয়ে পডেন তিনি ত্রস্ত।

শান্ত হাওয়া স্লিগ্ধ করে দোলা দেয় গাছে গাছে শরীরের ক্লান্তি দূর হয়ে যায় সারাদিনের অবকাশে।

চাঁপা ফুলের গন্ধ ছড়ায় বয়ে যাওয়া হালকা বাতাস সন্ধ্যা তারা মারলো উঁকি মাথার উপর খোলা আকাশ।

ঝিঁঝি পোকারা মেতে ওঠে উল্লাস করে যত সন্ধ্যা এবার যায় যে সরে রাত্রি হয় যে আগত।

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## Wonderful World

Bani Bhattacharyya

When I was little,
My mother told me,
"Go outside and play."
I jumped, danced with strangers
And came home happy.

Then I became a mother I told my son to enjoy outdoor. But, please be careful Play, but don't go anywhere Just stay nearby.

Now I'm a grandmother I tell Sonia and Shawn Wait till I am with you. Play only with your friends, And the people you know.

Stay in front of me or be at home And enjoy your computer game. This is the way Ever changing world Has evolved around me.

For better or worse Who's to say?

### **Basketball Trivia**

Soham Sarkar

- 1. What number(s) has Michael Jordan used in his career?
  - a. 23
  - b. 45
  - c. 12
  - d. All of the above
- 2. Which team changed their name and back in the last decade?
  - a. Charlotte Hornets
  - b. Oklahoma City Thunder
  - c. Cleveland Cavaliers
  - d. Seattle Super Sonics
- 3. Which of these players were not in the same draft class as the others?
  - a. Michael Jordan
  - b. Sam Bowie
  - c. Scotty Pippen
  - d. John Stockton
- 4. Who was not inducted into the hall of fame for basketball?
  - a. Gary Paton
  - b. Shaquille O'Neal
  - c. Dennis Rodman
  - d. John Stockton
- 5. How many international players are in the 2014-2015 NBA Season?
  - a. 25-50
  - b. 50-75
  - c. 75-100
  - d. 100 and up

# ARGC THANKS ITS PLATINUM SPONSON



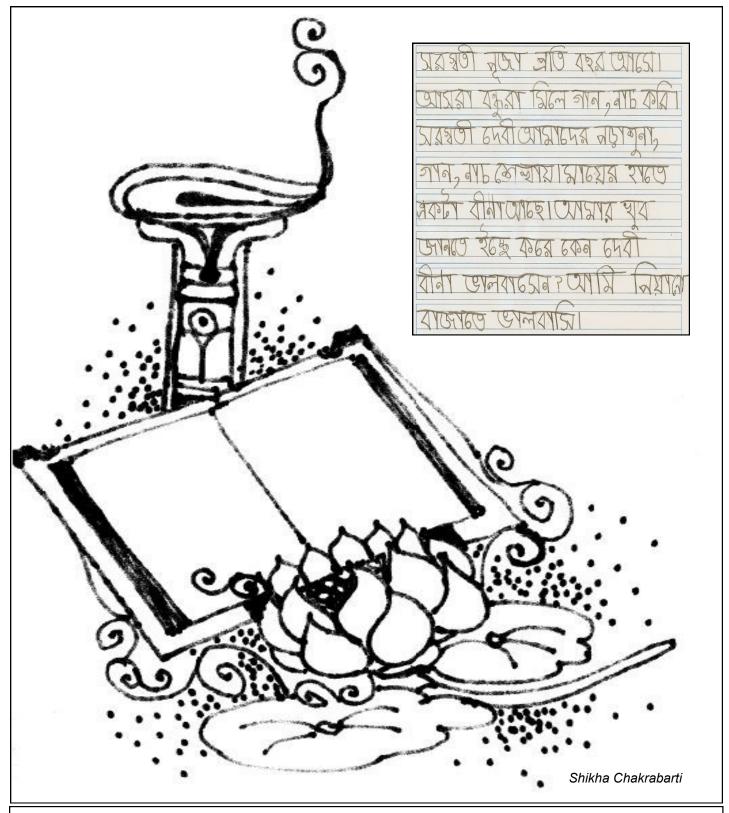
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Contact Phone Number: 847-882-0321

Email: info@mediaus.com

URL: www.mediaus.com



### Trivia answers / facts

- 1. d (Michael Jordan had to wear No.12 as his jersey was stolen)
- 2. a (Charlotte franchise had been the Hornets and then changed to Bobcats and back to Hornets)
- 3. c (Sam Bowie was a higher draft pick than Michael Jordan)
- 4. b (Shaquille O' Neal is considered as one of the 50 great players of all times, but has not been inducted into the hall of fame yet)
- 5. d (There are 101 players representing 37 countries)

# 2015 Committee Member's Desk

### **2015 Youth Involvement Initiative**

We would like to make a concerted effort to ensure that our younger members are involved in BAGC and make BAGC meaningful to them. We are planning to have events for youth members so they can get to know others with similar interests, invite them to participate in our programs, offer volunteering, educational and career mentoring opportunities. We welcome all suggestions on how we can serve this important demographic better. If your child would be interested in volunteering during our upcoming Saraswati Puja, please email their name, age to <a href="mailto:youth@bagc.net">youth@bagc.net</a>

### **Fundraising**

The Fund Raising committee looks forward to the entire community's involvement and participation - We hope that the entire community will reach out to their potential respective sources (e.g., company diversity group donations) to help BAGC further in this area. We aspire to blend 'Fund raising' with 'Fun raising' this year. Keep tuned... more to come.

## **Registration Desk**

Our primary goal in 2015 is to provide online registration to our community members well in advance of all events. Assuming most members will take advantage of the online registration facility, we intend to keep your registration / check-in wait-time under two minutes at BAGC events.

### **Editors Desk**

Do you have questions about Life Insurance, Financial planning, Retirement planning or how to fund for kids college? Please send a email to editors@bagc.net and we can help address those in our next newsletter.

# **Community News**

*Darshan Chakrabarti* son of Bhaskar and Arpita Chakrabarti placed **31st** in the overall individual ranking out of over 1000 of the best Math high schoolers in the nation at the HMMT National Math Competition in Boston, MA.

Rina and Narayan Das are happy to announce the birth of their granddaughter, *Eliana Jain* born on June 12, 2014 in Chicago, Congratulations to proud parents Drs Sarika (Tumpa) and Manish Jain.

Ananda Mandir (Somerset, NJ) has awarded Gayatri GaMarsh Memorial Awards to *Indrani Mondal* of Chicago for Bengali Publication . This award was previously received by our esteemed member Bakul Banerjee.

Our own *Shouvik Saha* appeared on "Dadagiri", a TV quiz show in Kolkata conducted by "Dada" Sourav Ganguly, and won the trophy.

We lost a longtime BAGC member and a respected family friend, *Mr. Prabir Acharya* on Oct 8, 2014. Our sincere condolence to his wife Mira, son Prasun and daughter Snigdha. We will miss you Prabirda.

Bangla book club "Boi Paath" has started at Banga Bhaban. Everyone is invited !!!. Join us every 3rd Sunday from 2:30-4:30 pm.

Join Bangla Natok chorcha, another new venture started at Banga Bhaban. Information on meeting dates and time will be posted on bagc google group. Please subscribe by sending an email to <a href="mailto:bagc@googlegroups.com">bagc@googlegroups.com</a>

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## 2015 MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM

Here are the annual membership fees, GFP rates, and Saraswati Puja rates for 2015. In order to avoid inconveniences and long delays at the front desk, we encourage you to please log on to your account at <a href="www.bagc.net">www.bagc.net</a> and complete the on-line registration form. Alternatively, you may complete this paper form and mail it to the following address, along with a check payable to BAGC:

Uditt K Mukherjee 1525 Baytree Drive Romeoville, IL 60446

**Annual Membership Fees per family:** \$95 **General Family Program (GFP) Rates:** 

|                       | EARLY BIRD (VALID THROUGH JAN 19, 2015) |                           |                    | VALID FROM JAN 20, 2015         |                        |                           |                       |  |
|-----------------------|---|---------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|--|
|                       | Adult<br>(>18 yrs.)                     | Child<br>(6 - 18<br>yrs.) | Child<br>(<6 yrs.) | Self-<br>Supporting<br>Student* | Adult<br>(>18<br>yrs.) | Child<br>(6 - 18<br>yrs.) | Child<br>(<6<br>yrs.) | Self-<br>Support-<br>ing Stu-<br>dent* |
| Rate<br>per<br>person | \$130                                   | \$65                      | \$0                | \$100                           | \$150                  | \$70                      | \$0                   | 100                                    |

### Saraswati Puja Rates:

|                       | MEMBERS/NON-MEMBERS THRU JAN19 |                           |                    | MEMBERS/NON-MEMBERS ONSITE      |                             |                           |                       |                                 |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
|                       | Adult<br>(>18 yrs.)            | Child<br>(6 - 18<br>yrs.) | Child<br>(<6 yrs.) | Self-<br>Supporting<br>Student* | Adult<br>(>18<br>yrs.)      | Child<br>(6 - 18<br>yrs.) | Child<br>(<6<br>yrs.) | Self-<br>Supporting<br>Student* |
| Rate<br>per<br>person | \$35/ <b>\$45</b>              | \$15/ <mark>\$20</mark>   | \$0                | \$20/\$30                       | \$45/ <mark>\$5</mark><br>5 | \$15/ <mark>\$20</mark>   | \$0                   | \$30/\$40                       |

<sup>\*</sup>To qualify for the rates of Self-Supporting Student, you must satisfy all the following criteria.

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ADDITIONAL REGISTRANTS

You are a full time college student

You pay all your college expenses (Tuition and Lodging) without any help from your spouse or parents.

For the purpose of tax returns, you are not claimed by anybody as a dependent.

You do not file joint tax returns with your spouse who is gainfully employed.



### http://www.bagc.net

## 1148 N. Main Street, Glendale Heights, IL 60139

Mark your calendar for upcoming event:

# "Saraswati Puja on January 24th, 2015"

### **BECOME A BAGC MEMBER**

The 2015 BAGC Executive Committee would like to initiate a dedicated effort to drive BAGC membership growth as well as thank current BAGC members for their continued support.

For BAGC attendees who are not members, we request that you consider joining us. You will be supporting our growing organization that strives to maintain and promote Bengali Heritage and also pass it on to our youth. In addition, you will help us enrich our activities with your newer ideas.

BAGC membership also provides significant discounts for all annual events, such as pujas, cultural programs, and the BAGC picnic. Additionally, membership allows for discounted Banga Bhavan rental rates and access to a number of community activities including concerts, Ananda Mela, Bangla School, seminars and movie nights. Funds raised through membership contribute towards essential BAGC operating costs.

We encourage you to become a BAGC member in 2015. Please spread this message to your friends and invite them to join us as well. We look forward to growing our membership and enhancing our thriving community in the coming year.



### *Venue:*

Bartlett High School 701 W Schick Road, Bartlett, IL, 60103

### **Direction:**

#### From I-90

- Head south on IL-59 N;
- Turn left at Schick Rd;
- Turn right at Petersdorf Rd
- Turn left to School.

### From I-88

- Head north on IL-59 N,
- Turn right at Schick Rd,
- Turn right at Petersdorf Rd
- Turn left to School.