

Volume 40 Issue 5 November 2015

Event: Kali Puja

Date: Saturday, November 7th, 2015 Venue: Streamwood High School 701 W Schaumburg Rd,

Streamwood, IL 60107

3:30 PM to 7:30 PM	Registration
4:00 P.M. to 7:30 PM	BOT Position Election
4:00 PM to 6:00 PM	Annual General Body Meeting
5:00 PM	Puja starts
7:00 PM	Pushpanjali
7:30 PM	Puja ends
7:00 PM to 8:00 PM	Dinner
8:30 PM to 11:00 PM	Cultural Programs



BAGC EC 2015 would like to thank all the volunteers who worked tirelessly to make Durga Puja 2015 a memorable experience. A large number of members helped in Puja, Registration, Facility, Food, and Cultural to make all these functions work smoothly.

BAGC has a proud tradition of our volunteers contributing in a selfless manner and this was amply in display this year. We are in the process of compiling a list of volunteers and will be posting it on the BAGC Website soon.

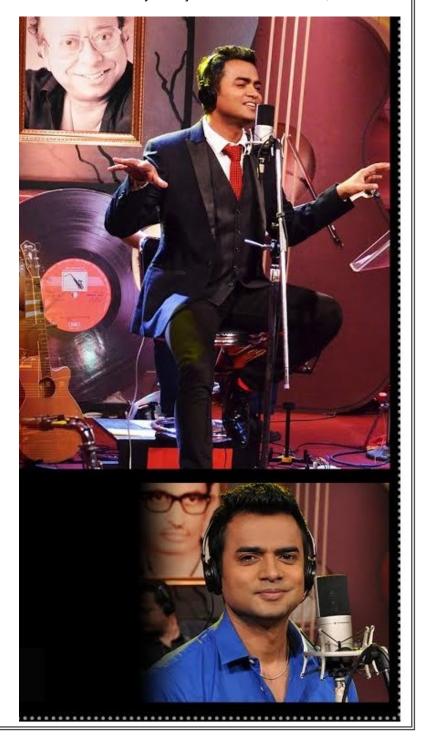
Subho Bijoya!

BAGC EC 2015

Cultural Highlights

We are going to present Debojit Saha for Kali pujo, an Indian Bengali singer and past winner of several reality TV shows including Zee TV's Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Challenge 2005.

Get ready to soak in the melody and bounce to the rocking Performance of one and only Debojit Saha on November 7, 2015.



President's Message

Dear BAGC Members,

Shubho Bijoya to everyone!



Thanks to your participation, we all enjoyed a memorable Durga Puja experience this year. With sunny skies outside and the joyful minds inside, Bartlett High School came alive with the true spirit of Puja as Ma Durga showered her benevolence on us. We had a record attendance of approximately 700 on Friday, 1400 on Saturday, and 900 on Sunday. Various activities ran harmoniously without incident. Words cannot express my gratitude towards my team and the large number of volunteers without whose tireless efforts, this mega event would not be possible. However much I would like to, I will not be naming volunteers individually. We will be publishing a list of volunteers on the BAGC website soon.

I would also like to thank our corporate and member sponsors, whose contributions make a program of this magnitude financially viable.

The Puja was conducted with utmost devotion and meticulousness. This is a herculean undertaking where all members and attendees are able to experience and avail of every aspect of the Puja, offer Anjali and come away with a sense of peace and satisfaction.

Our New Protima, with the fabulous decoration was welcomed enthusiastically by one and all.

The record number of attendees were processed through the registration system, with minimal glitches. Everyone enjoyed a delicious variety of cuisine on all three days and each day culminated with an amazing array of cultural programs, by both our community as well as guest artists.

Our Annual Sharadiya magazine was very nicely compiled and the distribution process was started at Durga Puja. The remaining copies will be available for distribution at Kali Puja.

Once again, every aspect was made possible by the talents and efforts of our volunteers and members. My heartfelt thanks to all.

While we made our best attempt to run everything flawlessly, we do acknowledge that some things could be done better. We will incorporate these improvements in the future and pass along lessons learnt to the next committee.

We now look forward to seeing you at Kali Puja, being celebrated on Saturday, Nov 7th at Streamwood High School.

We will also be having our Annual General Body Meeting at Kali Puja. Please be present on time to participate in this important event. We will be publishing the agenda soon.

With Best Regards,

Sandeep Chaudhuri BAGC, President.



The First Day Of Durga Puja-2015

By Devipriya Roy

The very first day of Durga Puja 2015 celebrated by the BAGC offered a big taste of the extravaganza that the three day affair was to bring to the members of the Association. Held in the sprawling and spacious building of the suburban Bartlett High School, the evening was filled with festive Puja warmth, good food and wonderful cultural entertainment.

As the arriving members walked in the school Gym, following the drum beats and cymbals of Arati and the chanting of Durga Stotra, they got their first glance of freshly arrived idols of the family of Ma Durga. The backdrop of the idols was breathtaking in its vision as well as in its scope. Mr. Sumit Roy, the Resident Artist Extraordinnaire outdid himself this year, as he had fashioned a chariot pulling the entire family through the heavens driven by a Sun like charioteer. After offering Anjali to the Mother, and thence having a sumptuous dinner at the cafeteria, the visitors settled down in the school auditorium for the evening's entertainment.

The chosen Theme of this year's Puja was Sakti-the eternal Power of the Mother that imbues every part of this universe, and the program of the evening was fashioned around that theme. Dr. Narayan Das, the veteran member of BAGC was to act as the Master of Ceremonies and he introduced Moulik Chatterji, the tiny BAGC member with the magical voice, whose sweet invocation of the Eternal Power inaugurated the three day Cultural Extravaganza. Moulik, who has been a top contestant in the Sa Re Ga Ma Pa USA, followed the first number with a delightful Bollywood song, accompanying its beat with cute little dance moves.

Nari, Nature and Beyond –a dance and music anthology exploring the Eternal Energy running through the entire universe that has its seat in the figure of Woman was the next item on the program. Imaginatively visualized, compiled and directed by Mrs. Indrani Mondal, it was a feast for the senses, with wonderful music, recitation and innovative dancing. The musical pieces and the figures of women selected by Ms. Mondal spanned several cultures and the dances choreographed by Eshara Mondal and Sreerupa Dey matched that diversity. The agile dancers charmed everyone with their verve and vitality.

The grand Finale of the evening was the music performance of Mr. Rajdeep Chatterjee, the winner of 2006 Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Lil Champs award. Rajdeep, who has many more prestigious awards in his bag has been a playback singer for many of the recently released Bollywood movies. As such his repertoire includes both Bengali and Bollywood numbers and he did not disappoint the fans of either music style in the audience. He started the evening with Bengali songs of Manna Dey, carrying his listeners back to the golden days of the yester years. Starting the second part, Rajdeep crooned the numbers from the Mumbai cinema world. His clear and melodious voice and his bubbling energy and charm soon woke up the listeners, who were tired at that late hour. Urged to their feet by Rajdeep, circulating among them, they too swayed to the music and soon everyone was dancing. As the evening drew to an end and the humorous and suave Dr. Narayan Das bade everyone Good Night, the Bengalis were still dancing to Rajdeep's music.

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# Durga Puja Day 2 Progam Review

by Ranjita Chattopadhay

On the second day of Durga puja celenbration by BAGC, the community members were exhilarated about the cultural programs to be staged in the evening. Usually the crowd on Saturday reaches the peak level, which calls for an elaborate cultural line-up involving both community members and guest artists.

The night of October seventeenth, 2015 was no exception. After a busy day of puja rituals, eating prasadam, "adda" with friends, shopping at the local vendors, the audience started pouring inside the Bartlett School auditorium around 5.30 p.m.

The evening started with the introductions of the Emcees by the cultural secretaries. They kept the audience engaged with information and entertainment throughout the evening. The first show "Shaktirupena Sangasthita" centered around the struggles and achievements of the women through the ages. The female characters from the time of the Mahabharata were portrayed through recitation, dance and songs corded through an appropriate narration. The epic heroine, Panchali's dignity and strength faced the most critical situation, the tribal girl's Saji's struggles and success, Gandhari's conflict between her role as a mother and a queen, Chittragadha's identity crisis have all been rendered beautiful by our community's talented singers, dancers and recitation artists. At some moments it moved the audience mebers into tears. The inclusion of Tagore's songs was very apposite. The arrangement of music added an extra dimension to the show.

The next performance of the evening was Triveni. What a dazzling show! Light, Sound, Color, Music, Audio-visual, everything made the show a spectacular one. It depicted the grand journey of the three rivers of India, Ganga, Jamuna and Saraswati. Like the first one, the show was directed and performed by the local artists. Dancers from all age group, young and experienced took part in the show. The young dancers excelled in their performance, paving the way to become the future talents of BAGC. The writing and narration of the script, music direction, choreography, light, sound, all were done by the community members. Dinner was served after these two local programs.

Then the famous Bengali band, Chandrabindu from Kolkata appeared on the stage. It was 9.15 p.m. and the auditorium was fully packed. The crowd management team volunteers did a good job to manage with the sitting arrangements. The band arrested the attention of the audience with their intelligent humors and melodious performance. Some of the lyrics of their songs transported us to our home land, Bengal. Throughout the evening, the handling of sound system by sound technicians was flawless. The last but not the least, the cultural programs of the evening could not succeeded without the help of the backstage helpers.

# Banga Bhavan Updates

Jhumur Palit

This year the full potential of Banga Bhavan was on display in September and October. Rehearsals, events, meetings all flowed smoothly filling the building with the sound of laughter and music from adults and children.

Mahalaya celebrations at Banga Bhavan were a huge success. Our new Protima was formally opened with great pomp and ceremony amidst the beautiful rendition of Mahisasur Mardini by Mangolik members. A very large crowd attended the event, with everyone enjoying the meal sponsored once again by Mangolik members. We greatly appreciate their generosity.

Ma Durga was worshipped for two days at Banga Bhavan as they were the actual tithi days. Ma was worshipped on Wednesday and Devi Boron was performed on Thursday by members, giving Ma a loving farewell as she returned to her heavenly abode. Members generously contributed towards the food and Puja and Ramanuj Bhattacharya performed the Puja. Thank you all for your generosity and participation.

Winter is around the corner; there is a lull in BAGC activities however Puja will continue at Banga Bhavan, it will remain open for rentals and other activities. We would like to arrange a Christmas Party for the kids at year end, do let us know if you are interested.

We hope to see everyone at Kali Puja. A Happy Diwali to all.

### Final day Cultural Program of BAGC Durga Puja 2015

#### by Indrani Mondal

Here in Chicago, the final day of BAGC Durga Puja coincides with the final day of the weekend, i.e., Sunday. Needless to say that is double jeopardy of our spirits -- poignancy of Ma Durga leaving us for her heavenly abode, combined with somber thoughts of the beginning of a grueling work week ahead. However final day cultural scene of 2015 Durga Puja was a pleasant surprise. The crisp sunshine outside, the vibrant kumkum with which we bade goodbye to our beloved Mother Goddess, was echoed in the rainbow of fresh cultural treats served to us in the auditorium.

Our emcees for the afternoon were a stage friendly couple, Jasendu & Soma Chakraborty. Soma's comments, poems & easy banter in her mellifluous voice was complimented by the baritone of her partner, Jash. This balance of light and deep, helped give a perfect introduction to the two children's programs that followed. The opening program was called 'Baaddi Banshir Taale Taale'. This Bengali Children's Choir, made up of our own community kids, ranging from 6-13 years, sang a medley of popular Rabindrasangeet, all-time favorite oldies, and movie hits. The chorus of pristine, young voices, accompanied by the sonorous notes of viola, violin & cello, played by our talented child artists, filled the air with joyous melody. All this was strung together by a young voice artist, with expressive recitation of fun rhymes, celebrating our grand Bengali festival of Durga Puja. The little dears, dressed in our traditional Bengali attire of laal paar saada sari and saada kurta instantly won all our hearts. The program was ably directed by Aditi Datta.

This was followed by an interesting and informative story, depicting the evolution of Kathak, as a popular classical dance form of India. This program was aptly called 'Prasthiti: The Journey'. The talented BAGC youth, ranging from 12-18 years, wove a tapestry of strong drama and picturesque, colorful dances, held together with the firm thread of explanatory narration.

And the complex history of Kathak, spanning centuries and varied influences, pulsated before our eyes.

Kudos to Dristi Chaudhuri, a high schooler, for her debut direction of this challenging program. Next our own home grown STAR, Preetish Chakraborty, rocked the stage! The effortless ease with which he drew the crowd, rendered popular Bengali and Hindi songs with fluid ease and impeccable pitch and even swayed and danced in time to his own singing, indeed wowed us all! A celebrity in the making, our very dear Preetish, we wish you all the luck in the world!

And finally on the final day of Durga Puja 2015, with Rupa Chaudhuri's lucid explanations, we entered a magical realm of melody, music, dance and more. We entered the realm of agony and ecstasy of the feminine experience which bonds all women not only in friendship but in sisterhood too. We had the privilege and honor of being with Sakhi, the all Women Band of Indian Classical Music led by Kaushiki Chakraborty. Majestic classical vocal music, merged with intricate violin, pensive flute, powerful percussion and expressive dance to explore lovingly but without bias the gamut of experiences of being, woman. With masterly ease and precision, they created a Rangoli of moods depicting the grandeur and fragility of the eternal woman. This was indeed the culminating tribute to Naari Shakti.

Which brings us to the conclusion that in my two decades plus in Chicago this was probably the first time that the whole Durga Puja cultural scene spanning two and a half days was dedicated to a single theme. And what a theme it was, Shakti in Naari & Yuva. The women directors of our community had a chance to speak in their own languages and wow, what a rainbow of dialects they offered! A totally wholesome and enriching experience!

# Measures for security on Banga Bhavan Premises

Prepared by Dipak Chatterjee and Ranjit Roy, BOT

- ♦ Check to see that all security cameras are working properly
- Check fire extinguisher
- Periodically check fire alarm
- During functions all doors should be closed except the front door where people are entering, this door will be under surveillance by volunteers from the reception area
- Voluntary scouting to watch for suspicious persons and activity
- ◆ The Executive Committee should identify a person as the Security Manager to lead the charge
- ♦ For questions on the above and BAGC Emergency Preparedness Plan, please call Dipak Chatterjee on 630-983-7764

#### আমেরিকার গলপসল্প - ৬ ওয়াশিংটন স্টেট ইউনির্ভাসিটি - ২

#### দেবাংশু ভট্টাচার্য্য

ওয়াশিংটন স্টেট ইউনির্ভাসিটিতে আসার গল্প আগের বারে বলেছি। এও বলেছিলাম যে প্রথমে বাঙাঁলি কেউ ছিলোনা। আন্তে আন্তে কিছু বাঙাঁলি আসতে আরম্ভ করলো। প্রথমে এলেন ডাঃ রায় - আন্থ্রপলজির প্রফেসর। খুব ভালো লোক ছিলেন তিনি। আর বৌদি খুব ভালো নাচতেন। আমার বাঙাঁলি রানা খাবার জায়গা হয়ে গেলো। এর পরে এলেন প্রবীরদা। উনিও প্রফেসর। খুব ভালো গান করতেন প্রবীরদা ও বৌদি। আমরা শ্যামা করেছিলাম ওখানে। এরপরে আসে রামানন্দ। তাকে নিয়েই এই গল্প।

রামানন্দ চক্রবর্ত্তি এলো কেমিস্ট্রতে পিএইচ ডি করতে। দারুন ভালো স্টুডেস্ট - কলকাতা ইউনির্ভাসিটির ফার্স্ট ক্লাশ ফার্স্ট। লম্বা ফর্সা - খুবই সুপুরুষ। আর গলায় বিরাট ধপধপে সাদা পৈতে। বাঙলার এক খুবই নামকরা মন্দিরের পুরোহিত বংশের ছেলে। সংগে আনলো সুন্দর একটি ঠাকুরের ফটো -ওদের মন্দিরের নারায়নের। তখন আমরা গ্রাভুয়েট ভর্মে - সবার নিজের নিজের ঘর। রামানন্দ ওর ঘরে মন্দির বসালো ঠাকুরের ফটো দিয়ে। সকাল সন্ধে আরতি ও পুজো করতো। আমার সংগে আলাপ হোলো - বন্ধুও হয়ে গেলাম। ওকে ভাকতাম রাম বলে।

কদিন পর ও আমাকে বললো ' দেবাংশু, তুমি তো উচ্ছনে যাচ্ছো। গরুর মাংস খাও, মদ খাও, মেয়েদের সংগে মেশো। বামুন বাড়ির চেলে - এসব কি উচিত'? আমি বললাম 'দেখো রাম, তুমি তোমার মতো থাকো, আমি আমার মতো। তাহলে আমাদের বন্ধুত্ত থাকবে'। এর পরে কিন্তু ও আমাকে আর কিছু বলেনি। রোজ পুজোর পর প্রসাদ দিতো - আমরা ভালোই বন্ধু হয়ে গেলাম।

প্রায় বছর খানেক চললো এইরকম। তারপর রামের আলাপ হোলো একটি মেয়ের সংগে - নাম লিন্। ক্রমশই ওদের বন্ধুত বাড়তে লাগলো আর রামও কেমন বদলে যেতে লাগলো। পুজো করা কমে গোলো - আমার প্রসাদ পাওয়া হয়ে গোলো বন্ধ। মাঝে মাঝে চার্চে যেতে আরম্ভ করলো। সবচেয়ে আবাক ব্যাপার যে লিন্ কিন্তু তেমন ধার্মিক ছিলোনা। কাজেই আমার মনে হয়না রামের বদলানোটা লিন্এর প্রভাব।

একদিন রাম এসে আমাকে বললো যে খুব দরকারি কথা আছে - বললো ও ক্রিস্টান হয়ে যাছে। আমি তো শুনে একেবারে হতভন্ধ। এই সেই পুরুত বাড়ির একমাত্র ছেলে গোঁড়া বামুন রামানস্দ! আমার তো বিশাস ই হচ্ছিলো না।

কিছুদিন পর রাম ও লিন্এর বিয়েও হয়ে গেলো। এই খবর শুনে রামের বাবা সেই যে অসুখে পড়ে বিছানা নিলেন, আর উঠলেন না। কিছুদিন পর রাম দেশে গেলো বেড়াতে লিন্ কে নিয়ে। কিরে আসার পর বলেছিলো যে এমনি ভালোই কেটেছে। তবে একটাই আসুধিধে হয়েছিলো। ওদের বাড়িতে রোজের খাবার আসে মন্দিরের ভোগ। ও বললো ' আমি যে খাবারে মুর্ত্তি পুজো হয়েছে তা খাবো কি করে ? তাই বাইরে গিয়ে খেতে হোতো রোজ '। আমি তো শুনে কি বলবো বুঝে পেলামনা।

রাম আমাকে বলেছিলোঁ একবার কেন ও ক্রিস্টান হয়ে গিয়েছিলো। আমি ভেবেছিলাম লিনকে বিয়ে করার জন্য। ও কিছু বললো একেবারেই নয়। একদিন রাতে

যিগুক্রিস্ট ওকে দেখা দেন ও তারপরই ও ক্রিস্টান হবার সিধান্ত নেয়। আমাকে এও বললো ' দেবাংশু, তুমি তো নির্ঘাত নরকে যাবে। এখনও সময় আছে । যিশুক্রিস্টের শরণ নাও'। আমি কোনো উত্তর দিইনি - কি বলবো ?

এর পরে আর রামানন্দর সংগে দেখা হয়নি - যোগাযোগ হারিয়ে ফেলেছি। তবু কেন মাঝেমাঝে মনে হয় ওর কথা - সত্যি কি অদ্ভুত এই জীবন।

বক্তবা: একমাত্র এই লেখায় নাম বদলানো হয়েছে - কারণ পাঠকরা নিশ্চয়ই বুঝতে পারছেন।







#### Bengali Association of Greater Chicago

1148 N. Main Street Glendale Heights, IL 60139 www.BAGC.net

#### 2015 KALI PUJA REGISTRATION FORM

Here are the Kali 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

Kali Puja Rates per person (includes Puja, Food, and Cultural Program):

|                                                 | MEMBERS (non-GFP) |                        |                    | NON-MEMBERS         |                        |                    |                             |  |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|--|
|                                                 | Adult<br>(>18     | Child<br>(6 - 18 yrs.) | Child<br>(<6 yrs.) | Adult<br>(>18 yrs.) | Child<br>(6 - 18 yrs.) | Child<br>(<6 yrs.) | Self-Supporting<br>Student* |  |
| Pre-Registration<br>rate avail until<br>11/4/15 | \$30              | \$15                   | \$0                | \$35                | \$25                   | \$0                | \$25                        |  |
| Onsite<br>Registration                          | \$40              | \$15                   | \$0                | \$45                | \$25                   | \$0                | \$30                        |  |

- \*To qualify for the rates of Self-Supporting Student, you must satisfy all the following criteria:
  - (a) You are a full time college student
  - (b) You pay all your college expenses (Tuition and Lodging) without any help from your spouse or parents
  - (c) For the purpose of tax returns, you are not claimed by anybody as a dependent
- (d) You do not file joint tax returns with your spouse who is gainfully employed.

| Primary Member Information | New/ Changed Address |          |      |        |  |  |  |  |  |
|----------------------------|----------------------|----------|------|--------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Name                       | Address              |          |      |        |  |  |  |  |  |
| City                       | State /              | ZIP      |      |        |  |  |  |  |  |
| Phone                      | E-mail               |          |      |        |  |  |  |  |  |
| Alternative E-mail         |                      |          |      |        |  |  |  |  |  |
| ADDITIONAL REGISTRANTS     |                      |          |      |        |  |  |  |  |  |
| Name                       | Relationship         | Category | Rate | Amount |  |  |  |  |  |
|                            |                      |          |      |        |  |  |  |  |  |
|                            |                      |          |      |        |  |  |  |  |  |
|                            |                      | ·        |      |        |  |  |  |  |  |
| TOTALAMOUNT                |                      |          |      |        |  |  |  |  |  |
| Check # / Bank             | •                    |          | Date |        |  |  |  |  |  |

# "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.

#### What does it take to invest successfully?

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.

V2 Financial Group, an Independent fee-only advisor, provides sophisticated advice and manages your investment accounts on your behalf

#### Our Services

Portfolio management (manage your IRA's, 401(k)'s and other investment accounts)
Planning (Insurance planning, Retirement & College projections and planning)

#### Why V2?

Fiduciary (unlike brokers), operating with your best interests in mind Individualized portfolio management
Unbiased product selection. No Commissions. Conflict-free advice
Sophisticated, holistic approach

#### VENKAT KRISHNAMURTHY & VENKATA VEDAM



#### V2 FINANCIAL GROUP, LLC

1536 East Bailey Road Naperville IL 60565 (630) 364-4529 (Phone) (630) 830-6169 (Fax)



www.v2financialgroup.com

#### Please contact us for a no-obligation consultation

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#### DISCLOSURES

Registration as an investment adviser does not constitute an endorsement of the firm by securities regulators nor does it indicate that the adviser has attained a particular level of skill or ability. Information presented does not involve the rendering of personalized investment advise, but is limited to the dissemination of general information on products and services. This information should not be construed as an offer to buy or sell, or a solicitation of any offer to buy or sell the securities mentioned herein.

All investment strategies have the potential for profit or loss. Changes in investment strategies, contributions or withdrawals may materially alter the performance and results of your portfolio. We only transact business in states where we are properly registered, or are excluded or exempted from registration requirements.

# ARGC THANKS ITS PLATINUM SPONSON



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Contact Phone Number: 847-882-0321

Email: info@mediaus.com

URL: www.mediaus.com



# বেঙ্গলী জ্ঞাসোসিয়েশন্ অফ্ গ্রেটার শিকাগো Bengali Association of Greater Chicago

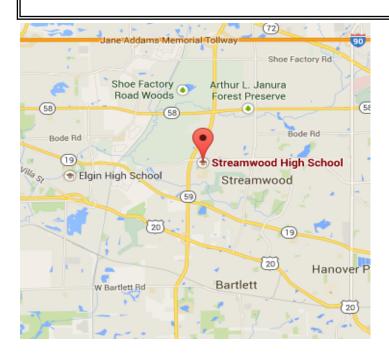
#### http://www.bagc.net

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



Mark your calendar for upcoming event:

# "Kali Puja on November 7th, 2015"



#### Venue:

Streamwood High School 701 W Schaumburg Rd, Streamwood, IL 60107

#### **Direction:**

#### From I-90

- Follow I-90 W to IL-59 S in Hoffman Estates.
- Take theI L-59 exit from I-90 W
- Turn left onto IL-59 S
- Turn left onto W Schaumburg Rd
- School is on the right

#### From I-88

- Follow I-88 W to IL-59 N in Naperville
- Take the IL-59exit from I-88 E
- Turn left onto IL-59 N (signs for Illinois 59)
- Turn right onto W Schaumburg Rd
- School is on the right