

সমাজ সংবাদ

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মাঘ ১৪১১

Community News

February 2005



President's Message



On behalf of the BAGC Executive Committee, I wish you and your family a safe and prosperous New Year. I am sure you had a wonderful holiday season and a great time with your family and friends. I also would like to take this opportunity to applaud the 2004 BAGC Executive Committee and the community members for a remarkable job they have done during the past year. This is going to be an exciting year! As you all know, BAGC is hosting the 7th annual Bangamela 2005 from July 22 through July 24 at the Wyndham Northwest hotel and the preparation for this event is going on in full swing. Let us all commit ourselves to make the Bagamela 2005 the best Bangamela ever held in Midwestern America. We are also getting ready for our first event, Saraswati puja, to be held on Saturday, February 12, '05 and I sincerely hope that you and your family will be there to celebrate the puja. Finally, I would like to appeal to all of you to please donate whatever you can to the BAGC Tsunami Relief Fund.

Sridhar Adhya

সম্পাদকীয়

আজকাল পৃথিবীর অবস্থা এমন হয়েছে যে খবরের কাগজ বা টিভি খুললেই মনটা খারাপ হয়ে যায়। খুনখারাপী, যে কোন ছুতোয় যুদ্ধ, অশ্লীলতা, নেতাদের মধ্যে ঝগড়াঝাটি, চুরিডাকাতি, সাংঘাতিক প্রাকৃতিক দুর্যোগ, অসংখ্য লোকের প্রাণহানি, অবিশ্বাস্য ব্যাধি ও দরিদ্র্য। তারই মধ্যে ‘সমাজ সংবাদ’টা পেতে খুব ভাল লাগে। আমাদের শিকাগোর বাঙ্গালীসমাজ কি সুন্দরভাবে তাদের জীবনযাত্রা চালিয়ে যাচ্ছে। সুখে দুঃখে পরস্পরকে সঙ্গ দিচ্ছে, সাহায্য দিচ্ছে। সব কিছু অবশ্য ছাপার অঙ্করে বের হয় না। কার বিয়ের সময় কে সারা রাত জেগে মিষ্টি করল, কার অসুখের সময় কে কার বাড়ি গিয়ে সারাদিন সেবা করল, এসব কোথাও লেখা হয় না। কিন্তু এসব ঘটে, তার কারণ আমরা একটা বিরাট যৌথ পরিবারের মতন পরস্পরের খবর রাখি এবং অনেক কিছুই একসঙ্গে করি। এ বছর আমরা দুজন সোৎসাহে এই পত্রিকাটি আপনাদের হাতে তুলে ধরার ভার নিয়েছি, তার কারণ আমরা জানি যে আমরা সর্বাঙ্গসুন্দরভাবে আপনাদের সহযোগিতা পাব। পৃথিবীতে যা হবার হবে। আমাদের সবার জন্য ২০০৫ সালটি শান্তিতে কাটে সেই কামনাই করছি।

কৃষ্ণা চক্রবর্তী

গীতলক্ষ্মী মন্ডল

মাকে যে ছেলোট চিঠি লেখনি

অমর্ত্য চক্রবর্তী

স্বপ্ন জুড়ে ডানার ঝাপট উড়ান শিখেই,
ঝাপ দিয়েছে দূর শহরের গোলক ধাঁধায়,
দূরভাষের তার বোঝেনা কোন অসুখে,
জন্মদিনের পায়ের রেঁধে একলা কাঁদা।

দিন পেরুলে নিবুম কোন সাক্ষ্য বাঁকে,
জট পড়েনা এমন জটিল কাঙালপনায়,
ফের কোনদিন সময় করে লিখবে তোকে,
গর্ভ ছাড়ার পরেও যারা যন্ত্রণা দেয়।

অমর্ত্য সলিড পলিমার ইলেকট্রোলাইসিসের উপর
গবেষণারত ইলিনয় ইনস্টিটিউট অফ টেকনোলজির
রসায়ন বিভাগের স্নাতকোত্তর ছাত্র।

SNOW MAN

Aditya Dewanjee

Age: 9 years

Snowman, so tender, so light, so white
 I made you only last night
 Your nose is orange, buttons black
 A scarf covering your head, front and back

You are everyone's friend, no one's foe
 You are unique, like others, no
 And for this reason,
 I love you so

One day, we were singing a song
 The next day, you were gone
 Now I can't wait until it snows again
 Then I'll watch you from my window pane



সুমনা মুন্সী, পঞ্চম শ্রেণী

SARASWATI PUJA

Agneesh Banerjee

Saraswati Puja was always fun for me. I once described it to an inquiring teacher as, "...the puja my mom prays at so that I become smart." I don't really know if my mother's prayers regarding my studies (studying habits rather) were ever answered. I remember bringing my backpack with all my books and placing them by Ma Saraswati's feet, leaving them there all day for them to be blessed. I was always disappointed the next day when none of them was any easier to read. Report card day was always interesting at my house. My mother would always read the comment that says "He is smart, but doesn't try" and then shoot my father a dirty look as if to say with her eyes, "That's your fault!". My father would always read the comment, "--talks too much in class," and ignoring my mother's glare, would say to me, "Just because your mother doesn't stop talking doesn't mean you can't."

The moral of this story.

Ghada peetiay ghora kora jaina.



Tapan Bhattacharyya performing Kalipuja on
 November 13, 2004

BAGC executive committee 2005

President: Sridhar Adhya	847-381-7484
Vice President: Manika Dhar	630-462-1409
Treasurers: Sudipta Sengupta Ananta Bardhan	630-357-1570 815-439-6913
Secretary: Dipak Ghosh	630-369-3262
Cultural: Bula Jha Pinaki Banerjee	312-527-2852 847-843-7822
Food: Tapan Palit Samar Kundu Kalyan De	847-639-7658 847-362-6779 847-244-5720
Newsletter: Krishna Chakrabarty Gitalakshmi Mandal	630-834-4388 630-964-4232
Puja: Chittarupa Ghosh Devalina Law Manisha Datta	847-955-0570 847-918-7665 630-830-0851
Sports: Anup Banerjee	847-245-8841
Facility: Amit Chakraborty Kaushik Chatterjee	847-776-4074 847-680-1687
Youth: Leela Banerjee Shreerupa Dey Amarto Bhattacharyya Reemlee Dhorchowdhury Sharmistha Dev	773-384-6869 847-375-0516 630-942-8055 847-715-9108 847-279-1176
Website/E-mail/database: Sanatan Datta (email administration/registration) Poulomi Ghosh (database) Anirban Das (Webmaster)	630-736-0927 630-213-6396 847-918-7161
Special Coordinator: Munmun Dutta	847-853-1253

**My thoughts about Saraswati Puja**

In the hustle and bustle of everyday life, I find it more and more difficult to find time to fit God into my daily itinerary. It's not that God is not a priority in my life, but it's just that work and school are not as sympathetic and merciful. Therefore, it is not a surprise that religion has become a convenient 'drive-through' entity these days. We hastily go through the motions hoping to fulfill our religious obligations. Thus, many second generation Indian-Americans, like myself, have a difficult time appreciating the meaning behind these age-old Hindu customs.

Hinduism is one of the oldest religions institutions in the world. Despite the fact that it is a monotheistic religion, there is virtually a separate God for every aspect of life. *Ma Saraswati*, the daughter of *Ma Durga* and *Lord Shiva*, is the Goddess of education. In February, as winter comes to an end and spring begins, Hindus worship *Ma Saraswati* hoping to receive her blessings to excel in the field of education. It is for this reason that she is very popular among young students. As a child I naively thought that solely praying to *Ma Saraswati* would bring me good grades; I later realized that you also had to study and do your homework.

I found it interesting that books are symbolic of *Ma Saraswati*. Thus, when one accidentally puts his or her feet on even a page of a book, one must make a '*pranam*' in order to undo their misdeed of trampling on *Ma Saraswati's* soul.

Being a part of the BAGC community helps me to retain the culture that my parents have worked so hard to instill in me. I am hoping that this year will be the year that I take an initiative to learn more about Hinduism and hopefully get one step closer towards religious enlightenment. Nevertheless, in the end I see myself praying to *Ma Saraswati* to bless me in my studies. As my parents always told me, "The most important thing in life after family and religion is education". It is for this reason that Saraswati Puja is one of the most important festivals of the year for me. Joydeep Gangopadhyay

Auspicious Events



BIRTHS

Anusha Smita Das was born on November 7, 2004 to Atanu and Arpita Das of Skokie, Illinois. She is the baby sister of Ayan and the granddaughter of Ajay and Sanjna Das.

Amit and Tanima Chakraborty of Palatine were blessed with the arrival of their first child, on September 15, 2004. They named their baby girl, BaniSree, after her late grandmother, Mrs. Bani Chakraborty, Amit's mother, whom she is supposed to resemble. We are waiting for pictures, to make sure!

WEDDINGS

Dr. Soma Mukherjee, daughter of Biman and Chhabi Mukherjee, wed Dr. Ashok Ghose Dastidar, son of Arun and Kabita Ghose Dastidar on November 21, 2004 in Schaumburg. Ashok, a chemical engineer, is working in Schaumburg, while Soma, a pediatrician, works in Peoria.

Sumita, daughter of Subrata and Prakriti Chakrabarti, wed Balan, son of Indira and B. Venugopal on September 25, 2004 at the Bridgewater temple, in Bridgewater, New Jersey. Sumita lives in Lansdale, Pennsylvania and works for Merck. Balan is a corporate lawyer in New York.



Sumita and Balan



Soma and Ashok

REGISTRATION AND MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

Bengali Association of Greater Chicago Website
www.bagc.net

984 Hampton Park, Barrington, IL 60010-3160

Phone: 847-381-7484 Fax: 847-381-2968

Registration information

Adult (13+) Child (5-12) Seniors (65+) Students (self-supporting, not living with parents) Emeritus (70+ , BAGC member for 15 years or more)

Annual membership per family (\$30) Emeritus free

Type	GFP (entire year)	Saraswati Puja/member	Saraswati Puja/nonmember
Individual Adult	\$90	\$25	\$35
Individual Child	\$40	\$15	\$20
Student/Senior	\$45	\$15	\$25

SARASWATI PUJA

Saturday February 12 ,
2005

Streamwood High School
701 W. Schaumburg Road
Streamwood, IL 60107

Phone: 630-213-5500

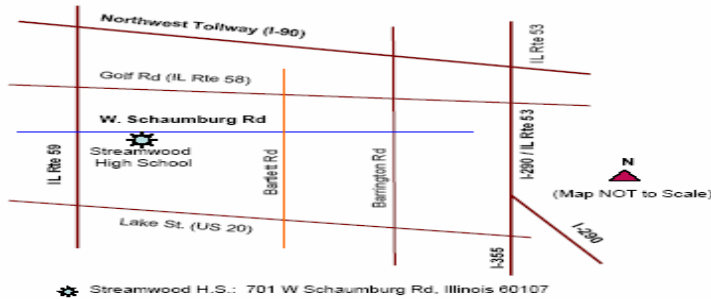
Registration and Puja: 11 AM

Anjali: 12 noon to 1 PM

Prasad and Lunch: 1 –2:30
PM

Cultural Program: 6-7:30 PM

Dinner: 7:30 – 9 PM



* Streamwood H.S.: 701 W Schaumburg Rd, Illinois 60107

DIRECTIONS to
Streamwood High School:
From I-88, take IL 59
North, turn right on
Schaumburg Road OR
From I-90, take IL 59
south, turn left on
Schaumburg Road. The
school is on your right.

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sspeedy6115@earthlink.net

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Editors thank Achinta Ray for help with the first mailing and invite all readers to write to us at editor@bagc.net with comments, corrections and contributions.

Tentative dates of BAGC events in 2005

May 14	Bangasanskriti Dibas
Aug 13	Picnic
July 22-24	Bangamela
Oct 14-16	Durgapuja
Nov 5	Kalipuja

In memory of Mr.Sudhir Jha

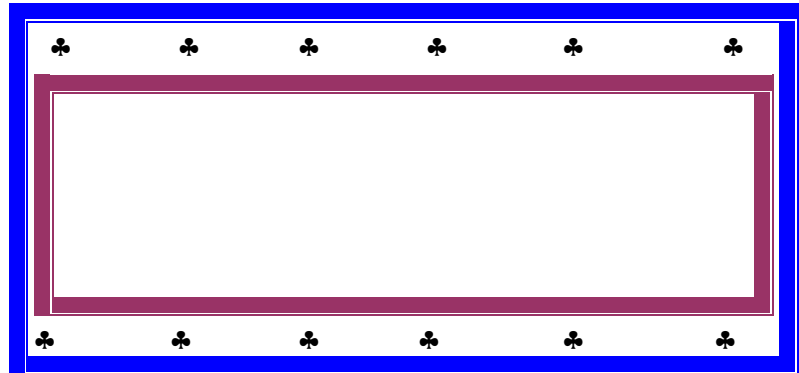
Bani Bhattacharyya

More than twenty years ago, when I went to Durga Puja of BAGC, I saw Mr.Sudhir Jha as the priest for the first time. He was looking at the book and performing the Puja in a soft voice without getting bothered by all the noise of voices around him. A few years later, when I saw him during the Puja, he was performing in a louder voice. Later on, he was speaking with help of a microphone. Then, year after year, I saw him performing all the Pujas, but I noticed him more and more because of his absolute devotion to God. He was always ready to perform even when the Puja dates were changed and he did not wait for any recognition. He always came fasting and even after the Puja, he was near the deities till the end of the day, without being interested in food, gossip, socialization or performances. Nothing during the Puja days tempted him other than the Pratima. He chanted Anjali mantras continuously, one after another, till everybody got a chance to pray. He was happy with any person who helped him in whatever way during the puja. I regret that I never took the time to talk to him all these years. I miss him very much during Puja time. His endless devotion to BAGC Puja made him the real priest in my mind. Now he must be in heaven with all the Gods and angels. May God bless his soul!

প্রকৃতি
ইন্দ্রাণী মন্ডল

<p>আমি যদি হোলি খেলতে ভালোবাসি তবে তোমারই ফুলের রেণুবিহ্বল গায়ে পড়া বসন্ত, তার জন্য দায়ী, আমি যদি বিদ্রোহী রক্তজবার মতো ফুটে উঠি অনায়াসেই-- তবে তোমার নিষ্করণ গ্রীষ্ম উদ্ভাই তার কারণ, আমার মনকেমন করা হারিয়ে যাওয়ার খোঁজ তোমার হৈমন্তী আকাশপ্রদীপ জ্বালা উদাসী সন্ধ্যার ইশারা, আমার জমাট কান্না</p>	<p>তোমার দিকচিহ্নহারা তুষার প্রান্তরে হিমগুড়ো কোহিনুরে শীতের স্বরূপ-- ঋতুতে ঋতুতে এভাবেই আমার সমস্ত রঙিন স্বপ্ন, অবিচারের উত্তাপজ্বালা, নষ্টপ্রেমের তুহিনতীক্ষ্ণ প্রশ্ন নিয়ে তোমার কাছে গেছি-- স্তুপীকৃত করেছি হিংস্র নালিশ দাস্তিক জঞ্জাল, যুদ্ধের বারুদগন্ধ তুলেছি তোমার আনাচে কানাচে, আকাশে বাতাসে-- অথচ তোমার প্রথম সন্তান-- বিবর্তনের অধঃস্তরে চতুর্দী প্রাণীদের মতো</p>	<p>আমি টের পাইনি তোমার হৃৎস্পন্দে কোনও বেসামাল ভূমিকম্প, বৈজ্ঞানিক সিসমোগ্রাফের যান্ত্রিক সূচিকা কম্পন পেরিয়ে, ঋতুরঙ্গের রঙবাহারি শিক্ষা আমায় কবে দেবে সেই সঠিক ইন্দ্রিয় বা ইন্দ্রিয়োত্তর বোধ, যাতে প্রলয় সলিলে যখন ধৈর্য আসে 'সুনামি' জীবন মৃত্যুর সমুদ্রমন্তনে আমি নীলকণ্ঠ হয়ে পৌরাণিক শুদ্ধশক্তিতে ভাসমান রাখবো সৃষ্টিলক্ষ্মী-- প্রকৃতি, আমি না তোমার শেষ শ্রেষ্ঠ সন্তান ?</p>
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Bengali Association of Greater Chicago
984 Hampton Park, Barrington, IL 60010-3160





Bangamela 2005 Chicago

The Cultural Extravaganza

July 22-24, 2005

The Performers

Indranil Sen * Lopamudra Mitra
Srabani Sen * Rituparna Sengupta
Madhumanti Moitra * Nandini Ghoshal
Ashoke Viswanathan
Anindya Banerjee * Arijit Das
Abhijit Banerjee
Antares Band
Joy Goswami
Chitra Banerjee Dibakaruni

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negotiation are in process for
other performers



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