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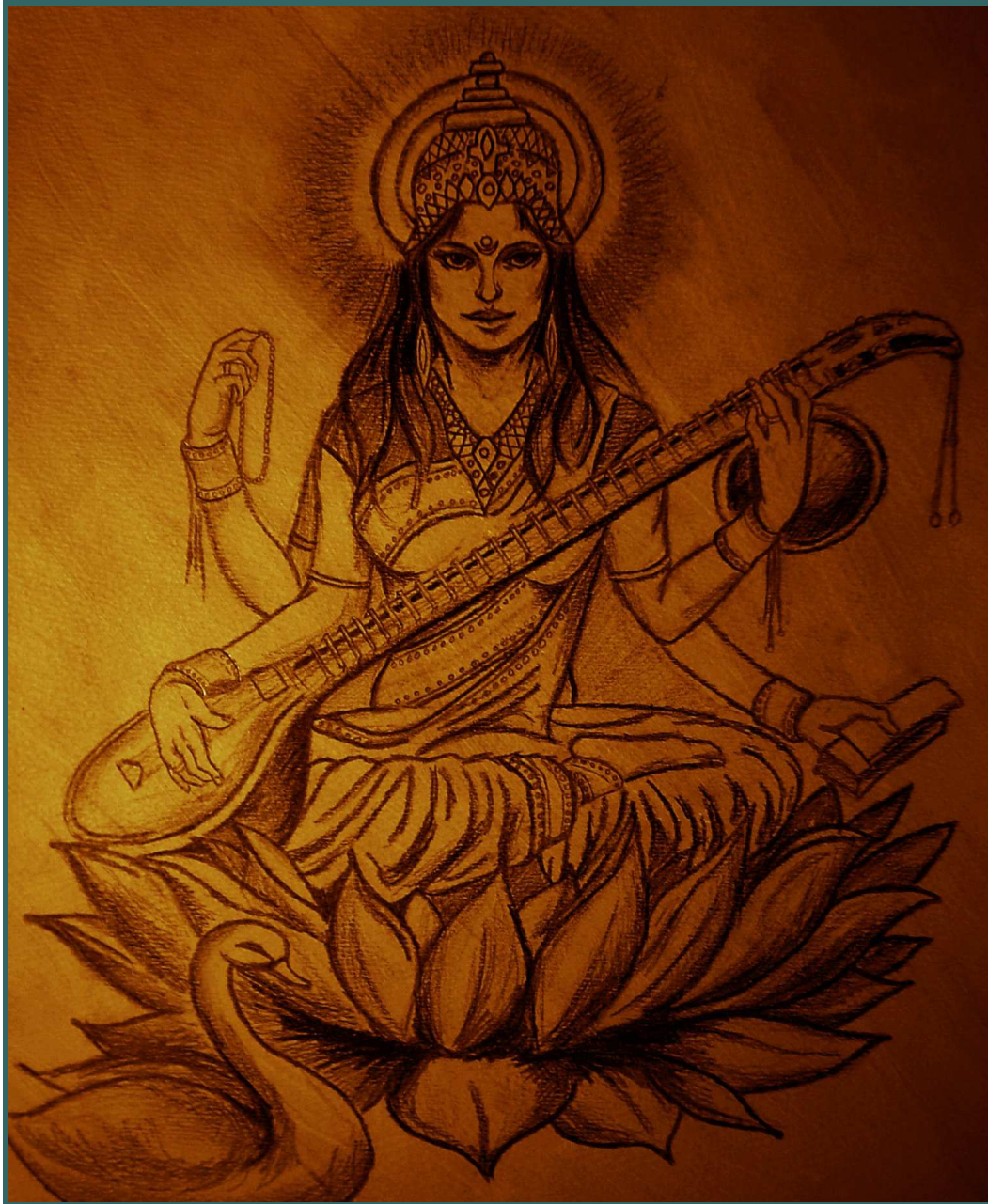
Volume 31, Issue 1

Bengali Association of Greater Chicago

সমাজ সংবাদ

Community Newsletter

Jan, 2006



President's Message



Dear members,

A VERY HAPPY & PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL !!!!

With the start of the New Year, BAGC 2006 Executive Committee has begun in earnest to serve the BAGC community. The New Year brings new hopes and expectations from the members of the community about the upcoming BAGC events. I would like to mention that we have a young and talented team, which is ready to take on the challenges of this year.

Over the years BAGC has preserved the great Bengali tradition of Puja and cultural activities along with food festivities and other activities along with *adda*. Current executive committee will strive hard to preserve this tradition with the help and cooperation of rest of the community. Here it will be pertinent to mention that you may find a few positive changes in the BAGC events to make them more attractive to the members which may also improve the participation.

Saraswati Puja is coming up shortly, which as you all know is the curtain raiser of the BAGC calendar. In India it is the beginning of spring season, which brings up lot of fond memories. Our cultural sub-committee will try to revive all those happy moments with Bengali/Indian cultural menu to vet the appetite of our culturally oriented community....

Look forward to see you all very soon at the Saraswati Puja.

Rahul Dev
President
2006 BAGC Executive Committee

*BAGC Cultural Programs are partially supported by a grant
from the Illinois Arts Council, a State agency.*

সম্পাদকীয়

কলকাতায় যখন বসন্তের মধুর
হাওয়ায় মানুষের মন উতলা, শিকাগো
তখন ছয় ইন্টি বরফের তলায় মুখ
লুকিয়ে শীতে কাপছে। বারমাসে তের
পার্কন যাদের শিরায় শিরায় বইছে
তাদের আটকে রাখে কার সাধ্য। তাই
ইংরেজী বছরের শুরুতেই মা সরস্বতীর
আরাধনা বাঙালীর মনকে জাগিয়ে
তোলে। সুখদুঃখের মধ্যে দিয়ে পুরনো
বছরকে বিদায় জানিয়ে নতুন আশা
নিয়ে বরণ করি জ্ঞানদেবীকে। নতুন
বছর বিছিয়ে দিক শান্তির প্রলেপ সারা
পৃথিবীর বুকে। প্রাকৃতিক দুর্যোগের
হোক ইতি, মানুষের হানাহানির হোক
সমাপ্তি।

মেখলা ব্যানার্জি
সৌপর্ণ সরকার



DISCLAIMER

Various articles in *Samaj Sambat*, the BAGC Newsletter, are obtained from individual members. The editors are not responsible for the content of these articles. The opinions expressed in these articles are those of the contributors and are not necessarily representative of BAGC.

Smile

Lekhani Sarkar

Courage to do right
 When everyone is doing wrong
 Want to talk to him
 About anything that comes up
 But all I do
 Is hide away
 With a veil of laughter
 And pretending to smile
 It made me blink and crazy
 I lost all my words.
 I look for the courage to pick them up.
 But with his fake smile,
 I break my phrases.
 Every moment I try to make
 A new meaning and connection
 From that smile, he gives away
 Does it have any meaning?
 Or is it, just a smile?

Color My Seasons

Reshoma Banerjee

Meandering along a tranquil stream,
 I saw the bevy of fall colors beam,
 As they sat in several random mounds
 The wind sifted it all over the grounds.

Bundled up and trying to keep warm,
 I watched the weather transform
 Slowly burrowing into a colder zone
 As the sun falls into the vast unknown.

As the New Year comes around the bend,
 Warmer weather comes to a sudden end,
 And the glory of time spent in good cheer
 Is one to cherish with those near and dear.

Announcements

Dr. Asok K.Ray received the 2005 Humanitarian Award at the 25th Annual Meeting of Indian American Medical Association (Illinois).

The council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science has elected 376 new members this year. Among them are two of our members, Dr. Prithviraj Banerjee and Dr. Arun Ghosh.

Varosha

Varosha, a charitable organization formed in Chicago, is helping destitute people in West Bengal by financing training programs to develop their technical skills and making them self-sufficient. This organization does not belong to an individual, but our whole community. Our poor motherland is looking at us to spread our varosha's hand to our brothers & sisters back home. For more information, contact Santi Banerjee/Subrata Banerjee/Krisna Chakrabarty.

Acknowledgements

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2006 Membership Fees

For 2006, the GFP membership fee structure will be, as follows:

Category	Fee
GFP—Adult (Age 13-64 years)	\$85
GFP—Child (Age 5-12 years)	\$38
GFP—Child (Age 1-4 years)	\$0
GFP—Senior (Age 65+ years)	\$43
GFP—Self Supporting Students	\$43
Annual Membership/Family	\$30
Annual Membership/Family (if registered before Jan 31, 2006)	\$25

*Member Emeritus** will be exempt from annual membership dues.*

*** Member Emeritus - Above 70 years of age and BAGC member for more than 15 years.*

The individual event fees will remain the same as last year. For Saraswati Puja, the fee will be:

Category	Fee
Member Adult *	\$25
Member Child *	\$15
Member Senior *	\$15
Member Student *	\$15
Non Member Adult	\$35
Non Member Child	\$20
Non Member Senior	\$25
Non Member Student	\$25

** Members need to pay a one time family membership fee of \$30.00 for the entire year, in addition to the individual event fee.*

Saraswati Puja Schedule

Date: Saturday, February 11, 2006

Venue: Streamwood High School

Schedule:

PUJO CEREMONY

10 AM - Streamwood High School Opens

11 AM - Pujo starts

12 PM - Puspanjali - first batch

1 PM - Puspanjali - second and final batch

LUNCH

11:30 AM - Lunch will be served for Stage Performers (Children only)

12 PM - Lunch will be served for Children only (Non-Stage Performers)

1 PM - Lunch will be served for Adults

3 PM - Lunch Counters will be closed

CULTURAL PROGRAM

5 PM - Program Starts

8 PM - Program Ends

DINNER

8 PM - Dinner will be served for all

বানী বন্দনা

মন্জু চ্যাটার্জি

এস মা বানী, এস বীণাপাণি,
এস গো হৃদয়মাঝে।
সার্থক হোক মোদের জীবন,
ওদুটি চরণ পূজে।
ঝঙ্কারি তোল তব বীণাপাণি,
এখানে তোমার রাগিনী।
কেটে যাক যত দুঃখের রজনী,
চির-আনন্দ মাঝে।
জ্ঞান অন্জন ঐকে দাও চোখে,
দেখি এ বিশ্ব প্রেমের আলোকে।
তব শুভাশীষ লভিয়া পুলকে,
রহি গো জগত মাঝে।

Longing for Sabbatical

Bakul Banerjee

Ankles, burnished by pain, scream,
“No more, no more, no more!”
We cannot carry you around the kitchen anymore!”
Eyes, dimmed by strain, scream,
“No more, no more, no more!”
We cannot look at another blue screen anymore!”
Bones, leaching fragments away, scream,
“No more, no more, no more!”
We cannot keep you upright anymore!”
The soul whimpers, “Hush now!
Just wait for the sabbatical!
The long sabbatical.”

ডেভনে এলে আমাদের দোকানে আমন্ত্রণ জানাই

শিকাগোর একমাত্র বাঙ্গালী গ্রোসারী স্টোর

ফিশ কর্নার

Fish Corner

6408 N. Campbell Ave, Chicago, IL 60645

(Devon and Campbell)

Phone: 773-262-7173, Fax: 773-761-9213

এখানে পাবেন বাংলাদেশ, ভারত ও থাইল্যান্ড থেকে আমদানীকৃত মাছ, যেমন: ইলিশ, রুই, পাবদা, চিংড়ি, কই, টাংরা, মৌরলা, ইত্যাদি। এছাড়াও আছে চিতল মাছের মুঠি, এবং নানা রকম স্টকি। আর পাবেন গোবিন্দভোগ চাল, নানা রকম দেশী মশলা, খাঁটি সরিষার তেল, গাওয়া ঘি, রকমারি আচার, ঢাকার চানাচুর, পাটালি গুড়, কচুর লতি, ইত্যাদি।

এখানে বাংলা নাটক ও চলচ্চিত্রের ভিডিও ভাড়া পাওয়া যায়।

আমরা ফোনে অর্ডার নিই এবং ভিসা, মাস্টার কার্ড ও আমেরিকান এক্সপ্রেস গ্রহণ করে থাকি।

Visit us online at www.FishCornerChicago.com

In Memory of Dr. Arun Sen

Ananta Ghosh

On November 24th, 2005, Dr. Arun Sen, of Hyde Park, Chicago, passed away at the age of 97. He is considered one of the oldest Bengali residents of Chicago area living over more than half a century here. He was suffering for a long time with different ailments including rheumatoid arthritis. Dr Sen was born in an illustrious family in Sonarrang village, Dacca, of undivided Bengal, on 17th October, 1908. He got his M.B.B.S. from Calcutta University and came to U.S.A., sometime in 1946. Here, he completed degree courses in Radiology and after that made a short trip to India. Coming back, he successfully completed the required course-work for F.A.C.A. (Faculty of the American College of Anesthesiology) and was honored as a fellow of it. After this, he joined Illinois Research & Education Hospital (IREH) and stayed there until retirement. In 1953, he married Gouri Dasgupta in Calcutta. He spent his pastime in writing poems, both in English and in Bengali. At a later age, Dr.Sen wrote a highly intellectual book, 'The Mind Without Thought', in the pen-name of Sri Purnananda, which was published from the Statesman Press, Calcutta. He retired prematurely in 1971 because of his ill health. Of his elder brothers, Surakumar Sen was a professor in London University, Sukumar Sen, an ICS with international reputation in Census matters, Dr. Amiya Sen, a leading cancer surgeon and a younger brother, Ashok Sen, a Law Minister in Govt. of India. Dr. Arun Sen is survived by his wife Gouri Sen and a younger sister. We express our heartfelt condolences to his wife, family and friends.

Announcement

Reshoma Banerjee, daughter of Bakul and Subrata Banerjee of Wheaton, graduated from Northern Illinois University with a B.S. degree in Industrial Engineering.

Their other daughter, Paroma Banerjee, received an M.S. degree in Electrical Engineering from University of Illinois at Chicago. Currently, she is working at Caterpillar, Inc., Peoria, Illinois.

2006 Executive Committee

Rahul Dev <i>President</i>	630-566-8600
Jyoti Prakash Mondal <i>Vice-President</i>	847-963-1704
Amit Chakraborty <i>Secretary</i>	847-921-9472
Arup Biswas <i>Treasurer</i>	847-392-7480
Soma Chakraborty <i>Cultural</i>	630-820-1196
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Sanatan Datta <i>Registration and Database</i>	630-736-0927
Anirban Das <i>Web and Email</i>	847-918-7161
Dhiman Chakraborty <i>Facility</i>	630-452-6368
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S. Sriram <i>Food</i>	630-355-0719
Saurav Banerjee <i>Food</i>	630-670-7356
Mekhala Banerjee <i>Newsletter</i>	847-903-5145
Sauparna Sarkar <i>Newsletter</i>	219-629-0626
Monisha Datta <i>Puja</i>	630-776-0676
Sumita Ghosh <i>Puja</i>	847-297-5640
Kallol Bagchi <i>Sports</i>	630-241-4978
Shreerupa Dey <i>Youth</i>	847-571-2867
Milan Banerjee <i>Stage/Sound</i>	630-579-0146

Musings

Indrani Mondal

Snow Play

It is late, you're grown and I still want to stay,
 Sunlight splinters in the steady falling snow,
 Our footsteps swallowed as soon as they form.

Will you live my dreams?

There are no roads to or from here
 Just this half-past noon of messy fun,
 Showered in snowflakes of flying memory
 Perfectly shaped in baby close-up,
 Scattered and smudged from a distance of

sixteen something years,

No speeches, requests or complaints as nature whips
 around human expectation

Fragile yet tenacious as we take a sleigh ride in the snow
 Forgetting to look for theorems to ride life's hidden
 angles.

And then ... bye, bye

Words stand at ease
 thoughts abandon.

I look at you
 and philosophies crumble.

Nothing really means anything much
 only your safe passage
 through rough roads
 infested with dubious men.

As we wave bye, bye ...
 the wet wind

licks my face with its sharp cold tongue
 and I shiver as the train disappears
 into the night ...

Bharat Sevashram Sangha Begins Sunday School for Children

Jennifer Das

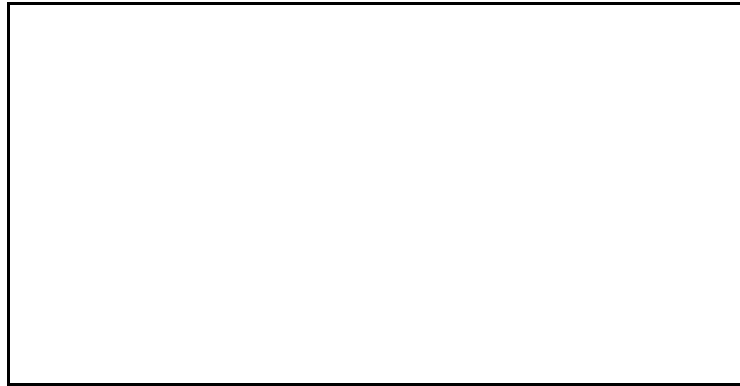
In an effort to promote a deeper appreciation and understanding of Indian culture, as well as to encourage friendship among the children, Bharat Sevashram Sangha has begun offering Sunday school classes for children at its Elgin temple. Topics to be covered include seasonal holidays, religion, history, great personalities, geography, and literature. So far, classes have focused on Durga Puja, Navratri, Diwali, deities in the main Puja Ghar of the Ashram, and an introduction to Indian geography. Each class includes an interactive discussion of the day's topic, followed by a creative activity related to the topic.

Classes are held on the third Sunday of each month. At this point, classes are geared for children between the ages of four and eight. Classes begin at 10:30 and last about an hour. Interested community members are warmly invited to participate and teach. We would like to see this program grow and expand to enrich the education of our children. Come out and join the fun! For more information, please contact Soumitra or Jennifer Das at 847-438-4483.



2404 Emerson Lane, Naperville, IL 60540

To:



Mark Your Calendar

Next Event

**Saraswati Puja
February 11, 2006**



Venue: Streamwood High School
701 W. Schaumburg Road
Streamwood, IL 60107
Phone: (630) 213-5500

Directions:

1. From I-88, take Illinois 59 north, turn right on Schaumburg Road in Streamwood. The school will be on your right.
2. From I-90, take Illinois 59 south, turn left on Schaumburg Road in Streamwood. The school will be on your right.