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## Sanskriti Newsletter

A Newsletter for the Bengali Community of the Greater Washington Metropolitan Area  
8037 Cobble Creek Circle, Potomac, MD 20854 • 301-983-0142

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January 2008

### 2008 Board of Directors

#### President

Rama Saha

#### Secretary

Supratim Choudhuri

#### Joint-Secretary

Jayati Bera

#### Treasurer

Partha Mukhopadhyay

#### Financial Planning & Advisor to Treasurer

Goutam Sen

#### Directory, Publication & Children activities

Bubin Bhattacharya

Jayati Bera

Goutam Sen

#### Puja Activities

Jayati Bera

#### Public Relations & Outreach

Jayasree Kundu

#### Cultural Secretary

Monoj Sircar

#### Logistics and operation

Sankar Saha

*Please turn to page-5 for contact info*

### From the Board of Directors

Dear Fellow Members,

We would like to thank you for entrusting us with the responsibility to serve the community in 2008. We need your active support and good wishes to succeed. Please continue to support us as you have always done. We will definitely try our best to live up to your expectation.

We would like to congratulate the 2007 Board of Directors (BOD) for their hard work, dedication and doing an outstanding job.

Communication and Community Participation will be our number one priority for this year. We are taking the following measures to accomplish this:

1) Sanskriti Web Site – [www.sanskriti-dc.org](http://www.sanskriti-dc.org)

Please logon to this web site for all information on Sanskriti events. For Directory access, please logon using:

User Name – sanskriti, Password – sanskriti

This year, we will be revamping this web site so that it is more in line with State of the Art technology, Capital Area look and feel, User Friendly, Interactive, and will include updated information.

2) Email correspondence

In order to keep costs down, Sanskriti publishes two newsletters per year, this one and another one in August. So we will emphasize on email correspondence as one of our mode of communication. Please check your Sanskriti email on a regular basis. If you do not get Sanskriti email updates, please contact one of our BOD members.

3) Area Wide Representatives

We will have Area Wide Representatives (listed on our web site) who will communicate with the Community at large on a continuous basis by Phone and in Person. If you are interested to help us in this area, please contact us.

*....Continued on next page*

### Highlights

- From the Board of Directors
- Saraswati Puja
- 2008 events
- Updates from Community Council
- We Remember You
- Sanskriti Youth group is moving forward
- 2007 Financial Report

### Calender of Sanskriti Events\*

*(All dates are tentative)*

**Saraswati Puja:** February 8-9, 2008

**Baisakhi:** April 20, 2008

**Community Picnic:** June 14, 2008

**Durga Puja:** Oct 3-5, 2008

**Annual General Body Meeting:** December 14, 2008

**New Year's Eve Party:** December 31, 2008

Sanskriti Newsletter is published by the Board of Directors to communicate with the members and the community in general. The information printed in the Newsletter is correct to the best of the Board's knowledge at the time of printing. The correctness of the content of any announcement published per request of any individual or organization is the responsibility of the requester.

Continued... From the Board of Directors

#### 4) Community Care Center

If you have any issue with Sanskriti, be it small or large – we would definitely like to know and resolve. Saibal Dey has kindly volunteered to man this center. Please contact him at (301) 972-4710, sdey@usuhs.mil.

Our goal is to balance the budget and at the same time meet the rising costs to provide you with Vendor acquired quality food, Quality cultural program Spacious and comfortable facility for large crowd This is a challenge but with your generous support we will be able to accomplish this.

Also, in order to plan and manage our events better, we are developing Advance Registration Forms for all our events. Our Area Representatives will have these forms. Please register in advance.

With best wishes for a happy and prosperous new year,

Rama Saha, President  
For Sanskriti Board of Directors

## Saraswati Puja

### Quince Orchard High School

15800 Quince Orchard Road, Gaithersburg  
MD 20878  
Feb. 8-9, 2008

#### Programs & Activities

Friday, Feb 8, 2008

8:00 pm – 11:00 pm: Decoration, Pratima Setting and General Preparation.

Saturday, Feb 9, 2008

Puja Preparation	: 10 am
Puja	: 11:00 am
Puspanjali and Hatekhari	: 12:30-1:00 pm
Prasad and Lunch	: 1:00-2:30 pm
Childrens Recitation and Social Break	: 2:00-4:00 pm
Cultural Program	: 4:00–7:30 pm
Arati	: 7:30–8:00 pm
Dinner	: 8:00-9:30 pm
Clean-up	: 9:30-11:00 pm

There will be Recitation competition for the children of ages up to 12 years during our upcoming Saraswati Puja. The poems selected for the competition are as follows:

- ❖ Group I (ages up to 6 years): "Khai Khai" by Sukumar Roy (1<sup>st</sup> eight lines)
- ❖ Group II (ages 7 to 9 years): "Phul" by Rabindranath Tagore
- ❖ Group III (ages 10 to 12 years): "Birpurus" by Rabindranath Tagore

Selected Poems are posted on Sanskriti web site. To download the recitation pieces in Bengali, please check the web page: [www.sanskriti-dc.org](http://www.sanskriti-dc.org). Contact Jayati Bera or Bubin Bhattacharya for further details.

#### Donations

Member - \$22.00 per adult  
Non-member - \$27.00 per adult  
Dependent children - \$12.00 per child  
Fulltime Students - \$12.00 per person  
Dependent Parents and Children under 6 years of age – free

#### Membership: (Calendar year 2008)

Annual \$10.00 per adult, Life \$250.00 for family, \$150.00 for single

**Tickets:** Tickets will be issued for lunch and dinner.

#### Direction:

**Traveling on Capital beltway:** -Take I-270N towards Frederick and stay on right two lanes for I-270 local; take exit 6B for MD28W; Drive approx. 6 miles on MD28W and turn left on Quince Orchard Road for the School on your immediate right.

**Traveling on I-270S:** Take Exit 11 for Quince Orchard Road (MD124S) and Drive approx. 3.5 miles for the school on your right.

#### Seeking Vendors at the Saraswati Puja

If you or anyone is interested in having a table booth at the Saraswati Puja, please contact Jai Kundu at [kundujai@hotmail.com](mailto:kundujai@hotmail.com), or call 301-299-6251. Cost for a table booth is \$125.00 that includes two tables, two chair and one set of meal tickets.

**Volunteers needed**

We appreciate your help in conducting various activities of the Puja. Please contact any board member if you would like to help.

***Nabapatrika***

Keeping Sanskriti's tradition, we would publish NABA-PATRIKA before the Durga Puja. The editors of NP request the Members of Sanskriti to keep this in mind for possible contributions to NP this year. Deadline for submission of articles is middle of June. Details about this matter including format/style will appear on our web site.

**From the Desk of Community Council**

As the year 2007 ends, on behalf of the Community Council (CC), I could proudly proclaim that Sanskriti has passed eight years of this millennium with flying colors. Diligent work and selfless contributions of the members of Sanskriti Board of Directors (BOD), the members of CC and, above all, the members of our community have made Sanskriti an actively involved, family-oriented organization. This has been made possible through the hearty participation of the whole community, even though most of the members have re-rooted here from different parts of India and Bangladesh, more precisely West Bengal, leaving behind their beloved homeland ten thousand miles away.

As you all know, Sanskriti Inc. has chartered as a democratic organization and every year the members of CC, BOD and Election Committee (EC) are elected by the members of Sanskriti, Inc. This year, there were five vacant positions for BOD and the election committee received five nominations. Therefore, the new BOD members were elected without contest. I congratulate the members of BOD who will serve during 2008.

There was one vacant position in the Community Council. The election committee received only one nomination, and thus, Mr. Somnath Som was elected as new member for a five years tenure starting from January 2008. Therefore, Community Council Members for 2008 are as follows:

Jogabrata Majumdar (Chairman)  
Sikhin Mitra  
Gopa Motayed  
Minoti Dutta  
Somnath Som.

I am delighted to acknowledge the hard work by the members of the Community Council to support BOD's activities, and appreciate their inputs in the exchange of thoughts and ideas with BOD, to supplement each other in good spirit and enthusiasm.

Above all, I salute all those community members who always volunteer to work relentlessly, selflessly and silently in various activities during *Pujas, Vaisakhi, Picnic*, and other events and are never hesitant to readily perform herculean tasks for our community. I sincerely hope that the warm, intimate attitude of these silent volunteers and their earnest feelings in trying to do something for their community every year, without even caring whether they are recognized or not, shall always be venerated.

Lastly, let me conclude with a quote from our reverend Sri Auribindo  
*"Let the birth of the new year be the new birth of our consciousness. Leaving the past far behind us, let us run towards a luminous future"*

*Wishing you all a happy and prosperous New Year!*

Jogabrata Majumdar, Chairman,  
Community Council  
Sanskriti, Inc.

## We Remember You

With a very heavy heart, we announce the departure of our beloved Mashima - Mrs. Shefali Sengupta, who left for her heavenly abode on 16th November, 2007. A participant in Sanskriti activities on a regular basis for a very long time, Mashima was an epitome of love and affection. Her motherly love, selfless expression of affection will be missed by many of us who knew her closely for a long time. We pray God for giving extra strength to her family members in these difficult times.

## Sanskriti Youth Club is Moving Forward

The Sanskriti Youth Club was reestablished roughly two years ago by a group of interested teens. Although the Club had existed previously, we were determined to take it in a brand new direction by converting it into a charitable organization. During the summer that followed, our Youth Club began compiling a list of talented students, aged approximately 13-17 years living in West Bengal, to assist. We followed the working model of an organization called SHARA, which approximated a certain amount of money for each student, to help them buy books and pay tuition fees. Through weekly meetings, hours of planning and countless fundraisers, we began working towards our goal.

Fund raising from food sales and other contributions from our community, we have been able to dispatch aid for 57 students, and they have been provided with care packages. We also proffered aid to the Tiljala Slum School by sending it funds. Our most recent accomplishment is a growing lending library (as seen in the picture), that we provided for SEBA. Based in Sodepur, this non-profit charity organization targets girls of poverty, who amongst many other things, lacked the means to buy textbooks. We allotted a great deal of our funds to this library, and we are now investigating the possibility of helping the Monojit Basu School, which is similarly

dedicated to organizing many resources for talented students.

We continuously invite donations and encourage the community to participate in our "Give me a Five" plan: monthly payments of \$5, or \$60 for the entire year. Though we have had reasonable success with this initiative, we are always looking for more donations for our cause.

To acknowledge one, we are incredibly grateful to Sanskriti for absorbing us into their infrastructure, and affording us so many opportunities to pursue our cause. Appreciating the progress we have made thus far, the Youth Club is confident that it will continue to make notable strides in the coming years.

Additional fund raising activities to support more programs are being planned for 2008 through Sanskriti events and Pujas. To answer all questions regarding the Club's activities, feel free to contact us at [sanskriti.youth@gmail.com](mailto:sanskriti.youth@gmail.com).

## Yearly Membership & Member Database

It is that time of the year when you get to express your appreciation for your favorite organization by submitting the annual membership fee. You are welcome to submit your dues in person during the Saraswati Puja or through the payment slip. Also, if you are a current member, we urge you to be a life time member. Information about the life time membership will be available at the registration desk during saraswati Puja on February 9, 2008. If you are not a member and wish to join your community organization, we welcome your membership.

**Yearly Membership Payment Slip:**  
**Membership fee: \$10.00 per adult,**  
**Life member: \$250.00 (Family), \$150.00 (Single)**  
**Make checks payable to "Sanskriti Inc"**

Name of Member (s):

Phone number:

Address:

Mail to: Partha Mukhopadhyay, 539 Pelican Ave  
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

## 2007 Sanskriti Financial Report

Here is the Unaudited Sanskriti financial report for the year 2007.

Event 2007	Income	Expenses	Gain/Loss
<b>Saraswati Puja (364)</b>			
Revenue Donation	8283.75		
Membership	1140.00		
Stall Rental	400.00		
Food & Drinks		5015.14	
Puja Activities & Decor		340.47	
Facility Rental		3050	
Cleaning		314.00	
Cultural/Children Program		1800.00	
<b>Gain/Loss</b>	<b>9823.75</b>	<b>10519.61</b>	<b>-(695.86)</b>
<b>Baisakhi (125)</b>			
Revenue	1395.00		
Facility Rental		300.00	
Food & Beverages		550.32	
Artist's Fee			
Other Program charges			
<b>Gain/Loss</b>	<b>1395.00</b>	<b>850.32</b>	<b>(544.68)</b>
<b>Picnic (35)</b>			
Donation	320.00		
Picnic spot		230.00	
Food & Beverages		264.48	
<b>Gain/Loss</b>	<b>320.00</b>	<b>494.48</b>	<b>-(174.48)</b>
<b>Durga Puja (682)</b>			
Donation and Pronami	27825.10		
Membership	160.00		
Advt. & Stall Rental	1295.00		
Facility Rental		5100.00	
Pratima Decoration		383.07	
Puja preparation		1003.57	
Food & Beverages		9747.14	
Cultural Program		9713.72	
Cleaning		650.00	
Truck Rental		680.07	
Security guard		640.00	
<b>Gain/Loss</b>	<b>29280.10</b>	<b>27917.57</b>	<b>(1362.53)</b>
<b>General Body Meeting (31)</b>			
Donation	0		
Facility Rental		0	
Food & Beverages		100.00	
<b>Gain/Loss</b>		100.00	<b>-(100.00)</b>
<b>New Year's Eve Party (190, Est)</b>			
Admission Charges	3800.00		
Facility Rental		1060.00	
Cleaning & others		300.00	
Food & Beverages	400.00	1650.00	
<b>Gain/Loss</b>	<b>4200.00</b>	<b>3010.00</b>	<b>(1190.00)</b>

<b>Other Activities</b>			
Directory advertisement	6025.00		
Nabapatrika			
Other	200.00		
Nabapatrika writer's fee and Printing		405.00	
Directory Printing		3000.00	
Newsletter, Postcard Print, and Mailing		1080.46	
Tennise+Bridge toun. trophy		104.60	
Projector+DVD rent		166.95	
Web Rent		60.00	
Othres (Donation to Paramita Das)		500.00	
<b>Gain/Loss</b>	<b>6225.00</b>	<b>5317.01</b>	<b>(907.99)</b>
<b>Operation Expenses (Est.)</b>			
Insurance		286.00	
Audit Fee		650.00	
<b>Gain/Loss</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>936.00</b>	<b>-(936.00)</b>
<b>Donation</b>			
<b>Youth Group</b>			
Collection	5150.00		
Account Payable to Youth Group		4000.00	
Check paid to Youth Group		1150.00	
<b>Gain/Loss</b>	<b>5150.00</b>	<b>5150.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>51243.85</b>	<b>49144.99</b>	<b>( 2098.86)</b>

Gain as Percent of Revenue: 4.1

Sanskriti Board, 2007

## Office Bearer Contacts

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