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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

Volume 109, No. 1

January 2009

2009 Board of Directors

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Puja Activities

Rama Saha

From the Board of Directors

Dear Fellow Members,

Another successful year has gone by and we have stepped on to the New Year. I take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to the Board of Directors for their hard work and dedication to make the year 2008 a banner year.

I would personally like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to serve as President for two years in a row. As part of the 2008 Sanskriti Board, we feel proud to be able to deliver superior, well organized programs and draw record number of participations from the community in all events. It was our privilege that we could offer for Durga puja – two overseas artists program, boxed dinner on Sunday, shingara snack break, and yet managed to return a budget surplus of over \$6,000.00. It all had been possible for your generous and overwhelming support.

We would also like to take this opportunity to salute all the community members who volunteered in our various events - Baisakhi, Picnic, Pujas, and New Year's Eve. Thank You so much for your tireless, selfless and silent work!!!!

Once again, like last year, we will make Communication and Community Participation our number one priority.

We feel very proud to have achieved a number of milestones during last year:

1) Sanskriti Web Site – www.sanskriti-dc.org

We revamped 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 includes updated information. We have generated revenue from advertisement in this website. This year we will try to concentrate more on the contents and continue with upgrades and improvements. Please logon to this web site for all information on Sanskriti events. For Directory access, please logon using Password – sanskriti.

Highlights

- From the Board of Directors
- Saraswati Puja
- 2009 events
- Updates from Community Council
- We Remember You
- Sanskriti Youth group continues to move forward
- 2008 Financial Report

Calender of Sanskriti Events

Saraswati Puja: January 30-31, 2009

Baisakhi: April 18, 2009

Community Picnic: June 6, 2009 (tentative)

Durga Puja: Sept 25 - 27, 2009 (tentative)

Annual General Body Meeting: December 13, 2009

New Year's Eve Party: December 31, 2009

Visit at

**www.sanskriti-dc.org
for updated info**

Continued... From the Board of Directors

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 continue to 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 continue with the concept of employing 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.

4) Advance Registration

Also, in order to plan and manage our events better, we have developed Advance Registration Forms for all our events. Our BOD members and Area Representatives will have these forms. You can also download from our website and mail as directed in the form. We had a lot of success in advance registration for our New Year's Eve Program. Please register in advance for all our events.

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 and spacious and comfortable facility for large crowd. This is a challenge but with your generous support we successfully accomplished that in 2008 and we are confident that we will be able to accomplish this in 2009 as well.

With best wishes for a happy and prosperous new year,

Rama Saha, President
For Sanskriti Board of Directors

Saraswati Puja

1/30/2009--1/31/2009
Seneca Valley High School
19401 Crystal Rock Drive,
Germantown, Maryland 20874
Phone: (301)353-8000

Programs & Activities

Friday, January 30, 2009

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

Saturday, January 31, 2009

Puja Preparation	: 10 am
Puja	: 11:00 am
Puspanjali and Hatekhari	: 12:30-1:00 pm
Prasad and Lunch	: 1:00-2:30 pm
Children's Recitation	: 2:00-3:00 pm
Children's Drawing	: 3:00-4:00 pm
Cultural Program	: 4:00–8:00 pm
Arati	: 8:00–8:30 pm
Dinner	: 8:30-10:30 pm
Clean-up	: 10:30 pm-12:00 am

Donations

Member - \$25.00 per adult
Non-member - \$30.00 per adult
Dependent children (up to 24 years)/Fulltime Students/ Dependent Parents- \$12.00 per person
Children under 6 years of age – free

Membership: (Calendar year 2009)

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

Tickets: Tickets will be issued for lunch, dinner and cultural program.

Direction: Traveling from EAST or SOUTH of

Germantown: Take I-270 North Take Exit 13 Middlebrook Road West

For Main Entrance

Make a LEFT onto Crystal Rock Drive
SVHS is the first building on the left

For Auditorium Entrance

Cross Great Seneca Highway
Make a LEFT into school parking lot

Traveling from WEST or NORTH of Germantown:

Take I-270 South
Take Exit 15 Germantown Road South (Rt. 118)
Make a LEFT onto Middlebrook Road

For Main Entrance

Make a RIGHT onto Crystal Rock Drive
SVHS is the first building on the left

For Auditorium Entrance

Cross Crystal Rock Drive
Make a RIGHT into the parking lot

Volunteers needed

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

Seeking Vendors at the Saraswati Puja

If you or anyone is interested in having a table booth at the Saraswati Puja, please contact Nandita Dasgupta at nanditadg@aol.com or call 240-755-0103. Cost for a table booth is \$150.00 that includes two tables, two chairs and one set of meal tickets.

Sanskriti is not responsible for quality /performance of any vendor products. In case of faulty products, the customers will need to deal directly with the vendors.

Nabapatrika

Keeping Sanskriti's tradition, we would publish NABAPATRIKA 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 May 15, 2009. All electronic submissions should be sent to Jayasree Basu at Joybasu15@yahoo.com. We will also accept handwritten copies (to be sent to Jayasree Basu, 7510 Redland Park Place, Rockville, MD 20855). More details about format/style will appear on our web site.

From the Desk of Community Council

On behalf of the Community Council (CC), let me first congratulate the Sanskriti members, the Board of Directors (BOD) and the community volunteers for a successful year of 2008. All the activities, such as Saraswati puja, Baisakhi, annual picnic and of course the Durga puja were organized with outstanding success.

Like each year, for 2009, new members of CC, BOD and Election Committee (EC) were nominated for vacant positions. The community showed their unity and maturity by replacing all the vacancies without any election. I like to congratulate five outgoing BOD, Supratim Choudhuri, Bubin Bhattacharya, Jayati Bera, Goutam Sen and Jayshree Kundu for job well done and welcome new members Pranab Mukherjee, Nandita Dasgupta, Jayasree Basu, Kamal Dutta and Partha Choudhuri.

There was one vacant position in the CC. The Chairman of the CC for the year 2008, Mr. Jogabrata Majumdar completed successfully his five years tenure. He was replaced by Mr. Pradyut Neogi. The CC members for 2009 as follows: Sikhindra Mitra

(Chairman), Gopa Motayed, Minati Dutta, Somnath Som and Pradyut Neogi. Messrs Budhadev Paul and Nilmoni Bhattacharya represent the EC. There is one vacancy in the EC. The volunteer for the position will be welcomed.

Lastly, let me wish the members of this wonderful community a happy and prosperous 2009.

Sikhindra Mitra, Chairman,
Community council, Sanskriti, Inc.

Introducing Board of Directors 2009



We Remember You

With a very heavy heart, we announce the departure of our beloved dada "**Hiren Bhaduri**" (1922-2008) of Laurel, MD. Hiren-da passed away on 26th November, 2008 at 1:42 PM, after suffering from a short but acute illness. He is survived by his wife Dipti, daughters Mita, Rajyasree & Mousumi, son-in-laws Sanchoy Das & Michael Keefer and grandson Rohit Das. Hiren-da was a long time resident of our community and an active member of Sanskriti. His selfless devotion to our community, honest principles in life, pleasant demeanor, and warm love to each and everyone he touched, will always be remembered.

We Miss You Dada!!

Mr. Shankar Gupta of 13205 Dally Bridge Ct., Silver Spring, MD, passed away on Wednesday (November 5th) at 9:25 A.M. at the Holy Cross Hospital, after suffering from a long-drawn acute illness. He is survived by his wife Sumita, and several nephews and nieces. Shankar-da was a very cheerful, generous, and loving person. The Greater Baltimore and Washington Area community will always remember his warm hospitality, gracious smile, and high spirits, which remained with him

until his last breath. We would all like to express our sincere condolences and convey our thoughts and prayers to the family members at this difficult time.

Sanskriti Youth Club Continues to Move Forward

The Sanskriti Youth Club has had a very productive year, and as always, we owe much thanks to all of our supporters! SYC works with SEVA, an educational center in Sodepur, West Bengal, to financially support impoverished students. Our ongoing commitment with SEVA includes providing tuition and book fees for hundreds of 8th-12th grade students. Working towards SEVA's long term self-sufficiency, we have also donated three used laptops for prospective engineering students, a full lending library for upper class students, and an upgrade from a manual sewing room for vocational training purposes. Now, our focus lies on offering merit scholarships to students who wish to pursue a college education. The three years of college tuition and book fees total to \$150 per student.

While we continue to support SEVA's students, we also plan on diversifying and reaching out to the global community in support of underprivileged students worldwide. For more information on our progress, be sure to find us at upcoming Sanskriti pujas and events, and hopefully on the SYC website that we are setting up to launch soon. Until the link to our own website becomes available though, please feel free to also contact us at sanskriti.youth@gmail.com.

Questions, comments, donations, and youth membership are always welcome; much of our energy comes from our new wave of younger members, whom we are proud of for joining SYC's cause.

-SYC

Attention - Children

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

- ❖ **Group I** (ages up to 6 years): " Amader Chhoto Nadi" by Rabindra Nath Tagore(1st eight lines)
- ❖ **Group II** (ages 7 to 9 years): "Hat" by Rabindra Nath Tagore (1st fourteen lines)
- ❖ **Group III** (ages 10 to 12 years):"Rabibar" by Rabindra Nath 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.

The drawing competition will be held for children for 2 group

- ❖ **Group I** (ages up to 7 years)
- ❖ **Group II** (7 to 12 years)

Both groups will use a common theme: "**Saraswati Puja**".

For further information, please contact Partha Chowdhury at 301- 437- 5176 (partha67@hotmail.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 January 31, 2009. 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: Kamal Datta,
14717 Yearling Terrace,
Rockville, Maryland 20850

2008 Sanskriti Financial Report

Here is the Unaudited Sanskriti financial report for the year 2008.

Event 2008	Income	Expenses	Gain/Loss
Saraswati Puja (352)			
Revenue	7,154.00		
Membership	1,850.00		
Donation	399.95		
Stall Rental	300.00		
Food & Drinks		5,001.32	
Puja Activities & Decor		902.54	
Facility Rental		3,564.00	
Cleaning		420.00	
Cultural Program		1,100.00	
Truck Rental & Misc		285.66	
Gain/Loss	9,703.95	11273.00	(-)1569.05
Sanskriti Day			
Donation by BOD	713.00		
Other Donation	41.00		
Food & Drinks		500.00	
Puja Activities		400.00	
Gain/Loss	754.00	900.00	(-)146.00
Baisakhi (200)			
Revenue	2,288.00		
Facility Rental		300.00	
Food & Beverages		1,590.79	
Artist's Fee		150.00	
Gain/Loss	2,288.00	2,040.79	247.21
Picnic (153)			
Revenue	1,804.00		
Picnic spot		230.00	
Food & Beverages		577.46	
Gain/Loss	1,804.00	807.46	996.54
Durga Puja (859)			
Revenue	33,713.00		
Donation	1,352.00		
Membership	670.00		
Stall Rental	1,725.00		
Facility Rental		7,126.00	
Pratima Decoration		248.66	
Food & Beverages		18,063.98	
Cultural Program		9,805.00	
Puja Activities		1,288.68	
Truck Rental, Ticket s		590.40	
Gain	38,179.05	37,122.73	1,056.32
General Body Meeting (50, Estimate)			
Donation	0		
Facility Rental		0	
Food & Beverages		200.00	
Gain/Loss	0.00	200.00	(-)200.00

Other Activities			
Directory Advertisement	9,251.00		
Web Advertisement	470.00	166.80	
Nabapatrika writer's fee		250.00	
Directory & Nabapatrika Printing		1,000.00	
Newsletter Print, and Mailing		530.68	
Revenue Receipt Print		327.92	
Bank Fees (Check book, Deposit slips, fees etc)		183.38	
Misc		622.42	
Music System Rental	200.00		
Gain/Loss	9,921.00	3,081.20	6,839.80
New Year's Eve Party (150, Estimate)			
Revenue and Donation	3,750.00		
Facility Rental		2,115.00	
Food & Beverages		1,635.00	
Gain/Loss	3,750.00	3,750.00	0.00
Operation Expenses (Estimate)			
Insurance		262.00	
Audit Fee		600.00	
Gain/Loss	0	862.00	(-)862.00
Donation			
Cheshire Home	600.00	600.00	
Speech and Hearing Institute Research	600.00	600.00	
BE College Alumni Association	2,500.00	2,500.00	
Gain/Loss	4,450.00	4,450.00	0.00
Youth Group			
Collection	7,701.38		
Check paid to Youth Group		2,622.00	
Account Payable to Youth Group		5,079.38	
Gain/Loss	7,701.38	7,701.38	0.00
Grand Total	78551.38	72188.56	6362.82

Gain as Percent of Revenue: 8.1

Assets from 2008 Budget:

1. Wireless Microphone and transmitter: 1 item
2. Percolator: 1 item
3. Fluorescent light: 2 sets
4. Flood lights: 4 sets
5. Microphone: 1 set

Sanskriti Inc.
8037 Cobble Creek Circle
Potomac, MD 20854

Non Profit Org.
US Postage paid
Silver Spring, MD
Permit No. 5335