

BENGALI ASSOCIATION OF GREATER ROCHESTER

(A non-profit organization)

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Executive Committee
2016-2017

Anindita Biswas

President
Email: president@bagrusa.org

Krishna Chakraborty

Secretary
Email: secretary@bagrusa.org

Shusanta Choudhury

Treasurer
Email: treasurer@bagrusa.org

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Padmini Das

Member

Uttara Bhattacharya

Member

Nandita Maity

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President-Elect

Saraswati Puja 2017

Dear BAGR Members,
Welcome to another edition of BAGR Newsletter

Like the past six years, we celebrated Durga Puja on October 15 and 16, 2016 at India Community Center (ICC) 2171 Monroe-Wayne County Line Rd, Rochester NY 14502. On Saturday October 15, we started our festivities in the morning with prayer offerings to Maa Durga, and follow it up with Pushpanjali (floral offerings) and Bhog Prasad.

Our cultural presentations for Saturday October 15 began with *Sandhya Arati* (Evening Prayers) and *Agomoni* (or welcome) songs. The highlight of the evening was a semi-classical dance program DEVI: Devine Devine Energy Vibrant Inspiration, consisting of set of performances by the students of Mayooram School of Dance of Rochester, NY. The performances were choreographed and directed by the lead instructor of the school, Ms. Rini Pullari. The highlight of our cultural evening was a foot-tapping musical performance of Bengali and Bollywood hits by Parnava Banerjee, the winner of ZEE BANGLA Golden Voice of the Year in 2006. Parnava has lent his voice to multiple Bengali movie songs and is a regular performer on Tara Muzic, ETV Bangla, STAR Jalsha, etc.

On Sunday October 16 we began with prayer offerings to Maa Durga, and Pushpanjali and culminated with Visarjan (symbolic immersion) of Maa Durga. That was followed by Sindoor Khela, where married women apply vermilion to each other as the symbol of blessings from Goddess Durga herself and bidding her goodbye and simultaneously inviting her back for the coming year.

On the evening of Sunday October 16, BAGR celebrated its annual Bijoya celebrations which comprised of equally enthralling programs. Sunday evening we celebrated Lakshmi Puja, which was followed by another night of cultural programs. Cultural evening started with *Thakumal Jhuli Theke* – A Fairytale from Grandma's Sac, a dance performance by budding artists from Rochester (directed by Padmini Das), and *Jugantor* - A Journey from the Past to Present, a musical drama by performers from Rochester (directed by Joyoti Choudhury). The evening culminated with a musical performance by the band *Hazaaron Khwaishen*. We hope you enjoyed the functions.

With the advent of New Year, it is time to offer our homage to the Goddess of Knowledge, *Maa Saraswati*. We will be celebrating Saraswati Puja on February 4, 2017 at Hindu Temple of Rochester. Detailed itinerary of the events are included in the following pages of the newsletter. Please join us in these celebrations.

Thank you.
Executive Committee, BAGR

MEMBERSHIP FEES

The membership fees are as follows. Please send your membership dues (check payable to BAGR) to

Shusanta Choudhury, Treasurer, BAGR
73 Rodney Lane, Rochester, NY 14625

Family - \$150/year
Single - \$75/year
Student Family - \$50/year
Student Single - \$25/year

UPCOMING EVENTS

SARASWATI PUJA
HINDU TEMPLE OF ROCHESTER
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2017

NABOBARSHO
ICC
APRIL 22, 2017

DURGA PUJA
ICC
SEPTEMBER 23-24, 2017

Saraswati Puja

We will be celebrating Saraswati Puja on February 4, 2017 at Hindu Temple of Rochester located at 120 Pinnacle Rd Pittsfor, NY 14534.

Itinerary:

Puja: 12 Noon
Anjali/Hatekhari: 12.30PM
Prasad: 1.00PM
Cultural Program: 5.00PM

This is FREE for all BAGR members. For non-members, any donations will be appreciated.

If you want your kid(s) to participate in the Talent Show, please send their NAMES and PERFORMANCE TITLE to secretary@bagrusa.org.

If you want your kid(s) to have Hate-Khori, please send their NAMES to

secretary@bagrusa.org. Please bring a little white-board/black-board and marker/chalk on the day of Puja for Hate-Khori.

Here's the link to the evite event that has been created. Feel free to go through it. This is to help everyone have access to the evite invitation whose names might not be there in the 'evite guest list'

<http://evite.me/8xmZN4Dsbz>

Community News*Condolences*

Father of Kunal Bhowmik passed away on September 21, 2016. May his soul rest in peace.

Paternal grandfather of Barun Paul passed away on December 3, 2016. May his soul rest in peace.

Mother of Krishnendu Sarkar passed away on December 11, 2016. May her soul rest in peace.

Father of Arup Barat passed away on December 17, 2016. May his soul rest in peace.

Mother of Anita Banerjee passed away on January 11, 2017. May her soul rest in peace.

Congratulations

Anindita and Arijit Nath welcomed their baby daughter, and Megha Nath welcomed her little sister on December 9, 2016. May the *new* bundle of joy bring happiness into their lives.

Welcome to Rochester

We welcome new families to Rochester: Dinanath and Aparajita Ash, Ananya Bandyopadhyay and family.

Please send all community news to secretary@bagrusa.org for them to be included in the BAGR newsletters.

BENGALI ASSOCIATION OF GREATER ROCHESTER (BAGR)

www.bagrusa.org ♦ Email: webmaster@bagrusa.org

In Association with
GAUDIYA MISSION USA



*Om Saraswati Mahabhagey,
Vidye Kamala Lochaney
Viswarupey Vishalakshmi,
Vidyam Dehi Namohastutey //*

Cordially invites you to
**Saraswati Puja
Vasant Panchami**

February 4th, 2017

**Hindu Temple of Rochester
120 Pinnacle Road,
Rochester NY 14534**

Schedule

Saturday February 4th

Puja : 12.00 noon

Anjali: :12:30 pm

Prasad/Lunch: 1.00PM

Cultural Program: 2.00PM

ALL DONATIONS WELCOME

RSVP: secretary@bagrusa.org

BAGR is a registered non profit organization under Section 501 c 3 of Internal Revenue code. All donations to BAGR are tax exempt.