

A Bengali Religious & Cultural Organization
 P.O. Box 4874, Troy, MI 48099-4874
 www.bichitra.org

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Issue 2008-12-1



A Message from the President

Dear Friends,
 I hope you are enjoying the Holiday season and doing well under the current economic situation, which is hurting South East Michigan badly. But I am glad to see that U.S. automakers got the badly needed loan from the President. However, with the loan comes the hard part, that is to fulfill the requirements of the loan. Let's hope that everything works out okay.

The Bichitra Social Service Unit's fundraising program on Nov 15 and the Christmas program on Dec 12 were awesome. Anindya Roy organized the fundraising program to raise money for the needy people, and did an excellent job. Debjani Nayak, organized the Christmas program. There was magic show, live entertainment, and more. Of course Santa was there, and fun was had by all.

Paromita Chakraborty, who was our Associate Secretary, recently moved away from Michigan. Amar Basu has been elected to fill that position. Congratulations Amar. We are very happy that you are in the Governing Body.

Our next program is Saraswati Puja on January 31, 2009. Please read more news on that throughout this newsletter. Also, feel free to go to the website for more information.

I would like to encourage the children to actively participate in the program at Saraswati Puja on Saturday Jan 31, 2009. I am requesting you to talk with your son/daughter to perform in the Saraswati Puja. We would certainly make sure that everybody can participate in at least one program. But we do need your RSVP ASAP. Please call Animesh Das [248-324-0157; das_animesh@yahoo.com]; or Keshav Rakshit [248-879-6967; myratul@yahoo.com] before January 16, 2009 to confirm your children's participation. Additional program participation by one individual would depend on available time slots. The participation may include either an individual program, or a group program. The group programs are encouraged, but you need to find an organizer for the group program. If your son/daughter would want to participate in multiple programs, please list them in order of importance. Please send the information via phone or e-mail to Animesh Das and Keshav Rakshit. This year's children program is sponsored by the Mridha Foundation in the name of Bindu Bashini and Paresh Nath Mridha. The program includes: dance, recitation, songs, instruments. If something is not mentioned here please let us know. In addition there will be art participation which is separate from the above four programs mentioned above. **Children participating in the art program need to bring their own art supplies like crayons, paint, brush, pencils, erasers etc. Paper would be provided by the organizers.**

Regards,
 Pranab Saha

**Bichitra Celebrates Saraswati Puja
 Saturday, January 31, 2009**



Durga Puja event chairpersons Animesh Das and Keshav Rakshit are gearing up for the Saraswati Puja. This year's Puja will be at the **Grissom Middle School**, 35701 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, MI.

Directions to Grissom Middle School:

From I-696

- Take Exit 20
- Eastbound 11 Mile for about 1.5 mile
- Turn left on Ryan and go about 4 miles.
- School will be on left.

From I-75

- Take Exit 67 (Rochester Road) Northbound
- Northbound Rochester Rd for 0.3 miles.
- Turn right on Big Beaver, go for 3.1 miles.
- Turn right on Ryan, go about 0.8 miles.
- School will be on right.



Saraswati Puja Schedule:

9:00 AM	Registration
9:30 AM	Puja
11:30 AM	Pushpaanjali
12:00-1:30 PM	Prasad and Lunch
12:30-1:30 PM	Children Art Participation
1:45 PM	Children Cultural Program
5:30 PM	Arati
6:15 PM	Dinner and award presentation
7:45 PM	Adult Program

The Children's cultural program (talent show) includes songs, instrumental ensemble, recitation, dance, etc. This year's talent show is being sponsored by the Mridha Foundation in the name of Dr. Debasish Mridha's parents. In addition to the children cultural program, there will also be a presentation by a few middle school students on current events.

For more information about the event please visit our website: <http://www.bichitra.org>

Saraswati Puja Donation Schedule:

Member Family	\$40
Member Single	\$25
Non Member Family	\$50
Non Member Single	\$30
Student Family	\$25
Student Single	\$15

Puja Registration:

You can register for the Puja online by going to: <http://members.bichitra.org/rsvp>.

Bichitra 2008 Christmas Program

Friday, December 12, 2008

Bichitra's annual Christmas program, chaired by Debjani Chanda, was another great event which started with samosa, muri, gugni, jilipi, and pizza. This year was a special one as Dr. Prantosh Nag provided magical entertainment for the children. In addition there was live entertainment by Bichitra youths who played piano, violin, clarinet, sang Christmas carols, and more. Then when the children were caroling, Santa arrived. The children were happy with special gifts and adults also thoroughly enjoyed the event.

News from Bichitra Social Service Unit

BSSU began the year with a goal of raising \$7000 for programs to help underprivileged children in Kolkata. As you may remember, the Durga Puja photo booth took

awhile to catch on. But eventually it raised \$2245 during the weekend - thanks to those who were brave enough to let us take your picture! On November 15th, our fundraiser at Troy Community Center raised another \$2724. Thanks to both those who donated their time to perform, as well as to those who dug deep and donated generously! Combined with \$2100 in donations from the summer, that brought our total to \$7070. Of this, \$2000 was sent to Kolkata Rama Krishna Mission in June of this year. Also, \$5070 was sent last month to Kolkata via the Vivekananda Vedanta Society in Chicago and a receipt of this donation has been received. Another \$121 in checks was received after this donation was sent - this money remains in Bichitra's account for the time being. BSSU will be back with its photo booth during Saraswati Puja. Look for new and interesting backgrounds - you might get a chance to meet the new president or visit the White House. We may also be selling crafts made by young girls in Kolkata - the same girls that your past donations have assisted. Funds raised during Saraswati Puja will go towards next year's program. BSSU thanks you again for your generosity and support.

Bichitra Member Services Now Online

Bichitra is in the process of upgrading its website to allow members to pay annual dues, register for events online, make payments via Paypal or credit card, and much more. The first planned use is for Saraswati puja registration (as mentioned above). Please make use of the new website at <http://members.bichitra.org> and give your feedback to Sudip (sudip.nath@gmail.com).

Welcome to Bichitra's Newest Member

Santanu Mondal and his wife Harsha had their baby girl Aneeka on the Deepawali Day October 28th. Both baby and parents are doing fine. Please take a moment to congratulate the proud parents.

We Would Like to Hear from You!

Please let us know any information that we can share with the Bengali community. Thank you!

