



A NON-PROFIT RELIGIOUS & CULTURAL ORGANIZATION
P.O. BOX 4874, TROY, MI 48099-4874



NEWSLETTER, JULY, 2008

ISSUE 2008-7-1

Message from the President

Dear Friends,



We all had a fabulous picnic this July, on the "rainy-sunny" day of July 12, 2008, at the Gunnar Mettala Park in Wixom, MI. Chaity Nath chaired the program, with active assistance from many dedicated individuals. A dedication well supported and appreciated by all of us.

The highlight of the picnic was the on-site cooking (remember those old days back in India?). The cooked food was served for lunch, and it was delicious. Thanks to everybody who helped cooking, and thanks to all of you who were able to come to the picnic and inspire the delicacies. It was a picnic worth remembering, thank you. Without you, we would not have had the fun!

This issue of our newsletter will focus on the 25th year anniversary of our dear Path Bhaban. A very important celebration from Bichitra.

This newsletter will provide information and updates on our Durga Puja, to be held on October 11-13, 2008.

Our other events...

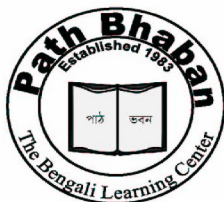
Christmas Party, Friday Dec 12, 2008 at the Troy Community Center; Saraswati Puja, Saturday Jan 31, 2009; Nababarsha, Saturday, Apr 18, 2009.

Finally, an appeal...

Friends, I would like to hear from you. I would like to know what you think Bichitra can do for our youngsters, for our second generation Bengalis, and our loved ones who are not Bengalis, but married into our families, and would like to embrace the Bengali culture. How can we fulfill these needs? Together we can make a difference and build a better community, so let's plan for it. What do you say?

Path Bhaban—Silver Jubilee

25 years ago, in 1983, a group of visionaries established Detroit Metro Area Bengali Learning Center "Path Bhaban". Since then, Path Bhaban is running continuously, thanks to its patrons, our parents, and most importantly, our students...



Over the years, Path Bhaban has graduated from one campus in Troy, to two campuses. Now we are in Novi, too!

To thank its patrons...

Path Bhaban is organizing a weekend program to celebrate its 25th anniversary. Founders, Dignitaries, Alumni are most cordially invited to join the program, to make it a fun filled weekend. Bichitra will sponsor the event.

Schedule:

Friday, August 15 @ Troy Community Center, 2179 Livernois Rd, Troy, MI

7:30PM Get Together—Troy & Novi SPT Groups, Alumni, Invitees

8:00PM Discussions, Rehearsals, Final Preparation

9:10PM Last Minute Items

Saturday, August 16 @ Beer Middle School, 3200 Martin Rd, Warren MI

1:00PM Doors Open, Set-Ups, Assembling, Exhibits, Displays

2:00PM Welcome – Opening Songs, Speeches

2:20PM Seminar – Values and Challenges of Establishing and Maintaining Bangla Learning Center in North America

3:55PM Refreshments and Net-Working

4:30PM Reflection of Memories - The Alumni Discussions

5:20PM Student Cultural Program –Set I

5:45PM Success, Challenges, Moving Forward – The SPT Interface

6:35PM Student Cultural Program – Set II

7:00PM Sumptuous Dinner and Net-Working

8:20PM Recognition and Awards

9:00PM Farewell – Closing Songs, Speeches

9:20PM Dismantling Displays, Exhibits, Clean up, Door Closes

Sunday, August 17 @ Clinton River Cruise, 152 North River Rd, Mt Clemens, MI

11:30PM Assembling and Boarding Clinton River Cruise

12:00PM River Cruise with Buffet Lunch

3:10PM Departing with Good Memories and Re-joining

If anybody is interested to go to the Clinton River Cruise or have any other questions, please contact Satyen Basu at 248-524-0058, or sat-basu@ieee.org to see whether seats are still available.

The donations are as follows:

Day	Child	Adult
Saturday- Aug 16	\$5.00	\$15.00
Family of four for Saturday only: \$35.00		
Sunday- Aug 17	\$13.00	\$26.00
Saturday/ Sunday-Aug 16-17	\$15.00	\$35.00



Bichitra Picnic Report



This year Bichitra's Annual Picnic was held on Friday, July 12, 2008, held at Gunnar Mettalla Park, Wixom. It was a great event. The crew arrived early at the Park Shade (pavilion). A few minutes of heavy shower at the beginning did not deter the enthusiasm, and team effort with hard work and dedication made everything possible.

As sun started coming from behind the clouds, so did the guests who started arriving at around noon. Over 60 people gathered and enjoyed the great Picnic. There was plenty of excellent food in combinations of home-made, on the spot cooked/grilled and off the shelf munching items.

It started with Bangla Jal Khaabaar, Alur-Chop and Jhaal-Muri. While Pranab Saha and his helpers were busy cooking the hotdogs and chicken burgers for the youngsters and all interested adults, Swapna Bagchi, Indrani Ghosh, Sutapa Santra, Madhuparna Rakshit, Madhuri Hazra, yours truly, and many others were busy cooking Bhat and Panthar-Mangsha to give a real Bon-Bhojon and Charui Bhati flavor to the picnic. Ranjana Basu arranged watermelons to add taste at the end.

The picnic environment was filled with fine music and audio arranged by Shyama Halder, who also arranged the game Bingo for the first time in the history of Bichitra Picnic. People were delighted and were really entertained. The youngsters enjoyed building blocks, sand castles and others. Some liked to run around the area. Sheri and Jim (Shiladitya) Chandra organized other sports including water-balloon, bubbles, and a three-legged race. Gift certificates to youngsters brought real smiles. The attendees, with thrills and occasional cheers, properly utilized game equipments like volleyball, baseball, badminton, horseshoe and others. The President's Team versus the Picnic Chair's Team Tug-of-War was a very interesting event and so was the boys and girls' Tug-of-War. Some people enjoyed quiet talks and playing cards under

the pavilion; others went for walks in the woods. Then again Kaustuv Santra, Kesav Rakshit and Ashis Goswami were busy all day in taking quite a few pictures.

Overall, the Picnic was a great success. Thank you all for coming to the picnic, because without you the picnic would not have been that fun. Your cooperated efforts brought the grand success. Finally, heart felt thanks to Satyen Basu, Pranab Saha & Sutapa Santra for their hard work which is the quintessence of our success.

Regards,

Chaity Nath

Durga Puja 2008



Durga Puja is our biggest event and the preparation is in full swing. Chairperson Sudipta Datta has already held a kick-off meeting. Work is being planned and executed within various sub-committee formed by the president and the chairperson. Most

importantly, fund raising activities have already been started. Initial responses and collection seem to be very promising. Dinner/lunch menu are being finalized. Vendors are being shortlisted. Puja schedule is being worked on. Contracts have been finalized with invited artists. This year's Durga Puja will be graced by some eminent musicians and singers coming all the way from Kolkata. Pt. Tarun Bhattacharya, Santoor maestro will be presenting Hindustani Raagas and fusions. Pt. Tarun Bhattacharya took his first Santoor lessons from his father Pt. Robi Bhattacharya. Later he learnt from Pt. Dulal Roy and his final lessons came from Pt. Ravi Shankar. His profile is available at

<http://www.tarunji.com>. He will be accompanied by Abhisek Basu on Tabla. Abhisek is a disciple of Bikram Ghosh and has already created his own place in the musical world. A very talented classical singer Sounak Chattopadhyay (<http://www.sounak.com>) will be presenting tappa, thungri, raagpradhan gaan etc. Sounak learnt his first alphabets in Hindustani music from Smt. Leena Chakravarty. At eight he was taken over by the Maestro (of [Kirana Gharana](http://www.kirana.com)) Ustad Mashkoor Ali Khansahab and his younger brother Ustad Mubarak Ali Khansahab. As we have mentioned before, E-Tv/Zee Tv famed Sumana Chakrabarty (a disciple of Pt. Ajoy Chakrabarty) will be presenting Bengali Adhunik and popular Hindi songs. Sumana's profile is available at <http://dreamzindia.com/sumanachakrabarty>. In addition to various performances from local artists, Sudha Bhattacharya will be staging a hilarious play based on Gautam Roy's 'Naatjamai' this year. So, get ready for another music and fun filled Durga Puja.

We would like to hear from you

Please let us know any information (email at bichitra@bichitra.org) that we can share with the Bengali community. Thank You!