

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



Subho Bijoya!

Dear Friends,

Heartiest Subho Bijoya to all of you! I hope all of you had a happy time. Please mark your calendar for the next program to help the needy; Saturday, November 15, 2008, 7:00PM at the Troy Community Center, organized by the **Bichitra Social Services Unit (BSSU)**.

The BSSU has always been committed to helping those less fortunate. In past years, Bichitra has donated to projects designed to assist underprivileged young girls living in Kolkata. The Ramkrishna Mission operates programs throughout the city to help these children with their education, nutrition, cultural and vocational training. The projects are named Goabagan, Tiljala and Manoharpukur.

We wish to continue this tradition. Our target is to raise \$7000 for the year. We have already raised over \$4000 and need your generosity to raise the rest. Please join us on **Saturday, November 15th** for an enjoyable evening of Bengali music and culture. All funds raised will be sent to help this worthy effort.

PLACE: Troy Community Center
Banquet Rooms 304 & 305
3179 Livernois Road
Troy, MI 48083

DATE: Saturday, November 15th

TIME: 7 to 10 P.M.

TICKETS: \$20 Per Adult

DINNER: Available by donation

FEATURING:

Sarit Dhar (Sitar)
Athena Akram (Vocal)
Ananda Sen (Drama)
Kishalay Chakraborty (Vocal)

Again, please mark you calendar and plan on spending this evening with us. Contact Anindya Roy at (734) 459-8214 or e-mail roy_anindya@hotmail.com for more information. As always, donations are tax deductible. Thank you in advance for your support and generosity.



Durga Puja, 2008

I hope you had a nice Durga Puja celebration. This year's Durga Puja, a two and a half day event, was awesome. Starting from the Puja through the cultural program to the celebration was quite a success.

Bichitra has been celebrating Durga Puja since 1974, and Karuna Bandyopadhyay our longtime member and resident of Saline, MI has been doing the Puja since 1976. Our Durga Puja Chair Sudipta Datta fondly calls him "Mama" was able to make Karunada agree to do the Puja this year also. Karunada's commitment and dedication for the proper way of doing the Puja is unparalleled, and we all look forward to his priesthood service. I was very happy that Bichitra was able to recognize him by giving him a Presidential Award for his exceptional service for so many years.

The Cultural Program Team scheduled and handled all programs for smooth operation. Between programs as opportunities came, the emcee team (Jhulan, Partho, and Jaydip kept the audience occupied with discussion, singing, jokes and other impromptu entertainment. All the programs were nice and well performed. Sudipta Datta started the cultural program by recognizing everybody who made the Durga Puja celebration a success. This was followed by a presentation by BSSU for the need of giving to the needy people. A variety of performances such as songs, dances, recitations, debate, and other features were enjoyable to everyone. About forty students from the Novi and Troy campuses of Path Bhaban participated in their student program. This included orchestra, dance, Shrutinatok, and a short skit. Several famous guest artists from India performed during the Durga Puja. They included: Pandit Tarun Bhattacharya in Santoor; Abhishek Basu in Tabla; Sounak Chattopadhyay, Tapanpravo Dey, and Sumana Chakrabarty in vocal, and Sharmistha Dev in dance. There were also performances by our local groups Jhankar and Antara - who presented Agomanni and "Nana Kobir Gaan" respectively. We also had recitations by the Uchchhas group and Uday Shankar Das, and songs by Susanta Sarkar, swkit and jokes by Parom Bonnerjee, and dance by Rachna Kumar' group. This year we also had a play "Naat Jamai", by our local talents. This was directed by our own Sudhdaranjan Bhattacharyya. There was also a very timely debate on the 2008 US Presidential election by six high school students. These events were successful only due to tireless hard work in the background by many volunteers. The Puja Commit-

tee, the Executive Committee, the Governing Body as well as other participants convey their special *Sincere Thanks* to all volunteers for an excellent Durga Puja event.

One other eye catching presence during the Durga Puja was the photography booth that was set-up by the BSSU for picture taking with family and friends. The proceeds from the purchase of such pictures will be donated to charity.

I was also very happy to be able to recognize Satyen Basu with a Presidential Award for his unconditional commitment to the Bengali Learning Center for over 25 years. We also recognized late Sunil Mukherjee and Nitin Ghosh for their dedication and participation as actors in Bichitra dramas over the years.

An Important Note:

On Saturday evening, a child pulled one of the fire alarms in the building. The fire department people had to come to the building to see what happened. Obviously there was no fire, but it was a serious disturbance and Bichitra may have to pay a penalty for the false alarm, and Bichitra may also have difficulty in getting this school building for any future Bichitra programs. Dear parents, please talk to your sons and daughters, and explain that although it looks very attractive, the fire alarms must be left alone. We would also encourage someone to come forward and say who may have done it.

We would respectfully like to add that according to Michigan law, parents are ultimately responsible for their Children's unfortunate misgivings. Please talk to your children on the issue very seriously. This does not look good on the Bengali community, and we may have difficulties getting a hall to have our programs in future. On Sunday early evening, there was an interruption of Sumana Chakraborty's performance with the Arati. I am truly sorry for the delay with the program, the puja, and the interruption. We will work harder next time so that this does not happen.

Future Events

Christmas Party: December 12, 2008 at the Troy Community Center (more info coming soon)

Saraswati Puja: January 31, 2009

Nabobarsho: April 19, 2009

Regards,

Pranab Saha

President of Bichitra 2008-09

Together we can make a better community