



MSBA-বার্তা

Feb 2024, Vol. 1



A vibrant, premier Bengali Association of the Mid-South Region elegantly promoting Bengali culture, traditions, and rich heritage of world-renowned legends of Bengal.

From the President's Desk

Amar De

We are so excited to be able to bring out the first edition of MSBA Newsletter 'MSBA-বার্তা' for all the members and we are sure it's the same feeling with you too.

Going by the numerous feedback received after the 2023 festivities, it appeared MSBA picked up lots of steam, vigor, excitement and members are motivated to do something special. To sustain the energy and enthusiasm year-round we need strong connectivity among members and MSBA can provide outlets for constructive community activities, events etc. With very short networking times available typically during puja times MSBA Executive committee members are exploring ways to bring the community closer together on lean days. As a startup, a quarterly/bi-yearly newsletter was thought to be a perfect step to keep the community interlaced and bridged between events. We invited all to communicate and share community news through the newsletter which we hope should keep the community united, well-informed and caring for each other.

We are sure the introduction of this networking platform will be embraced by all and keep our community healthy, caring and evolving.

From the Secretary's Desk -

Alpana Ganguli

I am thrilled to announce our inaugural newsletter for the Mid-South Bengali Association (MSBA). This non-profit organization was started by just five families in 1980 and has now grown to include over 100 families. In this first edition, let us celebrate our vibrant cultural heritage and recap recent events. Let us shine a spotlight on the talent and dedication of our members and the noteworthy achievements within our community. Let us all invoke Mother Durga to enrich our lives and this organization even further. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each member for their invaluable contributions and a special thanks to those whose financial contributions help to grow this wonderful organization. Let this newsletter be a testament to our shared commitment to preserving and promoting the rich tapestry of Bengali culture within the MSBA family.

Community Events in 2023

Mahalaya 2023

Picking up the thread from where it was left many years back, some enthusiastic committee members, especially Alpana Ganguli decided to celebrate Mahalaya again in 2023 with MSBA members. With



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the theme on 'বাজলো তোমার আলোর বেনু' there was overwhelming response to participate and an enthralling program of songs, recitation followed. Everyone enjoyed the eloquent chanting of মহিষাসুরমর্দিনী by Laluda with interlacing songs by Tanima, Laltudi, Shalmali, Anindita. Julie BasuRay presented a great rendition of self-written poem to further enrich the program. Did we say the best attraction was the potluck dinner by MSBA families?



আনন্দময়ীর আবাহনী team

Durga Puja 2023

Durga Puja is a significant cultural and religious event for the Bengali community in Memphis and like always we celebrated our biggest festival with great fervor and enthusiasm in 2023. The Mid-South Bengali Association (MSBA), the first probashi (expatriate) non-profit Bengali club in Memphis, has been at the forefront of celebrating Durga Puja since 1980. It provides an opportunity for the Bengali diaspora in Memphis to come together, celebrate their heritage, and pass on the traditions to the younger generations. This festival marks the victory of Goddess Durga over the demon Mahishasura, embodying the triumph of good over evil. Our celebrations involved various traditional and cultural activities, including the worship of Goddess Durga, cultural performances, music, kid's art competition, dance, and the sharing of festive meals among community members.



Maa on her way home from Kailash



The welcome gate at the CCC entrance

Some Moments Caught on Camera



The Great MSBA Parivar





Kids fascinate audience in Fashion show



MSBA's new-found talents – Kasturee, Ankita



Tapanda igniting the tempo..

This year one of the main attractions on Saturday night was a musical performance by invited singer Mr. Tapanprovo Dey and his entourage from Detroit. He kept the audience enthralled with his lively singing till late at night and members danced frivolously. MSBA members haven't had such fun time in recent years.

Kali Puja 2023

Like any quintessential Bengali festival, the celebration of Kali Puja is not just a religious event but also a cultural one, featuring pandal decorations, intricate idol of Goddess Kali, and lighting decorations etc. We did our part and celebrated in style with some amazing cultural programs, lip-smacking food and magical fireworks, bringing together people from various backgrounds to celebrate the occasion of Kali Puja and Diwali.



Maa with Dakshineswar – the divine integration



Evergreen Laluda and team with inaugural song



*Kushal mesmerizes with flute performance.
Mark's Kathak Dance – Community engage at large!*

MSBA in India Fest 2023 ***The Bengal Pavilion***

MSBA participated with grandeur in the 2023 India Fest organized by India Association of Memphis. Our member Julie Basu Ray led the conceptualization and execution of the Bengal pavilion based on the theme of 'Parampara - Celebration of Culture & Traditions'. Many members volunteered towards the assembly of the pavilion and the outcome was magnificent. Teens from MSBA Member Families had a terrific dance performance applauded by thousands in the gathering.



The fascinating ensemble everybody loved...



Treasures of Bengal at display



....so are the super-energetic members!



*'Mile sur mera tumhara' - harmony in its brilliance:
Sneha and Rai*



Stunning Rai and Sneha at India fest



The performance at its hypnotic climax

New Members Pledged in 2023

We have always valued expanding our community and welcoming new members in pledging membership to the greater cause of MSBA and uplifting the Bengali culture traditions within Memphis. The following list includes the list of members who have proudly pledged their support to MSBA in 2023. (We apologize if we missed any but promise to publish their names in the next newsletter).

- Ekanka & Pooja Mukhopadhyay
- Punya Chatterjee
- Kasturee Chakraborty
- Ajanta Paul
- Sounak & Ankita Banerjee
- Aurobinda Laha
- Abhijit Dasgupta & Debolina Roy
- Anasuya & Robin Paul
- Shalmali Bandyopadhyay
- Soham Sengupta
- Kaustav & Pritha Gangopadhyay
- Srijan Acharya
- Chinmay Sen
- Jayanti & Abhisek Chakraborty
- Bishwaranjan & Jitamoni Karmakar
- Sanchari Banerjee
- Soumen Bera & Family
- Sukanta Bar & Family
- Niloy Kumar & Family
- Ujjayini Ghosh & Family
- Monalisa & Subhabrata Ghosal
- Anuska Das
- Sujata Bose Sinha & Sumon Kumar Sinha
- Joydeep Pal & family
- Srikanta Kolay

New Members in Memphis

Please welcome the following new MSBA members who are new to Memphis and MSBA pledges every support they need for a comfortable relocation in Memphis.

- Ekanka & Pooja Mukhopadhyay
- Sounak & Ankita Banerjee
- Jayanti & Abhisek Chakraborty
- Monalisa & Subhabrata Ghosal
- Srikanta Kolay
- Moumita & Saikat Paul

Community News

Update on our little beloved Sanmay

Sanmay, the fighter son of Suman and Indrani Kundu, is fighting his way back to regain himself. With everybody's love, blessing and good wishes he is on the arduous journey of gaining total normalcy.



Here is what Suman has to say:

“সন্ময় আগের থেকে অনেক সুস্থ হয়ে উঠেছে। সবার আশীর্বাদে ও হয়তো খুব শিগগির হাটতে শুরু করবে। এখন সন্ময় হাত ধরে কিছুটা হেটে যেতে পারে। কিন্তু শরীরের বামদিকটা এখনো দুর্বল থাকার দরুন ব্যালাল রাখতে কষ্ট হচ্ছে। অনেক কথা বলতে শিখেছে আর খাওয়াদাওয়া অনেকটা আগের মতো করছে। তবে অনেক কথা বুঝতে পারেনা। কিন্তু ডাক্তার এর ভিসিট আর থেরাপি চলছে এবং তার সাথে আছে ঈশ্বরের আশীর্বাদ, তোমাদের সকলের ভালোবাসা, শুভেচ্ছা আর বিশ্বাস আছে দৈবশক্তিতে। সন্ময় যতই স্বাভাবিক হয়ে উঠবে আমাদের মন প্রাণ ততই ঝলমলে হয়ে উঠবে আর আশা করি তোমাদের সবাইকে আবার গান শোনাতে পারবো। সবাইকে ভালোবাসা আর শুভেচ্ছা জানাই।”

Our children excelling at School

- ✦ **Neev Sharma** (son of Jheelam and Adrija Sharma) and his teammates participated in the Regional First Lego League Masterpiece Championship held at Collierville High School in Jan 2024. Their team 'Robotic Rulers' were awarded the Motivate Award for exceptional Innovation. This was their first time participating in this Championship, they look forward to participating again next year – Congratulations Neev.
- ✦ **Sneha Majumdar** has been a part of Oxford High School's Speech and Debate team for four years now. Her favorite event is the Lincoln-Douglas debate. She has participated in and won several Mississippi and national tournaments. As Team Captain, she creates weekly agendas, hosts practices, and mentors her team to success – Way to Go Sneha! Kudos to you and MSBA wishes every success in your career ahead.

Members Speak on MSBA Newsletter

- "Cool, that's a brilliant idea.... this is a great initiative" says **Pinaki Chakravarty**.
- "Great initiative!! Congratulations to the team! Looking forward to this." says **Soumyajit Majumdar**.
- "I am greatly pleased to learn that the executive committee of the MSBA have made a noble effort to bring out the monthly newsletter among the members of our community. I feel the newsletter will be a valuable channel for keeping us informed of all the activities and achievements of our members. I wish the MSBA all the success!" – said **Dr. Pranab Das**.



What our Sponsors have to say

Lisa Rose from Wolfchase Honda & Wolfchase Nissan

Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your newsletter. Wolfchase Honda and a Wolfchase Nissan are proud to be your automotive connection. We look forward to seeing you, please contact Terence Williams at 901-255-3761 or twilliams@wolfchasehonda.com.



Ramya & Sandeep from Parin Financial Services

Hats off to the MSBA team for the successful launch of the inaugural newsletter! The newsletter seamlessly integrated introductions, sponsorship highlights, artwork, and thoughtful messages for the community! Watch for Parin Financial Services in the newsletter to support your personal financial aspirations!

