



Sanskriti

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Bengali Cultural Society

A Non-Profit Organization

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“ নতুন বছর আসবে। ...

আমাদের নিজেদের জন্যেও আসুন আজ প্রার্থনা করি সামনের বছরে যেন পৃথিবীর মানুষের জীবন আরেকটু নিশ্চিত্তে, আরেকটু নির্ভয়ে কাটে, আরেকটু ভালবাসায়। এখানেই শেষ হোক দুঃস্বপ্নের বছর। এসো, এই দুঃখী গ্রহে এসো হে, মঙ্গলময় নতুন বছর।”

নবনীতা দেবসেন

আমাদের পালা শেষ হলেও নটে গাছটি এখনও মুড়োয়নি নতুন কমিটি আসছে.. তৈরী হবে নতুন স্মৃতি নতুন গল্পের ঝুড়ি। এই দুবছর হাসি আনন্দে বেশ কাটল। জ্বরুর অভিজ্ঞতাও হল। সকলে সুখে শান্তিতে মিলে মিশে থাক এই কামনা রইল আমাদের তরফ থেকে।

From the Editor's Desk

From the Editor's Desk

I am really going to miss talking to you all. While writing I always felt your presence and had the pleasure of having you as my company. It was a great experience, enjoyed every bit of it. Please extend a warm welcome to our new committee, a whole crew of very talented and dedicated members of our community. We are going to have a great time under their leadership! Woo-hoo to revival of Bangla School. My son started going there and in three weeks knows all the alphabets, on top of it having fun and looks forward to it every Sunday. I wish I realized this earlier. But it's never too late. We urge if you have children please don't deprive them of this experience.

Address from our president Anamitra Basu (Bubu)

We end our term with a sense of fulfillment and a twinge of wistfulness.

To the community: Your financial and moral support over the past two years exceeded all expectations. We will remain thankful for that. If during the journey we failed to live up to any individual expectations in trying to cater to the wellbeing of the community as a whole, we apologize.

To our children: Your concern for the betterment of the community, your interest in serving as active members, your enthusiasm, and your new ideas will form the backbone of Bengali Cultural Society in years to come. Keep up the momentum and pass it along.

To the Executive Committee Elect, '08-'10: It is our privilege to hand over to a group of dedicated, talented and dynamic individuals who will have a profound and positive impact on the community. A hearty welcome!

To my team: Nothing I can write will do justice to the camaraderie we shared. Your unconditional support made me stand strong and tall. Personally, my life has been enriched through every little interaction with each one of you. All of you will forever hold a special place in my heart.

A proposed charitable venture - shipping new and not-so-new clothes and other essentials in bulk to India – remains incomplete. The logistics involved were more complicated than we had foreseen. However, we would like to work with the new committee to bring the plan to fruition.

A plea in closing: Let us bring BANGLA - with all its rhythm, melody and grandeur - back into the soul of Bengali Cultural Society.

Anamitra Basu

New Committee

President:

Vice President (1):

Vice President (2):

General Secretary:

Joint Secretary:

Treasurer:

Joint Treasurer:

Editor:

Youth Coordinator:

Fund-raising Coordinator:

Cultural Coordinator:

Indranil Sardar

Seema Bhar

Sunita Chakraborty

Aparajita Mitra

Sonali Basak

Pradeep Banerjee

Dibyendu Bose

Bisakha Sen

Jaideep Sen

Debasri Ghosh

Debkumar Sarkar

We have achieved the American Dream. The life of comfort, success, happiness. Was that possible without the first break? He was the one who gave it to lot of us. We lost **Dr.Sadhan Dutta**, founder chairman of Development Consultants – Kuljian Group of Companies on Jan. 2nd, after a brief illness. He was 86 and is survived by his wife Bharati Dutta and daughter Shanta Ghosh.

Neena Gangulee tells the story a lot of us would relate to.

‘I AM SO LUCKY’

I am a Bengali, born and brought up in Bihar, a 'Probasi Bangali,' always very proud of my heritage, very proud of being a Bengali! I am also a voracious reader, love to read and I especially read about worthy people, their life, and their achievements. It always fascinates me how some people are so high in achievements, and I love to read in what way they are so different than us...the general mass.

In my childhood days, I had one favorite magazine of mine called SPAN. It was an U.S. magazine, and I was so mesmerized by its big glossy pages, which were so unique those days; (in sixties) and I used to idolize the topics and the makers of those topics! There I came across this name one day: Mr. Sadhan C. Dutt...yes a detailed article on him with his picture, and I still remember so vividly what my father had said 'here's a worthy son of Bengal' and I was very impressed...wow! Big glossy U.S. magazine and they have written about one young Bengali guy, how wonderful! Somehow the whole picture got stuck in my mind for life.

Years later I got married to Amit Gangulee and interestingly The name appeared even in a bigger way in my life again...Mr S.C. Dutt! My husband's family is well acquainted with him. He came to my 'Bou-bhat' in my in-law's place, I was thrilled; I was getting goose pimples remembering that article in SPAN magazine!! From then on I am fortunate enough to get closer and closer to the man, not just the name anymore, the real wonderful person. My husband's Pishima, Mrs. Aruna Asaf Ali used to adore him and used to tell us "He is an idol for all Bengalis, a pride of Bengal." So true. He is my husband's idol and his guide all throughout his student life and later and now in his career.

In 1982, we came to USA, and Amit had joined Kuljian...we started getting closer and closer to him and his family. I can write a whole book and still won't be able to say half as much as I want to say about this great soul. I also don't have the flair of language to describe all his attributes so I will just talk about two incidents, that made me amazed at his alert mind, minute observations of his golden heart and his generosity.

I completed a diploma course in computer programming and was looking for a job. It's very hard to break the ice and get your first job and even harder if you are an alien in U.S.A. One day Dr. Dutt told Amit, my husband, "Now that Neena has completed her course ask her to come and join Kuljian." We were not sure what to do, or how serious he was and of course we didn't want to bother him, so I did not make any move in that direction. One day he came to pick up Sumana, his granddaughter from my place (I was babysitting her), and he asked me, "Don't you like to work in Kuljian?" I was deliriously happy and could only mumble "You really want me to, sir?" He said "Yes, come from tomorrow and report to Rick Metzger, MIS Dept, and start working".....it's like a fairy tale, dream come true or God Himself appeared to me in a human disguise...I don't know what but what I do know is that 'this IS the man with a golden heart'. My career had started with his blessings.

I know him for so many years now and from very close with many heart-rending moments; we hold him in highest regards and till today he never ceases to amaze me. He is 80+ now, practically retired...a sweet caring man, whom we love and adore and RESPECT. Very recently "Mashima" (Mrs. Dutt) called a few of us over for dinner at their place in Philadelphia on a weeknight. Five or six of us ladies were there. I didn't get time to change after work into some nice Indian attire, so I was in my work clothes...trousers, sweater, and a very nice pair of trendy shoes, which is very much an in-thing these days. The other ladies were in beautiful and colorful salwar-kameezes, all decked up looking gorgeous. I sat down beside him to talk to him (feeling a little bit awkward in my work clothes) as I always love to hear what he says.....and he turned and said to me, "Your shoes are very nice!" Yes, that's Dr. S.C. Dutt, an amazing alert mind, observes every little thing and makes everybody very happy very easily...I call him a genius with a golden heart; and I'm very proud to have known him.

I always will keep him in present tense in my life !

~Neena Gangulee

অসামান্য

মানবিক (নীতা) শসু
অফিসারেরা, অর্থাৎ

আমি।
আমি যুগে, আধা জগরণে,
অপরিচয়ের মিসিসিসি
যদি বাজছে, আর যে সেরী নেই,
এখনও অচেতনে?

চকিত আমি।
চরিত্রিক এ কী বিস্তৃত অসার জীবন
অপরাধ, সোনারী, কুর্কিনী,
লক্ষ হুতের মায়াবী আবেশ
হৃদয়ের অপচয়ে
বিবশ মন।

নতজানু আমি।
হাফাকরে মিনতি জানাই
তুচ্ছ জীবন হতে তো পারিনি
মানার টেরিসা
অথবা
ওপরান্ উইনট্রী
কিংবা
বিশুস্পর্শী ঐশ্বর্য রাই।

ব্যর্থ আমি।
ভেসে আসে গুণ
অপরিচয়ের গুণে
হুয়েছে কি কোন জীবন
বিনা প্রতিদানে?

অনুভব আমি।
দূরে যদি বাজছে; আর সেরী নেই।
প্রবিত হৃদয় আকাশ হল
উঠল ফুটে গোলাপ, কমল -
দু হাত বাড়িয়ে, তোমাদের ভালবেসে
সাধারণ মানবী -
তবু,
অসামান্য আমি।

Mourning the loss of:

- Anjali Sen Choudhury - Mother of Arupa Ganguly
- Jiten K Bose - Father of Krishnendu & Dibyendu Bose
- Shanti Ghosh - Mother of Krishna Basu
- Swarna De - Mother of Sushmita Nandy
- Ila Das - Mother of Gautam Das
- Pratap Chandra Chandra - Father of Dr. Prasanta Chandra
- Saswati Mitra - Sister of Tapan Basu, Tushar Basu & Adity Kar
- Bina Banerjee - Mother of Ranjit Banerjee.

Welcoming our itsy bitsy cute new members:

- Kairavi to Sruba & Raj Guharoy.
- Aanya to Anamika and Manas Chanda.
- Shamik to Dr. Shefali and Satrajit Mookherjee
- Raya Bose to Raja & Anupam Bose
- Evan Wilson to Rajasi & Mark Mills
- Kiran to Laila & Eric Wolfgram

Apologies and Congratulations to our Graduate

- Suchismita Mukherjee Daughter of our very own Purnadip and Sophia Mukherjee

Don't forget to Congaratulatate

- **Dr. Amrita Desai** on completing her doctorate in Education Leadership. The topic of her dissertation was Increasing integration of technology in classrooms through enhanced teacher knowledge and efficacy.
- **Dyuti Das** on her Girls' Tennis All Star award at Cherry Hill East.

An Inconvenient Name

Thirty years ago immigrant Bengalis of South Jersey formed a society and named it Bengali Cultural Society aka BCS. BCS is the umbrella organization under which we have our annual pujo and annual function. BCS also runs a Bangla School and a SAT tutorial class. There was a time when there were too many students for each school. Many of our children have gone through the doors of these schools and cherish fond memories.

But times have changed – today Bengali language has lost its charm – and may be not just charm, but, the relevance to many of the members – especially from the younger generation. As much as words like ‘pundit’, ‘mantra’, ‘karma’ (to name a few) are now part of regular American vocabulary, “Bollywood” is also omnipresent. There is just no way that traditional Bengali culture can even be a runner-up in a popularity contest with “bolly culture” – not in the glamorous outfit category, not in the glamorous star content category, not in the glamorous musicals category.

In keeping with the times, I propose to the next BCS Executive committee to have a debate – should we retain the name of BCS as “Bengali Cultural Society” or, should we call it may be “Bengali Club of South Jersey”? A club can embrace “Bollywood”, but BCS cannot. At this point – BCS is an inconvenient name sticking like a sore thumb and preventing every one from having a happy fun time. How long can we have the blinders on?

Arupa Ganguly, Voorhees, NJ