

# SARASWATI PUJA 2016




***SOMERSET BENGALI ASSOCIATION***  
*BRIDGEWATER, NEW JERSEY*



**SEE  
OFFER  
BELOW**

## *Would you like to straighten your smile?*

### **5 Reasons why orthodontic treatment at our practice is right for you**

- ★ *Ask Friends and Neighbors who they use or who they've heard is the best.*  
We've earned our reputation in the community with over 25 years of more than satisfied parents and patients. We're confident that when you ask... our name will be the one they mention.
- ★ *The Atmosphere is one that your child likes and you like.*  
Ours is a friendly, family atmosphere (Check us out...Anytime)
- ★ *The Doctor always communicates with the patient and parent.*  
You always receive clear, consistent and understandable communication ... Every Visit!
- ★ *Your needs are considered when scheduling and rescheduling appointments.*  
We're open 5 days a week, and we have early AM (7am) and evening hours (until 9:00 p.m.) available weekly to accommodate your child's after school activities and/or your hectic schedule.
- ★ *You receive assistance with insurance and payment plans.*  
We offer in-house interest free budget plans and we can charge your credit card, debit card or flex card monthly for your convenience. We also participate with Care Credit.
- ★ *Premier Preferred Invisalign Provider.*  **invisalign**®

We Are In-Network providers with:



and many more



Somerville/Bridgewater  
Branchburg  
901 U.S. Hwy 202  
Raritan, NJ 08869  
908-231-1860

[www.fivestarorthodontics.com](http://www.fivestarorthodontics.com)

# **\$500 off Orthodontic Treatment**

For new patients only. Must present this ad at consultation. Not valid with any other offer or prior services.  
offer expires December 31, 2015

# ইস্টার্ন বেঙ্গলি অসোসিয়েশন

A Non-Profit New Jersey Corporation  
www.somersetbengalis.org  
Email: somersetbengalis@gmail.com

## Vol. 8 - Annual Magazine

EDITOR  
Anasua Sanyal

### CONTENTS

Hello Its SBA ! .....	3
The Locked Lock .....	6
A Perfect day .....	7
Roommate of a Lost Soul .....	7
My Name .....	8
Beginner's Guide to Minecraft .....	8
A Trip to St. Thomas .....	10
Pulses - Art N Beat .....	10
My Trip to Paushi .....	12
Puratan Chirantan .....	15
Unfortunate Fortune Cookie .....	16
Learning Is .....	18
Christmas Limerick .....	18
Sangeetanjali .....	18
Cultural Program Schedule .....	20
Naho Maata Naho Kanya .....	23
Balance .....	23
Future Artists Gallery 1 & 2 .....	24
Khantaburir Rojnamcha .....	26
Chalukya Saraswati .....	28
Childrens Natok: Abak Jolpan .....	29
Future Artists Gallery 3 .....	30
A Look Into The Past .....	31
Hollywood Arts .....	32
Devi -Prayer Dance .....	33
Durga .....	34
Chhande Chhande Dance .....	36
Focus .....	37

### COVER ART

SBA Saraswati Photo by Sid Ghosh  
Media Effects by Shakuntala Sanyal &  
Anasua Sanyal

## ***Hello Its SBA ! Welcome to the 2016 Saraswati Puja of the Somerset Bengali Association.***

SBA was created as a platform to practice and promote Bengali traditions, customs and culture. We have evolved and grown since then. This is the beauty of having a community like SBA. We have a home away from home where we can share our happiness and sorrows with fellow community members. We have been blessed to raise our families in such a wonderful and welcoming community. The SBA community extends beyond the boundaries of an annual Puja, and reaches into our homes, and into our children's minds. I have had the pleasure of seeing the impact SBA has had on our children. They learn to respect diversity and are proud of their heritage. For them SBA is the platform where they participate in the Saraswati Pujo cultural programs, play games at our picnic, volunteer at our events and develop a lifetime bond amongst themselves. Cultural influences cannot be measured; they can only be seen through the traces they leave behind. You will see this in their thoughts in the magazine .

The strong participation from our members made the events this year quite successful. As part of the 2015 events, we celebrated Saraswati Pujo, the Annual Summer Picnic and Diwali Party. With all of your participation the events were a grand success. At the picnic in July we had a great barbecue and lot of fun kid games. It was a pleasure to see our children join and participate in the same competitions that we had participated in when we were school kids growing up in India. Now we are here in a new year celebrating Saraswati Pujo again.

As we all know, the Bengali Pujo experience is incomplete without good food and fabulous entertainment. To that effect, we are pulling all the stops to make sure you have mouth-watering food to go with our full slate of entertainment today. We believe our Puja is a forum for the trained/untrained talents to show off their abilities. Keeping that in mind, we have provided a platform to perform to budding talents who wanted to take part.

We are now a much larger community and as such organizing our events require a lot of energy and effort. We have been lucky to have a wonderful and talented team of members. We are thankful to have had a great group of people with a variety of talents on the committees this year who have devoted countless hours to the tasks at hand. Every team member worked tirelessly to make this event successful. They took ownership and worked with a lot of enthusiasm. The help and support that the community provided has been great. The SBA board expresses our deepest gratitude to all the sponsors, vendors and donors for their spontaneous help and participation which is vital for the success of our growing community. We would like to remind you that an SBA thrives on the spirit of voluntarism and it's our hope that every year more community members will extend support to come forward and actively participate. Our hope is that the love and care with which SBA was created will be continued not just next year but in the coming years as well. SBA can only thrive through your active participation and commitment and only through its success, can we continue to perpetuate our Bengali traditions, festivals and pujas in New Jersey.

Board of Trustees -

Anasua Sanyal    Sharmila Ghosh    Mitushi Banerjee    Probir Dhara  
Soma Choudhury    Joyjit Kundu    Indrajit Ghosh

# **Somerset bengali association**

## **Saraswati Puja - February 2016**

**Officiating Priest:** Arijit Chatterjee

**Event Managers:** Mitushi Banerjee & Somesh Choudhury

**Puja Arrangements:** Suparna Das, Hiya Chatterjee, Sudipta Chatterjee, Manjari Chowdhury, Ratnanjali Dutta, Lopamudra Das

**Cultural Committee:** Niloy Jana, Soma Choudhury

**Food Committee:** Arkendu Chatterjee, Soumya Roy, Teesta Roy, Sharmila Ghosh, Krishnendu Mukhopadhyay

**Fundraising:** Joyjit Kundu

**Guest Relations & Registration:** Indrajit Ghosh, Probir Dhara, Debesh Chakrabarty

**Facilities Management:** Anisur Khan, Indrajit Giri, Chanchal Banerjee, Partho Halder

## **Diwali Party - December 2015**

**Event Managers:** Sayanti Roy, Kallol Ghosh & Mitushi Banerjee

## **Summer Picnic - June 2015**

**Event Managers:** Teesta Roy and Anurupa Mukherjee

Thanks to the many volunteers who made these events a success

## **Grand Patrons**

**SBA thanks the following for their generous sponsorship of the 2016 Saraswati Puja**

Sumit and Sarmistha Sen  
Subroto and Rina Roy  
Soumya and Sayanti Roy  
Somnath and Nazneen Mitra  
Somesh and Soma Choudhury  
Somdip Dutta and Aruna Dontabhaktuni  
Som and Anuka Chowdhury  
Siddharth and Shruti Ghosh  
Shubrojit and Ratnanjali Dutta  
Saurav and Sharmila Ghosh  
Sanchoy and Rajyasri Das  
Rajiv and Anurupa Mukherjee  
Raja and Mausumi Das  
Probir and Sumita Dhara  
Prasun and Manjari Chowdhury  
Partho & Debolina Sanyal  
Niloy and Soumi Jana  
Krishnendu and Sangeeta Mukhopadhyay

Kallol and Parna Ghosh  
Joyjit and Parna Kundu  
Indrajit and Malini Ghosh  
George and Molly Abraham  
Dibyendu and Sudipta Chatterjee  
Devi Prasad and Soma Mookherjee  
Debesh and Sonali Chakraborty  
Debashish and Anindita Ghosh  
Chanchal and Mitushi Banerjee  
Ashutosh and Sharmistha Dutta  
Ashish and Suparna Das  
Arkendu and Hiya Chatterjee  
Arijit and Baishali Chatterjee  
Anup and Shoma Rakhit  
Anisur Khan and Teesta Roy  
Aniruddho and Anasua Sanyal  
Anirban and Shreerupa Biswas  
Anindo and Kasturi Dutta



The Company You Keep®

# Samragnee Majumdar Your Trusted Agent for Life Insurance & Financial Products

**Samragnee Majumdar**

Agent

New York Life Insurance

Company

399 Thornall Street

7th Floor

Edison, NJ 08837

Bus: 732.744-3908

Cell: 732.692.4818

Email:

smajumdar@ft.newyorklife.com



New York Life Insurance  
Company  
250 Pehle Avenue, Suite 503  
Saddle Brook , NJ 07663

**Samragnee is an experienced professional committed to provide customized solutions to your individual needs on:**

- ◆ Individual Life Insurance
- ◆ College Funding
- ◆ Fixed Immediate and Deferred Annuities \*
- ◆ Retirement Funding
- ◆ Mortgage Protection Through Life Insurance
- ◆ Spouse / Children's / Grand Children's Insurance
- ◆ Business Planning
- ◆ Charitable Giving
- ◆ Health Insurance \*\*
- ◆ Long Term Care Insurance
- ◆ Disability Income Insurance \*\*
- ◆ Service on Existing Insurance

\*Issued by New York Life Insurance and Annuity Corporation (A Delaware Corporation)\*\*Products available through one or more carriers not affiliated with New York Life, dependent on carrier authorization and product availability in your state or locality

## ***The Locked Lock – Abheek Dhara***

There is probably lots of similarities and differences that I have with you. But I am Abheek Dhara, and that is that. I love doing music, sports and karate in my free time. School is getting really easy these days, I don't know why. My sister, family, and friends are the keys to happiness. I have mental notes, like everyone else. My mom likes to sing and focus in studies. My dad works as a software engineer in New York City. I like to think that family is everything, and having fun will solve everything. "I know, right?" I would say. That is only a fraction of my life, and there is much more to come.

If you jump back into "Once Upon A Time" time, you would see me jumping around like crazy, and you would be like, "What does the little boy think he's doing?" Seriously, I know you would. You just did. Anyways, let us get back to the point...

I was so happy. It was a lovely day, and the sun was golden brown, like a freshly baked pie. Ma had promised us that today, we could go outside on the porch for a snack. Mmmm, just thinking about it made me hungry. I have experience being there a lot, but the fun never stops. It's like grass, never stops growing. The aromas of spring flowers drifted over to our family porch. I jumped up and down as I heard new animal sounds. Well duh, it's springtime! Baby ducks and geese hatching from white-shelled eggs, and... I am not going to say how deer come to earth. Let's just say deer are four-legged aliens for right now.

We finally arrive at the destination of our thirty second journey; the porch door (insert superman theme song). I could almost taste the grapes. So sweet! "Dada, can I open the door?" My sister innocently asked, as she jumped up and down, hoping that I would let her. Since I am such a selfless guy, I let her.

"Of course!" I assured her. She hopped over to the door, laughing continuously. At least I have a little sister. She is fun to play with. Anyways, after some time, we heard the creak of the old sliding door moving along it's way.

"Go, Aditi, go! Go, Aditi, go!" Ma and I cheered, as Aditi slid open the door a crack more, while my mother and I helped her. True, the door was acting stubborn today. Ok, very stubborn today.

"Yay!" we all shouted. We walked through the doorway, holding a bowl of mouthwatering food. Grapes, oranges, apples, and other fruits. One small bite to a man, one big bite to me. Thanks for coming up with that one, Neil Armstrong! But I still wondered, why the door was acting so stubborn today. I shrugged. Oh well, nothing can go wrong, right?

"Ahhh, delicious!" I exclaimed. "Yummy!" my sister laughed immaturely. Wow, that was really fun! After eating "dessert", my mother mentioned that it is time to go.

"Aw," we whined, as we got up and walked toward the doorway. I pulled the handle. Nothing. I pulled some more. Nothing. Next, I was pulling for my life. Suddenly, I stopped. Now I know why. It is because the door was locked! Oh no, now I remember! When my sister pulled it, it was almost locked! Then, my hand skimmed it, making it completely locked. I can't believe that I didn't tell anyone about it. I can almost remember glancing at the lock before Ma closed the door. Ugh! I feel so agitated now. What will we do?

"Help! Help!" we all shrieked, sounding like little banshees. "Help! Someone come save us!" It felt like an Ice Age had just come and went. My life flashed through my eyes. I could see my baby sister wrapped in a soft, cuddly blanket. All the parties disappeared from my mind. Nearby, I sensed a horde of kids, including me, rushing through the doorway on the first day of preschool. Now here I am, left to die a horrible death, when suddenly, our neighbor came out to see who was making all that racket. Seriously, that was really awkward. He must have heard our musical (but annoying, apparently) shouts, and came to see what was happening.

"Do you need help?" he asked. Well, duh, what do you think we were shouting for over a millennia, and maybe more? I thought. Before Ma could answer him, he had already dashed off out of a blue, except this time, literally. When we started to think he ditched us like a dead fish, he came back with an enormous, gigantic ladder with shiny red steps and iron railings. I was so excited that I didn't think before I climbed

### ***A Perfect day – Shounak Ghosh***

I had a perfect day  
I liked it so much  
And when it ended  
I felt like I did not have enough

When my friends were not there  
I got really mad  
Then I started reading books  
I was very glad

When I was playing soccer  
I thought I was going to lose  
so I quit the game and started biking  
wearing my new pair of shoes

I had a lot of fun piling up the snow  
Going to sled,  
Going to skate  
Ready set go

Digging and digging with all my might  
12:00 middle of night  
It was silent as a mouse  
and I still don't want to go inside the house.

### ***The lamentations of the roommate of a lost soul: Why is everybody afraid to enter my house?***

***– Ria Giri***

I have a huge bedroom and I share it with a lost soul.

My pool is huge and swamp monsters swim in it too.

I have a 90 inch TV and the house skeletons would  
love to join us to watch movies.

We can play video games but vampires will want to  
play too.

My pet wolf will let you pet him and he might even  
howl.

We can have a sleepover party, but we will have to let  
my black cats join us too.

I can't find any reasons why you wouldn't want to  
play at my house.

Come on over for a weekend of ghoulish fun that you  
won't forget!

onto the frigid steps. I only realized that I wasn't wearing shoes when I climbed on to the last bar of the ladder. I turned my head down very slowly. Big mistake. The ground acted like a giant mush of worms, pierced with green toothpicks. "Ew..." I groaned. Once I jumped off and was falling, my first instinct was to run. The moment my toes skimmed the ground, I blasted off like a missile. I didn't stop to breathe until I made it to the sidewalk. Yes, the darn cement square, jammed with sand and stones. I hadn't realized how fast I had gone until I looked back. Yeah, a good 3 yards. Suddenly, from running so fast, my feet started to burn.

Once my whole family got down from the ladder and to the sidewalk (my sister's lucky because Ma got to carry her), we walked to the front of our house. I was so happy that I forgot one of the house elements. If you want to stay safe, lock the door. "Ahhhh!" I shrieked, as I pulled the door knob like a dog pulling a meaty bone. Suddenly, I heard, out of a blue (again), I heard a slice behind me. I whipped around and saw my neighbor take out his credit card. "Now, how will he open the door...?" I murmured, as the craziest thing ever happened in front of his eyes. He slid his credit card in the little crack on the side of the door, and slid it down. Now, you wouldn't think that a piece of plastic with numbers on it would do anything, right? Well, you're wrong. Ok, let us get back to the point. The smarty-pants guy slid it down, and the door opened! My mouth hung open (I wasn't going to eat anything. I ate on the porch, remember?) my eyes staring in shock. I had never felt so happy in my life! I could hug our neighbor (but I didn't. That would be weird.) .

I jumped on my bed like never before. Home Sweet Home. "Abheek, don't jump on the bed!" Ma shouted. But I didn't care. I just kept on jumping. Next time, remind me to check the door, ok self? I thought. I was so glad with myself that I almost didn't hear Ma yell, "ABHEEK DHARA, GET DOWN HERE RIGHT NOW!!!" Uh oh. So now you see why the little boy was jumping up and down. Yes, that was me. And don't judge me. I bet you went into crazy mode like that a few times in your lifetime.

## ***My Name - Sourabh Chakraborty***

This is the millionth time that I've written my name, and I'll probably write it a million more times. Yet I'm still not sure how to say it. Do I say "Suh-RAWB," the American way? Conveniently shortened to "Rob" when ordering pizza or Chinese takeout, this version is by far the most convenient for people who don't speak an Indian language regularly. But every time I introduce myself to an Indian parent in the presence of non-Indians, I say "SOH-rub" while hastily trying to explain to the uninitiated that that's the "Indian" way of saying it, and that really, I'd prefer if they continued to say the "American" version. But that's really just a shift in emphasis. The biggest switch is when I encounter a Bengali parent, or a family member who vividly remembers me based on an encounter when I was five. Then I have to say "SHOW-rob," which, despite my spelling, sounds very different from the words "show" and "rob." I'll feel the need to struggle through Bengali in my grossly American accent. Many will ask me my "dak nam," pet name, and I'll bashfully reply, "Grontho," the furthest departure yet from the American name I'm so familiar with.

At the Somerset Bengali Association (SBA) and its various meetings and events, this progression turns on its head. There's still parents pronouncing my name the Bengali way, and many who use my pet name. But the other people my age also use my pet name, only they Anglicize the pronunciation. They take the most Bengali form, the name the most different from my American name, and they make it as American as my life normally is. And that represents what the SBA has been to me: an adaptation of my family's Bengali culture to my own life in New Jersey. We continuously poke fun at our Desi culture, but we don't let anyone else diss it. We learn to play the songs that our parents and grandparents would listen to decades ago, and after rehearsals we listen to (contemporary American) rap music.

We often eat rice, daal, and beguun bhaja, but normally there's a kid's table with pizza or Chinese food. And we go to festivals and pujas in schools that we've attended, learning to get over the weirdness of seeing Bengali culture in a place that's normally not Bengali at all. I spend all of my time being American, and when my family travels to India, I get to experience life in India as well. But the SBA is one of the only places where I am surrounded by others who share my experiences, where I can learn to be Bengali-American.

## ***A Beginner's Guide to Minecraft - Arjun Dutta***

Has your kid ever thought of buying the game: Minecraft? I have to admit it's a fun game, but it's quite addicting. Essentially, Minecraft is a game where you can construct almost anything, the only thing that you are limited by is your concept of imagination. So, This is the beginners guide to Minecraft while show the basics of different game modes, buildings, and settings. After you've bought Minecraft, download the launcher and log in. After you've obviously already clicked the 'Play' button, you should be greeted by a wonderful main menu with a grassy terrain floating around behind it. After you've bought Minecraft, download the launcher and log in. After you've obviously already clicked the 'Play' button, you should be greeted by a wonderful main menu with a grassy terrain floating around behind it. Go ahead and click single player, create new world, and spawn in your new world. The same applies to all situations, the first step in playing survival Minecraft is to obtain Wood. Throughout this journey, Wood will be one of your best friends. Basically is wood is the material that help any player survive in the Minecraft survival world. considering it will make up your storage units, most likely your way up and down a mineshaft, your source of light, and your basic tools.

Once you've got your wooden tools, you can use your pickaxe to start mining for cobblestone. Cobblestone is always abundant in every Minecraft world, considering you obtain it when you mine stone. Cobblestone tools are the second tier of tools, so you could just make a wooden pickaxe and mine cobblestone until you have enough for all the tools to just about skip the wooden tools completely. I recommend mining in caves for other unique types of ores a little while after you've download the game . In caves, you can get coal (which is used to make torches and power furnaces), redstone, gold, and even diamonds. Besides, survival there is another game code called creative. Unlike Survival, Icreative, you have access to unlimited resources. With those resources, you can build houses, roller coasters, etc.



# SOMERSET HEALTH CENTER

*Comprehensive Health Care for your family*



## Physician

**Kumar Ramaswamy MD**  
*Board Certified in Internal  
Medicine*

*Serving people of all age groups in Somerset  
County at two convenient locations*

40, Stirling Road, Ste 208  
Watchung, NJ 07069  
908-757-1000  
908-757-0564 (fax)

425 Amwell Rd  
Ste-6  
Hillsborough, NJ 08844  
908-359-1775  
908-359-2068 (fax)

*Accepting new patients*

Convenient Evening and Weekend hours available

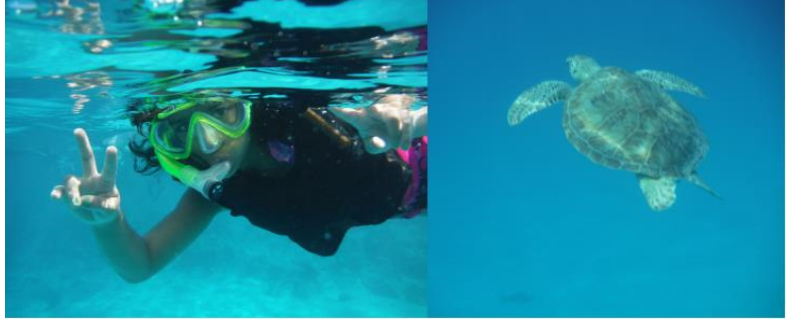


Where providing family health care is our  
top priority

[WWW.SOMERSETHEALTHCENTER.COM](http://WWW.SOMERSETHEALTHCENTER.COM)

## ***A Trip to St. Thomas (US Virgin Islands) – Aditi Dhara***

One very early morning, in my spring break, we woke up and had a long day ahead of us. I was so tired when we got into the car. I was fully awake at the airport, and ready to take on the big day, because I was going to St. Thomas in the US Virgin Islands! Here we go on a big adventure! When we reached the islands, we were exhausted. Did you know that some people live on this island? We rented a car so we could travel to a lot of places. When we got to the hotel, we saw a beautiful sunset from our room's balcony. Now it's time to go to bed.



The next day, we went to the Emerald Beach. Then, we went to a beach at Megan's bay. We swam in the clear, turquoise water and saw fish and even a stingray. This was the first day I saw a stingray. We then went to Paradise Point and took lots of pretty pictures. We even had a chance to see a second sunset there. We had fun at the beach the next day. You will not believe what we did today. We went ... snorkeling! We went to a boat, which took us near Buck's Island. The boat gave us gear to put on. I looked funny. We went into the sparkling water. Me and my dad swam together and saw coral and fish. But guess what... I saw a turtle almost touching my nose! We took cool pictures, and even videos! My dad took a photo of the turtle close to my nose. We met up with my dada and ma. My mom even said that she saw an octopus that was about a foot long. My dada saw way more turtles than I did.

Another day of fun - My family and I saw a dazzling sunrise near the harbor. Then we went to St. John on a car barge. Once we got to the other island, we went to many beaches. Then we went to Coral World. I touched real sea animals that were alive! I feed the iguanas and a tortoise. I saw many sea creatures. I also saw sharks, and I got to feed the stingrays. While I was doing all that, my brother went scuba diving. I wanted to go, but my mom told me that I was too short and too young. Scuba is basically snorkeling and scuba diving combined. What a fun vacation!!

## ***Pulses (Spandan) - Art N Beat Band***

***Conductor:  
Rumela Bandyopadhyay***

Music is composed of seven notes, creating a story. Lifeline is composed of pulses, which can only be determined in seven places. Everything has a rhythm, has a rule, whether be it music or life. The rhythm of music is created by an arrangement of notes, creating emotions within us. The rhythm of life is created by the pulses of our heart. Both music and life have its ups and downs, but in the end, it comes to a median.



Music can make us ecstatic, melancholy, or even therapeutic. Our half an hour epoch will feature a journey that will make everyone experience the different moods of life though a non-stop instrumental fusion of Eastern and Western music.

# ACHIEVEMENT: IS ALIVE AND WELL

.....

**We're committed to helping the community and everyone who lives here achieve more than ever. That's why we're proud to support the Somerset Bengali Association.**

*Stop by your local PNC Bank for more information.*

.....



## ***My Trip to Paushi – Arijit Dutta***

After bidding my classmates and teachers Happy Holidays, I caught the school bus home. During the short ride home I excitedly thought of the upcoming 2015 Winter Break and how I would be spending them. In just over an hour I would be leaving for Newark EWR airport to take the 17 hour non-stop flight to Mumbai, India, where I would not only meet my grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins but would also have the chance to revisit the village of Paushi. Had it really been a little over two years ago since I last visited Paushi? I still remember that visit as if it were only yesterday. Paushi, a small village home to farmers and shrimp fishermen, is located in the eastern Indian state of West Bengal. During my last visit I was just entering 8th Grade and now here I was, a sophomore at Bridgewater-Raritan High School.

During my visits to India, I have noticed that the urban areas were growing rapidly while the rural areas stayed relatively the same. Many villages suffer from higher illiteracy levels and inadequate healthcare compared to urban areas. Kreeya, a New Jersey-based non-profit organization, promotes literacy and healthcare in rural India. Supported by SBA, Kreeya established a library for the children of Paushi. In the summer of 2013, the student-run iSTEM Club at Bridgewater-Raritan High School established a Digital Literacy Program with the support of Kreeya, and Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). These High School students set up a cyber classroom on the library premises with a single computer and printer and provided some basic computer training to the local children.

As a volunteer for Kreeya, I was able to accompany the students and help set up Paushi's first cyber classroom. I had noticed that the students were very eager to learn about how to use a computer. During this visit I had also learnt about the heavy monsoon rain and its impact on the mud structure housing the cyber classroom. As a High School freshman, I joined the iSTEM Club at Bridgewater-Raritan High School. Eager to find a solution to the weather-related problem, and after further discussion with the iSTEM Club Leadership team, I submitted a proposal to IEEE/EPICS in December 2014 to secure funds for a more permanent cement structure that would not allow the weather elements affect the computers and provide a better learning environment for the students. Our proposal for \$3000 was approved and after some coordination, the construction of new building began, overseen again by dedicated volunteers.

And so here I was on a rainy December afternoon getting ready to travel to Paushi, India and get a first-hand look at our recent efforts, gauge the progress and reevaluate our future goals. Kolkata-based Polaris Networks were also generously donating 4 computers for the cyber classroom. During my trip, I would help install two of these computer systems in the newly constructed single room building. My trip actually had two purposes. After discussions with the local residents during my first visit, I was also aware of a lack of proper medical facilities for some of the residents of Paushi, especially those in the approximately 10 surrounding villages. With that in mind, I decided to use part of the fund from the "Scholar Citizen" award that I received from Somerville Elks Lodge 1068 after graduating from Middle School, towards some much-needed medical supplies. Since this award is in honor of the late Mr. Frank "Nap" Torpey, a local community and civic leader in Somerset County, New Jersey, what better way to honor his memory than to use it for buying multivitamins that could be distributed by some local Doctors, who in partnership with Kreeya, were running a free Health Camp for the residents of Paushi and its neighboring villages.

It was a typical mild winter morning in Kolkata as I, accompanied by other volunteers, started to load the 2 computers in the Bolero van. Soon we were driving rapidly along Highway 6 (Kolkata-Mumbai Highway) on our way to Paushi. After a brief stop for breakfast at a roadside restaurant and then a visit to a local temple in the town of Kalinagar, we soon left the main highway and drove along unpaved, narrow and bumpy roads lined with swaying palm trees and surrounded by rice paddy fields. Every once in a while we would pass a small village, half hidden by the lush, tropical vegetation, its thatched huts surrounding the requisite small pond or 'pukur'. Gradually the road became even narrower with significantly reduced motorized traffic and only the occasional bicyclist, pedestrian, cow or bullock cart. We soon crossed a small bridge that I immediately recognized and knew that we were approaching Paushi. It was nearly 3.5 hours since we had left Kolkata and at around 10.00 am, we finally arrived at our destination.

We pulled up by the side of the river that meanders by Paushi and parked by the entrance to the single file dirt path that led past a large shrimp pond, to the old library/cyber-classroom building. Excited little children lined this path, anticipating our arrival and waiting to greet us. I saw that a colorful tent had been erected by and just next to it, a brand new single room building! Its gray cement walls were still a little damp from recent construction work and had not yet been white washed. Metal construction rods from the structure protruded out from the walls at all angles but at least we now had a permanent classroom! There was bustling activity all around and I enthusiastically stepped out of the car, eager to be part of the action. Our local host, Mr. Probodh Manna, was at hand to welcome us and provide an explanation of the set up. I saw that chairs had already been set up in front of the tent, which actually turned out to be the makeshift medical facility for the day.

About 200 people, both men and women, ranging in age from 30 to 70 years old were sitting patiently and waiting to be seen by the volunteer Doctors. After being introduced to Dr. Bishwa Mukherjee, Dr. Tapas Kar Mahapatra, and the Health camp coordinator, Mr. Satyajit Paul, I entered the tent. After washing my hands carefully, I started to unpack the boxes of multivitamins. I had purchased these multivitamins, as advised by Mr. Paul and Drs. Mukherjee and Kar Mahapatra, just the day before from a pharmacy in Salt Lake, accompanied by my uncle and local volunteer, Mr. Siddhartha Dutta. The tent had been sectioned out and in one part of the tent, one doctor was performing an ECG (Electrocardiogram). If a patient was diagnosed with Diabetes, the Doctor dispensed either Absolut or Absolut 3G vitamins, depending on the patient's age.

The two doctors were very organized and also systematically checked the resident's blood pressure. It was a very educational experience, as I watched the two Doctors in action and helped them, as needed. I was also able to talk to some of the patients in the local language of Bengali and with the help of local volunteer, Mrs. Bina Paul, learnt that some of the participants had never visited a Doctor before due to financial constraints. About 40% of the patients were in the 30 - 50 year range while 60% were in the 50 - 70 year range. Some of the older patients were brought in by their relatives from the neighboring villages. They had

*Continued on page 14 →*



**BRANCBURG SPORTS COMPLEX**  
47 Readington Rd • Branchburg, NJ 08876

## New Jersey's Premiere Sports & Family Entertainment Center



**Laser Tag ★ Parties ★ PlayMaze ★ Batting Cages ★ Arcade**

Visit us at [www.branchburgsports.com](http://www.branchburgsports.com) for more information ★ 908-203-1600

*Continued from page 13 → My Trip to Paushi*

learnt about the free camp through pamphlets some came from villages about 10-15km from Paushi. We also provided a healthy snack to the participants who expressed their appreciation of this free Health Camp.

After lunch, accompanied by local volunteer Mr. Ashok Paul, I helped carry the 2 computer systems and accessories into the new cement building. The roof had already been laid and I immediately appreciated the permanence of the building. Never again would rain, flood waters, or other natural weather elements close down the classroom and its classes that now benefitted over 80 students compared to the 40 students we started with back in 2013. After a small inauguration ceremony on the improvised stage constructed in front of the new building, the students presented some cultural performances with traditional Bengali songs and dances. The inauguration of the new cyber classroom premises was attended by local elected officials such as Panchayat and Block leaders. As a token of their appreciation, the students presented us and the doctors with hand drawn pictures of some legendary leaders of India.

There are a number of younger students, who are eager to learn basic computing skills. The local teacher, Mr. Utpal Maity, teaches them how to use Microsoft Paint, Word, and Excel. With the available Internet connection, the older students were now able to access Khan Academy and expand their knowledge. I also learnt that some students had attended the Digital Literacy program 2013 had developed enough skills to allow them to gain entry-level employment in Kolkata. Some of the former students were now gainfully employed as Data Entry Operators etc. They are now truly a part of the new "Digital India". As the sun began to set, we packed up and bid our friends in Paushi, a fond farewell. It was a very motivating day and taught me the value of teamwork and how a small diverse group of people can come together and bring positive change to the lives of many. As I write about my experiences, now that I am back home, it occurs to me that we take so much for granted, both in education and healthcare. Yet there are so many parts of the world where digital education is non-existent and easy access to even rudimentary healthcare facilities is unavailable leaving many to suffer with ailments that are easily treatable, if given the proper attention.



**THOMAS V. PASCKVALE**  
**PRESIDENT/OWNER**  
**NMLS #22859**

Welcome to Top Vine Mortgage Services, LLC. We specialize in a wide variety of loan programs to fit your exact needs.

With the launch of our new company, we are excited to offer members of the Somerset Bengali Association excellent customer service and interest rates that remain historically low. Call us today to refinance, purchase a home or discuss a reverse mortgage.

Top Vine Mortgage Services, LLC NMLS #1390034  
786 Mountain Blvd. Suite 202 Watchung, NJ 07069  
**Email: [tpasckvale@topvinemtg.com](mailto:tpasckvale@topvinemtg.com) Cell: (201) 341-4157**  
**Office: 844-545-9251 Fax: 855-631-8856**

[www.topvinemtg.com](http://www.topvinemtg.com)



## ***Puratan Chirantan***

***Coordinators: Malini Majumdar & Niloy Jana***

Like every year, singers of Somerset Bengali Associate (SBA) present Sangeetanusthan “Puratan Chirantan” to commemorate Bengali Swarna Juger Gaan. We sometimes summarize our conversation about this golden age with the age-old proverb “Old is Gold”. The proverb carries profound meaning; it gives us a deep sense of good feeling and self-worthiness about being Bengali when we think about our past. After all, it is our past and root that largely shape us and provide our identity. Change is arguably the only constant of time. We have come long way since the Golden Age of Bengali culture and song.

The taste of Bengali people for music may have changed, widespread commercialization may be happening, and new generation of song writers and singers are dominating the Bengali music industry now. It is encouraging that there are some good singers and composers set on the noble journey to rekindle Bengali music and are trying to redefine our music in a new way. But, all these changes and new age of Bengali song, however influential and popular that may be, failed to change our internal love, immutable taste and good feeling for those Golden Age Bengali songs composed by Salil Choudhury (Salilda), Bappi Lahiri and others. We at SBA feel the same as you are and therefore, through our collective melodious voice, we will try to take you to that golden musical time with four epic songs.

## ***The Unfortunate Fortune Cookie - Trisha Ghosh***

Red and gold decor blurred Erin's vision as she walked in. She watched people talking and laughing all around her, with her best friend Ellie beside her. To anyone else, all this was normal but to Erin it was special, lucky, and superstitious. Anytime she had something important, she came to this Chinese restaurant down the road, and her fortune cookie would determine her luck. At the end of the week she would be taking a test to fail or pass the 2nd semester of advanced math. Erin needed all the luck she could get. She quickly ordered her food, awaiting the cookie that would come as the side of dinner. Beads of sweat dripped down her forehead, as she silently prayed for a good fortune. She could never be kicked out of her math class. "Calm down! You are looking like pig right now! This is such a stupid superstition! It's a FORTUNE COOKIE!" Ellie scolded. "No, actually, it's not just any cookie; it is a cookie that determines my future! If I don't stay in advanced math, my whole future will be-". "Your cookie won't determine your future, your ability to study for these tests will!". Erin just groaned and shoved a face full of food in her mouth. At this point the entire restaurant was staring at all the commotion they were creating.

While everyone was staring at them, a young woman walked up and offered them two cookies and a plate of six oranges. Erin didn't know whether to be excited or anxious at the sight of the cookie. Ellie picked hers first and read aloud: "Your success is coming upon you" "Ooo that's a good one" Erin was filled with hope that hers too would be as good as Ellie's. She nervously opened hers and closed her eyes afraid of the fortune enclosed. "I'll just do it" Ellie said with exasperation swiped the fortune from her hands. "Your life is in danger, you cannot do anything about it" Ellie looked at Erin's blank face. "Well that's not very positive." "POSITIVE?? My life is in danger and you care about POSITIVE!!" Erin screamed. "Relax, it's probably not even true" she carelessly replied to her over the top reaction. "Are you CRAZY, they're ALWAYS true" Erin screamed again her face was slowly turning red. She was scared of her fortune but she was very offended by Ellie and she acting so lightly on her terrible fortune. "Fine, fine, it's true, we'll go to your magical fortune writers or whatever to resolve your horrible fortune," Ellie said carelessly. "Good" Erin confidently replied with satisfaction. Together they awkwardly asked the manager and cook their very strange request of seeing the fortune cookies. Both the manager and cook proudly stated that they made all their cookies themselves. They pointed in the general direction of two large doors beyond the kitchen. On the left was a series of machines making the cookie shell and on the right, was a round, old man with a head far too small who claimed to be "The son of the Master Teller". He sat on a glowing throne spouting fortunes while several women were swiftly writing them down.

"Oh mighty one" Erin uncertainly chanted "We have come to release ourselves of a terrible fortune". "Tell me" Erin and Ellie were surprised at the unprofessional way of speaking. The assumed that he would have a grand approach like his appearance but that was not the case. "A fortune, written by you, had told me my life was in danger and it could not be reversed". "Well then it must be true" his voice wavered and he fidgeted with the gold chain across his bare chest. Erin was disappointed by this response she wanted a more elaborate answer she didn't know what she wanted to hear but it was not that. Ellie leaned into Erin's ear as the man continued his work and ignored them. "He's not exactly professional" Ellie whispered "You'd think for some awesome fortune teller he'd better than this, and something like in the movies or something." They stood there waiting for someone to give them some attention. He was not going to try to speak to them. It was finally clear he would not talk to them and Erin would not reason with him. Finally, raged with frustration Erin leaped on his "throne" and bellowed "HEAR ME OUT, my life is in danger and I walked all the way down the hall to you" she wiggled her finger centimeters away from his face "YOU TOLD ME THIS NOW FIX IT!". And with all Erin's efforts the man continued to ignore them. With all of the laughing Ellie did at all of Erin's unreasonable beliefs *and* despite that she thought all of this was silly she joined Erin on the "throne" and began ranting. "You are the most INCONSIDERATE fortune teller ever *not that I know any* but I'm sure you're the rudest one. Every time Erin, my best friend, EVER needed something she relied on YOU- an ignorant oaf. I bet you're not even real you could be a FRAUD!" Suddenly the man burst into tears "It's true" he blurted "I told my mommy that I could be a master chef in New York City but all I could do was be a failure in the unheard of town, Apple Ville" he continued to sob.

Erin stood there watching the man that just moments ago was being *worshiped* and now he was on his knees in a puddle of tears. The sight was just pathetic. Erin wanted to feel sympathetic but she was so



disgusted she could not bring herself to feel bad for the poor excuse of a man. Ellie whispered that she wanted to leave and reluctantly Erin started to walk out with Ellie by her side. As they opened the large metal doors to the kitchen they stopped dead in their tracks. The Cook and Manager were standing as if listening the entire time. "Has all been taken care of?" the cook politely asked. "Yes" Ellie responded Erin gestured her to say more "Well..."she continued "There has been an issue with your "Fortune Teller"" Ellie began to talk rapidly "We sort of caused your fortune teller to have a mental breakdown, where he blurted that he was a fraud and he all he wanted to do was be a chef in New York City" Ellie took a deep breath "And now he's kind of sitting on your floor in a puddle of his own tears"

Ellie looked into the manager's shocked eyes for a moment and swiftly walked away with her head down dragging Erin along with her. On the way out Erin shouted a quick thank you, dropped the money, and grabbed a handful of mints. They stood outside in the summer air and waited to be picked up by their parents. "We should have done something" Erin stated with guilt. "Nah, it wasn't our business, I think you should study since the whole luck thing didn't work out" "Yeah" Erin was still shocked at the scene in the restaurant. She was unsure of what to do next. She would have never anticipated the chain of events that happened. Anything could have happened and Erin would still be worried about the test. It didn't help that Ellie acted like she didn't need to study at all. She hated that she now no longer had an excuse for her failing grades. Erin finally just let the matter go and move on there was nothing she could do, she would never be able to believe those fortunes again. Inside the restaurant the manager was making a few phone calls to their other restaurant right outside of New York City. He asked the chef if he needed some help. The manager told the old fortune teller to pack his bags and head to the outskirts of NYC.

A week later Erin and Ellie received their test grades. They both cheered at the sight of their grades. Erin peeked over and saw Ellie's perfect score. Ellie looked at Erin's and frowned. "Why aren't you disappointed? It's a B+" "It's good enough for me; I didn't need any luck and certainly not that horrible fortune, if I believed that I think I'd be dead by now". Ellie laughed and they walked out feeling very satisfied, she never needed the cookies and she certainly never believed the unfortunate fortune cookie.



## Convenient Eye Care for all of your Optical Needs



**Branchburg Eye  
Physicians**

*Where your vision is our focus*

**Kenette Sohmer, MD**

Call: **908-526-5424**

Visit us at: [www.branchburgeye.com](http://www.branchburgeye.com)

3461 US Highway 22 East, Branchburg, NJ 08876

## *Learning Is - Priyanka Chatterjee*

Learning is the universe stretching far and beyond all stars expanding our creativity to a new level.

Learning is the rain pattering down opportunities leaving it for just the right amount of time for you to grab it.

Learning is a rainbow where all colors represent something new for you to explore and for you to appreciate.

Learning is the sun standing high above us

giving us the energy and fuel to run a happy and knowledgeable life.

Learning is the stars giving you the impetus and courage to shine as bright as you can.

Learning is a river carrying knowledge worth a million dollars from the oceans to the grasslands to the cities and villages.

Learning is a skyscraper going beyond the limits scaling new heights which nobody but you can explore.

Learning is a pyramid whose steps lead to victories and proves that if you try hard you will surely get rewarded.

Learning is a mountain range containing prizes of amazing arts at their peaks triggering your motivation to do something.

Learning is mother nature giving all its own to make this world a better place for you and for me.

### *Christmas Limerick*

*Devjit (Adi) Bhattacharya*

It is now that time of the year.  
The holiday season is finally here!

There was snow on the ground and the moon was shining bright.

Santa was sleighing around, on this memorable holiday night.

Santa's reindeer were flying about, in the beautiful night sky,

Whizzing around and whooshing by.

Mrs. Claus and the elves awaited his return,  
Ho Ho Ho, those naughty kids, they will never learn.

There were no presents beneath the tree for the naughty girls and boys,  
But if they behaved, they received many fun toys.

Santa placed the presents in the house,  
But it was hard, because he had to be quiet as a mouse.

Santa has loved Christmas ever since he was a boy,  
Now he was the center of attention, who brought everyone joy.

The New Year was coming & the clock went tick-tock.  
Everyone cheered when it struck 12 o'clock.

At home everyone yelled in confusion,  
No one knew how to keep their New Year's resolution.

What is most important during the holiday times?  
It's FAMILY – I'll bet you a thousand dimes!

### *Sangeetanjali – Aratrika Dey*



Aratrika is a 15 years old 9th grade student. She has been in love with music since the age when she did not understand what exactly 'sa re ga ma' is. She also loves to read and write, and dance with her own spirit and joy. Aratrika started getting into and loving music since she was two and half. She has been undergoing training in Indian Classical music since the age of seven. Her first teacher was Sukla Nag, her Grand mother. Aratrika was under her regular training till she was eleven. She is now taking regular training from Mitali Bhawmik in NJ.

**Experience in 'Zee SaReGaMaPa Li'l Champs':**  
The experience was so good and there was so much to learn! It was one of her very best experiences in life and will remain so. I and my family, cannot thank Zee enough for giving me such a great platform She always has plan to take singing as her career. To be specific, Playback Singing. Inner words, "My future plans are to make myself worthy and deserving to be a good human being, and an outstanding singer."

# Raritan Music Center

55 & 56 West Somerset Street, Raritan, New Jersey 08869

Phone: 908.595.6980

[www.RaritanMusicCenter.com](http://www.RaritanMusicCenter.com)

[Facebook.com/RaritanMusicCenter](https://Facebook.com/RaritanMusicCenter)



We are an ABRSM/Royal Academy Certified Testing Facility



*Our teachers provide professional individual instruction to students of all ages and abilities!*



- Piano ■ Guitar ■ Bass ■ Voice ■ Violin ■ Viola ■ Cello ■ Drums
- Saxophone ■ Clarinet ■ Flute ■ Trumpet ■ Trombone ■ Theory
- Ear Training ■ Jazz Ensemble ■ String Workshops ■ Summer Camp

Monday - Friday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

# Saraswati Puja 2016

## Cultural Program Schedule

Time: 4:00 pm to 7:35 pm

Bridgewater-Raritan Middle School, Bridgewater, NJ

4:00 PM	<b>Welcome Announcement</b>	Himeli Dey and Prasun Chowdhury
4:05 PM	<b>Pulses - Spandan: Art N Beat Band</b>	<i>Conductor:</i> Rumela Bandyopadhyay  <i>Accompanied by:</i> Gokul Panda  <i>Participants :</i> Aishani Basu, Rinchen Sahni, Debarshi Dey, Debisha Dey, Nikhil Deshmukh, Saketh Sitaram, Ella Paul, Om Pednekar, Asha Sohan
4:35 PM	<b>Chhande Chhande : Childrens Dance</b>	<i>Choreographed by :</i> Tumpa Goswami  <i>Dancers:</i> Prajna Karmaker, Purba Karmaker, Shweta Roy, Esha Basu, Disha Gupta  <i>Script Readers:</i> Atiksh Bhattacharyya, Pratyoy Biswas.
5:00 PM	<b>Puratan Chirantan: A SBA Singers Presentation</b>  <i>Sponsored By: Samragnee Majumdar</i>	<i>Conductor :</i> Malini Majumdar & Niloy Jana  <i>Participants:</i> Subhrojit Dutta, Bibhas Mitra, Mili Ghose, Ranjana Sanyal, Sudipta Chatterjee, Sumita Dhara, Teesta Roy, Lopa Das, Sreerupa Ghoshal, Ratnanjali Dutta, Sovon Biswas, Kaushik Dey, Achira Ghosh, Debasree Saha, Sourav Chakrabarti, Satabdi Choudhury, Atreyee Dey, Soma Mookherjee. Sibabrata Banerjee, Niloy Jana, Malini Mazumdar
5:25 PM	<b>Announcements</b>	Sponsor Recognition
5:30 PM	<b>Children's Natok 'Abak Jalpan' written by Sukumar Ray</b>  <i>Sponsored By:</i>	<i>Directors:</i> Mitushi Banerjee & Anamika Roy-Choudhury <i>Sets:</i> Teesta Roy <i>Script:</i> Satabdi Choudhury and Teesta Roy  <i>Cast:</i> Abheek Dhara, Adi Bhattacharya, Hiya Khan, Imon Khan, Ishaan Ghosh, Nipun Banerjee, Nirav Banerjee, Prisha Ghosh, Rishit Roy, Rohan Giri, Shounak Ghosh, Shubham Roy-Choudhury, Soumyanil Jana



**5:55 PM Devi: Prayer Dance**

*Conductor : Deepa Bhandari*

*Participants: Aneesha Panigrahi, Ariyan Tripathy, Mallika Panda, Pooja Das, Rohan Tripathy, Subhashish Tripathy, Deepa Bhandari*

**6:10 PM Sangeetanjali**

Aratrika Dey - 2015 ZEE SA RE GA MA PA  
North America Little Champ

**6:35 PM Shruti Natak - Khantaburir  
Rojnamcha written by Banani  
Mukherjee**

*Director: Banani Mukherjee*

*Cast: Banani Mukherjee , Keka Sirkar, Anindita Chattopadhyay, Suparna Das, Shrabani Alo Nandy, Shakuntala Sanyal*

*Sponsored By:*



**7:00 PM Raffle Drawing**

Gifts from the Sponsors

**7:10 PM Naho Maata Naho Kanya - A SBA  
Dance Production**

*Choreographed By : Sanchita Basu Mallick, Writuparna Dasgupta*

*Coordinator: Anurupa Mukherjee*

*Sponsored By:*



*Participants*

*Youth: Rashi Roy, Rashmika Mazumdar, Ria Mukherji, Ria Mukherjee, Juni Kundu, Aditi Dhara, Priyanka Chatterjee, Anshini Ghoshal, Ahana Biswas, Rupsa Jana, Titli Ghosh*

*Adults : Archita Chatterjee Haldar, Spreeha Choudhury, Aruna Dontabhaktuni, Dolon Mukherji, Malini Mazumdar, Sritama Ghosh, Soma Mukherji*

**7:35 PM Closing Remarks**

Himeli Dey and Prasun Chowdhury

Thank you and recognition to the artistic directors and wonderful performers.



# JEI Learning Center

## Hillsborough and Montgomery

Provides an accurate, comprehensive diagnostic system

01

Enables individualized study program based on needs and ability

02

Ensures mastery learning with small steps and spiral structure

03

### ❖ After School Enrichment For PK-9th Grade (Year Round)

*A Better Life Through Better Education*

Math  
English

Word Problems  
Creative Writing

Reading and Writing  
Brain Safari



### ❖ Engineering for Kids (Year Round)

*Inspiring the next generation of Engineers*

Science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), to kids ages 4 to 14 in a fun and challenging way. Programs offered are:

Aerospace Engineering  
Civil Engineering  
Industrial Engineering  
Mechanical Engineering

Chemical Engineering  
Environmental Engineering  
Marine Engineering  
Robotics Engineering

### ❖ Academic Summer Camp (8 weeks in July and August)

*A Holistic Approach for Whole Child Development*

- ❖ Academics, Engineering, S.T.E.M, Public Speaking, Science
- ❖ Swimming, 3D Printing, Music Lessons, DIY Projects and more...

### ❖ Also enquire about...

- ❖ Private tutoring for Math, Science, English / Writing
- ❖ SAT, ACT, SSAT test prep classes



To schedule an appointment, please call 1-855-JEI-GENIUS OR 908-369-4364 (Hillsborough) 609-285-2965 (Montgomery)



## ***Naho Maata Naho Kanya - SBA Dance Presentation***

*Choreographed By : Sanchita Basu Mallick and Writuparna Dasgupta*  
*Coordinator: Anurupa Mukherjee*

Through our dance we are celebrating the possibilities of our collective love for liberty and freedom. Each of our dance moves draws its inspiration from women's quest for empowerment, a universal phenomenon. Our medley focuses on the hope and dreams to strengthen our social, economic and educational powers in society. The metaphor of clouds, represents women's freedom and vision in the 21st century. It feels like you can conquer the world with our dance melody that empowers, inspires, motivates and gets our creative energy flowing. The recognition of strength of women in India dates back to the time of the Veda. We revisit that by going back to centuries and bring an immortal classic from Sanskrit. This famous chant, glorifying and praising the female power and energy in the form of Goddess Durga, reminds us the alluring beauty of a female who displays all the qualities that were admired in women. It reveals how women were once revered, looked up to and worshiped as sources of power, energy and aggression in old Hindu cultures. We hope to inspire women with the depth of our feelings and elegance of our presentation.

### ***Balance - Pramila Baisya***

Our heart's a circus.  
Our mind,  
A funhouse  
Our eyes,  
A hall of mirrors.  
Full of freaks and weirdos.  
Feeling as we are on display.  
With our extra parts,  
Tiger Scars,  
And peanut shaped birthmarks.  
Craziness runs about.

Explosions of neon,  
Looking like bearded ladies,  
Or perhaps lobster boy.  
Demands like elephants,  
Paying our dues like acrobats,  
Our decisions of a juggler.  
Breathing fire for oxygen,  
Our new addiction.  
Swallowing swords for an iron  
supplement.  
We're trapped in a box.

Walking down invisible stairs,  
Bidding goodbye to those who  
do not care.  
Why don't we go on and paint a  
smile,  
Maybe a tear or two.  
You may as well know...  
For us,  
What you see,  
Is not what you get.

## Future Artists Gallery - 1

Mehuli Mitra - Flowers



Rohan Giri - Still Life



Ananya Sanyal - Giraffe



Anushka Mukerjee - First Day Jitters



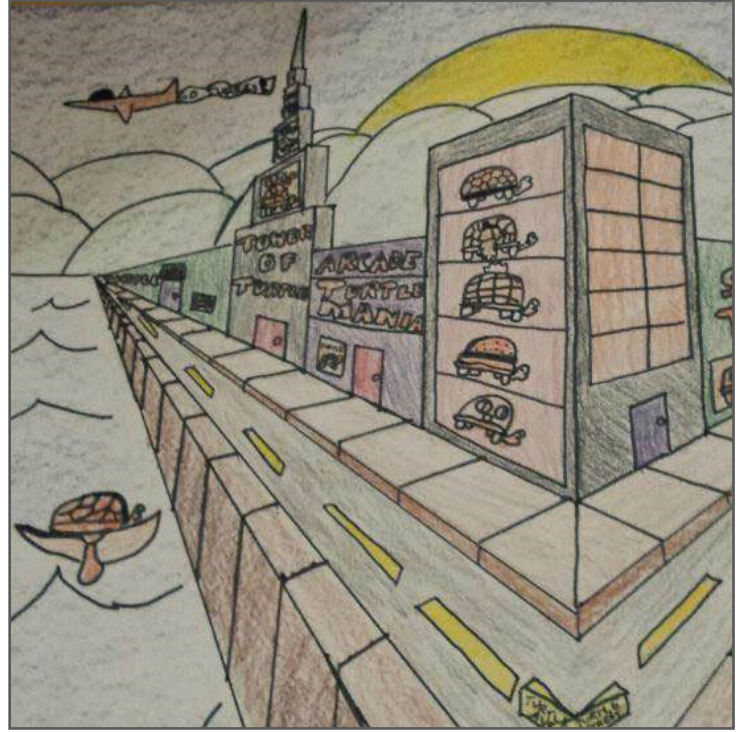


## Future Artists Gallery - 2

Avik Dutta - First Art



Ricky Das - Turtlepolis



Hiya Khan - Ma Saraswati



Jhulik Chatterjee - Insects





***Shruti Natak - Khantaburir Rojnamcha***  
***Written & Directed by: Banani Mukherjee***

Our very well known, Drama Director, Banani Mukherjee has beautifully woven this play using one of our very visible and key events happening in our day-to-day life. In Kolkata having maids and domestic helps been traditional thing, without them life can be very helpless and stressful as their presence and absence, both affect our day-to-day life and planning in general.

Nowadays the expectation and attitude of the maid and domestic help, have changed a lot. The maid who was supposed to come for work, is on leave. This comedy sketch shows the chaos, when the maid is on leave. Our group of theater enthusiasts from SBA will present this chaos very lively on stage. So sit back, relax and watch "Khantaburir Rojnamcha".



Smile, it looks good on you!

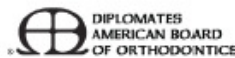
Invisalign • Clear Braces • Digital Scanning • ...and more!

**Laurene Wolf, DMD, MSD, LLC**  
Specialist in Orthodontics

205 Towne Centre Dr.  
Hillsborough, NJ 08844  
908) 431-0888  
www.wolfortho.com



NJ Specialty Permit #5056



Join Us for  
a Free Week at

**Club X**



GOLD'S GROUP EXERCISE

**GOLD'S GYM.**

**BRIDGEWATER**

**PERSONAL TRAINING • NUTRITION COUNSELING  
SMOOTHIE+JUICE BAR • CHILDCARE**

**462 HIGHWAY 28 • 908.595.1111**

## JAY MEHTA, CPA, CFP®

### TAX & FINANCIAL PLANNING SERVICES

*This Certified Financial Planner™ and CPA puts years of large company experience to work for you. The firm will develop comprehensive business and personal plans by listening and analyzing your concerns. I will work with the current and future financial life cycle through the retirement and transfer to next generation. Various solutions are proposed to you within the framework of income tax impact and other risks at least in the areas of:*

- *Tax including International*
- *Comprehensive Financial Planning – Personal or Business*
  - *Education Retirement and Estate Planning*
  - *Long-Term Care Planning*
  - *Employment Benefits*

**724 Probst Avenue Unit B, Fairview, New Jersey 07022,**

**Tel: 201-941-5309 Fax: 201-215-9772 Email: jmehtacpa@gmail.com**

Tax Services provided by Jay Mehta, CPA, CFP®. Tax and Accounting Services Are Not Affiliated with Tomorrow's Financial Services or any of its affiliated companies. Securities offered Through TFS Securities, Inc., Member FINRA/SIPC. A full Service Broker Dealer located at 847 Broadway, Bayonne, NJ 07002. (201) 843-1030. Investment Advisory Services offered through TFS Advisory Service, A Division of TFS Securities, Inc.



### *Chalukya Saraswati – Shourabh Mukherji*

One of the earliest known idols of Sarswati is a black stone idol from the late Chalukya Dynasty (12th century CE). The idol is on display at The Prince of Wales Museum, Mumbai. I have tried to capture the Chalukya Golden Age and this truly symbolic idol of Goddess Saraswati, through my art. The workmanship on this ancient sculpture is very intricate and it is quite a challenge to emulate the details on canvas.

I used shades of acrylic gray and charcoal on the centerpiece to get the stone appearance and blend of cadmium and lemon yellow to add to her jewelry.

It has been a short and sweet spiritual journey for me as well. I am passionate about India’s glorious past, at the same time it is disheartening to see the countless poor and helpless on the streets of India today. I dedicate this painting to them and hope they relive a golden past through a better tomorrow.

Shourabh [www.theart4u.com](http://www.theart4u.com)

*“Best Mother, best of Rivers, best of Goddesses, Sarasvati” – Rigveda 2.41.16*

# THE ART ACADEMY

If you are interested in opening up the world of art for you and your family, there is no finer studio in which to be trained than The Art Academy.

All well rounded educations include high quality formal artistic training. The Art Academy demystifies artistic creation, quickly making extraordinary results attainable to all of its students.

Exceptional art is within your reach, visit our site to see the potential.

Be certain to check out our 'Before & After' gallery to see that this program is for anyone of any skill level, interested in learning to draw and paint.

**Great artists are NOT born, they are TRAINED!**



#### OUR LOCATIONS

HILLSBOROUGH  
908-829-3790

HUNTERDON  
908-323-2209

Visit us @ [www.TheArtAcademy.us](http://www.TheArtAcademy.us)



PAINTING BY: KIM MUNIS [ART ACADEMY STUDENT]  
OIL ON PANEL 20" X 24"



### ***Childrens Natok Group : Abak Jolpan***

***Directors: Mitushi Banerjee and Anamika Roy-Choudhury***

***Sets: Teesta Roy Script: Soma Choudhary and Teesta Roy***

Riding on the great experience the kids had enacting last year's performance it was decided the kids of SBA would do a drama again. Last year being their first time they had done an English only drama. The challenge this year was to make a gradual shift to Bengali in keeping with the spirit of Saraswati Pujo. So the plan was to do a "Banglish" drama. Since none of our great playwrights wrote in this unique language it was up-to our local talent to try and adapt a famous play. Teesta Roy and Soma Choudhury rose to the occasion and spent a lot of time and came up with the "Banglish" version of Sukumar Ray's famous screenplay "Abak Jolpan" and then the hunt for the perfect cast began.

The rehearsals started in earnest and a group of kids came together to bring the script to life. It has been so much fun tinged with pride to see these kids coming out of their comfort zone from reading out of a script, figuring out how to pronounce new Bangla words, committing the lines to memory and then performing them with expressions and emotions. It has been rewarding to see these kids establish new friendships and fortify old ones, and most importantly develop self-assurance in portraying these characters with their own special touch. Hopefully these weekly rehearsals and the final at the Saraswati Pujo performance create an affinity for theater in these young minds.

*Future Artists Gallery - 3*

*Peacock Dance*  
*Atreyee Ghosh*



*Celestial Saraswati*  
*Tanuja Kosnick*



## *A Look Into The Past – Rupsa Jana*

The Great Sphinx towering above  
A cluster of mummies peering at us with their ghostly eyes  
Humongous chests overflowing with scintillating jewels  
A glimpse of lush, fertile plains of the Nile Valley  
Bow down to thy ruler, The Great Pharaoh  
For he is our guide and protector  
Behold the awe-inspiring Great Pyramids, just down the alley

Have a seat as we hear Master Socrates's philosophy lectures  
On his ideas that will one day change the planet  
Rejoice the birth of science with Aristotle, world's genius  
Stroll on the hills on which atop lay the Acropolis  
The Parthenon which carry the soulful prayers to almighty goddess Athena  
Sail around the Greek islands with Odysseus  
Avoiding the clutch of the evil sorceress Circe  
Experience the thrilling adventure to the unknown in Homer's Odyssey  
We can never miss the Hagia Sophia, one of the world's greatest marvels  
The house of hope, glory, and spirituality  
Shop in the bustling streets of Constantinople, heart of the Byzantine Empire  
Gaping at innumerable stalls filled with exotic spices, and precious jewels from abroad  
Surround yourself with colorful murals, the exquisite symbols of enlightenment

Journey through the forests of Central America  
To reach the great stone cities of the Mayan Empire  
An enchanting world filled with lavish palaces, plazas, and temples  
Myriads of fascinating architecture, and symbolic artwork  
Sunbeams of prosperity shine through the tropical lowlands  
Covered with an array of crops such as corn or maze  
Around the 6th century AD., the civilization reached its most powerful phase

Along the banks of the Indus  
Lay one of the world's most influential civilizations  
Home of the rich settlements of Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa  
There are dazzling clay figurines sculpted with precision  
Which dedicate the Gods- their mentors and guides  
Let us not forget their unique advancements  
Such as a sophisticated writing system  
Carved in elegant pottery, seals, and tablets  
Dozens of centuries-old brick buildings  
That were once inhabited by scholars, artisans, and merchants

History builds the present and shapes up the future  
They are the roots of our existence  
On which the pillars of mankind stand tall  
History is a fascinating aspect of our lives  
Which benefits one and all

## **Hollywood Arts - Trina Ghosh**

Bethany walked home like everyday, but today the second she walked in she realized that her life could change forever. "Bethany! Bethany! You got accepted to a special school because of your math skills!" Bethany's face went pale. There was a school about twenty minutes away from her house for special talented students, Bethany always wanted to go to that school she never thought she was good enough for those people. Bethany beamed, but she was also sad because had to pick schools. After Bethany got her homework done she sat with a peanut butter sandwich and talked about the new school with her dad. "Well, it's called Hollywood Arts, and you will learn two grades above your level". Bethany got more and more excited, but she still wasn't sure if she was going or not. When Bethany's mom came back from work, she broke the good news. Her mom was so surprised and really wanted Bethany to take the offer.

The next day, she told all of her friends, Nikki, Gabby, Mia, and Sierra. "Guys, I might be going to Hollywood Arts!" "Well, I hope you stay" Sierra said rolling her eyes, and they all left leaving Bethany behind. *That didn't go as I expected to go* she thought when she skipped behind her friends. When Bethany's sister, Ava heard, she wanted Bethany to stay in the regular school and be with her. After she finished dinner, her dad told her that, she gets to go to the school for a day and see how you like it. Bethany's day was getting better and better.

The next day Bethany set her alarm clock at 7:00am but she woke up at 5:00am because she was so excited to go to the new school. Bethany wore her favorite outfit, a black skirt and a purple top. She ate nine homemade pancakes, with big and fat blueberries. When Bethany arrived at the parking lot her face dropped. Bethany saw blue solar cars, electric robots, and kids building playgrounds out of dark brown straw. Bethany was astonished. Bethany wanted to go to this school so much more. When the car got halfway through the parking lot, someone stopped Bethany's dad's car and shouted "Are you going to drop off your child or park your car in the garage?" Bethany and her dad looked at each other amused. When they entered the underground parking lot, they saw kids testing out there drones. Suddenly, Bethany had a feeling that she wouldn't be good enough for Hollywood Arts, but Bethany put the thought at back of her head and moved on. Bethany walked through light purple doors with mini flowers and peace signs.

Then she rang the doorbell, someone came on the microphone and happily said "Are you Bethany Fole?" "Yes I am" Bethany said quietly. The door sprung open and Bethany jumped because it was so loud. She saw a young, blond hair, tall women come out of the door with the biggest smile she's ever seen. "Welcome to Hollywood Arts, Bethany!" "Hi" Bethany said in a high voice. "I am your principal Mrs. Siri". Bethany was starting to think that the principal was crazy because she being so peppy. Bethany walked through the door with a big shiny smile. She looked around and saw trophies and medals and enormous murals of red and yellow handprints throughout the school. Her dad went to the main office to get information about the Hollywood Arts. Mrs. Siri led Bethany through one of the three hallways heading to the purple and blue lockers.

"Mrs. Siri, can I peek in the window to see the classrooms?" "Sure" Mrs. Siri replied. Bethany looked through a science classroom and saw kids using test tubes and pouring a gooey mixture into a bottle. Bethany was almost hundred percent sure that she wanted to go to Hollywood Arts this year. Bethany entered one of the math rooms and they were doing something so complicated Mrs. Siri couldn't even understand what they were doing. Bethany couldn't believe that she might be doing this stuff in a month. When Bethany came to the front of the school she caught her dad looking at the math league trophies. "Did you like the new school?" Bethany's dad asked curiously. She nodded her head with a big smile and started to walk towards the door to leave.

"I hope you join Hollywood Arts!" Mrs. Siri shouted. When Bethany left the school her dad asked "So, are you going to join the school?" "Probably" Bethany said excited. When they reached home, Bethany's mom and her twin sister Eva was standing on the front porch with a smile as big as the moon. When they got out of the car Bethany's mom hugged Bethany so tight she could've died. As they walked into the house Her mom said "Are you going to the school?" "Probably" Bethany said. But Bethany saw Eva's heart sink because Eva wanted her to stay. The next day Bethany was so happy to go to school to tell her friends about her excited news! When she got to school she ran up to one of her best friends. "Gabby! Gabby! I am most likely going to Hollywood Arts!". "What, you can't go because I won't be with you" Gabby replied. Then the rest of the group came. "What up, guys" Mia mentioned. "I can't believe this, Bethany is possibly going to go Hollywood Arts to be with the nerds" announced Gabby. "You can't betray us! You do my math homework" Nikki declared. Bethany knew that they weren't the nicest people ever, but they were always her friends.





## ***Devi -Prayer Dance*** ***Conductor : Deepa Bhandari***

Devi: a salutation to the female power, whom we worship in myriad forms. The first song is a an ode to Goddess Saraswati, describing her beauty, grace, and her whole divine self. She is revered as a goddess of knowledge, music, wisdom, and learning.

The second song is dedicated to the goddess Durga, a form of divine Parvati as believed by many, who embodies the form and formless, and is the root cause of creation, preservation and annihilation.

The last song praises the goddess Kali, the mighty one in her fierce form, the destroyer of all evil forces, who is revered by one and all.

The participants of the program will portray and present glimpses of our favorite goddesses, the Shakti Rupa.

Continued from page 32 → **Hollywood Arts**

“I hate you and it was a mistake being your friend.” Mia shouted angrily and they all stormed away. Suddenly Bethany wasn’t sure about her decision. *I probably shouldn’t sit with them* she thought as she walked to lunch. So she ran to the bathroom and started to cry. Bethany started to avoid her friends for the rest of the day. By the time Bethany got home she had tears on her face and shirt. “Bethany why are you crying” her dad said curiously as he walked up to her. “My friends said that it was a mistake being friends with me” Bethany cried.

At dinner Bethany hid her face in her plate.” Bethany I think you should go to the new school and get a fresh start on friends.” her dad suggested. She stood up straight, thought about then said ”do you think I should do that?” Bethany replied. “ you should probably go to Hollywood Arts” When Bethany got into bed she finally decided to go to the new school. In the morning she told her family and they so excited about her decision. They conformed with the school and in one week Bethany will be going to Hollywood Art. In the end, Bethany found a group of friends at the new school that appreciated her and she trusted them very much.

# Home Mortgages

## Low Rates. Fast Closings.



*We are a proud supporter of  
Somerset Bengali Association*

unitybank.com ♦ 800.618.BANK(2265)

 EQUAL HOUSING LENDER | MEMBER FDIC



# durga



excerpt from the  
"Lilboox Durga"

Edited and  
Illustrated by  
Somdip Datta  
© 2015

www.lilboox.com

## The Boon

The devas of the heaven,  
and the asuras of the  
netherworld,  
were nearly always at war.

### Mahish-aSura

determined  
to bring  
victory  
to the  
asuras,  
prayed to  
Brahma -  
the  
creator.



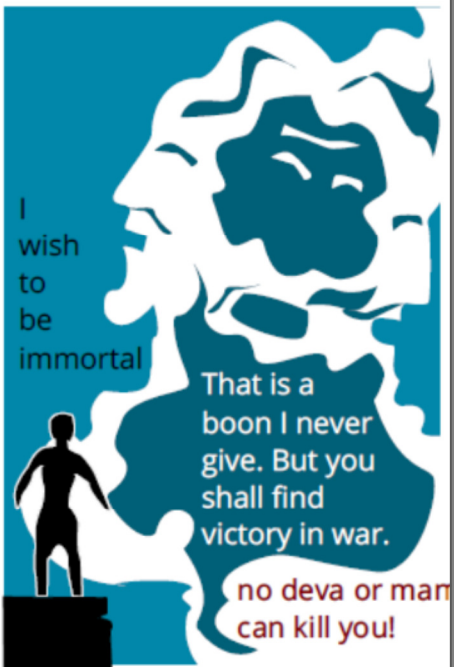
He meditated on  
the name of the God.  
He observed penance  
in scorching heat  
and biting cold



He stood firm in  
wind and hail,  
and finally  
the creator  
could not  
ignore him  
any more.



What  
do you  
want  
my child ?



I  
wish  
to  
be  
immortal

That is a  
boon I never  
give. But you  
shall find  
victory in war.

no deva or man  
can kill you!

Mahish-asura  
immediately  
went to war.  
His army routed  
the devas of the  
heaven, and the  
kings of the earth.



**Indra -**  
the lord of the sky,  
who strikes with the  
thunderbolt, led the army  
of the devas,  
riding his  
white  
elephant  
known  
as  
Airavat.

Even he was  
defeated.



## The Birth

The exiled devas  
appealed to the  
creator



I can't recall  
my boon. But the  
trinity will find a way



The trinity got together.

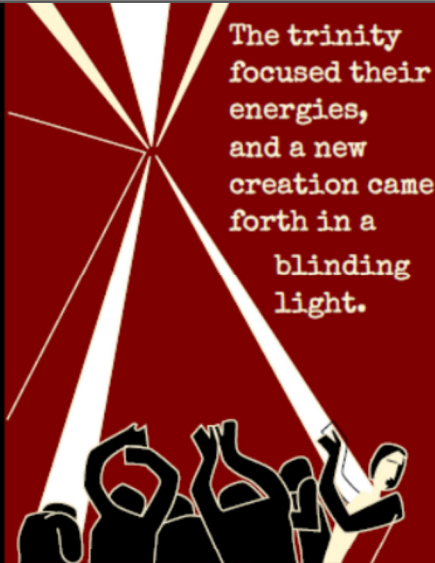
**Brahma**  
the Creator

**Vishnu**  
the Protector

**Shiva**  
the Destroyer



The trinity  
focused their  
energies,  
and a new  
creation came  
forth in a  
blinding  
light.



**Durga**  
was born.  
She was  
beautiful  
and fearsome  
at the  
same time.



She had three eyes  
and ten hands.

The gods found their hope.  
They armed Durga  
with their own weapons.



Vishnu gave  
her the  
discus

Indra (Sky)  
gave his  
thunderbolt

Kaal (time)  
fashioned  
her sword  
and armour

Varun  
(Water)  
gave his  
conchshell



Yama (Death)  
gave his  
iron staff

Agni (Fire)  
gave his  
fire dart

Vayu (wind)  
gave his bow

Surya (Sun)  
gave his  
quiver  
and arrows

Shiva gave  
his trident



and Himalaya  
gave her the Lion  
- as her ride.

## The Battle

When Mahish-asura saw Durga,  
he was struck by her beauty. He  
proposed to her, but Durga  
spurned him ..

Her army scattered the asuras,  
while she unleashed terror with  
her weapons. The asura took different  
forms, a lion, then an elephant..

in the end he  
resumed his  
favorite form -

The Buffalo

He charged ...



The lion pounced and tore  
its belly. As the asura  
emerged, Durga struck him  
with her trident and he  
collapsed to his death.

The people of  
heaven and earth  
were overjoyed.  
They resolved to  
worship Durga  
every year, with  
great ceremony.



THE  
END



***Chhande Chhande : Childrens Dance***  
***Choreographed by : Tumpa Goswami***

Chande Chande will be performed by a very enthusiastic and talented young performers who dance not only from their hearts but it's a great way to know their cultural background, their unique heritage where practicing cultural activities is a part of life, it's their backbone. These young talents will show their passion for rhythm and music and fascinate us with great pleasure.



*"Because there is no place like home,  
let me find you yours"*

**BUYING**  
*OR*  
**SELLING**  
***I Can Help!!!***

Contact me for an appointment

**Rebecca Matyash**

NJAR Circle of Excellence Award Winner 2014  
Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

(732) 718-3404 [cell] | (908) 874-8421 [office]

[rmatyash@comcast.net](mailto:rmatyash@comcast.net)

[www.somersethomes4me.com](http://www.somersethomes4me.com)

## ***Focus - Ankita Sen***

Pratham is a non-profit organization founded in 1994. Today, it is one of the world's largest organizations specializing in the education of underprivileged children who live in the slums of India. Pratham's mission is to put every child in school and have them learn well. This summer, I had the privilege of visiting one of Pratham's centers in India. Pratham centers are located in villages and slums that are on the outskirts of big cities. Children gather in these centers to learn basic levels of their local dialects and some English. The classes are taught by women who come from the cities and from their respective villages and slums.

When I first entered the slum, I was astonished by what I saw. A large landfill that was filled with mud and dirt was the first site that met my eyes. Pigs were lying in the mud, enjoying the shade that a pile of trash provided them from the sun. A web of dirt roads wound between the huts with tin roofs. Teenagers about my own age were walking around, vending food and toys, and working in small stores. The first class I visited at Pratham was a small, pink room with a political advertisement painted on the back wall. The class was for children from the ages of three to five. They were sitting on the ground and wrote on small chalkboards and notebooks. The teacher instructed them in some exercises and told them to get up, jump around, and then sit back down again. Then the teacher took out some cards that had cartoon images on them. The teacher would show the children the image and ask them what the Hindi word for it was. Then she would ask what the English word was. The children called out the answers excitedly.

This really touched me because these children were so enthusiastic. They jumped up and down, anxious to answer whenever the teacher asked a question. I don't think I have ever seen such excited students. When the class was over the teacher assigned them some homework as the children's parents stood outside to pick them up. One boy came up to me and showed me his notebook. Small doodles and practice alphabets were scratched on the page. He spoke to me in broken English and told me what everything was. Suddenly, all of the children wanted to show me their artwork. They used water colors to create pictures of the sun and animals. Eventually, we said goodbye to the children, but we weren't done yet.

The second class we went to took us into the heart of the slum. What surprised me was that they had electricity and television. I hadn't expected that. When we walked into this next classroom, I was temporarily blinded because it was so much darker than all the other places. As my eyes adjusted, I saw three classes taking place in the room. The first group I went to observe was the four and five year olds. Their teacher was circulating around to each student as she had them write the English alphabet. I knelt down next to a girl and asked her what the letter "d" looked like. She slowly drew an upper case and lower case d. I praised her work and she gave me a shy smile. The next class in the hall was the six and seven year olds. They sat silently writing Hindi paragraphs in their notebooks. The teacher called up a single student and asked him to read his paragraph to us. When he finished, we told him he had done a great job. The third and last class was the nine and ten year olds. These students were reading and writing small English paragraphs. Their teacher was writing sentences on the large chalkboard for the children to read. One by one, they all read a sentence, and I was impressed with their skills, especially their pronunciation.

Another interesting thing I saw was that their "library" was merely a wall hanging with many plastic pockets for story books. The stories seemed to be myths and fables in simple English and Hindi. The children would fill out a log of the books they took out. This taught them responsibility as they were allowed to take the books home to read. I thought this was a really good idea because it gave the children a chance to enhance their skills by reading on their own. All of the children impressed me because they all wanted to learn and the parents learned along with their children. This is what touched me the most. The fact that this program helped better the lives of so many people. Pratham's far reach throughout India made it possible for children who previously had no hope of a future gain the prospect of one. Even a rudimentary understanding of reading and writing could help these people so much. Through my participation in Pratham's program, realized how lucky I really am. I have been granted a great education, a great life, and, hopefully, a great future. Until that day, I had taken it for granted. I looked at these kids and thought about what I would do if I was in their position. It saddened me to think that they had to live like they did in small, dirty houses with very little to eat. Some of the children were small and thin from malnutrition. I thought about them growing up and maybe getting a job outside of the slum getting to eat and live well. This education offers these children a chance to do just that. This experience opened my eyes and made me think about things that I had never thought about before. I want to help these children and that is exactly what I intend to do by volunteering in Pratham again in the future.



**Preserve your  
traditions.  
Protect your  
dreams.**



**Help protect the good life you've made.**

I can do a lot more than just protect your car. I offer quality coverage for your home, auto, life and business. I can also help with your retirement. And the more you protect with Allstate, the more you save. Call me today.

**BAUMANN INSURANCE GROUP, LLC**

**908-429-8700**

695 U.S HIGHWAY 202/206

BRIDGEWATER

toddbaumann@allstate.com

**Hamare haath, aapke saath™**



**Allstate**®

You're in good hands.

Auto Home Life Retirement

# Bhavani Cash & Carry

392 , US 22 WEST, GREEN BROOK NJ. 08812  
PH: 732-529-6060



**FRESH FOODS, VEGETABLES &  
BENGALI FISH ON SALE**



*Bhavani fruits and Vegetables is a leading distributor in the Indian food market. We distribute all sorts of packaged and non packaged food, frozen and perishable products.*

*Khao Healthy. . . . Raho Healthy*

*We accept Food Stamps*

**Bhavani Cash & Carry**

392 , US 22 WEST, GREEN BROOK  
NJ. 08812 PH: 732-529-6060

*10 Minutes from Bridgewater Commons Mall*



# RayCatena

Proud to Support the  
**Somerset Bengali Association**



Mercedes-Benz



INFINITI.



**SPRINTER**



**Audi**

*The Legend in Luxury®*

**RayCatena.com • 1-800-New-Auto**