



Ritu Boichitro

Pragati's Newsletter

PRAGATI.ORG

SEPTEMBER 2011

UPCOMING EVENTS

Durga Puja

October 8 & 9

Laxmi Puja

October 15

Kali Puja

October 29

Location:

Colonial Elementary School in
Plymouth Meeting, PA

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Another Year, Another Festival Season...

It's that time of year again we've all been looking forward to: reflective pujas, sparkling lights, and the rhythmic beat of the tabla. Oh, and who can forget the mouthwatering shondesh!

With the coming festival season, we decided to give our newsletter a new name that aptly describes the purpose of this publication: with the flowing of each season, we hope to keep you updated on what's new and exciting in your Bengali community.

Pragati Executive Committee has been preparing for months for the coming holiday season, and we're excited to celebrate this ceremonial time of year with you and your family.

As this festival season marks the last for our Executive Committee, we are dedicated to organizing the most fun, memorable events yet. We hope you enjoy these joyous times, and we'll see you at the pujas!

— Pragati Communications



Editorial by Pragati President



It is my great pleasure to present to you the latest issue of the Pragati newsletter.

We all live busy lives, so I hope this newsletter efficiently informs you of all the important happenings in the community and of all the news that our members and their families choose to share with us.

I sincerely hope you will enjoy this issue.

Our committee's final newsletter will be published in December, 2011. I invite you in advance to contribute to it by providing news, articles and or other items.

Now, I would like to take this opportunity to touch upon some of our future attractions. As fall approaches, festivities are in the air. Our biggest events - Durga Puja, Lakshmi Puja and Kali Puja are just around the corner. Our committee is striving to bring the best ever "Sharadiya Utsab" to our community. I invite all of you to actively participate and enjoy each and every program with your family and friends. Please check the Pragati website (pragati.org) for details on the upcoming events. There are plenty of surprises in store, though, that we won't spoil, so you'll just have to come and see for yourself!

Best wishes to all. I look forward to seeing you at the Pujas.

Sincerely,
Dipanwita Roy



2011 Festivals

Calendar dates :

October 2—Maha Shashti

October 3 – Maha

Sptami

October 4 - Maha

Ashtami or Mahashtami

October 5 -Mahanabami or

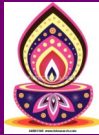
Mahanavami

October 6 - Vijaya Dasami

or Vijayadashami

October 11 - Lakshmi Puja

October 29—Kali Puja



BAKE SALE

Based on the immense success of the Bake Sale event conducted by our youth members in 2010, Pragati Executive Committee has decided to go forward with this event once again this year.

This year's bake sale will take place on Oct 8 & 9. We request you to please volunteer for bringing in homemade baked goods.

If interested, please contact Sutapa Bakshi at 215 628 9216 or email her at Sutapa@pragati.org for further details.

2011 Past Events - A Glimpse



From our Cultural Desk



We had a very successful **Poala Boishakh** cultural program this year.

Pragatians paid tribute to **Kobiguru Rabindranath Tagore** on his **150th birthday** by staging two of Tagore's literary works performed by our members: The ever popular dance drama "**Chitragada**" and a Shruti Natok "**Ghore Baire**."

We also had a wonderful program on **Kobi Najrul**.

To add color and inspire a nostalgic feeling, some children and adults came dressed in various outfits symbolizing different characters from Tagore's novels. This turned out to be a creative and fun stage show.

Upcoming Cultural Program Highlights



We intend to keep the ball rolling from earlier this year as we head towards the pujas. We have a fine line up of programs for everyone.

Durga Puja Day 1

Live Performance by the Soulful Bangla folk Band -

"BHOOMI"

The band's current line-up includes:

Surojit Chatterjee - Lead singer and song writer

Soumitra Ray - Song writer, Lead vocalist

Hemanto Goswami - Electric guitarist

Abhijit Ghosh - Bass guitarist

Robin Lai - Keyboard, Violinist

Lakshmi Puja

Due to an overwhelming response from last year's puja, we are once again back with **Fun and Interactive Games** for one and all.

Movie - TBA

General Body Meeting/Election

*"Let your life lightly dance on the edges of
Time like dew on the tip of a leaf."*

— Rabindranath Tagore

Durga Puja Day 2

A classical night where **Pt. Subroto Ray Chowdhury** from India will mesmerize us with his **Sitar recital**. Accompanying him on the **tabla** would be our very own **Siddhartha Roy Chowdhury**.

Our next performance includes a beautiful **Oddissi Dance** recital by **Smt Shibani Patnaik**.

Kali Puja

Enjoy a fun event - Pragati Executive Committee 2010 - 2011 hosts the first ever

Cooking Competition sponsored by -

Chateau Granieri

- A musical evening presented by **Shri Nir-malya Roy** from India performing some ever green Bengali songs accompanied by a special band from NJ.

Finally, the evening ends with a beautiful dance recital by **Ajita Priyadarshini De**.

Cooking Competition

Calling all Didi, Dada, Boudi, Mashi, Pishi.....It's time to put your cooking skills into action..... Join us to take part in the first ever Pragati cooking competition “**Ruposhi Banglar shabeki ranna**” hosted by **Chateau Granieri**.

There will be three options of dishes you can prepare—you may compete in one, two, or all three of the contests



RUI MAACH



CHOLAR DAL



DHOKAR DALNA



Cooking Competition Rules

Please put the cooked item (has to be cooked at home) in a 6 ounce container and we will let you warm it up in the microwave before the contest (no cooking on the premises).

Each participant will be given a number (but no names) and you need to put it on the container lid right before the contest begins.

There will be judges and, of course, we shall announce 3 winners during our evening cultural program. The winners will receive attractive prizes.

Registration deadline for the cooking competition is October 22.

If you wish to participate, all you need to do is contact **Paramita Sinha** at **215 258 2928** email: **paramitasinha@hotmail.com** OR **Sutapa Bakshi** at **215 628 9216**, email: **Sutapa@pragati.org**.

When : October 29, 2011
(Kali Puja day)

Where : Colonial elementary School
Lobby

Time : 4:00 pm

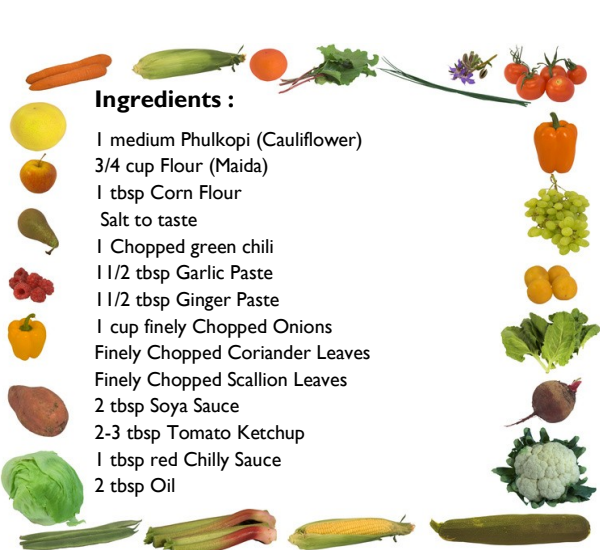
“If the divine creator has taken pains to give us delicious and exquisite things to eat, the least we can do is prepare them well and serve them with ceremony.”

- Fernand Point

Bishesh Akorshon - “Mukhorochok Khabar”

Cauliflower Manchurian recipe

by Sanjukta Awasthi



Ingredients :

- 1 medium Phulkopi (Cauliflower)
- 3/4 cup Flour (Maida)
- 1 tbsp Corn Flour
- Salt to taste
- 1 Chopped green chili
- 1 1/2 tbsp Garlic Paste
- 1 1/2 tbsp Ginger Paste
- 1 cup finely Chopped Onions
- Finely Chopped Coriander Leaves
- 2 tbsp Soya Sauce
- 2-3 tbsp Tomato Ketchup
- 1 tbsp red Chilly Sauce
- 2 tbsp Oil



Preparation :

1. Make a paste of maida, corn flour and salt using water.
2. Take a tsp. of ginger and garlic paste, add it to the paste.
3. Dip the Phulkopi florets in the paste and deep fry till golden brown. Keep aside.
4. Heat oil in another pan and add the left ginger & garlic paste, chopped onions and green chilly to it.
5. Now, mix soya sauce, chilly sauce and tomato sauce to it.
6. Return drained cauliflower to the wok and toss to coat.
7. Transfer to serving plate(s), garnish with scallion and cilantro, and serve as an appetizer or with rice as a main entrée.

Milestones, Achievements & Announcements

Congratulations to 2011 high school graduates.

- Indira Mukerji, daughter of Manisha & Arindam Mukerji, will be attending University of Pittsburgh as a Psychology major.

- Kristy Ghose, daughter of Chandralekha & Arup Ghose, will be attending Drexel University as a Psychology major.

Kristy is a recipient of Methacton Isadora Award for excellence in Dance and leadership.

We wish them all the best!



Congratulations to 2011 college graduates.

- Amlan Bhattacharjee, son of Ratna & Arun Bhattacharjee, graduated from Swarthmore College with a major in Psychology and minor in Chemistry and Statistics.

- Ayan Roy, son of Dipanwita & Niranjan Roy, graduated from North Western University majoring in Economics and Sociology.

Ayan is now employed with Orion Consultants, a financial management firm in New York City.

- Monalisa Ghose, daughter of Chandralekha & Arup Ghose, graduated from Carnegie Mellon University with University and College Honors, majoring in Biological Sciences with a minor in Technical Writing.

- Rajib Mitra, son of Shibani & Pradip Mitra, graduated from Columbia University with a major in Electrical Engineering.

We wish them all the best



Congratulations to the proud grandparents!

- Rina & Aniruddha Das are the proud grandparents of Uma Kathryn Gage. Baby Uma Kathryn was born to Chandreyee & Michael Gage in June, 2011.

- Shila & Chittaranjan Sarkar are the proud grandparents of Cole Sarkar. Baby Cole was born to Shavon & Neil Sarkar in September 2011.



Pragati

Greater Philadelphia Area Bengali Association (estd. 1972)

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