



PURBASHA Inc. (Greater Atlanta's premier Non-Profit Socio Cultural Bengali Association)

AROUND PURBASHA
Volume 1, Issue #1



March 2018

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NEWSLETTER

Editorial

...বাতাসে বহিছে প্রেম
নয়নে লাগিল নেশা
কারা যে ডাকিল পিছে
বসন্ত এসে গেছে....

After a long battle with the cold winter finally spring has stepped into Atlanta!!! On that occasion, I would like to wish all readers of "Around Purbasha" a very Happy Easter 2018!

The 2018 Executive Committee has decided to introduce the Purbasha e-newsletter on a quarterly basis. As the editor of this year's e-newsletter, I wish the 2018 Executive Committee the very best as they embark on their journey to represent us all this year.

The first issue of "Around Purbasha" features the highlights of

Saraswati Puja, Poush Parbon & Valentine's day and Purbasha Cricket Match. It also showcases the artistic talents of our Purbasha members. Milestones are around the corner and also rehearsals are on full swing for upcoming events. But amidst all these people have come forward and submitted articles for the newsletter. I am really thankful and grateful to all of them and will look forward for the continued support from all Purbasha members.

The next issue of "Around Purbasha" will be published in June 2018. The theme will feature spring and the events from April - June. Please plan on sending your writings, poems, photographs, artwork, recipes related to Spring before June 15th, 2018 to purbasha.publications@gmail.com. Articles should be send in MS word documents and artwork and photographs should be sent as scanned jpeg files.

Hope you all enjoy a wonderful spring. See you on the next event.



~ Raka Das

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2018 PURBASHA Working Committee

Role	Name
President	Tathagata Bhattacharya
Vice President	Raka Das
Treasurer	Nilendra Chanda
General Secretary	Atanu Ghosh
Cultural Secretary	Poulami Piplai
Publications	Raka Das
Purbasha Youth	Anushree & Rohit
Event Management	Nivedita Ghosh (Lead) & Mili Biswas
Logistic & Operations	Kausik Das (Lead), Subir Dutta, Ashok Piplai, Bilas Palit, Supratim Mukherjee & Indranil Konar
Puja Committee	Jharna Saha (Lead), Swati Das, Ritu Chanda & Nandani Patel
Decorations	Debasish Bose (Lead), Smriti Das, Sayantani Dutta & Sudha Gorai
Food Management	Saurav Das (Lead), Gourab Majumdar & Bishal Ghosh
Web Admin	Kausik Das
Healthy Purbasha	Biplab Biswas & Debasish Bose
Media Team	Saikat Chatterjee, Suman Guha & Biswajit Sarkar
Purbasha Cares	Rituparna Bhattacharya, Paromita Chatterjee & Kabari Das
Chairperson (PCC)	Rupan Saha

- ❖ 2018 PURBASHA Working Committee declared on PURBASHA AGM (12/16/2017)
- ❖ Formation of Purbasha Core & Executive Committee
- ❖ Amendment No. 001/2018 of PURBASHA By Laws approved by PCC on 2/25/2018
- ❖ Updated PURBASHA By Laws available on PURBASHA Website

2018 Saraswati Puja

Saraswati Puja is a celebration of the goddess Saraswati. She symbolizes peace, tranquility, and is the goddess of wisdom, learning, art, and culture. Every year Purbasha celebrates this event, which was held at Brandywine Elementary School this year. The festivities started with a puja, followed by a drawing competition for elementary school kids, which led into “anjali”, “hatey khori”, and lunch. The evening was filled with laughter and joy as the Purbasha kids performed in dance, song, and a kids’ fashion show. Moreover, the “Purbasha Cares” initiative was launched in an effort to be involved in communities here and in India. Overall, this year seems to be holding an abundance of hope of new achievements.



~By: Spandan Mondal

Saraswati Puja Gallery



Sharing the Sweetness of Poush Parbon with Valentine's Day

The Bengali festival of Poush Parbon mixed with the famous Western holiday, Valentine's Day, was uniquely celebrated by Purbasha. On February 10, 2018, members of Purbasha gathered at Sharon Springs Park to share traditional hand-crafted Bengali sweets and the warmth of love amongst each other.

Poush Parbon falls on the last day of the Bengali month, "Poush", which marks the beginning of the harvesting season. The adults of Purbasha who grew up in Kolkata celebrating this festival, reminisced the heavenly aroma of sweets being made at home, especially the ones made of "gur". After moving here to the United States and leaving behind rich traditions, many members have forgotten this festival that they once used to celebrate. Purbasha has created this exceptional opportunity for the Bengalis to celebrate this sweet festival once again with new friends and families, as well as allowing the new generation to learn about and cherish the rich Bengali culture.

The lovely ladies of Purbasha have taken time out of their business schedules and have volunteered to prepare the delicious sweets. There were many different options varying from patishpata pitha, puli pitha, gokul pitha, dudh puli, malpua, patali gurer payesh, rosh bora, to many more! The sweets were mouth-watering and finger licking; they were soaked in milk and syrup to stimulate our taste buds for greatest enhancement of flavor.

Originating as a Western Christian feast day honoring the saint named Valentinus, Valentine's Day is recognized as a significant cultural, religious, and commercial celebration of romance and love in many regions around the world. Many people express their affection with greetings, letters, flowers, and presents to their spouse or special valentine.



At Purbasha, couples expressed their feelings for their loved ones in various ways. Some husbands came up with special ideas like proposing in front of the crowd, reciting a short romantic poem, singing a song, getting down on one knee, offering flowers and chocolates, or even just by sharing a sweet smile with their beautiful wives. While some couples were shy to express their love in front of the crowd, others were extremely courageous and went on to sharing their love stories.

Everyone enjoyed this fun-filled evening with lots of food, laughter, talks, music, and of course, sweets and love! The mix of Poush Parbon and

Valentine's Day turned out to be a huge success, and attendees went home looking forward to celebrating this again next year.



- By Anushree & Jayashree Saha



2018 PURBASHA Cricket Tournament

~ By Subir Kundu

We Bengalis are passionate creatures. They don't call Kolkata the City of Passion for nothing. And if anybody wonders what are our passions, well, can we all settle on culture, food, travel and last but not the least, sports? Yes, there is no denying that we Bengalis are overly passionate about sports. Be it Football or Cricket, sports and the sportspersons always stay close to our heart.

We may think of these above mentioned passions as four pillars of the Bengalis existence. It's no wonder, whichever corner of the world Bengalis go, we try to mark our existence by pinning one or more of these four pillars. True to our tradition and habit, we the Purbasha family too have established our presence through our practice of cultural and heritage. And with great pleasure and excitement, on March 24th, 2018, Purbasha inducted another passion of Bengalis, our very first sporting event, the **Purbasha Cricket Tournament**, a long awaited event that was missing in Purbasha.

The Very first Purbasha Cricket Tournament took place at Waller Extension Park, of Roswell City. The event was planned to involve the cricketers and their families to maximize the enjoyment and engagement. Also by God's grace, the weather was fantastic outside. Participation of the event was overwhelming.

The game started with the setup of two teams with seven players each side and the Cricket game was conducted in Test Cricket format, where each team played two innings (each innings was limited to ten overs).

We tried to arrange independent umpires to avoid any conflict of interest in decision making, but fell short on that wish. So the batting team took up the umpiring task (what could possibly go wrong with that, right?). There was ample arrangement of entertainment in the form of music, commentary, photography, video recording, food and many more. The pavilion was packed with family members and kids. We were also fortunate enough to have few visiting parents as a part of our audience for this occasion.

The two team's setup were "**Alpharetta Babus**" captained by **Rupan Saha** and "**Cumming Dadas**" captained by **Subhabrata Mondal**.

Team "**Alpharetta Babus**" constitutes of following players - Rupan(C), Nilendra, Suman, Indra, Supratim, Dip, Paritosh, and Kunal

Team "**Cumming Dadas**" constitutes of following players - Subhabrata(C), Subir, Himanshu, Atanu, Tathagata, Biplab, and Soumitra

We started the game at around 12:30 pm. As mentioned before, weather was near perfection. After winning the toss, "Cumming Dadas" elected to bat first. Needless to say, "Cumming Dadas" started the innings pretty strong with opener Tathagata who was in full form on the day. Though the wicket kept falling in regular interval, good running between the wickets and few boundaries by Himanshu put team at 47 at the conclusion of overs.

After a little rest, "Alpharetta Babus" started batting. Unfortunately for "Cumming Dadas", the bowling quality fell short and "Alpharetta Babus" got a big lift in their score with a lot of extras from bowling side, which landed them to a score of 66 at the conclusion of their first innings, a comfortable lead of 19 runs.

At break, kids and adults alike enjoyed hot pizza, drinks and other snacks.

After the lunch, the 2nd innings was started with "Cumming Dadas" resuming their batting. In spite of a few early wickets, the team was able to put up a score of 44 at the conclusion of their 2nd and final innings of the game.

With a winning target of just 25, "Alpharetta Babus" started their 2nd innings. To their credit "Cumming Dadas" demonstrated some good, consistent bowling this time. Unfortunately, it was not enough to defend the very modest target score for "Alpharetta Babus". Even though they faced it with more accurate and consistent bowling, they played with patience and kept the runs coming in a slow but steady manner, which led them to win the game by five wickets, and become the very first Champions of the "Purbasha Cricket Tournament 2018". "Cumming Dadas" bagged the runner-up title.

Here are few more data:

Man of the match: **Tathagata** with total of 27 runs.

Most Wickets: **Nilendra** with total of 4 wickets.

In conclusion, Purbasha enjoyed their very first sports event and most excited to induct the same as another annual event for following years to come. With more participation from the ever growing family of ours, we can make this as a grand event of the year, for something look forward to by all of us.

PS: Special thanks for **Soumitra** for booking the facility and to all ladies for taking beautiful photos of the event.

Purbasha Cricket Gallery



Members' Desk



Sketch By : Anusmita Piplai





Painting by : Prinsha Chanda





The Best Part of My Poor Life

~ By: Anoushka Majumdar

“Why are we wasting our time and money doing this?” I complained, sighing shortly after I said it. “The dog’s got to eat,” my parents replied.” So do we, but we haven’t in a week” I mumbled softly. As we walked along the aisle of the grocery store, we started looking at wondrous thing that they both knew we would never be able to afford. Things like televisions, cellphones, IPad, and much, much more. Hi, my name is Amy Park, and I officially hate my life. My family is penniless, and they can barely afford me, my school (which I repeatedly told them to pull me out of to save money, but they immediately refused) and my dog, let alone themselves. I am in fourth grade, and I live in an abandoned ally. I get good grades, and I try to enter as many contests that include money as well. Not as if I win any of them. My parents keep saying to stop worrying about money and to be a kid, but I just can’t. I cannot be happy. Well that’s what I used to think before this came from school. Before you read this, just know that my principal is very rich. She has an expensive limo with leather seats (I know this because she is very nice and once took our whole class on a trip around the block)

Dear Amy Park,

As you probably know every year the fourth grade always goes on an all-expense paid trip to NYC (New York City) for a month. Each student will be given a credit card with about \$25,000 on it. Through the hours of 6:00 in the morning to 7:00 in the evening you will be free to roam around the city, as long as you are with 2 or more friends. I hope you enjoy the trip!

Sincerely,

Shannon Brooke, Elementary Director.

“Oh my gosh!!!!” me and my friends squealed, looking at our letters in excitement. My favorite parts of the letter (not that I said it out loud) was the all-expense paid part and the credit card part! I mean, (not in the letter) my principal even said on the morning announcements that we could keep the extra money on the credit card to use at home. If I don’t spend that much, I could feed my family for...well..... EVER!!!! Off to New York City!!!

I hopped down the stairs of the bus, almost falling down because I was daydreaming of the magical, almost fantasy experience I had in NYC. Well, now it’s time to get back into reality. “Oh oh! You’re back” my parents shouted excitedly. “I’ve only been gone for a month’ I complained, sighing. “4 whole weeks!” they retorted. I walked towards them and showed them my credit card. “It still has \$20,000 left on it!” My whole family started celebrating slowly thinking of what we would be able to afford!

“Hurry up! You are going to be late for the bus!” my mom yelled. I quickly hurried down the steps of my new apartment, my now long, frizzy brown hair whipping behind me. I grabbed my lunch and zipped to the bus stop, stepping on as the last kid got on. I shifted into a seat and started thinking. I used to sleep on a bed of hay in an ally, now I have a twin sized bed in a good apartment with my newborn sister, my mom, and my dad. Yup, a newborn sister! My life is really gone uphill!

Thank You to our Sponsors

THANK YOU TO Our SPONSORS

www.purbasha.org ||
 www.facebook.com/purbashainc ||
 purbashainc@gmail.com

As we celebrate the many events throughout the year, we pause to acknowledge the generosity of our Sponsors, without whose magnanimous support, we could not proceed.

We truly appreciate your support. THANK YOU!

PURBASHA Event Calendar

- ❖ 05th May, 2018 - Kobi Jayanti @ Coal Mountain Park
- ❖ 28th July, 2018 - Annual Picnic @ Galt's Ferry
- ❖ 14th October, 2018 - Mahalaya @ Fowler Park
- ❖ 19 - 21st October, 2018 - Durgotsav @ BWE School
- ❖ 27th October, 2018 - Lakshmi Puja @ Sharon Park
- ❖ 10th November, 2018 - Kali Puja @ BWE School



2018 Purbasha New Members

- ❖ Apurba Das & Family
- ❖ Shamik Dasgupta & Family
- ❖ Mritunjay Sharma & Family
- ❖ Suvasini Samaddar & Family
- ❖ Himanshu Kumar & Family



Welcome to the Purbasha Family!!

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PURBASHA OUTREACH TEAM

PURBASHA Outreach Team did a fantastic job in collecting toys, books and clothing during Saraswati Puja event. These items will be distributed to different organizations in US and India. This is an ongoing process and donations are welcome throughout the year

PURBASHA MEDIA TEAM

Thanks to PURBASHA Media Team for wonderful captures during Saraswati Puja, Poush Parbon & Cricket Tournament

1. Published on our Purbasha website (<http://purbasha.org/#publications>)
2. Read us on *Issuu* 

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