



মা দূর্গা
শারদীয়ার অভিনন্দন

WCBA

Worcester County Bengali Association

19th Annual Durga Puja, October 2019





October 12th. 2019

Dear Friends;

On this auspicious occasion of Durga Puja, we extend our arms to welcome all of you in our WCBA family. We receive you with sincere greetings and warmest feelings.

WCBA (Worcester County Bengali Association) is profoundly proud to host the 19th Durga Puja ceremony in its own unique traditions. Although the organization came in to existence almost 30 years back when just 7-8 Bengali families found each other in and around the city of Worcester. They basically used to get together on weekends to have a good time. More they met each other closer they came and more ideas emerged. Their bond gradually got stronger, their confidence to do things together was high. So, on one weekend they thought of launching the celebration of Saraswati Puja. Then in February, 1989, with hardly 20-25 of them, first time ever, these family friends organized the event of Saraswati Puja in a small church at Cambridge Street in Worcester. Although, it was a very small program but they treasured a huge amount of fun in each other's association, celebrating the puja, enjoyment in cooking together, and taking tons of pride in having their children perform. Slowly, a few more Bengali families came on board and in next few years the family of 7-8 grew up to families of 10-12. They all continued their routine weekend gatherings, loving and caring for each other as if they are all part of ONE BIG FAMILY!

*They felt stronger and more confident, they believed in each other and then one day, they mustered the courage that lead them to plan and propose to organize their own **Durga Puja in a small "GHAROA" style**. Although they intuitively felt confident but still there was a lot of apprehension, a lot of doubt, a lot of uncertainty, but they took a very bold step saying "LET'S DO IT! The mission was to keep it like a family Puja and while having the joy of celebrating this auspicious occasion, treasure the opportunity of touching each other with pride and emotion and sentiment of the moment! So, 18 years back, those few families held their hands together, put their shoulders next to each other and carried the responsibility of executing this special agenda of organizing their very first Durga Puja with a very small set of idols brought from Kolkata. The celebration and ceremony had nothing but the touch of traditions and closeness within themselves, and with every guest who attended the ceremony. **Touching everyone with profound sense of "Atmiyata" was their true passion in addition to devoting themselves in the divine Puja of Ma Durga**. For all these years the venue, the priest, the cooking and the style of offering Khichuri bhog, the delicious dinner, a drama, the entertainment, sindur khyala and dhunuchi naach have been remarkable. It touched everyone's heart who have been a part of this traditional ceremony of Debi Puja. In those earlier days it used to be a gathering of 50-60 people, but the word about the ambiance, the joy and the touch of class behind the Worcester Puja traditions started spreading and it continued to attract more people to join this pious occasion.*

Later, the organization was given a name “**WCBA**” (**Worcester County Bengali Association**). It has been 29 years from the time those small weekend gatherings of a few Bangali families, now has evolved in to an organization named “WCBA”! Many of those original founders have left Worcester, many are retired or about to retire with a few still there carrying the banner of WCBA traditions. Their children who once performed in “**Bachchader Program**” are now grown up adults, professionals with some of them married and settled.

However, in the meantime, several new enthusiastic families have joined to be a part of WCBA helping to conduct and organize the activities of the association. WCBA is a unique organization, it does not have any official executive committee; it is the group of close knit families who jointly make all the decisions about WCBA. It has now emerged in to a bit larger organization, currently with about 30 Bengali families joined together. Many of them are young, enthusiastic, infused with new ideas and expertise in modern technology willing to take charge and lift WCBA to a new height. Their children are now part of today’s “**Bachchader Program**”. Emergence of new leadership, new enthusiasm, new ideas utilizing the potentials of new technology are needed and are healthy changes for any organization to move forward but certainly we need to keep in mind that the origin, the traditions and the foundation that made WCBA a unique and distinguished establishment be maintained there at the root of it. The pride, the spirit and the traditions of WCBA must live on!

Today, you have gathered here to witness and experience the divine rituals of Durga Puja, treasure the blessings from the Debi and have a joyful time with friends and family members. Many organizers of WCBA family have put together a great program with delicious dinner and lively entertainment that will make you feel immensely nostalgic and although far from our homeland you will get a feel and touch of Durga Puja of Bengal. We hope you feel at home and feel that this weekend is one of the best you ever had. We are so glad to have you with us in this divine celebration.

May the blessings of Ma Durga keep us all bonded together and being there for each other? Our heartfelt greetings and best wishes for the Durga Utshab and our Subhechchha and Abhinandan for the auspicious Bijoya.

Sincerely;
The Organizers of WCBA



Program

Saturday October 12th

09:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Puja
11:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Pushpanjali
12:00 PM – 01:00 PM	Prasad
01:00 PM – 03:00 PM	Lunch
03:30 PM – 07:30 PM	Cultural Program
07:30 PM – 08:00 PM	Sandhya Arati
08:00 PM – 09:30 PM	Dinner
09:30 PM – 11:30 PM	Musical program by Band Kaya

Sunday October 13th

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Puja
11:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Anjali & Prasad
12:30 AM – 02:00 PM	Lunch
02:30 PM – 03:30 PM	Bengali Natok
05:00 PM – 06:30 PM	Musical program by Philomela
06:30 PM – 07:30 PM	Baran & Sindoor Khela





Durga Puja 2018



Our Feature Artists

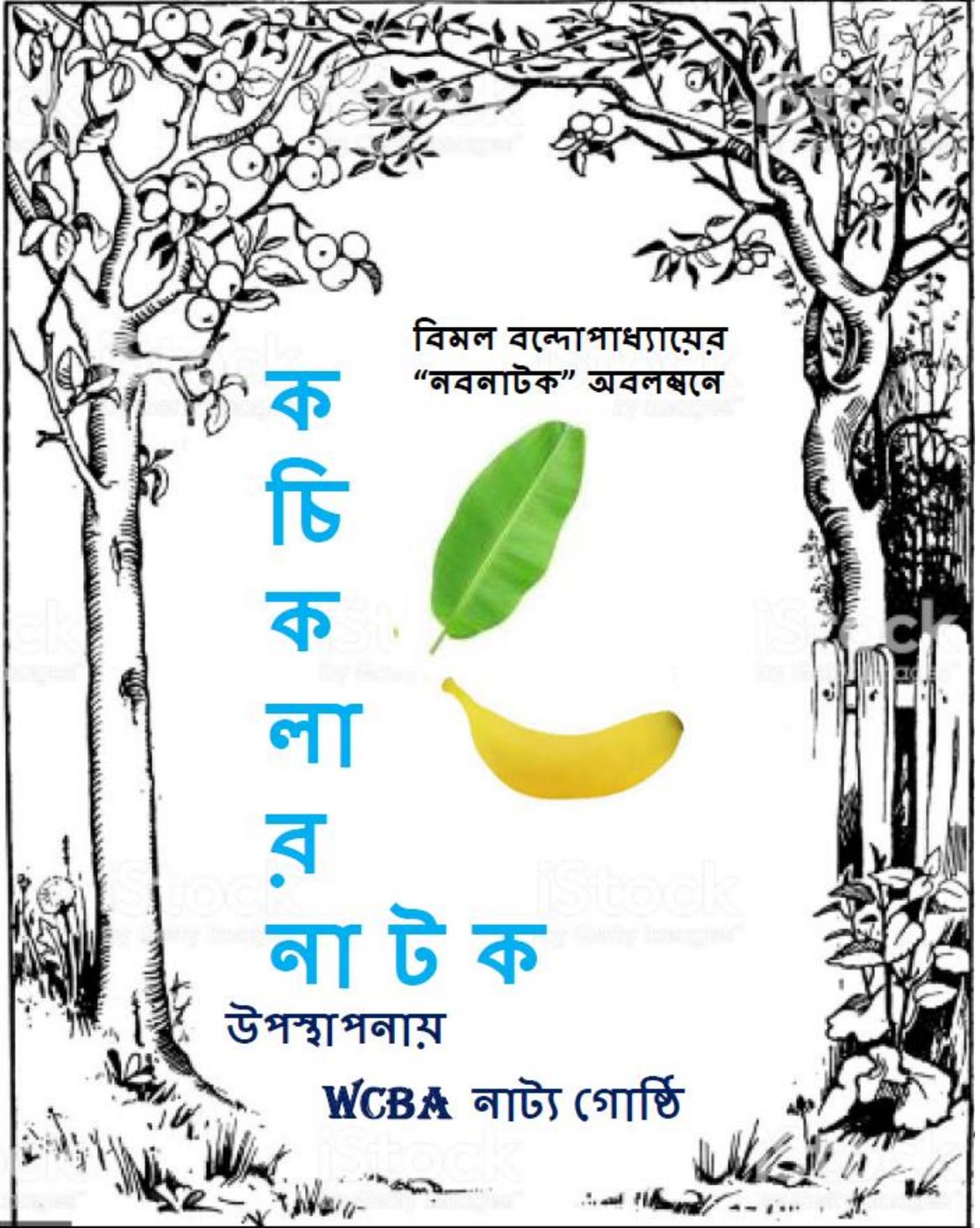


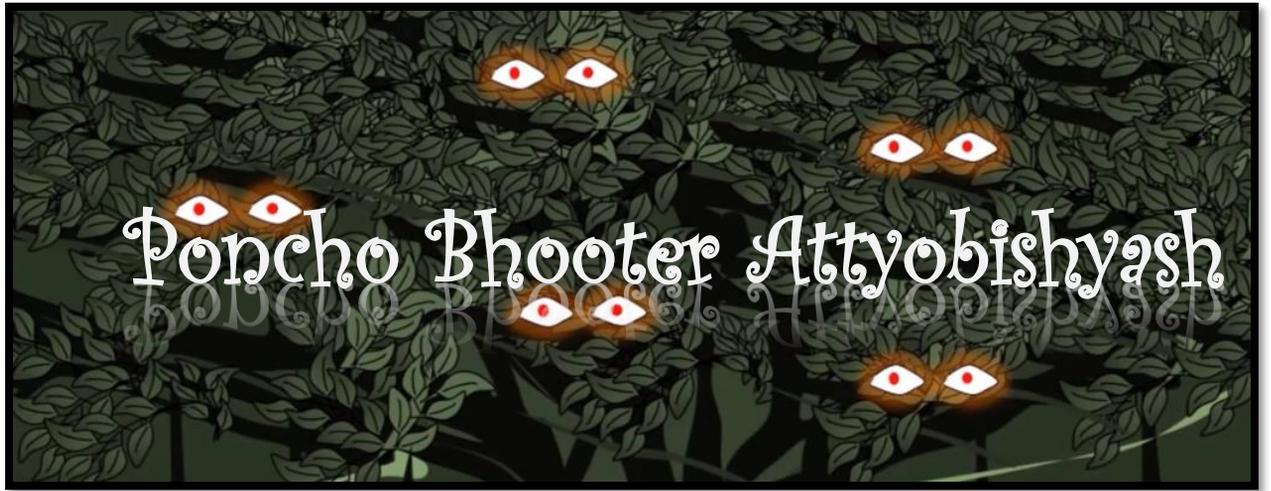
বিমল বন্দোপাধ্যায়ের
“নবনাটক” অবলম্বনে

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উপস্থাপনায়

WCBA নাট্য গোষ্ঠি





Team

Aayushi Das Gupta	Cute Bhoot	Yashika Pal	Cute Bhoot
Ayushman Ghosh	Cute Bhoot	Anshuk Mukherjee	Cute Bhoot
Rianshi Sengupta	Cute Bhoot	Debangshi Mukherjee	Cute Bhoot
Saniya Mitra	Cute Bhoot	Shirsha Chattopadhyay	Cute Bhoot
Purnava Chakraborty	Cute Bhoot	Adrija Chowdhury	Cute Bhoot
Sarannya Gupta	Cute Bhoot		
Rikhia Chatterjee	Bhooter Rani	Pranit Chakravorty	Bhooter Raja
Mihika Sengupta	Fultushi	Rishita Mitra	Tumpa
Aishani Mukherjee	Dimma & Petni	Saanvi Basu	Maa & Petni
Suhrit Ghosh	Bablu	Arjun Mukherjee	Gauja
Priyanshu Chakraborty	Naaru	Shreyan Ganguly	Keley Bhoot
Rudro S Roy	Herey Bhoot	Avismit Bhattacharya	Doshhi Chhele
Aranno Chakraborty	Dadu	Ronit Bhattacharyya	Baba
Nirmalya Ganguly	Natok Script Writer		
Soumitro S Roy	Director Elder Kids		
Jayeeta Roy	Direction Younger Kids & Dance Choreography		
Shivangi Das Gupta	Natok Emcee		
Priyanshi Chakraborty	Natok Emcee		
Prasanta Kr Mukherjee	Voice of Mauj Dadu Song		
All kids and Moms	Stage Decoration / Props		



Maa Durga



Saanvi Basu

Durga puja is finally here with all the music and delicious traditional bengali food to eat. But one thing everyone loves about Durga puja is the most famous story of Maa Durga. Now that Durga puja is here it's time to share the brave, fantastic, confident, and kind story of Maa Durga.

It all started with the evil king Mahishasura. He was a king with the head of a buffalo. Every day he worshipped Lord Brahma. He was a staunch worshiper and pleased Lord Brahma very much. So one day, Lord Brahma greeted the king and said he would grant any wish he desired.

Mahishasura wished he would be immortal and couldn't be killed by any face on Earth. Brahma granted him his wish but said only one woman will be able to kill him. Due to his arrogance, Mahishasura thought no one would be able to kill him since he was immortal. So, he gathered his powerful army and attacked the 3 worlds of heaven, earth and hell. He even tried to attack Lord Indra's kingdom. Seeing this, all the gods decided to wage a war against him, but due to Brahma's boon (promise), no one was able to defeat him.

So the gods approached Lord Vishnu and discussed their problem. After discussing the situation Lord Shiva, Lord Vishnu, and Lord Brahma combined all their powers together and created a goddess and named her Durga.

Goddess Durga bravely fought for a period of 15 years. During this time Mahishasura kept changing his shape which made it harder for Durga to defeat him. Finally, when he turned into a buffalo, Durga took her mighty trident (trishul) and killed him, and that was the end of the vain king.

Goddess Durga since then has been worshipped because of the great bravery. During Durga Puja the great goddess comes to Earth (her parents home) with her children, Lakshmi, Saraswati, Ganesha and Karthik. Mahalaya is the day when Ma Durga is invited to come to Earth.

Navratri Anusthan is also celebrated for Durga but it's celebrated for nine days and it starts on the day after Mahalaya. Navratri represents health, prosperity, wealth, harvest, and also happiness. It celebrates all the 9 avatars of goddess Durga. The 9 avatars are: Shailaputri, Brahmacharini, Chandraghanta, Kushmanda, Skandamata, Katyayani, Kaalratri, Mahagauri and Siddhidhatri. While Durga Pooja is celebrated in West Bengal, Navratri is mostly celebrated in Gujarat and other North Indian states.

Navratri and Durga puja each year is celebrated with great pomp and grandeur. Each year Ma Durga arrives either on an elephant, palanquin, boat, horse, or buffalo. How she arrives and leaves has a significance. This year she will arrive on an elephant which means it will bring us prosperity and good harvest. Also, she will leave on a horse which may bring us drought.

The main celebrations happen across 5 days back to back Shashti, Saptami, Ashtami, Navami, and Dashami.

Shasti: is when Ma Durga comes down to Earth.

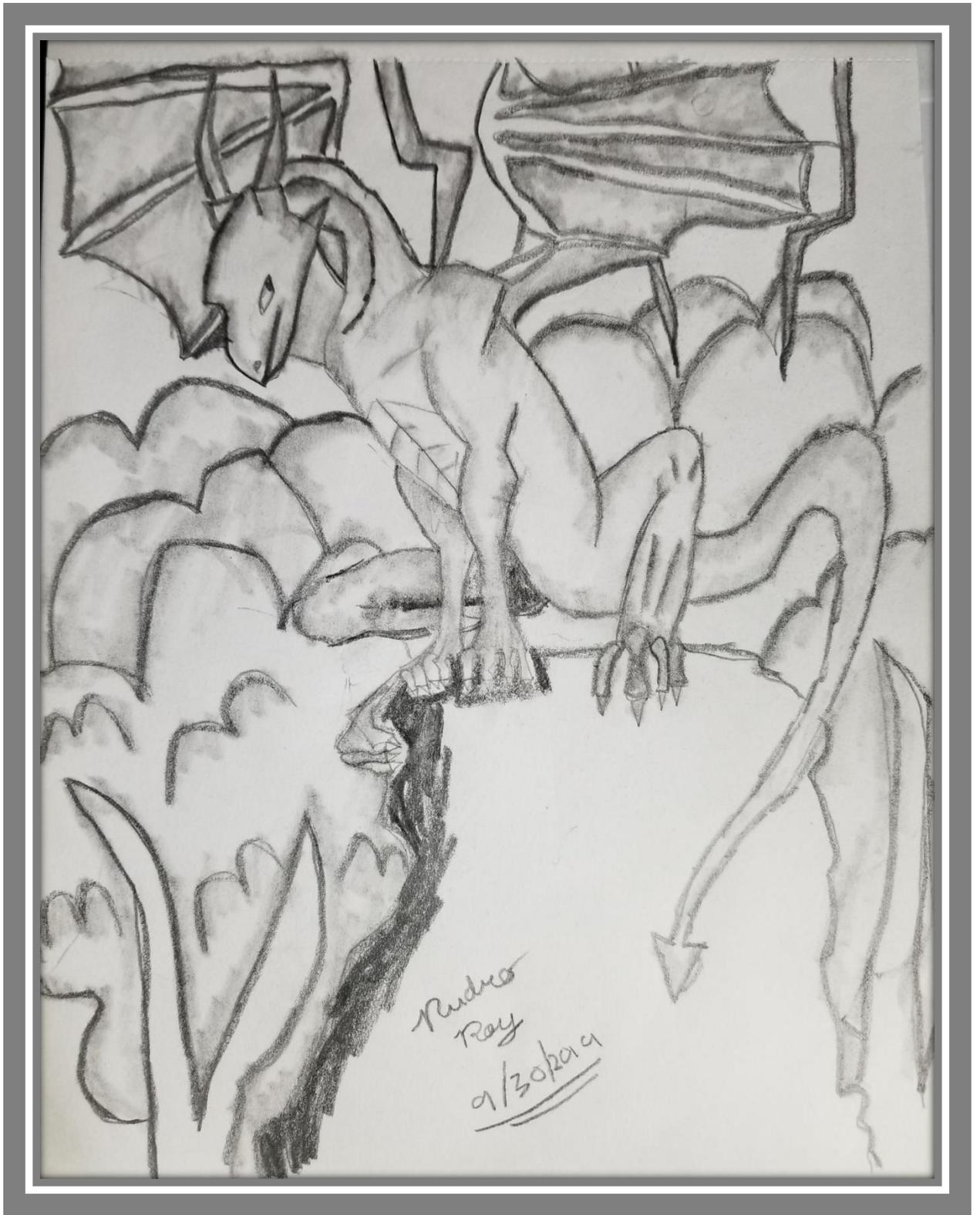
Saptami: is when the Holy presence of Maa Durga comes to life.

Ashtami: is the most significant day of Durga puja. It is when Ma Durga is worshipped as an unmarried virgin girl.

Navami: is when all the celebrations end. Ma Durga is believed to have killed Mahishashura on this day.

Dashami: is when Ma Durga returns to the Himalayas.

All the celebrations end on Vijaya Dashami (the tenth day of victory). This happens while people chant and idols are carried to the local river where they get immersed. This happens because it's now time for Ma Durga to finally go back to her husband's home in the Himalayas.



Rudra Sekhar Roy



Yashika Pal

শারদীয়র শুভেচ্ছা ও অভিনন্দন

Best wishes from Dr. Satya Mitra & Mrs. Sheema Mitra





Sarodia Subhecha

From Nath Family, Shrewsbury, Massachusetts

Kieran, Alisha, Oisin, Nayan, Rajeev, Marisa, Mickey, Ester, Neeta and our newest addition to the family: baby Kiara

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Thank you!