



WCBA

Worcester County Bengali Association

20th Annual Durga Puja, October 2022



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শুভ বিজয়া



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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 bondage 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 "Atmiyota" was their true passion in addition to devoting themselves in the divine Puja of Ma Durga**. For all these years the venue, the priest, he 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.*

HAPPY DURGA PUJA 2022



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



HAPPY DURGA PUJA 2022



Program

Saturday October 1st

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
05:00 PM - 05:30 PM	Sandhya Arati
05:30 PM - 08:15 PM	Cultural Program & Bangla Natok
08:15 PM - 09:15 PM	Dinner
09:15 PM - 11:00 PM	Musical program by Harmonies

Sunday October 2nd

12:30 PM - 01:30 PM	Puja
01:30 PM - 02:00 PM	Anjali & Prasad
02:00 PM - 03:30 PM	Lunch
04:00 PM - 05:00 PM	Bengali Natok - Raabon Leela
05:15 PM - 06:00 PM	Cultural Program
06:00 PM - 07:00 PM	Baran & Sindoor Khela





Thank You from WCBA

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SPONSOR



Sarodia Subhecha
Neeta Nath & Family

Kieran, Alisha, Oisin, Nayan, Rajeev, Marisa, Mickey, Ester, Neeta and Kiara

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Thank You from WCBA



With Best Wishes From
Anupama & Soumen
Welcome You All To WCBA 2022 Durgotshav

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With Best Wishes From
Bishakha & Surojit

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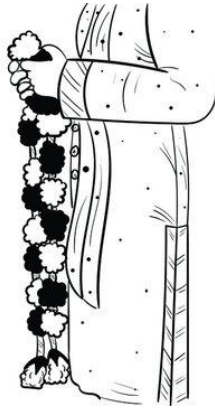
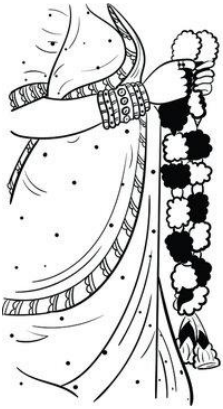
Thank You from WCBA



With Best Wishes From
Shibani Rajnish

HAPPY DURGA PUJA 2022

Bengali Natok 2022



ABAAR BOUDI-R BIYE

Original Natok: “Boudi-r Biye” (Playwright – Shailesh Guha Neogi)

The play “Abaar Boudi-r Biye” is a comedy revolving around the story of four well-established brothers. Yudhisthir, the eldest brother is a courteous and soft-spoken person. Bheem, the second brother is focused on health and hygiene. Nakul, the third brother is completely westernized and Shahadeb, the youngest brother is passionate about music. The only person attending to all their needs and demands is their veteran servant Kanto. But he is simply helpless in handling all the chaos and confusion that keep recurring daily. Being deeply frustrated with this uncontrollable situation, the younger brothers decide to get their Barda (Yudhisthir) married, so that his bride can bring some peace and harmony to their chaotic household.

Despite Yudhisthir’s reluctance to get married, each brother deploys a different resource to find a Boudi (sister-in-law) who is endowed with the qualities of his own choice. What ensues is a whirlwind of haywire situations created by intruders who enter the house in search of the prospective groom. Finally, to put an end to all the chaos and commotion Yudhisthir suddenly announces the news, that he is already married. This utterly shocking news leaves his brothers completely heart broken. They unanimously decide to sever all ties with Yudhisthir and his bride Chhanda.

Can Yudhisthir and Chhanda win back the love and trust of the younger brothers? Let us watch the play unfold till the end - to see what exactly

transpires.....!!!

Bengali Natok 2022

Cast in Order of Appearance:

Cast	Participant
KANTO (Servant)	Jayanta Chakraborty
GOPALER MA (Rannar Mashi)	Sanchari Banerjee
YUDHISTIR (Boro Bhai)	Nilanjan Sarangi
BHEEM (Mejo Bhai)	Shubhro Seal
NAKUL (Sejo Bhai)	Soumomoy Biswas
SHAHADEB (Chhoto Bhai)	Nilapratim Sengupta
RAM GHATAK	Subrajit Basu
MATA	Anupama Deb Roy
SHYAM GHATAK	Soumitra Sekhor Roy
MR. GHASU	Debu Sengupta
HUSBAND (Old)	Samik Sengupta
WIFE (Old)	Rupsa Gangopadhyay
BOUDI (Chhanda)	Jayeeta Roy
Script Editing:	Rita Ghosh
Narration (Shutrodhar):	Rita Ghosh
Make-up	Sheema Mitra
Music	Sheema Mitra
Music technical support	Soumen Das
Backstage Support	
Stage Setting	Sujay Ganguly
Lighting	Ritobrata Chatterjee & Saptarshi Chattopadhyay
Directed by	Pradip Ghosh & Rita Ghosh
Direction Support	Satya Mitra

RAABON LEELA

Bengali Kids Natok 2022



Casting Team

Participant	Cast	Participant	Cast
Sohini Ganguly	Shonaar Horeen	Aishani Mukherjee	Mrs Jambubaan
Aayushi Das Gupta	Asst Rakhoshi	Saanvi Basu	Natok Introducer
Yashika Pal	Dancer	Suhrit Ghosh	Mr Jambuban
Ayushman Ghosh	Balmiki	Arjun Mukherjee	Raabon
Anshuk Mukherjee	Maarich	Priyanshu Chakraborty	Hanuman
Rianshi Sengupta	Forest Monkey-Dancer	Shreyan Ganguly	Indrojeet
Saniya Mitra	Forest Monkey-Dancer	Aranno Chakraborty	Lokkhon
Shirsha Chattopadhyay	Asst Rakhoshi	Akash Bhattacharjee	Natok Introducer
Rikhia Chatterjee	Pujo Porikroma Reporter	Rudro Sekhor Roy	Raam
Soumili Dey	Pujo Porikroma Reporter	Rishita Mitra	Shurponokha
Mihika Sengupta	Sheeta		

Directors : Soumitra Sekhor Roy & Jayeeta Roy

Script : Inspired by Youtube videos, Script modified and edited/updated by Nirmalya Ganguly, Sukanya Majumdar & Jayeeta Roy

Dance Choreography : Aishani, Mihika, Sana, Jayeeta

Costume/Stage Decor help : Rimli, Sana, Mihika, Aishani, Sujay, Saptarshi, Anupama, Debarchana, Mouparna, Sriparna, Tuktuk & Jayeeta

Music Help : Suhrit, Rudro, Jayeeta , Youtube help

Kids' Make up Help : Sheema di, Anupama and all moms(need to see who all can join hands)

Back stage Help(Light/Curtain/scene decors) : Saptarshi, Sujay, Surojit, Debobroto





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.



ଦୁର୍ଗାପୂଜା

Reena Mukherjee (Kakima)

"ଆଜ୍ଞା ଆମର ଶକ୍ତି ଆମର ହାତରେ"
କିନ୍ତୁ ଆମର ହାତରେ କି?"

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MY NAME

Rishita Mitra

In English my name means faith. The best. Saintly. Rishita. To my family, my name is a changing color. It has different shades and accents. Sometimes it has a positive connotation and sometimes it's like a toddler trying to run a 5k. Rishita. Every syllable folds sharply against their tongue. With such precision, like it was melded carefully and encrusted with different valuables. Gold and sapphires sitting on top of it like a crown. Rishita. Still, my feelings at my house do not carry into my school life.

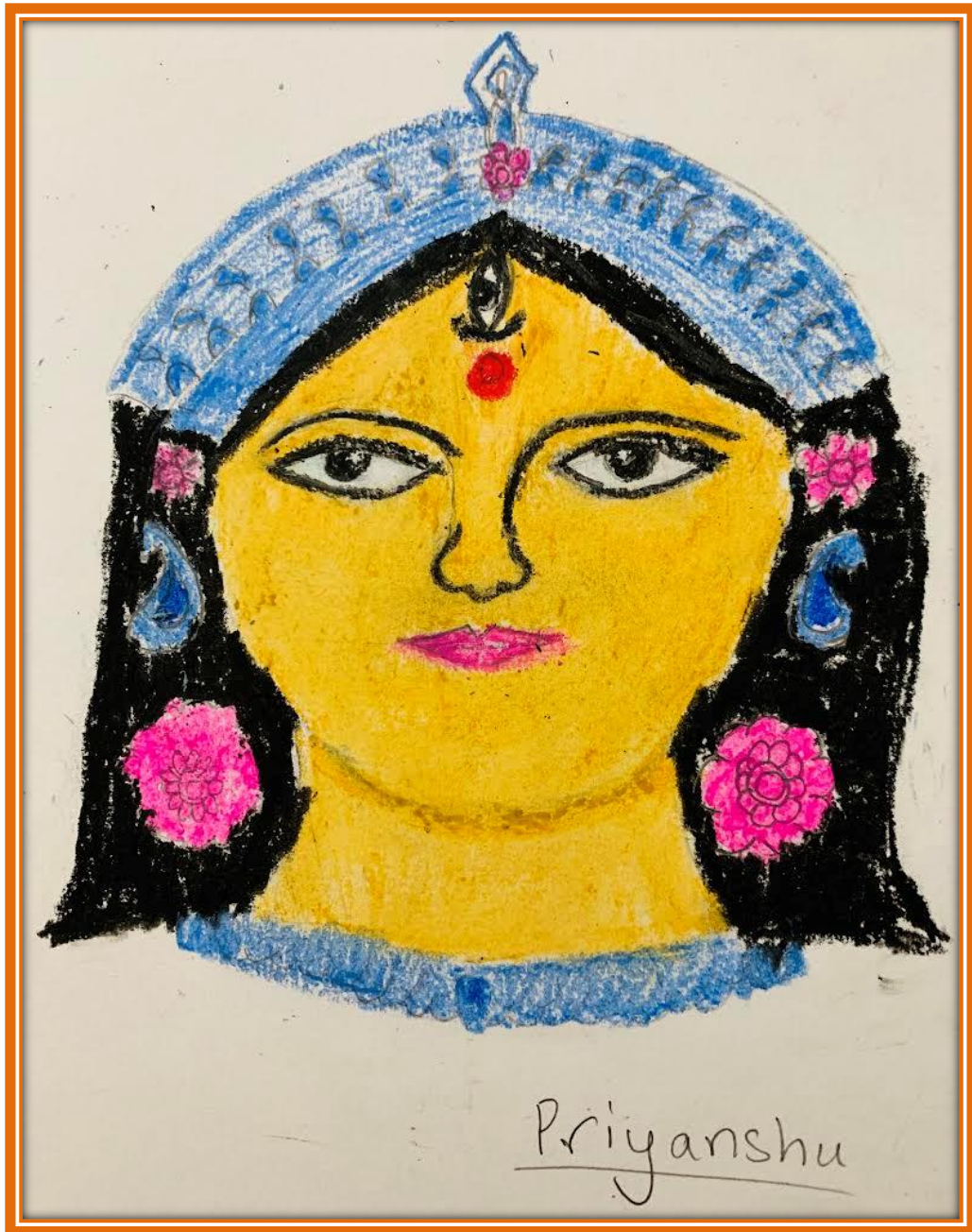
In my outside life, people look at my name the basic way it is. Foreign. Their tongue alters the letters like they are hallucinating. Like they are dyslexic and they can't read. There is always a pause before my name as if they are contemplating why my name is a worm in their mouth, struggling to be let out. They would give in to the worm and spit out whatever they could make sense of. Just the first letters. The rest was a random blur. Ri-

So for them, I go by Rish. An easy nickname. In the U.S my real name is ranked 16,414 among the most popular names. Rish. A simple word. A word rhyming with normal words. Fish. Wish. Dish. Mish. Flourish. Squish. Fish.

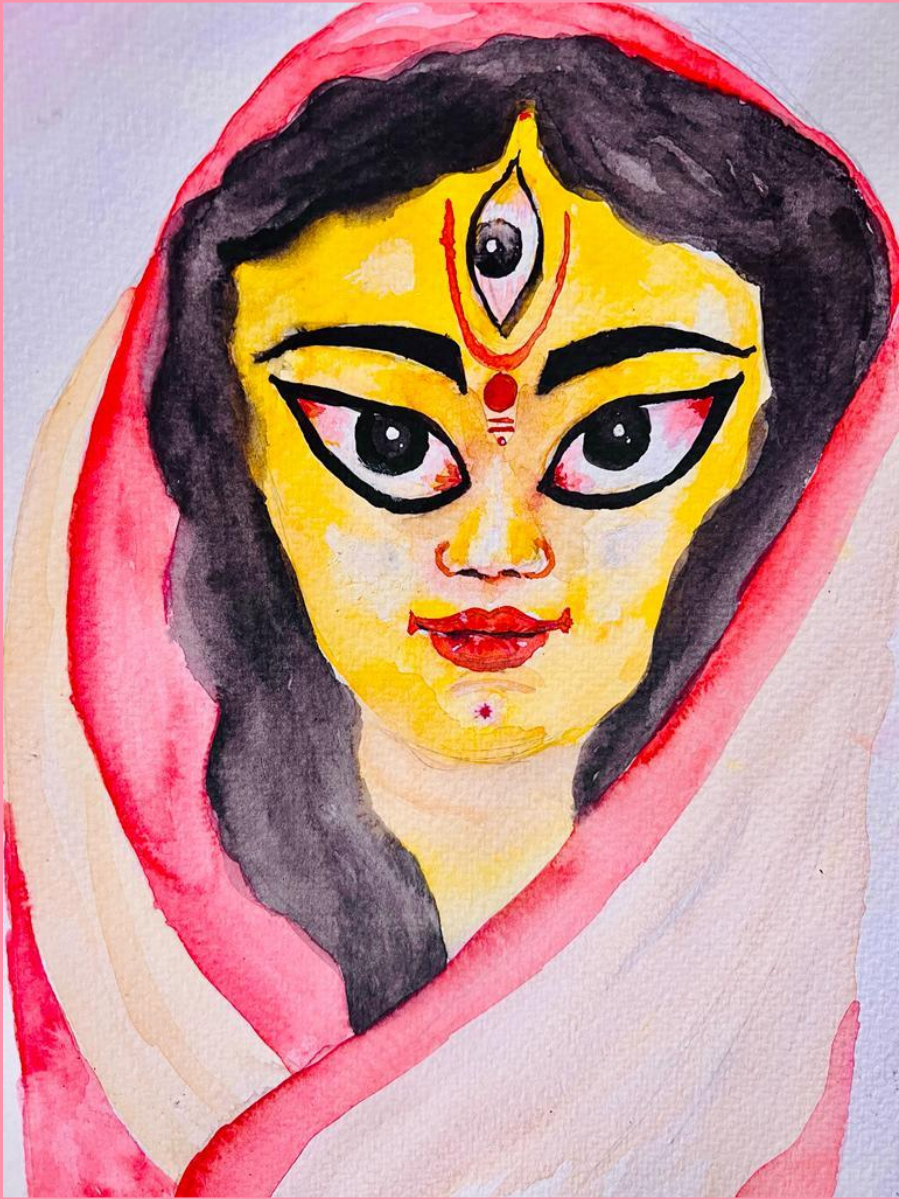


A word that means easy. It's a soundbite instead of sitting down, taking up precious time, reading the newspaper with coffee that's just slightly too bitter. Rish. The number 3; favored over the digits of pi. After all pi isn't a perfect, natural number. Instead, it's a little bit more, but it's expressed in a never ending string of numbers. 3.1415926535897932384626433832795028841971 or Rish. The number 3. The solution.

I like my name. I like the way I say it. Rishita. I wouldn't change it for the world. My last name, too. Mitra. Nobody says it at school which makes me love it more. No chance of worm tongues. It is said with fluency and belonging in my home. Mitra. From the name of an important ascetic in the Vedas. Belonging to the Kayastha caste. Mitra. The end of a name erected out of Sour Patch Kids.



Priyanshu Chakraborty



Aishani Mukherjee

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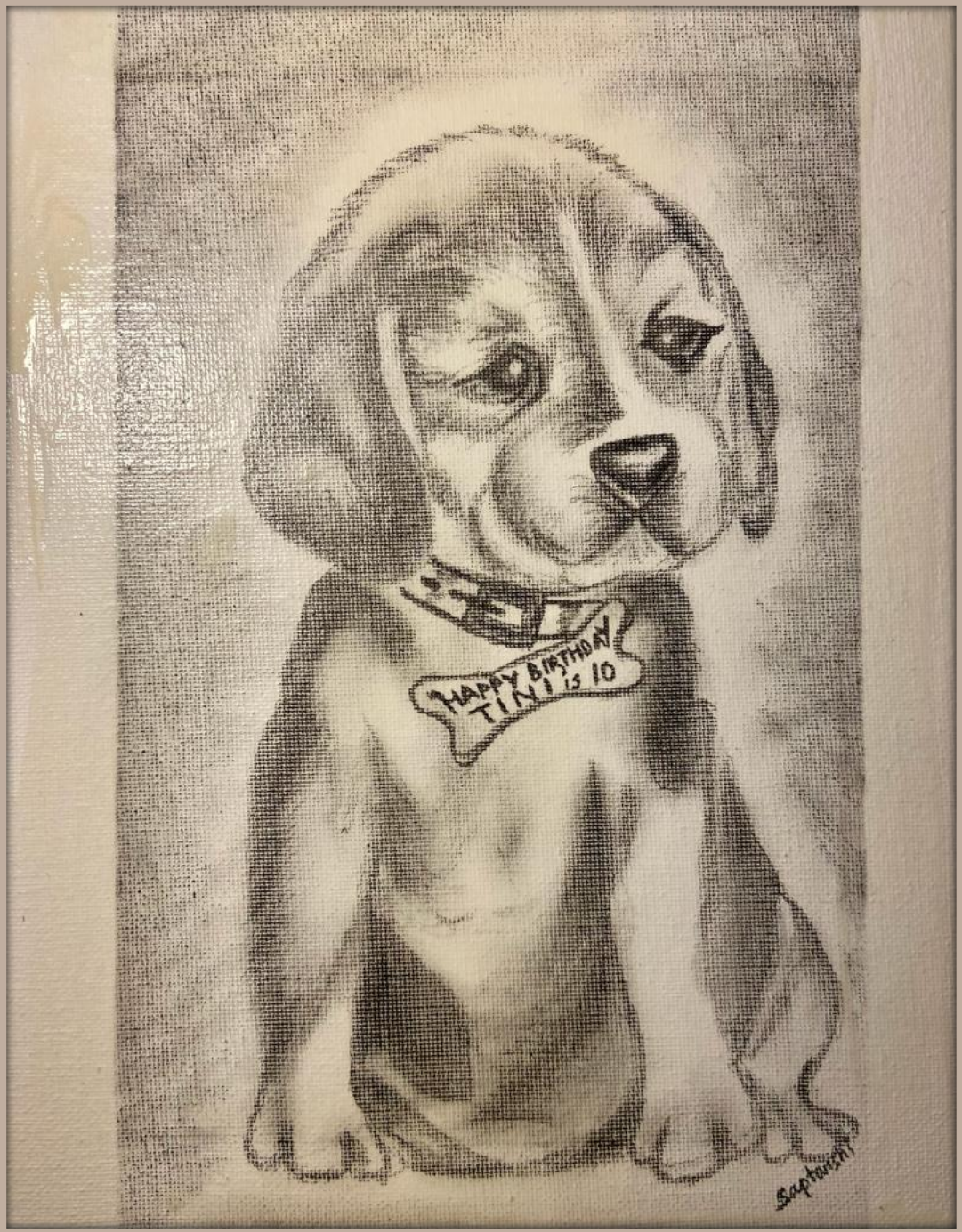
So Long, Summer

By: Saniya Mitra

So long to the pools I like jumping in 
Hello to the leaf piles I like jumping in.
So long to bike riding
Hello to apple picking. 
So long to summer vacation
Hello to my new school.



Saniya Mitra



Saptarshi Chattopadhyay

HAPPY DURGA PUJA 2022



Shirsha Chattopadhyay



Shirsha Chattopadhyay

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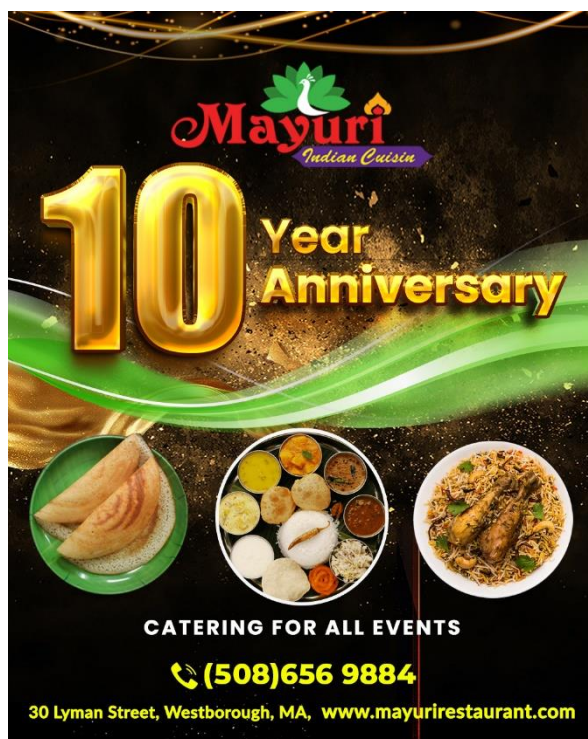


Aishani Mukherjee



Aishani Mukherjee

HAPPY DURGA PUJA 2022



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Indian Cuisine

10 Year Anniversary

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The advertisement features a dark background with a green wavy line. At the top, the Mayuri Indian Cuisine logo is displayed. Below it, the text '10 Year Anniversary' is written in large, golden, 3D-style letters. Underneath the text, there are three circular images showing different Indian dishes: a plate of fried bread, a bowl of various small items (possibly a thali), and a plate of a chicken-based dish. At the bottom, the text 'CATERING FOR ALL EVENTS' is written in white, followed by a phone number and the restaurant's address and website.



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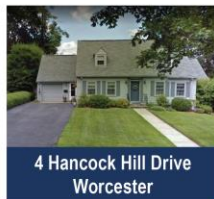
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trees do not eat their own fruit;
the sun does not shine on itself and
flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves.
Living for others is the rule of nature.
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by Pope Francis

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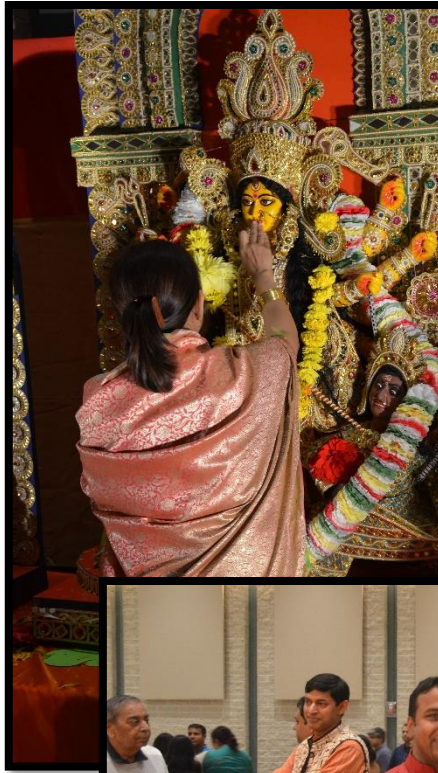
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Thank you!

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