

In this issue

CTBA History

Durga Pujo

Pujo Magazine

Golpo Hok

Events



The Blooming Paintbrush Studio
Celebrating the joys of Fine Arts
 Classes, workshops and camps offered by Mithu Deb
www.bloomingpaintbrush.com

Drape yourself with confidence.

Play with colors & patterns which you never think of. Be bold & beautiful.

Nilan's www.nilans.com
<https://www.facebook.com/NilanFashion/>
 WhatsApp/Call# 440-832-1444

The story of the Central Texas Bengali Association: An ongoing saga (EP:11) – Subha Addy

...Continued from September 2023 edition

In the year 2007, I was at the helm of Central Texas Bengali Association or CTBA in short. Almost a newcomer to Austin, having arrived there in the summer of 2004, I was both surprised and alarmed to have been trusted with the huge task of providing the growing Bengali community the manifold services that they needed. But from the beginning, I was lucky to get the support of several very capable committee members, who came on board with multiple talents, and from the very beginning, we worked closely as a team to fulfil our mission of serving the community to the best of our ability. Several of us are still actively serving the CTBA today.

Committee members: VP: Piyali Dey, **Treasurer:** Mrinal Bose, **Secretary:** Samira Ghosh, **Cultural:** Sanghamitra Deb, **Puja:** Rupa Mukherjee, **Food:** Radha Ghosh, **Magazine:** Sunit Addy

One of the most ambitious projects that we decided to take on was to try to replace the old Protima with a new one, as the old one needed to be retired. Our existing funds would not have supported this venture and thus we took the path of fund raising from the community. We were both concerned and hopeful as to how the community will react to this fund-raising effort by us. To our great relief the community came forward generously and we were able to cover all the expenses of bringing to Austin a new Protima of Ma Durga. Our Protima was created by Sree. Prodyut Paul, (grandson of Late Sree Gorachand Paul), from Kumartuli, Kolkata. For generations, this family has been assigned with the task of making all kinds of idols and was respected for their excellent works. Sree Pradyut Paul himself is a talented and internationally renowned artist. Our committee chose him after receiving strong recommendations from other cities in the USA. I was able to visit him in his original workshop/studio in Kumartuli and was very impressed with his workmanship and professionalism. When the wooden crates were delivered to our storage place in Austin, our excitement was beyond words and we were happy and thankful that all the idols were exactly as we had ordered, and the work was flawless. Now CTBA had the first “Panch Chala” idol of Ma Durga and her cohorts, Ganesh, Lakshmi, Saraswati and Kartikeya.

That year we all stood along with our Purohit, Pradipta Mukherjee, with folded hands and worshipped Ma Durga, who stood in front of us in all her grandeur, bringing in the hope of good life, prosperity, and health for all. Another first in Austin that year was the celebration of Durga Puja being extended from one day to one and a half days. Invited artists, like Classical vocalist Pandit Shantanu Bhattacharyya, and renowned Kathak dancer, Smt. Sanjukta Banerjee, along with our talented local artists made the Puja evenings melodious and entertaining

Talking about puja I must share with you another thing unique to Austin. Our Purohit for Lakshmi Puja is Lakshmi herself!!! I kid you not! Okay, it is not Devi Lakshmi, but she is our very own Lakshmi Bandyopadhyay, who has been doing it since she arrived in Austin more than 30+ years ago.

CTBA's website was running strong under the guidance of Ranjan Dasgupta and the Dhruvotara magazine took a more professional look under the direction of Sunit Addy. The other cultural groups of Austin, like, the “Utpat” Natok Group, “Samakal” Band and Bengali Music Group “BMG” were all flourishing and making the Austin community culturally vibrant and rich.

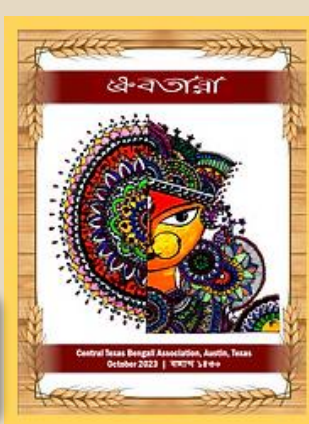
CTBA was growing but it embraced the entire Bengali community in a loving, caring bond. It belonged to all of us and provided a platform to express our views and a place to call our own. CTBA belonged to all. Nurtured and cared for many years, by hundreds of selfless volunteers, this organization, strong, resourceful, and versatile, is a great asset to our community and a big part of our history.

...To be continued

Looking back - CTBA Durga Pujo 2023 through pictures



Dhruvotara - 2023 CTBA Annual Pujo Magazine



With over 40 content contributors this magazine lives up to the promise of richness as always. We handed out printed copies to attendees during the 2 days of Puja. However, if you did not get your copy, here's a chance to access the online version. Same depth but in a lighter format.

[Click here to download](#)



Connor James

Realtor®

512-809-9221

GolpoHok – Sharodiyar Adda

Lights – Camera - Action

শারদীয়র আড্ডা



গল্প হোক!

15th October, 2023

Let's hear from our members on the history behind CTBAs Durga Puja. Let's take a stroll along the memory lane from our senior members who have seen the community evolve through the times. Let's also hear how CTBA have stood the trials and tribulations of time and brought thousands of Bengalis together, year after year. Let this be our very own pujor adda ! Presenting গল্প হোক ! Sharodiyar Adda

[View on YouTube](#)

Other Events – Non CTBA



FRI, NOV 24 AT 5:30 PM
The Annual Lighting of the Square
 Visit Georgetown, Texas



FRIDAY DEC. 1ST
LIGHT UP THE LAKE
 FRI, DEC 1 AT 6 PM
Light Up the Lake (Night 1) - Old Settlers Park | Round Rock, TX
 Old Settlers Park



SAT, DEC 2 AT 11 AM
2023 Old Town Christmas Festival
 Old Town Leander



SAT, NOV 18 AT 2 PM
Austin Foodie Fest
 Austin, Texas



SAT, DEC 2 AT 5 PM
Holiday Sing-Along & Stroll
 Capitol Of Texas In Austin



SAT, DEC 2 AT 12 PM
Indian Street Food Festival
 1510 Alexis drive , Cedarpark , Tx, 78613