

A very Happy new year everyone! Hope you enjoyed reading the inaugural holiday edition of “Khonj-Khobor” released right before Christmas. We’d love to know about what you liked as well as what we could do better. So keep the feedback coming.

With that, we’re happy to continue on the journey by presenting you the first “Khonj-Khobor” edition of 2023. As promised, we’re striving to deliver a collection of engaging and relevant stories to your fingertips. In this issue, we’ll continue on our journey following CTBA’s history narrated by our beloved Shuba di. We’ll talk about our new initiative “গল্প হোক”, kids will enjoy the cool Austin trivia and adults will have a laugh at the short jokes and the hilarious tiny tale. Of course, our talented members will keep us entertained through a comic strip and incredible photographs.

There’s something for everyone to enjoy. And we could not have done this without the community support. Most of the content in the newsletter have been contributed by our very own members. Our heartfelt thanks to them. But we need more. An engagement platform as this can only sustain when the whole community participates. So we request each and every member of CTBA to share their ideas, their creation, stories, thoughts that would share with the broader community. Have something you’d like to be featured in the next edition? Write to us at dhrubotara@ctbaaustin.org by the 1st week of each month.

Team Dhubotara

Subha Addy | Debasmita Paul Chatterjee | Sunit Addy | Ritwik Sen



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Key Events: Mark your Calendars

**Sunday,
29th
January
2023**

Saraswati Puja: Central Texas Bengali Association will be celebrating Saraswati Puja on Sunday, 29th January 2023 at the Reed Elementary School, Cedar Park.

Book Exchange / Collection drive: As a part of our “কল্পতরু” community outreach program, CTBA is organizing a book exchange / collection drive during Saraswati Puja at Reed Elementary. Encouraging all attending adults and children to donate and/or exchange gently used or new books at this event.

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The story of the Central Texas Bengali Association: An ongoing saga (EP:2) – Subha Addy

...Continued from Dec'22

It is important to mention at this point, that all the information that I have collected, came from community members who were involved in the creation of CTBA. Many of them have moved out of Austin, and the ones who stayed back needed to have their memories dusted, to bring out the stories from the, - well, - “the good old memory bank”!

As I listened with great interest, they patiently told me stories from the past, mostly remembering the fun stuff and some glitches that made them weary but never stopped them from going ahead with steadfast determination.

Austin kept growing and so did the Bengali community. It was still a small group, but as the newcomers started getting involved with the group, it started taking shape of a community leisure interest center. Until 1991 the meetings were mostly social in nature, such as the Bijoya get together in 1983. Biswanathda and Binita with the help of others, held the group together by performing all the important responsibilities so the group could steadily grow.

As the community flourished, there was an agreement by the group to celebrate Durga Puja, a desire that every Bengali holds dear to their heart. The first Durga Puja was held in 1991, with Amit Chakravorty as the president, Indira Chakravorty as the secretary and Binita Bose as the treasurer of the first Puja committee. It was held at the Leander City Hall situated in a very rural setting, not the present-day bustling suburb of Austin. There was almost no development much beyond the 183/620 junction, which was a simple 4-point intersection in those days. The first creation of the “Protima” is a very interesting story too. Financial resources being limited, it was not possible to have a professional idol manufactured, so other avenues were investigated. As it so happened there was an American Chinese University of Texas student, Mark Gee with an artistic bend and a friend of Amit and Indira Chakravorty’s son. He agreed to create the Idol of Durga from photographs! He used papier-mâché and only the idol of Maa Durga was created, but no accompanying Children!!!

To be continued....

গল্প হোক!



Sharing experiences and perspectives on topics close to heart

CTBA is excited to introduce our new initiative “গল্প হোক” (Golpo Hok), an interactive platform where we will share diverse experiences and perspectives around key topics close to our heart.

The idea is to bring together our members in an informal “adda-based” interactive platform to hear their experiences. We’ll have heart-to-heart conversations as well as some fun and games to spice things up. As a large, close-knit community, our collective experiences, and stories may just open up whole new perspectives.

For our first “গল্প হোক” adda session, we will have a panel of guests sharing their experiences around a topic that is close to heart for any immigrant parent – ‘Raising children as an immigrant parent in a different country and culture’.

And we’d love for you to participate. Have a question for the guests? Let us know by 1st February 2023 at dhrubotara@ctbaaustin.org

Stay tuned for the release on **Friday, 17th February 2023** exclusively on the [CTBA YouTube Channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...). Subscribe to be notified.

Have ideas on other topics we can cover? Let us know at dhrubotara@ctbaaustin.org



Connor James
Realtor®
512-809-9221

Comics – হাতে খড়ি – Ayan Guha

হাতে খড়ি – Debasmita Paul Chatterjee



ছোট্ট মুঠোয় উঠল কলম
আজকে হাতে খড়ি;
সরস্বতীর সামনে বসে
স্নেটে অ, A-র সারি।
অনেক লেখা, অনেক শেখা,
সব স্বপ্ন হোক পূরণ।
বীণাপানি সাক্ষী রেখে
বিদ্যা হলো বরণ।
খুশি থেকে, ভালো থেকে,
সবার আশিস, শুভেচ্ছায়
আজ দিনটা থাকুক তবে
মনের মণি-কোঠায়।

To reserve a spot for your child’s Haatey Khori, please email us at pujacommittee@ctbaaustin.org by 22nd January, 2023.

Kindly bring your own slate, chalk and other supplies.

Tiny Tales - ক্ষমা করি নি, মানস দে

বহুদিন আগের কথা, তখন প্রেমপত্রের চল ছিল, কলেজ সদ্য পাশ করেছি। আমার একটা গোপন ব্যবসা ছিল - প্রেমপত্র লিখে দেওয়ার। আমার ক্লায়েন্ট মূলতঃ ছেলেরা হলেও কিছু কিছু মেয়েও আসত প্রেমপত্র লেখানোর জন্যে। অনেক কল্পনার আশ্রয়ে বহু কঠিন কঠিন কেস উতরে দিয়েছি। যদিও তাদের অনেকেই দাম্পত্য জীবনে আমাকেই দোষ দেয় এমন বর বা বোয়ের জন্যে। সে যাই হোক আমারও একটা ত্রাশ ছিল। একদিন দেখি সে আমার কাছে এসেছে প্রেমপত্র লেখানোর জন্যে। অনেক বোঝানোর পরও যখন কিছুতেই শুনল না তখন ঠিক করলাম এটাই আমার জীবনের শেষ প্রেমপত্র। প্রোফেশনাল এথিক্স রাখতে শেষ প্রেমপত্রে নিজেকে উজাড় করে দিলাম। মনে হচ্ছিল নিজের কবর নিজেই খুঁড়ছি। কয়েকদিন পরে দেখি সেই চিঠি আমার বাড়ির ঠিকানায়! উনি এখন আমার স্ত্রী। কী বলব, এমন ভুলের জন্যে নিজেকে আজও ক্ষমা করিনি...

Tiny Tales - ক্ষমা করি নি, মানস দে



Get your ducks in a row - Gayatri Swarupa Baral