

Wishing all members a belated Happy Valentines Day! It sounds so trivial and routine. Almost as routine as wishing someone Happy Birthday. But to the parents of young children, these words can be the source of many anxious and helpless moments. Yes, I'm talking about all those awkward and frustrating conversations that comes as a part of being a parent. Multiplied in magnitude while being a first-generation immigrant parent. And it's not just the dating scene. How does an immigrant parent handle the cultural differences, the need to protect the heritage, their child's freedom, the ever present questions on identity? The questions are endless – the answers few. There's no universal handbook on parenting, yet. However, hearing from folks who have been through this may help a bit. So let's hear what some of our community members have to share on their experiences as an immigrant parent in our next episode of GolpoHok, to be released on Thursday, Feb 23. Subscribe to the [CTBA YouTube Channel](#) to be notified.

Team Dhruvotara

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



**The Blooming Paintbrush Studio**  
Celebrating the joys of Fine Arts  
Classes, workshops and camps offered by Mithu Deb  
[www.bloomingpaintbrush.com](http://www.bloomingpaintbrush.com)



900 Nelson Ranch Road  
Cedar Park, TX 78613  
[www.brightbeemontessori.com](http://www.brightbeemontessori.com)  
contact@brightbeemontessori.com  
512-348-6566

In this issue

- CTBA History
- Golpo Hok
- Saraswati Pujo
- Book Drive
- Austin Trivia
- Jokes Corner

The story of the Central Texas Bengali Association: An ongoing saga (EP:3) – Subha Addy

...Continued from January 2023

Ma Durga always is accompanied by her children and Mr. G, the UT student got so involved in the creation of the idol of Durga that there was very little time left to create the rest of the group. Indira Chakraborty, now a resident of California, shared, that she helped the eager artist with his work, and added clay idols of Lokkhi, Saraswati, Kartik, and Ganesh to complete the group. One other element was visible in all the idols faces was the strong resemblance of South Asian features, the artist's home country!

This hybrid Protima was worshiped and for several years, until a new Protima replaced it in 1997.

The new Protima, created by Shola silpi, Sri Amar Nath Ghosh was ordered from Kumortuli in Kolkata and delivered to Austin under the supervision of Mr. Dipak Ganguli. It arrived on a KLM flight, and the total cost was Rs. 21,000/-. With approximately \$15/- per head "Chanda", that was a tall order, but Austin Bengali's were up for the mission. The Puja was performed by Professor Ranjit Chakraborty from Houston. The guests, around 250 strong, came not only from Austin but surrounding areas, such as Houston and San Antonio. It was an exciting time but serving all of them was another story! Lack of Indian caterers and even more important, limited financial resources of the social group, required cooking for all, arranging and decorating and cleaning after the program was over. This was a massive a task to say the least. But it was also a fun time. The menu of Khichuri, Aloo Dom, Chatni, Mangsho, Desserts and other delicacies were shared and cooked by the efficient chefs in rented community kitchens, stored in home refrigerators and freezers. The rest joined hands to take charge of other duties.

Performing arts was also not neglected. The evenings ended with the sound of music when the children and adults put on variety entertainments for the observers.

It lasted only for a day, but everyone loved the festive air and were happy to have an opportunity to relive the memories of a home left many miles away. Especially when communication was not in the palm of one's hand, on a cell phone!

To be continued..

Coming Soon @ CTBA YouTube Channel

Looking Back - Saraswati Pujo 2023: Debasmita Paul Chatterjee

"Basant Panchami" the 'tithi'(lunar day) of Saraswati Pujo brings the first hue of spring in mind, and for us, the Bengalis, it is a must-have celebration. This year, like every year in CTBA, we celebrated our white-dressed Goddess in all its magnificence. The occasion took place in Cedar Park Reed Elementary School on 29th January.

As I entered the hall, I could not help but smile as I was greeted by a group of sweet kids in their teens eagerly manning the welcome desk. Just next to it, a collection bin was kept for book exchange and donations from CTBA 'Kalpataru' donation drive. Just at the end of the lobby, there were stalls for saree, jewelry and food, the nice adequate touch of festivity.

Entering the main area of Pujo, the Mondop just takes your breath away. The entire pedestal was designed in the form of a laptop. An incredible blend of an innovative idea, craftsmanship and execution. Kudos to the creators and masterminds, Chaitali Bose Roy, Dipankar Roy and Druhin Roy along with all the volunteers for bringing this to fruition. The final brushstroke of conceptual brilliance - It was a school curriculum and the first subject on the list was Bengali. It made me smile again. Team CTBA has raised the bar again!



As our purohit, Lokkhi di got the rituals underway, I couldn't help but chuckle at the coincidence of it all, thinking of namesake Lokkhi (Goddess of wealth and the rival sister of Saraswati) performing Saraswati Pujo! Among all rituals, the Hatekhori (first writing) ceremony touched my heart. The tiny tots all dressed up in ethnic wear, grabbing their slate and chalk – it was a wholesome sight. We gave out certificates of 'Hatekhori'. The creative poem on it was a nice addition.

Post pujo and prasad, we satisfied our hungry bellies with a whole vegetarian fare made up of fried rice, chhanar dalna, daal, veg chop, papad, komola bhog and chutney.

Right after lunch it was time for the cultural program. CTBA reserves this day of Saraswati Pujo for kids or students performance only. Nervous and anxious parents graced the front row – their facial expressions baring it all. The show was named "Oikotan"(Harmony). The program consisted of a musical called "Rendezvous with Saraswati", couple of instrumental jamming, a mime play named "Hrid Majhare Rakhbo", few marvelous vocalist solo performances and at the end there was a slot specially kept for high schoolers. Full marks to the cultural committee and the participants. The directors, choreographers, the technical team and the parents - they all worked tirelessly to pull this off. Kudos to them.



What a day!! I couldn't help myself salute the entire management for nice execution leaving me content and fulfilled at the end of it all. What about you?

কল্পতরু (Kalpataru) Book Drive



On the auspicious occasion of Saraswati Pujo, Team Dhruvotara organized a book collection / exchange drive for community members. Together we collected over 60 books donated by our patrons. These books were donated to the Leander Public Library



Trivia – Austin Moonlight Towers: Ritwik Sen

The moonlight towers in Austin, Texas, are the only known surviving moonlight towers in the world.

They are the 165-foot-tall towers that support outdoor lighting for parts of Austin. Thirty-one of these metal giants were erected in 1895 using electricity from Austin's first power plant on the Colorado River. The towers first used carbon arc lamps that were lit nightly by a worker who got to the top in an elevator that runs up the center of the framework. These were replaced in the 1920s by incandescent lamps and then by mercury vapor lamps in 1936.

In 1970 the towers were recognized as Texas State Landmarks, followed by the 15 remaining towers being listed in the National Register of Historic Places on July 12, 1976. Only 6 are in their original locations as established by the Board of Public Works and City Council in 1895.

A replica of a moonlight tower serves as the center post for the Zilker Park "Christmas Tree" of lights each year.

Learn more: [Austin History Center](#) | [Wikipedia](#) | [Map of existing Moonlight Towers](#)



Jokes Corner - আ মরি বাংলা ভাষা

**৪ বছরের টুকাই আর মাসির কথোপকথন:**  
ক্রিং ক্রিং ক্রিং  
**টুকাই:** Hi! টুমি ক্যা? (Who are you?)  
**মাসি:** আমি মাসি বলছি রে।  
**টুকাই:** কোনটা? (Which one?)  
**মাসি:** আমি মিতা মাসি, তোর মা কোথায়?  
**টুকাই:** Shopping এ।  
**মাসি:** বাবা কোথায়?  
**টুকাই:** ওটাও গেছে!! (He went too.)

**রিন্টু:** মা আমি bored!  
**মা:** কি করতে চাও?  
**রিন্টু:** আমি পিয়ানো খেলতে পারি? (May I play the Piano)!!

**মা:** এই পিয়া, তুই কোথায়?  
**পিয়া:** Stuck in a "বোতল গলা"!  
**মা:** বোতল গলা ---সে আবার কি রে বাবা?  
**পিয়া:** Oh মা! - you know, bottle neck at the exit!  
**মা:** হে হরি!!