

On behalf of BAGC-2012 Executive Committee, I wish you all a very Happy and prosperous New Year!! I just cannot believe how fast another year flew by and how we have stepped into a brand new year!! I still remember the day when we were going to attend our first BAGC event at Jain temple, last year and now we are at the brink of the same first event, Saraswati Puja!! Well, this year it will be held at our favorite venue, Streamwood High School on January 28th, the Basant Panchami day as per Bengali Ponjika. Our heartfelt prayer to the goddess of learning - "Asato Maa Sadgamaya Tamaso Maa Jyotirgamaya" (Please lead us from falsehood to truth, unreal to real and darkness to light).

Organizing the first event, Saraswati Puja, is always challenging for an Executive Committee, the daunting task of getting a venue for a specific day, packaging a flamboyant cultural program and catering an impeccable selection of vegetarian food to our beloved community members are just some of the highlights of many tasks. Moreover, these tasks are required to be accomplished within a month, where the team members are still getting acquainted with each other. Unquestionably, I consider myself immensely fortunate to have an excellent team. They have already positioned themselves in their bases and started managing the assigned activities in a professional manner.

In the history of BAGC, 2011 will always be remembered as a milestone year for us. We got our own home, Banga Bhavan, our tangible footprint in Chicago land. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our special project team, BBC for turning a dream into reality. Please come forward and donate generously to Banga Bhavan.

This year, BAGC and the Art Institute of Chicago will celebrate Rabindra Nath Tagore's 150th birth anniversary by bringing an exhibition, *The Last Harvest: The Paintings of Rabindranath Tagore* to Chicago. The exhibition will be on view at The Art Institute of Chicago from 29 January - 15 April 2012.

There is no bigger cultural icon in India and Bangladesh than Rabindra Nath Tagore (1861-1941). A renowned novelist, poet, musician, and philosopher—the first non-European to be awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913—Tagore is responsible for shaping the modern Indian identity. While perhaps lesser known, his paintings also demonstrate his profound cultural impact. Sixty-one of these impressive works, drawn from three collections in India, come together in this exhibition and offer a glimpse into the visionary mind of this influential thinker.

This event will be co-organized by the National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi, the Ministry of Culture of the Government of India and Bengali Association of Greater Chicago. This is the first major traveling exhibition from India to be exhibited at the Art Institute.

We, the 2012 BAGC EC team, cordially invite your active participation and constructive suggestions for further improvement. We will make 2012 a successful year with your support.

