



DESHANTARI OF OTTAWA

PAST EVENTS OF 2013

1. Summer Picnic – Lunch and Party
2. Parkinson's Superwalk – Charity Walk
3. Open House – Bengali Movie show
4. Durga Puja and Lakshmi Puja
5. Children's Christmas Party
6. Saraswati Puja
7. Annual Dinner and Cultural Program

Summer Picnic – Lunch and Party

Deshantari organized a summer picnic at the Ottawa Municipal Campground, 411 Corkstown Road, Nepean on Sunday, July 21, 2013. The menu for the picnic was as follows:

Opening Act (adults)

- Jhal muri, BBQ Corn, Tea

Opening Act (Kids):

- Popcorn/chips/BBQ corn

Main Event - Hakka Chinese Feast

- Fried Rice, Boneless Chicken/Fish/Paneer in Hot Garlic sauce, Veg Spring Roll, Sweets (Gulab jamun)

The picnic was a great success. The weather was great, the turn-out was very decent and members had a wonderful time socializing, enjoying the good "Hakka" chinese food, BBQ and the various games played.

Parkinson's Superwalk – Charity Walk

Deshantari was one of the proud sponsors of Parkinson's Superwalk 2013 held on 7th September 2013 at Ron Kolbus Center, 102 Greenview Avenue, Ottawa.

The community joined 14,000 other Canadians who took part in the annual Parkinson SuperWalk in support of over 100,000 Canadians with Parkinson's. Parkinson SuperWalk was Parkinson Society Canada's national, once a year event to raise funds for research into the causes of Parkinson's, better

treatments and one day, a cure. Together we raised funds for education and support services, not only for people with Parkinson's, but for their caregivers and family members too.

Open House – Bengali Movie show

Deshantari organized an Open House at the Baxter Hall (1101 Baxter Road, Ottawa) on Sunday 29 Sep, 2013.

In this event Deshantari presented “Hirer Angti” a feature film by the late Rituparno Ghosh. The executive committee had chosen this film to pay tribute to the great director/artist Rituparno Ghosh ensuring that the movie could be enjoyed by all age groups. The film starts and ends with the festive mood of Durga pujo and has excerpts from famous songs of Mahalaya.

The open house was a great success with a large number of people attending to watch the movie and socialize in some nice “adda” over tea, “alu tikka” and “golub jamun”.

Durga Puja and Lakshmi Puja

Deshantari’s main event the Durga Puja was organized at the Heron Gate Community Centre from 11 - 13 Oct, 2013. The Puja Chairperson welcomed the members with the following note:

“The countdown for the much awaited Deshantari event of the year is over. It is time for Durga Puja. With festive alacrity we have made all the arrangements so that you have a wonderful time and enjoy a grand celebration of our culture and traditions. A large team of dedicated volunteers have been working very hard over the past couple of months in preparation for the ceremonial worship, rehearsing for the cultural programs, fund-raising and even researching on the latest culinary trends.

I know men are eagerly looking forward to their long “adda” sessions with friends over a cup of tea just as ladies have started checking out their latest sari and jewellery collection bought on their recent visits to India. Children can hardly wait for a few days of no homework but pure fun with their friends!

Without further ado, I on behalf of the Deshantari Executive Committee welcome you, your family and friends to the 32nd Durga Puja in Ottawa. This year we have organized a variety of cultural programs from Bengali Natak to children’s Talent show. There will be a diverse mix of garment and jewellery stalls for those of you who love to shop. A large group of volunteers have meticulously planned an exquisite selection of food and misti that you will find truly irresistible. During these three days we have also set-up a booth to collect food donations that would go towards the “Ottawa Food Bank”.

Finally I would like to thank my committee and all volunteers for their selfless dedication and hard work in making the arrangements for this year’s Durga Puja. Last but not least, a note of thanks goes to all our advertisers, sponsors and donors for their generous financial support.

I look forward to seeing you all and I am certain you will find this year's Durga Puja as enjoyable as it has always been! Once again, welcome to Durga Puja 2013."

The program details and menu were as follows:

Date	Program Details
<p>Friday, Oct 11, 2013: Maha Sasthi</p> <p><i>Priests: Sushil K. Bhattacharya and Nirmal Sinha</i></p>	<p>06:00 pm: Maha Shasthi Puja 07:00 pm: Sandhya Arati and Prasad 07:30 pm: Cultural Program (Kids Talent show) 08:30 pm: Dinner 09:30 pm: Cultural Program (Shefali and Group) 10:30 pm: Cultural Program (Classical Music) 11:45 pm: Hall Closing</p>
<p>Saturday, Oct 12, 2013: Maha Saptami & Maha Ashtami</p> <p><i>Morning Priests: Sushil K. Bhattacharya, Nirmal Sinha</i></p> <p><i>Evening Priests: Sushil K. Bhattacharya, Nirmal Sinha</i></p>	<p>09:00 am: Maha Saptami & Maha Ashtami Puja 01:30 pm: Pushpanjali and Prasad 02:00 pm: Lunch</p> <p>06:00 pm: Sandhya Puja 07:30 pm: Sandhya Arati and Prasad 07:45 pm: Children's Classical Dance 08:15 pm: Dinner 09:30 pm: Bengali Nathak – "Bhuter Bhobhishot" 12:45 pm: Hall Closing</p>
<p>Sunday, Oct 13, 2013: Maha Navami and Bijaya Dashami</p> <p><i>Morning Priests: Aditya Chakravarti and Ashutosh Bagchi</i></p>	<p>10:00 am: Maha Navami Puja 12:00 pm: Dashami Puja, Bisharjon 01:30 pm: Sindur Khela 02:00 pm: Lunch 04:30 pm: Hall Closing</p>
<p>Saturday, 19 Oct, 2013: Lakshmi Puja</p> <p><i>Evening Priest: Nirmal Sinha</i></p>	<p>05:00 pm: Lakshmi Puja 07:00 pm: Jalsa Program 08:15 pm: Variety Program 08:30 pm: Dinner</p>

Date	Program Details
	11:00 pm: Hall Closing

Date	Food Menu
<p>Dinner: Friday, 11 Oct, 2013</p> <p>Time: 08:30 pm</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palak Kofta • Dal Makhni • Mixed Vegetable • Naan • Rice • Rasmalai
<p>Lunch: Saturday, 12 Oct, 2013</p> <p>Time: 01:30 pm</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motor Dal with Mulo, Gajar • Dhoney Pattar Bora • Beguni • Aloo Phul Kophi Dalna • Mango Chutney • Komola Bhog • Misti Doi
<p>Dinner: Saturday, 12 Oct, 2013</p> <p>Time: 08:15 pm</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daal Wrap • Choley • Makhni Paneer • Aloo Methi Palak • Peas Pulao • Gajar Halwa • Gulab Jamun
<p>Lunch: Sunday, 13 Oct, 2013</p> <p>Time: 02:00 pm</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bhaja Mug Daal • Phul Kophi Sorchey • Bean Alu • Suktho • Pineapple Chutney • Raj Bhog • Assorted Sweets
<p>Dinner: Saturday, 19 Oct, 2013</p> <p>Time: 08:30 pm</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goat Meat • Daal • Mixed Vegetable

Date	Food Menu
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paneer (for Vegetarians only) • Fish (as meat replacement) • Chutney • Chamcham • Misti Doi

The Durga Puja and Lakshmi festivities were attended by a record number of people. The Puja hall and stall layout was completely changed this year to make room for a large number of people. The Executive Committee received an overwhelming response and deep appreciation for a well organized event. Members were particularly appreciative of the Bengali Nathak, the cultural program (Jalsa) on Lakshmi Puja and the food selection and arrangements outstanding on all days. This was made possible by the tireless work of a very large number of dedicated volunteers.

This year the committee also took initiative to collect items for the Ottawa Food Bank throughout the festivities and also gave away boxes of Bengali books to anyone interested in reading Bengali books.

Children's Christmas Party

Deshantari organized a Children's Christmas party Saturday Dec 7th at Baxter Hall. The schedule of activities was as follows:

- 3:30 pm - Start of the Program
- 4:00 pm - 5:15 pm - Magic Show
- 5:15 pm - 6:00 pm - Santa arrival and gift distribution
- 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm - Pizza for kids and snacks for the parents

Since Christmas was the season of giving we requested all participants to donate unused toys to the Ottawa Charitable organization that collect toys for Christmas for distribution to needy children.

Saraswati Puja

Deshantari celebrated Saraswati Puja on Sunday February 9th at the Ron Kolbus Center. The schedule of activities was as follows:

- Puja and Pushpanjali: 10 am-11.30 am (Hathekhori will be after puja)
- Children's drawing competition: 11.30-12:00pm
- Children's talent show: 12:00-12:20
- Kobitar Asor: 12:25-1:00 pm

- Lunch: 1-2 pm

Among the other cultural programs Deshantari organized a "Kobitar Asor" performed by Mabhin Ghosh Datta from Kalavatee Dance Centre and Saumita Banerjea, an invited elocutionist from Toronto. This event received excellent response from all sections of the Community.

Annual Dinner and Cultural Program

Deshantari Executive Committee arranged an evening of entertainment and Dinner on Saturday, 5 April, 2014. This was Deshantari Executive Committee's final event of the year and all members were invited to a wonderful evening of music, dance and exquisite cuisine. This year the committee combined the Cultural Program and Annual Dinner into one single event that was hosted at one of the elegant ballrooms of the famous Tudor Hall. This was a great opportunity to enjoy a cultural event and dinner in the stimulating company of friends from the community.

The format of the evening was pre-dinner drinks and hors d'oeuvres that were followed by Bengali Song Performance by an invited artist from Montreal. A full-course dinner buffet was served. And lastly, dance to the tune of everyone's favorite Indian music was played by a professional music DJ.

The Program details were as follows:

- 6:00 – 7:00 pm – Cash Bar with hot hors d'oeuvres (Cocktail Hour)
- 7:00 – 8:00 pm – Bengali songs (performed by an artist from Montreal)
- 8:00 – 10:00 pm – Dinner Buffet (full course dinner)
- 8:00 – 11:30 pm – Variety Music (played by Professional DJ)

Appetizer Menu:

- 1) Macher Chop – Bengali Style
- 2) Mini Chicken Roll – Kolkata Style
- 3) Papri Chat – Mumbai Style

Dinner Menu:

- 1) Baked Salmon with a Lemon and Caper Sauce.
- 2) Chicken Breast with a Mushroom Wine Sauce.
- 3) Seasonal Vegetable Stir-fry on Rice.
- 4) Roasted Potatoes and Mixed Vegetables.
- 5) House Salad, Coleslaw, Bean Salad.
- 6) Vegetables and Dip Platter.
- 7) Fresh Rolls with Butter.
- 8) Table service of fresh brewed Coffee and Tea.
- 9) Three Chocolate Truffle Cake.

The Annual Dinner was completed over-sold and was attended by a record number of people. The wonderful ambience of Tudor Hall, the simply irresistible Bengali appetizers, the Bengali song performance by the invited artist from Montreal, the exquisite buffet food prepared by Tudor Hall and finally the lighting and music by the professional DJ throughout the evening completely overwhelmed the participants. It was an evening that exuded in exuberance of fun and laughter and a wonderful way to conclude the year of activities.
