



Deshantari
of Ottawa Carleton Estd - 1972

42nd Autumn Festival 2023



Disha Chakraborty

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Deshantari

of Ottawa Carleton Estd - 1972

Shosthi Puja: 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM

**20
OCT**

Maha Shaptami Puja: 1:30 PM to 5:30 PM

Maha Shaptami Arati: 5:30 PM to 6:00 PM

Youth Cultural Program: 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM

Dinner 8:00 PM to 9:30 PM

21

**OCT
AM**

Maha Ashtami Puja: 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Pushpanjali: 12:00 PM to 12:45 PM

Lunch: 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM

21

**OCT
PM**

Shondhi Puja and Arati: 4:00 PM to 6:30 PM

Dhunuchi Naach: 6:30 PM- 7:00 PM

Dinner: 7:15 PM to 8:45 PM

Drama: 9:00 PM to 11:00 PM

22

**OCT
AM**

Maha Nabami Puja: 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Dashami Puja: 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Bijoya/Sindoor Khela: 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM

Lunch: 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

22

**OCT
PM**

Lakshmi Puja: 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Saree Raffle 6:15 PM

Jalsha: 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM

Dinner 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM

Join our vibrant community as we come together to celebrate the joyous festival of Durga Puja. It's a time of devotion, culture, and togetherness that you won't want to miss!

For more information, visit deshantari.org

Deshantari

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PUJA

20-22

OCTOBER

2023

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2023 Fundraisers and special donors; Our Motivators:

On behalf of our Executive and Puja Committee, we would like to convey our profound appreciation to all of you for your undeterred support and sincere cooperation in making Durgotsav 2023 a grand success. It is your diligence and constructive participation that has always been fruitful to transpire such a mammoth task into an enthralling experience.

Thank you!

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President's message

Durga Puja, an annual Hindu festival dedicated to Goddess Durga, holds immense importance for the Ottawa community, transcending cultural and religious boundaries. As one of the most significant celebrations in Hindu culture, Durga Puja represents unity, diversity, and the preservation of cultural heritage.

In Ottawa, a city known for its multiculturalism, Durga Puja serves as a focal point for the Hindu community and an opportunity for cultural exchange. The festival brings together people from various backgrounds to participate in the festivities, learn about Hindu traditions, and appreciate the art, music, and cuisine associated with the celebration.

Beyond its cultural significance, Durga Puja promotes a sense of community and solidarity. The event allows families and individuals to come together, reinforcing bonds and creating a support network. It provides a sense of belonging and familiarity in a foreign land, fostering connections that help combat homesickness and promote mental well-being.

Moreover, Durga Puja acts as a charitable endeavor, and Deshantari raises funds for various social causes and charitable organizations. These funds are utilized to support local initiatives, provide aid to the needy, and contribute to the betterment of society. It showcases the values of compassion and altruism embedded in the Hindu faith.

We are profoundly thankful to all our patrons, sponsors and advertisers who play a pivotal role in rendering financial support and thus enabling us to craft our Autumn festival.

Our sincere thanks to all the dedicated volunteers including our Executive Team, who have been working diligently since the last few months in organizing this mammoth and auspicious event. These volunteers are truly the backbone of our organization and without their perseverance, zeal and commitment, it would not have materialized. Kudos to our youth members for their involvement in various activities.

On this 42nd edition of our annual Autumn festival celebration, may our Goddess Durga bestow upon us good health, peace, & prosperity. Wish you all a very happy Durgotsav!

Regards,

Somesh Roy Choudhury

On behalf of the Deshantari 2023-24 Executive Committee and Puja Committee.

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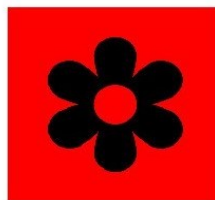
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IN MEMORIUM

On the joyous occasion of the Autumn and Durga Puja Festival, it is with a heavy heart we note that we recently lost the following members of Deshantari:

Dilip Chakraborty

Angshu Deb Chowdhury

We also take this opportunity to express our condolences to their families.



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- Chicken Curry

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- Tadka Daal (Yellow)
- Palak Paneer

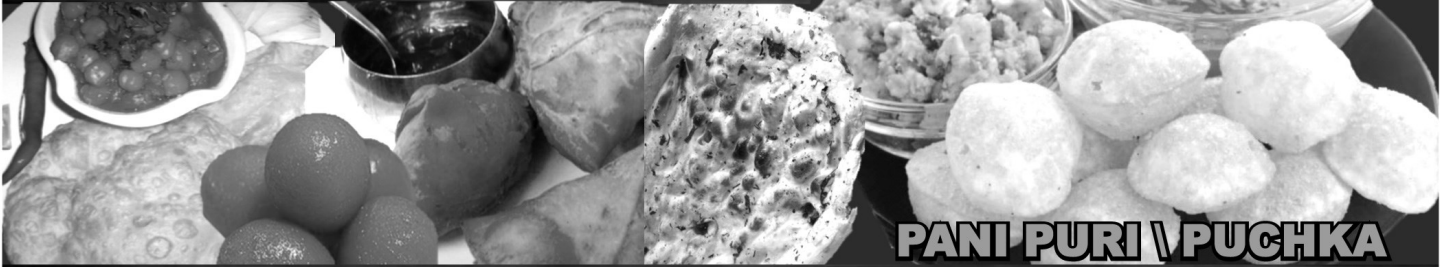
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A Poem by Mala Nag

*It was the night before Durga Shosti when all through the air,
People were bustling to finalize the Puja fanfare.*

*Garlands of jaba, beli, shiuli, phul-paddo galore,
Beautiful women in silk tangail gathered on the Puja floor!*

*'Aay alpona dibi aay!' a mother calls her daughter while
making narkoler-naaru,
Children rehearsing Agomoni dance with their favourite
nacher guru!*

*Amidst the Pujo lights, dhup-deep and the ethereal evening glare
Maa Durga looked splendidly Divine with her flowing
matted hair!*

*Visualizing the pushpanjali with flower petals we will pray,
The mantra offerings we echo for devotional blessings to stay.*

*What is the symbolism of such ancient rituals you may ask?
Certainly, there is more to Ashtamir hoi-choi and dhunu-chi-natch.*

*Many explanations of good over evil and celestial home-coming are known
But what is the special message for this planet from Maa Durga alone?*

*Let us look at the altar for hints from Her celestial cosmic family,
It is all about nature and the unique balance in dasho-bhujia Divinity!*

*Maa Durga with her ten hands symbolizing the balance of power,
Amidst the ashtra-shastra, the benevolence of Her Love will shower!*

*To the balance of Ma Laksmi and Ma Saraswati we pray,
They exemplify that wealth paired with wisdom is the only sure way!*

*There is balance in Kartikeya, the valiant warrior of charismatic charm,
With nadush-nudush Ganesha, the remover of obstacles and impending harm!*

*Look! Ganesha's mouse is in the open with Kolabou and phal-proshad bhog,
While Lord Shiva's serpent is at peace in his heavenly adode.*

*There is peaceful coexistence in Kartikeya's peacock and Lakhi pecha too
The serpent or mouse will not be harmed as nature nurtures you!*

*There is Maa balancing it all on the fierce lion with her presence
Yet Ma Saraswati's swan views it with calm and graceful elegance!*

*Maa is here to cleanse the demon 'ashur' from our mind,
Purify our life's purpose and goodwill to mankind.*

*Maa's message is clear: Respect nature and balance it with love and care,
Invoking the essence of cosmic rule for all to respect and share.*

*For nature is an important equalizer to maintain this peaceful harmony,
Durga Puja symbolizes this message amidst the dhak-dhol cacophony!*

*Balance our outlook Oh! Devi Sarvabhuteshu,
Enlighten our minds to remember that worshipping nature is glorifying You!*

*May we all receive the boon of balance in life with wisdom and grace,
Peace be to All, good health, wealth and comfort in Mother's embrace!*

*Today, with bowed heads, we seek the wisdom of Maa's blessings and care,
Grant us strength of mind to nurture nature and promote peace everywhere!*

*Mala Nag
October 2023*



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নইলে মোরা রাজার সাথে মিলব কি স্বত্বে?

আমরা কেউবা ছোট, কেউবা মেজো
কেউবা বড়ো ভাই,
চুরির কাজে কারো সাথে
ঝগড়াঝাটি নাই।

আমরা যেমন খুশি তেমনি করি চুরি,
চ্যাক্স ফাঁকিতে নেই আমাদের জুড়ি
রাজা বলেন মিলেমিশে কাজ কর সব
পারবে না কেউ ধরতে।

আমরা সবাই রাজা আমাদের এই রাজার রাজত্বে।

আমরা সবাই রাজা আমাদের এই রাজার রাজত্বে,
রাজা সবারে দেন মান,
আমরা তার বদলে দিতে পারি প্রাণ।

রাজা গুরু, গুরু রাজা
চলি তারই মন্ত্রে,
রাজার গদি ওল্টালে কি
পারবো বুলি ভরতে?

আমরা সবাই রাজা আমাদের এই রাজার রাজত্বে।

আমরা সবাই রাজা আমাদের এই রাজার রাজত্বে,
নইলে মোরা রাজার সাথে মিলব কি স্বত্বে?

হাওয়া খেতে চাই আমাদের নিত্য নতুন গাড়ি,
সুযোগ পেলেই ফরেন মুখে
দিচ্ছি সবাই পাড়ি
গরীব প্রজার হাঁড়িকুড়ির
ব্যবস্থা সব করতে,

আমরা সবাই রাজা আমাদের এই রাজার রাজত্বে।

বিশেষ দৃষ্টব্য: রবীন্দ্রনাথের গান " আমরা সবাই রাজা আমাদের এই রাজার রাজত্বে"
এর প্যারোডি।

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Deshantari Executive Committee 2023-2024

President	Somesh Roy Choudhury
Vice President	Sudeshna (Bonnie) Chakraborty
Treasurer	Bitapi Ray
Secretary	Romika Mukherjee
Members at Large	Tanima Majumdar, Rashmi Das, Adrija Chakravarti, Sandipan Haldar
Youth members	Saysha Roy Choudhury, Sparsho Chakraborty, Meghna Maiti, Shyla Mukherjee

About Deshantari

Deshantari of Ottawa Carleton is a non-profit cultural and charitable organization which was founded by the local Bengali Community in 1972 to promote cultural, literary, spiritual and charitable aspects of our rich heritage.

A major and the most colorful event organized annually under the auspices of Deshantari is the Autumn and Durga Puja Festival which is running proudly in its 42nd year. This festival is spread over a period of one week and includes Lakshmi Puja. During this festival, in addition to the elaborate Puja ceremonies, a variety of social and cultural events are organized in which children showcase their talents, dramas are staged, and variety entertainment programs are arranged. Sumptuous cuisine is prepared and delicious meals are served to everybody's heart's content. During the autumn festival we also collect food items to give away to a local charitable organization. In 1987, Deshantari was granted the religious and charitable status.

Other activities of Deshantari include Saraswati Puja, Rabindra Jayanti, annual picnic, annual dinner, children's Christmas party and occasionally open houses. Deshantari also organizes Walk-a-thon to make charitable donations and facilitates the running of a badminton club for its members. Last but not the least Deshantari has been publishing a web magazine (Lipika) since 2007 which enjoys a wide international readership. For more information about Deshantari, please see: www.deshantari.org.

অষ্টমীর নাটক

Drama on Ashtami Evening

আলিাবাবা (১৮৯৭)

Alibaba (1897)

রচনা: শ্রী ক্ষীরোদপ্রসাদ বিদ্যাবিনোদ

Playwright: Sri Kshirodprasad Vidyavinode

A Comic Opera based on the fable of 'Alibaba and Forty Thieves' from *The Arabian Nights*.



Cast: Dipankar Chakravarty, Shilpi Nandi, Goutam Shaw, Sabina Mahmud, Ankita Bagchi, Debasish Chakravarty, Debargha Lodh, Arjo Mukherjee, Atriya Ghosh, Ballari Mukherjee, Angsuman Rudra, Soumi Mukherjee-Guha.

Dancers: Somdatta Roy Choudhury, Sutapa Ghosh, Pratyusa Ray, Anindita Chattopadhyay, Sabina Mahmud

Music: Arjo Mukherjee, Joy Nandi, Debjani Dasgupta Nandi, Soumi Mukherjee-Guha, Anindita Chattopadhyay, Sumana Jana

Choreography: Somdatta Roy Choudhury and Ankita Bagchi

Light and Sound: Ratis Sen, Shibsankar Sengupta and Biswajit Nandi

Stage: Tanima Majumdar, Romika Mukherjee

Off Stage Support: Nilmoni Chatterji, Debjani Chakravarty, Kongkita Mondol, Angsuman Rudra, Geeta Chowdhury

Video: Kallol Ghosh

Script Editing: Angsuman Rudra

Editing and Direction: Purna Chowdhury

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celebrating Durga Puja &
Laxmi Puja.*

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happiness, joy and good health.*

Chandra Arya

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Pujo Committee 2023

Festival in-charge and overall Management	Bonnie Chakraborty
Overall Guidance and assistance	Somesh Roy Choudhury, Bonnie Chakraborty, Bitapi Ray and Romika Mukherjee.
Advertisement/sponsorship coordination group	Lead - Biswajit Nandy, Somesh Roy Choudhury and Bonnie Chakraborty
Treasurer	Bitapi Ray
Puja Protima & Kitchen setup & teardown	Lead Ashok Saha, Biswajit Nandy, Somesh Roy Choudhury, Anindya Maiti, Arjo Mukherjee, Santanu Chakraborty, Amar Kumar, Shibu Pal, Joy Nandy, Dipankar Chakraborty and team
Puja Decoration & Alpona	Lead Mala Nag, Hasu Ghosh, Devaleena Sircar, Chumki Bhide Aung Swe Thowai, and team
Puja Coordinator	Mina Sarkar
Puja Preparation Team	Babi Chatterjee, Priya Sen, Dola Pal, Ila Dutta, Jayeeta Mukherji, Sushmita Ghosh, Gouri Roy, Mala Nag, Geeta Chowdhury, Shilpi Nandy, Jyotsna Seal, Manoshi Kumar, Kalyani Das, Anita Aikat, Sutapa Ghosh, Sarmistha Roy, Nandini Sengupta, Shibani Cherla, Mina Sarkar, Jayanti Roy.
Naru & Sandesh Team for Puja prosad	Gopa Bhowmik, Ballari Mukherjee, Suparna Majumdar, Mitali Nandy, Mabhin Ghosh Dutta, Rita Kundu, Durga Majumdar, Ila Dutta, Chaitali Mitra, Sikha Sinha, Sraboni Banerjee, Nandini Sengupta, Sutapa Ghosh, Nandita Bose, Mina Sarkar, Sumana Jana, Somdatta Roy Choudhury, Priya Sen, Aparna Banerjee, and many more members who wanted to be anonymous.
Garland Team	Hasu Ghosh, Sharmila Datta, Nandita Bose, Nandini Sengupta, Mita Das
Puja Flowers	Mina Sarkar, Bonnie Chakraborty, Alaka Burman, Nina Chakravarty, Gouri Roy, Chitra Ghosh, Chakravarty, Dola Pal, Ratna Gangopadhyay, Tushi Paul, Munmun Ray, Mita Basu, Gopa Bhaumik, many more generous members who wanted to be anonymous.
Puja Fruits	Bonnie and Santanu Chakraborty
Pujo Communication & Web Publicity	Tanima Majumdar, Shaoni Chakraborty, Bonnie Chakraborty
Pujo Bhog	Hasu Ghosh (shoshthi), Krishna Saha (Saptami morning), Chitra Ghosh (Saptami evening), Ruma Bose (Ashtami morning), Mamata Dutta (Ashtami evening), Debasree Banerji (Navami & Dashami), Shibani Cherla (Lakshmi puja)
Puja donation / membership collection team	Bitapi Ray, Santanu Chakraborty, Arun Roy, Rashmi Das, Adrija Chakravarti.
Pujo priests	Bodhon & Sasthi Pujo Friday morning: Sushil Bhattacharya, Saptapi Pujo Friday afternoon- Sushil Bhattacharya, Amar Kumar. Saptami Evening -Pujo- Asoke Chatterjee and Shyama Banerjee. Ashtami Saturday: Vishakha Singh and Sarmistha Roy Sandhi Puja, Saturday: Sushil Bhattacharya, Amar Kumar and Rupak Chattopadhyay. Nabami Sunday: Vishakha Singh, Soumi Mukherjee-Guha. Dashami Sunday: Nirmal Sinha and Soumya Bagchi. Laxmi Pujo: Jayanti Roy.

Contd. on next page...

Activity & Role	Name
Food Coordinator	Debasree Banerji
Cooking & Serving Team	Friday Dinner Cooking Lead: Shilpi Nandi, Soumi Mukherjee-Guha, Ballari Mukherjee and Team Food Distribution Lead: Amitava Nandi & Team Saturday Lunch Cooking Lead: Debasree Banerji & Team Food Distribution Lead: Amitava Nandi & Team Saturday Dinner Cooking Lead: Madan Mohan Ghosh, Biplab Dutta & Team Food Distribution Lead: Anindya Maiti & Team Sunday Lunch Cooking Lead: Indrani Choudhury & Team Food Distribution Lead: Dipankar Chakraborty & Team Sunday, Dinner Cooking Lead: Manas Dan, Shantanu Chakraborty, Anindya Maiti & Team Food Distribution Lead: Shantanu Chakraborty
Moving coordinator	Amar Kumar, Somesh Roy Choudhury and team
Tea & Coffee in Charge	Bonnie Chakraborty, Rashmi Das, Adrija Chakravarti.
First Aid:	Rashmi Das, Adrija Chakravarti. Shaoni Chakraborty
Deshantari Information Desk	Rashmi Das, Adrija Chakravarti. Shaoni Chakraborty
Fruits, vegetable, Grocery, plates & cutlery shopping	Debasree Banerji, Bonnie Chakraborty, Sumit Banerji, Manas Dan, Anindya Maiti, Shaoni Chakraborty, Adrija Chakravarti, Sarmistha Roy, Somesh Roy Choudhury.
Cleaning Coordinator	Bonnie Chakraborty, Romika Mukherjee, Rashmi Das, Adrija Chakravarti.
Puja brochure design, setting	Somesh Roy Choudhury
Brochure cover page design	Shaoni Chakraborty
Brochure Editor	Biswajit Nandy
Lipika	Jharna Chatterjee and Suparna Majumdar
Kids/Youth Program Coordinator & Drama Director	Indrani Choudhury, Bonnie Chakraborty, Shaoni Chakraborty, Rashmi Das, Adrija Chakravarti.
Drama/ Natok Director	Purna Chowdhury
Jalsha Director	Mitali Nandy
Light & Sound Lead, puja live streaming	Shibshankar Sengupta, Biswajit Nandy, Ratis Sen, Santanu Chakraborty, Somesh Roy Choudhury, Tanima Majumdar.
Saree Donation For Raffle	Somdatta Roy Choudhury, Bitapi Ray
Saree donations for Thakur	Bitapi Ray and Anindya Maiti
Saree raffle	Rashmi Das, Adrija Chakravarti.
Senior Transportation assistance	Gour Seal.
Photography & Videography	Kallol Ghosh, Subhash Sarkar, Shyama Banerjee, Yogadish Das.
Storage Re-organization, bedis & chaalchitra rebuild	Somesh Roy Choudhury, Sudin Kumar De, Santanu Chakraborty, & team

ছিমুটি দেউ

ছোটদের নাটক 'ছিমুটি দেউ' - মূল রচনা Oscar Wilde এর 'The selfish giant'.

স্বার্থপর দেউ কি কিভাবে নিজের আশ্রয় মিশ্র উদ্বাসন গুণ, উল্লসিত মন, গর্ভে নিয়ম গর্ভে সুন্দর শ্রীতিগঠন!

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নাট্যনির্দেশনা- শ্রেয়শী গুপ্ত



Aaheli Bandyopadhyay (child), Mishka Banerjee (Kathbirail), Ayan Chattopadhyay (doltiyo), Soham Chattopadhyay (kid), Sparsho Chakraborty (Sutradhor & Seeturo), Raynell Datta (child), Sutopa Das (child), Rayan Guha (kid), Om Mukherjee (kid), Arjun Nandi (kid), Shonali Sen (Champa phool/child), Niam Sen (prajapati)



Emily Chowdhury



Eika Das



Aarnavi Dhungana



Zairina Kabir



Youth dance group – Shyla Mukherjee, Aarnani Mukherjee, Meghna Matti, Sneha Matti, Sayesha Roy Choudhury
Choreographer – Shaoni Chakraborty



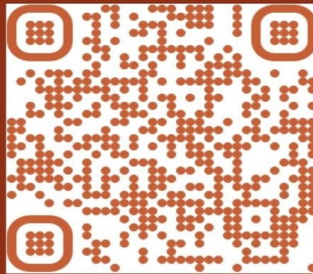
Youth Solo dancers – Onkit Paul Chowdhury, Shaoni Chakraborty



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