



BAGC salutes the community Front liners and Essential Service Corps of Covid-19 Pandemic

Arijit Basu | TOI Contributor | May 28, 2020



BAGC, the Bengali Association of Greater Chicago put up an online program with live music and dance in saluting and honoring the Front liners and Essential service Corps. The event took place through live streaming on May 25,2020, Memorial Day at 10 AM CST (Central Standard Time). The pandemic could not dampen the spirits of the most prestigious South Asian organizations in the Mid-West of USA.

Established in 1977 with a membership of 2000 and a non-profit organization, BAGC is dedicated to nurturing Asian Indian culture, blending this with the culture of North America and synthesizing the best. Over the past several years they have extremely engaged themselves in arranging many kinds of cultural events besides various religious, philanthropic, social, contributions for the great parts of the society living in US and elsewhere.

The program started with the Bengali song “Amra korbo joy”, and then with a melodious Bengali tune by the MC of the program Ms. Debaleena Doyel who coordinated the event from Chennai, India, a DD Bangla anchor. She coordinated the entire event beautifully and welcomed the online audience of over 1.5k. The president of BAGC Jayanta Mukherjee signed the certificate of appreciation and was shown in the opening part of the program.

The Certificate of appreciation was extended by BAGC (Bengali association of Greater Chicago) to all the doctors, nurses and frontline workers for their Exemplary service for COID 19 Pandemic, 2020. The names of those where shown on the screen who are fighting day and night to save the lives of several thousand patients struggling for life and death with this deadly Coronavirus. The efforts of all the following names cannot be described in words but the greater community of Chicago and the entire mankind were immensely thankful for their tireless efforts. This includes some celebrity doctors who already appeared on National TV like Fox news.

The sincere thanks and gratitude goes out to all the individuals are Dr Sudip Bose, Dr Shuvani Sanyal, Dr Adrija Das, Dr Kumarika Banerjee, Dr Dhwal Patel, Dr Totini Chatterjee, Ms Sharmila Chatterjee, Dr Debasree Ghosh, Ms Piyali Gangopadhyay, Dr Saptarshi Bandopadhyay, Dr Promila Banerjee, Dr Abdul Chowdhury, Dr Elaine S Banerjee, Dr Kalyan Das, Dr Jayanta Mukherji, Ms. Rinku Choudhary, Ms Namrata Saha, Ms Camelia Saha, Ms Gitalakshmi Bhattacharya, Dr Tania Bhattacharya, Dr Leena Bhattacharya Mithal, Dr Divakar Mithal, Dr Sharmistha Dev, Dr Ananya Gangopadhyaya, Dr Pavan Srivastava, Dr Sirisha Rao, Dr Debarati Bose, Ms Soma Deb, Dr Mona Ghosh, Ms Suvra Bhattacharya, Dr Geeti Ghosh, Dr Jaya Paul.

Bakul Banerjee, the chair of the BAGC Board of Trustees for 2020 welcomed the BAGC members and all online viewers around the globe in her inaugural speech. She addressed that’s it’s her great privilege to honor all frontline workers particularly the second-generation children who have scattered around the country. She expressed being very proud of all are doing in their noble profession. She wished all to be safe and believe in the divine within yourself. Manatosh Banerjee, another board of trustee expressed his gratitude towards the community and appealed to all the people to come forward with generous donations and give back to the friends and neighbors within the states and city of Illinois suffering with Covid-19 and also with the natural calamity that devastated Bengal.

The heart-warming video presentation followed on Dr Sudip Bose, who is a world-leading emergency medicine physician, combat veteran, professor, and entrepreneur. Selected by U.S. forces to treat Saddam Hussein after his capture and the recipient for the Bronze Star medal for completing one of the longest combat tours by a physician since World War II and serving as

one of the sole frontline physicians in the Second Battle of Fallujah. The Presidential Recognition and featured as a “CNN Hero” for practice under extraordinary circumstances.

Many moons back saregamapa singer and 2nd placed winner Indrani Joshi currently based in Chicago with a profession as a teacher started the musical presentation with the “Vakratunda Mahakaya Suryakoti Samaprabha” salutation to the Lord Ganesha which set the audience with a feeling of oneness. She followed it up few more Bengali and Hindi popular melodies. In between few more local important pandemic front liners put forward their important messages for the community.

Then, Anindita Neogy Annam, a leading exponent of Kathak dance, presently based in the state of Wisconsin USA and a recipient of various prestigious awards in different platforms presented one piece on nature – based on Anoushka Shankar music, Indian summer. Her second piece was Tripalli means on 3 layas – on the vilambit laya she depicted through her dance that how the people are neglecting wearing the protective masks, gloves, changing clothes, washing hands and how most are ignorant to the pandemic strike.

In the Madhya laya which is on medium paced she showed that how the people are gasping for breath and becoming extremely sick and being admitted to the hospitals. And finally on drut laya she showcased when the doctors are coming to treat the patients and how are they putting the PPE and then treating the patients with injections and intravenous drugs and providing their supportive care and she concluded with the salutation to the doctors and other supportive care for their tireless efforts. Her third dance piece was based on a devotional song on “Tora Mann Darpan kehlaye” which was accompanied on song by Indrani Joshi and in tabla by Subhasis Mukherjee.

Her last one was on Bhavani Dayani based on Taal Jhaptal. It was a prayer to the Goddess Durga for all the sufferings of the mankind be it COVID-19 pandemic or devastating cyclone Amphan in Bengal. The mother goddess should heal the world and help the nature to come out of the catastrophe.

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