

## FROM THE MD'S DESK

Dear Readers,

*Wish you Season's Greetings and a very Happy 2020. It was lovely beginning the year with our Silver Connect New Year Bash. Thank you for joining us at Rabindra Bhawan and being such a wonderful audience to the melodious music and songs sung by the Army Band. It is always a pleasure to meet you at these dos. Those of you who could not join us this time, we look forward to meeting you at the next one.*

*As always, we have a host of things planned for you. Check out our Events Calendar and block these dates. In this special edition, we have gone down memory lane as we remembered our Mega Annual event held last year on the 1st of October; our Pujro Porikroma, which was greatly enjoyed by our participating members; and the Kolkata Heritage Tour. For the last one, I'd like to especially thank our member, Ms Flower Silliman for sharing her knowledge about the Magen David Synagogue and the Beth El Synagogue. Besides these, this newsletter also includes Mr Bhaktipriyo Debroy's experience of staying at the Hindu Hostel; an impulsive trip by Ms Mridula Ghosh Roy; and a delicious recipe shared by Ms Kalyani Sen.*

*Happy reading!  
Apratim Chattopadhyay*



**24 X 7 Info Line:**  
+91 -33-6638 8888

**Email:**  
writetous@supportelders.com

## NEWS & EVENTS

### Heritage Day Trip

The Haneswari Temple at Bansberia, Hooghly is a 16th century temple. On 11th November, around 60 of our members set off to see this temple in three buses from different parts of Kolkata. The journey, which took a little more than two hours, was a very enjoyable one. We reached around 11.50 a.m. Members also visited the Vasudeb Temple, next to the main temple. After visiting the temples, we settled down in the local Municipality Guest house. Members were served Anna Bhog and fish curry for lunch. After lunch, there was a lovely session of adda and music with many of our members singing songs. In the evening, we set off for Kolkata, bringing home with us the sweet memories of the lovely day. **SE**

### Picnic @ Prakriti Gardens

In the early hours of 30th November, around 50 of us set out for Prakriti Gardens for our very first picnic of the season. After our members settled down under the shacks and umbrellas (arranged for them), breakfast was served. It was luchi, alu dom and rosogolla along with tea and coffee. After breakfast, we all gathered under the trees. Songs flowed spontaneously and then we played a game of passing the pillow. Our members enthusiastically participated in the game and the air resonated with giggles and laughter. Soon, it was lunch-time. Lunch began with the usual daal, bhat, alu bhaja, followed by fish curry and mutton curry, and was wrapped up with chutney and mishti. After lunch, members relaxed under the mellow Winter sun. Before boarding, it was another adda session with tea and biscuit. **SE**

### History of Kolkata

Dr Debashish Basu began a most interesting session on the *History of Kolkata—Family history and the History of Adi Ganga* with a process of unlearning. He explained the geological history of this region and went on to say that this region has archaeological proof of existence as far back as 300 BC. Next, was a learning session about the history of the Adi Ganga river, which used to flow much east of its present course. The concluding session was magical, as he spoke about the family history of almost all the members present by just enquiring their surname and ancestral village. **SE**

## MEMBER SPEAK

## Life in our Hindu Hostel

Our member, **Mr Bhaktipriyo Debroy**, shared his experience of staying at the Hindu Hostel, as a student of Presidency College.

The Hindu Hostel, established in 1886, has not only been a witness to the different phases of history that have played out in Kolkata but in its own way, it has been an active participant—as it has been home to many famous personalities and scholars. Mr Debroy's pride was evident when he mentioned, "Dr Rajendra Prasad, the first President of India, lived here when he studied in Presidency College." Mr Debroy felt that the hostel was more than a mere place for boarding and lodging—its walls echoed bonhomie and camaraderie, along with youthful and passionate debates on politics and literature.

"Each room was shared by two students. There were no ceiling fans in the rooms in those days. However, we did not even feel the need for fans... maybe it was not that hot in those days", he said. Mr Debroy, who had come from Shillong after completing Intermediate to join Presidency College, spent a most wonderful time in the hostel. Initially, it had taken him a little time to adjust to the new environment where he had to befriend students hailing from different corners of India. But once they became friends, the strong friendship continued over many years and decades! He is still in touch with many of them.

Mr Debroy remembers with great amusement some of the pranks that were played at the time. Once they had even tried to do a séance with a planchette, but that had frightened a few students so much that they had started believing that the hostel was haunted. Soon after this, one night, the students spotted an unusually tall shadow roaming around in the terrace. "At first, everybody was scared but finally six boys gathered courage and ran to the terrace. Within a few minutes eight boys came down!" he laughed and said. Actually, one boy had climbed onto another's shoulder and they had hidden themselves in a big white bed cover.

Another incident that Mr Debroy remembered was how one night, when he was fast asleep, he had felt his bed moving. At first, he had thought it was an earthquake but then he realised that the



bed was moving only in one direction. "Curious, I looked under the bed and found two of my friends crawling with the bed on their shoulders! I feel nostalgic whenever I think of those days," he said. Remembering those days of yore and these mischievous incidents kept him smiling throughout his conversation that day. SE

## RECIPE

## Kalakand

By Kalyani Sen

## Ingredients

- Whole milk - 1 litre
- Vinegar - 1/3 teaspoon
- Chhana - 1/3 cup
- Sugar - 100g
- Ghee - ½ teaspoon
- Cardamom/pistachio - 1 or 2 pieces powdered or Pistachio can be cut into julienne

## Method

1. Boil milk. Stir and thicken it to 250 g
2. Then, add the vinegar and the chhana and stir it continuously.
3. The milk should not curdle fully but there should be tiny pieces of chhana.
4. Switch off the gas.
5. Brush ghee on a plate and pour the entire thing in the plate.
6. Flatten it by hand and let it cool down.
7. Then, cut it into square pieces with a knife.
8. Add cardamom powder or julienne pistachio for garnish.
9. Serve it fresh on a square butter paper chit. SE

## SEPL EVENT

## Picnic @ Eco Urban Village



## TRAVEL

## The Joys of an Impulsive Trip

*Our member, Ms Mridula Ghosh Roy talks about her impulsive decision to travel to Kedarnath and Badrinath while on an official trip to Dehradun*

Born in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Ms Mridula Ghosh Roy was brought up in a very liberal family. Her father was the headmaster of a school. She studied till class 10 in Dhaka and then had to come to Kolkata, leaving everything behind like many others. But that did not stop her from pursuing further studies. She completed her graduation while working in a school. Her career that started with her teaching in a school, finally saw her retiring as a Deputy Director at ONGC. Her unique and long service career obviously wasn't a bed of roses, but she skillfully managed her professional and personal life.

Ms Ghosh Roy had to occasionally travel for work to different places across the country. Once she had had to travel to Dehradun, the headquarter of ONGC during the unrest caused by the Mandal Commission protest. There were agitations and protests all over the country, but even before leaving Kolkata she had decided to visit Kedarnath, after wrapping up her official assignment early. She set off from office one evening to take a bus to Rishikesh from the bus-stop. There were quite a few incidents of stone-pelting but somehow, she

managed to get a reserved seat for Rishikesh and reached her destination safely. She stayed there for a night in a dharmashala where she met a few Bengali tourists, who were also going to Rishikesh. They were very surprised to see a lady travelling alone that far! After reaching Gauri Kund, the base station of Kedarnath, she hired a pony and started towards Kedarnath. It was an enjoyable as well as a painstakingly long journey, but the pristine beauty of the place made her forget the hassles of the journey. She still remembers the gorgeous beauty of the landscape—the temple against the snowcapped mountains. After offering puja, she came down to Gaurikund and set off for Badrinath.

At Badrinath, the colourful temple in the barren mountains, partially overcast most of the time, makes the place a visual treat for tourists. She enjoyed visiting the turquoise blue lakes, towering peaks and sacred ponds.

Though Ms Ghosh Roy visited Kedarnath again, that adventurous trip that she had made impulsively, all by herself is still fresh in her mind and evokes much joy within. **SE**

SEPL EVENT

# Silver Connect Annual Meet



1. SEPL staff escorting members at the entrance of Rabindra Okakura Bhawan  
 2. Members chitchatting before entering the auditorium  
 3. & 4. Members enjoying breakfast before the cultural programme  
 5. Ms Deepanwita Chattopadhyay, Chairman, SEPL giving the Welcome Speech.

6. A mesmerised audience  
 7. The welcome desk  
 8. Ms Deepanwita Chattopadhyay, Mr Amitabha Guha and Ms Swati Chattopadhyay (from L to R) watching the programme



- 9. Mr Apratim Chattopadhyay, MD & CEO, SEPL giving the Vote of Thanks
- 10. Ms Sromona Guha Thakurta
- 11. Members enjoying the performances
- 12. Members being escorted into the hall by Support Elders staff
- 13. Members who performed that day
- 14. Ms Sromona Guha Thakurta with the Calcutta Youth Choir

SEPL EVENT

# Pujo Porikroma



At Bagbazar Sarbojonin Pujo



Members relishing a delicious lunch at Kewpies



Members enjoying phuchka at Maddox Square Pujo



Members at the Bokul Bagan Pujo

SEPL EVENT

Heritage Tour



Magen David Synagogue



Armenian Church



Our member, Ms Flower Silliman sharing her knowledge about the Magen David Synagogue



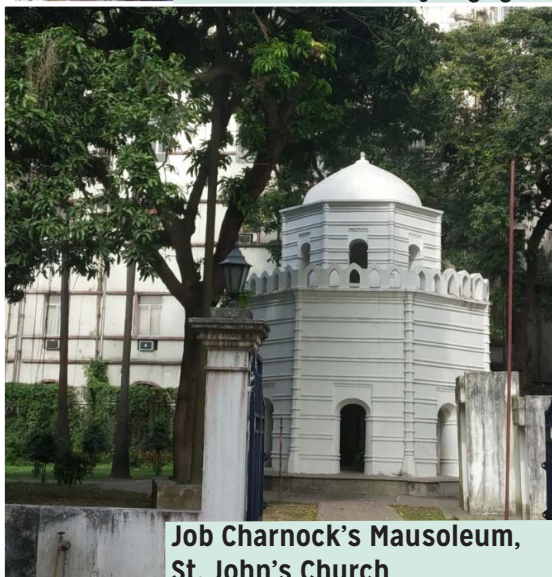
Members enjoying a fine lunch at New Embassy restaurant



Entrance, Beth El Synagogue



St. Paul's cathedral



Job Charnock's Mausoleum, St. John's Church



Armenian Church



## Mark your calendar

**January 10th, Friday**

**Discussion: Know your Nervous System**

**Speaker:** Neurosurgeon Dr Nirup Dutta

**Venue:** Institute of Mass

Communication Film & Television Studies

**Time:** 4 p.m-6 p.m



**January 16th, Thursday**

**Pithe Pooli Parbon**

An adda session with Mr Shyamal Sengupta, Producer, and Mr Samaresh Majumdar, renowned writer, on the making of 'Tero Parbon', the first Bengali Mega serial, while enjoying pithe-pooli, a seasonal Bengali delicacy.

**Venue:** Golf Green Phase I Community Hall

**Time:** 3 p.m.-5.30 p.m.



**January 24th, Friday**

**Discussion: Insurance for the Elders**

**Speaker:** Mr Pinaki Sarkar,

Investment Consultant

**Venue:** Institute of Mass

Communication Film & Television Studies

**Time:** 4 p.m.-6 p.m.



**February 5th, Wednesday**

**Day Trip to Deulti**

A full day trip to Deulti, a rural escape nestled on the bank of River Rupnarayan. We will also visit the abode of the famous author Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay.

**Transport:** AC bus

**Details:** Includes Breakfast, Lunch & Evening tea.

**Venue:** Nirala Resort



**February 20th, Thursday**

**Literary Meet**

Renowned author Shirshendu Mukhopadhyay will talk about some of his literary works.

**Venue:** Institute of Mass

Communication Film & Television Studies

**Time:** 4 p.m.-5:30 p.m.



**February 26th, Wednesday**

**Half-day Heritage trip to some iconic historical places in Kolkata**

**Transport:** AC bus

**Details:** Includes Breakfast and Lunch



**March 11th, Wednesday**

**Dol Utsav**

**Details:** A musical programme followed by lunch

**Venue:** Golf Green Phase I Community Hall

**Time:** 10.30 a.m.-3 p.m.



## Film Screening & Discussion

**January 9th, Thursday**

**Garm Hava**

A 1973 Urdu film, it was directed by M. S. Sathyu, with Balraj Sahni as the lead. This was Balraj Sahni's last film. It is written by Kaifi Azmi and Shama Zaidi, based on an unpublished short story by noted Urdu writer Ismat Chughtai.

**January 22th, Wednesday**

**Dr Zhivago**

Based on Boris Pasternak's novel, this 1965 romantic film was directed by David Lean based on a screenplay by Robert Bolt.

**February 13th, Thursday**

**Hatey Bajarey**

A 1967 award-winning art film starring Ashok Kumar, Vyjayanthimala, Ajitesh Bandopadhyay with Bhanu Bandopadhyay, Samit Bhanja, Rudraprasad Sengupta and Gita Dey as the ensemble cast, it was directed by Tapan Sinha and produced by Asim Dutta. The story revolves around the conflict between good and evil.

**February 27th, Thursday**

**Bhuvan Shome**

Directed by Mrinal Sen, the cast includes Utpal Dutt and Suhasini Mulay. Sen based his film on a Bengali story by Balai Chand Mukhopadhyay. The film is considered a landmark in modern Indian cinema.

**March 5th, Thursday**

**Kshudita Pashan**

Starring Soumitra Chattopadhyay, Chhabi Biswas, Arundhati Devi and Dilip Roy, it was directed by Tapan Sinha.

**\*\*For all film screenings**

**Venue:** Institute of Mass

Communication Film &

Television Studies

**Time:** 4p.m.-6p.m.

*Note: Films may change subjected to unavailability of good quality CDs but will be conveyed well in advance.*