



# Shirsendu 2021

SAMHITA CULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF ARIZONA



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## Editor's note

Debalina Banerjee

It is with immense pleasure I welcome you to the 2021 edition of the e-magazine "Shirsendu" published by Samhita Cultural Association of Arizona on the occasion of Durga Puja 2021. Generally known as "Sanskriti", this issue is dedicated and named after the former president of Samhita, Mr Shirsendu Mukherjee who is fondly remembered by one and all here at Samhita. We would also like to commemorate Dr Amitava Bhattacharya in this edition who had been an integral part of the association ever since its formative days. He would be fondly remembered in our hearts.

In spite of going through difficult times for the last twelve months, positivity has driven us to unite one more time, overcoming the odds and embark on the worship of "Durgatinashini" maa Durga like every year. The magazine being an integral part of the event, is also being published with much enthusiasm, contribution and inputs from creative talents of Samhita to make it a success. This edition brings you creative and literary works of Samhita members. It showcases some very beautiful paintings of Samhita artists of all ages. You will also find poetry and stories some of which relates absolutely to the Durga puja theme along with other interesting subject matters. Special thanks to all the parents of the kids who have contributed their creative works for the magazine. We would also like to thank all the patrons who made it possible for this event to happen. The patron list may also be found in the magazine. Lastly, I would also like to thank all the members of Samhita with special mention of magazine team member Mr Anirban Bhattacharya whose constant support and coordination was unmatched and Mr Binoy Saha whose constant encouragement and support have much facilitated to make things fall in place.

Wishing a very, happy and safe Durga Puja to everyone. May Maa Durga shower her blessings to everyone. Happy Puja!

\*\*\*\*\*

## Shirsendu, we miss you

Babu Raman  
Shoumik Maiti

Shirsendu Mukherjee passed away unexpectedly on June 12, 2021, from injuries in his head after a fall. He was a loving dad, a caring husband, a dutiful son, a fun brother, and a very dear friend to many of us. His untimely demise has left a huge void in our hearts.

Shirsendu was born in Nagpur, India on November 19, 1974. He received his BE from Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology and MS from Rutgers University. He held many senior positions in the financial industry. At the time of his passing, he was the Vice President of Business Analysis and Risk Management at Wells Fargo & Company. He was a leader and the elected President of Samhita Cultural Association of Arizona from January 2020, the position that he had been proudly serving before he departed to his heavenly abode.

He was married to Gargi Mukherjee, and they have 2 daughters Tisha and Aanya. He was an exemplary family man and dearly loved his daughters and wife. The family meant more than anything in the world for him and was always his highest priority.

He attracted many friends because of his caring and down-to-earth personality. He was an avid sports fan, and many friends would attest to the excitement of enjoying the game nights with him. He also enjoyed exploring and traveled extensively around the world. He had a great taste of food and was also a very good cook. He had a keen interest in music, literature, and drama. His performances on the stage of Samhita are still fresh in our memories.

Shirsendu was dedicated to the community and was a loyal and true supporter of Samhita. For many years, he volunteered countless hours to organize events for the organization. Despite several obstacles, Samhita was able to continue to support the community during the covid-19 pandemic under his able leadership. We are confident that the legacy of his good work will continue far into the future.

Shirsendu had a big heart and touched many lives with his empathy, compassion, and generous giving. He organized a major fundraising campaign for Samhita to help India when it was adversely affected by a huge surge of covid-19 infections. We donated



a substantial amount from that campaign to ease the relief efforts. Even in his final hours, Shirsendu saved many lives by gifting his organs.

Shirsendu is survived by his wife Gargi, daughters Tisha and Aanya, mother Keka Mukherjee, brother Chayan, sister-in-law Lipika, in-laws Jayanta and Krishna Chatterjee, Ambika, Raman, and many loving friends. We at Samhita will always miss him. Our sincere prayers for the departed soul. Om Shanti.

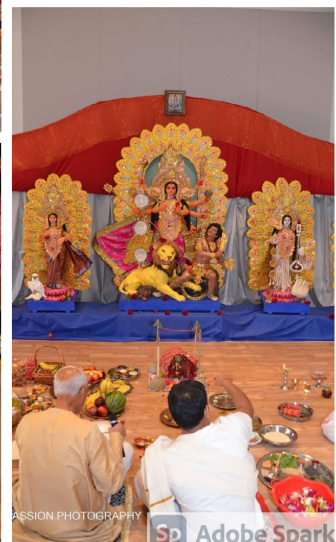
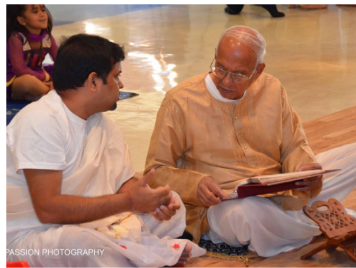


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# Obituary For Amitava Bhattacharya

Sharmishtha Bhattacharya

Our beloved and respected Amitava Da (Amitava Bhattacharya) has passed away on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021 at his residence in Chandler. He was surrounded by his loved ones at the time of his demise. By profession he was a Mechanical Engineer who immigrated in USA in 1970's. He was an active member of Samhita and BCAA community. He was our first priest who performed the Durga Puja for Samhita. He had vast knowledge in Hindu religion and its rituals. He wrote many short stories and also translated novels from Bengali to English language and published many technical articles. He was also passionate about playing golf. He left behind his wife Gouri Di, his children and grandchildren. May his departed soul rest in eternal abode. He will be missed dearly by all of us at Samhita.



\*\*\*\*\*



## From the Canvas of Samhita Kids

Artist: Anaya Bhattacharya  
Age: 7 years



Painting by Anaya Bhattacharya  
Age - 7 years

Artist: Anouska Banerjee  
Age: 7 years





# Ganesha

Artist: Adwik Datta  
Age: 6 years



Artist: Swarnendu Mukherjee  
Age: 10 years

Puja  
Shopping  
Done.  
PIKA PIKA

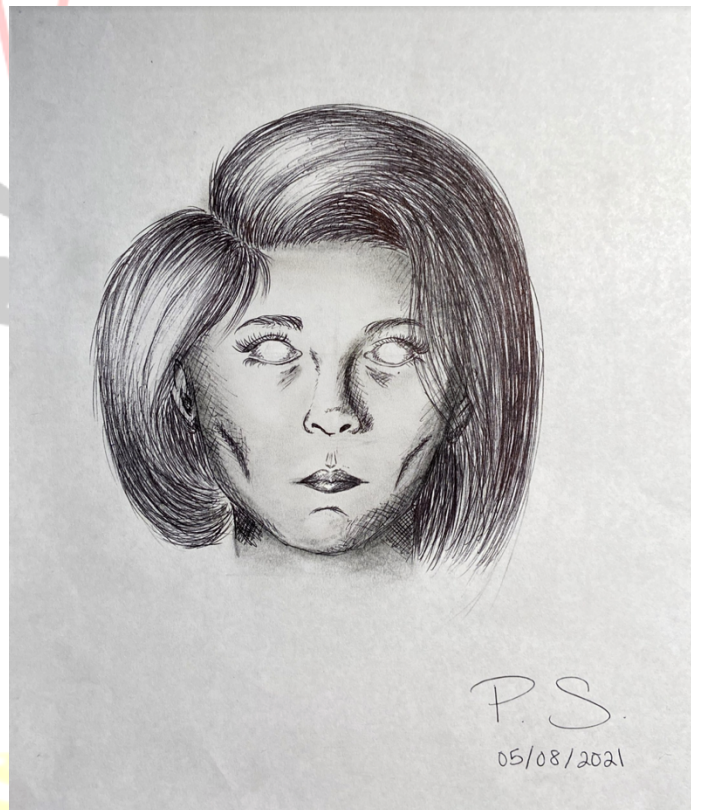


Artist: Dakshayini Nigam  
Age: 4 years





## From the Canvas of Samhita Artists



Artist: Prokriti Saha



**Koi fish for GoodLuck**



**Cherry Blossom in MoonLight**



**Artist: Kranti Patel**



Cherry Blossoms in full moon



Colors of life



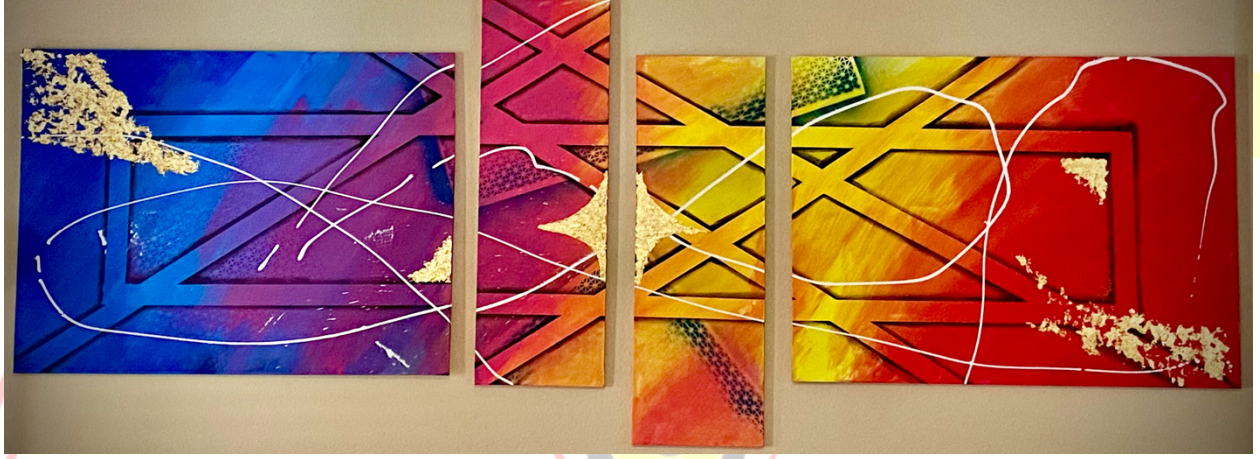
Artist: Devika Choudhury





Artist: Vandana Ghosh





Artist: Abir Kumar Deb

## Poetry Section

### সুপ্রভাত

পুবের সূর্যাকাশের হাতছানি বিলীয়মান দৃশমান আকাশ,  
যেন আলোর রেখা পৃথিবীর গায়ে অন্ধকারের গ্লানি মুছে দেয়  
শুরু যেন পাখিদের মনভোলানো আনন্দ উৎসব  
মন গভীরে তোলা একগুচ্ছ সচ্ছ ছবি  
মুছে গেলো যেন পুরোনো সব বেথা বেদনা  
এক রাশ স্নিগ্ধ পরশ গায়ে মৃদু হাওয়া  
দিনের জন্য শক্তির সঞ্চয়ের পূর্বাভাস  
আলোর রাশি ছুড়ে দেয় একে অপরকে  
পথিকের পথ চলা শুরু, জীবনের নতুন দিন শুরু  
সুপ্রভাত জানাই সুপ্রভাত জানাই

- বিনয় সাহা

## জয় মা দুৰ্গা

শক্তি দিয়া মা  
সং হৈ জিয়াই থাকিবলৈ  
সুচিন্তাৰে মন প্ৰাণ ভৰাই ৰাখিবলৈ  
সৰু বড় উশ্চ নিশ আপুন পৰ ভেদা ভেদ নাৰাখাকৈ  
জিয়াই থাকিবলৈ তুমি আমাক শক্তি দিয়া মা  
তুমি যে শক্তিৰ অধিষ্ঠাত্ৰী মা  
এই সংসাৰ মঞ্চত আমি যে দুদিনৰ শিল্পী  
শুধু মনেৰে শুধু অভিনয় কৰিবলৈ  
আমাক প্ৰেৰণা দিয়া মা  
সুস্থ সবল মানসিকতা গ্ৰহ দিবলৈ  
সকলোকে ন্যায় কৰিবলৈ আমাক শক্তি দিয়া মা  
ভালক ভাল বুলিবলৈ, নিঃসহায়ক সহায় কৰিবলৈ তুমি আমাক শক্তি দিয়া মা  
তোমাক পাবলৈ তোমাক চাবলৈ  
প্ৰতি বছৰে আমি বৈ থাকো মা  
মা তুমিৰ সৰণত কৃতগ্য  
আমাক সকলোকে যাতে আশীৰ্বাদ কৰা মা  
আমাক শক্তি দিয়া মা  
জয় দুৰ্গা মা

Rashmi Bhuyan



## The story of Palm tree

Sharmishtha Bhattacharya

I am a palm tree standing at my owner's backyard for the last two decades. Two days back, the owner of the house has brought in and planted a young member of my family. I noticed the young one seems a bit scared. I thought let me strike a conversation with him to ease him up a bit.

"Hey there, little fellow; how are you liking your new home?" He looked around trying to figure out where the voice is coming from.

I waved and said, "I am here look up, all the way up." He stretched his neck as far as he can and waved back at me.

"I was wondering how do you like your new home," I asked.

"I was scared last night; the winds were hauling" he answered.

"You just came from the nursery, you are not used to be under the open sky," I said.

"Don't you worry, soon you will get used to it all," I added.

"Let me share some of my life experiences with you as I have been around here a bit longer than you".

"Life of a palm tree is not very easy being the tallest one, we have to withstand high winds much more than others."

"I miss my friends from the nursery," he said. I can hear the sadness in his tone.

"Awww... don't be sad I can be your new friend," I said with enthusiasm.

The young guy giggled and said "you are too old to be my friend."

I said, "Look around there are other trees too in this yard but they don't look like us but we are all friends and each one is of different age."

"Where was I? I lost the train of my thought. Boy, am I getting old?" I hear him giggle again.

"Oh yes, I was talking about how we have to deal with all kinds of weather, summer is hot and dry over here, some of my branches get dried up and turn yellow. Standing under the scorching sun I pray for monsoon."

"The first rainfall of the season come as the blessing on the earth, it cools me off and quench my thirst as it dampens my roots."

"The best part of all is the entire atmosphere is filled with petrichor", he asked "what did you just said pet... pet...."

"Sorry, I should have known that is too big of a word for a little guy like you".

"Petrichor means a pleasant smell comes along with the first rain of the season after the hot summer months," he looked at me with an awe.

"After summer comes fall, this is the season where all the trees shade their leaves and stand bare all thru the winter till the spring comes."

" Not for us, we are the lucky ones to have our leaves in the winter to cover ourselves".

"Once spring arrives the nature gets all decked up with new leaves on the branches of the trees."

"Flowers start to bloom, birds start to sing and butterflies fly around."

"The plant kingdom adorn itself with new life and new hope, this is the most beautiful time of the year."

" Do you know everything, "asked junior with his inquisitive look.

"Well, you will know everything too when you grow up." I added.

"How long it will take me to grow up," he asked.

"Well, you have to weather all the seasons over and over again in order to grow up," I answered.

"To make it easy for you, I will be right here to hold your hand and lead your way as your friend."

"I would like that," said the tiny one.

I just noticed the twinkling of his eyes for the first time.

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# Setting Aside an Arizona Criminal Conviction

Matt Maerowitz

I have learned through being a lawyer, that many people who have a criminal record are good people that made a mistake in the past. Unfortunately, having a criminal record, even a misdemeanor can be hard for many reasons especially when looking for a job.

The good news is Arizona has a way to help with the consequences of a criminal record and many people do not realize that their old criminal conviction might be eligible to be set aside. A set aside is an order from the judge that the criminal charge should be treated as dismissed. The idea is that someone should not face any more penalty after they have successfully served their sentence.

A set aside basically realizes that good people make mistakes who may later turn their life around in a positive direction. For many criminal convictions, including driving under the influence, a set aside application can be submitted once all terms of sentencing and probation have been completed.

Part of the idea behind a set aside is that the person since being found guilty of a crime has been doing well and has followed the law ever since. As a result, a set aside will not help if someone continues to break the law because it can be used against you if you are charged again with a new crime as if you never got a set aside in the first place. However, if you find an old criminal record is still hurting you, getting the conviction set aside may help for purposes of employment, professional licenses, seminars, and schooling.

It normally does not cost too much to hire a lawyer help with this. You can reach me at 480-927-3700 for a free consultation to discuss this process and find out if you are eligible for a set aside.

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## Pujo Ashchhe...

Sarmistha Bhattacharya Gupta

The moment I used to hear this in my childhood from my mother or father or anyone for that matter, a series of reaction used to occur...an ecstatic sensation in the brain, like a trailer of happy, adventures series of things.....

Starting with how to plan those five days with friends, how to tell Ma that I really don't want to study at all for those five days & how would I compensate later, walking behind my mother nagging all the time asking how much pocket money I would be getting this time etc...then starting the discussion of doing the puja shopping with Ma, trying to convince her that why I need five new dresses for five days this time & recollecting the conversations of previous year's puja about her commitments on giving me one extra dress next time....then little bit of rona dhona if she didn't agree on the terms...all were so energetic, so loving & still so fresh like it's just happened few days back...

My father used to tell about the kind of Puja Pandals with different innovative things being constructed around that time & why we should hire a Rickshaw to roam around the entire town, so that we don't miss a single one of those Pandals...and what all exotic local delicacies we would be tasting this time...my favorites being Mughlai Parantha & ice cream without a miss...

Counting the days towards Puja was real fun...every new day used to be like being closer to a great achievement, to be closer to something you really belong to. It was a feeling like, you do not have your existence without this enormous welcome you are offering to the Great Goddess. Maa Ashchhen!!

The moment I used to open my eyes, feeling the cold breeze of Fall, a serene feeling of happiness used to run through my mind & body... I would wake up fast n run down the stairs making clamor & land up in the garden near the Shiuli flower tree holding my Phul shaji...I used to be mesmerized with the effervescent effect of Shiuli covering the ground, heavenly aromatic atmosphere & the associated feeling of Durga Puja...Maa Ashchhen.... Pujo Ashchhe!!!

My mother would cook wonderful Bengali dishes each day of the Puja rejecting my Father's plea of eating outside both times...I was at my father's side in this as I



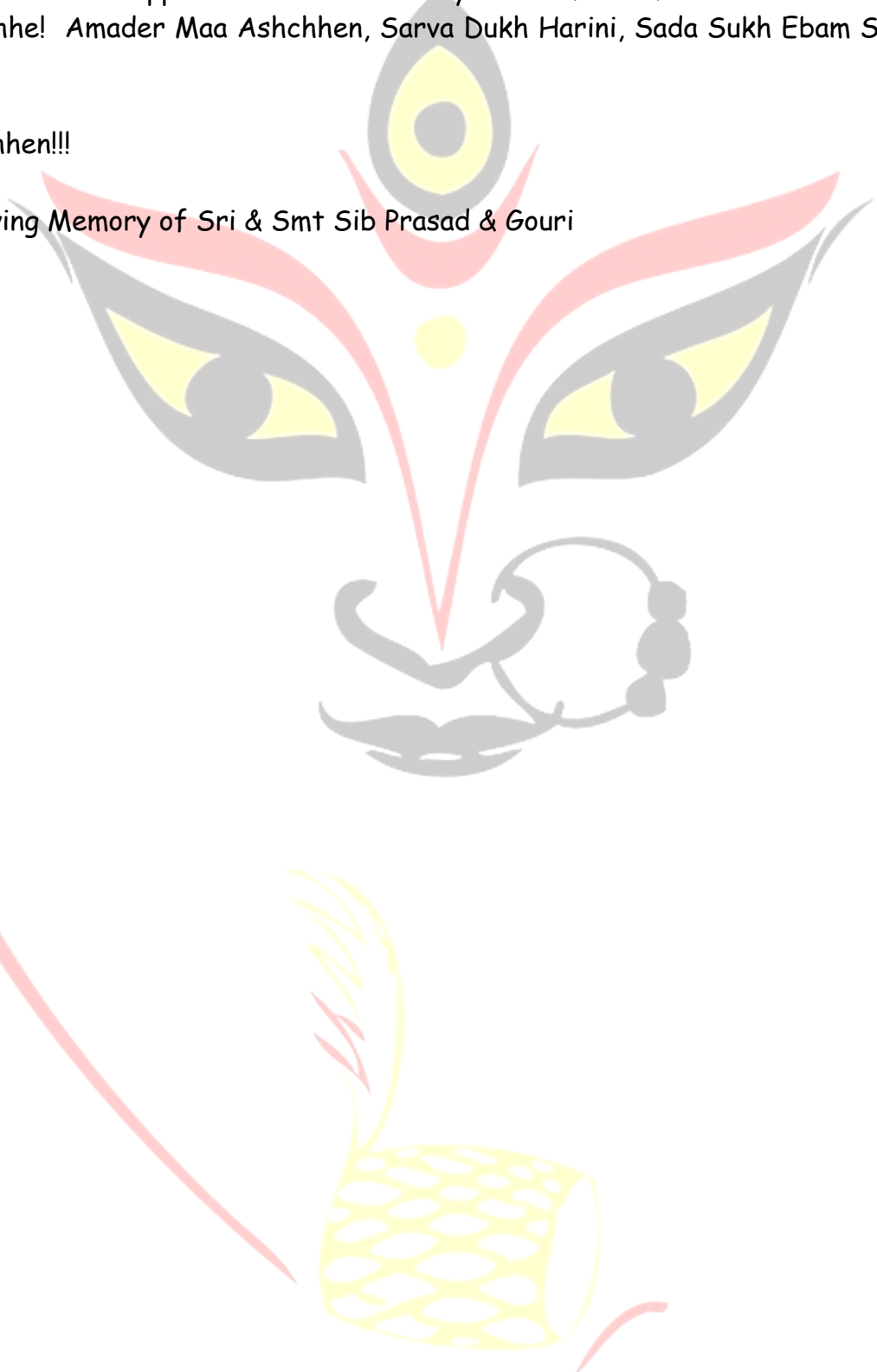
didn't want to miss the Mughlai Parantha or the Biryani. Those were such a joyous moment. To be remembered & cherished throughout the life.

Today, Ma & Baba are not there anymore in this earth, at least not visible to my naked eye. They have left for their heavenly abode, leaving the wonderful loving memories behind...wrapped in the wild heavenly scent of Kashful & Shiuli.

Pujo Ashchhe! Amader Maa Ashchhen, Sarva Dukh Harini, Sada Sukh Ebam Shanti Datri!

Maa Ashchhen!!!

N B: In loving Memory of Sri & Smt Sib Prasad & Gouri



# Samhita Cares

## STAND WITH WEST BENGAL



CYCLONE AMPHAN HAS CAUSED WIDESPREAD LOSS AND DAMAGE. SEWA BHARAT IS COORDINATING RELIEF EFFORTS AND WE WILL NEED YOUR HELP.

<https://sewausa.org/>

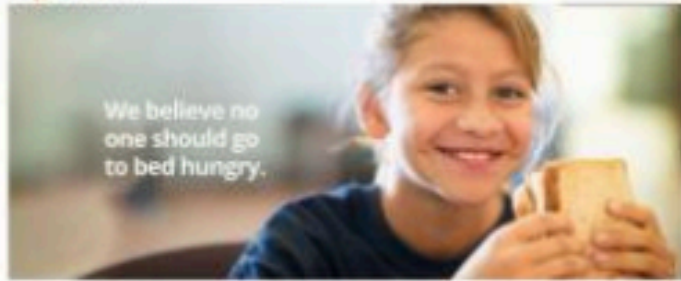


<https://www.firstfoodbank.org/>

*We support Sewa International to reach out to Amphan victims.*

*We are with St. Mary's Food Bank to help Arizona residents in COVID crisis time.*

*Samhita helped by donating and supporting their philanthropic effort.*



We believe no one should go to bed hungry.



## AZ Samhita - COVID-19 Assistance for People in India

Fundraiser for Samhita Cultural Association of Arizona by Samhita AZ • 🌐



## Patron List (for the year 2020 and 2021)

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Rita & Sandeep Chattopadhyay  
Esha & Anirban Bhattacharya

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Mita & Biswajit Saha  
Gauri Bhattacharya  
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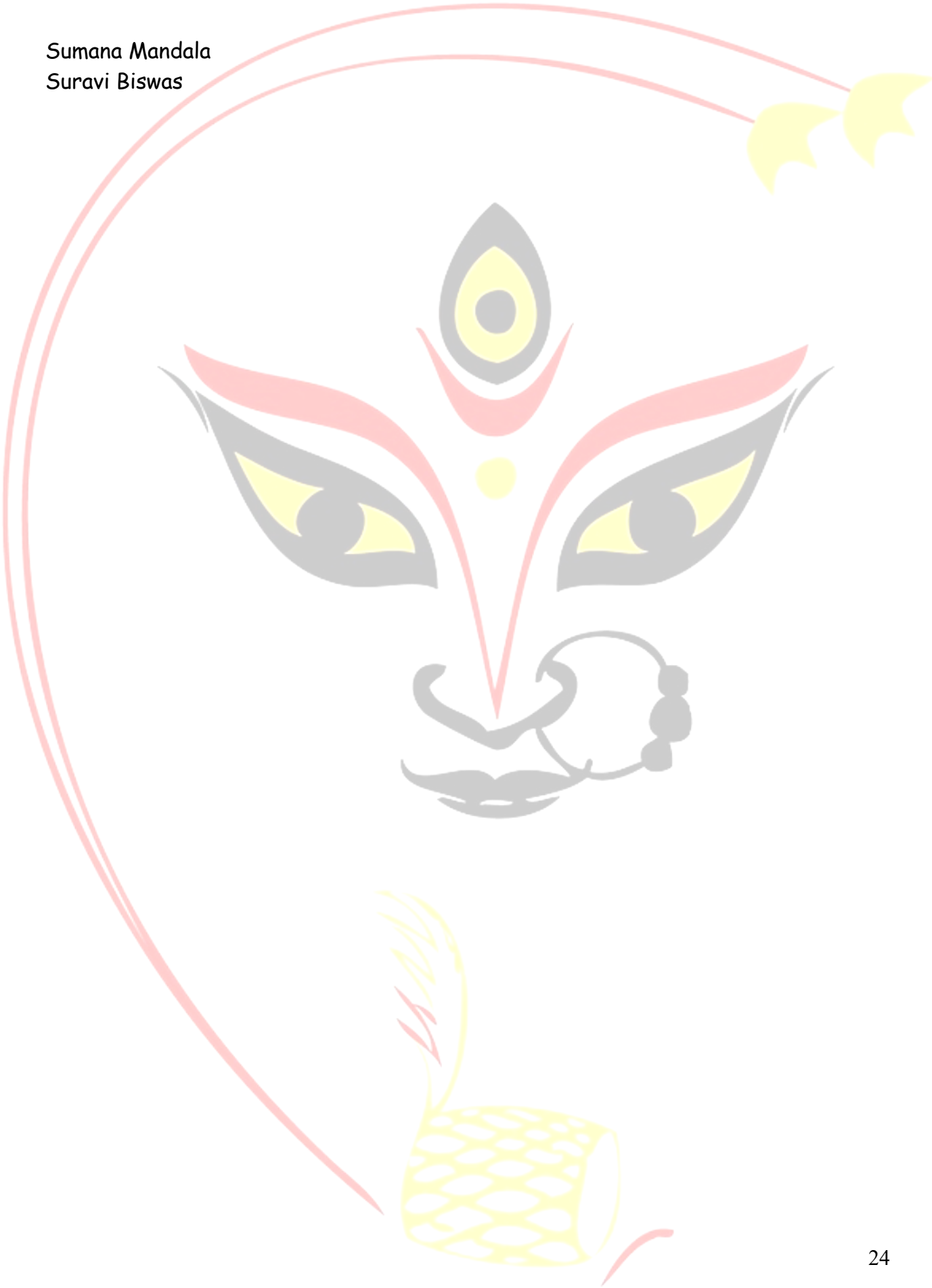
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Sanchaya Chowdhury  
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Shamala chickamenahalli & Chandan das

### Silver patron

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Noyon Saha  
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Kaveri & Amitava paul  
Sandy Roy-Moder  
Sumitava Roy

Sumana Mandala  
Suravi Biswas





## Acknowledgements

### Sanskriti 2021 Magazine Credits

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Social Media Coordinator - Anirban Bhattacharya

Samhita Executive Committee team

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For more information about Samhita Cultural Association of Arizona and this magazine please refer to the following resources

Website - <http://azsamhita.org/wp/>

Email - [info@azsamhita.org](mailto:info@azsamhita.org)