



Message from the Chairman's Desk



It is a sunny unseasonably warm and gorgeous day, as I write this column, quite a treat in early March. I like this random day of warmth, it really makes you appreciate what is waiting ahead - Spring! Spring is a time of hope and new beginnings. It is time to prune the less than successful ventures of last year and build on the last year's success with better and bigger goals. That is what GSCA is preparing for, a new beginning with a new board of directions.

As I write my last column as trustee chair, I cannot but feel strong optimism on possibilities that are ahead of GSCA. Over the last few years, we have solidified its foundation and carefully nurtured it for strength and vigor necessary for the next spurt of growth and stability.

The long term success of our organization relies upon a continuing stream of new blood and fresh ideas. In last two years, a new group of members joined us and took key roles in the organization and I am very encouraged in seeing results of their contribution. I welcome the new group of members who joined us last year and challenge them to follow the role of their predecessors.

Along with membership, the need for getting financial support of corporate sponsorship and fiscal stability is essential for survival and growth of our organization. We emphasized on this in recent years and have been modestly successful.

The last but not the least is developing a strong group of patrons, as an extended GSCA family who will participate and support our events and other endeavors. We are fortunate to have an excellent core group of patrons, however, we should pay attention to their expectations and needs as well as reach out to prospective patrons. We have initiated surveys and other feedback mechanisms to address this important area and get them engaged in developing our future. With all three above ingredients in place, I see GSCA emerging as a bigger and stronger organization in near future. I also see a change is coming with it. The old guards and the new members alike, we must embrace the change with optimism but be prepared to endure the growing pain that comes with it. As long as change and growth are controlled and built around core GSCA values, I think we will do fine. I will remain a consummate volunteer and an engaged observer as I pass the helm in a month. Thank you all for your support and trust in me while I was serving as a GSCA trustee.

Subal Sarkar,
Chairman, GSCA

In this Issue:

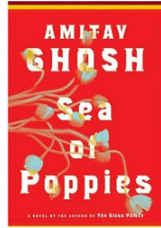
- Message from the Chairman's Desk
- **In Memoriam**
- "Sea Of Poppies" Book Review
- Look Fabulous at 20, 30 and 40+
- Books by Bengalis about Bengalis
- English Poem – Love is a winner
- Bengali POEM
- Bengali Calendar
- OBAMA Facts
- Spring Pictures
- Bang Bang Shrimp Recipe
- KIDS CORNER
- GSCA Events
- Member News
- Editorial Info

All of us at the Newsletter Committee wish Subalda all the best and hope he will continue to guide us in the years to come.

Thank you for all your help, Subalda.

Sea of Poppies

Book Review By Adityadeb Sanyal (Riju)



Amitav Ghosh's groundbreaking historical novel Sea of Poppies, the first book of the Ibis trilogy, takes the reader back to an unfamiliar time in Indian history in the 1830's during the flourishing British trade of opium from East India to China. Ghosh brings a colorful array of characters together, including a motley crew of Arrakanese, Bengali, and Tamil lascars, a bankrupt raja sentenced to work in Mauritius, a widowed tribeswoman, a 'low-caste' oxcart driver, a mulatto American freedman, a Frenchwoman and her Bengali foster-brother, all aboard a grand ship known as the Ibis, a slaving schooner now converted to the transport of opium and coolies. A la Alexandre Dumas, Amitav Ghosh brilliantly tells the story of how these seemingly incompatible passengers of the Ibis become jahazbhais or ship-siblings, regardless of their former castes or lineage.

The story swiftly moves down the Ganges river from the villages of Bihar where Deeti, a widowed woman whose husband worked at the British opium factory in Ghazipur, meets Kalua, a 'low-caste' ox-cart puller of tremendous strength. As they move downstream, Ghosh describes how Neel Rattan Haldar, an arrogant landowner or zemindar, loses all his property due to bankruptcy as the British merchants looked to plunder all of the opium profits from the Indian people. The story becomes even more interesting when we meet Paulette, a young Frenchwoman raised by a Bengali mother, and her foster-brother Jodu, a riverboat man on the Ganges who finds a job as a lascar on the Ibis. Paulette eventually falls in love with American Zachary Reid, the son of a slave master in Baltimore, who has become a shipmate on the Ibis. Mixing the many tongues and slangs of the polyglot sea travelers on the ship, Ghosh displays his thorough research of 19th century British and Indian food, furniture, religion, ship commands, marriage customs, and cultural rituals that truly makes this historic story come alive.

The novel successfully makes for a thrilling tale of adventure on the high seas of the Indian Ocean as well as an accurate historic portrayal. Ghosh makes sure to capture both sides of Britain's colonization of India, showing Britain's insistence that opium be grown on the banks of the Ganges at the cost of all other necessary crops and showing the rich and corrupt Indian landowners' acceptance of British exploitation at the expense of the Indian laborer. Amitav Ghosh also tells the story of how the Indian indentured workers decided to abandon their lives on the Ganges in search of a better life in foreign lands such as Mauritius, Guyana, and Fiji. This book is a must-read for those who love a good sea adventure, especially one that brings a lost time period in India's past back to life.

Want a recommendation for a movie night?

The Pelican Brief...law student's (Julia Roberts) life is endangered when she discovers evidence of a conspiracy behind the killings of two Supreme Court justices. She enlists the help of an investigative reporter (Denzel Washington) and the two become fugitives. **MYSTERY & SUSPENSE**

IN MEMORIAM

**In memory of
the Late
Mr. Prabir Guha**



Almost one hundred family members and friends gathered at the Rose hill Crematory in Linden on March 30, 2010 to pay tribute to Prabir Guha, who passed away on March 29, 2010 at an age of 64 after a long illness. Several GSCA members were present at the last ritual and offered flowers.

Prabir Guha had been a founding member, an ex-officer and an active member of GSCA since 1989. He was always calm, gentle and soft spoken and lived a very simple life; his doors were always open to us.

Prabir Guha is survived by his wife Ajanta Guha and his son Neil.

May his soul rest in peace!

LOOK FABULOUS at 20+, 30+, or 40+

by Lia Mukherjee

Whatever your age, style is all about developing your own unique fashion personality, but that does not mean you have to change your wardrobe every few years. Just pick some key items that keep things interesting and trendy at your age.



*“At every age, the ability to listen to your own instincts and to choose what makes you feel comfortable and confident is what gives you a great sense of style,”*says Giorgio Armani

At 20s, it’s time to experiment...

You can mix up your clothes and play with trends. It’s time to explore who you are without thinking about the consequences. You can have fun with fashion and style every day of your life. You have the freedom to test and try different styles without having to commit. You can take risks to express yourself. Your tops are the anchor to a great wardrobe, so start with the basics and then keep adding more daring pieces. Short and flirty or tight and shiny, your skirts are a major fun factor in your life. For pants explore the less traditional side and take advantage of your “young enough to pull it off” status.

At 30s, know your personal style – it’s sophisticated but with a fashion-forward edge to it...

Working all day and then attending social events in the evening, now you’ve a deeper pocket and a busy schedule. By now you know your personal style. Buy clothes that will make you chic from morning to night without losing your style and comfort. Few charming blouses, pencil skirts, tailored trousers and great jackets for the day. But increasingly you’ll find you’ve to change from day to night without going home and try 5 different outfits in front of the mirror before making a final choice. Make sure you have the right bag, for one. Some ‘Wow!’ accessories, a great pair of shoes and a leather jacket and you are all ready for the evening. Your choice of top should be somewhere between refined and rough around the edges. A day to night staple, the right skirt is the ultimate accessory for style. Just pick any pant that suits your personal style.

At 40s, you’ve found your stylish groove with dramatic pieces that accent the classics..

Now you want to be polished and sophisticated, so stick to the silhouettes that best compliment your body shape and a pop up color. Even if you are on the other side of the fence, the dressing is now about being pulled together. It all comes from the years of knowing who you are and what you are doing. Your collection of tops should be more diversified. As you juggle between work, play and evening, your skirts are in constant rotation. Pants are the most important element in dressing your way up, so choose carefully or get them tailored fit.

Lia Mukherjee is a certified Image Consultant from the Fashion Institute of Technology, New York. More details can be found at her website www.HisAndHerStyle.com



That little drop of dew!— noted Hindi author **Shivani's** as yet uncollected memoir on Satyajit Ray. Translated from the original Hindi book by **Ira Pande**: "*...., then Manik-da reluctantly got Up and called in his deep baritone, 'Harihar, O Harihar' and I think even the forest stopped to hear him....*"



The Indigo Terror,— Satyajit Ray's short story *Neel Atanka*, translated from the original Bangla by **Barnali Saha**. "*Eric had run away. Percy and Tony had already left. I guess my lust for money exceeds their's and that's why, despite frequent malaria attacks, I just could not give up my desire for indigo. No—not just that. Lying to one's diary is a sacrilege...*"



In Memoriam: Meenakshi Mukherjee— by **Sanjukta Das**. "*Today when Indian literature in English translation and Indian-English literature are part of English Literature ... the passing away of Prof Meenakshi Mukherjee, teacher, scholar and dynamic organizer who pioneered this shift, requires a looking back...*"



In Memoriam: Carol Salomon— by **Sudipto Chatterjee**. "*The first time I met Carol Salomon was in an apartment in New York City's Greenwich Village, when I was still a student at New York University....*"

All the above titles and pictures are active web links that will take you to the website www.Parabaas.com, where you can get more details of these books. Hope some of you read these and enjoy them.

Love is a winner

A hint of a smile lights up her face,
A twinkle in her eye catches the pace.
A spring in her step gives it away,
It's love that's making her that way

A change in mood when there's no reason,
A whiff of anger at the cold season.
A need to get out and be free takes over,
It's love that's making her ache forever.

A quick heart rhythm pounds a beat,
A news from him makes her flip her feet.
A whole lot of happiness engulfs her being,
It's love that's making her go on living.

A time has come when he's within reach,
A love fulfilled, a life on the beach.
A couple they were, until they became one,
It's love that's making her happy, she's finally won.

TIDBITS

- The PlayStation 2 had graphics capability better than that of the leading-edge computers at the time of its release.



**Upcoming
GSCA events in 2010:**

Annual General Meeting
– Apr 10



Baisakhi Celebration –
May 9



Annual Picnic – July 24

Please visit
www.gscs.us
for the complete list

From Our Kitchen to Yours



Bang Bang Shrimp

- 16 Medium Shrimp, peeled and deveined and butterflied
- 1/2 Cup Mayonnaise
- 6 tsp Sweet Thai Chili Sauce
- 3 tsp Sarachi sauce Or Thai Chilli garlic paste (2 teaspoon)
- 2 tsp Rice vinegar
- 1 Cup Milk
- 1 Cup Panko Bread Crumbs
- 1/2 Cup Corn Starch
- shredded cabbage & scallions (optional)

In a bowl combine mayonnaise, sweet thai chili sauce, sarachi chili sauce and rice vinegar. Whisk together until will combined, set aside. Soak shrimp in bowl with milk. Prepare a bowl with panko bread crumbs and another with corn starch. Dredge the shrimp in the corn starch, then again in the milk and finally in the panko bread crumbs, set aside.

Heat a large skillet of oil until it reaches 300 degrees. Drop shrimp in and fry until golden brown. Remove from oil with a slotted spoon. Drain fried shrimp on plate lined with paper towels. In a large bowl combine fried shrimp with prepared sauce until evenly coated. Pile high on a bed of shredded cabbage and garnish with scallions.

- **Anindita Dey**



KIDS CORNER

WORD FIND

Can you find 14 words in the grid below?

A	Z	U	R	V	I	C	T	O	S
Y	F	P	O	G	R	E	E	N	I
R	U	L	S	S	A	L	E	S	N
O	T	A	O	B	G	N	O	R	F
S	R	Y	P	W	I	B	E	E	S
E	A	S	J	H	E	R	E	N	T
S	I	C	S	V	Z	R	D	T	R
I	N	N	O	E	T	X	S	S	A
P	U	L	S	P	R	I	N	G	I
S	D	W	A	R	M	I	N	T	N

((Flowers, Green, Spring, Warm, Rain, Birds, Sunshine, Trees, Bees, Love, Play, Roses, Sales, Train))

Riddles

1. Johnny's mother had four children. The first was April, the second was May, and the third was June. What was the name of her fourth child?
2. A woman told the waiter to change her tea but he brought her the same tea. How did she know?
3. You are in a room where there are no metal objects except for two iron rods. Only one of them is a magnet. How can you identify this magnet?

Answers: Johnny, She had put sugar in the tea, hang them by a thread and see which one turns to point north.

SUDOKO PUZZLES (EASY, MEDIUM and HARD):

			4	8				3
			5		9			
8				3	2	7	4	
	8						2	4
	9						6	
5	3						8	
	4	2	1	9				6
			7		4			
7				6	5			

	2			7			3	1
7	9		1	8				5
		3					1	9
1			9	3	6			8
4	8					6		
3				1	7		9	4
9	1			4			8	

	4	7			3	1		
6			7					3
9					1	2		
	5		6					1
4								3
	7				5			6
		4	1					8
	2				7			1
		3	4			9	5	

Member News:

Congratulations to **Biswajit Sengupta, Sandip Saha, Tapas Sanyal** and **Shikhar Sarkar** for getting elected to the GSCA Board of Trustees.

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