



SAKURA

No. 123

September - October 2020



なつ むしこおりし
夏の虫氷知らず The summer insect knows not ice



....Men may come and
men may go, but I go on
forever!

This line about the brook, by Alfred Lord Tennyson, is a true reflection of our Earth – continues to exist whether or not we do. But wait, we humans have been known to adapt and win, thanks to the enormous intelligence we are endowed with.

So here we are, ready for compensating with all those activities we have missed.

AGM: 26th September 2020 5:30pm on Google Meet. Check out the link on NKKS website.

NIHONGO QUIZ: We are hopeful to hold it live asap

FRESHERS' WELCOME: We'll just need a convenient date.

But hey, we DID celebrate the NKKS Birthday – 36th this time. although virtual.....

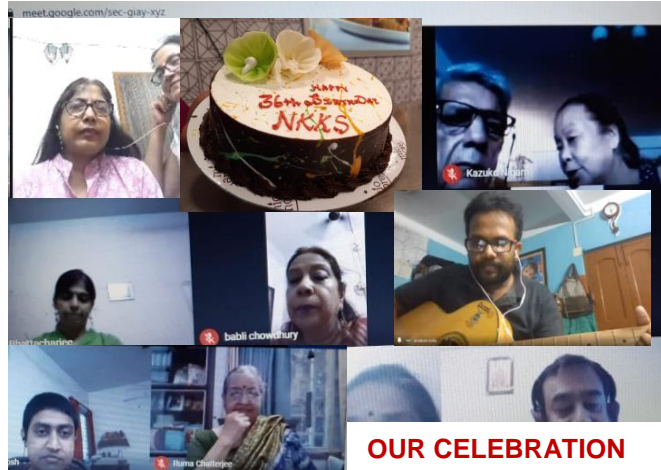


36th Foundation Day

NKKS

15th August 2020 marked the 36th foundation day of our beloved NKKS. Even in these days of social distancing, the NKKS members still had a gala celebration this day, through Google Meet. Members from Mumbai, Hyderabad, also our Mayuri chan ,from Dubai and many others, present and former members, attended this celebration party showing that there was no distancing from our hearts.

The program started with a short welcoming speech by the President of NKKS, Ms. Poonam Nand Dey. Our Chief Patron, and our dear Sensei, Ms. Kazuko Nigam, also spoke, welcoming the members. The cake-cutting ceremony by Sensei and Mr. Ravi Nigam, followed, to mark the birthday celebrations. The first performance was by Deepro Banerjee who sang a lovely Japanese song called 'Kiseki'.



OUR CELEBRATION

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL7DpdYh8gCqeMeWrP0QiGJWW-AF6XKsN9>

Next was Anusha Banerjee's beautiful rendition of 'Kawa no nagare no you ni', a very nostalgic song for all of us. Then Smritiman Barua sang a song from Okinawa, called 'Shimanchu no Takara.' Our next performer, Jhuma Chakrabarty, sang a lovely song called 'Kokoro no Tomo'. After this, Ms. Sumana Bhattacharjee played a patriotic song on the mouth organ, keeping in mind that it was also the Independence Day of India. Mr. Swapan Ray, next sang a bhajan, lending a variety to the program so far. Ms. Rushi Ghosh also followed suit and presented a beautiful bhajan, to the admiration of all. Ms. Dolon Sinha sang a Japanese song beautifully to be followed a song by NKKS secretary, Sanjay Ganguly singing a beautiful Elvis Presley song. Anupam Das sang the popular Japanese song, 'Sekai no hitotsu no hana' in accompaniment to his guitar and mostly everyone joined in with him as was apparent from the faces seen on the screen. Of course the last event was our recorded Kaiwa Kyokai song sung by Nigam Sensei and Anjana Banerjee. The whole program was very ably anchored by our Babli san, Ms. Babli Chowdhury. Anjana Banerjee, Vice President of NKKS wrapped the day's program by thanking everyone who attended the birthday party of our NKKS.

Ruma Chatterje

AN INTERVIEW WITH BARUN KUMAR BANERJEE



Three Japanese - English dictionaries came to the Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Golpark, Kolkata and he bought one.

He started to learn Japanese language in 1982 in that institute .He is Barun Kumar Banerjee. Nihongo Kaiwa Kyookai was established on the 15th of August, 1984 and he was one of the founder members. Barun san is the elder brother of Anjana Banerjee, the present vice-president of NKKS. Obviously Anjana san was inspired by her elder brother to learn Japanese language. Though after completing the language course Barun san could not continue his activities and participation in NKK due to his busy work schedule and other activities .At present he is in the Accounts Division of Senate of Serampore College and now attached with the Senate's Kolkata office. Apart from his professional duty he is also acting as Chairman of the reception committee of Ballygunge Govt High School Alumni Association, his Alma Mater. As he cannot pursue Japanese language study or activities any more he wants to donate his Japanese books to the NKKS library.

Excerpts from the interview:

Q::In 1984, almost 36 years ago NKK was founded and you were one of the founder member of NKK, Sugoi ne !

A::Yes I was one of the founder members.

The first meeting was held at Sougata Mukherjee's house in Dhakuria, Kolkata. I still remember that day, which I always cherish in my heart as a red-letter day in my life.

Q::Yes Sougata Mukherjee was your classmate in the Japanese class .I have taken his interview for "Sakura". You started to learn Japanese language in 1982.

A ::Yes I was very enthusiastic about Japanese culture – Sumo ,Karate ,Kabuki, Haiku etc. and to know it better I started to learn the language in Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Golpark, Kolkata.

Q ::Your teacher was Mrs Kazuko Nigam Sensei?

A::Yes she was our teacher. She taught us so affectionately and so brilliantly that within no time we became her die- hard fans. Though I cannot give my time now to Japanese Language and culture, I'm still connected with this magnanimous

lady, who is a mother figure for me.

Q::You completed your three-year language course in 1984. You also then took an active part in NKK activities.

A::Yes then I was an active member of NKK. But after that I could not give my time due to work pressure in my job.

Q::Your hobby ---

A::Mime, Football, Cricket, Travelling

Q ::Yes -Mime - we have heard you performed Pantomime in NKK programme .

A::Yes actually the legendary Pantomimist, Jogesh Dutta, was a friend of my father. Seeing him I grew an interest in Pantomime. I started to learn Mime from him. I took admission in his Jogesh Mime Academy in Kolkata and completed the course. I was once attached with the academy and performed in various programmes.



Q::Any memorable incident

A::Actually we have so many memorable incidents with Nigam Sensei. I still cherish every moment we spent in her class, every interaction with her. But one day I felt so bad in Japanese class. Actually the day was 25th June 1983. Can you remember that Red-letter day in Indian Cricket history? As a Cricket buff it was so disappointing for me to attend the Japanese class. But shikata ga nai ! That day was our final exam and I could not bunk. But after exams, returning home I was overjoyed like all Indians seeing the Indian Cricket Team winning the World Cup, beating the nearly invincible team West Indies!

Q::Please tell us about your memorable experience when the legendary French Actor and Mime Artist Marcel Marceau came to perform in Kolkata

A::Yes. For a Mime artist to see Marcel Marceau is a life-time experience! Marcel Marceau (23/03/1923 - 22/09/2007) referred to Mime as the "Art of Silence" He was known as Master of Silence! That day I saw the god of Pantomime and how was he was shown respect. On account of a flight delay of four hours he was late for the programme but even then, the legendary thespian Shambhu Mitra waited for him after the scheduled time though he was always punctual.

Q::Any suggestion for Japanese language students?

A:: Study hard and stick to the language.

Aloke Basu



LOCKDOWN Diaries-2



SUMANA BHATTACHARJEE SAID:

Covid-19 pandemic has forced all of us to stay at home. In the beginning, I didn't realise its severity (not medically). I had a plan to visit some places in and around Kolkata. Before pandemic, I worked as a freelancer. But, within two weeks of the lockdown, all my work was suspended or closed. It was a frustrating and helpless situation for me.



When I am too much depressed, I do two things, either I read books or listen to music. But this time, I was not able to concentrate on reading. Still, I read loudly and made it a habit. I downloaded some instrumental music like String instruments (Sarod, Sitar, Harp, Cello, Shamisen, Koto), Percussion (Tabla, Ghatam) and Woodwinds instruments (Flute). Depending on my mood, I started listening to them, and I must say these have helped me a lot.

Within a few days, I found myself much more composed than before. Therefore, when there is no work now, I thought that I should upgrade myself and cultivate my hobbies which will help me in my future projects. Accordingly, I made a TO DO list, which includes learning Editing Software, reading new writers, scripting my random thoughts, practising the Harmonica, and spending quality family time. These are the broad things that I do regularly nowadays. I do many other things randomly, like sketching and e-travel (travelling many places through Youtube and Instagram).

Now I feel I needed this break. This lockdown has become boon for me. I am much busier now than before. Sometimes, my friends complain that I am not available for their regular chat on WhatsApp. I do not intend to hurt them, but now,

literally, 24 hours is too little for me!

DEBI DAS SAID:

My earlier write-up was about how I spent my time during lockdown.

Now the scenario has changed and unlock phase has started from the month of June. Although the unlock process started quite a few months back, but for the first month or so we kept ourselves very much locked in the house only. Now-a-days, we often go Banks and market to procure necessary items.

During this period, I read a trilogy on "SHIV" written by Amish Tripathi of IIM, Calcutta. I found it really rejoicing. After finishing the last part i.e. "The Oath of Vayuputras", I was so engrossed that it took some time to remove my hangover. Most interestingly, all the three books had no relationship with religion.

Rashmi Bansal, the writer of "Stay Hungry, Stay Foolish" commented that The SHIV Trilogy is a Mythology full of Life & Thrill, as if it is Amar Chitrakatha on steroids.

At present, I am reading another trilogy "Roop Manjari" written by a famous Bengali author, Sri Narayan Sanyal. It is also a period novel based on the emancipation of women during the eighteenth century.

I also stitched some bags, masks etc.-recycled out of old clothes. I find it very interesting to transform the discarded clothes into a useful article.

Stay safe!



HAPPY DURGA PUJA



Low key celebrations, or virtual?? Enjoy the spirit of the festival, but know your safety rules!

JAPANESE CROSSWORD
(September - October)

1	2	3		4	5
6				7	
8			9		
		10		11	
12	13			14	15
16					

ACROSS

- 1) High school student
- 6) Mountain path
- 7) Straw
- 8) Mosquito net
- 10) Morning sun
- 12) Private room
- 14) Painter
- 16) Provoking

DOWN

- 1) Nagging
- 2) Stable
- 3) Orphan
- 4) Help/take
- 5) Roof tiles
- 9) Umbrella
- 10) Thick
- 11) East
- 15) Shell

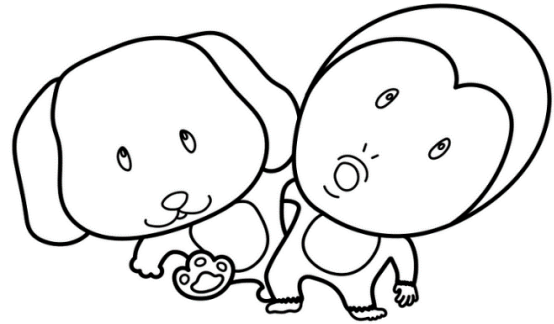
Mahashveta Basu Mukherjee

Answers to
JAPANESE CROSSWORD
(July - August)

1	2	3	4	い	
お	と	な	し		
5					6
か	り	か	た		た
し		7	し	8	く
		ま		か	
9	10		11	け・	
い	く		い	み	
	12	13		14	く
	つ	き		さ	
15					
は	や	り	や	ま	い

WORD JUMBLE – 67

Unscramble the following words, and join the circled letters to find out the answer:



What is the proverb?

- 1. しつきゅけんう (Laboratory)

○	○						
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- 2. ぴつえん(Pencil)

○	○		
---	---	--	--

- 3. ぎよのうう (Agriculture)

○				
---	--	--	--	--

- 4. よしなか(Close friend)

○	○		
---	---	--	--

Sontu Debnath

ANSWERS TO
ANAGRAM – 66

- 1. あまみず
- 2. あげがた
- 3. あいまい
- 4. ぬきだす

ま	け	い	ぬ
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MEMBERSHIP DUES

Onegaishimasu!

(Please contact Sensei for mode of payment)

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