**The Probini Foundation Digest**

**Fall 2019**

Picture: 2019 Luncheon at a Bellerose, Queens Restaurant:

From left, back row, Dr. Kusumita Pedersen, Mrs. Nandita Bagchi, Mrs. Swapha Mukherji, Mr. Prabal Mukherji; From left front row, Dr. Joan Jacob, Dr. Shefali Dastidar, Ms. Linda Reenie, Ms. Laura Healey

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This year Probini Luncheon was held on Saturday, May 18, 2019 at an Indian Restaurant in Bellerose, Queens, New York City. In that sunny spring day, the luncheon started with an invocation by Prof. Dr. Kusumita Pedersen, a Board Member, who read two poems of meditation-fame Sri Chimnoy of New York. This was followed by an annual report by Shuvo G. Dastidar, Executive Secretary.

At this event Probini honored two longtime supporters for their dedicated work towards uplifting the poor and the orphaned through education. The Anath Bandhu, Friend of the Orphans, was awarded to Prabal and Swapna Mukherji of Long Island, both engineers. They were introduced by Dr. Shefali S. Dastidar, a Board Member, who narrated Mukherjis achievements. Mr. & Mrs. Mihir and Amala Sen was awarded Samaj Bandhu for their dedicated work with many organizations, including Probini. They have been friends of Probini for decades. Their award was presented to them by Board Member Jay Hyman. (continued in p 3)

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**OUR MOST RECENT Benefactors:** (March 15, 2019—October 15, 2019)

**Sponsor:** Drs. Arvind Chandrakantan and Kripa Krishnan

**Patron:** Dr. Saili & Alpana Barman, Drs. Sachin G & Shefali S Dastidar, Prabangshu & Sibani Ghoshal, Prabal & Swapna Mukherji, Milita Chanda Das

**Donor:** Gautam & Nandita Bagchi, Dr. Kusumita Priscilla Pedersen, Mihir and Amala Sen, Laura Healey, Linda Reenie

**Contributor:** Sankha & Anna Basu, Dilip Chakravorty (NY), Shuvo G & Sumedha J Dastidar, Jay Hyman, Dr. Jone Jacobs, Prof. Maureen Keefe, Lois Marbach, Mrs. Aloka Sinha, Chet Szarejko
Message in Probini Answering Machine:
Hello: I always receive your newsletter and I want to donate something small for the cause. I am not from Bangladesh. I was born and raised in West Bengal (India) and came to this country when I was very young and never went back. Nevertheless, I want to donate something to Probini. Please call me back. I am (Mrs.) Snigdha Mukherjee. (April 12, 2019; 4:10 PM)

Helping Ispad through your Internet Search and Internet Shopping: Now you can help Indian Subcontinent Partition Documentation Project just by doing your routine Internet search. By using www.goodsearch.com (in place of Google, Bing, etc.) a Yahoo search engine, for your searches Yahoo will give Ispad 1c for each of your searches. It is a good way to help us in addition to writing a check. The first time when you go to www.GoodSearch.com please identify Indian Subcontinent Partition Documentation Project, a non-profit tax-exempt organization in New York, as your cause to help. After that you don’t have to do anything.

REMEMBER!
Donations to Probini are fully tax deductible.

Prprobini Foundation’s Indirect Beneficiary; A 500+ Year Old Bishnu/Vishnu Temple in Bangladesh

Soon after the Probini-ISPaD Meeting in Dhaka, Bangladesh in January of 2019, the delegates from India and the U.S. headed for Probini-supported schools in southern coastal Bangladesh. On their way they stopped at a 15th Century Bishnu (Vishnu) temple in Barisal district. The granite-built statue of the deity is in good condition, yet the tin shed was leaking and windows and doors, and parts of the structure was in bad shape. During earlier 1950s pogrom the original temple structure was damaged but the murti (statue of deity) survived. (Adjacent to the temple the 17th Century Black Mother Kali Madir temple was demolished during that pogrom.)

Seeing the visitors locals of the village came rushing asking for help for repair as they are extremely poor. They also mentioned that recently a gang tried to torch the building. Visitors told them it is beyond Probini’s scope, although very worthy.

Soon Sachi G. Dastidar informed some of the descendants of the village living in America, India, Canada and Singapore. Wow!! Many of the descendants living in the U.S., India and Singapore replied and promised to help the poor villagers. All Bangladeshis said we should celebrate when repair is finished.

Probini Projects

Prprobini is providing scholarships for school children.
Jagatpur Ashram Orphanage (1898), Chittagong, Bangladesh – supporting boys’ & girls’ education.
Madapur Pranab Ashram, Bangladesh – Probini is providing salaries for teachers and has built a boys’ dormitory.
Mahilara Ashram School, Barisal, Bangladesh – Probini is providing teachers and built a school.
Mizoram State, Tuichawng Village, India – Probini has built a school at that poor, remote, isolated, picturesque place.
Nandigram, Medinipur, India – Probini is providing teachers at Kasturba Gandhi Memorial School.
Nayagram, Paschim Medinipur, India – Probini has provided books for the poor tribal school & library.
Netrokona Manab Kalyan Kami [Improvement of Mankind] Orphanage, Bangladesh – Probini is providing student scholarships, has created agricultural projects for self-sufficiency in food and has built a girls’ dormitory.
Pirojpur SriRamKathi Pranav Shishu BidyaNiketan School, Bangladesh – Probini is providing salaries for teachers and has built a school building.
Uzirpur Surya Sen Anath Sishu Sadan [Orphanage], Bangladesh – Probini is supporting students at the Orphanage and has built a kitchen for the dorm.

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I'd like to help!

Yes, I/We/Our organization would like to help

[ ] Sponsor $500      [ ] Patron $250
[ ] Donor $100      [ ] Contributor (any amount) $______

Name ____________________________________________________
Address ____________________________________________________________________________
E-mail ___________________________ Phone ____________________________

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Appeal from Twichaang School in Mizoram State, India

Sachi G. Dastidar
Based on a letter from the School:

Ultimate Truth Preaching Mission school is one of the remotest corner of India and the world. It is located in a Buddhist-tribal area in Christian-majority mountainous Mizoram State of India. It can only be reached via a very challenging road which may take 4 hours for the last 70 kilometers.

Venerable:

Vandana with deep respect & regards.
Hope, you are all fine over there. We are also fine here.

We are glad to inform you that 100 of rods and 100 bags of cement anyhow got reached at Tuichawng. The day was rainy and the condition of Lunglei to Tuichawng road was very bad. So, we had to face lots of problems to carry the materials by truck. It took 2 days...
to reach Tuichawng. However, we have started construction work from 14th instant. We are collecting other materials also such as sieve (stone), sand and bamboo, etc. Sawn timbers are already collected. Some photos of site preparation of the school building and labours at work with materials placed are being sent for reference. Expecting to complete the construction in months.

(New Girls’ Dorm Under Construction)

Six members of THE ULTIMATE TRUTH PREACHING MISSION including our Head Monk are coming to Bangalore, southern India, to participate the Maha Kathina Cibora Dana. We will bring some lo-in-loom set also for weaving kathina cibora.

The Dhamma workers honourarium fund has become nil. It would be helpful if you would kindly send some funds to release the dhammacaris honourarium regularly.

Yours’s in Dhamma,

With Metta,

Rajesh & Sudip (Chakma)
The Ultimate Truth Preaching Mission, Tuichawng, Mizoram, India.

Copy to:
1. Mr. Arun kanti Banerjee,
2. Mr. Mahendra Sagar, president, INDIA CHARITABLE FOUNDATION,
3. Mr. Sachi G. Dastidar, a distinguished professor, State University of New York helped us in constructing Ahimsa school for information.
4. Mr. Rathod, yoga practitioner, Life Spirit Yoga Foundation,
5. Mr. Ian Finlay of Great Britain, donated for our temple and the school.
6. Mr. Anirban banerjee of U.S.A.
7. Venerable, Dhammananda Bhikkhuni of Thailand trying to help us in constructing the Shanti Niketan Buddhist temple
8. A Hindu temple management committee of San Francisco.

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Books by Probini supporters:
(Proceeds go to Probini or Ispad)

Available at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Ispad: Partition Center Office

2019 ISPaD: Partition Center Journal; authors include Prof. Atanu Sarkar, Arijit Aditya, Prof. Mohindar Singh Seehra, Prof. Sachi G. Dastidar, Sudipto Das, Prof. Pervez Hoodbhoy and Dr. Youngsoo Kong.
Available at Ispad Office for $5 or $7 including postage. Call 917-524-0035 or email at ispad1947@gmail.com, or write to ISPaD, 85-60 Parsons Blvd, Jamaica, NY 11432.