

HELEN M. MARSHALL
PRESIDENT



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July 2, 2010

Dear Friends:

Allow me to send my best wishes to you on the occasion of the first-ever International Bangla Festival!

I am so pleased to learn that a festival celebrating the intellectual and cultural life of Bengali-speaking North Americans will be taking place at P.S. 69, in the heart of Jackson Heights. This is where Queens first became multicultural, so it is fitting that you and key dignitaries should assemble there.

I am deeply grateful for your invitation, but regrettably I am not available to join you. I trust that the festival will be an enormous success, and that tremendously meaningful exchanges will take place.

I commend Bishawjit Saha and the Muktheadhara Foundation for taking a leadership role in coordinating the International Bangla Festival. Moreover, I am thrilled to learn that you are collaborating with our students at CUNY, as well as with private universities and with community-based organizations.

The International Bangla Festival is an opportunity to raise awareness about the many riches contained in Bengali culture. It is also a chance to introduce participants to Queens, the most multi-ethnic county in the United States, and quite possibly in the world. I wish you every success with this worthwhile endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Helen Marshall".

HELEN M. MARSHALL
President
Borough of Queens