

WIC Newsletter: December 2020

President's Report



Dear Members

As the year draws to a close, we look back on 2020 with mixed feelings. Do we really want to cancel it as a zero year? Or would we rather look back on it as a time which drew us out of our preoccupation with self to reach out and strengthen our bonds with loved ones and those who would otherwise have remained on the periphery of our existence.

We have drawn on tremendous reserves in ourselves to overcome the challenge of a virus threatening to destroy our humaneness and we have succeeded.

December is traditionally a time of birth and renewal, and we have once again thought of innovative ways of engaging ourselves in activities which will mark the transition to a new year with stronger purpose.

Suneeta has drawn up a beautiful vignette for our December General Meeting. It is inviting and full of Christmas cheer. We really do need to inject some holiday spirit into our lives and Suneeta has managed to exactly do that. Leena's circle leaders have also been busy bringing us treats for the season.

Of course, what really does make a difference is seeing the WIC family on ZOOM and exchanging pleasantries.

I would like to share some lines from a poem sent by Gita Abhyankar to our bridge group:

*Christmas ain't cancelled
And neither is hope.
If we lean on each other,
I know we can cope.*

I shall end by echoing Dickens' Tiny Tim, "God bless us everyone".

Anita Meattle
President

Executive Committee 2020-21

President - Anita Meattle
anita@meattle.com
98111 99111

1st VP - Leena Singh
leena_s455@hotmail.com
98100 32426

2nd VP - Suneeta Trivedi
suneetatriv@gmail.com
99103 35938

Interim Secretary – Ruchika Rajan
ruchikar@yahoo.com
88001 17259

Membership - Serita Kakar
ksarita@yahoo.com
98110 76767

Treasurer - Ashwini Pai Bahadur
Ashwini_pai_bahadur@yahoo.com
98101 29873

Hospitality - Grace Kawakami
gracekawakami@yahoo.com
98701 96404

Newsletter - Stevie Clayton
wic.delhi.newsletter@gmail.com
Ph: 99990 52593
WhatsApp: 88260 49651

Meet the Cultural Kaleidoscope Circle Organisers ...



Noor Anand Chawla



Sunaina Suneja



Yuka Ando

GENERAL MEETING: 3pm, 16 December

“Jingle Bells: A Christmas Pageant”



With December come the colours of red and green, Christmas cards, fireside cosiness, Christmas cakes, eggnog, decorations galore, and soothing, melodious musical notes. For the General Meeting this month, there is a colourful Christmas Pageant brought before our Members.

We bring you Chef Kandla

Nijhowne, who was a finalist on Masterchef India. She won the title of “Baking Queen” from host actor Akshay Kumar. Her creation was declared winner by host Maharaja Arvind ji during the Udaipur round. She is among the top cake artists and food journalists in the country and the only artist in India to create hand painted Fabergé style eggs, made famous on TV shows and periodicals internationally. Chef Kandla will show you her exotic Christmas Baking.



Chef Kandla

We also have Kanwal Chaudri, the international decor and design artist, educated in Europe, who has worked at festivals worldwide. She was Bloomingdales’ Creative Director and her creations, especially at the Gymkhana Club,

have been delightful crowd-pullers for many years. Kanwal will share her fabulous Christmas creations.

We are delighted to have performing for us Ankita Kumar, a leading professional pianist in India who made headlines with her spectacular debut in 2009 which was attended by Delhi’s most famous. She has rendered

more than 100 performances and received prestigious awards, even at her very young age. You will enjoy her unique style at the grand piano as she creates foot tapping music in a variety of genres.



Ankita Kumar

Finally, WIC member Sunandini Kapoor will set us in the Christmas mood with her carol singing and engaging us in a fun Christmas quiz.



Kanwal Chaudri



Last Chance: Annual Membership Subscription for 2020-21 Now Due

Due to the pandemic fees have been reduced to **Rs 2500/** for this year. Payment may be made **online or by cheque.**

ONLINE PAYMENTS

WOMENS INTERNATIONAL CLUB
Account No: 50100075742084
RTGS/NEFT/IFSC CODE: HDFC0000003
HDFC Bank 209-214 Kailash Building 26
Kasturba Gandhi Marg New Delhi 110001

CHEQUE PAYMENTS

Please make all cheques in the name of **Women’s International Club** and mention your name in capital letters and phone no at the back of the cheque.

PAYMENT RECORD

Once payment is made kindly WhatsApp, SMS or email screenshot of payment confirmation / ref no / bank SMS of payment / cheque drop off location to 9810129873 or treasurer2020.wic@gmail.com

CHEQUE DROP-OFF POINTS

For your convenience, cheques may be dropped off at the locations below. Kindly place cheque inside envelope and label as Treasurer WIC 2020-21. This can be handed to the Security Guards of the respective locations. Receipts will follow by email.

Noida

Leena Singh
House No 455
Sector 15A. Noida

Delhi

Anita Meattle
26-A Prithviraj Road
New Delhi -110011

Delhi

Anita Meattle
Paharpur Business Centre
21 Nehru Place
Nehru Place Greens
New Delhi 110019

Gurgaon & South West Delhi

Ashwini Pai Bahadur
Pai Farms, 30 Rajokri Road
Samalkha New Delhi -110037

CIRCLE MEETINGS

Cultural Kaleidoscope: 3pm, 2 December "Beethoven: His Music and the World Around Him"

How can we try to understand Beethoven's creativity? This talk explores ways of listening to Beethoven's music, and looks at elements of the world around him which could have nurtured both his technical skills and his aesthetic imagination. The talk will include playing of phrases and pieces from Beethoven's oeuvre.



Ludwig van Beethoven



Justin McCarthy

WIC is very fortunate to have Justin McCarthy leading us through this exposition of the works of Beethoven. Justin is both a musician and a dancer, who trained from childhood as a classical pianist and later a harpsichordist. He began studying bharatanatyam in 1978.

Justin has lived in New Delhi since 1980, where he teaches piano privately, and taught dance at the Shriram Bharatiya

Kala Kendra from 1990. He has been with the Ashoka University, where he heads the performing arts department, since 2014.

Justin has performed extensively as a musician and as a dancer over the past three decades and choreographed many solo and ensemble works.

In addition to performing, Justin has written articles on the arts in various newspapers and journals over the years. He has also worked on three films - one on padams with filmmaker Sandhya Kumar (IFA grant, national award-winning film), one on calligraphy and dance for Jaya Jaitly and her exhibition Akshara, and one on koothu, as assistant director to Sandhya Kumar (Prasar Bharathi grant).



Justin McCarthy

Circle Facilitators

ART & BEYOND

Dominique Chorosz
Smita Mankad
Midori Suzuki

CULTURAL KALEIDOSCOPE

Yuka Ando
Sunaina Suneja
Noor Anand Chawla

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Ruchika Rajan
Shakuntala Dawesar
Ashima Singh Ghatate

PERFORMING ARTS

Devika Anand
Rene Singh

BOOK CLUB

Looking for members

CULINARY TRAILS

(The COVID version)
Looking for members

Book Club: 3pm, 4 December "Madrasi Memoirs"

This month's Book Club is a Member's Choice courtesy of Sunaina Suneja.

Renuka Narayanan writes on religion and culture. She was Arts Editor for *The Indian Express*, with a column on religion on the Editorial Page; Religion & Culture Editor for the *Hindustan Times*; and, Director of the Indian Cultural Centre in the Embassy of India, Bangkok.



Madrasi Memoir - Book Cover



Renuka's mother

Her earlier published books include: *The Book of Prayer, Faith: Filling the God-sized Hole*, and *The Little Book of Indian Wisdom*. Her books since 2016 include *A Madrasi Memoir*, *The Path of Light - Inspiring Tales from the Upanishads, Jatakas and Indic Lore*, *Hindu Fables*, and *Mahadev*, a book on Lord Shiva.

About *A Madrasi Memoir*: The radically westernised 'whiskey-sambar' Tamil brahmins of twentieth century India were a law unto themselves and broke every last taboo of five millennia of orthodoxy, while unable to wholly tear out their Brahminical roots. This unsparing personal glimpse of their mysterious, contradictory world chronicles the lives and loves of ordinary people through those extraordinary times.

According to Antara Datta in the *New India Express*: "Narayanan's memoir tells the truth not only of her life but those who are closest to her by blood and heart with courageous candour, unsparing wit and critical insight."

Performing Arts: 3pm, 10 December "Marriage: Art of the heart?"

This talk will be given by Feisal Alkazi who is an educationist, theatre director and activist living and working in New Delhi. Over the past forty years he has carved out his own niche with his group, Ruchika. He has directed over 200 plays for adults in Hindi, English and Urdu. Most recently, two plays written by him have been produced: 'Noor' and 'A Quiet Desire'. In addition, he had directed over 100 productions for schools all over India.

Feisal is actively involved in the field of heritage education, initiating projects in Delhi, Jaipur, Srinagar, and Hyderabad, each of which have culminated in a book. Feisal has written another 20 books as well, including 'Rang Biranga Rangmanch' which has sold 50,000 copies. He is also a counsellor with Sanjivini and in the field of disability, he has directed 30 films and produced several plays.

Marriage is perhaps one of the most threatened institutions in India today. How do couples survive in a world of Tinder? How do people date and mate today? Why are so many couples going for ivf as they are unable to conceive? What are the very real pressures on marriage in 2020? Drawing on his 40 years of experience as a counselor at Sanjivini, Feisal talks about marriage and other unusual relationships including gay and lesbian couples and live ins.



Feisal Alkazi

Culinary Trails: 3pm, 15 December "Christmas Cheer"

This month's Culinary Trails is another Member's Choice, courtesy of Bindu Talwar.

Manali Khandelwal is a pastry-chef and chocolatier, who specializes in Culinary Education and Research.

Trained at the Institute of Hotel Management - Mumbai and the Academy of Pastry Arts - Gurgaon, Manali has also pursued courses on science & cooking from Harvard University.

After gaining invaluable experience in the kitchens of L'Opéra, New Delhi and Yauatcha, Mumbai, she gained respect for the science behind the processes, thereby finding her niche in culinary education and research. Manali went on to work with Callebaut's Chocolate Academy, Foodhall Cookery Studio, and La Folie as a Chef-Instructor and R&D-Chef.

Looking forward, she hopes to bridge the gap between the professional kitchen and the home bakers' kitchen.

Menu

1. Christmas Themed Yule Log (Roulade of Chocolate, Cherry and Mascarpone)
2. Spiced Hot Chocolate
3. Mulled Wine



Manali Khandelwal & her pastries

WIC Membership News

We are pleased to welcome **Veronique Dieu**, as a new member to our WIC family. Veronique has previously lived in Japan, Australia, and China and has served as a past President of the French speaking group, Delhi. We look forward to meeting her on our Zoom meetings, and cross share cultural facets, which is what WIC is all about!

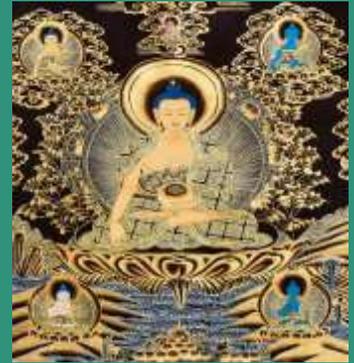
All of us on the Membership Committee wish you good cheer for the coming holidays. Stay safe.

Art & Beyond: 11:30am, 17 December

“The Sacred Art of Tibet – Thangkas”

Our special December speaker, Asha Chopra, is a keen Art lover as well as a passionate Art collector. Through her talk she will take us up to the beautiful Himalayan mountains and introduce us to the art of Tibetan painting.

Asha Chopra has been deeply involved with the making of richly illustrated Thangkas or Pauvas (Tibetan Scroll Paintings) for over two decades. The art of painting Thangkas by the Tibetans goes back in history to the 13th century. This talk by Asha Chopra and her grand-daughter, Mallika M Narayan, illustrates an extraordinary overview of art history.



Asha Chopra’s journey into the world of art began in 1957 and now with over forty-five years of expertise in the field of Indian art and culture, she passionately commits herself to producing plays, travelling, and collecting sculpture, porcelain and object d’art from across the world.

Mallika Mookerjee has a masters from Polimoda Institute in Marketing and Communications, Florence, and has worked as a brand strategist for several marquee brands. She moved to Delhi in 2013 and is an avid collector of Indian art.

Together they are committed to reviving the tribal hill art of areas like Tibet, Bengal & the north-east of India, and working to preserve classical, traditional, and indigenous modes of artistic expression.



Asha Chopra & Mallika Mookerjee

Please join us for this moment of art and serenity.

Three things you should do

1. RSVP for December meetings using this Doodle link: <https://doodle.com/poll/yvf9bpf27hgnkrvv>
2. For any Hospitality issues (eg Doodle) contact Grace Kawakami (contact details on page 1).
3. On the date & time of the meeting click on the appropriate Zoom link below to join:

Beethoven & His Music – 3pm Dec 2nd
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87647326193>

Madras Memoirs – 3pm Dec 4th
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89688805349>

Marriage – Art of the Heart? – 3pm Dec 10th
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84474052003>

Christmas Cheer – 3pm Dec 15th
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83471539570>

GM – Jingle Bells: A Xmas Pageant 3pm Dec 16th
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85107201477>

The Sacred Art of Tibet – 3pm Dec 17th
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85119845806>

Remember: meetings open 15 minutes early for socialising and if you cannot find the Zoom link, it is always re-posted on the WhatsApp group (WIC Announcements) on the day of the meeting.

Condolences

Our hearts go out to our long-standing member Shanno Khurana, who has lost a brother, a sister, and a son-in-law in the last few months. May their souls rest in peace and may God give her the strength to bear these losses.



Calendar for December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Cultural Kaleidoscope: Beethoven & His Music @ 3pm	3	4 Members' Choice: Madrasa Memoirs @3pm	5
6	7	8	9	10 Performing Arts: Marriage - Art of the heart? @3pm	11	12
13	14	15 Culinary Trails: Christmas Cheer @ 3pm	16 General Meeting: Jingle Bells - a Xmas Pageant @ 3pm	17 Art & Beyond: The Sacred Art of Tibet – Thangkas @11:30am	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		