



FEBRUARY 2009

GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, 11th February 2009, 2.30pm

The Residence of:
Mrs Shirin Paul
2 Aurangzeb Lane
New Delhi

MUZAFFAR ALI SPEAKS ON THE LAST NAWAB OF AWADH -WAJID ALI SHAH

"No king like him ever rose up from the soil of Hindustan with such erudition in scholarship and arts.

And in his manner no ruler raised the banner of kingship on Indian territories with matching genius and intellectual attainments."

*Kunwar Durga Pershad Mehr
in "Bostan-e-Avadh"*

"The King has been charged with being guilty of vices and debauchery; but he (Mr. Jones) was told on good authority, that few people were more moral than the King of Oude in that respect."

Mr. Jones' speech in the Court of Proprietors of the East India Company on 24th September 1856: History of the Indian Mutiny

Renowned film-maker, designer, artist, poet, Muzaffar Ali will speak to us about this most beloved yet most misunderstood rulers of India. Wajid Ali Shah, Nawab of Lucknow (1822-1887) passionate administrator under whom music, dance and the literary arts of Lucknow reached a pinnacle. The lecture will be followed by an iconic clip from Muzaffar Ali's most well-known film, which captures the ethos, romance and nostalgia of Lucknow in the period of Wajid Ali Shah."

"Muzaffar Ali's life is a constant journey of self-discovery, in whatever he does and in whichever medium he chooses. Be it films, paintings, costumes, music or more recently opera, there is a constant quest to unravel the mysteries of life and to find a long-term solution to worldly strife and anguish. Perhaps that's the reason for Ali's ever growing interest in Sufism – because of which the artist reflects on a different plane through his art. Yet his art is not escapist, the artist is sensitive to things happening around him. In fact, he says, his art becomes his prayer. Apart from his fame as a movie director and artist, he and his wife have launched a movement for rural development with a focus on employment-oriented education through a charitable society, 'Dwar Pe Rozi'. This society runs a primary educational school for 300 children and has several craft training centres for women in villages around Kotwara in Uttar Pradesh.

" - Veenu Singh, Hindustan Times

WIC NEWS

WIC COMMITTEE

2008 - 2009

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

HAPPY AND PEACEFUL 2009 TO ALL

Let us rejoice with Veena Dass and her family. She has been conferred the order of Kyoku-jitsu Soko sho (Order of the Rising Sun, God & Silver Rays) by the emperor of Japan. Congratulations Veena!

For the past few weeks two news items have caught my attention. They both touch the lives of children and women. Areas which should be of some concern to us all.

In the Bombay High Court a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) has been filed by concerned citizens against TV serial producers who cast child actors in their serials. Questioning their appearing in daily soaps and whether it would fall under anti child labour law provisions. I feel it does raise serious questions, primarily about their education and health. More than anything else does it not rob them of the joys of childhood. Who is to be blamed, the producers or the parents, I wonder?

The other news story is about a once successful model found living in the streets – remember the case of Gitanjali? In both the cases these girls were drawn to Mumbai, in search of glamour and fame. Is it just the lucre that attracts them, and when this does not materialise they cannot handle the reality? Serious issues to ponder about.

Let me end with these wise words I read long back. "None of us know what is ahead....."

The important thing is to use today wisely and well, and face tomorrow eagerly and cheerfully and with the certainty that we shall be equal to what it brings."

Best regards,

Smita

WIC NOTICE BOARD

CIRCLE LEADERS

Books

Urmila Sahay 98186 53474
Nina Dey Gupta 98112 81607
Sigrun Srivastava 98101 18345

Cuisine

Leena Singh 98100 32426
Cindy Murdock 98175 35965
Kiran Anand 9810122700

Art & Culture

Rita Gharekhan 24 339 740
Zakia Zaheer 98100 67090
Mechtild Van der Lugt 98731 72289

Dance Away

Vaneeta Podewils 98916 66765
Sarila Daga 26 143 467

Delhi Discoverers

Gugu Singh 98110 07710
Emma Horne 98105 79143

Shireen Khemchand

Shireen Khemchand 9953984304
Mona Reinboth 98715 65522
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Close Encounters

Nima Malhotra 98101 28029
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Katie Behrens 99586 75308
Indu Sahni 9810033860
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Sylvia Kaelin 98113 76569
Bina Deogun 98101 36589

Knitting Out

Niti Judge 98180 77882
Niti Judge 98105 64346

Movies

Niru Kapur 98100 76063
Sudarshana Singh 98186 75765

Special Philosophy Circle

Maria Polychronides 9873900969

Trips and Travel - National and

International
Bina Deogun 98101 36589
Niti Judge 98105 64346

Ladies, please mark your calendars for the WIC Annual Gala. This is going to be a very special evening, great food, terrific raffle prizes, a charming venue and an amazing band. So put on your dancin' shoes, bring out the ball gowns, the chiffon saris and be ready. For those that don't dance, we promise great music, congenial company and lots of love.

Date: March 14th, 2009
Venue: Residence of Bubbles Suneja
21-A, Tughlak Road, New Delhi 110011

Ticket Prices: Rs. 950 per member and for first additional guest. Members may bring two more guests at Rs. 1000. Members are restricted to a total of three guests. From March 1st, more guest tickets will be available if numbers permit.

Tickets can be purchased from all members of the Executive Committee from January 21st.

We look forward to having all our members and their friends participate in what promises to be a terrific evening.

Gita Devi Kapurthala and Lakshmi Chandra

Gala Chairs, 2009

Eleni Spachi, our former President, sends her greetings from Kathmandu and wishes us Happy 2009.

Correction from last Newsletter:

Marie-Eve Celio (-Scheurer) mobile: 097 11 20 14 57
meve.celio@free.fr

We would like to send our sincere condolences to Dr. Vimla Rajan on the demise of her husband Dr. Mathew Rajan.

FEBRUARY 2009 CALENDAR

- Year- **VIKRAM SAMVAT 2066-**
Month **PHALGUN** Season --**SISIRA**

7th : Jaisalmer Desert Festival (3 days)
16th : Chelum (Muslim)
19th: Birthday of Swami Dayanand Saraswati
23rd : **MAHASHIVRATRI**
25th: **Ash Wednesday** (Christian)
27th: Birthday of Shri Ramakrishna

Full Moon 9th February

N.B. There will be an Annular Solar Eclipse on Mon.26th Jan starting 10.27 hrs ending 16.31 hrs. (maximum at 13.29)-- in India the partial phase will be visible only in the S and SE parts with a very small Magnitude.



SPECIAL PROGRAMME

VERSES AND VOICES

Monday, 2nd February, 3.00pm

SAYEDA IMAM, SUNITA KOHLI & RASHID RAZA; this unusual trio, a writer, a designer and an actor will present an afternoon of romance and love. Let us usher in Spring with these love poems and celebrate life, in all its different hues and moods.

At the residence of
Smita Divan
B 39, Gulmohar Park
New Delhi 110049

DANCE AWAY

Tuesday, 3rd February, 12 noon

Get fit, have fun and learn some new moves. Learn to dance Bollywood style!

Rs 200 per person.

At the residence of:
Serita Kakar,
Bungalow 31,
Nizamuddin East

Limit - 15



DELHI DISCOVERERS

SARAJKUND MELA

Wednesday, 4th February, 10.00am

Held annually, the Surajkund Mela show cases a wonderful mixture of handicrafts from all over India. In addition entertainers and dancers from the different States come to dance and perform. The Food Festival is another attraction, where we can stop and linger over some regional cuisine. A regular event on the calendar of many Delhi residents the Mela is a must for all new comers to the city.

Shakuntala Dawesar lives close to the Mela ground and has kindly invited us for coffee before the shopping frenzy begins!

Meeting Point:

We meet in the car park of Nehru Park (**behind Australian & Pakistan High Commissions**) at 09.45am for departure at 10.00am in our own cars. Car pooling should be encouraged.

FOCUS

Mantles of Myth

Traditions in silk weaving and trade linkages across the globe

Friday, 6th February, 3.00 pm

Anudadha Kumra, a post graduate in Textiles and a UNDP fellow has worked extensively in the design and craft sectors. Ms. Kumra has recently joined Fabindia as Category Head, having served as senior faculty member at the prestigious National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) for over a decade. Her talk will take us through the heritage

of silk textiles, emberoidery, gold brocaded and painted fabrics and the influence of trade on a new vocabulary that has emerged in the past decades. The talk will end in a 10 minute film showcasing fashion statements from the Indian design fraternity.

At the residence of:
Lakshmi Chandra
A 32 West End



MOVIES

MAMMA MIA

Monday 9th February, 2.30 pm sharp

Mamma Mia is based on the songs of ABBA woven in a tale of love, laughter and friendship. It tells the story of a single mother, Donna, whose spirited daughter Sophie secretly invites 3 men for her wedding from her mother's past, in a quest to find out who her father is. What follows is chaotic, hilarious and fun filled 24 hours before her wedding.
At the Residence of:

Shawn Runacres
100 New Friend's Colony *East*.
Limit - 25



LUNCHING OUT

Lodi - The Garden Restaurant

Thursday 12th February, 1.00 pm

An incomparable ambience combined with the experience of fine outdoor dining make at least one visit to Lodi-The Garden Restaurant a necessity. This restaurant serves Mediterranean/European cuisine and is one of the few restaurants in the city which makes use of a combo of olive oil, garlic and infinite seasoning.

Lodi-The Garden restaurant
Lodhi Gardens, near Gate No. 1

Approx. Cost: Rs. 800 per person (as usual we go dutch)



BOOK CIRCLE

SEA OF POPPIES

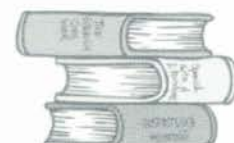
Tuesday, 17th February, 3.00 pm

SEA OF POPPIES, the latest work by that master story-teller AMITAV GHOSH, is an epic saga of exceptional beauty and power. At the heart of this historic novel is a vast ship, the Ibis, that is on a tumultuous voyage across the Indian Ocean to the Mauritius Islands. We will be discussing and reading extracts from the book. Do come and join us in our exploration.

Please arrive at 2.45 as we would like to begin promptly at 3.00 pm.

At the residence of:
Jyoti Wazir,
C-515 Defence Colony

Limit - 30



CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

Wednesday, 18th February, 3.00 pm

The topic for discussion will be: What gives you a buzz - or what lifts your spirits - which may or may not cost a penny! So come and let's enjoy a happy afternoon!

At the residence of:

Annie Howard

Flat 3 C

White House

Bhagwan Dass Road

Limit - 30

CUISINE CIRCLE

AFGHANISTAN CUISINE

Thursday, 19th February, 11.00 am

AASH, AASHAK, BOULANEE.....some of the delicacies from Afghanistan which will be demonstrated by Mrs Vijayanti Bhasin, a long time former resident of Kabul.

At the residence of:

Deepak Chopra

E-2 Defence Colony

Limit - 25



HEALTH & FITNESS

"Pranayam"

Wednesday, 25th February, 11.00 am

Our member, Anita Dua, is a disciple of B.K. Iyengar of the Iyengar Institute of Yoga. She is a certified yoga teacher and has many years of experience. She has held camps and classes all over Delhi. Anita will be initiating us into the ancient spiritual discipline of breath control, commonly known as "Pranayam" in Yoga.

Please bring a towel or yoga mat to sit on.

In the garden of the residence of:

Anita Meattle

6A Prithviraj Road



HINDI BOLO

For Bina's Hindi group please telephone Sylvia Kaelin (9811376569) or Bina Deogun (9810136589) to check on the date and venue.

हिन्दी

ART & CULTURE

World Heritage Sites in India

Friday, 27th February, 3.00 pm

India is home to 27 UNESCO declared World Heritage Sites. Dr. K.K. Mohammad, Superintending Archaeologist of the Archaeological Survey of India, will give an audiovisual presentation of these sites.

At the residence of:
Frenny Billimoria
F17 Hauz Khas (2nd floor)
(Please note new address)

Limit - 30

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

As announced in the January General Meeting, the members of the Committee on Nominations are:

Chairperson: Prama Bhandari

Indian Members

Rita Gharekhan
Parbeen Kaur
Kavita Ratra

International Members

Emma Horne
Sylvia Kaelin
Mona Reinboth

In accordance with the Constitution, the Chairperson of the Committee on Nominations, Prama Bhandari, hereby calls for suggestions of possible candidates for endorsements/election to the Executive Committee for the year 2009/2010. Suggestions for the consideration of the Committee on Nominations should be made in writing and sent to the Chairperson of the Committee on Nominations, after obtaining permission of the suggested candidate. As stipulated by the Constitution these suggestions should be made by individual members, and are required to reach the Chairperson of the Committee on Nominations latest by February 28, 2009.

An appeal from the Committee on Nominations: After its members have met and discussed possibilities, if you as prospective candidate are approached by members of the Committee on Nominations, we would request you to please give swift but serious consideration to accepting office.

Please do not be shy or over-modest as this is a wonderful opportunity of bonding with not only members of the Executive Committee but also with the members of the Club. Even if you travel a little, it is always possible to share or delegate responsibilities.

We do hope our members will respond enthusiastically to an offer to involve themselves in the Executive Committee. Indeed we would all be very honoured if you say "yes" when invited to serve on the next Executive Committee. The Club needs every one of us.

FEBRUARY 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 Special Programme 3.00 pm	3  Dance Away 12.00 noon	4 Delhi Discoverers 10.00 am	5	6  Focus 03.00 pm	7
8	9  Movies 02.30 pm	10	11  General Meeting 2.30 pm	12 Lunching Out 1.00 pm	13	14
15	16	17  Book Circle 3.00 pm	18 Close Encounters 03.00 pm	19  Cuisine 11.00 am	20	21
22	23	24	25  Health & Fitness 11.00 am	26	27 Art & Culture 3.00 pm	28