

WIC Newsletter: January 2021

President's Report



Dear Members

A new year, and a new decade, is about to dawn bringing hope for a new time of health and peace for all humanity. Armed with determination and fortitude, takeaways from the tumult of the past year, we are preparing to face fresh challenges, believing in ourselves and the world community working together in quiet resolve. We pray this will be a year of solutions - scientific, philosophical, and moral - that will cleanse our world and steer us in the right direction.

After successfully reinventing and coping with a 'new normal' in 2020, we look forward to a return to the 'old normal' in 2021. A return to meeting each other in our homes and having tea together, exchanging pleasantries, and most importantly hugging each other.

Our club year is progressing well, much better than we ever imagined. Our members have now become tech savvy and are very comfortable in the virtual world. We had been very apprehensive about it, but our fears were soon allayed.

The cookbook is progressing well, and it should go into print by the end of the month. Prama Bhandari is writing the history section, and with your help it should be done soon. It was Prama who wrote the history 25 years ago, together with Thelma Brown, it is only fitting that she should write it for our 50th year. Meanwhile, the coins are not forgotten, and the new year should see us closer to a solution.

This month we shall be visiting Gujarat with Smita Divan who has gotten together a venerable group of speakers to take us to that colourful part of India. Lakshmi Chandra has invited a scholar to take us to the temples of Chidambaram. The Cultural Kaleidoscope circle is taking us to Japanese gardens, Art & Beyond to the culture of Kashmir, and Culinary Trails to the food of France. Even though we cannot travel and take WIC trips, we are trying to fulfil our travel desires with virtual trips.

I want to share a saying by C.S. Lewis: "You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream". With this I send you all good wishes for the New Year.

Anita Meattle
President

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Meet the Health & Wellbeing Circle Organisers ...



Dr Shakuntala Dawesar



Ashima Singh



Dr Ruchika Rajan

GENERAL MEETING: 3pm, 20 January

"Khusboo Gujarat ki or Vibrant Gujarat"



The January General Meeting is all about breathing in the fresh air of Gujarat. It is "*Khusboo Gujarat ki or Vibrant Gujarat*". Smita Diwan has brought for us some

never had before experiences of this beautiful state.

We will showcase the textiles of Gujarat.

Ms Mala Sinha is the co-owner of Bodhi, an environmentally friendly clothing warehouse and atelier in Baroda. She is a graduate of the National Institute of Design (NID) and is acclaimed as an accomplished designer with her own design studio and printing workshop. Mala has been awarded the seal of excellence for design innovation and craftsmanship for the last several years.



Sh Ravindra J Vasavda is an architect involved with heritage conservation, architectural practices, research, and documentation. He has been an advisor with the National Monuments Authority, Ministry of Culture, and World Resource Institute, Washington. His work preparing the nomination for Ahmedabad saw the city placed on the UNESCO World Heritage list. He will present on the stepwells of Gujarat.

Rahul Gajjar is a photographer and graphic design graduate from University of Baroda. Apprenticed in France and California in photography and digital technology, he has had exhibitions in the UK, UAE, and in Europe.



He shall be showcasing the Port of Champaner, the photography of which has been his study for the last 30 years.



Parthiv Shah is a photographer, filmmaker, and graphic designer. He has made several documentaries, curated exhibitions, and written many books. He is an

alumnus of the NID and Founder-Director of the Centre for Media and Alternative Communication (CMAC). He will discuss the intersection of art, photography, and design.

Dr Parul Shah is one of the rare combinations of performing artist, cross-cultural choreography, Bharatnatyam Guru, dance educator, researcher, and arts administrator. She has been the head of the Department of Dance, and Dean of the Faculty of Performing Arts at the University of Baroda.



She is a recipient of many prestigious awards. She will tell us much that we never knew about the art and folk performances of Gujarat.

Last Chance: Annual Membership Subscription for 2020-21 Now Overdue!!

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

ONLINE PAYMENT: WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CLUB, Account No: 50100075742084, RTGS/NEFT/IFSC CODE: HDFC0000003, HDFC Bank 209-214 Kailash Building 26 Kasturba Gandhi Marg New Delhi 110001.

CHEQUE PAYMENT: Cheques may be dropped off at the location below. Kindly place cheque inside envelope and label as Treasurer WIC 2020-21. This can be handed to the Security Guard. Receipts will follow by email.

Drop-off location: c/o Anita Meattle, 26-A Prithviraj Road, New Delhi -110011

You can also collect a paper copy of the **Members' Directory** from the same location.

CIRCLE MEETINGS

Art & Beyond: 11:30am, 7 January "Art of Kashmir: Weaving Pashmina Carpets"

Art and Beyond invites you to start this new year of circle meetings with art and style along with Deepak Badhwar. Deepak has revived a century old tradition which originated in Kashmir - the art of weaving Pashmina carpets.



Artist weavers painstakingly hand knot on their looms using Pashmina yarns and silk threads which have been naturally dyed. The meticulous weaving can last up to four years but in the end, they produce masterpieces. It is a unique production of Kashmir and the carpet designs depict its flora, fauna, and natural beauty.

Deepak Badhwar has been pursuing this traditional heritage. He will explain the process of these 'haute couture' carpets, how they have been innovating producing real works of art, full of life and vivid colours. Deepak loves to say: "Creating these carpets, is like artists painting on a canvas".



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

Looking for members

Member's Choice: 3pm, 11 January "The Temple of Chidambaram"



This month's session is a Member's Choice courtesy of Lakshmi Chandra.

Madhusudhanan Kalaichelvan, an architecture graduate and a gold medallist in his Post-Graduation, specializes in conservation and architectural research. He has been an academic for around a decade, mentoring students in popular schools of architecture. He is an active heritage enthusiast; his contributions have earned him the coveted Vedavalli memorial award for outstanding service by a young achiever in

the field of south Indian heritage. He is well versed in fields of art, architecture, heritage, cultural studies, and vernacular practices.

He is also a popular speaker on a wide range of topics associated with heritage, religion, and literature. He curates and conducts tours to places of architectural & cultural interest. His website www.madhukalai.com will give you more information about his lectures and tours.

Prof Madhu will speak to us about the ancient temple of Chidambaram where Shiva is worshipped as the cosmic dancer. The temple of Chidambaram is situated some 250 km south of Chennai, about 10 km from the Bay of Bengal. We will get a fascinating glimpse into the history, architecture, and the divine spirit that makes this temple extraordinary.



Cultural Kaleidoscope: 11am, 19 January "Japanese Gardens and Mindfulness"



The Japanese Garden (Nihon Teien) is a manifestation of the Japanese people's love for nature exalted to the height of art and philosophy. For centuries, they have found a peace of mind spending time in and admiring Japanese gardens.

Among many across Japan, temples in Kyoto are known for having quintessentially exquisite Japanese gardens. Taizō-in temple, part of Kyoto's Myōshinji temple complex associated with the Rinzai school of Zen

Buddhism, is one of the renowned temples in Kyoto with such a Japanese garden.

Reverend Daiko Matsuyama, who is deputy head priest of Taizō-in temple, will guide us into the beauty of the Japanese garden for WIC members. Rev. Matsuyama is considered to be a future leader of the Buddhist

community in Japan and has earned praise as a cultural ambassador for Japan through his frequent lectures at embassies, TED talks, and other activities. His international outreach efforts have included participating in the "Inter-Faith: Run for a United World" marathon held under the patronage of the Dalai Lama, and attending the World Economic Forum in Davos.

For those who are interested in joining the program, please check out the website of Taizō-in temple beforehand (www.taizoin.com/en/).



Culinary Trails: 3pm, 27 January "Crêpes: Food of France by Pragati Mitta of L'Opéra"

Pragati Mitta is a lawyer-turned-chef. After doing her undergraduate studies in history at St. Stephen's College, she got a law degree from Faculty of Law, Delhi University. She then went on to practice law in various fields before realising that her passion lay in the culinary field. She moved to New York City to study Pastry & Baking Arts at the Institute of Culinary Education and then completed an internship at Chanson, a French Patisserie/Dessert Bar in Manhattan.

After returning to India, she worked for the Olive Group of Restaurants before joining L'Opéra as a chef and the quality manager. At L'Opéra she works on various projects including R&D for new menus, training chefs, conducting audits, and assisting with marketing.

Pragati will conduct a session on the quintessentially French preparation: crêpes. She will demonstrate various types of fillings including sweet and savoury, using recipes and techniques that we can easily replicate at home.



Three things you should do ...

1. RSVP for January meetings using this Doodle link: <https://doodle.com/poll/3xq976nyu2rem9zf>
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:

Weaving Pashmina Carpets – 11:30am Jan 7th
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89417868492>

Chidambaram Temple – 3pm Jan 11th
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81211412707>

Japanese Gardens – 11am Jan 19th
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83096989798>

GM - Gujarat – 3pm Jan 20th
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85601004210>

Making Crêpes 3pm Jan 27th
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83795416526>

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.

Notices to Members

We were very sorry to hear of the passing of dear **Hemant Pasrich**'s husband, Sardar Sukhcharan Singh Pasrich, who was also **Shivani**'s father-in-law. He passed away on the morning of 20th December. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of the departed soul. May his soul rest in peace.



Our dear member **Vinu Baig** suffered a stroke in December. We all send her our love, best wishes, and prayers for a speedy recovery.



Prama Bhandari is writing a piece on **WIC's 50-year history** to go in the soon to be released Cookbook and she needs your help. We would appreciate **contributions** from all of you that could interest our members. These could be memories, thoughts, photographs, interesting anecdotes, anything pertaining to WIC from the last 50 years.

Thanks to everyone who has already contributed. If you have ideas, but haven't sent them through yet, the **deadline of 7th January** is fast approaching - so send them soon. Please **send your contributions to wic.exe@gmail.com** and we will pass them on to Prama.

Finally, the moment you have all been waiting for ... who won the **Jingle Bell's Quiz** at the Christmas General Meeting. Well ... nobody got all of the answers correct but we are giving honourable mentions to:

- Devika Anand
- Smita Divan
- Atsuko Watanabe

Thanks everyone for your participation and see you in 2021!!!!

Calendar for January

Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
					1 Happy New Year!!!	2
3	4	5	6	7 Art & Beyond: Pashmina Carpets @11:30am	8	9
10	11 Member's Choice: Temple of Chidambaram @3pm	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 Cultural Kaleidoscope: Japanese Garden 11am	20 General Meeting: Travel to Gujarat @ 3pm	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 Culinary Trails: Food of France, Crêpes @ 3pm	28	29	30
31						