



Volume VII

Newsletter of the Women's International Club

GENERAL MEETING

Costumes and Textiles of Royal India, a slide presentation by Ritu Kumar



For centuries, the ruling dynasties of India promoted the skills of spinners, weavers, dyers, printers and embroiderers, commissioning textiles from renowned centers of excellence across the subcontinent. Delicate muslins from Dacca, fine silk brocades from Varanasi, complex woollen weaves from Kashmir, intricate gold embroideries from Lahore; all were transformed into costumes fit for kings and courtiers. After years spent searching the surviving examples of traditional court clothing, Ritu Kumar has uncovered a wealth of costumes. Her book "Costumes and Textiles of Royal India" is a celebration of centuries of craft, tradition and a testimony to the survival of the world's richest textile repertoire. When Ritu Kumar published this lavish presentation of her decades of study and shared the depth of her scholarly, history based expertise so succinctly, it sparked and spurred a new movement reviving the development of Indian fashion.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Ritu Kumar is one of India's foremost fashion designers, and the first woman to introduce the 'boutique' culture to India under the brand name 'Ritu'. She has developed a unique style of her own, reflecting the ancient traditions of Indian craftsmanship in a contemporary vocabulary. With a background in art history and museology, Ritu's understanding of ancient designs and the innovative use of traditional crafts has created a new classicism.

Ritu Kumar, as a brand, has been admired and patronised the world over. Indian bollywood stars such as Vidya Balan, Aishwarya Rai, Priyanka Chopra, Lara Dutta, Dia Mirza to name a few, and international celebrities Mischa Barton, Anoushka Shankar and Anna Ivanovic have all adorned her creations.

Since 1994, Ritu Kumar has also designed the wardrobes for the Femina Miss India contestants for their participation in international beauty pageants such as Miss Universe, Miss World and Miss Asia Pacific. Ritu Kumar's outfits have also been patronized by style icons such as the Late Princess Diana and Jemima Khan.

Ritu Kumar was awarded the Padma Shri Award in 2013 for her exceptional and distinguished service in the field of fashion, textile and craftsmanship.

Date : Wednesday, March 11th, 2015

Time : 3.00 pm

Venue : 2, Aurangzeb Lane, New Delhi-110011

Hostess : Shirin Paul, 9810043133

RSVP: Hospitality Chairperson, Iris Vogel, Irisd.vogel@gmail.com, 8826144001

WVIC NEWS March 2015

**Executive Committee
2014 / 15**

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Dear Members,

Where is the "global warming" or am I the only one who does not understand the word warming?----freezing I can feel!! Ah well let's not lose heart - March will be warm, in more ways than one.

We have a very exciting trip to Udaipur....bags packed, walking shoes top of the list, the circle leaders have promised 'a hoofing trip'.

Holi, fun, frolick, lots of colour and joyful laughter. What more do we want?

Woman of Substance and Wonderful World not to be put on the back burner.

Enjoy this month as much, if not more, than the circle leaders, who have enthusiastically brought them to us.

Enjoy the Month of March.

Kiran Anand
President

WONDERFUL WORLD

Celebration of International Women's Day in Different Parts of the World.

Date : Tuesday, March 10th, 2015

Time : 11.30 am – 1.30 pm

Venue : Habibi, MGF Mall, 3rd Floor, Saket

Hostess : Ala Madhu

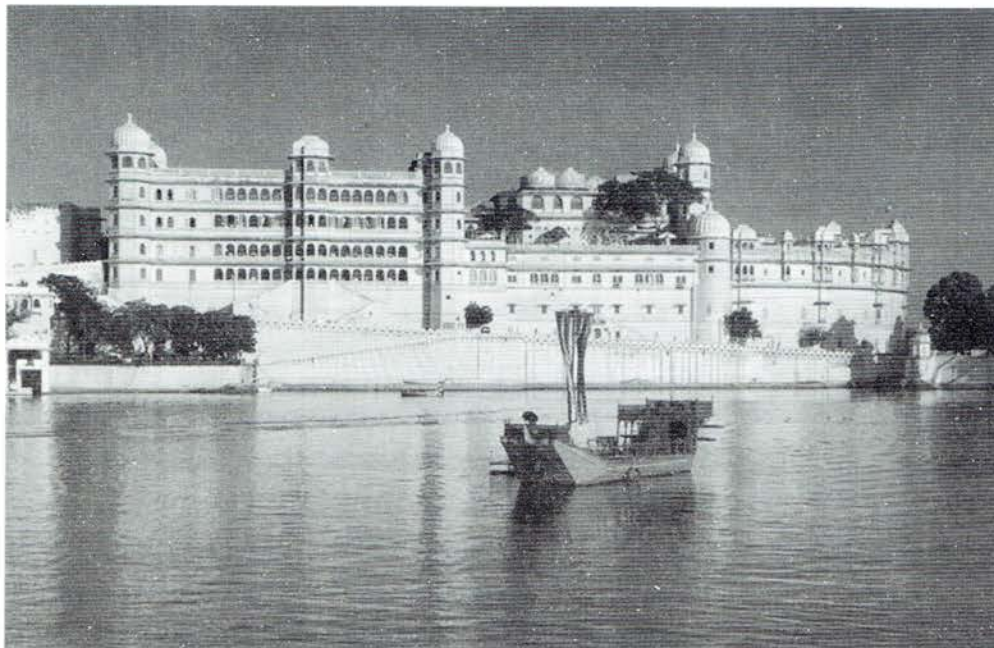
Limit : 50

RSVP: Hospitality Chairperson, Iris Vogel, Irisd.vogel@gmail.com, 8826144001

Come celebrate and learn how International Womens Day is celebrated in different parts of the world at Habibi.

ARTS & MUSEUMS

Udaipur, a Living Museum, Trip to Udaipur



At Arts and Museums, our constant endeavour is to share a slice from the vast repertoire of the rich heritage of India with our members who are always enthusiastic to savour more, thus motivating us, this time, to spend time amidst the living Heritage and Museum that the city of Udaipur is. Surrounded by lakes, this city in Rajasthan is aptly called the Venice of India. The region abounds with intriguing tales of romance that have originated within the amazing Haveli architecture of the city and the soft waves of the lakes. It is this very aspect that was the inspiration behind the 1983 James Bond movie, 'Octopussy', which was shot in Udaipur.

The trip intends to let one experience this living museum and the heritage of the place, as also the romance of staying in a property that is representative of the Haveli Architecture. We are happy to have our booking in a Haveli, the history of which dates back to more than 300 years. "Madri Haveli" originally belonged to Maharana Swaroop Singhji. In July 2006, it was bought by Mr. César Chuffart and Mr. Monish Paliwal, who painstakingly renovated the property, which took almost seven years, maintaining the original façade and changing the interior to suit a Heritage Hotel.

We are excited at the prospect of sharing this experience with our interested members.

Date : March 20th – March 22nd

Arts and Museums

Seema Bhalla 9316120551
Radhika Birla 9811222402
Sunaina Suneja 9811059724

Healing Touch

Shakuntala Dawesar
9811440101
Janie Haskell 9717422055
Surrinder Sarna 9811701071

High Tea, a Celebration

Shawn Runacres
9811300610
Gugu Singh 9811007710
Bindu Talwar 9818077882

Indian Heritage

Sunaina Aggarwal
9810400482
Josien Bansema - Cost
8586930950
Leena Singh 9810032426
Suneeta Trivedi 9910335938

International Cuisine, a Pot of Cultures

Zahra Echarif 9560694953
Trhas Gutsche 8800409933
Christine Samandari
9910400276
Joana Daniel Wrabetz
8588829652

The Library

Lakshmi Chandra
9910000254
Marjan Franzen 9650118773
Gita Devi Kapurthala
9810149150

Travel Desk

Emma Horne 9810579143
Parbeen Kaur 9810625869
Devika Anand Puri
9810010547

Wonderful World

Nayana Goradia
9873441744
Ala Madhu 9999986573
Elena Petrov 8375824750
Jeannie Tien 9810669647
Iris Vogel 8826144001
Josefina Young 9810009634

Women of Substance

Kusum Ansal 9810016006
Sunita Kohli 9811101080
Antje Lux 9717773100
Neena Malhotra 9811031436
Eliese Steiner 882688666
Sandra Walker 9560682956

Special Events

Natalie Maria Daalder
8527355022
Lise Fredriksen 011 24617980
Ike Indrakesuma
Sunita Kohli 9811101080
Anita Meattle 9811199111

WOMEN OF SUBSTANCE

Being a woman.... A poet and a film maker.
Talk by Dr. Lavlin Thadani



Dr. Lavlin Thadani has a Ph.D. in Russian Literature from Moscow State University and is Visiting Faculty with the School of Foreign Languages at Jawahar Lal Nehru University, New Delhi.

She worked as a National Media Consultant with WHO and as an interpreter for the UN and most of the Indian Prime Ministers. Dr. Thadani is also a freelance journalist, photojournalist, former editor, and freelance creative photographer. She has had numerous solo exhibitions held at Triveni Kala Sangam and Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai. Dr. Thadani held the post of the Head of the Russian Service at All India Radio (AIR) and produced over 2,500 features for them.

As an author, poet, actor and a film-maker, Dr. Thadani is passionate about socially relevant issues. She has produced and directed about a hundred programmes that include features, documentaries, docu-dramas and corporate films. A telefilm titled Karmawali represented India at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival. She continues to play the lead role of Padma Vibhushan Ms. Amrita Pritam in the play, "Amrita" winning high critical acclaim all over the country. Ms. Pritam termed her as her "Soul Mate" despite the difference of 4 decades between them.

Dr. Thadani was a high profile businesswoman heading a leading garment Export House and has served on the 'Board of Governors' as well as been associated with Governing Boards of many prestigious educational institutions. She was a Member of The Central Film Censor Board of India, Lalit Kala Academy, a Trustee with leading NGOs, Poetry Society of India and was a Consultant with the Times Foundation (Times of India Group) amongst other prestigious institutions.

She was honoured with many awards, diplomas, prizes for her commendable work in the various types of media. Mr. I. K. Gujral, former Prime Minister of India, said of Lavlin: "Lavlin is a scholar of high merit and contributes meaningfully to society."

Date : Thursday, March 12th, 2015

Time : 3.00 pm

Venue : B 3, Defence Colony

Hostess: Anita Dua

Limit : 35

RSVP: Hospitality Chairperson, Iris Vogel, Irisd.vogel@gmail.com, 8826144001

WIC Special Events



Holi Special Celebration

*If wishes come in rainbow colors then,
We would send the brightest one to say Happy Holi. (6th March, 2015)*



Holi is celebrated at the approach of vernal equinox, on the Phalgun Purnima (Full Moon). The festival date varies every year, per the Hindu calendar, and typically comes in March, sometimes February in the Gregorian Calendar. The festival signifies the victory of good over evil, the arrival of spring, end of winter, and for many a festive day to meet others, play and laugh, forget and forgive, and repair ruptured relationships.

It is primarily observed in India, Nepal, and other regions of the world with significant populations of Hindus or people of Indian origin. The festival has, in recent times, spread to parts of Europe and North America as a spring celebration of love, frolic, and colours.

Holi celebrations start with a Holika bonfire on the night before Holi where people gather, sing and dance. The next morning is a free-for-all carnival of colours, where participants colour each other with dry powder and coloured water, with some carrying water guns and coloured water-filled balloons. The frolic with colours occurs in the open streets, open parks, outside temples and buildings. Groups carry drums and musical instruments, go from place to place, sing and dance. People move and visit family and friends share Holi delicacies, food and drinks. Some drinks are intoxicating. For example, Bhang, an intoxicating ingredient made from cannabis leaves, is mixed into drinks and sweets and consumed by many.

Holi (English pronunciation: /ˈhoʊli/) (Sanskrit: हेली) is a spring festival also known as the festival of colours or the festival of love. It is an ancient Hindu religious festival which has become popular with non-Hindus in many parts of South Asia, as well as people of other communities outside Asia.

Dress up in colours and Join in fun and frolics to celebrate the festival of colours and enjoy delicious holi delicacies.

Please note the change in time i.e. at 11.30 am.

Date : Tuesday, March 17, 2015

Time : 11.30 am

Venue : No.18, The Greens, Rajokri.

Hostess : Taru Kanwar, 9910006000

RSVP: Hospitality Chairperson, Iris Vogel, Irisd.vogel@gmail.com, 8826144001

CLUB MATTERS

- The Travel Desk Circle regrets to inform that the Trip to Bulgaria had had to be cancelled due to lack of participant numbers.
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MARCH FESTIVALS

Holi, March 6th. Holi is a spring festival also known as the festival of colours or the festival of love. It is an ancient Hindu religious festival that has become popular with non-Hindus in many parts of the world.

The festival signifies the victory of good over evil, the arrival of spring, end of winter, and for many, a festive day to meet others, play and laugh, forget and forgive, and repair ruptured relationships. One of the most interesting moments of the **Holi festival** is a pot of buttermilk hung very high up in the street. Men form and climb up a pyramid to break it, in the same way the child Lord Krishna did.

Ram Navami, March 28th. One of the most significant days observed by the Hindus, especially followers of Vishnu. The rituals include recitations from 'Ramayana' or Tulsidas's 'Ramacharitmanas', long renditions of bhajans and kirtans and awe-inspiring puja and arti. In Rishikesh, an important seat of Ram worship, special payers dedicated to Lord Rama, japas and constant chantings invoking Lord Rama's name is common. Mantras like 'Om Sri Ram', 'Jai Sri Ram' raise the higher energies around the place. Ayodhya, Lord Rama's holy birth place witnesses a huge congregation of devotees who come to take a holy dip in river Saryu. People pray wholeheartedly to earn Lord Rama's blessings. A most awaited event is the two-day fair that includes 'rath yatras', a ceremonial procession that involves carrying the deities of Ram, brother Lakshman, wife Sita, and Mahavir Hanuman in chariots.

Navratri, March 21st. Literally interpreted as 'nine nights' it is the most celebrated Hindu festival devoted to Goddess Durga symbolizing purity and power or 'shakti'. Navratri festival combines ritualistic puja and fasting and is accompanied by resplendent celebrations for nine consecutive days and nights. Navratri in India follows the lunar calendar and is celebrated in March/April as Chaitra Navratri and in September/October as Sharad Navratri.


JANUARY GENERAL MEETING AT THE RESIDENCE OF THE AMBASSADOR OF THE NETHERLANDS



JANUARY CIRCLE MEETING, HEALING TOUCH ON AYURVEDA AND TIBETAN MEDICINE



WIC PROGRAMMES MARCH 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 WONDERFUL WORLD 11.30 AM - 1.30 PM	11  GENERAL MEETING 3 PM	12 WOMEN OF SUBSTANCE 3 PM	13	14
15	16	17 SPECIAL EVENT HOLI CELEBRATION 11.30 AM	18	19	20 ARTS & MUSEUM UDAIPUR TRIP	21 ARTS & MUSEUM UDAIPUR TRIP
22 ARTS & MUSEUM UDAIPUR TRIP	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				