



MARCH 2009

WIC NEWS

# GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> March 2009, 3.00pm

The Residence of:  
Mrs Smita Divan  
B-39 Gulmohar Park  
New Delhi

## CELEBRATING WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT

This year in celebration of International Women's Day we have been very fortunate in getting two outstanding women achievers. **Dr Romila Thapar** and **Ms. Aruna Roy**. One a historian and the other a bureaucrat transformed into a social activist.

**Dr. Romila Thapar** is a critically acclaimed historian and author of several books on ancient Indian history. She has recently been awarded **The Kluge Award**, often referred to as the American Noble Prize, one of the highest awards in the sphere of human sciences and humanities. She will speak to us on *Interpreting History*.

**Ms Aruna Roy**, is the recipient of **The Magsaysay Award** for community and international understanding. Her experience as a bureaucrat gave her an insight into our rural society, which helped her in her closer association with rural development at grassroots level through her NGO Social work and Research Centre (SWRC). She is a great believer in democratic rights and the right to information. She will tell us '*how to make democracy work*'.

*Do join us; it will be an enriching experience.*

## WIC COMMITTEE

2008 - 2009

**Smita Divan, President**

Mobile: 98117 70405

Email: smitadivan2002@yahoo.co.uk

**Mandy Cunningham, First Vice-President**

Mobile: 98180 77286

Email: mcunningham81@hotmail.com

**Lakshmi Chandra, Second Vice-president**

Mobile: 98110 55845

Email : lakshmichandra@gmail.com

**Janet Kowall, Secretary**

Mobile : 99533 13314

Email: janet.kowall@gmail.com

**Vibhuti Sharma, Treasurer**

Mobile: 98110 61461

Email: vibhutisharma@yahoo.com

**Mi-Ran Lee, Hospitality**

Mobile: 98181 11980

Email: kumgangindia@hotmail.com

**Frenny Billimoria, Membership**

Mobile: 98112 86353

Email: russifrenni@yahoo.co.in

**Seita Vaidialingam, Newsletter**

Mobile: 98101 37479

Email: seita\_adv@hotmail.com

# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

The world was eagerly waiting for 20<sup>th</sup> January for Obama's swearing in as the President of United States of America. Though the ceremony was a sombre affair, it has aroused tremendous expectation and hope around the globe. As a young African American said with great elation "... now we are all equal." This says it all, a great message for the universe.

For the January General Meeting Laxmi planned 'Lohri' at Gugu's home. Gugu, along with Parbeen and Harleen welcomed us all with their usual warmth and charm. Those present danced to Bhangra music and had makai ki roti and sarson ka sag. It was a fun time.

Mandy and her team have been giving us varied and interesting programmes every month. Be it on osteoporosis or Zwartbock, a Dutch movie. However what is baffling to the executive committee are the number of last minute absentees. Do you think we could be more considerate to the planners and the hostess?

Lastly, let me share some great news with you all. Our Shanno Khurana was awarded the Baba Allauddin Khan Award 2009 by the Baba Allauddin Khan Foundation. We all felt very proud when she was described as "the greatest living treasury of Hindustani music." Congratulations Shanno!

With Best Wishes,

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  
Sarla Daga 26 143 467

### Delhi Discoverers

Gugu Singh 98110 07710  
Emma Horne 98105 79143

### Focus

Shireen Khemchand 9953984304  
Mona Reinboth 98715 65522  
Sheila Ghatate 98681 25252

### Close Encounters

Nima Malhotra 98101 28029  
Titli Sahni 98185 28900  
Kim Narisetti 98101 72879  
Sheila Dobson 9891988832

### Health & Fitness

Shakuntala Dawesar 98114 40101  
Katie Behrens 99586 75308  
Indu Sahni 9810033860  
Anita Meattle 98111 99111

### Hindi Bolo

Sylvia Kaelin 98113 76569  
Bina Deogun 98101 36589

### Long Out

Bindu Talwar 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

An appeal on behalf of circle leaders:

**IF YOU SIGN UP, TURN UP!** (or at the very least send your regrets as early as possible).

I don't have to tell you how much time and effort circle leaders put in to organising their programmes. So please come and enjoy them.

**THANK YOU!**

Mandy

**Ladies, don't forget!** Tickets for the WIC Annual Gala are available from members of the Executive Committee.

Ticket Prices: Rs950 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 1<sup>st</sup> more guest tickets will be available if numbers permit.

**Change of Details for the Directory:**

**Please amend the following in your directory:**

New email address:

**Gita Devi** gitadevi@airtelmail.com

**Vibhuti Sharma**

S-337 Panchsheel Park, New Delhi 110 017 vibutisharma@yahoo.com

**Shree Devi Singh,**

C-377 Defence Colony, Second Floor,  
New Delhi 110024  
Mob. 9717620699.

**Taru Kanwar**

New Mobile No. 99100 06000

**The following New Members have been accepted into the Club.**

We welcome them and look forward to getting to know them better.

**ALA MADHU**

P-6 Haus Khas Enclave  
New Delhi 110 016  
Tel. No. 26965001  
Mob. 9999986573  
glamadhu@jmail.com  
Ukraine

**SHANA SHERRY**

US Embassy  
Shantipath  
Chanakyapuri  
Mob. 9958323809  
shanasherry@yahoo.com  
American

**EVA KAHLE**

B-91 Greater Kailash 1  
Mob. 9953554692  
evakahle@dafkurse.de  
German

## OBITUARY

We would like to send our sincere condolences to our member Nina Gupta on the demise of her husband, to our members Veena Das and Bindu Talwar on the demise of their Mother Mrs.Chandiok and to Radhika Birla on the demise of her grandmother Mrs.Chandiok.

# BOOK CIRCLE

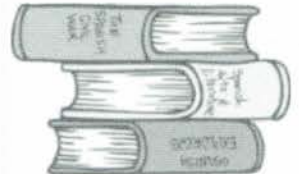
## FAMILY VALUES

**Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 11.00am sharp!**

Abha Dawesar will be talking to us about her latest novel *FAMILY VALUES*. There was a time when these values set a standard for society but as social norms are today everything is in a state of flux. It will be interesting to hear what Abha has to say. She has won awards for her novels *That Summer in Paris* and *Babyji*. So come prepared to also air your views!

At the residence of:  
Annie Howard,  
Flat 3C, The White House  
Bhagwan Dass Road

**Limit-25**



# DANCE AWAY

**Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> March, 3.00pm**

All those involved in the Bollywood Dance troupe preparing for the Gala PLEASE turn up for practice. Fee will be Rs 200, as usual.

At the residence of:  
Vaneeta Podewils  
136 Golf Links

**Limit – 15**



# MOVIES

## Slumdog Millionaire

**Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> March, 11.00 am to 1.00 pm**

Slumdog Millionaire has already won 4 Golden Globe awards and at the time of going to press it had been nominated for 10 Baftas and 10 Oscars. It's a fairy tale romance whose lead characters have to crawl through squalor before reaching their happy ending.

This British-Indian co-production is the story of Jamal, a teenage tea boy from the slums of Mumbai who finds himself one question away from winning the jackpot in the television game show, *Who wants to be a Millionaire?* But how is a boy with no formal education able to get that far? His turbulent street life provides the answers.

At the residence of:  
Taru Kanwar,  
3/3 Shanti Niketan

**Limit - 25**





# FOCUS

## Panchayati Raj:

### More Powers for Women in Self Government

Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> March, 3.00 pm

The philosophy of Panchayat Raj is deeply steeped in the tradition and culture of rural India and is by no means a new concept. However, it did not have a constitutional status. The Constitution (Seventy-third Amendment) Act, 1992 provides a framework on which to build the third level of governance - panchayats - thereby seeking to transform Mahatma Gandhi's dream of Gram Swaraj into a reality. Panchayati Raj aims at a system of self-governance at the village level,

Women, with one third representation, have a substantial presence at the village and district level now. Unfortunately, the patriarchal mindset has still to be challenged in several areas. Husbands and fathers who have been decision makers often try to take away the power from elected women members, thus making them leaders in name only. This is being challenged and the process for change has begun.

Our speaker, Dr Anju Dubey, Head of the Gender Training Institute of the Council for Social Research, will tell us more about it.

At the residence of:  
Gita Devi Kapurthala  
B90/A Greater Kailash - 1

Limit - 25



# LUNCHING OUT

## CHILLI SEASONSS

Thursday, 12th March, 1.00 pm

The brand new Chilli Seasonss shifted from Lodhi Colony to Defence Colony. This three level restaurant is all spanking minimalist - clean lines in off-white and dark brown and stark absence of any artifacts other than a crisscross of dark wood sticks against the wall. Chilli Seasonss serves a rather interesting mix of Tibetan, Thai, Burmese and Vietnamese food. There is something earthy about the home style fare that is dished out here.

Approx. cost Rs. 500 per head (as usual we will go Dutch)

Venue:  
Chilli Seasonss  
47 Defence Colony Market (opp. Sagar)



# CUISINE CIRCLE

Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> March, 11.00 am

The weather is getting warmer. Spring is on its way. It's time to think less about hearty soups to warm the soul and more about cooling summer fare. Come and enjoy our very own Janet Chawla's demonstration of some interesting and different salads.

At the residence of:  
Janet Chawla  
120, Sunder Nagar

Limit - 25



# ART & CULTURE

"Beyond Classical World(s)"  
A Piano Solo recital by Ariane Grey Herbert  
Thursday, 19th March, 3.00 pm

A Concert Pianist, Singer and Composer, ARIANE (French American) is an innovative and pioneering artist in several fields. Over the years, she has delighted the audiences with her performances, which include piano solos, piano/vocal world music and orchestral programs with western and eastern musicians. With a vibrant mezzo –soprano voice and a visionary approach to playing the piano, she elicits enthusiastic responses from audiences. A two-time 'Laureate Lavoisier' for her performances in Austria & India, Ariane perfected her piano in Vienna, Salzburg, Hanover, and Paris.

No stranger to India, she has performed in Chennai, Bangalore, Mumbai, New Delhi and Kolkata with special appearances for Zee TV, NDTV, Headlines Today, All India Radio and Doordarshan. Among her recent performances, ARIANE gave exclusive music for the European Delegation in India for the 50 years of the EU Treaty.

Furthermore, Ariane is our own club member!

At the residence of:  
Vibhuti Sharma  
S - 337 Panchshila Park

**Limit - 30**

## HINDI BOLO

As usual, ladies interested in learning some Hindi (and having some fun along the way) should call Sylvia Kaelin (9811376569) or Bina Deogun (9810136589) to check on the date and venue.

हिन्दी

## MARCH 2009 CALENDAR

March Calendar-- Starting of Saka Era 1931--INDIAN NEW YEAR  
(22nd Mar)

**SAMVAT 2065**

SEASON---VASANT (begins 22nd Mar.),

Month---- CHAITRA ( " 22nd Mar)

Sun 8th--International Women's Day

Wed 11th--Full Moon

Thurs 12 th--- **Holi**

18th--rabius sani (29)

Tue 10th--Birthday of Prophet Mohammad

Sun 15 Id-e-Maulad (Muslim)

Sat 21--Jamshedji Naoroj

Compiled by Bina Deogun



# TRIP TO MOUNT ABU AND UDAIPUR

by Indra Luthra and Zakia Zaheer.

At long last we were on a Club trip to Udaipur. 16 of us, casting our worries aside and giggling like school girls with anticipation! Our journey started with a train trip to Mt. Abu. We arrived early in the morning and proceeded to Palanpur palace hotel, very luxurious and set in beautiful surroundings.

After a short rest, we started our sight seeing by visiting Dilwara temple. This most beautiful temple, situated a little away from Mt Abu, is the epitome of the most intricate and exquisite carving in white marble. The most skilled craftsmen plied their chisels over a period of fourteen years. Not an inch of space has been left in carving the 1444 pillars, the ceilings, the arches and the doorways with their 'dwarpals' testifying to their skill and devotion. It was thronged with devotees.

There were other ancient temples and holy places also to be visited including one with 1000 steps, where the 'not so energetic' pilgrims are carried in a hammock-like contraption by 2 coolies. We even paid a short visit to the Temple and garden of Brahmakumaris for which Mt. Abu has become famous.

That night we were invited by the Rani of Bikaner to her beautiful palace which has very tastefully been converted into a hotel. Decked in our finery, we had a lovely meal sitting on a terrace overlooking the valley with diyas lit all around us in our honour. The next night we invited them to our Palanpur hotel, where we reciprocated their hospitality in an equally tasteful manner, with dinner served in the hotel's lovely garden.

From Mt Abu we headed for Udaipur. It was a long and picturesque journey. En route we stopped at Ranakpur temples, which are also Jain temples, but much bigger and as intricately carved in marble as Dilwara. After an extensive tour of these exquisite temples, which can be called poetry in marble, we proceeded to Kumbalgarh fort. Another long climb by foot and we were rewarded by the most amazing views of the surrounding areas. The fort itself is well worth a visit and beautifully maintained as a museum. We reached Udaipur tired and happy, and looking forward to a rest. Some of our young enterprising members even took in a movie that night!!

The highlight of our tour next day was the city palace which has been the home of the Mewar dynasty for over three hundred years. The palace is a huge complex with numerous steps, rooms, levels and passages. The history of the Mewar dynasty and all the vicissitudes it faced was soulfully recorded in an excellent 'son et luminere' show in the city palace gardens.

Next day most of us left early for Nathdwara temple. It is here that an icon of Lord Krishna was brought from Mathura to save it from the iconoclastic forays of Aurangzeb. Thousands of devotees come to pay their homage at this shrine. It is also home to a group of 'Pichhwa' painters who make temple hangings with stone colours as a backdrop for the main image of Shri Nathjee.

Not far from there was the 'Eklanji' temple, where the deity is the one venerated by the rulers of Mewar. It is a smaller temple but beautifully built with the skill and devotion of the craftsmen. A few of us who had been to Nathdwara went to Deogarh to see the lovely palace, converted into a charming hotel and had lunch with the Raja.

In the evening we polished our jewels, put on our best sarees, and returned to the city palace for a formal cocktail session with the Rana of Udaipur. We sat on the terrace of his residence overlooking the magical lake. It was truly an enchanting sight with the palace shimmering in the lake.

Our last day. Some hectic shopping, antiques to be found and bargains to be made. Lunch at a restaurant at Jagmandir which is an old monument on an island in the lake. Charming ambiance and lovely view. We even took a boat ride on the lake to reach there. And onto the station to board our train for home. Six days were not enough, but very enjoyable and fulfilling. And surprisingly, we all were still on good terms!!

# MARCH 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2  Book Circle 3.00 pm	3	4  General Meeting 2.30 pm	5  Dance Away 3.00 pm	6  Movies 01.00 am	7
8	9  Focus 03.00 pm	10	11	12  Lunching Out 1.00 pm	13	14
15	16	17	18	19  Art & Culture 3.00 pm	20  Cuisine 11.00 am	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				