



OCTOBER 2008

DIWALI GENERAL MEETING



The Exquisite And Ancient Art Form Of Mohiniattam

A dance demonstration by Padmashri Bharati Shivaji

We are extremely fortunate to have Guru Padmashri Bharati Shivaji to initiate us into the traditions of this classical feminine dance form of Kerala. Mohiniattam which literally means the Dance of the Enchantress, is noted for its grace, sensuality and lyricism. Bharati Shivaji is eminently in the forefront of this field and she is famous not only as a performer but as teacher, choreographer and author. Her trail blazing deconstruction and renewal of the traditional choreography has resulted in some of the most innovative ballets to be created in Mohiniattam. She is the force behind the Centre for Mohiniattam, based in Delhi which is an institution dedicated to research, documentation and the propagation of the ancient art of Mohiniattam.

Diwali, which celebrates the victory of good over evil, is a theme in many of the ballets in Mohiniattam. Please enjoy the beautiful spectacle of Bharati Shivaji's dance demonstration followed by a special Diwali tea.

Date : Wednesday, 8th October, 2008
Time : 3-00 p.m.
Venue : Residence of Mrs. Sunita Kohli
31, Golf Links

WIC NEWS

WIC COMMITTEE

2008 - 2009

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

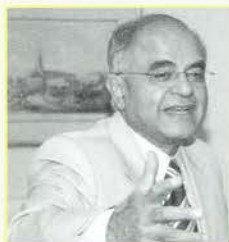
Very soon we will be heralding October, in India a month of festivities, lights and joy. It starts with Dussehra and ends with Deepavali or Diwali, the festival of lights. To celebrate the festival we have Bharati Sivaji, a famous Mohiniattam exponent who will perform at our General Meeting.

October is also the month of Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary. On 1st October we will have Gurcharan Das, a well known columnist, playwright, and author of the best seller INDIA UNBOUND, speak to us about the relevance of the Gandhian philosophy today.

Our circle leaders are working very hard to give us novel and interesting programmes. We hope you will participate fully; it encourages them to work with greater enthusiasm.

In conclusion, it is time to rejoice for the doctor couple Mandakini and Prakash Amte, being selected for the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award. They have been selected for their contributions to improving the lives of tribals in a remote village of Maharashtra, Hemalkasa, through medical care and education. Dr. Prakash's father, the late Baba Amte, was also a recipient of the same award. Their two sons have also dedicated their lives to the same work. This is what commitment is all about.

With warm regards,
Smita Divan



SPECIAL PROGRAMME

Gurcharan Das, a graduate from Harvard, began his professional career as a Corporate Executive. He chose early retirement to become a full time writer. He has authored many plays like Larin Sahib, Mira and 9 Jakhoo Hill. He is also author of the best seller India Unbound which has been published in seventeen languages.

On the eve of Gandhi Jayanti, he will talk to us about Gandhian Philosophy and how it can still be a relevant force in India.

Date : Wednesday, 1st October 2008
Time : 3-00 p.m.
Venue : Residence of Mrs. Smita Divan
B-39, Gulmohar Park

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 Descovers

Gugu Singh	98110 07710
Emma Horne	98105 79143

F

Sharmen Khemchand	9953984304
Mona Reinboth	98715 65522
Sheila Ghatate	98681 25252

Close Encounters

Nima Malhortra	98101 28029
Titli Sahni	98185 28900
Kim Nariseti	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

Lunching Out

Farooq Talwar	98180 77882
Niti Judge	98105 64346

Movies

Niru Kapur	98100 76063
Josefina Young	98100 09634
Sudarshana Singh	98186 75765

Special Philosophy Circle

Maria Polychronides	9873900969
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Trips and Travel - National and International

Bina Deogun	98101 36589
Niti Judge	98105 64346

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF DEEPAVALI – excerpted from The Hindu



Deepavali, or Diwali as it is known in North India, literally means garland of lights, and so it is regarded as the festival of lights. It is celebrated for five consecutive days at the end of the Hindu month of Kartika, and it usually falls in October or November.

Diwali is one of the few festivals celebrated throughout India with equal fervour. There are many beliefs regarding this festival. But the most common is that it is celebrated to mark the victory of Lord Rama against Ravana.

The lights represent the time when Rama, along with Sita and Laxman, came back from the forest and the people of Ayodhya lit lamps in every home to welcome their true king as well as celebrate his victory over Ravana. They danced and made merry and burst firecrackers to express their joy. Another belief is that it was on this day that Lord Krishna killed the demon Narakasura, and saved the world from his evil clutches.

All the five days of the festival are significant. The first day of Diwali, which begins with Dhanteras, is the day when Lakshmi, the Goddess of wealth is worshipped.

The second day is for Kali, the Goddess of strength. Light is considered the symbol of knowledge and on the third day, all Hindu households are illuminated with oil lamps or diyas.

The fourth day of Diwali falls on the first day of the lunar New Year. So this day is considered to be auspicious to settle new business accounts and open new books.

On the last day of the festival, Bali, an ancient Indian king, who was generous and kind, is remembered. Hence the significance of this day is to see the well-being of others, even the enemies. Preparations for Diwali starts well in advance. This is the time houses are thoroughly cleaned. Many take this opportunity to renovate their houses. According to an ancient belief, Lakshmi, the Goddess of wealth travels through all our homes on Diwali night and blesses the houses that are shiny and sparkling clean.

The most important ritual attached to Diwali is the oil bath in the wee hours of the morning. Like most festivals in India, shopping for clothes is part of the celebrations.

So after the oil bath, Hindus wear new clothes, and seek the blessings of the elders of the family. One important practice the Hindus follow during the festival is light oil lamps in their homes on the morning of Diwali.

By lighting the oil lamps, they thank the gods for the happiness, knowledge, peace and wealth that they enjoy. Bursting of firecrackers is a must for Diwali, and both children and elders enjoy doing it.

As in all Indian festivals, food is an attraction for Diwali also. So visiting a Hindu home during Diwali would give you an opportunity to taste a wide spread of delicious food.

Though prominence is given to sweets, spicy food is never left far behind. The light from the oil lamps all around us during Diwali help fill our body and soul with the luminosity of sharing and togetherness. This is the time we forget enmity and animosity, and treat everyone with love and equality.

HINDI BOLO

Returning by popular demand, Bina Deogun will resume teaching her fun Hindi conversation class!

Date : Friday, 10th October, 2008
Time : 11-00 a.m.
Venue : Residence of Bina Deogun
I-3, Maharani Bagh

हिन्दी

CUISINE

Come and join us for a demonstration of wonderful home style Nepalese cuisine by Meher Jyoti Bhalla.

Date : Monday, 13th October 2008
Time : 11-00 a.m.
Venue : Residence of Bubbles Suneja
21-A, Tughlak Road
Limit : 20



ART & CULTURE

Vinod Dayal belongs to one of the oldest traditional families of Delhi. His haveli, in Chandni Chowk has a temple and taikhana and is being proposed as a heritage site. His family business is jewelry amongst other things. Vinod's fascination with Meenakari, the intricate art of enamel work on silver and gold combined with his interest in bird-watching has led to his experimentation with all kinds of intricate designs and produced many beautiful specimens of bird life. He has special artisans for each aspect of his art. His enamel birds are now sent all over the world, and also given as gifts to visiting Heads of State.

Vinod will talk to us about his art and artisans, the history and intricacies of Meenakari and show us some lovely samples of his enamel work.

Date : Wednesday, 15th October
Time : 3-00 p.m.
Venue : Residence of Radhika Birla
27, Aurangzeb Road
Limit : 35

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

Come together and join us for a lively discussion on various topics of common interest. Politics, the weather, religion, science, everything is fair game! We look forward to meeting everyone again and especially our new members - as this is a programme of getting to know each other. Your opinions matter!

Date : Friday, 17th October, 2008

Time : 3-00 p.m.

Venue : Residence of Titli Sahni

67, Friends Colony West

Limit : 35

FOCUS

Control of Visual Media - A Necessary Evil?

- Tackling contemporary challenges

Madhavi Goradia Divan is a Cambridge Commonwealth scholar. She received a bachelor's and a master's degree in law from the University of Cambridge. She has since practiced law as a counsel. Madhavi has published several articles on the freedom of expression and media-related issues. Her book 'Facets of Media Law' was published in 2006. She will discuss with us issues which have been of concern to all of us: transgressions of privacy, violence and vulgar depictions in the visual media.

Date : Monday, 20th October, 2008

Time : 3-00 p.m.

Venue : Residence of Jyoti Wazir

C-515, Defence Colony



LUNCHING OUT AT CHILLI SEASSON

Chilli Season is a two level restaurant in the heart of the city and is complemented by prompt service. It serves Thai, Indonesian, Chinese and Vietnamese cuisine. An absolute must for lovers of Oriental cuisine. We will go dutch as always and the cost will be approximately Rs.600 per head.

Date : Wednesday, 22nd October, 2008

Time : at 1-00 p.m.

Venue : 18, Main Market, Lodhi Colony, New Delhi
(Behind India Habitat Centre]



DANCE AWAY

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

Date : Friday, 31st October at 11 a.m.

Time : 11-00 a.m.

Venue : Venue to be announced at the October General Meeting

Limit : 15



OCTOBER 2008
(Ashwin/Kartik, Saka 1930)

2nd	:	Mahatma Gandhi's Birthday, Idu'l Fitir
7th	:	Durga Puja / Mahashtami
8th	:	Mahanavami
9th	:	Dussehra & Vijaya Dashmi
26th	:	Dhan Trayodashi (it is auspicious to buy something for the kitchen/ home on this day)
28th	:	Kali/ Lakshmi Puja
30th	:	Bhai Duj (when sisters tie the sacred thread on the brother's wrist and pray for his long life, he promises to protect his sister in turn)
31st	:	Halloween, Z'ulquada

OCTOBER 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			<p>1</p> <p>Special Programme at B-39, Gulmohar Park, New Delhi-110 049</p>	2	3	4
5	6	7	<p>8</p> <p>Diwali General Meeting 3.00 pm</p>  <p>at Golf Links</p>	9	<p>10</p> <p>Hindi Bolo 11.00 am at I-3, Maharani Bagh</p>	11
12	<p>13</p> <p>Cuisine 11.00 am at 21-A, Tughlak Road</p>	14	<p>15</p> <p>Art & Culture 3.00 pm at 27, Aurangzeb Road</p>	16	<p>17</p> <p>Close Encounters 3.00 pm at 67, Friends Colony West</p>	18
19	<p>20</p> <p>Focus 3.00 p.m. at C-515, Defence Colony</p>	21	<p>22</p> <p>Lunching Out 1.00 p.m. at 18, Main Market, Lodhi Colony, New Delhi</p>	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	<p>31</p> <p>Dance Away 11.00 am</p>	