

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK - **ADV. GAURI CHHABRIA**



On behalf of the Women Graduates Union, I take this opportunity of extending a warm New year's Greetings to all you dear friends for happy, healthy and prosperous year.

Women Graduates Union (spanning over 107 years) main goal and object is to provide higher education and support to the marginalized women section of the society with a view to uplift and enrich their lives. All our programs during the year have aimed to meet the above objectives.

"Feminism isn't about making women stronger. Women are already strong, it's about changing the way the world perceives that strength." - **G.D. Anderson**

Our main activity is providing hostel accommodation at our Sir Purshottamdas Hostel for 100 outstation women who came to Mumbai for a job. The infrastructure and nutritious food provided makes their stay comfortable in a safe environment.

"I can promise you that women working together – linked, informed and educated – can bring peace and prosperity to this forsaken planet." - **Isabelle Allende**

"Education is the movement from darkness to light"

Disbursement of Scholarships to merit cum needy girl students is also one of our key activities. Students pursuing higher education in diversified professional and other fields have been awarded scholarship year after year. We are pleased to inform you that in January 2023 we have disbursed Rs. 14,55,000/- to 79 young women pursuing various professional and other courses.

We have regular classes for our Balwadi and Study Center students providing them nutritious food and conducting various drawing competitions, to develop their artistic skills. Various festivals are also celebrated to enable them to participate and enjoy the essence and spirit of the festival.

Our counseling & Guidance Committee has held various counseling sessions including a spiritual session – **"AWAKENING TO SELF REALIZATION"**

Our Amy Rustomjee hall was used as a Vaccination Center during the pandemic providing easy accessibility to all.

Our country completed 75 years of Independence – a milestone and WGU celebrated the same through the following memorable events: Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav (August 12, 2022), Independence Day (August 15, 2022) and Republic Day (January 26, 2023). Children day was also celebrated on November 14, 2022

In spite of the challenges faced due to the pandemic, the Program and Fund Raising Committee held various programs during the year celebrating various festivals. A grand Dandiya Raas was held on September 24, 2022 to celebrate Navratri Utsav where the Students, Members and Guests swayed to rhythm of the music in their lovely colourful outfits. A Christmas Party was held in December 26, 2022 where carol singers of Interfaith Colaba carollers sang followed by housie, uplifting the atmosphere and speedy goodwill and cheer!

Friends, this is the first Annual Fund Drive Program after the lockdown organized by the Chairperson of the Fund Raising Committee. I would like to extend my heartiest congrats to Mrs. Pervin Vanvari her team for taking great efforts and making this Fund Drive successful. After the pandemic, it has not been easy to collect finds, as you are aware that all of us have faced challenges try to stabilize the losses suffered during the period.

"Fund Raising is the gentle art of teaching the joy of giving"

Regards

Adv. Gauri Chhabria

President

WGU celebrated Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav – A Grand Event.

WGU celebrated Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav on 12TH August 2022 - A Grand Event.

Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav was celebrated on Friday, August 12, 2022. Members of WGU, invited guests and Study Center and Balwadi children along with their parents and teachers attended this function.

PSI Parvati Ghatge of Colaba Police station – Chief Guest along with her three lady constables colleague, were present. They were felicitated on this special occasion by WGU President- **Adv. Gauri Chhabria** by presenting, a flower bouquet and a gift, as token of appreciation for their sincere dedication and devotion, towards the community.

The Chief Guest, Police Inspector **Ms. Parvati Ghatge** gave a very inspiring and motivating speech to the august gathering and inaugurated the WGU Newsletter

There was wonderful dance performance by the choreographer, **Ms. Niyati Surve** on patriotic songs and also by the children of Balwadi and Study Center. Songs were sung by **Chanda Virani** – our member and there were other participants to make the variety event successful. We had a national flag parade on the beats of patriotic music around the hall. All participants and members were welcomed with a tricolor scarf on this special occasion. The entire event gave a festive and patriotic feeling, reflecting the glory and achievements of reputation of 75 years.



15th August – 75th Independence Day Celebration

Independence Day celebration was held on 15th August 2022. The National Flag was hoisted by **President of WGU, Adv. Gauri Chhabria** along with **Trustee - Mrs. Kashmira Meher-Homji** where many hostel members joined wearing tri color cloths and WGU members, staff along with children of Study Centre and Balwadi and parents. WGU put hording of **Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav**, standee and poster to mark this special occasion. An inspiring speech was given by the President. She greeted everyone on the occasion of 75th Independence Day – Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav. Snacks and sweets were provided to all the members present.



Republic Day Celebration

WGU celebrated Republic Day on Thursday, January 26, 2023. President, Members of Managing Committee, children of Study Center, Hostelites, Hostel and WGU office staff were present on this occasion.

Flag unferling was done by **President Adv. Gauri Chhabria** along with Managing Committee Member, **Mrs. Manjula Patel**. President gave welcome speech and motivated the children to strive to to be good citizen, making the country proud of them.

All the children and members presents were given snacks and sweets. Children left the WGU with big smile on their faces wearing tri color dresses and carrying flags.



Childrens Day Celebration



- WGU celebrated Children's day on 14th November 2022 with great fanfare.
- Children of BALWADI were invited and given chocolates and various gifts.
- The children enjoyed the occasion and celebrated merrily.
- Children danced on music and enjoyed the various games.

Balwadi Programs

1) JOYFUL DOUBLE CELEBRATION AT BALWADI!

On 25th August 2022, when the children had a wonderful time dressed up in colourful traditional costumes. The teacher, **Ms. Divya Rane**, helped the youngest child strike the 'handi' while the rest cheered him on.

A lovely display of the little Ganpati figures made by the children was something to be proud of. The celebration ended with refreshments for everyone!



Little Krishna strikes Dahi handi



Happy finale with treats for everyone



Some of the Ganpati's made by children



Children enjoyed dressing up in colourful costumes.

2) FELICITATION BY CHAIRPERSON, BALWADI

Chairperson, **Mrs. Usha Allahrakhia** felicitated the Managing Committee members and Staff on 11th October 2022 by giving 1 pheta (Pagree) in appreciation for the hard work of the committee members and staff. The program ended with a sumptuous lunch sponsored by the Chairperson of Behramji Lalkaka Trust and Chairperson Balwadi Committee. WGU is grateful for this kind gesture and deeply appreciates the same.



3) PRICE DISTRIBUTION WITH LALKAKA FAMILY

Prize Distribution function of Balwadi children and their parents was held on Tuesday, February 24, 2023.

President Adv. Gauri Chhabria, Trustees and members of Managing Committee were present this event.

Mr. Cawas Lalkaka along with the Trustees of Lalkaka Family Trust was called as a Special Guest for the function.

The children left the WGU with big smile on their faces after receiving prizes.



Study Center Prize Distribution Function

The Study Centre Prize Distribution for 2022 - 2023 was held on 20th January 2023 at 4pm in The Amy Rustomjee Hall, WGU. **President Adv Gauri Chhabria**, presided over the function'. Members of the WGU, parents and children attended the event.

Since no prize distribution could be held for two previous years due to Covid restrictions, the children were very excited and happy to have it this year and looked forward to the event with great enthusiasm. Dance, poetry recitation and a couple of songs were practised diligently and performed with gusto for the short programme which preceded the prize giving. All performances were loudly applauded.

A drawing/colouring competition on the subject of '**Makar Sankranti**' was held and prizes given for the 3 best drawings submitted.

Time for the distribution of prizes for hard work and good study. 1st prize in overall studies of Rs.500/- each was given to the student with best marks in his/her class. For standing 2nd or 3rd in class, Rs.300/- and Rs.100/- each were also awarded. To encourage children to study hard and do better in class, 10 Consolation prizes of Rs. 100'- each were given to every child in the Study Centre. In addition, to encourage and instill the habit of reading, simple story books, activity books and colouring books were distributed to each child. Our President then addressed the gathering of parents and children in a rousing speech of motivation for improving their future and doing well in life.

To conclude, the evening on a happy note, there were games for the children to play, for which too, winners were given prizes. Snacks were served to all.



WGU Awakening To Self Realization A Session By Counselling & Guidance Committee

Counselling and Guidance Centre of WGU, presented a session titled “Awakening to Self Realisation” on Friday, 14th October 2022 at Amy Rustomjee Hall at Women Graduate Hostel, Colaba.

Our chairperson **Loretta D'Souza** welcomed everyone and presented flowers to **Maitreyi Padmagandha** from Maitri Bodh Parivar. **WGU President Adv. Gauri Chhabria** spoke on activities of WGU.

The meditation was conducted by **Maitreyi Padmagandha** from Maitri Bodh Parivar and was coordinated by **Mrs. Sushma Sharma**. All members were transported in a tranquil frame as the session was in progress coupled with the spiritual music in the background.

The experience was divine, as one could feel the free charge of energy being transferred a divine experience.



Diwali Ration Kit Distribution On 20th October 2022

WGU in collaboration with Finolex Pipes, Give with Dignity, CSR Partner Mukul Madhav Foundation organized distribution of Ration Kits on 20th October 2022 at WGU.

Approximately 70 Ration kits were distributed to, all the parents of the students of Balwadi and Study Centre, coming from humble background viz security guards, housekeepers, maids, canteen boys. The kit was sufficient for a month for a nuclear family comprising of a couple and 2 kids.

The said project was coordinated by **President Adv. Gauri Chhabria**, who spoke on the occasion and shared that she was happy to distribute the Ration Kit with dignity and extend her best wishes for Diwali.

We are grateful to Mukul Madhav Foundation, Finolex Pipes, Give with Dignity for their kind generosity. Special thanks to **Mukul Madhav Foundation Chairperson, Ritu Prakash Chhabria**. Everyone were very happy to receive this gifts.



Salute To Frontline Workers!

Doctors, Nurses and staff of COVID Vaccination Centre were given appreciation certificate for their contribution followed by a delicious lunch get – together, this felicitation was organized in the presence of PSI from Colaba Police station.

Advocate Mrs Gauri Chhabria, the President of WGU, received a letter of appreciation from the Assistant Commissioner 'A Ward' Municipal Corporation, Greater Mumbai for WGU contribution of letting the MCGM run COVID vaccination on the premises.

More than 35900 beneficiaries have received the COVID vaccination at the WGU vaccination Centre.

Kudos to WGU for participating and donating their space for social causes.



Hostel Committee

Hostel Day was celebrated on Friday, December 2, 2022 at Amy Rustomjee Hall, Women Graduates Union.

The hall bore a festive look, decorated with lights and balloons. Enjoyment was palpable as individual talents in dance were eagerly displayed, in an ambience of camaraderie.

Hostel Committee and other members of the WGU joined in the celebrations. Music played by a D. J. and games were enjoyed by all. A sumptuous dinner was provided by Acme Caterers.



Women Graduates Union (WGU) completed **107 years** of its glorious existence. Seldom has an NGO survived with a recorded history of such unparalleled social service to the cause of empowerment of women and children through education - a rare jewel in the crown of nation building. WGU held its Annual Scholarship Function on January 6, 2023, disbursing scholarships on need-cum-merit basis to 79 young women students who are pursuing higher studies in various fields.

Havovi Gandhi, WGU Trustee and Chairperson of Scholarship Committee revealed : We had very humble beginnings of disbursing scholarships to deserving students way back in 1934 and those days we started by giving grants of Rs. 50 and Rs. 25 to women students to help them fulfill their dreams in education. Today, we have given scholarships to **79 students amounting to Rs. 14,55,000/-**. We have come a long way and have been able to help many deserving and needy students in their journey towards literacy. **Chief Guest Mrs. Shernaz Engineer**, Editor of Jam-e-Jamshed Communications Pvt. Ltd. laid emphasis and said **"Women must focus on their inner light, not on their looks. Make the most of your strength and do not excessively obsess over your weaknesses."**

The function concluded on a very happy note for furthering the empowerment of women at all levels.



With the ever changing environment driven by technology, WGU has developed various need based Computer courses for every section of society, ranging from kids to students and senior citizens.

Presenting the following courses are held:

1. WOMEN / SENIOR CITIZEN COURSE
2. SMART KIDS COURSE
3. MICROSOFT OFFICE PACKAGE
4. INTERNET COURSES

The above courses are well structured and reasonably priced making it affordable for all sections of the society.

Members do not miss the golden opportunity. Do take advantage of the above courses and also motivate your friends and relatives to enroll for the same.

WOMEN GRADUATES UNION
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Tel: 2216197, 2216210 Email: wgu1914@gmail.com

COMPUTER CENTRE

Take your pick from these short courses like the Senior Citizen's Course for all ages, easy to learn from our dedicated Coaches - from the comfort of WGU's Computer Centre. What's more, kids too can have a fun time this summer practicing from the especially designed Smart Kids Package.

<p>WOMEN / SENIOR CITIZEN COURSE Duration - 30 Days Age - Any</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER • MS WORD 2013 • NET BURNING • EMAIL ACCOUNT • VIDEO CALLS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SMARTPHONE FEATURES • GOOGLE MAPS • BASIC TABLE SHOOTING • PRACTICE SESSION
<p>SMART KIDS COURSE Duration - 30 Days Age - 7 to 12 years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER • PAPER • NOTEPAD • MS WORD 2013 • MS POWERPOINT 2013 • PRACTICE SESSION 	<p>MICROSOFT OFFICE PACKAGE Duration - 60 Days Age - above 15 year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER • MS WORD 2013 • MS EXCEL 2013 • MS POWERPOINT 2013 • PRACTICE SESSION
<p>INTERNET COURSE Duration - 15 Days Age - Any</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INTERNET CONCEPT • NET SHOPPING • EMAIL • NET BANKING • ECOMMERCE • SMARTPHONE FEATURES 	

Email: computer.wgu@gmail.com Website: www.womengraduatesunion.org

Centenary Celebrations

UNIVERSITY WOMENS Association MADRAS held the IFUWA Centenary Celebrations their Centenary Celebrations in Chennai on 20th and 21st August 2022. The event was well attended by representatives from various cities. WGU was happy to present a memento on this special occasion and was represented by our Accredited AR.



Program And Fund Raising Committee Celebrates

DANDIYA RAAS ON SEPTEMBER 24, 2022

After the Independence day celebrations programmes and the flag hoisting ceremony on 15th August, WGU has organised several charitable and entertainment events.

One such programme was the Dandiya Raas held on September 24, 2022 where many members and guests graced the occasion and participated in the event. The children of the Balwadi were invited too. The Chief Guest was **Ms. Nidarshanaji Gowani**, a well known philanthropist and social worker.

Mrs. Ila Dalal, Dance teacher and member of WGU gracefully taught the adults and the children the basic steps of Dandiya and Garba.

The event was organised by the chairperson-programme and fund committee **Mrs Pervin Vanvari** with the guidance of our President **Adv. Gauri Chabria**. It was a lovely evening where all the participants swayed the music and were mesmerized by the performance of Varsha group who twisted and swayed the Garba and Dandiya steps mingling with the guests. Packed dinner was served which was appreciated.



CHRISTMAS

The Christmas Program was held in the Amy Rustomjee Hall on 26th December 2022.

The 15 member team of the Interfaith Colaba Carollers from various faiths united through the common love of music regaled the audience with carols, music and dancing with audience active participation, housie and prizes with lots of fun, joy, cheer, festivities and a delicious lunch.



Annual Fund Raising Programme

Annual Fund Raising Programme is scheduled for Saturday, February 18, 2023 at the Hotel Diplomat, Colaba.



Inauguration of WGU Administration Office

Inauguration of WGU administration office on 20th January 2023.

Women Graduates Union's administration office was renovated. **President Adv. Gauri Chhabria** along with Managing Committee members were present for the inauguration on 20th January 2023. **Trustee Mrs. Havovi Gandhi** broke the coconut for good luck and **President Adv. Gauri Chhabria** cut the ribbon.



Lunch hosted by President Adv. Gauri Chhabria to the Managing Committee members

President Adv. Gauri Chhabria has hosted the delicious lunch on this occasion to the Managing Committee members and cake cutting was done.



PRESIDENT VISITS

- 1) Visit of **Adv. Gauri Chhabria** at Maniben Nanavati College of Social Science
- 2) Visit to Nanded
- 3) Speech in a college at Devlali

REMARKS OF THE VISITORS

1) **Ms. Simran Ahuja**

Heart full of gratitude with folded hands. Thank you for the magnificent work. Honoured to be here at WGU

2) **Mrs. Sushma Sharma**

Really feeling happy to attend the event and Gauri ji motivation to everyone present here.

3) **Padmagandha**

Amazing arrangement very beautiful setup. Very nice audience. It was a treat to meet and conduct session here.

4) **Ms. Shernaaz Engineer**

WGU is doing excellent work towards Women empowerment and social service. Mere power to you.

Meeting with **Hon. Mr. Deepakji Pandey**, Special Inspector General of Police Prevention of Crime against Women & Children, Maharashtra State on 14.02.2022



**WGU Extends Sincere Gratitude to
all the Donors for their Generous
Donations and Contribution
for the Year 2022-2023**