

University Women

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University Women

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Issue No. 1

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK.....

The W.G.U. Office is buzzing with activity. Several events are coming up one after the other.

Our Scholarship programme which began in 1934 with two awards has grown to include more than a hundred recipients. This year, the amounts will be more substantial and cover a larger spectrum of disciplines. Generous donations to the Corpus and one time scholarship donations have helped us reach this position. Moreover, this year several Special Centenary Scholarships will be awarded namely Women Graduates Union Centenary Scholarships, ShantaBhandarkar Centenary Scholarship, Indus Centenary Scholarships and Dinoo N. Dubash Centenary Scholarship.

After a gap of several years, we are holding the Central Committee meeting of IFUWA in Mumbai. As part of that event, we will have a Seminar on Laws pertaining to women. Speakers from among the legal luminaries of Mumbai will give talks on laws which relate to Women's inheritance rights, property rights, laws safeguarding women in the workplace and other laws which concern women.

Our annual fund raising dinner will also be held in the beautiful poolside lawns of Radio Club. There will be music and colourful regional dances for entertainment and a scrumptious dinner.

I am quite sure that we can count on a large number of our members to participate in all the events and we would also request you to please spread the word among your friends and invite them to attend the seminar and the dinner.

President - **Nandita Singh**

GENTLE REMINDER TO ATTEND THE FUND RAISING EVENT

The Annual Fund Raising programme will be held on

Saturday, February 27, 2016, at the

Paradise Lawn, Radio Club, Mumbai, from **7:00 pm** onwards.

Donor Cards Rs. 800/- inclusive of Dinner and Entertainment Programme

• **Live Band** • **Ghoomer Dance** • **Thali Balancing Dance** • **Garba Dance**

DO JOIN IN FOR A MEMORABLE & ENJOYABLE EVENING

NAGAR - A CITY ADRIFT

The Guest Speaker at the Consumer & Civic Affairs Committee (CCAC) meeting in December was Ms. Nayana Kathpalia, well-known activist and one of the trustees of “NAGAR”, an NGO which works in support of urban renewal and is an advocacy group.

Their organisation has filed court cases against government apathy and policy, which have been going on for years. She gave the example of the government giving permission for erecting cell towers in public open spaces meant for parks, gardens and essential for citizens living in crowded areas. She said we should be “AWARE” and try and engage in protecting our own locality. Be active and be the disseminating force for providing information. This is where NAGAR could also help by giving us updates on government action or inaction.

She suggested we form core groups to take things forward and not work individually in order to be effective. She noted that all this was very essential to preserve our OPEN SPACES. The disaster that followed the Chennai flooding was very much due to the marshland, mangroves and open swamps being filled up illegally by different powerful lobbies which then prevented the rain water from flowing into the open seas and oceans.

The catastrophe in Chennai highlights why it is so important for us to protect the city's open spaces.

Fantastic Lines by MOTHER TERESA

If your Eyes are Positive, You will Love the World. But if Your Tongue is Positive, The World will Love you.

A woman's love is in action. She looks with her heart and feels with her eyes. A woman is the bank where her family deposits all anger, worries and hurt. A woman is the cement that keeps her family together and her love lasts a lifetime.

Happiness comes from spiritual wealth, not material wealth... Happiness comes from giving, not getting. If we try hard to bring happiness to others, we cannot stop it from coming to us also. To get joy, we must give it, and to keep joy, we must scatter it.

IFUWA CC MEETING IN MUMBAI**The WGU will be hosting the IFUWA CC Meeting
on February 27, and 28, 2016****Saturday, February 27, 2016**

09:30 am Registration (Registration charges Rs. 1500/-)
at Amy Rustomjee Hall, WGU.

10:30 am Legal Seminar on "Women and Law"
at Amy Rustomjee Hall, WGU, followed by Lunch

02:30 pm
to 04:30 pm CC Meeting at Amy Rustomjee Hall, WGU.
(CC Meeting continues next day)

07:00 pm Entertainment Programme
at Paradise Lawn, Radio Club
157, Arthur Bunder Road, Colaba,
followed by Dinner

Sunday, February 28, 2016

10:00 am CC Meeting continued
followed by Lunch

**Consumer and Civic Affairs Committee
Road Safety Awareness Talk**

The CCAC had arranged an enlightening and interactive programme on Traffic Safety in Mumbai through the office of the Jt. Commissioner of Police, Traffic, on Friday, December 18, 2015.

Dinoo Vasunia, Chairperson, CCAC, welcomed the gathering and introduced the two guest speakers, while President Nandita Singh spoke about the Centenary Year celebrations of WGU and its varied activities.

The first speaker, Sunita Nashikkar, Sr. Inspector of Police, Traffic Education, gave a short talk on the mass education drive undertaken in schools and colleges by the police traffic education department. She also impressed upon the audience, the need to follow all traffic rules, such as, wearing helmets on two wheelers, no stunts with vehicles, no drinking and driving, using seat belts, avoiding honking and no walking on roads. She emphasized that traffic police were not just there to collect fines but to keep you safe on

Mumbai roads. Thus, following all rules and traffic discipline helped everyone.

The main speaker, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Traffic, Anil Kumbhare, then addressed the gathering. He stated that the traffic situation here was often compared unfavorably with that in developed countries. There were many aspects of traffic management, one of which was traffic regulation, which also included good roads, infrastructure, freeways, parking facilities and the like. This was provided by the municipal and other authorities, which were the BMC, MMRDA and other agencies in Mumbai, but the main function of enforcement and mobility of traffic was the job of the traffic police.

In the Western countries, 80 per cent is discharged by the municipality while traffic police enforcement was only 20 per cent of the functions. Unfortunately, the ratio was skewed in India. Traffic Police Department had little say on roads maintenance, rules, good infrastructure, etc. At present in Mumbai, the traffic police spent most of their time concentrating on keeping traffic moving rather than on enforcing regulations, given bad roads and inadequate facilities. He gave the example of South Mumbai with no internal parking space in older buildings, narrow roads, no facilities for car parking. Besides, over 500 new cars were being registered every day in Mumbai and 6,20,000 vehicles move in and out of Mumbai every day along with 40 to 50 lakh people. Public transport was limited. The traffic composition is heterogeneous with pedestrians, cars, public vehicles, carts, two wheelers, goods trucks, tempos, all crowding roads which change from two lane to four lane to single lane. All these made the work of the traffic police very difficult.

Mr. Kumbhare struck an optimistic note on improving the situation through the use of high-end technology, whereby the real time traffic position could be communicated to all. Also violations could be captured on CCTV systems, along with vehicle number plates, and e-fine collection can thus be facilitated. Stringent rules for multiple violations would be enforced. Currently a mass drive was on for two wheelers to induce discipline, which was lacking, and to counsel such offenders on the need for observing rules for safety. Even when driving licenses were issued, drivers were being educated.

He cited the strain under which traffic police were doing their duty, their working hazards and several constraints, with no support or improvement in roads or infrastructure by local authorities. They required empathy, support and discipline from citizens. He later invited questions from the audience - and there were plenty - from members and activist guests, including local citizens groups of Colaba, CALM and CPRA, etc. Mr. Kumbhare answered all the questions on a variety of violations. He requested that suggestions for all local problems be given on their interactive website or

on email or on the citizen's helpline. Due action would be taken by the Colaba traffic police and Mr. Shaikh, Sr. Inspector, who was also present. Mr. Kumbhare also invited volunteers to give in their names to act as traffic wardens locally.

A hearty vote of thanks was given to the speakers by Kashmira Meher-Homji for such an informative and educative session.

SWACHH INDIA - MOVING AHEAD

Now that the country is seriously addressing the massive cleanliness problem, it is encouraging to hear that major FMGC companies are getting into the act in a more determined manner.

The task is a complex and continuing one. Not only is infrastructure a necessity, it is imperative to create awareness of the long term benefits of hygiene, health and a spotless environment. Only 46 % of the 95 lakh toilets built in rural areas have been used for their true purpose. Due to problems of no running water available and of cleaning up after use, people prefer to use open fields and spaces. It is reported that 90 families have demolished the toilets built inside their homes under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. There must surely be many more also.

HUL, Dabur, Reckitt Banister and many others have joined the Swachh bandwagon, according to the Economic Times of January 14, 2016, with a strategy to push their products alongwith messages and suggestions for a cleaner, healthier life, and are following up with action plans.

It is a massive job and positive results are a long, long time away.

- Ed ----

“It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it”

- Aristotle

**"First I was dying to finish high school and start college.
And then I was dying to finish college and start working.
And then I was dying to marry and have children.
And then I was dying for my children to grow old enough for school
so I could return to work.
And then I was dying to retire.
And now, I am dying....
and suddenly I realise I forgot to live.**

- Author Unknown

Counselling And Guidance Centre
Talk and Workshop on

MEMORY AND AGEING

Amy Rustomjee Hall, WGU
February 1, 2016, 11: 30 a.m.

All Are Welcome

**No one can destroy iron,
but its own rust can!
Likewise, none can destroy a person,
but his own mindset can!**

-Ratan Tata
