

# INNERVIEW



E-Newsletter of Inner Wheel Club of Bombay. 2020-21

Charter No. 1072, District 314

www.innerwheelbombay.com



Okay, so my full term was in a lockdown I was not prepared for. But as I end my term, I look at the positive side of what we could not avoid - thankfully, on the very last day of my term, we managed to have a delightful, physical get together after all – and that too, with DC Amala! Cheers!

As our Motto this year was 'Lead the Change', this year of the virus gave us all an opportunity to discover the wonderland of Zoom - forced us to change the way we conduct our meetings. Makes one wonder whether the word 'Meetings' itself needs a change – as we were just not meeting!!

On a more positive note, as a Club, we supported causes and projects we have always supported — Welfare of Senior Citizens, Underprivileged children, Medical help, Nutritious food and Education for the needy, Water, Environment. And of course we kept up our support to our legacy projects.

At our Meetings, interest levels were kept alive with fellowship programmes, skill learning sessions, festival linked programmes, music and singing sessions, tambola, and I was happy to see many of us so sporting and talented.

In the following pages I give a glimpse of the year 2020-21, with some of our key projects and focus areas. In the unfamiliar, non physical world of my term, I extend a big, big thank you to all those who helped in making this year as memorable and enjoyable, as meaningful and noteworthy as we possibly could. From PDCs to PPs, from EC members to ever willing volunteers and happiness creators, thank you all for a fulfilling year.

Most importantly, a big, big thank you to all those generous donors who are the backbone of our club in our ability to help others. Your support has been invaluable.

I wish Incoming President Shilpa and her team all the very best. I hope with me, the virus will also exit and we all can be back to a physical reality again!

Swati Bhansali President 2020-21



My Greetings to members of Inner Wheel Club of Bombay. I was delighted to meet all of you on the last day of my tenure. Thank you for your warm hospitality, love and blessings. Heartiest congratulations to President Swati Bhansali and team 2020-21 for doing excellent work in the Pandemic times. I appreciate your commitment and dedication to the club. You turned challenges into opportunities and reached out to thousands of people in need.

Humanity has faced one of its biggest challenges of surviving amidst the pandemic. Inner Wheel members and clubs took up the challenge of the unprecedented times and doing their best without wavering in the commitment to serve the needy and underprivileged. I feel we are blessed to have served the people when help was most needed. We have achieved several milestones in the year. Social distancing kept us apart, but we used technology in best possible ways to stay connected. We truly lived up to the Theme of the year, Lead the Change.

Time somehow seems to fly when its dedicated to the wellbeing of fellow human beings. As they say, "Art of living is in the joy of giving" and all of us are experiencing this joy. There is a thin line that separates laughter and pain, comedy and tragedy, humor and hurt. Life they say is to live and celebrate and not try and find out the meaning of it. The year gone by has truly emphasized the fact like never.

Best wishes to President Shilpa Mehta and team 2021-22.

Amala Mehta
District Chairman 2020-21



For Donations, Membership Form or any other enquiry please contact President Shilpa Mehta on <a href="mailto:shilpamehta@hotmail.com">shilpamehta@hotmail.com</a> or Secretary Kauser Murad on <a href="mailto:kauser.murad@gmail.com">kauser.murad@gmail.com</a>

#### Khelo India

Khelo India 'a sports initiative by District Vice Chairman Sunita Jain was arranged by CC Ankita Bagri at Shantivan on 10th January 2021, the 97th IIW Day.

It was an exciting journey for participants - children of cured leprosy patients coached professionally by Ashramshala teachers, who planned in great detail and implemented with perfection, outdoor sports events on campus - badminton, marathon, yoga, volley ball, lemon & spoon, carrom, tug of war and musical chairs for senior citizens too.

The young sportsmen and women were motivated to follow the five S's of sports training - Stamina, Speed, Strength, Skill but most importantly, Spirit.

It was heartening for them to be cheered and encouraged by President Swati, PAP Rakshaben, PDC Falguni, PP Geeta, CC Ankita and Club Executive member Kauser, despite challenging times due to the pandemic.

IWC Bombay sponsored the entire event - prizes , sports equipment , breakfast and lunch. And we were the only Club that hosted this District sports event Live!



















#### Micro Credit Scheme

This unique Scheme is an ongoing project of our Club since many years. During this challenging Covid year, many daily wagers lost their jobs and with that, a means for the livelihood of their families. We have disbursed loans of Rs10,000-20,000 each to several ladies from BDD chawls, in Chembur and Panvel areas, to help them start some self-sustaining activity, and at the same time with a commitment to return the loan money on easy terms. The Scheme has been strengthened this year with full background check, bank details, Aadhar & Pan card to minimise defaults. Loans have helped women start supplying tiffins, to sell dry fish, vegetables and fruits, clothes, imitation jewellery, to buy products for massage treatments, beauty treatments, to sell Amway products, clothes, etc.

The Scheme, parented and nurtured so successfully by our PDC Lata Palekar, will now be championed by members Damini and Rupali, as Lataji steps down from her responsibilities this year onwards.





From grinding machine to selling flours, from cooking to dispatching tiffins, women have utilized loans to advantage







Clothes, Costume Jewellery, Chappals etc. – Enterprising women take to selling to supplement household income.

#### **Education / Welfare of the Girl Child**

Throughout the year, we supported this cause, so very dear to our hearts:

An inspiring talk by Smita Bharti of the Rakshin Project led us to support her Child Sexual Molestation programme of mentoring victims – the Rakshin Project.

We provided opportunities for students to pursue their dreams by giving Scholarships – for MSc in Cyber Security, for a young girl to pursue her MBBS in the Philippines, to two young girls from vernacular backgrounds to becoming post graduates - in English, one moving on to teaching Science, the other pursuing a PGDM!

Our Club has distributed Stationery, books, an E-learning TV, to children to provide some semblance of Learning under the lockdown. The legacy projects of PDCs Rakshaben & Falguni of Help a Child, and Mid Day meal, together with distribution of Masks, providing Solar Lights for Reading at Ashramshala & Shantivan, continue to give relief to children whose future stands compromised.



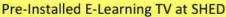






Books and Stationery distribution to underprivileged children in SEC, Ambujwadi, Agripada and other slums







Nutritious food served to BMC students at SHED







Aishwarya, Pooja & Mirali with several other students were supported by generous donations by PDC Jyoti Doshi, PP Rashna, Soni, Alka, Swati, etc.





Masks being handed over for children at Shantivan

#### **KEM Neo Natal Ward**

Inner Wheel Club of Bombay has been providing neonatal accessories to the paediatric ward of KEM Hospital since 2014 on a monthly basis. As part of the Ward's Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) programme, premature infants and their mothers are provided with medically proven and comfortable care that reassures the mother of the premature baby's development. Our supplies - of nestings, kangaroo bags, caps, mattresses, jabhlas, etc provide the warmth, protection and comfort to the infant, and the much needed reassurance to the anxious mother. It is a matter of pride for us that right through the pandemic, the supplies have been seamlessly delivered. This year we even supplied caps and masks for the Doctors and Sisters of the Ward.

This is a unique project in that it provides employment to our vocational class students (physical classes currently stopped on account of Covid) whereby they manage to take home some pocket money through stitching charges for the above items. It is a win-win situation for all concerned!

And this year we added another feather in our cap....

Sion Hospital's Neo Natal Ward: For the last 3 months, we were happy to extend our supplies of mattress covers, jhablas, nestings and kangaroo bags to Sion Hospital's neo natal ward too!

Many thanks are owed to the patient commitment of PP Sweta & PP Rupali, who have ensured uninterrupted supplies, pursued funding for this worthy requirement, and co-ordinated deliveries in pandemic conditions. For years, our member Shyamaji's fabric supplies has helped make this project viable..









#### **Essential Kits Distribution**

As we all know, the lockdown and joblessness led to a crisis where even one daily meal became a luxury for thousands. Our Club reached out to hundreds of families with daily rations, medicines, toiletries – in the slums of Chembur, Kalina, Palghar, through community kitchens, as well as in Adivasi villages. Special meals were distributed to Senior Citizens.













Kits consisting of Rice, Dal, Oil, Sugar, Salt, Soap etc. were distributed at SHED and Habitat centers. Diwali sweets were distributed to adivasis in November 2020.

#### **Senior Citizens**

Located in the heart of the city, Parukh has seen continuing support from our club. During the pandemic, Senior Citizens here were given masks, gloves, bedsheets, tea biscuits, diapers, mangoes, ceiling fans, grinder, etc. Several members joined them in cutting a cake and celebrating International Day of Older Persons with them.











PDC Jyoti Doshi helped contribute 60 sewing machines to various centers of SHED to enable women to learn and earn.

#### Support to Children

Society for the Rehabilitation of Crippled Children.

The year was particularly difficult for handicapped, underprivileged children, as SRCC struggled to keep their centre functioning smoothly. We are grateful for the support by PDC Indiraben Kotak, Rotary Club of Bombay and PP Anita Parikh for their timely help.







#### **Urban Adult Literacy:**

In our efforts to help the urban underprivileged acquire literacy, we had been running English & Marathi classes at the Ambedkar School at Worli, together with Vocational classes over the past several years. During the pandemic, however, the school was converted to a Covid Centre, and consequently the physical classes were suspended. We promptly turned to Online teaching, and our vocational teachers used their smartphones to continue teaching English & Hindi to those with smartphones and internet connections. Our member Mita Roy took it upon herself to ensure students and teachers continue their efforts towards adult literacy...

#### **Water Project:**

The installation of two large Water tanks at Yusuf Meherally Centre Girls Hostel provides water supply for all the needs of the Hostel.

## Fellowship, Skilling, Talks

Sure, Fellowship was restrained in the physical world, but we more than made up in the virtual world! Below you see pictures of Talent competitions, Tambola, Diwali & Christmas/New Year celebrations – combining culinary skills, music, singing, fashion, poetry skills bringing not just members but their family members to participate too!

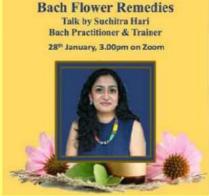
We held Creative workshops, and interesting Talks to keep our mind and body ticking. Many of these programmes would in fact not have been possible in the real world due to cost and other logistical constraints. Yes, the disruptive world of new technologies and stubborn viruses made us find solutions and ways that define the year's 'never-say-die' spirit!



















# ...Fellowship, Skilling, Talks...contd.

















September 2020

# ...Fellowship, Skilling, Talks...contd.















November, December 2020 - bringing in cheer for Diwali, Xmas & New Year

# ...Fellowship, Skilling, Talks...contd.









Singing, Acting, Dancing et al - our members and their families showed off their enormous talent!

## **Prize Winning at District Competitions Too!**



Sep'2020-Kusumben wins Bodh Katha 1st Prize



October 2020-Zarin does us Proud again



Nov '20-Poem: Consolation 1st Prize "Happiness & Joys"



Mar'21-Essay Competition Prize: Neelam Goyal

### **Annual Club Award**

Instituted in 2018, this award is given to the most deserving member of our club for deonstrating Initiative, Commitment and for Upholding the high standards of our Club in every respect. This year the unanimous choice was our PP Rupali Sen.



# Bringing a Long, successful Innings to a close:

After 12 years of patient, diligent, meticulous paperwork as Treasurer Charity Account, Komal Israni stepped down from this post, but of course continues to be a member of our club! We shall surely miss her contribution but we know she will stand by whoever takes over. All the best, Komal!

Following suit, is dear PDC Lataji – stalwart and champion of the Micro Credit Scheme, Lataji will 'hang her boots' too this year. The Club is deeply appreciative of the invaluable work she has put in to build this project into one that wears a badge of pride for our club. All the best to you too, Lataji!



Komal Israni



PDC Lata Palekar

# **Remembering Silla**



# 1st October 2020-International Day of Older Persons

### Farewell... Rest in Peace

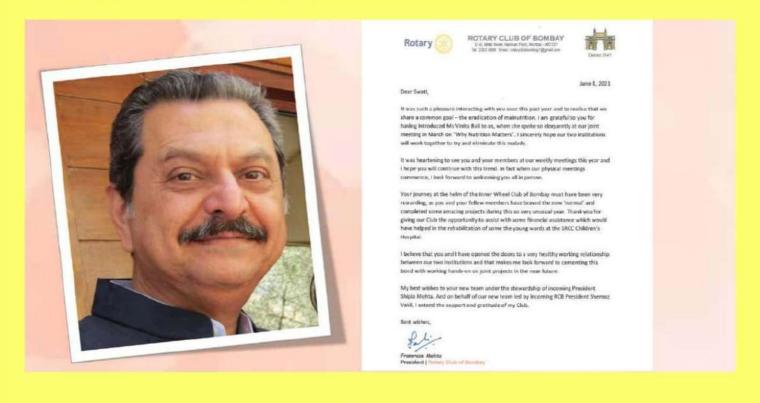
It was with sadness and a heavy heart we got the news on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2021 of dear Silla Ardeshir's passing at the age of 99. As Founder District Chairman of IW District 314, Silla will be forever remembered for leading the way for all of us, and for penning the inspirational Inner Wheel Prayer which starts all our meetings each year.



Inner Wheel Club of Bombay also lost two of our senior members – Nayana Aggarwal and Roda Khambatta this year. We place on record our deepest condolences to their families – we will miss their quiet, gracious presence at our meetings.

# **Cementing our relationship with Rotary Club of Bombay**

Inner Wheel Club of Bombay was delighted to enjoy a true spirit of partnership with Rotary Club of Bombay this year, with joint talks, invitations to their weekly meetings, support for one of our worthy projects, features in Gateway Bulletins, and a promise to build on this relationship going forward. Our sincerest gratitude to President Framroze Mehta. His Letter says it all.





Our club got terrific coverage regularly in The Gateway E-bulletin of Rotary Club of Bombay

# The First and Last Physical Meeting of 2020-'21

#### The Grand Finale with DC Amala!

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a. Lively commemorative singing and poetry to thank our special people

b. Club Award winner Rupali receiving her Citation and Award

c. Treasurer Komal receiving her Citation & gift





Ever generous Shyamaji blessed DC Amala and members with her beautifully hand made gifts



DC Amala cutting a cake in celebration and in gratitude for a wonderful, safe year!



Members elated at meeting in the physical world once again.