

# Inspira

A NEWSLETTER BY THE LILA POONAWALLA FOUNDATION

Vol. No. 31 / August 2010

## FROM MY HEART



My Dear Lila Fellows, Lila Girls and Friends,

**W**hat a rewarding year it has been! 15 years ago we embarked on setting up the Lila Poonawalla Foundation. **We started with 24 scholarships** and today I am happy to say we have **hit a CENTURY this year**. Yes, we have given 100 scholarships this year including 27 for graduate studies in various engineering streams. These young girls will call themselves Lila Girls. LFs, you now have 100 additional siblings, whom you have to support and mentor. With this year's scholarships **LPF would have given almost 800 scholarships**; we will soon reach 1000. The award ceremony was a grand success and a very memorable event; more so as it was entirely managed by LFs. We now have 5 LFs on our board of trustees and every year we will increase this until the time the **entire board comprises LFs, including the Chairperson**. Yes! I truly want to make this a Foundation **OF THE LFs, FOR THE LFs AND MANAGED BY THE LFs**.

This year, we had two exceptional personalities on the dais- **Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Mrs. Usha Thorat and Chairman of IKEA International Prof. Goran Grosskopf accompanied by his charming and elegant wife, Birgitta**. This couple came all the way from Sweden to participate in this important milestone of LPF. Both the renowned guests shared their views with the audience and **motivated the young ones with their words of wisdom**. You can read more about the function further in this issue.

**Prof. Grosskopf has been a supporter of the Foundation for many years and many girls have benefited from his generosity**. He and his wife spent their personal time to meet a small group of LFs, LGs and their parents at a small gathering in order to interact and

understand the backgrounds and culture of these families. This interaction was also very beneficial to the girls. Some LFs put up a short cultural performance in their honor. This was well received by the guests and they appreciated the talents of our LFs. This also gave them a thorough understanding of the functioning of LPF, **which goes far beyond the scholarship and classroom education in developing the girls into young confident ladies, ready to take on every challenge in the world!**

The Foundation launched a unique project named '**Abhigyan**' this year. It is an initiative by the **Peace Ambassadors** (LFs who have undergone a special wholesome leadership training program in UK). This project is a joint effort of Lila Poonawalla Foundation and Dr. Kalmadi Shamrao High School, **spearheaded by Mrs. Jayshree Shahade from LPF and Mrs. Malti Kalmadi from Kannada Sangha**. The project aims at understanding the talent and honing

the skills of economically challenged but deserving primary and secondary school children for a period of one year. This is the Peace Ambassadors (LF) way of giving back to the society. Do read details in a separate article.

Dad's birthday was celebrated with great enthusiasm and enjoyment. On this day we also released the **30<sup>th</sup> issue of INSPIRA** at the hands of **Nishtha Tai, a staunch supporter of LPF and an author of many books on women oriented issues**. It was an important event because with this issue INSPIRA completed a decade of its existence... **a beautiful experience and a tremendous**



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# FROM MY HEART



**contribution of LFs under the guidance of Mrs. Shahade.** At the beginning of a new decade, let us all wish our Inspira team, the Crusaders (as they call themselves) all the best. I am sure under the **leadership of Dr. Rajani Dhumal (Panchang) we will continue to get a better issue each time.**

Another important event was the fund raising event **SAMAGAM-2**. It was an **excellent demonstration of team work by LFs**. They showcased their skills and enthralled a large audience. The chief guest **Mrs. Yogini Gandhi, the veteran Kathak and Odissi danseuse** was all praise for the LFs' performance and admired the fact that the Foundation is also supporting the performing arts.

It is but natural that such efforts should be appreciated. So Dad and I hosted a thanksgiving party for the team of **SAMAGAM-2**. It was a very memorable evening, with the girls getting gifts and enjoying a sumptuous meal. Of course no celebration is complete without music and dance.

LPF has been conducting many training programs for LFs. One such event program was effectiveness of **Team work and Leadership**. The difference this time, was that it was entirely an outdoor activity at the picturesque environs of Lavasa. That meant learning-made-fun by the organizers, XThrill Adventures. It was coordinated by our

very own LF Tejilee Tembe, who works with this organization.

A batch of 9 LFs completed their Warli painting course and presented a **beautiful painting depicting the history of LPF** to Dad and me on our 40<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. Thank you girls for masterminding such a gift!

I would like to take this opportunity to **thank all our individual Donors, our corporate partners Cummins India, Symantec, KPIT Cummins Infosystems, Faurecia Technology Center India, TASMAT, ABS, LFs, Trustees and the LPF Staff, who work tirelessly and sincerely throughout the year, and all our well-wishers too for their love and appreciation. It is your support and backing that enables me to dream big, and hope that soon, we will be able to reach out to many more young deserving girls and bring about a change in their lives and thereby their families' lives.**

**Good Bye until we meet in the next issue.**

**Mom for LFs and LGs; Friend to All**

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT TO THE FOUNDATION WITH YOUR GENEROUS DONATION



Ms. Pallavee Gore  
(Gokhale)  
LF- 2001  
Rs. 50,000/-



Ms. Chandrika  
Srinivasan (LF-1996)  
Rs. 35,000/-



Ms. Shweta Kakade  
(Rairikar) (LF-2004)  
\$501



Ms Vrushali  
Kondhalkar (LF-2004)  
Rs. 30,000/-

Ms. Amruta Bahulekar (LF-2005)  
Ms. Amruta Prakash (LF-2005)  
Ms. Arpita Chanda (LF-2004)  
Ms. Bhavana Dalvi (LF-2005)  
Mrs. Devika Valsangkar (Daftardar) (LF-2003)  
Ms. Gauri Swakul (LF-2002)  
Dr. Harshada Babrekar (Nagar) (LF-2001)  
Ms. Jyoti Otageri (LF-1998)  
Mrs. Madhavi Prabhumirashi (Sabne) (LF-1997)  
Ms. Manjusha Dole (LF-1999)  
Dr. Manjusha Gupte (LF-1997 & LPF Trustee)

Ms. Nikhat Memon (LF-2001)  
Ms. Nisha Pandya (LF-2004)  
Mrs. Prachi Divekar (Harkare) (LF-2005)  
Dr. Rajani Dhumal (Panchang) (LF-2000)  
Ms. Rupali Soni (LF-2001)  
Mrs. Sanchita Satalkar (Thanedar) (LF-1998)  
Dr. Sarika Deore (LF-2001)  
Ms. Sheetal Nagare (LF-2005)  
Ms. Sujata Pailwan (LF-2007)  
Mrs. Vanita Surendran (Kriplani) (LF-1997)  
Mrs. Yogini Karmarkar (Deshpande) (LF-2005)

## Scroll of Appreciation

I am delighted to place on record, my appreciation of the contribution made by EVERY CRUSADER IN THE EDITORIAL TEAM OF INSPIRA under the able guidance of Dr. Rajani Panchang-Dhumal as Editor and Padmashree Lila Poonawalla as great inspirers of several Lila Fellows, who have made significant progress in their careers.

I have read with keen interest, each and every issue of Inspira published in the course of about ten years. Each issue has enlightened me with new developments in the mission Lila has set out upon.

Inspira reflects the hopes and dreams of several young girls, highly motivated to achieve something new in their careers. It brings to my light how the present very young generation is making remarkable progress

I congratulate Lila and Firoz for their vision and the goal they have set for themselves. I appreciate that they remember me as their well-wisher. I read every issue of Inspira with great details and I feel myself motivated to do something for my students at my 'YOUNG' age of 82.

Congratulations to the Editor and her team once more. Regards to Lila, Firoz and Dr. Rajani.

**Dr. P.C. Shejwalkar**  
**Faculty of Management & Professor Emeritus of**  
**Commerce & Management Sciences,**  
**University of Pune,**  
**President-Adarsh Shikshan Mandali**

**Date :** Tuesday, the 27<sup>th</sup> of July 2010

**Place :** Pune



## LPF defies age with energy and vibrancy added each year

**I**t was yet another decorative celebration at the Lila Poonawalla Foundation.... The 15<sup>th</sup> Award Ceremony at the Taj Garden Court on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2010. At the registration counter, the volunteers dazzled in their beautiful saris meticulously chosen for the occasion by Mr. Poonawalla himself! The sight would remind the senior LFs of their award ceremonies! The invitees were kept busy with the screening of a film on the LPF till the ceremony began.

The Program opened to an inaugural welcome speech by LF Shaheen Patel followed by a song sung by LF Madhavi Prabhumirashi. The song was specially written and composed for the occasion by Swapneet Singh. The Function was then inaugurated in the classical style with the Chief Guest, Guest of Honour and Senior Trustees joining hands and lighting the traditional oil lamp. Mrs. Lila Poonawalla, Chairperson LPF, then

*feel very grateful to the Foundation because for me it has not only been about money, but about the personality development of the girls like me'. LF-2008 Tejashree Giramkar is a vegetable vendor's daughter, now pursuing MBA from TASMAC. She said she could dream about an MBA and also live it only because of the Foundation's helping hand. LF-2008 Prayaga Hoge reiterated Ujjawla's feelings. She also said, "I find their work in line with what Savitribai Phule and Mahatama Phule did for girls". Quoting LF-2007 Priyanka Takavale, "This is a family for me. The Foundation is grooming us girls into beautiful ladies. I feel blessed and touched".*

Both the distinguished guests were full of praise for the work done by the Foundation. The first to speak was the Chief Guest Mrs. Usha Thorat who was introduced by LF Jyoti Otageri. The Deputy Governor General of



**Trustees and the distinguished guests inaugurate the function by lighting the lamp**

extended a very warm welcome to the Chief Guest, Deputy Governor Reserve Bank of India, Mrs. Usha Thorat, and to the Guest of Honour, Chairperson IKEA International Prof. Goran Grosskopf and his wife Brigitta who had come all the way from Sweden to grace this occasion. She was full of joy when she addressed the crowd with her words, *"Welcome to all the new girls who are being awarded the scholarship this year. Till last year, we had awarded 650 scholarships. With this year's addition, the number goes beyond 750! Welcome to all the friends and families of new girls, older Lila Fellows, members of the press and invitees. This is a remarkable day for the Foundation, as we step into our 15<sup>th</sup> year since inception!"*

Some Lila Fellows came up on the dais to share their experience of being a Lila Fellow. LF-2007, Ujjwala Kulkarni who has been selected for the Peace Leadership Program said *"I come from a rural area. I*



**The 114 awardees of the year-2010 batch**

Reserve Bank of India since Nov. 2005, she has been working for RBI for the past thirty-eight years. As the chief guest at the award function, she represented the Women's empowerment in India. In her address Mrs. Thorat stressed upon education as the driving force of growth of any country. *"I am very happy to be here at the award function of the Foundation to see and feel the enthusiasm in the girls. Scholarships such as this empower young girls as well as boys and help them fulfill the aspirations of their own families and society. Education will give you a standing in the future. We are the second fastest growing country in the world. India's income was growing by 9% per annum between 2003 and 2005. Then for the past couple of years we faced a crisis, but came out of it quickly due to the firm base of education that we have. Now we are again hoping to grow at the same rate because ours is a knowledge based growth which is enabled by our*

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# SPECIAL FEATURE



education! Your choice to pursue higher education will help you in the long run". She appreciated the Peace Leadership Program in the following words: "I am glad to learn about the Peace Leadership Program LPF organizes in collaboration with ASHA Centre UK. Today, Indo-British relationship is an example of how fast India is growing and how other nations want to build their relationship with us for their benefits".

When Mrs. Thorat started her career she did not have many options. She mentioned that today there are not just many career options, but also many opportunities to fund the education of one's choice. Speaking about RBIs initiative of inclusive banking, she said, "Women are good borrowers and have a strong sense of duty towards family. In Bangladesh, Mohammad Yunus introduced the concept of self-help groups and look how self-help groups in Bangladesh prospered by borrowing! Today in India self help groups have become a nationwide initiative. Women use money in a better way. It is observed that those poor women are most bankable as they have a tendency to save or keep money aside for their kids and family. Movements like



**Chief Guest Mrs. Usha Thorat presenting the award certificate to an awardee**

this have made women more confident in many aspects. Education will certainly help them to be economically independent, confident and responsible citizens".

The Guest of Honour who had come all the way from Sweden, Prof. Goran Grosskopf with his elegant wife Birgitta, was the next to speak. LF Shaheen Patel formally introduced Prof. Grosskopf to the gathering. She described him as not just as a world class achiever but as an extraordinary human being. The Chairperson of IKEA International and the former CEO of Alpha Laval/Tetra Pack, holds a BA in Economics and an honorary Doctorate in Economics. He still teaches at various universities in Sweden and has authored more than 20 books. In 1991, he moved from the academia to the corporate world. He has outdoor hobbies in cross country skiing and golfing. His organization IKEA

Foundation works towards vaccination of children and educating the mothers for the same.

Prof. Grosskopf is a champion of education himself and his speech was power-packed with reforms for education. He opened his speech by saying "We are lucky that we could come here today. Five years back we could not make it due to the heavy rains in Mumbai". Talking about education he said "It is essential to underline the importance of education. **Education to me is respecting and developing the talents and special skills in every single individual.** There must be a balance between intellectual and practical education. **It is only education that also helps in understanding lots in life**". He insisted that every member of the family should get education. He quoted examples and stories from different parts of the globe to illustrate how compromising and adjusting people are in order to gain education, when they realize the importance of the same. "Not just children, but even mothers should be educated. We at **IKEA Foundation which is one of the largest charitable Foundations,**



**Guest of Honour Prof Grosskopf doing the felicitations**

**face a big problem in India while administering vaccination to kids. Mothers don't understand what vaccination is and what a needle is! It is important for them to be educated to understand the importance of vaccination."** He appealed to the Industry to aid education. He said, "LPF is supporting young girls for education. Education needs to be integrated into the society. The Corporate world should stand up and support education and create alternatives for students. Corporates should take responsibility, especially during the current financial crisis, when the Government has lesser money to fund education." He also called upon the LFs to support their families, especially their parents who are retired. He said that the society is changing and so the young generation should support the older generation. He

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# SPECIAL FEATURE



**Batch of PA-2010 with Trustees and distinguished guests**

also asked them to recognize and understand the importance of saving for the future. He added, *"Educational support to the girls should be given at a very early stage. LPF has taken a step towards this by funding undergraduate education starting this year. Lila Girls should develop confidence and ability with a humble attitude and be successful, working for their family and their country. Be a part of the global family. Use your talent for the development of the world. LPF has given an opportunity to many girls for great achievements. I wish you all the best and wish the Foundation all the best for the new project of giving scholarships to undergraduates"*.

Mrs. Poonawalla once again displayed her thoughtfulness and grace by not only **felicitating the guests with the 'famous Fila Rozille roses'** but also by **felicitating the representatives of the sponsors as well as many donors present.**

**Then came the most awaited part of the exciting morning! 114 fortunate girls from Pune were awarded scholarships for pursuing higher education of their choice.** The increase in the number of scholarships has been made possible due to the collaborative efforts of the corporate such as Symantec, KPITCummins, Cummins India, TASMAC and other friends of the foundation, who have stepped forward to be a part of this movement. **For the first time this year, the Foundation introduced scholarships to undergraduate girl students to pursue engineering degrees in varied specializations. A total of 27 undergraduate scholarships were given out in this category to pursue degrees in** robotics, mechanical engineering, electronics and telecommunication, workshop engineering and of course computer engineering and IT. **These awardees christened as Lila Girls (LGs).**

73 scholarships have been given for post graduation studies, 8 of which are for studies overseas, in UK, USA, Sweden and Netherlands. These Lila Fellows as they are called from inception are going overseas to study in unique fields, such as Aeronautical engineering, Art Curation, Fine Arts and Video

Shooting, Construction Management, Environment Science, Engineering Design and Law of Arbitration and Patents. The remaining 65 girls will study in various universities in India, including IIT Mumbai, BITS Pilani, St. Xavier's College, Pune University, TASMAC, SNDT, Vamincon, Fergusson College and many other reputed institutes in a variety of subjects such as Industrial mathematics, Astrophysics, Journalism, Nursing, Mass Communication, Music, Agriculture, Environment Science, IT, Computers, Botany, Physics, Organic Chemistry and many other technical fields.

The third batch of Peace Ambassadors was also announced on this occasion. 14 Lila Fellows, who have received scholarships in the past, were given an additional scholarship for doing a 3-week wholesome leadership program in UK in collaboration with ASHA Foundation.



A few of the new awardees came up on the dais to share their excitement upon receiving the scholarship. The program came to a happy end with LF Prerna Khole delivering the vote of thanks.

■ - **Dr. Rajani Panchang-Dhumal**  
**(All inputs from LFs Pallavee Gokhale & Jyoti Otageri)**

# EMPOWERED LILA FELLOWS



I completed my Masters in Mathematics in 2006; after which I taught Mathematics in Don Bosco High School and Junior College, Lonavala for 2 years. In order to get a permanent job I'd have to pursue a B.Ed., on which I wasn't very keen. I wanted to be an academician but go beyond teaching. This is when I stumbled upon (ACTUALLY stumbled upon) the website of the Department of Educational Technology and that's how I am an Instructional Designer today. Now what's that!

Are you on Facebook? Do you tweet? Are you a blogger? Did you know that these social networking tools are used in education? These are just a few tools that I mention. Other tools used in teaching and learning are mobile phones, iphone, ipods, ipads etc. The present generation kids are called 'Digital Kids': after-all, they are surrounded by so many gadgets! Also, the internet has made it possible for them to access all types of information.

So, where does an Instructional Designer come in? An Instructional Designer decides how to use the available technology in the best possible way to make learning effective and enjoyable. You may say.... 'but not everybody has access to technology and internet, then how does an instructional designer contribute?' An instructional designer continues to prepare effective learning materials with whatever resources available. The role of an instructional designer sounds like that of a teacher, doesn't it? But an instructional designer has more scope than a teacher. An instructional designer can plan teaching programs, right from the school level to any higher education level, as well as training programs for the corporate sector! The recent trend is online education and virtual classrooms which don't bind a person to classrooms and fixed time tables. These courses require a lot of planning in order to be successful. It is done by none other than an instructional designer. As an instructional designer myself, I can vouch for these statements. Recently, I worked as an intern in OSCAR project for IIT Bombay, where I was involved in planning multimedia learning material for engineering students. I also wrote 3 storyboards/script for a CD based package of Maths (Std. X) for Balchitravani, Pune. Basically, an instructional designer plans how to best teach a concept to the end user by making the best use of available resources.

There are many institutions which offer short term courses in instructional design: but Shreemati Nathibai Damodar Thackersey Women's University, Mumbai, is the only educational institute in India that offers an extensive 2 year full time Master's program. The Department of Educational

Technology (DET), S.N.D.T. Women's University, Mumbai, offers a Master's Degree in Educational Technology Computer Applications (MET-CA). I am in the last semester of my course and I can say this course is worth it, especially for women. If you are a graduate in any degree with 50% marks you are eligible to apply for this program. An all-India entrance test is conducted to fill in only 15-20 seats that are offered. For more details, visit the website [www.det.sndt.ac.in](http://www.det.sndt.ac.in). The MET-CA course is spread over 2 years (4 semesters). Apart from planning courses and using computers as an effective teaching tool, we are taught how to design programs based upon the psyche of the learner and use visual communication to enhance our own creativity. Towards the end, the course allows us to apply our learning. We conduct an educational research study and also work as interns in e-learning companies or educational institutes. Internship is a good experience of getting to know how our future workplaces will be. Also, it bridges the gap between what we learn and what exactly the situations are in real life.



When we enquire about any course the major question we all have is what about placements. At DET, we do have campus placements and we have a variety too. Our employers are International schools like VIBGYOR, e-learning companies like Accenture, Lionsbridge, TCS, Aptech, IL & FS, Reliance, WNS, City group, Gurukul online and many others. The demand for instructional designers is more than their availability especially in India. The major challenges that I see is acceptance of an instructional designer's role in the Indian education system and reaching out with technology to rural India. This should be considered more as a vision than a problem.

This field is very good for women even if they are unable to work 9 to 5. In the field of instructional design one has lots of opportunities to work from home too. If you manage to build a good network you will always have projects on your plate. One of my classmates who's also a mother of a 7 year old kid has already got an offer to work for a company which has allowed her to work from home. When I say the future of Instructional Design is very bright I say it with lot of belief.

■ - **Veena Naik (LF-2005)**



## LPF not just our cause; our lifestyle

My dear Daughters,

To start with, let me wish you all a great life ahead... May you all achieve what you desire and beyond! I would like to take this opportunity of communicating to you through INSPIRA, our experience during our trip to USA in March 2010.



**Me and Lila with LF Kaumudhi and her husband Saurabh Joshi outside the Chinese Bistro at Wooster**

small but very attractive town. The main purpose of this visit to Wooster was a lecture to be given by Mom at the Technographics University. Mom is on the Board of the 100% subsidiary of Technographics in India. They invited her to address the management staff. The subject of the lecture was three fold; the morning session was on Self Motivation, the second session was on sharing her experience from Apprentice to the Chairman and the last covered LPF where you all are directly involved.

We also visited Amish country. This was a unique experience! Here an original Swiss society lives completely independently and self sufficiently. They grow their own grains and vegetables. They rear their own animals and produce their own milk and cheese. They do not drive any cars and travel only in horse driven carts. They have no electricity and they know no English. They speak their own language and do not mingle at all with other visiting Americans. It was a different world altogether for sure, but interesting! On Sunday afternoon LF-2002 Kaumudhi and her husband Saurabh Joshi drove down from Michigan to meet us and we enjoyed a wonderful lunch together at a Chinese restaurant.

Then we left for NY and had some of the most rewarding experiences. We visited our Stanford friends, Alison and Barry at Hartford and discussed possible collaborations with the Hartford University for scholarships for our girls to do UG and PG courses in engineering. In addition we visited Yale and Harvard Universities and MIT- all with the goal to see where



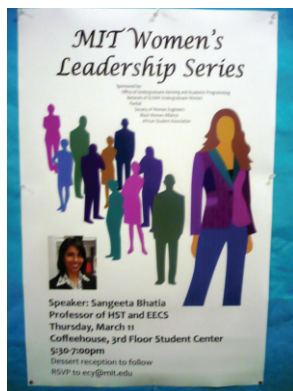
**LF Kumkum with her husband Nitin Srivastav, mother and daughter Ishika met us at the Luncheon at Jewel of India**

our LFs go for higher studies and also to check what were the possibilities of tying up with these Universities for sponsoring our LFs for PG. We also visited Washington D.C. to meet some of the big potential donors. Many ideas emerged during the discussions with these organizations; of how we could get some more funds to enable us to support many more girls to get quality education.

The highlight of our visit to the USA was to meet many Lila Fellows in the BIG APPLE-New York. We invited them for lunch with their spouses and children. One of them even brought her mother who was visiting her. They had all traveled from as far as Cincinnati, Boston, New Jersey, Washington and other surrounding areas. We had all



**Visit to Yale University**



**A notice board at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)**



**It was a delight connecting with the spouses and children of our LF daughters!**

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assembled in a special hall of the hotel, 'Jewel of India', a signature Indian restaurant in NY. The LFs started pouring in at 11 am and did not want to leave. We were almost driven out by the restaurant management because they had to start preparing for dinner. What an experience- bountiful of joy, happiness, love, laughter, friendship and an opportunity to bond! The girls were enthusiastic in sharing with us their experiences in the US and their changed life style away from their protected one at home. Every one



**USS Nautilus is a National Historic Landmark and Connecticut's State Ship (Pic downloaded from the website)**



**Inside the historic nuclear submarine**

New York, like the World Trade Visitor Center, the changed view from the Empire State Building, a visit to the United Nations and the historic ship NAUTILUS,

Breaker Mansion and the State House on Beacon Hill in Boston. And to top it all we got to see the various coloured cherry blossoms in full bloom in Washington- thanks to Taisie Berkley our photographer friend, and many more interesting sites. Time just flew past and it was soon time to return home. Back to the responsibilities at LPF which are growing at enormous speed.



**Visit to White House**

was with their cameras and they went CLICK CLICK ... endlessly. We all clicked many photos; many of you have received some through the Picassa album sent by Vidya. But I am still making a kaleidoscope of the entire visit for this issue. The girls had brought flowers, gifts and cheques for the LPF. All the gifts will form a part of LPF Museum in the near future and of course their donations will support additional deserving young girls. The LFs, their spouses and children were very hungry and all of them did justice to the Indian *kebabs, tandoori chicken, reshmi* and *paneer tikkas, hara-bhara kebabs* and many Indian dishes on the main menu.



**Visit to Capitol Hill, Washington**

With this I'd say, let us look forward to a great future for both, each one of you and the Foundation. The best fact is that we are all together and this Foundation is FOR the Lila Fellows, OF the Lila Fellows and managed BY the Lila Fellows (many are now involved in various activities of the Foundation, including being trustees on the board). I sincerely wish and pray for your well being. Let us look forward to another great year and welcome with open arms, our new batch of 73 LFs and 27 Lila Girls (undergraduates) who have just joined the ever-expanding family of LPF.

With love, your Dad  
Firoz Poonawalla



**Visit to Rockefeller Center**

We did spend some time to see some of the new developments in



**Cherry blossoms in full bloom!**

**S**he is the Principal of H.R. College, Mumbai. She has 31 years of teaching experience and holds a PhD in commerce from the University of Mumbai on enhancing links between academic institutions and industry. She is also the first Asian woman to be invited as member of the IB Council of Foundation in 2004. She is a visiting faculty member at UC Berkeley, USA and the School of Management (NJIT), USA. A recipient of the Award for Excellence in Education from the Sahayog Foundation, Dr. Indu Shahani became the first academican ever, to be appointed as the Sheriff of Mumbai in January 2008, before which the post lied vacant for two years! Inspira brings you the stimulating tete-a-tete LF Pallavee Gokhale had with this dynamic visionary, one afternoon, at Filli Villa.



**Has your qualification as an academican enhanced the appointment of a Sheriff or vice versa?**

The past Sheriffs of Mumbai include prominent names like Cricketer Sunil Gavaskar, Social Activist Nana Chudasma, Veteran Actors Dilip Kumar and Sunil Dutt, Industrialist Vijaypat Singhanian and many more. Though I am the 110th Sheriff of Mumbai, I am the first academican to hold this office. No doubt, the entire field of education is honoured by my appointment as Sheriff!

Because the post of the Sheriff of Mumbai is a link between the citizens and the Government, I as an

academican am able to use my position for the betterment and upliftment of the student and academic fraternity! As the Principal of H.R. College, I have by default the support of all my colleagues and students. They are all so proud and enthusiastic to do something for the city that I feel as if there are 6000 Sheriffs serving Mumbai currently! The advantage is that I have the support of the youth of the city as well and I believe that the youth are the ones which will help us shape the city better- at large the society. Our initiatives with the youth at the forefront have been very successful!

**Could you speak about your initiatives for societal reforms as Sheriff of Mumbai?**

On assuming charge as Sheriff, I immediately launched the Women's Helpline 1298 with the support of twenty leading NGO's, promoted voluntary blood

donation for the citizens to free the patients from the pressure of procuring blood, harnessed student energy for the Municipal Corporation's Clean-Up Mumbai Campaign where the student volunteers would blow the Sheriff's whistle to keep Mumbai city clean, initiated the much-needed Green Mumbai Project and provided for clean drinking water in the Mumbai district jail. I initiated a Screening Drive for Thalassaemia Minor in June 2008 wherein a free test for Thalassaemia Minor was conducted on youngsters. Once again, the support from the students in such projects was astonishing! I feel this is because they felt the need of this within, as they were social issues directly concerning them.

**The Sheriff of Mumbai is an apolitical titular position of authority bestowed for one year on a prominent citizen of Mumbai. Mumbai and Kolkata are the only cities in India who maintain this post after the British rule. In order of precedence the Sheriff ranks below the Mayor. The most important function of the Sheriff is to receive foreign dignitaries on behalf of the Government and to preside over various City related functions and conferences .**

I believe higher education especially, has always played a key role in enhancing the quality of life in the country. The Indian Higher Education System has been a reflection of its University system which is traditionally known by the achievements of its faculty and students. My delegation has enabled collaboration of the University of Mumbai with Universities in USA, UK,

Australia and New Zealand, by visiting these countries. The vision of such delegations is to interact with premier institutions and universities abroad and share the best practices on 'Academic Leadership.' These visits also promote internationalization of education through faculty and student exchanges and help generate scholarships and opportunities for students and faculty alike.

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## **'Blow the Whistle' is one of your most celebrated movements. What is it about?**

This has been a very good learning experience. We have this initiative called, 'Blow the Whistle' which started in March 2008. With the help of Rotaract and NSS Clubs in colleges, we called upon students to register themselves as 'Marshalls' to help the Municipal Corporation's **Clean-Up** Mumbai Campaign.. These registered Marshalls have the right to 'blow the whistle' at people and warn/prevent them from littering and dirtying the city in any manner. The college students are also being encouraged to plant trees.

Around half of the Mumbai's population is youth. This is a section of society which tends to ignore the common civic rules and they are the ones who suffer the most. This is the best example which proves that if youth power is channelized in the right direction, they want to transform the entire society into a different world. I decided to take up this path and it has given us very positive results.

## **Your PhD work about linking academia and industry is one of the very few works translating theory into practice. How successful have you been with achieving your aims to benefit the student community?**

You will be surprised, but Industry has been very open. They welcomed this concept of collaborating with the institutions and did so to a great extent. The relationship was two-fold. Industry was able to communicate with the students and they in turn represented the soul of society. At the same time, we could invite industry leaders as guest lecturers at our colleges. Students also got opportunities to take up internships at various renowned firms. They were exposed to the real life issues. We were also able to organise teachers' training program where the executives from various fields conducted sessions for the teachers. This helped us empower the teachers with broader views.

## **What inspired you to become an academician?**

I would say it runs in our family. My father was the founder Principal of H.R. College. Actually, after completing my M.Com., I like many, was excited about joining the corporate world and working for a multinational. When I shared my thought with my mother she too was happy. However, she also told me- "No doubt it would make you happy, but if you enter the field of academics, you can make several others happy. You can enable them to live their life in a more meaningful way." Today, I am glad I agreed with her vision and am happy about my decision. I have been very lucky that everybody- my parents, in-laws, husband and my son, have all been extremely supportive.

**You are associated with numerous NGOs and are also on the Boards of many industrial**



**Indu Shahani with LF Pallavee Gokhale**

## **organisations. How are you able to work cordially with both at the same time?**

I feel, even though NGOs and commercial organisations are far apart, both of them have a common interest in 'Action'. Both of them want to focus on action and get the desired results from that action. In case of commercial organisations, at the end of the day, they also want to ensure that their work is for social benefit. As I have this common link in my mind, I use it as a basis for collaborative action and work ahead.

## **What's the next reform you are coming up with?**

In coordination with the H.R. College we are currently also working on a project called '*Chirag*'. In this, we are trying to electrify villages using solar energy. At present, the agenda is on a very small scale, for a single village in Thane District; but we hope that we will be able to help to some extent.

## **According to you, how should today's youth assess her/his success?**

Success is all about 'passion' and 'compassion'. Be passionate about your work. Be determined and focus your efforts to achieve your goals. Put all your enthusiasm, energy and hard work in your efforts. Very importantly, believe in what you are doing and in yourself. As you do this, make sure that your actions in some way or the other help the weaker sections of society. Touching their hearts will probably give you more joy than your own success.

## **What message would you like to give to the citizens of India as the Sheriff of the most prominent cosmopolitan city of India?**

I am trying to tell citizens to become alert and share their responsibilities with the authorities. And yes... sensitizing the youth of your city to issues to a very large extent, is the solution to many problems.

■ - **Pallavee Gokhale (LF-2001)**  
**Special Correspondent**

**'SAMAGAM-2'** – was the second cultural fundraising event of the Lila Poonawalla Foundation held on May 29, 2010 at the Yashwantrao Chavan Natyagruha, Pune. The program was an initiative taken by the Lila Fellows (LFs) to give back to our mentoring organization. Renowned Kathak and Odissi exponent, Smt. Yogini Gandhi graced the event as our Chief-Guest.

The program opened to a splendid monologue 'Sattori', performed by renowned actress and LF Devika Daftardar depicting the enlightenment of a script-writer of women-oriented TV serials after her introduction to three famous poetesses of the yesteryears- Rabia, Mirabai and Bahinabai. Through this introspection the writer gets encouraged to bring about a change in her writing. Her act sent out a clear and loud message- "Follow your heart and pursue your dreams without any compromise. Just for the sake of money, don't settle for a job that does not make you happy".

Scintillating Kathak performances by dancer and LF Gauri Swakul were next in line. This section encompassed a *Shiv-Parvati Stuti*, a fusion track 'Hori' wherein she welcomed the colours of Spring; a *Thumri*- 'Aaja Mori Kalaai Murak Gai'- depicting Lord Krishna's pranks with the *Gopis*; and the Indo-Japanese fusion dance wherein she mingled Kathak with the beats of *Taiko*, the quintessential Japanese drum. This last item was an electrifying experience for all.

Subsequently a short film on the Lila Poonawalla Foundation was premiered on this occasion. It gave

an insight as to what the Foundation stands for, has successfully achieved in its 15 years of existence, and intends to work on in the future. Briefly portraying the significant difference the Foundation has made to the lives of multitudes of LFs, the film inspired to people to help brighten another life.

This was followed by captivating musical performances by LFs Madhavi Prabhumirashi, Kasturi Paigude and Yogada Deshpande. To begin with, they sang a *bhajan* together – 'Shri Raamachandra Kripaalu Bhajamana', from the *Ramacharitamanaas*, followed by a lively, all time favorite *Qawwali* – 'Nigaahein Milaane Ko Ji Chaahta Hain'. The melodies kept getting better and better with the three singers taking turns to present solo and duet songs of diverse compositions. If Kasturi got the audience sentimental through her folk song – 'Kesariya Baalama Mohe' and a Marathi song – 'Mi Radhika', she also made them drool over the sensuous and hit *laavani* – 'Ugavali Shukraachi Chandani'. Madhavi



**Mrs. Poonawalla felicitates the Chief Guest Mrs. Yogini Gandhi**





**The team of Samagam-2**

caught the pulse of the audience by singing evergreens- the Ghazal 'Dil Cheez Kya Hai' from *Umrao Jan* and the foot-tapper Sufi song 'Dama Dum Mast Kalandar' and *Yogada* by solo performance by a song from "my name is Khan". The musical show ended with Kasturi and Madhavi joining hands to present a life-pumping medley of the legendary music composer and director, O P Nayyar. And once again the audience nostalgically evidenced the fact that 'Old is Gold'.

Five LFs Vandana Belitkar, Tejal Sonpatki, Mayuri Joshi, Aarti Chavan and Neha Gupta then performed a fantabulous *laavani* to one of the most celebrated songs in Indian history, '*Reshamaachya reghaani*'. Our inhouse dance-director, LF Gauri Swakul had choreographed it, to LF Madhavi singing it live. No wonder the crowd screamed out "Once more!"

The evening was a perfect blend of all the three

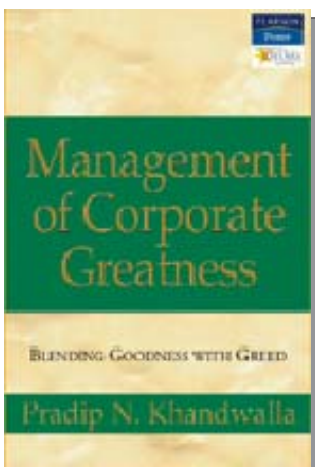
forms of performing arts – Dance, Drama and Music which left the audience mesmerized! LFs had thronged the event accompanied by their families, friends and colleagues. Trustees of the Lila Poonawalla Foundation, our well wishers, our esteemed Sponsors and Media partners, members of the Press, and other distinguished guests also attended the event, adding to its glitter.

'From many small beginnings come great things' - such has been the journey from *Samagam* last year to *Samagam-2* this year. It all began with an idea to give back to society and the Foundation what the LFs have so generously received. But this event was made possible with the able guidance of Mr. Firoz Poonawalla and Ms. Jayshree Shahade in particular not to mention the efforts of all the LFs towards a common goal of women's education and empowerment. Special kudos to the dedicated bond of LPF volunteers, who spared no efforts in making *Samagam-2* a great success. LF Jyoti Otagire compared the show in her imitable style.

The Patrons and Platinum Sponsors of this event were IDBI Bank, Ltd., Biocon, Eaton India, Bank of Maharashtra, Atlas Copco, Britannia Industries, Hindustan Unilever Ltd. KPIT Cummins Infosystems and Symantec Corporation were the co-sponsors. We thank them for generous and unstinted support. We also thank our Media and Marketing Partners Intelligent Pune, Sakal Group, DNA, Reach-out PR Agency and KyaZoonga.com for all their help in the publicizing of this event.

■ - **Priyanka Khopkar**

## BOOK REVIEW



**Book Name:**  
**Management of Corporate Greatness**

**Author:**  
Pradip N Khandwalla

**Management of Corporate Greatness is a management book that explores** aspects of capitalism with reference to business ethics and the role of corporations towards society. The book renders a fresh dimension to various critical issues of

management, about goodness and its perusal. Enumerating real-life corporate examples from all over

the world, the author illustrates how corporations can effectively blend excellence in business with corporate social responsibility. Through various themes the author has beautifully emphasized corporate democracy and corporate spirituality using references from religious scriptures like the *Bhagwad Gita* and the Bible.

Evocative narrations and the flow of the subject not only provide an overall view but also discusses paths for corporate goodness and business ethics. The book strikes a meaningful and thought provoking balance between 'greed for profitable economic growth and goodness' in modern age corporations. Being a thorough research compilation with insight and unraveling newer dimensions, this book is a must read for not only corporates but academic researchers and students across multiple fields.

■ - **Priyanka Khopkar**

# CLIP BOARD



**I**nspira has gracefully completed a decade of its existence... we have been calling it a decade of inspiration! We plan a major revamping and changeover in the near future for Inspira, not forgetting we are basically a newsletter and NOT A MAGAZINE! But before we part with our iconic face, we spoke to our dedicated and faithful readers about....

**"How according to you has Inspira evolved over the past ten years? How has your association with it been?"**

I have seen Inspira grow and blossom from a fledgling newsletter to a crusading agent. Its content has evolved with time, reflecting the changes in the times, the Foundation and the external world. Wish Inspira all the best as it moves ahead in its endeavor.

**Ms. Manjusha Gupte  
(LF-1997 & LPF Trustee)**

I enjoy reading Inspira. The coverage of the articles is good. The interviews of leading ladies have always inspired me. The way the names of donors are published in Inspira is a nice way to appreciate their contribution to the Foundation. I look forward to reading Inspira every time.

**- Ms. Prerna Khole (Gupta)  
(LF-1996 & LPF Undergrad. Prog.  
Committee Member)**

Initially it was just 5 of us when we began with Inspira- Jayshree, Shaan, Uzma, Shruti and me. Later the team expanded with Rajani and some more LFs. Our visits to Ananadvan in Gujrat and Delhi were not only fun but also memorable. It was a lovely experience working for Inspira. Jayshree's guidance has helped Inspira evolve. Inspira was like a baby before now its 10 yrs old! So it gives me immense pleasure to see it grow.

**-Ms. Snehal Mahamuni (LF-1996)**

After every 4 months I eagerly await the next issue of Inspira, especially to read the article of one of the ladies who has become successful in her life. Inspira gives us the information about all the activities organized by the Foundation as well as about women excelling in their careers and doing well for the society. Also the column 'Book Review' is the best part of Inspira, truly motivating one to read the book. I would like to read Inspira for many years to come. This is the best newsmagazine our Foundation could have. Upon reading Inspira, even other people get to know about the work of the Foundation.

**-Ms. Shweta Ghatole (LF-2007)**

I have been reading Inspira for the past many years. I am touched reading Padmashree Mrs. Lila Poonawalla's words told from her Heart. Lila and Firoz are the foster parents, Mom and Dad of 650+ girls. For 15 years the respected seniors trustees and Board members have dedicated tireless efforts to the LPF. I have witnessed the transformation of LFs to Peace Ambassadors. *Samagam* is the most entertaining cultural program of dance, drama and music.... And all this is beautifully showcased by Inspira!

Inspira withholds Empowered LFs, Leading Lady, Special Features, Health Capsules, Living Life With Difference; some of these pages are very well mounted. Our Lila Fellows who are successful in their lives come back to the Foundation to shoulder their responsibility to produce Inspira and make it better and better each time, to make a difference in an excellent way. I am very proud to be a part of our LPF Family. I extend my love and best wishes to all our Lila Girls/Fellows and Inspira Team.

**-Mrs. Parvin Tarafdar  
(LPF Undergrad Prog. Committee Member)**

I read 'From My Heart' regularly. Pot Pouri used to be an interesting column. Living Life With Difference motivates me. Snippets help to visualize the various events that took place over the months. We are a big family now; each LF may or may not attend the events. But Inspira encourages each LF to attend more number of programs by giving updates on each event. This is really a beneficial medium of communication for the Foundation.

**-Mrs. Madhavi Sunil Prabhumirashi (Sabne)  
(LF-1997, LPF Trustee)**

After being a part of Inspira few years ago, I am aware how much efforts go into each article. I think all that sweat that goes into the creation of Inspira, reflects in each of its issue, as we see it getting mature with time. It is a platform for all LFs to reach out to people, widen horizons, express and hone their writing skills. It's been a great experience to be part of Inspira. I wish Inspira all the best in its future endeavors!

**-Mrs. Pradnya Harkare- Kashikar (LF-2001)**



Inspira has been a mirror to reflect our thoughts and views as LFs. It has lived up to its name, as it has always been a source of inspiration and encouragement through the invaluable messages from leading ladies and other LFs. The face of Inspira has undergone suitable changes with changing times. It's every feature has something to learn and benefit from. I am also proud that I have been a correspondent for our beloved triennial in the recent past. Long live our Inspiration... Inspira!

**-Jyoti Otagiri (LF-1998)**

Inspira is a link between the Foundation and the LFs. Empowered LF is good platform in which we come to know about the professional expertise of our LFs. In our busy schedule, it is not possible to attend each event; here, Inspira and the Snippets therein update us on various programs taken place over the last 4 months. Interviews on Leading Ladies always inspire and fill in new zeal to work.

**-Mrs. Samina Deokar (LF-1998)**

I wish to see Inspira with a new look and may be some more interesting and new columns. More LFs must come forward, join the Inspira team and pool in their ideas and efforts in making it a better Newsletter.

**Ms. Anagha Mitra  
(LF- 1996 & LPF Undergrad. Prog. Committee Member)**

■ - **Compiled by -Sanchita Thanedar-Satalkar**

## SHORT TAKES

***In the past one year three new members joined the Lila Poonawalla Foundation's Board of Trustees. Whilst here Inspira introduces them to you in brief, in the forthcoming issues we will familiarize you with their vision for the Foundation.***

**Mrs. Nusarat Shaikh** is a Lila Fellow-1996. A post-graduate in Microbiology from Pune University, she has 12 years of experience in teaching. Currently she teaches Microbiology to under-graduate and post-graduate students. She is also associated with the Post Graduate Examination Panel at the University of Pune. Nusarat is currently working on a UGC sponsored research project entitled 'Screening and characterization of *Imida Cloprid* degrading microorganisms'. She is an active member of the Association of Microbiologists of India (AMI).

**Madhavi Prabhumirashi is a Lila Fellow-1997.** She has completed her formal education in classical music under the guidance of Dr. Mrs. Rohini Chandekar and Ms Usha Chipalkatti. She holds a formal degree in music- the '*Sangeet Alankaar*' from *Akhil Bharatiya Gandharva Mahavidyalaya*. Till date, she continues to pursue learning '*Gaayki*' from Dr. Shobha Abhyankar. She has participated in various reputed singing competitions like Zee TV's SaReGaMa, Pune Navaratri Mahotsav etc. and has

received the 2<sup>nd</sup> prize at the Jyotsna Bhole Natyasangeet competition. She has also performed for '*Yuvawani*' on '*Akashwani*', Pune. She conducts singing classes from home.

**Mrs. Lorraine Fernandes** is a teacher by profession. She has a long history of working for the under-privileged. She has headed the 'Works of Charity'- a social organization of the Mount Carmel Church and has overseen the education of several needy children. Mrs. Fernandes also served as the secretary of '*Sagar Parivar*'- a citizen neighbourhood group and has spearheaded several outreach programs for the less privileged. To her credit, she has facilitated several inter-faith meetings with the purpose of bringing people of different communities together. More recently, she was involved in the formation of a group called 'My Right Hand' that offers counseling services & support to battered women.

■ - **As recorded in the Foundation's Database**

## Now, Go Undergrad with LPF!

**The LPF tree continues to grow every year, providing scholarships to more and more girl students. On its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary, it has taken a dynamic initiative** by introducing scholarships for undergraduate girl students, specifically in the engineering stream. **This year, 27 deserving to-be girl-engineers have been awarded the scholarship and will be called 'Lila Girls'. Corporate icons namely, Symantec and KPIT Cummins Infosystems have joined hands with LPF** to support and sponsor this cause. These companies will also be lending support in developing special training modules for these Lila Girls to enhance their personality as well as intellect.

The Foundation threw open this scholarship to girl students belonging to Pune City and Pune District studying in the 1<sup>st</sup> year of engineering (all streams). This scholarship will cover the education expenditure of the selected students throughout their four-year degree course, subject to a continuous high academic performance by these girls. Despite the maiden year of its introduction, these scholarships received an astonishing response. The Foundation received 150 applications out of which 66 girls were short listed for the interview. LPF appointed a new Committee for this selection process on which, besides Mrs. Poonawalla, senior trustee of the LPF Mrs. Ramaswamy, an experienced professional, Mrs. Parvin Tarafdar and two Lila Fellows from the 1996 batch- Mrs. Prerna Khole and Mrs. Anagaha Mitra are the members.

Supriya Jeture is one of the Lila Girls (LG) who has been awarded this scholarship to pursue her Computer Engineering. She says, *"The interview process was an amazing experience as everyone on the interview panel made the atmosphere very friendly, so as to reduce the anxiety of the candidates"*. Yet another LG Pournima opines *"The LPF scholarship not only gives financial aid for education but also lends moral support to our family members. We understand from the past reputation of the Foundation that not only will it financially support us through our degree course, but it will invest in us make us and strive for technical excellence and soft skills development"*. As per LG Anjeets Khatri, the Foundation has added value to her life by giving her this scholarship. She wants to pursue a career in Information Technology and serve the society and nation at large.

This is a very special program whipped up by the Foundation. Unlike the LFs in their early twenties who are graduates from college, mature enough to face a professional life, LGs are in their late teens, naïve and about to step out of the protective confines of their homes. LPF realized the need for care, counseling and guidance these young girls would need and have crafted the program in such a way that senior Lila Fellows will be constantly mentoring them to face their challenges in life.

The 'Lila Girls' is yet another milestone reached by the Lila Poonawalla Foundation towards making a complete, sweet and happy family!

### New Members appointed by LPF on the Undergraduate Selection Committee



Mrs. Parvin Tarafdar  
35 years of experience in the  
House of TATAs specialising  
in Quality Management



Mrs. Prerna Gupta/Khole  
LF-1996  
Capable and self-motivated  
IT consultant with 12 years-  
experience in finance industry



Mrs. Anagha Mitra  
LF-1996  
Postgraduate Lecturer  
in Economics at Univ. of Pune



## Lila Fellows get daring at Xthrill Adventure academy, Lavasa

Like always this time too, the Lila Poonawalla Foundation provided the LFs an opportunity to explore their own personal growth through a day full of learning by way of fun and adventure. 6<sup>th</sup> June 2010 was a day full of splendid surprises for 36 LFs who had signed up for this team building and leadership program sponsored by LPF and conducted by 'Xthrill', an adventure sports academy which specializes in outbound training. It is located in the serene environs of Lavasa and all its

namely, - Six stars, LF siX-Thrillers, LF Warriors, ZENIA, LPF Champions and Lila ICONS. These six teams were assigned ten different tasks like Tent pitching, Tree balancing, Burma bridge, Rope ladder, Escape through the Cobweb, Blind trek, Acid Lake, Target Pent ball shooting, Split pipes and Mind game. These tasks were assigned to the teams and had to be completed within two hours with an aim to score (max). After two hours, all the

teams assembled together and were graded on their individual scores. The



events are organized and conducted by Col. Nikam.

Tejilee Tembe, our own LF-2007, who completed her course in Manali organized by the Directorate of Mountaineering and Allied Sports is a part of the Xthrill team. Lila Ma'am and Committee Member Ms. Parvin Tarafdar were personally present to supervise the LFs go through this outbound training.

Excitement started building up on the way to Lavasa itself; we travelled in specially designed carrier vehicles to reach XThrill which is nestled in the mountains. Upon arrival, Col. Nikam briefly introduced us to the 'Colbes Cycle' - the basis of the scheduled outbound training (wherein a new activity brings us a new experience; we reflect upon this experience and learn from it). To begin with, we LFs were randomly divided into six teams

team 'LF siX-Thrillers' emerged winners with the highest score of 404/450 points. Col. Nikam ended the session by asking LFs to share what they had learnt through these activities, what had they identified as their

strengths and areas of improvement and how they appreciated the qualities of their team mates.

At the end of the training, every-one enjoyed a low calorie healthy lunch and were ready for some more adventure and excitement! It was wow time for water sports and every one had a splash enjoying Water Volley ball, Flotilla, Bungee Jumping and Kayaking. It was really a memorable and wonderful and exciting experience!

■ - Priyanka Khopkar

*The entire LPF team at Lavasa*

## LPF takes a step ahead in empowerment through education

Earmarking Lila Poonawalla Foundation's 15<sup>th</sup> year of successful existence is '**Abhigyan**', a joint initiative between the Foundation and Dr. Kalmadi Shamrao High School. This project aims at recognizing talent and honing the skills of economically deserving students. Under the leadership of Mrs. Jayshree Shahade, the Peace Ambassadors (PAs) produced over the past couple of years at the Foundation have joined hands and are working towards giving back to the society what they have imbibed, via this project. The noble views and leadership of Mrs. Lila Poonawalla, Chairperson LPF and Mrs. Malati Kalmadi, Secretary *Kannada Sangha* (Kaveri Group of Institutions) have culminated into Project *Abhigyan* which will open future avenues for many others to impart training to a larger number of students. This joint effort by the members of LPF and management of *Kannada Sangha* will set forth an example of empowerment through education for the economically deserving.

'**Abhigyan**' was flagged off on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2010 at Dr. Kalmadi Shamrao High School, Erandawane at the hands of Mrs. Poonawalla, and Mrs. Kalmadi. Excited in anticipation of the experience the Foundation will get from this project, Mrs. Poonawalla mentioned that this venture is not a one-way training program. Rather there was much to learn from these school children in return. Mrs. Kalmadi appreciated and whole heartedly welcomed LPF for this initiative. She expressed her strong dedication and will in making this project a success.

Project leader Mrs. Jayshree Shahade and Mr. Hardkude, Principal Dr. Kalmadi Shamrao High School set the project going on a positive note encouraging the trainers and learners. Two inaugural sessions on Environmental



**Inaugural ceremony of Project Abhigyan**

Science and Performing Arts (Music) were conducted. Dr. Neelu Nawani introduced the project and delivered a talk on the importance of saving water. The take home message was to plant more trees, reduce pollution, save and recycle water and spread the word to others. Mrs. Kasturi Paigude imparted lessons in singing. A generous accompanist, Mr. Milind Talungkar mesmerized the students with *Jal Tarang* recital and explained to them the principle behind this simple sound-wave instrument and encouraged them to try the same at home.

Lfs Smita Acharya and Sneha Nikum have planned a year-long training schedule for the students. They and 7 other LFs, namely Samina Deokar, Gauri Swakul, Devika Daftardar, Swarda Angal, Madhuri Kad, Anjali Sarda and Priyanka Khopkar would be training the students in Science (General Science and Environmental Science), Arts (Drama, Theatre, Music and Fine Arts), Spoken English and Communication, Computers, Mathematics, Career guidance and Counseling. Good luck to this dedicated team.

■ **-Mrs. Samina Deokar (LF-1998 & PA-2008)**

## READERS WRITE

### THE STATELY LADY - LILA POONAWALA

THE WHEELS OF PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY HAD A VISITOR,  
IT WAS NONE OTHER THAN MRS. LILA POONAWALA.  
A HEAD FILLED WITH IDEAS, VIEWS AND SUGGESTIONS GALORE,  
MRS. POONAWALA HAD KNOCKED ON THEIR DOOR.

LILA, THEY SAID IN UNISON- YOU HAVE THE ABILITY TO TRANSFORM  
LIVES IN YOUR BEAUTIFUL HANDS, JUST GO AHEAD WITH YOUR PLANS.  
WE WILL BE WITH YOU EVERY STEP YOU TAKE.  
EVERY EFFORT WE WILL MAKE FOR MANKIND'S SAKE.

LILA BLOOMING WITH HAPPINESS COULD NOT CONTAIN HER JOY.  
HOW WONDERFUL TO HAVE FOUND THE DOOR OF LUCK,  
FOR THE WELFARE OF SOCIETY COUPLED WITH HARD WORK.  
NOW BUDS WILL GROW WITHOUT THE FROST AND  
FLOWERS WILL BLOOM WITH GOLDEN DUST.

■ **- Bernadette Correa**  
(Our Reader & a Fan of Mrs. Poonawalla)



CELEBRATING A DECADE OF INSPIRATION

Down Memory Lane...

# GLIMPSES

INSPIRA



**The 30th issue of Inspira released at the hands of Mrs. Nishtha Tai at Deccan Rendezvous**



**LFs present a gift to 'Dad' on account of Father's Day**



**LFs prepared and presented a Warli Painting (a fine art-form learned at the Foundation) depicting the origin and evolution of the Lila Poonawalla Foundation.**



**Get-together of Prof Goran Grosskoph and Mrs. Grosskoph with Past and New Lila Fellows, Lila Girl's and parents**



**Trustees and LFs, all rejoice on the occasion of 'Dad's' (Mr. Firoz Poonawalla's) 73rd Birthday Party.**



**Thanks-giving Party for the team of Samagam-2 at Residency Club**

# EDITOR'S DESK



Dear LPF Family and our Reader Friends,

**W**ith the current edition, Inspira steps into its second decade of proud publication! Thanks to you all... we have been able to witness this fortunate day only because of your overwhelming encouragement, readership and love. To commemorate this milestone, LF Rashmi Borole pooled in her animation designing skills and created for Inspira the symbolic orange coloured logo "Celebrating a decade of Inspiration", you might have noticed on every page!

On this occasion, I cannot but help remembering my past colleagues who created Inspira, for us to nurture and grow. I specially miss Uzma for her dexterity with English, her wit and her 'Cool' attitude which had the ability to connect fast with the Gen-X. The vision and plans that Jayshree had for Inspira is now a challenge for us to keep up with in her absence. And of course Sunetra, for her dedicated sittings with the printer, finalizing the layout for several evening post office hours at MIDC! Whilst these three traveled farthest with Inspira and me, Senior Trustee Maya Thadhani, whom we all lovingly call Maya Aunt, has been generous with her time for us with her diligent post-editing corrections. It is remarkable that a lady of her stature and age sits with her reading glasses on, and goes through every article many times over, correcting grammar and facts alike! And last but not the least, our printer Capt. Das at Excel Images.... Its hats off to his patience with us and his punctuality which delivers our desired product on time!

As soon as an issue of Inspira is released, planning for the next issue begins! The three-four month span

during which an issue is conceived and delivered, it is MY editorial team which is literally strung out. They are my crutches.... For many years, due to my profession in Oceanography and now my hubby's remote postings, I am out of Pune almost permanently. If they did not manage the show on the ground here in Pune, it would have been impossible for me to edit THIS NEWSLETTER with so much reliability and responsibility! This trimester, three of my Crusaders were/are in the family way. So I reached out to a Genie.... LF Pallavee Gokhale (Gore). Despite her full time job at Symantec and the responsibility of a two and half year old child, I made her one long distance call and Voila- she agreed to do NOT ONE, BUT TWO columns for me! I would say that's the goodwill I have earned with her as a friend I made at LPF and the goodwill Inspira has earned over the years! Pallavee is our Special Correspondent for this issue and her contribution is greatly valued.

No matter how much Inspira evolves... its main function is it will continue as a newsletter of a Foundation that is growing manifold with every passing day. As the Lila Poonawalla Foundation ventures into newer alleys, Inspira will face a newer challenge of telecasting justly, each effort to our readers globally. At the same time we need to live up to our duty to keep LF and now LGs connected! With a resolution to mold Inspira according to the need of the hour, I sign off for now till we meet in our next issue.

Good Bye and God Bless!

- Editor

■ **Dr. Rajani Panchang-Dhumal**  
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**ABOUT THE ORANGE LOGO-** This orange logo has been designed by LF- Rashmi Borole to commemorate a decade of INSPIRA's existence and the beginning of a new one! Rashmi is an overseas LF. She completed her Masters of Fine Arts in animation from Savannah College of Arts & Design, USA. She currently free lances in 3D graphics, animation and website designing.



The colour and design are an outcome of tremendous reflection. Orange embodies all the traits of a woman; it symbolises power and at the same time warmth and healing. It also stimulates enthusiasm and creativity. Orange means vitality with endurance. Lady luck's color is orange. Curiosity is a driving characteristic of orange, and with it comes exploration of new things – That's exactly what we do at Inspira! Plus the hand held out depicts the caring and protective platform of Inspira that LPF offers us to evolve into better humans with every passing edition. The three faces of the woman in the logo illustrate exactly that!

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