

The Tadpole

W G A A N E W S L E T T E R

**OFFICE BEARERS
2013**

PRESIDENT—Hema Badhwar Mehra

VICE PRESIDENT - Anjali Sapra

TREASURER—Renee Chandola

SUPPORT GROUPS—Sujata Kulshreshtha

MEMORABILIA—Parbeen Kaur

SECRETARY—Shivani Anand

EVENTS—Sabina Sharma

THE TADPOLE—Manvi Sinha and Hema Mehra

**INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:**

REUNIONS	2
DIASPORA	4
MEMORIES	6
WECARE	8

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Exies,

The past year has been relatively quiet on the Alumni Front with many of us taking breaks to deal with personal issues and family matters, health and wellness, professions and politics.... While that has resulted in some break in communication, it has also gone a long way in showing that Welhamites never give up in the face of whatever odds they face and rise to each challenge, taking on life's difficult moments with a smile, a shrug and toss of the head!



AARTHA SHANTI PHALA VIDYA

That indeed, is the Spirit of Welham.

The last Tadpole Night saw a welcome number of exies gather and I hope by the time this issue is released in time for the 2014 Tadpole Night, many more will come out of the woodwork to join our annual 'Let our hair down and dance away

the blues night!" in typical Welham fashion!

As President for the fourth year in succession, I have a few observations to make...We are still a pitiful handful that continue to try and keep the WGAA alive. Many more hands-on-deck are needed. Fresh ideas, generation of funds and a stronger network.

Chapters in other cities are still non-existent. Each time I post our Tadpole Night Event of Facebook, there is often a response from people living elsewhere to say "oh can't you organize something here?"...I urge all those to come on board and take over. Form Chapters in your own cities, connect with the WGAA and interact with us to take this forward.

On that ever-hopeful note I'll say Cheers and Good luck till the next issue!

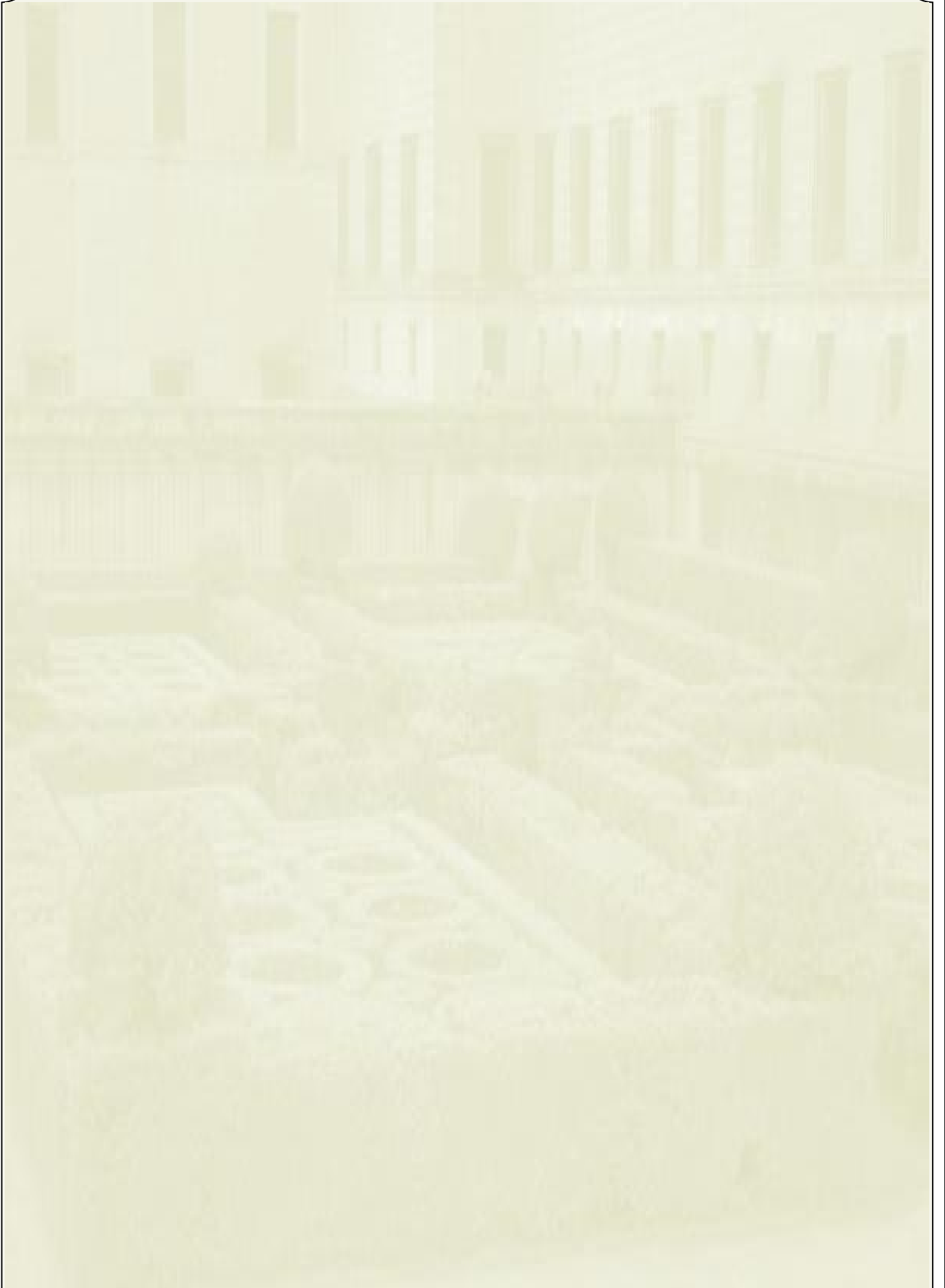
Hema Badhwar Mehra

WELHAM GIRLS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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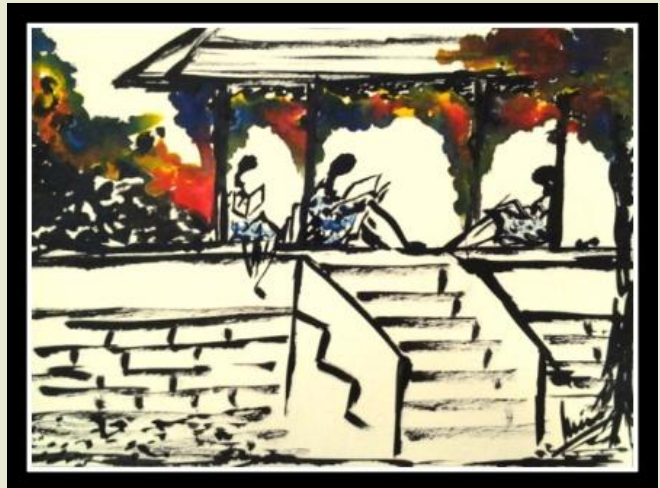
OUR DIVERSE DIASPORA

ARTIST NINA DEY DAS, Batch of 1981 B /201



As bright and promising as her lovely sketches, which were used on the School Calendar for this year, Nina Das continues to delight with her enchanting art. She says...

"Everything inspires me, from a wonderful childhood amidst nature in the tea plantations of Assam and Doors to my Schooling in one of the finest Schools of our country. I joined School at the most formative years of my life and the turning point was when I got the all India highest in Art in Class 10(ICSE). I knew then that this was to be my future..."



OUR DIVERSE DIASPORA

SPORTSWOMAN JYOTI ANN BURRETT

Batch of 2007 O/615



TWENTYTHREE-year-old Jyoti Ann Burrett, playing in the forward position in the Indian women's football team is a sprightly girl, who listened to her heart over going the corporate careerway to follow quite literally — her 'goal'! Jyoti has a Master's degree in Sports and Health Science from University of Exeter, UK, and when off the field, Jyoti works as a fitness trainer in a Delhi gym, an unusual profession for women.

Presently she is attending the training camp for the forthcoming Asian Games in Incheon, South Korea. Jyoti, who had played with the Tottenham Hotspur women's team in London, admits to 'being a juggler who became a footballer'.

Talking about how it all began, Jyoti says, "After I watched the 2002 World Cup. I was intrigued by ball control. The idea of juggling was exciting and I decided to give it a try. By the time I went to college in 2007, I was a reasonably fancy juggler and could easily juggle the ball 600-700 times at a go. A couple of boys from college and encouraged me to start playing with them for fun." What started as a harmless juggling and passing of the ball, soon resulted in Jyoti's selection in the Delhi state team for the nationals in Tamil Nadu.

After that there was no stopping Jyoti, who played for three years in the running for Delhi while in college. "After that, I played for my university team during my Masters in Exeter. On returning to India in 2013, I was called up for the national team selection trials in Pune. Never in my wildest dreams had I imagined I would ever make the final squad and play for India!" The rest, as they say, is history.

Jyoti is hopeful of the changes in the sports scene in the country per se. "A Delhi league has started and we had senior nationals earlier this year in Assam."

Talking about the good and bad about the facilities for sports, she says, "The infrastructure is great at the top level, but this needs to be available to players at all levels of the game, right from the grassroots up. Football grounds should be well maintained and available for use. Finding a place to play is sometimes the hardest thing!"

Jyoti was lucky to have got support from her father and brother at home but she admits most others are not so fortunate. "I find boys getting this support while it is often lacking with the girls. Parents should feel even prouder seeing their daughters excel in sport because they're choosing to do something off the beaten track. Sports is tough, physically, mentally and emotionally and they're choosing 'tough' over 'easy' despite all the odds."

Passion, grit, hard work and some luck, according to Jyoti, make for a good sportsperson. As a parting message to the sportswomen in India, Jyoti recommends, "Stick to the sport you love and don't let anything come between you and the dream you set for yourself. Train hard, push yourself to the limit but never forget to enjoy what you're doing. Remind yourself why you first chose to play a game, because you thought it would be fun!" All one can say is Amen!

Elaborating on the term 'grassroots level', Jyoti emphasises the need to introduce sports in schools. "Schools should encourage girls' football and give them the right coaching and facilities. I find a lot of schools don't offer football as a sport to its girls. For those out of school, there need to be clubs which bring people together to play. Family support and encouragement is a huge boost and can greatly influence how far one goes with sport."

THE DIASPORA

DANSEUSE—SEHER NOOR MEHRA, Batch of 2010 W/565



Seher Noor Mehra, current disciple of Guru Jyotsna Shourie has been learning Bharatanatyam since the age of ten. Dance has been a guiding force in her life and has shaped her dreams and aspirations. She began her training under her former Guru, Mrs C.K Rajalakshmi Kunhambu, at Welham and completed her Arangetram in August 2010. After school she proceeded to hone and perfect her nritya under her current Guru, Jyotsna Shourie.

Passionate about Dance, Seher has been a part of several Bharatanatyam stage performances and recently traveled to Prague for the International Dance Festival there with Guru Jyotsna Shourie and her troupe, where her performances were greatly lauded.

She is currently doing an Advanced Diploma in Movement Arts at The ATTAKALARI School of Movement Arts in Bangalore.

I cannot adequately describe the way dance makes me feel, it is as though I have somehow found a way to sever the chords holding me to this earth, and for a moment, if only for a fraction of second,

I CAN FLY..."

WE'RE ON THE WEB
WWW.WELHAMGIRLSALUMNI.COM

W E C A R E

Contribute to the **WeCare** initiative by sending a cheque in the name of **THE WELHAM GIRLS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**, and mail to the address given below. Do remember to put your name, house/number/batch, telephone number, email id, address, and pan card number on the reverse of the cheque or on the accompanying letter. All donations are tax exempt under u/s 80G of the IT act 1961.

Please do your bit for the old staff who have been so much a part of the School and its ethos and thereby helped make you into who you are today. It was your care and contribution that made it possible for us to help Manjy and his family...and we hope that spirit will carry us together in the future too.

Cheques to be mailed or couriered to ;

Sujata Kulshreshtha,
WGAA (WeCare)
A 32, Sector 56, NOIDA 201307, INDIA
Tel: +91 9810222305

LAUNCHING OUR NEW WEBSITE

The Batch of 1988 celebrates 25 years & presents the WGAA with their brand new Website!

Celebrating 25 years in true Welham style, the batch of 88 leaves the Alumni Association with something to remember. A beautifully designed website not just commemorates their 25th School leaving anniversary but gives the WGAA a great tool to work with.

The WGAA Website goes live on 19th September 2014 on Tadpole Night!

Thank you for your warm spirit, generous gift and great gesture—what a way to celebrate the spirit of remaining connected!

Cheers Batch of 1988...May this be a new beginning in the WGAA Chapter!

