

SingAlong : 16 Oct 2011

Members of the Gracious Living Foundation extended family of well-wishers, Diwali is more than just a festival of lights but also a "sing" celebration when the members, of all ages and musical talents, join in a community singing to welcome the festival of lights.



The SingAlong was held on 16 Oct 2011 at the home of Smt Ketaki Sood, a warm and welcoming atmosphere was bright and cheerful, the mood was fun and bonhomie infectious; with an abundance of refreshments, the Silvers felt totally relaxed and soon got into the swing of things, singing and clapping to yesteryear's tunes and even dancing – literally rings on their bells on their toes.

Participants leading the singing were Mrs. Madhu Dayal, Kanchan Chetal, Jasvir



of course, VP Mishra, on the Cassio. The session was livened with the presence and active participation of the members of the Living Room. The session concluded reluctantly with the members committing to meet next year – "inshallah" – to celebrate the festival of lights with song and dance.

(Mrs) Meera Singh

Politically Incorrect : 15 Dec 2011

On 15 Dec 2011, NDTV 24x7, in collaboration with the Defence Colony Welfare Association and the Gracious Living Foundation, recorded a panel discussion "Politically Incorrect" at the DefCol Club in a beautifully illuminated setting.

The discussion, "Is the Pakistani military the principal stumbling block in India-Pakistan relations?" was anchored by the redoubtable, Ms Ankita Mukherji, Sr News Editor, NDTV 24x7 who successfully conducted a passionate debate on many aspects of the topic; the panelists were the two renowned, expert and highly entertaining key note speakers, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, IFS (Retd), MP and erstwhile Union Minister and Shri Swapan Dasgupta, senior journalist and political analyst. The audience mainly comprised veteran military personnel and, very surprisingly and encouragingly, an equal number of participative ladies.



The discussion commenced with Swapan giving a brief political monologue on the history of Indo-Pak relations particularly in the aftermath of the Bangladesh war with the Pak military still licking its wounds and seeking retribution to regain its honour by inflicting a war of attrition - a "thousand cuts" – stoking the Kashmir and terrorist fires; it has vitiated the political climate creating mistrust, ill-will, hate with an anti-India tirade. He advocated a strong, proactive deterrent foreign policy vis-à-vis Pakistan. Mani zealously challenged Swapan contending that it was not the Pak military which was the villain of the piece but contrarily, it was the military every time which made efforts and overtures to resolve the contentious issues and sought peaceful solutions; he evidenced that every war since 1947 was unleashed by the so-called "democratically elected" civilian governments. In contrast, Mani emphatically advocated an ongoing, uninterrupted conciliatory process of dialogue to resolve the impasse.

The sometimes overheated and insightful debate on the pro establishment foreign policy rhetoric by Mani was countered by Swapan with realistic antidotes. Passions flew high with an abundance of politically incorrect name calling and laughs. The show ended with all in consensus that both India and Pakistan are in a phase of recognizing that their mutual interests can best be served by building trust and working unitedly in Asia.

by : Dr (Mrs) Anubha Mehta