

JANUARY 2009 NEWSLETTER

New Faces at JVF



Georgie Pope

Finished her anthropology MA in Migration and Diaspora Studies at SOAS, University of London, in September 2009. She volunteered with JVF from September until December, and returned to Jaipur in January to work on a more formal basis for the Foundation. Sharing her time between launching the new Virasat Gallery, updating the JVF website, and working with the Rural Arts Programme, she is hoping to remain with JVF for two years.



Aurore Vignarath

Master's degree in Sustainable Development, speciality Tourism and Environment, University of Versailles-St Quentin, with distinction. Professional Bachelor's Degree in European Management in Tourism, with distinction, University of Paris V
Our partners in France Les Amis de Jaipur are funding Aurore to create a Cultural Map of Jaipur for Responsible Tourism. She will stay in Jaipur till the end of March.

Project Objective: A saleable document/documents/website/interactive guide to benefit JVF in the form of a highly accurate and current map/plan/guide of the walled city of Jaipur giving data and images, area by area, of historic buildings, crafts itineraries, cultural practices etc specific to the historic 18th Century walled city, to serve as a valuable aid to responsible tourism.

Outcomes of the project, besides facilitating tourists to get off the beaten track to see something other than the usual spots, will also be useful as a tool for conservation. The work is based on the example of the JVF heritage walk. The outcomes will serve as significant marketing tools for traditional Jaipur and Jaipur tourism worldwide.

John Singh has agreed to work voluntarily in the office for half the day and take responsibility of the financial side of JVF and the general office functioning and systems.

VIRASAT GALLERY



A soft opening of the Gallery was on the 17th of Jan and the formal opening on the 22nd. The gallery will be Jaipur focussed in its programming and offer a new cultural space for the citizens of Jaipur and visitors – with regular events that consolidate the vision and work

of many people done from the Virasat platform since 2002. It will bring people together in a common place and regularly, to showcase, share and learn about Jaipur's origins and growth, its town planning and management, its unique culture, history, arts, crafts, music, traditional knowledge practices, ayurveda and vedic learning, library and early educational services, ecology, water systems and traditional practices, and natural character. Spreading to the wider context of Rajasthan, the gallery will also regularly showcase and share information about the musical traditions of Rajasthan.

The Virasat Gallery is open from Monday to Saturday from 12 - 6pm, at E-143 Ramesh Marg, C-Scheme, Jaipur

Literature Festival

21st – 25th January. This was a very successful and much publicised festival. JVF was responsible for organising the local content of the Festival. The festival, incubated by JVF is now run by Teamwork's and its team, with JVF providing some ground support and helping in the local content of the festival.

Wonderful Workshops

12th – 17th January - these were organised by Frances Ronaldson and Lou Tomlinson – once again the response was very good indeed, with almost all the participants promising to come back next year. Workshops during the day and great music in the evenings. A concert was organised at the Anokhi farm followed by dinner.

The final exhibition of the wonderful workshops this year was held at the Virasat Gallery on 17th January.

Exhibition of the works created by Suhasini Kejriwals

The exhibition on the 12th of Jan was curated by Dr Alka Pande at the Anokhi Museum. This really well attended exhibition. Parveen Mirza with her group performed a rendition of Maand. The exhibition was open till the 25th of Jan.

Regional Literature Festival

17th Jan. A meeting was held with Dr D.R. Mehta, Nand Kishore Acharya and Mr Mukund Lath and the JVF team to form a committee to organise a regional festival.

Visit of Jaime Grosse

12th-16th Jan. Jaime a leading journalist from New York was in Jaipur and JVF organised her program to meet with Babu Khan (famous kite maker), Kalanath Shastri (Vedic scholar), Sudhir Kasliwal (leading jeweller – Gem Palace), Shabbi Neelgiri (Tie Dye expert). During her stay – visits were organised to the Anokhi Museum, meeting with the Sect Art & Culture, the Wonderful Workshops, meeting the Minister for Tourism, the Heritage Walk etc. Her interest was about the revitalization of dying arts and cultural renaissance.

Jaipur Festival – future plans

A meeting was held with senior Govt Sect C.K.Mathew and Mr Srinivasan – a preliminary discussion regarding the Govt's views/plans regarding the Jaipur Festival, which used to be organised by JVF in the month of Jan, and was not held in 2008, as the Govt had organised its own celebration through a festival in March – this resulted in the small number of promoters being unable to support both the events.

Office Upgradation

We have had to get a new fast computer and a 500GB storage device – this has been donated to us as has the upgradation of all other computers, which now run faster, have more storage and UPS devices and legal security software. We are also expecting a contribution of a laptop for use by visiting temporary workers. A new Sony Camcorder has also been donated to the office.

Misc

Folk programs were organised in Sisodia Rani ka Bagh on the 30th Jan and in Jai Mahal Hotel on the 31st Jan.

Obituary



Vasudeo Singh of Geejgarh died on Jan 23rd. "Vasu ji" as he was commonly known had been associated with JVF from 2003 onwards – helping us with the technical production of events



Another friend of JVF, the exceptional Mohan Bhopa, passed on recently. He was probably the most knowledgeable bhopa that we knew. And the only one who could recite the full story of 'Pabuji' (Parwade). JVF first contacted him in his village Pabuser (Churu Dist) prior to a workshop 'Pabuji ka Phad aur Bhopa' in 2004. And was in regular touch with him ever since. Most recently, he participated in a session on the 'Phad' in the Jaipur Literature Festival Jan 2009.

Fun loving and free spirited, we remember him as a friend of Virasat, an exceptional artist and a lovely human being.

Financial

A 16 lakh donation was made by Faith and John, to clear up our outstanding owing. They have also agreed to donate 1.25 lakhs every month for the next two years to tide JVF through – till it is able to get its own income stream in place.

Mahavir Sharma has given 3 lakhs as a loan to JVF – this will be paid back as soon as we receive our balance money from the Govt