

# Mekari-The English Literary Society

SRI GURI GOBIND SINGH COLLEGE OF COMMERCE

*Good English, well spoken and well written, will open more doors than a college degree. Bad English will slam doors you didn't even know existed.*

**Meraki-The English Literary Society** of Sri Guru Gobind Singh College of Commerce was once just a dream to make the magic of words, the occult of literature and the importance of eloquence penetrate into the prosaic functioning of a commerce college. After much planning and hard-work, Meraki could come into existence on 10th August 2016.

Words debar the locks of languages and reflects the beauty of their meanings without any discrimination. And so does the Greek word Meraki, which beautifully describes the blend of creative soul, artistic mind and a poetic heart of each member. **Meraki-The English Literary society** is a cadre of literature enthusiasts who apart from being voracious readers, also possess a flair for writing. It is a learning community where everyone can unleash the art of expressing emotions and feelings.

**Impressum:** “In the English language, it all comes down to this: Twenty-six letters, when combined correctly, can create magic. Twenty -six letters form the foundation of a free, informed society.”

**Mission:** To create an intricate and comprehensive approach towards English Literature and to provide a platform for students to bring out their vibrant and creative side. It also aims to produce eloquent speakers and impeccable writers with the support of team members and fellow students.

Meraki-The English Literary society, with less than two years of its inception, has managed to become one of the most active English literary societies of University of Delhi and the only English Literary Society to conduct a series of variegated online events. Meraki's Facebook page has over 2400 likes.

The library supports the work of literacy and education and hence is a place that stimulates an individual's curiosity and encourages them to love the written word. Keeping this in mind **the society has initiated to donate novels in the library.** A separate rack has been devoted for books denoted by the members of our society. This is the society's initiative to enhance the reading habits and inculcate English as a language within the masses. We hope this step will inoculate reading habits among the college students.

**Meraki World** is the official newsletter of Meraki. It is a forum for our talented members to unleash the art of expressing their emotions and feelings. It is published quarterly and has an online viewership of more than 3000 readers. It is also published offline and is kept in the college library.

## 2016-17

The society organised its **Orientation cum Auditions** on 10 August 2016 in the college auditorium. The event began with the felicitation of the chief guest, Mr Angad Singh Saluja- an alumnus of the college, who's now an entrepreneur, a poet, an author of three books and a motivational speaker; followed by a few words of wisdom by the Principal, Dr Jatinder Bir Singh. The ceremony concluded with MERAKI'S core team's addressing speech to freshers. The orientation was followed by the Auditions for the tenure 2016-17. About more than 200 freshers turned up for the auditions and actively participated in all the rounds.

In the first online event **Blind Date With Words**, which was conducted on 28 September 2016, around 150 students from different colleges and universities pan India participated. Participants were sent a set of 4 words using which they had to create a tale within 60 words. To make the competition even more interesting, the word set included words from different origins. The objective of the event was to make participants use their creative imagination to insert those highly distinct words into a meaningful tale. The event didn't seem like the society's first, for it received a huge overwhelming response in the form of beautiful entries by a large number of participants and turned out to be a great success.

The second event **Capturing Caption**, held on 12 October 2016, gave about more than 170 artistic minds the opportunity to showcase the magical stories written by their camera and wonders captured by their pen. All that participants had to do was to post a self-clicked photograph accompanied with a self-written caption on any one of the given themes. The purpose was to make participants explicate their picture by expressing it in the form of words and provide it with a broader, unnoticed perspective. Entries were received in large numbers and the beautiful singularity of each of them made it really tough to decide the winner.

The third online event, **Regenerating Rhymes**, conducted on 22 October 2016, witnessed the participation of around 200 participants wherein each of them was sent an incomplete sonnet. Every alternate line of the sonnet was removed and participants had to fill those lines with their imagination and choice of words. This introduced participants to the sonnet form of poetry and, despite how tricky it was to fill those lines, many participants came up with remarkable sonnets.

Meraki-The English Literary Society also conducted an on-campus event, **Gift A Thought**, which had a footfall of around 800 students, on 26 October 2016.

Students of all courses and years were invited to pen down their thoughts and drop them in a bowl. In return, they could pick up one scroll left by someone else from the same bowl to get a taste of their vivacious emotions. The event had twin sided objective of spreading positivity and the festive feeling of oncoming Diwali and to establish society's presence in the mind of every student of SGGSCC.

A workshop **The Art of Storytelling by Navpreet Singh** in collaboration with Awaaz Studio was conducted on 7th February 2017. Navpreet Singh, a life coach, an ardent lover of nature and a human being with a heart of gold is the purest soul one is likely to meet in the course of his life. Since last three years, Mr. Navpreet Singh has interviewed close to 600 people and patiently listened to their stories before carving them into the most artistic and formidable write-ups. He has achieved a lot during this short span and has partnered with more than 20 national events, several media channels, and was also featured in The Times of India and Dainik Bhaskar. He has won the social inclusion award by Pravah NGO and also the title "Super Human" by BIT Jaipur.

Another workshop, **The Art of Storytelling 2.0 with Hari Sankar** was conducted on 27th February 2017. A 23-year old entrepreneur, storyteller, aspiring writer and a Ted speaker Hari Sankar is the co-founder of Beatmap and co-owns it with Kommune which is a platform for performing arts. Through Beatmap he attempts to connect artists with unconventional places in the city that are looking to host cultural events. He is a true pattern of versatility.

## 2017-18

Meraki-The English Literary Society conducted **Prelude- Session Orientation 2017-18** on 11th August 2017. Over 300 applications were received out of which 50 students were selected through grammar and creative writing test and personal interview.

MERAKI- The English Literary Society of SGGSCC, returned with our online event- BLIND DATE WITH WORDS on 6th September 2017. The participants were sent a set of 4 words, along with 2 themes to choose from, and using those 4 words the participants had to create a tale within 75 words. Those words could be from any nook and cranny of the world, of which the participants were totally incognisant about. **Bind Date With Words 2.0** received a participation of over 400 students across India.

This year, Meraki organized it's very first Open Mic- **Lights. Camera. Words!** on 12th October 2017 in the college premises itself, bringing story-tellers, musicians,

and slam poets together for a soulful afternoon. Many renowned artists like *Harnidh Kaur, Ishaan Chawdhary, Eshaa Wahie, Pranjal Asha, Aniket Dhingra, Ankur Dobriyal and Akshay Nayyar* along with the other talented artists from the *Delhi Poetry Slam* graced the event with their presence and gave splendid performances, thus making it a grand success. Lights. Camera. Words! experienced a footfall of over 500 people.

Meraki is now planning to conduct its first **fest** from 22nd to 25th February. The events will be conducted as follows:

- Thursday, 23rd February 2018: An online event
- Friday, 24th February 2018: Fantom based events including treasure hunt, letter writing etc
- Saturday, 25th February 2018: Lights. Camera. Words! 2.0- An open mic event
- Sunday, 26th February 2018: An online event

#### **ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE SOCIETY:**

- Ishita Dutt stood first in NOVARTIS'16- Slam Poetry, conducted by Lakshmi Bai College.
- Manchit Kaur Sachdeva stood third in Inter College Poetry Competition conducted by IP College for Women.
- Hemish Kapoor's work got published on the Instagram handle of 'Poets Of India'.
- Manchit Kaur Sachdeva's writings got published on The Education Tree and is a contributing writer at Inspiration Unlimited e-magazine.
- Ishita Dutt's blog post got selected for Tangy Tuesday Picks at BlogAdda.
- Jasnoor Kaur's story "Self Esteem" got published in DU Journal DUVIDHA.