

Dear Friends,

The extraordinary generosity of hundreds of supporters made Libana's transformative three week tour performing, teaching and making cultural connections across North India an amazing reality. There were many deep experiences last February, but somehow this story of just one day in India exemplifies Libana's essence:

Before leaving Boston, we arranged for a stay at **Barefoot College** in rural Rajasthan, which included Libana giving a concert. Once there, we were unprepared for how moving we would find the profoundly inspired, visionary, society-transforming work that we witnessed, and the peaceful, warm hospitality with which we were welcomed. Led by our wonderful guide and brother-in-spirit Ram Niwas (himself a wonderful singer and puppeteer), we learned about the school's commitment to help solve issues that face rural communities across India and around the world. Village people (mostly illiterate grandmothers!) from many cultures are trained in usable skills such as solar energy and water technology, healthcare, and rural artisan handcraft development—all of which help to empower women in creating sustainable change in their societies. Our concert that evening evolved into a transcendent international musical exchange on a solar-energy lit stage under the stars. Orchestrated by the inspired vision of Ram Niwas, Libana's music was spontaneously interwoven with spirited sharings of songs and dances from all the international women students. Kenyans, Guatemalans, Jordanians, Rajasthanis, Americans . . . we were one united world that powerful solar-illuminated and moonlit night.

(To read more about Libana's journey to India, visit our travel blog: journals.worldnomads.com/libana)

After 32 seasons as a non-profit arts organization living and actualizing its mission of connecting cultures through global music and dance, Libana is struggling to survive in this profoundly challenging financial climate. We know we are not alone. Many other non-profit organizations and arts groups are in the same boat, and we are equally aware that these times are a challenge for many individually. Yet the state of the arts in America—so vital for the wellbeing of our collective soul—is in deep trouble, and Libana is at a critical juncture.

***We are asking you to help Libana survive.
Transcending daunting financial challenges demands an innovative approach,
and we are rising to the occasion. Here are five ways you can help Libana!***

1) Please donate generously to Libana this fall. Your tax-deductible gift will insure that Libana's artistry will continue to inspire, heal, educate, and connect on a global level. We have new repertoire ready to develop and exciting projects to manifest—all requiring funds and the support of our small yet mighty organizational team. As a thank you gift for a donation of \$125 or more, you will receive a complimentary copy of our new (drum roll) . . .

2) *Women of India ~ Travels with Libana 2012 Wall Calendar!*

Lovingly compiled from 7000 artful photographs documenting Libana's experience in India, this lush full-color, 12 x 13 glossy calendar is dedicated to the peaceful spirit, determined strength, abundant creativity and radiant dignity of India's 600 million women. **With the holiday season approaching, we are sure you'll want to give a copy of this soul-expanding calendar to everyone you know!** Your purchase supports Libana as well as the inspired work of three organizations that opened their doors and hearts to us while in India:

- * **Barefoot College** in Tilonia, Rajasthan
- * **SEWA/Self-Employed Women's Association** based in Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- * **The Tibet Hope Center** in Dharamsala, Himachal Pradesh

Visit libana.com to see a sample calendar page and to place your order!

3) Libana's *Artisans of India Holiday Marketplace!* This idea was hatched in Gujarat, while sitting in a small room learning about traditional cutwork appliqué techniques from the women of a fabric artisan collective. We invite you to come do your first stint of holiday shopping with Libana!

SAVE THE DATES ~ Mark your calendars now!
Saturday, December 3rd (10am-6pm) & Sunday, December 4th (11am-6pm)
Third Life Studio, 33 Union Square, Somerville, MA (for directions: thirdlifestudio.com/directions)

This *Mela*, as it would be called in India, will feature some of the beautiful artistic craft work that Libana watched being created in India last winter. Additionally, all Libana's CDs, songbooks, and our new *Women of India* calendar will be available. **Food, fun and cameo performances by Libana throughout the day!**

4) Libana is embarking on the creation of an exciting multimedia presentation—*Journey to India*. This musical and visual ode to the soul, spirit and vision of India will include new repertoire, storytelling, live music and dance, and photo/video projection of images from our travels. Celebrating the one year anniversary of our departure to Delhi, Libana will debut this performance the weekend of February 4-6, 2012. Save these dates and stay tuned for more information. *Journey to India* will add a new program offering and increase Libana's performance opportunities. **Your generous donation will support the creation of this depthful artistic presentation.**

5) Our popular Winter Solstice Sale is back! From October 15th through December 21st, Libana's collection of CDs and songbooks will be on sale. Visit libana.com for details, and please consider giving the gift of our music and our new calendar to your friends, family and colleagues this holiday season.

We are grateful for your support in all the ways it is given.

Your donation and purchase of our music, songbooks, and calendar are life-sustaining for Libana.

With appreciation,

Susan Robbins, *Founder and Artistic Director*

P.S. Remember, donate \$125 or more and you will receive a *Women of India* calendar as a thank you gift!

P.P.S. You can follow us on Facebook and Twitter! [facebook.com/Libanamusic](https://www.facebook.com/Libanamusic) twitter.com/Libanamusic



LIBANA: Allison Coleman, Marytha Paffrath, Linda Ugelow, Susan Robbins, Lisa Bosley, Cheryl Weber
SEWA landless women's treegrowers collective, Ganesh Pur, Gujarat (Photo: Jared Mattes)

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