

Dear Members,

As I write this final newsletter of my Presidency, it is difficult to believe that the year has gone by with such ferocious alacrity. In the end I concluded that WIC is what it has always been all about: the bonding, new friendships being formed and old friendships that continue getting stronger and I feel fortunate and honoured to have spent my year with women of such high principles and values.

Our Annual Gala Night held on March 7, 2007 - had as our Chief Guest, The Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco, H.E. Mr. Larbi Moukharig. The event was indeed very well attended and was duly appreciated.

I am sure those of you who attended will concur that Shivani did us proud. She gave a lot of her professional time to choreograph and emcee the show, brought Morocco alive with dancing from its various regions. The lighting was an important segment as it transformed an already beautiful location into a fairyland.....Shivani and Hassina (the daughter of the Ambassador) gelled beautifully together and were ably supported by some of our sporting members and the Moroccan team.

The music was sensational, so much so that the guests happily danced their way to the dinner which was a feast produced by Chef Gaurav. The spirit of the evening had us dancing till two the morning.

A big thank you to Shirin, our ever gracious hostess for her generosity, hospitality and warmth. Preparing for the event was a lot of fun which led to even more bonding. A special mention to The DJ and the choice of music. To Shirin's staff and to Mr. Banerjee for synchronizing and for helping us with all the arrangements: big and small.

We decided at the beginning of the year to concentrate on fellowship which task Shawn and her committee undertook with utmost sincerity and did a great job. I was glad that at least 4/5 from my Executive Committee found the time to attend almost all Circle and General Meetings which in turn made for good bonding and keeping in touch with a majority of the general members. By and large all programmes were exciting and thought-provoking with not only prominent Guest Speakers but also some of our own members greatly adding to the process. A special mention to each one of our participating members for their support and encouragement. And to those of you whom I came to, from time to time, to seek advice in order that total transparency was never lost sight of.

A genuine acknowledgement to our hostesses for their generosity in hosting both Circle and General Meetings. Once again, however, I cannot help repeat the sadness I feel when members fail to turn up after confirming attendance.

Out of the 33 applicants ( three of whom were passed on by the last committee) Membership has selected 31. Out of these we have 22 in the International category, 7 in the Indian category and 2 I think come into the 10% foreign category. Thank you Gugu and Norma for the effort you have both put in this regard. To the new members I extend a warm welcome and I request all to take advantage of the interesting programmes our leaders prepare ,to participate, lend your homes and most importantly enjoy the camaraderie and friendship which WIC offers.

Finally a big thank you to everyone for reposing confidence in me and my Executive Committee. My thanks too to Emma Horne and her Nomination Committee for preparing the new slate for 07-08.

May I wish Fleni Spachi and her new Committee all the best for their year ahead. Needless to say I will be happy to assist in any way I can .

Warm regards

Vinu Baig