



# WIC *News*

April 2005

## GENERAL MEETING

### KASTURBA GANDHI

Kasturba was a figure of national significance in the history of our Independence movement and after her death Mahatma Gandhi established the Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust with the specific object of working towards the welfare of the poorest and weakest women in rural India. This Trust is celebrating 60 years of its existence this year.

Because of the historical importance of this milestone Dr. Savita Singh, Director, Gandhi Smriti has not only offered to host the occasion but, in a short discourse, will also give us an insightful perspective on the subject. A point to be noted is that Gandhi Smriti is particularly poignant because this was where Mahatma Gandhi spent the last days of his life and here is where the assassination took place.

- 3.00 p.m. Members and Guests at the Gandhi Smriti to offer a short prayer, which will last about 5 minutes.
- 3.15 p.m. Dr. Savita Singh will speak to us for 15-20 minutes.
- 3.30 p.m. Great grand-daughter of Kasturba and Mahatma Gandhi, Mrs. Sukanya Bharatram will talk about the Trust.
- 3.45 p.m. We are hopeful that Mrs. Tara Bhattacharjee - grand daughter of Kasturba and Mahatma Gandhi will honour us as Chief Guest & speak of her childhood reminiscences.
- 4.00 p.m. Tea will be served. After tea we will go round the museum, which is absolutely delightful.
- Guests are welcome as this meeting promises to be a rather Special occasion.

**Wednesday, April 13th, 3.00 p.m. Sharp**  
At Gandhi Smriti, 5, Tees January Marg,  
New Delhi

## ***PRESIDENT'S LETTER***

Dear Members,

The much dreaded E.G.M is over though the issues have not been solved at least they have been aired.

However, the E.G.M displayed a tendency among some members to show a mistrust regarding the functioning of the Club and its fellow members.

As such members of long standing have taken offense at this intense desire to get their personal views across.

The Club is meant for cultural and social interaction and as such it behooves us to treat each other with respect and dignity.

The weather Gods have been kind to us. Just when we thought summer was round the corner the "rain Gods" showered us with their blessings and now we can enjoy the last few days of Spring.

March is a month of gourmet food, Goanese and Parsi food to help us put in some unwanted calories!!.

That reminds me that at the last cuisine 51 members had signed up and only 22 showed up. Yana put in a lot of effort and it's a shame it went a begging. Please don't sign up if you can not attend.

I would like to thank Peggy Sood and her committee for the new slate of office bearers.

With all the best



Mona Aggarwal

### **GALA NIGHT - PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The Gala Night was a huge success and in fact we were over subscribed. Everyone enjoyed the food and the ambience. Thank you members for your support.

I would like to thank the following members for their generous gifts as door prizes:

Rekha Kirpalani, Sushma Nanda, Sudarshana Gurdial Singh, Sunita Rattan Lall, Sybill-von-Welch, Anicia See, Imke Borner.

Mona Aggarwal

## About our trip to Hampi and Mysore - 22.02.05 - 28.02.05

After endless phone calls and some meetings we finally started the trip, our first day, on 22nd of February 2005 early in the morning flying with Air Sahara to Bangalore. Sheila acted like a mother hen organizing her chicks.

In Bangalore some met friends or did sight seeing. At 10.00 p.m. In the evening we boarded the Hampi Express for Hospet and arrived early next morning, more or less crumpled.

From Hospet to Hampi the "Srt. Sheila Ghatate Group" was brought in four cars to two different hotels. One was a wilderness resort called "Boulders", situated between huge boulders in the middle of nowhere, the other accommodation was KSTDC Hotel in Hampi itself. The "Boulders" experienced adventurous river crossings in a kind over dimensional bread-baskets.

The second day started with an introduction about Hampi, the capital of the vast Hindu kingdom of the Vijayanagar covering almost all of Southern India, given by the director of the museum. He himself was leading the excavation works in the 80's and was an enthusiastic archeologist.

Armed with umbrellas, sunglasses, hats and water bottles we stumbled over ancient walls and steps, melting in the heat of midday, and admired the remains of beautiful stone carving and architecture.

A wonderful recovery we found in an alternative little restaurant under a huge mango tree overlooking the most charming landscape along a riverside.

The Third day we drove a convoy of four Qualis to the beautiful temples of Aihole and Pattadakal, 4th and 5th century and magnificent rock temples of Badami, overlooking the lake of Agastryatirtha in the setting sun.

Before leaving by overnight train back to Bangalore we were shown and explained the ruins of the royal palaces, the queens bath, huge step wells and other remains of the ancient royal city of Hampi on our fourth day.

Bleary-eyed and hungry we started our fifth day, boarding a coach, which brought us to the Southern Star Hotel in Hassan. Part of the group had left in Bangalore for Delhi. After a substantial breakfast, pooja and tank filling, we finally left for the temples of Halebid and Belur of the Hoysala period and could admire the most elaborate stone carvings, The sun stood high and we desperately jumped from one hot stone slab to the other. After another three-hours ride we reached the hotel in Hassan and fell to bed.

On our sixth day we left by coach after breakfast for Mysore. In Mysore itself we first drove on Camundi hill to pay a visit to the Camundeshvari - temple and enjoyed the spectacular view over Mysore. A short glimpse at a huge Nandi and an extended sightseeing tour through the fairy tale palace of the Maharajas of Mysore, which is enormously decorated from floor to ceiling with paintings, tiles and crystals from all over the world - an Indian "Neuschwanstein" - followed before we returned to the hotel to prepare for our highlight of the tour. Thanks to Gita Devi the Maharaja of Mysore had invited us for a dinner party. At night the castle looked even more like a fairy tale. Millions of bulbs illuminated the outlines of the buildings. Colorful painted elephants, camels, bulls and horses, soldiers with silver lances, music and dancers welcomed us in the courtyard. We felt like being taken back into another century. We enjoyed very much the warm hospitality, the cocktails and a wonderful dinner and last not least flowers and little presents given by His Highness. We kind of floated back to the hotel and into our beds. It was a unique and wonderful experience and evening.

On the seventh and last day, 28th February 2005, the bust brought us back to Bangalore. On the way we visited the summer palace of Tipu Sultan and learnt a lot about worms, cocoons and silk in picturesque villages.

To the airport, into the plane, jumpers on - Delhi had us back.

Thank you very much Mona Aggarwal, Sheila Ghatate, Zakia Zaheer and Yasmita Mehta. You had worked so hard for us. It was a wonderful tour, funny, most interesting, beautiful, sometimes exhausting, hot and wet.

Sibylle von Welch

## FOCUS-I

### *Why we need to save the Tigers* by Brij Sharma

Brij Sharma, a Wildlife Conservationist and Executive Director for "Tiger Initiative Group for Earth Revival" - T.I.G.E.R. - will show a short film, talk to us about his work and explain why it is important for nature to save the Tigers.

Wednesday , 27th April 2005,  
at **3.00 p.m.**  
At the home of Veena Dass  
27, Aurangzeb Road,  
Tel; 23010128  
Limit: 40

## HEALTH

### *First Aid* Dr. Shakuntala Dawesar

What to do in a case of medical emergency while you wait for the doctor to arrive.

Have you ever been a helpless spectator because you didn't know what to do when:

1. Someone had a epilectic fit
2. A child has pushed a peanut up his nostrils.
3. A kitchen mishap causes profuse bleeding of the hand
4. A teen aged daughter begins to hyperventilate
5. And on more such occasions?

Dr, Dawesar is here to tell us about some of these situations and how not to panic.

Wednesday, 20th April 2005,  
at **3.00 p.m.**  
At the home of Deepak Chopra  
E-2, Defence Colony,  
Tel: 24338844  
Limit: 50

## FOCUS-II

### *India in slow motion* by Mark Tully,

The well-known journalist and author Mark Tully will tell us about his latest book 'India in slow motion' and about his own life.

Thursday, 14th April 2005,  
at **3.00 p.m.**

At the home of Nadia Schmid  
N-20 Panchsheel Park, New Delhi  
Tel: 26496519  
Limit: 50

## CULTURE

### *European Influences on Indian Art* by Fiorenza Richter

Art historian Fiorenza Richter will talk about European Influences on Indian Art which started appearing in the second half of the 19th century. Ravi Verma was the great artist of this period. It was well established in the works of Amrita Shergill in the 1920-30, and then it further developed into forms of modern art like cubism and expressionism.

Thursday, 7th April 2005  
at **3.00 p.m.**

At the home of Fiorenza Richter,  
German Embassy, Chanakyapuri  
Tel: 26880209  
Limit: 60

## TRIPS AND TOURS

### *Eastern European Tour* May 2005

A fascinating tour of Eastern Europe, covering Prague, Budapest, Vienna and Warsaw is planned for May. Please contact the group leaders for details at the earliest.

## GERMAN COFFEE MORNING

Artist Mira Bischoffs will give a talk on her paintings and art work.  
German speaking members are welcome.

Please inform Vaneeta latest by 10th April if you are attending the meeting

Thursday 14th April 2005  
at **11.00 am.**

At Vaneeta Podewils' home  
136, Golf Links,  
Tel: 24651638; Mob: 9891666765

## FRENCH COFFEE MORNING

Monday 4th April 2005 &  
Monday 24th April 2005  
at **10.30 a.m.**

At the home of Marie-Anne Derron  
B-32, Malcha Marg,  
Tel: 24121093  
Please do inform us

## THE RESULTS OF THE E.G.M.,

61, Members were present.

I want honoured members	15 Yes	39 No	3 did not vote.
Membership			
1. Status Quo	15 Yes	7 No	35 Did not vote
2. Re apply after 2 years	9 Yes	7 No	41 Did not vote
3. Re apply 6 months before expiry of membership if accepted to become permanent	33 yes	6 No	18 Did not vote
To change "Blood" to Family	34 yes	16 No	7 did not vote

Members please read the constitution of 2002. We have to rectify the constitution once and for all.  
If any member has any more suggestions please send it in writing to me by April 30th so that it can  
be discussed at the A.G.M.

I look forward to your co-operation so that we can revert back to the old spirit of friendship. Let us  
settle things amicably for "in quarreling the truth is always lost" - Publilius Syrus.

I would like to be grateful to Kiran Anand, Nitti Judge and Seita Vaidialingam for being the tellers  
at E.G.M.

## Slate of Officers for the Club Year 2005-06

The Committee on Nominations is please to announce the slate of officers for the 2005-06 Woimen's International Club Year.

President:	Yana Moonesinghe	Sri Lanka
First Vice President:	Kiran Anand	India
Second Vice President:	Shawn Runacres	United Kingdom
Treasurer:	Niru Kapur	India
Secretary:	Maya Caroli	India
Hospitality:	Yasmita Mehta	Kenya
Newsletter:	Emma Horne	United Kingdom
Membership:	Nandita Lahiri	India

As per the constitution, this slate will be announced at the April General Meeting. Should there be any nominations from the floor for a particular post, they will be accepted at the time provided that the written consent of the nominee has been taken in advance and is presented with the nomination.

The slate as presented will be endorsed by the membership at the General Meeting in May, and, if necessary, a ballot election will be held for particular posts should there be any floor nominations in April.

The Committee on Nominations wishes to thank the nominees for their generous spirit of service to the club in their willingness to give their time, energy and creativity to club affairs in the coming year.

The Chair of the committee Nominations wishes to acknowledge the extraordinary commitment made by the members of the Committee on Nominations:

Deepak Chopra	India
Annie Howard	United Kingdom
Shanno Khurana	India
Pammi Nath	India
Josefina Young	Spain
Hala Zahran	Egypt

Each member worked diligently to inform prospective nominees of the roles and responsibilities of the offices. Each member was cooperative, thorough in deliberations and generous with her time.

Peggy Sood,  
Chair  
Committee on Nominations

## Events Calender April 2005

- Thursday 7th April, 3.00 p.m.** Culture, at the home of Fiorenza Richter, German Embassy, Chanakyapuri
- Wednesday, 13th April, 3.00 p.m.** General Meeting, at Gandhi Smriti, 5 Tees January Marg New Delhi.
- Thursday, 14th April, 3.00 p.m.** Focus-II, at the home of Nadia Schmid, N-20, Panchsheel Park, New Delhi.
- Wednesday, 20th April, 3.00 p.m.** Health, at the home of Deepak Chopra, E-2, Defence Colony, New Delhi
- Wednesday, 27th April, 3.00 p.m.** Focus-I, at the home of Veena Dass, 27, Aurangzeb Road, New Delhi.

## WIC Committee 2004-05

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Sophia Blake, Hospitality  
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Sushma Nanda, Treasurer  
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## Circle Leaders

**CUSINE:** Bapsi Nariman  
Kiran Anand  
Bubbles Suneja

**CULTURE:** Shameem  
Varadarajan  
Benu Bharany

**FOCUS:** Sunaina Aggarwal  
Radhika Birla  
Rita Gharekhan

**HEALTH:** Dr. Shankuntla Dawesar  
Sarita Kakar  
Neena Maslhotra

**TRIPS  
&  
TOURS** Sheila Ghatate,  
Zakia Zaheer  
Yasmita Mehta