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L.M.

1994

W I C NEWS



A u g u s t

Dear Members,

Welcome to the Monsoon session of WIC. This is a time for rains, when the swirling hot, moist winds reach a feverish pitch. It is a time for the peacock's call, a time for frolic and romance, as clouds gather over the horizon. Suddenly there is darkness at noon and the sky stabbed with lightening. And then the very heavens seem to break open as the world is washed in an exultant deluge.

The Monsoons are also a time for festivities. It was on one such rain-soaked night that Krishna was born to young Vasudev and Devaki in prison in Mathura. A prophecy had warned Devaki's brother, King Kansa, that he would meet his end at the hands of his own nephew. In anger and fear, the King had Vasudev and Devaki clamped behind bars. But miraculously on that dark tempestuous night of Janmashtmi, when Krishna was born, the prison guards slept as the doors swung open and the waters of the swollen Jamuna river parted to allow Vasudev to transport his little bundle to joy to the safety of nearby Brindaban.



Thus began the early joyous years of Krishna which have become an inspiration for some of India's finest music, dance and painting. In keeping with this occasion, we re-enact for you at our General Meeting the love story of Radha and Krishna, as immortalised in the love poem *Gita Govinda*. As the Newsletter shows, some of our Circle activities will also echo the various moods of this season.

While on the subject of General Meetings, the organization of which, we all know, takes a lot of work, we came across a happy little clause in the Constitution which enables the Second Vice President to appoint a sub-committee to assist her, if necessary. We are availing ourselves of this useful clause. Usha is trying to

organise her sub-committee and hopes to keep coming up with programmes as beautiful and interesting as this one.

August is also the month of Raksha Bandhan when sisters tie the sacred thread on the wrists of their brothers as a symbol of protection. Poet Rabindranath Tagore used Raksha Bandhan to signify universal brotherhood. At WIC let us elevate this beautiful ceremonial to signify sisterhood among the different nations of the world which are assembled here today.

On behalf of the executive committee I would like to thank Mary Brill and her committee for a smooth and gracious transition. I would like to compliment last year's committee and Circle leaders for having taken the club to great heights. We, this year, are getting our mountain climbing equipment together and hope also to scale some peaks!

I have indeed been given a very gifted committee and, together with the talented Circle leaders who have agreed to help us, this year promises to be very rewarding for me. I hope you will share my feelings.

We shall be delighted if you would come forward and offer programmes, or suggestions for programmes. It is very important that you do so, so that we can continue being a club by the members, of the members, for the members.

I extend a hearty welcome to all new members and bid adieu to those leaving us. We hope you will help to carry the torch of WIC burning wherever you go.

Sincerely,

Nayana Goradia
Nayana Goradia, President.

The Month's Programmes

August

General Meeting



Madhavi Mudgal, the renowned Odissi artiste, will present "The Role of *Gita Govinda* in the Odissi Dance Repertoire". Her dance will be accompanied by explanations and slide projections. *Gita Govinda* is a poem describing the love of Radha and Krishna, written by the 13th-century poet Jayadeva.

Wednesday August 10th, 3 pm, at Taj Mahal Hotel Mansingh Road.

Monday 1st August 10.30 am at the residence of Shyama Gurbachan Singh, 12 Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi. Tel: 3329611.

Mr S.L. Sehgal, who gave regular yoga lessons on television for several years, has worked with WHO and is teaching adults at the American School, has agreed to teach our members. His series will be **YOGA IN EVERYDAY LIFE**. The first lesson will deal with scientific breathing and how Yoga helps in digestion, elimination and circulation. Numbers limited to 15.



Visual Arts Circle

August 5th at 10.30 am at the home of Maggie Knight - 1/29 Shanti Niketan.

Two beautiful films from England. One, narrated by HRH Prince Charles, shows us the magnificent architecture, stone carving, woodwork and stained-glass windows of Wells Cathedral in Somerset. It illustrates how the Preservation Trust is working to restore and preserve this masterpiece.

The second film is about the work of the National Trust, which acquires and maintains stately homes and areas of outstanding natural beauty. Both half-hour films show lovely scenes of the English countryside, as well as encouraging us all to preserve our cultural heritage for future generations.

Culture Circle

A Visit to the National Museum Jewellery Collection, Thursday 18th August, 3 pm.

Of the thousand plus items of jewellery in the National Museum, which contains specimens from a time-span of nearly five millenia, 243 have been selected for display in its newly established jewellery gallery. This is the first gallery in India where jewellery is on permanent exhibition.

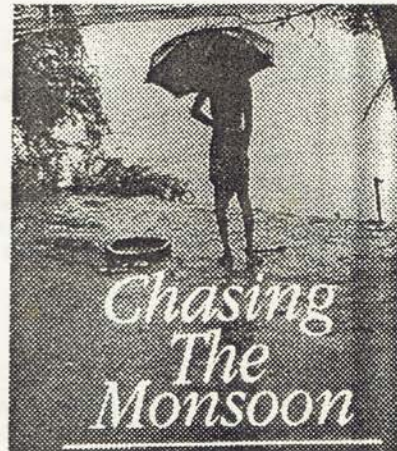
The lure of gold for Indians is legendary. The use of yellow metal along with others, decorated with precious and semi-precious gems, for fabrication of ornaments of exquisite beauty, has been in vogue since time immemorial. This has resulted in a fascinating art form manifested in design and manufacture of ornaments for wear on every part of the body from head to toe, to enhance the natural beauty of the human form. Besides personal ornamentation for both men and women, precious stones set in gold were used to design virtually every object of Royal use. Jewellery was also lavished on the Gods and Goddesses in various temples around the country.

The eminent scholar Dr Rita Devi Sharma will be our guide. She is Keeper: Numismatics and Epigraphy and in charge of the Jewellery collection.

Book Circle

In this month's choice, *Chasing the Monsoon*, Alexander Frater escorts the reader on a watery journey through the Indian Sub-Continent in pursuit of an understanding of the Monsoon.

Perhaps because of his birth amidst a torrential rainstorm on a small island in the South-West Pacific, Frater is obsessed with the power and magic of the Monsoon. This travelogue-cum weather treatise educates as it entertains the reader.



Alexander Frater's book is a wonderful amalgam of the beauty, strength, untamed power, frightening ferocity and gentleness of the monsoon rains that nourish our lives and the lives of the nation.

Financial Express.

Wednesday August 24th at 3 pm at the home of Gayle Gathercole, Bungalow 5, British High Commission, Shanti Path, New Delhi. Tel: 8672161 ext 2497. Numbers restricted to 30.

Performing Arts Circle

Friday 19th August at 3 pm. Mrs Rashmi Kapur, 3 Aurangzeb Lane. Tel: 3013193

We begin our Performing Arts meetings with a flute recital by SHRI BYOMKESH BANERJEE. The flute is considered to be one of the oldest musical instruments in the world and in India it has a special place being associated with Lord Krishna. Disciple of the renowned flautist Shri Pannalal Ghosh, Byomkesh Banerjee is a well known figure in



the field of music. He has directed music for documentary films, dance, drama, theatre and operas. For our members he will play afternoon ragas. Members are invited to have a question and answer session with him after the recital. Byomkesh Banerjee will be accompanied on the Tabla by

KARAN ASWATHI and on the Tanpura by NEELIMA BANERJEE

Noticeboard

Welcome to our new members!

Loes de Beer (Netherlands)	4 Amrita Shergill Marg New Delhi 11 00 03 Tel: 4611979	Loes is a teacher and reflexologist. She is interested in astrology, the piano and singing.
Gisela Elias (Germany)	4 Bhagwan Dass Road New Delhi Tel: 384188	Gisela is a physician. Her field is gynaecology and tropical medicine. She is interested in music and gardening.
Chrysanthe Epaminondas (Cyprus)	18 Friends Colony West New Delhi 11 00 65 Tel: 6830153	Chrysanthe is a teacher of mathematics and economics. She loves cooking and music, and plays the violin.
Lyd Hienkens (Netherlands)	26 Sunder Nagar New Delhi 11 00 03 Tel: 4632801	Lyd was a ballet teacher for 26 years. She has now been a yoga teacher for 4 years. She enjoys cookery, golf, singing, tennis and bridge.
Claudia Le Lay (Switzerland)	19A Amrita Shergill Marg New Delhi 11 00 21 Tel: 4611517	Claudia had a humanitarian job, then moved into publishing. She is interested in folk art, sculpture and the socio-economic field. She has practiced Tai Chi.
Helga Peterlik (Austria)	EP-13 Chandragupta Marg New Delhi 11 00 21 Tel: 6886834	Helga studied medicine but did not have the opportunity to finish. She is interested in languages and music. She was a member of WIC in Hong Kong and Bangkok, as well as being a founder member of WIC in Prague.
Forooz Ragaglini (Italy)	24 Prithviraj Road New Delhi 11 00 21 Tel: 3011750	Forooz has worked in cable TV. She is interested in Indian culture and cookery.
Sarrah Salama (Egypt)	7-50 Niti Marg New Delhi 11 00 21 Tel: 6872059	Sarrah is interested in medicine and in different cultures. She is good at languages.
Annie Scott-Morey (UK)	57 Sunder Nagar New Delhi, 11 00 03 Tel: 4610556	Annie has a background in PR work. She is studying Hindi and meditation, and is interested in old books, homeopathic and ayurvedic medicine and travel.
Angeliki Theophilou (Greece)	35 Vasant Marg New Delhi 11 00 57 Tel: 6874892	Angeliki is interested in all aspects of Indian culture, especially Indian dance. She loves yoga, swimming, cooking and singing.

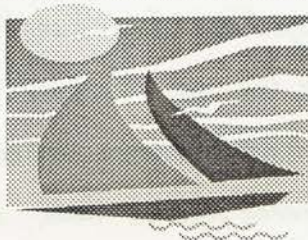
Goodbye and Good Luck!

^{Mary Brill}
Claudia Deiss, Beatrice Kosian, Jean Gurney, Jane Leblanc, Yasukeo Tachibana, Sekartami Harun,
Gunilla Kettis, Eva Joutsen, Brigitte McKenzie, ^{Madan Lal Lu, Lubica Chlebo} Dannielle Lanneverc, Inge Paynter,
Soon-Hui Renard, Rebecca McCullough, Sadia Akram and Myriam Guye di Gioia...
WE'LL MISS YOU ALL!

Getting Away to Gujarat...

If you are keen on Jain Temples, embroidered textiles, crazily extravagant palaces, archeological digs and charming, pleasant Mediterranean-style towns on the shores of the Arabian Sea...then our October expedition to

Excursions



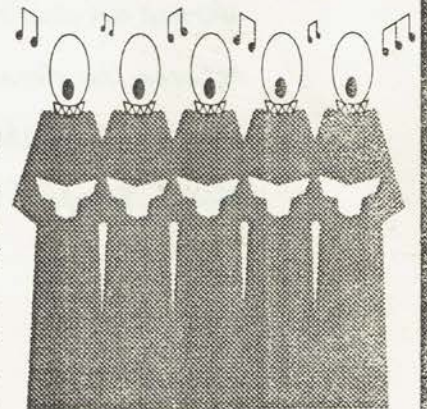
rarely-travelled corners of Gujarat is for you. An added attraction is that early October is when every town is filled with festive dancers in brilliant colours whirling in the traditional 'garbah' dance of Gujarat. We will give you dates, cost and details of accomodation next month, but meanwhile be sure to leave October 10 - 15 open on your calendar.

An Appeal!

Please help us to look after you better. **Ensure that you return your cards to Jyostna Govil at the latest by the third Wednesday of the month.** Constraints of space sometimes force us to limit the numbers. If you have put your name down for a limited programme please confirm your attendance with the Hostess over the telephone before the programme. Please remember to inform her well in advance if you are unable to attend for any reason. Your courtesy will make it possible for a fellow member to enjoy a good programme. Thank you for your co-operation.

The Sound of Music

WIC members who are interested in Western Music do come and join us in singing on Thursdays starting September 1st. Instrumentalists also welcome. We plan to put on two special performances this year for the club: one special classical evening of Schubert and one of popular music. Husbands are welcome to join in the performance. As long as you have a pretty voice you do not have to read music. So come with a song in your heart and enjoy yourselves. If you are interested please get in touch with Bapsi Nariman, tel: 6862980 or Loes de Beer, tel: 4611979.



Monsoon Time....

The first shower was smelly and undramatic. Now there is a new India - damp and grey, and but for the unusual animals I might think myself in England. The full Monsoon broke violently, and upon my undefended form. I was under a little shelter in the garden, sowing seeds in boxes with the assistance of two aged men and a little boy. I saw black clouds and felt some spots of rain. This went on for a quarter of an hour so that I got accustomed to it, and then a wheel of water swept horizontally over the ground. The aged men clung to each other for support. I don't know what happened to the boy. I bowed this way and that as the torrent veered, wet through of course, but anxious not to be blown away like the roof of palm leaves over our head. When the storm decreased or rather became perpendicular, I set out for the palace, large boats of mud forming on either foot. A rescue expedition consisting of an umbrella and a servant set out to meet me, but the umbrella blew inside out and the servant fell down.

Since then there have been some more fine storms, with lightning very ornamental and close. The birds fly about with large pieces of paper in their mouths. They are late like everyone else in their preparations against the rough weather and hope to make a nest straight off, but the wind blows the paper around their heads like a shawl and they grow alarmed and drop it. The temperature is now variable, becomes very hot between the storms, but on the whole things have improved. I feel much more alert and able to concentrate. The heat made me feel so stupid and sleepy, though I kept perfectly well.

E.M. Forster. "The Hill of Devi."

Executive Committee 1994/95

President	Nayana Goradia (India)	4617859/5703
1st Vice President	Gayle Gathercole (UK)	6872161 ext 2497
2nd Vice President	Usha Venkateshwaran (India)	2250730
Secretary	Leena Singh (Nepal)	6844204
Treasurer	Maya Caroli (India)	6863936/6853020
Hospitality	Jyotsna Govil (India)	664787
Membership	Ghazala Malik (Pakistan)	6876885
Newsletter	Jane Walker (UK)	6872161 ext 2496

Circle Leaders for 1994/95

Book Circle	Janet Chawla (U.S.)	4611821
	Gopika Nath (India)	631841
Performing Arts	Shanno Khuranna (India)	4617236
	Yuni Mochny (Indonesia)	6461458
Visual Arts	Susan Fenn (UK)	6872161
	Bindu Talwar (India)	6831242
Excursions	Sheila Ghatate (India)	3329823
	Candy Rohde (US)	674854
Cultural	Galina Drukova (Russia)	6885009
	Shyama Gurbachan Singh (India)	3329611
Focus	Nima Malhotra (India)	6831080
	Jennifer Smith (UK)	6881880
Gourmet/Garden	Josefina Young (Spain)	678593
	Meenu Dugal (India)	8340010
Yoga	Anita Meattle (India)	3012289
	Lyd Hienkens (Netherlands)	4632801