

1994

W I C NEWS



December

Dear Members,

Merry Christmas to you all! This is a time for goodwill and cheer, Yule log and mince-pies, holly and mistletoe, carols and madrigals, Santa Claus and fir-trees, jingle-bells and rides on one-horse open-sleighs. A time when our thoughts go back to the wondrous holy, silent night when Christ was born in a little town called Bethlehem.

To many of our international members this must also be a time for thoughts of near and dear ones left behind. But take cheer, Gisela Elias opens up her home and hearth and invites us to savour the warmth and welcome of a traditional German Christmas. Come prepared for a festive tea and fun-filled afternoon organized by Gugu.

We have other treats awaiting you in December starting with a chamber concert of Schubert's music organized by Bapsi and Loes.

I have been meaning for some time to tell you more about our committee. Gayle, from Cleveland Ohio, put 'on hold' her long-standing career as a public relations special-events professional to follow her heart and her British husband into the Diplomatic Service. Usha travelled widely as an ambassador's wife, and is fluent in Russian, French, English, Tamil and Hindi. She is also a nutrition consultant and choreographer. Leena, from Nepal, graduated from Loretto college in Darjeeling and later studied interior

design in Delhi. Maya is from Lucknow and is an artist. Her speciality is china painting and oils. She also dabbles in ceramics. Jyotsna is actively associated with the Indian Cancer Society, being founder president of Sahyog, a support group for people living with cancer. She has written on the history and anthropology of the Andaman and Nicobar islands and produced three documentaries for Doordarshan. Ghazala likes to paint and has a diploma in ceramics and China painting. As the wife of a diplomat from Pakistan she has lived in Tokyo, Rome and Washington. A mother of two, Ghazala is fluent in Italian and is interested in social work. Jane hails from a musical family in the UK. Her instrument is the oboe and she has played in concerts in UK and Delhi. She also worked as producer with the BBC before coming out to India with her husband on a diplomatic posting. Like Leena, Jane has an adorable little daughter. I am a full-time housewife and a part-time historian who took

seven years to write a PhD thesis which most complete in three.

Finally a strong reminder to let us know *please* when you cannot attend a meeting you have signed up for. Do drop us a line, otherwise we shall have to write to you. And while we appreciate everyone's efforts to turn up to programmes on time, please don't, in your enthusiasm, come too early! It could seriously inconvenience the hostess.

Sincerely,
Nayana Goshia





The Month's Programmes December



General Meeting

At the home of Gisela Elias, 4 Bhagwan Das Road. Tel: 384188.

Our General Meeting, on **December 14th at 3 pm** will be the occasion to take time off from your Christmas shopping, mince-pie making and tree-dressing to enjoy an afternoon of pure fun in a traditional German seasonal style. Gisela Elias has invited us to gather by her Christmas Tree for a short introduction to

German Christmas customs and a performance of Christmas Carols by the children of the German School followed by some fun and games organised by Gugu Anup Singh. This will help you work up an appetite for a Festive Tea with special German Christmas delicacies.

Cultural Circle

The Russian Icon.

**Monday 8th December at 3 pm. Home of Galina Drukova,
Russian Embassy, Shanti Path, Chanakyapuri. Tel: 6110565.**

The Russian Icon was for ages the ultimate manifestation of the Russian People's search for spiritual and aesthetic ideals, a search that was parallel with the historic events in Old Russia. Russian Icon Painting, having absorbed Byzantium's enormous artistic heritage, by the Fourteenth Century, developed its own inimitable style, although each of them contained several distinctive trends going back to the archaic traditions of folklore or to the Byzantine patterns that had taken shape during the Palaeologan Renaissance.



Russian Orthodox Church, the adherents of the Old Faith, the Old believers, as they were called, began painstakingly to collect ancient Icons. In the second half of the Nineteenth Century many so-called Old Believers, the adherents of the old faith, became increasingly aware of the exceptional historical and cultural value of their collections. This coincided with a general growing interest in Old Russian painting, when the collecting of Icons became the vogue among virtually all sectors of Russian society. Eventually quite a few private

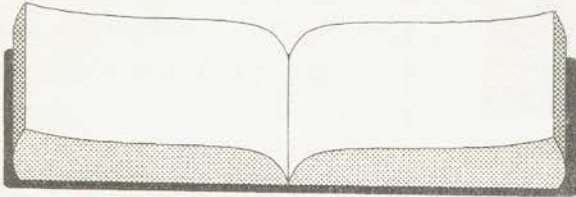
collections entered museums, one of which was the History Museum in Moscow, now holding over 6 000 Icons that constitute one of the largest assemblages in Russia.

In Russia, Icons were passed on from one generation to another with utmost care. They survived great fires that did not spare whole villages and towns. For centuries, monasteries and churches replenished their treasures of Icons. After the late seventeenth-century schism in the

A short programme with a demonstration of slides featuring some famous Russian Icons of 16th - 19th centuries will be held.

Book Circle

12th December at 3 pm. Home of Jyotsna Govil, G-29 Saket. Tel: 664787. Limit of 30

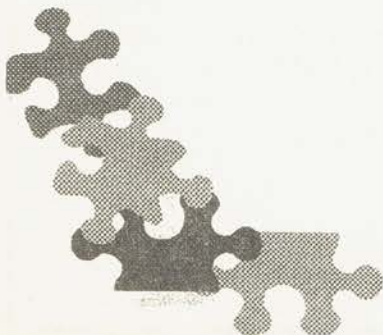


Our discussion this month will focus on *The Higher Education* of Geetika Mehendiratta by Anuradha Marwah Roy. The author will share with us her recent adaptation of the novel into a screenplay for Television. We will examine the differing dramatic elements of a 'good' novel and a 'good' television series as well as hear from the author about the travails of writing and re-writing. Ms Marwah Roy has also just finished her second novel.


Focus

Tuesday 6th at 3pm at the home of Minakshi Gupta, 35-A Friends Colony East, New Delhi 11 00 65 Tel: 6839072 and 6849046. Limited to 40 people.

Dr Janet Mules will talk to us about the menopause. Dr Mules is the Regional Psychiatrist for the American Embassy and has a special interest in womens' issues, in particular, the reproductive health of women.



Gourmet and Garden

Thursday, December 15th at 11.00 am at the Hyatt Hotel Senate Room.  Limited to 25 People.

You are invited to a demonstration of Cake Decorating given by the Executive Chef and the Pastry Chef. There will be an emphasis on the Festive Season so come and pick up some good ideas for this year's Christmas Cake. Refreshments and cake will be served after the demonstrations.

Performing Arts

Talk by Dr R. Raghava Menon: *The Indian Music Tradition and Comparison with Western Music.*

On December 16th at 3 pm at the home of Shanno Khuranna, C 42 Defence Colony, N. Delhi. Tel: 4617236 and 4693886.

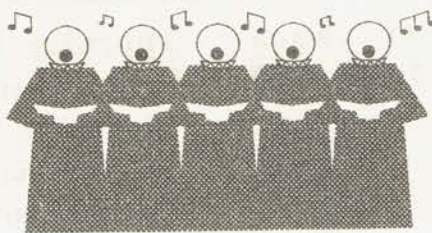
Dr Raghava Menon is a well known name in the music world. At present he is the Indian Music Critic for **Times of India** and Western music critic for **Hindustan Times**. An MA in political science and Msc in mathematics and a Phd from Columbia, Dr Menon studied Indian music for 12 years under Pandit Kushalkar in the old Guru Shishkya tradition. Then, after 18 years in business Dr Raghava entered Academic life and became Director of the Educational Resources Centre of the University of the State of New York until retirement in 1984.

Dr Menon has also lectured in Europe and written several books on music. His latest is about Ustad Amjad Ali Khan.

Come and hear an evening of music by Schubert: for piano, flute and voices.

Special Programme

Directed by Zohra Shaw, the chorus will perform a group of songs including a beautiful setting of the 23rd Psalm and will be joined by some of their husbands for mixed-choir settings of *An die Music* (To Music) and *Who is Sylvia*. There will be 30 - 35 singers for the concert which



means that the participants and their better halves will already be a large number. So the venue

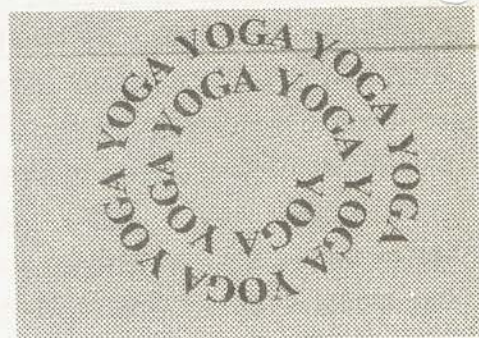
has been changed to the residence of the French Ambassador, 2/50 Nyaya Marg

where Madame Anne-Marie Petit has very kindly consented to host the evening on 2nd December at 6.30 pm. There will now be room for 90 in the audience so do come and join us.

Circle leaders: Loes de Beer and Bapsi Nariman.

Yoga Session, Monday 5th, 10.30 am, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel Health Club.

Achieve total fitness for body and mind! Balance strength and harmony through perfect alignment and precision. We continue the "Iyenagar method" with Beata Stier who has been teaching Yoga for the past 13 years. Tea and coffee will be served by the poolside. Restricted to 12 participants.



Visual Arts Circle

Friday 9th December. Home of Susan Fenn, 2 Rajaji Marg, 3 pm.

Those of you who are staying away from Rajasthan for fear of the malaria epidemic can be transported there in their imaginations through a fascinating talk and slide show. It will be given by Aman Nath, co-author of *Painted Walls of Shekhawati*, who is no stranger to frequenters of Delhi's visual arts events. He will draw on his latest book *Jaipur - The Last Destination* to regale us with lesser known facts about Jaipur and will tell us anecdotes about Kings, jewels, and Royal scandals. Why was Jaipur the 'last destination'? Come and find out!



Please note.....

The new address books are here at last and being distributed at the moment. We hope nobody has found any errors in their entry after our repeated requests for updates.

But unfortunately we already have to apologise to Thelma Brown, whose name was mistakenly omitted from the honorary members list and to Nandini Pattani, whose address was somehow left out altogether. 5 Man Singh Road, Delhi 11 00 03. Tel. no 3722045. Sincere and grovelling apologies....

We also note with regret the resignation of Gunilla Renfeldt.

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)	6883526/602951
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

Month at a Glance

December

WHEN	CIRCLE	WHAT	WHERE
Friday 2nd at 6.30 pm.	Special Programme	Schubert Evening	French Ambassador's Residence
Monday 5th at 10.30 am	Yoga	Beata Stier - Iyenagar Method	Hyatt Regency Hotel, Health Club.
Tuesday 6th at 3 pm	Focus	Dr Janet Mules on Menopause	Minakshi Gupta, 35A Friends Col. East.
Thursday 8th at 3 pm.	Cultural	Russian Icon	Galina Drukova, Russian Embassy.
Friday 9th December at 3 pm.	Visual Arts	Aman Nath talk on Jaipur	Susan Fenn's Residence, 2 Rajaji Marg.
Monday 12th at 3 pm	Books	Ms Marwah Roy	Jyotsna Govil, G-29 Saket
Wednesday 14th at 3 pm	General Meeting	Christmas Festivities	Gisela Elias, 4 Bhagwan Das Marg.
Thursday 15th at 11pm	Gourmet and Garden	Cake Decoration	Hyatt Hotel Senate Room
Friday 16th at 3 pm.	Performing Arts	Lecture by Dr R. Raghava Menon.	Shanno Khurana, C - 42 Defence Colony.