



Emilla Kelly

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CLUB
DELHI

FEBRUARY 1992

My dear Members,

As some of you know, our President is in the United States until mid-January for the birth of her grandchild - what a lovely Christmas present! It therefore again falls to me to write the President's letter for the February newsletter.

As I am writing this to you at the beginning of January, my thoughts are still full of the hopes and wishes associated with this season for a world of peace and goodwill.

Thomas Scott said: 'Growth is the only evidence of life', and this is true of the Women's International Club which, in its twenty first year, has grown from strength to strength in its various activities and everlasting friendship with members from all over the world.

As Hitopadesa had it: "The narrow-minded ask 'is this one of our tribe, or is he a stranger?' But to those who are of a noble disposition the whole world is but one family."

And it is with these words - from both our International and our Indian roots - that I say to the family of the Women's International Club: May it be a very happy 1992 for you and all your families.

Yours sincerely,

Mona Aggarwal

Mona Aggarwal

First Vice-President



WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CLUB



NEWSLETTER

February 1992

Twenty First Year

ACTIVITIES FOR FEBRUARY

GENERAL MEETING



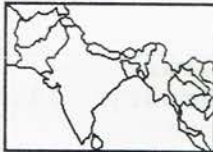
TAVLEEN SINGH

Wednesday 12 February, 3.00 pm

~~Taj Palace Hotel (Garden)~~
MAURYA HOTEL

Tavleen Singh, the celebrated newspaper and television journalist, will speak to us on the information revolution in India. In the last year or two, with the introduction of satellite and cable television, as well as video magazines from independent producers, the state television channel, Doordarshan, no longer has a monopoly. What effect has this new access, as well as its concomitant advertising, had on the Indian viewer, whether from the urban middle class or the rural peasantry?

INDIAN CULTURAL



TOURISM IN INDIA

Monday 3 February, 3.00 pm

Home of Shakuntala Sachthey

G-2 Anand Niketan

Tel. 60-8603

Deepti Bhagat, Vice-President of the India Tourism Development Corporation, was head of its Travel and Tours Division from 1988 to 1991. She has been with ITDC since 1982, before which she set up Wild Life Adventure Tours for Amber Tours Ltd. She has written for a variety of travel magazines and lectured on radio and television on the promotion of tourism.

MUSIC CIRCLE



'RIGOLETTO' by Giuseppe Verdi

Wednesday 5 February, 3.00 pm

British High Commission Lounge

(enter by Bungalow 3 gate)

Tel Audrey Fowler 60-1371,x 494

This is Dr Jonathan Miller's version of Verdi's opera, transported with the English National Opera to 'Little Italy' and a Mafia setting. A contract is taken out against their Godfather's hated *confidant*, Rigoletto. The Duke, here a Mafia don, sings the famous *La donna e mobile* (O, how fickle is woman!), ironically unaware that the girl he had betrayed - in fact the model of faithful devotion - has just sacrificed her life to save him. This marvellous production (2 hours 10 minutes) will be shown on a large screen, and start promptly at 3 pm.

EXCURSION



SULTANPUR

Thursday 6 February, 8.00 am
Meet India International Centre
Tel. 69-3341 (Margrit Heydemann)
or 329-1788 (Gugu Anup Singh)

Mrs Ellen O'Donohue, a knowledgeable ornithologist, will help us spot and identify the birds and waterfowl at Sultanpur, 40 kilometres southwest of Delhi. Winter is the ideal season for birdwatching, so do come, with your bird books and binoculars if you have them. A picnic lunch is planned at the lake.

COOKING CIRCLE



AMERICAN SPECIALITIES

Friday 7 February, 11.30 am
Home of Judith Clark
US Embassy, Shantipath
Tel. 60-0651

Judith Clark will show us a vegetarian version of the spicy American dish with a Mexican influence: Chili. (Numbers must be limited to 40).

YOGA

STOMACH EXERCISES

Friday 14 February, 11.00 am
5 Gauri Apartments
South End Lane (Tel. 23-1832)

This month's meeting is a timely focus on stomach exercises, to counteract any excesses of Christmas and New Year celebrations!

INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL



TURKEY

Tuesday 18 February, 3.00 pm
Home of Sumru Fenmen
50 Nyaya Marg
Tel. 60-2803

Sumru will offer us an afternoon of Turkish delight!

THEATRE GROUP



Thursday 20 February, 3.00 pm

Theatre-lovers should make a note of this date; the group leaders will make an announcement nearer the time of the programme and venue.

OPEN FORUM



'GOING WITHIN'

Saturday 22 - Sunday 23 February
9.00 am - 5.00 pm
Location: a farm outside Delhi
Tel. Prama Bhandari, 686-2807

'Are you in control of your life or is it controlled by circumstances?' Rashna Imhasli, a past life therapist, will conduct a two-day workshop aimed at fostering constructive introspection through guided meditation and imagery. The first day will concentrate on repeating themes in our lives: why have we chosen these and what are the life consequences of these choices? The second day focusses on communication with the 'higher self' or 'atman', with the aim of enabling us to use our own inner strength to control our lives. Participants should as a result gain a fresh insight into their situations and problems, mistakes and shortcomings, and a new perspective on themselves and their relationships. The workshop is open to a maximum of 30 men and women, including non-WIC members, and the Rs 500 cost should be paid to Prama Bhandari by 1st February. Light lunches will be provided.

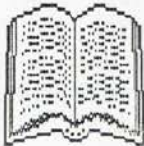
ARTS AND CRAFTS



VEGETABLE CARVING
Monday 24 February, 3.00 pm
Home of Harash Kapur
3-B Mathura Road
Jangpura Ext-B
Tel. 61-5048

The art of carving flowers and animals from vegetables comes from Thailand. Mrs Nalini Jain will show us how to make these lovely decorations: the way food is presented makes all the difference!

BOOK CIRCLE





'ENGLISH, AUGUST'

by Upamanyu Chatterjee
Wednesday 26 February, 3.00 pm
Home of Candy Rohde, B9 West End
Tel. 67-3494

This first novel, written in 1988, tells the story of a young, hedonistic and literary-minded civil servant, Agastya Sen, who is posted to a small provincial Indian town. There he faces the daily routine of bureaucratic language and humbug, and both the charms and the tribulations of rural life, underdevelopment and human relationships. After a year, he comes to question his original sense of self and begins to contemplate total renunciation as the best path to contentment. We hope that the author, who has just completed a term as 'Writer in Residence' at Britain's University of Kent, will be there in person to talk about his novel; the creative process of writing; and the relationship between writer, critic and reader. The novel is available at most bookshops in Khan Market, priced at Rs 40.

NOTICEBOARD

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- * As both Pamela Evans and Vinu Baig are in Australia at the moment, Mona Aggarwal will be looking after Indian Cultural until further notice.
 - * Kavita Ratra will be standing down as group leader for the Dance Circle from this month.
 - * In Bapsi Nariman's absence until the end of January, Laura Sykes will look after the Museum Study Group. Will those wishing to attend the Art Appreciation course obtain from her an application form/prospectus (Rs 25) and arrange an appointment with Prof. Pant (Tel.379-2249) on 15 January to complete admission formalities and pay course fees (Rs 300). The course begins on 23 January.
- * Please remember that any guests you invite to General Meetings should normally be accompanied by you, to avoid embarrassing either them or us.
- * The December newsletter listed Mrs Inge Paynter's nationality as Norwegian. She asks me to point out that, although she was born in Norway, she is in fact a Canadian citizen.



Please note new telephone numbers for Minakshi Gupta: 653-9072 and 684-9046.



The following international members have left the club in the last few months: Emi Aoyagi, Rayyan Eralp, Ruksana Kakakhel, Kyung Im Kim, Noriko Kobayashi and Yasko Matsui.



More on Husbands' Night (28th March): The theme is Latin American, with delicious regional food. After an exhibition of Latin American dancing by our Dance Circle, we will all join in and learn as we go. Tickets will be Rs 300 per couple (members only). As a well-known *Latino* toast has it, 'Salud, Pesetas y Cha-Cha-Cha!' (Health, Wealth...and A Good Time!). This is where you come in: does anyone have any tequila? Rum? Whisky? All contributions to the *spirit* of the evening gratefully received...

FESTIVALS AROUND THE WORLD IN FEBRUARY



Carnival (from *Carne Vale*, 'farewell to meat') precedes the Lenten fast leading up to Easter. In Trinidad, *jumping-up* begins at *J'ouvert* (daybreak) on Monday morning and continues at an increasingly frenetic pace until midnight on Tuesday when the solemn feast of Ash Wednesday begins. It is a point of honour to turn up for work the next morning, despite 48 hours without sleep!

But also, as Cupid reminds us, February 14th is St. Valentine's Day, the customary day to choose sweet-hearts and exchange love tokens. There were two St Valentines, both executed for their faith in the 3rd century AD on the eve of the Roman fertility rites of Lupercalia (15 February), but no one knows why they are particularly associated with romantic love. Up to the 18th century, increasingly elaborate gifts were given, if possible anonymously (half the fun lay in guessing the identity of one's Valentine), but hand-painted cards of hearts and flowers then took their place, with a short verse composed by the sender. The commercial card appeared in the 19th century, complete with ready-made sentiments and decorations, lace-edged, perfumed and packed in a neat box - very pretty, no doubt, but not nearly as romantic!

GARDENING NOTES FOR FEBRUARY



Trees: Prepare beds 4' by 4' by 4' for new saplings. Add one part compost to two parts soil for refill mixture. Ensure that the tap root is upright in the pit and the collar of the tree is just clear of the hole. Water well.

Annuals: Feed once every 4-5 days; protect delicate potted plants against frost.

Roses: Spray Bavistan every fortnight to prevent powdery mildew. Guard against termites with Aldrin dribbled into the water supply. Apply Nuvan or Sumithion to beds to

discourage any cockchafer grubs in the soil.

Chrysanthemums: Divide roots and repot for next winter in a mixture of equal parts leaf mould and sand, with a teaspoonful of wood ash. When well-established, put the pots in a sunny position.

Lawns: Continue to feed, either with a mixture of 1 lb ammonium sulphate to 5 gallons of water or 1/2 lb urea for every 100 sq ft. Mow, weed and water regularly.

Flower Shows: Look out for these from now until March as a good source of supply for seeds, plants and gardening equipment.

Happy Gardening!

Kavita Ratra

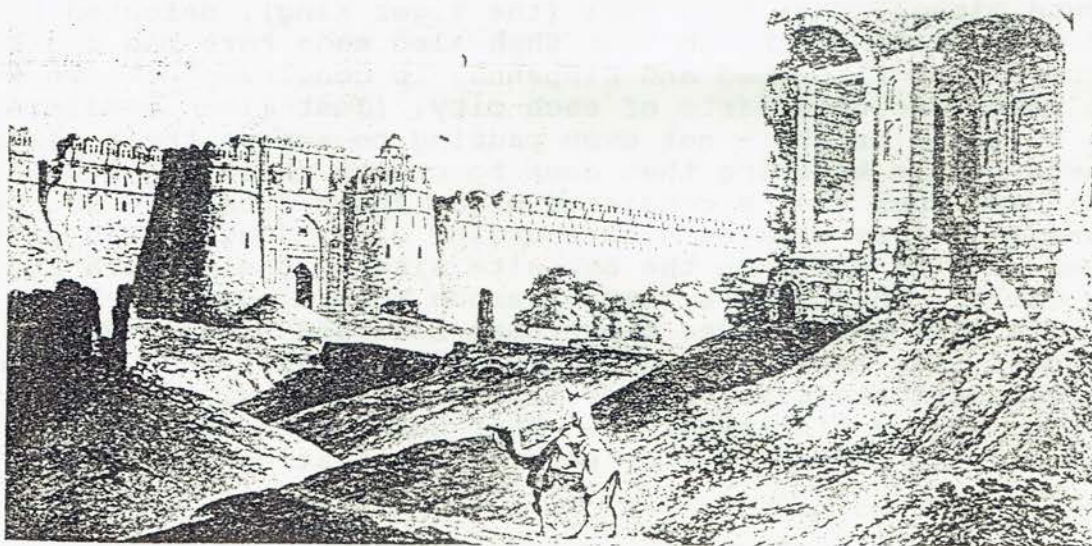
DELHI DAYS

And now for the sixth city (last month's map shows the site). Confusingly, what we now call Purana Qila (the Old Fort) only became known as that recently. In a nutshell: originally the probable site of Indraprastha, it was built by Humayun in 1534 as Dinpannah; captured in 1540 by the Afghan usurper Sher Shah Suri, who renamed it Delhi Shershahi or Shergarh; and changed hands a record number of times in a regal game of musical chairs or 'I'm the king of the castle' until 1555 when Humayun managed to recapture it.

Humayun had been with his father Babur, the first Mogul emperor, when he defeated the last of the Lodis at the battle of Panipat in 1526. On Babur's death in 1530, Humayun succeeded to the throne. He based himself at Agra rather than Delhi but, having conceived Dinpannah (Shelter of the Faith) as 'a southern Samarkand' or refuge for learned men of all Islamic sects, who could discuss theology at leisure under the patronage of their emperor, began to construct it, laying the first brick - raided from Siri - with his own hands in the auspicious year of 1534. Very much the philosopher king, he then sailed back to Agra down the convenient Jumna in a cloud of opium. The opium habit and his relaxed attitude to life proved a fatal flaw, as his more energetic brothers took over a large part of his kingdom and Fariduddin, who crowned himself Sher Shah Suri (the Tiger King), defeated Humayun in battle in 1540. Although Sher Shah also made Agra his capital, he used the bricks of Firozabad and Dinpannah to construct his own Shergarh on a site which included parts of each city. (Just like toddlers playing with building bricks - not even pausing to admire their playmate's efforts before knocking them down to create their own Utopia). Like Firozabad, Sher Shah's consisted of an inner citadel - the present Purana Qila - as well as a surrounding city. One of the gates of this larger city is still on the opposite site of the Mathura road from the Qila walls. Sher Shah's justly famous mosque, *Qal'a-i-Kuhna Masjid*, was built in 1541 and bridges the Afghan/Lodi and Mogul styles. The octagonal *Sher Mandal* was probably built by Sher Shah as a folly, or architectural exercise, rather than for practical use, but Humayun was later to make a library of it. Sher Shah spent little time in Shergarh as he had the perennial problem of consolidating his position, and was

killed in battle in Bengal in 1545. He was succeeded by his much weaker son, Islam, who reigned until his death in 1553 when, for the next 18 months, he was succeeded by no less than four warring kings. Humayun, meanwhile, had wandered through Sind, where he married the 14-year old Hamida Begam who, while still in the desert, gave birth to the famous Akbar. They reached Persia, where he was given asylum and military help by Shah Tahmasp in exchange for the Koh-i-Noor diamond, which Humayun had thoughtfully taken the precaution of bringing with him from India. But an army was not all that Humayun brought back to India from Persia: the two best court painters returned with him and founded the Mogul school of miniature painting. Humayun took advantage of the relative political instability in Delhi to 'strike back' on behalf of the Mogul Empire and regain his throne on 23 July 1555. He then settled down to putting some of his ideas on astrology and kingship into practice. He designed a wonderful astrological palace, with radiating halls of different colours, each with the name of a different planet. In each hall audience was to be given, on the correct days of the week, to the professions appropriate to each planet. One evening he was told that Venus ought to be visible and he decided that, if he could see it, it would be auspicious to announce the promotion of certain nobles. As Venus is 'the evening star' and would always be visible if stars could be seen at all, perhaps this was just a poetic way of describing a clear night? Humayun went to the top of the Sher Mandal to watch the sunset and, as he descended the steps, he heard the muezzin's call to prayer. He turned to kneel and, as he did so, slipped and fell to the bottom. On 24 January 1556, only 7 months after regaining his throne, he died from his injuries. As Akbar was in the Punjab, the fact of Humayun's death was concealed for 17 days as a courtier dressed in the royal robes appeared at the daily audience until the heir could reach Delhi. Even then, Akbar had to fight off Himu, the prime minister of one of the kings of 1555, at a second battle of Panipat before he could ascend the throne.

Entry to the fort is now by the western gate, Bara Darwaaza, the subject of this month's illustration. According to HEARN, the northern gate, Talaqi Darwaaza (the Forbidden Gate) was closed by 'some king', who ordered it to be shut behind him as he went out to battle and never to be re-opened unless he returned victorious. The southern gate, Humayun Darwaaza, looks back at Humayun's tomb, the awe-inspiring monument built to her beloved husband by his grieving widow, set in a Persian 'charbagh' or four-garden plan. The style of this garden-tomb was to reach its zenith in the feminine perfection of the Taj Mahal, built as a widower's memorial to his beloved wife; Humayun's tomb is perhaps the Taj's masculine equivalent, both literally and to some extent architecturally, as the epitome of solid imperial style.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 1991-92

President	Gunilla L.F. Kettis	60-5749	(Sweden)
1st Vice-President	Mona Aggarwal	329-4482	(India)
2nd Vice President	Janet Chawla	61-1821	(U.S.A.)
Hospitality	Niru Kapur	641-5855	(India)
Membership	Halina Bialy	38-6816	(Poland)
Newsletter	Laura Sykes	67-6994	(U.K.)
Secretary	Nandini Pattani	301-6713	(U.K.)
Treasurer	Ramindra Ajit Singh	67-6507	(India)

GROUP LEADERS FOR 1991-92

Arts and Crafts	Claudia Deiss Savi Prakash	60-3965 331-1683
Book Circle	Nayana Goradia Jean Gurney	61-7859, 61-5703 687-5810
Chorus Group	Patricia Stephenson Usha Srivastava	680-2304 641-6621
Cooking	Raj Nanda Micheline St-Cyr	688-4833, 688-2395 683-0722
Dance	Blanca Schmenger	67-5840
Excursions	Margrit Heydemann Sarabjit ('Gugu') Singh	69-3341 329-1788
Indian Cultural	Mona Aggarwal (acting) {Vinu Baig/Pamela Evans}	329-4482
International Cultural	Sumru Fenmen Anginee Roma Dass	60-2803 67-1739, 67-6152
Museum Study Group	Bapsi Nariman (Laura Sykes until 31/1)	686-2980 67-6994
Music	Audrey Fowler Meera Burman	60-1371 ext 494 329-3873
Nostalgic Singalong	Dolores ('Dolly') Dadachanji	67-3390
Open Forum	Prama Bhandari Sofia de Ortiz	686-2807, 66-2525 687-6423
Theatre	Gita Devi of Kapurthala Surinder Dugal Jain	641-2029 69-9448
Yoga	Indu Sahni	23-1832



FEBRUARY AT A GLANCE

<u>WHEN</u>	<u>WHERE</u>	<u>WHAT</u>
Wednesday 12th 3.00 pm	Taj Palace Hotel Garden MAURYA HOTEL	GENERAL MEETING Tavleen Singh
Monday 3rd 3.00 pm	Home of Shakuntala Sachthey G-2 Anand Niketan	Indian Cultural Tourism in India
Wednesday 5th 3.00 pm	British High Commission Lounge (enter by Bungalow 3)	Music Circle 'Rigoletto'
Friday 7th 11.30 am	Home of Judith Clark US Embassy, Shantipath	Cooking Circle Vegetarian Chili
Friday 14th 11.00 am	5 Gauri Apartments South End Lane	Yoga Stomach Exercises
Tuesday 18th 3.00 pm	Home of Sumru Fenmen 50 Nyaya Marg	Int. Cultural Turkey
Thursday 20th 3.00 pm	(To be announced)	Theatre Group
Saturday 22nd - Sunday 23rd	(To be announced)	Open Forum 'Going Within'
Monday 24th 3.00 pm	Home of Harash Kapur 3-B Mathura Road	Arts and Crafts Vegetable Carving
Wednesday 26th 3.00 pm	Home of Cornelia Rohde B-9 West End	Book Circle English, August

