

Women's International Club Newsletter



FEBRUARY 1998

Dear Member,

I hope you all had a joyous festive season and saw in the New Year in style!

My thanks go to all those who produced such wonderful goodies for the Special Tea at the December meeting, it was a wonderful display of delicacies from all over the world and contributed in the true festive spirit. Thank you also to our smiling hostess Alexandra Tomasikova for entertaining so many of us with such calm.

The debate was very interesting and may lead to other smaller discussions about the status of modern women in many other countries. I thank the panelists for a very stimulating afternoon.

So, we kick off the New Year with some Jazz and we have many more programmes lined up for you in the coming months. Take part in as many as you can but please attend those you have signed up for. Circle meetings will start promptly so that visiting speakers can get to their next engagements.

February's General Meeting is the second in a series of our celebration of India's fiftieth Anniversary of Independence. It will be a reading in different voices of post-independence writing in India and on India. See further details in this newsletter. We will meet at the Triveni Chamber Theatre of the Triveni Kala Sangam (Tansen Marg) on **Wednesday, February 11th, at 3:00pm.**

Mary Gore-Booth
President

WIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 1997-1998

Mary Gore-Booth	President	3013117, 3014123, 3013671(fax)
Shyama Gurbachan Singh	1st Vice President	332 9611
Lakshmi Chandra	2nd Vice President	6145545, 6149503(fax)
Darshan Inderjit	Treasurer	3730684, 4698877
Rupa Sahni	Hospitality	4611977, 4619553
Mako Lutyens	Membership	4649557, 4649556, 4624965(fax)
Anita Meattle	Secretary	3012289, 3012221(fax)
Virginia Hawkins	Newsletter	6149204, 6149205(fax)

CIRCLE LEADERS 1997-1998

BOOKS	Gopika Nath	6827190
	Nina Dey Gupta	6434836
	Titia Knoops	6147274
VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS	Kanta Stanchina	6113643
	Meera Rao	6887200, 6873383
	Sushma Nanda	6113091, 6872921
FOCUS	Nandita Lahiri	8360539
	Mariana White	6148208
	Monica Modak	6132836
CULTURE	Gita Devi Kapurthala	6484029
	Alexandra Tomasikova	601015, 6885340
	Anna Sturgess	6851287, 6851766(fax)
GOURMET AND GARDEN	Veena Dass	3012713, 3010128
	Sophie Devred Neat	6866147
	Amrita Mankad	6888761
CREATIVE SELF EXPRESSION	Ramindra Ajit Singh	6176507
	Prama Bhandari	6862807
	Janet Chawla	4611821
EXCURSIONS	Sheila Ghatate	3329823, 3329346
	Zakia Zaheer	3327382, 3329472
	Sigrun Srivastava	6468908, 6442756
	Ina Von Welck	6873658
DANCE	Maya Caroli	6863936, 6969743
	Usha Venketeshwaran	2256804, 2250730
	Priscila Confiado	6519020
	Josefina Young	6141683

Books

Mr. Gurcharan Das is a multi-faceted person, a corporate executive, economic and business analyst, marketing consultant and fiction writer. He has written plays and short stories, of which Jakoo Hill and Lawrence Sahib have extensively produced. Mr. Das will be reading from his fiction works as well as talking to us about his multi-directional pursuits. We will meet at the home of Raj Nanda, 4/23 Shanti Niketan, (Tel. 688-4833), on **Tuesday, February 10th, at 3:00 pm.**

Creative Self-Expression

Flower Power! This month we will decorate the floor with patterns using flowers, dry colours, rice powder, etc. This is a very traditional Indian way of greeting guests, invoking blessings on a household, decorating the home, and creating beauty. This time you don't need to bring anything else but yourselves. We will meet at the home of Anita Meattle, 26 Prithviraj Road, (Tel 301-2289) on **Friday, February 20th, at 3:00 pm.**

Remember that "creative movements" (our January circle meeting) is on **Monday, February 2nd, at 3:00 pm.** We will meet at the home of Titli Sahni, 67 Friends Colony West, (Tel. 631-1962).

Culture

"ORCHA and BUNDELKHAND". Madhukar Shah, the erstwhile Maharaja of Orcha, will introduce us to this bewitching region, with its ancient history and culture, its wealth of impressive forts, magnificent temples, palaces and great natural beauty. 'The Forts of India' by Virginia Fass is recommended reading. We will meet at the home of Mako Lutyens, 88 Sunder Nagar (tel. 464-9556) on **Thursday, February 12th, at 2:30 pm sharp!**

Dance

'Holi' falls in the month of March. We will present a dance to welcome Holi -- the festival of colours. Members old and new please join in the rehearsals of this joyful dance -- the more the merrier. Please give your name and telephone number to any of the Dance circle leaders. We will meet at Nandini Pattani, 5 Mansingh Road, (Tel 379-4079) on **Friday, February 6th, at 3:00 pm.**

Excursions

On a large rocky platform of the southern ridge stands one of the most impressive ruins of Delhi: Tughluqabad, the third city of Delhi. This high city - citadel - palace complex was built by Ghiyas-ud-din Tughluq (1320-1325), the founder of the Tughluq Dynasty. We will have a short introduction into the history of the Tughluq empire and a guided tour by Ina von Welck. Tea and snacks will be served. We will meet at the entrance of Tughluqabad, Mehrauli-Badarpur Road (Eicher map p.136) on **Tuesday, February 17th, at 10:00 am.**

Gourmet and Garden

Mrs. Usha Narain has very kindly invited the WIC members to her home. She has a beautiful garden where she grows a lot of exotic plants like anthuriums and bird of paradise, etc. She will be very happy to answer any of your questions. We will meet at A17 Green Park (Aurobindo Marg) on **Friday, February 13th, at 10:30 am.**

Focus

Shantum Seth will talk to us about the "Footsteps of the Buddha" and the pilgrimage in India. He is a practicing Buddhist ordained by Thich Nhat Hanh, the Vietnamese Zen Master. For the last ten years he has been organizing pilgrimages "in the Footsteps of the Buddha" each winter to the sacred sites associated with Buddha's life. He has given illustrated talks in a number of countries including France, England and the USA. We will meet at the home of Pushpa Vadera, 20-E Prithviraj Road, (Tel. 301-2021) on **Monday, February 16th, at 3:00 pm.**

Visual and Performing Arts

"Symbolism and Geometry in Indian Art", a special exhibition curated by Rupika Chawla, well-known conservator of paintings and writer on art. This exhibition is being organized by the Gallery of Modern Art, Jaipur House, New Delhi. It explores in depth, the application of geometry as symbols, which have been used in Indian art for centuries. Such symbols could be religious, ritualistic, or decorative, as are used by contemporary Indian artists. Rupika will take us on a special guided tour of the exhibition and talk to us on the use of 'symbolism in Indian art'. We will meet at the National Gallery of Modern Art, Jaipur House, **Tuesday, February 24, 3 pm.**

SPECIAL MEETING

There will be an extra, special meeting on the 'science' of "Vaastu Shastra" -- the Indian equivalent of the Chinese "Feng Shui". The speaker is the young and talented architect Vijayalakshmi Minocha. Our hostess is Janet Burns-Walker at the Canadian High Commission Residence, 4 Aurangzeb Road (Tel: 379-2137), **Friday, February 27, at 3:00 pm.**

FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING

A celebration of India's fiftieth Anniversary of Independence, a reading in different voices of post-independence writing in India and on India. This interesting programme will feature Delhi theatre personalities Kusum Haidar, Saeeda Imam and Sunita Kohli. The venue is the Triveni Chamber Theatre of the Triveni Kala Sangam (Tansen Marg) on **Wednesday, February 11, 3:00 pm.**

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

The following members have very kindly agreed to sit on the Committee on Nominations to draw up the slate for the new Executive Committee for 1998-99.

Chairperson: **Bapsi Nariman**

Members: **Dorothea Metten, Sigrun Srivastava, Renu Mehra,**
 Ronnie Coleshill, Tuli Michandani and Mohini Bazaz.

All members are hereby requested to send names of suggested nominees for next year's Executive Committee directly to the Chairperson of the Nominations Committee, in writing, after obtaining prior permission of the candidate concerned.

The deadline for suggestions is February 28, 1998.

After considering all suggestions received, the Committee shall select a candidate for each office after securing permission of the said candidate. The slate shall be circulated with the April Newsletter and presented verbally at the April General Meeting. (Please refer to Article VI - "Nominations and Elections" of WIC's Constitution and Bye Laws concerning nominations from the floor, etc.)

FAREWELL

We say goodbye to Laurette Moolman.

Postal rate for **PRINTED POSTCARDS** is now **Rs1.50** -- *please ensure that you stamp your card before you post it to Rupa.*

REMEMBER -- Regrets for the General Meetings should be sent in writing to Mako Lutyens, 88 Sunder Nagar, New Delhi 110003.

Changes of Address

Aruna Varma has moved to: A 123 New Friends Colony, New Delhi, 110065. (Tel. 684-8925, 692-6743)

Indra Rani Jerath's telephone number is now 625-0560.

Zubaidah Kamilan has moved to: A5/5 Vasant Vihar, New Delhi 110057. (Tel. 615-1786)

NEW WIC DIRECTORY

The new directories are now ready. Members who did not attend the December General Meeting can collect their directory at the General Meetings where they will be asked to sign for it.

Gardening Notes for February

Flowers: Amaranthus, narcissus and lily bulbs, may be sown. Chrysanthemum suckers may be divided and should be transplanted into 6" earthen pots.

Roses: There may be severe attack of powdery mildew. The leaves, young shoots and buds may be coated with a white powdery film. The rose bushes should be sprayed in the first and third week with an insecticide and fungicide. This should be done early in the morning. Foliage feeding can be combined with the spraying of insecticide. Aldrin should be added to the water to guard against termites. Watering should be done once a week in the rose beds and daily in the pots. Hoeing to be done twice a month and suckers and dead blooms to be removed regularly. Well-rotted cow dung manure should be given in the last week. Grafting may be done on rose plants this month.

Vegetables: Summer vegetable seedlings may be transplanted from the polythene bags or earthen pots to the ground. Onions, tomatoes, bringals, and chilies may be transplanted. Cucumbers, spinach, ladies' fingers and french beans may be sown. Vegetables already planted should be given proper attention regarding irrigation.

Lawns: Give sterameal and ammonium sulphate this month. Water immediately.

General: Bougainvillea and other hedge plants may be planted this month. For the foliage plants watering should be done once every week. (Excess watering should be avoided.) Crotons, money plants, philodendrons should be protected from frost and cold winds. Ferns should be repotted this month.

1998

FEBRUARY

1998

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Sat

Sun

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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
CREATIVE SELF EXPRESSION <i>"Creative movements"</i> 3.00 p.m. Titli Sahni, 67 Friends Colony West				DANCE <i>"Holi"</i> 3.00 p.m. Nandini Pattani, 5 Mansingh Road		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	BOOKS <i>Meet Mr. Gurcharan Das</i> 3.00 p.m. Raj Nanda, 4/23 Shanti Niketan	GENERAL MEETING <i>50 Years of Independance</i> 3.00 p.m. Auditorium, Triveni Kala Sangam	CULTURE <i>"Orcha and Bundelkhand"</i> 2.30 p.m. Mako Lutyens, 88 Sunder Nagar	GOURMET & GARDEN <i>Visit of a garden</i> 10.30 a.m. Mrs. Usha Narain, A17 Green Park (Aurobindo Marg)		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
FOCUS <i>"Footsteps of the Buddha"</i> 3.00 p.m. Pushpa Vadera, 20-E Prithviraj Rd	EXCURSION <i>Tughluqabad</i> 10.00 a.m. Tughluqabad's entrance, Mehrauli- Badarpur Road			CREATIVE SELF EXPRESSION <i>Flower Power!</i> 3.00 p.m. Anita Meattle, 26 Prithviraj Rd		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	PERFORMING & VISUAL ARTS <i>"Symbolism and Geometry in Indian Art"</i> 3.00 p.m. National Gallery of Modern Art, Jaipur House			SPECIAL MEETING <i>"Vaastu Shastra"</i> 3.00 p.m. Janet Burns-Walker, Canadian HC Residence, 4 Aurangzeb Road		
30	31					

Notice to ALL Members:

The Working Group on Membership presents below the data collected during the 7 sessions held during October and November 1997. Notices were sent to ALL WIC members to attend a particular session. Detailed but anonymous minutes were kept of each meeting from which the following compilation has been made.

Please read this report carefully. If you have any ADDITIONAL concerns or points, please put them in writing NOW to Prama Bhandari, Connie Gupta, Shireen Khemchand or Peggy Sood. To be included in discussion points for the EGM, comments must be received by February 28, 1998.

At the EGM, there will be an opportunity to VOTE on certain issues by secret ballot. For this you are requested to bring a PEN or PENCIL with you on March 3.

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Summation of data collected by Working Group on Membership 1997

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Consensus</u>	<u>Considerations</u>
<u>SECTION A Membership</u>		
1. 10 year membership	strictly enforce; all to retire at end of 10 years	1. member can reapply 2. from bottom of the list 3. after a waiting period of 3 years 4. retire in month joined 5. criteria for reentry to be established
2. Honored Members	NO consensus	1. allow present HM to continue but add no more HMs 2. continue HM but with strict criteria in By Laws 3. abolish HM for all 4. HMs to pay dues
3. Family members	elder member not to resign for younger no Senior category should be started application form to carry name of rel- atives in the club	1. applicants to be taken on merit 2. no more than 2 blood relatives of member (ex: 2 sisters or mother/daughter; in-laws not counted as blood relatives) 3. 2 of same family not to serve together on Exec Comm
4. Voluntary Category	(presented only to 3 groups) moderate acceptance	1. 10% of present members can opt for this category but once you join it, you can not revert to regular membership 2. VC rights: attend Gen Mtgs, get News- letter, pay dues; NO right to vote; may NOT attend Circle Mtgs. 3. vacancies created may be filled by new applicants

5. Membership Comm.	2 past presidents & 2 members who have served on Exec Comm; is advisory body; Exec Comm makes final choice from among candidates put up; Exec Comm may not select any candidate NOT put up by Membership Comm.	1. will require Constitut'l Amendm't 2. will require addition to Const.
6. Members NOT residing in India	to resign as per Const	1. to get priority if she returns and applies 2. now becomes a 10 yr member
7. Termination of membership	decision of Exec Comm to be final; add line to application form "I will abide by all decisions of the Exec. Comm."	1. add provision in Const. or By-Laws 2. Exec Comm that takes action should see case through to termination and not leave to next comm.
8. Membership Directory	NO consensus	1. put an asterisk to show 10 year member for ease of record keeping 2. put 2 asterisks for 3 year members 3. no asterisks, keep data
9. Club Membership	retain limit of 200 but not in Constitution; retain current ratio	

SECTION B Other Issues

10. Constitutional changes	amend it rarely; amendments must be discussed at a separate meeting called for that purpose	1. amend, rework By-Laws rather than Const.
11. A.G.M.	strictly business, NO program, NO guests	1. Exec Comm may invite questions prior to AGM and categorise them
12. Increase in dues	announce ahead of AGM, with justification	1. use money in fixed deposits for expenses and for Gala Night

13. Well wishers' Fund not needed, abolish

14. Attendance	NO consensus	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. strictly enforce rules 2. Exec Comm to exercise discretion 3. should not be only criteria for "good" member
15. Gala Night	members may bring escort, houseguests	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. up to 2 add'l family members 2. keep it simple with no sponsors, advertisements, donations 3. make budget and keep to it 4. have it in March 5. not as a Gen Mtg.
16. Endorsements, Sponsorships	generally not accepted	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. need clarification re degree-- does it include promotion of books at Book Circle? 2. can outside help be taken? 3. how to credit such help?
17. Communication	-----	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. have Welcome Comm or Big Sister to help new members settle in/get to know club 2. lunches for small groups

Other points suggested by participants:

1. The Executive Committee should have experienced members. Some officers should carry on the next year for continuity.
2. Members continuously writing letters of excuse for absences from Gen Mtgs should be asked to resign.
3. Enforce the rule permitting the same guest to attend only 2 Gen Mtgs in a club year.
4. Videos need not be taken of club events.
5. Keep major club events separate (Gala Night, Diwali, Gen Mtgs to be separate)
6. Note of local holidays/festivals to be made when making club's monthly calendar.
7. Exec Comm should give warning notices in February and allow time for explanations in March. If no explanation is given or if it is unacceptable, membership should be terminated in April. The Exec Comm should keep a cumulative record of terminations.
8. Small group discussions more satisfying for getting to know others. Tours are good for this purpose. Indian and Intern'l members should make more effort to interact.