



WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CLUB

DELHI

JANUARY 1992

My Dear Members,

This time of year is stock-taking time, at least for us Westerners. From the beginning of December we take stock: of our friends near and far as we send greeting cards, of our larders to prepare the special foods of the season, of our closets to see what we can spare and give away. As New Year's Eve approaches, we also review things accomplished and, woo, things left undone. One is lucky indeed if, on the year-end scale, the accomplishment mound is the heavier.

As a club, how have we done? Our circles have run on time. Our newsletter has a new fresh format and content. Have our programs been challenging? Have we dealt timely with some of the underlying issues within the club? With one third of our club year left, January is a time for new beginnings, for implementing New Year's resolutions.

Personally, I wished to bring you more programs with a social issues content. I feel that as a women's organization, we should be concerned with matters of family, children, human rights, health, environment and hunger. We should keep ourselves informed, concerned and help build opinion for change where necessary. My New Year's resolution is to bring you at least a couple such programs in a Open Forum format in the remaining months. Take a look at, for instance, Time Magazine, Nov 4 "The Global Baby Chase" or Frontline, Dec 6 "Starvation Deaths in Andhra Pradesh" dealing with the hardships of the craftsmen weavers and their families.

Another New Year's resolution of mine is to deal better with time. After all, we all have the same number of hours in the day. Some of us manage to always appear unhurried, giving each encounter during the day our concentrated attention. Others, give you a hurried attention, leaving you with the feeling that in the next moment they are off for something more important. My resolution is to try to prepare for each encounter and once there, listen more carefully to the people I meet.

May your NEW YEAR 1992 be full of proud accomplishments and careful listening! May our club prosper with beautiful as well as thoughtprovoking programs, caring friendships and close cooperation!

With all my best wishes for a
HAPPY NEW YEAR,

Gunilla L F Kettis

Gunilla L F Kettis
President



WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CLUB NEWSLETTER



January 1992

Twenty First Year

ACTIVITIES FOR JANUARY

GENERAL MEETING



THE INDIAN ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS
Wednesday 8 January, 3.00 pm
Ashoka Hotel, Chanakyapuri

A speaker from the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), a non-governmental research organisation started in 1980, will lecture on 'The Indian Environmental Crisis and its Impact on Women and Children'. The Centre has published numerous works on the environment, including 'The State of India's Environment - A Citizens' Report', and is concerned with the impact of both national and international environmental policies on India and its people.

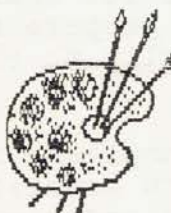
COOKING CIRCLE



CHINESE CUISINE
Friday 10 January, 12.00
Home of Raj Nanda
4/23 Shanti Niketan
Tel. 688-4833, 688-2395

There is an old Chinese saying: 'When you prepare a dish, you must keep three things in mind - it must be pleasing to the eye, the aroma must be appealing and it must be appetising'. So you can expect every Chinese dish, whether the most elaborate or the most economical, to be colourful, have a delightful aroma, and furthermore to taste delicious. Using easily available ingredients, this morning's programme will demonstrate a few of these dishes. (Maximum 25 members).

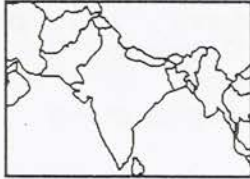
ARTS AND CRAFTS



VISIT TO GHARI ARTISTS VILLAGE
Monday 13 January, 3.00 pm
Lalit Kala Studios
Kalka Devi Marg
Tel. Claudia Deiss/Savi Prakash

The Ghari Artists Village houses a number of painters and sculptors, who both live and work in this community of artists. The Circle has arranged to meet several of the artists, beginning at Lalit Kala Studios. Ghari Village is situated south of the Inner Ring Road and north of the Bahai Temple. If, for example, you come on the Ring Road via the Defence Colony flyover, turn right (south) just after Lajpat Nagar Market.

INDIAN CULTURAL



INTACH
Friday 17 January, 3.00 pm
Home of Majida Bourzaim
47 Golf Links
Tel. 61-8213

Amita Baig will talk about the work of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage. This non-governmental organisation, founded in 1984, aims to increase popular awareness of India's rich cultural traditions. Amita is INTACH's Director of Projects.

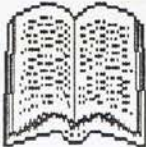
THEATRE GROUP



ROSHAN SETH
Monday 20 January, 3.00 pm
Home of Halina Bialy
Polish Embassy, 1 Tilak Marg
Tel. 38-6816

Roshan Seth, the internationally renowned actor (probably best known in India for his portrayal of Nehru in the film 'Gandhi'), has very kindly arranged this private showing for the Club of his latest film - a big surprise! He will discuss the film after its (one-hour) screening.

BOOK CIRCLE



RAJMOHAN GANDHI
Tuesday 21 January, 3.00 pm
Home of Margrit Heydemann
14B Amrita Shergill Marg
Tel. 69-3341

Rajmohan Gandhi is a member of parliament and a prolific writer. His grandfather on his father's side was Mahatma Gandhi, and on his mother's side was C. Rajagopalachari, the first Indian Governor-General. The subject of today's meeting is his 1990 biography (Navjivan Publications)

Sardar Patel, the home minister and states minister, who was responsible for the integration of the princely states into the Indian Union. The book raises questions such as: 'Why did Gandhiji support Nehru for the Prime Ministership rather than Sardar Patel?' & 'What shape would India have taken had the reverse happened?'

INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL



PROFESSOR ILDIKO PUSKAS
Wednesday 22 January, 3.00 pm
Home of Gabriella Balogh
2/50 M Niti Marg
Tel. 60-8717

Professor Puskas holds the Chair of Ancient History at the University of Debrecen in Hungary, and is the author of 5 books and over 100 articles on ancient India. She is in India on a 3-month study tour. Her particular areas of interest are: the history of religion in India, the problems of the Indus Valley civilization, and contacts between India and the countries of the Mediterranean in ancient times. This afternoon she will speak on *India and Europe in Antiquity*.



MUSIC CIRCLE

H.E. Mr CHRISTOPH CORNARO
Friday 24 January, 3.00 pm
Home of Gail Cornaro
Austrian Embassy
EP-13 Chandergupta Marg
Tel. 60-1555



We are indeed fortunate in having H.E. Mr Christoph Cornaro, accompanied by the Delhi School of Music's string trio, to play Mozart's Piano Quartet in G minor to the club. Mr Cornaro will also perform works for solo piano. The Cornaros would be very happy for any husbands who can clear their afternoon workloads to accompany their wives to the concert.

DANCE GROUP



THE CUMBIA
Wednesday 29 January, 3.00 pm
Home of Teresita Araque
Phillippines Embassy
50-N Nyaya Marg
Tel. 67-9407

Come and learn how to dance the Cumbia from Colombia!

OPEN FORUM



GREEK GODDESSES
Friday 31 January, 3.00 pm
Home of Aruna Verman
C-18 Friends Colony East
Tel. 63-1440



This month's session in the series will focus on Greek Goddesses in stories of the present day, as seen through well-known films. We will show clips from 'Cat on a Hot Tin Roof', 'Steel Magnolias' and others, followed by a discussion on the insights they give us into the Goddesses within us. If you have any videos which you think illustrate the Goddesses at work, please bring them along (preferably already set up at the right point!)

CHORUS GROUP




The Chorus Group will start rehearsing on Thursday 9 January for a concert of folk songs. New members who enjoy singing would be most welcome. Please contact Patricia Stephenson or Usha Srivastava.


NOTICEBOARD




Museum Study Course: This is due to start in mid-January and end in mid-May or at the end of May. Those wishing to attend should tick the reply card this month, and forward the fees (Rs 300) to Bapsi Nariman so she can send you the application forms direct.



Addresses and telephone numbers: Please note new numbers for Savitri Bawa (684-5949), Sigrun Srivastava (646-8908) and Essie Wood (688-3315, 688-2283). Uma Rao's address is 403-C, S.F.S., Sheikh Sarai I, New Delhi 110017 (Tel. 644-6505) and Kavita Ratra's new address is Vasundhara Farm, c/o The Sub-Postmaster, IA Dharuhera, Gurgaon 122100, Haryana (Tel. 01283-2266). Niru Kapur asks people kindly to ring her on WIC business between 0830-0930, when she will always be in.



Resignations: We bid a sad farewell to Zeena Choudhury who is leaving this month. She was our active and popular President during 1989/90 and will be much missed; she asks us to 'thank all the members for their friendship and their willing co-operation'.



New Members: It is our privilege at the same time to extend a warm welcome to the first Russian Ambassador to belong to our club, Madame Galina Drukov. She is joined by Gunilla Rensteldt, whose husband is with the Swedish Embassy.

Galina A. Drukov	Russia	USSR Embassy, Shantipath	Tel. 688-5009, 605-0875.
Gunilla Rensteldt	Sweden	1 Sardar Patel Marg	Tel. 301-1328.



Proposed Amendment of the By-Laws:

As we all know, there is a long waiting list for WIC membership, particularly among the Indian members. As the majority of international members leave Delhi after 3 or 4 years, their membership is self-pruning and self-renewing, but not so the Indian membership. Successive committees have tried to solve this problem, and we are now proposing (partly for this reason and partly to enable the range of Indian membership to be as wide as possible within the limited numbers) to amend Article III - Membership of the Constitution as follows:


'Section I - Eligibility

a) Only 3 members of a family may be members of the Women's International Club at any one time.

'Family' in this context is defined as:

- (i) Mother, mother-in-law;
 - (ii) Sister, sister-in-law, brother's wife;
 - (iii) Brother's daughter, sister's daughter, daughter of sister-in-law (husband's sister's daughter) or daughter of mother-in-law (husband's brother's daughter). *Grand-*
 - (iv) Grand-daughter, from son or daughter.'
- DAUGHTERS - IN-LAW*

A vote by show of hands will be taken at the January General Meeting. (See Article X of the Constitution).



Gita Devi asks me to let you know that Saloni Narang's book, 'Khadi and the Bullet', which was discussed at a book circle meeting last year, has now been published and is available at all leading bookshops. Many members expressed an interest in buying a copy at the time.



We are planning the next treat in the club year: Husbands' Night (I'm looking forward to working out which husband matches which WIC member!). Halina Bialy has very kindly offered the Polish Ambassador's residence for this 28th March event, which will include some surprises from Latin America... But as always we hope members will donate drinks to make things go with a real swing. Please send your contributions to Halina. Further details will be in the February newsletter.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE 1992-93

MESSAGE FROM THE CLUB PRESIDENT, 1991-1992

As announced at the December General Meeting, the members of the Nominating Committee for 1992-93 are:

Chairperson
Peggy Sood

Indian Members
Shireen Khemchand
Shakuntala Mahesh Chandra
Ira Misra

International Members
Zaleha Amir
Gabriella Balogh-Tarbai
Sigrun Srivastava

Gunilla Kettis, President 1991-92

4 December 1991

MESSAGE FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON, 1992-93

On behalf of the Nominating Committee for 1992-93, it is my pleasure to invite the members of the Women's International Club to begin to consider candidates for the next Executive Committee.

According to Article VI of our Constitution, individual members of the club may place in nomination a fellow member's name, after obtaining her permission. Nominations are to be submitted in writing to the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee no later than January 31st 1992.

The Nominating Committee thanks you for your support and assistance.

Peggy Sood, Chairperson

4 December 1991

FESTIVALS AROUND THE WORLD IN JANUARY



Ring out the Old Year, ring in the New Year! Traditionally a great deal of noise is made to banish the problems of the old, before welcoming the promise of the new. Janus, the Roman god of doorways and new beginnings, presided over the month of January and was usually pictured with two heads, one looking backwards and one forwards to symbolise the past and the future.



And Old Father Time with his sickle, and hourglass whose sands are running out, hands over his burden to the New Year Babe, whose reign is just beginning. The New Year is a festival of renewal, of friendships reaffirmed, hurts forgiven and hope restored, when we can all start again with a clean slate. Do you know Louise Haskins' comforting words? "And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.' And he replied: 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.'" (*The Desert*, 1908)

GARDENING NOTES FOR JANUARY



January is the time to order seeds of summer-flowering annuals and, late in the month, sow summer vegetables like brinjal, cucumber, ladies' fingers (okra) and the many varieties of gourds. Nursery beds should be weeded and dosed with a fresh supply of well-sieved farmyard manure. Shrubs and Hedges: Prune deciduous shrubs. Plant cuttings and prepare the beds for new shrubberies and climbers. Winter Annuals: Stake plants, dead-head as needed and feed liquid manure. Use matting screens to protect delicate plants from frost.

Potted Foliage Plants: Restrict watering to a minimum, and protect delicate varieties from cold winds and frost.

Chrysanthemums: Select plants to keep for next season; to secure strong shoots and suckers, treat with liquid manure.

Vegetables: Cabbages, cauliflowers and celery should be earthed-up at the end of January or beginning of February.

Lawns: Mow, weed and water the lawn regularly to keep it green.

Happy gardening!

Kavita Ratra

DELHI DAYS

On the death of Muhammed Shah in 1351 his cousin, Firoz Shah (the son of a Hindu princess) was elected to the throne by the generals. After defeating the usual band of marauding Moghuls, he established himself on the throne of Delhi before setting out on the by now equally customary campaigns to subdue Sind and Bengal (twice each). He recruited his army from the sons and relatives of those who had retired or died in service. On his return in 1354 he was able to settle down to what he really wanted to do: tidy everything up and sort everything out - an early version of *Cold Comfort Farm's* Flora Post. He instituted a revenue system and appointed officials to collect it. Worried about Mohammed Shah's place in heaven, Firoz Shah sought out the relatives of those who had been cruelly treated by him, gave them compensation in return for letters forgiving the wrongs done to them and put these in Muhammed Shah's grave as testimonials to offer his Maker. He had it recorded in the *Wakf-Nama*: 'Among the gifts which God bestowed upon me, His humble servant, was a desire to erect public buildings. So I built many mosques and colleges and monasteries, that the learned and the devout might worship God in these edifices and aid the kind builder with their prayers...I was led to repair and rebuild the edifices and structures of former kings and ancient nobles which had fallen into decay with the passage of time, I giving the restoration of these buildings priority over my own building works...the expense of repairing...was provided from their ancient endowments ...((or, where there were none)) I had villages assigned to them, the revenues of which would suffice for their expenditure in perpetuity.' The Delhi Conservation Society regard Firoz Shah as their honorary founding president, and he was called 'The Father of the Irrigation Department' by the British because of the many gardens and canals (including India's first) that he built.

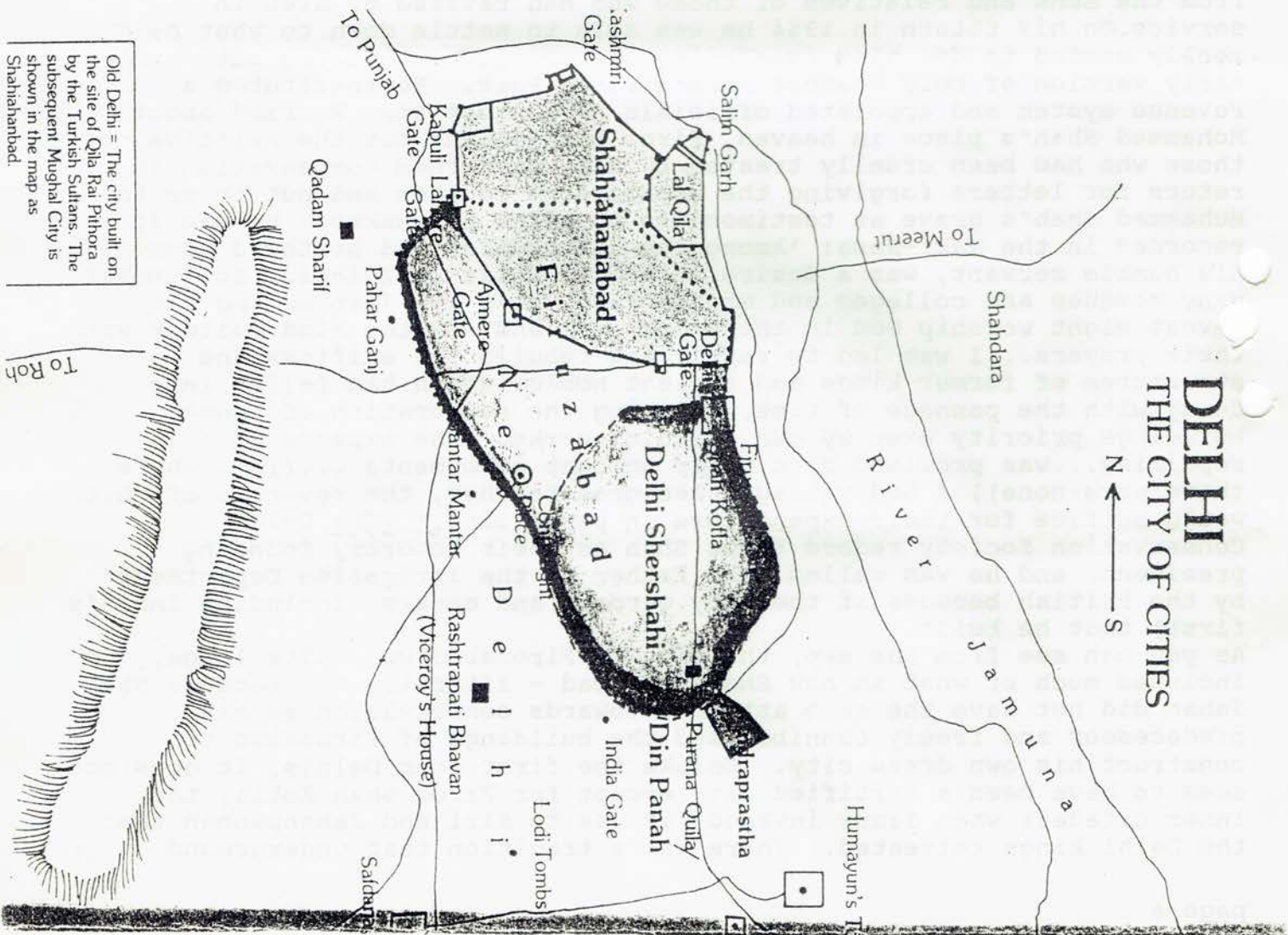
As you can see from the map, the city of Firozabad was quite large, and included much of what is now Shahjahanabad - literally so, because Shah Jahan did not have the same attitude towards conservation as his predecessor and freely cannibalised the buildings of Firozabad to construct his own dream city. Unlike the first four Delhis, it does not seem to have been a fortified city except for Firoz Shah Kotla, the inner citadel: when Timur invaded, it was to Siri and Jahanpannah that the Delhi kings retreated. There was a tradition that underground



passages connected the citadel to the Ridge, but HEARN regarded this as improbable, though: 'that one ran along the riverside through the palace is not so unlikely, but exploration would be extremely unpleasant, not to say dangerous, for the passage must be infested with snakes.' From Bahadurshah Zafar Marg the visitor enters the central three-storeyed enclosure. The most striking feature is the tapering 14 metre high Asoka Pillar made of polished sandstone, which dates from the 3rd century BC and was brought here from Topra in Ambala District by Firoz Shah in 1357. A ball and crescent of gold were fitted to the top of the pillar, the inscriptions of which are still quite clear. When the edicts were deciphered in 1837 from the Brahmi script by James Prinsep, they were found to record Asoka's deeds in planting trees on all roads, digging wells at every mile, erecting sarais for the benefit of travellers...all the deeds also claimed 16 centuries later by Firoz Shah as evidence of his beneficent rule: apparently in what we demand of our rulers, the more things change, the more they stay the same. Many mosques were built in Firoz Shah's reign: among those still standing, the Kala/Kali Masjid and the Khirki Masjid are particularly worth a visit. The Jama Masjid of Firozabad was much admired by Timur when he invaded in 1398, 20 years after it was built. He carried away with him a number of masons and used them to build the great mosque at Samarkand. They say that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery but Timur's pinching the best craftsmen - not to mention his looting - put paid to much building for the next few years. Although not a great king, Firoz Shah was one of the most enlightened rulers that India has seen - kindly, courteous and liberal - even if he had 'an undue affection for wine'. He died in 1388 and was buried on the edge of Hauz Khas overlooking the tank that he had caused to be restored: not a bad monument to this good man.

DELHI

THE CITY OF CITIES



Old Delhi = The city built on the site of Qila Rai Pithora by the Turkish Sultans. The subsequent Mughal City is shown in the map as Shahjahanabad.

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	Kavita Ratra Blanca Schmenger	61-7252, 61-5662 67-5840
Excursions	Margrit Heydemann Sarabjit ('Gugu') Singh	69-3341 329-1788
Indian Cultural	Vinu Baig Pamela Evans	683-8946, 683-5801 60-4212
International Cultural	Sumru Fenmen Anginee Roma Dass	60-2803 67-1739, 67-6152
Museum Study Group	Bapsi Nariman	686-2980
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, 662-525 687-6423
Theatre	Gita Devi of Kapurthala Surinder Dugal Jain	641-2029 69-9448
Yoga	Indu Sahni	23-1832

JANUARY AT A GLANCE



<u>WHEN</u>	<u>WHERE</u>	<u>WHAT</u>
Wednesday 8th 3.00 pm	Ashoka Hotel Chanakyapuri	<u>GENERAL MEETING</u> <u>Environment</u>
Thursday 9th	Contact group leaders	<u>Chorus Group</u>
Friday 10th 12.00	Home of Raj Nanda 4/23 Shanti Niketan	<u>Cooking Circle</u> <u>Chinese Cuisine</u>
Monday 13th 3.00 pm	Lalit Kala Studio Kalka Devi Marg	<u>Arts and Crafts</u> <u>Ghari Village</u>
Friday 17th 3.00 pm	Home of Majida Bourzaim 47 Golf Links	<u>Indian Cultural</u> <u>INTACH</u>
Monday 20th 3.00 pm	Home of Halina Bialy Polish Embassy, 1, Tilak Marg	<u>Theatre Group</u> <u>Roshan Seth</u>
Tuesday 21st 3.00 pm	Home of Margrit Heydemann 14B Amrita Shergill Marg	<u>Book Circle</u> <u>Rajmohan Gandhi</u>
Wednesday 22nd 3.00 pm	Home of Gabriella Balogh 2/50 M Niti Marg	<u>Int. Cultural</u> <u>Professor Puskas</u>
Friday 24th 3.00 pm	Home of Gail Cornaro EP-13 Chandergupta Marg	<u>Music Circle</u> <u>H.E. Mr Cornaro</u>
Wednesday 29th 3.00 pm	Home of Teresita Araque Phillippines Embassy	<u>Dance Circle</u> <u>The Cumbia</u>
Friday 31st 3.00 pm	Home of Aruna Verman C-18 Friends Colony East	<u>Open Forum</u> <u>Greek Goddesses</u>

