

# W I C NEWS



J a n u a r y

Dear members,

A very happy New Year to you all. May I wish you and your families health, happiness and good fortune in the coming year.

As many of you will know, we recently lost our past president Mrs Manmohini Sahgal on November 21st of a heart failure. I cherish the memory of her as she appeared at our 24th anniversary celebrations, full of cheer and delight after having released in New York her book on India's independence struggle. I am glad we were able to salute her contribution to the club on that day.

It is also with a heavy heart I have to tell you of the passing away of our past president Nicola

Feakes's husband Graham in Sydney on Dec 2 after a long illness tragically borne. Nicola was President the year I joined the club and I shall always remember, as I am sure a great many of you do, the warm and convivial club functions held in her time.

A great many of you will know that this is the 125th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and his consort Kasturba. To commemorate this special event we are planning to focus on Kasturba, the lady behind the Mahatma. And who could be better equipped to talk to us than his own granddaughter Mrs Tara Bhattacharjee.

Most of us know of the Mahatma as a man of saintly insights who single-handedly, as it were, faced the might of a colonial Empire and won freedom for India. Many of us know how he was dismissed as a

"half-naked fakir". Nevertheless this puny man in the loin cloth changed the course of 20th-century history by defeating a superior adversary with the uniquely non-violent means of known as "satyagrah."

Yet, how many of us know of Kasturba except as she appeared to the public eye - a traditional yielding Hindu housewife. But what do we know of her as an individual? How did she cope with the demands that her



Kasturba Gandhi with the Mahatma

husband's extraordinary odyssey must have put upon her? Little inkling could she have had of her future when she came into his household as a child bride of 13, exactly the same age as he.

How long did it take her to quell her early rebellion at the prospect of clearing human waste and washing chamber pots as part of her husband's programme of eradicating the caste system, which assigned such a job to 'untouchables'. Was she able to come to terms with her husband's quirkish "experiments with truth". As the world knows, he emerged from these experiments as the supreme Mahatma.

What about Kasturba? Would India's destiny have taken a different turn if she had raised a storm of protest and stopped him in his mission? These are the debatable 'ifs' of history.

The "inside story" of this remarkable marriage should be a fascinating saga both in historical and human terms. I hope you are looking forward to it as much as I am.

Sincerely,  
Nayana Garodia

# Obituary

Manmohini Zutshi Sahgal  
24.1.1909 - 22. 11. 1994

Mrs Manmohini Sahgal, founder member and past president of WIC, started taking an active part in public life from her student days. At the age of 20 she became president of the Lahore Conspiracy Case which had 2000 members. She headed the Congress Women's Volunteer Corps. She risked expulsion from the Government College for the part she played in the first Independence Day celebrations in 1930. However she emerged with her MA degree and Presidency of the Students' Union intact.

Mrs Sahgal went to jail several times in the Freedom Movement. With her sister and 20 female volunteers she led the picketing of the Central Legislative Assembly in Simla demonstrating against Viceroy Lord Irwin when he came to deliver the inaugural address. Post-

Partition Mrs Sahgal worked tirelessly with refugees and started vocational training programmes. Her compassion and deep sense of justice compelled her to spend her life involved with social work, especially women's' issues, until the very end.

Among the organizations she headed were Ayra Anathalaya, Delhi and National Council of Women, Child Welfare, Family Planning, Grameen Mahila Sangh, DCWA, Harijan Welfare Board, Northern Railway Workers Union and many others.

Having led such an active life she recently returned from the USA after publishing her autobiography entitled *A Freedom Fighter Recalls* She died as she would have wished - with dignity and without suffering - at the end of a full and busy day. A life of true 'Karma Yogi'.

## The Month's Programmes January

### General Meeting

Wednesday 18th at 3 PM at the home of Sudarshana Singh, 63 Friends COL. East. Tel: 6844204.

On the 125th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and Kasturba, we salute their contribution to the world. Theirs was indeed an unusual and an extraordinary marriage. Much is known about the Mahatma. The time has now come to know and understand Kasturba. Would he have been great without her? We are very fortunate to have their granddaughter Tara Bhattacharjee to come and share with us this unique story. There will also be a demonstration of Khadi Spinning on a wheel similar to the one used by the Mahatma.

## Book Circle

Thursday 12th at 3PM at the home of Chandra Khurana, C524 Defence Colony. Tel: 4623528/4616712. Restricted to 30.

**Book of the month - *A Pale View Of Hills* by Kazuo Ishiguro. Published by Vintage International.**

This is the first novel of this highly acclaimed author (Japanese, settled in the UK, who is probably best known for his most recent novel which won the British Booker Prize: *The Remains of the Day*.) *A Pale View of Hills* is the story of Etsuko, a Japanese woman now living alone in England who is reflecting on the recent suicide of her eldest daughter. In a story where past and present confuse in a haunting and sometimes macabre way, she relives scenes of Japan's devastation in World War II even as she recounts the weirdness and calamities of her own life. It is a delicate, ironic, elliptical novel where themes are deceptively large and developed with remarkable insight.

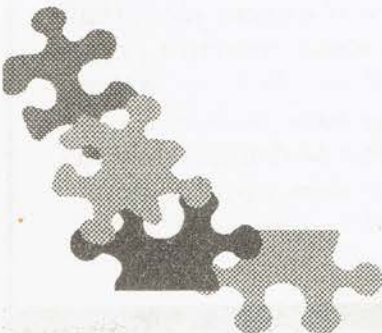
## Focus

Monday 9th at 3 PM at the home of Ferooz Ragalini, 24 Prithviraj Road. Tel: 3011750

There are times in life when one needs someone to confide in, a friend to share our fears and problems... answering this very human need is the SANJEEVANI credo. Set up in 1976, the Sanjeevani Crisis Centre provides free counselling service for those who need help to sort out interpersonal relationships, and emotional and psychological conflicts.

The Sanjeevani organization which has two branches in Delhi will present an interesting programme on their work and how they tackle problems with empathy and concern.

Questions will be welcome at the end of the programme.



## Gourmet and Garden

On Tuesday 22nd at 11.30 AM at the home of Manju Bawa B-20 Pushpanjali Farms. Numbers restricted to 35.

Manju has a beautiful farm - mostly green plants which last all the year round. She herself does professional landscaping and will give us a talk.

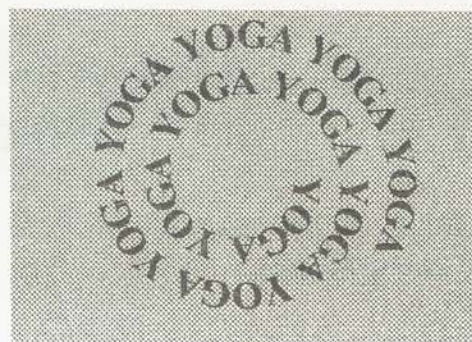
## Performing Arts

On January 13th at 11 am at the Hungarian Information and Cultural Centre, 1A Janpath. Tel: 3014992.

"An Englishman Abroad"

A film of a play by Alan Bennett and directed by John Schelssinger. It is the true story of a British spy Guy Burgess (played by Anthony Hopkins) Burgess fled to Moscow and years later meets the actress Coral Browne (played by herself) who is on a Royal Shakespeare Company Tour to Moscow and tries to help him obtain some comforts for his now grey and lonely life.

Yoga One: Wednesday 4th, 10.30 am, in the garden of Loes de Beer. 4 Amrita Shergill Marg. New Delhi 11 00 03. Dr S.N. Gaur will give us a comprehensive work-out of 30 minutes. Please bring your mats!



Yoga Two: Monday 16th 10.30 AM at the Hyatt Regency Hotel Health Club. Continuing the Iyenagar Method with Beata Stier.

## EXCURSIONS

### EXCURSION MARCH 5th - 8th.

A four-day-three-night excursion is planned to the princely states of Kota and Bundi to see the exquisite wall paintings on the areas' Palaces and Havelis. Spend a half-day exploring some of the more unusual sights in Jaipur. Travel by train and local bus between Kota and Bundi.

Contact Candy Rohde for further details. And keep the dates free for this exciting, unmissable trip.....

## Cultural Circle

January 25th at 3 PM at the home of Chrysanthe Epaminondas, 18 Friends Colony West. Tel: 6830153

Spend an afternoon exploring the rich culture of Cyprus with slides and a video film. This will be followed by a typical Cypriot tea and a demonstration of Cypriot dancing.

## Visual Arts Circle

Monday 16th January at 3 PM at the residence of Maggie Kenward N 113 Pansheel Park New Delhi 17. Tel: 6436288.

Kachchh - or Kutch, as the British used to spell it - is one of the most remote and colourful corners of Gujarat. Mr T.S. Randhawa, who was Collector there until very recently will give a talk on the area and its fabulous crafts. He will illustrate his talk with some slides of the hundreds of beautiful photographs he has taken, soon to be published in a book on Kutch.



Please note.....

*Some of you have not sent your reply cards since September. We have been happy to see you attend meetings notwithstanding. We would however appreciate your taking a mere five minutes of your precious time to keep us abreast of your schedule. There are many others who as well as being less than conscientious about returning reply cards too often fail to attend meetings they have signed up for. Please remember to do unto others as you would have them do unto you.  
Jyotsna Govil.*

## Towards a Jubilee Committee....

With 1995 beckoning us it is time to think of nominees for the 1995-1996 Executive Committee. The following members have kindly agreed to serve on the nominating committee:-

**Ildiko Varkonyi - Chairperson**  
**Ayse Sungar      Prama Bhandari**  
**Dolly Dadachanji      Frenny Billimoria**  
**Maggie Knight      Deepak Chopra**

Our sincere thanks to them for accepting this challenging and important assignment.

Dear Members,

The time has come again to nominate the WIC Executive committee for the Silver Jubilee Year of 1995-96.

As you all know Article IV of the WIC constitution says that any member may suggest, in writing, a possible candidate for the Executive Committee after having obtained prior permission from the candidate concerned. Suggestions must reach the nominating committee no later than the January General Meeting. Send them to : The Nominating Committee, C/O Ildiko Varkonyi, Hungarian Embassy, 2/50 - M Niti Marg Chanakyapuri, New Delhi 11 00 21.

Remember it is your right to choose the people you want on the Executive Committee of your club. Exercise it!

Eagerly awaiting your suggestions on behalf of the Nominating Committee,

Ildiko Varkonyi.

SAVE THE DATE!

*FOR THE ANNUAL*

# WIC GALA

The Womens International Club is planning  
this year's celebration...

We're still working on the exact date, but

Please save the weekend of

**March 10th Friday, 11 Saturday**

**or 12 Sunday**

The Party will be one of those days.

Get ready for an Entertaining Evening  
of

*Feasting, Dancing and Surprises*

**Further Details and Invitations**

**coming soon!**



## Executive Committee 1994/95

|                           |                             |                  |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| <b>President</b>          | Nayana Goradia (India)      | 4617859/5703     |
| <b>1st Vice President</b> | Gayle Gathercole (UK)       | 6872161 ext 2497 |
| <b>2nd Vice President</b> | Usha Venkateshwaran (India) | 2250730          |
| <b>Secretary</b>          | Leena Singh (Nepal)         | 6844204          |
| <b>Treasurer</b>          | Maya Caroli (India)         | 6863936/6853020  |
| <b>Hospitality</b>        | Jyotsna Govil (India)       | 664787           |
| <b>Membership</b>         | Ghazala Malik (Pakistan)    | 6883526/602951   |
| <b>Newsletter</b>         | Jane Walker (UK)            | 6872161 ext 2496 |

## Circle Leaders for 1994/95

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

# Month at a Glance

## January

| WHEN   | CIRCLE                | WHAT  | WHERE   |
|--|-----------------------|---|---|
| Wednesday<br>4th at<br>10.30AM                   | Yoga 1                | Dr S.N. Kaur's<br>work-out                        | Loes de Beer's<br>Garden. 4<br>Amrita<br>Shergill Marg. |
| Monday 9th at<br>3 PM                            | Focus                 | Sanjeevani<br>Counselling                         | Ferooz<br>Ragalini, 24<br>Prithviraj<br>Road            |
| Thursday 12th<br>at 3 PM<br><br>13 <sup>th</sup> | Books                 | Kasuo<br>Ishiguro "The<br>Remains of<br>the Day." | Chandra<br>Khurana<br>C 524<br>Defence<br>Colony        |
| Monday 16th<br>at 10.30 AM                       | Yoga 2                | Beata Stier                                       | Hyatt Hotel<br>Heath Club                               |
| Monday 16th<br>at 3PM                            | Visual Arts           | Kutch   | Maggie<br>Kenward<br>N113<br>Panscheel<br>Park          |
| Wednesday<br>18th at 3 PM                        | General<br>Meeting    | Tara<br>Bhattarchjee<br>on Kasturba<br>Gandhi     | Sudarshana<br>Singh, 63<br>Friends Col.<br>East         |
| Tuesday 24th<br>at 11.30 AM                      | Gourmet and<br>Garden | Manju Bawa's<br>Green Plants                      | B 20<br>Pushpanjali<br>Farms                            |
| Wednesday<br>25th at 3PM                         | Cultural<br>Programme | Cyprus  | Chrysanthe<br>Epaminondas,<br>18 Friends Col<br>West.   |
| Friday 13th at<br>11.00 AM                       | Performing<br>Arts    | Film: An<br>Englishman<br>Abroad                  | Hungarian<br>Cultural<br>Centre, 1<br>Janpath.          |